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Strengthening resilience for strong recovery and attracting investments to foster economic diversification and long-term growth in Eastern Africa

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Burundi Comoros D.R Congo Djibouti Eritrea Ethiopia Kenya Madagascar Rwanda Seychelles Somalia South Sudan Tanzania Uganda

OUTLINE

01 **FOUR-PILLAR INTERLINKAGES STUDY** APPROACH · FRAMING · POLICY EVOLUTION

02 **CURRENT SITUATION & TRENDS** HUMANITARIAN · HUMAN RIGHTS · DEVELOPMENT · PEACE & SECURITY · TRANSBOUNDARY & CROSS- CUTTING ISSUES

03 **INTERVENTIONS AND LESSONS FROM EAST AFRICA**

04 **OPERATIONALISING THE FOUR-PILLAR INTERLINKAGES IN EAST AFRICA** VISION · LESSONS FROM INTERVENTIONS (TRIPLE NEXUS)

05 **CONCLUSIONS AND POLICY SUGGESTIONS**

4-Pillar Interlinkages Study

- Explore inter-linkages of four pillar issues: Humanitarian, Human Rights, Development and Peace and Security issues in Eastern Africa...in relation to Conflict Prevention/Mgt.
- Explores the 4 pillars and their interlinkages in the context of governance and institutions.
- Looks at transboundary issues (trade and migration) and cross-cutting issues (youth, gender, climate change and COVID-19) in relation to 4-Pillar Interlinkages.
- Methodology: desk review, questionnaires and interviews.
- Identifies challenges and opportunities for harnessing the inter-linkages, and promoting synergies in Conflict Prevention in E/A.
- 14 countries (ECA definition): Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, DR Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

From Triple Nexus to 4-Pillar Interlinkages Approach

- Adds Human Rights to the Triple Nexus as newest ‘New Ways of Working’.
- Emphasis on collective outcomes, comparative advantages, and multi-year timeframes in policy and interventions to “reduce risk and vulnerability and serve as instalments towards achieving the SDGs.”
- SDGs and Agenda 2063 as cross-cutting goals – requires effective coordination and coherence across sectors, institutions, and levels.
- HDP nexus & conflict prevention at the centre of UN Reform Agenda + AU Reforms.
- COVID-19 Pandemic vindicates the Nexus & 4-Pillar Approach – delivery of integrated support services to member states.
- Nexus & 4-Pillar Interlinkages embedded in UN-AU collaboration; Cooperation Frameworks and MoUs on Humanitarian, Human Rights, Development, Peace & Security.
- Embedded in Normative Frameworks in E/A...COMESA, EAC, IGAD.

2. Current Situation: Humanitarian (1)

- Internal and cross-border displacement of populations as key. Followed by effects of climate change that trigger humanitarian emergencies, including flooding, famine, drought, locust invasion, etc.
- End of 2020: EA is host to 8.9 million IDPs distributed as: Somalia (2.6 million), Sudan (2.4 million), Ethiopia (2 million) and South Sudan (1.6 million).
- 4.7 million refugees with over half located in Uganda and Sudan + some of the largest refugee camps in Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Uganda, and Tanzania.
- IOM 2020 - “estimated 3.1 million new disaster-related displacements driven by heavy flooding, landslides and renewed drought were recorded in the EhoA region, compared to over 2.3 million new conflict-related displacements”.
- IOM - “Eastern Africa region will continue to host the largest displacement crises in the continent” due to historical displacement & episodes of conflicts and natural disasters.

Current Situation: Humanitarian (2)

- Violent conflicts & insecurity = destruction of agriculture and livelihoods, and human rights abuses = large refugee outflows in Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Tigray region
- Displacements from climatic change events (landslides, floods, and locust invasion) ...“from June to October 2020, at least 3.6 million people were impacted by floods or landslides across East Africa, many of whom were already suffering due to insecurity and conflict.”
- In 2020, floods affected about 663,000 people in Somalia; 856,000 people in South Sudan; and about 1.1 million people in Ethiopia.
- Displacement a multiplier for the 4-Pillar Interlinkages and signpost of protracted crises.
- Displacement worsens issues of inequalities (gender and inter-generational), vitiates poverty alleviation and slows progress on SDGs and Agenda 2063, and objectives of regional bodies such as IGAD, EAC, COMESA, ICGLR, etc.

Current Situation: Human Rights (1)

- Human rights issues put some countries in the region on the global spotlight, including referrals, charges and /or indictments of warlords (DRC).
- Reported deterioration in the human rights situation of many countries in E/A due to violent extremism and CVE, elections and political transition, & resistance (clampdown by security forces) of efforts by civil society groups to expand the civic space.
- Extant data - absence of rule of law or one-sided (pro-government or ruling party) enforcement of extant laws as a dominant challenge.
- Allegations of repression, intimidation of journalists, CSOs and opposition groups, and increased surveillance and restrictions on voice and the freedom of expression.
- Failure/slow response to allegations of extrajudicial disappearances, detentions, and killings, and SGBV in war-affected and relatively stable countries.
- 2020 IIAG: PRI declined since 2015. COVID-19 worsened H-Rights – concealed interference with election monitoring and preparation and to restrict civic space.

Current Situation: Human Rights (2)

- Uganda: 2nd APRM Country Review Report notes that human rights issues underpin the key challenges the country faces - fair competition for political power, respect for the Rule of Law, equitable funding of political parties; and electoral processes and the independence of the Electoral Commission. Last two electoral cycles pinpoint elections and political competition as a multiplier of human rights challenges in Uganda.
- Kenya: 2021 Human Rights Report “the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA), a civilian police accountability institution, unable, for various reasons, to investigate and prosecute most of the over 2,000 incidents of police killings currently on its files. IPOA has only managed six successful prosecutions since its establishment in 2011.”
- Burundi: 2020 UN Commission of Inquiry - numerous human rights violations since May 2019 (over 2020 elections) to deny opposition any chance of winning...by members/youth league of ruling party, police/intelligence officers, judiciary.

Current Situation: Development (1)

- Biggest issue: vulnerability to economic shocks – pandemic, price fluctuations, and demand-side changes. Arises from one sector/resource dependency.
- 2021 AfDB AEO notes COVID-19 forcing a real GDP contraction by 2.1% in 2020, and modest return to growth of 3.4% for 2021....In E/A...dip of -0.7% in 2020.
- Tourism and services dependent economies and resource intensive economies in EA worst affected as tourism dependent economies -11.5% in 2020, oil exporting countries -1.5%, and other resource intensive economies -4.7% in 2020.
- Seychelles (-13.4%), S/Sudan (-7.2%) and Somalia (-3.7%).
- COVID-19 weakened pre-existing weak macroeconomic fundamentals = rises in core inflation, significant currency depreciations due to disruptions in external financial flows, increased debt burden, and major increases in fiscal deficits + COVID-19 reverses hard-won gains in poverty reduction & widening inequalities and increased vulnerabilities for women, girls, youths, and low-skilled informal sector workers.

Ranking of Development Challenges in the Region based on Questionnaire Survey

Rank (order of priority)	Development Issues/Challenges
1	Economic inequality and injustice. Climate change risks. Unemployment.
2	Bribery and corruption. Lack of access to health and social services.
3	Lack of education. Capital flight. Inter-communal conflicts.
4	Lack of financial resources. Fragility of political institutions.

Current Situation: Development (2)

- ECA/AEO notes EA relative resilience, projected growth: 3% in 2021 and 5.6% in 2022. But South Sudan, Burundi, DRC, and Seychelles have less resilience to COVID.
- COVID-19 exposes HD issues, inequality, and slow progress in SDGs and Agenda 2063....e.g. E/A had 137 (highest) lost school days. Low ranking of countries in the region in 2021, 10 E/A countries in 160-185 position & have flatlined – made marginal or no progress – in their human development index trend and ranking since 2014/5.
- COVID-19 exacerbates inequalities, esp. gender disparities. 2021 HDI Report notes high levels of inequalities in education, income, and life expectancy in Eastern Africa, sometimes intersecting with gender and generational identities.
- E/A in SDGs has the next-to-last regional score of 49.9 and is overall off track with 79% of goals being red or orange.
- Challenging goals: SDG 3 (good health and wellbeing), SDG 9 (infrastructure), SDG 16 (peace and strong institutions), SDG 2 (hunger and agriculture) and SDG 7 (sustainable energy), rated as off-track by 85% and 77%.

Current Situation: Peace and Security (1)

- Extant data: security situation in Eastern Africa is either stagnant or deteriorating in some cases.
- SDGs Assessment – EA faces the greatest challenge on SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, and SDG 3 on good health and well-being. EA performance on peace and security related targets for Agenda 2063 is mixed at best.
- EA low score of 33% on preserving peace, security, and stability...similar low score on targets linked to the underlying causes of insecurity and instability – the region scores 29% on democratic values, practices, justice, and human rights; 27% on transformed economy and job creation; 23% on engaged and empowered youth and children; and 36% on well-educated citizens and skills.
- Key Peace and Security events in the region are State Fragility, Terrorism, Protests and Riots, and Armed conflicts.
- Due to structural vulnerabilities linked to across 4 pillars...hybrid security challenges

Questionnaire Survey

Rank	Issues/Threats
1	Terrorism. Inequality and injustice. Unemployment.
2	Electoral Violence. Greed, Corruption and Mismanagement. Inter-community conflicts.
3	Human Rights violations. Herders-farmers conflicts. Maritime Piracy. Religious Extremism.

Current Situation: Peace and Security (2)

- FSI: 3 E/A countries in bottom five since 2017 - Somalia (2nd), S/Sudan (4th), DRC (5th).
- Global Terrorism Index ranks Somalia (5th) and DRC (9th) amongst the 10 countries most impacted by terrorism based on GTI score in 2020.
- East African Terrorism corridor - Somalia as epicentre, and Kenya and Ethiopia (spill-over state) and Tanzania and Uganda ('at risk') countries for terrorism. Structural vulnerabilities condition push and pull factors of terrorism.
- Terrorism produces cross-cutting impacts: 2020 GTI Report cost of terrorism in Africa over the last decade at \$171.7b. Somalia (\$1.2b), Kenya (\$1.27b), Ethiopia (\$0.33b), Uganda (\$0.16b), Tanzania (\$0.05b).
- Rise in violent protests: combo of socio-eco and political issues. Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, DRC, Burundi, Tanzania, and South Sudan have experienced varied form and intensity of protests since 2016. S/Media and elections as drivers Kenya (2017), Uganda (2020), DRC (2020), Comoros (2019), Tanzania (2020), and Madagascar (2019).

Current Situation: Peace and Security (3)

- Violent conflicts and instability as multi-dimensional, protracted crises in Eastern DRC, Somalia, the LRA crisis in the Great Lakes region, and crises in South Sudan.
- Some countries with recurring episodes of inter-group violence, including Ethiopia, Kenya, DRC, and Burundi over a variety of issues, such as land, access to natural resources, cattle rustling, competition for socio-political privileges, and as part of national-level politics.
- HCB: the dominant armed conflicts and protracted crises in the region include multiple conflicts in the DRC and Somalia, government-opposition conflicts in Burundi and Kenya, and terrorism-related conflicts in Somalia. The COVID-19 pandemic has accentuated the risk and dynamic of violent conflict in the region.

Governance and Institutions

- 2019 IAG: Africa's average score for Overall Governance fell -0.2 points (first year-on-year score deterioration since 2010) + progress in governance in Africa has been slowing down since 2015 + decline driven by worsening Participation, Rights & Inclusion (PRI), Security & Rule of Law (SRL) & Human Development.
- EA - 5 lowest scoring countries in PRI are Somalia, South Sudan, and Eritrea, though Seychelles is among the top highest scoring countries. On SRL 5 worst performing countries include Eritrea, DRC, South Sudan and Somalia, though Seychelles is among the highest scoring countries.
- 2020 CPI - 3 countries in EA in the bottom 10 countries, namely, South Sudan and Somalia (179th), and DRC (170th). Burundi (165th), Eritrea and Comoros (160th), and Madagascar (149th).
- Issue of weakness of state institutions and governance challenges in aspects of transparency, accountability and probity, intersects with fragility, a/conflicts, developmental failures and humanitarian crises.

Transboundary Issues

- **Migration:** displacement arising from conflicts and insecurity, climate change and extreme weather conditions, disasters, and the search for economic opportunities.
- Cross-border movement of economic migrants: 4 main routes HoA (Somali & Ethiopian migrants), Eastern Route (Horn to Arabian Peninsula, esp S/A). Southern Route (Horn to SADC region) & Northern Route (Mediterranean to N/Africa, Europe and N/America).
- COVID-19 affected patterns migration in 2020: -25% over 2019 levels, with intra-Horn movement mostly affected, but towards the Arabian Peninsula less affected (high risk smuggling routes). COVID-19 also triggered reversed or return migration.
- **Trade:** ECA 2021 - “despite the severe economic and social repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, the East Africa Community economies have, by global standards, proven to be relatively resilient.” EAC exports have mostly recovered to pre-crisis levels as imports have rebounded rapidly. For instance, cross-border trade volumes improved in 2021 Q2 due to increased supplies from the June harvests.

Cross-Cutting Issues

- **Gender:** Gender identities, practices and norms as factors level and intensity of risks/effects of protracted crises... women, girls, and children worst affected in E/A.
- Embedded structural inequalities put women at a disadvantage – labour force participation, SGBV, FGM, etc. Poor Gender Inequality Index.
- S-Sudan: UN observed women's share of employment in non-agriculture at 30% and LFP at 71% (74% for men), 26% of MPs as women, child marriage rate at 52%, and less than 5% of women aged 15+ access financial institutions.
- **Youth:** EA 'youthening' with average fertility rate of 4.2 live births per woman (global average of 2.4); children 0-14 at 41% and 10-24 years at 32% of total population. A huge challenge due to structural inequalities, lack of investment and poor access to education and employment.
- 2021 Afrobarometer survey: high political apathy amongst youth (18-35yrs) least voters in the last Election in Uganda (33%), Ethiopia (32%) and Kenya (26%). This widens political exclusion and drives recruitment into violence.

Cross-Cutting Issues

- **COVID-19:** Slows Economic Growth (dip to -3.4%) due to disruptions to tourism & services, & sharp drop in remittances and 15% drop in FDI. New food security issues in 2019, 20% (27m) of acutely food insecure in 6 IGAD member states (Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan and Uganda). Impacted livelihoods and Governance issues (brutality in enforcing COVID-19 measures + rise in SGBV).
- **Climate Change:** EA seeing more heat waves and rising temperature (2019 among three warmest years) + more extreme weather events like cyclone and flooding – in 2019, increased cyclones over the Indian Ocean impacted areas in EA - shifted from dry conditions of 2018 to floods/landslides associated with heavy rainfall from late 2019.
- EA with 4 out of 10 countries with highest levels of climate vulnerability and fragility (Somalia, South Sudan, Eritrea, and DRC).
- 2020 desert locust invasion destroyed crops and croplands, pastures, and vegetation especially in Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya. Projected to trigger 8% reduction in crop yield in E/A by 2050, food insecurity and price increases.

3. Interventions and Lessons from Triple Nexus in East Africa

- Humanitarian: several initiatives, e.g. EU Humanitarian Action Commission, UN Refugee Agency, the UNDP, the World Bank, and other bilateral arrangements.
- Human rights: interventions undertaken in conflict situations include the UN Commission of inquiry on Burundi (2016), the AU commission of Inquiry on South Sudan, the AU Panel on Darfur, and the UN Special Envoy for Somalia.
- Development: SGDs and Agenda 2063 targets viz country level projects supported by developmental partners (AfDB, EU, WB, etc.), and regional interventions using development interventions as instruments for peace and stability.
- Peace & Security: political missions in Darfur, Sudan, Somalia, South Sudan, Burundi, ICGLR platform, etc. Stabilization missions: Somalia, South Sudan, Burundi, DRC.
- GLR Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the United Nations Great Lake Regional Strategic Framework.
- HoA Initiative by Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, and Djibouti to promote a regional, coordinated approach to region-wide developmental, security and social challenges.

Lessons from Triple Nexus in East Africa

- Absence of a shared understanding, especially in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus owing to ideological differences & including competing visions of the peace.
- Issues in translating the triple nexus on an operational level based on differences in how organizations approach issues, their mandates, and principles.
- Capacity gap issues among local organizations to operationalize the triple nexus, I due to limited templates and guidance notes, and limited training and investment.
- Tensions and unease about the political undercurrents of service delivery as part of the triple nexus approach – where and when to work and impartiality issues.
- Risk of politicisation of certain intervention and shrinking of humanitarian space.
- Lack of flexibility and adaptive (top-down) approaches to program design and implementation to support local approaches and area-based interpretations.
- Political goal of preserving or re-establishing the state stands in the way of progress in local development and the delivery of basic services.

4. Operationalizing the 4-Pillar Interlinkages in East Africa

- Incorporate into analysis viz joint analysis by actors and agencies across sectors and operating at different levels.
- Incorporate into the range of policy options and decision-making at the political level to promote early action, and cross-sectoral assessment of risks and vulnerabilities and opportunities.
- Incorporate into program and project design, monitoring and evaluation and learning frameworks across levels and sectors in Eastern Africa.
- Provide long-term financial and programmatic commitment to developing the capacities of local, national, subregional, non-governmental actors and institutions.
- Integrate into inter-agency coordination and cross-sectoral and cross-level partnerships to allow stakeholders to work together on collective outcomes related to preventing and mitigating conflicts, and vulnerabilities to multiple shocks, and addressing structural inequalities across sectors.

Challenges to Operationalizing and Harnessing the 4-Pillar Interlinkages

- Low-level awareness and advocacy among non-governmental stakeholders, including civil society groups, researchers, media, etc.
- Even among UN agencies and INGOs, coherence in practice/field-level needs to get better.
- Lack of coherence in practice at the regional and national level.
- Gaps between commitment and realities on the ground, especially actual resources do not match pronouncements e.g. in Somalia, S-Sudan and DRC.
- Technical capacity gaps at national/subregional levels to systematically translate and apply the interlinkages into concrete priorities.
- Political undercurrents & lack of clarity as to the role of national government.
- Pol-eco dynamics at the subregional/national – draws a variety of powerful and interested actors within and outside of Eastern Africa that could complicate and frustrate the natural gains of using the four-pillar interlinkages approach.

Opportunities for Harnessing 4-Pillar Interlinkages in East Africa

- Evidence of greater awareness and effort to explore and apply the nexus among UN agencies and INGOs, & AU in conflict prevention and peace processes.
- Opportunities to promote adoption by EAC, IGAD, COMESA are actively applying the interlinkage lens to their programming and interventions.
- Integrating into National Development Plans and Visions.
- Ongoing conflict prevention/mgt operations in E/A as opportunities.
- Trainings for conflict prevention and mgt in E/A and APSA (esp. civilian ASF, mediation teams, election observer missions, etc.
- UN and AU Reforms and renewed focus on conflict prevention/mgt.
- AU-UN cooperation frameworks and MoUs on development, peace and security, humanitarian issues, and human rights.

Capacity Development Needs for 4-Pillar Interlinkages in East Africa

- Capacity building programs to address the limited training for practitioners at the national level to reflect contemporary thinking and policy processes on NWoW.
- Development of technical templates and operational guidance notes to translate analysis into early, coordinated action.
- Dedicated strategies and initiatives to develop synergies and align priorities among stakeholders.
- Greater clarification on subsidiarity and division of labour among stakeholders to foster efficiency and synergies.
- Capacity building initiatives (training and regional adaptation) on contextualising the four-pillar interlinkages for stakeholders in East Africa.
- Dedicated resources to scale-up trainings and personnel levels to reflect the scale and urgency of work on the four pillars in East Africa.
- Initiatives and capacity building to clarify, align, and integrate overlapping institutional memberships, mandates and activities in East Africa.

5. Conclusions: Key Messages

- Violent conflicts and displacements are key challenges across the region.
- Human rights issues and poor governance undermine conflict prevention, regional integration initiatives and block progress on SDGs and Agenda 2063.
- COVID-19 has heightened vulnerability to economic shocks In East Africa and exacerbate slow progress in meeting SGDs and Agenda 2063.
- Enhanced regional approach and strategies, and coordination of development efforts are key to harnessing the four-pillar interlinkages and transforming East Africa
- Localisation is key to realising the full potentials of the four-pillar interlinkages approach
- Youth demography is an untapped resource for advancing progress in SGDs and Agenda 2063
- Promoting and Harnessing the Four-Pillar Interlinkages requires investments.

5. Conclusions: Recommendations: UN, AU, RECs and International Actors

- Adopt more incentive and sanction-based approaches to peace processes.
- Strengthen and professionalise mediation mechanisms to promote more inclusive peace processes and genuine reconciliation.
- Address structural violence, esp. inequalities and service delivery issues and youth needs for more sustainable prevention/resolution of crises.
- RECs to boost integration efforts and progress in the SGDs and Agenda 2063 working intensely with national authorities and state institutions (such as human rights commissions and ombudsmen) to strengthen early warning/response systems.
- Transcend state authority restoration in peace processes...add focus on people's needs.
- Greater economic diversification & regional economic of scale and sharing of capacities to reduce their individual and collective economic vulnerabilities.
- Forge partnerships and promote cross sectoral linkages with private sectors, civil society groups, charity organizations, etc.

5. Conclusions: Recommendations: RECs (EAC, IGAD, COMESA, ICGLR)

- Aligned regional strategy on ICT by the EAC, COMESA and /or IGAD to transform food production and security, & greater economic integration.
- RECs AU, and CSOs to work with ICT hubs in the region to develop appropriate tools for monitoring electoral campaigns and elections, human rights violations, service delivery, inclusion, transparency and accountability of public institutions.
- Research and Knowledge-led approach to exploring solutions to protracted crises and build resilience through a regional framework.
- Evolve A Regional Vision and basis for coordinated regional approach to SDGs/Agenda 2063 & align data reporting templates/timelines, and monitoring processes.
- Commitment and investment in long-term capacity building for staff of regional bodies MDAs of national governments, CSOs, etc.
- EAC, IGAD, ICGLR, COMESA, etc. to develop templates and modalities for mobilizing stakeholders around the four-pillar interlinkages at national and regional levels to align priorities and promote local/regional ownership.

5. Conclusions: Recommendations: CSOs and Other Stakeholders

- Work with ICT hubs in the region to develop appropriate tools for monitoring electoral campaigns and elections, human rights violations, service delivery, inclusion, transparency and accountability of public institutions.
- Research and Knowledge-led approach to exploring solutions to protracted crises and build resilience through a regional framework.
- Promote/advocate for greater commitment on youth empowerment agendas, including youth human development initiatives.
- Promote putting youth and youth groups at the heart of policy interventions, support to and partnerships with and between youth groups in the region, and greater inclusion and participation of youth in mediation and peacebuilding activities.
- Promote Youth inclusion in politics and other decision-making processes to harness youth innovations & undercut the resort to extra-legal means to exert influence.



THANK YOU!

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Ideas
to
Action