

ARC East Africa Weekly Chronology 12 – 18 February 2026

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17 Feb 2026 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Radio Okapi*. European commissioner **Hadja Lahbib** announces an €81.2m (\$96.17m) emergency aid package for the DRC and the **Great Lakes region** to address the severe humanitarian crisis affecting over 21 million people;

17 Feb 2026 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Borkena*. Prime minister **Abiy Ahmed** and **Türkiye**'s President **Recep Tayyip Erdoğan** agree to deepen economic and security ties during Erdoğan's visit to Addis Ababa, setting a target to raise Ethiopia-Türkiye trade to \$1 billion and expand Turkish investment;

17 Feb 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. A closed-door meeting in **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** hosted by prime minister **Abiy Ahmed** exposes sharp tensions between President **William Ruto** and former Kenyan leader **Uhuru Kenyatta**, undermining efforts to repair their relationship;

17 Feb 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Citizen*. President **William Ruto**, in his capacity as chairperson of the **East African Community (EAC)**, calls for an emergency summit to address an \$89m funding shortfall that threatens to disrupt the bloc's operations;

17 Feb 2026 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Stanbic Bank Tanzania head of client coverage for corporate and investment banking **Elias Ngunangwa** notes that Tanzania's mining sector is transitioning from a period of growth to one focused on execution, prioritising the development and operationalisation of existing projects rather than expansion;

17 Feb 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Monitor*. Uganda's public debt has risen to 50.9 % of GDP, with **China** now accounting for 15.1 % of external debt, down from a peak of 26.5 % six years ago, reflecting a shift toward multilateral lenders amid fiscal pressures and rising borrowing costs;

16 Feb 2026 **Djibouti (Djibouti)** *PL*. Djibouti condemns **Israel**'s decision to annex **West Bank** lands, calling it a violation of international law and **United Nations (UN)** resolutions;

16 Feb 2026 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *APA News*. At the conclusion of the 39th **African Union (AU) Summit**, leaders unveil a reinforced 'African-led mediation' strategy specifically targeting stability in the eastern DRC and **Sahel**;

16 Feb 2026 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *United24 Media*. Analysts confirm **Russia** has supplied Ethiopia with modern KamAZ-53949 Typhoon-K armored vehicles and Yak-130 aircraft, modernising Ethiopia's military capabilities;

16 Feb 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Citizen*. President **William Ruto** calls for an emergency **East African Community (EAC)** summit to address a critical \$89m funding shortfall that threatens to paralyse the regional bloc;

16 Feb 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Monitor*. A wave of violent gang activity spreads through Kampala and surrounding towns, characterised by armed robberies and assailants;

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16 Feb 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Monitor*. Finance, planning and economic development ministry notes that Uganda's domestic borrowing has surpassed its external debt, placing increased pressure on the government's revenue collections and highlighting growing reliance on local financing;

15 Feb 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. **Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE)** records its largest one-week gain ever, with stocks rising by KSh 220 billion (\$1.7 billion);

14 Feb 2026 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Borkena*. **Italy** pledges to deepen investment-led cooperation with **African** countries during its second **Italy-Africa Summit** in Addis Ababa, focusing on sectors like energy, infrastructure, agriculture, health and AI under the **Mattei Plan**;

13 Feb 2026 **Arusha (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Trade within the **East African Community (EAC)** surges 21.9% in 2025, reaching \$40.3 billion, reflecting deeper regional integration and stronger economic linkages among member states;

12 Feb 2026 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Reuters*. The DRC will seek alternative partners if its **United States (US)** framework for developing critical minerals projects does not produce concrete results, with mines minister **Louis Watumbwa** emphasising that no deals have been sold and the country will prioritise its own interests over US-**China** rivalry;

12 Feb 2026 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. **Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS)** reports Kenya's food import bill rose to KSh 288.1 billion (\$1.99 billion) in 2025, up from Sh283.3 billion (\$1.95 billion) in 2024, reflecting renewed pressure on supply chains after a weak short rains season disrupted crop production;

12 Feb 2026 **Djibouti (Djibouti)** *Dawan Africa*. President **Ismail Omar Guelleh** emphasises that the country's ports and free trade zones are central to its development strategy, forming an integrated system that supports regional trade, global logistics, and economic connectivity;

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