



HORN OF AFRICA BULLETIN

ANALYSES • CONTEXT • CONNECTIONS

Analyses

- ▶ **Journalism in Somalia**
- ▶ **Impact of armed conflict on children: the Sudan perspective**

News and events

Resources

Journalism in Somalia

Today the crisis in Somalia is termed by BBC as ‘Africa’s worst.’ According to Oxfam’s coordinator for Somalia, the “very dire” humanitarian crisis in the country is the worst in Africa for many years.¹ Many of its hundreds of thousands of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), the world’s largest such concentration, have little food or shelter. Residents in Mogadishu, the capital, have also been fleeing intense fighting between armed opposition groups fighting the government on one side and the pro-government forces on the other. Although the government has regained control of key parts in the capital, the town is a hub for continued war between the two groups with no peaceful solution in the horizon.

An overview of the media

Somalia’s disintegration is reflected in its media, which tends to be fragmented and often partisan. Broadcasters and journalists operate in an atmosphere which is hostile to free expression, and often dangerous. In 2008, the country’s media situation was characterized as “Africa’s deadliest country for journalists.”² Nevertheless, diverse and increasingly professional media outlets have emerged in recent years - in particular, FM radio stations with no explicit factional links. While the TV and press sectors are, on one hand weak, radio is the dominant medium, there are around 20 radio stations. There is however no national, domestic broadcaster at least owned by the government in Mogadishu. Many listeners tune to Somali-language media based abroad, in particular the BBC’s Somali service and of late the Somali service of the US Voice of America (VOA).

The Somali Diaspora in Europe, North America, and in the Gulf States and elsewhere, on the other hand, sustain a rich internet presence particularly online websites for Somali and non-Somali audience. But domestic web access is hampered by practicalities such as limited access to electricity and the general insecurity in the country. In the northern parts of the country, both ‘Somaliland’ and ‘Puntland,’ maintain a tight hold on broadcasting.

There are a number of media outlets in Somalia, both print and electronic and these include: newspapers like *Qaran*, *Xog-Ogaal*, *Codka Xorriyadda*, and *Ayaama-*

ha in Mogadishu and *Jamhuuriya, Maandeeq* and *Somaliland Times* in ‘Somaliland’. TV stations like the *Somali Telemedia Network* (STN), *Universal TV*, and *HornAfrik* – all privately owned and which rebroadcast the Qatar-based Al-Jazeera TV and the CNN, the *Somaliland National TV* (SLNTV) - owned by the Somaliland government and the *Somali Broadcasting Corporation* (SBC), privately owned in ‘Puntland’. Radio stations include; *Radio Mogadishu* – which is an FM station haltingly operated by the transitional government and whose coverage is limited to the capital, radio *HornAfrik*, *Radio Shabelle*, *Radio Banadir*, *the Holy Koran Radio*, and *Radio Simba*, all privately owned FM station in Mogadishu with HornAfrik rebroadcasting the BBC’s Somali service news, *Radio Galkacyo*, *Voice of Peace* (VoP) and the *Somali Broadcasting Corporation Radio*, all privately owned in ‘Puntland’ and finally *Radio Hargeisa* - owned by the ‘Somaliland’ government, but via FM and shortwave.

Media regulations and laws

Historically, most press activity in Somalia was centred in Mogadishu. Newspapers and magazines were published in English, Somali, and Italian. Two to nine daily newspapers operated in Somalia. In the past, these newspapers have had limited readership – most under 10,000 – and inconsistent circulations due to the conflicts.³ The Ministry of Information and National Guidance, for example, published a variety of weekly and monthly publications including *Xiddigta Oktoobar* (the October Star), a daily Somali language paper. One privately owned newspaper managed to open in early 1991 called *Al Majlis* (the Council). Since then many factional papers that are photocopied and have small distributions emerged all over the country but mainly in Mogadishu, Bosasso, ‘Puntland,’ and in Hargeisa, ‘Somaliland.’

The various Somali governments have different constitutions with media laws and their interpretation varying from region to region. For example, the current Transitional Federal Government (TFG) is yet to draft a new constitution and is operating on a Federal Charter as of to-date. Effort to establish a strong federal government in Somalia is supported by various groups, clans, and clan groupings in Somalia. The Somali Republic has adopted, through a national referendum, the 1960 constitution based on Sharia (law), which means the citizens and government must abide by Islamic laws. It must also be noted that other than a weak media council formed by the former TFG Information Minister, the current constitution does not provide for such a regulatory body. This is partly due to its current nature that the constitution-making is under process.

However, the 1960 constitution, the ‘Somaliland’ constitution, the ‘Puntland’ constitution and the current government’s Charter all imply freedom of expression. Its application is lacking on the ground especially with regards to issue to do with the media’s freedom and other related basic rights. These media regulations undo any attempts at a free press, and the acts of violence and censorship against journalists are clear examples of how the various authorities from all three regions do not support a free press.

Audience and language

In terms of audience and language Somali was and is still the official language of the different states and quasi-states currently in Somalia while Arabic and English are also spoken in most parts and by the different generations. The 1973 introduction of an official Somali orthography based on the Latin alphabet, replacing several older systems, allows the Somali language, with three main dialects and standard usage of common Somali, to be used throughout Somalia. Where language-based prejudice and economic injustice were prevalent prior to 1973, the adoption of an official language allows for wider economic and educational access. Since the war broke out in Somalia from the early 1990s, only Somali and English papers have been out although at various distribution levels and capacities.

Censorship and harassment

While Somalia enjoyed a brief period when the country's press was free, the press has been heavily censored or under government control throughout the ages: from 1960 onwards. The poverty and refugee status of most Somalis has left the issue of freedom of expression to be argued by a small few who often face harassment, attacks, beatings, abductions, and other forms of interference with their work. The civil war nature of the country did not help either. Most Somali authorities shut down newspapers, confiscated copies, and were responsible for arresting and imprisoning journalists. From the early 1990s to-date, bans and censorships are imposed and then lifted while journalists face regular mistreatments, harassment, arrests, and intimidation from armed opposition groups and leaders of various Somali authorities.⁴

The Transitional National Government (TNG) of 2000 formed in Arta, Djibouti and the current TGNU formed in early 2009 both gave some levels of hope to the media in general. However, the general security vacuum denies them the freedom they need to serve the public. The regional governments of 'Somaliland' and 'Puntland' have been the biggest challenge to media outlets and journalists/reporters committed to exposing unbiased truth. Journalists working in these regions are arrested and imprisoned for criticizing the government or presenting a negative view of any issue facing the country. In fact, several journalists have been prosecuted for saying the Somaliland and Puntland governments do not support press freedom.⁵ So far, the number of journalists killed in Somalia since 1993 is, for example, 25, 9 of which are foreign journalists and there might still be lots of other cases unrecorded or went unreported.⁶ In other words, closings the media houses and looting their equipments became a way (almost adopted by warlords and clan leaders) to silencing media activities in Somalia.

State-Media relations

While media coverage is both clan-based and somehow representative of all political groups, clans and clan groupings, they are in a position of a kind of a "cat and mouse" scenario where each watches the other closely. Just like the previous military regime in Somalia, most media outlets are either group owned or censorship is commonplace. The post-Siyad Barre power vacuum left in Somalia from the early 1990s with no central government and many political and clan-based militia groups battling for power. The civil war that followed also left most Somalis uneducated and illiterate, living in poverty, and struggling for survival on a daily basis. The Somali media we talk about today operates in such a situation and status. The attitude to foreign media is no better either.

Although media outlets like CNN alerted the international community on the country's poverty, famine and brutal civil war which attracted the US-led Unified Task Force (UNITAF) and the two subsequent UN Operations in Somalia (UNOSOM I and UNOSOM II), both the local and international press stand no better chances either and they have struggled under this political legacy for over two decades. Despite this, it is a common belief that one of the major issues for all Somalis, regardless of which region one is in, is the way Somalia is presented in the international community as not only a failed but also a collapsed state. And despite the Somali journalists, literary scholars and writers citing the long oral tradition and a sense of national cultural pride they are equally grappling with protecting the country's image as they also try to simultaneously present the truth of their country's struggles.

Education and training

Formerly a nation with a free, compulsory education system, the 1991 civil war and the subsequent civil war has led to the destruction of educational institutions and infrastructures. As a result, Somalia faces two generational losses in terms of formal

educational systems throughout the country and the media sector was not spared either. For example, there are no university-level journalism programmes to-date at the various self-sponsored universities run in Mogadishu, and in the northern regions of Somalia. In 2001, the BBC's World Service Educational Trust put together some training manuals and helped to facilitate journalism training in Somalia. The first basic handbook for journalists called *Sahafi* in Somali filled a void where no journalistic training materials existed in Somalia.

Similarly, in 2001, the UN Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) funded the establishment of an internet website for the East Africa Media Women's Association (EAMWA), an organization sponsored by Open Society Institute and Freedom Forum (OSIFF) and which to educate and support the efforts of women working in the media in East Africa.

Conclusion and recommendations

As part of the existing advanced technology in the country, the Somali people use sms text messaging not only to pass on jokes, news, cartoons, but they also use it to call for official meetings, for example in areas where there is more insecurity. The country's regions can, for example, draw lessons from journalism in other war torn countries. One possible but also practical way that donors, governments, and other international organizations involved in Somalia can work to protect or strengthen journalism in the country is to push for the formation of a national media council which would serve as the regulatory and control body of the sector. The donor community can also set aside funding for peace journalism- a fund that would include training journalists in media ethics and professionalism in addition to promoting lasting peace for Somalia. Both efforts must be involved by the TFG, 'Somaliland,' 'Puntland,' civil society and members of the Somali Diaspora community.

As long as Somalia lacks a unified Somali government and civil war continues, it seems that only incremental growth and change will occur in the press, or the country as a whole. International support for Somalia is necessary for significant growth in the economy, educational institutions, and media outlets. If civil war continues and the country falls into more anarchy, it can be assumed that the media will continue to be measured by anarchy and lawlessness and that harassment and censorship will be the order of the day. Perhaps as more Somali journalists are trained and able to take a leadership role in the press system, these individuals will become advocates to improve the literacy and economic situation of the general population.

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- 1 Somalia, BBC News and reports from Oxfam GB, Somalia.
- 2 See Reporters Without Borders (RWB) reports, 2008.
- 3 For more on the Somali media, see, for example, the BBC's Somalia country profile.
- 4 The most recent is the arrest of the head of Horseed Media for reporting on the opposition in 'Puntland.' See Daily Nation: Africa- Somali media boss gets six-year jail term, Sunday, August 15, 2010.
- 5 [1] From 2008 to date a number of journalists were arrested in Puntland for violating media laws in Puntland. A good example is that of the director of Radio Galkayo, Hassan Mohamed Jama who was arrested over the coverage of the war between Puntland and Somaliland coverage. Recently a journalist was arrested of interviewing Mr. Mohamed Said Atom who is on the U.S. wanted list. See <http://allafrica.com> and <http://www.hiiraan.com>
- 6 In 1993 was the first time that journalists were targeted in Somalia. Siyad Barre's regime (1969-1991) was very cruel to journalists however, the government's media ownership helped save many journalists working with the public media. While this poses a question of objectivity in journalism in Somalia, their lives were, however, not in danger compared to today's Somalia, where law and order does not exist.

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Impact of armed conflict on children: the Sudan perspective

The nature of armed conflict has changed since the end of the cold war in the 90s. Nowadays, armed conflicts mostly confine the lives of civilians, over half of whom are children (Steven Hick, 2001, P.106). Drawing from the Sudan perspective, this article analyses the impact of armed conflict on children, particularly the psycho-social dimensions of child soldiers and refugee and internal displaced children.

Source of conflict

At the 2000 International Conference on War-affected Children, in Winnipeg, Canada, Graça Machel summed up the circumstance of the world's children caught up in armed conflict: "wars have always victimized children and other non-combatants, but modern wars are exploiting, maiming and killing children more callously and more systematically than ever. Children today find themselves caught up in complex and confusing conflicts that have multiple causes and that lack clear prospects for resolution. Children are being sucked into seemingly endless endemic struggle for power and resources." (Steven Hick, 2001, P.107).

Machel was right indeed when identifying endemic struggles for power and resources as being at the heart of modern wars. The Sudan conflict has overshadowed the much celebrated Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed between the Sudanese Government and Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in January 2005, and the general elections in 2010. Although there are a number of political, ethnic or religious factors that underscore armed conflict in Sudan, power struggles and economic factors are determinant in understanding the crisis.

Impact of armed conflict on children

Repeated armed confrontations between the Sudan government and the SPLA have been devastating particularly for children because little distinction has been made

between combatants and civilians. This has caused the plight of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees - whom repatriation efforts began soon after the CPA was signed and are still ongoing- to worsen. The 2009 International Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC)'s Report accounts for 4,900,000 IDP and more than 2 million refugees. In this scenario, children were left on their own to care, fend and protect themselves despite their vulnerability. Their rights as children have been cruelly jeopardized. There are many effects of armed conflict on children in Sudan; however, this article only highlights the critical issues and is therefore not exhaustive.

One of the most critical concerns is refugees and IDPs. Millions of Sudanese have fled because of the conflict. These people have become either refugees - if they crossed any international borders or IDPs- if they stay within the Sudan territory. Most refugees and displaced children moved with their families, but many lost their parents. Many children died within the first days and weeks of displacement due to hunger and diseases, especially diarrheal diseases, respiratory infections, and malaria. Displaced children were raped, tortured, murdered or recruited as child soldiers. Girls and women in IDPs and refugee camps in Sudan, Kenya, Central Africa and Uganda remain prone to constant danger of sexual attack and abuse, leading to pregnancy and HIV/AIDS infection. The youngest children are also affected when they witness an attack on a mother or sister (A. Feyissa and Rebecca Horn, 2008).

Camps for refugees and IDPs are supposed to be safe, but the violence, sexual assault, and alcohol and substance abuse have often reached high levels. Displaced girls and women in Camps in Kenya, Burundi, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo, for example, openly explain how they were forced to exchange sex for food and protection (M. Coutu & S. Le Courtois, 2009). Similar situation has also been deplored in country like Kenya, Burundi and Tanzania (Joint Commission for Refugees of the Burundi & Tanzania Episcopal Conferences 2008; Abebe Feyissa & Rebecca Horn, 2008). Camps are sometimes militarized, and children are particularly vulnerable to recruitment by armed forces or other militias or ethnic armed groups. In addition, many refugee and internally displaced children lose their chances of receiving an education, proper nutrition, and health care. Camps frequently lack adequate reproductive health care for girls and women (S. Pyana Mwamba, 2009).

The pervasive effects of armed conflict on children may also be captured through the concept of child soldiers. The United Nations (UN) *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (1989) and the *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts* (2000) describe a child soldier as a boy or a girl under the age of 18 who is compulsorily or voluntarily recruited or otherwise used in hostilities by armed forces, paramilitaries, civil defense. In Sudan, the national army as well as opposition and militias groups have abducted or recruited thousands of adolescent boys and girls working in the informal sector, selling cigarettes, gum, or lottery tickets on the streets. While most child soldiers have been recruited by conscription, abduction, or coercion, some also volunteer. Although for them joining an army or militia group may be the only way to escape starvation and death, for some commanders the desire to recruit adolescent is based on the fact that children and adolescents are more obedient and easier to manipulate than adult soldiers (Steven Hick, pp.112-113).

Beyond their use as soldiers and combatants, armies and militia groups are using adolescents for sexual services, as "forced wives", and also as spies, messengers, porters and cooks. Most of these child soldiers had been orphaned and look at the army as a replacement for their parents. Hunger, poverty, and lack of opportunities not only driven to volunteer but had also compelled parents to offer their children for service. Girls abducted into militia groups and army in Sudan have been mainly forced into sexual slavery, subjected to physical and emotional violence, and forced to provide other personal services. The majority have become infected with sexually transmitted diseases and, gradually more, with HIV/AIDS (W. O'Neill, 2008; L. Hovil & Moses Chrispus Okello, 2008; L.Hovil & A. Moorehead, 2002).

Protection and prevention policies

There are many other paradigms, like sexual attacks and exploitation strategically used against children that may further enlighten the impact of armed conflict on children. But a few developments mentioned above on the Sudan conflict imply that imperative actions and strong treatment policy are needed to meet the challenges of protection and prevention of children from modern armed conflicts. Traditional international legal frameworks afford a distinction between refugee and internally displaced children. This is clearly affirmed in the *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement* and the African Union *Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa* (“Kampala Convention.”)

For the reason that internally displaced children are distinguished from refugees who have been forced to cross international border, they do not have the international protections detailed in the 1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. They also face distinctive threats due to the fact that governments of their own countries are often the source of their displacement and suffering. Still, due to this legal difference, internal displaced children do not have rights that are enforceable in “hard law.” This legal difference has as well often led to internal displaced children being relegated, with their families, to a kind of moral and political non-man’s-land in which they become “forgotten people”. The first and most important innovative efforts to advocate better protection and treatment of children in wars will have to be based primarily on appeals to the fact that there is no concrete difference between the experience of an official refugee and an internal displaced child from the point of view of the suffering they must endure. Such an undertaking is determinant in addressing the problem at stake since it challenges the traditional notion of state sovereignty and pave a way for commitment by both nation-states and the international community to take effective measures to increase the protection of all forced displaced persons and prevent them from any form of abuse.

UN adopted in 2000 an Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, establishing 18 as the minimum age for the participation of children in hostilities. While this protocol prohibits non-states actors from recruiting children below the age of 18 years, it allows states to establish a minimum age voluntary recruitment that is not necessarily 18. Yet, the 1612 UN Security Council Resolution (July 2005) provides significant monitoring and reporting mechanisms that can help to protect children from effects of armed conflict. This include a absolute condemnation of the recruitment and use of child soldiers by parties to armed conflict; and the ratification of the principle of responsibility to protect which challenges the traditional notion of state sovereignty and calls upon nation-states to end impunity and prosecute those responsible for crimes against humanity and all form of crimes perpetrated against children. There is also the consideration of the protection of children as an important aspect of any comprehensive strategy to resolve conflict and the necessity for the international community to support nation-states in building democratic and just institutions as most conflicts are due to bad governance and unjust distribution of resources.

This definitely implies that the protection, rights and well-being of children affected by armed conflict are specifically integrated into all peace processes, peace agreements and post-conflict recovery and reconstruction planning and programmes. As Steven Hick (2001), Lucy Hovil (2002) and David Hollenbach (2008) would put it; all peace agreements should include specific provisions for demobilization and reintegration of child soldiers and displaced children. Advocacy for social services and food provisions for displaced families are also critical for addressing the problem at stake. Sexual attacks and exploitation should be considered as the most unacceptable human evil.

With respect to the Sudan context, achieving all this will certainly involve respect for democratic governance and constitutional processes; establishing mechanisms to ensure transparency and accountability in government affairs- both at the local, regional and national levels; and culturally contextualizing Sudan’s solutions to reflect

the norms, values, customs and needs of its children and distinct people (Cape Town Center for Conflict Resolution, 2006, P. 20). During a recent public seminar held at the Cape Town Center for conflict Resolution on Wednesday August 25th, 2010, Francis Deng, James Johan and Jan Pronk highlighted how this can be achieved: on the one hand, the international community should convince the government and the opposition parties and make sure that the referendum planned for January 2011 is not postponed; and that the outcome of the latter is really implemented. On the other hand, humanitarian interventions need to be increased in Sudan, especially in the South, so as to secure people's rights, incite social development and strengthen peace. Lastly, the idea of national unity should be promoted, rather than division and chaos. This is thus the way forward to peace and, in turn, for reducing the impact of armed conflict on children in Sudan.

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NEWS AND EVENTS

GENERAL

AU signs capacity building agreement

The African Union and African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) have signed an agreement to build Africa's ability in economic and political policy formulation. The agreement that was signed in Kampala recently between Mr Jean Ping, the African Union Commission chairperson and Dr Frannie Léautier, the ACBF executive secretary, aims at cementing the strategic partnership between African governments.

It emphasises the need for Africa to complement reforms so far reached. This was reported on 26 August. The agreement proclaims a decade of Africa Union capacity building, which was declared in 2002 in Durban, South Africa.

Daily Monitor

ETHIOPIA

Ethiopian troops in Somalia

A large number of Ethiopian troops in military vehicles on 29 August reached Somali villages after crossing its borders with Hiran region in Central Somalia. The Ethiopians, according to residents in the Beledweyne town, 335 kilometres north of Mogadishu, seem more serious than before to tackle the authority of Al-Shabaab in Hiran region. Residents say that the troops crossed the border into the country twice five days ago.

According to Hussein Abdallah, a member of the Ahlu Sunna wal-Jamaa- another armed opposition group -the movements may be a preliminary action to signal Al-Shabaab authorities that the Ethiopians are capable of weakening their strength. Early this month, Ethiopian Prime Minister, Meles Zenawi said that he would deploy forces should AMISOM peacekeepers guarding vital installations in Mogadishu find themselves in great danger and request assistance.

Daily Nation on the Web, allafrika.com

KENYA

Kenya ratifies new constitution

Before an overflowing crowd that included several African heads of state, President Kibaki signed the new constitution on 27 August at Uhuru Park, Nairobi. At the stroke of the pen and to the echo of a 21-gun salute, the nation shed off a set of laws inherited from the British and entered a new constitutional dispensation in which the powers of the presidency will be reduced and far-reaching changes introduced to tackle inequality and promote greater national cohesion.

Some 150,000 people, by police estimates, watched as President Kibaki hailed the endorsement of the new law as a turning point for the nation. “The dawn of a new era is upon us. Let us seize the moment with courage because the birth of the Second Republic holds great promise for the Kenyan people,” he said. The ceremony was the capstone in the long and winding path to a new constitution. Demands for a more progressive set of laws kicked off almost immediately after independence in part due to the flawed process through which the Lancaster constitution was drafted.

Unlike the old constitution, which allowed the president and prime minister the power to appoint an unlimited number of MPs into the Cabinet, the new constitution limits the number of ministers to a maximum of 24. It also abolishes the position of assistant minister, paving the way for a leaner front bench than the current grand coalition, which had a record 40 ministers and 52 assistant ministers when it was formed in March 2008. The new Bill of Rights, which became effective immediately the constitution was signed into law, will see women guaranteed at least a third of the seats in all elective bodies and commissions of the state. At least 15 per cent of national revenue will be sent directly to the counties, giving citizens and local leaders’ greater authority in managing resources.

Daily Nation on the Web

SOMALIA

AMISOM, Al-Shabaab close strategic street in Mogadishu

The African Union troops AMISOM and Al-Shabaab on 28 August closed the movement of Mekka-al-mukarama, a strategic street in the Somali capital Mogadishu, just as the fighting continues for the 6th consecutive day in the capital. At least 10

people have been killed and more 20 others wounded in heavy fighting between the transitional government of Somalia backed by the AMISOM and the allied groups of Hizbul Islam and Al-Shabaab between Dabka and Bakara intersections in Mogadishu.

Mekka-almukara was the only street that the public traffic was using and also the other vehicles going to Bakara market. It connects the international airport of Aden Adde of Mogadishu and the presidential palace in Mogadishu. The Al-Shabaab closed the street on the side that it controls of Dabka that leads to Bakara market after heavy fighting in which they took over the military base of Ahlu Sunna Wal Jamaa between Dabka and Bakara.

Shabelle Media Network

Number of citizens needing humanitarian aid falls

The scale of the humanitarian crisis in Somalia has eased this year, with the number of people needing aid falling by 25 per cent to 2 million, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported on 23 August. However, it warned that more than one in four Somalis still needs assistance. The report said that this year Somalia - which has an estimated population of 7.5 million -experienced a longer than usual rainy season, boosting agricultural and livestock production.

FAO's latest findings are in contrast to last year's figures, when about 42 per cent of the population was in urgent need of help due to a prolonged drought that killed a lot of livestock and was exacerbated by high food prices and insecurity. Some 40,000 pastoralists are believed to have become destitute following the 2009 drought.

According to the new report, Somalia's nutrition situation has improved slightly in the north, but 90 per cent of the 35,000 severely malnourished children in the country remain in the conflict-stricken south-central region. It also spotlights the needs of the country's estimated 1.4 million internally displaced persons (IDPs). The epicentre of the humanitarian crisis continues to be in the central and Hiran regions, driven largely by long-term effects of drought, high food prices and insecurity because of conflict.

UN News Agency

SUDAN

Sudan plans for nuclear reactors

The visiting delegation from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on 26 August concluded its visit to Sudan and handed their final report the government which contained a recommendation to obtain two research nuclear reactors. Sudan announced its intention to establish a nuclear programme to produce electrical power and requested assistance from the IAEA to achieve this goal. The delegation began its visit with the aim of discussing Sudan's progress in implementing a feasibility study on the possibility of importing a nuclear reactor for 'research purposes'.

The report finalized by the IAEA said that one of the two research reactors recommended will be used for training and the other for producing Isotopes to use in the medical, industrial, agricultural and other fields. Sudan's official news agency (SUNA) said that the minister of Science and Technology Eissa Bushra reviewed the feasibility study prepared by the national team which was assigned with introduction of the first nuclear research reactor in the country.

IAEA expressed its readiness to provide all forms of support to Sudan to implement the approved projects after possession of the nuclear reactors.

Sudan Tribune

UGANDA

Church offers guidance on the 2011 elections

Catholic Bishops of Uganda, on 26 August wrote a passionate letter to Uganda's government expressing concern that the road towards the 2011 general elections was creating a lot of anxiety, doubts, fear and moments of hopelessness in the nation.

“Many are already sensing improper handling in the ongoing process and fearing unwanted consequences”, they wrote. They noted with great concern that as the country moved towards 2011, they saw a lot of fear and pessimism in many people’s hearts. It was, therefore, paramount that the electoral process leading to the 2011 general elections is handled with the maximum care as a tool towards building long term democracy in the country.

“Political parties have the task of fostering widespread participation and making public responsibilities accessible to all”. They called on them to ably interpret the aspirations of civil society and orient them towards the common good by offering effective formulation of political choices. They called on the ruling party and all opposition parties to work together through dialogue for the good of the country. They urged all leaders to struggle against individualism and to be leaders that promote lasting peace based on justice, generosity towards those in need and a spirit of dialogue and reconciliation. The letter was written to provide guidance on how everyone should avoid what may cause confusion and animosity among our people.

Daily Monitor

UPDF soldiers in training for deployment to Somalia

On 27 August, it was reported that at least 1,700 UPDF soldiers have started three months training in peacekeeping at Singo Training School in Nakaseke District. The soldiers undergoing training are of the Uganda Battle Group Seven (Ugabag7). They will be deployed in Somalia at the end of the year.

The army spokesperson, Lt. Col. Felix Kulayigye, said the group will replace two battalions which have been in Mogadishu for the last one year. Uganda, Djibouti and Guinea promised to send an extra 4,000 troops to reinforce the current 6,000 peacekeepers in Somalia. The Chief of Defence Forces, Gen. Aronda Nyakairima, said in phase one, Uganda and Burundi agreed to send 1,000 additional troops each. The African Union (AU) pledge came after Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the July 11 bombs that killed at least 76 people in the country’s capital. However, the armed opposition group is opposed to any foreign troops in Somalia and pledged to fight a “massive final war” against the AU troops.

Daily Monitor

RESOURCES

GENERAL

“The justice sector afterthought: witness protection in Africa” (2010)

This book seeks to address the frictions between protecting the rights of accused persons and protecting the physical and psychological wellbeing of witnesses in Africa. The challenge is complicated by poor capacity and integrity in the justice sector, as well as by lower living standards. These issues commonly cause justice inefficiencies which impede both witness protection and the rights of the accused. The book addresses witness protection in South Africa as well as initiatives to create protection programmes in Kenya, Uganda and Sierra Leone. It also examines witness protection at the International Criminal Court (ICC), the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL). Its interpretation of witness protection is wide and includes sensitive investigatory, prosecutorial and judicial practices as well as relocation and identity change. The book is written by Chris Mahony.

<http://www.iss.co.za/pubs/Books/WitnessProt4.pdf>

ETHIOPIA

“Women in conflict and indigenous conflict resolution among the Issa and Gurgura clans of Somalia in eastern Ethiopia” (July 2010)

This article tries to show the impacts of conflict on women, the role of women in conflict and indigenous conflict resolution, and the participation of women in social institutions and ceremonies among the Issa and Gurgura clans of the Somali ethnic group. It explores the system of conflict resolution in these clans, and women’s representation in the system. The primary role of women in the formation of social capital through marriage and blood relations between different clans or ethnic groups is assessed. The paper focuses on some of the important elements of the socio-cultural settings of the study community that are in one way or another related to conflict and indigenous conflict resolution mechanisms. It also examines the positive aspects of marriage practices in the formation of social capital which strengthens friendship and unity instead of enmity.

www.humansecuritygateway.com/documents/ACCORD-AJCR-WomenInConflictAndIndigenousConflictResolutionAmongIssa-GurguraSomaliClansInEthiopia.pdf

“Ye Shakoch Chilot (the court of the sheikhs): a traditional institution of conflict resolution in Oromiya zone of Amhara Regional State, Ethiopia” (July 2010)

In Ethiopia, a country that has adopted ethnic federalism as its policy, such traditional institutions help to blur political boundaries and bring people from different ethnic and regional backgrounds together. Furthermore, they serve as alternative institutions of conflict resolution in a country where the state legal system is failing to fully provide the judiciary needs of the nation. The main questions this paper attempts to answer, on the bases of ethnographic data, are: What are the pull factors towards traditional institutions? And why do people prefer the traditional institutions vis-à-vis the state legal system?

<http://www.humansecuritygateway.com/documents/ACCORD-ACJR-CourtOfSheikhs-TraditionalInstitutionOfConflictResolutionInOromiya-Amhara-Ethiopia.pdf>

KENYA

“Insecurity and indignity: women’s experiences in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya” (July 2010)

Violence against women is endemic in Nairobi’s slums and settlements, goes widely unpunished and significantly contributes to making and keeping women poor. Recent positive attempts by the government to improve access to essential services in informal settlements do not address the immediate needs for access to essential public services, including sanitation. Nor do the proposed solutions fully take into account the specific needs of women and girls in these settlements. This report shows that for many women living in informal settlements, poverty is both a consequence and a cause of violence. Many women who suffer physical, sexual or psychological violence lose income as a result and their productive capacity is impaired. This report is written by Amnesty International.

http://www.humansecuritygateway.com/documents/AI_InsecurityIndignity_WomenExperiencesSlums_Kenya.pdf

UGANDA

“A different way home: resettlement patterns in Northern Uganda” (May 2010)

After decades of civil conflict leading to massive internal displacement of people, Northern Uganda is peaceful again and hundreds of thousands of displaced people are relocating. Using data from maps and satellite imagery, the research examines

the placement of homes before, during and after the conflict. Examining two study sites, one that experienced a great deal of violence over an extended period of time and one where the experience of violence was more limited, it was observed that there was clustering of home placement in the post-conflict period. As resettlement occurs, there is also evidence of increased location of homes in close proximity to roads in the site with high levels of violence. This research informs what was presently known about the choices of returnees and has implications for service provision and the reclamation of property rights after conflict.

http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1615648

“Foraging and fighting: community perspectives on natural resources and conflict in southern Karamoja” (August 2010)

This joint publication by the Feinstein International Center and Save the Children in Uganda examines the perspectives and experiences of communities in the southern Karamoja region of Uganda regarding natural resources and conflict. The study set out to better understand local views on this topic in response to the assumption in policy circles that resource scarcity or competition drives the conflict in this pastoral and agro-pastoral area.

<https://wikis.uit.tufts.edu/confluence/display/FIC/Foraging+and+Fighting>

SOMALIA

“Al-Shabaab’s regionalization strategy” (July 2010)

While Uganda has paid a bitter price at home for its military engagement in Somalia, al-Shabaab’s recent attacks will likely foster a more interventionist agenda in East Africa and play into the hands of the armed militia groups. It was the biggest militant attack in sub-Saharan Africa since the infamous 1998 al-Qaida bombings of the US embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam. The two coordinated bombings in Uganda’s capital Kampala killed 74 people and wounded dozens of others watching the World Cup final on 11 July. For al-Shabaab it was a successful attack against the country that forms the backbone of the 6,000-strong African Union force in Mogadishu. The movement previously threatened both Uganda and Burundi, the second major troop-supplier to the AMISOM mission, which secures the survival of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) whose movement is virtually confined to a few blocks in the capital. This article is written by Georg-Sebastian Holzer writes for International Relations and Security Network (ISN) Security Watch.

<http://www.isn.ethz.ch/isn/Current-Affairs/Security-Watch/Detail/?lng=en&id=118877>

“Somali refugees: protecting their rights in cities” (June 2010)

Tens of thousands of Somali refugees have sought asylum in cities in neighbouring countries but have long been overlooked by humanitarian actors. Many of these refugees have found ways to survive in Nairobi, Djibouti, Aden, and Sana’a and have become self-reliant, but others suffer from police harassment, arbitrary arrest and detention, and forced return. Registration and documentation should be the foundation of refugee protection in cities. Partnerships with community-based organizations and ongoing refugee profiling is essential to identify and serve the most vulnerable. Promoting the protection of refugees in cities helps them live with greater independence and dignity. Due to ongoing violence, human rights violations, and conflict in Somalia, today there are some 580,000 Somali refugees in four main asylum countries—Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Yemen.

http://www.humansecuritygateway.com/documents/RI_SomaliRefugees_ProtectingTheirRightsInCities.pdf

SUDAN

“Egypt and Darfur conflict” (July 2010)

The conflict in Sudan’s western province of Darfur has revived even as the peace talks in Qatar between Sudan’s government and the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) seem to have collapsed. Egypt has hitherto refrained from involvement in negotiations to end the conflict, a strategy that has contributed to further diminishing Cairo’s already weakened status as a major player in regional politics and diplomacy. Now, however, several developments present Egypt with an opportunity to assume a more active mediating role. Among these is a direct invitation to Egypt from the JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim. Egypt’s position is complicated by its need to balance its relations with Sudan and those of other Sudanese political actors, and inhibited by narrow security calculations – chief among which is ensuring a stable government in Khartoum. This policy brief by the Norwegian Peacebuilding Centre (NOREF) is written by Jacob Høigilt and Øystein H. Rolandsen. <http://www.peacebuilding.no/eng/Publications/Noref-Policy-Briefs/Egypt-and-the-Darfur-conflict>

“Rethinking Darfur” (June 2010)

This policy briefing draws on historical analysis, explores mortality surveys, and dissects six years of American budgetary allocations in Sudan to demonstrate that the conflict in Darfur has been misunderstood by both policymakers and the general public, leading to problems in crafting policy toward that troubled land. It is written by Marc Gustafson. <http://www.cato.org/pubs/fpbriefs/fpb89.pdf>

“Scenarios for Sudan’s future, revisited” (August 2010)

This policy brief envisions many post-referendum scenarios for Sudan. As the referendum approaches, it suggests that it will be important for the South to develop a stronger sense of cohesion and common purpose given the uncertain and unprecedented environment following the vote. It is written by Jon Temin a senior program officer at USIP, and Jair van der Lijn, a senior research fellow at the Clingendael Institute. <http://www.usip.org/files/resources/pb42.pdf>

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Editorial information

The media review Horn of Africa Bulletin (HAB) was published by the Life & Peace Institute between 1989 and 2006. The re-formatting of HAB as an e-bulletin 2007 is done in close collaboration with the Nairobi-based All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) and the Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and the Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA). The electronic base of HAB is LPI and the editor is Olivia Kibui, olivia.kibui@life-peace.org. For subscription matters contact: Tore Samuelsson, tore.samuelsson@life-peace.org. For a link to HAB and more information see www.life-peace.org

Editorial principles

The Horn of Africa Bulletin (HAB) is an international newsletter, compiling analyses, news and resources primarily in the Horn of Africa region. The material published in HAB represents a variety of sources and does not necessarily represent the views of the Life & Peace Institute (LPI) or the cooperating partners, the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) and the Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and the Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA). Writers and sources are normally referred to, although in exceptional cases, the editors of the HAB may choose not to reveal the real identity of a writer or publish the source.

