DJIBOUTI’S ECONOMY HIT HARD BY THE CONFLICT IN ETHIOPIA

The government of Djibouti announced the year-long war in Ethiopia has had a drastic impact on its economy. Over 90% of Ethiopia’s import goods pass through the port of Djibouti; both nations have invested billions of dollars to build a trade corridor including a railway. Due to the conflict, the country is reporting to have lost up to 1.7 billion USD.

NORTHERN ETHIOPIA CONFLICT

While the year-long conflict in Ethiopia continues to intensify, the Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed announced his decision to join the war front and provide leadership to the armed forces from the battlefield. Since then, the Ethiopian government has declared regaining control of Gashena, Arbit and several other places in Gashena front including the historical town of Lalibela. The Prime Minister has also called on TPLF fighters to surrender peacefully. This month also witnessed the establishment of new alliance “United Front of Ethiopian Federalist and Confederalist forces” by nine armed groups and political actors representing different regional and ethnic interests opposing the government.

ALARMING HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS IN ETHIOPIA

According to OCHA, an estimated 9.4 million people need food assistance across northern Ethiopia due to the ongoing conflict. According to reports by the Ethiopian government, more than 1.76 million people have fled their homes in Amhara and Afar regions. The number of IDPs in Amhara Region has increased a Million, whereas in Afar Region it has reached 76,000.

RISING TENSION BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SUDAN

Sudan army reported at least six Sudanese soldiers were killed during an attack by armed groups and militias linked to the Ethiopian Military in the disputed Al Fashaga border strip. According to the report, heavy fighting erupted between Sudanese forces and Ethiopian troops that crossed the border at a depth of 17 km east of Umm Disa and Barakat Noreen which is located inside Sudanese territory east of the Atbara River. The Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces stated that the Sudanese army will not give up a parcel of the Fashaga strip area. The Ethiopian government dismissed the reports of the attack claiming that since the start of Ethiopia’s campaign for its existence, there have been several incidents when infiltrators tried to use the border with Sudan.
CONCERNS AROUND UPCOMING KENYAN ELECTIONS

- As Kenya prepares for the 2022 General Elections, the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) has announced its withdrawal from the 2022 election preparedness team. IEBC cited the need for independence as the main reason the commission has opted to leave the National Multi-Sectoral Consultative Forum (NMSCF) on Election Preparedness and the Technical Working Committee (TWC) on Election Preparedness. Political leaders allied to opposition leader Raila Odinga and Deputy President William Ruto have sharply differed following IEBC's withdrawal.

- The Somali Electoral Dispute Resolution Committee has ordered the Federal Elections Implementation Team to suspend results of controversial Galmudug vote. The Council of Presidential Candidates (CPS) has warned that the current electoral process will lead to political instability and jeopardize the credibility of the incoming government. The Council has accused the Prime Minister of abandoning his duty to oversee free and fair elections. In addition, the opposition presidential candidates in Somalia announced that they will not take part in the ongoing elections citing lack of transparency and ‘naked’ robbery.

PROTESTS CONTINUED IN SUDAN DESPITE THE REINSTATING OF THE PRIME MINISTER

After weeks of international condemnation and mass protests, Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok was reinstated to form a government of ‘independent technocrats’. The agreement signed between the Prime Minister and the Head of Military Council of Sudan, General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan proposed the new government to replace the power-sharing deal between the military and a pro-democracy alliance that existed since August 2019. Nevertheless, thousands of protesters rallied against the deal. Medics said dozens of people were killed as security forces sought to rein in the protests.

FRESH TRIBAL CLASHES IN DARFUR

Twenty-four people were killed in the tribal clashes that took place in Jebel Moon of West Darfur State in November. According to UNOCHA, at least 43 people have been killed, 46 villages have been burned and looted, and an unknown number of people were injured. However, the Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors has reviewed the death toll to 17 people besides 12 wounded. In a press conference, the Acting Governor of the Darfur region said that 24 people were killed during the tribal clashes and 8 villages have been burned. He also added a number of children are still missing and some families fled the attacks to eastern Chad while others are displaced in the region.

SEVERAL KILLINGS, REVENGE ATTACKS ABDUCTIONS & AMBUSHES REPORTED ACROSS SOUTH SUDAN

Violence and insecurity continue to escalate in South Sudan. The following insecurity cases have been highlighted:

- At least five people were killed, one injured and two others were missed after a road ambush carried out by armed bandits in Akobo County of Jonglei State.
- A local government official in Twic County of Warrap State said 15 head of cattle were rustled from Ajak Kuach Payam by armed youth from the neighboring Mayom County in Unity State out of which 9 were recovered.
- Three men including a trader were killed in two separate road ambushes in the outskirts of the Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA) capital, Pibor town.
- Local authorities in Akobo County of Jonglei State said two people were killed in a revenge attack.
- At least two children were abducted in Lomeyen Payam in Kapoeta North County of South Sudan’s Eastern Equatoria state.
- Officials in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA) said 11 civilians who left for the Jonglei State capital, Bor town to sell cattle were killed in a revenge attack.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOOD INSECURITY

- In South Sudan, 800,000 people are affected by severe floods, which have left large areas of the country underwater. For the third successive year, the White Nile had burst its banks in several regions following heavy rains.
- Somali Region in Ethiopia yet again was hit hard with drought. It has affected different woredas in Dawa zone, according to regional officials as well as residents. The crisis led to displacements and continued to threaten a humanitarian crisis. At least six people are also said to have died in the past week due to an ongoing devastating drought in Somalia’s South-Western Gedo region.
- A local administrator in the town of Luuq, one of the hardest-hit areas, confirmed the death toll.

Somalia’s “rapidly worsening” drought has left more than two million people facing severe food and water shortages, the United Nations has warned. According to the statement from OCHA, about 2.3 million people in 57 of 74 districts – nearly 20 per cent of the population in the affected districts – are ravaged by serious water, food and pasture shortages as water pans and boreholes have dried up. A state of emergency was declared by Somalia’s Prime Minister due to the widespread drought in the country following an emergency cabinet meeting in Somalia’s capital.

UPDF LAUNCHES AIRSTRIKES ON ADF CAMPS IN DRC

Ugandan troops have crossed into the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) as part of a joint operation against the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), an armed group that both neighboring countries accuse of massacring civilians. The two countries said the group, the deadliest of dozens of militias plaguing the DRC’s mineral-rich east, had been bombarded with artillery and air raids. Later, large numbers of Ugandan soldiers have reportedly entered the DRC at the Nobili border post in North Kivu state.
Suspected cattle rustlers killed in Lopei Sub County, Napak District by UPDF.

Youth residents allegedly killed in the town of Kombolcha by TPLF fighters.

Civilians reported killed, many injured in areas of South Gondar and North Wollo Zones of Amhara region by TPLF fighters.

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