The new face of developing country debt

Presentation by Roy Culpeper and Nihal Kappagoda January 2015

outline

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Main points

- The aggregate picture: developing-country debt is growing but remains sustainable
- However, there are a number of concerns:
 - Local-currency bond markets: mixed blessing
 - Growth of private non-guaranteed debt: risks
 - LIC recourse to sovereign debt markets: risks
 - Absence of a proper international framework for debt restructuring: vulture funds
 - Weak public debt management systems
 - Need for technical assistance

Background

- Paper emerged from two evaluations of debt management assistance
- A long history, going back to the late 1970s
- Systemic crises in the 1980s and 1990s
- Debt relief and economic reform
- By mid-2000s, resolution
- Global financial crisis of 2008: developing countries more resilient
- Focus shifts to debt sustainability

Developing countries' external debt

		(\$billions)			(Distribution)		
	4	2005	<u>2009</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2013</u>
Total debt outstanding	\$ 2	2,352.0	\$3,629.7	\$5,506.4	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Long-term external debt	\$ 1	1,807.8	\$2,705.2	\$3,854.3	76.9%	74.5%	70.0%
Public and publicly guaranteed	\$ 2	1,240.5	\$1,440.3	\$1,956.2	52.7%	39.7%	35.5%
Private nonguaranteed	\$	567.3	\$1,264.9	\$1,898.2	24.1%	34.8%	34.5%
Short-term external debt	\$	481.4	\$ 775.1	\$1,530.8	20.5%	21.4%	27.8%
SOURCE: World Bank (2015)							

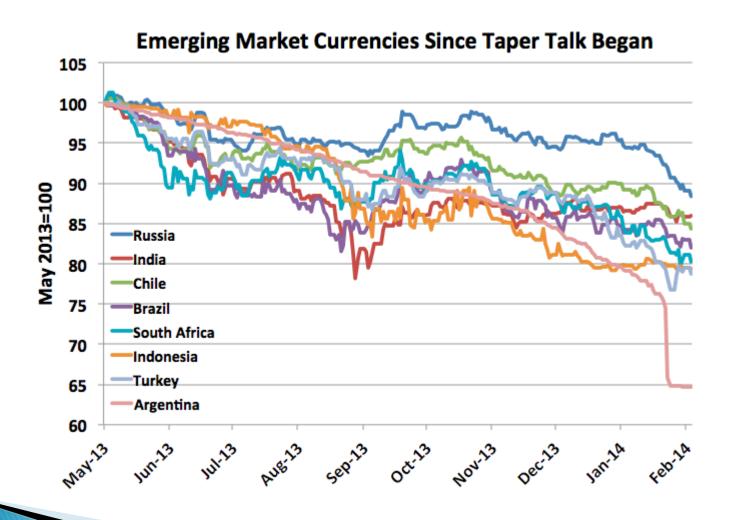
From external to domestic debt

- Rise of local currency bond markets a reaction to prior debt crises
- LICs following the EMCs
- Domestic debt is estimated at more than 50% of total in all developing regions, more than 80% in emerging markets
- Problem of data on domestic debt despite WB's PSDS
- Promises and pitfalls of domestic debt

Private non-guaranteed debt

- PNG debt: data problems need attention
- Not considered as serious as PPG debt but should be
- Private equity flows: not debt, but can precipitate volatility in capital surges and exchange rates
- Increase in short-term debt: share of private debt over 60% of total external debt
- LICs: the new frontier

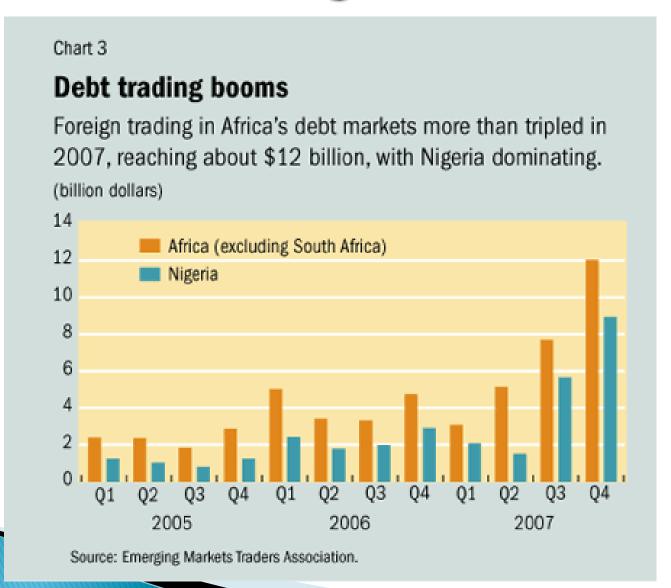
Currency volatility



LIC sovereign bonds

- Demand side: investors' search for yield in a low-interest rate environment
- Supply side: search for affirmation of creditworthiness by governments
- In 2013, \$4.6 billion African sovereign bonds:
 - 5% of total issuance by all developing countries
 - But 12% of FDI inflows and 20% of ODA inflows
- Borrowing costs lower than domestic debt but higher than costs in OECD markets
- Excessive borrowing?

LICs and sovereign debt markets



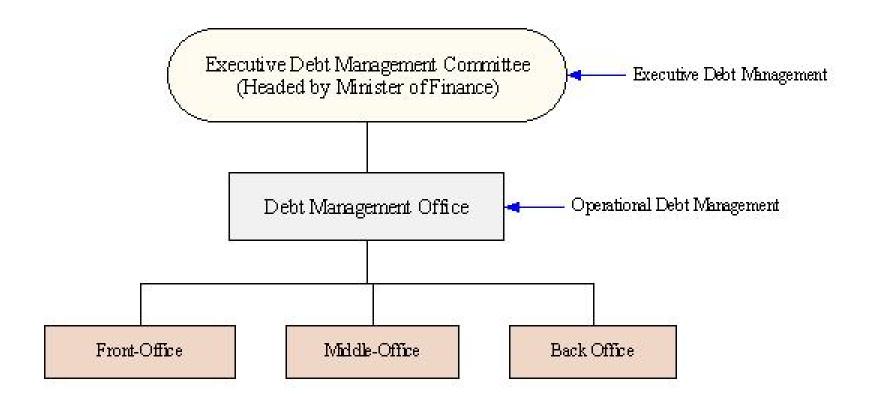
Debt restructuring

- Restructuring distressed debt has fallen to ad hoc mechanisms on a case-by-case basis (Paris and London Clubs)
- The need for a more systemic approach led to the initiation of collective action clauses
- However this has left the door open to free riders and "vulture funds"
- Institutional framework needed to restructure debt raised in capital markets

Debt Management: institutional framework

- Legislative and regulatory framework
- Coordination with monetary, fiscal and financial sector policies
- Current institutional arrangements
- Need for unified Public Debt Management Offices
- Proposed structure

Basic Structure



Front Office

- Resource Mobilization
 - Capital Markets
 - Domestic
 - International
 - Concessional Loans
 - Bilateral
 - Multilateral
 - . Commercial Loans
 - . Government Guarantees and On-lending

Middle Office

- Debt Analysis and Risk Management
 - . Debt Analysis
 - . Risk Management
 - . Borrowing Policy, Strategy and Plan
 - Policies for Government Guarantees, On-lending and Loan Loss Provisioning

Back Office

- Management Information System and Settlements
 - Disbursements and Repayments
 - Loan Database and IT Support
 - Debt Recording
 - Statistical Reporting
 - Contingent Liabilities

TA for public debt management

- Provision of assistance initiated in IMF Standby Agreements and WB Country Programs
- Systematic provision of TA began in the 1980s
- Assistance in building up loan databases to feed into the WB Debtor Reporting System
- Comprehensive TA in debt management began with UNCTAD and COMSEC. They provided the DMFAS and CSDRMS software to build up loan databases and undertake debt analysis
- Developments since 2006: DMF I and II

Case study: Indonesia

- A LMIC experiencing sustained growth 6 6.5% p.a. over last decade and a half
- While debt rose from \$120 billion to \$206 billion 2000-2012, D/GDP fell from 61% to 24%
- Risk of debt distress low
- Sophisticated debt management systems
- However, data on debt outside central government (subnational, private) not well monitored

Case study: Senegal

- A LIC moving from low to moderate risk of debt distress
- Debt management system requires reform
 - Integration of domestic and external debt management systems problematic
- \$700 million in Eurobonds issued in 2011 despite concern of IMF and World Bank (9% coupon, below investment grade); "far in excess of Senegal's investment requirements"

Policy recommendations (1)

- Domestic debt should be integrated into the current DSA framework
- LICs need to deepen financial markets and reduce domestic interest rates
- 3. Data on PNG debt need to be improved for greater comprehensiveness and reliability
- 4. Recourse to the international bond market by LICs should be viewed as a growing risk
- The international community should (again) seriously consider a sovereign debt restructuring mechanism

Policy recommendations (2)

- Technical assistance for public debt management deserves higher priority by donors
- 7. The current provision of TA for PDM should be streamlined

Further research

- Short-term debt
 - Data issues
 - Sources of vulnerability
- The new creditors—Emerging Markets
 - Data issues
 - Implications for debt sustainability
- Debt sustainability indicators
 - Integrating domestic and external debt