PEACE BUILDERS
News

EXPANDING FRONTIERS FOR ENHANCING PEACE AND SECURITY IN EASTERN AFRICA

IN THIS ISSUE:

OUR MISSION

To conduct training, education and research, informing military, police and civilian personnel in all aspects of peace support operations in order to improve the effectiveness of the response to complex emergencies.

OUR VISION

To establish IPSTC as the premier Peace Support Training, Research and Education Centre in Africa.

**Headquarters,
Karen – Nairobi, Kenya**
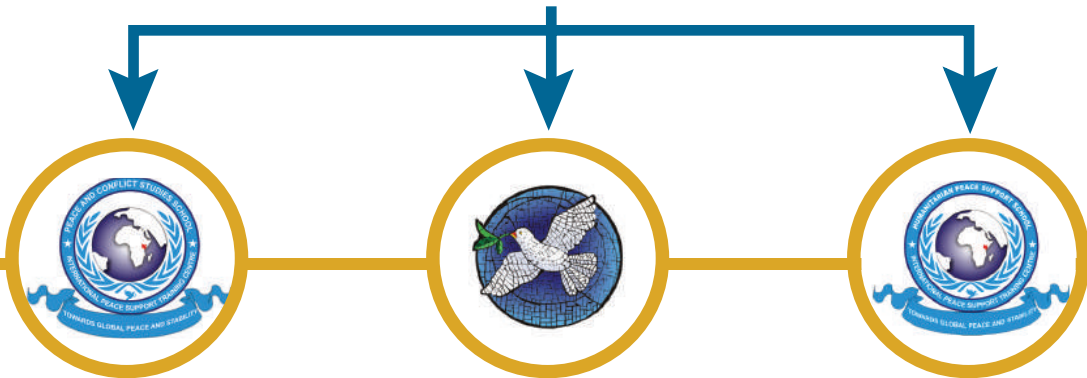
Peace & Conflict Studies School

Peace & Security Research Department

Humanitarian Peace Support School

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Cover Photo:
IPSTC in conjunction with AAR Healthcare Tree Planting Day at Ngong Forest, Nairobi County

Welcome to our first Quarter Peace Builders Newsletter.

The world is experiencing significant changes unseen in a Century. Cultural diversity, interconnection and inter-dependence between countries and different sectors of the community have become an inescapable reality.

Eastern Africa as a region has learnt painful and profound lessons from the scourge of wars encountered over a period of time. Today more than ever, all nations and all communities of the region prefer cooperation as opposed to confrontation. In an era where security issues have become more interconnected and contagious; putting at stake the development and prosperity of the current and future generation, collective responsibility becomes inevitable.

Strengthening of interaction and collaboration between the regional peace and security actors is essential for establishing a coherent regional structure and strategy for fostering sustainable peace and security.

IPSTC as a Centre of Excellence and a stakeholder in the peace and security architecture of the Eastern Africa region upholds its mandate of capacity building through research and training. In this spirit, IPSTC in collaboration with its partners has taken concrete actions towards advancing the theme of this newsletter.

During the period under review, IPSTC in partnership with Save the Children International prepared the Research Agenda setting workshop which culminated

into peer-reviewed research topics that were to guide the Centre's Applied Research field activities; among them field research on the Protection of Women and Girls in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo: Protracted Conflict and Food Insecurity: Assessing the Role of Institutional Frameworks in Baringo and Turkana Counties and Nexus between Organized Criminal Gangs and Terrorist Groups: Case of Mombasa County. The Centre's collaboration with German Agency for International Cooperation or Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the Awareness against Human Trafficking (HAART) led to the realization of a Training Needs Assessment (TNA) on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Persons conducted in Mogadishu, Somalia. This formed the basis for a curriculum development exercise for a course on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Persons.

The Centre also strived to enhance the livelihood skills of vulnerable communities, targeting women involved in grassroots peace and security matters. With the support of the Government of Japan through UN Women, a Livelihood and Entrepreneurship Course was conducted in Mombasa, Marsabit, Turkana and Pokot Counties. This was meant to enhance the understanding of livelihood dynamics and strengthen organizational management and entrepreneurship skills of Women peace-builders. Collaboration with both the National and the respective County Governments, including the targeted Community Based Organizations (CBO), made this Mobile Training activity a success.

Various courses vital to the enhancement of Peace Support Operations (PSO) at the strategic, operational and tactical levels were conducted at the IPSTC training schools: the Peace and Conflict Studies School (PCSS), and the Humanitarian Peace Support School (HPSS). These courses include the Regional Senior Mission Leaders (RSML) Civil-military coordination, Conflict and Sexual Related Violence (CRSV), Gender in PSO and a tactical training course for AMISOM on Sexual Violence. Other courses conducted included the Counter-Improvised Explosive Device, the Africa Rapid

Deployment of Engineer Capability (ARDEC) - Training the Trainers, Introduction to Maritime Security and Blue Economy and Hostile Environment Awareness Training. Besides, the Centre hosted various delegations, both local and international, for bench-marking exercises and experience sharing. These included delegations from Switzerland and Germany, the Kenya National Police, the Kenya Prisons Staff Training College among others.

These capacity building activities were realized in cooperation and collaboration with various partners: the British Government through British Peace Support Team – Africa (BPST-A); the Government of Japan though UNDP, UN Women and UNOPS; the United States of America African Command; Save the Children International, the Eastern Africa Standby Force, among many others.

Such concerted training and research in peace and security within the region and beyond provides a platform for identifying and developing effective, practical, participatory and sustainable interventions for a secure and peaceful region and world.

Concerted efforts from all actors will be required to enhance prospects for a peaceful and secure region. IPSTC continues to work with different Governments and their various departments and ministries, with both International and Local Organizations, local communities, donors/ partners and individual professionals in order to realize its mandate and the promotion of a regional community that has a shared future for mankind and greater progress of regional peace.

To conclude, I wish to sincerely thank all our partners for their continuous support.

Thank you.

Brigadier R A Elmi
Director, IPSTC

Regionalisation of Security in the East African Community

Peace and Security has been acknowledged as critical to creation of sustainable regional integration. Since its inception in 1999, the EAC has taken bold steps to create a framework and structures to address issues of Peace and Security.

Regional integration is an arrangement where countries in the same region enter into an agreement to enhance economic cooperation through agreed institutions and rules, focused on removing barriers to free trade in the region, increasing the free movement of people, labour, goods, and capital across national borders. It is mainly trade-driven, and is a process that involves increasing participation in a regional economy through trade, and at a later stage involves integrating other economic, social, and political governance policies .

The nation-state system, which has been the predominant pattern of international relations since the Peace of Westphalia in 1648 is evolving towards a system in which regional groupings of states is becoming increasingly important vis-a-vis sovereign States. Some have argued that the idea of the State and its sovereignty has been made irrelevant by processes that are taking place at both the global and local level.

Lieutenant General Robert Kibochi, the Vice Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces attending an East Africa Community (EAC) Field Training Exercise (FTX) "Ushirikiano Imara"on 17th October 2014 in Mwaro, Burundi

However, integration cannot succeed without the prevalence of effective stability and security throughout the region. In East Africa, challenges including political and state instability, resource scarcity, environmental degradation and terrorism have been undermining security in the region and delaying economic and political integration.

All these factors have contributed to a regional context that is characterized by intrastate conflicts, interstate wars, and political extremism. Raging civil wars and interstate conflicts have, in turn, produced refugees and poverty that has deepened societal insecurity and strained human livelihoods. Consequently, in addition to profound political instability and economic destitution, human security is arrayed against escalating communal violence, small arms proliferation, and massive movements of people within and beyond the region.

These challenges can be classified in three categories:

• Internal, external and state rivalries challenges. Internal challenges in East African Countries have been demonstrated by weak state governance which led to the consolidation of authoritarian and military governments that sought to defend their regime under the principles of independence and sovereignty. These ambiguous and state-centred principles of sovereignty and independence continue to maintain weak states and governments that lack legitimate authority. This leads to persistent communal violence and criminality resulting in the weak organization of security.

In some countries this helps to maintain governance systems without accountability

and democracy. They also pose challenges to collective efforts against reasonable and collective attack on poverty, disease, illiteracy, security and other challenges to development.

- External challenges are characterised by threats from various terrorist groups mainly Al-shabaab, Al-qaeda, and Islamist State (IS). The cross-border nature of terrorist activities have had negative effects on infrastructure, physical and human capital, productivity and economic growth. Furthermore, terrorist attacks and violent extremism have increased fear in the investment contexts, disrupted household spending and livelihood, dissuaded foreign investment and led to a reallocation of resources to safer places.

- States rivalry among countries in East Africa is bringing a dangerous threat to the region's stability. It may not be too late to take a step back and repair troubled relations between Rwanda and Burundi on one hand and between Uganda and Rwanda on the other hand. These conflicts hamper the harmonious process of integration. Subsequently, the repercussions are not only felt by countries in conflict but have wider ramifications even to those who are not party to the conflict.

In conclusion, International and national initiatives to address the challenges of regional insecurity, and terrorism cannot succeed in the long-term without steady regional institutions that build collective problem-solving capa-bilities, form common norms and standards on security and governance, and promote economic integration. Effective integration in East Africa has to benefit the security sector and enhance human security in the region. The incessant conflicts in and among countries require a well-coordinated and inclusive approach to building security and it is imperative to find the missing links in the search for what is increasingly appearing to be elusive peace, development and stability for the region. It has been established that there is a strong inter-linkage between development and security and there is no sustainable development without stability and security.

Col Nduwimana Donatien
Researcher,
PSRD

Change of Guard

(Top and Bottom) The former Director IPSTC, Brig P M Nderitu passed on the mantle to the incoming Director, Brig R A Elmi during a colourful ceremony held at the Humanitarian Peace Support School in Embakasi, Nairobi

Key Visits and Events at IPSTC

The International Peace Support Training Centre welcomed key personalities from across the globe for various events and visits. These included various delegations from our partners, institutions, and organizations.

Brigadier R A Elmi (centre) Director, IPSTC in group photo for the Integrated Maritime Security Course held at IPSTC Karen
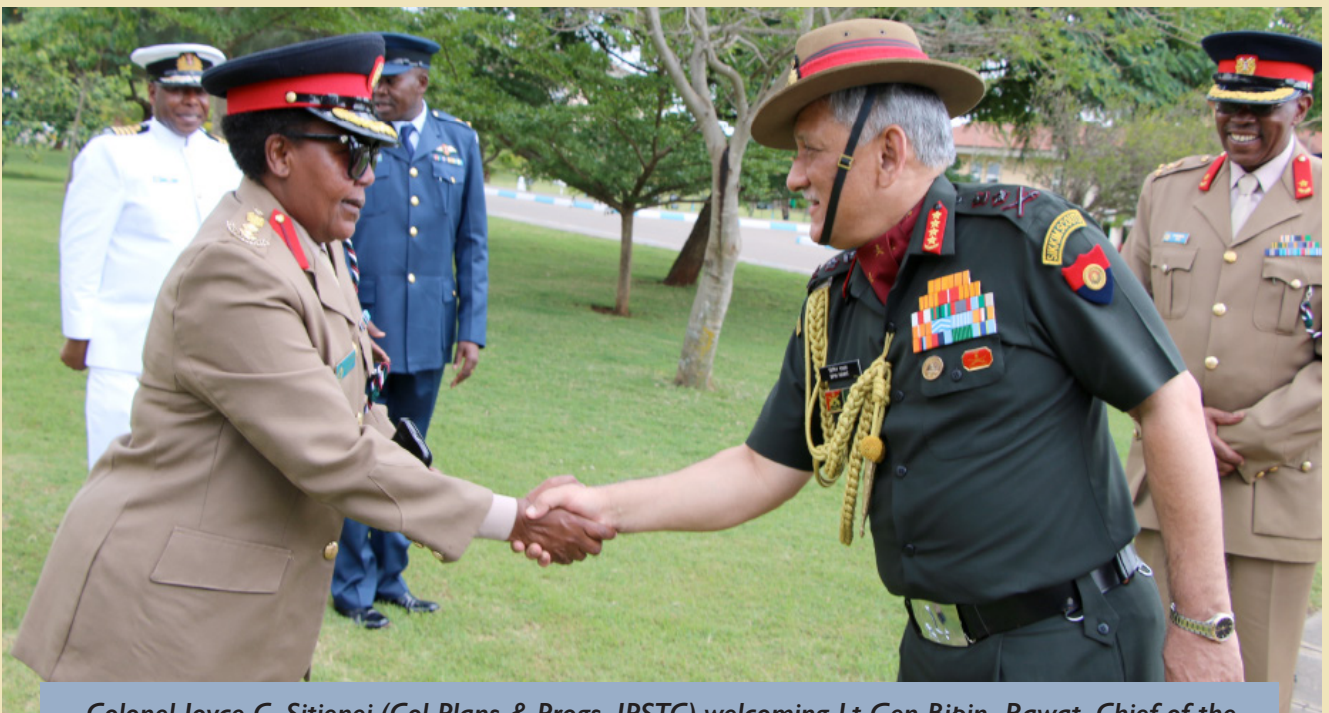
Colonel Joyce C. Sitienei (Col Plans & Progs, IPSTC) welcoming Lt Gen Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Indian Army at HPSS, Embakasi

Key Visits and Events at IPSTC

Colonel B. M. Mzee, the HPSS Commandant hosting a delegation from the Japan Self-Defense Forces at HPSS, Embakasi

Colonel B. Mwagonga, Head of Research at the PSRD addresses participants during the Annual Research Agenda Workshop held at IPSTC-Karen

Key Visits and Events at IPSTC

Group photo of the PSRD curriculum review board for the Integrated Disaster Risk Managers course held in Karen, Nairobi

New officers recently posted to IPSTCpose for a group photo during their induction course at IPSTC Karen

Key Visits and Events at IPSTC

Colonel Joyce C. Sitienei, Col Plans & Progs, IPSTC, presents an IPSTC commemorative plaque to the leader of the Burundi National Defence College delegation to IPSTC, Karen

Colonel Michael Calmeijer Meijburg, the Dutch Defense Attaché in Kenya, hands over library books donated by the Government of Netherlands to the Librarian WO1 Michael Osew Ngachra

Key Visits and Events at IPSTC

The Commandant, Peace & Conflict Studies School Col H Maghanga receives a comemorative plaque from a Kenya Naval Officer and participant of the Law of Armed Conflict Course held at IPSTC Karen

Closing ceremony for the 19th Regional Senior Mission Leadership course held at IPSTC Karen

Key Visits and Events at IPSTC

A visiting delegation from the Burundi National Defence College pose for a group photo with Senior Officers from IPTSC

Group photo of the PSRD curriculum review board for the Child Protect (TOT) course held in Karen, Nairobi

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) for Sustainable Development

Disaster risk reduction is described as a series of efforts to reduce economic and physical loss in case of disasters and emergencies. The United Nations General Assembly designated 1990s as the international decade for natural disaster risk reduction. This was followed by the global DRR strategy in 1994 named the Yokohama Strategy and plan of action. This strategy provided guidelines for natural disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation.

Despite continued economic developments many world regions have witnessed increased economic damage as a result of natural and man-made disasters. Population increase, continuous and unplanned urban developments and increase in extreme weather related disasters due to climate change have impacted the world at large. The latest being the effects of cyclone Idai along the Mozambique Coast. The resultant effects on peace, security and sustainable developments coupled with increased economic losses cannot be under estimated.

The adoption of the Sendai framework by the international community was aimed at reducing disaster risk, loss of lives and livelihoods. This framework set the following four priorities for action which if integrated and implemented at National, County, Community and Institutional levels then disaster risks identified will substantially reduce thus achieving sustainable development at all levels. The priority areas are as highlighted:

- Understanding disaster risks: The need by all levels to use and integrate scientific technology to provide a reliable risk assessment based on scientific analysis in order to plan effective disaster counter measures.

- Strengthening of disaster risk governance to manage disaster risks: Disaster risk reduction and management should ensure that risks are managed and reduced through integration of both vertical and horizontal activities by all sectors within the societies. The involvement of National, Local government and other stakeholders such as private sectors, NGOs and local communities is paramount. Disaster risk governance and cooperation are indispensable to build a disaster resilient social structure. The need to involve vulnerable groups within communities during the formulation of disaster risk planning and management plans should always be factored. By ensuring that plans are community led, basic concepts of 'self-help' and 'mutual help' in the event of a disaster or emergency would be easily realized and implemented within jurisdictions.

- Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience: This is increasing the amount of investment in DRR to reduce the risk of disasters in order

to protect human lives, environment and assets. Our counties have been playing re-active instead of being pro-active to recurrent disasters that could otherwise be avoided. These disasters and emergencies such as urban and rural flooding, terrorism, droughts, urban fires and collapsed infrastructure amongst others have been a common phenomena. The need for National and County Governments and organizations to set standards based on risk assessment and mainstreaming DRR at the designing phase of both their development and sector plans must be embraced. This should be equated with security features of facilities established on design-based threats. Measures such as construction of roads shoulder reinforcing, flood resistant highways, slum upgrading, emergency traffic routes designation and flood mitigation in urban zones will improve the safety and continuity of critical functions for longer time during emergencies and disasters.

• Enhancing disaster prepa-redness for the effective response and to 'build

back better' in recovery rehabilitation and reconst-ruction: the need for counties and institutions to have

This is through reconstruction of resilient physical infrastructure, living standards, economic and restoration of operations.

Speaking with one voice: Interior CS Fred Matiangi flanked by senior government officials addressing the public after the Dusit terror attack

disaster preparedness and emergency operations plans in advance will improve organizations and structures to respond effectively at all levels. MOUs/MOAs between local authorities and private sectors on disaster response would also enhance effective response and rehabilitation

While funds for preparedness measures may be limited, it would be important for County Governments and Institutions to embrace 'build back better' approach. This approach will make them more resilient and prevent repetitive damages from similar disasters and emergencies.

Thus in order to promote the 'human security' approach. There is need for building disaster resilience through local government and her institutions prioritizing the following: DRR in their policies, development plans and programmes within all sectors and fields, and investment in DRR. The need for disaster risk evaluation followed by reduction and mitigation of the identified disaster risks should be embraced for sustainable development both at County and Institutional levels.

Maj K. Kyaa
SI DMT WING, HPSS

Capacity Building for United Nations Staff Officers to enhance PSO

Capacity Building course for United Nations Staff Officers towards enhancing PSO at HPSS, Embakasi

Currently, there are many emerging conflicts in different parts of the world that are triggered by resource competition, poor governance, political instability and ethnic clashes. This calls for peacekeeping missions and stabilization operations.

To make these missions and operations successful, an efficient training of Head Quarter (HQ) personnel is one of the leverages for successful peace operations. The United Nations (UN) has played a key role in bringing these conflicts and wars to an end.

The UN is an inter-governmental organization created in 1945 to promote and maintain world's peace and security, human rights, fostering social and economic development, protecting the environment and providing humanitarian aid in cases of famine, natural disasters and armed conflicts with support of other international cooperation partners. In regard to promotion and maintenance of international peace and security, the UN Peace Support Missions today are conducted in very complex and often dysfunctional environments that are characterized by political, humanitarian, developmental and security challenges and dimensions that need to be addressed for the success of the mission operations.

This aspect of the multi-dimensionality necessitates the need for a functioning and efficient headquarters that should be formed of military, civilian and police components. One of the critical components of the military consists of the staff officers manning various functions/cells. The need for training such an important group cannot be overemphasized.

The International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC) held a United Nations Staff Officers Course (UNSOC) that was conducted at the Humanitarian Peace Support School (HPSS) from 11-29 March 2019. The course targeted regional officers, both male and female. It was sponsored by the British Peace Support Team Africa (BPST) 'A'.

The Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Threat

IED weapon make up

An Improvised Explosive Device (IED) by definition is an explosive device placed or fabricated in an improvised manner incorporating destructive, lethal, noxious, pyrotechnic, or incendiary chemicals and is designed to Kill, Destroy, Incapacitate/ disfigure, Harass or Distract. IEDs have become the modern terrorist weapon of choice globally. IEDs are also being used as a force multiplier due to their effectiveness when used during major attacks by the terrorist groups. Globally they have been used to wage complex attacks against security forces. Complex attacks in this context which refers to attacks conducted by the terrorist using integration of different weapons against either moving or forces in a Defensive position by using IEDs, Small Arms and Light Weapon (SALW) fire. Normally an IED will have five major components, the Main Charge (Explosives), Initiator (detonator), Power source, Switch and the container. All these when well fabricated together will make an IED.

IED main charge will either contain Military Ordnance (MILOD), Commercial Explosives (CE) or Homemade Explosives (HME). The terrorist will choose the main charge to use depending on available explosive materials. In more advanced stages the terrorist will use the locally available chemical materials like AN (ammonium nitrate), also known as calcium ammonium nitrate (CAN) among other chemicals to prepare homemade explosives. In some cases terrorist groups use military grade ordinances to harvest Explosives which they use to make IED Main Charge. In understanding IEDs, they are categorized further based on the method of initiation. There are three Major categories of IEDs i.e. Command controlled IEDs, Victim operated IEDs and Time command IEDs. There are other several categories. However, these three are the main types of IEDs currently being used by several terrorist groups. When these IEDs are ready for use by the terrorist, the terrorist decides the mode of emplacement depending with the target. The terrorist may choose to use the IED as a Road side bomb both buried/surface laid or he may decide to deploy as a suicide bomber either person borne IEDs (PBIED) or Suicide Vehicle borne IEDs (SVBIED).

Countering the IED threat

Globally tremendous efforts are being made to counter the threat posed by the IEDs. Some of these efforts include employment of technology to counter the IEDs Threat. Regionally Kenya faces direct threat of IEDs due the instability and proximity to Somalia. This has equally necessitated the employment of several mechanisms to counter this Threat. Some of these efforts include conducting the Counter Improvised Explosive Devices (C-IED) Campaign using three main C-IED pillars. The first pillar is Prepare the Force, this pillar is composed of two main activities which are C-IED training and C-IED lessons learned. This ensures that intensive training on C-IED is provided to all those proceeding to operation areas by creating awareness training. The second pillar is Defeat the Device. This pillar provides the

mechanisms to analyze and compare common operational needs and possible technological solutions in order to identify capability gaps and requirements in IED detection, recognition and location of IED Components. It also facilitates the neutralization of the intended effects of IEDs. It ensures that proper mechanisms are laid down in order to destroy, clear, or prevent the emplacement of IEDs. This is achieved by providing high Threat C-IED training to all the C-IED operators. The last very crucial pillar is the attacks the network (AtN) pillar. This pillar is intelligence led focusing mainly in prediction and prevention. This pillar of C-IED consists of subject matter experts from the Military, Law Enforcement and Intelligence Services. AtN is focusing efforts in;

- The development of initiatives in support of anticipatory analysis & effective planning for lethal/non-lethal engagement of networks;

- The understanding of the complex nature of threat networks and their interaction with neutral/friendly ones;
  The impulse to the widest inter-agency (Military, Law Enforcement & Security) approach against multifaceted cross-boundary threats from networks
- The hugest information sharing among the C-IED Community of Interest. Lastly it's worth noting that the IED threat is universal. It affects both the Military, the police and the civilians at large.

Therefore, concerted efforts towards mitigation of the threat posed by IEDs should be employed at all cost. Provision of critical information on possible IEDs making materials hideouts should be emphasized at all cost so as to avert possible attacks using IED.

Maj Habert N Njagi
OIC Fusion Cell, C-IED Wing, HPSS

Main Charge

Power Source

Initiator

Zebib Kavuma: Good as Gold

A woman of great courage, intelligence and wit. These are mean words to describe Zebib Kavuma, the immediate former UN Women Country Director to Kenya. Ms Zebib oversaw excellent cooperation between IPSTC and UN Women Kenya from 2014 when the two institutions entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to implement a project dubbed "integrating gender in peace support operations in Eastern Africa". Before then, a gender lens had not been given prominence in IPSTC's programmes.

During her tenure, Zebib, through the Kenya Country Office, was indisputably a central pillar in advancing the ideals of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. Worthy of note is her immense contribution in the peace and security realm not just in Kenya but in the greater Eastern Africa region. It is indeed proper to mention that Zebib, in her characteristic fashion, went above and beyond the call of duty to help IPSTC realize key milestones in engendering training systems and processes.

Salient achievements include the development and operationalization of IPSTC Gender Policy, engendered courses and a host of research products on thematic gender topics. The achievements hitherto realized have placed IPSTC at an enviable pedestal in the region on matters of gender integration in peace operations. The successes aforementioned have been the result of our mutual cooperation and collaboration with UN Women Kenya under the stewardship of Zebib.

We acknowledge Zebib for keeping to the faith in the path of gender integration and following in its lights. As you serve in your new role as the Deputy Country Director of UN Women for Eastern and Southern Africa,

We wish you well because we believe that whoever found you fit for promotion has a keen eye. It is not easy to find gems like Zebib. Every institution would like to have a deal maker like you. We believe you have an even brighter future and we wish you all the best.

Daniel M. Wathome
Gender Specialist, IPSTC

(Above) Ms Kavuma sampling some of the IPSTC Research products on display during the launch of 2017 UN Women - Kenya funded publications

The outgoing UN Women Kenya Country Director Madam Zebib Kavuma receives an honorary certificate from fomer IPSTC Director P.M. Nderitu during her farewell party at IPSTC Karen

Gender Integration in Rwanda National Police

Gender Integration is the process of assessing the implications for women of any planned actions; including legislation, policies or programs in all areas and at all levels. It is also considered a strategy for making both men's and women's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs so that both women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated (OHCHR, 2019).

Integration goes hand in hand with the promotion and protection of women's human rights and the elimination of discrimination against them. The ultimate goal being the achievement of gender equality. Gender integration in relation to the security sector refers to the recruitment and promotion through capacity building of more women into the security sector so as to cater to the needs of women who come from post-conflict situations or have experienced any other forms of violence such as sexual and gender based violence.

Rwanda is a landlocked country that is located in the Great Lakes Region of Africa. It is comprised of the Hutu, Tutsi and the Twa people. Currently, the country has a ban on ethnic politics because of the ethnic polarization that played a large role in the country's troubled history.

Security sector reform in the country began in 1993 when the Arusha Peace Agreement was effected but this all changed in 1994 when internal conflict denegenerated into genocide. The genocide heavily disrupted the security sector reform process. The priorities of the government changed as much of the reform processes were more focused on prosecuting those who played a role during the genocide period, (DCAF, 2019).

Gender integration is a key element to an effective SSR policy framework. It shows a government commitment to serve an entire population, increases public confidence in the system, and allows for an inclusive response to gender-based crimes, particularly in Rwanda where rape was used as a weapon of war. While Rwanda has strong gender diversity in government sectors, women make up a small portion of the police force.

This is due to the unfavorable responses from women towards recruitment drives. In this regard it is expected that recruitment campaigns should sensitize on gender consideration and diversity to both the individual female recruits and their family and community at large. According to the New Times (2019), the Post-genocide period saw a handful of women participating in policing services but as of 2013, women accounted for 20% of the police force and as of 2017, the percentage of women in the Rwanda National Police grew to 21%.

Security sector reform strategies promoting the recruiting of women in the security sector ensure that women are able to equally participate at security sector decision making levels thus contributing to the creation of an efficient and legitimate

Rwanda National Police

security sector. The reforms are necessary in order to prevent the recurrence of conflict and enhances public security which creates a conducive environment for reconstruction and developmental work.

UNSCR 1325 (2000) was adopted so as to address the irregular and unique impact that armed conflict had on women. The three pillars of the resolution: protection, prevention and participation are critical to the respect of human rights, dignity and tackling the root causes of conflict so as to create sustainable peace. The Women,

Peace, Security (WPS) agenda is pegged on the principle of effective incorporation of gender perspectives and women's rights. This can have a meaningful and positive impact on the lives of men, women, boys and girls.

The Rwanda National policy for the National Police shows the principle guidelines which sectoral policies and programmes will be used to integrate gender issues into their respective social, cultural, economic and political planning and programming. The key factors that supported the change in the Rwandan society was the political will of

their leader after 1994 and also the 4th world conference on women that was held in Beijing. These key factors, led to both the physical and social reconstruction of the country which included women and secondly, the recommendations that were made at the women conference in Beijing allowed women to be able to increase their participation in decision making and in the high ranking positions.

Joan Wanjiru Wainaina
Intern, PSRD

Poetic Corner

A Season of Harvest

Like ants trail on the Savannah
They moved for long in meandering trails
In search of the elusive oasis
With many a herds of thirsty beings
Patrolling the deserts like the King's Stallions

Armed with spears and swords, poisoned arrows and AK 47
They looked forward to winning the battle for water and pasture
Their belligerents were equally moved by the same human desire for survival

As their forefathers had done for ages they consulted the oracle of war
To foretell of the direction and pattern of the moon and the stars
To seek radiance of the sun Upon dawn or day break

To bring forth the spirits of the dead to determine the fortunes of the living
In ecstasy they sang of the legendary war hero Abaturagira
Of his heroic war exploits against his enemy
His unbreakable spear and the black knob kerrie that brook no enemy
They poured libations upon his grave and of the other war heroes of times gone by
Who fell by the way side in defense of their people and their country
And as if mocking the insatiable spirit of death...
The birds hovered around their weapons
As they perched on the thorn trees...
Mesmerized by the colours of the troops ready for battle

And then the battle was drawn
Between families, communities and nations
In the fight for the elusive resources to meet multiple needs and wants
n the fog of war...wisdom has been turned into utter blindness
Strategy into folly miscalculations

In the beginning they fought for water and pasture, for bread and butter
Today they fight for egos and supremacy
The villains fight for dignity and humanity
Ready to leave one man and woman standing
To bring forth a new generation
A generation that shall see the folly of war
A generation that shall learn from the burried hatchets
Of the many wars fought, heroes and villains burried in hallowed shrines or unmarked graves
A season of harvest shall reign on the gods forsaken land
To re-unite brothers with brothers, families with families and nations upon nations
The voice of the prophetic bird shall be heard once more
Retelling the folly of war and the fortunes of wisdom amidst the fog of the season
Up on the hill where the nations cherished shrines abode
Heroes of peace shall exchange white and coloured doves
To mimic angelic harmony of the body, mind and spirit
And thus a season of harvest shall begin
As prophesied many eons before
By the oracles of war and peace

Joseph Kioi Mbugua,
Researcher, IPSTC

IPSTC Second Quarter Course Calendar 2019

S/No	EVENT	DESCRIPTION
PEACE & CONFLICT STUDIES SCHOOOL		
1	Defence Business Planning Course (DBPC) 10 - 14 June	5 day course hosted by PCSS and sponsored by the Government of Canada through DMTC
2	Regional Law Enforcement (RLE) HL 8.1 17 - 21 June	5 day course hosted at PCSS and funded by the European Union.
3	National Regional Law Enforcement (RLE) 13.4 17 – 21 June	5 day course hosted at PCSS and funded by the European Union.
4	UNSOS Working Group Workshop 17 – 21 June	5 day course hosted at PCSS and sponsored by the UN
5	Protection of IDPs & Refugees 17 – 28 June	12 day course hosted by PCSS and sponsored by the Government of Denmark
6	HIV/ AIDS Awareness Seminar 26 – 27 June	2 day Seminar hosted by PCSS and supported by the Kenya Defence Forces
HUMANITARIAN PEACE SUPPORT SCHOOL		
7.	Conflict Related Sexual Violence 17 – 28 June	12 day course hosted by PCSS and supported by United Kingdom, British Peace Support Team - Africa
PEACE AND SECURITY RESEARCH DEPARTMENT		
8.	Field Research Activity June – July 2019	Supported by Save the Children International
9.	Field Research Activity June – July 2019	Supported by IPSTC