



ELIZKA RELIEF FOUNDATION

GHANA – WEST AFRICA

ANNUAL REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2021/2022

Prepared by: The Secretariat

Elizka Relief Foundation is a non-governmental organization legally registered and based in Ghana with a thematic scope of *capacity building* and *human empowerment*.

The core principle of the organization is promotion of Human Rights – “*the right to development and leaving no one behind*” – with its priority areas being Agriculture for Development (A4D), Information Communication for Development (ICT4D), and Research for Development (R4D), and Community Development.

The areas of special interest to the organization are i) Education (ii) Health (iii) Climate Change (iv) Arts (Youth and Culture), (v) Cultural Diversity (Exchange Programs), (vi) Child Survival and Development, (vii) Water and Sanitation (viii) Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (ix) Rural Infrastructure Development, (x) Women in Development and (xi) Food security.

Elizka Relief Foundation currently has Special Consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC) – www.un.org/ecosoc/en/home, and Observer Status with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – www.unfccc.int.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission Statement of the organization is seeking to purposefully create and manage opportunities for connection and communication across sectorial, identity and geographical boundaries to promote social and sustainable integrated development by enhancing capacity tonetwork.

VISION

Central to our activities is the epoch when civil society organizations and popular networks are sufficiently empowered- economically, materially, politically, culturally, socially and technologically - to take greater control of and determine confidently the direction and scope of their own development.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The general aim of the organization is to promote sustainable and social integrated development by assisting and advising community development practitioners, voluntary groups and communities in need, popular networks, and individuals seeking for social and sustainable development, to identify, mobilize and gain access to right sources of resources to enable them access and benefit from good education, health, environment, vocational training, credit, microfinance, cultural diversity and charitable support toward the development of a better world.

In pursuit of its mission, vision and aims, Elizka Relief Foundation has the following functions: –

Coordination:

In a proactive manner; define and articulate a pan-African position on key strategic and global sustainable development issues to:

- ✦ advocate for Africa at global meetings pertaining to sustainable development and coordinate and harmonize policies and programs in Africa with relation to sustainable development
- ✦ forge linkages between African civil society organizations, institutions and organizations across the globe
- ✦ develop mechanisms to deal with Africa's sustainable development problems and
- ✦ monitor and evaluate the impact of sustainable development research at the African regional level.

Advocacy and Resource mobilization:

- ✦ Coordinate donor efforts and inputs in Africa's sustainable development research activities through identification and interaction with key players in the donor community and their programs, and to grant conditions through the development of strategies for effectively and efficiently dealing with these key players
 - ✦ Advocacy of African needs and aspirations at international meetings
 - ✦ Liaise with advocacy groups and research institutions in developed countries that conduct research to solve problems in Africa
 - ✦ Build coalitions with key stakeholders and advocacy groups on Africa's sustainable development activities and
 - ✦ Pro-actively identify issues likely to affect Africa's sustainable development and develop strategies or mobilize capacity to deal with them.
- ✦ **Promote exchange of information** technology and human resources at the pan-Africa Level through the following:
- ✦ Promote awareness of regional and global issues such as genetically modified foods, intellectual property rights, globalization, available technologies, human rights, education, health, etc.
 - ✦ Document for use in advocacy functions, sustainable development issues, processes and its significance in Africa and
 - ✦ Document and disseminate "best practices" in sustainable development issues.

Messages

We are very much grateful for your interest and concern in and about Elizka Relief Foundation. Elizka is growing with confidence through aligning itself with seasoned experts and reputable organizations in the CSOs sector. The organization seeks sustainable solutions to long-term issues pertaining to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through an integrated, community-based, and participatory approach that reinforces Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS) as well as government initiative.

Through an array of empowering / capacity building measures, it has worked to open opportunities for humanity and improve their living conditions. At present; the organization being represented by its President and Chief Executive Officer – Kofi Kankam – serves as the co-chair of the Africa Regional Mechanism for Major Groups and Other Stakeholders under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission of Africa (UNECA) – <https://www.uneca.org/stories/africa-regional-mechanism-major-groups-and-other-stakeholders-launched-victoria-falls>, and West Africa Regional Organizing Partner for United Nations NGO Major Group – www.ngomg.org/http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/majorgroups/ngos.

The organization further represents the mechanism at the High Level Political Forum Coordination Mechanism.

Moreover, its president and chief executive officer currently serves as the Africa Regional Focal Point for Action for Sustainable Development (A4SD), convener for the Ghana CSOs SDGs Platform - <http://ghanacsoplatformsdg.org/convener-and-co-convener/> - for the Kumasi Metropolis and National Focal Point (Ghana) - for Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR).

The organization perceives real development as impossible without consideration of the environment and without taking into account local social and cultural values, and enabling stakeholder participation.

In lieu of this, we ensure to work towards the direction of the five agreements which were made during the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Our overall sustainable development programme optimizes the realization of the society's many and different social, environmental and economic objectives at one and the same time through an adaptive process of integration, whilst striking bargains (trade-offs) among the different interest groups concerned.

In a proactive manner; the organization has been defining and articulating a pan-African position on key strategic and global sustainable development issues, coordinating donor efforts and inputs in Africa's sustainable development research activities through identification and interaction with key players in the donor community and their programs, and creating conditions through the development of strategies for effectively and efficiently dealing with these key players.

Elizka over the last few years has established itself as an organization committed towards socio-economic development through the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063. The organization has worked with multiple stakeholders - Intergovernmental bodies, Governmental bodies, Media, Private Sector, International and National Non-Governmental Organizations, Multilateral Organizations - to create a platform and an understanding towards the attainment of these global goals.

Taking impetus from its previous works, Elizka during these periods articulated and highlighted issues of sustainable development both at the local and international levels.

To ensure opportunities of partnership, it was necessary to work with the private sector. We therefore led consultations with the private sector which made it possible for us to highlight a few issues at the local level.

Message from the President and Chief Executive Officer

We present to you the integrated Annual Report and Financial Report for the year 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Elizka Relief Foundation (ELIZKA) enters into its fifteen (15) year with a remarkable confidence. With sharpened clarity on approach and improved knowledge and talent base, the organization is poised to leap ahead to cover other untouched areas.

With the turn of this year, Elizka feels proud to present its Annual Report 2021-2022, which provides you a glimpse of what we did and achieved these years through our synergized effort. These years too, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially in Africa was our primary goal. In the process, we successfully contributed to the UN ECOSOC Partnership Forum (2021) as a member of the Expert Group, represented Africa on the MGoS VNR Task Group, participated in the Reconvened CND, Geneva Forum, and High Level Dialogue on Inequality in West Africa.

Moreover, we participated in Africa Development Bank and Ministry of Finance's (Ghana) Mid-Term 2019-2023 Country Strategy Paper, the 7th Africa Regional Forum for Sustainable Development (7th ARFSD), Forty-Seventh Session of the Human Rights Council, High Level Political Forum, and UNFCCC COP26.

Lastly, we served as head of international delegation of "the African Water for Peace: the Nile for Peace" Initiative to Cairo in June 2021.

In 2022, we continued our past efforts from 2021 by effectively participating and contributing in numerous events such as the UN ECOSOC Partnership Forum 2022, African Sustainable Development CSOs Meeting in Cairo, Eight Session of Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on SDG 4, UN High Level Political Forum, UNFCCC COP 27, UN Country Team national stakeholder consultation on the draft UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2025, and the Africa consultation for the United Nations Global Sustainable Development Report.

Moreover, for both years, we were able to make significant Written and Oral submissions at the United Nations General Assembly human Rights Council sessions in Geneva.

These have been significant years, as our cost-effective strategies were well-suited to our objectives, and I hope that our work will continue to attract bilateral, multilateral, intergovernmental, and the private sector to cooperate with us in the same manner. The period also proved crucial in bringing together the focus of multi-stakeholders on the issues pertaining to SDGs on the Africa continent.

We subsequently concluded to deal more intensively with the basic needs of the vulnerable communities and were predominantly concerned with the question of what is needed to improve the quality of life of the rural communes.

We are now pursuing this goal in a variety of ways. We subdivided our projects into two different project groups: Education, Climate Change – Water and Sanitation, Agriculture and Health.

It is extremely important to us to realize projects in harmony with the customs, religion and ideas of the local population, because our preferred mantra and credo remains one of sustainability. Although this fashionable term has already been embraced by many, and for a thousand times, few people are conscious of how sustainability describes a concrete principle for action in the efficient use of resources. Sustainable development is, however, only possible if all parties involved work closely together and have the same goal in mind. This leads me to another important point: our team. Large goals can only be achieved together, which is why I am convinced that networking is indispensable.

This includes not only all contacts established virtually and face-to-face. We have already set up respectable teams in order to implement challenging and extensive projects with these outstanding and loyal co-workers. In order to be able to meet the basic needs of the local population, the following questions arise: How can we solve water problems during times of drought? How can farmers be aided to multiply their crop yields? How can farmers be convinced to use compost as a fertilizer rather than a chemical compound? Careful handlings of fertilizer and insect repellents, as well as alternative soil treatment methods, are important to ensure that human health is not jeopardized. This is especially true for vegetables, fruit and herbs. Another question is: How can we advance into remote areas of in order to guarantee a basic education there? In seeking the answer, it is only through a concerted intra-continental coalition of all stakeholders can address issues of below-average life expectancy, educational inequality, above-average illiteracy rates, etc. I would like to draw the attention of all to certain things which, in my view, are mission critical for delivering sustainable development: we at Elizka want to motivate the local population to actively participate in the design of our projects and to create a future that can make everyone happy in the long term.

INTRODUCTION

In developing the 2021/22 Annual Reports, we reflected on a previous year that was like no other. This report therefore highlights, not just the organization's achievements but our experience navigating troubled waters. Despite the disruption faced globally as the world experienced one of the most significant pandemics in modern history, we emerged stronger. Our story is like a puzzle with four interconnected pieces:

We are In It Together - that was the realization we came to as an organization, alongside our partners, funders, the communities we serve and indeed the whole of humanity

Collaboration - is not only inevitable but is invaluable when you find yourselves in the same boat.

Building Resilience - the world has changed and we must change with it, if we are to build back better; so we built systems for the future.

Celebrating our Wins - there were wins; those bright spots in difficult years; those achievements that kept us going; the results of the collective efforts of many and we celebrate them.

The year 2020 gave us the opportunity to demonstrate the power and potential of evidence as a driver of change. Never has there been a more opportune time for the organization to establish the power and value of African experts leading conversations about change in Africa.

We hope you enjoy reading about our journey in 2021 and 2022.

Key Highlights of 2020

We began the year by participating in the sixth (6th) session of the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD) held under the theme ***"2020-2030: A Decade to Deliver a Transformed and Prosperous Africa through the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063"*** from the 24th - 27th February 2020 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe during which the ***Africa Regional Mechanism Of The Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (ARMMGOS)*** - formerly known as Africa Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (ARCSEM) which was officially launched and of which the president and ceo - Kofi Kankam - was formally elected as one of the co-chairs of the mechanism.

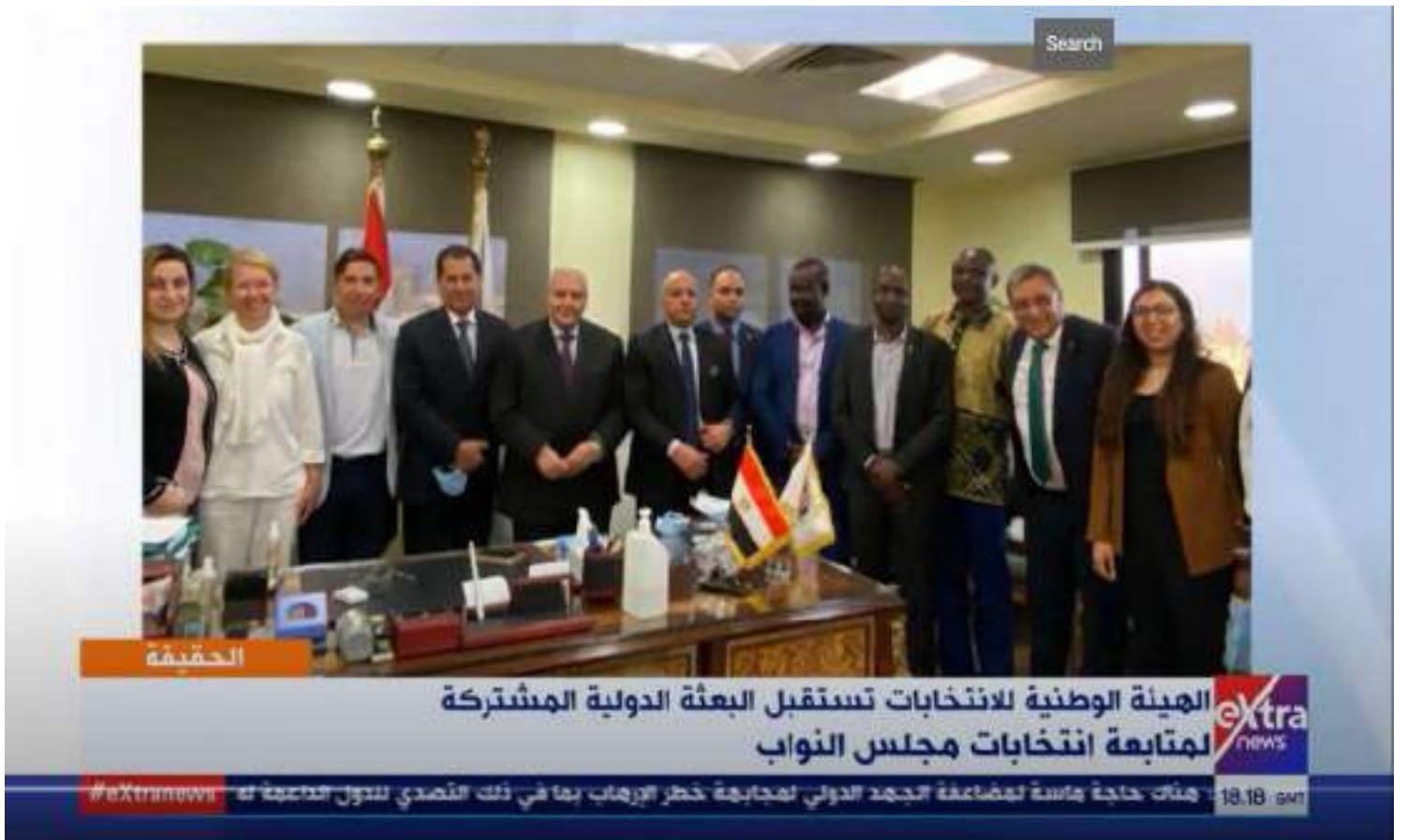


We followed by actively participating in the 2020 High Level Political Forum which was held in New York and our president and ceo once again served as one of the expert speakers at the “Africa Day” which was held as a side event at the margins of the HLPF with the theme **“Realizing the Decade of Action: Leveraging Digital Technology in the Context of COVID-19 for an Inclusive, Healthy, Resilient and Peaceful Africa”**

The organization also received sets of Information Technology Equipment from the *Central Support Services of the United Nations Office at Geneva* under their *Information Technology Equipment Donation Programme To Permanent Missions And NGOs* to help improve the availability of and access to Information Communication Technology equipment and its usage in basic (primary) schools - public and private - located in rural and deprived areas in the Ashanti region of Ghana.

As part of a seven (7) member organizations joint international mission drawn from Europe, Africa, and the Middle East at the instance of the Egyptian Electoral Commission to monitor and observe Egypt’s 2020 House of Representatives elections. Elizka Relief Foundation expertly partook and contributed immensely the team’s exercise from October 5 to 18, 2020.







KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

Seventh Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD 7)

The Regional Forum is an intergovernmental platform convened annually by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations system to review progress, share experiences and lessons learned and build a consensus on policy options and actions in the form of key messages to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063. Accordingly, the Forum serves as an important mechanism to ensure integrated monitoring and evaluation of the impact by supporting countries in unlocking bottlenecks in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 as stipulated in the AU-UN Development Framework on the implementation of the two agendas.

ARFSD-7 prepared African countries to articulate Africa's priorities at the 2021 High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF) which was held in New York from 6-15 July 2021. The key messages adopted by the Regional Forum also served as Africa's collective input to the 2021 HLPF. The theme of the seventh session of the Regional Forum was "***Building forward better: towards a resilient and green Africa to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063***". The Forum undertook in-depth review of implementation of nine selected Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the corresponding goals of Agenda 2063. The selected SDGs were **1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 17**.

The seventh session of the African Regional Forum for Sustainable took place from 1-4 March 2021 with the event for major groups and other stakeholders coming off from 26-27 February 2021. The Forum officially opened in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, while the rest of the Forum deliberations took place on online.

Elizka Relief Foundation officially attended this all important event as one of the key stakeholders. Our president and ceo (Kofi Kankam) alongside Djamel Bouras, Acting President of the Pan-African Parliament, Vera Songwe, USG, Executive Secretary, ECA, and Natalia Kanem, USG, Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund delivered the opening statements for the Preparatory and capacity development workshop for major groups and other stakeholders. Mr. Kofi Kankam also served as a panelist during forum's workshop on African voluntary national and local reviews of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Moreover, Kofi served on a high-level panel session during the ARFSD plenary session on voluntary national reviews of SDG progress on March 02, 2021, which included prominent personnel such as Ambassador Collen V. Kelapile (Permanent Representative of Botswana and Vice President of ECOSOC) and Ms Najat Maalla M'jid (Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence against Children).

Partnership with Action for Sustainable Development (A4SD)

After its successful participation in the seventh (7) ARFSD, the organization officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Action for Sustainable Development (A4SD) to coordinate the regional advocacy of A4SD, through ensuring effective and coordinated advocacy work across the countries prioritized on the Africa continent and to ensure *all* organizations participating in A4SD in the region are able to fully participate in the platform.

2021 High Level Political Forum (2021 HLPF)

Following its success at the seventh session of the ARFSD, the organization focused on its participation at the 2021 High Level Political Forum (HLPF 2021) and with the collaboration and cooperation of Action for Sustainable Development (A4SD), it was able to achieve the following:

- Supported in coordinating and development of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) Interventions and presentations for Africa countries – Angola, Cabo Verde, Chad, Egypt, Namibia, Madagascar, Niger, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, and Zimbabwe - who presented their VNRs during HLPF 2021
- Supported in the collation of the People's Scorecards from Africa - <https://action4sd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Peoples-Scorecard-Summary-Report -VNR-Countries-2021.pdf>
- Developed and submitted a Sectoral Position Paper during the 2021 HLPF on behalf of the Africa Regional Mechanism for Major Groups and other Stakeholders (ARMMGoS).

Moreover, the organization Developed and delivered the keys messages for the Africa Regional Mechanism for Major Groups and other Stakeholders (ARMMGoS) during the Messages from the Regions session at HLPF 2021 through its president and ceo who also doubles as a co-chair of the mechanism.

2022 UN ECOSOC Partnership Forum

As outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, partnerships are essential for achieving all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and mobilizing the related commitment, efforts, finance, technology and data. The ECOSOC Partnership Forum is organized annually to discuss the role of partnerships in driving sustainable development. With only ten years left to achieve the SDGs, the 2022 ECOSOC Partnership Forum provided policy space for Member States, non-state stakeholders and the UN development system to focus on key cross-cutting and inter-linked issues that are central to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and for discussing ways to mobilize multi-stakeholder partnerships to galvanize synergistic actions. The Forum also showcased a number of successful partnerships that are accelerating the achievement of the SDGs.

Elizka Relief Foundation through its president and ceo served as a member of the advisory Group for the 2022 UN ECOSOC Partnership Forum which was held virtually on February 02, 2022.

Moreover, during the ECOSOC Partnership Forum 2022, Mr. Kofi Kankam served as one of the panel members for the partnership exchange session which has the theme **“Fostering an enabling environment for collaboration”** and also for the **spotlight session “Education for all as a key step of the recovery”**.

Nile for Peace Initiative

The Nile for Peace initiative is deeply concerned about the escalating crisis of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), especially after the failure of negotiations since April 2021. The Nile for Peace initiative realizes the importance of a peaceful settlement of this crisis and its role in achieving development, cooperation and the desired peace, specifically for Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt by ensuring Ethiopia's right to development, and the right of the two downstream countries to take a legally-binding agreement, as well as the severe repercussions of unilateral and escalatory measures on all political, security, economic, humanitarian and environmental levels in a way that threatens not just the Nile Basin countries but the whole African continent.

As head of international delegation of “the African Water for Peace: the Nile for Peace” Initiative to Cairo in June 2021. The organization being represented by its president and ceo led a team of delegation from Egypt-Sudan-Ethiopia-Kenya -Uganda-Burundi-Tanzania-Morocco-South Sudan to meet with the Ambassadors of Ethiopia and Sudan to Egypt, Egypt's Minister for Foreign Affairs, The Director General of the Arab League and other dignitaries from the Egyptian Parliament.



(Ambassador Markos welcomed members of the Initiative to the Ethiopian Embassy, Mr. Ayman Okeil, General Manager of the Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights of Egypt; Dr. Hanan El-Amin



Muddathir, Chairperson of Environmental Initiatives for Sustainable Development (Envi) of Sudan and Mr. Kofi Kankam, co-chair of the Africa Regional Mechanism for Major Groups and other Stakeholders and head of the delegation on June 06, 2021).



(Mr. Kofi Kankam, head of delegation of the Nile for Peace Initiative delivering the keynote message at a pressconference in relation to the mission's trip to Cairo)



(Cross section of the media at the Nile for Peace Initiative press conference held in relation to the mission's trip to Cairo)

Consultations Session organized by the World Bank Group on Country Partnership Framework

The organization also participated in the Consultations Session organized by the World Bank Group on **June 10, 2021 from 10:00am to 12:30pm at the Golden Bean Hotel, Kumasi** to discuss the forthcoming World Bank Group (WBG) Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for Ghana which sort to strategically support Ghana's development agenda under the framework of the new World Bank Group Country Partnership Framework covering fiscal years 2022 to 2026 and also identify priority areas for future World Bank Group engagement.

COP 26

Elizka happily closed its major activities in the year by participating in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP 26 which was held at the SEC Centre in Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom, from 31 October to 13 November 2021. COP26 summit brought parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The gathering saw the finalization of the Glasgow Climate Pact which sort to accelerate action on climate this decade and finally completes the Paris Rulebook and also the climax of two years of fervent diplomacy and ambition rising. For the first time in the history of COP, there was an agreement on a position to phase down unabated coal power.



The Presidency's work focused on delivering the Glasgow Climate Pact and driving action across the globe on: • Mitigation - reducing emissions • Adaptation - helping those already impacted by climate change • Finance - enabling countries to deliver on their climate goals • Collaboration - working together to deliver even greater action. The Glasgow Climate Pact is anticipated to speed up the pace of climate action. However, even with the action committed both during and before COP26, communities around the world will continue to feel the impact of our changing planet.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022

The ARFSD is an annual multi-stakeholder platform that brings together Ministers, senior officials, experts and practitioners from UN member States, private sector, civil society, academia and UN organizations. The 2022 Forum held from 3 – 5 March, 2022 in Kigali was jointly organized by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and Government of the Republic of Rwanda in collaboration with their partners.

The ARFSD like all the other regional forums on sustainable development is mandated by the General Assembly of the United Nations. The regional forum is one of the three mechanisms mandated to follow-up, review and catalyzes actions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by UN member States in September 2015.

Unique to Africa, the ARFSD undertakes integrated follow-up and review of the SDGs and goals of the African Union Agenda 2063. This is because for Africa, the two Agenda provide a synergistic framework for achieving inclusive and people-centered sustainable development in the region.

The ARFSD also provides a platform for peer learning including Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and Voluntary Local Review (VLRs) by subnational entities.

The Forum adopts two main outcomes:

- ✦ Summary and key messages: This is Africa's collective input to the HLPF on all the deliberations of the Forum. This outcome document consists of Africa's priorities and policy recommendation to accelerate implementation of the two Agendas.
- ✦ Declaration of the Forum: This takes the name of the host city and presents an African collective position on specific issues of importance for the Bureau and the Chair of the Bureau, following the deliberations of the participants of the ARFSD.

The 2022 ARFSD was held under the theme : ***Building forward better: A green, inclusive and resilient Africa poised to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, aligned with that of 2022 HLPF, namely Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.*** The selected set of Sustainable Development Goals reviewed in-depth during the forum were ***Goals 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17***

Kofi Kankam, president and ceo of Elizka Relief Foundation and also the co-chair of the Africa Regional Mechanism for Major Groups and other Stakeholders' Steering Committee delivered the opening statement for the Preparatory and capacity development workshop for major groups

and other stakeholders in the African region for the eighth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development which was held in Kigali from March 1-2, 2022.

He also moderated the session on “Fundraising and Financial Sustainability of Major Groups and other Stakeholders during Crises” at the preparatory workshop. This session addressed the financial sustainability of Major Groups and other Stakeholders during crises and proposed actionable measures to ensure that major groups and other stakeholders can withstand future shocks and continue delivering on their mandates. Panelist for the session included; Global Coordinator of the Action for Sustainable Development, Oliver Henman; Manager of the Civil Society and Social Innovation Division, African Development Bank, Zéneb Touré; Co-Chair of the Africa Regional Mechanism for Major Groups and other Stakeholders’ Steering Committee, Carole Agen-go; and Chief Networks officer of CIVICUS, Amy Taylor

2022 High Level Political Forum (2022 HLPF)

Elizka Relief Foundation in 2022 also participated in the 2022 High Level Political Forum (HLPF) which took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from July 5 – 15, 2022 under the theme “**Building backbetter from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**”.

Sustainable Development Goals 4 on quality education, 5 on gender equality, 14 on life below water, 15 on life on land, and 17 on partnerships for the Goals was reviewed in-depth during the forum. Moreover, the event took into account the different impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic across all Sustainable Development Goals and the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the Goals.

Elizka Relief Foundation being led by its president and ceo facilitated and coordinated the participation of African Major Groups and other Stakeholders in this event. The organization coordinated the registration and accreditation of these institutions and their representatives at this event.

Moreover, Elizka coordinated the development and presentation of interventions for countries on the Africa continent which were presenting their VNRs in 2022. These countries included Botswana, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, and Togo.

The organization also held a side event on the margins of the 2022 HLPF under the theme “***Effectiveness of promoting gender equality in the field of disarmament to achieve SDGs***” on July 13, 2022.

The organization also held a side event on the margins of the 2022 HLPF under the theme “Effectiveness of promoting gender equality in the field of disarmament to achieve SDGs” on July 13, 2022.

Furthermore, being represented by its president and ceo, the organization served on panels such as the VNR Lab organized by the UN Foundation on the sidelines of 2022 HLPF and MGoS’ side event at the 2022 HLPF on the 13th of July 2022. The title of the side event was “**Accelerating the**

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Implementation - Addressing Systemic Barriers, Recovery Gaps, and Strengthening People's Participation".

Under the invitation of Division for Sustainable Development Goals in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Elizka Relief Foundation being represented by its president and ceo participated in a workshop which aimed to explore sustainable development challenges and opportunities in Anglophone Africa. The discussions and outcome of the meeting served as inputs to the 2023 United Nations Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) which informed the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit (SDG Summit). The GSDR, produced once every four years, is written by an independent group of 15 scientists appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General.



The 2023 group includes leading experts from the natural and social sciences across world regions and is co- chaired by Dr. Imme Scholz of Germany and Dr. J. Jaime Miranda of Peru. The GSDR was requested by United Nations Member States to strengthen the science-policy interface and to provide evidence-based guidance on global sustainable development issues and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs. The report will be launched at the UN Headquarters in New York in September 2023.



The workshop which took place in Lilongwe, Malawi, from 30 November to 2 December 2022, brought valuable insights to the discussion. The meeting was cohosted by the United Nations, the African Institute for Development Policy, and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ).

PARTNERS:

- Action for Sustainable Development



- Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights



- Global Call for Action and Poverty (GCAP)



- NERDS RULE INC. International



- Ghana CSO SDGs Platform



Statements Issued Under Elizka to UN

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A/HRC/47/NGO/98



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Human Rights Council

Forty-seventh session

21 June-9 July 2021

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights, in-
cluding the right to development**

**Written statement* submitted by Elizka Relief Foundation, a
non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circu-
lated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[30 May 2021]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.

Extreme Poverty in Djibouti

Preamble

Djibouti is one of the countries that suffer from extreme poverty despite having advantages of international powers, as it is located between Ethiopia, Somalia and Eritrea. However, Djibouti's economy remains fragile due to several reasons, the first of which is its heavy dependence on imports from other countries as well as foreign aid and resources including the military bases in Djibouti. This situation has increased Djibouti's level of external debt has naturally affected the citizens and increased internal poverty.

Djibouti's sources of income are very poor and it has few natural resources to depend upon. Djibouti's economy is largely dependant on pastoralism. Djibouti is mostly barren, with little development in the agricultural sector due to the severe droughts that Djibouti suffers from. The volume of its food production is estimated at 3%. In this light, Elizka Relief Foundation presents this intervention to the Special Rapporteur on poverty in Djibouti.

For the first time in two decades, the economic activity in Djibouti has shrunk as a consequence of the Covid-19 global pandemic that hit the world in 2020. It is even expected that the GDP per capita growth will decrease by 0.2% compared to the average annual growth of 2.8% during the period 0212-0212, which tremendously impact the progress in poverty reduction. The resurgence of the pandemic outbreak and the delicate shifts across the Horn of Africa are the main risks to the medium-term outlook as it would undermine the productivity of large infrastructure investments.

First: the poverty rate in Djibouti

Djibouti has been struggling with poverty for so long. Approximately a quarter of a million people in Djibouti need direct assistance, and about 42% of Djibouti's population lives in extreme poverty. With an arid desert climate, Djibouti suffers from water scarcity. The severity of the drought has exacerbated desertification, threatening the food security of more than 75% of the herding families, who live in extreme poverty, as well as the forcibly displaced persons and refugees from neighbouring countries. (1)

Accordingly, the extreme poverty rate in 2020 reached about 15.3%, with people living below the international poverty line on \$ 1.22 per person a day (The international poverty line is \$1.90 a day). With less than 1,000 km² suitable for farming, out of its total area of 23,200 km², and an annual rainfall of 5.1 inches, Djibouti has a chronic food deficit. Agricultural production accounts for only three per cent of its GDP, so Djibouti imports 90 per cent of its food commodities. These factors make Djibouti extremely sensitive to external shocks, including the surging prices of food and fuel.

In 2021, the nominal GDP in US dollars was 3.4, the real annual GDP was 1.0, and in terms of per capita GDP, it reached 3.074.4. (2)

Second: The repercussions of poverty in Djibouti (3)

A large number of Djibouti residents suffer from human rights violations, beginning from obtaining the basics of their lives, such as food or drink, until enjoying their inherent rights such as the right to education, or protection against child labour, cruel treatment and sexual assaults during their work. Moreover, some families may get tortured for the mistakes committed by their relatives. In this light, presented hereinafter a number of points that highlight these violations:

First: children

Child labour in Djibouti is primarily caused by extreme poverty, as parents force their children to work so that they can survive. Therefore, Djibouti's children are some of the most vulnerable to child labour due to poverty throughout the nation.

Children in Djibouti engage in the worst forms of child labour, including in commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking. Children also perform dangerous tasks in street work. The minimum age provisions apply only to children who have an official employment contract, which does not comply with international standards. Law enforcement efforts are inadequate to prevent and combat child labour, in part because labour inspectors lack the authority to assess penalties. In addition, the government has made insufficient efforts to enforce laws relating to the worst forms of child labour due to a lack of allocation of financial and human resources and reporting mechanisms.

As a result, over 12% of children ages 5-14 work. Working can isolate children socially or prevent them from having the time to pursue their academic interests.(4)

Despite government efforts to eliminate this phenomenon, there are still many legal loopholes that benefit those who exploit child labour. Many laws are only applicable to children working in the formal business sector, and this indicates that Djibouti's laws are less comprehensive than international standards.

Second: Enrollment in primary education rates

As a result of the extreme poverty that most families in Djibouti live in, especially in rural areas, and their inability to afford the costs of education, it is estimated that the number of children enrolled in the primary stage is only three out of every four children who were enrolled in school. Primary and preparatory education is free, however, other expenditures are often expensive for poor families.

Hence, the total number of children who complete their primary education in Djibouti is estimated at only 60-65%, given that many children are unable to obtain education due to work among other reasons. Child labour in Djibouti perpetuates the cycle of poverty from generation to generation, and the illiteracy rate reaches 61% among women.

Although Djibouti has received international assistance from the UNICEF, which, in cooperation with the Humanitarian Action Project, sought to increase access to education for Djibouti's most vulnerable children (orphans and those living in the poorest areas), the percentage is still high.

Third: job opportunities in Djibouti (5)

The high unemployment rate, which reaches 11.6%, remains a main challenge to the Djiboutian government. And despite the high rate of illiteracy among women in Djibouti, as mentioned earlier, 19% of women work, which suggests that a large number of women suffer from the effects of extreme poverty. The percentage of working women in Djibouti is very small compared to the men, which means that women are not enjoying the same empowerment as men in Djibouti.

There is an urgent need to empower vulnerable poor women who live in the suburbs and rural areas by enhancing their skills and enabling them to establish income-generating activities, and to increase women participation in production, especially through manual work and other works that help to improve their living conditions. Elizka Foundation would like to highlight an example of good practices. Since April 2020, women's groups (totalling 328 women) have produced more than 17,500 masks in the Ali Sabiha and Obock regions. Masks were distributed in hospitals, training facilities, transportation, and other places in which people are most vulnerable to contract the Covid-19, in an attempt to curb its outbreak. (6)

Elizka Foundation has tracked poverty in Djibouti throughout the recent period, especially in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and its severe repercussions on the already-depleted Djiboutian economy, which has, in turn, exacerbated poverty and increased the number of sick and injured. All this in light of the lack of appropriate means of prevention due to the lack of financial resources and the extreme poverty from which people suffer. Accordingly, Elizka recommends the following:

- First: The need for the Djiboutian government to put in place strict legislative laws to curb child labour and to limit those violations that children are exposed to. This can be done by issuing a clear and explicit law criminalizing child labour and at the same time appointing a committee responsible for monitoring the law enforcement in Djibouti.
- Second: The government in Djibouti can work to establish small and medium projects in order to reduce the unemployment rate. This can be achieved through providing loans to start-up projects as well as establishing special projects for young people in all regions, especially those suffering from extreme poverty, and allowing them to establish their projects. These loans can be paid back from the revenue of the project, but the nature of the project shall first be determined and a feasibility study shall also be made to ensure its success, and thus unemployment is reduced.
- Third: given Djibouti's heavy dependence on imports, it can solve this problem by exploiting the unused land area through establishing projects on it, and thus attract a large number of women and men to work in these projects and at the same reduce the import.

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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by Elizka Relief Foundation, anon-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[30 May 2021]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.

The Right to Health and Education in East Africa

Introduction

The social, political, and economic considerations of East African countries, especially Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Eritrea, and Djibouti, undermine the social and cultural rights, especially the rights to health and education. In this regard, Elizka Relief Foundation presents an intervention on the rights to health and education in East African countries and makes a set of recommendations.

First: the right to education in East Africa:

Education in East African countries, especially Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Eritrea, and Djibouti still faces several challenges. Somalia's chief challenges are the collapse of the education system, the poor infrastructure since (1994) (1), the teacher's lack of professional experience by (88%), the low enrollment rates in primary schools by (30%), the deprivation of (69%) of children from education, that is (3) million children (2), in addition to the internal displacement phenomenon that caused the displacement of about 1.4million people in (2020). All this is compounded by the regional, social, and gender differences that decreased educational opportunities in remote and rural areas by (17%). (22%) of children in pastoral societies, which represent (65%) of the community, lack access to education. Moreover, school-aged girls attending schools was dropped by (23%). So, there is (25%) of young educated girls compared to (37.8%) of young men, and (10%) of female teachers compared to (90%) of male teachers in primary and secondary schools (3).

In Ethiopia, despite developing a constitutional basis for education and providing it to more than (26) million students in all stages of education, only (18) million are in primary education. This has negatively affected the quality of education. The US Agency for International Development observed that only (40%) of people can read well (4), and (85%,54%) can pass the fifth and eighth grades, respectively. The ratio between teachers and students varied by (1:55), and the enrollment rates for high school and universities dropped by (16% and 8.2%) respectively, according to UNICEF estimates in (2020) (5). The Covid- 19 pandemic has adversely affected the health and education system, causing the closure of schools and the activation of distance and e-learning. Only (5.2) million students out of (26)million students could access e-learning, as Ethiopia's electronic capabilities only meet the needs of (15%) of its population. (6)

As for Djibouti, the right to education still faces challenges. (1) out of (5) children are out of school, with (46% girls, 39.9% boys) respectively. There are gender differences between females and males' access to education by (55%, 45%) (7), as well as regional differences between urban and rural areas by (67% and 49%) respectively. Also, illiteracy rates reach about (70%) of population and (85%) of women. All this is compounded by poor educational infrastructure (8).

In Kenya, there are many violations such as gender differences. Girls enrolled in primary schools are (19%) in some local areas, and (2.4) in universities. In addition to the poor educational infrastructure, the ratio between students and teachers was about (77: 1) in Turkana. Covid-19 exacerbated the situation. Schools were closed in the face of over 17 million students, in light of limited access to the Internet, especially in rural and pastoral areas (9).

The education in Eritrea is not better. There were similar challenges despite constitutional guarantees, such as low enrollment rates (39%: 57%) for primary schools and (21%) for secondary schools. Literacy and illiteracy rates were (67.8%) and (30%) respectively, (10%) of them were women, in addition to training and forced recruitment of high school students in the isolated camp of Sawa. Besides, the percentage of teachers compared to

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students was (1: 77) for elementary schools. There were only two schools for the deaf in theregions of Mikel and Ansaba, and another for the blind.

Second: The Right to Health in East Africa:

The health situation in East Africa is no better from the education in terms of challenges and access. Somalia has many legislative and legal mechanisms, health development plans, and a \$ 38 million financial budget for the education and health sectors. However, it was not sufficient to meet the requirements of the health right. (30%) of the population suffer from limited access to health services, including (40% to it, 31%, 9%, and 7%) in maternal services, primary care for patients, reproductive health, and mental health, respectively, according to the WHO in 2020 (10). The challenges include high fertility rate estimated by (6.9) children per woman, high rates of female circumcision by (99%) for Somali women, spread of infectious diseases such as immunodeficiency by (55%), and Covid-19 by (14,623, 797, 6,856) of the injuries, deaths, and recovery, according to WHO statistics until (24, May 2021). The mortality rate of newborns and children under five years was about (40, 137) per (1000) births, respectively, and maternal deaths were about (692) per (100,000) births (11), the decline in services, and the escalation of needs for humanitarian aid by (4.2, 5.2, 5.9) million citizens for the years (2019, 2020, 2021).

In Ethiopia, the nearest health facility serving over (50%) of the population is about (10) km away. The mortality rate is more than double the global rate, the Ethiopian women abuse during childbirth is (21%) in Amhara regions, and (22%) in Tigray. The prevalence of immunodeficiency is (666,000) in (2020), and Covid-19 is (269,500, 230, 743, 4,048) of the injuries, recoveries, and deaths, respectively, according to WHO statistics until (May 24, 2021).

In Djibouti, the medical staff reached about (3381) in (2017), including (110) general practitioners, (129) specialized doctors, (3.35) nurses, and (2.55) midwives for every (1000) people in (2017). Diseases such as immunodeficiency, tuberculosis are the fourth cause of death in Djibouti (2007). Moreover, (75%) of pastoral communities suffer from food insecurity and COVID-19 is (11,502, 153, 11,341) of the total injuries, deaths, and recovery, according to statistics on 24, May 2021.

In Kenya, the challenges are the prevalence of mosquito diseases, yellow fever, and malaria (12), and the regional gap in rural and urban areas by (70% and 30%), respectively. (20%) of Kenyan enjoy health insurance coverage, (41%) in Nairobi, (3%) in rural areas. It lacks specialized medical personnel, hospital doctors, and emergency care nurses. The infection prevention elements are (12%) in (2018). In addition, the health budget in Kenya is low, according to the Abuja Declaration. There are (573) intensive care beds, but they contain (256) ventilators, and (22) out of (47%) provinces have one intensive care unit (13). In Eritrea, economic considerations impede the right to health. About (80%) of the population in rural areas lack access to health services, and they suffer from malaria. More than (70%) live in areas at risk of infection (14).

Recommendations:

1. East African countries should take several measures in partnership with international and local civil society organizations to raise awareness about education importance and its role in development. They should change the traditional view of girls' education and minimize the health, psychological, physical, and educational repercussions of early marriage, and encourage medical education.
2. East African countries should adopt democratic measures, political participation, and good governance to promote political stability, overcome conflicts and civil wars, and activate the legal and constitutional frameworks related to the right to health and reform the judicial system to guarantee fair trials.

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3. East African countries should re-evaluate their development plans and allocate an adequate budget for the development of education and health sectors, improve their infrastructure and provide training for teachers and medical personnel.

4. East African countries should launch a plan to develop services related to reproductive health, and launch awareness campaigns to eliminate FGM.
5. East African countries should create development plans to achieve equitable education and health rights in rural and urban areas.

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Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights, in-
cluding the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Elizka Relief Foundation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[7 February 2022]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.



The Right to Self-Determination and Political Participation of the Province of Benishangul

The right to self-determination and the right to political participation are fundamental principles of the international human rights law, which have been incorporated in international human rights treaties and provided to indigenous peoples, ethnic groups and racial nationalities. The right to self-determination has been referred to in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as in the initial article shared by the two International Covenants. These groups can claim the right to self-determination in a collective setting, for reasons of preserving their identity and cultural privacy from demise, and their political, economic and developmental exclusion.

The calls for the right to self-determination of indigenous peoples and communities are often accompanied by the absence of just and effective guarantees by States within their jurisdiction for the political, economic and developmental participation of such groups and nationalities, as well as the deliberate marginalization of States. Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, together with the United Nations Declaration on the Right of Indigenous Peoples to the Political Participation of Indigenous Peoples, granted indigenous people the right to political participation without restriction. This intervention submitted by Elizka Relief Foundation focuses on the right to self-determination and the right to political participation in the territory of Benishangul, particularly after the recent violations by the Federal Government of Ethiopia against the Territory, resulting in the displacement of thousands, the detention of women and children, the murder of civilians in the Territory and the establishment of development projects on the Territory's indigenous lands without consultation.

Right to self-determination of the territory of Benishangul

Article 39 of Ethiopia's Federal Constitution ostensibly guarantees indigenous peoples, ethnic groups and different nationalities the right to self-determination as well as the right to secede from the State and declare independence. "Every people, nationality and nation in Ethiopia has the absolute and unconditional right to self-determination, including the right to secession." ¹ In its initial and second periodic reports to the Human Rights Committee, Ethiopia provided this right to the various peoples and nationalities of Ethiopia ². However, this article is surrounded by a range of obstacles and constraints that make the self-determination of the indigenous peoples of Ethiopia unattainable. For example, two thirds of the Legislative Council of the Territory or State must agree on the right to self-determination ³, and then a popular referendum is held after three years, which is a very large period of time from this council's approval of self-determination. Even in the event of voting in approval of secession and self-determination, the court can Constitutional cancellation of this referendum as if it was not ⁴.

This is at level of law, but in practice, indigenous parties and movements in the province of Benishangul, which sought to determine the territory's fate away from the federal Government, faced a range of violations from arbitrary detention, deprivation of their land, forced displacement to terrorism and the use of excessive force against them under the pretext of fighting riots and maintaining security in the territory. According to testimony received by Elizka, the government security forces of the Ethiopian Federation do not distinguish between armed men and civilians ⁵. Elizka also monitored previous statements by Ethiopian officials that stimulate violence among the Amhara population, which is the second largest ethnic group in Ethiopia and makes up about 27% of the population of the state and the indigenous peoples of the Benishangul region. Ethiopian Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen, a member of Amhara nationality, called on Amhara civilians to arm themselves in an area in Benishangul province ⁶, which increased the frequency of violence against civilians and indigenous people in the territory, resulting in the displacement of more than 34,800 people, and the arbitrary detention of suspected wives and children. According to the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, 19 women were arrested by the Federal Government's security forces alongside their children on 4 September 2021 for allegedly being wives of suspects in violent acts in an area in the province of Benishangul ⁷. Such reprisals by local

authorities in the province of Benishangul and by the forces of the Command Centre appointed following the outbreak of violence in the territory are contrary to international instruments ratified by Ethiopia, including the international covenants.

The right to political participation in the province of Benishangul

The Ethiopian constitution guarantees the right to political participation, in a manner that takes into account the texts contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the two International Covenants on Human Rights. Despite holding legislative elections in most of the Ethiopian regions in June and September 2021, the Benishangul region was the only region in which election has not completed, although the National Electoral Council of Ethiopia in October 2021 set a schedule for holding elections in the remaining 17 electoral districts in the region 8. However, after the Ethiopian Parliament approved the declaration of a state of emergency for a period of 6 months on November 4, 2021 under Proclamation No. 1264/2021 9, the National Electoral Council proceeded to postpone the elections again for an indefinite period, which represents an unjustified delay of a constitutional entitlement whose enforcement is in accordance with the principles of democracy and the sovereignty of the law 10. The Benishangul region has 9 seats in the Federation Council (Ethiopian Parliament), which consists of about 547 seats, and they are elected from the members of the state's regional council, which consists of 99 seats 11. According to reports reviewed by Elizka, the Benishangul Regional Council can only be formed after voting has been completed in the remaining electoral districts and the election of 99 members to the council has been completed 12. This, in turn, delays the formation of the local government of the Benishangul region, and thus the possibility of continuing acts of violence and intimidation against civilians from the indigenous peoples in the region 13.

Apparently, This poor representation of the Territory in the Ethiopian Parliament, compared to other provinces, for example Amhara, which holds 138 seats in the Federation Council 14, seems to affect the deteriorating economic situation of the inhabitants of the territory and the denial of land to the indigenous peoples of the Territory, as well as development projects on the lands on which they grew up without consultation or free and prior consent, contrary to the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights Of Indigenous Peoples 15.

Recommendations

- The Human Rights Council should pressure the Ethiopian government to release all detainees from the Benishangul region, especially the women and children who were detained out of retaliatory motives because of the activities of their husbands and fathers;
- The necessity of consulting with the indigenous peoples of Benishangul and taking their prior approval of the development projects initiated by the federal government as contained in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- The early holding of by-elections in the Benishangul region and the formation of a local government that takes into account the rights of the indigenous peoples of the region;
- The international community and the Human Rights Council should consider the claims of the tribes and peoples of the Benishangul region regarding their right to self-determination and give special importance to this issue in a just and equitable manner.
- The special procedures of the United Nations, including the Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, should request a visit to the Benishangul region in order to see the actual reality of the violations committed against them.

1(<https://bit.ly/3eV9YQ1>)

- 2(<https://bit.ly/3sXEp0a>)
- 3(Ibid)
- 4(<https://bit.ly/3HEj5AW>)
- 5(<https://bit.ly/3zsTliC>)
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- 10(<https://bit.ly/3pTMXn1>)
- 11(<https://bit.ly/3FYQUMQ>)
- 12(<https://bit.ly/34eEouw>)
- 13(Ibid)
- 14(<https://bit.ly/3JlbtPI>)
- 15(<https://bit.ly/34iogrX>)



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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
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cluding the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Elizka Relief Foundation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

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Violations of Freedom of Religion and Belief in Eritrea

The legal framework for the right to freedom of religion and belief in Eritrea

Article 14 of the Eritrean Constitution issued in 1997 states in its first and second paragraphs that all persons are equal before the law, and no one shall be discriminated against on the basis of race, ethnic origin, language, color, sex, religion, disability, age, political opinion, social or economic status, or any other basis. Article 19 also stipulates in its first paragraph the right of every person to freedom of thought, conscience, and belief. The same article also stipulate, in its fourth paragraph, that every person is free to embrace any religion and practice its rituals 1.

Hence, according to these texts, Eritrea is supposed to be a secular state in which the law guarantees religious freedom, and individuals enjoy legal protection and not are discriminated against or prosecuted because of their religion, and no citizen is subjected to imprisonment because of his beliefs, including religious beliefs.

However, the reality is completely different from the government's claims of its commitment to implement the right to freedom of religion and belief. Government violations of this right included all religions and sects in Eritrea, where laws allowed security forces to arrest and kill citizens, regardless of their religion, Muslims or Christians, under the pretext of suspecting their religious beliefs. The duration of detention may be relatively long and does not commensurate with the charge.

Violations of the right to freedom of religion and belief

According to international reports, the Eritrean government itself is practicing violations of the right to freedom of religion and belief, especially in the absence of armed groups - whatever they are - violating this right. In its violation of this right, the government did not differentiate between recognized or unrecognized religions. But the largest share of these violations is experienced by adherents of unrecognized religions.

1. Regarding the violations against Eritreans belonging to unrecognized religions

The violations to which this group is subjected amount to imprisonment and these persons are often forced to renounce their religion by all means, including torture. In 2020, the Eritrean forces arrested 13 Christian citizens simply because they were praying outside the church. In March 2021, 35 persons including women were detained. In April, 22 Christians were arrested during a prayer meeting in Asmara, the majority of them were women. The government also targets citizens during religious practices including Christian wedding celebrations, as the Eritrean government arrested 30 persons who were attending a wedding ceremony held in the capital, Asmara, during the last week of June 2020 2.

Members of unrecognized religious groups reported instances of imprisonment and restrictions in assembling for worship, building places of worship, teaching their religious beliefs to others, or even being recognized as citizens. Jehovah's Witnesses were largely unable to obtain official identification documents, which left many of them unable to study in government institutions and barred them from most forms of employment, government benefits, and travel 3.

According to reports by international organizations, many detainees are being kept due to their religious beliefs in Eritrea are being detained in underground cells and metal shipping containers in the notorious heavily guarded Mai Sirwa Military Prison near the capital, Asmara. Religious prisoners were not allowed in some prisons to receive visitors. Ex-prisoners detained for religious beliefs also continued to report harsh detention conditions, including solitary confinement, physical abuse, and insufficient food, water, and health care

According to international human rights reports, the Eritrean government, due to Covid-19 considerations, released 27 Eritrean Christians (19 men and 8 women), who were detained without charge or trial for prolonged periods ranging between two and 16 years, they were held arbitrarily and without due process for very long periods because of their religious beliefs⁵. However, these releases were conditional and carried out under harsh bail conditions, most of them were banned from travel and got their property confiscated. Bail guarantees are usually deposited in the form of title deeds, with the guarantors held responsible for the future actions of the detainees. So, guarantors lose their ownership, especially if a former detainee exercised his right to leave the country⁶.

It can be said that the number of citizens who are still arbitrarily detained because of their religious beliefs is way more than those who were released, which indicates the continued suppression of the right to freedom of religion or belief⁷.

2. Regarding the violations against Eritreans of recognized religions

In Eritrea, even citizens belonging to recognized religions were not spared punishment. The Eritrean government confirms that it does not interfere in the selection of recognized religious leaders. Elections are held for the leadership structures of religious institutions without interference from any side. All religious institutions have institutions that provide religious education up to the highest levels and within the boundaries of secularism.

However, international reports confirmed that the government exerted significant influence, directly and indirectly. It directly controls the appointment of the heads of recognized religious sects, including the Eritrean Orthodox Church and the Sunni Mufti of Islam, where the Popular Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ) party led by the president Isaias Afwerki appoints both the acting head of the Sunni Muslim community and the acting head of the Eritrean Orthodox Monotheism Church. The Eritrean Orthodox Unification Church has also been without a patriarch since the death of the fourth Patriarch, Abuna Dioskoros in 2015. Ordinary officials appointed by the Popular Front for Democracy and Justice ran some ecclesiastical processes including the disposal of donations and religious participation in national service⁸.

The government also imposes restrictions on evangelism and religious schools. It refused the entry of a delegation from the Catholic Church led by the Archbishop of Addis Ababa to Asmara airport and deported them⁹. Besides, it arrested 21 Muslims in Mandfra and Uday Qawla, including a local imam whose whereabouts remain unknown since 2019 because of their protest against the government takeover of Al-Diaa Islamic School¹⁰.

The government also continued to impose restrictions on accepting external funding from international NGOs and international organizations, whether Christian or Islamic, as reports indicated that the government continued to impose restrictions on leaders of some churches regarding receiving funding from churches or foreign organizations, which led to a decrease in the church's income. It also imposed restrictions on religious participation by prohibiting churches from training clergy or building or maintaining facilities. On the other hand, the government, in general, did not allow Islamic groups to receive funding from Islamic countries because such funding threatens national security¹¹.

Recommendations

Finally, it can be said that the Eritrean government is unable and unwilling to fulfill its international obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as a party to it, as well as its failure to implement the right to freedom of religion and belief as one of the basic principles of human rights, as any indication of independence of thought or confirmation of the right to religious freedom in Eritrea is soon

followed by arrests, whether the faith was Christian or Muslim. It seems that the Eritrean state is currently asserting its authority by brutal force over religious practices. Hence, Elizka Relief Foundation recommends the following:

- The government of Eritrea shall fulfill its obligations under international law to ensure, promote and respect freedom of religion and belief.

- Amending laws, legislation, and government practices and removing all articles or practices that violate the right to freedom of religion and belief.
- Immediately and unconditionally release of prisoners who are being held arbitrarily, particularly in light of the spread of Covid-19 pandemic that threatens the lives of those who are still held in inhumane conditions.

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5(Conditional release of 27 Christian prisoners ,CSW, 11 Sep 2020, link , <https://www.csw.org.uk/2020/09/11/press/4799/article.htm>)

6(Eritrea: Events of 2020, Human Rights Watch, 2021, link, <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/eritrea>)

7(2020 Report on International Religious Freedom: Eritrea, Office of International Religious Freedom, May 12, 2021, link, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-report-on-international-religious-freedom/eritrea/>)

8(2020 Report on International Religious Freedom: Eritrea, Office of International Religious Freedom, May 12, 2021, link, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-report-on-international-religious-freedom/eritrea/>)

9(Eritrea: Events of 2020, Human Rights Watch, 2021, link, <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/eritrea>)

10(Eritrean Government Arrests Dozens of Eritrean Muslims, Human Rights Concern – Eritrea (HRCE),13 January 2020, link, <https://hrc-eritrea.org/eritrean-government-arrests-dozens-of-eritrean-muslims/>)

11(2020 Report on International Religious Freedom: Eritrea, Office of International Religious Freedom, May 12, 2021, link, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-report-on-international-religious-freedom/eritrea/>)



General Assembly

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Human Rights Council

Forty-ninth session

28 February–1 April 2022

Agenda item 6

Universal periodic review

Written statement* submitted by Elizka Relief Foundation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status


The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[7 February 2022]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.

GE.22-02584(E)

A/HRC/49/NGO/196

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In the United Republic of Tanzania, many human rights defenders believe that the current president of the United Republic of Tanzania's assumption of the presidency in March 2021 as a new glimmer of hope that may open the path towards addressing the tense human rights situation in the country. The term of the late President, who took office in October 2015, was marred by several restrictions on basic freedoms through a set of repressive laws and decrees. Furthermore, the government also worked to silence the voices of opposition, including journalists, human rights activists and politicians, using various tactics, primarily arbitrary arrests and criminal prosecution. This is in addition to closing media outlets and blocking social media sites. No one dared to speak of or jeopardize the person of the President, resulting in a legacy of repression and intolerance against the opinions of others. Despite the country's new leadership taking steps forward to advance the human rights situation, most importantly the issuance amnesty decisions for prisoners¹, peoples' hopes were quickly dashed with the government's arrest of political opponents and activists who called for the need for reviewing the constitution to allow for more basic freedoms, not to mention the ongoing restrictions on freedom of expression. This is in addition to the government's failure to address impunity for human rights crimes committed under the former president, specifically the violence and extrajudicial killings committed by the security services in Zanzibar during the presidential elections in October 2020. The most vulnerable groups, especially women, children and refugees, also continue to suffer from unjust discrimination and widespread violations.

Ongoing intolerance for political dissent in the United Republic of Tanzania

The Tanzanian government has been targeting all voices calling for human rights reform and political openness. In July 2021, the Tanzanian security services arrested the leader of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) and ten others from the coastal city of Mwanza, northwest of the United Republic of Tanzania, on the background of their announcement of organizing a conference calling on the government to take more measures and steps towards constitutional and political reform to put an end to the prevailing monopoly of power. This is a proof of the escalating crackdown on opposition leaders, since the government did not prove any convincing legal grounds to justify these arrests². Furthermore, the United Republic of Tanzanian opposition leader Freeman Mbowe was charged with a flimsy charge of conspiracy and financing of terrorism in an unfair and non-transparent trial. The government prevented many journalists from entering the courtroom during one of the hearings in September 2021, in addition to allegations during the course of the case that require effective investigation related to the torture of Mbowe to extract forced confessions from him. Moreover, human rights estimates indicate that the arrest of Mbowe represents a continuation of the late president's approach of silencing any dissenting voice that calls for amending the course of political freedoms and opening up perspectives for political reform

Ongoing restrictions on media freedom

The government continued to crackdown media freedoms by arresting journalists, closing media outlets and renouncing its call for lifting the ban on the media. In April 2021, after an announcement made by the new Tanzanian president that the media outlets that were closed during the era of her predecessor might be reopened, a government official confirmed that the President was referring to channels that only broadcast over the internet, which indicated that there was no real desire to open the door to media freedoms, with the continuing closure of four major newspapers that were shut down by orders from the late president⁴. This is in addition to the continued arrest of journalists and the closure and ban of media outlets during 2021. On September 24, 2021, the government arrested the Tanzanian cartoonist Optatus Fwema after publishing a political cartoon criticizing the president on his Instagram page.

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He was charged with a flimsy accusation related to misuse of the Internet based on repressive laws from the era of the late president that criminalize freedom of opinion and expression on

social media 5.

In August 2021, the government in the United Republic of Tanzania issued a decision to ban Uhuru Newspaper for 14 days on charges of publishing a false and seditious report about the President in accordance with on the Media Services Act, which was previously used as a tool to close or ban all media outlets 6. These incidents confirm that there is zero tolerance for any media criticism may affect the person of the president, which is considered a red line. In this regard, there several attacks against journalists. In April 2021, a human rights estimate indicated that at least three journalists were harassed or assaulted and three others were arrested by security personnel, indicating that the government continues to follow the same procedures of the previous government in dealing with journalists who carry out their human rights work 7.

The Continuing impunity portends dire consequences for the human rights situation in the United Republic of Tanzania

The government did not hold any of the security forces involved in the human rights crimes accountable for committing such crimes, which encourages the commission of more human rights crimes and impunity. UN human rights estimates confirm the use of excessive force by the security services against protesters during the presidential elections in October 2021, which resulted in the death of 10 people, the injury of over 50 people and the arrest of 57 others without any clear charges 8. Despite repeated human rights calls for the Tanzanian government to take steps to ensure justice for family members of the dead and survivors of these grave violations, the government has not acted on so far, which prompts the security forces to commit more violations 9.

Discrimination and suffering faced by the most vulnerable groups

The most vulnerable groups continue to suffer in the United Republic of Tanzania, as child labor continues is persistent in various parts of the country, especially in the mining and agricultural sectors, exposing children to great risks shown in the high work injuries among them 10. Women suffer from discrimination. Despite the lifting of the ban imposed on the enrollment of pregnant students and teenage mothers in schools in November 2021 as a result of pressure from civil society organizations 11, , statements of government officials raise a state of confusion about their understanding of the situation of women in society, which is shown in the President's statement about female football players. She said that they are unfit for marriage because of their flat chests 12. At the same time, refugees and asylum seekers who fled from Burundi into the United Republic of Tanzania remain unprotected from arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances and forcible returns to Burundi. The Tanzanian security services are involved in these violations on a large scale 13.

Recommendations:

Although the United Republic of Tanzania affirmed in the last Universal Periodic Review session its desire to carry out a number of human rights reforms, primarily issuing a new constitution for the country, actual practices have proved otherwise. Accordingly, Elizka recommends the following:

- The need to move forward towards introducing constitutional reforms that guarantee rights and freedoms, while reviewing the repressive laws issued by the late president.
- The need to put an end to the escalating crackdown on opposition parties, and release the leader of the Democratic Progressive Party unless the government has clear legal grounds to justify his continued detention.
- The need to lift restrictions on the various media.

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- The need to eliminate the unfair discrimination and suffering facing women and children, in addition to refraining from targeting and carrying out serious human rights violations against refugees and asylum seekers who fled Burundi.

- 1(Tanzania: Human Rights Priorities for Tanzania's New President. <https://bit.ly/3r4UFKb>)
- 2(Tanzania's Main Opposition Leader Freeman Mbowe Arrested. <https://bit.ly/3zI5C8o>)
- 3(Tanzanian Opposition Leader Faces Charges in Court. <https://bit.ly/3Fa2jrU>)
- 4(Tanzania Government Trims Back President's Order to Reopen Media Outlets. <https://bit.ly/3JYUeKq>)
- 5(STATEMENT CONDEMNING ARBITRARY ARREST AND DETENTION OF CARTOONIST OPTATUS FWEMA <https://bit.ly/31EyKkq>)
- 6(Tanzania ruling party newspaper Uhuru returns after two-week suspension. <https://bit.ly/3FazIml>)
- 7(MCT condemns latest harassment of scribes. <https://bit.ly/3HPP7u4>)
- 8(UN rights chief disturbed by harassment of opposition following Tanzania elections. <https://bit.ly/3HQ957O>)
- 9(Tanzania: No Justice for Zanzibar Election Violence. <https://bit.ly/3HLuvD6>)
- 10(HUMAN RIGHTS AND BUSINESS REPORT 2020/21. <https://bit.ly/3nalICG>)
- 11(Tanzania lifts ban on pregnant schoolgirls. <https://bit.ly/3f2Xeal>)
- 12(Tanzania women's team react after President's remarks about 'flat-chested' players. <https://cnn.it/33kxL9q>)
- 13(UN experts deplore rights violations against Burundi refugees. <https://bit.ly/3Gdmw1o>)



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28 February–1 April 2022

Agenda item 2

**Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the
High Commissioner and the Secretary-General**

Written statement* submitted by Elizka Relief Foundation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[7 February 2022]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.



The Human Rights Situation in the Tigray Region

Violations of basic human rights have recently increased in Ethiopia, particularly after the Ethiopian Federal Parliament approved the state of emergency proclamation on November 4, 2021, imposing, therefore, a range of restrictions on human rights. Under the emergency declaration, thousands of persons were arbitrarily detained on claimed terrorism-related charges. The declaration also allowed the Ethiopian government to suspend and revoke the licenses of NGOs and the media for their alleged links to terrorism, which prompted the Human Rights Council to hold an extraordinary session to discuss the grave human rights situation in Ethiopia on December 17, 2021. The session concluded with the establishment of an international expert committee to investigate alleged human rights violations in Ethiopia. The continuation of the war in Ethiopia leads the country, which is the second-largest African country in terms of population, to an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe, with about 5 million persons in Tigray, that is more than 80% of the region's population, in need of urgent humanitarian assistance, including 400,000 who are a step away from starvation, in light of Ethiopia's restriction of humanitarian aid to enter the region and in light of the challenges facing workers in humanitarian relief organizations, which were forced to suspend their work in January 2022.

Violation of the right to a safe life for civilians

The Ethiopian federal government, led by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, has continued their violent acts against civilians in the Tigray region. These practices include extrajudicial killings in contravention of Ethiopia's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The National Defense Forces of Ethiopia, along with its allied Eritrean forces, killed more than 11,516 civilians in the Tigray region from November 2020 to October 2021¹. As an example of the indiscriminate bombing crimes carried out by the Ethiopian army against civilians on December 17, 2021, the town of "Alamata" in the south of Tigray was subjected to an aerial bombardment on a popular market, which resulted in the killing of up to 27 civilians². In a similar context, in December 2021, the regional forces of the Ethiopian government killed about 250 civilians in a mass massacre of in the Afar region³. None of those responsible for these crimes was held accountable, and the Ethiopian government did not open any investigations into the continuous bombing of civilians in Tigray, which reinforced these violations in light of complete impunity.

In a related context, and under the state of emergency declared by the Ethiopian Cabinet on November 2, 2021, thousands of civilians were arrested collectively in the day after the Ethiopian Parliament ratified the state of emergency on November 4, 2021, and Elizka has undertaken several reports confirming the continued detention of between 5 and 7 thousand simply for their sympathy with the Tigray Liberation Front on alleged terrorism charges and are still incommunicado in conditions amounting to enforced disappearance. The state of emergency has allowed law enforcement forces in Ethiopia to arrest anyone without an arrest warrant as long as they suspect they are belonging to a terrorist group, which is a loose concept variously interpreted and used by the Ethiopian government to prosecute the opposition of the Ethiopian Prime Minister

Devastating effects of war on children

The civil war in Tigray had a severe impact on children, who, according to non-governmental statistics, constitute about 44% of the population of the region⁵.

Children were killed, separated from their families, and their schools were closed. Ensuring the rights of children is the responsibility of the Ethiopian government. Being party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and also being a party to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, Ethiopia is obligated to take measures to prevent the recruitment of children, which the Ethiopian government has not prevented in practice. The Ethiopian National Defense Forces have violated the right of

children to life, and from November 4, 2021, until the end of December 2021, more than 300 children were killed in repeated and indiscriminate shelling of the Ethiopian forces, including 100 children who were killed in the bombing of a school and a health facility housing a number of displaced families in Afar region in August 2021, which contradicts the protection granted to children under international humanitarian law 6.

Also, because of the ruthless war, nearly 6,000 children in the region were separated from their parents, according to the United Nations Children's Fund 7. They lack the minimum standards of protection and are unable to obtain basic necessities of life such as food and clean water 8. Children are particularly vulnerable to sexual and physical abuse and neglect. In a related context, the ongoing conflict between the Ethiopian army and the Tigray People's Liberation Front forced more than 1.4 million children out of the educational process 9. and 1.9 million children in three regions, namely, Tigray, Afar, and Amhara, did not have access to education due to the current ongoing conflict. In the Amhara region, for example, about 4,107 schools, or 42% of the educational process, were shut down due to the damage caused to these facilities as a result of the continuous bombardment of the Ethiopian army 10.

Undermining the role of aid workers in Tigray

Aid workers in Ethiopia were not spared from the abuses in the Tigray region. In November 2021, the Ethiopian federal government arrested 16 staff members of the United Nations agencies and aid workers in Ethiopia, all of whom hold Ethiopian citizenship 11.

Moreover, in September 2021, the Ethiopian government expelled seven senior United Nations staff members for allegedly interfering in the internal affairs of Ethiopia, including the head of the United Nations Children's Fund in Ethiopia, the Director of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and five staff members of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs 12.

The serious violations committed by the Ethiopian federal government included the killing of 23 aid workers in violation of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, the rules of customary international humanitarian law, and the statute of the International Criminal Court, which defines deliberate attacks on this personnel as a war crime in international and non-international armed conflicts 13. As a result of these grave violations, relief organizations suspended their work in the northwestern region of the Tigray in January 2022 due to drone attacks that killed 56 civilians in the region.

In light of the above, Elizka recommends the following:

- The need for the Human Rights Council to urge all parties to the civil war in Ethiopia to cease all hostilities and enter into unconditional negotiations sponsored by the African Union to avoid further loss of life and stop shedding of blood;
- Ethiopia must cancel the state of emergency ratified by Parliament on November 4, 2021, and release all detainees held under this declaration;
- Ethiopia must ensure the full protection of aid workers, humanitarian organizations, and UN staff in Ethiopia so that they can carry out their relief missions to the fullest;
- Ethiopia must ensure the protection of children in particular in compliance with international human rights and humanitarian law standards.

1(<https://bit.ly/3r3I2PS>)

2(Ibid)

3(Ibid)

4(<https://bit.ly/3zLkOBZ>)

5(<https://bit.ly/3GiFBPA>)

6(<https://bit.ly/3nezYL1>)

7(<https://uni.cf/3FmEkGc>)

- 8(<https://bit.ly/3GfCh7S>)
- 9(<https://uni.cf/3fdC21q>)
- 10(<https://bit.ly/3zNYUhx>)
- 11(<https://bit.ly/3FfccVj>)
- 12(<https://bit.ly/3zIZaOC>)
- 13(<https://bit.ly/3Gg4AD7>)



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28 February–1 April 2022

Agenda item 9

**Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related
forms of intolerance, follow-up and implementation
of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

Written statement* submitted by Elizka Relief Foundation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.



Violations Against people of African Descent in the United States of America and European Countries

Three African players experienced racial abuse on social media after they missed penalty kicks against the Italian national team that caused England to lose the Euro 2020 final, which was a turning point that drew the world's attention to the human rights violations that African people are regularly subjected to. In separate regions of the world, especially in Europe and the United States of America, African people are subjected to a great deal of racist abuse and hate crimes in European societies, particularly in Germany and Spain. Voices of human rights defenders continue to warn of the escalation of the unequal access of African people to economic and social rights in American society, but these voices are not heard. Estimates confirm that students of African descent are three times more likely to be expelled from school than white students and that the wealth of white families is 20 times the wealth of African families. Moreover, The United States of America government acts in an unfair and discriminatory manner with regard to the provision of health services to African citizens compared to other groups of the community. This is in addition to the deterioration of the service infrastructure in African neighborhoods 1. Several facts confirm that the United States of America security services treat African people in a less equitable manner than other classes of society, resulting in many human rights crimes. Accordingly, this report by Elizka Relief Foundation highlights the human rights violations suffered by African people in Europe and the United States of America.

Racial abuse against African people in European stadiums

The fans racial abuses against African players in European stadiums have become the norm, especially when a football team and nation suffers a loss, which reveals the entrenchment of deadly hatred and racism against all African people, regardless of their status in society. No African individual can avoid hateful abuse. In this regard, the England national team player J. B. was subjected to racial abuse on the Instagram in March 2021 because of his African origin. In June 2021, the Italian football player of Ethiopian origin, S. V., committed suicide in his home in southern Italy due to his constant subjection to racial discrimination because of his African origin. Prior to his suicide, S.V. shared a message on social media explaining the suffering that prompted him to end his life.

European societies are no longer safe environments for African people

The abuse faced by African people are no longer confined to European stadium, but they extended to reach the daily practices of ordinary citizens. In Spain, one in three African people is subjected to racial discrimination when searching for residential house 2. Furthermore, the suffering of African people in German society has exacerbated, as they face blatant discrimination in accessing social and economic rights, such as the right to housing and food, in addition to their subjection to widespread racist practices. The best example of such is what a Nigerian man suffer from while having a picnic with his daughter; a woman shouted racist insults at him and spat his face. Although this woman was arrested, many racist crimes are not reported in the country. The security services in various European countries are often involved in systematic violations against African people, which is revealed by the arrest and beating of African teenagers in Milan in June 2021. Therefore, we need to confront crimes of racism and hatred in European societies more than ever before.

The situation of people of African descent in the United States of America

People of African descent face unfair discrimination in accessing economic and social services in American society, in addition to the unequal treatment by the police, which results in human rights crimes, most of which are extrajudicial killings. African people are most likely to suffer from poverty more than others. They also earn lower wages, hold lower skilled positions and do not have access to adequate housing, quality medical care or education. Estimates also indicate that African students are three times more likely to be expelled from

school than white students and white household wealth is 20 times that of African households 3. African women receive a lower wage compared to other groups in American society, even in neighborhoods where there is a large presence of Africans 4. . Furthermore, African families record higher rates than families of different social groups when exposed to natural disasters, epidemics and diseases. For example, 51% of African families lost their homes during the outbreak of the Covid-19 epidemic, compared to 39% of white families. They also receive less epidemic vaccines than other social groups 5.

Moreover, the police continue to practice extreme violence against African people. In August 2020, a white officer in the Kenosha Police Department shot J. B., an African man, a shot that paralyzed him, which led to the outbreak of protests against this abuse 6. In April 2021, an African individual was killed by a police officer. As a result of the protests, the police officer was taken to court and initially convicted for manslaughter. These examples represent a fraction of the discrimination faced by African people at the hands of the American police.

Recommendations:

Based on the foregoing, Elizka Relief Foundation recommends the following:

- The need to put an end to the widespread racist crimes against African players and for the FA and the FIFA continue their measures to combat this phenomenon.
- The need to eliminate the causes of racial discrimination against African people in European societies.
- The need to provide services in the African neighborhoods in American society.
- The need to train law enforcement officials to respect African people and to investigate all crimes against them to help countering the deep hatred in American society.

1(RACIAL JUSTICE. <https://bit.ly/3pLWpc8>)

2(Report: Discrimination worsens in Spain. <https://bit.ly/3zjOqWX>)

3(Ibid)

4(Black Women and the Wage Gap. <https://bit.ly/3HqIK1a>)

5(Disparities in Health and Health Care: 5 Key Questions and Answers. <https://bit.ly/3pNF02O>)

6(Timeline: How Law Enforcement Fueled Violence in Kenosha. <https://bit.ly/3eK3zY4>)



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Agenda item 4

Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by Elizka Relief Foundation, anon-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.



Human Rights Situation in Light of Climate Change in Ethiopia

Background

The impact of climate change in Ethiopia is often cited as one of the extreme examples of the negative impacts of climate change on human rights, mainly because Ethiopia has been ravaged by floods and droughts for decades, especially in the northern part of the country.

Severe drought caused by consecutive failed rainy seasons in Ethiopia, especially in the Northern parts including Tigray, Wollo, Afar, Harar and Somalia, have decimated crops and caused abnormally high livestock deaths and water shortages, which have led to instability and food insecurity. The flood waves also displaced 139,199. Environmentally displaced persons live in underdeveloped and relatively marginalized sites and settlements, which contradicts the right to adequate housing. Climate change has also affected the right to good health, as many diseases spread as a result of the lack of rainfall, as well as the activities of women in Ethiopia.

In this context, Elizka Relief Foundation participates in the interactive dialogue about the oral briefing of the International Committee of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia, focusing on climate change, severe droughts and their human rights repercussions, in particular, the right to health, food, and housing, as well as focusing on the rights of women as one of the vulnerable and marginalized groups.

First: Droughts in Ethiopia and their impact on the right to food

Climatic hazards in Ethiopia are linked to precipitation intensity, variability, and timing. Indeed, drought is a frequent phenomenon in Ethiopia, which severely affects the lives of millions of people around the country. 80% of the farm families have suffered a decline in agriculture over the past two decades.

Agricultural productivity in Ethiopia has sharply declined due to insufficient rainfall and its erratic distribution during the cropping season. The rainy season in northern Ethiopia is shorter than the crop growing period, indicating that most of the crops require not less than 80 days, however, the rainy season is not often exceeding 65 days. (1)

In addition to the above, Ethiopia suffers from the effects of the “El Niño” phenomenon on biodiversity, natural resources, the ecosystem, agriculture, water availability, soil fertility and public health. The year 2014-2015 was considered the hottest year ever, which caused significant damage to yields and food insecurity. El Niño 2015 caused huge damage to the production of major field crops (sorghum and sesame) in northern Ethiopia.

Decades-long droughts in Ethiopia, especially in the Northern parts including Tigray, Wollo, Afar, Harar and Somalia, have decimated crops and caused abnormally high livestock deaths and water shortages, which have led to instability and food insecurity. Due to lack of water for humans and livestock, several thousand people have suffered, and the lack of food has caused malnutrition, especially for children, and with further impacts on the pastoralists and semi-herders of Somalia and Afar, food insecurity has been a challenge to the Ethiopian government. (2)

Second: The increase in the number of climate migrants... The right to adequate housing:

During the rainy season in Ethiopia, rainfall was very low in some areas, and so heavy in other areas, which resulted in the internal displacement of about 202,202 people in October 2019 due to several flood incidents in Afar, Oromia and Somalia. (3) In September 2021, there were about 4.23 million internally displaced, mainly due to the bloody conflict that displaced 3.5 million (85%), drought which displaced 307,871 (7%) and monsoon floods that displaced 139,199 people (3%). (4)

Indeed, IDPs live in specified camps and settlements, in relatively underdeveloped environments. Semi-urban host communities are characterized by precarious socio-economic conditions, including chronic malnutrition, limited access to basic social services and economic infrastructure, and poor livelihood opportunities.

Fifty percent of families live in temporary, poor-quality shelters, made of old tarpaulins, old clothes, sticks and trees, sometimes three or more families share the same shelter, which violates the right to adequate and adequate housing. These camps and shelters also suffer from the effects of extreme weather, and these refugees lack security and may be exposed to theft. The challenges are multiplied for vulnerable groups. (5)

Third: Climate change and its human rights implications for the right to health care

Health centers across Ethiopia are severely understaffed, the hospital in Werder has one poorly equipped ambulance. In addition, there is electricity and water shortage, and the infrastructure depend on fuel to generate electricity 24 hours a day. There is also an acute shortage of life-saving medicines to treat disease outbreaks.

The Dolo region reported the highest number of measles cases in 2018. Malaria, chikungunya, dengue, acute watery diarrhea, cholera and meningitis are other concerns. The outbreak of these diseases is due to below-normal rainfall, lack of safe water, poor management and shortages of medicines and medical supplies.

The prevalence of open defecation practice among camps residents also exacerbates the risk of disease. Families displaced by drought are still living in temporary shelters after more than three years. Health care in Javu and Korakl is very poor, mostly due to the remoteness of health facilities that are not available within the camps. (6)

Fourth: Extreme weather phenomena and their impact on women's rights among vulnerable and marginalized groups

Climate change impacted Ethiopia in many sectors. Some aspects of the gender and climate change aspect were well articulated, particularly on the additional burden and increased time that is taken up by women in the rural context to fetch water, including by pastoral women who may spend 4 to 5 hours a day (on average) on this. Similarly, in the energy sector, studies revealed that women spend up to 3,796 hours a year collecting firewood, due to the lack of alternatives and efficient energy sources.

In health, climate change places an additional burden on women's health mainly due to their needs (limited WASH facilities for women and girls), their prescribed roles within the households (indoor air quality related to cooking and its health implications) and the additional work they have to do (fetching water and fuelwood collection which has major safety risks for women and girls), which poses a significant safety hazard for women and girls. (7)

Conclusion and Recommendations

Millions of people are already suffering from the severe catastrophic effects exacerbated by climate change in Ethiopia, which has affected the violation of many of the basic rights of citizens in Ethiopia. Within this framework, Elizka Relief Foundation presents a set of recommendations as follows:

First: The International Committee of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia should direct its attention to the violations of human rights in the wake of the severe climate changes that Ethiopia is experiencing, and issue more recommendations to the Ethiopian government on measures to reduce the effects of climate on human rights for the Ethiopian government.

Second: The Ethiopian government should encourage investment in the field of climate change mitigation, with the aim of increasing national initiatives aimed at reducing the impact of climate change on human rights in Ethiopia.

Third: In light of the poor awareness of farmers, investors, agricultural experts and other stakeholders in the agricultural sector about the time of the occurrence of extreme weather attacks, there is a need to launch awareness initiatives aimed at educating these groups, especially the El Niño and La Niña phenomenon, under the supervision of the relevant UN bodies, especially the International Committee of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia.

Fourth: International donor institutions should fund more programs to support those affected by the effects of climate change in Ethiopia, especially in conflict areas such as the Tigray region in northern Ethiopia, where those affected suffer from double challenges represented by conflict, COVID-19, and finally the scourge of drought, and therefore there is a need for more initiatives to help those affected.

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- (1) Conway, D., & Schipper, E. I. (2011). Adaptation to Climate Change in Africa: Challenges and opportunities Identified from Ethiopia. *Global Environmental Change*, <https://bit.ly/3Ln2wLx>
 - (2) FAO, El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and the main Kiremt rainy season, 30 June 2014, <https://bit.ly/3yHOXne>
 - (3) Iom, ETHIOPIA NATIONAL DISPLACEMENT REPORT 10 Site Assessment Round 27 & Village Assessment Survey Round 10: August — September 2021, December 2021, <https://bit.ly/38wgzks>
 - (4) Displacement tracking Matrix, Ethiopia — National Displacement Report 10 (August - September 2021), 13 Dec 2021, <https://bit.ly/38sQPph>
 - (5) Iom, 15 Million People Face Humanitarian Crisis Due to Drought in the Horn of Africa, 08 April 2022, <https://bit.ly/3yE9Pvy>
 - (6) internally displaced monitoring center, THEMATIC SERIES No matter of choice: Displacement in a changing climate, DECEMBER 2019, <https://bit.ly/3MI52B>
 - (7) the Ministry of Finance, and the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN ETHIOPIA WORKSHOP REPORT, 17-18 December 2019, <https://bit.ly/3wsq8c6>



United Nations

General Assembly

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Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights, in-
cluding the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Elizka Relief Foundation, anon-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[23 May 2022]

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Online Misinformation and Violation of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression in Ethiopia and South Africa

Disinformation, both at the media and security level, has become a global concern, being exploited by the threats of the digital age, and the increasing effects on the health level, especially in light of the spread of the global Coronavirus pandemic. Yet, the dilemma here is the distinction between combating misinformation, restricting personal freedoms, and undermining civil and political rights. Although most countries do not have laws to combat misinformation, many countries use them to restrict the rights of human rights defenders. Therefore, Elizka Relief Foundation presents this intervention to highlight the spread of misinformation and media threats in light of the digital age and their impact on human rights; with Ethiopia and South Africa as case studies.

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Human Rights Council

Fiftieth session

13 June–8 July 2022

Agenda item 3

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political, economic, social and cultural rights, in-
cluding the right to development**

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Recommendations

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General Assembly

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Fiftieth session

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Fifty-first session

12 September–7 October 2022

Agenda item 3

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Impact of Climate Change on the Rights of African Migrant Workers

Background

African countries have suffered from several climate change-related shocks. Although Africa accounts for only 1 percent of the world's carbon dioxide emissions, it is the most affected by the repercussions of the climate change crisis.

Repercussions of climate change are manifested by two key phenomena; illegal migration to less affected areas, making it difficult to find suitable job opportunities; and the poor economy, which forced many people to flee the poor living conditions and seek better job opportunities elsewhere.

As is the case in the regions of the African Sahel and Sub-Saharan Africa, which have been subjected to severe impacts due to climate change that affected the economic situation in the country negatively, causing the migration of its citizens in search of job opportunities and a better life.

In light of the report issued by the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), which focused on “Climate-induced migrations negatively affecting human rights”, we would like, through this contribution, to emphasize the importance of highlighting the rights of migrant workers, whether regular or irregular, as a result of climate changes in their countries of origin.

Elizka Relief Foundation confirms that data on the percentage of African migrant workers on the impact of climate change is very rare and limited, which reflects the need to highlight this issue in particular during the 51st session of the Human Rights Council held in September 2022, in light of the suffering of this vulnerable group from the deterioration of their economic situation and the pursuit of a decent standard of living for all without discrimination, in line with Goal 8 of the Sustainable Development Goals (decent work), which guarantees the provision of decent work for migrant workers.

We monitored many violations that violate the right to work without discrimination for migrants in Africa, focusing on the African Sahel and Sub-Saharan Africa regions, as follows:

First: impact of climate change on the rights of migrant workers in the African Sahel:

It is worth noting that climate-induced migration, which negatively affects human rights was the focus of the United Nations report on human rights, which was issued on the sidelines of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26). In this context, it is possible to highlight climate migration and its impact on the rights of migrants in the African Sahel region, a region that includes Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and Gambia.

Temperatures in the African Sahel region are rising 1.5 times faster than the global average, rainfall is irregular and rainy seasons are diminishing, and at other times and in some countries floods are recurrent, in addition to the suffering of the population in the region from diminishing crops and loss of pastures, which affects the way of living and incomes of the population, as for those who live in cities, especially in coastal areas, they are also at risk with rising sea levels and increasing floods, so many people are forced to leave their countries.

Those who migrate as a result of the effects of climate change often move in the Sahel under conditions that make them particularly vulnerable to labor exploitation and abuse, sometimes lacking legal status, or facing legal or practical barriers to accessing assistance

and protection, as well as support networks. Some also face intense pressure to send remittances to their families in their communities of origin that still face climate risks.(1)

In Mauritania, fisheries factories recruit Senegalese fishermen under agreements that burden them with high debts for fishing gear, reducing their earnings and their ability to provide for their families at home. A condition is also set for the presence of a Mauritanian citizen on every fishing boat.

In Mali, adolescents and young adults often migrate seasonally from rural areas to cities to engage in domestic labour, a practice that is increasing as agricultural yields shrink due to climate change. In this context, they are often abused, and there is a lack of national programs, policies, and laws that provide them with protection.(2)

Second: Effects of Climate Change on Economic Life in Sub-Saharan Africa:

There are many economic, social, cultural, political, and institutional causes that stimulate migration. In regions such as sub-Saharan Africa, demographic structure and poverty alone have the potential to displace populations. However, climate change and variability is a double factor that interacts with already underlying social and economic factors.

In Nigeria, a country already ravaged by conflict, floods have affected 80% of the country displacing an additional 600,000 people, where already harsh rural working conditions are worsened by climate change, population pressure, and scarcity of fertile land. In which case, internal and regional migration is an adaptation measure to try to improve the economic situation of the individual.

Workers in the agricultural and construction sectors are also particularly vulnerable to heat stress, due to the physical nature of work, low levels of mechanization and prolonged subjection to the outdoors. Indirectly, agricultural workers are further affected by crop failures and thus food insecurity.

Internal migration can be voluntary, viable, and valuable, but the drivers and outcomes can also vary. Internal migration may also be involuntary, i.e. migrants feel they are left with no choice but to migrate in order to provide better living conditions for themselves and their families.

Climate fluctuation is also not by far the sole determinant of migration decisions, but can contribute to making rural livelihoods less attractive by directly exacerbating working conditions for outdoor workers through heat stress. In addition, droughts and floods, in particular, can reduce economic prospects in the agricultural sector.

While cities often offer improved economic opportunities compared to rural areas, large-scale migrations from rural to urban areas may also lead to population pressure and lower living standards in those urban centers, when the ability to absorb migrants and workers is strained.

Availability of employment opportunities, as well as a city's ability to provide transportation, social services, health care, housing, and other critical infrastructure, is a key in determining whether migration is a viable option for adaptation or contributes to urban challenges.(3)

Conclusion and recommendations:

Forced migration due to climate change results in many challenges, as the people of Africa migrate forcibly from their homeland illegally, which poses more challenges, foremost of which is the right to work, especially since their entry to the other country was done illegally, and therefore it is difficult for them to enjoy a fixed-income work.

1. We call for the amendment of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers on which the Committee on Migrant Workers is based and to include forced migrant workers due to climate change, in light of the recent emergence of the climate change phenomenon as an urgent challenge and a regional and global crisis that must be focused on.
2. We call on the governments of the Member States of the United Nations to focus on achieving Goal 8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially the goal related to the rights of migrant workers, and to develop national programs for this marginalized group in their countries, in line with the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.
3. We call on the governments of African Sahel countries to develop human rights-based and community-led national adaptation and mitigation programs in the Sahel, including the development of pathways that enable regular migration as a climate change adaptation strategy.
4. We call on the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation of migrants and the Committee on Migrant Workers to work on issuing a report on the situation of African migrant workers as a result of climate change, and to open the door for stakeholders and member state governments to provide their input on the situation of African migrant workers in light of the climate change crisis in their countries.

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Agenda item 4

Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by Elizka Relief Foundation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[20 August 2022]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.

The Extrajudicial Killings and Executions in Ethiopia

The Ethiopian civil war that has been going on for nearly two years has resulted in several extrajudicial killings and executions by the Ethiopian army and pro-government militias as well as anti-government militias that the Ethiopian government has been unable to fully control or put a stop to. Grave human rights violations have happened over the past 6 months in which unarmed civilians, including women and children, have been brutally killed and had their properties either destructed or stolen. In some instances, explained below, the government did not even show up to the murder scenes or have arrived late after the assailants have left. Extrajudicial killings were not only reserved for Ethiopian civilians but have been used on non-nationals as well in the case of the execution of 7 Sudanese soldiers. This report provides details of the violations committed in the past 6 months followed by several recommendations.

First: Extrajudicial Killings/Executions by different Ethiopian Stakeholders:

The Amhara militia, a state-affiliated militia, attacked civilians in Botoro Bora kebele of Abe Dengoro woreda on February 12 2022. The armed group were originally looking for two of their members who went missing before they started attacking civilians (1). This attack happened at dawn where the militia killed whoever was in range and had consequently claimed the lives of 29 people including women and children (2). Besides extra-judicially killing civilians, the militia burnt down more than 64 houses, with people still inside of them, forcefully took several young girls and women and stole their cattle (3). The heads of 9 people were found in nearby locations strongly suggesting that they have been beheaded (4). It was reported by the residents that neither the local administration nor security forces made any attempts to counter the violence which meant that the residents were left to defend for themselves as they went to nearby kebelas to seek refuge (5).

A video circulating on social media has shown that on March 3rd, 2022 in Aysid Kebele of Guba District, Ethiopian security forces extra-judicially arrested 8 men on the basis that they have been involved in an attack on a convoy that took place the day before (6). The men were Tigrayan civilians who had a pass letter proving their release from prison (7). The government forces proceeded to torture the 8 men to force a confession out of them before killing them and burning their bodies (8). Moments later, two Gumuz civilians were also killed for expressing objection to what happened to the 8 men (9). An 11th man, who was of Tigrayan origins, was accused of having a relationship with those who were just killed and was consequently tied up and burned alive (10).

At the end of March, 2022, a vehicle, transporting an estimate of 100 militia members in Oromiya, was passing through the town of Korke when it was ambushed by a group of armed men who are suspected to be from Ethiopia's Amhara region (11). The attackers came in seven vehicles from a close by town in Amhara (12). This ambush resulted in the death of 26 people and the injury of 15 people (13). After the attack, the attackers called Oromo militia members through one of the deceased's phone to deliver a message, revealing their identity by saying that they were members of the Fano volunteer Amhara militia which is known to be a militia closely affiliated with the Ethiopian government (14).

After deterring the Oromo Liberation Army's attack in Gambella, the Ethiopian security forces committed grave human right violations against the residents themselves in June of 2022 (15). Individuals who were suspected of participating or collaborating in the OLA attack were killed by the Gambella regional forces through "door to door executions" (16). A total of 11 civilians had been killed. (17)

The deadliest attack in recent months took place on Saturday June 18, 2022 in Tole Kebele, Gimbi Woreda of West Wollega zone (18). The attack is said to have happened following some clashes between government security forces and the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA), which trapped civilians in between (19). A resident of the area has counted 230 bodies but there could be more bodies nearby (20). Twelve days later, a representative for the Prime

Minister, stated that 338 victims had already been identified (21). Most of whom that died were women and children who were unable to quickly escape the attackers. Although this attack was instantly reported to district and zonal officials, they were unable to take any action against the attackers due to the closure of roads. Government forces failed to intervene during the five-hour attack on Tole despite the existence of the local district administration just 49 kilometers away from the scene. When government forces finally arrived, it had already been hours since the OLA fighters had left the area.

Towards the end of June 2022, the Ethiopian army extra-judicially executed seven Sudanese soldiers and one civilian. The soldiers were captured in a border region adjacent to the disputed area of Al-Fashaga where there has been a long-standing quarrel between the two countries over the fertile land. Sudan's Foreign Ministry stated that the soldiers were taken into Ethiopia after they were held captive in a Sudanese area on June 22 (22). Ethiopia openly displayed the bodies of the murdered soldiers and there was even a picture proving this where the seven of them were lying motionless in their military uniforms (23). The ill treatment of prisoners before and after their death, which has been displayed by Ethiopia, is a breach of all conventions of war and international law. The killings were later confirmed by Ethiopia's Foreign Ministry who explained that the soldiers had crossed into Ethiopia with the help of rebels from the Tigray region, suggesting that that is when they were murdered (24).

Recommendations

Due to the continuous extrajudicial killings and executions committed by the Ethiopian army and pro-government militias, in addition to Ethiopia's inability to protect its citizens from other anti-government militias, Elizka relief foundation recommends the following:

1. All necessary measures must be undertaken to protect civilians including the implementation of maximum caution by all law enforcement units when conducting operations to avoid direct or indirect targeting of civilians.
2. Impartial and thorough investigations of extrajudicial arrests, killings and executions must be conducted through an independent mechanism to capture perpetrators, especially those who were in a commanding position and ensure that they are tried in a court of law.
3. Cooperate with and facilitate the work of the national human rights institution to promptly investigate human rights violations due to the ongoing conflict.
4. Appoint more peacekeeping units through UN Peacekeeping to aid and empower the Ethiopian authorities to successfully fulfill their obligations towards the Ethiopian people.

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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights, in-
cluding the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Elizka Relief Foundation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circu-
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* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.

Impact of Armed Conflicts on the Right to Development and Related Human Rights

Background

Countries are built on an interplay of long-assumed binaries; development or no development, war or peace, or respect for human rights or violation thereof, etc. These dichotomies are closely interrelated, there is no development without respect for human rights. Therefore, Elizka Relief Foundation presents this intervention in the context of its participation in the activities of the 51st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), to shed light on the right of development in three countries suffering from unstable economic conditions; namely Ethiopia, Mali and Nigeria, and the impact of the security condition on them.

First: Impact of the security condition on development in Mali

Mali has been witnessing a state of instability and conflict since 2012, as a result of the ongoing military coups and the subsequent Covid-19 crisis in 2020, which pushed the financial economy into recession.⁽¹⁾ Despite the interplay of various counter-terrorism forces and internationally supported military operations, violent attacks and revenge killings have dramatically surged across Mali during the last period. ⁽²⁾

As for the impact of the security condition on the agricultural sector, farmers were unable to cultivate their lands because the militants closed all paths leading to the farms. For example, Dogon farmers cannot work, because every time they go to the fields, they are killed by armed groups hiding around the villages. This caused a severe decline in food supplies and forced people to flee the area. Thus, they were displaced due to the security crisis. The security conditions coupled with climate change are the leading reasons behind people's displacement. Mainly, it is the security conditions that provoke displacements. At the same time, the absence of cultivation and letting agricultural areas regreen deteriorates the ecological conditions of the fields and this makes it harder for people to return. Today indeed, we are talking about five to six hundred thousand displaced in Mali. ⁽³⁾

The deteriorating security condition has also impacted the educational situation. About 320 schools were shut down in 2021, affecting nearly 100,000 students. Overall, the number of schools closed due to insecurity has increased significantly from 1,344 in January 2021 with 403,000 students affected to 1,664 schools in December 2021 with 499,200 students affected.

In addition, school closures have reportedly contributed to an increase in early marriages and the rural exodus of girls, a phenomenon that increased the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse for these girls.

Second: Impact of the security condition on development in Ethiopia

Near two years of conflict in Ethiopia has left thousands dead, forced more than two million people from their homes and pushed parts of the country into famine-like conditions. The government-imposed blockade slashed the influx of aid. There have been stark restrictions on humanitarian aid flowing to the region since the start of the conflict, including government suspensions of aid operations, blockage of aid routes, deliberate destruction of healthcare systems, and communications blackouts that hamper needs assessments ⁽⁴⁾

The conflict in Ethiopia has also resulted in the displacement of thousands of people across the country and exacerbated cases of gender-based violence, with widespread reports of physical and sexual violence, particularly against women and girls.

Survivors of gender-based violence suffer devastating effects on their physical and mental health. In conflict-affected areas, they cannot get the support they need to recover from trauma and be able to move forward. This project will help improve access to health, psychosocial support and legal services for survivors of gender-based violence in conflict-affected areas where high-quality response services are limited,” said Ousmane Dione, a Senegalese national, the Country Director for Eritrea, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan.(5)

As for the economic and social effects of the conflict in Ethiopia, after twenty months of conflict in Ethiopia, Tigray is in ruins. Almost every aspect of the region's social, cultural, economic and infrastructure has been affected. The roads leading to Tigray through the Amhara were cut off.

Addis Pharmaceutical Factory, which previously covered 70% of the national demand, was looted and destroyed, and the Eritrean and Ethiopian forces responsible for the looting killed 16 civilians who tried to stop them from destroying the factory. The Almeida textile factory was looted and destroyed on 26 December by Eritrean soldiers. Within several months, almost all the factories in central and eastern Tigray were destroyed and rendered useless.

The education sector also suffered extensive looting and destruction. Axum and Adigrat Universities were reportedly raided and vandalised by Eritrean forces, while Mekelle University suffered partial looting. Destroyed institutions also included privately owned colleges and high schools, including primary and secondary schools in Raya, Selekheleka, and Sheraro. In addition, over the course of several months, 70% of health care facilities were destroyed, and 30% were damaged. Hospitals in Adwa and Abiy Addi were destroyed, while those in Axum, Adigrat, Fasti, Freweyni, and Hawzen were raided. The long list of destroyed and vandalised health facilities includes Fredashum Health Post, Jira Health Care Unit, and Adiftaw Health Post. In addition, almost all ambulances found in eastern, central, and north-western zones were taken to Eritrea or Amhara.(6)

Third: Impact of the security condition on development in Nigeria

Nigeria's import of arms and ammunition decreased by 86.8% during the first quarter of 2022 compared to the same period in 2021. Nigeria over the years has been embattled with various insurgencies including Boko Haram terrorism, banditry, armed robbery, land border smuggling, and outright killings, amongst others. These attacks have reduced agricultural production and trade, restricted access to food and threatened many families who depend on agriculture for income. Over 100 thousand Nigerians have been displaced from their homes, often meaning the loss of livelihoods, assets, and critical support systems. This has also led to huge migration, causing overcrowding in some areas of the country that is perceived as safe. The impact that this insecurity in the country has on foreign investment can also not be overemphasized, with foreign direct investment dragging at record lows, directly affecting the economic conditions of citizens. (7)

Recommendations and Suggestions

1- We recommend the Malian government to speed up the process of the peaceful transition of power, in a manner that preserves the human rights situation in the country, especially the right to development;

2- We call on the Ethiopian government to adopt a comprehensive national dialogue that preserves the rights of different ethnicities and guarantees their right to participate in economic, social, political and cultural development;

3- We call on the Ethiopian government to abide by the rules of international humanitarian law during the conflict period, and to neutralize civil institutions, such as universities and health facilities, from the conflict;

4- We call on the relevant UN mechanisms to strengthen all means of technical support for African countries in the context of combating armed and terrorist organizations.

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Technical assistance and capacity-building

Written statement* submitted by Elizka Relief Foundation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

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* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.

Promoting Transitional Justice and Judicial Reform in South Sudan

Background

Improving the justice system and constitutional reform in order to promote peace can be possible by developing feasible ways to integrate customary or traditional laws with formal justice systems. The biggest obstacle facing South Sudan's access to appropriate legal justice is the poor justice mechanisms that are incapable to address recurrent internal disputes that sometimes escalate to acts of violence. On the one hand, many people are still ignorant of the legal resources available to them; whereas on the other hand, government violations against political opposition and human rights defenders continue nonstop. Therefore, Elizka Relief Foundation is making this contribution to determine the situation of transitional justice in South Sudan, and to improve it.

First: the right to justice and access to the truth

After nearly eight years of armed conflicts that are characterized by serious crimes under international law and other human rights violations committed by all parties to the conflict, access to justice for victims remains difficult. Impunity remains a widespread, deeply rooted phenomenon that continues to fuel the cycle of violence. Victims lack access to medical and psychosocial remedies and services.

The government lacks the political will to hold perpetrators of serious crimes accountable. The government has also failed to pursue accountability for violations and abuses committed during the armed conflict. Instead, individuals sanctioned by the UN Security Council, or otherwise implicated, for their alleged involvement in serious crimes, have been promoted and given senior positions. Government-led commissions of inquiry lack independence and impartiality and they usually have not resulted in prosecutions for serious crimes, save once. Civil courts also lack independence; prosecutors follow the directives of the executive branch and judges are subject to political interference. Military courts are not independent because the president has the power to confirm or reject judicial decisions.

On August 7, 2022 a female journalist was arrested in the capital of South Sudan while covering a protest against rising food prices. Although she was released after more than a week, the case will be referred to the court, meaning that the case is still ongoing and all the accused will be summoned to court if the case is referred thereto. (1)

On February 22, officers from the country's National Security Agency intelligence arrested eight journalists against the backdrop of a parliamentary meeting in the capital, Juba, where journalists were covering a press conference that included members of opposition parties. A group of National Security Service officers stormed the conference on the grounds that it was illegal. They confiscated journalists' recording devices and took them to the Parliamentary Security Department (PSD). (2)

Among the detained journalists were reporters for Congress-funded Voice of America, The City Review, Radio Bakhita, Radio Eye, South Sudan's Insider news website, Citizen No. 1 and Radio Miraya. They were held for hours and then released without charge. In the parliament's security office, NSA officers tried to question each journalist individually, but the reporters refused to cooperate and said they should remain as a group, and they were accused of violating the rules of covering the legislature's work.

As a result of these arbitrary practices, South Sudan ranked fourth in the Global Impunity Index CPJ, which calculates the number of unsolved journalist murders as a percentage of each country's population. (3)

Second: Reforming the Judicial System and Strengthening Transitional Justice in South Sudan

The transitional justice process in South Sudan represents a lifeline to transform society from violence to peace. It is imperative that the country's political leadership assume the primary responsibility and take serious steps to make transitional justice in South Sudan real without any form of restrictions. Therefore, Elizka presents this part to guide the process of building Transitional justice and making constitutional reform in South Sudan.

The first steps must be adopted by South Sudan to reform the justice system is strengthening the independence and capacity of the judiciary and national justice institutions, ensuring the independence of the judiciary through a review of the Judicial Authority Law, and undertaking judicial and legal reform to improve the capacity of the local justice system to address impunity for crimes committed in the context of the ongoing conflict, including by ensuring the independence of the judiciary, respecting the division of jurisdiction between military and civilian courts, and establishing a court and an independent office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. Crimes under international law should be incorporated into the penal code, including, but not limited to, genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and torture in line with definitions provided in the international law. Besides, more efforts shall be made to build the capacity of judicial staff and infrastructure, represented by courts and others. (4)

The South Sudanese government should also take serious steps to strengthen the organizational structures of the police, public prosecution, courts and prison services through mechanisms of examination, oversight, discipline, wages and training with transparency; promoting access to justice for all population groups, including refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons; and establishing police, justice and social services teams to help restore security and order in IDP, returnee and refugee camps, and other isolated areas (5)

In 2021, the Council of Ministers of South Sudan agreed to implement the accountability mechanisms under Chapter V enshrined in the 2015 and 2018 peace agreements. This step authorizes the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs to proceed with the establishment of these mechanisms. While this development has the potential to open much-needed criminal accountability for those involved in violations, no serious policies have been taken to implement this decision and accompany it with concrete measures that finalize and activate accountability mechanisms. (6)

The compensation policy is part of the South Sudan Peace Agreement and is important to start a new chapter to write the future of South Sudan. A compensation commission, a functional commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing, and a hybrid court for South Sudan must be appointed. These committees are composed of national and international jurists whose mission is to investigate violations of international law and, most importantly, the prosecution of individuals suspected of such crimes. This, in addition to other two institutions, which will constitute what is often referred to as transitional justice. There was a glimmer of hope in July 2022 when five SSDF members accused of rape were convicted, dismissed and stripped of their rank, sentenced to up to 10 years in prison, and required to pay compensation to the survivors (7)

Recommendations

Elizka Relief Foundation makes the following recommendations to promote judicial reform and transitional justice in South Sudan:

1. Elizka Relief Foundation calls on the Government of South Sudan to support the establishment of a database to collect and store information and statistical data related to the human rights of the citizens of South Sudan, and to monitor the continuous improvement of conditions;
2. Elizka recommends the Government of South Sudan develop a strategy to build the capacity of government officials at the national, state and local levels on the use of human

rights-based mechanisms for planning, policy development, monitoring and situational assessment; and to intensify the implementation of the strategy on military and police personnel, to build their capabilities to deal with citizens in accordance with human rights standards;

3. Ensuring the independence of the judiciary from the executive branch under the South Sudanese constitution, and ensure that civilians are not brought before military courts;

4. Elizka recommends the Human Rights Council to intensify the follow-up to the situation of transitional justice in south Sudan, considering that transitional justice is the only crossing for southern Sudan towards a better future in which citizens enjoy respect for their human rights.

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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
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Water Scarcity and Drought and Their Impact on Human Rights in Africa

Background

Developing African countries suffer from the repercussions of climate change and its multiple effects on all national sectors and daily activities. Human rights are threatened by recurrent climate fluctuations, due to the increase in environmentally damaging practices, which may negatively affect the right to access healthy, clean and potable water. Unsustainable human activities cause climate change, which in turn would push up the rates of natural disasters globally, topped by drought and flooding.

Africa has faced many climate shocks, topped by the drying up of Lake Chad, which was a lifeline for millions of people, leading to the displacement of most of its citizens. Terrorism has also spread widely, which has led to a decline in access to water. The Horn of Africa region is also suffering from recurrent drought and other climate-change-related disasters.

In this context, Elizka Relief Foundation values the Special Rapporteur on Water and Sanitation issuing of a special thematic report on climate change and the human rights to water and sanitation, and thanks Commissioner Pedro Arrojo-Agudo, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, for highlighting the issue of water scarcity resulting from climate change and its impact on the right to access water in his 2022 report.

Elizka would also like to emphasize the following points:

1. The right to water is one of the basic rights guaranteed to humans, which directly affects and is affected by many other rights such as the right to health, the right to life, the right to adequate housing, equality and justice;
2. The double effect of water scarcity resulting from climate change on vulnerable groups of indigenous peoples, children, the elderly, the disabled, ethnicities, IDPs and migrants;
3. The impact of water scarcity resulting from climate change in Africa on human rights, especially the right to clean water, as follows:

First: drought in Lake Chad affects the right to water:

Lake Chad was one of the largest lakes in Africa, the was considered a lifeline for more than 30 million people in Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria over the past 5 centuries. But over the past six decades, climate fluctuation has dramatically depleted the lake's size and resources. Lake Chad has lost 90 percent of its water volume since the 1960s.(1)The decreasing waters have also become uninhabitable for fish and other marine life, sharply affecting the living conditions of the communities that depend on the lake for their livelihood. (2)

The impact of climate change in the Lake Chad Basin, including warmer temperatures, drought, erratic rainfall, lower water levels, and degraded grasslands, has led to the emergence of two patterns of conflict and violence in the region. First, increased competition for scarce water resources; the second is the increase in human migration.(3)

As a result, 2.3 million people have been displaced from Lake Chad, and more than 5 million are struggling to get enough food and clean drinking water to survive; half a million children suffer from severe acute malnutrition. (4)

It is worth noting that the water supply received by the community in Chad is very low and even when they have access to water, it is likely to be polluted, only 50% of the population has access to potable water and most of the water is used for agricultural activities.

Some women also walk three or four kilometers before waiting for up to three hours in line to bring drinking water for their families, which is exhausting for them. In addition, the aquifers in the Lake Chad Basin are highly vulnerable to pollution and create a serious dilemma for the drinking water supply. Pollution results from improper disposal of waste and can cause water-borne diseases, pollution and water shortages also affect biota and vegetation. (5)

In addition to the above, Boko Haram in West Africa is exploiting these tensions to increase its operations and prey on communities throughout the Lake Chad Basin. In late 2017, more than seven million people were acutely food insecure, due to attacks by Boko Haram, and more than two million people were displaced by the intractable conflict that has plagued the region.(6)

Second: Drought in the Horn of Africa

The people of the Horn of Africa have been forced to migrate due to climatic drought, water scarcity, inter-communal conflicts and other social, economic and political insecurity, for example; drought in Somalia led to mass migration to Ethiopia and Kenya. Daily arrivals of Somali migrants fleeing the drought reached 2,000 in Ethiopia and 1,200 in Kenya. (7)

Statistics show that more than 11.6 million people do not have access to enough water to drink, cook and clean across the Horn of Africa, including 4.4 million in Ethiopia, 3.9 million in Somalia and 3.3 million in Kenya. Many water points have dried up or their quality has diminished, increasing the risks of water-borne diseases and skin and eye infections, as families are forced to ration water use and prioritize drinking and cooking over hygiene.

The current water shortages, due to extremely high temperatures, are expected to continue until September 2022. In some of the hardest-hit areas of Somalia, water prices have risen by as much as 72 percent since November 2021. The need to walk long distances to access water has also increased - in many of cases reaching double or triple the distances they would have to travel during a normal dry season – exacerbating their potential subjection to gender-based violence and drought.

Water shortages also affect infection prevention and control in health facilities and schools. In Ethiopia and Kenya, pregnant women's subjection to infection - resulting in death - increased after childbirth in both the home and health facilities due to the limited availability of water. (8)

Recommendations:

Since the eighties of the last century, the continent has suffered severely from the repercussions of climate change, due to the impact of high temperatures and severe droughts, which affected many human rights, the most important of which is the right to access water. These changes also led to the displacement of people and the harm of vulnerable groups. Elizka Relief recommends the following suggestions:

1. There is a need for the cooperation of the Special Rapporteur on water and sanitation and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights, in the context of climate change to launch a special African mechanism aimed at monitoring and following up on the progress achieved and the obstacles faced by the governments of African countries, in line with the objectives of the 2030 Agenda and focusing on the extent to which it is achieved Goal 6 and Goal 13 related to climate action and clean water.
2. The Special Rapporteur on water and sanitation should urge international donors to direct their funds towards relief for the most affected groups, especially the displaced, who have difficulty accessing clean and potable water.

3. Elizka calls on the Special Rapporteur on Water and Sanitation to urge the governments of Member States to stop the activities that pollute water and exacerbate the climate crisis, by issuing a law and specifying a severe penalty for violating this law.

4. Elizka calls the Special Rapporteur on water and sanitation to invite the governments of the Member States to establish wastewater treatment projects and plants, especially in light of the scarcity of clean water in most African countries.

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REPORTS

ELIZKA RELIEF FOUNDATION

Racial Discrimination Against Africans' Access to Adequate Health Care Submitted by: Elizka Relief Foundation

Introduction:

Despite the unprecedented progress at the international level in strengthening individuals' legal protection against discrimination, in reality, discriminatory acts and practices continue to persist. Thus, discrimination may affect to varying degrees people's treatment in all spheres of society, primarily health care and access to services. Africans have been subjected to racial discrimination, owing to their long history of suffering racial discrimination over the past years, both inside and outside Africa, where African migrants and Afro-descendants are exposed in the U.S. and the States of the EU.

In Nigeria, racial discrimination inherited by the tribes in Nigeria is widespread. The descendants of slaves suffer to date from their ancestral history of slavery and servitude, and they are deprived from their fundamental rights, including the right to adequate health care. People of African descent in America continue to suffer from racism and inequality especially with regard to access to health care, where racism is rampant in American hospitals' health care programs. In addition to the above, Somali refugees in the U.S. suffer from a lack of health insurance, and migrants have access to adequate health care especially in the Basque Country in Spain, specifically sub-Saharan African women. A detailed account of these discriminatory practices is as follows:

First: African groups subject to discrimination in relation to the right to health:

Discrimination arises from different causes and affects persons of different race, ethnic, national or social origins, such as national communities of African descent, indigenous peoples, minorities and persons belonging to different communities. Discrimination may also be practiced against persons of different cultural, linguistic or religious origins, especially with regard to their difficulty in accessing appropriate health care, thus increasing the numbers of persons with disabilities or older persons and persons with, for example, HIV or Albinism, especially in Africa.

A. Racial discrimination against tribes in Nigeria:

Racial discrimination inherited by tribes in Nigeria is widespread. Everyone has a well-known history heritage. Descendants of slaves suffer to date from their ancestral history of slavery and enslavement, and are deprived of their human rights, topped by the right to equal health care.

Although the British colonial administration formally abolished slavery in Nigeria in the early 20th century and eliminated it in the late 1940s and early 1950s, descendants of slaves retained their ancestral stigma.

These groups are struggling for their rights, including the **Igbo**, one of Africa's largest ethnic groups that were excluded during the transatlantic slave trade. It is estimated that between 10% and 20% suffer discrimination in Nigeria because they are Igbo descendants and face discrimination, especially in their access to health-care services, leading to the spread of disease among that group. Nigeria's customs also prohibit descendants of slaves from belonging to leadership positions, or to prestigious local groups, and from marrying them.

Although there are laws against such discrimination with regard to health care in the



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Nigerian Constitution, in 1956, legislators voted overwhelmingly in favor of a law prohibiting discrimination against descendants of slaves. However, it is difficult to implement these laws, especially at the grass-roots level where people pay more attention to traditional beliefs than the country's Constitution.¹

A. Challenges of accessing health care for people of African descent in the U.S.:

Racism is rampant in America, especially against African Americans who struggle to access health care and are not covered by American hospital health care programs. These inequalities contribute to widening the gaps in health insurance coverage, access to services and poor health outcomes among some populations, and African Americans bear the brunt of these health care challenges.

Although African Americans make up 13.4 percent of the U.S. population they are getting paid less than white Americans for the same jobs and lag far behind when it comes to accumulating wealth. With regard to home ownership, just over 40 percent of African Americans own a home - a rate that has remained virtually unchanged since 1968. African Americans also continue to suffer from disease and disability at very high rates and have a lower average age than other racial and ethnic groups, and are among the most economically disadvantaged populations.

South America is the designated place for Africans according to the U.S. Department of Health and the Office of Human Services for Minority Health. Since 2017, there are 58% African American living there and there are the largest share of uninsured African Americans.

Some states have also set out 20 requirements to apply for the health system, which have deprived them of the insurance coverage they desperately need. Despite coverage under the Health Care Act (ACA), the cost of coverage is high and continues to rise in order to have access to affordable or adequate health care for Africans, and despite the existence of this law, many African Americans are still suffering.

African families spend about 20 percent of the family's income annually in health care premiums in addition to sudden illnesses and medicines, causing families to suffer financially. Taking into consideration the income inequality and other economic challenges of this population group.²

The Coronavirus pandemic has exposed deeply-rooted racism. Blacks are also over-represented for deaths related to COVID-19, compared to other minorities. Detroit, where black people make up the majority of its population with 80%, has been found to be the most affected city by the virus, compared to the cities of Michigan, accounting for 40% of deaths in the U.S.

In Chicago, black people's deaths represent 100% of all deaths in the city. In Louisiana, where blacks represent 32% of the population, they represent 70% of coronavirus deaths. The racial gap plays a significant role in conducting HIV detection and treatment tests, as well as the distribution of medicine and the lack of equipment and medical staff in these communities, which has led to catastrophic repercussions of the disease.³

Second: The status of African migrants with regard to access to the right to

¹ Thomson Reuters Foundation, *Nigeria's Slave Descendants Hope Race Protests Help End Discrimination*, June 29, 2020. <https://bit.ly/3NFo9rP>

² Jamila Taylor, Racism, *Inequality, and Health Care for African Americans*, THE CENTURY FOUNDATION , Washington. <https://bit.ly/3GkQGR3>

³ Ibid



health:

A. Somali Migrants in the U.S.

The civil war in Somalia has caused widespread resettlement of Somali refugees in U.S, and there is a disparity in the health care of Somali refugees, especially in the health of Somali women linked to beliefs that contradict Western medicine and life conditions.

These conflicting health beliefs have led to varying expectations for treatment and health care interactions. Due to unfulfilled expectations, Somali women and health care providers have reported multiple frustrations that often reduce perceived quality of health care. Furthermore, concerns have arisen about mental health and reproductive decision-making.

Somali migrants suffer from a lack of health insurance and often difficult payment systems. These obstacles are the result of migrants' lack of access to the necessary health care. Minnesota is one of the least diverse states in the nation with people of color accounting for only 13% of the state's population compared to 32% nationally.

Health care professionals are often ethnically different from other migrant patients who are unaware of good communication and connection in order to understand and adhere to medical treatments. Migrants suffer from chronic diseases such as diabetes and depression at higher rates of disease than non-migrant populations.⁴

Mistreatment affects Somalis' healthy lives due to prejudice, racism and unprofessional behavior of health care workers in Bute hospitals.⁵

B. Migrants from sub-Saharan Africa to the EU:

Migrants have access to adequate health care, especially in the Basque Country of Spain, specifically sub-Saharan African women. European countries have established legal conditions for irregular migrants and asylum seekers who access health care who usually come from low-income countries. They have severe restrictions on legal access to health care, as a result of their difficult social situation and poor living conditions. As well as a lack of awareness of their rights, fear of reporting to the police and poor knowledge of the local language that hinders their access to health care.

Women suffer more from mental, sexual and reproductive health problems than men, making them more health care professionals and more vulnerable to gender-based violence during the migration process.

One of the most important barriers to migrants' access to health-care services is: **structural racism "ideologies** that work on preference and **division on racial and ethnic grounds**, creating "undesirable others "or" threats to the nation ".

In France, Migrant women from Africa, former French colonies and Turkey were 2:4 times more likely to be abused by caregivers than indigenous people, with their origin and skin color being among the main interpretative factors in general.

Health care data for migrants in Spain show less use in health care, in return they achieve better health outcomes. Some studies have shown that African women have maltreatment towards health-care consultations and tests in prenatal care compared to indigenous people, lack of adherence to HIV medical treatment, nor can we cover poor communication due to local

⁴ national library of medicine, *Somali Immigrant Women and the American Health Care System: Discordant Beliefs, Divergent Expectations, and Silent Worries*, Apr2010. <https://bit.ly/3sY8njW>

⁵ Faiza Mahamud and Mary Lynn Smith, *Somali group pushes to end Minnesota health care disparities*, Star Tribune, AUGUST 10, 2020. <http://strib.mn/3GHgXtf>



language, care procedures and conditions, discrimination and prejudice, different health beliefs and habits, and social risk factors.

Some studies have shown that migrant women from sub-Saharan Africa have been identified as facing the greatest barriers to access to public health care services compared to migrant women of other origins, owing to historical and social relationships influenced by racism and gender.⁶

There was unequal access to quality health care, and the ACA had led to expansions in health insurance coverage. However, racial and ethnic minorities are still likely to have unequal opportunities, receive poor quality care and have worse health outcomes.⁷

The spread of the Covid-19 has highlighted the apparent discrimination in the EU against African migrants, especially irregular migrants, where dozens of migrants have not had access to health care. Africans have not been able to obtain the necessary medical vaccines to prevent HIV, and hospitals didn't often receive them, exacerbating migrants' health crisis, despite legislation indicating equal access to health care for everyone living in the EU.⁸

Conclusion and Recommendations

Discriminatory incidents or practices have a negative impact on African societies and their people, as they often constitute a denial of their distinctive human characteristics and thus deny their inherent right to be differentiated between human beings of equal value regardless of their skin color, origin, gender, religion, etc. African peoples are the most vulnerable to racial discrimination, both within and outside their African societies in the European Union and the United States of America. Given this framework, Elizka Relief Foundation makes a set of recommendations as follows:

1. Governments of African States should work to amend their legislation to bring it into line with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in order to ensure equal access for all African peoples to fundamental rights, including the right to adequate health care.
2. The Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health should periodically report on Governments' compliance with international conventions on the prevention of racial discrimination, in particular with regard to the right to full access to health-care services.
3. The Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health urges Governments to administer coronavirus vaccines to all their citizens, regardless of their being migrants, refugees or people of African descent.

Humanitarian organizations should work to support women who are subjected to racial discrimination that impedes their access to appropriate medical services by launching their own support programs and meeting their basic needs, especially for pregnant women and mothers in need of special health care.

⁶ International Journal for Equity in Health, *Sub-Saharan African immigrant women's experiences of (lack of) access to appropriate healthcare in the public health system in the Basque Country, Spain*, 2019. <https://bit.ly/3m8JWN7>

⁷ AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION, *The Impact of Racism on the Health and Well-Being of the Nation*, MAY2022. <https://bit.ly/3wLTjHi>

⁸ Theguardian, *French coronavirus study finds black immigrant deaths doubled at peak*, 7 July 2020:<https://bit.ly/3PRs8U0>



ELIZKA RELIEF FOUNDATION

Report Submitted to the Committee against Torture on the List of Issues of Ethiopia

Submitted by: Elizka Relief Foundation

Submitted to: Committee against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Submitted in: June 2022

Elizka Relief Foundation presents this report to the Committee against Torture regarding Ethiopia being reviewed at the 75th session under the list of issues. Ethiopia acceded to the Convention against Torture (hereinafter referred to as the Convention) on March 14, 1994, and did not make reservations to any of the articles of the convention⁹, and once the convention entered into force, it became part of Ethiopian domestic law. But Ethiopia has not acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, Ethiopia submitted its combined second and third periodic report on March 6, 2020, which was to be submitted in 2014. This calls for Ethiopia to speed up the process of handing over documents to the UN Treaty Committees.

Article 1: Definition of torture

The definition of torture in the Ethiopian Criminal Code, specifically in Article 242, includes acts committed by government officials charged with arresting, imprisoning, monitoring, escorting, or interrogating a suspect, arrested or detained person, these acts include the employee's use of his authority to threaten or treat a person in his possession in an inappropriate or brutal manner or in a manner inconsistent with human dignity, whether through physical or mental torture or cruel treatment, whether to obtain a statement or confession, or to force him to give testimony¹⁰.

Whoever commits this crime shall be punished with simple imprisonment (imprisonment for a period not exceeding seven hours per day) or a fine. In serious cases, the penalty shall be rigorous imprisonment, and the penalty in these cases shall not exceed ten years. If the crime was committed by order of an official, the employee shall be punished with imprisonment for a period not exceeding 15 years with payment of the prescribed fine. It is noted that the definition contained in the Criminal Code of Ethiopia overlooks a range of elements contained in the definition contained in Article 1 of the Convention, which calls for proceeding with the amendment of the Criminal Code to include all the elements of the

⁹ Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Ethiopia, <https://bit.ly/3wklInz>

¹⁰ Criminal Code of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Article 242, Page 143, <https://bit.ly/38lxlgD>



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definition of torture in the Convention, as indicated by the Committee in the concluding observations on the first periodic report submitted by Ethiopia to the Committee against Torture and the recommendations made by the Ethiopian Human Rights Committee in this context.

Questions:

Can the Committee request Ethiopia to clarify the steps taken recently to amend the definition of torture in line with Article 1 of the Convention?

Article 2: Effective measures to eliminate torture

In its concluding note on the first periodic report submitted by Ethiopia to the Committee against Torture, the Committee expressed its concern about widespread practices of torture by police forces, law enforcement officials and other members of the security forces¹¹. In the context of its work to prevent the spread of torture, Ethiopia has taken a set of measures aimed at reducing practices that may amount to torture. Ethiopia has closed a number of prisons and detention centers, for example, on July 4, 2018, the Maekelawi prison in Addis Ababa was closed, a prison that witnessed a widespread pattern of torture and other forms of abuse against political opponents and human rights defenders¹².

But at the same time, torture practices continued in other prisons, and they did not rehabilitate torture victims, including providing psychological support¹³, or even providing any kind of compensation to the victims¹⁴. In specific facts that support the above, on May 2, 2022, Elizka Relief Foundation examined some photos that prove the Ethiopian security forces' implication of some children in torturing a person with disabilities until he bled. A political activist called "AH", an activist from the Oromo minority, was imprisoned based on his political activism. He was subjected to various types of abuse and practices that may amount to torture during his detention. Even after his release, he remained under the threat of forcible arrest, which made him flee to Libya and from there to Italy via the Mediterranean.

All the previous practices are inconsistent with the provision of the first paragraph of Article 2 of the Convention, which requires that sufficient effective legislative, administrative, and judicial measures be taken to eradicate torture.

In documented testimonies of the citizens of Tigray who were released by

¹¹ Concluding observations, Para 10, <https://bit.ly/3FwNNwd>

¹² Ethiopia closes Maekawa prison, restores internet across the country, Africa News, 4 July 2018, <https://bit.ly/3vVUncq>

¹³ Ethiopia: Decades of impunity for perpetrators have created a torture-prone system, World Organization Against Torture | OVCT, 29 July 2021, <https://bit.ly/3ys3zqO>

¹⁴ Ethiopia: End culture of impunity to heal from decades of human rights violations, Amnesty international, 2 June 2021, <https://bit.ly/3FF6CNV>



the Ethiopian army in the Afar region, it was reported that they faced torture, cruel, and degrading treatment. More than 1,500 people were detained in the "Awash Arba" military camp in the northern Afar region adjacent to the Tigray region. According to the testimonies seen by Elizka Relief Foundation, the detainees faced routine beatings and torture, and they lacked access to clean water and were denied the assistance of a lawyer¹⁵. In a related context, the Ethiopian federal forces interrogated a 74-year-old person for about a week in the Babakir military camp. He stated in his testimony that he was beaten, kicked, and slapped. He also explained that one of his friends lost his eye while another friend partially lost the sense of hearing¹⁶.

According to the World Organization Against Torture, many prisons continue to witness abusive practices against detainees. Many prisoners were held incommunicado and deprived of sunlight. At the same time, others were unable to access health care. Some of them lost consciousness after being subjected to various types of abuse and continuous torture. On April 17, 2021, the Ethiopian security forces, backed by the Amhar militia, detained two men, aged 60 and 48, respectively, from the village of Shagliel, who looted the two men's funds and were repeatedly tortured during arrest¹⁷.

Elizka Relief Foundation also notes that although corporal punishment is prohibited in schools and in child care institutions, it is not prohibited as a disciplinary measure in homes and alternative care places, which calls for amending the Criminal Code and the Family Law with the aim of prohibiting corporal punishment in the home and in alternative care settings and educating citizens about positive and non-violent education¹⁸.

Questions?

- 1. Does the committee request the state to clarify the measures it has recently taken to curb torture practices, whether inside or outside prisons?*
- 2. What measures has the Ethiopian government taken to prohibit disciplinary sanctions in homes and in alternative care settings?*

Article 3: The right to non-refoulement

Article 3 of the Convention prohibits returning a person to his country if

¹⁵ "We thought he was dead": Tigrayans speak of torture in detention, African Arguments, 25 October 2021, <https://africanarguments.org/2021/10/we-thought-he-was-dead-tigrayans-speak-of-torture-in-detention-tigray-war-ethiopia/>

¹⁶ Ibid, page 111.

¹⁷ "WE WILL ERASE YOU FROM THIS LAND" CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY AND ETHNIC CLEANSING IN ETHIOPIA'S WESTERN TIGRAY ZONE, Amnesty International, page 109, <https://bit.ly/3P5Mnxb>

¹⁸ Corporal punishment of children in Ethiopia, End VIOLENCE Against children, page 5, <https://bit.ly/3kV2b7U>



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there are reasons to believe that he would be in danger of being subjected to torture. Ethiopia's Refugee Declaration No. 1110/2019 also stipulates the right of non-refoulement of refugees.

However, the Ethiopian government did not respect the text of this article, and returned Eritrean refugees to the country they had fled from, which had fought alongside the Ethiopian National Defense Forces. In his report to the Human Rights Council in May 2021, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea suggested that Ethiopia forcibly returned Eritrean refugees and asylum seekers and placed these refugees in secret detention centers¹⁹. While a number of refugees who were returned by Ethiopia to refugee camps in the Tigray region expressed their fears that Ethiopia would return them to Eritrea. These refugees are located in four camps: Shimelba; Hitsat; Mai Aini; Uday Haroush²⁰, and this requires the Ethiopian government not to take any steps that would return these refugees to countries where their lives would be endangered or any other practices that might amount to torture.

Questions:

Can the committee request the state to disclose data regarding the number of refugees that Ethiopia has returned to their countries of origin?

Article 11: Interrogation of detainees

In the first week of November 2021, the security forces in Ethiopia arrested about 1,000 people, after declaring a state of emergency on November 2, 2021, as the Ethiopian government considered that these people were linked to the Tigray Liberation Forces, according to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights²¹. The Ethiopian government has violated the text of Article 11 of the Convention, which regulates the rules of interrogation and the treatment of persons subjected to any form of arrest, as the detainees were not informed of their places of detention, were not charged with formal charges and were not allowed to communicate with their families or a lawyer to defend them, and finally, they were not brought to a legal trial. In a related context, reliable reports confirmed that the people who were detained did not submit to the interrogation rules contained in the Convention against Torture, and confessed to committing crimes they did not

¹⁹ Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea, Mohamed Abdulsalam Baicker*, para 68, page 16, https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/A_HRC_47_21_E.pdf

²⁰ Ethiopia returning Eritrean refugees to Tigray camps; U.N. concerned over move, Reuters, 11 December 2020, <https://reut.rs/3sPFITN>

²¹ Ethiopia: Mass arbitrary arrests target Tigrayans, says UN rights office, UN NEWS, 11 November 2021,

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/11/1105892>

commit under torture²². Thus, Ethiopia has violated the guarantees contained in the Ethiopian constitution and its domestic legislation, as the interrogation of detainees occurred in an atmosphere characterized by intimidation and a lack of the lowest human rights standards, in violation of fundamentally Ethiopia's commitments that it has ratified and the commitments it made during the universal periodic review.

Questions:

The Committee is requested to request the State party to disclose the number of detainees in connection with the declaration of emergency in November 2022 and the number of those who have been prosecuted?

Article 12, 13 Ensuring accountability and fair redress

Rape and sexual violence are both forms of physical torture²³. Although crimes such as rape and sexual violence are prohibited under Ethiopian laws, however, Ethiopian forces practiced multiple forms of sexual violence, including rape, gang rape, torture, and sexual mutilation, against women and girls in the Tigray region. These violations were practiced by the Ethiopian government forces along with the Ethiopian National Defense Forces, the National Defense Army and their allied Fano militias, in addition to the Eritrean forces²⁴. These violations occurred in a systematic framework to intimidate the survivors and members of their families²⁵, and these crimes are considered crimes against humanity under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Health centers in Tigray Province documented nearly 1,200 cases of sexual violence against women from February to April 2021 only. Some independent reports have claimed that the perpetrators of the Ethiopian security forces were acting without the slightest fear of their leaders, and that it was the military leaders who facilitated a wide range of practices amounting to torture²⁶.

Some of the women reported that they had been raped multiple times; other women's testimony stated that they had been gang-raped by forces allied with the Ethiopian army. There is no doubt that the previous incidents occurred under the guarantee of non-accountability and impunity, which deepened these practices²⁷. Some women who were raped filed complaints but were not responded to. In 2018, the Ethiopian Prime Minister, Abiy Ahmed, admitted that the Ethiopian security

²² Diagnostic Study of the Ethiopian Criminal Justice System, Page 111, <https://bit.ly/3N5oibj>

²³ Prosecuting Rape and Other Forms of Sexual Violence as Acts of Torture Under, <https://law.stanford.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/McIlroy-Prosecuting-Sexual-Violence-as-Torture-DOJ-Part-1.pdf>

²⁴ "I DON'T KNOW IF THEY REALIZED I WAS A PERSON, Amnesty International, page 16, <https://bit.ly/37w5oHU>

²⁵ SITUATION REPORT March 202, Page 9, <https://bit.ly/3Pbrnox>

²⁶ Ibid, Page 33

²⁷ Amnesty reports widespread rapes 'with impunity' in Tigray, The Associated Press, 11 August 2021, <https://bit.ly/3Fx2tv4>

forces practiced torture against detainees in prisons. The methods of torture included: solitary confinement; detention in darkened cells, however, the real perpetrators remained with complete impunity²⁸. Despite numerous requests from human rights organizations, the federal and provincial police commissions failed to investigate complaints of torture allegations and did not disclose the number of complaints they received from individuals alleging human rights violations by the police, and the number of perpetrators held to account²⁹.

Questions:

- 1. May the Committee request the State party to clarify whether it has brought any suspects of crimes of torture to criminal trial?*
- 2. Does the State party clarify the official channels through which victims of torture can submit complaints if they have been subjected to any form of torture or abuse?*

²⁸ Ibid, 265, <https://bit.ly/38dxt01>

²⁹ Ethiopia must address impunity for human rights abuses by security forces. Ethiopia Insight, 5 April 2022, <https://bit.ly/3N8WvmZ>



ELIZKA RELIEF FOUNDATION

Written Contribution on Taxes, Illicit Financial Flows and Human Rights in Kenya and Uganda

By: Elizka Relief Foundation

To the Independent Expert on the Effects of Foreign Debt and Other Related International Financial Obligations

Permeable

Illicit financial flows is considered a global challenge. This terms refers to funds of illicit origin, originating from several illicit sources such as organized crime, which purpose is to finance terrorism or the nature of their diversion, such as money-laundering. Criminal activities linked to illicit financial flows can destabilize States and increase the risk of violent conflict, with an estimated \$1.6 trillion lost each year to illicit international financial flows.

Many countries in the world are currently facing the accumulated risks of high debt distress, illicit financial flows, and the severe social and economic impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic. Due to the lack of tax fairness, countries around the world lose a total of \$483 billion annually due to abuses. In this context, Elizka Relief Foundation makes this contribution on the impact of illicit financial flows on human rights, with Uganda and Kenya as case studies, and Elizka presents its vision for reforming the global tax system.

First: Impact of Taxes and Illicit Financial Flows on Human Rights in Uganda

Each year, the Ugandan economy loses over UGX 2 trillion (US\$550 million) in illicit financial flows (IFFs), including corruption, money laundering, organized crime, and tax evasion. The lack of information on company ownership handicaps the Ugandan government's ability to successfully track these criminal actors and recover valuable tax revenue.³⁰

Although Uganda had made little progress in making the Ugandan tax system fair and humane. This is because the state relies to a large extent on indirect taxes - excise tax, VAT and customs - which disproportionately affect low-income earners, especially women, because they spend a higher proportion of their income on consumer goods for their families.³¹

Despite the state's efforts, however, there is a continuous decline in the tax system, affecting low-income people. Indirect taxes contribute to 64.42% of Uganda's total tax revenue in the fiscal year, as the tax administration system faces many challenges that contributed In Uganda's failure to meet annual revenue collection targets. These challenges include tax and investment incentives that are costing Uganda more than \$5 billion. This exceeds the total budget allocated to the sectors of health, agriculture, water, environment and social development, according to the latest report on tax expenditures by the Ministry of Development and Economic Cooperation. In addition to this prevailing tax system, the impact of the Corona pandemic has reduced government revenues and grants by about \$626 million.

Despite Uganda registering a 51% increment in the Total Tax Revenue collection during the last five years from, Government spending has continued to outstrip revenues, increasing the annual budget deficit from 4.1% to 6.3% of GDP. The government has continued to borrow

³⁰ GFI, Corporate Transparency: A guide for beneficial ownership laws in Uganda <https://bit.ly/39xOyZW>

³¹ Independent, New report hints on Uganda's tax opportunities <https://bit.ly/3ls2QOm>

domestically and externally to finance the deficit. Which means that generations of Ugandans are obliged to continue to pay public debt from their taxes at the expense of social sector development and improved service delivery.³²

Second: Impact of Taxes and Illicit Financial Flows on Human Rights in Kenya

Kenya annually loses a significant share of its resources due to illicit financial flows. It loses nearly \$4.3 billion annually, nearly half of its annual domestic revenue³³. The absence of tax justice is also a reason for the absence of social justice and for the lack of sufficient revenue to finance public services such as education, health and social welfare. The wealthiest 0.1% of the population owns more than the bottom 99.9%.³⁴

Kenya is also an attractive destination for illicit funds, as administrative gaps and poor enforcement strategies continue to stand in the way of the State's ability to publicize the list of individual owners of "shell" companies that hide funds not illegally obtained in foreign bank accounts in order to avoid paying taxes. This continues even after the Kenyan Parliament amended the Companies Act 2015 through Section 93A in October 2020, which requires companies to disclose beneficial owners of their shares in their members' registry. However, this has not been distinguished as shown by the Network that persons facilitating illicit capital flows use legal means such as companies and trust funds to conceal their illicit wealth. Which considers Kenya to be the largest trading center in East Africa of States complicit in helping individuals conceal illicit funds from the rule of law.³⁵

Kenya and the International Monetary Fund also approved a \$2.3 billion loan program in 2021, which includes a three-year public sector wage freeze and increased taxes on cooking gas and food, as more than 3 million Kenyans face acute hunger, and Kenya intends to freeze or reduce public sector wages and jobs. Which means lower quality education and fewer nurses and doctors.³⁶

Third: A Vision of the Global Tax System

In early 2022, the Group of Seven (G7) countries reached an agreement on some decisions to reform the economic system. This included two pillars related to taxation. The first pillar aims to ensure a better distribution of taxes to multinational companies according to the countries in which they operate, while the second aims to control Tax competition on corporate profits by introducing a global minimum tax of 15% from 2023.³⁷

But despite these efforts, the first pillar will apply only to multinational companies with a global turnover of more than 20 billion euros and profitability of more than 10%, meaning that this solution will only apply to about 100 multinational companies. Moreover, this pillar does not

³² Oxfam, Strengthen the Tax system to reduce the income and gender inequalities in Uganda <https://bit.ly/3PufHgQ>

³³ The Star, Africa losing close to Kenya's GDP to illicit financial flows, report <https://bit.ly/3NfuHgK>

³⁴ Transparency International, RALLYING EFFORTS TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS – AFRICA INEQUALITIES INITIATIVE (REAP) <https://bit.ly/3FXOxmy>

³⁵ PD, Why Kenya risks losing the fight on money laundering <https://bit.ly/3yNE0Ap>

³⁶ Reliefweb, IMF must abandon demands for austerity as cost-of-living crisis drives up hunger and poverty worldwide <https://bit.ly/37Zv3ZX>

³⁷ Whitecase, Two-Pillar Solution to Address the Tax Challenges Arising from the Digitalization of the Economy: 15% Minimum Tax for Multinationals <https://bit.ly/3lmyhd4>

reallocate all the profits of multinational corporations within its scope of operation. This applies only to 25% of profit.

The second pillar of the proposal seeks to address the issues of the erosion of the domestic tax base and the diversion of profits due to the exploitation by multinational companies of gaps and mismatches between different countries' tax systems. These practices cost countries US \$100-240 billion in lost revenue annually. The current proposal to set the minimum tax rate at 15 per cent is unlikely to discourage multinational corporations from transferring profits, especially given that African countries have 25 to 30 per cent corporate income tax rates. These pillars are insufficient to address Africa's major tax issues and have failed to address the current imbalance in the distribution of tax rights that has not been addressed.³⁸

Recommendations

- **First:** Elizka Relief Foundation urges the Government of Uganda to **take progressive tax measures to increase the contribution of revenue from wealth and companies to fund social support programs to alleviate the coronavirus crisis** and make personal income taxes more progressive by raising the threshold of entry to the "Tax on earnings", by raising tax rates for higher categories, by providing additional tax brackets for higher incomes, by focusing compliance efforts on higher earners.
- **Second:** Elizka Relief Foundation recommends the Ugandan Government to expedite the **implementation of the tax expenditure governance framework to help manage tax exemptions**, which should include rules on tax expenditures to assess the efficiency, impact and fairness of tax incentives and, if necessary, remove them.
- **Third:** Elizka Relief Foundation invites the Special Rapporteur to provide the necessary technical support to the Government of Kenya to eliminate the phenomenon of illicit financial flows, and recommends Kenya to make **substantial amendments to eliminate the phenomenon of money-laundering through legal frameworks**.
- **Fourth:** Elizka Relief Foundation invites the independent expert on the effects of external debt to **issue a memorandum on the elimination of illicit financial flows and the reform of tax regulations, taking into account the particular nature of each region of the world**, and the different challenges between regions.

³⁸ FES, Global Tax System Reform – will it help to address the Plight of African Women? <https://bit.ly/38x6CDv>



Elzika Relief Foundation Submission to the U.N. Human Rights Committee Prior to the Adoption of the List of Issues: 130 Session

(Case study: The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia)

Elzika Relief Foundation is a non-profit organization in consultative status with United Nations Economic and Social Council. Elzika focuses on promoting human rights and protecting different rights and freedoms on a regional and international basis.

This report provides an overview of the human rights developments since the Committee's last review of Ethiopia. It concludes that the Government of Ethiopia has failed to uphold its human rights obligations regarding freedom of assembly, association, and speech. It has also engaged in arbitrary arrest and detention, as well as extrajudicial executions.

1. Article 9: The State Party fails to protect the Right to Life, Liberty and Security of Persons.

In its May 2020 report, Amnesty International provides accounts of a surge in ethnic violence where the security forces failed in their duty to protect, thus resulting in thousands of killings across the country. State-sponsored violence appears to have returned between December 2018 and December 2019³⁹. The report provides first account details and abundant evidence of gross human rights violations including numerous cases of summary executions, arbitrary detention, torture, and sexual violence committed by the Ethiopian Security forces⁴⁰.

It was noted that persistent allegations of violations of the right to life due to efforts intended by politicians to mobilize election support, there by stirring up ethnic and religious animosities, sparking inter-communal violence and armed attacks in five of the country's nine regional states: Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Harari, Oromia and the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR), as well as in the Dire Dawa administrative state⁴¹.

Furthermore, the heightened tension in Amhara after the Qimant, a minority group, voted for their own autonomous administrative unit in September 2017, resulted in clashes between the Amhara and Qimant communities. A report reveals that the Liyu police, local administration militia and two Amhara youth vigilante groups joined forces to attack members of the Qimant community in January 2019, and again between September- October 2019, leaving at least 100 people dead and hundreds displaced, and properties destroyed⁴².

Arbitrary Arrests, Detention and Disappearances

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Ibid.

Following the events of a foiled coup on 22nd June 2019, which claimed the lives of the Chief Administrator of the Amhara region, Dr Ambachew Mekonnen, Azez Wassie, the Amhara regional state political advisor on organizational matters, the army chief of staff, Gen. Seare Mekonnen, along with retired Gen. Gezai Abera,⁴³ there were reports of indiscriminate arrests and disappearances.

On 27th June, 56 party members of the National Movement of Amhara and sympathizers were arrested in Addis Ababa. Dozens were also arrested in the ethnically based Oromia region⁴⁴.

Furthermore, the disappearance of Senior members of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) political party was alleged as one of the measures used by the current Government to maintain control of the simmering ethnic tensions⁴⁵.

Suggested Questions relating to Article 9

- What steps have the Ethiopian government taken to investigate the allegations of extrajudicial executions and enforced disappearances?
- What measures have been taken to hold perpetrators accountable?
- What measures are in place to prevent law enforcement officials from conducting arbitrary arrests?

Article 14: The State Party fails to provide fair trials and hearing

There were reports of arrests of political opposition members, journalists and other citizens who were critical of the government and who faced unfair trials on charges brought under the ATP law. These trials were marked by illegal and prolonged pre-trial detention, unreasonable delays and persistent complaints of torture and other ill-treatment⁴⁶.

In January 2019, the police arrested Colonel Gemechu Ayana, a prominent Oromo Liberation Front member, and detained him on terrorism charges for eight months, under inhumane conditions and in violation of ATP provisions which allow for a maximum four months' pre-trial detention period⁴⁷.

Following the assassinations in June 2019, of the Amhara Regional State president and the Chief of Army in Addis Ababa, hundreds of people were arbitrarily arrested. Among those targeted were leaders of the Amhara Nationalist Movement (a political party),

⁴³ The Guardian, *Ethiopian army chief killed by bodyguard and regional leader dead in coup attempt* (June 23, 2019). Available online at <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jun/23/ethiopia-coup-attempt-leaves-army-chief-shot-says-pm>

⁴⁴ France 24, *Dozens of Amhara party members arrested after Ethiopia Coup Attempt*, (June 27, 2019). Available online at <https://www.france24.com/en/20190627-ethiopia-dozens-amhara-state-party-members-arrested-failed-coup-attempt-spokesman>

⁴⁵ UNPO, *Oromo: UNPO Calls for Due Process for Detained Political Leaders* (July 14, 2020). Available online at <https://unpo.org/article/21976>

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Amnesty International, *Beyond Law Enforcement: Human Rights Violations by Ethiopian Security Forces in Amhara and Oromia*, (May 2020). Available online at <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/AFR2523582020ENGLISH.PDF>

government officials, journalists, opposition political party leaders and members of the Addis Ababa Caretaker Committee which promotes administrative autonomy for residents of Addis Ababa⁴⁸.

In July 2019, dozens of Sidama activists, were arrested on suspicion of instigating the communal violence in Sidama Zone as a result of their quest for self-determination. They included employees and leaders of the Sidama Media Network. They were held in detention until the end of the year without being charged, in a prison in Halaba town, over a 100 km from their families⁴⁹.

Suggested Questions to the State Party relating to Article 14

- What steps have the State Party taken to ensure that all prisoners are made aware of their rights and provided with adequate options for a fair hearing or trial?
- What measures have been provided to ensure that victims of such arbitrary arrests and detentions have access to fair trials?

Article 19: The State Party fails to uphold the rights to the freedom of expression Despite some progress since the 2018 political reforms, there were numerous arbitrary arrests in the name of the ATP, targeting journalists and writers who criticized the government. In August 2019, Fire Bekele, a University lecturer along with 8 others were arrested for facilitating a publication called *The Hijacked Revolution*⁵⁰. The police questioned them about the author's identity and released some of them weeks later but detained the publisher until the end of November when he was released after the police dropped the terrorism charges.

In September, the police arrested five journalists who worked for *Segele Qerro Bilisuma*, an Oromia online media outlet⁵¹. They were charged under provisions of the repressive Anti-Terrorism Proclamation 2009 (ATP), and detained at Addis Ababa Police Commission for over two months before being released unconditionally.

Furthermore, Tigray Regional State security forces, including the regional police and the local administration militia, targeted perceived or actual supporters of the Wolkait Amhara Identity Committee after it petitioned the Tigray Regional State and the federal government for Wolkait district to become part of Amhara Regional State. Victims and other witnesses said that those targeted were subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention, torture and other ill-treatment on the basis of their Amhara identity, for speaking Amharic, or listening to Amharic music⁵².

Suggested Questions to the State Party relating to Article 19

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Ibid

⁵⁰ Committee of Concerned Scientists, *Lecturer at Rift Valley University in Ethiopia Arrested for Assistance in writing book critical of Ethiopian Government* (October 24, 2019). Available at <https://concernedscientists.org/tag/firew-bekele/>

⁵¹ Amnesty International, *Ethiopia: Release Journalist arrested on unsubstantiated terrorism charges* (October 4, 2019). Available online at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/10/ethiopia-release-journalists-arrested-on-unsubstantiated-terrorism-charges/>

⁵² Ibid.

- How does the State Party investigate allegations of threats and acts of violence against representatives of the media and journalists?
- Please provide data of the results of such investigations during the reporting period.
- Please provide data relating to lawsuits brought against journalists and media outlets, including the nature of the claim, the plaintiff, and the outcome of each proceeding.
- How does the State Party ensure that lawsuits brought against journalists and media outlets do not hinder legitimate activities of the media as protected under the Article 19?
- How does the State Party guarantee that legitimate activities of the media and journalists are not inhibited by arbitrary, unjustified, or politically motivated lawsuits?



ELIZKA RELIEF FOUNDATION

Call for inputs: Armed Conflict and Disability – the Conduct of Hostilities, Military Operations and Peacekeeping Operations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities May 15, 2022

Elizka Relief Foundation

Background

During conflicts, all affected civilians face many challenges, and people with special needs suffer most from exacerbated institutional, behavioral, environmental and risk factors during crises or in conflict situations.

More than 1 billion people worldwide have disabilities, 16% of whom are attributed to armed conflicts, and everyone living in conflict faces unimaginable challenges in seeking to protect themselves and their loved ones.

For persons with disabilities, these challenges can be more difficult as many face additional barriers in seeking protection for some, especially women and girls with disabilities, who are physically unable to flee violence and many are vulnerable to human rights violations, violence and abuse, including sexual assault.

In this context, international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law require states to protect and assist persons with disabilities at all stages of the conflict cycle. In 2019, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2475 on the Situation of Persons with Disabilities in Armed Conflict, which recognizes the impact of armed conflict on persons with disabilities, while reinforcing the obligations of all Member States.

Introduction on the situation of persons with disabilities and armed conflict

During armed conflict, children with disabilities are caught in a vicious cycle of violence, social polarization, deteriorating services and worsening poverty. Global estimates suggest that there are between 93 million and 150 million children with disabilities under the age of 15. Since disability is often not reported due to stigma, there is reason to believe that actual prevalence can be much higher. Although efforts to ensure the realization of their rights have improved, girls and boys with disabilities remain among the most marginalized and excluded segments of the population in most conflict states in Africa. The participation they direct on a daily basis is intensified and doubled when infrastructure is destroyed, services and systems are penetrated and access is made inaccessible. This leads to further exclusion and marginalization of children with disabilities in Africa, preventing them from accessing school education, health and psychological support or means of escaping conflict.

In this contribution Elizka Relief Foundation highlights the risks of the conflict and war and its impact on disability through 3 axes:

First, the reality of the rights of persons with disabilities in conflict States by inferring the states of Somalia and South Sudan, which are already suffering from the scourge of conflict and its persistence to date.

Second: Challenges faced by civil society organizations and community-based institutions in assisting persons with disabilities in these states, as well as the possibility

of conducting awareness-raising campaigns on the rights of persons with disabilities, especially—

in times of war, with the arms campaign.

Third: Are states' efforts sufficient to provide for the rights of persons with disabilities in times of conflict?

First: The Impact of Wars and Conflict on Persons with Disabilities...

Dangerous Violations

When crises and wars hit nations, persons with disabilities face greater risks to their remains and survival: when fighting breaks out or when the ground begins to shake, persons with disabilities often cannot flee alone, and their families may not have the power or the means to help them. In the event of disasters, the mortality rate of persons with disabilities has been recorded 2:4 times higher than that of persons without disabilities.

Somalia is considered the most dangerous environment for the lives of persons with disabilities because of the continuing outbreak of armed conflict in it, women and girls with disabilities do not have the strength to fight for themselves there. It is worse for those with mental disabilities, those who are unable to speak about what happened have recorded testimonies by citizens of Hiran district of Hirshabelle State that there are cases of disabled women who were sexually assaulted, which led to pregnancy at the hands of militants in Somalia, and details of these facts have been confined.

How often in Somalia women and girls with disabilities - whether physical, mental or intellectual - are seen to be more vulnerable to gender-based violence, as they may not be able to defend themselves, communicate effectively or report cases of sexual exploitation and harassment, a woman from the Kahda region of Banadir State of Hirshabelle explained that "Violence is very different for persons with disabilities because they are the most vulnerable and cannot help themselves." They know many situations in which disabled girls have been raped. " Another from the Kismayo region of Lower Juba Jubbaland also noted that "It is different for them [women and girls with disabilities] because no man protects them and they are often targeted because people see them as vulnerable, especially in periods and areas of conflict."⁵³

Persons with disabilities in Somalia, especially women and girls, are constantly marginalized and ignored with regard to access to humanitarian assistance, including their participation, or lack thereof, in consultations on methodologies for providing such assistance.

Testimonies were also reported that elderly women are a particularly affected group, viewed as vulnerable, while they may also have age-related disabilities, such as vision loss, hearing loss, difficulty walking, as well as chronic illnesses. The facts in Bossaso, Bari, Puntland also indicate that "Older women in Puntland suffer greater loss of functional abilities than men, including poor eyesight and hearing loss and are less likely to receive treatment or support for these conditions." Therefore, older women with disabilities, even in peacetime, do not seem to have priority to receive humanitarian assistance, and therefore may suffer devastating effects because of their age and gender disparities, ultimately increasing their vulnerability.⁵⁴

⁵³ Living with disabilities is no barrier to living with dignity and pride, relief web, <https://bit.ly/3a0VSOB>

⁵⁴ I don't want anyone to feel ashamed': A young Somali woman overcomes disability and shows

Speaking of the State of South Sudan, which had been suffering for a decade from civil war and still possessed armed tribal conflicts, persons with disabilities were also considered inferior by society. While there are relatively many persons with disabilities in South Sudan and there are several reasons for this. For example, people suffer permanent injuries from war and diseases such as polio continue to spread there, and poor hygiene and poverty that are also the consequences of the armed conflict in the country lead to further disabilities.⁵⁵

Persons with disabilities in southern Sudan face significant difficulties in the context of crisis-level food insecurity and persistent violence. Persons with disabilities are often victimized by government forces and the opposition. Persons with disabilities have difficulty fleeing areas under attack and accessing humanitarian assistance in displaced persons' camps. Since 2013, an unknown number of civilians have suffered from mutilation, amputation, poor eyesight, hearing and trauma. In 2021, it was estimated that 250,000 persons with disabilities lived in displaced camps, while the estimated number of persons with disabilities in the country could be more than 1 million.⁵⁶

Second: Challenges faced by civil society organizations and community-based

institutions in assisting persons with disabilities in conflict States

It is unfortunate that local CSOs in Somalia receive very little support from the current authorities as CSOs representing persons with disabilities in Somalia have complained about restrictions on freedom of expression and opinion. "Representatives of persons with disabilities stated that they had received no support from the Government or the international community" Enables them to exercise their awareness-raising programs towards persons with disabilities, although the Somali Federal Government has stated that it is committed to improving their rights.⁵⁷

Also, civil space in South Sudan does not play its role in protecting persons with disabilities. On February 3, 2022, a humanitarian complex was struck in Jamjang in Ruweng district, which included some elderly persons with disabilities with the aim of killing four employees of the complex and terrorizing and threatening its inhabitants.⁵⁸

Third: Are States' efforts sufficient to provide for the rights of persons with disabilities in times of conflict?

To speak of the situation of persons with disabilities and the violations to which they are subjected in States of armed conflict; Somalia and South Sudan, particularly with regard to providing necessary legislative support to persons with disabilities, which is one of the main reasons for the loss of their rights during periods of impunity for those responsible. Somali law has already established equal rights before the law for persons with disabilities and prohibits the state from discriminating against them, but the authorities do not apply these provisions. Disabled rights organizations have reported widespread inequality in access to education, health

⁵⁵ Disabled are the hidden victims of South Sudan's long war, Arab news, <https://bit.ly/3wgligU>

⁵⁶ Empowering people with disabilities in South Sudan, wfp, <https://bit.ly/3PgWRK3>

⁵⁷

⁵⁸ South Sudan: Authorities should advance human rights reform agenda, amnesty, <https://bit.ly/3McvC1p>

services, public buildings and transportation. The law does not discuss discrimination by non- governmental actors.

The needs of most persons with disabilities have not been met. Persons with disabilities face daily human rights violations in Somalia such as unlawful killings, violence including rape and other forms of gender-based violence, forced evictions, lack of access to health care, education or an adequate standard of living, and the Federal Government of Somalia's responses to these facts remain inadequate. Children and adults with all kinds of disabilities are also often not included in programs aimed at supporting people in the country, including humanitarian assistance and displaced persons with disabilities have often been victims of multiple forced evictions.

Domestic violence and forced marriage are also prevailing practices affecting persons with disabilities. Women and girls with disabilities in Somalia have faced increased risks of rape and other forms of gender-based violence, often with impunity, due to perceptions that their disabilities are a burden on the family or that they are less valuable and can be mistreated.⁵⁹

As for the Government of Southern Sudan, the Ministry of Gender, Culture and Social Welfare is responsible for disability issues and local government is responsible for maintaining a register of children with disabilities and helping them "develop their self-reliance", but South Sudan has not signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. However, South Sudan is a party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which provides for children's rights to the "highest attainable standard of health".

As of 2020, the Disability Inclusion and Promotion Policy and the Inclusive Education Policy have not yet been passed into law or signed by the President, although they have been drafted.

Relevant national laws include the Southern Sudan War Disabled, Widows and Orphans Commission Act 2011 and the South Sudan Commission for the Disabled from War, Widows and Orphans' Amendment Policy 2010. This law and policy are limited to the establishment of OHCHR and the commitment to UNHCR's intention to improve the rights of persons with disabilities to services, but we have found no further evidence to confirm the work of this Office and its contribution on the ground to supporting persons with disabilities victims of the civil war in southern Sudan. There is no specific legislation on the rights of persons with disabilities in southern Sudan, which is supported by historical reviews of literature.⁶⁰

Conclusion

According to what was previously presented, the governments of Somalia and South Sudan explicitly violate international humanitarian law in dealing with people with disabilities in times of conflict. Especially with regard to their failure to resolve one of the most important violations resulting from conflicts directly, which is the violation of the rights of people with disabilities during periods of war and conflict, and they constitute one of the most vulnerable groups in their society. In this context, Elizka presents these recommendations to the Special

⁵⁹ Challenges Facing People with Disability in Mogadishu Somalia, <https://bit.ly/3L8Fbgg>

⁶⁰ From Commitment to Action: Towards a Disability-Inclusive Humanitarian Response in South Sudan, reliefweb, <https://bit.ly/3yyOiv9>



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Rapporteur on the rights of people with disabilities, after the aforementioned inhumane conditions they suffered in both countries:

First, Elizka recommends **exerting all kinds of pressure on the Government of Southern Sudan to activate a war-handicapped commission** guaranteed by the country's Constitution to address the consequences of civil war and protect the rights of persons with disabilities in the current armed conflict.

Second: Elizka recommends that the Somali Government **intensify security patrols in the disputed areas between federal government forces and armed militias** in order to ensure that persons with disabilities in these areas are not subjected to degradation.

Third: Elizka recommends that **a public and transparent investigation be opened into the murders, rape, and torture of women and men with disabilities in southern Sudan in 2017.** To date, these crimes have not been investigated and convicted, but the South Sudanese government continues to deny the human rights reports on these crimes to date.

Fourth: Elizka recommends that the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities pay more attention to the suffering of persons with disabilities in conflict centers, especially in the African States and to **call upon all States of conflict, Somalia and South Sudan in particular to remove all challenges faced by civil space and civilian complexes in support of persons with disabilities, to** contribute to the improvement of their situation, especially if they are older persons with disabilities, on the grounds that they are not eligible for such assistance.

Report on Blue Peace

Preface

The continent of Africa possesses a huge stockpile of "blue gold" and freshwater-rich sources, where the African continent is equipped with water from 17 large rivers, often the natural border between States, such as the River Nile, which separates 11 countries and is a source of border instability among most of them. In addition, there are 160 lakes in Africa, including the African Great Lakes, which are the richest areas of Africa with water⁶¹. Nevertheless, 600 million people in Africa are missing the necessary facilities to manage water resources, one of the strategic challenges related to the exploitation of water sources, as well as threats to water security. Fourteen states lack adequate water resources; they are most in need given the population increase.

One study suggests that the abundance of renewable water resources on the African continent cannot be disputed, but is subject to uneven distribution. There are 5400 billion cubic meters for the year, only 4% of these resources are used as potable water, and water poverty affects 80% of people who do not have access to the drinking water sources found in Africa⁶².

The foregoing directly means the possibility of conflicts over water, especially in cases where the river is passing through more than one state, and each State considers the water for them is an inviolable national security, entailing the need for mechanisms to bring about Blue water peace.

Development goals and the international legal framework on water

The development of global water conditions has many levels, most notably those related to the United Nations and regional strategies and agendas of international organizations, among others. It has taken upon itself the task of guiding the nations of the world and promoting its direction towards development. Speaking of water, global Strategy 2030 and regionalism 2063 have not overlooked this important aspect, which can be summed up as follows:

1- Goal 6 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 :

This goal works to ensure the availability of water and sanitation for all, through several objectives, the most important of which are:

- Implementation of integrated water resources management at all levels, including through cross-border cooperation, as appropriate, by 2030
- To strengthen the scope of international cooperation and to support capacity-building in developing countries in the area of water and sanitation activities and programs, including water harvesting, desalination, efficient use, waste-water treatment and recycling and reuse technologies by 2030

Also, The Sendai framework for disaster risk reduction for the period 2030-2015, the Addis Ababa Plan of Action of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change cannot be overlooked.

2- Goal 7 of the sustainable development Agenda 2063 of the African Union:

This goal builds the climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economies and communities through the security-vision area..., which seeks to achieve this through the rehabilitation of water resources institutions (including human capacity, data collection and analysis systems and their use to achieve effective and integrated water management in national transboundary basins, including management at the lowest appropriate level.

⁶¹ For further information, please refer to the following link: <https://goo.gl/sSQKsK>

⁶² Claude Gammett, (Africa and Water), published the 2014 book, African Water Association (AAE).

In addition, there is a legal framework where the United Nations Water Conference (1977), the International Decade for Drinking Water and Sanitation (1981-1990), the International Conference on Water and Environment (1992) and the Earth Summit (1992) focus on this vital resource.

The International Decade for Action, Water for Life, 2005-2015, helped 1.3 billion people in developing countries to access safe drinking water and accelerated progress in sanitation related to efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals

Water-related conflicts on the African continent

The nature of water conflicts in Africa is divided into several forms, the most important being the controversy over development and living issues, military conflict for political purposes and terrorist attacks on water sources. Despite the multiplicity of forms of conflict, the majority of them are about 71% linked to development and living, such as disputes between farmers and pastoralists over land, access to rivers and lakes, and development projects that threaten the rights of others and involve poor management of water resources. About 85 percent of Africa's water resources come from large river basins shared by several countries, in which case it could lead to water conflict.

The forms of conflict in relation to the subject of water can be summarized as follows:

1- Status of the river Nile basin:

The first signs of tension between Egypt and Ethiopia emerged when the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat announced the conversion of a part of the Nile water to irrigation 35 a thousand acres in the Sinai Peninsula in 1979, which prompted the Ethiopian president, " Mengistu ", to threaten the diversion of the river. In 1986, a treaty on the settlement of disputes between Egypt and Ethiopia was concluded, including water, as well as dozens of agreements on cooperation in the fields of culture, the arts, education, health and tourism between the two countries. A memorandum of understanding was also signed between the former president of Egypt, Hosni Mubarak, and the Ethiopian Prime Minister, Meles Zenawi, in 1993. On several principles, the most important of which is the failure of either state to engage in any activity relating to the waters of the Nile which would harm the interests of the other state. After June 1995, relations between the two countries entered a stage of heightened tension following the attempted assassination of Mubarak in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa, followed by a suspension of the Egyptian-Ethiopian Council for 17 years. For Ethiopia to come in 2001 to announce its intention to set up a number of projects on its international rivers in a national water strategy⁶³.

In May 2010, things took another curve, when an agreement was signed between six Nile Basin States (Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi), known as "Entebbe", met with strong disapproval from Egypt and the Sudan. Under the agreement, the historical quotas of the latter are terminated according to the 1929 and 1959 agreements. Ethiopia completed the survey of An-Nahdha (Renaissance) Dam site in August 2010 and announced the launch of the project in April 2011.

After the fall of the Mubarak regime, Ethiopia announced that it would brief Egypt on the dam's plans to study its impact on the two downstream countries, Egypt and Sudan. Subsequently, reciprocal visits were organized for the prime ministers of the two countries to discuss the dossier. In September 2011, the Egyptian authorities - a representative of the Military Council at the time - and Ethiopia agreed to form an international committee to study the effects of An- Nahdha (Renaissance) Dam. The committee started its work by examining Ethiopian engineering studies and the possible impact of the dam on Egypt and Sudan. The dam on the downstream

⁶³ Published on the BBC website, an article titled Nile Water Crisis Stations between Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia, on the following link: <http://www.bbc.com/arabic/middleeast-43640748>
<http://www.bbc.com/arabic/middleeast-43640748>

states.⁶⁴

The negotiations were stalled after Egypt refused to set up a technical committee without foreign experts. To resume negotiations again in July 2014. By agreeing to include a global advisory office in accordance with the recommendations of the ICRC. The first meeting of a tripartite committee involving Egypt, Ethiopia and the Sudan was held to discuss the drafting of the Technical Committee's terms of reference and procedural rules and the agreement on the periodicity of the meetings. At the end of 2014, Egypt, Ethiopia and the Sudan agreed to select two advisory offices, one Dutch and the other French, to work on the required studies on the dam⁶⁵.

The most notable shift was in March 2015, when the Egyptian president, his Sudanese counterpart and the Prime Minister of Ethiopia in Khartoum signed the document "Declaration of the principles of An-Nahdha (Renaissance) Dam". The document contained 10 basic principles, which were consistent with the general rules of the principles of international law governing the handling of international rivers. This was the first official confession from Egypt to An-Nahdha (Renaissance) dam⁶⁶. This was followed in July 2015 by the seventh round of meetings of the Technical Committee, which issued a statement containing the rules and frameworks of the international advisory offices. However, in September 2015, the Dutch advisory office withdrew the "lack of safeguards to conduct studies impartially."⁶⁷

In December 2015, the foreign Ministers of Egypt, the Sudan and Ethiopia signed the Khartoum document, which included the confirmation of the Declaration of Principles signed by the leaders of the three states, which included the commissioning of two new French offices to carry out the technical studies of the project. The Egyptian president declared that water was a matter of life and death and there was an understanding with Ethiopia about the Renaissance Dam. In February 2016, Ethiopia confirmed that it would not stop building the Renaissance Dam. To return in May 2016 and declare that they are about to complete 70 percent of dam construction. The initial report on the Renaissance Dam was completed, and in May 2017 there was an outbreak of disagreement among the three countries on the report. However, the Egyptian Foreign Minister visited Ethiopia in July and was invited to complete the technical course on the dam studies and its impact on Egypt⁶⁸. Egypt announced its approval of the initial report on Oct. 15, 2017, and most importantly, the Egyptian Minister of irrigation visited The dam site to follow up the construction work two days later, to express Egypt's concern at the delay in the implementation of technical studies on the dam. However, in November, it was announced that no agreement had been reached after Ethiopia and Sudan rejected the initial report⁶⁹. This made the Egyptian government on November 15, 2017; declare that it will take what it takes to conserve Egypt's aquatic rights. For the Egyptian president to return and warn against compromising his country's share of water, he says, "We understand the development of Ethiopia, which is important, but for development this is water that equals for us the lives or death of a people"⁷⁰.

Egypt proposed to Ethiopia the participation of the World Bank in the work of the Tripartite Commission, which examines the impact of the establishment of the Ethiopian Renaissance Dam on the downstream States, Egypt and the Sudan, the former Ethiopian prime minister, Haile

⁶⁴ The Seventh day report, the following link can be followed: <http://www.youm7.com/1633825>

⁶⁵ According to Anatolia news agency, for more details on the following link: <https://goo.gl/WUslN1>

⁶⁶ A news report published on the Sky News Arabic website, on the following link: <https://goo.gl/smYAY6>

⁶⁷ Published on Al-Shorouk newspaper, 16 September 2015, at the following link: <https://goo.gl/ZSHnLX>

⁶⁸ Published on Reuters, on the following link:

https://ara.reuters.com/article/ME_TOPNEWS_MORE/idARAKBN1DF2C2

⁶⁹ Posted on El Shorouk website, this was on November 17, 2017, for more details on the following rap:

<https://goo.gl/zvCCVf>

⁷⁰ Posted on the Middle East inventory site, dated November 19, 2017, on the following link:

<https://goo.gl/SVyGS7>

Mariam Dessalines, will come out on 18 January 2018 to say that he would not endanger the interest of the Egyptian people in any way of forms, referring to Egypt's share of the Nile water after the construction of the Renaissance Dam.

In addition to the above, some reports suggest that the stalled negotiations between Ethiopia, Egypt and the Sudan could lead to a war on water⁷¹. Some link the construction of dams on the Nile River and its tributaries with the possibility of "dam war", noting that Ethiopia plans to establish several projects on the Nile represents a grave danger to Egypt and its siege and change from its map not only of geography but of a severe food crisis. The Renaissance Dam is the largest and most dangerous, with 73 billion cubic meters left behind and generates a total of about three times the amount of electricity generated by the current 12 dams on various Ethiopian rivers, all of which generate an electricity of 1.9 megawatts. In other terms, a dam of ⁷²such magnitude would inevitably affect the historical shares of Egypt and the Sudan, which threatens to take a non-peaceful turn if the crisis is not addressed by peaceful means.

2- State of the Senegal River:

Is one of the most serious conflicts among African countries over water. It was a cause of the Mauritanian-Senegalese war between 1989 and 1991, which claimed the lives of 24,000 people. Apart from the factors of political and cultural differences between the two states, the war was the outcome of a succession of events, including the Senegal River exploitation project, which entered into force after the establishment of the Diama Dam in Senegal and Manantali dam in Mali, and the ensuing conflict of interest among the camel herders in Mauritania Farmers in Senegal have been aggravated by the rivalry between the two countries to cultivate the largest possible land area. Although the war ended with the signing of a water-sharing agreement between Mauritania and Senegal, the projects implemented by Senegal to exploit the waters of the river and the complexity of the interests of the two countries, and their overlapping of population and ethnicity, make the water issue a constant pressure on Mauritania, the Senegal River being its most important water source⁷³.

Some of this inherent conflict between Mauritania and Senegal over the waters of the Senegal's only permanent river is one of the important challenges facing Arab water security⁷⁴, in particular for many other reasons, including social, economic and historical, which has been concluded Several agreements between them for the investment of the waters of the Senegal River, which were concluded in 1974 jointly with Mali and which were called OMVS⁷⁵, here it must be said that there is a need to activate the independent non-state body for dam management⁷⁶. Formed as a result of this crisis, so as to prevent any problems that may arise between the river States.

3- The case of Chad Lake:

Chad Lake covers areas in north-eastern Nigeria, the far north of Cameroon, Western Chad and south-eastern Niger. These states share porous borders on the very deep freshwater lake, where hundreds of small islands are scattered. Boko Haram began its rebellion in 2009 to impose a radical Salafist regime in northeastern Nigeria and over the past years has launched many deadly suicide attacks and attacks in the four countries. This area has been in Chad Lake and has long

⁷¹ Published on BBC, the full report can be followed up on the following link:

<http://www.bbc.com/arabic/middleeast-43182463>

⁷² Posted on the website of the delegation, titled Dam War Change the face of Africa, on the following link:

<https://goo.gl/MRP7jM>

⁷³ Published on Al Hayat newspaper, "Water conflicts in Africa are aggravated by climate change", at the following link: <https://goo.gl/sk8CwS>

⁷⁴ Mauritania being one of the 22 Arab States..

⁷⁵ Abbas Mohamed Sharqi, "water resources in Africa and the Arab World", Egyptian Journal of Nile Basin Studies, Cairo University, p. 24.

Posted on Al Arab newspaper, it can be reviewed at the following link: <https://goo.gl/qKwNEc>⁷⁶

been one of the poorest and most backward areas in the world, with very low human development indicators in areas such as education and health, because of that group. Not only that, the problem in the lake area is complex, as the region is living in relief agencies, a "severe crisis" caused of rapid population growth, climate change factors, the decline of Chad Lake and the progress of the Sahara, as well as acts of violence. The conflict has exacerbated an already difficult humanitarian situation, with some estimates leaving at least 20,000 dead and over 2.6 million displaced persons and refugees. Some 17 million people live in the areas most affected by the conflict. The violence has significantly affected fishing and agricultural activities and forced hundreds of thousands of civilians into camps⁷⁷. According to the United Nations, the 10, 7 million people today need urgent assistance in the region and 1.7 million "are seriously food insecure". Hence, the conflict with Boko Haram and the violence it causes have led to growing droughts, hunger and poverty in the lake region, which is rich in water and oil resources. Poorly planned irrigation projects have also contributed to this crisis⁷⁸. An institutionalized regulation of overfishing has now been carried out, with little regard for the rules that would regulate the use between Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria. Hence the need to highlight the crisis in order to enhance cooperation among the States of the Chad Lake Basin, given the weakness of such cooperation which has exacerbated environmental problems related to water, as well as security related to the exploitation of water resources.

4- The State of the frontier dispute on the Orange River:

The basin covers an area of approximately 1 million square kilometers. The river is approximately 600 kilometers from the international border between Namibia and South Africa. This common border area is characterized by a dry climate⁷⁹. In 1991, after Namibia's independence, South Africa agreed to change the status of the border from the north bank to the thalweg. However, there was disagreement over claims for mineral rights in the river, grazing on the central canal Islands, as well as about fishing. That disagreement led to the subsequent withdrawal of South Africa from its previous commitment in 2001, which made Namibia threaten to transfer the dispute to the International Court of Justice if South Africa did not return to its position in 1991⁸⁰. South Africa, on the basis of the 1890 Treaty, claims that the border extends along the northern bank of the Orange River. Namibia alleges that it follows the middle of the river. The Namibian Constitution clearly claims the territory up to the middle of the river, while the Act on the Recognition of Namibia's Independence in South Africa denies any recognition of this allegation.⁸¹

Negotiations between the two countries across the border have been handled in a very confidential manner by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The foreign Ministry of both countries has recently refused to comment on the status of negotiations between Namibia and South Africa on the borders of the Orange River⁸². A giant newspaper publishing company in Namibia reportedly obtained a cabinet document in which the Government stated that the issue was raised in the recent visit of president " Pohamba " to South Africa in November 2012. After the visit of the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mashabane, to Namibia in April 2013, the newspaper the Windhoek observers sent questions to the ministry immediately. But the Foreign affairs ministry refused to comment on the issue, saying it was "very sensitive" and the

⁷⁷ Published on Monte Carlo International, on the following link: <https://goo.gl/M4wMGT>

⁷⁸Published on Al Hayat newspaper, May 2018, on the following link: <https://goo.gl/KZNJUp>

⁷⁹ Shah, S. A. (2009) "River Boundary Delimitation and the Resolution of the Sir Creek Dispute between Pakistan and India", <http://lawreview.vermontlaw.edu> , p.393. Accessed: 04 February, 2014.

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ Makonnen, Y. (1983) 'International Law and the New States of Africa'. New York: Library of Congress Catalogue.

⁸² Moses Kamundu, "The Orange River boundary dispute between Namibia and South Africa: Territorial and Legal Position", University of Namibia, 2011. Pg. 50.

foreign ministry could not disclose any information on the status of the negotiations to the media⁸³. Thus, the parties that are using the ongoing negotiations must apply article 31 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of treaties when it comes to the interpretation of the Helgoland Treaty. The negotiating parties must also implement the process recommended by the principle of good faith and with a view to achieving a positive outcome, namely mutual settlement and diplomatic peace. There was also a need to highlight the provision of the 1964 Cairo resolution, by which it was agreed that decolonization itself does not change the legal status of the border, while legal changes in the African border, if States so wish, are not prohibited. The two States could therefore agree to amend the Treaty in order to accommodate their interests with regard to access to and use of the Orange River, as both countries appear to be using the river for economic purposes⁸⁴.

5- The Jubba and Shebelle River between Somalia and Ethiopia:

It has been natural for Somalia to strike recurrent droughts at historically different intervals in general, and since rivers take place only in the south, the majority of Somali pastoralists in the center, north and east of the country were not dependent on river water, but were living on rain-water. In the spring and autumn seasons as well as on groundwater. The Shebelle River is more affected by the crisis than Jubba because of the different hydrological nature of the two rivers, with the Jubba River having a shorter distance than that of Shebelle, the low evaporation of its waters and the speed of its flow, as it descended from the Ethiopian highlands immediately before it was on its way to Somali territory, unlike Longer Shebelle, which takes place in plain lands from the Somali region of Ethiopia to its end in Somalia, and evaporates a large amount of its water during its long journey.

Compounding the problem, the country was already suffering from a water shortage crisis, and Somalia was among the countries whose people lived under the water safety threshold, while the average per capita water per year is 1,000 m³ globally, according to UNICEF, two and a half million children in Somalia need "hard" to Clean drinking water. It is expected that water will continue to decline to reach a per capita of 223-324 m per annum in 2050⁸⁵.

Ethiopia started building the Judy Dam on the Shebelle River in the mid-1990s, and its work was stalled by instability, but it has been back in recent years and completed. Although insufficient information is available on its dam and storage capacity, it will undoubtedly affect Somali water interests, there is a risk of unilateral Ethiopian action that would damage Somali national security, which has already occurred and led to a decline in the water level in the Shebelle River in February and March 2016 and its proximity to drought⁸⁶.

As indicated in its stated strategy for Somalia-prepared and published by the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on its website⁸⁷, since its invasion on Somalia in 2006--the Ethiopian Government has medium-and long-term intentions to use the Somali river leaf originating from its heights to get the right to use the Somali ports — because Ethiopia is a land-locked state that is not sea-based — and as described, it will be based on the principles exchange of common interests and benefits of rivers and ports, which means selling shared water and electricity that is

⁸³ Keith Vries, "Orange River Dispute Shrouded in Secrecy", <http://observer24.com.na/national/1491-orange-river-dispute-shrouded-in-secrecy>

⁸⁴ Olayinka OLANIRAN, "NAMIBIA-SOUTH AFRICA DISPUTE OVER ORANGE RIVER BORDER (International Boundary Disputes in Southern Africa).

⁸⁵ Dr. Ramzi Salama, Book of the Problem of water in the Arab world-prospects of conflict and settlement, knowledge facility in Alexandria, 2001, p. 12-13.

⁸⁶ Research paper published at the Mogadishu Research and Studies Centre, at the following link: <https://goo.gl/tmRXgT>

⁸⁷ The federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, foreign Affairs and National Security policy and strategy. Ethiopia's policy towards Somalia .on this link: www.mfa.gov.et

Its generation and trade in Somali ports. This will aggravate the silent border dispute between the two countries, and the dispute between the two parties is inevitable. Cooperation between the two states is unlikely to be achieved to reach agreement on shared water, especially in the current political situation in Somalia, and there are many outstanding issues between the two states Ethiopia is trying not to raise it at this time, pending the end of intra-Somali conflicts⁸⁸.

1- Internal conflict Situations:

According to the "Economics and Environmental Management" patrol, 1800 conflict situations were detected between 1990 and 2011 that were related to drought and water disputes. In 2016, the seasonal movement of pastoralists and their livestock through agricultural land with the aim of reaching water sources caused the deaths of 70 people in the Darfur region of western Sudan. There were also cases of fighting and conflict in Tanzania in 2012, between farmers and pastoralists in the southeastern Rufiji Valley, which left five dead and many injured according to local sources⁸⁹.

In Kenya, a dispute between Urma nomadic herders and Bocomo farmers living along the Tana River led to the death of more than 100 people in 2012. Access to water sources, limited fertile land and loss of pastures are the main causes of ethnic conflicts in Kenya⁹⁰. Fighting between Burji farmer herders killed at least 56 people in 2013, a conflict rooted in historical clan rivalries exacerbated by competition for water and land in the arid zone. In Nigeria, riots between farmers and pastoralists were recorded in 2014, which claimed more than 1,000 lives. In the same vein, population density leads to the need for more water, and water shortages in those areas increase the risk of a 50% riot. Drought in areas of ethnic tension with different ethnic groups sharing the same source of water increases the risk of 100% conflict⁹¹.

In addition, there are other causes of conflict, as sub-Saharan Africa is highly vulnerable to unusual dry climatic conditions, with 95% of its yields being rain-fed crops. In Africa, 340 million people lack access to clean drinking water, according to the third UN report on World Water resources development. Drought is compounded by poor management of water resources, pushing young people towards harsh choices such as violence and joining extremist groups. A number of researchers consider the poor management of water resources to be hazardous in the dry African Sahel region, particularly Nigeria and Mali Senegal is the foundation of the social chaos that drives hundreds of thousands to migrate to Europe illegally.

Challenges to the optimum utilization of the water resources of the African continent

1- Accelerated level of urbanization and population density

Africa's population is expected to move to 2 billion by the year 2050. This population growth will mainly overshadow the significant increases in urban dwellers. Before 2025, the urban population of Africa will reach 750 million people, thus surpassing the entire population of Europe, and uncontrolled growth will occur a serious gap in view of the availability of water resources, which are exposed to further unplanned behaviors by decision makers in Africa.

2- Climatic changes:

Africa is one of the most vulnerable continents to the phenomenon of climate change, so that the situation is not limited to water scarcity, but lies in the continent's disparity in terms of rainfall

⁸⁸ Somali analysis published on the new Somalia site in 2016, at the following link: <https://goo.gl/DpT8b1>

⁸⁹ Marlinsimonz, "the lack of increased likelihood of violent incidents... Drought feeds conflicts" Published on the Journal of Science for the public, on October 9, 2017, for further details on the following link <https://goo.gl/VMGzoN> :

⁹⁰ Published on Al Hayat newspaper, January 2018, on the following link: <https://goo.gl/qWhb7b>

⁹¹ Same as the previous reference.

ratios everywhere and time. The reason is that Africa is in the dry zone of the globe, where both droughts and floods are rife; more than 40% of Africa's population lives in large parts of semi-arid and dry or humid lands. In 16 African countries, it exceeds the 50% desertification.

3- **Many dam building:**

The large dams, which are supposed to achieve economic development in sub-Saharan Africa, have had the opposite effect of reducing the flow Rivers and drying of lakes and wetlands on which poorer communities depend, fuelling unrest in the region. In northern Nigeria, about one million people lost their livelihoods because of the construction of dams on the Yobe River, which feeds the wetlands and flows to Chad Lake. In 2015, the Nigerian government agreed to undertake a review of the lake basin status and concluded that the "detention and the uncoordinated parts of water from the source was one of the factors that created great competition for scarce water, leading to conflicts and forced migration." The World Migration Organization estimates that, since mid-2013, the number of people who have left the Chad Lake area has been around 2.6 million⁹².

An analysis commissioned by the United Nations and published in the "Global Environmental Change" periodical suggests that the southern Africa region, which includes the basin the Limpopo River and the Orange River, which includes several countries such as Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe, is one of the four hot spots in the world that are expected to increase the risk Conflict over the next 15 to 30 years, due to the construction of dams.

The most important of these dams, the "Mandaya" dam, is less than 100 km from the end of the Renaissance Dam Lake and lies behind the Renaissance Dam. The same distance come the "Baku Ambo" dam. Another dam is 100 kilometers away, and it's a "Cardubey" dam, and then finally, to ensure that the water level in Lake Tana is raised in the Blue Nile. Or to divert the riverbed whenever they desire, the fifth dam comes with its previous special quality, the "Chara Char" dam.

Another dam on the way to collapse is the Tekeze Dam, which Addis Ababa, in cooperation with China, built the highest dam in Africa on the headwaters of the Nile, with a height of 188 metres, the dam, located in the northern province of Tiger on the Tekeze River, became higher than the 185-metre-high Katse Dam in Lesotho represented the highest dam on the continent of Africa. The Tekeze Dam will change the face of Africa's deepest grooves, as the depth of the groove walls is expected to contribute to large deposition at the reservoir's location when the flood reaches the area. A major landslide occurred near the dam site in April 2008, forcing financiers to disburse additional \$42 million to prevent slopes from being eroded⁹³.

Poorly planned irrigation projects have also contributed to this crisis. In addition, dams built on the Hadejia River in Nigeria posed a threat to communities located in the lower reaches of the water stream they depend on fishing, grazing and flood-based agriculture, and the implementation of agreements guaranteeing water flows has stalled.

Meanwhile, the Komadugu-Yobe River basin, co-shared by Niger and Nigeria, contributed 7 km of water to Chad Lake. At present, the contribution of the river has fallen to less than half a mile³, which severely affects the northern part of the lake basin. Moreover, the small dams built in the late 1970s on the Logone River in the Cameroon, it has disrupted the livelihoods of simple farmers in wetlands in the lower reaches of the water stream. As a result, in two decades, the cotton crop fell by one third and the rice harvest by three quarters⁹⁴.

⁹² International Organization for Migration (IOM), for more details on the following link :<https://www.iom.int/>

⁹³ A previous reference, published on the Wafd Portal, is available at the following link: <https://goo.gl/MRP7jM>

⁹⁴ Human Development Report 2006, Transboundary Water Management, Chapter VI, p.

Impediments to achieving cooperation between river Basin states:

- A. Competing claims and national sovereignty obligations, some States are of the view that the river basin in their territory is part of national sovereignty and acts on their own.
- B. Weak political leadership, which is influenced by the specific internal policy and, by extension, its water policy.
- C. Asymmetries of power, where rivers flow across states with significant variations in wealth, strength and bargaining power.
- D. Non-participation in basin initiatives, through which convergence is achieved at different levels. Concepts of the benefits of participation in multilateral basin-level initiatives are influenced by the state of membership of States in this basin.

In general, for the time being, out of 55 African States, only 26 have achieved achievements in one of the Millennium Goals, in terms of reducing halve the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, and 9 other African States It should work towards this goal, with half of its population lacking basic sanitation facilities. At present, the statistical estimates show that 400 million Africans have become associated with decent sanitation services.

Options for dealing with the water crisis within the continent

The Convention establishes the principles for participation in water in the 1997 United Nations Convention on the Non-navigational uses of Shared watercourses, which is based on the Helsinki Rules. Its main principles are "fair and reasonable utilization", "no significant harm" and "prior notice of Business". The general idea is that the management of international watercourses should be developed by taking into account the effects of use on other states and the availability of alternative water resources, the number of affected populations, and the social and economic requirements of the watercourse States concerned, As well as the conservation, protection and development of the watercourse itself.⁹⁵

In this context, there is more than one way of dealing with the continent's water crises, the most important of which are:

1- Political methods for settling disputes :

- A. Negotiations: Any exchange of views between the two disputing states with a view to reaching a settlement of the existing dispute, which may be oral, written or both⁹⁶. At the level of the African negotiations, the majority of them were successful, such as the negotiations between Cameroon and the Congo, 1970, on the technical difficulties resulting from the nature of the river border between the two sides, and the two sides agreed to form a joint commission to consider problem solving⁹⁷.
- B. Mediation: It is intended to manage the conflict through a political settlement by an outside party that enjoys the consent and confidence of the disputing parties in order to try to settle the dispute without resorting to the force⁹⁸, on the African side the southern African region has experienced a dispute over the Zambezi River, and the Vatican played the role of mediator and used its authority To influence the parties to sign the Convention.
- C. Treaties: It refers to conventions to which two or more persons are parties, which regulate a relationship governed by international law. At the African level, in the South, a protocol on cooperation and coordination for the protection and use of shared watercourses was signed and

⁹⁵ Human Development Report 2006, p. 218.

⁹⁶ Sadiq Abu Hef, Public International Law (Alexandria: Knowledge Establishment, 9th edition, 1971), p. 782.

⁹⁷ Mohamed Fouad Rashwan, "settling disputes over African rivers, Arabic Books of Knowledge, p. 19

⁹⁸ Tabias Bohamle, international mediation interaction, (Heidelberg: Springer Fachmedien 2011), P15.

the regional integration agenda was strengthened among the participating States of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), 1995. It was signed by 14 African States⁹⁹.

2- Judicial methods of dispute settlement:

- A. Arbitration: It is intended to settle the international dispute by a binding provision issued by a special arbitral tribunal, the parties to the dispute themselves choosing its members and determining the law applicable to it in respect of the dispute.
- B. Recourse to international jurisdiction: the International Court of Justice is resorted to in order to settle water disputes in a judicial legal manner. One of the most striking international examples was when the International Court of Justice in The Hague addressed water disputes between States twice, the first and most prominent in the 1990s from the last century between Hungary and Slovakia on the implementation of previous treaties between the two countries on the construction of dams on the Danube, and the crisis continues so far Between the two countries despite the court's ruling, the second was in 2010 between Uruguay and Argentina on the construction of paper factories on the Uruguayan river, and ended in political consensus between the two states. 100

Recommendation

The best approach is to manage water in an integrated manner across all basin states through co-operation between States, according to the comparative advantage or relative advantages that each state enjoys in the use of water. This is by emphasizing that one of the most important aspects of transboundary water management is the inviolability of State sovereignty. In the conflicts that have arisen between them and Mexico over their common rivers, the United States adopted the Harmon principle in 1895; a model of absolute sovereignty which calls for States to be free to use water resources within their jurisdiction, in the absence of any legislation to the contrary, Regardless of the effects that such use may have beyond its borders.

The national legislation of many States still contains various forms of this approach, which is called the principle of absolute territorial integrity, and calls for the eligibility communities bordering the lower reaches of the water stream are receiving the natural flow of river water from the riparian communities of the upper Sea. Sometimes the states of the lower water stream cite the common principle of "use of water with prepossession", or the idea that the use of the former would really establish the future use of the same amount of water, in refutation of an absolute sovereign approach¹⁰¹. This should be done within the framework of:

1- Cooperation at the level of Basin states:

This is through the establishment of solid foundations for basin-level cooperation in many regions. Cooperation from the coordination stage (e.g. information sharing) extends to the consolidation of efforts (the development of adaptable national plans), and from it to joint action (which includes joint ownership of infrastructure assets). In some cases, cooperation has resulted in the establishment of continuous institutional structures through which Governments can interact on a regular basis. This approach goes beyond simply engaging in negotiations on allocation of water volumes and quantities to identify multiple benefits for all parties.

⁹⁹ Southern African Development Community SADC,

¹⁰⁰ Posted on Al Shorouk newspaper, for more information on the case on the following link ::

<https://goo.gl/pCxRUZ>

¹⁰¹ Human Development Report 2006, p. 215.

- 1- **Financial flows of resources:** There is a need for agreements to include investment provisions such as South Africa's role in the development of water resources in the Lesotho Highlands.
- 2- **Financing Transboundary Water Management:** Transboundary water Management produces important public goods at the international level. Based on the fact that more than 40% of the world's population now lives in transboundary basins, the management of these basins has many effects related to regional peace and security, as well as other impacts related to poverty reduction and environmental sustainability. Some of the general disadvantages of mismanagement also include environmental refugees, pollution and poverty; they are all disadvantages across national borders, as do water itself. This context provides a strong argument for funding through development assistance programs.
- 3- **Strengthening institutional capacities:** River basin organizations that have been strengthened must plan to play a practical role in the future. Although the design of institutions will vary across regions and circumstances, cooperation in this area can be increased through the transfer of institutional knowledge. With its extensive experience in transboundary water management, the European Union can do much to support the institutional development of States through cooperation with some agencies such as the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the development of training and capacity-building programs.
- 4- **Working towards regional legislation:** Coordination of water-related legislation is good for technical challenges. Given its experience in this area, UNEP could take the lead role in assessing national legislative frameworks and identifying overlaps. This could become a basis for the development of regional water policies, as was the case in the Southern African Development Community (SADC).
- 5- **Adoption of policies for the development of river border areas:** There is a need to adopt policies that will transform the riverine border areas from their current underdeveloped and neglected status to areas that are properly integrated with the rest of the country. This can be achieved through the development of road, rail and telecommunication infrastructure, the location of industries and related economic activities in border areas.
- 6- **Monitoring sources of tension:** Governments and regional organizations should identify and monitor potential sources of tension between people in border areas or sources of tension on basins, and intervene quickly in an attempt to resolve them before they become an international conflict. This requires the establishment of early warning systems, linked to regional early warning mechanisms for regional economic communities.
- 7- **Accelerate the ongoing project aimed at demarcating the African border:** This project will lead to the demarcation of the border, especially the riverine, and needs to be accelerated to remove the ambiguity caused by conflicting boundary lines and related issues relating to jurisdiction over water resources. This requires the establishment of effective national and regional boundary commissions, with clearly defined trends.
- 8- **Take the necessary measures to control the population increase:** Through awareness-raising, as well as the development of strategic plans to ensure equitable distribution of water resources in the context of population growth.
- 9- **For climate change:** To take the necessary and necessary international and regional measures to reduce global warming, as well as to promote cooperation at all levels to

develop a social, environmental and health protection umbrella for the poor in countries experiencing severe climatic changes.

10- Establishment of a regional mechanism to control dam construction: This mechanism deals with the review of international conventions on watercourses and the extent to which the resident state and the riparian States are bound by these conventions the Mechanism also conducts technical studies on the construction of these dams in terms of their strength, their virtual lifespan, their feasibility and their impact on the shares of The other States.

11- If it is too late to cooperate: Peaceful methods must be used to settle any differences or inter-contentious disputes either by political means such as negotiations, mediation or treaties, or even by the ways judicial proceedings through international arbitration or the submission of the case to international justice and the International Court of Justice — as noted above — That solid military solutions are set aside and not used.

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ELIZKA RELIEF FOUNDATION

Concept

Note Virtual

Event

Human Rights in Ethiopia & Eritrea: Limited Efforts and Big Challenges

Background

Since November 2020, the Ethiopian authorities have committed extensive violations amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity, amidst widespread news blackout to prevent media access to the areas where the violations are taking place. The Ethiopian authorities have even stepped up its violations by imposing severe restrictions on access to the Tigray region. Eritrean forces are proven implicated in serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law in Tigray, especially against the Eritrean refugees in the Tigray region, who were forcibly returned to Eritrea and denied access to humanitarian aid.

All this is compounded by the deteriorating humanitarian conditions inside Eritrea, the absence of justice and the rule of law, and the poor in the national service system, which is the main source of human rights abuse.

In this context, and on the sidelines of the 50th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, Elizka Relief Foundation discusses the human rights situation in Eritrea and Ethiopia, in order to identify the flagrant violations in these countries and assess the human rights situation there and how they can be strengthened.

Objectives

- ❖ **Presenting a comprehensive view of the human rights situation in Ethiopia:** by reviewing the human rights situation at various levels, and the

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extent of commitment to the rules of international humanitarian law in conflict areas.

- ❖ **Comprehensively addressing the human rights situation in Eritrea**, by providing a comprehensive objective assessment of the human rights situation, and how to improve it.
- ❖ **Reviewing the obstacles to peace building in Ethiopia**, and how the conflicting parties can be brought together to find a middle ground for dialogue, and a safe space for civilians to maintain humanitarian conditions.
- ❖ **Presenting a proposal to solve the dilemma of forced conscription in Eritrea**, since forced conscription in Eritrea is the basis of all violations of civil and political rights in Eritrea.
- ❖ **Evaluating African mechanisms for improving human rights**, and their success in highlighting human rights issues and providing support for the advancement of humanitarian conditions.

Suggested Agenda for the Event

Event duration: 90 minutes

No.	Subject	Time
1.	Introduction to the event, its purpose, the universal periodic review mechanism and how it contributes to the promotion of human rights in general.	10 min.
2.	Shedding light on the violations of the Ethiopian and Eritrean forces in Tigray, and the extent of commitment to the rules of international humanitarian law.	15 min.
3.	A comprehensive view of the human rights situation in Eritrea	15 min.

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TURES**



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4.	Forced conscription in Eritrea & How to confront it	15 min.
5.	How to enhance the effectiveness of African mechanisms in improving the human rights situation	15 min.
6.	Presenting and drafting a memorandum of recommendations that would help improve the humanrights situation in the two countries.	15 min.
7.	Questions & Conclusion	15 min.

Time and Place

The Event is held virtually via the Zoom application and is scheduled for June 25,2022 from 10:00 to 11:30AM (GMT)

Overview	Programme	General Debate	Preparation	Outcome	Documentation	VNRS	VNR Labs	Other Events	Exhibit	Blog	Media	Stakeholders
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[Registration & Participation](#)

HLPF / [High-Level Political Forum 2022](#) / [2022 Programme](#) / Effectiveness of promoting gender equality in the field of disarmament to achieve SDGs

Effectiveness of promoting gender equality in the field of disarmament to achieve SDGs

Elizka Relief Foundation

Improving women's participation in peace and security is one of the main objectives of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda and this is certainly closely related to arms control and disarmament. Although participation in decision-making mechanisms in the field of disarmament and arms control has increased in recent years, this field still lags significantly behind the participation of women when compared to other areas of diplomacy.

The event aims to:

- First: Shedding light on successful examples of women from different regions (Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Arab region) in the fields of peace-building and conflict resolution.
- Second: Working to raise awareness of women from different regions of the world about their role in achieving world peace, and how this relates to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Third: Highlighting the women who play a distinguished role in supporting peace initiatives in their regions, and also leading various campaigns, which is of course in line with the achievement of the fifth goal of the sustainable development goals.
- Fourth: The ability to identify the most important challenges that impede women's effective participation in conflict resolution, and how they were able in those areas to exploit the available possibilities and confront those challenges in order to reduce the intensity of conflicts.
- Fifth: Shedding light on the role of civil society in supporting the activities and efforts of women in achieving world peace. Sixth: Shedding light on the gender perspective in international agreements, for example, the Arms Trade Treaty.

Join the meeting [here](#)

Wednesday, 13 Jul 2022

07:30 AM - 09:00 AM

Virtual (NY Time)

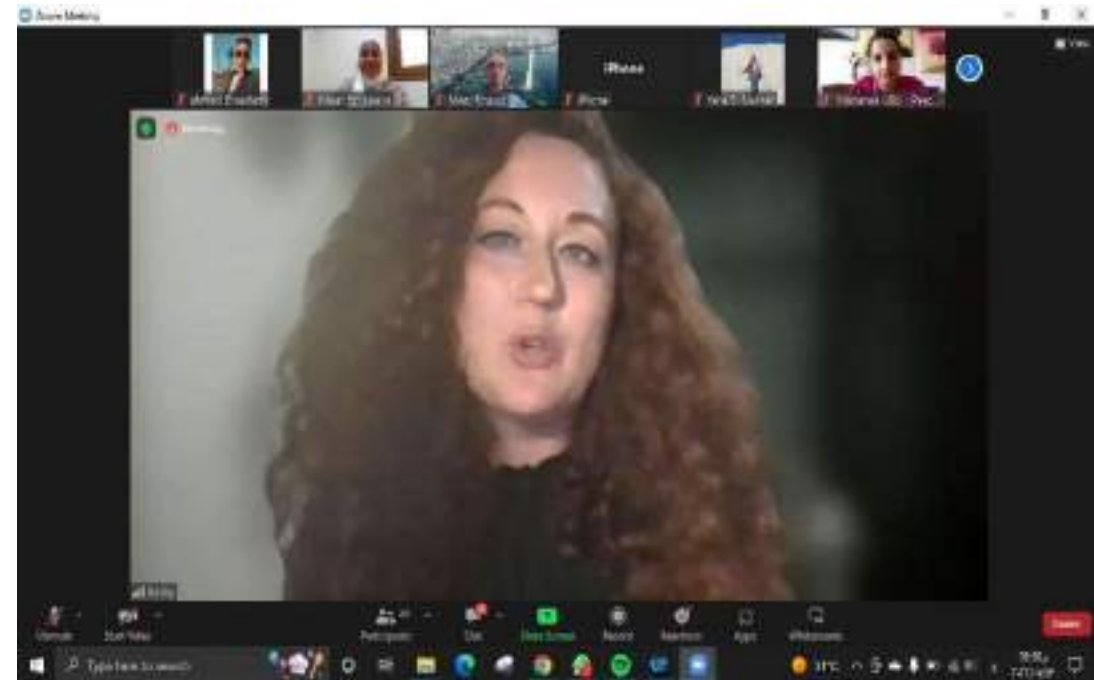
Side Events

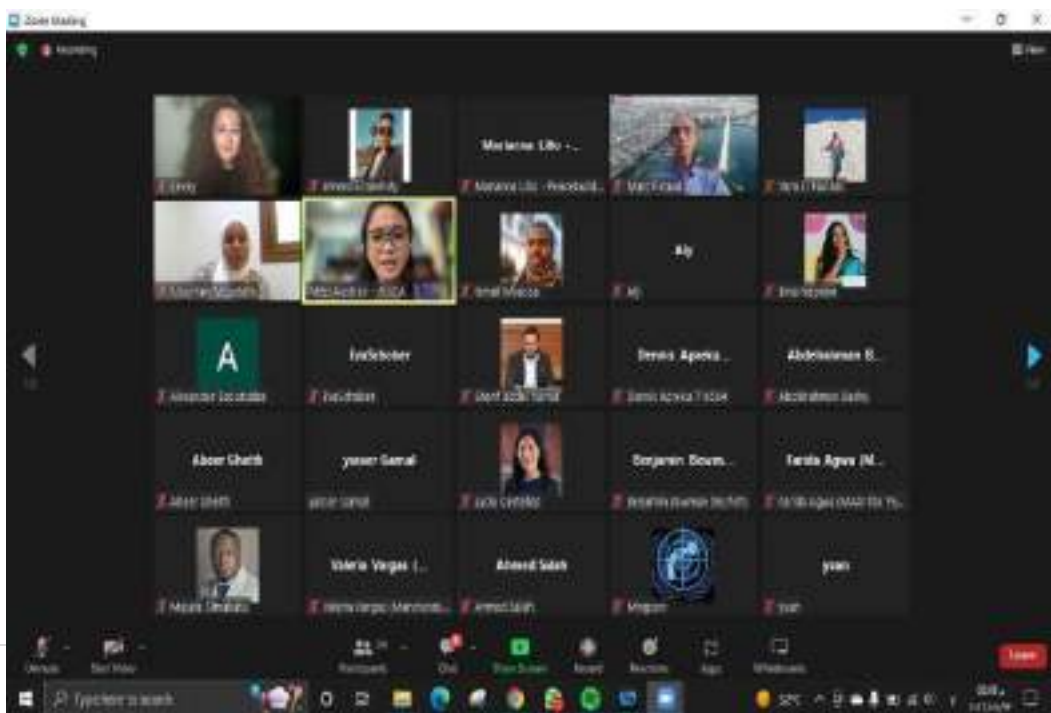
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ELIZKA RELIEF FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022 AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2021/2022





ELIZKA RELIEF FOUNDATION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

ALEX THOMPSON & ASSOCIATES
(CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS)

ICAG/F/2021/250

ACCRA OFFICE:
HIGH STREET
P. O. BOX 9551
AIRPORT - ACCRA

KUMASI OFFICE:
654A NTOMIN ROAD
P. O. BOX KS 4205
KUMASI

ELIZKA RELIEF FOUNDATION, ACCOUNTS FOR 2021

ELIZKA RELIEF FOUNDATION**DIRECTORS' REPORT**

The directors present herewith the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2021, and report thereon as follow:

1. Principal activities

The company engaged in capacity building and human empowerment.

2. Financial results

The results of the Company are set out on pages 3 to 5. The company recorded a net Profit of GH¢ 88,634 as against a net Profit of GH¢ 80,462 in 2020.

3. Dividends

The directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend for the year ended 31 December 2021 (2020: Nil).

4. Auditors

In accordance with Section 134 (5) of the Companies Code, 2019 (Act 992) the auditors, Messrs. Alex Thompson & Assoc., continue in office as auditors of the company.

5. Approval of financial statements

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 16/02/2022

On behalf of the board of directors

.....
Director


.....
Director



ELIZKA RELIEF FOUNDATION... ACCOUNTS FOR 2021

The directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements for each financial period which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company at the end of the financial year and of the profit or loss of the company for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the applicable accounting standards have been followed;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the company, and which enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with International Financial Reporting Standards for Small and Medium-sized Entities (IFRS for SMEs). They are responsible for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the company, and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

ALEX THOMPSON AND ASSOCIATES

AUDITORS' REPORT**Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements****Opinion**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of **ELIZKA RELIEF FOUNDATION** which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2021, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows for the year then ended, the notes to the financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies and other national disclosures.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of **Elizka Relief Foundation** as at 31 December 2021 and the financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards, and in the manner required by the Companies Act, 2019 (Act 992).

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the requirements of the International Federation of Accountants Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IFAC Code) as adopted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants Ghana (ICAG) and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with IFAC Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the Report of the Directors, which we obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report. The other information does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Statements

Based on the work we have performed on the other information that we obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, if we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

The directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of the Companies Act, 2019, (Act 992) and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.

We communicate with the audit committee and the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings,

ALEX THOMPSON AND ASSOCIATES

ELIZKA RELIEF FOUNDATION... ACCOUNTS FOR 2021

including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

The Companies Act, 2019 (Act 992) requires that in carrying out our audit work we consider and report on the following matters. We have obtained all the information and explanation which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit.

We confirm that:

- i) We have obtained all the information and explanation which to the best of our knowledge and believe were necessary for the purpose of our audit.
- ii) The Company has kept proper books of account, so far as appears from our examination of those books.
- iii) The Company's financial position and its statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income are in agreement with the books of account and returns.

es / 10 / 2022
KUMASI

Alex Thompson & Assoc
ALEX THOMPSON & ASSOC.
(Chartered Accountants)
(CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS)
Signed By:
Samuel Nath Djangmah
ICAG/P/1547

ELIZKA RELIEF FOUNDATION**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2021.**

<u>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</u>	<u>NOTES</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
		<u>GHe</u>	<u>GHe</u>
Property, Plant and Equipment	2	206,000	-
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>			
Accounts Receivable		202,000	324,542
Cash and Bank Balances	3	98,965	93,689
Total Current Assets		<u>300,965</u>	<u>418,231</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>506,965</u>	<u>418,231</u>
<u>ACCUMULATED FUND AND LIABILITIES</u>			
<u>REPRESENTED BY:-</u>			
Accumulated Fund		416,331	335,869
Excess of Income Over Expenditure		88,634	80,462
TOTAL FUND		<u>504,965</u>	<u>416,331</u>
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
Accounts Payable	4	2,000	1,900
		<u>2,000</u>	<u>1,900</u>
TOTAL FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		<u>506,965</u>	<u>418,231</u>

BY THE ORDER OF THE BOARD ON2022

.....EXECUTIVE

.....EXECUTIVE

ELIZKA RELIEF FOUNDATIONINCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021.

	<u>NOTES</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
		GHC	GHC
Income	5	466,288	444,829
Less:			
Administrative Expenses	6	358,685	346,999
Operating Profit/Loss		<u>107,603</u>	<u>97,830</u>
Finance Cost	7	18,969	17,368
Excess of Income Over Expenditure Transferred To Financial Position		<u><u>88,634</u></u>	<u><u>80,462</u></u>

ELIZKA RELIEF FOUNDATION**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021****1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The principal accounting policies which have been used in the preparation of these accounts have been disclosed under the appropriate headings as follows:

a.) COST CONCEPT

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with International Accounting Standards.

b.) DEPRECIATION

Non-Current Assets are depreciated by using the Straight Line method in order to write off the book values of the Asset to Nil at the expiration of their economic anticipated useful lives:

Land and Building	5%
Furniture and Equipment	7.5%
Motor Vehicle.....	20%

c.) INVENTORY

These have been valued by the Director at the lower of cost and net releasable value.

d.) TAXATION

The provision for taxation which is subject to the agreement of the tax authorities is based on the profit for the year.

e.) GENERAL

Comparative figures for the previous year are shown under "2020".

ELIZKA RELIEF FOUNDATIONNOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021.NON-CURRENT ASSETS2 Property, Plant and Equipment

	<u>LAND/ BUILDING</u>	<u>FURNITURE/ EQUIPMENT</u>	<u>MOTOR VEHICLE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>COST</u>	<u>GH¢</u>	<u>GH¢</u>	<u>GH¢</u>	<u>GH¢</u>
Balance at January 1	69,489	145,557	333,694	548,740
Addition	206,000	-	-	206,000
Balance at December 31	<u>275,489</u>	<u>145,557</u>	<u>333,694</u>	<u>754,740</u>

DEPRECIATION

Balance at January 1	69,489	145,557	333,694	548,740
Charge for the year	-	-	-	-
Balance at December 31	<u>69,489</u>	<u>145,557</u>	<u>333,694</u>	<u>548,740</u>

NET BOOK VALUE

December 31, 2021.	<u>206,000</u>	-	-	<u>206,000</u>
December 31, 2020.	-	-	-	-

3 CASH AND BANK BALANCES

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
	<u>GH¢</u>	<u>GH¢</u>
Current Account	-	-
Cash on Hand	98,965	93,689
	<u>98,965</u>	<u>93,689</u>

4 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

	<u>GHe</u>	<u>GHe</u>
Accruals and Other Creditors	-	-
	2,000	1,900
	<u>2,000</u>	<u>1,900</u>

5 INCOME

	<u>GH¢</u>	<u>GH¢</u>
Membership/Subscription fees	56,323	44,136
Other Contributions from Members	68,926	63,334
Funding from International Organizations	11,932	10,432
Funding from Private Sector	22,772	20,884
Funding from Other NGOs	24,368	23,596
Contract Income Generated	250,999	245,485
Other Sources of contributions	30,968	-36,962
ALEX THOMPSON AND ASSOCIATES	<u>466,288</u>	<u>444,829</u>

ELIZKA RELIEF FOUNDATION**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021.

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
	GH¢	GH¢
6 ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
Property Rate	800	800
Salaries and Wages	90,600	86,689
Social Security Fund - 13%	46,836	44,366
Electricity and Water	31,462	30,621
Postages and Telephone	44,991	42,396
Printing and Stationery	38,480	37,445
Travelling and Transport	29,366	27,896
Licence - KMA	3,000	3,000
Medical Expenses	13,682	12,112
Cleaning and Sanitation	1,260	817
Repairs and Renovation-Building	50,366	48,363
Repairs to Equipment	5,842	4,421
Audit Fees	2,000	1,900
Depreciation	-	6,173
	<u>358,685</u>	<u>346,999</u>
7 FINANCIAL COST		
Bank Charges and Interest	<u>18,969</u>	<u>17,368</u>

ELIZKA RELIEF FOUNDATION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

ALEX THOMPSON & ASSOCIATES
(CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS)

ICAG/F/2022/250

ACCRA OFFICE:
HIGH STREET
P. O. BOX 9551
AIRPORT - ACCRA

KUMASI OFFICE:
654A NTOMIN ROAD
P. O. BOX KS 4205
KUMASI

ELIZKA RELIEF FOUNDATION

DIRECTORS' REPORT

The directors present herewith the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2022, and report thereon as follow:

1. Principal activities

The company engaged in capacity building and human empowerment.

2. Financial results

The results of the Company are set out on pages 3 to 5. The company recorded a net Profit of GH¢ 107,550 as against a net Profit of GH¢ 88,634 in 2021.

3. Dividends

The directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend for the year ended 31 December 2022 (2021: Nil).

4. Auditors

In accordance with Section 134 (5) of the Companies Code, 2019 (Act 992) the auditors, Messrs. Alex Thompson & Assoc., continue in office as auditors of the company.

5. Approval of financial statements

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 04/02/2023

On behalf of the board of directors

.....
Director


.....
Director



The directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements for each financial period which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company at the end of the financial year and of the profit or loss of the company for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the applicable accounting standards have been followed;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the company, and which enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with International Financial Reporting Standards for Small and Medium-sized Entities (IFRS for SMEs). They are responsible for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the company, and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

AUDITORS' REPORT**Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements****Opinion**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of **ELIZKA RELIEF FOUNDATION** which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2022, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows for the year then ended, the notes to the financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies and other national disclosures.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of **Elizka Relief Foundation** as at 31 December 2022 and the financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards, and in the manner required by the Companies Act, 2019 (Act 992).

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the requirements of the International Federation of Accountants Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IFAC Code) as adopted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants Ghana (ICAG) and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with IFAC Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the Report of the Directors, which we obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report. The other information does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Statements

Based on the work we have performed on the other information that we obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, if we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

The directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of the Companies Act, 2019, (Act 992) and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.

We communicate with the audit committee and the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings,

including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

The Companies Act, 2019 (Act 992) requires that in carrying out our audit work we consider and report on the following matters. We have obtained all the information and explanation which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit.

We confirm that:

- i) We have obtained all the information and explanation which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit.
- ii) The Company has kept proper books of account, so far as appears from our examination of those books.
- iii) The Company's financial position and its statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income are in agreement with the books of account and returns.

.....2023
KUMASI


.....ALEX THOMPSON & ASSOCIATES.....
ALEX THOMPSON & ASSOC.
(CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS)
Signed By:
Samuel Narh Djangmah
ICAG/P/1547

ELIZKA RELIEF FOUNDATIONSTATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2022.

		<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
		GH¢	GH¢
<u>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</u>	<u>NOTES</u>		
Property, Plant and Equipment	2	206,000	206,000
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>			
Accounts Receivable		286,873	202,000
Cash and Bank Balances	3	<u>120,642</u>	<u>98,965</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>407,515</u>	<u>300,965</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>613,515</u>	<u>506,965</u>
<u>ACCUMULATED FUND AND LIABILITIES</u>			
<u>REPRESENTED BY:-</u>			
Accumulated Fund		504,965	416,331
Excess of Income Over Expenditure		<u>107,550</u>	<u>88,634</u>
TOTAL FUND		<u>612,515</u>	<u>504,965</u>
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
Accounts Payable	4	<u>1,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>
		<u>1,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>
TOTAL FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		<u>613,515</u>	<u>506,965</u>

BY THE ORDER OF THE BOARD ON2023

.....EXECUTIVE

.....EXECUTIVE

ELIZKA RELIEF FOUNDATIONINCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022.

	<u>NOTES</u>	<u>2022</u> GH¢	<u>2021</u> GH¢
Income	5	512,916	466,288
Less:			
Administrative Expenses	6	<u>386,002</u>	<u>358,685</u>
Operating Profit/Loss		126,914	107,603
Finance Cost	7	<u>19,364</u>	<u>18,969</u>
Excess of Income Over Expenditure Transferred To Financial Position		<u>107,550</u>	<u>88,634</u>

ELIZKA RELIEF FOUNDATION**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The principal accounting policies which have been used in the preparation of these accounts have been disclosed under the appropriate headings as follows:

a.) COST CONCEPT

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with International Accounting Standards.

b.) DEPRECIATION

Non-Current Assets are depreciated by using the Straight Line method in order to write off the book values of the Asset to Nil at the expiration of their economic anticipated useful lives:

Land and Building	5%
Furniture and Equipment	7.5%
Motor Vehicle.....	20%

c.) INVENTORY

These have been valued by the Director at the lower of cost and net releasable value.

d.) TAXATION

The provision for taxation which is subject to the agreement of the tax authorities is based on the profit for the year.

e.) GENERAL

Comparative figures for the previous year are shown under "2021".

ELIZKA RELIEF FOUNDATIONNOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022.NON-CURRENT ASSETS

2 Property, Plant and Equipment	LAND/ BUILDING	FURNITURE/ EQUIPMENT	MOTOR VEHICLE	TOTAL
	GH¢	GH¢	GH¢	GH¢
<u>COST</u>				
Balance at January 1	275,489	145,557	333,694	754,740
Addition	-	-	-	-
Balance at December 31	<u>275,489</u>	<u>145,557</u>	<u>333,694</u>	<u>754,740</u>
 <u>DEPRECIATION</u>				
Balance at January 1	69,489	145,557	333,694	548,740
Charge for the year	-	-	-	-
Balance at December 31	<u>69,489</u>	<u>145,557</u>	<u>333,694</u>	<u>548,740</u>
 <u>NET BOOK VALUE</u>				
December 31, 2022.	<u>206,000</u>	-	-	<u>206,000</u>
December 31, 2021.	<u>206,000</u>	-	-	<u>206,000</u>

3 CASH AND BANK BALANCES

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	GH¢	GH¢
Current Account	-	-
Cash on Hand	120,642	98,965
	<u>120,642</u>	<u>98,965</u>

4 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

	GH¢	GH¢
Accruals and Other Creditors	1,000	2,000
	<u>1,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>

5 INCOME

	GH¢	GH¢
Membership/Subscription fees	68,964	56,323
Other Contributions from Members	76,362	68,926
Funding from International Organizations	12,992	11,932
Funding from Private Sector	30,676	22,772
Funding from Other NGOs	31,621	24,368
Contract Income Generated	253,326	250,999
Other Sources of contributions	38,975	30,968
	<u>512,916</u>	<u>466,288</u>

ELIZKA RELIEF FOUNDATION**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022.

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	GHe	GHe
<u>6 ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</u>		
Property Rate	800	800
Salaries and Wages	90,600	90,600
Social Security Fund - 13%	46,836	46,836
Electricity and Water	38,964	31,462
Postages and Telephone	50,412	44,991
Printing and Stationery	39,361	38,480
Travelling and Transport	30,426	29,366
Licence - KMA	3,500	3,000
Medical Expenses	14,921	13,682
Cleaning and Sanitation	1,498	1,260
Repairs and Renovation-Building	61,567	50,366
Repairs to Equipment	6,117	5,842
Audit Fees	1,000	2,000
Depreciation	-	-
	<u>386,002</u>	<u>358,685</u>
<u>7 FINANCIAL COST</u>		
Bank Charges and Interest	<u>19,364</u>	<u>18,969</u>