

# **THE ECHO EAST AFRICA SYMPOSIUM**

**3rd-5th February, 2015**

**Peace making among people in conflict**

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# Presentation Outline

- Introduction
- Why peace building in a conservation agriculture symposium?
- Understanding peace and Causes of conflicts
- Exploring approaches to peacebuilding
- Recommendations and way forward

# Introduction

Violent conflict in sub-Saharan Africa has been responsible for the direct and indirect deaths of millions of civilians and has contributed significantly to the low levels of human security in the region.

The countries of sub-Saharan Africa that have been embroiled in violent conflict are characterised by

- Abject poverty,
- inadequate service provision,
- political instability,
- retarded economic growth and
- other challenges to overall development that deter the enhancement of human security

*(ISS 2010)*

# Understanding Peacebuilding in conflicts

Peacebuilding takes a multidimensional approach. Its about reducing the risk of violent conflict.

*“Ultimately, peace building aims at building human security, a concept which includes democratic governance, human rights, rule of law, sustainable development, equitable access to resources, and environmental security ...*

(Canadian Peacebuilding Initiative Strategic Framework)

# Why Peacebuilding & food security?

A clear correlation between conflict and agricultural production

## **1. Conflict negatively affects all four dimensions of food security: availability, access, utilization, and stability**

- Availability (production, flows, pipeline, food producing assets etc)
- Access
- Effective Utilization
- Increases Uncertainty-availability, access, utilization etc

## **2. Food Insecurity Contribute to Conflict**

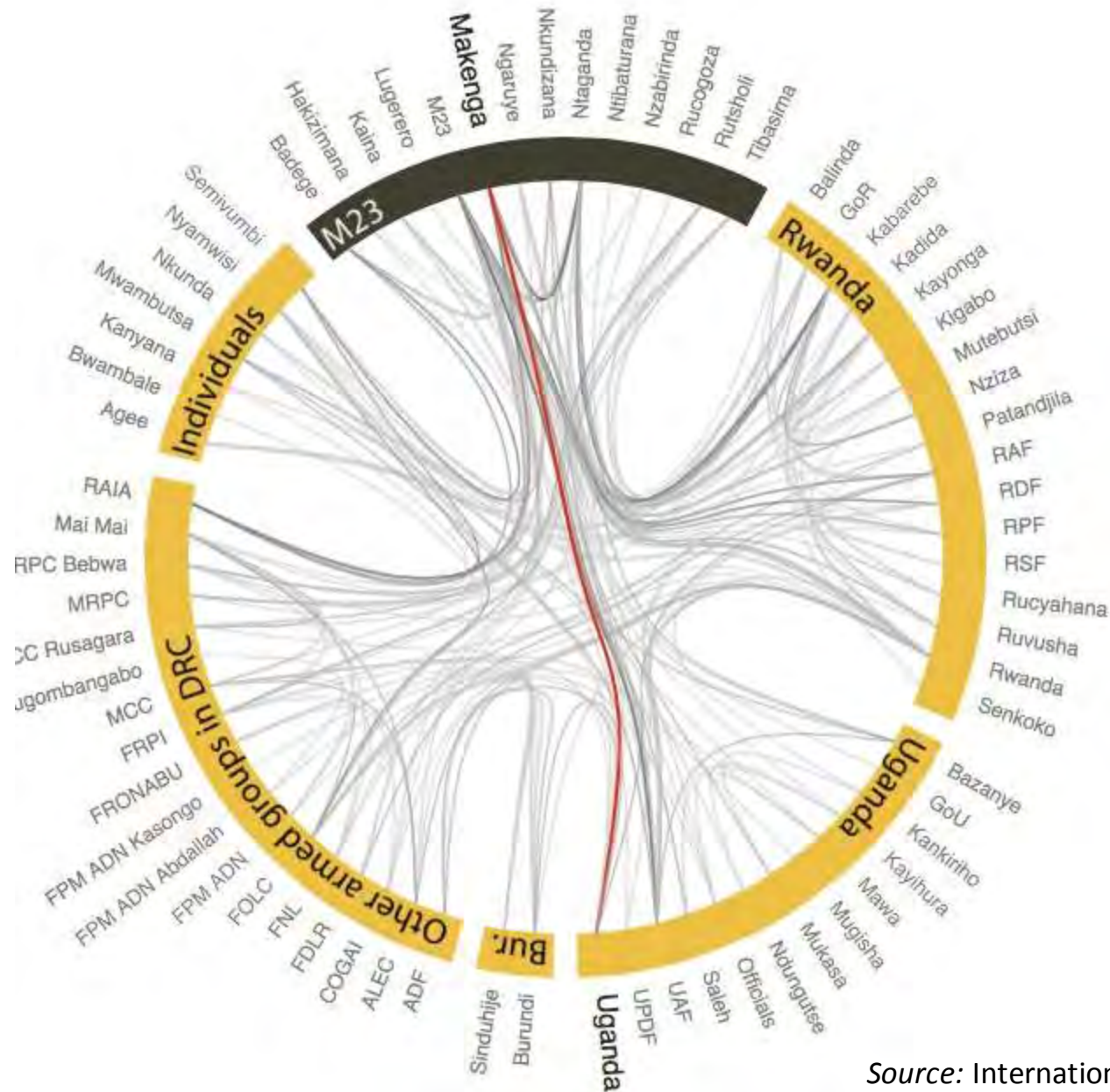
- Food Price Rises Can Trigger Conflict
- Competition for Food Production Resources Can Catalyse Recurrent Conflicts
- Inequities can lead to grievances and build Momentum Toward Conflict
- May Give Individuals Incentives to Join or Support Conflicts and Rebellions
- May Help to Sustain Conflict

*(Environmental Change and Security Program Report 2013)*

# Causes of the conflicts in Africa

1. **Struggle for scare resources** driven by population growth and leading to “war of all against all”
2. **Emerging religious related** conflicts, eg Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia etc
3. **Ethnic groups** seeking greater autonomy or striving to create an independent state for themselves
4. **‘Failed states’**, where the authority of a national government has collapsed and armed struggle has broken out between the competing ethnic militias, warlords or criminal organisations seeking to obtain power and establish control of the state
5. **Growing urbanization** and its related conflicts (slums, poverty, youth unemployment). Projections also indicate that between 2010 and 2025, some African cities will account for up to 85% of the population (ADB 2014)

# Visualization of armed groups in the Great Lakes Region



Source: International Journal  
Peace and Development

# Impact on food security

Conflict causes food insecurity and, under most circumstances, depresses production and income from cash crops and livestock. This reduction in production and income further decreases food security and reduces the coping capacity of those dependent on these sources for their livelihood.

According to FAO, conflict cost Africa over **\$120 billion worth** of agricultural production during the last third of the 20th century

*(International Food Policy Research Institute, 2020 vision).*



# Impact of conflicts

*“Societies emerging from war face a range of urgent, interconnected problems on all fronts, not too dissimilar to situations of natural disasters.*

*However, it is the destruction of relationships, including the loss of trust, dignity, confidence and faith in others that proves the most far reaching, potent and destructive problem and the most difficult to address. It has the potential to undermine possible solutions to a wide range of other issues”.*

*(Ramsbotham et al 2005)*

# Approaches to Peace in conflict communities

## **I. Emerging role of women in peace building:** **Case study of South Sudan, Somalia, Rwanda and DRC**

Although long been tagged as victims of conflict, women have been known to play prominent roles in post-conflict resolution and peacebuilding..

*“Women are often the stabilizing force in the societies in which they exist. This is certainly true in post-conflict settings where women represent essentially the backbone of reconstruction and rehabilitation and the re-integration of former combatants and the re-emergence of basic economic activity in a society, in a war-torn society, once a peace has been Achieved”.*

(Jane Hall Lute, 2002)

- Examples: Somali Peace negotiations 2007-2008., DRC, S.Sudan

## 2. Interfaith for peace building

### *Case study of Tanzania and Ethiopia*



- With the growing religious tensions across East Africa, faith leaders are increasingly taking a leading role to champion peace and reconciliation.
- Examples: Tanzania efforts, and the WV Faith Based Forums approach to bringing communities together towards improving their wellbeing, led by faith leaders

### 3. Inter-agency efforts: *Case study of Great Lakes Initiative*



A network of Christian agencies working as catalyst towards peace and reconciliation in the Great lakes region. (WV, MCC, ALARM, CFR-Duke)

**NEW CREATION**  
through peace and  
reconciliation

## 4. Equipping children as agents of peace (Ecap): *Case study of Rwanda*

*Many young people, in particular young men, are drawn into gang activity and predatory activity, partly in response to a sense of marginalization and social and economic exclusion*

**Ecap** seeks to equip adolescents and youth as peace builders by integrating with life skills



## 5. Civil society: *Case study of Kenya*

- A critical component to promoting good governance and peaceful co-existence across EA
- Kenya, has the best example of how civil society to engage the government to champion good governance as well as highlight areas of potential conflict within communities
- The 2007 election and post-election violence-civil society had already predicted danger before and was instrumental to highlighting the reality on the ground, although at a price



# Recommendations/Way forward

- a. Gender based analysis to understand conflicts and its causes, leading to gender sensitive peacebuilding efforts
- b. Community empowerment-seeking to promote Equitable, peaceful and sustainable natural resource management by giving a voice to the communities
- c. Integrate the youth in peacebuilding and empower them economically
- d. Mainstream peace building into food security programming-do no harm approach
- e. Advocacy for good governance with all stakeholders (gov't, CSO, Faith leaders etc)

# Impact story (West Africa)

- FMNR has promoted peaceful co-existence between we the Fulani herdsmen around Akara and the people of the Akara area in Garu. Previously we (the herdsmen) had to travel long distances in search of fodder for our cattle, this caused daily disputes between us and farmers of this part of Garu as a result of our cattle destroying crops as we search for fodder. Humiliation was like our daily food as insults kept on pouring on us which sometimes led to a fight with the farmers. But now, we are glad to have abundance of fodder at Akarateshie Natinga where we can easily move our cattle to graze without destroying crops from people's farm and picking up quarrel with them.
- Incomes from the sales of our cows have also increased tremendously as the presence of the fodder has help to increase the sizes of the animals we now take to the market to sell. All I can say to this person called World Vison is thank you and God bless you for touching the lives of my family and I indirectly with your project. A testimony from Mr. Abu Ananga, a 57 year old Fulani herdsmen who was interviewed at AKarateshie Natinga FMNR field within Garu-Tempene ADP



# Impact-Video

# Conclusion

The multidimensionality of the drivers of the conflicts also implies that addressing them requires a multidimensional approach that spans the *development, political, security and justice* areas.

The different dimensions are interdependent. You cannot solve one without solving the other.

Or in the words of the World Bank's World Development Report on Conflict, Security, and Development: “*military-only, justice-only or development-only solutions will falter*”

(World Bank 2011)

**Thank you**