

PEACE BUILDERS NEWS



A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE SUPPORT TRAINING CENTRE VOLUME 9, ISSUE 3 (01 JULY - 30 SEPTEMBER 2016)

Breaking the Glass Ceiling: Enhancing Women participation in Peace and Security



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COMMUNICATION MATERIALS SUPPORTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN THROUGH UN WOMEN



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COVER PICTURE: Hon Chebii Kilimo with IPSTC staff during a Women Leadership for Peace and Security training on 21 September 2016



Breaking the Glass Ceiling: Enhancing Women participation in Peace and Security

The international community celebrated the tenth anniversary of the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on women, peace and security in 2010. The resolution calls for increased representation of women in peace negotiations and at all levels of decision making regarding security. This means inclusion of women in postconflict reconstruction efforts and in Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) efforts; increased protection from sexual violence; and an end to impunity for crimes affecting women. UNSCR 1325 resolution has become the main tool for supporting and promoting women's rights and empowerment in peace and security. The resolution is complemented by four additional resolutions; the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) framework as it is often referred to, provides the basis for advocacy, education, reform and capacity building on gender equality and women's rights, as they relate to peace operations.

Women are typically excluded from formal peace processes. They tend to be absent at the peace table, underrepresented in parliaments that are developing policy in countries emerging from conflict, and underrepresented in peacekeeping operations.



Group photo of His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta and His Majesty Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein with other invited guests during the closing ceremony of the bilateral military training exercise that ended on 26 September 2016

The theme for this quarter's newsletter; Breaking the Glass Ceiling; Enhancing Women Participation in Peace and Security, elucidates various programme activities undertaken by the Centre to enhance capacity building that translates into effective participation in the field.

In spite of the UN Resolution 1325, which calls for increased participation of women at all levels of peace processes, many challenges remain for women working in the peace building field. In peace building leadership and preventive diplomacy initiatives, for instance, women participation is reportedly low. A report by UN Women states that from 1992 to 2011, fewer than 4% of signatories to peace agreements and less than 10% of negotiators at peace tables were women.

During the period under review the centre has undertaken a series of activities as a means of promoting women's participation in peace processes and more so in preventive diplomacy initiatives at the local, national and regional level. The Centre in partnership

with UN Women conducted training on Women Leadership for Peace and Security that saw a number of stakeholders trained to equip them better for effective participation in peace and security matters in their areas of service.

Another activity revolved around field research on assessing gender mainstreaming in Security Sector Reform in Kenya: the Case of National Police Service (NPS) and Cross Border Conflict and Gendered Implications on Local Communities: the Case of Kenya – Ethiopia Border.

In addition other courses were run in the two platforms (Peace and Conflict Studies School and Humanitarian Peace Support School) using the revised engendered curriculum which included a Cross border community Peace Building Course in Moyale-Ethiopia that will enhance peaceful coexistence of communities living along the border while also encouraging women participation in peace processes. During the period under review, the Centre also hosted a Bilateral Military training

exercise code named Exercise Swift Eagle, between the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) and The Royal Jordanian Defence Forces (RJDF). The training aimed at creating and improving inter-operability between the forces. The event was graced by the presence of the Commander in Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces and His Majesty the King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Finally, the Centre through the gender policy is committed to promoting the application of the UNSC mandate on women peace and security across the entire spectrum of peace operations.

Thank you.

Brigadier Patrick M Nderitu
Director, IPSTC

Breaking the Glass Ceiling for Women Participation in Peace building in Marsabit County

According to Jole (2009), the glass ceiling is defined as an unofficial barrier to upward mobility of a certain category of workers such as women, from progressing to higher positions. Studies on women's leadership shows underrepresentation of women in leadership positions in the period 1970's up to early 1990s. The absence of women in decision making positions has been felt almost in all sectors.

Although progress has been made, women are still struggling to obtain leadership positions. Challenges obscuring women's growth to decision making positions are mainly organizational, cultural and structural. Structural and cultural barriers have to do with the way a society is organised. Structural barriers are not written in any policy, but are heavily embedded in the unwritten institutional and sector norms and practices. At the organizational level, barriers to women's progression include lack of mentors, attributed to the fact that there are very few women who are executives. Consequently, women lack role models to guide them through the process. While women may benefit from male mentors, most men are unwilling to mentor women for a number of reasons such as, fear of being falsely accused of sexual harassment. Other organizational barriers include the selection and leadership performance evaluation criteria that are mainly misinformed by social perceptions of women's roles as mothers and wives and leadership stereotypes that favour masculine leadership traits, unfavourable work environment due to the presence of sexual harassment, gender based discrimination practices and unavailability of flexitime work options.



Damaris registering for the course with her child

Since mid-1970s (UN Women Conference, Mexico city, 1975) through the 1990's, global activism on women's participation and representation in decision making processes took a central place. Global normative frameworks such as the Nairobi, Forward Looking Strategies, 1985, the Beijing platform for action of 1995, the UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security among others have been adopted. As a result, women empowerment programmes and strategies for increasing women in leadership positions were formulated.

According to the 2015, Commonwealth report on 'Strategies for Increased Participation of Women in Leadership across the Commonwealth', some successful strategies have been adopted, these include legislating laws to boost women's participation in decision making positions, not only in political offices, but also in corporate organizations. Legislations have produced positive and negative results depending on the nature of the legislation. Positively, legislations have yielded a drastic increase in the number of women in leadership position. This is especially so where legislations are accompanied

by gender equality monitoring mechanisms. However, where the legislation promotes inclusion on an affirmative ground, the women occupying those positions have not always been viewed as qualified, hence they are not often taken seriously and are likely not to have an impact.

Another strategy is about influencing and mobilising male leaders to lead gender equality programmes. The strategy requires senior male leaders to initiate and create the necessary environment for change, champion the breaking/dismantling of traditional practices, integrating gender across the organization, instituting accountability measures and actually standing for accountability in reaching targets and countering negative presumptions (Common Wealth, 2015). This strategy works best in the very male dominated sectors. The strategy works because male leaders as influential men, are best placed to create change, and they have access to governance structures.

Enhancing women leadership skills and knowledge is another strategy. The strategy focuses on building individual woman's capacity to lead effectively. This

may take different forms such as education, coaching and mentoring.

The above mentioned strategies should work together to deliver sustainable results. This is because they need to affect structural and cultural barriers that are the most difficult to deal with. Women's leadership enhancement programmes must be designed in a manner that targets barriers at structural and cultural levels.

Such is the approach that IPSTC, with support from the government of Japan through UN Women Kenya has taken to enhance women's capacity to participate in peace-building, negotiations and preventive diplomacy efforts at the community, national and regional level. The initiative rides on the Kenyan legislative framework of not more than two

third gender principle and the various policies and directives requiring women representation at all levels.

The initiative that aims at increasing women's capacity to participate in peace building leadership through training is structured in such a way that, apart from targeting only women for training, men in strategic peace building leadership positions are also engaged. This approach was adopted following an interesting story of how Sololo women in the Marsabit County of Kenya benefited from sharing a two week training platform at IPSTC with their male peace builders. The women who have been involved in community peace building initiatives for years narrated how they had never accessed the powerful clan peace building structure which decides on most of the peace

and security issues in the County.

The women narrated how, using the contacts of the powerful clan elder met during the training, they negotiated for a platform to address the clan on a security issue that was affecting the community. The clan elder having been trained on the importance of women's participation in peace building process, (which is a key component of the initiative) availed the opportunity and for the first time in history, Sololo women were able to address the clan. This event opened doors for women's inclusion in the clan based peace building initiatives in Marsabit County.

Catherine Njeru
Gender specialist, IPSTC

One Decision by one Person at a Time: What are you Doing to Break the Glass Ceiling for Women?

When I was asked to write an article on the topic, breaking the glass ceiling, I was not quite sure what exactly to write about. Not because my mind was blank, but due to the many things already happening in the world of women in leadership, both inspiring and disheartening. Gender relates to power in different ways; how power is acquired, used and maintained. Historically, institutions of power have been synonymous with men and contemplating a woman occupancy has been a tall order.

However, trends are changing. The protracted board room debates, advocacy, activism and financing towards gender equality programmes are finally bearing fruits. Gender equality is measured by comparative indicators on how women are faring in comparison to men. Indicators such as the

number of women verses men holding leadership positions, the number of women verses men owning property, educational, transitional rates of girls verses boys in schools and so forth are used.

Thus, on the subject of glass ceiling, the percentages of women occupying decision making positions are important, especially in the sectors that are non-traditional women areas. The space has been watched for a long time. It is not a surprise that women begun breaking into, and even penetrating the leadership domain in the new millennium. According to the UN, the number of female leaders has more than doubled since 2005, even though the doubled figure is a mere 22.8 per cent of women in national parliaments for instance. As of September 2016, the world boasts of ten (10) female Heads of State and

nine (9) Heads of Governments. Interestingly, almost half of these women are the first women in their countries to hold the highest office.

In the long history of Africa, only eight (8) women have held the president's position. Seven (7) of them have either been appointed on an interim basis or in an acting capacity while only one woman was elected to the office (Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia) In ministerial positions, women have made progress, although the 'hard policy' dockets mainly; Defense, Finance and Foreign Affairs are still a preserve of men. Currently, Africa has nine (9) females serving as Ministers of Foreign Affairs, (Kenya being one of them) five (5) in Finance and three (3) in Defence. The three are from Kenya, South Africa and Guinea Bissau. While the number is still low, it is a notable trend



Damaris receiving her training certificate

because it moves away from the usual 'soft policy' docket, such as women's affairs, youth and culture where women had mainly been appointed. This shows the progressive acceptability of women's roles in the masculine associated docket.

The absence of women in the formal leadership positions should not be seen in isolation with women's participation in informal leadership roles. Actually the absence of women in the visible formal positions reflects the status of women in the society.

Women in informal sectors face more leadership challenges because the informal sector is not regulated. In the absence of state regulation, social and culturally defined rules, structures and norms take precedence over respect for gender equality principles. Yet the informal sector plays a great role in the realization of peace and security. Most informal peace building structures are male dominated with little room for women's participation. The informal peace building institutions address community level disputes and grievances which, if not resolved, may evolve into a national disaster. Women's

participation and leadership in these community level structures is needed. However, women in the informal sector have minimal opportunities to access leadership training, mentoring and coaching. Even when the opportunities knock, women are often restricted from seizing it due to their caregiving roles.

Such is the situation that faced Damaris Kinaina, a woman peace builder in Marsabit. Damaris learned that IPSTC was conducting a two-week training for women participating in community peace building initiatives in Marsabit County. As an active female peace builder, she was nominated to attend the training in Nairobi from 13 to 24 July 2015. Although she had a three-month old baby, she did not imagine the demands of caring for such a young child would deter her from learning. Fully determined, she packed her personal items and left for Nairobi, a two-day journey via public transport. She did not bother to inform anyone at IPSTC that she had a baby. After all, a baby who requires breast milk and who shares a bed with the mother would not bother anyone, she rationalised.

However, to her surprise and dilemma, the Nairobi context

was very different from hers. In Marsabit, training is conducted under a tree and a mother is allowed to hold her child during the training sessions. At IPSTC, however, she was informed that she could not sit with her child in class for two weeks. She needed to find a child carer. Nannies in Nairobi are expensive and she could not afford one. The IPSTC also did not have childcare services. Her options were limited, the only way was for her to return and forgo the training.

However, the good news is that the IPSTC leadership, had taken training on gender, women peace and security as a priority activity. The leadership was aware of barriers facing women in leadership, therefore the management decided to retain her for the training and cater for the child caregiving services.

Out of this single small act, Damaris's life was completely transformed. Using the training certificate, she was able to get a formal job with a local NGO in her community. She now utilises her position to engage in more tangible peacebuilding work, her economic status changed and she moved a step up in her leadership journey!

Damaris' life transformed because someone took a small action of saying, 'yes you can stay', and paid for the nanny services. There are thousands of women who can relate to Damaris' story. So the all-important question remains: What are you doing to break the glass ceiling for women?

Catherine Njeru
Gender specialist, IPSTC

Building Peace across Borders: The Challenge of Transnational Violent Extremism

Samuel P. Huntington, a reknown Harvard political scientist foretold the new paradigm of international conflict as 'clash of civilizations', but he was quickly dismissed as a 'prophet of doom for his self-fulfilling prophecy'. History seems to be vindicating his claim. Violent Extremism (VE) based on religious, ideological nay cultural values seems to be on the ascendance at the global stage.

Over the past two decades, violent extremism has grown to become the central security concern in Eastern Africa, particularly the Horn, which is vulnerable to the spread of both indigenus and international terrorism. Almost all countries of the sub-region have been victims of terrorist attacks. Porous borders, poor governance, corruption, as well as a history of protracted ethnic conflict have created conditions in which terrorist groups have been able to thrive.

Violent extremists are defined as 'individuals who support or commit ideologically-motivated violence to further political goals'. Groups and individuals inspired by a range of personal, religious, political, or other ideological beliefs promote and use violence. Increasingly sophisticated use of the internet, social media, and information technology by violent extremists provides an additional layer of complexity.

Al Shabaab originated in 2005 as an armed youth wing of the now defunct Islamic Courts Union (ICU) in Somalia. However, in the decade since, its operational reach has expanded throughout the Horn. The group's first major international attack was a twin suicide bombing in July 2010 in Kampala, Uganda, which left 76 dead and 70 injured. The group

stated publicly that the attacks were in retaliation for Ugandan support of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) – a regional peacekeeping force mandated to support transitional government structures and assist in improving the security environment. Since then, Al Shabaab has carried out numerous attacks in Djibouti, Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania.

Before 2011 when Kenya intervened in Somalia, there had been no significant Al Shabaab attacks on Kenyan soil. However, in the subsequent period, Al Shabaab attacks within the country have increased every year. In 2015, 16% of all Al Shabaab attacks occurred within Kenya, resulting in 250 civilian deaths and hundreds more injured.

It is increasingly clear that security forces, trained to fight in conventional wars, are poorly equipped to deal with the diffuse and clandestine nature of modern terrorism. The large-scale deployment of armed forces in weak states has hardly been effective. Security forces have had to adapt their way

of operating, with an increased focus on intelligence gathering, enlisting and maintaining local support, and the use of special operations units rather than conventional expeditionary forces.

As a result of the negative perception of the Global War against Terrorism (GWOT), inefficient and counterproductive approaches, policy makers and security advisors have sought alternatives that have coalesced into Counter Violent Extremism (CVE) approach. CVE encompasses all forms of VE regardless of ideology, and focuses on preventing violent attacks. This approach provides numerous physical and virtual environments to promote information sharing and collaboration between the national government, local, county government, community, private and Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and international entities.

At the national level CVE is considered as a 'whole of government' response involving many sectors of a government.



Ugandan soldiers from the African Union Forces in Somalia (AMISOM) during an operation. Source: www.hrw.org

This demands intra/interagency cooperation and coordination to address the structural causes of terrorism. Bringing together such a diversified set of actors is a daunting task due to the obvious political, economic and cultural differences. The same is the case for cross-border cooperation that CVE demands, given the fact that terrorism is a transnational phenomenon.

A holistic view of CVE emphasizes the strength of local communities understanding that well-informed and well-equipped communities and local institutions represent the best defense against violent extremist ideologies. The primary purpose is to prevent attacks by individuals or groups recruited or inspired by violent extremist organizations and support strong and resilient communities. CVE has not replaced the entire Counter Terrorism (CT) measures, but it is framed as a subset of the fight against terrorism focusing on engaging communities and CSO that the GWOT had previously overlooked. CVE was devised to remove the perception that the GWOT targets Islam and its civilization. It seeks to encourage allies from the Arab world and moderate Muslims to partner in the fight against terrorism and VE.

The fact that CVE lacks a persuasive definition has led to multiple interpretations of concepts and terms. This can inhibit effective practices on the ground. In spite of its limitations and challenges, CVE can positively contribute to the prevention of attacks, particularly if it is well anchored in contextual realities.

Governments and regional bodies are in the process of developing strategies for CVE that will define their national and foreign policy for years to come. IGAD has a CT policy and strategy. East Africa Community (EAC) authorised establishment

of regional counter terrorism policy in 2014. However Intergovernmental bodies operating in the sub-region have yet to develop their own CVE strategies.

In Kenya, the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) was established by an act of Parliament through the Security Amendment Act, 2014. It is charged with the responsibility of coordinating national resources through integrated threats analysis. Kenya cooperates with foreign governments, and international organizations across the world to develop and implement CVE programs.

With respect to the Horn of Africa and its countries, the challenge of CVE is that there is no mapping of VE to determine realistic and context specific actions. In spite of the challenges, Brett (2015) shows that CVE initiatives implemented in Somaliland, Puntland and Kenya have contributed to building community resilience and brought state and non-state actors together in addressing CVE. Partnerships have been forged with international law enforcement organizations such as Interpol, and the Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF).

For CVE to be effective in Eastern Africa, it should be defined in a comprehensive and context specific way at the national level, and at the regional/sub-regional levels. It must also be locally owned and defined and not become another 'Western ideological propaganda with no African agency/input'. There is a need for CVE policies to be evidence based. Strategies for CVE that are not well informed by research can erode democratic principles and social cohesion, increase radicalization and incite conflict and violence.

Law enforcement should establish strong and trusting partnerships with community members. Formulating and executing sound CVE policies must be a priority. In this regard, due reference should be made to UN Human rights obligations, the Principles and Guidelines on Human and Peoples' Rights of the African Union while Countering VE in Africa. CVE should also be implemented in most VE prone communities/ areas and it should be owned and defined in the context of local cultural, religious and political parlance.

Joseph Kioi Mbugua
Researcher, IPSTC



Al-Shabab members on the northern outskirts of Mogadishu in November 2008.
 Source: news.bbc.co.uk

Deep Democracy: The Wisdom of the Minority



WLPS Writing Board for Marsabit, Turkana and West Pokot Counties (26-28 July, 2016)

mid-management levels and hence have the position to influence decisions on women's meaningful participation in peace and security.

In as much as the course focuses on women, the curriculum team opted to include men in the training for a variety of reasons. As earlier alluded to, the field of peace and security is male-dominated and decisions regarding women participation and leadership is majorly made by men. For instance, men control the very economic assets, political power, cultural authority, and means of coercion that gender reforms intend to change. Therefore, as gatekeepers of gender equality and peace and security, it is critical to involve men in the training for them to appreciate the role of women and their capacity to participate in peace and security. Eventually, it is hoped that men's inclusion will encourage them to promote gender responsive peace initiatives and become catalysts for transformative change in the society.

The foregoing leads us to the pertinence of the concept 'Deep Democracy' in Women Leadership for Peace and Security discourse. Evidently, deep democracy has greatly informed the premise and development of the course at IPSTC. The concept of deep democracy developed by Arnold (Arny) Mindell (1988), posits that for organizations and communities to succeed and sustain that success, every voice should be heard. It encourages openness to other people and groups, diverse views, personal experiences, and other dynamics that are often excluded from public discourse.

It prompts us to believe in the inherent significance of all

Statistically men are the majority while women are the minority when it comes to their participation in peace and security. Indeed, this disparity is so great that it is still perceptible sixteen years after the adoption of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). A study by the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) indicates that women's participation in peace processes remains one of the most unfulfilled aspects of WPS agenda. It further outlines that UNIFEM's global review of 31 major peace processes since 1992 shows a low number of women negotiators (9%) and women signatories of peace processes (4%).

These findings tell a story. First, it indicates that due to their low participation, women's voices can hardly be heard in peace and security agendas. Second, their needs and unique insights are unlikely to be incorporated in peace processes. Third, even where their needs are integrated, they are less likely to be implemented due to lack of women (or like-minded men) to push for women's agenda. Lastly, even if women's needs

were to be implemented, it is improbable that they would be regularly monitored and evaluated to provide feedback on their effectiveness and existing gaps. Why is this the case? The short answer is that cultural system propagates that women's issues and voices are never taken seriously. As a result, the concerns of women are not treated as a priority in most social aspects, including in peace and security.

It is the desire to transform this narrow-mindedness of existing cultural systems and, by extension, the traditional gatekeepers of peace and security that IPSTC, with the support of UN Women (Kenya) and the Government of Japan, saw it prudent to introduce a course on 'Women Leadership for Peace and Security.' The course will be delivered in three serials with each serial focusing on a specific locale. One serial will focus on the region (Eastern Africa), another serial will focus on the nation (Kenya), and the last serial will focus on the Counties (Marsabit, Turkana and West Pokot). The course targets men and women from the Military, Police and Civilian components who work at the strategic and

people and parts of our social system regardless of the diverse power and social differences. The place for deep democracy in peace and security is more urgent today especially in the light of the global security threats and humanitarian crisis. With regard to Women Leadership for Peace and Security, deep democracy means listening closely to the issues, concerns and needs of women. It implies facilitating a deeper conversation and dialogue in peace processes where the views of the minority (especially women and children) are integrated and addressed. Unlike ordinary democracy which focuses on majority rule, deep democracy goes further and calls for the voices of the minority. It incorporates the losing minority in the process and the outcome. This is because, unlike orthodox democracy, deep democracy believes that the losing minority will not disappear. In fact, it believes in Marxist's ideology that the minority will unite, gain strength and attempt to undermine the position of the majority. It is for this reason, therefore, that deep democracy calls for inclusion of minorities' agenda. The aim is to motivate and secure wider ownership of the process and outcome as well as to achieve a more sustainable decision.

Guided by the underpinnings of deep democracy, there is value in incorporating women's views in peace and security. This, of course, cannot merely be achieved by increasing the numbers of women in peace processes. It includes ensuring that women have actual influence and power by holding leadership and decision making positions. It is only in such strategic positions, that women will be able to challenge the existing gender inequalities and stereotypes with a view to transforming gender relations in peace and security.

Additionally, integrating the view of the minority (women) in peace processes produces a win-win situation. This is because inclusion of minority groups and their perspectives results in building meaningful relationship, holistic understanding of the situation and achievement of sustainable solutions.

In conclusion, therefore, minority views in the society have wisdom that is relevant to the whole social system. More often than not, the seemingly unimportant views (such as those of women) can and will bring unexpected solutions to peace and security challenges in the society. Although deep democracy is a process that can take a long time to be realized, firm commitment by key stakeholders such as IPSTC, UN Women (Kenya) and Government of Japan is a first step in the right direction. It is important to always remember that: "...the larger goal of deep democracy is not me changing you and you changing me. But we learning how to relate..." (Mindell, 1988).

Margaret Cheptile,
Curriculum Designer, IPSTC

Deepening the Foundation for Community Peacebuilding in Kenya

"I dream of an Africa which is in peace with itself" ~ Nelson Mandela

Compared to other countries in the Eastern Africa region, Kenya is considered relatively peaceful. Nonetheless, there is no doubt that it faces both internal (intra and inter-community/clan) and cross-border conflicts. A closer analysis of the country's conflict system reveals that the instability of neighbouring countries, such as Somalia and South Sudan has aggravated cross-border conflicts, proliferation of small arms and humanitarian burden. The causes of conflict in Kenya, which take social, economic, religious and political dimensions, vary from region to region and from county to county. The most reported causes of conflict include competition over limited resources such as land, pasture and water



Syndicate Group WLPS in Kenya Course 12-23, Sept 2016

especially among the pastoralist communities, historical ethnic rivalry, deep-seated cultural values, political incitement, youth idleness, and proliferation of illicit arms among others. To the communities involved, these conflicts have led to ethnic hatred and suspicion, derailed social relationships, destroyed livelihoods and property, led to deaths, and forced relocation to mention a few.

Given the aforementioned scenario, one of the strategies that has been employed in Kenya to address communal conflicts is bottom-up approach, otherwise known as community peace building. The fact is that, communities are better positioned to understand the conflict, its root causes and appropriate solutions, which by extension aid in realizing stable and durable peace. This is partly because community peace building is usually designed to include a clear understanding of the social, religious, cultural, philosophical, economic and political dynamics of the communities concerned.

Another positive factor in community peace building is the fact that the primary stakeholders, that is the community members, are allowed and encouraged to determine their own destiny with regards to peace and conflict. It is their principal responsibility to bring their community to normalcy in a sustainable manner. This implies that the community members have to take ownership of the peace processes and, with support from other partners, they should address structural causes of conflict. However, without appropriate capacities the community members may not be able to build peace successfully.

One of the most important capacity for grassroots peace builders is the ability to master



A participant presenting their syndicate work during the Ethio-Kenya (Marsabit) Community Course

the skills and knowledge for community peace building. This includes understanding the socio-economic and political landscape of the community and how it shapes peace and conflict; ability to conduct conflict analysis in the conflict-affected areas (including mapping the causes of the conflict, its effects and actors); knowledge on the concept of community peace building, policy frameworks and approaches applied; analyzing gender dynamics in community peace building; and mastering the qualities and skill sets for community peace building. These are some of the learning outcomes that the Community Peace Building Course at IPSTC seeks to achieve.

With these knowledge and skills, the assumption is that the peace builder will be ready and able to carry out meaningful and sustainable community peace building. Additionally, it is also expected that the training provides a platform for dialogue and discussions between members of different communities. In so doing, the participants may be able to share experiences, learn from each other, forgive and even reconcile. This will eventually set an example to the rest of their communities and hence enable them to be change catalysts.

In July 2015, the IPSTC offered its first pilot course on community peace building. The target audience were men and women peace builders from Marsabit County. Based on the enormous success of this pilot, IPSTC in partnership with UN Women and Government of Japan decided to roll out the course to other counties in Kenya. This year alone, three community peace building courses have been developed and one course has already been delivered. The remaining ones will be implemented by the end of 2016. The course targets Turkana, West Pokot, and Mombasa Counties, as well as Ethio-Kenya (Marsabit) border region. The ultimate goal is to enhance the operational capacity of as many community peace builders in Kenya as possible. Specifically, the stated aim of the course is: "To enhance participant's knowledge and skills to effectively contribute to sustainable community peace building in Ethio-Kenya (Marsabit) region."

The course participants include both men and women from different sectors of the community. The mixed approach to training has been chosen because it does not only allow mutual learning, but also enables the participants to understand the needs, insights and roles of different genders. Given that the participants

are adult learners, the learning methodology comprises many practical sessions and brief lectures. The practical sessions include syndicate exercises, plenary discussions, outdoor activities, experience sharing, and case study analysis among others. The training aids include pictorials, local films and documentaries, and maps to mention but a few. Additionally, given the low level of literacy of the participants, the primary language of instruction is Kiswahili with verbatim translation to local languages.

In conclusion, it is important to highlight that Kenya will be holding its next general elections in August 2017. To this end, community peace building course could not have come at a better time. The IPSTC facilitation team should endeavour to ensure that community peace builders understand that sustainable peace is the responsibility of all of us. Therefore, they should be encouraged to be the actors and leaders of transformative change in their communities. The fact of the matter is that when we destroy our communities, it is us and no one else who suffer.

Grace Mwende
Intern - PCSS



Participants register during Ethio-Kenya (Marsabit) Community Course 28 Aug to 2 Sept 2016

Participation of Female Military Personnel in AMISOM

Following the changing nature of warfare in which civilians are increasingly targeted, especially women, the UNSC Resolution 1325 came to change the way the international community thinks about peace and security. Increasing women's participation in Peace Support Operations (PSO) has been an important goal for United Nations Peace Operations since the UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on women, peace and security was proposed in (2000).

The "Women and War" Conference held in 2010 by the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) and its partners highlighted the importance of Resolution 1325, underscoring its impact on international law, women's empowerment, the military, and global security.

In the area of international law, the Resolution highlights the importance of women at the peace table and their involvement in international decision-making.

The United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) has also issued a number of policies emphasizing

the important role that women have in achieving the mandates of multi-dimensional peacekeeping operations. This includes their potential advantage in accessing and working with vulnerable populations, particularly with female victims of Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV).

Many women continue to suffer from the physical and mental harm caused by armed violence, particularly high levels of SGBV, which is sometimes committed by peacekeepers themselves. Even when armed conflict is officially over, women and girls continue to face various forms of violence and exploitation, including gang rape, sexual slavery, forced sex in exchange for food or survival, and forced or early marriage (Bastick, Grimm and Kunz, 2007). In these new conflicts women and men experience armed conflict differently and face different challenges in the post-conflict peace building processes.

Women and girls tend to be viewed as helpless victims of conflict. They are often seen as caregivers and as having high risk of sexual vulnerability. However, in many conflicts,



Tank driver, Lance Corporal Mudondo Zabina of the Uganda Peoples Defence Forces, listens to instructions from her commanding tank officer, Lieutenant Colonel Fred Kakaire. Source: <https://commons.wikimedia.org>

women and girls have taken active roles as combatants, spies and cooks, while others engage in peace building activities. Anderlini (2001) asserts that in spite of their active roles during conflicts and peace development, women and girls continue to be marginalized in peace efforts, peacekeeping, negotiations, rehabilitation and decision-making processes.

Engendering security forces has become a strategy to mainstream all security activities in UN peacekeeping missions and at the regional and national levels. Therefore deploying more women in PSO is seen as necessary to achieve a more successful mission.

According to UNSCR 1325, appointing or recruiting more women leaders, decision-makers, military, police officers, and foot soldiers is a means of better protecting the safety and rights of women and girls. Ensuring women's participation at all levels is linked to the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security.

The growing consensus on gender mainstreaming in PSO is necessitated by the current context of conflicts. Current

conflicts are not wars fought only in military battlefields, but include war against poverty, disease and different forms of violation of human rights and human security at large. Decades after the two world wars, the world continues to be affected by numerous conflicts and human insecurity. Among these are: threats to human security including inter and intra states wars, widening economic gaps within and between countries, SGBV feminisation of poverty and different natural disasters.

In these conflicts, women, children and the elderly are the most affected groups. The major issue for these groups is SGBV, which occurs in time of conflict as well as in times of peace. SGBV has become widespread and occur with different objectives and contexts. Systematic rape as a weapon of war is the most dramatic as it destroys the foundations that hold societies together such as family and identity. According to Lahai (2010), the use of rape is to humiliate women and destroy communities; this constitutes part of the threat to stability and peace.

While the UN encourages and advocates for the deployment

of women to uniform functions, the responsibility for deployment of women in the police and military lies with Member States. In 1993, women made up 1% of deployed uniformed personnel. In 2014, out of approximately 125,000 peacekeepers, women constitute 3% of military personnel and 10% of police personnel in UN Peacekeeping missions. Again, the scandal of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) in peacekeeping increases the suffering of an already vulnerable sector of the population and undermines the peacekeeping mission's ability to achieve its mandate. The inclusion of female personnel in PSO helps to deter SEA by having an accountability effect on their male colleagues.

A case in point is Somalia that has been persistently ravaged by war following the fall of President Siad Barre's regime in 1991. The nature of the Somali crisis has been continuously mutating. It transformed from a civil war in the 1980's, to 'Clannism and Warlordism' in the 1990's, and later to a globalized ideological conflict in the new millennium. On the peacekeeping front, Somalia remains one of the most challenging endeavours faced by the African Union and the UN.

The African Peace Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), which has been in operation since 2007, is mandated to support the central government of Somalia, implement a national security plan, train the Somali security forces, and assist in creating a secure environment for the delivery of humanitarian aid as well as for the Federal Government of Somalia's forces in their battle against Al-Shabaab militants (Cecilia Hull, Emma Svenson, 2008). This mission has made an important and substantial contribution to improving the security situation in Somalia. However AMISOM and the Government of Somalia have not been able to provide

effective security to the Somali people.

The focus on gender in AMISOM is quite recent, with the first gender officer deployed in Mogadishu only in 2012. She was the first gender officer to be deployed in any AU PSO, potentially paving the way not only for gender mainstreaming in AMISOM, but also in future AU operations (Kasumba and Lotze, 2013). AMISOM's Gender Unit aims to build a gender-sensitive organization and to facilitate and increase the focus on gender mainstreaming and implementation of Resolution 1325 in Somalia.

In conclusion, despite the support from Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) and several UN initiatives, the integration of female uniformed personnel from African countries to PSO has fallen short of expectations. Taking into account the different experiences of men, women, boys, and girls in armed conflict, and integrating this information into the daily work of the peacekeeping mission constitute the goal of gender equality principle.

However the prevalence of social norms and other factors continue to perpetuate gender inequality in peacekeeping missions. Moreover, the low level of female participation in AMISOM originates from attitudes towards gender roles and limited capacities within Troop Contributing Countries (TCC). Based on Reardon's idea that positive peace can only occur when attitudes and values change, the change in military culture of TCC and host country will make gender equality to happen not only in AMISOM, but also in other future African PSO.

Col Nduwimana Donatien
Researcher, IPSTC

Curbing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by Peacekeepers in Central African Republic (CAR)

The United Nations (UN) has over 100,000 peacekeeping personnel comprising of the military, police and civilian components. All the personnel are tied to a code of conduct that is based on high levels of accountability and professionalism under the Department of Field Support (DFS) and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO). These two are tasked with the enforcement of UN policies on conduct in peacekeeping operations. Training of peacekeeping personnel on SEA is mandatory upon arrival at the mission. In addition, pre-deployment training by Troop Contributing Countries (TCC) is conducted using UN training manual materials. However, cases of SEA by peacekeepers have been reported around some of the conflict areas where DPKO is active.

The rising cases of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) in the CAR continue to jeopardize PSO in this Central African state. Civilians have been greatly impacted by the violations emanating from SEA, with children, both boys and girls making up the rising cases of victims. These are children who have been separated from their parents or guardians.

Young women have also been subjected to sexual abuse and

exploitation due to the desperate conditions in which the conflict has left them. The social impacts of SEA are grave on the civilian population, especially on the victim, family members and immediate community as a whole.

The victims are subjected to both psychological and physical consequences of SEA, which are both long and short term. The United Nations peacekeepers perpetration of SEA is a fundamental dent on the very essence of peacekeeping thereby undermining its ethics and ultimate goal. As a result, not only is the future of peacekeeping jeopardized, but the confidence and credibility of the UN ability to enhance Protection of Civilians (PoC) is tarnished.

The United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2272 (2016) took a strong step with the aim of addressing these abuses, given that SEA allegations against peacekeepers have risen by one-third since 2015 with sixty-nine claims being reported. To this end, it was determined that any Troop Contributing Country (TCC) whose troops are found to be perpetrating SEA shall be repatriated from the

mission and replaced by another TCC with immediate effect. The Resolution also stressed the need for all Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps and Refugee Camps to be protected so as to ensure civilian safety against SEA. CAR has an estimated 535,000 IDPs as a result of armed violence, with 110,000 displaced in



Rwandan peacekeeping troops on patrol in Bangui, CAR. Source: www.afrikareporter.com

the capital Bangui alone. The AU and French troops have been adversely mentioned and implicated in these allegations. These accusations have brought to light blatant sexual abuse and exploitation of boys and girls as young as nine years of age. This abuse and exploitation was in violation of trust the children had in the peacekeepers ability to offer them security. Furthermore, it is a clear violation of Human rights and also contravenes the UN view of ensuring that these rights are protected.

As women continue to be exposed to the damning effects of conflict, the UNSCR 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security came to bring out their plight in protecting and highlighting the issues they face as women. Having more women serving in peacekeeping at both junior and senior levels can help sensitize the issue of SEA in peacekeeping. Human Rights Watch (2016) reported that eight women and girls were either sexually exploited or raped by peacekeepers in the period between October and December 2015. In addition, some of the survivors did not receive any medical treatment for the psychological and physical injuries that result from such abuse. The dire situation in CAR has made it extremely volatile in terms of sexual abuse with wanton displacement of civilians making it easy for peacekeepers to prey on desperate victims.

SEA by UN peacekeepers in CAR has been caused by a lack of a stronger UN role in addressing Human rights violations. This may be due to the fact that TCCs pre-deployment training is inadequate in instilling the required dedication to PoC. The investigative and enforcement mechanisms in place are weak due to a flawed manner in which UN Agencies respond to the allegations of SEA by peacekeepers. Insecurity in CAR

continues to expose children to harmful conditions that may affect their future wellbeing. SEA is also fuelled by lack of access to education for the children. This has left children wandering in the dangerous streets and neighborhoods of CAR. Unequal power relations between the peacekeepers and civilians is also a cause of SEA. This is evident in cases where children in CAR were allegedly sexually abused in exchange for money and food.

UN DPKO has in place mechanisms that are meant to protect civilians from SEA. The *United Nations Policy on Mainstreaming the Protection, Rights, and Well-being of Children Affected by Armed Conflict within Peacekeeping Missions* is one such mechanism. This is a Child Protection Focal Point that incorporates the entire DPKO. Thus, children are protected under the auspices of the UN through this policy.

Another mechanism is the *Conduct and Disciplinary Unit (CDU)* of the DPKO. It outlines SEA alleged misconduct as being anything from sex with minors, sex with prostitutes and exploitive sexual relationships. In addition to this, recording sexual acts on any electronic device, sexual favours in exchange for monetary or extra aid assistance gains is also illegal. As a result, a zero-tolerance policy on SEA was officially launched in 2005. This mechanism looks into grave violations against children caught up in armed conflict. It is one of the various child protection strategies that UNICEF has in their quest for heightened protection and wellbeing of children.

The Additional Protocol (II) to the Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians in non-international armed conflicts prohibits any form of indecent assault or forced prostitution. These are fundamental

guarantees to ensure that a civilian's dignity is respected in the midst of despair during conflict.

The UN has drawn up special measures to ensure that cases of SEA are discouraged, limited and addressed so as to enhance the protection of the vulnerable, mostly boys and girls in CAR. The Office of the Human Resources Management oversees the reporting and responding to allegations of this nature in relation to the forty-nine UN agencies.

Since some allegations and confirmed SEA cases in CAR were perpetrated by forces not under the direct command and authority of the UN, there is need to harmonize all peacekeeping deployments. This is in reference to the French troops sent to CAR on a European Union mandated peace support operations mission. These troops were not bound by existing DPKO conduct and disciplinary measures. Hence, these policies have loopholes which expose civilians to possible acts of SEA.

Consequently, harmonizing all Peace Support Operations missions under the UN policy guidelines on conduct and disciplinary measures is important. The UN Human Rights mandate which are enshrined in the UN Charter and effected through the UNSCR and UN policies can encompass this. In this view, the Human Rights aspects of the UN policies are centered on the victims hence any violations are open to UN investigations irrespective of whose mandate a mission under suspicion is on.

Watson Karuma, PSRD

Key Visits and Events at IPSTC

During the Third quarter of 2016, the International Peace Support Training Centre welcomed key personalities across the globe to various events. This included various delegations from other institutions, partners and other dignitaries.



Director IPSTC discussing with a Japanese delegation that paid a courtesy call to his office on 14 July 2016



Hon Harjit Singh Sajjan the Canadian Defence Minister being shown around IPSTC during a visit on 12 August 2016



Commandant PCSS Col Jaldesa (L) welcoming a delegation from the US State Department to IPSTC on 15 August 2016



Chief of Staff Lt Col Gilby briefing a Jordanian Defence delegation during a visit on 15 July 2016



Director IPSTC and Her Excellency the Danish Ambassador
Signing an Agreement on 9 September 2016



G7 Delegation being briefed by the Japanese team on a visit
to HPSS on 19 July 2016



Head of Japanese Naval officer's delegation with IPSTC staff
during a visit to HPSS on 27 September 2016



Japanese Naval officers following a demonstration at HPSS on
27 September 2016

Conflict related Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in Peace Support Operations (PSOs)



SGBV course participant receiving a certificate from Col Kombo (Head of Research Department, IPSTC)

peacekeepers exploit the vulnerability of the people they have been sent to protect, it is a fundamental betrayal of trust.

The specific impact of conflict on women and girls therefore calls for specific responses. Gender-based differences and inequalities need to be addressed within holistic policies, planning and implementation in all peace operations, humanitarian activities, human rights, economic security frameworks and as well as leadership. Therefore, the African Union (AU) has introduced a strict zero-tolerance policy on SGBV for its peace support operations (PSOs) to end impunity and to ensure accountability of troop-contributing countries within the AU missions.

While the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has in the last decade passed a number of resolutions with specific provisions on women, peace and security, UNSCR 1325 (2000) main focus is on gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping operations. This is supported by others UNSCR, among them, 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2012), 2106 (2013), 2106 (2013) and 2242 (2016) being the recent one which focuses on the progress against sexual abuse and exploitation by UN peacekeepers.

Both the UN and the AU have conducted a series of workshops and consultations to enhance policies, guidelines and implementation procedures to ensure better prevention, protection, empowerment and accountability in planning and management of PSOs. Further recommendations and focus should be on the screening of personnel, the training of troops (pre-deployment and in mission), investigation of violations,

"We have an abundance of rape and violence against women in various countries and on this earth, though it's almost never treated as a civil rights or human rights issue, or a crisis, or even a pattern. Violence doesn't have a race, a class, a religion, or a nationality, but it does have a gender." (Rebecca Solnit, 2014)

"I call on men and boys everywhere to join us to make sure that violence against women and girls will not be eradicated until all of us- men and boys refuse to tolerate it." (Ban Ki- Moon, 2009)

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is one of the most pervasive and yet least recognized human rights abuses in the world. Africa has marked 2016 as the year of *human rights* with particular focus on the *rights of women*. SGBV leaves survivors with long-term psychological, emotional and physical trauma. The most prevalent type of SGBV is the use of rape as a weapon of war, with women and girls as the main target. The use of rape as a weapon is one of the

greatest injustices as it destroys women, families, communities and cultures, yet it is one of the defining characteristics of contemporary armed conflict.

Perpetrators of SGBV are not limited to armed actors and civilians but also include government security officials (police and military) and peacekeepers, who are supposed to protect citizens but often engage in SGBV. Although SGBV has become normalized during conflict, it is clear that the perpetrators use violence to reassert their power and control. Some peacekeepers take advantage of the power their work confers to them and become predators rather than protectors in situations where the host civilian population is powerless and in great need of protection.

These violations are perpetrated by men in uniform, even though peacekeeping is meant to help countries emerging from violent conflicts to create conditions for sustainable peace through the deployment of military and civilian personnel. When



SGBV course participants keenly following a presentation

Youth Affairs, Health, Justice/ Legal Affairs and Human Rights and Peacekeeping Mission Units.

There is urgent need therefore to deploy and train more female military officers to the mission areas so as to prevent and address sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict. Women's participation in the security sector has been recognized as essential for the success of the peacekeeping missions. The presence of female peacekeepers will minimize cases of SGBV. The inclusion of women in peace missions is also said to have an impact on level of reporting of conflict related sexual violence. The course is also expected to encourage governments of TCC to include more women military experts in UN peacekeeping missions.

Addressing SGBV is paramount to security and more needs to be done. It is encouraging that women and men from all walks of life are joining together to help bring an end to these pervasive and often deadly acts of violence.

Grace Mwende
Intern, PCSS

monitoring of compliance, improvements in troop welfare and protection challenges in mission setting.

As a response to this call, the International Peace Support Centre (IPSTC) has been conducting 10 day courses on SGBV, whose target is the military, police and civilians who are in mission areas. In 2016, the Government of the United Kingdom (UK) through the British Peace Support Team- East Africa (BPST-EA) and IPSTC conducted SGBV Course from 18 to 29 April 2016 and subsequently SGBV Training of Trainer (TOT) course

from 25 July to 5 August 2016.

The purpose of this SGBV TOT course was to enhance the participants' understanding of the legal standards, the prevention and response of SGBV and to ensure its centrality in planning, implementing and conducting PSOs with a view to significantly reducing its prevalence. The target audience was the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) Member States who are serving in government ministries: Defence Force, Internal Security, Gender Affairs, Children Affairs,

Child Soldiers

Every day as a result of conflict, thousands of civilians are killed or injured. More than half of these victims are children. This is because children have become more vulnerable due to new tactics of warfare, the absence of clear battlefields, extreme violence, the increasing number and the diversity of armed groups that add to the complexity of conflicts. Of late, it's saddening to note that there is violation of the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) where there is deliberate targeting of traditional safe havens such as schools and hospitals. During armed conflicts, boys

and girls can be recruited into armed forces or armed groups. The use of child soldiers is attractive to armed groups for several reasons. Children are mentally and emotionally immature, which makes them more vulnerable and easier to influence. Children have less knowledge of war and have a less developed sense of danger so they are willing to be sent out on a variety of dangerous missions. Children also require little food and are seen to be resilient.

Child soldiers are defined as any children under the age of 18 who are recruited by a state or non-state armed group. They

are placed in combat situations as fighters, used as spies, cooks, messengers, porters often carrying heavy loads, including ammunition or injured soldiers, act as lookouts, carry out other routine duties, used as human shields, used for sexual purposes, or servants or even to lay or clear landmines. Girls are particularly vulnerable and are largely at risk of rape and sexual abuse. They are often used as "wives" (sexual slaves) for male soldiers. UNICEF (2005) estimates that 40% of child soldiers are females.

The latest trend is the use of children for acts of terror, including as suicide bombers, which has emerged as a

phenomenon of modern warfare. Over the years, the number of children recruited and used as suicide bombers has increased. In such cases, they cause harm, injury and even death to the victims and themselves.

The term child soldiers has been euphemized based on the Paris Principles on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, (2007). Where children are used for the above mentioned functions, it is referred to as "Children Associated with Armed Forces (CAAF) or Children Associated with Armed Groups (CAAG). Across the world, hundreds of thousands of children are recruited into government armed forces, paramilitaries, civil militia and a variety of other armed groups. Though exact numbers of children associated with armed forces or armed groups are difficult to discern, the UN estimates that there are currently 250,000 to 300,000 children involved in more than 30 conflicts, and in more than twenty countries worldwide. Both the UN campaign referred to as 'Children, Not Soldiers, and Child Soldiers International', document and research child soldiers and progress toward ending the use of child soldiers.

In the last 20 years, the use of child soldiers has spread to almost every region of the world and in most armed conflicts. Some children are under the age of 10 when they are forced to serve. They get abducted at school, on the streets, when fleeing or at home and perhaps beaten into submission. Children who are poor, displaced from their families, have limited access to education, or live in a combat zone are more likely to be forcibly recruited. Others enlist "voluntarily", usually because they see few alternatives. For example, some may enlist in order to escape poverty, to defend their communities, out of a feeling of revenge among

other reasons. Two-thirds of states confirm that enrollment of soldiers under the age of 18 should be banned to prohibit forced child soldiers; also that as the ban should extend to 16 and 17 year-old armed force volunteers.

The UN Secretary-General's 2015 report on children in armed conflict listed fifty seven (57) parties that recruited or used children in armed conflict. These include twenty nine (29) parties in seven (7) African countries. They are:

- Boko Haram in Nigeria
- Al-Shabaab in Somalia
- The Lord's Resistance Army, which is active in Central African states such as the CAR, DRC and South Sudan
- Various rebel groups in the DRC, South Sudan, Sudan and Mali
- The ex-Seleka and Anti-Balaka in the CAR, and
- Government forces from the DRC, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan.

Such children are robbed of their childhood and exposed to terrible dangers and to psychological and physical suffering. Regardless of how children are recruited, or their roles, child soldiers are victims whose participation in conflict bears serious implications for their physical and emotional well-being. They normally face hardships and great risks. They are commonly subject to abuse and most of them witness death, killing, and sexual violence. Many are forced to perpetrate atrocities and some suffer serious long-term psychological consequences. Sometimes they live with disabilities for the rest of their lives. They have vulnerabilities unique to their gender and place in society and

suffer specific consequences including, but not limited to, rape and sexual violence, pregnancy and pregnancy related complications, stigma and rejection by families and communities. Sometimes children are detained because of their alleged association with an armed group, or because they have allegedly participated in hostilities. When they get arrested, they are often detained, without due process, for long periods of time and in contravention of international standards applicable to juvenile justice. In such instances, the children are not normally considered as the victims of the adults who recruited them; instead they are considered as security threats. That's why the reintegration of these children into civilian life is a complex process.

Within the UN system, UNICEF is in charge of the reintegration of former child soldiers. Their first priority is to prepare them for a return to civilian life. Psychosocial support, education and/or training are important aspects of the reintegration programmes. Attempts to reunite children with their families and communities are also essential, but sensitization and reconciliation efforts are sometimes necessary before a child is welcomed back at home. The reintegration of former child soldiers is a long process.

As part of preventive measures, the world united twenty years ago to condemn and take action against the use of children in armed conflict. International law states that the recruitment and use of child soldiers under the age of 15 is a war crime. Generally, the use of soldiers under the age of 18 is prohibited. Two-thirds of countries believe that forced enrollment under the age of 18 should be banned and that voluntary enlistment should not be allowed for those under the age of 16.



A child Protection participant receiving a certificate from Her Excellency the Danish Ambassador

As highlighted, the participation of children under 18 in armed conflict is generally prohibited. The UN started monitoring and reporting on violations against children in armed conflict in 2005 when the Security Council mandated it. 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. In accordance with this, the secretary-general provides an annual report on children in armed conflict, as well as country-specific reports. The monitoring mechanism was put in place to ensure children are protected in line with international legal benchmarks. The most recent of these include the Optional Protocol on the Convention of the Rights of the Child and the Rome Statute.

The United Nations monitors who recruits, and where children are recruited around the world. There are currently 56 parties to conflict identified and listed by the Secretary-General. Because the UN documents patterns of recruitment and use of child soldiers, thousands of boys and girls have been released. This is as a result of Action Plans mandated by the UN Security Council aimed at ending and preventing the recruitment and use of children in conflict. The campaign known as 'Children, Not Soldiers', an initiative of Leila Zerrougui, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, and UNICEF, aims to galvanize support to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children by national security forces in conflict. Over the years, tools have been developed and resolutions adopted to form the core of a strong framework to address violations against children, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers. In the last two years, this campaign, Children, Not Soldiers, has sought to build on that consensus and to work

Various legal instruments have been developed over time to protect children in armed conflict. The 1977 additional protocols to the 1949 Geneva Convention set the minimum age for recruitment and use of child soldiers in international and internal armed conflict at 15 years. Similarly, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which entered into force in 1990, set 15 as the minimum age for recruitment and participation in armed conflict, putting the onus on states to prevent under 15s from being recruited into armed forces or taking direct part in hostilities. The Convention on the Rights of the Child Optional Protocol on Children in Armed Conflict, which entered into force in 2000, obliged signatories to raise the age of voluntary recruitment from that set out in the convention, and set the benchmark for compulsory recruitment by states and participation in hostilities at 18. In terms of the agreement, non-state armed groups are not allowed to recruit or use children under the age of 18.

The UN Optional Protocol on Children in Armed Conflict, which entered into force in 2002, obligates signatories to raise the age of voluntary recruitment

from 15 years, and sets the benchmark for compulsory recruitment by states and participation in hostilities at 18 years. It also forbids non-state armed groups from recruiting or using children under the age of 18. Under the Rome Statute, which created the International Criminal Court, and entered into force in 2002, it is a war crime for states to conscript or enlist children under the age of 15 during international conflicts, or to have them actively participate in hostilities. The ICC sets another benchmark by making it a war crime to conscript, enlist, or have children under the age of 15, participate in hostilities. In December 2014, for example, the former commander-in-chief of the Forces patriotiques pour la libération du Congo (FPLC) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) became the first person to be convicted of the crime by the ICC. Thomas Lubanga Dyilo was sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment. In Africa, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child defines a child as a person under the age of 18 years, and notes that states have a responsibility to ensure that no child thus defined, takes direct part in hostilities or is recruited into armed forces.

closely with countries, among them, Afghanistan, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen. The last eight states were identified by the Secretary-General for the recruitment of children in their security forces. All those countries have signed Action Plans with the United Nations to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children. Chad has put in place all the measures required in the Action Plan to prevent the recruitment of children and has since been removed from the Secretary-General's list, and was also delisted from the annexes of the Secretary-General's annual report in July 2014.

The Special Representative, UNICEF and partners continue to support the efforts of the 7 remaining governments to release and reintegrate children into civilian life and to ensure all mechanisms are in place to end and prevent their recruitment and use. The government of Afghanistan criminalized the recruitment of children, endorsed a road map to accelerate the implementation of its Action Plan as well as age assessment guidelines to prevent the recruitment of children. The President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) named a Presidential Advisor to address sexual violence and child recruitment. In September 2015, the Government adopted a roadmap to accelerate the implementation of its Action Plan. In Myanmar, 800 children (and youth recruited as children) have been released from Myanmar's army since the signing of the Action Plan. In September 2015, the country signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. Somalia ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in September 2015. The Government established a child protection unit in the

Somali armed forces and put in place mechanisms for the handover, to the United Nations, of children found in the ranks of its army. Sudan signed an action plan with the United Nations to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children in the country's security forces. In 2014, South Sudan recommitted to the action plan signed in 2012. Implementation has been stalled due to conflict. Provisions for the separation and release of children by parties to conflict are included in the August 2015 peace agreement. Yemen signed an Action Plan with the UN in May 2014. Implementation has been stalled due to conflict. During the campaign, the Special Representative and UNICEF will work with their UN and NGO partners to support and strengthen their engagement with the concerned governments to ensure that they reach their goal of ending and preventing recruitment and use of children in their security forces. Sub-Saharan Africa has the largest number of child soldiers. Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia and Sudan, each currently use child soldiers in armed conflict. However since 2011, Thailand, Syria, Afghanistan, and Myanmar have also used child soldiers.

The campaign has also helped to significantly reduce the number of verified cases of recruitment and use of children in some country situations. Technological advances have led to the invention and distribution of lightweight, easy to use weapons that can be operated by children as young as eight. These children need programs that provide medical care, therapy and education to enable them to rehabilitate and begin lives anew. It is important to note that the children who have been used or recruited need a lot of support so that they do not get re-enlisted.

In June 2013, the United Nations set a goal of abolishing child soldiers globally by 2016 so as to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers in government forces by 2016. Countries of concern include the DRC, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan, as well as Afghanistan, Myanmar and Yemen.

The International Peace Support Training Centre in Karen ran the sixth Child Protection Course funded by the Government of Denmark. The aim of the course was to enhance the participants' understanding of child protection issues for effective protection of children in peace support operations. The course comprised of twenty five (25) participants from ten (10) countries. Namely; Burundi, Kenya, the Kyrgyz Republic one, Malawi, Mali, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda and the United Kingdom.

Catherine Cherotich
Directing Staff, IPSTC

Media and Security Sector Transformation



A group photo for SSR course participants held on 19-30 Sept 2016

The recently concluded Security Sector Reform (SSR) course provided the IPSTC trainees with a rare opportunity to interrogate the role of media in security sector reform. Arguably the relationship between government and media is often a controversial affair characterized by suspicion and mistrust with both sides trading accusations against each other.

Ensuing discussions indicate that state agencies perceive the media as focusing on divisive issues in society and tend to work against stability that the state tries to put in place. If this is the case, at least according to state security agencies, the media should focus on public's interests by highlighting issues that build the nation. The media, and often their allies from the civil society organizations, on the other hand believe that the media represents public interests.

Evidently, state security agencies observe that governments in post conflict countries and other fragile states are not often unhappy with the media exposing corruption. Paradoxically, they appreciate it because it exposes their shortcomings and ills, thereby providing an avenue for reforms at various levels. The problem however emerges when a story is published without substantive proof, leading to misrepresentation of information, sensationalizing of news and manipulating the public psyche because of the distorted impressions created by the media.

Indications across the countries in the region project a hostile relationship between the state and the media. For post conflict countries, the situation has higher stakes because credibility of institutions, functionality of systems and efficacy and professionalism of personnel

is often under sharp scrutiny. Any small error has a potential of reverting a country into chaos thus undermining the gains made. To avert this, it is imperative for security agencies in the various sectors to have an in-depth understanding on what the media is, how it conducts its affairs and for which purpose it exists especially for those that are not state owned. The media despite being a business venture with an objective of making profit, plays a significant role of oversight and whistle blowing. It also acts as an avenue for strategic communication, sensitization and advocacy, which is critical to SSR process especially in forging local ownership, attracting partnerships, enhancing transparency and accountability. These aspects are essential for successful security sector reform processes.

On the flip side, the media perspectives of state security



Fig 1

agencies is that of secrecy. This means that for a journalist to find substantive details on security programmes or how decisions have been arrived at within the sector, there must be immense negotiation or at times, use of clandestine means, often referred to as, 'the envelope approach'. Public interest information is concealed on the premise of 'confidentiality' and revealed on a 'need to know basis', even for what is in public domain. Once information is not forthcoming, media tends to fill existing gaps through its own channels albeit shallow. In the long run, security agencies find themselves on the defensive end. While this, behavior and attitude of both the media and security agencies is justifiable given their operational environment and orientation, it does not justify the hostile response but calls for cordial relations for the greater good of society.

information through unspoken words. Such approaches provide a safe haven for silent criticism and allow critical assessment and interpretation of issues. Depending on objectivity of a system, regime or individuals concerned, policy makers can use a picture to understand a problem and explore modalities of addressing it.

Figure 1 above (fig 1) for instance depicts a black spider termed as Inspector General (IG) in a web. This may simply mean that the inspector general who is the head of police service is like a spider caught up in a massive web as per the ills indicated. A process of reform should therefore take cognizance of these issues in line with existing structures, systems and resources capable of tackling them. IG as a representation of an institution also reflects how

An interesting dimension of the media, which is often overlooked by citizens and security agencies are cartoons or caricatures. Their usage is critical for silent communication which triggers discussions and debates on issues of security affecting the society. In post conflict and during transformation phase, the public including the media is often more alert and increasingly creative in relaying certain

the entire system/bureaucracy is interwoven.

Another interpretation may be pegged on the scientific notion that spiders often weave their own webs; meaning the IG in this context for various reasons is responsible for all the ills in the establishment. In this regard, holistic and strategic policy approaches ought to be considered because it is all systemic and interlinked.

Another caption (fig2) with varied and inconclusive interpretations depicts the state of South Sudan on a river bank. From a security governance perspective, this shows a government detached from its citizen i.e. the people of South Sudan. It portrays a government that readily pours or invests so much in the country without recognizing that its actions are an impediment to the growth and development of the country as illustrated by the boat. Thus the country may remain stagnated owing to the actions and reaction of the other. Ordinarily, the movement of a boat can only be achieved by rowing. The actions of the SPLM/SPLA IO, remains unclear but seemingly does not help the boat to sail forward. Thus if the state is to move, both parties should be on the boat rowing at least in the same direction.

In matters maritime, land is considered to be more stable and secure, while deep waters are a sign of turbulence. Here,



Fig 2

the GOSS by pouring the water inside the boat intends to prevent it from being stable and indeed the reverse of it is reflected by the SPLM/SPLA IO. The facial expression of both depicts misunderstanding which obviously derails substantive reform.

Neither captions had any conclusive interpretations. However, by triggering debates,

participants objectively started to deliberate on real issues affecting their security components' as elicited by many other captions.

From this discussion, it is evident that the role of media in transformation and reform is one that cannot be underestimated. As long as a conversation is ongoing between the citizenry and security agencies at

different levels, it presents a ripe moment to objectively articulate issues and chart a way forward through security governance, security transformation and security reforms. The media is a significant part of this conversation.

Ruth Bolline
Directing Staff, IPSTC

Community Disaster Preparedness Planning



Whether in the case of national or county governments, planning is an important avenue in emergency preparedness. The practice of emergency response planning is best thought of as a process - a continuing sequence of analyses, plan development and the acquisition by individuals and teams of performance skills achieved through training, drills, exercises and critiques. The process varies considerably among countries. Such variability exists despite national and county requirements for community emergency planning because county governments vary in their capacity (especially funding) and their commitment to emergency management.

Over the years, research has identified eight fundamental principles of community emergency planning that can be used to increase a country's level of preparedness, regardless of the amount of funding available. These principles are as follows:

a. Anticipate both active and passive resistance to the planning process, and develop strategies to manage these obstacles.

Emergency planning is conducted in the face of apathy by some and resistance by others. People are apathetic because they don't like to think about their vulnerability to disasters. Alternatively people resist disaster planning because it consumes resources that could be allocated to more immediate county needs - police patrols, road repairs, and the like. Thus, disaster planning requires strong support from both the county government and the national government as well as private organizations.

b. Address all hazards to which the community is exposed.

The plans for each hazard agent - flood, drought, conflicts and Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) release - should be integrated into a comprehensive plan for multi-hazard emergency management. Emergency planners should conduct a community hazard-vulnerability analysis to identify the types of environmental extremes (floods, drought, Tsunami), technological accidents (traffic accidents, structural collapse), and deliberate incidents

(sabotage or terrorist attack) to which the community has exposure.

c. Include all response organizations by seeking their participation, commitment and have clearly defined agreement.

Mechanisms should be developed to elicit participation, commitment and clearly defined agreement from all response organizations. These organizations would obviously include public safety agencies such as emergency management, fire, police and emergency medical services. However, they should also include potential hazard sources, such as HAZMAT facilities and transporters, and organizations that must protect sensitive populations, such as schools, hospitals and nursing homes.

d. Base pre-impact planning on accurate assumptions about the threat, typical human behavior in disasters, and likely support from external sources such as national and private agencies.

Accurate knowledge of the threat comes from a thorough hazard-vulnerability analyses. Accordingly emergency managers must identify hazards to which their communities are vulnerable, determine which



Deputy Commandant HPSS Lt Col Mboya receiving a group photo from one Disaster Prepared Planning Course participant

geographical areas are exposed to those hazards and identify the facilities and population segments located in those risk areas. Part of knowing the threat means understanding the basic characteristics of these hazards, such as speed of onset, scope and duration of impact, and potential for producing casualties and property damage.

e. Identify the types of emergency response actions that are most likely to be appropriate.

Sometimes the response that is usually the most appropriate one might not work. Thus, emergency responders should be trained to implement the most likely responses to disaster demands, but they should also be encouraged to improvise on the basis of a continuing emergency assessment that identifies the appropriate response actions to the particular disaster well before those actions need to be implemented. In the highly charged atmosphere of imminent disaster, it is hard for emergency agencies to appear to be “doing nothing.”

f. Address the linkage of emergency response to disaster recovery. It is increasingly recognized that

there is no clear line between emergency response and disaster recovery. At any point after impact, some portions of the community will be engaged in emergency response tasks whereas others will have moved on to disaster recovery. Moreover, senior elected and appointed officials are likely to be busy with policy decisions that need to be made to implement the emergency response at the very time they must plan for the disaster recovery. Consequently pre-impact emergency response planning should be linked to pre-impact disaster recovery planning. Coordination between the two plans will speed the process of disaster recovery by ensuring that the priorities for disaster recovery have been clearly established so that recovery actions can be initiated while the emergency response is still under way.

g. Provide for training and evaluation of the emergency response organization at all levels - individual, team, department and community.

Emergency preparedness also has a training and evaluation component. The first part of the training process involves explaining the provisions of the plan to the administrators and personnel

of the departments that will be involved in the emergency response. Second, all those who have emergency response roles must be trained to perform their duties. Finally, the populations at risk must be involved in the planning process so they can become aware that planning for community threats is under way and be knowledgeable about what is expected of them under those plans. These populations need to know what is likely to

happen in a disaster and what emergency organizations can, and cannot do for them.

h. Recognize that emergency planning is a continuing process.

Preparedness is a continuing process because conditions within the community change over time, conditions outside the community can change as well, and even the products of planning themselves change. Conditions inside the community include hazard vulnerability, organizational staffing and structure, and emergency facilities and equipment. Conditions outside the community include national regulations. The preparedness process results in some products that are tangible and others that are intangible - hard to document on paper and not realized in hardware. An example of such intangible products is the development of emergency responders' knowledge about disaster demands, about their own emergency response roles and about other agencies' capabilities.

Major Luke Nandasava, HPSS

Women and Youth in Disaster Risk Reduction



Syndicate discussion in Kwale County

Disaster risk reduction is a fundamental pillar of sustainable development and requires an 'All of Society Inclusive Approach' including women and youth who are the most vulnerable in disasters. A gender perspective to disaster risk reduction helps to focus attention on the distinct gender-specific capacities and vulnerabilities to prepare, confront and recover from disasters.

Youth have played a major role in disaster risk reduction by advocating for campaigns and awareness planning and implementing disaster risk reduction policies. As much as disasters affect men and women, boys and girls, women and youth are the most affected. Advocating for a stronger engagement and empowerment of women and youth in mainstreaming policy planning and implementation has greatly helped in disaster risk reduction.

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) has been a major strength in advocating for the

empowering of women and youth in mainstreaming policies in disaster risk reduction, and works closely with governments at national and local levels to strengthen resilience. In 2014, four regional platforms on disaster risk reduction were organized by UNISDR with member states participation and in collaboration with regional partners in Africa, Asia, Pacific Arab States and the Americas. These have included dedicated sessions on gender sensitive Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and the role of women in a post- 2015 framework for DRR. They also made commitments recognizing the importance of the leading role for women in DRR.

African youth leaders are taking action to make their communities better, informed and prepared to reduce their exposure to the effects of disasters. Youth leaders have also formed groups, for instance the Africa Resilient Youth Group. They have signed a declaration to highlight their commitment to create awareness and reduce disaster risks at the local, national

and regional levels through social media campaigns. They have also encouraged their respective local governments to sign up and participate in the UNISDR - led initiative "Making Cities Resilient: Campaign and collaboration to strengthen the Africa disaster risk reduction".

Both natural and human-made disasters increase the vulnerability of both women and youth to homelessness and to negative impacts of climate variability. Some gender constraints include lack of inadequate gender mainstreaming in most institutions and at different levels of the value chain, limited access to productive resources and technology by women, inadequate research on gender and related issues as well as their limited membership in key organizations. These barriers disfavor women and youth in taking an active role in DRR in society.

Given such barriers, it is envisaged that gender equality in terms of access to productive resources would ensure that women, men and youth have well designed

programs to cushion them from climate risks and behaviors leading to communities having better climatic change adaptation and mitigation strategies. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), women in Village Disaster Management Committee, which was set up by the UNDP and the Laotian government to design early warning system, are especially proactive. They understand the consequences disasters have had on their villages and the potential long impacts, and really want to make a difference for the future of their children and their communities. This also includes the youth who are very vulnerable to disasters too. Without the full participation and contribution of women and youth in decision making and leadership, real community resilience to climate change and disasters cannot be achieved.

In too many places, women and youth are being marginalized from community discussions

about development planning. However there are some programs that assist women in leadership skills. An excellent example is the Women as Agents of Change Program that offered community centers run by non-profit humanitarian organization, Children International. In this program, mothers attend a yearlong course studying gender equality, women rights, self-esteem and violence reduction. They also receive leadership training and develop micro-enterprise projects.

Young people are often seriously affected when disasters strikes and can face severe difficulties in coping with unexpected and traumatic interruptions to their lives. Despite this, the world's youth are also the very people who can teach their communities - and the wider world - how to reduce the risks and impact of disasters. Young people are unmatched by any other demographic group in their ability to bring about meaningful change in social

behavior and attitudes. We must not underestimate their potential to make a real difference in time of disasters.

As much as women and youth are disproportionately impacted by disasters, they are rarely included in disaster planning. This ought to change. We must therefore be proactive by establishing information and programs for women and youth in distress to minimize disasters. The youth require information on emerging issues such as drug abuse, sexuality, abortion, rape, HIV/AIDS among others, which are driving forces to homelessness and poverty. Gender mapping and capacity building is also necessary in various sectors among other activities. Most important, women and youth should participate in conflict resolution and management as well as in DRR initiatives.

Fortunate Ileri
Intern HPSS – DMT WING



Syndicate presentation in Kwale County

Enhancing Women Participation in Cross border Peace and Security: A case of Turkana / Pokot Border

'Conflict-affected contexts encompass situations prior to, during and after armed conflict. In fragile contexts state structures lack political will and/or capacity to provide the basic functions needed for poverty reduction, development and to safeguard the security and human rights of their population' (OECD DAC, 2007).

The Turkana and Pokot communities have often proven to be resilient in such contexts, providing survival and coping mechanisms for cross border insecurity and fragility. In spite of increased attention, gender considerations continue to be marginalized during conflict and post conflict situations. In particular, women are still largely excluded from conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts.

Building on a variety of existing international legal and political commitments, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) took decisive action in 2000 by adopting the first resolution to specifically address women and peace and security issues. UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security obliges all UN Member States to promote the participation of women at all levels in peace processes and in the prevention of conflict; to protect women from gender-based violence, and involve them in community peace committees at all levels, which are traditionally mostly dominated by men.

Background of Turkana / Pokot border

Boundary and territorial conflict between the Pokot and Turkana have led to much hatred, suspicion, destruction of livelihoods, death, loss of livestock and forced relocation. The main obstacle in cross border

conflict resolution is usually lack of clear gender sensitive conflict management and sustainable human security programs. In addition there is lack of a shared vision for change among key stakeholders that is based on consultations with men and women alike in conflict analysis. Conflicts among the pastoral communities are largely caused by competition over control of and access to natural resources particularly water and pasture. Other causes of conflicts include historical rivalry, deep-seated cultural values, land issues, political incitements, idleness amongst the youth and more recently proliferation of illicit arms (USAID, 2005).

This article suggests ways of enhancing women participation in cross-border peace and security initiatives in Turkana / Pokot border.

These are based on the findings of the Training Needs Assessment (TNA) conducted by IPSTC team in June 2016. In Turkana and Pokot, few women participate in the formal peace and security structures such as Community Peace Committees (CPC) and

Sub County Peace Committees (SCPC). Traditional council of elders exclude women, and yet it is in-charge of making final decisions on peace and security matters in the communities. Given this scenario, it was difficult for the CPC to get a sizeable number of women from the formal and traditional peace structures

This can be attributed to the cultural roles assigned to men and women regarding peace building and public meetings. Women are seen by men to be slow and that they take time to get ready for CPC meetings due to the duties assigned to them at the household. This argument makes the men tend to exclude women from CPC. The men are more outspoken and outgoing in attending meetings related to community peace building. The men assume that women are busy with household chores and therefore they do not have time to attend to the peace building meetings.

Due to the new dynamics of conflict resolution strategies, the women and the local Chiefs are sometimes faced with legal issues



Turkana friendship bangle being given to a Researcher

that they have to solve, yet they have very little knowledge about on human rights and paralegal issues. Women are very few in peace committees, while some peace committees do not have women representative because this is perceived as a male domain. Yet, from the interviews conducted, the same men who were the majority respondents suggested that women have a great role to play in Community Peacebuilding (CPB).

Cross-border peacebuilding is a process that needs to support the building of effective, legitimate, accountable and responsive genders that will own the peace process. These overlapping but distinct processes are essential elements

that can be used in guiding efforts of community peace builders to promote peace and stability in situations of cross border conflict and fragility. There is need to enhance the capacity (knowledge, skills and resources) of women to enable them participate meaningfully in community peace and security. The capacity enhancement can be based on a 3 dimensional level of priority in line with community peace builder's day to day work.

The first dimension is building conflict management and community dialogue negotiation & reconciliation skills, knowledge on rule of law and human rights. The second dimension is linking peace and

sustainable development such as Income Generating Activities (IGA), dividends of peace, trauma, child and family healing, rehabilitating and re-integrating former warriors into civilian society and create awareness on the importance of investing in education and food security.

The third dimension is building common market, promoting development: entrepreneurship Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR), fighting corruption and promoting sustainable development and peace building.

Dr Eunice Njambi
Curriculum Designer, IPSTC



Turkana community Focused Group Discussion

Poetic Corner

A Wreath for the Unknown Soldier

Born a destiny's child	the hallowed soil	Bearing the stings of the terrorist bullets and explosives – 'those who die for God and ideology'
The firstborn in a family of seven	A soldier's first oath of service	
To liberate his family from poverty	Mali's neighbours knew neither calm nor peace	
To pass on heritage of courage and heroism	The storms of the ocean echoed in the restless mainland	This is the land the unknown-soldier came to bury his dreams and umbilical cord
Called to defend one's motherland in forlorn lands	Brother fought against brother as big egos fought for supremacy	His family back home continue to ask; 'Why keep our children in death trap for cause unknown?' 'Why render women and children widows and orphans for an ungrateful lot?'
To liberate a people who are neither friendly nor grateful	Leaving behind much trails of blood in the desert	
To fight a blurred enemy, friend by day enemy by night	Leaving behind widows and orphans	But old Mali has fortunes and peace to protect
Dreams cut short by a terrorist's bullet	And the many without limbs who continue to tell of the long tragedy	The great nation has a duty to get the terrorists before they hit the soil
To be food for vultures in barren lands	When old Mali became tired of the bickering warlords	To protect the land from harm and illicit arms
The end of unripe seedlings	An oracle was consulted to reveal the writings of the dark future	The epilogue of old Mali's 'Operation Jangwa Storm' has not yet been written
Collective hopes of family victory and continuity dashed	And a palaver was called upon the hill to talk about the mirage of peace	The theatre of war continue to churn out food for the vultures
Mourning the fallen soldier a journalist in the Morning Star asked;	The warlords vented their psychological and collective historical trauma	Mali's neighbours continue to trot towards peace
'Was it worth the sacrifice?'	The warlords threw spoons, plates and chairs to dissenting voices	Global politics continue to rise above the 'African boots'
So many tears	Alas! When the bell was rung there was some light at the end of the tunnel	And Mali's neighbours continue to bleed
So many bloods	New Transitional Council for Mali's neighbour emerged	And the fate of many unknown soldiers continue to be unknown
So many foot prints of soldiers unknown	And up to this day the palaver's seed continue to rule	
And so did the Griots of West Africa narrate their epics to the future soldier	Ruling at great sacrifice of her citizens and the neighbouring countries' sons and daughters	
Charismatically recollecting the fortunes and tragedies of the Kingdom of old Mali		Joseph Mbugua Kioi Researcher, IPSTC
To inspire new hearts to volunteer in the course of patriotism		
The divine call of duty to defend		

IPSTC Fourth Quarter Course Calendar 2016

PEACE & CONFLICT STUDIES SCHOOL

S/ No	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	TARGET AUDIENCE
1	Regional Senior Mission Leader Course (RSML) 03-14 October 2016	12 days course funded by UK-BPST	Selected members of Eastern African Regional organisations and Member States
2	Community Peace Building Course (Mombasa) 03-14 October 2016	12 days course funded UN WOMEN	Selected men, women and youth involved in Community Peace Building activities.
3	Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) 13-21 October 2016	9 days course funded by MSAG	Selected individuals deployed or will be deployed in mission in charge of security and safety of stock piles.
4	Sexual and Gender Based Violence Train The Trainers 31 Oct -11 November 2016	12 days course funded by UK-BPST	Selected officers/men/women who are trainers/be deployed as trainers.
5	Women Leadership and Preventive Diplomacy Emphasis on Women (Marsabit) 07-18 November 2016	12 days course funded UN WOMEN	Selected men, women and youth involved in Community Peace Building activities.
6	Protection of Civilians 21 November- 02 December 2016	12 days course funded by UK-BPST	Multi-dimensional staff to be deployed to missions.

HUMANITARIAN PEACE SUPPORT SCHOOL

7	Personnel Safety and Security in the Field (PSSF) 24-28 October 2016	5 days course funded by REDR(UK)	RED R UK.
8	AMISOM Force HQ (AMISOM HQ) 24 September – 31 October 2016	38 days course funded by AFRICOM/ ACOTA	Selected individuals who are serving or will be serving as staff officers at the mission HQ in AU/UN multinational force.
9	Community Peace Building Course (Turkana-Pokot) 28 November – 09 December 2016	12 days course funded UN WOMEN	Selected men, women and youth involved in Community Peace Building activities.
10	Security Management (SM) 05 - 09 December 2016	5 days course funded by REDR(UK)	RED R staff.

PEACE AND SECURITY RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

11	Field Research July - October 2016	Funded by UN Women	IPSTC Staff.
12	Research Agenda Symposium 25 November 2016	1 day event funded by UN Women	IPSTC Staff, Regional research institutions, Universities and peace and security practitioners.
13	Amani Lecture Series 19 January 2017	1 day event funded by IPSTC	Invited Peace Support Operations (PSO) stakeholders and experts.

