

DIASPORA - MIGRATION - PEACEBUILDING

BICC-Newsletter

Migration and Displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa—The Security–Migration Nexus II

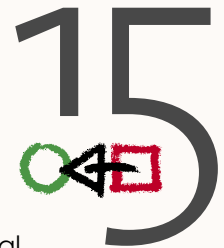
With the support of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC) is organizing an international conference on the topic of security and migration, entitled “Migration and Displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Security–Migration Nexus II”. The conference will take place on 13 and 14 February 2009 in Bonn.

Contrary to the prevalent opinion that migration is particularly a North-South issue, facts and figures show a totally different picture. A large share of global migration processes, namely approximately 50 percent, happen within the Global South. In Sub-Saharan Africa, South-South migration, with 69 percent according to estimates by the University of Sussex and the World Bank, is markedly higher than South-North migration. Sub-Saharan Africa alone is home to approx. 16.3 million international migrants, amongst them regular and seasonal workers, irregular migrants as well as refugees.

While the first BICC migration conference, which took place in February 2008 in Bonn, also supported by the BMZ, dealt with South-North migration, this second conference will address the topic of forced migration and displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa. National and international experts from research, politics, and civil society organizations, amongst them representatives from the relevant ministries as well as international organizations, will participate in the conference. They will discuss both the role of forced migrants in complex (post-)conflict settings and situations of need, as well as effects resulting from forced migration, resettlement, and return on social, political and economic conditions in the countries of the region.

During the conference, the experts, many of whom come from Sub-Saharan Africa, will additionally discuss concrete instruments and causes of action in migration governance on

Migration, conflict and security—New applied research challenges for BICC



This year BICC (Bonn International Center for Conversion) is going to celebrate its 15th anniversary. Since its inception in 1994, BICC has continuously developed its work with regard to the national and international agenda. With applied research, consultancy, capacity-building and public relations, BICC promotes and facilitates peace and development.

Today, our work includes areas such as “Peace and Development”, “Arms: global trends, exports and control”, “Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)”, “Resources and Conflict”, “Base Conversion” and last but not least “Migration and Conflict”. BICC carries out applied research on the nexus between migration in Africa and security. It discusses challenges of migration and displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa and studies the African diaspora in North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW), in Germany and in the European Union.

One main topic of this issue of our newsletter “Diaspora—Migration—Peacebuilding” is dedicated to the international conference “Migration and Displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Security–Migration Nexus II” on 13 and 14 February 2009 in Bonn. About 200 participants, amongst them representatives of research institutes, civil society as well as politicians will discuss the topic of forced migration and displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa. One aim of the conference, apart from the presentation of the current state-of-the-art in research by means of case studies and the discussion of concepts of forced migration, is to identify future research aspects and to discuss concrete political approaches. Furthermore, we hope that the conference will develop ideas for the establishment of a network and joint research foci on the national and international level.

Yours
Peter J. Croll
Director BICC





the regional level. Finally, experiences made and perspectives of international organizations and civil society groups will also play an important role.

Voluntary and forced migration

To distinguish voluntary from forced migration—be it within a state or across borders—is difficult, as the causes of migration are highly complex. However, this distinction is important, not only with respect to mandates and competencies of state and international actors but also in view of the rights and claims to help and support of the people affected.

Today, the term ‘forced migration’, however, not only comprises refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) but also, and increasingly so, people who were driven off their land by environmental disasters, environmental degradation and development projects. Stateless people, asylum seekers and victims of human trafficking also fall under this category.

Forced migration makes up a great share of the population movement, in particular in Africa. Approximately 20 percent of the global amount of refugees, according to UNHCR around 2.3 million, and about one-half of the 25 million IDPs (12.7 million) worldwide live in Africa.

Statistics from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) show that Sudan, with up to six million, has the greatest amount of IDPs worldwide. In 2007, 523,000 refugees from Sudan went to other countries searching for shelter. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), too, with 370,000 refugees and 1.4 million IDPs, Uganda, with approx. 216,000 refugees and 900,000 IDPs and Somalia with 455,357 refugees and 1.1 million IDPs are starting points for refugee movements of great dimensions (IDMC and UNHCR).

The total number of refugees in Africa has decreased slightly, which partly is due to the resettlement and return movements in the 1990s to Angola, Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Liberia as well as to current return programs for Burundian and Congolese refugees in Tanzania, and Sudanese refugees in Uganda.

Not only has forced migration just like return and reintegration of refugees deep humanitarian and social consequences for the people affected but also an effect on societal processes in the origin,

transit and recipient countries. Flight and expulsion, particularly as a consequence of armed conflicts, influence the development, stability and security of affected states and give rise to great challenges for action by policymakers on all levels and international humanitarian aid.

Clara Fischer

Workshop—African diaspora groups as facilitators of peace and development

From 27–31 October 2008, the 13th International Metropolis Conference “Mobility, Integration and Development in a Globalised World” was held at Bonn, attracting about 800 delegates from all over the world to discuss the complex links between migration, integration and development as well as the resulting challenges in terms of policy coherence and reform. The conference was hosted by the Ministry of Intergenerational Affairs, Family, Women and Integration of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, and offered about 100 workshops bringing together researchers, practitioners and policymakers.

Within the framework of this conference, BICC organized a workshop entitled “African diaspora groups as facilitators of peace and development”. This workshop discussed in what ways African diaspora groups in Europe get involved in peace processes in their countries of origin as well as the scope of cooperation with European NGOs and development agencies.

The potential of diaspora groups to facilitate peacebuilding processes in their countries of origin through individual projects, financial and social remittances is nowadays hardly contested. In Europe, many development agencies and NGOs try to build upon diaspora activities and have begun to look into new ways for a more systematic integration of diaspora activities and potentials into their peacebuilding and development efforts.

However, little empirical research has so far been undertaken to unearth the actual strengths and limitations of diaspora activities. This not only pertains



priorities regarding the specific conflict. In the ongoing research, it will thus be vital to develop criteria that help identify constructive diaspora interventions in a given context.

The session was chaired by Mirjam Gehrke of Deutsche Welle Broadcasting, Bonn.

Andrea Warnecke

to the corresponding framework conditions for such activities in the countries of origin and of residence, but especially to the priorities and individual objectives of the various diaspora groups that may indeed differ from those of European state and non-state agencies.

Following an introductory presentation by Dr. Pekka Virtanen (University of Jyväskylä; Coordinator of DIASPEACE research project) on conceptualizations of diaspora as Agents of Peace or Agents of War, Dr. Awil Mohamoud of the African Diaspora Policy Centre, Amsterdam, gave a presentation on African Diaspora Networks in Europe and the Scope for International Cooperation. Insights into the practical work of diaspora groups were provided by Jean-Louis Bisangwa, who represented Imbutu e.V., an award-winning organization seeking to facilitate peace and reconciliation in the Great Lakes region. In addition, Andrea Warnecke (BICC) presented first findings of the DIASPEACE project on the activities of Ethiopian diaspora organizations in Europe.

The ensuing discussion focused on the situation of migrant communities in Europe. Several diaspora representatives stated that a lack of participation in civil society processes and public discourse often limited their activities and networking efforts.

With a view to the research agenda, one of the most prominent issues that repeatedly surfaced during the workshop was the need to further conceptualize actions contributing to peace and reconciliation. The relationships between diaspora groups and authorities in the countries of origin are often very ambiguous, especially in those cases where influential diaspora networks support opposition groups campaigning for human and civic rights, democracy, etc. As these forms of engagement may well exacerbate social and political upheavals, the question whether any given diaspora group engages constructively or destructively in political processes is extremely difficult to assess and partly depends on the perspectives and

Further information

www.bicc.de
www.metropolis2008.org
www.metropolis2009.org
www.metropolis2008.org/pdf/report/report-29-10-2008.pdf

Forum for Social Studies (FSS): Fostering and expanding the democratization process in Ethiopia



The Forum for Social Studies (FSS) is one of the eight international partners participating in the multi-year international research project *Diasporas for Peace: Patterns, Trends and Potential of Long-distance Diaspora Involvement in Conflict Settings (DIASPEACE)* within the 7th EU research framework programme. This project deals with the shapes and effects of diaspora activities in home and host countries as well as on the transnational level. As an independent policy research institution based in Ethiopia, FSS's mission is to catalyze the emergence of viable policy options that promote the democratic and development aspirations of the Ethiopian people.

The Forum for Social Studies (FSS) was set up by a group of academics and professionals in 1998. Two main objectives underscored the establishment of FSS: the pursuit of independent policy research and the provision of public forum for debates and consultations on policy issues. In carrying out its program activities, FSS aims to contribute its share to the fostering and expansion of the democratization process.

Publications Displacement

University of Oxford, Refugee Studies Centre (RSC): Ten years of Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, Forced Migration Review, Special Issue, January 2009.

<http://www.fmreview.org/FMRpdfs/GP10/GP10.pdf>

Brookings Institution—University of Bern, Project on Internal Displacement: Protecting Internally Displaced Persons: A Manual for Law and Policymakers, October 2008. http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2008/1016_internal_displacement/10_internal_displacement_manual.pdf

CoRSA: Protecting Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Immigrants in South Africa, Johannesburg, June 2008.

<http://www.cormsa.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2008/06/cormsa08-final.pdf>

SAS and BICC: No Refuge: The Crisis of Refugee Militarization in Africa. Edited by Robert Muggah. London: Zed Books, 2006.

Mehta, Lyla: Displaced by development: confronting marginalisation and gender injustice, Thousand Oaks, California: Sage, 2009.

UNHCR. 2008. 2007 Global Trends: Refugees, Asylum-seekers, returnees, Internally Displaced and Stateless Persons.

_____. 2007. The State of the World's Refugees 2006. Human development in the new millennium. New York: Oxford University Press.

UNU-WIDER: Conflict, Disasters, and No Jobs: Reasons for International Migration from Sub-Saharan Africa, by Wim Naudé, 2008.

http://www.wider.unu.edu/publications/working-papers/research-papers/2008/en_GB/rp2008-85/

UNU EHS: Does Environmental Degradation Contribute to Forced Migration? The Impact of Environmental Degradation on Migration Flows across Countries - Working Paper No. 5/2008 by Tamer Afifi and Koko Warner.

<http://www.ehs.unu.edu/file.php?id=394>

FSS was set up as a membership organization, with power ultimately residing in the General Assembly, which meets annually. The Board, which holds quarterly meetings, exercises closer supervision and gives guidelines for the running of the organization. The day-to-day work of the organization is led by the Executive Director, assisted by the Management Committee and the general staff.

In line with its mandate, FSS has organized a series of policy debates (in the form of workshops and

© Internationales Konversionszentrum Bonn – Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC) GmbH
An der Elisabethkirche 25 • 53113 Bonn, Germany
Phone: +49-228-911 96-0 • Fax: +49-228-24 12 15
E-mail: bicc@bicc.de • Internet: www.bicc.de
Director: Peter J. Croll
Editor: Susanne Heinke
Authors: Peter J. Croll, Clara Fischer, Andrea Warnecke
Translation: Heike Webb
Support: Heike Webb
Photos: Susanne Heinke
Painting "Secret Society": Chidi Kwubiri
Layout: Katharina Moraht

symposia) on a number of issues. These debates and dialogues have almost invariably resulted in publication of proceedings and consultation papers. While most publications are in English, some have been either bilingual or in Amharic. Another innovation is the launch of FSS Update in January 2006. Since 2003, FSS has also had a contractual agreement to manage a new venture of CODESRIA, the *Africa Review of Books*.

The organization's fairly impressive record has won donor confidence and attracted a steadily growing donor support. The culmination of this has been the Memorandum of Understanding that FSS signed in June 2005 with a consortium of donors (DFID, the Irish Embassy, the Royal Netherlands Embassy and the Royal Norwegian Embassy), committing the latter to a three-year core funding. The Royal Danish Embassy and SIDA have now joined this consortium.

Vision

The vision of FSS is to see the creation of a vibrant democratic society in Ethiopia where the public can actively participate in and influence the policy-making process in all development sectors.

Mission

The Mission of FSS is to catalyse the emergence of viable policy options that promote the democratic and development aspirations of the Ethiopian people.

Core Values and Principles

The core values and principles that are upheld by FSS and that guide its program activities and initiatives are:

- Application of democratic principles and norms;
- Proactive and informed engagement of stakeholders;
- Originality and intellectual integrity of research products;
- Right of access to reliable, usable and timely information in the public domain;
- Tolerance, respect for diversity and gender sensitivity;
- Institutional independence.

(Further information: www.fssethiopia.org.et)