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- iv. Burkina Faso
- v. Cameroon
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- ii. Measures to reconstruct affected areas after a pandemic such as Ebola
- iii. Measures to improve workplace health and safety regulations
- iv. The question of organizing and financing major sports events in view of socio-economic growth

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Delegates

Delegation	Trade Committee	Security Commission	Health, Society and Development Committee
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Republic of the Gambia	Saif Khashoggi	Alya Al Angari	Omar Sayedahmed

	(BISJ)	(JKS)	(BISJ)
Republic of Ghana	Mafdi Mikhail (BISJ)	Fawwaz Noibi (BISJ)	Maryam Shareef (BISJ)
Republic of Guinea	[Vacant]	Sarah Al Bakri (JKS)	Lara Tabbara (BISJ)
Republic of Guinea-Bissau	Ruy Scalamandre (BISJ)	[Vacant]	Arouba Initiaz (BISJ)
Republic of Côte d'Ivoire	[Vacant]	Sadeem Basyouni (JKS)	Lara Radojcic (BISJ)
Republic of Liberia	Aly Fetouh (BISJ)	[Vacant]	Lujain Jan (JKS)
Republic of Mali	[Vacant]	Manal Barakati (JKS)	Maaz Ali (BISJ)
Niger	[Vacant]	Laith Lolas (BISJ)	Mustafa Khan (BISJ)
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Republic of Sierra Leone	Layan Enany (JKS)	Huda Ali (BISJ)	Muna Osman (BISJ)
Togo	[Vacant]	[Vacant]	Zain Amir (BISJ)
UNECA	Nojoud Al Tayar (JKS)		
UNESCO			Mennad El-Tayeb (BISJ)
World Health Organisation (WHO)			Nadeen Odeh (BISJ)



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Health, Society and Development Committee Research Report

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Health, Society and Development Committee Student Officers			
President	Deputy Chair	Deputy Chair	Deputy Chair
Deema Hamze (BISJ)	Mohammed Abdel-Razik (BISJ)	Sofie Fog (BISJ)	Mariam Munshi (JKIS)

FORUM: Health, Society and Development Committee
TOPIC: Promoting women's education with an emphasis on literacy
STUDENT OFFICER: Deema Hamze
POSITION: President of the Health, Society and Development Committee

Introduction

Gender equality is a human right. Women are entitled to live with dignity and with freedom from want and from fear. Gender equality is also a precondition for advancing development and reducing poverty: Empowered women contribute to the health and productivity of whole families and communities, and they improve prospects for the next generation.

Still, despite solid evidence demonstrating the centrality of women's empowerment to reducing poverty, promoting development and addressing the world's most urgent challenges, gender equality remains an unfulfilled promise.

Our objective in this committee is for us to find a solution in order for women to gain back their empowerment, looking at their educational needs with an emphasis on literacy, education is a basic human right, and should be offered to all genders, not biased towards males as women's education is extremely important, because they are the ones who educate a generation after them, this is if they have children of course, their knowledge will always be passed on to their children and grandchildren. Not only that, but women can educate a whole nation, hence how powerful do you think women are if they were well educate?

Definition of Key Terms

Literacy

The ability to read and write

Empowerment

To give power or authority to; authorize, especially by legal or official means

Enhancing

To raise to a higher degree; intensify; magnify

Literacy education

Ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, communicate and compute, using printed and written materials associated with varying contexts

Background Information

Women's issues are global and universal. Illiteracy and limited access to education keep women marginalized.

Literacy empowers and it is the most important means through which women can be developed socially, politically and economically. This paper, therefore,

examines literacy and development and discusses how literacy education can help in the development of women. The paper goes further to highlight the benefits of literacy education to women and concludes with some suggestions on how women development can be enhanced.

Many societies underinvest in girls' and women's education for three main reasons: high direct, indirect, and cultural costs; too few private benefits; and parent's failure to consider the social benefits of education. Strategies that have increased female enrollment are those that: lower the costs of education by providing culturally appropriate facilities, scholarships, and alternative schools that offer classes in the early morning or evening; and those that train girls and women in growth sectors of the economy at the same time that they make strong recruitment and placement efforts. Strategies that have failed include those that distribute school uniforms and offer vocational training that is not directly linked to employment. Too little information is available to assess the effectiveness of programmed learning, day care, home technologies, information campaigns, school meals, and the revamping of curricula and textbooks to introduce broader roles for women.

The roles that men and women play in society are not biologically determined. They are socially determined, changing and changeable. And while they may be justified as being required by culture or religion, these roles vary widely by locality and evolve over time. Efforts to promote women's empowerment should ensure cultural considerations are respected while women's rights are upheld.

Effectively promoting gender equality also requires recognizing that women are diverse in the roles they play, as well as in age, social status, geographic location and educational attainment. The fabric of their lives and the choices available to them vary widely.

The UNFP aims to respond to the needs of the most marginalized and vulnerable – including adolescent girls, people living with disabilities, indigenous peoples, migrants, women refugees, female heads of households and those living in extreme poverty. In 2013, UNFPA supported gender equality-related legislation, policy reform and development in more than 40 countries.

One critical, and often overlooked, requirement for promoting gender equality is the collection of sex- and age-disaggregated data, which helps reveal where progress has taken place and where it is lagging. UNFPA works with countries to build capacity for data gathering and analysis.

Many of the issues include:

Reproductive health: The ability of women to control their own fertility is fundamental to women's empowerment and equality. When a woman can plan her family, she can plan the rest of her life. Protecting and promoting her reproductive rights – including the right to decide the number, timing and spacing of her children – is essential to ensuring her freedom to participate more fully and equally in society.

In addition, for both physiological and social reasons, women are more vulnerable than men to reproductive health problems. Collectively, complications of pregnancy or childbirth are the number two killer of women of reproductive age. Failure to provide information, services and conditions to help women protect their reproductive health constitutes gender-based discrimination and is a violation of women's rights to health and life.

Economic empowerment: Six out of 10 of the world's poorest people are women. Economic disparities persist partly because much of the unpaid work within families and communities falls on the shoulders of women, and because women continue to face discrimination in the economic sphere.

Educational empowerment: About two thirds of the world's illiterate adults are women. Lack of an education severely restricts a woman's access to information and opportunities. Conversely, increasing women's and girls' educational attainment benefits both individuals and future generations. Higher levels of women's education are strongly associated with lower infant mortality and lower fertility, as well as better outcomes for their children.

Political empowerment: Gender equality cannot be achieved without the backing and enforcement of institutions. But too many social and legal institutions still do not guarantee women equality in basic legal and human rights, in access to or control of resources, in employment or earnings, or in social or political participation. And men continue to occupy most positions of political and legal authority; globally, only 22 per cent of parliamentarians are women. Laws against domestic violence are often not enforced on behalf of women.

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight international development goals that were established following the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in 2000, following the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. All 189 United Nations member states at the time (there are 193 currently), and at least 23 international organizations, committed to help achieve the following Millennium Development Goals by 2015:

- To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- To achieve universal primary education
- **To promote gender equality and empower women**
- To reduce child mortality
- To improve maternal health
- To combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
- To ensure environmental sustainability
- To develop a global partnership for development

Where their first target in goal three is:

- Ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education

The 1990's have seen increasing recognition of the centrality of women's empowerment to the success of development programmes. The empowerment of women was essential to the declarations and platforms for action of the 1990 World Conference on Education for all, the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the 1993 Human Rights Conference, the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, and the Regional Preparatory Conferences for the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women. This increased appreciation for and understanding of women's pivotal role in the development process has also been reflected in the goals and priorities of organizations and agencies in the United Nations system. In this regard, the United Nations Resident Coordinators are being called upon to play a key role in facilitating inter-agency cooperation on gender equality and equity and the empowerment of women, with particular emphasis on operational activities at the country level.

The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development stresses that the empowerment and autonomy of women and the improvement of their political, social, economic and health status is both a highly important end in itself and necessary for the achievement of sustainable human development. It states further that "Advancing gender equality and equity and the empowerment of women, and the elimination of all kinds of violence against women, and ensuring women's ability to control their own fertility ...are priority objectives of the international community" (Principle 4 of the ICPD Programme of Action).

The Programme of Action further recognizes that in all parts of the world, women are facing threats to their lives, health and wellbeing. They receive less education than men and are over-represented among the poor and powerless. Achieving change requires policy and programme actions that will improve women's access to the scarce and valued resources of their societies (particularly secure livelihoods and economic resources), alleviate their disproportionate household responsibilities, remove legal and social impediments to their participation in the public sphere, eliminate the spectre of domestic and sexual violence from their daily lives and raise social awareness through effective programmes of education and mass communication.

Possible Solutions

1. Promote the welfare of women in general
2. Promote the full utilization of women in the development of human resources and to bring about their acceptance as full participants in every phase of national development, with equal rights and corresponding obligations.
3. Promote responsible motherhood and maternal health of women;
4. Stimulate actions to improve women's civil, political, cultural, social and economic education;

5. Support the work of non-governmental organizations and to play a coordinating role between government and Nigerian women organizations;
6. Encourage the sense and essence of cooperative societies and activities amongst women both in urban and rural areas and stimulate in them creative entrepreneurship in the field of cottage and small-scale industries.
7. Formulate and propagate moral values within the family unit and in the public generally and to establish programmes with institutions and organizations to inculcate moral education in women and children; and
8. Work towards the total elimination of all social and cultural practices tending to discriminate against and dehumanize womanhood.
9. First and foremost, the process of empowering the African woman and thus integrating her into the mainstream of the development must start from the early stages and from the grassroots. Parents, guardians, and the society as a whole must allow and encourage their female children to enroll in schools, overcome the paralysis of illiteracy and acquire a proper awareness of their potentials, rights and higher responsibilities in society
10. Expansion of quality primary and lower secondary education and scaling up of Adult and youth literacy programmes should be vigorously pursued.
11. Literacy programmes should be incorporated with life skills components so that women can be well equipped to perform their roles more effectively. Programmes relevant to the needs of the women should be promoted. In addition to functional skills, programmes that promote leadership skills, gender consciousness raising and emancipatory goals among women should be put in place
12. Awareness creation programmes should be intensified on the value of women education by the media in order to raise the consciousness of the illiterates especially at the grass root level.
13. Qualified Adult literacy facilitators should be trained and facilitators stipends should be enhanced to boost their morale
14. Budgetary allocation to Adult literacy programmes should be increased.

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FORUM: Health, Society and Development Committee
TOPIC: Measures to reconstruct affected areas after a pandemic such as Ebola
STUDENT OFFICER: Mohammed Abdel-Razik
POSITION: Deputy Chair of the Health, Society and Development Committee

Definition of Key Terms

Pandemics

A pandemic is an epidemic (an outbreak of an infectious disease) that spreads worldwide, or at least across a large region. According to the World Health Organization, a pandemic is a new disease creating death or serious illness and which disseminates fast

Affected areas

The affected areas cover the areas primarily infected by the disease, or core affected areas, and the areas, which are marginally or could potentially be affected by the disease. In the case of Ebola, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone represent the core-affected areas. Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana belong possibly to the second category

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

The GDP is the monetary value of all services and goods produced within a country's borders during a year

Gross National Income per capita (GNI per capita)

The GNI per capita is a statistical parameter developed by the World Bank. It represents the income of the average inhabitant of the country, in dollars. It is correlated with infant mortality, literacy rates or life expectancy

Background information

Impact on the affected country's economy

The Agriculture minister of Sierra Leone (one of the major countries affected by Ebola) stated recently that Ebola affected his country's economy by a deflation of 30%.

The impact has been similar in all Western African countries affected by the virus. The first economic sector that has been affected has been agriculture, which is the backbone of these countries' economy.

According to the World Bank's statistics, agriculture represents 48% of Sierra Leone's GDP, 77% of Liberia's GDP and 23% of Guinea's GDP. When the disease is hitting, farmers abandon their farms to flee from the disease. Consequently, they will not be in their farms for the planting season and the lack of planting will create food shortage. For those farmers who decided to stay in their farms, they are afraid to head to the cities (where their agricultural products are

traditionally been sold on the markets) because they are afraid to catch the Ebola disease in the city.

The lack of food and changes in the food distribution channels (in certain cities, affected by the disease, shops are closed as part of quarantine measures) generate price increases and inflation, which impact dramatically the poorest social classes of the affected countries.

Lack of food supply triggers price increases and inflation. For instance, in Guinea, the price of a rice bag has almost doubled from US\$ 21 to US\$ 41 since the emergence of Ebola. Potatoes and rice availability become scarce in Sierra Leone.

According to the New York Times, some 200,000 persons have currently food supply problems in the Ebola area.

Impacted countries' trade balances are declining significantly since export of products, in particular export of agricultural products to neighboring countries, and services, such as tourism, are stopped.

A sizeable part of Guinea's fruit production was traditionally exported to Senegal. Frontiers have now been closed. Not only will Guinea's commercial balance be impacted with lower exports but the products will also rot since Guinea does not have adequate storage capacity to handle such inventories.

The number of foreign visitors in Western Africa has dropped to minimal. The World Travel and Tourism Council announced few months ago that it is expecting a strong reduction of trip bookings in the area, in the order of 30%.

Expatriate workers are key to support the economic development of affected countries. Such workforce is typically involved in managing large investment projects or companies Research The Hague International Model United Nations 2015 | 25th January 2015 – 30th January 2015

Supporting exports and international trade. In front of pandemics like Ebola, the first reaction of the multinational companies is to freeze projects, move expatriates out of the country and monitor future development of the disease and its propagation.

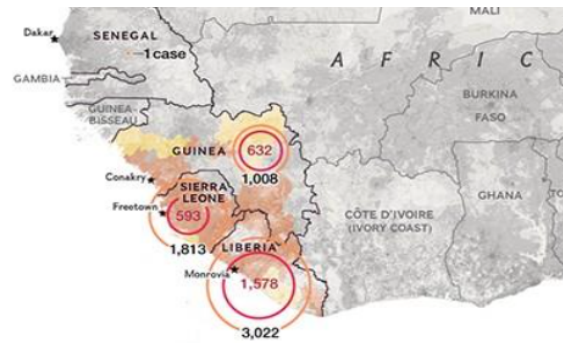
Examples include Arcelor Mital contractors in Liberia or a Chinese contractor in charge of building a road between Liberia and Guinea.

In addition to missed revenues, from trade or services, affected countries face increased costs, in particular healthcare costs to treat and hopefully cure their sick co-nationals.

All these negative deviations on incomes will obviously generate a fiscal gap. This is a major problem because the affected countries have already structural as well as sizeable Budget deficits.

Countries Involved

Major countries impacted by Ebola are Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia all located in the Western part of Africa. The card on the right indicates the number of cases and number of deaths in the major countries.



Possible solutions

There is a need for a transnational cooperation to handle, protect and reconstruct after a pandemics. To build a sustainable environment for affected, or potentially affected, populations, the following dimensions need to be addressed:

- Availability of therapies to affected populations
- Monitoring system to identify a possible resurgence of the disease
- Development of a preventive program entrenched in the socio-cultural and religious environment of the affected areas
- International coordination and financing of the above mentioned programs

FORUM: Health, Society and development committee
TOPIC: Measures to improve workplace health and safety regulations
STUDENT OFFICER: Deema Hamze
POSITION: President of the Health, Society and Development Committee

Introduction

Good work is good for you. While there is a complex relationship between health and work, people in work are generally healthier. Work that is healthy, safe and well designed is generally good for both physical and mental wellbeing. Conversely, the workplace also has the potential to harm workers, through physical or psychological injuries and illnesses. Hazard assessment and effective risk management needs to encompass both the risks to the safety, and long-term health of workers. Overall, the beneficial effects of good work far outweigh the risks.

The term housing is mostly used to refer to the place of habitation; however, this is not just limited to having a structure in place. Financial, legal and operational factors, just to give an example, are other questions that must be taken into account, since these severely affect housing. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has set seven minimum criteria for adequate housing, which are: “security of tenure; availability of services, materials, facilities and infrastructure; affordability; habitability; accessibility; location; cultural adequacy”

Unfortunately, even though the right of adequate housing is a basic human right, included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, this cannot be taken for granted by the majority of the populace. In Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs), housing is often inadequate, with no access to clean, running water and electricity. Shantytowns, or slums, in most cases are the homes to the people that cannot afford adequate housing. These shantytowns keep on growing and are inhabited by exponentially more people every year, which results in a greater amount of inadequately housed individuals every single day.

The right to an adequate standard of living for everyone is enshrined in international human rights law. In spite of the central position that this right has within the global legal system, 1.6 billion people live in inadequate shelter around the world, of which 1 billion live in informal settlements and 100 million are homeless. They live in life or health threatening circumstances, in conditions that do not uphold their human rights and their dignity in any way. Every year, millions are forcibly evicted or threatened with evictions from their homes.

Considering that all states have recognised at least one of the international treaties in which the right to adequate housing has been mentioned, all States are in the position where they are committed to safeguard their civilians’ rights to adequate housing through international declarations, conference outcome

documents and plans of action. The right to adequate housing is protected by several constitutions, which outline the States' general responsibility to ensure adequate housing and living conditions for all, especially in the workplace.

Definition of Key Terms

More Economically Developed Countries and Less Economically Developed Countries

Sovereign states that have a highly developed economy are known as More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs), whereas sovereign states that lack a developed economy are known as Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs). The most commonly used criteria for measuring a state's economic development are the gross domestic product (GDP), the income per capita and general standard of living

Urbanisation

According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the definition of urbanisation is: 1) increase in the proportion of a population living in urban areas, 2) process by which a large number of people become permanently concentrated in relatively small areas, forming cities.

The right to an adequate standard of living for everyone

As mentioned earlier in the introduction, the right to an adequate standard of living for everyone is enshrined in the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This right does not only state that everyone has the right to adequate housing, but also to adequate food and the human right to water

Background Information

MEDCs

Even though informal settlements are often only apparent in LEDCs, they also are present in MEDCs. The biggest Western European informal settlement, Cañada Real, located on the edge of Madrid, Spain, is home to around 40,000 people. The shantytown is located approximately 12 miles away from Madrid, but due to the expansion of the Spanish capital, the majority inhabitants of Madrid's suburbs want to get rid of Cañada Real. This being an example of an informal settlement in a MEDC, it is important to state that housing policy is, in general, sufficient and that therefore, the focus of this issue should be on the state of adequate housing in LEDCs.

LEDCs

Housing conditions in developing countries are often inadequate: the facilities are often insufficient to live in an acceptable way. In many LEDCs, there is or has been a great wave of people who move to larger cities in the hope that they can find work there. However, because this flood of people is too large compared to employment and housing that these cities have to offer, these people basically are 'forced' to reside in so called informal settlements, or shantytowns. Because

this flow of people is continuous, these informal settlements keep on growing in the long term.

Most governments do not do anything about these ever growing shantytowns, meaning that there is little authority to stop their growth. Despite this, there are in fact great benefits to governments in stopping the growth of these shantytowns, as the crime rate in these areas is extremely high. In Brazil, for example, but also in the earlier described Cañada Real, drug dealing is a common 'profession' amongst those that have the supplies to do so.

Latin America

Latin America is estimated to be the most urbanised region in the world, with over 60% of the population living in cities with more than 200,000 residents. The UN even expects that by 2050, 90% of the populace will live in cities and towns. Even though these are incredible prospects, they also cause inevitable problems as a side effect. Because of this rapid urbanisation caused by the economic opportunities that are believed to be present in cities, over 211 million people were living in shantytowns or slums in 2012, due to the unequal ratio of city-immigrants and job opportunities.

Class and income inequality are omnipresent in Latin America. Even though major improvements have been made in this field, especially in Brazil and Colombia, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has shown that Latin America is home to the most informal settlements, when compared to regions with the same income in Asia. Furthermore, the IDB has released some alarming facts and figures about the housing situation in Latin America: 72% in Peru; 75% in Bolivia; 34% in Mexico; 37% in Colombia; 33% in Brazil; and even 23% in Chile, of the population lives in slums and shantytowns. Particularly in Chile, this is alarming, as it is a country that is a few short years away from being classified as a developed country. Given these examples and figures, it should be clear that action has to be taken in this area in order to diminish the scale of inadequate housing.

(Sub-Saharan) Africa

Africa is the continent that is expected to be growing by 100% to 200% in the next 50 years, and, with 1 billion inhabitants, is the second most populous continent. There may be difficulties to overcoming the challenges that the continent faces in its growing and its expansion. Given that the large majority of African inhabitants are still in their youth, it is important to ensure them with all opportunities to learn how to face the challenges the future has for them. Adequate housing is one of the primary needs in a continent where many are forced to dwell in habitations and communities that are unsatisfactory, as 82% of the African residents live in informal settlements.

The disregard to the standards that people have the right to, when it comes to adequate housing, could bring serious consequences with it. As an example, some protests have already taken place in Tunisia, where over 40,000 protests occurred in 2011, in which the demand for adequate housing had a central position. Primarily the youthful and unemployed population of the country has expressed its displeasure with the lack of sufficient facilities offered by

governments. This being said, it is evident that when housing developers neglect the set criteria for adequate housing, they themselves will contribute to the formation of tomorrow's slums.

Influence on physical health

Due to the lack of proper ventilation and the poor building of many shacks, the inhabitants often are confronted with extreme heat given that most informal settlements are situated in regions around the equator where temperatures can be remarkably high. Obviously, this heat itself can be extremely dangerous for those exposed to it, but this also causes damp to be released from the poor materials the shacks are built of. This semi-moist emission is a direct cause of the heat in shacks and research has shown that in the presence of damp, the optimal comfort temperature of 21°C cannot be obtained. Furthermore, it creates a moist environment, which is a trigger for respiratory diseases, such as pneumonia or bronchitis, to arise. In addition, moist is directly associated with the proliferation of mites and moulds. Mites are significantly allergenic and have been proved as being one of the prominent causers of asthma. Mould populations, on the other hand, trigger the body's immune system to produce cold-like symptoms and the toxic properties of mould could cause impacts such as respiratory irritations, rash and pulmonary haemorrhage.

Besides the fact that abovementioned factors cause major inconveniences, the main reason these should be avoided is because they induce chronic or cyclical illnesses, which severely mitigate the sufferers' quality of life.

Previous Attempts To Solve The Issue

In 2008, the IDB approved a \$2 billion finance package to boost the low-income housing in Mexico. At the same time, in 2010, when the Mexican conservative National Action Party (PAN) took power in 2000, a fourth aggressive plan was implemented that should increase homeownership via a government mortgage agency. Millions of Mexicans living in informal settlements would hugely benefit by becoming the owners of decent houses. The only problem was that this low-income housing plan, that should have been a vertical based endeavour, actually was a horizontal one, meaning that not only those that were in absolute need of adequate housing, but also those that were not to be included in this plan, could take advantage of this. Because of this unsustainable urban unrest was created, which caused the housing bubble for the low-income sector in Mexico to pop: the prices of houses were firstly run-up by false speculations but then declined rapidly.

The government of South Africa has implemented a quite successful strategy: they upgraded informal settlements to provide their residents with adequate housing and they formalized those that already met these standards. By June 2011, 206 informal settlements of the 335 that had been identified nationwide for this process have been officially recognised to have met acceptable living standards.

Civilians have also played a valuable role in demanding adequate housing and working on this issue. In South Africa, this has been accomplished through

networks such as the South African Homeless People's Federation (SAHPF). This organization uses collective action by citizens as its primary way to empower communities to ask attention for the issues that they find important. SAHPF targets the 20% lowest income earners. The philosophy of SAHPF is to mobilize community members to take control by using their 'money, time and labour' in a diplomatic way. Even though no direct improvements may have been made, those who suffer from inadequate housing get a chance to express their views towards the situation they're in.

Possible Solutions

If cities are the places in a country where there are the most chances for employment, is there not something wrong regarding the distribution of opportunities within a country? Does it make sense that people currently decide to move en-masse towards the big cities when there is absolutely no chance of employment and/or education in more rural areas. If governments want to stop the growth of informal settlements, it may be effective for them to take the effort to come to the people, so to rural areas, instead of requiring relocation to cities by the people. By doing so, the great flow towards cities could decline, which of course is in the interest of governments, since overpopulation in cities often causes the 'establishment' of informal settlements.

Another thing, as is mentioned earlier, is that upgrading informal settlements by means of providing the informal settlements with clean water and electricity, but also with safe roads, could be the 'easiest' way of promoting adequate housing within a country. This however can get hard when one has to deal with informal settlements with multiple millions of inhabitants, such as is the case in many slums in Brazil. Also, high crime rates in these informal settlements could make it hard for authorities to easily change things. However, when governments come up with, for example, recreational activities and safety campaigns to keep younger inhabitants from getting involved with gangs and other criminal organisations, this could provide a long-term solution to the crime-aspect of the issue at hand.

When trying to get to the core of the problem in this issue, poverty and overpopulation, as well as the rapid urbanisation are the main reasons for people suffering from being inadequately housed. Targeting these points is needed in order to effectively enhance the situation regarding the issue. A rather effective way of doing so could be creating collaboration with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). What aid is needed strongly differs per country: in the United States of America, there should be incentives to minimise the income disparity between the richer and the poorer civilians, whereas in Sub-Saharan Africa, the entire economy is in need of a 'boost'.

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FORUM: Health, Society and Development Committee
TOPIC: The question of organizing and financing major sports events in relation to socio-economic growth for all
STUDENT OFFICER: Sofie Fog
POSITION: Deputy Chair of the Security Commission

Introduction

Sport is often known as the “forgotten right”. It brings people of all backgrounds together to play or compete in a game. Sport teaches fundamental values, whereas the most important ones are respect and devotion. Sport is vital in order to lead a healthy life and it is allowing individuals to develop and grow. Sport is capable of improving public health, economy and the education of children. According to the UN report, Sport for Development and Peace, “children who exercise have improved attentiveness in the classroom and higher rates of attendance than students who do not exercise.”

A major sporting event can improve local economies, but participation in sport by citizens is widely regarded as the most effective way to utilize sport as a driver of general development. However, to provide sport for everyone, both in the form of major sporting events and individual participation, is not an easy task.

Definition of Key Terms

Sport

An activity involving physical exertion and skill in which an individual or team competes against another or others for entertainment

Play

Engage in activity for enjoyment and recreation rather than a serious or practical purpose

Major sporting event (national)

A major sporting event is defined by an event that is attended by a minimum of 60.000 people for national events

Major sporting event (international)

A major sporting event is defined by an event that is attended by a minimum of 1.5 million people for international events

IOC

International Olympic Committee

UNOSDP

United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace

MDGs

Millennium Development Goals

UNICEF

The United Nations Children's Fund or UNICEF is an international organization UNICEF “recognizes that around the globe there is a force that can attract billions of people around a single event and motivate billions of others in collective or individual active participation – young and old, rich and poor, girls and boys alike – this is the unique power of sport.”

Background Information

Partnership between the IOC and the UN has been the most influential in driving socio-economic development. UN has taken an active role in establishing task forces, working groups and offices devoted to considering ways in which sport can be utilized to generate development. Resolutions on the matter of sport for development have brought awareness to the issue, but have had little impact on increasing the number of major sporting events. Previous resolutions have not improved the number of major sporting event that are taking place in regions of the world where economic development is greatly needed.

There does not exist only one solution for this issue. However, it takes a series of recommendations for how to effectively finance and organize major sporting events. That being said, on the question of limiting corruption related to major sporting events, there are traditional approaches to finding solutions. Most critically, sport and the question of financing and organizing major sporting events must be included in new UN agendas, since sport can be a mean to promote education, health, development and peace.

The UN must also be responsible for encouraging resource mobilization so as to make sporting events possible around the world. National governments should be encouraged to make resources available not only within their own nations, but also for preparation of large international events, so as to maximize the scale and possibilities associated with major events. The generation of financial support, especially to LEDCs, is most critical as the UN attempts to assess the question.

Previous Attempts To Solve The Issue

The role of the Olympic Movement in the building of a peaceful and better world by educating the youth of the world through sport and culture was acknowledged by UN when a General Assembly Resolution on the topic was adopted on 25 October 1993. Since 1993 a resolution is traditionally adopted, entitled “Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal” and urges Member States to observe “the Olympic Truce throughout the duration of the Games”

UN Member States have consistently adopted a series of resolutions all entitled “Sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace” where

they recognize the “potential of sport to contribute to the achievement of the MDGs” and it also notes that sport has to contribute to the wellbeing of societies. UN General Assembly granted the IOC an “Observer Status” and this allows the organization to attend and participate in all UN General Assembly meetings in 2009.

Possible Solutions

In previous resolutions it has been suggested that (“Sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace” resolution of 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014):

- Member States and international sports organizations should continue to assist developing countries
- Member States should sign the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention of Persons with Disabilities and the International Convention against Doping in Sport
- Member States are encouraged to provide voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for Sport for Development and Peace to enter into innovative partnerships with the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace
- Member States should promote and support the integration and mainstreaming of Sport for Development and Peace in development programs and policies, including mechanisms for growth and wealth
- Member States are encouraged to show evidence of impact, promote and facilitate common evaluation and monitoring tools, indicators and benchmarks based on commonly agreed standards

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End of Report

British International School Model United Nations 2015
BISMUN II





British International School Model United Nations 2015 (BISMUN II)

Security Commission

Research Report

28th – 31st
March | **2015**

Report Content

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FORUM: Security Commission
TOPIC: Measures to counter terrorist groups such as Boko Haram
STUDENT OFFICER: Sibtain Sadruddin
POSITION: President of the Security Commission

Introduction

Nineteen Nineties saw a rise in the importance of fighting against terrorist groups around the world. The United Nations Security Council has introduced sanctions from the very beginning in resolutions including terrorist acts in: Libya (1992), Sudan (1996), Taliban and Al-Qaida (1999).

The UN has a need to rid the world of terrorist groups for a more sustainable future, especially for the African nations where resources and wealth is scarce. The world came to an agreement to implement a global counter-terrorism strategy. Over the years the strategy has evolved to introduce factors that facilitate terrorism, strengthen the law and the law enforcement and ensuring human rights are not violated.

Since then a team has been drawn up comprising of experts in counter-terrorism, legal issues, arms embargos, travel bans and terrorist financing in order to further improve the reach of the United Nations Action to Counter Terrorism.

Definition of Key Terms

Central Africa

Central Africa is the core region of the African continent, including Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda

Genocide

According to the Holocaust encyclopedia, genocide is the systematic murder aiming at the annihilation of a national, racial, political, religious or cultural group

Coup d'état

According to the definition of Encyclopedia Britannica "a coup d'état, also called coup, is the sudden and mostly violent seizure of the government, often by a small group. The government is then replaced by a favorable group. Unlike a revolution, a coup doesn't receive nationwide support and is often only supported by a miniscule percentage of the nation's citizens."

Terrorist Groups

Although there is neither an academic nor an international legal consensus regarding the definition of terrorist groups according to the definition of Encyclopedia Britannica they are a group of people who engage in the systematic use of violence to create a general climate of fear in a population and thereby to bring about a particular political objective

Terrorism

First of all it should be mentioned that the word terrorism finds different definitions in various countries' legal systems. This is mainly due to the fact that it is often used for different purposes in different contexts, which makes it politically and emotionally an intensely charged term. As we can see from Oxford Dictionary's definition: "Terrorism: A system of terror. 1. Government by intimidation as directed and carried out by the party in power in France during the revolution of 1789-94; the system of 'Terror'. 2. Gen. A policy intended to strike with terror those against whom it is adopted; the employment of methods of intimidation; the fact of terrorizing or condition of being terrorized." The word has a very generalized definition, which leaves huge room for interpretation and often leads to the misuse of it. An old saying portrays very well this difficulty in defining terrorism: "One person's terrorist is another person's freedom fighter"⁹ However in our issue, most of the crimes we are talking about were committed by groups that have been classified as terrorists by the international community and it is therefore safe to say that such crimes are acts of terrorism

Recruitment

Recruitment is the process of finding and hiring individuals for organizations or a common cause and then integrating them into it. Regarding our issue we refer to terrorist recruitment, which is the way, most terrorist organizations try to grow and spread their ideology. Through long processes of brainwashing most recruits get so convinced by the radical beliefs of the terroristic groups that they are often ready to fight or even die for these organizations. Nowadays the Recruitment has effectively spread through social media. For example the Islamic State is estimated to have recruited more than 3000 Westerners, the majority of them through social media. The propaganda of such groups makes wrong promises by putting distorted images into the heads of the people. The recruits are often young disenfranchised people going through an identity crisis, which are attracted by the feeling of companionship and being part of something bigger and meaningful in their lives

Background Information

Resolution 1373 (2001), adopted unanimously on 28 September 2001, calls upon Member States to implement a number of measures intended to enhance their legal and institutional ability to counter terrorist activities, including taking steps to:

- Criminalize the financing of terrorism
- Freeze without delay any funds related to persons involved in acts of terrorism
- Deny all forms of financial support for terrorist groups
- Suppress the provision of safe haven, sustenance or support for terrorists

- Share information with other governments on any groups practicing or planning terrorist acts
- Cooperate with other governments in the investigation, detection, arrest, extradition and prosecution of those involved in such acts; and

- Criminalize active and passive assistance for terrorism in domestic law and bring violators to justice.

Boko Haram

Formed in 2002, in the Eastern Nigeria, Boko Haram, an armed militant group emerged out of community living by strict Islamic values. Its official name is “Jama’atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda’ awati wal Jihad”, meaning “People Committed to the Propagation of the Prophet’s Teachings and Jihad”, but due to its strong Anti-Western character early on the nickname Boko Haram formed which means: “Western Education is Forbidden”. Everything perceived as Western by this group, including activities such as voting and elections, receiving a secular education and even wearing shirts and trousers are strongly condemned in propaganda videos. Boko Haram stepped up its terrorist activity in 2009, in an attempt to establish an Islamic State and Sharia law in Nigeria, it started carrying out attacks against the government, bombing police stations and government buildings in the capital of the country. However, when Nigerian Security forces killed their leader Muhammad Yusuf, the terrorist group showed an even more brutal side. Boko Haram moved on to planned assassinations of politicians, police and every other individual, criticizing their actions. Priests belonging to other Islamic traditions such as Sufism are also being gunned down as well as people that have been hunting and selling meat, which is forbidden to eat in Islam and even a group of men who were playing a game of cards. The group is also notorious for its burning of churches. Boko Haram’s activities are mainly concentrated in northeastern Nigeria but they spread as far as the capital of Abuja where in 2011 a UN building was bombed. It is believed that the group is now made up of several factions with many members turning their focus to more local issues. The movement has widespread appeal amongst many ordinary Nigerians, particularly in the northeast where there is a long history of poverty and distrust of western schooling. This makes Boko Haram a major political player and a very serious threat.

Al Shabaab

Al Shabaab is a Somali extremist group. It has been formed from the Youth wing of the Union of Islamic Courts in 2006 and this is also where its name originates. Translated into English, Al Shabaab means “The Youth”. The organization is lead by Ahmed Abdi Godane, also known as Mukhtar Abu Zubair. In 2008 his predecessor, Moalim Aden Hashi Ayro, was killed in an attack by US drones. Al Shabaab has 7000-9000 fighters. Exact numbers are not known. In 2012 Al Shabaab’s leaders pledged allegiance to Ayman al-Zawahiri, Al Qaeda’s current leader and successor of Osama Bin Laden.

There are fears that even more foreign fighters will flood Somalia from Afghanistan and Pakistan as a result of the military action there. At the heights of their power, Al Shabaab controlled most of Southern Somalia and capital Mogadishu where they enforced a very strict version of Shariah Law. There were regular reports of people being stoned to death for breaking this law and other horrific punishments being carried out as well. They lost a lot of their popular support after the famine in 2011 because they prevented several western aid agencies from distributing food and that led to a lot of people dying. In addition, even though many Somalis are Sufies (Sufism is a mystical Islamic belief), this

fact hasn't stopped Al Shabaab from destroying a large number of Sufish homes, thus further decreasing their popularity within the country. There are also internal troubles that are dealt with brutally. It is not entirely surprising that such internal conflicts exist because besides the different, but similar ideologies all competing against each other for dominance.

Al Shabaab still controls huge parts of the country, especially rural areas. The AU (African Union) has been fighting the group on several fronts. In 2011 Al-Shabaab lost the capital of Mogadishu and in 2012 the port of Kishmao as Kenyan groups played a vital part helping the AU in securing the area. Al Shabaab is responsible for a number of terrorist attacks aiming at foreign targets. Kenyan troops have been fighting in Somalia for the past couple of years. They got involved after a series of attacks and kidnappings of tourists and soldiers, especially in Northern Kenya. That was detrimental for the Kenyan economy that relies on tourism as it put tourists off visiting the country. But the main problem is that it is relatively easy for Al Shabaab fighters to enter Kenya unnoticed. There have been a number of attacks on Kenya, but the one on Westgate Shopping Center is the largest. Al Shabaab knows how important tourism is for Kenya so instead of going for government buildings or attacking troops they go for civilian targets, especially in places where foreign nationals are likely to be. Their goal is to strike fear into people, so governments around the world begin to issue warnings against people travelling there.

Al-Qaeda

Founded in 1989, Al-Qaeda is a militant Islamist organization established by Abdullah Yusuf Azzam, also known under the nickname "Father of Global Jihad" and mentor of Osama Bin Laden. With the death of Osama Bin Laden in 2nd May 2011, al-Qaeda leadership has been weakened sufficiently. However, since then the spread of its ideology in the sub-Saharan region has accelerated. The activity of Al-Qaeda in Nigeria and Somalia, home to Africa's greatest Muslim populations, is of growing concern. Some of the highest-ranking members of this organization are said to have retreated to this area. Their main aim is to move their center of operation and logistical command into a "safer" environment. Furthermore they are trying to find alternative locations from where they will be able to keep recruiting people to have stronger growth.

Sub-Saharan Africa is fertile ground for Al-Qaeda to regroup, reorganize and re-launch itself. But there have been a few factors that have held back the organization from further spreading in the Sub-Saharan area. First of all, communication in these areas and the means to direct towards target audiences are very restricted. Moreover the US and its allies have actively aimed towards confronting the Al-Qaeda threat in Africa, and these engagements were considerably successful, while achieving a similar impact through regional and local efforts. And lastly there are interior disagreements within AlQaedan leadership on, whether or not it is worth putting the group's restricted resources into growth in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)

The Islamic State is a jihadist rebel group, formerly known as Al Qaeda in Iraq, fighting for the construction of a caliphate, in such a ruthless way that it was even cast off by Al-Qaeda for being considered too brutal. The group is roughly

estimated by the Syrian observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) to be 50-80 thousand strong and is against forms of religion other than its own and deals with such relentlessly. In its infamous propaganda videos often bloodbaths from public executions through beheading, shooting or stoning can be seen. The main target of this group is the Middle East, however, looking at its rapid expansion there is also a threat of it reaching into the Northern countries of Sub Saharan Africa such as Somalia or Nigeria that are already under threat of the violent establishment of Sharia law other Islamic extremist group.

Timeline of Events

1884-1885

During the 6 month long Berlin conference the Western imperial powers agreed on how the African land would be divided

October 7, 2001 George W. Bush starts the US' Global War on Terror (GWOT) in response to the 9/11 bombings, costing the world 5 trillion Us-dollars and estimated 1 million deaths, mostly civilians. It is still in action under President Obama, given the new name "Overseas Contingency Operation". 2002 Boko Haram is founded

2006 Al Shabaab is formed from the Youth wing of the Union of Islamic Courts

October 1, 2008 Activation of the United States Africa Command

July 2009 Leader of Boko Haram is executed in a violent uprising. From this event and on the group kept radicalizing July 11, 2010 Suicide bombings against crowds watching a screening of FIFA World Cup Finals in Uganda leaving 74 dead and 70 injured May 2, 2011 Death of Osama Bin Laden in Pakistan in a CIA-led operation by SEAL Team Six July 9, 2011 After a referendum with an over 98% yes vote, South Sudan receives its independence from The Republic of Sudan, after decades of civil wars. August 26, 2011 UN building attacked in a car bombing in Nigeria's capital, Abuja by Boko Haram. 18 people get killed. 2011 Al-Shabaab loses the capital of Somalia, Mogadishu to Kenyan and AU troops

2012 Al-Shabaab loses Port of Kishmao after long fights against the AU and the strong support given to it by Kenyan troops September 21, 2013 Al Shabaab enters the Westgate Mall in Nairobi, Kenya and starts hunting down and murdering shoppers. 67 civilians die and 200 are injured in a four day siege April 14-15, 2014 Boko Haram kidnaps 276 female students and threatens to sell them. Six months later they are still held captive.

July 5, 2014 several tribal gunmen with spears and machetes attack 3 small Ugandan towns killing military officers, policemen and civilians. The death tolls reached a number of 93.

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- OAU (Organization of African Union) Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, July 1999
- Resolution from the Security Council on Counter Terrorism, 20 January 2003 (S/RES/1456)
- Dakar Declaration Against Terrorism, 17 October 2001
- Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan, 14 October 2014 (S/RES/2179)
- United Nations peacekeeping operations, 28 July 2014 (S/RES/2167)

- Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, 24 September 2014 (S/RES/2178)

Previous Attempts To Solve The Issue

With the most notable efforts on counter terrorism in this region being committed by the US and the AU (African Union), there has been certain progress, however the issue is still far from being resolved. The scaling up of domestic counter-terrorism efforts had a mentionable impact on the situation. The African Union has continued to support counter-terrorism both through the deployment of African Union peacekeeping forces, such as the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) and through the various protocols and plans associated with its Counter-Terrorism Framework (ACSRT). The US's main strategy is to deploy several task forces, advisors and military support for African land forces in order to improve their exercise and command, control over deployed forces and logistical support but also the countries' capabilities to employ military police. These missions are aiming for the creation of professional local militaries that are subordinate to civilian authority, adhere to the rule of law, respect human rights and are to aid the eradication of violent extremist organizations and their supporting networks. As an example for this, we have the Task Force Horn of Africa special-operations soldiers who are providing anti-terror training and operations. These programs are also designed to protection of borders and track movement of people to avoid an unnoticed spread of terrorist fighters.

A major point of criticism on this way of combatting terrorism is, that it can never be known with entire certainty that the people receiving training by the US troops are not extremists that will abuse their skills and knowledge to help their radical fellows protect themselves more effectively against counterterrorism measures. In addition to that there are worries that some of the current governments might abuse these military forces to gain training, funds and equipment in order to effectively repress and control legitimate democratic movements labeling them as terrorist groups or to fuel wars between neighboring African states. What should also be kept in mind is that by employing military actions this can sometimes inflame the situation and convert more people to the cores of the terrorist groups.

Further measures already taken include, the offering of multi-million dollar bounties on the heads of the leaders of the terrorist groups or on information regarding their exact location. In groups like AlShabaab, where the leader, Abu Ghadani has a 7 million dollar bounty on his head, this measure has contributed to internal troubles and big trust issues. Together with disagreements amongst the leaders this lead to the tracking down and killing of four of Al-Shabaab's top names and several other commanders.

Possible Solutions

A modern way to approach the prevention of the spread of radical ideologies could also be through the Internet by trying to stop terrorist organizations from spreading propaganda and recruiting people. In spite of this, the numbers of Internet users in Sub-Saharan Africa are considerably low at a mere average of

16% of the population. But as Africa develops, these rates are rising from year to year and therefore it remains a possible solution for this issue. An important point to remember on this area is to still be careful with any such measures because of possible accusations of Internet censorship.

A very effective way to get the necessary support for counter terrorism measures by the local populations and at the same time move them away from radical ideologies, are the following three steps. Firstly, understanding the ethical principles of the local societies and different cultural groups and attempt to embed them into the counter terroristic policy of the region in order to find the necessary support by the indigenous people. If this is achieved, more people will understand that the intentions of the peacekeepers sent are to the benefit of their own people, thus increasing the willingness to join and help the forces with their efforts. The second step is to gain legitimacy in the region, which can be a major challenge having several Sub-Saharan countries with various political movements, militant groups and overthrows of governments. Therefore it is crucial to understand the different perceptions from country to country, sub-region to sub-region and community to community. Lastly remains the most debatable point, depending on the delegates' countries' policies, the way of response to terroristic attacks. It is of great significance to remember the principles of the UN at any times, something that can be easily forgotten in this issue. What definitely all countries can agree on is the basic need for united effort to respond to such attacks, however, the method of response, whether or not the direct aim to kill members of these groups, for example through drone strikes or attacks by special forces, remains disputed.

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FORUM: Security Commission
TOPIC: The question of preventing the formation of future terrorist groups
STUDENT OFFICER: Claudia Esposito
POSITION: Deputy Chair of the Security Commission

Introduction

Over recent years it has emerged that, in addition to drug traffickers, and the related organized crime elements, terrorist groups have begun exploiting structural state weaknesses in the West African sub region, including especially the porous borders and socioeconomic discontent. It seems that the other negative trends which are problematic in the region—the smuggling of arms, drugs and contraband, widespread corruption, poor governance and a history of hostage taking for ransom in the Sahelian region—have provided an opportunity for the entrance of terrorist organizations with operatives, and the lines between Islamic militancy and organized crime are becoming blurred.

Definition of Key Terms

Anti-terrorism

The prevention or abetment of terrorism

Background Information

Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM)

AQIM is the most well-known and verifiable terrorist group whose operation affects West Africa. AQIM is a terrorist organization with its origins in Algeria (in North Africa). It has spread its operations to Mali, Mauritania and Niger (all in West Africa). It seems AQIM operatives have learned their techniques from Iraq, as well as in Afghanistan, and AQIM is gaining a foothold in lawless parts of regions in that part of the Sahara, with nomadic tribes, where local loyalties take precedence over other allegiances.

In Mauritania, in December 2007 attackers linked to Al-Qaida murdered four French tourists. In February 2008 gunmen alleged to have links with AQIM opened fire on the Israeli embassy in the capital, Nouakchott. In September of that year twelve Mauritanian soldiers were killed in an ambush claimed by AQIM. In August 2009 AQIM claimed responsibility for a suicide bomb attack directed at the French Embassy. In December of that same year Al-Qaida claimed responsibility for kidnapping two Italians, weeks after kidnapping three Spanish aid workers. Mauritania adopted new anti-terrorism law in July 2010 to enhance the powers of national security forces to combat AQIM. In September 2010 the Mauritanian air force launched attacks at suspected Al-Qaida militant bases in Mali, after kidnappers crossed into Mali with seven foreigners who had been abducted in Niger.

In Niger, in December 2008 the UN secretary-general's special envoy to Niger,

Robert Fowler, and his aide was kidnapped by Al-Qaida. (They were both subsequently released in April 2009.) In April 2010, a French national was kidnapped near the borders with Mali and Algeria, with Al-Qaida claiming responsibility. The hostage was killed after a failed French rescue raid in Mali. In September 2010 seven foreigners were kidnapped in northern Niger. In January 2011 two French nationals, kidnapped by suspected AQIM militants, were killed in a rescue attempt involving French military forces.

In April 2010 Mauritania, Mali, Niger and Algeria established a joint command to deal with the threat of terrorism.

Hezbollah

Hezbollah and, more recently, the Taliban have both been identified as having had some form of operational or opportunistic links in the region, especially through money laundering. The widespread population of Lebanese descent found in many countries along the coast of West Africa may also include some with links, at least of a financial nature, to Hezbollah.

The connected threats of money laundering and the financing of terrorism are of significant concern in West Africa. The May 2010 report by GIABA noted that because the size of the informal economy in West Africa (constituting the equivalent of about 60 to 70 percent of the formal regional GDP), the nature of tax evasion in the region, the problem of corruption (which has a corrosive impact on state capacity, with state officials using their positions of privilege to aid in laundering) and the region's role as a drug transit point, money laundering and the financing of terrorism would be particular problems.

GIABA specifically notes that "one area of concern in West Africa is that the Lebanese political party, Hezbollah, has something of a funding network in the region. While much of the charitable fundraising carried out in the region is undoubtedly legitimate, concerns about the use of some funds to support terrorist acts is a major concern. Other concerns about terrorist financing relate to the activities of Al-Qaida in the Mahgreb, which operates in the Sahara desert".

The Taliban

On 10 and 12 February 2011 five alleged Taliban operatives were arrested by Liberian security personnel and subsequently transferred into the custody of the US. The five have since been charged in the US in connection with a plot to assist the Afghan Taliban by sending weapons to their insurgents and transporting tons of Afghan heroin through West Africa. The five arrested men were reported to have operated drug trafficking networks in Benin and elsewhere in the region. (Two Americans linked to the plot were arrested in Romania and were charged with conspiracy to sell automatic rifles, air-to-surface missiles and other weapons to the Taliban to support their operations.)

These particular arrests, while achieved as a result of a security operation by Liberian and US undercover agents posing as Taliban, nevertheless confirm the general threat that exists and the way that the sub-region's vulnerabilities could be exploited by terrorists elsewhere to further their purposes including using the area to launch attacks both sub regionally or elsewhere.

Previous Attempts To Solve The Issue

- UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL);
- UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI);
- UN Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL);
- UN Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS).

The Council in 2009 began, in an apparently determined way, to highlight the emerging security threats in West Africa. The essence of the conclusions about the four key threats in this report is the ongoing nature of the threats, their inter-linkage and complexity, as well as the risks associated with them, that for over twelve months the Council has not been paying particular attention to. There are options for addressing them in a timely and adequate manner, in order to avoid a reactive stance and pattern of dealing with issues only in a crisis mode. There are also a range of tools to appropriately deal with the challenges posed by threats to democratic governance, drug trafficking, terrorism and piracy in West Africa.

In terms of general Council dynamics, the general positions taken by some of the permanent members of the Council regarding the various threats that have been flagged, may have to be re-examined against the backdrop of the specific context of the West African sub region and its peculiar vulnerabilities. The views of non-permanent Council members will also be important in terms of preventing related conflict or adequately containing their outbreak.

United Nation Resolutions

- [S/RES/1947](#) (29 October 2010) recognized the work of the PBC and requested all relevant UN actors to take forward, within their mandate and as appropriate, the recommendations of the report of the co-facilitators of the 2010 peace building architecture review process.
- [S/RES/1892](#) (13 October 2009) noted the role played by drug trafficking and organized crime in the emergence of conflicts in Haiti.
- [S/RES/1890](#) (8 October 2009) noted the role played by drug trafficking and organized crime in the emergence of conflicts in Afghanistan.
- [S/RES/1876](#) (26 June 2009) extended the mandate of UNIOGBIS and stressed the need to build capacity to combat organized crime and drug trafficking in Guinea-Bissau. [S/RES/1829](#) (4 August 2008) established UNIPSIL and mandated it to promote and monitor efforts to combat transnational organized crime and drug trafficking.
- [S/RES/1817](#) (11 June 2008) focused on the connection between Afghan drug production and security, terrorism and organized crime.
- [S/RES/1373](#) (28 September 2001) was on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts and noted *“with concern the close connection between international terrorism and transnational organized crime, illicit drugs, money-laundering, illegal arms-trafficking, and illegal movement of nuclear, chemical, biological and other potentially deadly materials...”*

Possible Solutions

- Pursue initiatives already launched or planned including replicating its model of the Nairobi workshop on border control (held in June 2010) in West

Africa, as well as working to establish a regional counter-terrorism strategy and plan of action among ECOWAS states, supported by a unit within the ECOWAS Commission; and

- To send staff members on short-term assignments to carry out specific activities in the field, for example by placing an Executive Directorate officer in the ECOWAS secretariat for several months to assist in the development of its sub regional counter-terrorism strategy. It might also be possible to accept officers on secondment from ECOWAS and the AU on common activities, for the duration of the activity in question (e.g. organizing a conference or workshop).

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FORUM: Security Commission
TOPIC: Combating the recruitment and use of child soldiers in conflicts
STUDENT OFFICER: Ivana Smith
POSITION: Deputy Chair of the Security Commission

Introduction

Hundreds of thousands of children are used as soldiers in armed conflicts around the world. Many children are abducted and beaten into obedience; other children may join military groups to escape the suffering of poverty, to defend their communities, out of a feeling of revenge or for many other reasons.

Definition of Key Terms

Child soldier

A child associated with an armed force or armed group refers to any person below 18 years of age who is, or who has been, recruited or used by an armed force or armed group in any capacity, including but not limited to children, boys and girls, used as fighters, cooks, porters, spies or for sexual purposes

Background Information

Throughout history and in many cultures, children have been extensively involved in military campaigns even when such practices were against cultural morals. In WW1, in Great Britain 250,000 boys under 19 managed to join the army. In WW2, child soldiers fought throughout Eastern Europe, in the Warsaw Uprising, in the Jewish resistance, and in the Soviet Army. Since the 1970s, a number of international conventions have come into effect that try to limit the participation of children in armed conflicts, nevertheless the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers reports that the use of children in military forces, and the active participation of children in armed conflicts is widespread.

In many situations of conflict children will take direct action in combat. However, their role is not restricted to fighting. Many girls and boys start out in support tasks that also entail great risk and hardship.

One of the common tasks assigned to children is to serve as porters, often carrying heavy loads that may include ammunition or injured soldiers. Some children act as lookouts, messengers, cooks or other routine duties but as soon as they are strong enough to handle an assault rifle or a semi-automatic weapon (normally at 10 years of age), children are used as soldiers. Girls are particularly vulnerable. They are often forced to serve as sexual slaves. Moreover, the use of

children for acts of terror, including as suicide bombers, has emerged as a phenomenon of modern warfare.

The risks to children of participation in armed conflict

Their immaturity may lead them to take excessive risks. Moreover, and as a result of being widely perceived to be unnecessary possessions, they tend to receive little or no training before being forced into combat. Reports from Burundi and Congo-Brazzaville suggest that they are often massacred in combat as a result. Children may begin participating in conflict from as young as the age of seven. When they are not actively engaged in combat, they can often be seen manning checkpoints; adult soldiers can normally be seen standing a further 15 metres behind the barrier so that if bullets start flying, it is the children who are the first victims.

In Liberia, about one per cent of the soldiers [in 1996-7] were girls or young women. But many more took part in one form or another in the war. Like many males, females joined one of the sections for their own protection. Unwillingly, they became the girlfriends or wives of rebel leaders or members. The risks to these girls of sexually transmitted diseases or unwanted pregnancies are enormous.

The consequences for society

Child soldiers, sometimes under the influence of drugs or alcohol, which they may be forced to take, have too frequently committed all massacres. But drugs alone do not account for the atrocities committed by children. It is their systematic abuse by adults, combined with a pervasive culture of violence that is ultimately responsible.

Previous Attempts To Solve The Issue

The United Nations

The United Nations Security Council convenes regularly to debate, receive reports, and pass resolutions under the heading "Children in armed conflict". The most recent meeting was on 17 July 2008. The first resolution on the issue, Resolution 1261, was passed in 1999 (it did not contain references to any earlier resolutions).

In a resolution in 2005 the Security Council requested that the action plan for establishing a monitoring, reporting and compliance mechanism produced by the Secretary-General be implemented without delay.

Security Council Resolution 1379 (2001) called upon the UN Secretary-General to list parties that recruit and use children in the annual report on children and

armed conflict. Killing and maiming and sexual violence in conflict (Resolution 1882 in 2009) and attacks on schools and hospitals (Resolution 1998 in 2011), were later added as criteria for listing.

Security Council Resolution 1460 (2003) requires listed parties to enter into talks with the United Nations to agree clear and time bound action plans to end child recruitment and use. The concept of action plans is now also applied more broadly to other grave violations against children for which parties can be listed.

To date, 17 listed parties have signed action plans, including five government forces and 12 non-state armed groups. Of these, five have fully complied with the action plan and were subsequently de-listed.

Security Council Resolution 1612 established monitoring and reporting mechanism (MRM) on grave violations against children in armed conflict. The purpose of the MRM is to provide for the systematic gathering of accurate, timely and objective information on grave violations committed against children in armed conflict.

Security Council Resolution 1612 (2005) also established the Security Council working Group on Children and Armed Conflict which consists of the 15 Security Council members. The working Group reviews UN Secretary-General reports on children in armed conflict in specific country situations and makes recommendations to parties to conflict, Governments and donors, as well as UN actors on measures to promote the protection of war-affected children.

Prohibition under International Law

Human rights law declares 18 as the minimum legal age for recruitment and use of children in hostilities. Recruiting and using children under the age of 15 as soldiers is prohibited under international humanitarian law – treaty and custom – and is defined as a war crime by the International Criminal Court. Parties to conflict that recruit and use children are listed by the Secretary-General in the annexes of his annual report on children and armed conflict.

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FORUM: Security Commission
TOPIC: Measures to rapidly and effectively increase and improve security in areas of conflict
STUDENT OFFICER: Sibtain Sadruddin
POSITION: President of the Security Commission

Introduction

Throughout the 1990s many organizations have aimed to find effective techniques for conflict prevention. Preventive actions are designed to resolve, manage, or contain disputes before they become violent. Conflict management, therefore, means the limitation, mitigation and containment of conflict. The notion of conflict prevention includes numerous activities such as conflict avoidance and conflict resolution, with techniques such as mediation, peacekeeping, peacemaking, confidence-building measures, and track-two diplomacy.

When violent conflict breaks out, the costs to the country and the international community are enormous. Lives are lost, people displaced, trade links cut, and organised crime groups or terrorists are given an opportunity to take root, exacerbating instability.

The focus on how to improve the effectiveness of the efforts by strengthening the whole of government approach and refining prioritisation at a time when resources are being squeezed.

The cost to the international community of managing conflict and its effects once it has broken out are high. It is far more cost-effective to invest in conflict prevention and de-escalation than to pay the costs of responding to violent conflict. This strategy therefore emphasises the importance of early action and upstream conflict prevention.

NGOs and humanitarian organizations play an integral and increasingly important role in conflict prevention, owing to their knowledge of and involvement in potential conflict areas. There is, however, an uneasy relationship between humanitarian organizations and other parties engaged in conflict prevention and peace implementation. In the final analysis, States remain the most important players in today's international system, and if their national interests are at stake, they may tend to short-cut international organizations in favour of international contact groups or unilateral action. The following section will briefly examine each of these entities and their ability and willingness to engage in multilateral preventive action.

It is important to understand these concepts before flying into making resolutions:

1. There are no simple explanations for causes of conflict and the way they fuel an escalation of violence. To understand the dynamics of internal conflicts a multitude of specific indicators need to be taken into account, such as poverty and high population growth, resource scarcity, discrimination and disempowerment of minorities and other groups in society, military threats and sources of insecurity. A certain mix of these variables can, but must not necessarily, lead to societal stress, violence and war.

2. It is important to distinguish between structural underlying causes of conflict and the proximate causes that trigger conflict escalation. This is the reason why conflict prevention today should differentiate between structural and short-term prevention. The structural causes primarily include factors related to State weakness, poverty, political injustice and economic deprivation. Thus, structural prevention should have a strong economic, human needs and governance bias, and should comprise development aid, local capacity-building, and assistance in election and human rights monitoring.

3. The proximate causes of conflict often result from deliberate decisions by determined leaders or political demagogues to make violent responses to contentious issues. “Bad leadership” can exploit insecurity, the vulnerability of certain groups and socio-economic cleavages to the extent that violence becomes a means to strengthen the hold of demagogues on power. Stephen Stedman argues that “the humanitarian tragedies of today were caused mainly by leaders who were interested in neither reaching non-violent resolutions to conflicts nor making concessions”. In contrast to the structural causes, the understanding of proximate causes or events that trigger violence is not yet at an advanced stage and requires more study.

4. There is no consensus on the utility of early warning in conflict prevention. Some analysts argue today that failed opportunities for conflict prevention have occurred not because of insufficient time to respond, but because of a lack of political will to react to the warning. The Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflict made one of the first efforts to link early warning with receptivity of warning and early response. But, as the 1999 Rwanda Report pointed out, early warning makes sense only if the warning signals are correctly analysed and transferred to the relevant decision-making authority. In this context, the capacity to gather and analyse information for the UN has fallen prey to “downsizing efforts”. In 1992, the UN did away with the Office for Research and Collection of Information (OCRI) and transferred some of its functions to the Department of Political Affairs and, as a consequence, the 1995 Report of the Commission on Global Governance proposed that the UN develop a new system to collect information on trends and situations that may lead to violent conflict or humanitarian tragedies.

5. The question as to the use of force is essential for assuring effective conflict prevention or the successful implementation of peace settlements. Given the notoriety of bad leaders and deliberate hindrance of conflict prevention and conflict termination, the international community is faced with the critical question whether coercive measures should constitute an integral part of conflict prevention. Examples such as Somalia have, however, painfully shown that the threat of outside intervention by force is no panacea for communal violence and the escalation of conflict.

6. Finally, the fact that the overwhelming majority of conflicts are internal struggles has an important impact on how the international community can address such conflicts. Intra-State conflicts do require methods of early warning and prevention different from those for traditional inter-State confrontations.

Issues such as sovereignty, local rivalries and bad neighborhoods can make the use of preventive diplomacy towards States prone to civil war very difficult.

Definition of Key Terms

Conflict

A serious disagreement or argument, typically a protracted one

Conflict Management

Means the limitation, mitigation and containment of conflict

Preventive

In order to contain and control

Rapidly

Increase response time

Effectively

Use minimal resources to produce the maximum and most viable outcome

Security

Means to control conflict

Stability

Can be characterized in terms of political systems that are representative and legitimate, capable of managing conflict and change peacefully, and societies in which human rights and rule of law are respected, basic needs are met, security established and opportunities for social and economic development are open to all

Background Information

1994 – Rwanda failed to maintain peace and genocide due to UN's failure to send resources on time

2000 – The Constitutive Act established seventeen institutions to address continental security and development. The bodies dedicated to peace and security were placed under a framework known as the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). Within APSA, a fifteen-member Peace and Security Council, which can approve armed intervention in cases of gross human rights violations and unconstitutional changes in government, provides one of the AU's most ambitious initiatives. Furthermore, APSA consists of a peace-building framework that includes a "Panel of the Wise" to promote mediation efforts; a rapid-reaction African Standby Force anchored in five regional brigades; a Military Staff Committee; a Peace Fund; and a Continental Early Warning System.

2002 – Establishing the AU has demonstrated that interventions can serve as pathways for cooperation both with the UN and among AU member states. The AU has also won support for missions that it has established in Darfur and demonstrated its willingness to partner with other organizations, including the European Union or the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

2007 – The AU also created the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).
2008 – AU's own mission in Darfur was replaced in 2008 by the AU-UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID).

Previous Attempts To Solve The Issue

Despite its successes, especially in peacekeeping missions, the AU still faces challenges. A case in point has been the initial lack of willingness of AU member states to provide troops to AMISOM. And in Sudan, even as UNAMID has potential capacity for AU-UN cooperation, joint command-and-control operations—so-called "dual keys"—have not worked well. These hybrid missions are challenging at best, given that they require coordination among countries with divergent institutional cultures and, occasionally, inadequate levels of training in complex peacekeeping operations. The AU's lack of financial and logistical resources undermines its ability to lead these types of operations.

Moreover, AU member states have not always provided unified or consistent approaches to armed conflicts within the UN Security Council. The AU's approach to Libya in 2011 and, more recently, its response to the crisis in Mali have been inconsistent and at times contradictory vis-à-vis sub-regional initiatives. While AU member states with seats on the Security Council were unanimous in support of resolution 1973 concerning Libya, fissures emerged when South Africa opposed the NATO-led intervention.

Possible Solutions

While cooperation has intensified in recent years, the African Union and United Nations must increase and improve collaboration in the maintenance of peace and security on the continent. The UN-AU Ten-Year Capacity Building Program can help energize the partnership. The AU and the UN should harmonize their approach to crisis management and peacekeeping, as well as mobilize their resources to bolster regional security, whether political, civilian, or military.

Finally, the UN-AU Joint Task Force on Peace and Security is a valuable forum that can contribute to further UN-AU cooperation. The UN should assist this process by standardizing its training of peacekeepers and offering guidance from the UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations to the AU.

AU member states' aversion to external bilateral actors playing a role in the provision of security has not been helpful. Yet bilateral collaborations, such as the one between the AU/Economic Community of West African States and France in the January 2013 intervention in Mali, have proven effective.

Member states should embrace bilateral initiatives, including those of EU member states—such as the French RECAMP program, which provides peacekeeping training and military assistance, or the UK's British Peace Support Teams, which provide peacekeeping training and democratic management instruction in African states, and the U.S. African Contingency Operations Training and Assistance (ACOTA) Program. ACOTA provides nonlethal

peacekeeping training and nonlethal equipment to African countries on a bilateral basis.

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End of Report

British International School Model United Nations 2015
BISMUN II





British International School Model United Nations 2015 (BISMUN II)

Trade Committee

Research Report

28th – 31st
March | **2015**

Report Content

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Trade Committee Student Officers			
President	Deputy Chair	Deputy Chair	Deputy Chair
Rawa Al Tuhami (JKIS)	Majed Fitaihi (BISJ)	Muhammed Sillah (BISJ)	Hamza Hashem (JPGS)

FORUM: Trade committee
TOPIC: Measures to encourage foreign direct investment to West Africa
STUDENT OFFICER: Majed Fitaihi
POSITION: Deputy Chair of the Trade Committee

Introduction

Foreign Direct Investment or FDI, when entities based in a country that controls ownership of a business enterprise operating in another country, has been lacking in West Africa in the past decade. When most of the world has improved economically, West Africa, home to some of the least developed countries of the world have failed to contribute. A list of West African countries are as follows: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Mali Federation, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

Encouraging Foreign Direct Investment in these nations will ensure that they will become stable economically, and hence solve some of their environmental and humanitarian issues.

Definition of Key Terms

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

The controlling ownership in a business enterprise in one country by an entity based in another country

West Africa

All nations in the western region of Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Mali Federation, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo

Background Information

Since the 1990's, West Africa's economic situation has improved. But it is still below the rest of the world's standards. Some major African economies have also seen a decline in investment, with FDI inflows to Nigeria falling by approximately 20% to US\$5.5b, primarily due to the sale of petroleum assets by international oil companies such as Chevron and Shell. Foreign Direct Investment in real estate, hospitality, and construction whilst mining and metal industries fell outside the top ten sectors when measured by FDI project numbers.

Previous Attempts To Solve The Issue

Over the past decade, African countries have made noticeable efforts to improve their investment climate. They have liberalized their investment regulations and have offered incentives to foreign investors.

Many African countries (45) have concluded bilateral agreements with other countries that aim at protecting and promoting FDI and clarify the terms under which FDI can be taken place between partner countries. To create a more secure environment for foreign investors, African countries taken together had concluded 184 bilateral investment treaties since the 1990's.

Possible Solutions

- To encourage investors to recognise the least developed African nations as well.
- Improve quality of infrastructure, which leads to lower costs on investments and encourages it.
- Lower taxes on foreign firms.
- Subsidise firms to invest (a financial incentive to increase investment).

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FORUM: Trade committee
TOPIC: Reviewing inward investment from the EU to West Africa
STUDENT OFFICER: Muhammed Sillah
POSITION: Deputy Chair of the Trade Committee

Definition of Key Terms

Inward investment

The opposite of outward investment, an inward investment involves an external or foreign entity either investing in or purchasing the goods of a local economy. A common type of inward investment is a foreign direct investment (FDI). This occurs when one company purchases another business or establishes new operations for an existing business in a country different than the investing company's origin

FDI

The flow of capital between countries. According to the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (**UNCTAD**), FDI is '*investment made to acquire lasting interest in enterprises operating outside of the economy of the investor.*'

Background Information

Foreign direct investment (FDI) can play an important role in an economy's development efforts, including: supplementing domestic savings, employment generation and growth, integration into the global economy, transfer of modern technologies, enhancement of efficiency, development of local suppliers, and raising skills of local manpower.

In African countries, in particular, besides being a critical source of long-term capital for investment in infrastructure and other developmental initiatives, FDI can be a catalyst for economic diversification, helping these economies move beyond overdependence on natural resources.

While Africa is not a major recipient of FDI flows and so lags other regions of the world, FDI inflows not only vary across sub-regions in the continent but has shown very significant and dramatic increase in a number of countries in West Africa. Indeed, between 2007 and 2013, FDI projects in West Africa grew at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 27.7%, the strongest growth in the African continent. In 2013, West Africa surpassed North Africa in FDI projects for the first time, becoming the second most attractive sub-region in Africa. The West African sub-region, until the latest Ebola outbreak, has been characterized by rapid economic growth and an expanding consumer class, awhile transforming more and more into a demand-driven economy. Together, the 16-member countries¹ of the sub-region have a population in excess of 300 million, thus presenting huge opportunity. West Africa's known reserves of oil, gas, and minerals are enormous. And thanks to high global demand, Africa's share of global production and export of these natural resources has been significant.

However, there is a dearth of studies on FDI-determinants that have been undertaken in the particular context of West Africa as a sub-region. Most of the earlier studies on FDI have either been on Sub-Sahara Africa, Africa as a whole, or country specific.² Africa is the second largest continent in the world with diverse cultures and distinct regulatory environments hence investors should not view Africa as a single entity to invest in. It is for this reason that investors are increasingly able to look at a larger reach than just a single country. Regional economic blocs such as West Africa provide investors with access to larger markets and variety of attractive environments.

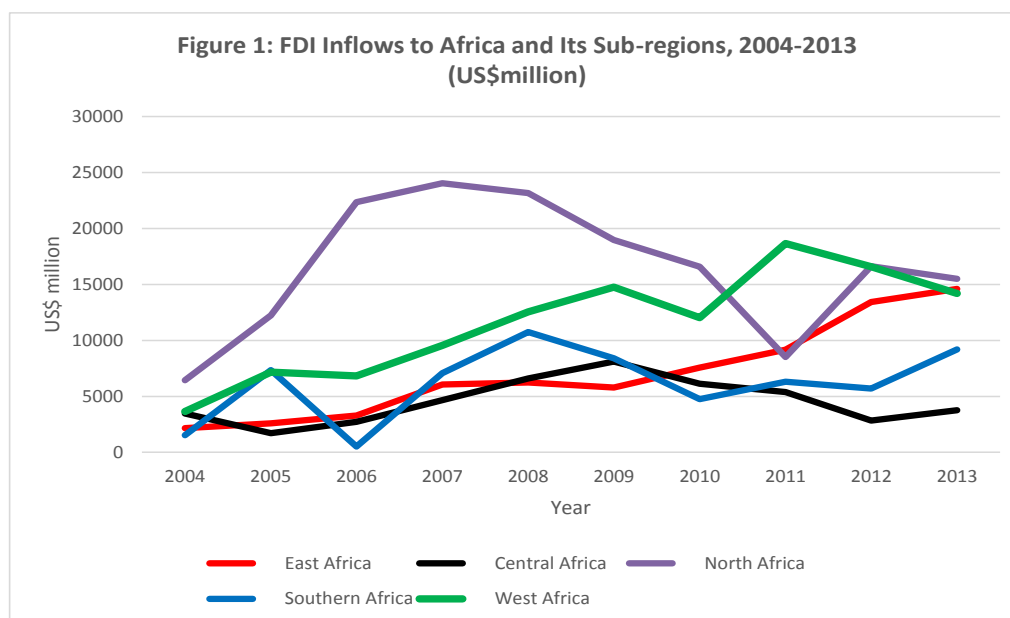
Stylized Facts on FDI Inflows to West Africa

Global FDI has made rapid increases in the last few decades. For example, global inward FDI flows rose from US\$54.1 billion in 1980, reaching US\$207.7 billion in 1990 to a peak of US\$1.402 trillion in 2000. A fall ensued from 2001 such that by 2003 it had dipped to US\$565.7 billion before peaking again at US\$2100 billion in 2007. Estimates for 2010 put the fall to US\$1.409 trillion consequent upon the financial and economic crisis. The 2011 recovery appeared short-lived as global FDI inflows fell by 18 percent in 2012, down from US\$1.700 trillion in 2011 to only US\$1.330 trillion. After the 2012 slump, global FDI returned to growth, with inflows rising by 9% in 2013, to \$1.45 trillion. On the other hand, after almost ten years of growth, FDI inflows to Africa fell from a peak of US\$72 billion in 2008 to \$59 billion in 2009 - a 19% decline compared to 2008 - due to the financial and economic crisis. This fell further to US\$44 billion in 2010. A gradual recovery ensued from 2011 such that FDI flows to Africa grew by 3.6% in 2013 to reach US\$57 billion from US\$55 billion in 2012, (UNCTAD, 2014) but representing only 3.9% of the global total.

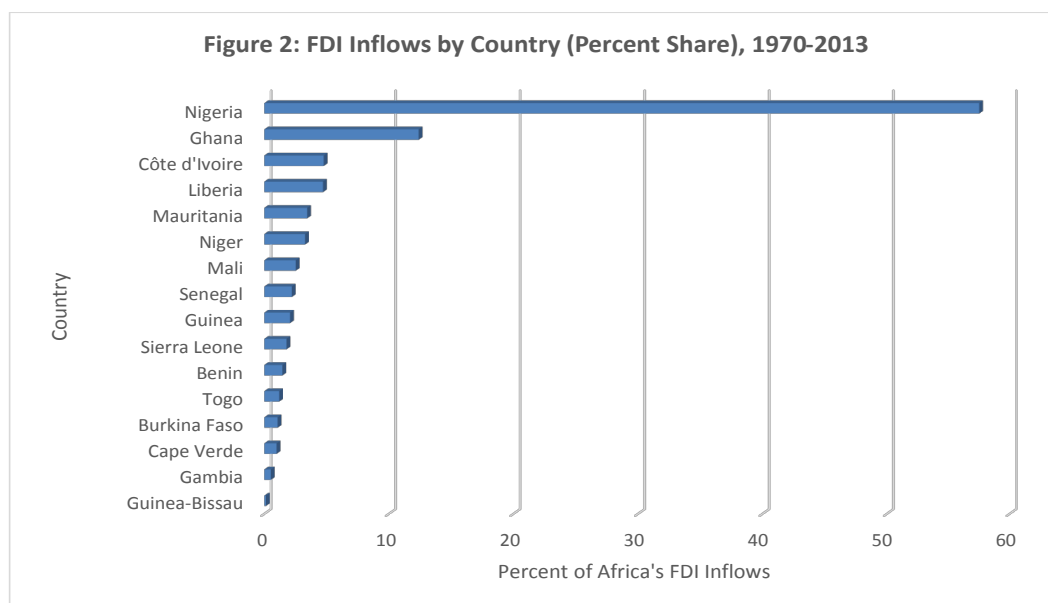
There are a number of interesting and changing characteristics of FDI in Africa. One of them is that FDI inflows vary across sub-regions as defined by the United Nations. Between 1970 and 2013, the average FDI inflows by sub-region was highest in North Africa (US\$4.84 billion), followed by West Africa (US\$3.64 billion), with the lowest average going to Central Africa (US\$1.65 billion). As Figures 1 illustrates, North Africa dominated by a great margin between 2004 and 2010 before West Africa took over from 2011, though this was short-lived. However, in terms of the average percentage of the total inflows to Africa, West Africa received the highest during the same period at 31.29%, followed by North Africa (29.67%), Central Africa (15.25%), Southern Africa (12.02%), and East Africa (11.77%).

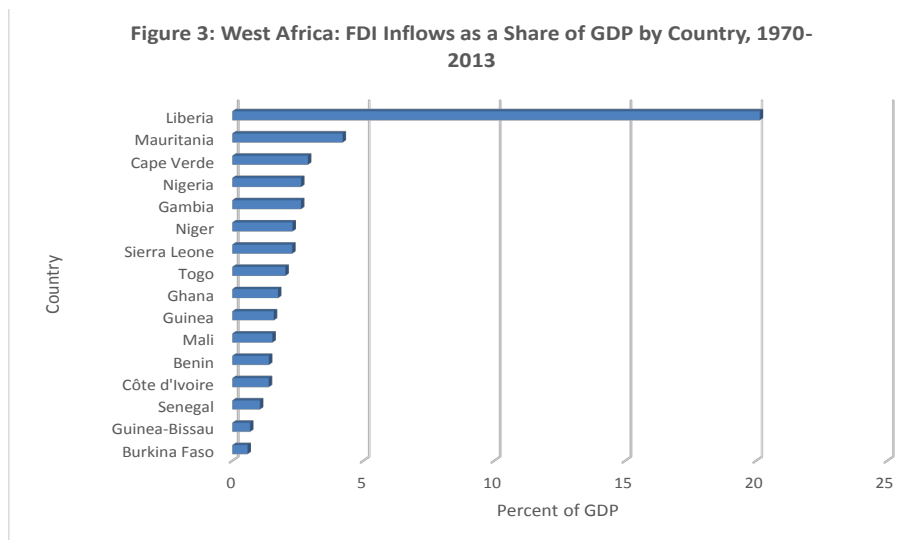
These, however, mask country differences and major recipients, a second major characteristic of FDI inflows to West Africa. Between 1970 and 2013, the top five country recipients in West Africa were Nigeria (57.5%), Ghana (12.4%), Cote d'Ivoire (4.8%), Liberia (4.7%), and Mauritania (3.4%), most of which are fossil fuel and metal producers and exporters and their collective inflows representing over 80% of the total inflows. In 2013, for example, apart from Nigeria (the largest oil producer in the sub-region), oil production in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire attracted considerable investment from foreign transnational corporations (TNCs) Royal Dutch Shell (United Kingdom), ExxonMobil (United States), China

National Offshore Oil Company (CNOOC) and China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), as well as from State-owned petroleum companies in Thailand and India. Between 2007 and 2013, FDI projects into Ghana increased at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of more than 50% — the fastest in Africa. In terms of FDI projects, Ghana was the fourth-most attractive FDI destination in Africa in 2013. The third major characteristics pertain to the share of overall FDI inflows to the sub-region. As a share of GDP, FDI inflows to major recipients in terms of value were much smaller: between 1970 and 2013, the five top recipients in terms of the share of FDI inflows in GDP included smaller economies such as Liberia (20.1%), Mauritania (4.2%), Cape Verde (2.9%) and The Gambia (2.6%). The fourth mega trend relates to differences in FDI projects in the sub-regions. During 2013, for example, in West Africa, FDI projects increased by 20.5% (the highest among the five sub-regions) against 7.4% increase in East Africa and a decline of 28.7% in North Africa as well as a decline of 21.7% in Central Africa.



Source: Authors, using UNCTADStat online data





Source: Author, using UNCTADStat online data

The fourth critically important aspect of the changing character of FDI activities in West Africa is the fact that there has been significant growth in intra-regional investment into new FDI projects. The regional powerhouse, Nigeria, is leading this growth in intra-regional investment. Indeed, Nigerian companies have also been increasing intra-African investment, notably in the post-crisis period (2008–2013). Between 2008 and 2012, for example, investment from Nigeria into the rest of the continent has grown at a rate of 73.2 percent (Ernst & Young, 2013). Also, between 2007 and 2013, Nigeria's intra-regional investment amounts rose by 10.7% while the number of projects increased by 11.6%. During the same period, its job creation rose by 11.4% (Ernst & Young, 2014).

Possible Solutions

- The West African countries can present the advantages it would gain from investing, as it essentially is a form of Foreign Aid, such as but not limited to.
 - I. Increased infrastructure
 - II. An increase in GDP, initially through the FDI itself, but this will be followed by a positive multiplier effect on the receiving economy so that the final increase in national income is greater than the initial injection of FDI.
 - III. The creation of jobs as decreasing the unemployment rate in the country is one of the macroeconomic aims of every government.
 - IV. Less need to import because goods are produced in the domestic economy.
- Furthermore, the West African countries can also present the advantages the member states of the EU and their firms within them would gain from investing in West Africa, such as but not limited to.
 - I. Locating manufacturing plant within a consuming country can reduce transport costs. This is especially important for bulk increasing products, such as motor vehicles.

- II. Firms that build factories and plant in other territories can exploit economies of scope, such as spreading fixed management costs between territories, or where plant in one territory can be used to produce output for many territories.
- III. Firms based outside one trading bloc can avoid barriers to trade such as tariffs and quotas, as in the case of Japanese car producers, such as Toyota and Nissan, locating in the EU.

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FORUM: Trade Committee
TOPIC: Measures to encourage and boost trade in the West African region following the Ebola pandemic
STUDENT OFFICER: Hamza Hashem
POSITION: Deputy Chair of the Trade Committee

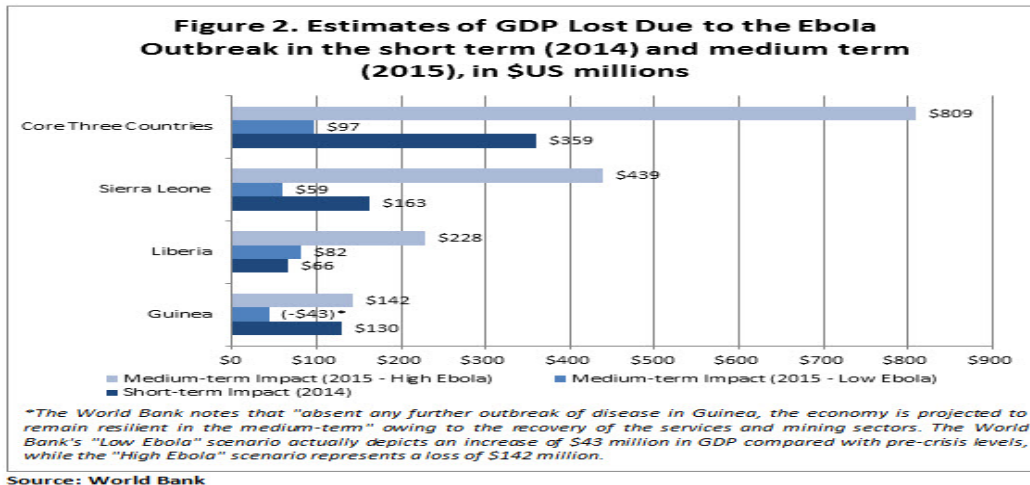
Introduction

Ever since the outbreak of Ebola on March 25th 2014 countries like Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea lost a total of 10,000 lives lost to the disease and now deal with quarantines and panic throughout the population and industry. Major food shortages followed this disease and in Sierra Leone 40% of local farms were abandoned in the worst effected areas. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), agriculture accounts for 57% of Sierra Leone's GDP, 39% of Liberia's, 20% of Guinea's, and 22% of Nigeria's. Taking these into account, and the trade blockades set up by neighboring countries, you can understand why the prices of crops in places like Liberia, food prices increased by 150%, and since agriculture is so important in these developing countries' economies, it is believed that inflation will rise in all these countries and according to the IMF the inflation rate in Liberia will rise to 13.1%, rather than the previous 7.7% before the Ebola outbreak.

Neighboring countries to the Ebola infected countries such as Cote d'Ivoire and Senegal have imposed restrictions on movement of people and goods, including border closures-

Voice of America reports that: *'investor confidence has dropped since the escalation of Ebola cases. China Union and Arcelor Mittal are scaling down iron ore mining operations in Liberia. Some miners in Sierra Leone and Liberia are afraid to enter high-risk districts, and several firms (including Australian mining firm Tawana Resources and Canadian Oversea Petroleum) have suspended operations or sent foreign workers home. Investments may be postponed and even cancelled if the perceived risks are too great.'* Guinea however, is not facing major impacts on its mining industry, as its mines are not located in high-risk areas.

As government income from taxes, tariffs and custom duties decrease, while the governments are forced to increase expenditure to spend more on health and security. The World Bank predicts a total cost of \$36.2 billion by the Ebola epidemic by the end of 2015, and the short term impacts reported by the World Bank are also huge, reporting \$93 million for Liberia (4.7 percent of GDP); \$79 million for Sierra Leone (1.8 percent of GDP); and \$120 million for Guinea (1.8 percent of GDP).



Other Countries and foreign organizations are assisting with the World Banks and IMF having pledged to donate over \$400 million and \$130 million in financing (respectively) toward emergency response and medium- and long-term recovery in the most-affected countries. The U.S. has provided a surge of \$175 million and 3,000 troops to help train nurses and establish emergency treatment facilities in Liberia. China has committed 174 doctors to Sierra Leone and \$37 million in assistance to West Africa. Cuba has also provided the largest team of medical professionals of any country to assist the region, with 165 doctors in Sierra Leone in October and an additional 296 to Guinea and Liberia.

'African countries have made contributions in the fight against Ebola as well; for example, under the U.N. Mission for Emergency Ebola Response, Ghana will serve as a logistical and training hub for medical professionals in the region. Senegal is also helping set up an "air corridor" to facilitate the transportation of medical personnel to Ghana. Through the African Union Ebola Outbreak in West Africa (ASEOWA) mission, Uganda—a country that has dealt with Ebola crises in the past—has pledged 25 medical experts to advise regional efforts, as has the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) has given approximately \$1 million to reinforce preventative measures aimed at stemming the spread of Ebola throughout West Africa. In addition, South Africa has established an Ebola diagnostics lab in Sierra Leone. While these commitments from international and regional donors show great promise to mitigate this crisis, only about one-third of the total \$988 million requested by the U.N. has been pledged as of September 24, 2014.'

Direct Text from

<http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/africa-in-focus/posts/2014/10/01-ebola-outbreak-west-africa-sy-copley>

As a conclusion, the countries affected cannot take long in its actions against the food shortages, as this could lead to famine and ultimately return he countries to the conflicts they only recently escaped from.

Definition of Key Terms

IMF

International Monetary Fund (United Nations)

Background Information

March 25th 2014

The World Health Organization (WHO) released its first report disclosing its concerns of Ebola in West Africa (specifically Guinea)

By the end of March 2014 the United Nations' WHO announced 112 cases and 70 deaths due to Ebola from the countries Sierra Leon, Liberia and Guinea.

By the end of April the WHO announced 239 cases and a total of 160 deaths.

June 21st 2014

Doctors without borders declared a second wave of outbreak that was accordingly "totally out of control" and calls for massive resources.

By the end of June, WHO shows 779 cases and 481 deaths overall.

August 4th 2014

The World Bank announced up to \$200 million in assistance for Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

August 7th 2014

The WHO declared Ebola an Epidemic and a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.

August 12th 2014

The WHO announced deaths to have risen beyond 1,000 and allows the use of unproven drugs and vaccines to fight the spread.

August 28th 2014

The WHO announced that the deaths have reached 1,550, and warns that the disease could infect more than 20,000 people. It also announces that \$490 million shall be needed over the next six months.

August 30th 2014

The World Food Program announced that it needs \$70 million to feed 1.3 million people at risk in quarantines.

September 2nd 2014

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) warned the epidemic has endangered harvests and sent food prices up in West Africa, and the problem was expected to intensify over the next few months.

December 31st 2014

Mosul hospital employees claimed that Ebola has stricken ISIS gunmen of African Origin.

March 11th 2015

Cases are reported to be 24,300 and with deaths being over 10,000.

Previous Attempts To Solve The Issue

The Delivering of food directly to the populating through humanitarian agency was the main previous attempt to solve the solution of the great loss in agriculture. This decision is the wrong one in the long run, and as the disease continues this will only cause decrease productivity amongst the farmers and possibly help the decrease in food production.

Possible Solutions

The main solution to increase agriculture and trade would be to move towards a sustainable system of food production for the future. This includes agricultural policies that enable states to become self-sufficient in food and removing agricultural policies that prioritize growth, export-oriented cash crops and quantity. All this should be done, while allowing trade in the other industries to occur more freely and make up for the loss in revenue from the crisis.

Tariffs on all industries but food should be decreased, while country attempts to recover, allowing inflation to decrease, and exports might increase as a result of decrease in 'retaliation' or foreign tariffs.

The moving of quarantines to distant areas with low industry could allow the industry in affected areas to restart.

An increase in border control and export sanitation (especially in the unofficial trade between neighboring countries, which makes up for 70% of the trade in the affected countries) could allow exports within Africa to increase, and possibly convince neighboring countries to decrease the trade/human blockades.

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End of Report

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