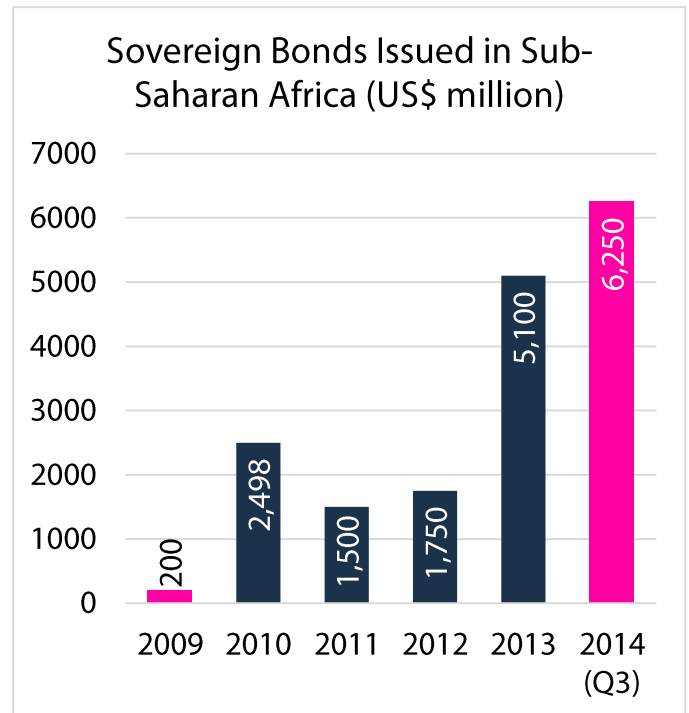


The value of sovereign bonds issued by African countries has grown by +3000% to US\$6.3bn

Over the past seven years, Africa’s sovereign bond market has grown considerably, with the total value of sovereign bonds issued by African countries growing from US\$0.2 billion in 2009 to US\$6.2 billion in 2014. Uptake of African sovereign bonds has been very high with Kenya’s US\$2 billion bond in 2014 being oversubscribed by 500% (US\$8.8 billion). In a similar fashion, Ghana’s US\$1 billion 15 year bond in 2015 was oversubscribed by 100%. These statistics are an indication of the considerable confidence which investors have in African economies.



Between 2013 and 2014, 11 African countries accessed the international bond market. In 2014, Kenya’s US\$2 billion sovereign bond was the largest bond issued in Africa and was followed by Ethiopia, Ghana, and Zambia all issuing US\$1 billion bonds. Measuring the total amount of external debt as a ratio/percentage of GNI is a general indicator of a country’s level of debt. The total external debt to GNI ratio in Sub-Saharan Africa at the end of 2014 was 24.5% which was lower than Latin America & the Caribbean (29.5%) and Europe & Central Asia (58%).

