

**WORKSHOP  
ON  
PROLIFERATION OF SMALL ARMS  
AND LIGHT WEAPONS  
IN GARISSA DISTRICT.**

**CO-HOSTED BY  
SALIGAD/OXFAM AND  
PASTORALIST PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT  
INITIATIVE**

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**ABBREVIATIONS**

APFO	Africa Peace Forum
BICC	Bonn International Centre for Conversion
CBO	Committee Based Organizations
DCIO	District Criminal Investigation Officer
DC	District Commissioner
DSIO	District Security Intelligence Officer
FEWER	Forum For Early Warning and Early Response
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority of Development
IRG	International Resource Group
OCPD	Officer Commanding Police Division
OC	Officer Commanding/Military
OXFAM	Oxford Famine Relief
PPDI	Pastoralist Peace and Development Initiative
SALIGAD	Small Arms Light Weapons in IGAD
SUPKEM	Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims
SWAK	Society For Women In Aids Kenya
WC	Women Concern

## **1. FORWARD**

The Garissa workshop on Small Arms Proliferation in the Garissa District was held thanks to the cumulative efforts of Ambassador B.A. Kiplagat and the persistence of Messrs Mohammed Abdi Rage and Ali Ibrahim Farah. They visited the International Resource Group (IRG) regularly to seek assistance in hosting the workshop, as a foundation for discussions on the impact of arms and also on the background of their presence in the district.

There is no doubt that the effects of small arms are felt not just in the district, but also in the whole province and beyond. In Garissa District alone, there have been many deaths of innocent people and destruction to property caused by small arms and light weapons.

Garissa town is dotted with refugees living in pathetic conditions. Refugees are a direct result of conflicts, aggravated by the use of small arms. In the words of Dr Mohammed Duale, "Garissa is now a refugee town. People are refugees since they can no longer live in peace in their home areas, because of conflict. Clearly, the weapons used are small arms and light weapons".

Why are these guns found in the area? How did they get there? Who handles them? These are some of the questions raised in the workshop.

The impact of the workshop which brought together the clan leaders, warlords, and government and security people should be measured by the fact that those who are affected by the conflict were given the opportunity to express their views. The representatives of the State, responsible for providing a secure environment for its people, and the members of the District Security Committee listened, whilst the civil society observed and took note.

There are many reasons for the presence of the guns that aggravate conflict in Garissa District. The workshop established that the proliferation of small arms and light weapons is linked to the history of the Somali people, their nature, past mistakes, current problems and the global environment.

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

**P.B. MARWA  
REGIONAL RESEARCH COORDINATOR  
SALIGAD PROJECT**

### **WHAT IS THE PASTORALIST PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (PPDI)?**

The Pastoralist Peace and Development Initiative (PPDI) is a community-based organisation, which was launched to provide long-lasting solutions to the perennial security threat in Garissa District in which arms are clearly an aggravating factor. The PPDI was established by local leaders and youth groups with the objective of achieving sustainable peace and development in the district, through active community participation and involvement.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

The main objective of PPDI is:

Understanding the origins and dynamic nature of conflicts and advocating for provision of homegrown solutions. It aims at promoting traditional methods of conflict resolution and peace making.

### **GOALS:**

- To sensitize and mobilize the community towards achieving peaceful development in the district. This is done by conducting regular social mobilisation workshops for peace and linking the same to community development.
- To understand and establish sources of tension and conflict in the district. This is achieved through promoting interaction and co-operation among the communities living in the district.
- To strengthen the organisation's capacity in managing peace. This is accomplished by providing a secretariat for effective networking on peace and development issues and also providing training and other logistical support.

## **WHAT IS THE SALIGAD PROJECT?**

SALIGAD is short for “Small Arms and Light Weapons in IGAD”, a BICC/IRG project in the Horn of Africa.

The theme of SALIGAD is

ASSESSING THE SMALL ARMS ISSUE AND DEVELOPING CAPACITY  
FOR PEACE IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

## **BACKGROUND:**

After decades of destruction and human suffering resulting from long and interrelated wars, the 1990's brought major changes to the member countries of the Inter Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD). The Horn of Africa is a region that embodies disparate political conditions. When the civil wars in Eritrea, Ethiopia and Djibouti ended, major demobilisations took place. However a new situation of interstate confrontation or remobilisation has recently occurred in the area. Most countries in the Horn are still experiencing some level of conflict, albeit of varying levels, intensity and nature. Fledging post-war societies are fragile and are prone to recurring armed conflict. A broader peace-building process still needs to be developed and sustained.

A serious security situation persists in the region due in part to a large number of small arms and light weapons which appear on the market, and which is a direct consequence of the previous wars. During demobilisation, small arms can often be acquired by individuals or groups and are shipped from place to place. The uncontrolled possession and utilization of arms can contribute to armed conflicts. IGAD member states have realized these problems and have created an additional mandate aimed at conflict prevention, resolution and management. This is intended to encourage peace initiatives throughout the region. The new mandate is part of the process of revitalising IGAD, and demonstrates the will and commitment of national leaders to IGAD. This is an important step because conflict prevention and management have a direct bearing on day-to-day development efforts in the region, as well as on the implementation of post-war rehabilitation and development policies. The activities of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in the field of conflict prevention are further encouraging signs of a political will to address conflicts. They constitute additional positive signs which support the ideals envisaged in the SALIGAD project.

## **GOALS:**

SALIGAD's goals are to promote and facilitate dialogue programs, in order to build the capacity for peace in the IGAD countries and the region as a whole by bringing together representatives from NGOs, the academic community and governments. The project aims at reinforcing humanitarian approaches to development and emphasising the central importance of creating an environment, which is conducive to crisis prevention. It also encourages non-violent approaches to solving conflicts in the region.

More directly, the project aims at:

- ❖ Promoting indigenous data collection and regulatory mechanisms for small arms and the study of the proliferation of arms within the region, with an emphasis on the impact of arms on humanitarian issues and regional security.
- ❖ Providing an open platform/forum for the exchange of information, and helping promote discussion and awareness among development practitioners, policy-makers and researchers.
- ❖ Generating policy options regarding small arms and light weapons from national to regional levels.
- ❖ Directly supporting researchers in the region who are working on the issues outlined above.

## **APPROACH:**

The project aims to involve decision-makers and opinion-leaders through open dialogue. Grass-root initiatives will also constitute an integral part of the project, and research results will be passed on to communities suffering from the effects of conflicts and from the diffusion of small arms.

The following elements give the project a three-tiered approach:

- ❖ Field research and data collection conducted by local researchers.
- ❖ Open dialogue with and between different stakeholders, the government, non-governmental organisations and the grass-roots level.
- ❖ Measures to train and raise the awareness of community leaders.

### **PROJECT ACTIVITIES:**

The project will involve

- the analysis of available literature
- conflict mapping
- field research
- dialogue through a program of conferences and workshops with grass-roots activists and decision-makers
- the transmission of research findings to the relevant communities
- training in the field of crisis prevention and management as well as arms control and management.

Project findings will be disseminated widely.

### **EXPECTED PROJECT IMPACT:**

The project provides a framework for concerted action that will change attitudes towards small arms and security threats. This in turn is expected to encourage other initiatives that will benefit peace efforts and human development. Finally, the project focuses on those people in the region who suffer enormously as a result of innumerable acts of violence, and will offer them options for small arms control and management.

### **PROJECT FUNDING:**

The project is funded by the German Federal Government, through the German Technical Co-operation Agency (GTZ) based in Eschborn/Germany) and by Bread of the World (a major Protestant development agency in Stuttgart/Germany).

### **IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATION:**

The project is being implemented by a team from the Bonn International Centre for Conversion (BICC), which serves as the lead agency, and the International Resource Group on Disarmament and Security in the Horn of Africa (IRG).

BICC is an independent non-profit making organisation dedicated to promoting and facilitating the process whereby people, skills, technology, equipment, financial and economical resources can be shifted away from the defence sector and applied to alternative civilian uses.



The IRG is a catalytic forum, promoting the idea of practical disarmament, peaceful resolution of disputes and participation of civil society in governance for the entire Horn of Africa region.

The project operates from the offices of the African Peace Forum under the chairmanship of Ambassador Bethuel Kiplagat. The project's regional co-ordinator is Colonel (Rtd) Peter B. Marwa.

SALIGAD funded the Garissa Workshop because it fitted into its overall aims, goals and objectives. Small arms proliferation is a serious problem. The community is a victim of small arms. Because the illicit arms circulate in their midst, it would be expected that the community has knowledge of these arms, especially on how they reach the area, routes, handlers, prices and reasons for the use of the guns.

In her contribution MS. CIRU MWAURA, PROGRAMS CO-ORDINATOR Forum For EARLY Warning and EARLY Response (FEWER), said two of the entry points identified for the early warning systems are:

- ❖ Cattle rustling
- ❖ Small arms

Effective early warning and early response can be achieved through systems of information sharing, which ultimately lead to a co-ordinated response. This is, in turn, dependent on effective synergy between central, provincial and district government and civil society (NGOs, religious groups etc).

Each of the groups has a comparative advantage in the prevention of violent conflict but a greater impact is achieved when all levels share and co-ordinate the collection and analysis of information and the development of response options that are strategic and lead to more effective decision-making.

## **GARISSA DISTRICT SECURITY SITUATION**

Garissa District is one of the three districts forming the North Eastern province of Kenya. In recent times it has been the district most affected by insecurity due to inter-clan conflicts.

The district covers an area of 43,932 sq. km and borders the Wajir District to the North, Lamu District to the South, Tana River District and Isiolo District to the West and the Somalia Republic to the East.

Garissa is low lying with altitudes ranging between 70m and 400m above sea level. River Tana which runs along the western boundary of the district, is the only permanent river. Though it is not confined within the district boundaries, the river has tremendous influence over the climate, settlement patterns and economic activities within the district, as it forms the single most important source of water. March/April and October/December, the district is normally hot and dry

Throughout the year drought is a normal feature in the district, and while it is impossible to address its causes directly, there are a number of mechanisms traditionally used to mitigate its effects. One principal mechanism is migration to alternative sources of pasture and water. For the last three years, this free movement has been severely constrained by insecurity.

## **DEMOGRAPHY AND ECONOMY**

A predominantly nomadic pastoral population inhabits Garissa district and in 1989, the population census registered a total of 124,835 people.

The population of the district is mostly Somali, a very distinct ethnic group, distinguished by a language, culture and lifestyle different from that of most other Kenyans.

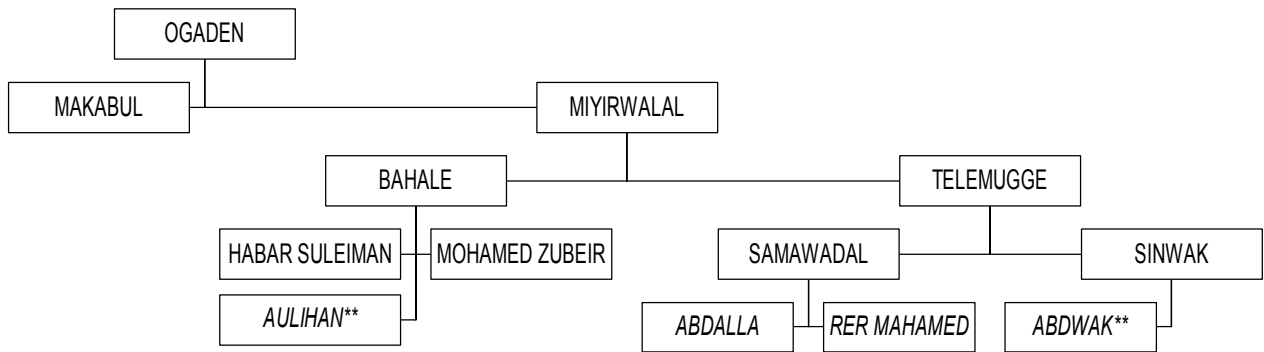
Somalis are patrilineal, tracing descent through the male line and identifying themselves as co-descendants of a particular ancestor.

The family unit, consisting of husband, wife/wives and children is the basic building block of Somali society. The family normally owns a herd of cattle, sheep and goats or camels, but in some cases only two or three of these animals. The size of the herd varies from family to family and from one locality to another.

A number of related but autonomous family units congregate to form a manyatta for common defence against risks and for division of labour. These family units constitute the next building block of Somali tribal society, the reer (pl. reero). A number of reero usually residing within the same general area (or even where they are scattered among other reero) would constitute a qolo or Qabil denoting a clan. Clans are an aggregate of lineage groups (reero), which vary in size.

Somalis of Garissa district are of the Ogaden clan within the larger Darood sub-tribe.

The descendants of Ogaden can further be sub-divided into: -



NB: The names in Italics are the clans resident in Garissa district  
The names in asterisk are the warring clans.

The descent diagram does not indicate the current relative size or importance of the various descent groups within the district. The term subsection is also used sometimes for lower descent groups.

The Aulihan, Abdalla and Abdwak clans are the inhabitants of the Garissa District. Prior to independence, each of the sub-clans in the district was governed by a male elder known as Boqor assisted by a council of elders called Gudi, which could vary in size. When there is business to be attended to and depending upon the seriousness of the matter, the chief may call the council. Decisions are reached through open discussion and consensus.

Somali traditional way of life is regulated by customary law or heer, which regulates daily affairs among the nomadic population. However, Somalis are Sunni Muslims and as such, the heer is valid as long as it does not contravene the Islamic teachings where the Islamic Shariah takes precedence. Each clans acts as the enforcer of its rules and regulations while Somali customary law or heer with it's moral and ethical underpinnings, backed up with force or the threat of force, normally regulates inter-clan affairs and disputes. Although legally land in the district is a trust land, each of the clans attaches a traditional claim to its respective grazing areas. The colonial government drew boundaries along the clans' territorial grazing lands as a way of reinforcing administrative laws and as a move they saw as restoring peace among the different pastoral groups. The colonial government invoked the special District Ordinance of 1934, which empowered the Provincial Commissioner, Northern Frontier District (NFD) to define grazing and water boundaries. The Native Ordinance Act was used for the implementation of this concept.

Each clan was restricted to its traditional grazing territory and a strict surveillance to enforce the order was put in place. Trespassers were

punished through arbitrary stock fines. However, members of a clan had free access to water and grazing within their respective grazing areas.

The colonial grazing boundaries established areas for clans, but over time, by virtue of use, the previous “customary exclusiveness” is no longer in operation.

## **CUSTOMARY AUTHORITY AND CONTROLS**

Among the Somalis of Garissa District, there are no formal traditional authorities with political jurisdiction. Religious leaders or Sheikhs are respected and rich men who are influential through their wealth but they do not exercise the comprehensive power usually associated with traditional rulers. Chiefs and assistant chiefs, who are government appointed, are usually in charge of a territorial area rather than a tribal group.

The most widely recognised authority is the ad hoc meeting of elders, but this now carries less weight than in the past. The authority of elders has declined for several reasons:

- Customary sanctions were artificially sustained by the colonial administration but this is no longer the case.
- The policy of applying only one law, the law of Kenya, to crimes such as murder, and not supporting traditional sanctions has left elders uncertain whether to continue using them, and uncertain on what to do in case of default.
- The ‘shifta’ emergency involved a return to force as a source of authority between Somalis.
- The abandoning of inter-clan boundaries means that in any particular place a group of elders is less likely to be tribally homogenous.

The decline of these controls is most noticeable in connection with water discipline. What were previously offences are now widely practiced with impunity.

The institution of the council of elders and its influence has weakened in recent years. These councils would require official support if they were to exercise effective control.

## **CURRENT SITUATION**

Members of a clan appear communally to identify themselves closely with territories. The colonial policy of tribal separation and the imposition of exclusive boundaries between clans served to make *de jure* what had earlier been *de facto*. It attempted to freeze a situation in which water and grazing rights were based largely on force and the relative power of the different groups.

These colonial boundaries are still used administratively in the postcolonial era, for example, to demarcate constituencies for electoral purposes. They have thus become deeply engrained and they are often hotly contested as the focus of issues concerning both resources and representation.

Immediately after independence, the grazing restriction was withdrawn and adherence to clan territories broke down. This triggered pastoral migration across districts and international boundaries resulting in increased human and livestock numbers in the province. Water resources are utilised in a free-for-all manner, a scenario that has led to the current state of insecurity.

In Garissa District, insecurity has risen to rank alongside drought as a principle cause of human misery. The term insecurity is very broad, often euphemistic and is used to encompass a variety of actions including highway banditry and hijacking, raiding and stock theft, robbery and looting, intimidation, physical injury and mutilation, rape and murder.

The insecurity is caused by inter-clan conflicts and banditry. The causes of this insecurity are numerous and complex, and their analysis is beyond the scope of this report. However, although the causes, perpetrators and actions may themselves vary, they all have devastating effects. The immediate effects are injury and trauma, both physical and psychological, violent death and bereavement, fear and social tension. Another direct consequence is loss or destruction of property. In many cases, this includes loss of such essentials as shelter, clothing and livestock. The loss of livestock means losing both the domestic food source and capital. A large number of families have been forced out of the pastoralist lifestyle in this way.

As is usual in stress situations, the most vulnerable, i.e. children, women, the disabled and the elderly suffer first and most acutely, while the secondary effects, which impact directly on the household and family, include displacement and evacuation from settlements. Inter-clan feuds over the dwindling resource base and subsequent renewal of

territorial land claims and counter claims have restricted and even blocked access to common resources by certain pastoralist groups. The insecurity has distorted the original grazing patterns and forced pastoralists to resort to environmentally unsustainable resource use systems.

The prevailing insecurity has reduced the resource base of pastoralists by compelling them to be sedentary against their will. Further secondary effects on the pastoral community are the constraints of migratory movements in search of water and vegetation. Certain groups often deny other groups of pastoralists access to different areas, including to their water sources and vegetation.

Additional consequences which impact directly or indirectly on individuals and families and particularly on children and women include:

- Restriction of the distribution of relief supplies, such as general rations and supplementary food.
- Curtailment of both governmental and non-governmental services, particularly in the rural areas. Services affected include: -
  - Immunisation activities,
  - Mobile clinics,
  - Veterinary services outreach programmes,
  - Borehole maintenance and repair,
  - Supply and supervision of rural health facilities,
  - Education with reduced attendance leading in several cases to closure of schools.

As well as affecting service provision, insecurity hits every aspect of the socio-economic life of the community. The commonly cited examples are:

- Reduced viability and vitality of livestock, increased incidence of animal malnutrition, morbidity and mortality.
- Reduced commerce and trading activities, leading to further depression of livestock values and markets, unavailability, scarcity and high cost of basic commodities.

- Increased isolation of the district from the rest of the country.
- Reduced investment, few and poor employment opportunities.
- Reduced educational opportunities.
- Family separations.
- Increased number of families living in destitution in the peri-urban settlements.
- Loss of hope and confidence.
- Diversion of scarce resources e.g. more funds directed to firearms for self-defence and reduced capital expenditure on welfare.
- Increased malnutrition, morbidity and mortality particularly among vulnerable groups, especially children and women.

N.B. All of the above effects compound with one another and together with the consequences of the cyclical droughts, they can be summarised simply using classical measures.

Overall, insecurity causes suffering and misery, poverty and destitution, social tension, animosity and fear.

As regards the outlook for the district, the insufficiency of resources available to the District Security Committee (DSC) to address the problem should also be noted.

From the perspective of the DSC, the problem of insecurity may be explained as follows:

- Traditional, structural, social and economical tensions -- over resources and representation, services and opportunities -- have become heightened due to drought and the influx of refugees.
- These tensions and the free flow of arms have led to increases in banditry and opportunistic crime, as well as an increase in clan-based conflict.
- Concurrently, given the inadequacy of central government resources, for both civil and security services, the civil administration and the police have found it increasingly difficult to manage the new scale and complexity of the situation.
- This, in turn, serves to encourage groups to take the law into their own hands, with clans and family groups arming themselves

principally for defensive purposes. With the weakened control of traditional authority structures over defensive militias being limited, this results in further escalation of inter-clan hostilities and banditry. Overall, the picture is one of self-perpetuating, cyclical lawlessness and violence.



### **3. WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY**

The overall objective of the workshop was “possible ways of curbing the flow of small arms in the district”.

The methodology used was participatory with the participants drawn from: -

- All the clans in the district.
- Religious organizations.
- The District Security Committee.
- NGOs and CBOs working in the district.

The participants were divided into five working groups and given guided questions that assisted them to come to logical and workable solutions. A resource person who assisted in their deliberations helped each group.

### **4. PARTICIPANTS’ EXPECTATIONS OF THE WORKSHOP**

Some of the expectations of participants were as follows:

- ❖ Identifying the sources of arms.
- ❖ Finding ways of collecting the firearms.
- ❖ Learning more about the reasons behind the killings.
- ❖ Establishing the effects of small arms.
- ❖ Finding ways of regaining the lost harmony.
- ❖ Learning more about the trade in arms and the main players.
- ❖ Establishing the benefits and losses in the proliferation of small arms.
- ❖ Identifying why we need guns.
- ❖ Resolving that the time has come to end the problem.
- ❖ Deciding how the outputs will be implemented and how all the expectations will be used on a wider scale.

## **5. SESSIONS**

During the opening session, various personalities addressed the gathering.

### **A. Mr SIYAT OSMAN**

Mr Siyat Osman, the Mayor of Garissa, revealed that he had just returned from the USA where he had attended a meeting on conflicts. He said the problem of small arms in Garissa District is connected with its history. The colonial powers treated Somalis as non-Africans and gave them a pseudo status. For example, in the army Somalis were given special food – spaghetti, rice and meat while other communities were given different foods such as ugali. At the time when other Kenyans were agitating for independence, Somalis refused to join them, which in turn, became the cause of the shifta war. This was the start of the arms proliferation in Garissa. Arms were transferred from Somali National Army (SNA) to the Northern Frontier District Liberation Front (NFDLF). This led to war between the Kenya Army and the Somali community. As a result, education and other such activities could not take place. No development could be achieved and the general infrastructure was destroyed during the conflict. Since then, no new infrastructure has been built in the Somali-inhabited areas of Northern Kenya, Garissa included.

What this did was to isolate the Somali community from the rest of the country, resulting in bitterness and hatred. This was the reason why the Somalis started arming themselves.

Conflict among the Somalis has been in existence since then. However, in 1993/1994 a new dimension of the conflict developed, whereby the conflict slowly changed into clan wars, which started from Wajir and spread to other areas. Today in Garissa, there is fighting between clans such as the Aulihan and Abduwak.

The same thing is happening in other districts where clans are fighting each other, resulting in death, destruction or loss of property and animals, and other problems. There has always been conflict on a small scale among Somali clans, but the new dimension is that there are more people dying and enormous damage being done to property, now due to the introduction of arms or firearms into the conflict. Unless something is done, the situation will continue to worsen, and for this reason, solutions should be sought for the control and management of small arms in this district.

## **B. Mrs RUKIA SUBOW**

The National Vice Chairperson of Maendeleo ya Wanawake made an issue of all types of weapons which are available such as knives, swords etc. since they all have tremendous killing power.

She asked the following questions:

- Why do we have guns?
- Why do we need them?

Workshop participants should deliberate on these questions and come up with a long lasting solution to the problem of small arms.

## **C. AMBASSADOR B. KIPLAGAT**

Conflict in which small arms are used has affected development in the Horn of Africa tremendously. Cattle rustling, in particular, has been aggravated by the circulation of small arms. It has been estimated that there are currently 5 million small arms in this region of the Horn of Africa.

Conflict has continued to plague the region due to the inappropriate approaches used to resolve it. States or Governments have dealt with the issue of conflicts, even when it is a matter of age-old rivalry or traditional cattle rustling, by applying coercive power. The security operations, although well intended, have not been well coordinated. For example, in Kenya alone, there are about six different security agencies dealing with the problem of cattle rustling. These are the Anti Stock Theft Unit, the GSU, the Administration Police, the Police and the Military. They have been selective and overly punitive, occasionally disregarding the need for a proportionate response. When Governments have conducted peace efforts, they have tended to talk to the people rather than talk with the people. The result is that the problem has continued to expand. To address problems of cattle rustling and of small arms, several approaches can be used. For example, those who are directly affected by the problem and who have the information can be involved. These are the local leaders and Africa Peace Forum (APFO) has been working with such leaders.

Recently, APFO conducted a workshop in Lake Bogoria attended by County Council chairmen from 11 districts affected by cattle rustling. The two-day conference deliberated on how to curb the problem. More workshops along these lines are planned to engage the communities and

people who have been affected by the effects of small arms, especially in relation to cattle rustling.

Cattle rustling is an endemic and widespread problem and efforts to curb it in one district alone cannot work. Turkana, for example, do not just steal cattle within their own district; they steal cattle from the Samburu and Pokot who live in different districts. So the problem becomes inter-district and co-operation among districts is necessary. In addition, Kenya alone cannot solve the problem, which occurs across borders. For example, the Karamojong in Uganda and the Turkana in Kenya steal cattle from one another. The problem is therefore regional, so regional co-operation is necessary to solve it.

The long term way forward is to encourage co-operation between the governments and the people and co-operation between states in the region. At the district level, a permanent structure is needed to manage the problem. This should include liaison mechanisms at the local level where information can quickly be acted on, to prevent cattle rustling from happening. Because conflict simmers and then explodes, if it can be prevented at early stages, it will be minimized or prevented altogether.

Small arms and light weapons have been recognised as aggravating conflicts in this region of the Horn. Both IGAD and national governments have acknowledged the problem. It is for this reason that the SALIGAD project has been started. Its primary role is to coordinate research on small arms in the seven countries of IGAD. Before any measures can be taken to address the proliferation of small arms, basic information has to be gathered. We must know, for example, the sources of these arms, routes and prices, handlers, areas of concentration, reasons for their flow etc. There is, however, a difference between international and regional research work on this subject: whereas the aim of international research is to prevent catastrophe and effects of arms on civil society, government intelligence work gathers data in the so called "national interest."

#### **D. KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY DR. MOHAMMED D. DUALE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PPDI**

Conflict among communities in pastoral areas in Kenya has become quite common. In the last two decades, such conflicts have led to extreme food insecurity and as a result, several local civil society organisations developed an interest in containing the conflicts. PPDI is one such organisation. During the last two years, PPDI has concentrated on understanding the conflicts in Garissa District and to this end, it has received support from the local administration and various donors based

in Nairobi. The local community has also supported the initiatives of PPDI.

Insecurity in the North Eastern province has passed through various stages:

- Post Independence shifta war
- Poaching and the aftermath of the Ogaden war in the late 1970's
- Collapse of the central government in Somalia
- Resultant effects of refugee influx and infiltration of light arms
- Inter-clan conflicts in Garissa District since 1997

Due to political unrest in neighbouring states (Somalia and Ethiopia), there has been an easy access to light weapons. Although no reliable statistics are available, it is estimated that there are hundreds of light weapons in the hands of local communities. The increasing pressure on local resources has resulted in the escalation of even minor conflicts. The use of automatic guns instead of spears and sticks has increased the number of fatalities and intensity of such conflicts.

It is now estimated that about 150 people, mainly young men, have lost their lives as a result of this conflict. The presence of light arms has not spared the security forces either. About 40 security personnel and 100 guns have been lost in this district during the last three years.

## **RESULTS**

The consequences of the conflicts and the presence of illegal firearms can be enumerated as follows:

- Loss of life, disabilities and psychological trauma.
- Slow development in the region and reluctance of donors to support projects due to the general insecurity in the area.
- Effect on the local livestock market, which has declined.
- Loss of livestock from the local communities due to raids.
- Loss of other property e.g. breakage of shops.

- Loss of grazing land and water and abnormal concentration of livestock in areas considered to safe leading to ecological degradation and, in turn, to new conflicts.
- Destitution and displacement of pastoral communities – about 47% of people interviewed in Turkana district say that they have lost their livestock due to raids.
- Replacement of the trade in livestock by the trade in weapons.
- The increased cost of transport and hardships for lorry owners leading to scarcity and higher prices of local commodities.
- Social outcomes, such as a large number of people moving to towns, where the majority of the population already lives in unplanned settlements with no legal access to land or services.
- The resulting increased pressure on resources in urban settlements.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS AND STRATEGIES OF THE PPDI:**

### **SUPPORT TO COMMUNITY GROUPS PEACE INITIATIVES**

The purpose of the above mentioned strategy is to support on-going community group activities related to the promotion of dialogue and reconciliation. The strategy aims at assisting key community groups to maximize their efforts in support of lasting and peaceful co-existence. The groups include:

- Religious leaders and sheikhs
- Various Councils of Elders.
- Community Based Organizations (CBOs) active in the peace-making process.

While each of these has its own activities and plans, in general all their strategies involve the following: -

- Social mobilisation and creation of community awareness through public barazas, workshops, meetings, visits to institutions, etc.

- Use of traditional arbitration and conflict resolution mechanisms.
- Team building and conflict resolution
- Recovery of weapons
- Exploring methods for communities to finance and sustain their group activities

### **SUPPORT TO THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION**

The purpose of this strategy will be to provide supplementary non-military logistical and communications support to the district administration to assist them to fulfil their security-related responsibilities. This type of support will include the following:

- Fuel
- Communications (rehabilitation and new installations) for remote strategic sites
- Vehicle rehabilitation and repair

Activities to which this support will be applied will include the following:

- Barazas and meetings in support of enhanced security, in all parts of the district where insecurity is a problem
- Recovery of weapons
- Additional patrolling and response to banditry incidents.

### **SUPPORT TO RELIEF AND ESTABLISHMENT/RESETTLEMENT**

The purpose of this strategy is to provide immediate support to victims of clan conflicts and banditry, both to alleviate human misery and as an entry point to the reconciliation process. This strategy also aims to help victims resume their former livelihoods. It will involve the following:

- Identification, needs assessments and registration
- Appropriate provision of shelter

- Food
- Clothes
- Restocking
- Development of education opportunities
- Skills building and enterprise creation opportunities.

### **SUPPORT TO DISTRICT COORDINATION**

The purpose of the strategy is to facilitate information exchange and networking on issues of peace and security within the district and neighbouring districts. The strategy recognizes that the district is not an island by itself and that the situation in neighbouring districts and countries is a major determinant of the local situation. The main activities under this strategy are:

- Workshops and meetings for all key players at various levels
- Support to communications, for information exchange
- Support to the media, with emphasis on positive publicity

### **PPDI PEACE AND RECONCILIATION PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

The project/strategies will be co-ordinated by PPDI. The Project management unit (PMU) will be located at their offices in Garissa town. The PMU will be headed by a project Manager with the support of one office assistant. The task of overseeing the project will be delegated to the PMU and day-to-day management and coordination will be the responsibility of the project manager who will report to the PPDI executives.

### **E. Mr DUBAT AMEY, CHAIRMAN OF THE GARISSA COUNTY COUNCIL**

The consequences of the proliferation of small arms are numerous. There are, for example, a large number of displaced families in and around Garissa town, because of the ongoing conflicts among the clans in the district, in which small arms have played a great role. These displaced persons currently spend their days and nights without shelter or food. They are victims of the proliferation of small arms in the Horn of Africa. If SALIGAD could start a restocking programme to help these people, they could go back to a normal life. The time has come to end



the senseless killings of innocent people, raping of women and the destruction of property in the area and a proper strategy is needed to bring about a long lasting solution to the problem.

**F. Mr ALI OSMAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE ABDWAK COMMUNITY.**

The only way to solve the problems of this district is for everyone to express their feelings and opinions frankly in different forums. The efforts made by the PPDI to work for the cause of peace in the district will hopefully go a long way to finding solutions for these problems.

**G. Mr OSMAN IBRAHIM, CHAIRMAN OF AULIHAN COMMUNITY.**

In addition to other reasons put forward, the political situation in the district is also responsible for the prevailing conflicts. Politics within the two formerly brotherly communities has killed the good relations which existed previously. The cheap and massive influx of arms into the district is also aggravating the situation and has led, for example, to the upsurge of banditry in the district. Participants should work together with the relevant authorities to put an end to the menace of arms proliferation. To achieve this end, more needs to be learnt on how to control and manage arms proliferation and the routes and the people involved in the supply of these arms to the district. Finally, the manufacturers of these guns should be informed that people have had enough of the AK47. This gun has killed too many people and the manufacturing of these arms should be abolished.

## **6. GROUP DISCUSSIONS**

### **GROUP ONE - WHAT IS THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND?**

#### **MEMBERS**

- ❑ SHEIKH ALI GURE
- ❑ ABDI RASHID SANTUR
- ❑ DIRIYE ADAN
- ❑ ALI OSMAN IBRAHIM
- ❑ BYNDUN SALAH
- ❑ RUKIYA SHALE
- ❑ ABDULLAH MAALIM ALI
- ❑ DUNCAN WANDABWA

## **GROUP REPORT**

### Background of the proliferation of arms in Garissa District

1963

- ❖ Arms were brought into Kenya at the time of the shifta insurgency.
- ❖ The Somali government was arming and training the insurgency to enable them to secede from Kenya and join Somalia.

1967

- ❖ A peace treaty between Kenya and Somalia was brokered at Arusha, which led to the surrender of arms by the insurgents to the Kenya government.

1969-1973

- ❖ No banditry activities were experienced in the region.

1973-1980

- ❖ Poaching started within the district due to the demand for elephant tusks.

1988

- ❖ Poachers stopped their activities, leaving behind their arms for local Kenyans who resorted to highway robberies.

1991

- ❖ After the breakdown of authority in Somalia, inter-tribal clashes started leading to the menace of banditry.
- ❖ The influx of refugees from Somalia increased the number of illegally acquired firearms.

### Price of Arms

- AK 47 - about Kshs 20,000
- G3 - about Kshs 25,000

These prices were as at 1996. The prices also depend on the demand, particularly at the time of clan clashes.

#### People Involved

- ❖ Traders, who buy livestock from Somalia and bring them to Kenya, carry firearms to protect their animals and eventually leave the guns behind.
- ❖ The wealthy buy guns to protect their property.

### **GROUP TWO - WHAT ARE THE SOURCES OF ARMS?**

#### **MEMBERS**

- ❑ SHAKRI NOOR
- ❑ ISMAIL ABDOW
- ❑ ABDI SHEIKH
- ❑ MARIAM HUSSEIN
- ❑ HASSAN MOHMAED ABDIRAHMAN
- ❑ S. K. KIBUTHI
- ❑ J. K. SONGOK

#### **GROUP REPORT**

The following are the sources of arms:

- Somalia
- Ethiopia
- Security personnel
- Businessmen
- Refugee camps.

### **GROUP THREE - CAUSES OF ARMS PROLIFERATION**

#### **MEMBERS**

- ❑ MAJOR A OBARA
- ❑ JOSEPH M NYAMANGA
- ❑ KHADIJA HASSAN
- ❑ ATHAR GAMADID
- ❑ ABDI ABDULLAHI

- ❑ OSMAN IBRAHIM
- ❑ OSMAN MOHMAED ALI
- ❑ OMAR ABDULLAHI
- ❑ ALI DUNTOW HUJALE
- ❑ H. B. SHILL
- ❑ KHADIJA IBRAHIM

## **GROUP REPORT**

Causes of Arms Proliferation are as follows:

- ❖ Instability in the neighbouring countries e.g. Somalia and Ethiopia.
- ❖ Poverty, which creates a ready market for the arms traders who sell their wares to those who want to carry out looting.
- ❖ Banditry and cattle rustling.
- ❖ Poaching.
- ❖ Self defence.
- ❖ Lack of proper border controls.
- ❖ Ethnic/inter-clan rivalry.
- ❖ Desire for supremacy by political leaders.

## **GROUP FOUR - EFFECTS OF SMALL ARMS PROLIFERATION**

### **MEMBERS**

- ❑ HUSSEIN BURALE
- ❑ ZEINAB ALI
- ❑ ZAHARA ALI SHURIE
- ❑ ABDIRAHMAN ALI
- ❑ ISMAIL BASHIR
- ❑ MAKHTAR H BARRE
- ❑ MOHAMMED ADOW
- ❑ MOHAMMED Y. M.

## **GROUP REPORT**

Effects of the Proliferation of Arms are as follows:

- ❖ A situation of breakdown of law and order – those bearing arms have no loyalty to government, religion, parents or any other authority.
- ❖ Poverty: Arms are the route to poverty and destitution in areas where they are abundant. They are used for robberies, looting, cattle rustling, killing, arson and destruction.
- ❖ Violence: Against women and the community in general as well as between communities (revenge attacks).
- ❖ Orphans: The children of both the security personnel and members of the public who are killed.
- ❖ Civil unrest and breakdown of government in some circumstances.
- ❖ Closure of social amenities such as schools, hospitals etc.
- ❖ Stagnation of normal business, travel, development, etc.
- ❖ Hatred and suspicion among communities that had hitherto lived in harmony.
- ❖ Anarchy.
- ❖ Waste of resources, e.g. security escorts would not be necessary, were it not for the arms threat.
- ❖ Fear and despondency, particularly among women and children.
- ❖ Displacement of people/refugee crisis
- ❖ Loss of faith in the authorities, i.e. negative attitude towards government.
- ❖ Disability – Victims loose limbs or other body parts.
- ❖ Environmental degradation, depletion of ecosystem, e.g. poaching.
- ❖ Destabilisation of communities (e.g. the Kamba and Pokomo).
- ❖ Superiority complex among those bearing the small arms.

## **GROUP FIVE - SOLUTIONS TO THE PROLIFERATION OF SMALL ARMS.**

### **MEMBERS**

- ❑ SOKETHEY SEYEE
- ❑ YUSSUF BARRE
- ❑ MOHAMMED DAHIR
- ❑ M. BULLE
- ❑ G TSOFWA
- ❑ DUBAT OSMAN
- ❑ D K OMAR
- ❑ WARSAME ALI FARAH

### **GROUP REPORT**

The following solutions could help alleviate the problem:

- ❖ Joint government/communities disarmament programmes.
- ❖ Legalising the possession of firearms and strengthening the traditional modes of governance.
- ❖ Strengthening the government security institutions along the borders.
- ❖ Creating a strong information network between the government and the communities.
- ❖ Enhancing public awareness and creating programmes that address the needs of the people.
- ❖ Creating employment.
- ❖ Enhancing the efficiency of the district/provincial security committees.

## **7. PARTICIPANTS RECOMMENDATIONS**

The workshop's recommendations aimed at solving the problem of arms proliferation in the Garissa District were agreed as follows:

- ❖ Economic support to meet some of the development needs.
- ❖ Strengthening the formation of tribal committees at village level.
- ❖ Consensus by communities over the issue of disarmament.
- ❖ Awareness creation campaigns.
- ❖ Improving the relationship between the government security forces and the communities.
- ❖ Supporting of communities in the disarmament process i.e. payment of incentives or addressing development needs.
- ❖ Positive rather than negative use of security funds allocated.
- ❖ Amnesty granted by the Government to those in possession of firearms.
- ❖ Rehabilitation for the rape victims.
- ❖ Micro-credit funds for orphans and widows.
- ❖ Formation of a joint committee comprising elders and refugees.
- ❖ Disarming of refugees by the UNHCR.
- ❖ Capacity building for the communities.

## **8. CONCLUSION – REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR B. A. KIPLAGAT.**

The workshop achieved a great deal and it was hoped that this would merely be the first among many such events. It is expected that SALIGAD will continue to work in the district to put in place the peace initiatives. Workshop participants had made a number of useful recommendations, which should be taken seriously and implemented by all concerned.

## 9. ANNEX

### A. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. Sh. Ali Gure	North Eastern Muslim Welfare Society
2. Abdirashid Santur	Elder from Abduwak clan
3. Dirie Adan	Elder from Abduwak clan
4. Ali Osman	Elder from Abduwak clan
5. Idris Bashir	Elder from Aulihan clan
6. Bundid Saleh	Elder from Abduwak clan
7. Abdullahi Maalim Ali	Elder from Aulihan clan
8. Rukia Shale	Women representative
9. Dancan Wandamba	Police
10. Shukri Nur Fudat	Women representative
11. Ismail Abdow	Elder from Aulihan clan
12. Abdi Sheikh	Elder from Aulihan clan
13. Mariam Hussein	Women Concern
14. Hassan M. Abdirahman	Intelligence Office- Garissa
15. S. K. Kibuthi	Officer Commanding Police Division (OCPD) - Garissa
16.J. K. Songok	Provincial Information Office
17.Major F. Obara	Military Officer
18.Joseph F. Nyamanga	District Criminal Investigation Officer



(DCIO) - Garissa

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 19. Khadija Hassan     | Women Representative                                   |
| 20. Athar Gamandid     | Women Representative                                   |
| 21. Abdi Abdullahi     | Elder from Aulihan clan                                |
| 22. Osman Ibrahim      | Elder from Aulihan clan                                |
| 23. Osman M. Ali       | Elder from Abduwak clan                                |
| 24. Omar Abdillahi     | Elder from Abduwak clan                                |
| 25. Ali Dhuntow Hujale | Elder from Abduwak clan                                |
| 26. H. B. Shill        | Kenya Pastoralist Forum                                |
| 27. Khadija Ibrahim    | Women representative                                   |
| 28. Hussein Barale     | Supreme Council of Kenyan Muslim<br>(SUPKEM) - Garissa |
| 29. Zaynab Ali         | Society of Women in Aids- Kenya                        |
| 30. Zahra Ali Shurie   | Maendeleo ya Wanawake Chairlady                        |
| 31. Abdirahman Ali     | Elder from Aulihan clan                                |
| 32. Ismail Bashir      | Religious leader/Council of Imams                      |
| 33. Makhtar H Bare     | Elder from Abduwak clan                                |
| 34. Mohamed Adow       | BBC/Nation correspondent                               |
| 35. Mohamed Y. M.      | Standard Newspapers correspondent                      |
| 36. Sokotey Seyee      | NGO/CBO Forum  |
| 37. M. Bulle           | Pastoralist Peace and Development                      |

## Initiative (PPDI)

38. G. Twofwa	District Security Intelligence Officer (DSIO) - Garissa
39. Dubad Osman	Elder from Abduwak clan
40. D. K. Omar	Elder from Abduwak clan
41. Warsame Ali Garat	Elder from Aulihan clan
42. Siyat Osman Ibrahim	His Worship the Mayor of Garissa
43. Dr. Mohamed Dahiye	Director, PPDI
44. Mohammed Abdi Rage	PPDI
45. Hassan Osman	PPDI
46. Rukia Subow	PPDI
47. Ibrahim Hussein	PPDI
48. Abdi Farah	PPDI
49. Ali Ibrahim	PPDI
50. Gabow Abdi Bare	Elder from Aulihan clan
51. Halimo Ibrahim	Councillor – Garissa Ward
52. Mohammed Jubat	Elder from Abdala clan
53. Mohammed Dahir	Councillor – Garissa Ward
54. Osman Mahat	Businessman
55. Amb. Kiplagat	APFO
56. Col P. B. Marwa	SALIGAD Project
57. Ciru Mwaura	FEWER

**B. WORKSHOP ON ARMS PROLIFERATION IN GARISSA DISTRICT  
NORTH EASTERN PROVINCE ON 9<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2000.**

**WORKSHOP PROGRAMME**

8.00 – 8.30 am	Arrival/ registration
8.30 – 9.00 am	Introduction/welcoming speech
9.00 – 9.10 am	Introduction of participants
9.10 – 9.35 am	Official opening – PC North Eastern Province
9.35 - 9.40 am	Expectations
9.40 - 9.45 am	Keynote address by Dr Mohammed Duale
10.00- 11.00 am	Problem Analysis
11.00 -12.00 pm	Group discussion
12.00- 12.45 pm	Reporting
12.45 - 2.00 pm	Prayers/Lunch
2.00 - 4.00 Pm	Plenary
4.00 - 4.30 pm	Tea break
4.30 - 5.00 pm	Evaluation/Closing – Ambassador Kiplagat