Research Report

Leiden Model United Nations 2015
~ fresh ideas, new solutions ~

Forum: *General Assembly Third Committee*
Issue: *Fair and equitable distribution of humanitarian aid in refugee camps in the Horn of Africa*

Position: *Deputy Chair*

Introduction

In 2011 the worst drought in 60 years hit East Africa. In Kenya, Sudan, Djibouti, Somalia and Ethiopia the drought caused severe famine, resulting in malnutrition in 30% of the affected population. 1 in 3 children suffered from malnutrition.[1] The population of the affected areas tried to flee to neighbouring countries, but the conditions were unsanitary and resulted in many deaths. The conflict in South Sudan, that started in December 2013, caused the influx of thousands of refugees towards other countries in the area. According to the UNHCR (the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) 530,000 refugees crossed the border from South Sudan into Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and other neighbouring countries.[2] Humanitarian aid is essential for the thousands of refugees and IDPs in the Horn of Africa, to survive the refugee camps and to, eventually, be able to return to their home country.

Definition of Key Terms

Horn of Africa
The east most extension of Africa, sometimes called the Somalian peninsula. Definitions of the term are varied but the most common include the following countries: The Republic of Djibouti, Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia and parts of Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda.[3] The horn of Africa is now victim of various ongoing crises in the area.

IDP (Internally Displaced People)
IDPs are people who could not, due to unbearable situations, stay in their home place. They are basically refugees in their own country. They have been moved to another area in the same country where there is no life threatening situation.

---

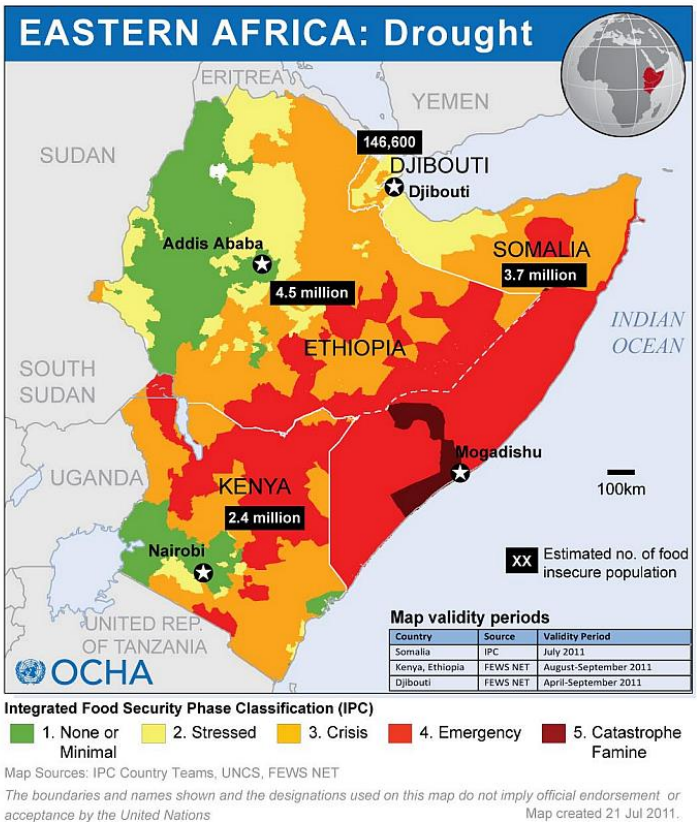
[1] http://www.ifrc.org/PageFiles/90410/1203800-Drought%20in%20the%20Horn%20of%20Africa-Preventing%20the%20next%20disaster-EN-LR.pdf
[2] http://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/humanitarian-implementation-plan-hip-2015-horn-africa-echo-hfbud201591000-last
[3] http://www.britannica.com/place/Horn-of-Africa

UNHCR (the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)
On the 14th of December 1950 the UNHCR was set up by the United Nations General Assembly. The agency was set up to mandate refugee problems worldwide and to 'safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees.'[4]

General overview

Due to all the unrest in the Horn of Africa, there are 1,5 million internally displaced people and 2.2 million refugees.[5] They are all moving to neighbouring countries causing the refugee camps to overflow.

The drought in 2011 has especially affected Somalia. In the first half of 2011 alone, 83,000 Somali refugees fled to Kenya: 54,000 to Ethiopia and 2,600 to Djibouti. Daily arrivals varied between 1,300 to 1,700 refugees.[6] Somalia is especially vulnerable due to the combination of drought and violence. Unrest is not unfamiliar in Somalia.



Throughout the years, they have suffered not only from famine but also from war and violence. In 1991, president Siad Barre received fierce opposition because he did not include all clans in the government; a civil war erupted. Since the beginning of the civil war, approximately 500,000 people have been killed. Barre was ousted and the UN tried to restore the peace in Somalia with a peacekeeping mission. Sadly, they did not succeed. Since then, there has been a struggle for a decent central government. In 2006, Somalia was victim to terrorist attacks from the terrorist group Al-Shabab, which are still going on presently. Besides the violence on land, Somalia also has problems with pirates. The UN has allowed warships to protect the Somali coast.[7] Due to all these problems, thousands of Somali people had to flee the country and are refugee in neighbouring countries.

[4] http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c2.html
[5] http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/aid/countries/factsheets/hoa_en.pdf
[6] http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4e1ff4b06.html
[7] http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14094632

The situation has now greatly improved but even though peace seems apparent in Somalia, a little unrest can mean an end to this the fragile balance. Besides, finding a solution for the Somali refugees who are still not able to return to their place of origin is still a priority.[8]

South Sudan gained independence from Sudan in July 2011. This was a result of a referendum, an overwhelming majority voted for independence. This ended the longest civil war in Africa.[9] Everything seemed peaceful, but in December 2013 civil war broke out again. The civil war between government and rebels caused 1.6 million South Sudanese people to be internally displaced and has caused thousands of casualties.[10] Besides the large number of IDPs, the civil war also caused thousands of South Sudanese people to flee to neighbouring countries: 204,000 to Ethiopia, 45,000 to Kenya and 147,300 to Uganda, according to the UNHCR.

Ethiopia is now the largest refugee-hosting country in Africa. Ethiopia took care of the Somali people who fled the drought and famine, and is currently hosting more than 665,000 refugees. It is not surprising that Ethiopia is in need of additional assistance, for it cannot cope with all the refugees on its own. There is a shortage of food, water, health care and education facilities.[11] Even though Ethiopia is stable and peaceful, they are in the midst of the Horn of Africa, which is far from stable. The refugee crisis in their country deserves attention and assistance. When the refugee crisis was peaking in 2014, there was heavy rainfall resulting in flooding of rivers and the overflowing of refugee camps.

Countries [1]	Refugees from [2]	Refugees in [2]	IDPs [3]
Notes * As at December 2014			
Chad	48,258	452,897	0
Djibouti	880	20,530	0
Eritrea	363,077	2,898	0
Ethiopia	86,861	659,524	0
Kenya	8,556	551,352	0
Somalia	1,106,068	2,729	1,133,000
South Sudan	616,210	248,152	1,645,392
Sudan	665,954	277,833	2,192,830.
Uganda	7,191	385,513	0

Figure 2 Number of refugees and IDP's in the Horn of Africa as at December 2014. Source: http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49e45a846.html

Kenya serves, just like Ethiopia, as a refugee-hosting country. Kenya, however, is not as stable as Ethiopia. According to Human Rights Watch, the Kenyan population is unjustly treated by government forces. Also, the refugees in Kenya are being treated inhumanely. In May and July 2014, Kenyan authorities tortured and beat at least 4,000 Somali people and deported hundreds of refugees, who were kept in appalling

[8] http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49e45a846.html
[9] http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14069082
[10] http://www.cfr.org/global/global-conflict-tracker/p32137#!/?marker=33
[11] http://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/april-2015/refugees-turn-ethiopia-safety-and-asylum

conditions.[12] The Kakuma refugee camp is situated in Kenya and has hosted refugees since 1991.[13] The camp is supported by the UNHCR.

Timeline of key events

14th December 1950	UNHCR was set up by the UN General Assembly
1991	Start of the civil war in Somalia
July 2011	South Sudan gains independence from Sudan
20th of July 2011	UN declares famine in Somalia[14]
December 2013	South Sudan civil war
August 2014	Heavy rainfall caused floods in Ethiopia

Major parties involved

Somalia
Somalia is a major party because of the large number of refugees who had to fly the country because of drought and famine or violence.

South Sudan
South Sudan is a major party because of the large number of refugees who had to fly the country because of the civil war.

Ethiopia
Ethiopia is a major party because of the hosting of refugees in the country. Ethiopia is in need of humanitarian assistance for all the refugees they are hosting.

Kenya
Kenya is a major party because of the hosting of refugees in the country. Also Kenya is in need for humanitarian assistance, especially in the Kakuma refugee camp, because it is reaching its capacity with all the new refugees from South Sudan.

UNHCR
The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Neighbouring countries of the Horn of Africa
Not only Ethiopia and Kenya are receiving refugees, also other countries such as Djibouti or Uganda are coping with the refugee problem.

---

[12] https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2015/country-chapters/kenya
[13] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kakuma
[14] http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Full%20Report_66.pdf

Previous attempts to solve the issue

Setting up the UNHCR is of course the biggest attempt to resolve the issue, not only for the refugees in the Horn of Africa, but for refugees worldwide.

UNHCR 2015 budgets for East and Horn of Africa (USD)						
Operation	**2014 Revised budget (as of 30 June 2014)**	**2015**				
		Refugee programme PILLAR 1	**Stateless programme PILLAR 2**	**Reintegration projects PILLAR 3**	**IDP projects PILLAR 4**	**Total**
Total	**1,652,732,707**	**1,151,685,265**	**10,599,810**	**16,146,330**	**222,575,669**	**1,401,007,074**
Chad	224,960,109	161,897,714	591,058	0	0	162,488,772
Djibouti	26,957,902	27,108,322	0	0	0	27,108,322
Eritrea	6,262,668	5,913,217	0	0	0	5,913,217
Ethiopia	284,579,979	206,880,080	0	0	0	206,880,080
Ethiopia (Regional Liaison Office to the AU and ECA)	2,026,808	1,439,099	0	0	0	1,439,099
Kenya	256,912,030	244,547,315	371,416	0	0	244,918,731
Kenya Regional Support Hub	11,592,525	7,896,061	0	0	0	7,896,061
Somalia	69,887,454	24,681,892	0	13,096,330	41,543,354	79,321,576
Sudan	125,935,560	97,068,429	3,077,345	0	30,466,838	130,612,612
South Sudan	424,282,355	185,497,586	6,539,991	0	150,565,477	342,603,054
Uganda	209,932,147	178,044,200	20,000	3,050,000	0	181,114,200
Regional activities	9,403,169	10,711,350	0	0	0	10,711,350

http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49e45a846.html

Especially the UNHCR is very much involved with the issue and is doing everything within their capabilities to help the refugees and provide as much humanitarian aid as possible. As

can be seen in the chart above, the UNHCR possesses large budgets to resolve the crisis, but the number of refugees is simply too high and funding remains an issue.

The United Nations is also working hard on bringing peace to the Horn of Africa, by means of peacekeeping missions, this has sadly not yet been successful.

Possible solutions

A temporary, but very essential, measure that must be taken, is the setting up of new refugee camps in the Horn of Africa. As it is now, the countries surrounding the problematic areas are not able to host all the refugees in camps, new ones must be formed.

When thinking of solutions for the problem, delegates must take into consideration that not only the political and health situation in the Horn of Africa is unstable, the weather is also. The Horn of Africa is often hit by droughts or heavy rainfalls. The delegates must find a solution which will both provide humanitarian aid such as water, food and health care, but also think about precautions for a possible next crisis.

Useful documents

Full UN report on Somali famine:
http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Full%20Report_66.pdf

Official website of UNHCR:
http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home

The BBC offers country profiles for all countries, this can be very useful in researching your assigned country:
www.bbc.com