



Shalom Center for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation (SCCRR)

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VOLUME 2

Issue 1, APRIL 2012

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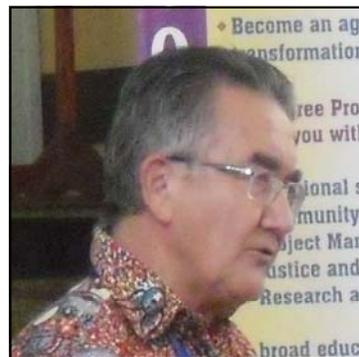
- Lodwar: May 24 –25
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CONFLICT BETWEEN PASTORAL COMMUNITIES IN EASTERN AFRICA - SCCRR RESEARCH FINDINGS ON THE TURKANA/ SAMBURU CONFLICT , TANGAZA COLLEGE, MARCH 31 2012

OPENING ADDRESS MADE BY REV. FR. PATRICK ROE PRESIDENT OF TANGAZA COLLEGE

'It is my pleasant task to welcome you all here this morning. This conference is about the conflict amongst pastoralists in East Africa. It is the first stage of the unfolding of a professional study of the Turkana and Samburu conflict, and we would like it to be seen not just as a casual conversation, but a very professional approach. I congratulate SCCRR for undertaking this very professional approach to research on the root causes of conflict in East Africa. SCCRR is responsible for research as well as the training of people who are active in justice and peace. I congratulate Fr Patrick Devine and his associates in the way they have organised this conference and indeed how they are putting together the broader perspective in their ministry in East Africa.'



Opening Remarks by Rev. Dr Pierli, Director of 1SMM

'I would like to share with you on this important occasion three important linkages concerning Peace Building: 1. We strongly believe in accompanying the local community in their management of conflict so that the community is transformed and this research facilitates this. 2. We are brought together as one family so that our differences may be accepted, which is a sign of God's kingdom through conflict management. 3. The role of civil society in bringing about conflict resolution is very important.'

Opening remarks by Rev. Patrick Devine, Exe. Director SCCRR

'The key component this morning is the empirical research in to the conflict between the Turkanas and Samburus ethnic communities. What we want to do is counter the incredible amount of speculation and conjecture about the causes of these conflicts—we need to look at the empirically researched root causes. This research is the authentic voice of the people rigorously researched over 18 months. It will be a firm foundation for policy formulation concerning sustainable peace and sustained development, for utilization by state and non-state conflict management actors'





RSCK



RESEARCH FINDINGS ON TURKANA/SAMBURU CONFLICT DIRECTED BY PROF DMOKA

Peace is a necessary condition for socio-economic development, equity, and social justice. Turkana-Samburu conflict in the form of livestock raiding/stealing, in the course of which human lives are lost, is an impediment to peace and development in these ethnic communities. The conflict goes back in time. Its origins lie in the distant past and has characteristics of protracted social conflict. SCCRR's research focused exclusively on physical violence for two reasons: first, it is politically more destabilizing; and second, it lends itself to unproblematic measurement.

SCCRR conducted research along the fault line where the two ethnic communities interface with each other, with the aim of finding answers to the conflict in the form of causal dimensions that can be turned into action or policy, geared to promotion of peaceful co-existence between Samburus and Turkanas.



This research is the first of its kind in terms of scale, comprehensiveness, coverage and mode of analysis.

Data was collected on 163 variables. Interviews were conducted with 100 male/female Turkanas and 100 male/female Samburus selected through cluster sampling. The data-analytic statistical technique we applied to the data of this research is factor analysis. Through the application of this technique to the data, the SCCRR team identified five underlying causes, and its analysis of the Turkana-Samburu violent conflict is as follows:

1. SCARCITY: Scarcity is the most important cause of Turkana-Samburu conflict. According to the interpreted data, scarcity as a single cause is prevailing over other causes. As in the case of other factors, scarcity has a complex structure composed of the following variables that are contributing to the overall phenomenon: pasture scarcity, water scarcity, food scarcity, livestock scarcity, inadequate security personnel, vengeance, greed, and scarcity of alternatives to pastoralism and, government sending security to stop ethnic based violence.

2. MARGINALISATION AND AGGRESSION: Marginalisation-aggression is the second important cause of conflict. It is composed of different variables that are linked with the absence of basic services in the conflict area. Here we can mention: injustice against one ethnic community, extreme poverty, loss of livestock through theft/raiding, competition for water holes, competition for pasture, killing of members of your ethnic, distrust, revenge.

3. INSECURITY: The third cause of conflict is insecurity. This factor has different components - some of them represent the diminishing effectiveness of traditional peacebuilding methods (like inefficient elders' negotiations), others represent modern negative patterns like raiding and killing (without taking any belongings), cattle raids, vengeance, carrying illegal guns, not seeing people under police arrest following participation in acts of violence and unprovoked culturally sanctioned violent aggression against others.

4. "US" VERSUS "THEM" CONTRAST: The next cause of conflict between Turkana and Samburu is the perception of "us" versus "them". The various variables compose this factor, with the prevalence of cultural aspects; with history unifying ethnic communities against a neighboring ethnic community; language unifying your ethnic community against a neighboring ethnic community; culture unifying your ethnic communities against a neighbouring ethnic community; religion unifying your ethnic communities against a neighboring ethnic community.

5. LONG STANDING ANIMOSITY: The last cause of the Turkana-Samburu conflict is long-standing animosity. In the context of the analysed conflict, different violent activities from a distant and recent past compose this factor. The most important are: occurrence of cattle raids, occurrence of cattle raids and killing when resisted, occurrence of cattle raids and killing, attacking because of different ethnic identity, attacking/injuring/killing as a part of a rite, attacking/injuring/killing because of long standing animosity.

RESEARCH FINDINGS ON THE TURKANA/SAMBURU CONFLICT

A SUMMARY OF KEY RESPONSES FROM GUESTS

Honourable Asfaw Netsanet (Director of Peace and Security, IGAD) responded by saying it was an excellent study and will make a considerable contribution to understanding of this particular conflict. She highlighted two issues which for her are important in the conflict amongst the pastoralists in the Horn of Africa, i.e. the proliferation of small arms and the impact of climate change. There is a need to address these factors if we are to find peace amongst the pastoralists where we are seeing not one or two killed, but hundreds during the raiding. She commended SCCRR in the work they had undertaken.



Dr Michael Comerford (Assistant Regional Manager of Trocaire, Kenya) welcomed the findings and commented that many conflicts which have been going on for many years have not been researched or serious attempts made to understand them. He felt that the direction of this research is quite unique; it asks both the victims and the perpetrators of these local conflicts about the causes and the impact on their communities. He commended the academic rigour, the close contact with the communities, and the search to find solutions with the local community, the state, academic institutions, the churches and IGAD.

Bishop Rotich (Bishop of the Armed Forces in Kenya) explained how this research provides an opportunity to listen and from listening we can develop a strategy which allows us to look at issues in an integral and holistic way. There is a need for us to live in diversity, not only in colour of face but from deep within. He shared with the conference the need to implement a strategy where all can participate in an exercise of peace, justice and reconciliation. Today, he said, he has seen SCCRR as one of those implementers.



Dr Martin Kimani (Director of CEWARN, IGAD) in response to the findings stated that the Turkana and Samburu are not trapped in their own world and with their own ideas, which have little to do with the rest of the world, but they are very much part of our world. We should learn from them and let them lead us in building peace. It is not easy to find solutions to these conflicts because of the pressures on resources, politics, commercialisation of cattle rustling, etc. At CEWARN data is collected on the local conflicts and Dr Kimani appreciated the invitation to the conference so that this research can be added to their own data bank, to be used in building a lasting peace in the Horn of Africa.

RESEARCH FINDINGS ON THE TURKANA/SAMBURU CONFLICT



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Responses from the Turkana and Samburu Communities Present at the Conference to the Research Findings

1. There should be better infra-structures that uplift the local economy.
2. There is a need for Conflict Resolution Training skills, through workshops with the pastoralist **communities**.
3. Proper governance structures that guarantees; human needs, security and development in pastoralist regions.
4. Encourage communities to solve problems through problem solving workshops.
5. We need to stop the flow of proliferation of small arms through proper coordination with regional bodies like IGAD.
6. Those who are involved in cattle rustling should be held accountable before the Law of the State.
7. There is a need to address the commercialisation of stolen animals by tracking their destinations.
8. We should strengthen and coordinate inter-districts security and peace committees.
9. There is a need to address land and boundary issues.



The SCCRR is very grateful to all those who took part in this research process. The next step is to bring the findings for evaluation to each of the conflict parties. It is within this framework that local facilitators from both communities, who have received conflict management training from SCCRR will assist the process to develop sustainable peace and development. Following on, both communities comprising of local elders and local influential opinion/policy shapers and government administrators, will come together for joint analysis and agreed plans to ensure peace and mutual wellbeing. The parties to the conflict will be assisted by the SCCRR Team in embracing the painful past, reframing the present, and envisioning their shared future together.



MEMBERS OF THE TURKANA AND SAMBURU COMMUNITIES WITH IGAD AND INVITED GUESTS