There can be little doubt that global sentiment around sub-Saharan Africa has changed significantly over the last decade. From being viewed as a continent rife with political and economic uncertainty, together with a tendency toward economic and social collapse, the current dominant view is that sub-Saharan Africa remains the last of the great untapped markets, ripe for rapid growth and development. While research on many of the key themes in African development has increased, there is very little research around trying to understand the relationship between economic growth and employment outcomes at the detailed country level. This book, including its six country case studies of Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, and South Africa, together with the editors’ introduction, is a successful collaboration of the Brookings Institution, the Development Policy Research Unit of the University of Cape Town, and the United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) to help fill this gap and to stimulate further analytical work in this important area.

The growth of the global working-age population to 2030 will be driven primarily by Africa, so the relationship between population and
job growth is best understood within the context of each country’s projected demographic challenge and the associated implications for employment growth. Furthermore, a better understanding of the structure of each country’s workforce and the implications for human capital development, the vulnerably employed, and the working poor are critical to informing the future development policy agenda. In this sense, outputs from the project that led to this volume can help to inform and guide development policy across these African economies.

We hereby express our sincere appreciation to our collaborating authors who worked with us to implement the African Lions project from its inception in October 2013 to closure in January 2016. They engaged with us in building a quality research team, during which high levels of academic scholarship were maintained, with the results in turn published here for readers to absorb and enjoy.

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that the value it provides is in the institution’s absolute commitment to quality, independence, and impact. Activities supported by its donors reflect this commitment.

Importantly, the present volume would never have seen the day of light without the stimulating intellectual leadership of the late Professor Mwangi S. Kimenyi, senior fellow and director of the Africa Growth Initiative at Brookings. This book is dedicated in the deepest respect to his memory following his untimely passing in June 2015.

Haroon Bhorat and Finn Tarp