Giving Aid in the Eye of a Storm

Somalia: Peacekeeping during a humanitarian crisis

The devastating famine currently ravaging a large part of the Horn of Africa, an area comparable to the size of Western Europe, is the most severe humanitarian crisis in the world today. The UN estimates that 12.4 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, 3.7 million in Somalia alone, over half of the country’s total population.

Despite huge pledges of assistance from states and organisations around the world, the latest being a $350 million aid package from the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, the UN states that aid was only reaching around 20 percent of Somalis who require assistance. This is largely due to the presence of Al-Shabaab that has created an insecure environment in the country, thereby preventing the normal flow of aid to those desperately in need of it besides terrorising Somalia’s cities and citizens. The Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Mr. Erastus Mwencha, after a recent visit to Mogadishu, stressed the severity of the drought crisis in Somalia saying, “this is one of the most challenging environments for humanitarian assistance intervention. This is why the presence of the AU mission in Somalia (AMISOM) is vital in creating an enabling environment for humanitarian aid operations in the country.”

The African Union currently has a 9,000 strong peacekeeping force, known as AMISOM stationed in Somalia who are working with forces from the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia “First to secure and protect the food aid convoy, and to protect the camps and stabilize the city, and fight banditry and looting”,

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Fresh and revamped, ‘Peace and Security News’ returns, now published monthly instead of quarterly due to increasing demand from readers for more frequent news updates on activities of the Department. It continues to cover a wide range of topics and issues affecting the African continent to date.

This month comes with several challenges to the African continent. The devastating drought situation in the Horn of Africa, the worst in 60 years, continues to affect the lives of around 12.5 million fellow Africans. The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) continues to play a very crucial role in the distribution of humanitarian aid to those affected. This issue focuses on the AU’s move to strengthen its peace operations in Somalia and the unfolding developments in the Libyan conflict. This month, the African Union has taken significant positive steps in post-conflict reconstruction and peace-building efforts in countries emerging from conflicts, including Cote d’Ivoire. Yet despite these challenges, the inauguration of South Sudan into the African Union as its youngest and 54th member was a great cause for joy and celebration.

Kambudzi Adomore Mupoki, Editor in Chief

The AU extends its best wishes of peace, security and prosperity to both Sudan and South Sudan as well as all its neighbours.

AUC Chair visits Mogadishu

On 20 August, 2011, the Chairperson of the Commission, Dr. Jean Ping, visited Mogadishu to assess recent developments on the ground and achievements made by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) forces of Somalia, particularly the extension of their control to areas previously under Al-Shabaab.

He was accompanied by the Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ramtane Lamamra, and his Special Representative for Somalia, Boubacar Gaoussou Diarra. The Chairperson paid glowing tribute to the TFG forces and AMISOM leadership and troops for their commitment and courage. The delegation visited Hawalwadag IDP camp, where it met with drought-affected Somalis, as well as the AMISOM hospital, where Somali civilians receive free medical treatment. The delegation also met with President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Hassan, the Speaker of the Transitional Federal Parliament, and Prime Minister Abdweli Mohammed Ali. The Chairperson expressed the AU’s commitment to expanding its support to the people and institutions of Somalia.

He also informed them about the then upcoming Pledging Conference scheduled for 25 August, 2011, in Addis Ababa for the victims of drought and famine in the Horn of Africa, particularly in Somalia. Dr. Jean Ping emphasized the need to strengthen the reconciliation process and expedite the implementation of the pending transitional tasks, in line with the Djibouti Agreement and the Kampala Accord.
In view of the implementation of the recommendations of the multidisciplinary and technical assessment missions to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Central African Republic, and Sudan, a Technical Support Team of experts was deployed in August 2011, to follow-up on the implementation process with the governments concerned. The technical support team was amongst others mandated to:

- Review what has been done in each country with regard to the recommendations of the previous multidisciplinary missions;
- Advise on the steps to be taken, in coordination with the international partners, taking into account the priorities identified during the technical meeting of 2-3 June 2011; and,
- Provide an updated report to the Commission and recommend follow-up measures to be taken.

In relation to these missions, the Directorate of Peace and Security will hold a conference in October 2011 to launch the African Solidarity Initiative to generate resources for post-conflict reconstruction. The Conference is expected to enhance the effectiveness of the AU’s policy on post conflict reconstruction by encouraging contributions in the form of African expertise and resources, as well as increasing awareness of post-conflict reconstruction issues on the continent.

The conference will also look beyond ‘traditional’ donors’ for contributions and involve the participation of the African private sector as well as taking into consideration pledges in the form of human resources.

A follow-up mechanism to ensure that the pledges are honored will be established.
In response to the humanitarian crisis caused by the drought in the Horn of Africa, the African Union Commission organized a Pledging Conference to raise resources and awareness amongst AU Member States and the wider international community towards alleviating the plight of the victims in the region.

African Initiative

The conference which took place on 25 August 2011 was an opportunity for African governments to take a proactive approach to the drought mitigation efforts and demonstrate their commitment to intervening in what is primarily an African crisis before turning to the ‘traditional’ sources of aid.

Committed to the cause, the African Union is focusing on and appealing to its Member States, as well as other sources of aid that include the League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and Regional banks such as the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA). The AU is also appealing to various private companies on the continent to play their part in helping save the lives of millions of Africans. Furthermore, the AU calls on donors to commit either financially or in-kind towards the cause. The AU High Representative for Somalia, former President of Ghana, Jerry John Rawlings, who visited Mogadishu earlier in July, said:

“Twelve million people face imminent death if we fail to act. The situation in the Horn of Africa has the unfortunate potential of negatively affecting the rest of the continent socially, economically, culturally and politically, thus, we cannot afford to allow this to happen”.

Mr. Rawlings was addressing a group of journalists during a sensitization exercise organized by the AU dubbed “One Africa-One Voice against Hunger,” held in order to build momentum towards the pledging conference on 15 August 2011 at its Headquarters, in Addis Ababa. Speaking after a visit to Somalia, AUC Deputy Chair, Mr. Erastus Mwencha recalled numerous encounters with mothers who had lost several of their children during the long trek to the refugee camps. “We met one woman carrying a severely malnourished child, and she told us that two of her other children had died along the way.”

Long-Term Strategies

The Pledging Conference also called for renewed focus on medium to long-term crisis-mitigation strategies to prevent the cyclic recurrence of such kind of disasters on the continent.

In his call to African countries to show solidarity towards the cause, the AUC Chairperson, Dr. Jean Ping, said “Provision of food assistance should be seen as our first priority since our immediate goal should be the survival of the affected population.

However, it is essential to develop strategies that simultaneously focus on saving lives and livelihoods, while building longer term resistance by drawing our attention to agriculture, livestock and livelihoods, as means of building resistance in affected societies”.

You can give your donation towards drought assistance efforts through the following dedicated bank account:

African Union Horn of Africa Drought Relief
FCY Account No.
02702/953184/00
Commercial Bank of Ethiopia
AU Branch
Addis Ababa Ethiopia
Swift Code: CBETETAA
AMISOM is currently providing free medical care to about 12,000 people per month at two AMISOM hospitals in Mogadishu and roughly 60,000 litres of safe drinking water per day to Somalis living near AMISOM camps.

**Leigh Joule, U.N. Emergency Relief Coordinator states: “I am confident that with an improvement of security we will be able to do more to help those people who are desperately in need.”**

AMISOM doctors come to the aid of Somali IDPs: As well as improving the security situation on the ground in Somalia through their military presence, AMISOM extends its activities to the humanitarian sector as well, providing free medical treatment at a camp erected for displaced victims of the drought, many of them children.

“Though we have few resources, we are doing all we can to help alleviate the suffering.”


The offensive, in weakening Al Shabaab forces significantly, is also likely to have a positive effect in counteracting possible future attacks by Al Shabaab.

However, while celebrating the gains realized by AMISOM, the threat of Al Shabaab still remains, as well as the threat of private militias with political connections. AMISOM troops need to stand strong and increase efforts to remain effective in drawing the fighting as far as possible away from IDP and civilian concentrations and improving the security situation of Somalia which is crucial to solving this grave humanitarian crisis in a successful way.

Valerie Amos, U.N. Emergency Relief Coordinator states: “I am confident that with an improvement of security we will be able to do more to help those people who are desperately in need.”

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stressed the Somali Prime Minister Abdiweli Mohamed Ali. The latest major offensive of AMISOM on 28 July, 2011 was aimed at containing and removing the threat of continued Al Shabaab attacks along the frontline and improve security for Internally displaced persons (IDP) camps in TFG controlled areas of Mogadishu and was largely successful in doing so. AMISOM Force Spokesman, Lt. Col. Paddy Ankunda, said: “Our troops have dealt with specific security threats in a short tactical offensive operation. This action will further increase security in the TFG controlled areas of Mogadishu and ensure that aid agencies can continue to operate and get vital supplies to internally displaced persons.”

The AMISOM offensive resulted in Al-Shabaab losing significant ground in Mogadishu. AMISOM and TFG forces are now in control of Bakara Market, a key source of tax revenue for the rebels, and the Stadium in Mogadishu, the former Al-Shabaab headquarters.

The withdrawal of Al Shabaab forces from the capital has created a more stable, secure and enabling environment for humanitarian agencies to reach the affected areas. Lt. Col Paddy Ankunda, further stated: “We can reassure the humanitarian community that they can continue to operate in relative safety, and that we will keep them informed of any necessary future operations while we work with them to limit the impact on their lifesaving activities.”

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On Friday, 5 August, 2011, a handover ceremony between the outgoing Force Commander of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), Major General Nathan Mugisha, and the incoming Force Commander, Major General Fred Mugisha, took place at the AMISOM Forward Headquarters, in Mogadishu. Before his assumption of duty, the new Force Commander was received by the AU Commission leadership in Addis Ababa.

The ceremony was attended by an AU Commission delegation led by Mr. El Ghassim Wane, Director, Peace and Security Department, the AMISOM leadership, senior military officers, men and women of the Mission, representatives of the TFG, and the United Nations Support Office for AMISOM (UNSOA).

Major General Nathan Mugisha had led the AU peacekeeping forces since 2009. Under his leadership, AMISOM, working closely with the Forces of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia, registered significant achievements, including extending the TFG authority in Mogadishu. During the handover ceremony, Major General Nathan Mugisha was awarded an AU peacekeeping medal, in recognition of his good service, commitment and gallantry. He was lauded for the significant progress made in containing the extremist group al-Shabaab during his tenure, which led to the capturing of key strategic positions throughout Mogadishu. This has resulted in relative stability.

The outgoing Force Commander was grateful to the rank and file of AMISOM personnel, both civilian and military, for their support during his tenure. His successor, Major General Fred Mugisha, vowed to continue and build on his accomplishments in order to achieve the objectives of the Mission.

Close-up with...

**Major General Fred Mugisha, AMISOM Force Commander**

A: One of our big challenges is that our troops are over-stretched. We are a small force fighting a big war. We do not have enough force-enablers including equipment engineering and transportation. There is too much talk on Somalia but not enough commitment and synergy within the international community to support the troops on the ground.

Q: Specifically, what unique challenges does fighting the extremist group al-Shabaab bring?
A: The single biggest challenge is that we are dealing with a terror group, bent on perpetuating hate and destruction. We are facing an increasing threat of al-Shabaab changing their tactics and resorting to unconventional warfare. Therefore besides covering new ground, we need to move quickly to consolidate and secure the newly captured areas to fore-stall the return of al-Shabaab.

Q: What is your role in the current drought relief efforts?
A: The problem in Somalia is first and foremost the lack of security. By working closely with the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, or TFG troops and securing new areas, we are providing opportunities for the people trapped in those areas to access humanitarian assistance. We also provide escort security to aid convoys on a regular basis.

Q: What relationship do you plan to have with the TFG?
A: Once we extinguish the threat of al-Shabaab and other potential terrorist movements, our goal will be to equip the TFG forces to take charge of their national security so that we can return home.
The admission of the Republic of South Sudan as the 54th Member State of the African Union was marked at the African Union Commission Headquarters, in Addis Ababa, on 15 August 2011, in the presence of the South Sudan President, General Salva Kiir Mayardit, and other dignitaries, ambassadors and high-level officials. The special event was followed by the official flag-raising ceremony in honor of the Republic of South Sudan.

The Chairperson of the AU Commission congratulated the Republic of South Sudan on its admission as a full member of the African Union. "We salute their efforts in walking their people through an extremely delicate process". This day marked a great achievement for the people of the Republic of South Sudan who are still celebrating the end of the longest civil war in Africa. Gen. Salvia Kiir Mayardit, President of South Sudan emphatically stated, "Today, we claim our rightful place among you." The President also paid tribute to those who stood with the people of South Sudan throughout the long years of their struggle saying:

"Many African countries stood with the people of South Sudan on their long struggle for freedom and we will strive to build this new nation to the satisfaction of all our friends."

Gen. Salvia Kiir Mayardit, President of South Sudan

Over the years, the AU has remained committed in its efforts to assist the people of Sudan in addressing their challenges. The African Union has fully supported the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), including the self-determination of the South, through the facilitation of the African Union High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP).

However, even as South Sudan joins the AU, there are still critical issues and challenges remaining to be addressed, as Chairperson Jean Ping indicated: “Indeed, South Sudanese must be reminded that they are and will remain the main architects of their success in overcoming the difficulties on the road to development”.

The African Union remains committed to supporting the people of South Sudan in overcoming these difficulties and in the common search for long-lasting good relations between the two nations. The Chairperson of the AUHIP, former President Thabo Mbeki, and the members of the Panel namely, former Presidents Abdulsalami Abubakar and Pierre Buyoya, will be instrumental in achieving these goals. Likewise, the AU Ministerial Committee on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development for Sudan, already deeply engaged with South Sudan, has arranged for an African Solidarity Conference with the view to mobilizing support for the new nation, from within and outside Africa.

South Sudan President Salva Kiir greatly appreciated these efforts, saying “The spontaneous outpouring of support we have received from every corner of the globe has warmed our hearts.”
At a time when the Somali people are experiencing the worst drought in recent memory, with famine further compounding their suffering, the African Union recognises the necessity to respond swiftly with appropriate actions aimed at building on achievements made by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) in Mogadishu and the signing of the crucial Kampala Accord on 9 June 2011.

The African Union held a technical workshop on AMISOM at the AU Headquarters, in Addis Ababa, from 17 to 18 August, 2011 that brought together the Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs), AMISOM, IGAD, the United Nations, the European Union and relevant bilateral partners.

The purpose of the workshop was to identify concrete steps that need to be taken in the coming months in order to provide AMISOM with support that is commensurate with the challenges at hand in Somalia. These steps will be focused on extending the authority of the TFG, creating conditions conducive for the pursuit and deepening of the national reconciliation process and creating further space for the delivery of the much-needed humanitarian assistance to populations affected by the current drought and famine.

In order to enable AMISOM to proceed with the implementation of the next phase of its mandate, participants recommended the following:

- Acceleration of the deployment of the additional troops. The TCCs’ pledged to facilitate the early deployment of the remaining 3,000 troops which, according to Augustine Mahiga are desperately needed to occupy areas evacuated by the Al Shabaab;
- Enhancement of the support package provided by the United Nations, to take into account the shortcomings identified over the past few months;
- Insertion of Formed Police Units (FPUs) in Mogadishu to bolster the maintenance of law and order in the city;
- The creation, as part of AMISOM, of a guard force to facilitate the deployment of civilian staff and provide protection for AU, the UN and the TFGs in Mogadishu; and last but not least

- the elaboration of a revised Concept of Operations (CONOPS), in light of the developments that have taken place since October 2010.

**Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding**

The organizers used the occasion to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the AU and the Eastern Africa Standby Force Co-ordination Mechanism (EASFCOM).

Both parties agreed to enhance the capabilities of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), in the areas of operational planning, logistics planning and operations, training and medical support and assistance.

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The meeting of the Senior Officials of the African Union (AU), Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms (RMs) for Conflict Prevention Management and Resolution to consider the draft African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) Roadmap (2011-13) took place in Nairobi, Kenya, from August 2 to 4 2011, hosted by the Eastern Africa Standby Force Coordination Mechanism (EASFCOM).

The aim of the meeting was to review and finalize the Draft Roadmap for the full operationalization of the APSA. Mr. Sivuyile Bam, Head of the AUC Peace Support Operations Division, noted that the meeting also provided an opportunity for the AU, RECs/RMs to agree on goals and processes for the achievement of the objectives outlined for each of the programs under the APSA.

The Roadmap will also serve as a framework for support by the European Union (EU) and other AU traditional partners. Major General (Rtd) Cyrille Ndayirukiye, Director, EASFCOM, observed that the operationalization of the APSA Roadmap will require financial support from AU Member States and Partners. Various cross-cutting issues were also successfully incorporated into the draft roadmap, including democratic governance and human rights, climate change and security; women, peace and security, maritime security and safety, humanitarian action and disaster management.

On the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the AU and RECs/RMs in the area of peace and security, it was agreed that there is need to enhance desk-to-desk consultations and for the AU to hasten the establishment of its Liaison Offices within the RECs/RMs. Participants agreed that an assessment of the progress made in the implementation of the APSA Roadmap would be undertaken by 2012.

The MoU was signed on behalf of EASFCOM by Major General (Rtd.) Cyrille Ndayirukiye and the African Union Commission by Ramtane Lamamra, AU Commissioner for Peace and Security.

“I urge all of Africa to continue standing with Somalia today, so that we can stand with you tomorrow.”

Somalia Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense H. E. Abdihamim Figi
Cote d’Ivoire is moving towards recovering its status as a shining economic beacon in Africa following the restoration of constitutional order with the assumption of office by President Alassane Ouattara on 6 May 2011. The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union undertook a field mission to Cote d’Ivoire, from 25 - 30 July 2011, led by Ambassador Ferdinand Montcho of Benin, Chairperson of the PSC for July 2011.

The purpose of the mission was to gather feedback from the Ivorian Authorities and other relevant stakeholders on the challenges Cote d’Ivoire now faced and how best the African Union could assist and support Cote d’Ivoire on its road to recovery. In consulting with several stakeholders, including various ministers, the Prime Minister, political parties, humanitarian agencies and three Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) among others, the delegation noted with appreciation the strong determination and commitment by Ivorians towards post-conflict reconstruction and peace building efforts in that country.

This is in spite of the harsh realities of the challenges Cote d’Ivoire is facing including 4,000,000 unemployed citizens, a huge external debt, the re-settlement of refugees and the restoration of a peaceful and stable atmosphere in the country. Prime Minister Soro especially requested the AU, through the PSC delegation, to mobilize resources to enable Côte d’Ivoire implement a “Marshall Plan” type of recovery and development program. Following its four-day stay in Côte d’Ivoire, the PSC Delegation concluded that Côte d’Ivoire has a huge self-evident potential for an early dynamic socio-economic recovery. Internal mobilization and the provision of international support are essential to unleashing that potential and the AU will do its utmost to support and assist Cote d’Ivoire in its road to recovery.

Post-conflict reconstruction efforts target food security:

On August 6, The African Union Liaison Office in Sudan (AULOS) in Juba handed over an agriculture project to the Lozoh community in Western Equatoria State. The fruit tree nursery and vegetable farm is part of efforts for achieving food security through bio-intensive agriculture in the newly independent country.

The project was a joint effort between the Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development branch of AULOS and the South Sudan Reconstruction and Development Fund (SSRDF). The project was handed over during a ceremony that took place in Lozor Payam, Mundri East County.

Africa – China cooperation for Peace:

The Government of the People’s Republic of China, through its Ministry of National Defence, has invited the AU Commission and the Peace and Security Council to a workshop on peace and security. The workshop will take place in Beijing, China in September 2011. The objective of the workshop is to enhance cooperation and partnership between the AU and China in the domain of peace and security within the broad framework of the Africa-China Strategic Partnership. The workshop will focus on the best means by which China’s support to Africa could be strengthened in the area of peace and security, in line with the African Peace and Security Archi-
August 20: AUC Chairperson Jean Ping, consoles a patient during his visit to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), Level II Hospital

August 20: AUC Chairperson Jean Ping, and President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Hassan of Somalia giving a joint press conference to a group of local and international journalists in Mogadishu

August 25; Adansi-Bonah-Andrew, the 11 year old Ghanaian boy who has set out to raise funds for drought affected Somalia children meets AU High Representative for Somalia, former President of Ghana Jerry John Rawlings

August 5; Change of Guard at the AMISOM, Major General Nathan Mugisha (Left) hands over to the incoming Force Commander, Major General Fred Mugisha

AMISOM forces receive donated food at Mogadishu Airport for onward distribution to drought affected Somalis living in IDP Camps

July 12; AMISOM and Somali Transitional Federal Government Forces find a haul of weapons in a house deep inside the former insurgent Al Shabaab stronghold of Bakara Market in Mogadishu
New Kid on the Block
dreams of change in Somalia

11 year old boy addresses the AU Pledging Conference on drought in the Horn of Africa

It is with great joy that I honour an invitation the AU sent to me a week ago”, said the 11 year-old boy who flew from Ghana to Addis Ababa to address the congregation of the AU Pledging Conference on 25 August 2011 on the Horn of Africa drought. Adansi- Bonnah- Andrew stood tall before the high profile congregation to deliver his heartfelt speech on behalf of the Somali and other African children.

An energetic fund raiser, Andrew set out to raise USD 13 million to save Somalia's children from hunger. He has so far collected $4000. His father, school teacher Samuel Adansi-Bonnah, even donated his entire July salary of $700. Andrew’s vision is to organize a fund-raising concert for the drought by mobilizing African artists and he dreams of one day, being a pilot and flying aid relief all over Africa. During his interview with AUC, Andrew said that his vision to help children in Somalia started three years ago when a BBC documentary on Somalia ‘touched his heart’ as he saw horrifying pictures of suffering women and children. He stressed, “Without children and women, there is no hope”. He made the point that the focus shouldn’t only be on Somalia but also on Libya where lots of children are also dying. “The time for us to act is now; let us be strong in our actions.”

Following the 15 August call on “One Africa- One Voice Against Hunger” the AU held its first ever Pledging Conference on 25 August 2011 at the UN-ECA building. African Leaders pledged US$ 46 million with the African Development Bank (AfDB) announcing its US$300 million contribution on the day of the event.

In his welcoming remarks the AU Commission Chairperson Dr. Jean Ping said “I wish to use this opportunity to appeal to all concerned to allow aid to reach those who need it, irrespective of where the population may be or who is controlling the area.” He further emphasized the need to focus on initiatives that will boost long-term agricultural productivity such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) in order to prevent the current crisis from recurring.

Mr. Jerry Rawlings, the former president of Ghana reiterated the point saying that, “We must ensure that we address the root causes and not simply throw money at it and wait for another emergency, in a few years”.

Most of the speakers acknowledged the relevance of the Conference as first time the Continent has assem- bled in such a manner to address this kind of humanitarian crisis.

Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal.”

Martin Luther King