BACKGROUND

Recent years have seen many regions of Africa involved in war and internal or external conflict, from the seven or so countries directly involved in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to the Libyan crisis and the war in Sudan/South Sudan and the various other civil wars.

According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), there were 6.9 million new Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) caused by conflict and violence in 2016. Sub-Saharan Africa overtook the Middle East as the region most affected with almost one million new displacements in the Democratic Republic of Congo as a result of violent clashes in the provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu and Kasai.

Globally internal displacements by conflict, violence and disasters in 2016 stands at 31.1 million. This translates into one person forced to flee every second. Significant levels of displacement continued in the Middle East, with Syria, Iraq and Yemen experiencing close to two million new displacements in total during 2016. According to the IDMC and World Bank data sources, below is a representation of IDPs in 2016. Sub-Saharan Africa 38.0% - 2.6m, Middle East and North Africa 30.7% - 2.1m, South Asia 15.9% - 1.1m, Latin America and the Caribbean 6.3% - 0.4m, East Asia and the Pacific 4.6% - 0.3m and Europe and Central Asia 4.5% - 0.3m.

Figure 01: Charts representing IDPs in number and percentage.
Pursuant to the aforementioned, beneath is a snapshot of the countries determined as conflict hotspots in Africa; they are also illustrated on the African map herein. The relevant background of conflicts in the respective countries are given, in addition to the actors involved in the conflict be it state actors, non-state actors or in certain instances both. The intensity-level of the conflict which takes into consideration the number of casualties, UNHCR humanitarian catastrophe levels and the frequency of clashes is also indicated for each country. This GPoT Global Hotspots Series focuses on Africa and covers 19 countries.

1. COUNTRY: BURUNDI

Conflict Background: Between 2015 and 2016 there were protests, coup d’état and the emergence of new rebel groups. In May 2015, Burundi witnessed violent protests across the country as the ruling President Pierre Nkurunziza sought to run for President for a third term. The protesters claimed that Nkurunziza could not run for a third time in office according to the constitution. Nkurunziza on the other hand, claimed he could.

Article 96 of Burundi’s Constitution stipulates that: “The President of the Republic is elected by universal direct suffrage for a mandate of five years renewable one time.” The opposition opined that Nkurunziza had already done two terms as a President but Nkurunziza argued that his first 5 years could not count since he had been elected by the Parliament and not by popular vote. On 13 May 2015, Nkurunziza was visiting Tanzania; in his absence Major General Godefroid Niyomare declared a coup d’état.

The Military faction – forces of Godefroid Niyombare managed to take control over radio broadcast headquarters and announced the dismissal of Nkurunziza and his government. An attempt to take over the airport was also made, however, the coup attempt was soon defeated. Pursuant to the coup, a low-level unrest continued in Burundi.

Elections were held in July without the participation of the opposition with Nkurunziza being sworn in on 20 August 2015 for his third term. On 11 December 2015, three military barracks were attacked by a group calling itself the Republican Forces of Burundi (FOREBU) with an aim of forcing Nkurunziza to leave power. Irrespective of the conflict, Nkurunziza refused to allow peacekeepers from the African Union into Burundi.

Violence, clashes and attacks were continually reported both in 2016 and 2017 both from within the government and opposition factions against Nkurunziza’s third term. The Burundi crisis was categorized by UNHCR as a Level 2 emergency on 11 May 2015. Since April 2015, some 420,689 Burundians have fled to neighboring countries, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Within Burundi, a further 55,293 people are displaced and 7,275 refugee returnees have been reported.

Type of Actors in Conflict: State and Non-State-based actors
Level of Conflict: Level Two

2. COUNTRY: NIGERIA

Conflict Background: Nigeria has battled with Boko Haram insurgency since 2009. The Islamic fundamentalist group Boko Haram is waging a war against the Nigerian government and against the Christian community in Nigeria. The group was founded in 2002. It’s founding leader Mohammed Yusuf was killed in police custody in 2009. It’s Arabic name is Jama’atu Abris Sunna Lidda’awati wal-Jihad. The group focused on opposing western education, however, it launched military operations in 2009 and carried out a spate of attacks on police stations and other government buildings in Maiduguri including places of worship.

It was designated a terrorist group in 2013 by the United States. It declared a caliphate in areas it controlled in Northern Nigeria in 2014, most of its territories have, however, been recaptured by the Nigerian Army. In April 2014, Boko Haram drew international condemnation by abducting more than 200 school girls from Chibok town in Borno state, most of the girls have since been rescued through talks involving the militants, the Nigerian and Swiss governments and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Nigerian security forces have been constantly on the offensive against the Boko Haram terrorist group with Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari declaring in December 2015 that the group had been technically defeated. The group is most active in Northern Nigeria. Nigeria also faces occasional clashes with the Niger Delta Vigilantes in the oil-rich Niger Delta (NDV). There have been more than 6,000 fatalities resulting from Boko Haram attacks against civilians.

Type of Actors in Conflict: Non-State actors and State actors

Level of Conflict: Level Three

3. COUNTRY: CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

Conflict Background: The government of President François Bozizé fought with rebels until a peace agreement was reached in 2007. The current conflict arose when a new coalition of varied rebel groups known as Séléka accused the government of failing to abide by the peace agreement and subsequently captured many towns in 2012.

The capital was seized by the rebels in 2013 with Bozizé fleeing the country. Rebel leader Michel Djotodia declared himself president. Renewed fighting began between Séléka and militias called anti-balaka. Djotodia disbanded Séléka coalition in September 2013 as it had lost its unity after the capture of power. Djotodia resigned in January 2014 and was replaced by Catherine Samba-Panza, the conflict however, continued.
In July 2014, ex-Séléka factions and anti-balaka representatives signed a ceasefire agreement in Brazzaville. By 2014, the country was de facto partitioned with the anti-balaka in the south and west with most of its muslims evacuated. By 2015, there was little government control outside of the capital, Bangui. The dissolution of the ex-Séléka faction led to the forming of new militia that often fight each other.


There is also a French peacekeeping mission known as Operation Sangaris. The CAR’s tensions are largely over religious identity between Muslim Séléka fighters and Christian anti-balaka as well as over historical antagonism between agriculturals who largely comprise of anti-balaka and nomadic groups, who mostly comprise of Séléka fighters.

In September 2017, the UNHCR indicated that continuing violence has caused a high level of displacement since the start of the crisis in 2013 with more than 1 million people having left their homes. In June 2016, the International Criminal Court (ICC) sentenced Congolese ex-rebel Jean-Pierre Bemba to eighteen years in prison for his militia’s abuses in CAR between 2002 and 2003.

In July 2016, kidnappings by the Lords Resistance Army (LRA) increased. Subsequently in July 2017, Uganda withdrew its forces from the country, it had been fighting against the LRA in the country for five years. Since May 2017, there has been an upsurge in violence with several UN peacekeepers killed including on a UN peacekeeping base and convoy. Pursuant to this several aid agencies have withdrawn indicating tens and thousands in CAR are without support.

**Type of Actors in Conflict:** State and Non-State based actors.

**Level of Conflict:** Level Two

4. **COUNTRY: CONGO**

**Conflict Background:** Beginning in 1998, Congo (Kinshasa), has been wracked with civil war, rebellions, presidential assassinations, and foreign interventions and invasions. The latest fighting in the eastern part of Congo involves a rebel group known as The March 23 Movement, also called M23, led by Bosco Ntaganda, and ‘allegedly’ supported by Uganda and Rwanda.

The United Nations is also involved, trying to aid the Kinshasa government. The peace process in Eastern Congo continues to be fragile with multiple armed groups operating throughout the region, terrorizing civilians and blocking the path to long-term peace. Armed groups involved in the country
include, the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) which operates in Eastern Congo and Katanga province with an estimated 2,000 combatants.

There is also the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) which is a Ugandan rebel group based along the Rwenzori Mountains of Eastern Congo that currently numbers approximately 500 combatants. The Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) is also a Ugandan rebel group based along the northern border areas of Congo as well as the Central African Republic. The National Liberation Forces (FNL) is also a Burundian rebel group which appears to be in alliance with Mai Mai Yakutumba and the FDLR in South Kivu. The Mai-Mai Militias are currently six community-based militias operating in Kivu, the Mai-mai Yakutumba, Raia Mutomboki, Mai-Mai Nyakiliba, Mai-Mai Fujo, Mai-Mai Kiricho and Resistance Nationale Congolaise. By 2008, the war in Congo had caused about 5.4 million deaths principally through disease and starvation with over two million currently displaced.

**Type of Actors in Conflict:** State actors, external and non-state based actors

**Level of Conflict:** Level Two

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### 5. COUNTRY: LIBYA

**Conflict Background:** The Libyan Revolution was an armed conflict in 2011 between forces loyal to Colonel Muammar Gaddafi and those seeking to oust his government. The war was preceded by protests in Zawiya in August 2009 and ignited in Benghazi in February 2011 which led to clashes with security forces. The protests escalated into a rebellion that spread across the country with forces opposing Gaddafi establishing an interim governing body, the National Transitional Council (NTC).

In March 2011, Gaddafi’s forces re-took several coastal cities before reaching Bengazi. A UN resolution authorized member states to establish and enforce a no-fly zone over Libya and to use “all necessary measures” to prevent attacks on civilians which turned into a “bombing campaign” by NATO. The Gaddafi government then announced a ceasefire but fighting continued with rebels rejecting government offers for a ceasefire.

Efforts by the African Union to end the fighting was also rejected because the plan set forth did not include the removal of Gaddafi. Rebel forces continued their offensive and captured the capital city of Tripoli with Gaddafi subsequently being captured and killed in Sirte on 20 October 2011. The NTC was put in place and it declared the liberation of Libya and official end of the war on 23 October 2011.

However, attempts at elections and governance have failed as the country is plunged into crisis with three rival governments now, the UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA), the Eastern Libya and Beida-based governments, with key players which include Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar and his Libyan National Army (LNA) and the Tobruk-based House of Representatives (HoR) acting...
as another authority. Amidst all these is the varied number of militias operating in the country as well as Islamic State militants. There have been over 5,000 fatalities since the Libyan conflict.

**Type of Actors in Conflict:** Non-State Actors

**Level of Conflict:** Level Two

6. **COUNTRY: UGANDA**

**Conflict Background:** Uganda has contended with the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) for over 20 years in its northern part. The war began as a quasi-religious uprising against the government of Uganda in the 1980s and is now a multi-nation hunt for warlord Joseph Kony and his remaining number of guerrillas.

He and his LRA now ranges between South Sudan, Congo, Uganda, and the Central African Republic and is pursued by the military forces of all these nations (mostly by Uganda), and also by Special Forces from the United States.

In April 2017, however, Kony who was still at large with his forces shrunk to about 100 soldiers down from about 3,000 in early years was regarded together with his LRA as posing no significant security risk. The United States and Uganda have since ended the hunt for him. The Ugandan Department of Justice estimated over 1,000 deaths due to the conflict in 2014.

**Type of Actors in Conflict:** State and Non-State Actors

**Level of Conflict:** Level Three

7. **COUNTRY: MALI**

**Conflict Background:** On 22 March 2012, President Amadou Toumani Touré was ousted in a coup d’état over his handling of the crisis a month before a presidential election was to have taken place. The Soldiers called the National Committee for the Restoration of Democracy and State (CNRDR) took control and suspended the Constitution of Mali.

Subsequently, instability following the coup led to Mali’s three largest northern cities, Kidal, Gao and Timbuktu to be controlled by rebels for three consecutive days. On 5 April 2012, after the capture of Douentza, the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) indicated that it had accomplished its goals and called off its offensive.

It subsequently proclaimed Azawad’s independence from Mali. The MNLA were backed by the Islamist group Ansar Dine, however, the MNLA and Islamists struggled to reconcile their conflicting visions for the intended new state. The government of Mali requested foreign military to re-take the north. In January 2013, the French Military began operations against the Islamists.
Forces from other AU states were also deployed. These aided in the re-taking of the northern territories. The Tuareg rebels have since continued to fight the Islamists and have also been accused of carrying out attacks against the Malian military. A peace deal between the government and Tuareg rebels was reached on 18 June 2013 but on 26 September 2013, the rebels pulled out of the peace agreement and claimed that the government had not respected its commitments to the agreement.

Fighting is still ongoing even though French forces are scheduled for withdrawal, a ceasefire was signed on February 19 2015, in Algiers but sporadic terrorist attacks still occur but the majority of the nation is now securely in government hands. There have been over 500 casualties as a result of the clashes.

**Type of Actors in Conflict:** State and Non-State-based actors

**Level of Conflict:** Level Two

**8. COUNTRY: SOMALIA**

**Conflict Background:** The latest stage of this war pits the weak central government against the Al-Qaida affiliated Al-Shabaab rebels. The government is aided by the United States, and by troops provided by Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Ethiopia, and other African nations.

The U.S. and some other nations continue to engage in anti-piracy operations off the Somali coastline. These operations at times result in military engagements with the pirates, including rescue operations inside Somalia itself. Besides the anti-piracy operations, the US is also involved in Somalia due to the continuing Shabaab War.

The US funds and trains Ugandan, Burundian, Ethiopian, Kenyan, and other African forces who are actively fighting in Somalia to aid the weak central government against the Al-Qaida affiliated Al-Shabaab rebels. The U.S. over the past few years, has launched drone attacks, Special Forces’ raids, and naval attacks on Al-Qaida targets in Somalia.

On 14 October, 2017 a truck bomb-attack blamed on the Al-shabaab militant group killed over 300 people with over 200 injured in what is recorded as Somalia’s worst terror attack in history. Also, Somaliland is a self-declared republic in the Horn of Africa. It broke away from Somalia on May 18, 1991 after Somalia’s civil war. There have been over 500 fatalities due to frequent terror attacks in Somalia.

**Type of Actors in Conflict:** Non-State based actors

**Level of Conflict:** Level Three

**9. COUNTRY: SUDAN**
**Conflict Background:** Since its independence in 1956, Sudan has seen an intermittent civil war. Conflicts between 1955-1976 and 1983-2005; between the colonially modernized Arab north and the underdeveloped Christian and Animist south brought widespread civilian suffering further compounded by a devastating famine in 1988. A 1989 coup brought Omar al-Bashir and his National Islamic Front (NIF) to power. Under his rule, repression in the south increased as the war against South Sudanese rebels became a jihad.

In 2005, a Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed by the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLM/A) and the Khartoum-based government. This ended the civil war and allowed for a referendum and eventual South Sudanese independence in 2011. However, its lack of implementation sparked conflict in the oil-rich Abyei, South Kordofan, Blue Nile and indirectly affected conflict in Darfur. In 2003, the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) rebel groups took up arms against Khartoum, protesting the political and economic marginalization of the Darfur region.

In response, Khartoum armed the ‘Janjaweed’ militias from Arab affiliated ethnic groups. Intensive conflict followed, and by 2009 the ICC had indicted President Bashir for crimes against humanity and later, genocide. Despite peace agreements, the conflict continued, most intensely in 2004 and 2014. In 2017, United Nations – African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) announced cuts to its peacekeeping funds, citing a reduction in fighting. Meanwhile, the Sudanese provinces of South Kordofan and Blue Nile, previously part of the movement for the independence of what is now South Sudan, remain in conflict with the Sudanese government. UN estimated about 50,000 fatalities due to the conflict.

**Type of Actors in Conflict:** State and Non-State actors

**Level of Conflict:** Level Two

**10. COUNTRY: SOUTH SUDAN**

**Conflict Background:** There have been complicated and bloody civil war between several factions in Africa's newest nation. South Sudan gained independence from Sudan in July 2011, however, the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM), the ruling political party that originally led the way for independence is now divided and fighting for power.

In December 2013, political infighting erupted into violence in the streets of the capital, Juba after South Sudan’s President Salva Kiir Mayardit accused his Vice President Riek Machar of an attempted coup. Fighting between the two factions of government forces loyal to each soon moved to Bor and then to Bentiu.

Conflict in South Sudan has spread across the country creating a severe humanitarian crisis. South Sudan has the third largest humanitarian crisis after Syria and Afghanistan with over 1.8 million internally displaced. Currently 4.8 million people are in need of aid and by March 2018, 5.1 million
people are estimated to be facing hunger. Few number of peace agreements have been signed over the course of the war, the most recent in August 2015 but they have been repeatedly violated.

**Type of Actors in Conflict:** State and Non-State actors

**Level of Conflict:** Level Two

**Figure 02. Map Showing Conflict Hotspots in Africa**

### 11. COUNTRY: MOZAMBIQUE

**Conflict Background:** *Frente de Libertação Moçambique* (Frelimo) was founded in 1962 as a liberation movement in neighboring Tanzania by exiled Mozambicans who were seeking to overthrow Portuguese colonial rule in their country. The movement then formed the ruling party of newly-independent Mozambique in 1975.
Conflict in Mozambique has pitted Frelimo against the Mozambican group called Resistência Nacional Moçambicana (Renamo) which has attempted to overthrow the Mozambican central government since 1976. By the late 1980’s Renamo’s rebellion had left at least 100,000 dead and more than 1,000,000 refugees.

However, the 1992 peace agreement enabled Renamo to partake in multi-party elections after 1994 and between 1999 and 2009, Renamo was politically active and part of the nation’s coalition of opposition parties, the Renamo-União Eleitoral (Electoral Union) electoral alliance. Renamo began feeling politically marginalized and growing economic imbalances in Mozambique pushed Renamo’s leader Afonso Dhlakama to retreat to a Renamo jungle base in 2012 prompting sporadic violence.

In October 2013, Dhlakama revoked the 1992 peace agreement and fighting began between Renamo fighters and government troops until Mozambique’s former President Armando Guebuza and Dhlakama agreed on a new ceasefire. A peace agreement was reached in Maputo in September 2014.

Clashes between Renamo and government forces have intensified throughout 2015 and 2016 and there exists occasional clashes in 2017. Other than military convoys the most obvious sign of the renewed conflict has been the flow of refugees into Malawi. For instance, 12,000 Mozambicans have fled to neighboring Malawi since the middle of 2015.

**Type of Actors in Conflict:** State and Non-State actors

**Level of Conflict:** Level Three

### 12. COUNTRY: EGYPT

**Conflict Background:** The Egyptian Crisis began with the Egyptian Revolution of 2011 when thousands of Egyptians took to the streets in an ideologically and socially diverse mass protest movement that ultimately forced longtime President Hosni Mubarak from office. A protracted political crisis ensued with the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces taking control of the country until a series of popular elections brought The Muslim Brotherhood to power.

Irrespective of this, disputes between elected Islamist President Mohamed Morsi and secularists continued until the anti-government protests in June 2013 led to the overthrow of Morsi in 2013. Abdel Fattah el-Sisi who announced the overthrow of Morsi became the leader of Egypt and subsequently won election to the presidency.

The crisis in Egypt has largely stabilized, however, some protests have continued despite government crackdown and there is sporadic insurgency led by Ansar Beit al-Maqdis in the Sinai Peninsula which has become increasingly intertwined with the regional conflict against the Islamic State since 2014.

**Type of Actors in Conflict:** State and Non-State-based actors
Level of Conflict: Level Three

13. COUNTRY: KENYA

Conflict Background: Kenya gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1963. This was achieved through a liberation struggle lead by Jomo Kenyatta who also became the country’s first president in 1964. Kenyatta led the country until his death in 1978. He was succeeded by Daniel Arap Moi who led the country until 2002.

Up until 1991, Moi’s party Kenya African National Union (KANU) was the sole legal party. Upon pressure by international donors, Moi allowed for multipartyism, and the first multiparty elections were held in 1992. During the 1990s, the opposition did not succeed in replacing Moi. In 2002, Moi stepped down and Mwai Kibaki from the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC) party became the new president of Kenya.

In 2007, new elections were held, after which Kibaki was announced winner. The main opposition candidate Raila Odinga from the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) deemed this outcome as unfair and not free. The dispute was eventually settled by a power-sharing deal in February 2008, negotiated by Kofi Annan. This agreement gave Odinga the post of Prime Minister, while Kibaki remained President.

With the exceptions of the 2002 elections, all elections since 1992 have been clouded by a high level of violence and have not been considered as free and fair. Violence often break out along ethnic lines, mainly because candidates use ethnicity as a means to gather support. Since a failed coup attempt in 1982, Kenya has not faced any intrastate armed conflict, but has been repeatedly struck by non-state conflicts.

These conflicts are mainly between different tribes who engage in cattle raids or fight about grazing rights and water. A second type of non-state violence often occur in the context of elections. In 2007, corruption and disillusionment with Kenyan political life led to post-election violence which left 1,200 dead and 300,000 internally displaced. Tensions again rose in the run-up to the 2017 election, amid fears of a repeat of 2007.

Uhuru Kenyatta initially looked to have retained his presidency. However, his opponent, Raila Odinga, refused to accept the result accusing Kenyatta of election fraud, submitting a formal challenge to the country’s Supreme Court. The election results were nullified and Kenyans voted again in October 2017, an election which is not recognised by Raila Odinga and his party. Post-election violence has also occurred, resulting in over two dozen deaths.

Kenya’s political instability also manifests in border disputes between county territories exacerbated by a severe drought, and politicians’ strategic exploitation of ethnic division. The drought has pushed herders into farmlands in search of pasture. Together with political rhetoric of “taking back”
land previously lost, this has prompted retaliatory raids and violent clashes between agriculturalists and pastoralists. 40 people have been killed in such violence since early 2017.

Another important issue is the involvement of Kenya in Somalia as part of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) targeting Al-Shabaab, beginning in 2011. Since then, retaliatory attacks in Kenya have increased. This has included an attack on a Kenyan university in 2015 that resulted in 147 civilian deaths. 2016 and 2017 have also seen attacks on Kenyan military bases in Somalia, extensive IED use, and civilian beheadings.

**Type of Actors in Conflict:** State and Non-State actors

**Level of Conflict:** Level Three

**14. COUNTRY: CAMEROON**

**Conflict Background:** Cameroon was until the end of First World War a German colony. After Germany lost the world war, Cameroon came under the mandate of League of Nations and was split in French and English parts. On 1 January 1960, French Cameroon became independent and on 1 October 1961, formerly British Southern Cameroon became independent and integrated with Northern Cameroon.

When Cameroon gained independence, Ahmadou Ahidjo became president and he stayed in power until 1982. During Ahidjo’s time as President of Cameroon there was little progress in terms of democracy. This continued under his successor Paul Biya until multi-party democracy in December 1990. Paul Biya stayed in power during the first democratic elections held in October 1992 and was re-elected 1997 and 2004 for another seven-year period.

Subsequently, the opposition claimed that these elections were not free and fair. Currently, there is tension between Anglophone Cameroon which is 20 percent of the population and Francophone Cameroon which forms majority of the population. Anglophone Cameroon feels marginalized, their frustrations surfaced at the end of 2016 when a series of sectorial grievances developed into political demands leading to strikes and riots.

Sections of Anglophone Cameroon are now demanding federalism or secession ahead of presidential elections in 2018. The Anglophone problem in Cameroon dates back to the independence era of the 1970s. A poorly conducted re-unification based on centralization and assimilation has led the Anglophone minority to feel politically and economically marginalized. Trust between Anglophone activists and the government has been undermined by the arrest of the movement’s leading figures, the cutting of the internet and government clashes.

**Type of Actors in Conflict:** State and Non-State actors

**Level of Conflict:** Level Three
15. COUNTRY: NIGER

Conflict Background: Niger, one of the world’s poorest countries is at the heart of a complex region. Domestically, the country has seen long periods of political stalemate and military rule since its independence. The country has also faced periods of armed rebellion from some Tuareg communities in the 1990s and most recently in 2007.

Niger is also significantly placed within the Sahel-Sahara zone and therefore has felt the impact of turbulence in neighboring states including armed Islamist and Tuareg separatist movements in Mali, religious and political violence in Nigeria and state collapse in Libya. Niger is also home to hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing the violence of both the Boko Haram insurgency in the Lake Chad Basin and the continuing conflict in northern Mali.

In the Diffa region, the UN recorded the presence of 241,000 displaced people in 2016 including 105,000 Nigerian refugees and 121,000 (IDPs). Niger’s insecurity is worsened by Boko Haram attacks spilling over the Nigerian border from 2015 onwards. In June 2016, an attack in Bosso displaced 70,000 people prompting the deployment of Chadian forces. In 2017, suicide bombers attacked refugee camps in the Diffa region. Niger has taken on an important role in anti-terrorist operations in the region, including joining a regional coalition to combat Boko Haram in 2015.

Type of Actors in Conflict: Non-State-based actors

Level of Conflict: Level Three

16. COUNTRY: BURKINA FASO

Conflict Background: Burkina Faso is recovering from a period of instability following the October 2014 downfall of former President Blaise Compaoré. Burkina lies at the crossroads of two large regions in West Africa: the Sahel region, where a fundamentalist form of Islam seems to be gaining ground with terrorist groups being active; and the coastal region, where new Protestant Churches sometimes adopt an intolerant discourse toward other religions.

In September 2015, the presidential guard, Régiment de Sécurité Présidentielle (RSP), which was loyal to Compaoré attempted to stage a military coup. However, the attempt failed when, amid massive popular protests against the RSP’s actions, segments of the military backed the transitional government.

RSP members shot and killed two dozen civilians during the unrest, which lasted about a week. Since then there have been sporadic attacks from militant groups.

Type of Actors in Conflict: State and Non-State actors

Level of Conflict: Level Three
17. COUNTRY: TOGO

Conflict Background: Since its independence from France-administered UN trusteeship in 1960, Togo has been headed by presidents with an authoritarian style of government. Most prominently, General Gnassingbé Eyadéra ruled the country from 1967 until his death in 2005. During his ruling, several unsuccessful coup attempts took place, the most important one occurring in September 1986.

Subsequently, Eyadéra took measures to increase his personal security, while at the same time initiating reforms aimed at democratization. He legalized opposition parties and in the summer of 1991, a national conference was organised with participation of the state organs, the newly legalized opposition parties, workers, students and religious leaders. The national conference stripped President Eyadéra of all his executive power in August and installed a transitional government under Joseph Kokou Koffigoh, leader of an opposition party, as Prime Minister.

Subsequently, a military faction attempted several times to overthrow Koffigoh and to restore Eyadéra’s power in the following months. In December 1991, Koffigoh was seized following an attack on his residence. Eyadéra’s half-brother Donou Toi Gnassingbé, the commander of the presidential guard, allegedly took part in the attack on Koffigoh.

Following negotiations between Eyadéra and Koffigoh, a government of national unity was formed comprising many members of the former transitional government, but also close associates to Eyadéra. This agreement lasted until the end of 1992 when parts of the military held the parliament hostage for over 24 hours. This was followed by renewed power struggles which went on until the 1993 elections.

Those were won by President Eyadéra, but criticized to be unfair and not free. Having succeeded in the power struggles of the early 1990s, President Eyadéra continued to dominate the government until his death in 2005. He was succeeded by his son Faure Gnassingbé, who was installed as President by the Togolese Army.

Under international pressure, Gnassingbé organised presidential elections the same year, which he won. The results were, however, suspected of being marred by fraud and violence. International pressure continued, forcing Gnassingbé to agree with the main opposition parties on the modalities of the upcoming legislative elections.

Those were held in October 2007 and were generally perceived as free and fair. Gnassingbé’s party Rally of the Togolese People (RPT) won a majority of seats and consequently a RPT-dominated cabinet was formed. In March 2010, Togo again held presidential elections. While the opposition was unable to present a common candidate, Gnassingbé counted on the undivided support of his party, and was re-elected as President.
However, the elections were generally seen as a setback in the democratization process because of frequent irregularities in the voting process. Even so, the international community accepted the results, arguing that the irregularities did most likely not have a decisive impact on the election result. In 2017, there have been frequent protests in Togo calling for the restoration of term limits and the resignation of Faure Gnassingbé as president.

**Type of Actors in Conflict:** Non-state actors

**Level of Conflict:** Fragile situation (Developing)

### 18. COUNTRY: Eritrea

**Conflict Background:** A low-level conflict has been fought in Eritrea since independence. The EIJM-AS (Harakat al Jihad al Islami - Abu Suhail faction, Eritrean Islamic Jihad Movement – Abu Suhail faction) has been fighting the government with an aim to oust the regime and install a new government based on the principles of Islamic law.

EIJM-AS is based in Sudan and has carried out their struggle in the border region. The group has been very fractious and reports from the region are rare. When Eritrea declared independence in May 1993, the precursor of EIJM had already been in existence for over a decade. In 1981 the Munezemet Arrewad al Muslimin al Eritrea (Eritrean Pioneer Muslim Organization) was founded by Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) dissidents, that were expelled from the ELF in 1975, accused of being too religious.

In 1983 the Jebhat Tahrir al Eritrea al Islamiya Wataniya (Eritrean National Islamic Liberation Front) was established in Sudan. The EIJM was formed when the two organizations merged in 1988 with three smaller groups - Lejnet al Difae al Islami (Islamic Defense Committee), Harekat al Mustedafeen al Eritrea (Movement of Oppressed Eritreans), and al Intifada Islamiya (Islamic Uprising).

In 1993 a militant faction led by Mohammed Ahmed (Abu Suha'il) broke away, since then, EIJM-AS has been the most military active rebel group in Eritrea. The EIJM-AS has been based in Sudan and most of its operations have been concentrated in the border area.

In Spring 1997, the conflict reached the threshold for inclusion for the first time when clashes between EIJM-AS and the government of Eritrea were reported. The conflict has then continued on a low-level, no efforts on negotiations or third party actions have been taken.

**Type of Actors in Conflict:** Non-State-based actors

**Level of Conflict:** Level Three

### 19. COUNTRY: Chad
Conflict Background: Since independence from France in 1960, Chad, a north-central country in Africa, has undergone four civil wars. The current civil war is a minor war under the ongoing Darfur War in Chad’s neighboring country Sudan, with Libya and France having also been involved with these conflicts. Chad’s first civil war was from 1965 to 1979, the second from 1979 to 1982, the third from 1998 to 2002, the fourth from 2005 until now, although minimal, still persists.

The 2005 Chad Civil War began as a fight between two different groups, the Arab-Muslims of the north and the Sub-Saharan Christians of the south. Leadership and presidency has also drifted back and forth between the Muslims in the North and the Christians of the South, when one side is in power the other has often rebelled.

In 1998, President Idriss Déby led an armed rebellion in the north and then in 2003, conflict and war in the Darfur region of Sudan leaked through the border and into Chad. Prior to 2005, the Sudanese allegedly attempted to overthrow the Chadian President, President Idriss Déby by recruiting and using Chadian rebels to get the deed done.

The Sudanese and rebels joined forces with three rebel groups and launched an attack on Chad’s capital, N’Djamena. The three armed groups involved in attacks in 2008 were allegedly armed by Sudanese security forces. The alleged intent of the attacks was to cut off the support that Déby was giving to the rebels in Darfur called the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) which had been creating chaos in Darfur.

The current civil war could also be said as a continuation of the conflicts in Darfur and Chad which are the competition between different groups for power and land. Also with the internal Chadian conflict, after broadening of the base of his regime in the late 1990s accompanied by the growth of civil politics in N’Djamena, Déby has reverted to one-man military rule.

Type of Actors in Conflict: Non-State and Non-state-based actors

Level of Conflict: Level Three

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