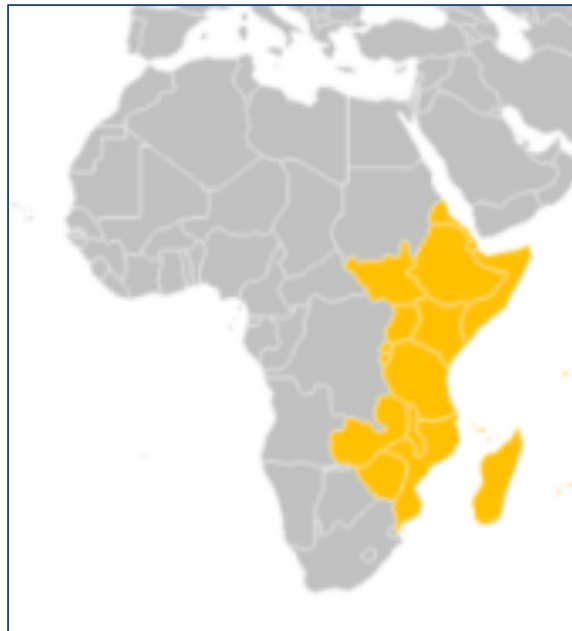




THE PFD FILE



Resolved:
In East Africa, the United States federal government should prioritize its counterterrorism efforts over its humanitarian assistance.

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Topic Overview

Resolved: In East Africa, the United States federal government should prioritize its counterterrorism efforts over its humanitarian assistance.

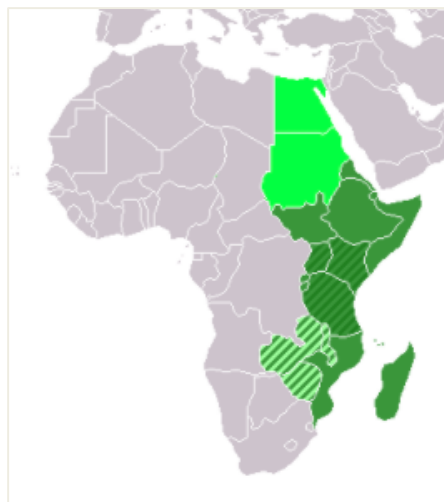
By Michael J. Ritter*

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Introduction

The Nationals 2017 resolution asks the question of whether the United States federal government should prioritize counterterrorism efforts or humanitarian assistance in East Africa. The meanings of the resolutorial terms are relatively clear, as is the topic question. Thus, the topic wording and potential topicality issues need no lengthy discussion. It will be far more important that teams have an understanding of the history of the topic, as well as the relatively recent developments in East Africa with regard to terrorism and humanitarian crises.

Although you should emphasize understanding recent developments in East Africa, it is also important to understand the terms in the resolution before proceeding. The resolution is specific to East Africa. East Africa is a term of art referring to the countries on the eastern side of Africa, as depicted by the green below:



Considering the most expansive definition of East Africa, the countries in East Africa include Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi,

Mauritius, Mayotte, Mozambique, Reunion, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Different sources will describe different groups of countries as being included in East Africa. The important point is not to know or memorize all of the countries, but to be able to distinguish which countries are arguably in East Africa and those that are not.

Counterterrorism efforts refers to military or political activities that the United States intends to prevent terrorist acts or to eliminate terrorist groups. Humanitarian assistance generally refers to financial or political aid given to another country to improve living conditions for people living in the country.

The U.S. federal government is the agent of action, and the resolution refers to the U.S. federal government's priorities. Thus, the topic is limited to the U.S.'s foreign policy, but U.S. foreign policy will, of course, affect the foreign policies of other countries outside of East Africa. Consequently, the focus of the debate will be on U.S. foreign policy, but discussion of other countries outside of East Africa should not come as a surprise. The trick to limiting down the topic when non-U.S. non-East Africa countries are brought up is to question the relevance and examine the evidence to determine whether arguments involving other countries need to be addressed and how.

A Brief History of East Africa

The countries in East Africa have not always been firmly established political units. In the absence of centralized governments, there have been political and/or ethnic groups vying for power to control resources (like food and water) in East Africa. East African countries have also been the target of western colonialism, where western countries have sought to set up colonies in East Africa. An example of a successful western colony in Africa is the country South Africa, although South Africa is not technically part of East Africa. Many East African countries have won independence, but have faced political turmoil, civil wars, and revolutions. The relative lack of stability in East African countries and western influence have resulted in conditions that have left resources and solid infrastructure in East Africa relatively scarce. These conditions have created humanitarian crises, as well as openings for terrorist groups.

Recent Developments

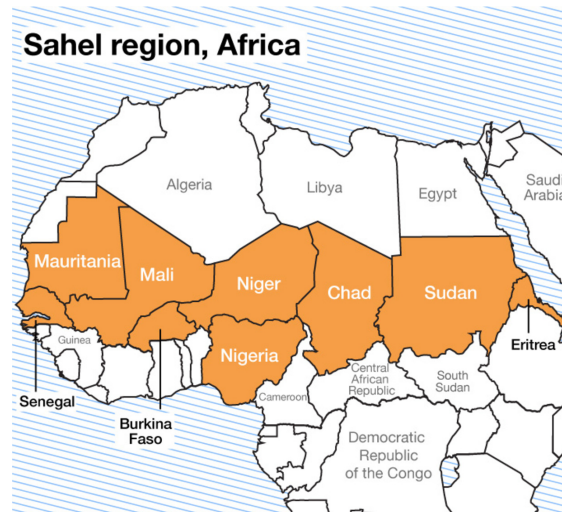
Terrorism in East Africa, when compared to terrorism in other regions of the world, has not been very frequent. However, there has been one group in particular in East Africa that has grown significantly in power. That group is referred to Al-Shabab (also known as Al-Shabaab and Shabab). Al-Shabab is a militant group that has about 7,000-9,000 members that primarily have power in Kenya and Somalia. In the past couple of years, the US initiated drone strikes against Al-shabab that were relative effective. But in March 2017, the United Nations Security Council has warned that terrorist groups like Al-Shabab remain a threat. On the other side of the topic, there have been several significant droughts have that have increased famine and the death toll resulting from poor humanitarian conditions. Thus, the Nationals 2017 resolution poses the timely question of

whether the US should prioritize its counter-terrorism efforts or its humanitarian assistance in East Africa.

Arguments on the Topic

The arguments on both sides of this topic should be informed by the historical background of the topic, as well as recent developments. Being informed about the historical and recent developments will help teams research for, understand, construct, and explain the arguments on both sides of the topic.

This topic choice is interesting/questionable for a couple reasons. First, a very similar topic was selected not too long ago. The January 2014 topic was “Resolved: Development assistance should be prioritized over military aid in the Sahel region of Africa.” Thus, if you debated on that topic, you probably remember some of the issues with topics about “prioritization” of policies. The primary difference between the January 2014 topic and the Nationals 2017 topic is that the Sahel region is primarily north Africa.



As the map shows, the Sahel region of Africa includes both East Africa and West Africa. Thus, if an opposing time reads evidence that refers to the Sahel region, you should point out that Sahel is mostly West Africa, rather than East Africa, and is therefore not really topical.

Second, the problems with the January 2014 Sahel topic remain somewhat problematic in the 2017 Nationals topic. Both topics posed the question, essentially, of whether the US should prioritize humanitarian/development assistance over counter-terrorism or military efforts in Africa. The “prioritization” language is unfortunate because counter-terrorism efforts and humanitarian assistance are not mutually exclusive, and the US relies on a combination of strategies to address the problems of terrorism and humanitarian crises in Africa. The problem is that prioritizing one does not mean the other goes away; it’s just a prioritization of goals. It is even arguable that the prioritization of goals does not necessarily mean more money must go to one effort or the other. For example, the US

could “prioritize” counter-terrorism efforts on paper, but actually put more money toward humanitarian assistance. On the positive side, though, the vagueness caused by the prioritization language in the resolution allows the debaters to argue more abstractly about counter-terrorism efforts and humanitarian assistance in East Africa. The question then is “Why limit this topic to East Africa?”

That brings the discussion to the third point: terrorism and humanitarian crises in West Africa. West Africa has seen significantly more recent terrorism than East Africa, and it is questionable why the NSDA chose East Africa rather than West Africa, particularly in light of recent successes the US has had against the main terrorist group in East Africa: Al-Shabab. The terrorism and humanitarian crises in West Africa are a significant source of arguments for the resolutional question about East Africa.

Strategy & Assessment

It appears that this topic is relatively even balanced, if not slightly Pro biased. The Pro Side has some strengths. First, to many people, the negative impacts of terrorism are generally more concrete, tangible, and frightening than the positive impacts humanitarian assistance. Second, the “chicken and the egg” problem of this resolution—whether bad living conditions cause terrorism or whether terrorism causes bad living conditions—will likely be resolved in favor of the Pro Side: that terrorism causes bad conditions that ultimately make humanitarian assistance ineffective.

A strategy for the Pro side should be to argue that the control of terrorist groups, as well as terrorist attacks, (1) cause humanitarian crises and (2) prevent the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance. This File contains evidence that terrorists in East Africa attack humanitarian aid workers and cut off access to humanitarian assistance. This means that if the US does not prioritize counter-terrorism efforts, then humanitarian assistance will not solve. Thus, solving terrorism is a prerequisite to solving humanitarian crises.

The Con Side also has some strengths. First, the impacts of humanitarian crises exist for millions of people in East Africa every single day. Thus, the Con side can easily win comparative impact analyses by comparing (1) the magnitude of harms (hundreds of thousands dying each year from famine versus a couple hundred that die from terrorist attacks); (2) the timeframe (people are dying every day because of humanitarian crises), and we don’t know necessarily know when the next big terror attack in East Africa will be; and (3) the probability (without US or other international action, people 100% will die from hunger). Second, the Con Side may simply need to focus on areas or countries in East Africa where terrorism is not a significant threat. If terrorism undermines humanitarian assistance, then one Con strategy could be to prioritize humanitarian assistance in areas not substantially affected by terrorism. The legitimacy of this strategy from a fairness perspective is questionable. But if the Con Side can establish that there more of East Africa is affected by bad living conditions than terrorism, then this provides a geographical justification for focusing on certain areas of East Africa.

A strategy for the Con side should be to argue that humanitarian crises in East Africa is the root cause of terrorism. There is evidence in this File that poverty causes a lot youth to turn to gang related and criminal activity, like terrorism. Terrorists groups like Al-Shabab spread propaganda and blame local governments, political opponents, and and western intervention for bad humanitarian conditions. Thus, the Con side could argue that solving humanitarian crises in East Africa solves terrorism. The winner of this “chicken and the egg” type problem will likely be the winner of the round in most debates.

Conclusion

This File contains sample cases, evidence on both sides of the topic, and blocks to arguments teams are likely to hear on the topic. TFF wishes you the best of luck at NSDA Nationals this year!

Definitions

East Africa

1. region of eastern Africa usually considered to include Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi and often also South Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Djibouti

Source: Merriam-Webster's Online Dictionary 2017

East Africa

1. The eastern part of the African continent, especially the countries of Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania.

Source: Oxford English Dictionary Online 2017

East Africa

1. A region of eastern Africa including southern Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, and often other nearby areas.

Source: American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language 2017

United States

1. A country of central and northwest North America with coastlines on the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. It includes the noncontiguous states of Alaska and Hawaii and various island territories in the Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean.

Source: The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language 2017

United States

1. a federation of states especially when forming a nation in a usually specified territory

Source: Merriam-Webster's Online Dictionary 2017

United States Federal Government

The United States Federal Government is established by the US Constitution. The Federal Government shares sovereignty over the United States with the individual governments of the States of US. The Federal government has three branches: i) the legislature, which is the US Congress, ii) Executive, comprised of the President and Vice president of the US and iii) Judiciary. The US Constitution prescribes a system of separation of powers and 'checks and balances' for the smooth functioning of all the three branches of the Federal Government. The US Constitution limits the powers of the Federal Government to the powers assigned to it; all powers not expressly assigned to the Federal Government are reserved to the States or to the people.

Source: U.S. Legal Online 2017, <http://definitions.uslegal.com/u/united-states-federal-government>

United States Federal Government

1. The executive and legislative and judicial branches of the federal government of the United States

Source: The Free Dictionary 2017
<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/Federal+government+of+the+United+States>

Federal Government

1. pertaining to or of the nature of a union of states under a central government distinct from the individual governments of the separate states, as in federal government; federal system

Source: Random House Dictionary 2017

Should

1. Used to indicate obligation, duty, or correctness, typically when criticizing someone's actions
2. Indicating a desirable or expected state

Source: Oxford English Dictionary 2017

Should

1. Used to express obligation or duty:
2. Used to express probability or expectation

Source: American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language 2017

Should

1. used in auxiliary function to express obligation, propriety, or expediency

Source: Merriam-Webster's Online Dictionary 2017

Prioritize

1. Designate or treat (something) as more important than other things:
2. Determine the order for dealing with (a series of items or tasks) according to their relative importance:

Source: Oxford English Dictionary 2017

Prioritize

1. To arrange or deal with in order of importance.
2. To put things in order of importance.

Source: American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language 2017

Prioritize

1. to arrange (items to be attended to) in order of their relative importance
2. to give priority to or establish as a priority

Source: Merriam-Webster's Online Dictionary 2017

Counterterrorism

1. Political or military activities designed to prevent or thwart terrorism.

Source: Oxford English Dictionary Online 2017

Counterterrorism

1. counterterrorism consists of activities that are intended to prevent terrorist acts or to get rid of terrorist groups.
2. activities that are intended to prevent terrorist acts or to eradicate terrorist groups

Source: Collins English Dictionary 2017

Counterterrorism

1. the actions and methods of a country that are intended to stop the activities of people who use violence to achieve political aims

Source: MacMillan Dictionary Online 2017

Efforts

1. conscious exertion of power
2. hard work a job requiring time and effort
3. a serious attempt
4. try making an effort to reduce costs
5. something produced by exertion or trying the novel was her most ambitious effort
6. effective force as distinguished from the possible resistance called into action by such a force
7. the total work done to achieve a particular end the war effort

Source: Merriam-Webster's Online Dictionary 2017

Efforts

1. physical or mental exertion, usually considerable when unqualified the rock was moved with effort
2. a determined attempt our effort to save him failed
3. achievement; creation a great literary effort
4. physics an applied force acting against inertia

Source: Collins English Dictionary 2017

Efforts

1. the result of an attempt to produce something, especially when its quality is low or uncertain:

Source: Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary 2017

Humanitarian

1. Showing concern for the welfare of humanity, especially in acting to improve the living conditions of impoverished people.
2. Being a situation in which many human lives are in danger of harm or death

Source: American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language 2017

Humanitarian

1. Concerned with or seeking to promote human welfare
2. Denoting an event or situation that causes or involves widespread human suffering, especially one that requires the large-scale provision of aid

Source: Oxford English Dictionary 2017

Humanitarian

1. Relating to or characteristic of people who work to improve the lives and living conditions of other people

Source: Merriam-Webster's Online Dictionary 2017

Assistance

1. The act of assisting.
2. Aid; help:

Source: American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language 2017

Assistance

1. help; support
2. the act of assisting

Source: Collins English Dictionary Online 2017

Assistance

1. the act of assisting or the help supplied : aid

Source: Merriam-Webster's Online Dictionary 2017

Pro Case #1

We affirm the resolution. Resolved: In East Africa, the United States federal government should prioritize its counterterrorism efforts over its humanitarian assistance. Our sole contention is that terrorism threatens the lives of people living in East Africa; we must therefore prioritize counter-terrorism efforts over humanitarian assistance.

First: Radicalization is growing in East Africa. Cathy Haenlein, of the Royal United Services Institute, writes in 2015:¹

In Kenya, an expanding al-Shabab presence has combined potently with growing radicalisation among Muslim youth and separatist tension along the coast. In Tanzania, there are fears that growing disaffection and domestic extremism could potentially intersect with a greater al-Shabab presence. Meanwhile, enhanced collaboration with organised criminal groups - themselves a growing security concern - is allowing al-Shabab to diversify its income. The incentives for this engagement have only expanded as East Africa has grown as a hub for illicit trafficking - from South Asian heroin to Yemeni arms to Tanzanian ivory.

Second: Terrorists in East Africa are spreading and able to kill hundreds in a single attack. The London Telegraph reports in 2015²:

In April, four Shebab militants massacred 148 people at the Garissa University in Kenya's northeast, in what was the group's deadliest single attack to date. Most of the victims were students. They have also conducted a string of attacks across northeastern Kenya, from Mandera in the far north to the Lamu region on the coast.

Third: The US's drone strikes have been effective at killing terrorists in East Africa. The London Telegraph continues:

At least 30 members of Somalia's al-Qaeda-affiliated al-Shabaab militants were killed in a US drone strike on Thursday, the Kenyan government said. "Over 30 were killed, among them most wanted terrorists," Kenyan interior ministry spokesman Mwenda Njoka said. He said that "several masterminds" of a string of recent attacks inside Kenya were killed. But Mr Njoka retracted his earlier statement that the mastermind of the April Garissa University massacre - Mohamed Mohamud, also known by the aliases of Dulyadin, Kuno and Gamadhere - was also among the dead. "It was a US drone. Kenyan forces usually provide ground support, information and intelligence on such strikes," the spokesman said.

¹ How severe is the terror threat in East Africa?, BBC News, July 20, 2015, www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-33535404

² Al-Shabaab jihadists linked to Kenya attacks 'killed by drone', July 16, 2015, www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/kenya/11744138/Kenya-university-attack-mastermind-killed-by-drone.html

Fourth: US prioritization of counter-terrorism efforts in Africa has historically helped local law enforcement in East African to address terrorism. A National Public Radio article reports in 2017:³

Law enforcement agents are often first responders after an attack, he explained, so training them in forensics and skills like fingerprinting also helps "attack the terrorist network." Alfano said this year's more broadly focused exercises reflected an emphasis on governance and rule of law, "making a transition from a military-controlled area to training the police to more effectively take over when the military has moved on." And there was what he called "a mass migration training," to teach rural communities how to respond to potential terrorists who may cross porous borders where large numbers of people are already traveling.

For the foregoing reasons, we urge a Pro Ballot.

³ Amid Aid Uncertainty, U.S. Counterterrorism Cooperation Continues In Africa, April 17, www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2017/04/17/521400443/amid-aid-uncertainty-u-s-counter-terrorism-cooperation-continues-in-africa

Pre-flow – Pro Case #1

- Our sole contention is terrorism threatens the lives of people living in East Africa; we must therefore prioritize counter-terrorism efforts over humanitarian assistance.

First: Radicalization is growing in East Africa. Cathy Haenlein, of the Royal United Services Institute, writes in 2015

Second: Terrorists in East Africa are spreading and able to kill hundreds in a single attack. The London Telegraph article from 2015

Third: The US's drone strikes have been effective at killing terrorists in East Africa. The London Telegraph continues

Fourth: US prioritization of counter-terrorism efforts in Africa has historically helped local law enforcement in East African to address terrorism. A National Public Radio article reports in 2017

Pro Case #2

We affirm the resolution. Resolved: In East Africa, the United States federal government should prioritize its counterterrorism efforts over its humanitarian assistance. Our sole contention is that solving terrorism is a prerequisite to solving humanitarian crises. We must therefore prioritize counter-terrorism efforts over humanitarian assistance in East Africa.

First: Solving terrorism in East Africa solves humanitarian crises. The United Nations Security Council reports in March 2017:⁴

The representative of Senegal said that the looming famine in the Lake Chad Basin sub-region, as well as Somalia, could be averted if international partners acted quickly to end the proliferation of terrorist groups. Ukraine's delegate echoed that sentiment, expressing concern over the sophistication of attacks carried out by Houthi-Saleh forces. Blocking weapons shipments to the forces in Yemen was essential to prevent further escalation of the conflict, he added. Sweden's representative deemed attacks on aid workers "totally unacceptable" and urged all parties from South Sudan to Yemen to allow humanitarians unimpeded access to civilians.

Second: The fight against Boko Haram in other African countries proves the US must prioritize counter-terrorism efforts before humanitarian assistance; otherwise there's no security to protect humanitarian efforts. National Public Radio reports in 2017:⁵

When it comes to fighting Boko Haram's threats to the Lake Chad Basin, "The military can't do it by itself," Bolduc told NPR in Ndjamen, Chad's capital. "Regionalize all the efforts, work closely together in an effective military construct ... and then bring in the police, the civil administration, religious leaders and include anybody working to bring the stability necessary to the local villages." A U.S. special forces commander involved in Flintlock, who asked that his name be withheld for security reasons, says the challenges shouldn't be underestimated.

Third: US counter-terrorism efforts in East Africa include humanitarian efforts and infrastructure; just because we prioritize counter-terrorism efforts doesn't mean we get rid of humanitarian assistance. The US State Department reports in 2015:⁶

⁴ Amid Humanitarian Funding Gap, 20 Million People across Africa, Yemen at Risk of Starvation, Emergency Relief Chief Warns Security Council, SECURITY COUNCIL 7897TH MEETING (AM), March 10, <https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12748.doc.htm>

⁵ Amid Aid Uncertainty, U.S. Counterterrorism Cooperation Continues In Africa, April 17, 2017, www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2017/04/17/521400443/amid-aid-uncertainty-u-s-counter-terrorism-cooperation-continues-in-africa

⁶ U.S. State Department, Country Reports: Africa Overview, Country Reports on Terrorism 2015, <https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2015/257514.htm>

First established in 2009, the Partnership for Regional East Africa Counterterrorism (PRACT) is a U.S.-funded and -implemented multi-year, multi-faceted program designed to build counterterrorism capacity and cooperation of military, law enforcement, and civilian actors across East Africa to counter terrorism. Areas of support include: 1. Reducing the operational capacity of terrorist networks; 2. Developing a rule of law framework for countering terrorism in partner nations; 3. Enhancing border security; 4. Countering the financing of terrorism; and 5. Reducing the appeal of radicalization and recruitment to violent extremism. Active PRACT partners include Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania, and Uganda. Burundi, Comoros, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Sudan, and Sudan are also members of PRACT.

For the foregoing reasons, we urge a Pro Ballot.

Pre-flow – Pro Case #2

- Our sole contention is that solving terrorism is a prerequisite to solving humanitarian crises. We must therefore prioritize counter-terrorism efforts over humanitarian assistance in East Africa.

First: Solving terrorism in East Africa solves humanitarian crises. The United Nations Security Council reports in March 2017

Second: The fight against Boko Haram in other African countries proves the US must prioritize counter-terrorism efforts before humanitarian assistance; otherwise there's no security to protect humanitarian efforts. National Public Radio reports in 2017

Third: US counter-terrorism efforts in East Africa include humanitarian efforts and infrastructure; so just because we prioritize counter-terrorism efforts doesn't mean we get rid of humanitarian assistance. The US State Department reports in 2015

Pro Responses to Con Contentions

Responses To: We have all but defeated terrorists in East Africa.

They argue that “We’ve already beat the terrorists in East Africa.” I have 3 responses:

1. Read their evidence after the round; it doesn’t say that all terrorists are gone in East Africa.
2. This just proves the counter-terrorism efforts are successful and we need to continue to prioritize them over humanitarian assistance for now.
3. **Despite past successes against East African terrorists, terrorist groups remain a threat. We need to continue to prioritize counter-terrorism efforts over humanitarian assistance for now.** U.S. State Department, Country Reports: Africa Overview, Country Reports on Terrorism 2015, <https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2015/257514.htm>

Africa experienced significant levels of terrorist activity in 2015. In East Africa, the Somalia-based terrorist group al-Shabaab proved its resilience and re-emerged from a series of significant setbacks it suffered in the first half of 2015, which included the death of key operatives and the loss of strongholds and safe haven in parts of south-central Somalia. Despite these losses, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) struggled to counter al-Shabaab, as the terrorist group adopted increasingly aggressive tactics. Later in the year, factions formed and defections increased as the appeal of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) created divisions within al-Shabaab’s core leadership. The organization maintained its allegiance to al-Qa’ida, however, in spite of public appeals from other terrorist groups in Africa to join the ranks of those aligned with ISIL.

4. Al-Shabab is a real terrorist threat in East Africa. US action has helped solve in the past. Cathy Haenlein, Royal United Services Institute, How severe is the terror threat in East Africa?, BBC News, July 20, 2015, www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-33535404

Al-Shabab poses the major terrorist threat in the region and is adapting its tactics as pressure mounts on home soil in neighbouring Somalia. Here, the group has been weakened by concerted military efforts by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and US covert action. Most recently, 30 militants - including key leaders - were killed in a US drone strike in southern Gedo region last Thursday.

Pro Response to Con Contentions

Responses To: “More East African countries are affected by humanitarian crises than by terrorism.”

They argue that “More countries in East Africa have humanitarian crises than terrorist attacks.” I have 2 responses:

1. It’s not just about terrorist attacks; it’s about terrorists having power. Counter-terrorism efforts are aimed at taking terrorists out of power in East Africa. Terrorists are the ones making humanitarian conditions worse; they are blocking trade routes and killing aid workers. Thus, we don’t just prevent terrorist attacks, we improve humanitarian conditions too.

2. Terrorism in East Africa isn’t just limited to Kenya and Somalia. It spills over into surrounding countries too.

U.S. State Department, Country Reports: Africa Overview, Country Reports on Terrorism 2015, <https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2015/257514.htm>

The April al-Shabaab attack on Garissa University College left at least 147 people dead, most of them students, more than twice the death toll of the 2013 al-Shabaab attack on the Westgate Shopping Mall in Nairobi. The attack in Garissa was the worst single terrorist incident in Kenya since the 1998 bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi. Mandera, Garissa, and Lamu counties near the border with Somalia all experienced multiple terrorist incidents during 2015. In July, presumed al-Shabaab attacks killed 14 people near a military camp and 11 quarry workers in Mandera County, and five people in a firebomb attack on a vehicle in Lamu County. In other incidents, al-Shabaab fighters temporarily took over small villages in Kenya near the Somali border and threatened villagers. There were no major terrorist incidents in Nairobi or Mombasa. This was significant given a number of very high profile international events that took place in Kenya over the year, including the visits of President Obama and Pope Francis, as well as Kenya’s hosting of the Global Entrepreneurship Summit and the World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference in Nairobi.

Pro Response to Con Contentions

Responses To: African countries can solve terrorism by themselves

They argue that “African countries can solve terrorism by themselves.” I have 2 responses:

1. Clearly, that’s not true because there are still terrorist attacks in East Africa, and terrorists still have control as our evidence points out.
2. Even if African countries CAN solve for terrorism, that doesn’t mean they will without US support. African countries are constantly calling on international help to address terrorism.

Pro Response to Con Contentions

Responses To: Can't solve terrorism in other areas, like West Africa.

They argue that "We can't solve for all terrorism." I have 3 responses:

1. Clearly, that's not our argument. The topic is limited East Africa, so we don't claim to solve for all terrorism. Our case does show how we should prioritize counter-terrorism efforts because terrorism is bad and kills people. Not only through terrorist attacks; but also through terrorists being in control over resources and having power.
2. This is equally true of their impacts: They can't solve for all humanitarian crises ever. That doesn't mean we should just stop trying. Our point is that, right now, we need to continue to prioritize counter-terrorism efforts over humanitarian assistance to prevent terrorists from getting control and causing more people to die from those humanitarian crises.
3. **We don't need to address West Africa because the US is increase counter-terrorism efforts in West Africa now; we need to prioritize counter-terrorism efforts in East Africa too.**

Michael D. Rettig, Ph.D. University of Virginia, research associate at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, "West Africa's terror problem needs a regional solution" Feb. 8, 2016, thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/international/268580-west-africas-terror-problem-needs-a-regional-solution

The U.S.-led partnership had proven effective in building capacity, but less so at boosting regional security cooperation or intelligence-sharing. Since then, the U.S. has opened two drone bases in Niger in line with expanding intelligence collection in the region, and Americans reportedly participated in ending both the Bamako and Ouagadougou terrorist attacks. Yet such tactical assistance, while admirable, can accomplish little without complementary cooperation among the states in the region. (Some have even posited decapitating drone strikes only worsen terrorist diffusion.)

Pro Extensions

Their arguments about counter-terrorism efforts being bad should've already happened and are happening now because the US is already prioritizing counter-terrorism efforts in West Africa.

Michael D. Rettig, Ph.D. University of Virginia, research associate at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, "West Africa's terror problem needs a regional solution" Feb. 8, 2016, thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/international/268580-west-africas-terror-problem-needs-a-regional-solution

The United States has acknowledged the importance of regional considerations in West Africa. It launched the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership in 2005, bringing together 10 countries for a multiyear, interagency program aimed at "building resilience" to radicalization, building counterterrorism capacity and improving regional security cooperation.

The U.S.'s counter-terrorism efforts in West Africa demonstrate the US can solve through similar counter-terrorism efforts in East Africa.

National Public Radio, Amid Aid Uncertainty, U.S. Counterterrorism Cooperation Continues In Africa, April 17, 2017, www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2017/04/17/521400443/amid-aid-uncertainty-u-s-counter-terrorism-cooperation-continues-in-africa

Along the Chari and Logone rivers separating Cameroon from Chad's capital, four flat-bottomed boats, mounted with machine guns, brimming with Chadian and other special forces, round the curve as they approach the riverbank. Forming an assault force, heavily armed soldiers leap out of the vessels and race up a slope to take up positions while backup forces have their machine guns at the ready. It's all part of a military exercise that simulates going after a high-value target – a leader from the ISIS-affiliated Boko Haram insurgency, who's taken up residence in a huddle of huts on the far side of the riverfront, a terrorist safe haven. The assault force demonstrates crucial military steps before capturing and eliminating him. Three weeks of U.S.-led counterterrorism exercises, known as Flintlock 2017, ended last month in Chad, which, along with surrounding countries, has been targeted in deadly violence by Boko Haram. The Flintlock exercises take place each year in a different African country.

Terrorism causes humanitarian crises: West Africa proves.

National Public Radio, Amid Aid Uncertainty, U.S. Counterterrorism Cooperation Continues In Africa, April 17, 2017, www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2017/04/17/521400443/amid-aid-uncertainty-u-s-counter-terrorism-cooperation-continues-in-africa

Boko Haram's 8-year-old uprising began in northeastern Nigeria, to the west of Chad, and has spilled over its borders, killing thousands of people and driving almost 3 million from their homes across the region. The war left a humanitarian catastrophe in its wake.

Republicans and Democrats agree we should prioritize counter-terrorism efforts over humanitarian assistance.

National Public Radio, Amid Aid Uncertainty, U.S. Counterterrorism Cooperation Continues In Africa, April 17, 2017, www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2017/04/17/521400443/amid-aid-uncertainty-u-s-counter-terrorism-cooperation-continues-in-africa

Support for foreign nations' counterterrorism efforts, as opposed to big American deployments, were a key tool of the Obama administration. Last year, the U.S. gave \$156 million for military support, training and border security in the region straddling Nigeria, Niger, Chad and Cameroon, known as the Lake Chad Basin. The military officer in charge of Flintlock 2017, Brig. Gen. Donald Bolduc, has called this region "Ground Zero" when it comes to fighting extremism in Africa. Bolduc, the Special Operations commander in Africa, says for now, the U.S. military is continuing to pursue its objectives.

The US can work with local militaries and law enforcement in East Africa to solve terrorism.

National Public Radio, Amid Aid Uncertainty, U.S. Counterterrorism Cooperation Continues In Africa, April 17, 2017, www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2017/04/17/521400443/amid-aid-uncertainty-u-s-counter-terrorism-cooperation-continues-in-africa

"We have a regional issue of Boko Haram, [which] easily exploits the seams between international boundaries – especially when you have something like a river way that separates two nations," he says. "And they currently use islands in this pretty broad [Chari and Logone] river to hide out in. It's an easy area to have ungoverned and hard to police and patrol." Members of U.S. military and, for the first time, law enforcement agencies are working with African security forces to enhance their techniques, said Billy Alfano, a special agent with the State Department's law enforcement arm, the Bureau of Diplomatic Security. "Interoperability" – groups and forces working well together — is the current buzzword. "It's critical for our African partner nations to work together and more and more important for police to collaborate with the military, to conduct joint investigations and to truly counter the terrorism threat in the region, with law enforcement in those communities," Alfano said.

Terrorism is a real threat in East Africa.

Cathy Haenlein, Royal United Services Institute, How severe is the terror threat in East Africa?, BBC News, July 20, 2015, www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-33535404

The US State Department, on the other hand, has issued a travel alert for the visit. It has warned of the potential terrorist threat to the Global Entrepreneurship Summit at which Obama will speak. The presidential visit comes days after the reopening of Nairobi's Westgate mall. Almost two years ago, 67 people were killed in its halls in a four-day siege for which Somali militant group al-Shabab claimed responsibility. Its reopening has been heralded by many as a triumph of national resilience, growing security and, in the words of Kidero, the "indomitable Kenyan spirit". For others, the reopening of its doors conjures haunting memories, amplified by al-Shabab's continuing attacks - of which its killing of 147 at Garissa University in April is its deadliest to date.

Al-Shabab is a real terrorist threat in East Africa. US action has helped solve in the past.

Cathy Haenlein, Royal United Services Institute, How severe is the terror threat in East Africa?, BBC News, July 20, 2015, www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-33535404

Al-Shabab poses the major terrorist threat in the region and is adapting its tactics as pressure mounts on home soil in neighbouring Somalia. Here, the group has been weakened by concerted military efforts by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and US covert action. Most recently, 30 militants - including key leaders - were killed in a US drone strike in southern Gedo region last Thursday.

The terrorist threat is growing in East Africa.

Cathy Haenlein, Royal United Services Institute, How severe is the terror threat in East Africa?, BBC News, July 20, 2015, www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-33535404

The direction in which this more mobile terrorist model of financing and recruitment develops will have long-term implications for East African security. Its evolution will depend on two sets of factors in particular. The first relates to tensions within al-Shabab's leadership over the group's strategic direction. Traditionalists favour a focus on strengthening the group in Somalia. Internationalists - including former leader Godane, killed last year in a US drone strike - see al-Shabab as a transnational jihadist organisation. With the rise of the self-styled Islamic State (IS) in Iraq and Syria, tensions also persist over global allegiances. An affiliate of al-Qaeda since 2012, al-Shabab is now courted by IS, which has received pledges from groups across North and West Africa. Rumours have abounded that al-Shabab could soon follow suit. Yet, in an Eid message on Friday, current leader Abu Ubaidah hinted that no such pledge would be forthcoming.

Al-Shabab is the primary terrorist group in East Africa.

Cathy Haenlein, Royal United Services Institute, How severe is the terror threat in East Africa?, BBC News, July 20, 2015, www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-33535404

Who are al-Shabab? Al-Shabab means The Youth in Arabic. It emerged as the radical youth wing of Somalia's now-defunct Union of Islamic Courts, which controlled Mogadishu in 2006, before being forced out by Ethiopian forces. There are numerous reports of foreign jihadists going to Somalia to help al-Shabab, from neighbouring countries, as well as the US and Europe. It is banned as a terrorist group by both the US and the UK and is believed to have between 7,000 and 9,000 fighters.

Their impacts are non-unique because we are using military force against terrorists in East Africa now; and it's working, so we should continue to prioritize counter-terrorism efforts over humanitarian assistance.

The London Telegraph, Al-Shabaab jihadists linked to Kenya attacks 'killed by drone', July 16, 2015, www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/kenya/11744138/Kenya-university-attack-mastermind-killed-by-drone.html

The United States has in recent years launched numerous drone strikes against Shebab leaders, including a strike last September that killed the group's leader Ahmed Abdi Godane. Thursday's reported drone attack came just over a week before US President Barack Obama is due in Kenya for his first visit to the country since he became president. Sources in Somalia confirmed an overnight air strike had taken place in a Shebab area of the war-torn country. According to traditional elders near Bardhere town in the southern Gedo region, at least two missiles struck vehicles believed to be carrying Shebab commanders. "We heard two big explosions and the information we are getting indicates that vehicles were targeted close to a Shebab military base," said Abdiwahab Ali, an elder at a village close to the scene. "Village residents are telling us a missile fired from an aircraft struck a vehicle and a nearby military camp belonging to Shebab," said Hassan Gesle, another elder. Immediately after the attack the mobile phone network in Bardhere was cut off, making it impossible to reach Shebab commanders for comment. Ahmed Bare, Somali military officer in nearby Elwaq town, said that Shebab commanders have been leaving Bardhere, one of the few towns still held by the militants, ahead of a planned ground assault by Somali troops.

Terrorist groups in East Africa have recently been successful at carrying out terrorist attacks to kill hundreds.

BBC News, Who are Somalia's al-Shabab?, Dec. 8, 2016, www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-15336689

Al-Shabab has staged numerous attacks in Kenya. The 2 April 2015 massacre at Garissa University, near the border with Somalia, is the bloodiest so far. A total of 148 people died when gunmen stormed the university at dawn and targeted Christian students. Previously the worst attack was on Nairobi's Westgate shopping centre in 2013, when at least 68 people died. In Westgate and other attacks, the militants spared Muslims, while killing those unable to recite verses from the Koran. There are also regular gun and grenade attacks attributed to al-Shabab both in border areas, where many Kenyans are ethnic Somalis, and in Nairobi. Al-Shabab says it is targeting Kenya because it has sent its troops into Somali territory, where they have joined the 22,000-strong African Union (AU) force battling the militants. It carried out a massive attack on a Kenyan base in Somalia's el-Ade town in January 2016, killing, according to Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, about 180 soldiers. The Kenyan military disputed the number, but refused to give a death toll. If the Somali president's figure is accurate, it would be the deadliest ever attack by al-Shabab.

Al-shabab has pledged allegiance to Al-Qaeda, which attacked the US on 9-11.

BBC News, Who are Somalia's al-Shabab?, Dec. 8, 2016, www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-15336689

In a joint video released in February 2012, former al-Shabab leader Ahmed Abdi Godane said he "pledged obedience" to al-Qaeda head Ayman al-Zawahiri. The two groups have long worked together and foreigners are known to fight alongside Somali militants. There have also been numerous reports that al-Shabab may have formed some links with other militant groups in Africa, such as Boko Haram in Nigeria and al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, based in the Sahara desert. Al-Shabab debated whether to switch allegiance to the Islamic State (IS) group after it emerged in January 2014. The group eventually rejected the idea, resulting in a small faction breaking away.

Despite past successes against East African terrorists, terrorist groups remain a threat. We need to continue to prioritize counter-terrorism efforts over humanitarian assistance for now.

U.S. State Department, Country Reports: Africa Overview, Country Reports on Terrorism 2015, <https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2015/257514.htm>

Africa experienced significant levels of terrorist activity in 2015. In East Africa, the Somalia-based terrorist group al-Shabaab proved its resilience and re-emerged from a series of significant setbacks it suffered in the first half of 2015, which included the death of key operatives and the loss of strongholds and safe haven in parts of south-central Somalia. Despite these losses, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) struggled to counter al-Shabaab, as the terrorist group adopted increasingly aggressive tactics. Later in the year, factions formed and defections increased as the appeal of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) created divisions within al-Shabaab's core leadership. The organization maintained its allegiance to al-Qa'ida, however, in spite of public appeals from other terrorist groups in Africa to join the ranks of those aligned with ISIL.

Al-Shabab in East Africa is executing the historically largest terrorist attacks in East African countries.

U.S. State Department, Country Reports: Africa Overview, Country Reports on Terrorism 2015, <https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2015/257514.htm>

Al-Shabaab established new safe havens and continued launching attacks and suicide bombings in Somalia, many of which targeted Mogadishu International Airport, Somali government facilities, and select hotels popular with government officials and business people. While still focused on striking targets outside of Somalia, particularly within countries contributing troops to AMISOM, al-Shabaab attempted to delegitimize the Federal Government of Somalia and weaken AMISOM's resolve by launching several successful attacks against AMISOM forward-operating bases in southern Somalia and killing several hundred AMISOM and Somalia National Army soldiers. Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Uganda did not suffer an al-Shabaab attack in 2015, but Kenya suffered one of the deadliest terrorist attacks in its history in April when al-Shabaab operatives assaulted the Garissa University College using light arms and suicide vests and killed more than 145 Kenyans, most of whom were students.

The US is prioritizing counter-terrorism efforts now.

U.S. State Department, Country Reports: Africa Overview, Country Reports on Terrorism 2015, <https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2015/257514.htm>

The United States continued to support counterterrorism capacity building throughout the Horn of Africa, including bolstering AMISOM's operational efficacy, contributing to the development and professionalization of Somalia's security sector, and improving regional critical incident response capabilities of law enforcement. In the wake of the 2015 Garissa University College attack, Kenya and other East African countries refocused their efforts to secure their borders as well as detect, deter, disrupt, investigate, and prosecute terrorist incidents. In September, Kenyan Defense Forces launched Operation Linda Boni in the northern coastal area of Kenya in an effort to clear al-Shabaab operatives from the Boni Forest, a known base of operations and cross-border transit hub for al-Shabaab.

The US's counter-terrorism efforts in East Africa can be successful at defeating terrorists.

U.S. State Department, Country Reports: Africa Overview, Country Reports on Terrorism 2015, <https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2015/257514.htm>

In 2015, the U.S. government, through PREACT, continued to build the capacity and resilience of East African governments to contain the spread of, and ultimately counter the threat posed by, al-Qa'ida, al-Shabaab, and other terrorist organizations. PREACT complements the U.S. government's dedicated efforts, including support for AMISOM, to promote stability and governance in Somalia and the greater East Africa region. PREACT additionally serves as a broader, U.S. government interagency mechanism to coordinate counterterrorism and countering violent extremism programming. Joint training exercises for Kenyan, Tanzanian, and Ugandan first responders and law enforcement professionals support efforts to enhance regional coordination and cooperation, protect shared borders, and respond to terrorist incidents.

The US can rely on local East African countries to help implement US counter-terrorism efforts.

U.S. State Department, Country Reports: Africa Overview, Country Reports on Terrorism 2015, <https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2015/257514.htm>

Kenya is a strong partner of the United States in the fight against terrorism throughout East Africa. Kenya faced an ongoing terrorist threat from the Somalia-based terrorist group al-Shabaab, against which the Kenya Defense Forces have engaged in military operations in Somalia since 2011 as part of the African Union Forces in Somalia (AMISOM). Kenya continued to face serious terrorism challenges within its own borders in 2015. Most notably, the April al-Shabaab attack on Garissa University College killed at least 147, mostly students, and there were other fatal attacks, particularly in Mandera, Garissa, and Lamu counties near the border with Somalia. There were no major terrorist incidents in Kenya's two largest cities, Nairobi and Mombasa. Reports of violations of human rights by Kenya's police and military forces during counterterrorism operations continued, including allegations of extra-judicial killings, disappearances, and torture.

East African countries, like Kenya, are cooperative with the US's counter-terrorism efforts.

U.S. State Department, Country Reports: Africa Overview, Country Reports on Terrorism 2015, <https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2015/257514.htm>

Kenyan officials cooperated closely with the United States and other partner nations on counterterrorism issues, including investigating and prosecuting terrorism cases. Kenya is one of six countries participating in the President's Security Governance Initiative (SGI) announced at the 2014 U.S.-Africa Leaders' Summit. SGI focuses on the management, oversight, and accountability of the security sector at the institutional level. In Kenya, SGI program priorities include border security and management, administration of justice, and police human resource management.

Terrorism in East Africa isn't just limited to Kenya and Somalia. It spills over into surrounding countries too.

U.S. State Department, Country Reports: Africa Overview, Country Reports on Terrorism 2015, <https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2015/257514.htm>

The April al-Shabaab attack on Garissa University College left at least 147 people dead, most of them students, more than twice the death toll of the 2013 al-Shabaab attack on the Westgate Shopping Mall in Nairobi. The attack in Garissa was the worst single terrorist incident in Kenya since the 1998 bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi. Mandera, Garissa, and Lamu counties near the border with Somalia all experienced multiple terrorist incidents during 2015. In July, presumed al-Shabaab attacks killed 14 people near a military camp and 11 quarry workers in Mandera County, and five people in a firebomb attack on a vehicle in Lamu County. In other incidents, al-Shabaab fighters temporarily took over small villages in Kenya near the Somali border and threatened villagers. There were no major terrorist incidents in Nairobi or Mombasa. This was significant given a number of very high profile international events that took place in Kenya over the year, including the visits of President Obama and Pope Francis, as well as Kenya's hosting of the Global Entrepreneurship Summit and the World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference in Nairobi.

Kenya proves East African governments will help implement US counter-terrorism efforts.

U.S. State Department, Country Reports: Africa Overview, Country Reports on Terrorism 2015, <https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2015/257514.htm>

Kenyan security and justice sector officials participated in a range of U.S. government-sponsored capacity-building programs funded and implemented by the U.S. Departments of State, Homeland Security, Justice, and Defense. These programs included training in crisis response, border operations, investigations, and prosecutions. Notable among these was the Department of State's second annual East Africa Joint Operations Capstone exercise, a month-long crisis response training series hosted in Kenya for Kenyan, Ugandan, and Tanzanian law enforcement personnel; the exercise culminated in a large-scale simulation of a response to a terrorist incident, including a cross-border pursuit that also featured community engagement and human rights-related issues. Border security remained a challenge for Kenya due to its vast, sparsely populated border regions and largely uncontrolled borders. This was exacerbated by security agency and other government resource gaps and corruption at multiple levels. However, there were signs of improved interagency cooperation, exemplified by the successful joint police-military-intelligence operation to rescue a kidnapped aid worker 30 km inside Somalia in October.

Tanzania proves East African governments will help implement US counter-terrorism efforts.

U.S. State Department, Country Reports: Africa Overview, Country Reports on Terrorism 2015, <https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2015/257514.htm>

Tanzania is a member of the AU, the Southern African Development Community, and the East African Community, all of which implemented counterterrorism initiatives. In addition, Tanzania participated in counterterrorism training programs sponsored by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development even although Tanzania is not a full member of the group. Tanzania is an active member of the Partnership for Regional East Africa Counterterrorism and participated in the Global Counterterrorism Forum. Tanzania's NCTC coordinated with partner organizations although the East African Police Chiefs' Organization and the Southern African Police Chiefs' Organization. Police officials also worked closely with INTERPOL. Tanzania had close relations with police and counterterrorism officials in Kenya and Uganda, although they would benefit from better mechanisms to share information electronically.

Solving terrorism in East Africa solves famine.

United Nations Security Council, Amid Humanitarian Funding Gap, 20 Million People across Africa, Yemen at Risk of Starvation, Emergency Relief Chief Warns Security Council, SECURITY COUNCIL 7897TH MEETING (AM), March 10, 2017
<https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12748.doc.htm>

GORGUI CISS (Senegal) joined other speakers in calling for urgent action to address the "sombre predictions" in each of the four countries being discussed. On Yemen, he called on the parties — especially the Houthis and their allies — to adhere to their responsibilities under international law, including allowing for the unhindered delivery of humanitarian aid. Further urging the parties to resume good-faith negotiations in order to reach a political solution, he said international assistance was needed "now more than ever" in South Sudan. Turning to the countries of the Lake Chad Basin subregion, as well as Somalia, he said the looming famine could be averted if international partners acted quickly to end the proliferation of terrorist groups.

Con Case #1

We negate the resolution, Resolved: In East Africa, the United States federal government should prioritize its counterterrorism efforts over its humanitarian assistance. Our sole contention is that humanitarian crises in East Africa are objectively worse than terrorist attacks in East Africa. Thus, the US should not prioritize counter-terrorism efforts over humanitarian assistance in East Africa.

First: Droughts in East Africa are increasing in frequency and intensity. Stephen Wainaina, an author for African Arguments (a pan-African platform for news analysis, comment and opinion), writes in 2017: ⁷

As with the frequency, the severity has also intensified. The 2011 East African drought was reportedly the region's worst for 60 years. But while that crisis affected over 12 million people, today's has already left an estimated 12.8 million severely food insecure. And things are expected to worsen in the coming months with low rainfall forecast from March to May. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), today's situation is so widespread because three consecutive years of diminished food production has exhausted people's capacity to cope with another shock, while access constraints, rising refugee numbers and outbreaks of communicable diseases in the greater region add to the pressures.

Second: Hundreds of thousands of people die each year in East Africa from famine. Wainaina continues:

This February, South Sudan, which has been at war since 2013, became the first country in six years to declare a famine. UN agencies say 100,000 people there are on the verge of starvation and almost 5 million – more than 40% of the country's population – are in need of urgent assistance. In Somalia, where 258,000 people died in the world's previous famine in 2011, further starvation looks like a distinct possibility again. At the same time, drought has also aggravated existing tensions in places such as the Rift Valley in Kenya where increasingly scarce resources has led to growing violence between pastoralists and farmers.

-The pro side can't prove that more people die in terrorist attacks per year than from humanitarian crises. Thus, we outweigh on timeframe, magnitude, and probability.

Third: The US can work with global partners to provide humanitarian assistance; it doesn't all have to come from US tax dollars. The United Nations Security Council reports in 2017: ⁸

⁷ Droughts in East Africa becoming more frequent, more devastating, March 17, 2017, africanarguments.org/2017/03/17/droughts-in-east-africa-are-becoming-more-frequent-and-more-devastating/

⁸ Amid Humanitarian Funding Gap, 20 Million People across Africa, Yemen at Risk of Starvation, Emergency Relief Chief Warns Security Council, SECURITY COUNCIL 7897TH MEETING (AM), March 10, 2017 <https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12748.doc.htm>

For 2017, the humanitarian community required \$2.1 billion to reach 12 million people with life-saving aid, he continued, expressing concern that only 6 per cent of that had been received thus far. Only a political solution would ultimately end human suffering. At the current stage, only a combined response with the private sector could stem a famine. “With access and funding, humanitarians will do more, but we are not the long-term solution to this growing crisis,” he said. A pledging event for the humanitarian response in Yemen for 2017 would take place in Geneva on 25 April, he confirmed.

For the foregoing reasons, we urge a Con Ballot.

Pre-flow – Con Case #1

- Our sole contention is that humanitarian crises in East Africa are objectively worse than terrorist attacks in East Africa. Thus, the US should not prioritize counter-terrorism efforts over humanitarian assistance in East Africa.

First: Droughts in East Africa are increasing in frequency and intensity. Stephen Wainaina, an author for African Arguments (a pan-African platform for news analysis, comment and opinion), writes in 2017

Second: Hundreds of thousands of people die each year in East Africa from famine. Wainaina continues

Third: The US can work with global partners to provide humanitarian assistance; it doesn't all have to come from US tax dollars. The United Nations Security Council reports in 2017

Con Case #2

We negate the resolution, Resolved: In East Africa, the United States federal government should prioritize its counterterrorism efforts over its humanitarian assistance. Our sole contention is that humanitarian crises in East Africa are the root cause of terrorism in East Africa. We therefore cannot prioritize counter-terrorism efforts over humanitarian assistance.

First: Bad humanitarian conditions cause terrorism; our experience in West Africa proves this. Nuhu Othman, senior consultant at Atta Zubairu & Associates, in Nigeria, Gatestone Institute, writes in 2016⁹:

The worsening of environmental conditions in West Africa have increased the rate of violent crimes. Desertification and the shrinking of the Chad Basin have significantly affected the means of livelihood of tens of millions of people in this region. There is simply less arable land and grazing land. This has immensely contributed to the increasing number of unemployed youths. As a result, many have turned to joining various terror groups. Others go into cattle rustling. ECOWAS member states should encourage the spread of modern agricultural methods that work with limited supplies of water -- a specialty of Israelis -- and revive the Chad Basin so as to boost trade. That would deplete the pool of people from which terror groups get easy and unquestioning recruits.

Second: Humanitarian assistance in East Africa is necessary to prevent fights over resources that results in violence and terrorism. United Nations Security Council reports in 2017¹⁰:

BARLYBAY SADYKOV (Kazakhstan), urging prompt action to assist civilians in need in Yemen, advocated for the resumption of commercial air service to Sana'a in order to help deliver food, medicine and other aid. Calling for a cessation of hostilities in that country, as well as negotiations towards a political solution, he also urged Member States to help Somalia recover from its drought, stressing that famine must be avoided at all costs. It was crucial to help Somalia strengthen its security sector through well-planned reform, thereby allowing it to effectively counter terrorist activity. He also expressed concern about the situation in South Sudan, commending Under-Secretary-General O'Brien for being vocal with the authorities in Juba. The humanitarian crisis in that country was a direct result of hampered aid delivery, which was in turn a result of the conflict.

⁹ International Policy Council, May 11, 2016, Why Terrorism Thrives in West Africa, <https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/8020/terrorism-west-africa>

¹⁰ , Amid Humanitarian Funding Gap, 20 Million People across Africa, Yemen at Risk of Starvation, Emergency Relief Chief Warns Security Council, SECURITY COUNCIL 7897TH MEETING (AM), March 10, 2017 <https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12748.doc.htm>

Third: The US can prioritize counter-terrorism efforts and humanitarian assistance equally. They both go hand in hand; the Pro can't prove we need to prioritize counter-terrorism efforts over humanitarian assistance in East Africa. CBRNE, an independent veteran-owned small business publication, reports in 2017: ¹¹

The Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) is funding cooperative agreements to strengthening criminal justice systems, counter the flow of illegal narcotics, and minimizing transnational crime including terrorism. In the Sahel in particular, INL plays a key role in address drivers of violent extremism, including poor relationships between communities and security services, and ineffectiveness and inequity in the justice sector, and poorly managed prison institutions. INL's technical support is tailored to bolster capacities of partner countries through regional and country-specific programs. The goal of this agreement is to better enable INL to undertake successful training/workshop efforts through efficient and effective logistics management, coordination, execution, and follow up.

For the foregoing reasons, we urge a Con Ballot.

¹¹ State Department Grants for Counterterrorism, Counter-Narcotics in West Africa, Feb. 8, 2017, <https://cbrnecentral.com/state-department-support-counterterrorism-counter-narcotics-west-africa/10573/>

Pre-flow – Con Case #2

- Our sole contention is that humanitarian crises in East Africa are the root cause of terrorism in East Africa. We therefore cannot prioritize counter-terrorism efforts over humanitarian assistance.

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Second: Humanitarian assistance in East Africa is necessary to prevent fights over resources that results in violence and terrorism. United Nations Security Council reports in 2017

Third: The US can prioritize counter-terrorism efforts and humanitarian assistance equally. They both go hand in hand; the Pro can't prove we need to prioritize counter-terrorism efforts over humanitarian assistance in East Africa. CBRNE, an independent veteran-owned small business publication, reports in 2017

Con Responses to Pro Contentions

Responses To: Must solve for terrorism first

They argue that “Terrorism causes humanitarian crises or we must solve terrorism first.” I have 3 responses:

1. Terrorism objectively is not a bigger impact; they haven’t proven how many people actually die from terrorist attacks. There have been two big ones in East Africa in the past couple years, and sadly, approximately 300 people died. But you have to compare that with literally the hundreds of thousands of people who die in East Africa each year prematurely due to poor humanitarian conditions. We outweigh on magnitude because it’s more people; we outweigh on timeframe because bad humanitarian conditions exist now in the status quo; and we outweigh on probability because there’s no end in sight.
2. Solving terrorism doesn’t prevent draught or provide food supply. Obviously, these two things are separate.
3. Poor humanitarian conditions are the root cause of terrorism because terrorist groups point to resource inequality to foster anger that leads to suicide bombings and such. Thus, we don’t have to solve for terrorism first.

Con Responses to Pro Contentions

Responses To: Counter-terrorism efforts is effective

They argue that "Counter-terrorism efforts are effective." I have 2 responses

1. We can never know for certain if we've beat terrorist groups; our experience in West Africa proves this. Michael D. Rettig, Ph.D. University of Virginia, research associate at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, "West Africa's terror problem needs a regional solution" Feb. 8, 2016, thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/international/268580-west-africas-terror-problem-needs-a-regional-solution

Of course, total "defeat" of a terrorist groups is less clear than with enemy armies; terrorists can simply melt into the population and regroup in a less-governed area in the region. Increasingly, such groups are taking advantage of poor West African border security and international coordination to do this.

2. As demonstrated in West Africa, prioritizing counter-terrorism efforts backfires and causes trampling of democratic values and suppression of freedom that causes terrorism.

Nuhu Othman, senior consultant at Atta Zubairu & Associates, in Nigeria, Gatestone Institute: International Policy Council, May 11, 2016, Why Terrorism Thrives in West Africa, <https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/8020/terrorism-west-africa>

There has been no way for people to reject the past Empire and Caliphate in West Africa as failed systems because they were not replaced by better systems. Whatever democratic values were handed to these newly independent states were short-lived, trampled by military incursions. Military leadership suppressed freedoms in every aspect. This in itself served as a gag to protest the rule of any aspiring terror group. Now Africa, especially West Africa, would like to democratize. Amid the madness of terrorism, it is calling for freedom. But is anyone listening?

Con Responses to Pro Contentions

Responses To: Terrorism in East Africa is a real threat.

They argue that “Terrorism in East Africa is a real threat.” I have 2 responses:

1. The US has been successful in defeating Al-Shabab. Even if they remain a threat, we can now start prioritizing humanitarian assistance.

BBC News, Who are Somalia's al-Shabab?, Dec. 8, 2016, www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-15336689

Islamist militant group al-Shabab is battling the UN-backed government in Somalia, and has carried out a string of attacks in neighbouring Kenya. The group, which is allied to al-Qaeda, has been pushed out of most of the main towns it once controlled, but it remains a potent threat.

2. We have all but defeated Al-Shabab in East Africa. It's time to focus on humanitarian assistance.

BBC News, Who are Somalia's al-Shabab?, Dec. 8, 2016, www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-15336689

Although it has lost control of most towns and cities, it still dominates in many rural areas. It was forced out of the capital, Mogadishu, in August 2011 following an AU-led offensive, and left the vital port of Kismayo in September 2012. The loss of Kismayo has hit al-Shabab's finances, as it used to earn money by taking a cut of the city's lucrative charcoal trade. The AU-led ground offensive has been backed by US air strikes, which led to the killing of the group's leader, Aden Hashi Ayro, in 2008 and his successor, Ahmed Abdi Godane. Al-Shabab is currently led by Ahmad Umar, also known as Abu Ubaidah. The US has issued a \$6m reward for information leading to his capture. Although the military operations are weakening al-Shabab, the group is still able to carry out suicide attacks. It has also regained control of several towns, following the withdrawal of some Ethiopian troops. Ethiopia said it had pulled them out because of the financial cost of maintaining them in Somalia, though analysts said the soldiers were needed in Ethiopia to quell the biggest anti-government protests seen in more than two decades.

Con Responses to Pro Contentions

Responses To: US involvement is necessary to solve for terrorism.

They argue that “US involvement is necessary to solve for terrorism.” Many East Africa can solve by themselves. I can provide 2 examples:

1. Kenya proves East African countries can implement their own laws to counter terrorism. U.S. State Department, Country Reports: Africa Overview, Country Reports on Terrorism 2015, <https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2015/257514.htm>

Kenya’s 2012 Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2011 Proceeds of Crime and Anti-Money Laundering Act, and 2010 Prevention of Organized Crime Act together provide a strong legal framework under which to prosecute acts of terrorism. In late 2014, President Uhuru Kenyatta signed into law the Security Laws (Amendment) Act of 2014 (SLAA), a set of provisions that altered 20 existing laws to further strengthen Kenya’s legislative framework to fight terrorism. Positive steps contained in the SLAA include the criminalization of participating in terrorist training, laying out the foundation for a coordinated border control agency, strengthening the mandate of Kenya’s National Counter-Terrorism Centre (NCTC), and broadening evidentiary standards to allow greater use of electronic evidence and recorded testimony in terrorism prosecutions.

2. Uganda proves that East African countries can effectively fight terrorism without the US’s counter-terrorism efforts.

U.S. State Department, Country Reports: Africa Overview, Country Reports on Terrorism 2015, <https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2015/257514.htm>

Uganda is a strong force for regional stability, security coordination, and counterterrorism efforts, and is an active member of the AU, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the East African Community, the Partnership for Regional East Africa Counterterrorism, and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. Uganda contributed troops to AMISOM to stabilize Somalia and counter al-Shabaab. In July, Uganda signed a memorandum of understanding with Ethiopia to strengthen defense ties. The agreement focuses on the security situation in South Sudan and Somalia and terrorism in the region.

Thus, US involvement is unnecessary to solve for terrorism.

Con Extensions

They can't solve terrorism because terrorism is spreading from West Africa.

Michael D. Rettig, Ph.D. University of Virginia, research associate at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, "West Africa's terror problem needs a regional solution" Feb. 8, 2016, thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/international/268580-west-africas-terror-problem-needs-a-regional-solution

Terrorism in West Africa is evolving into a more regional phenomenon. In order to hold back wider destabilization, international partners would be wise to emphasize regional cooperation in response. Take the latest attacks. In late November 2015, militants used grenades and assault rifles to take over a popular hotel in Bamako, Mali, holding more than 100 hostages for several hours and killing 19 civilians. A similar incident occurred in neighboring Burkina Faso in January. The 12-hour occupation of a Ouagadougou hotel cafe favored by expats left 30 dead and 56 more injured. Responsibility for both attacks was claimed by groups within the umbrella al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). These attacks are more regional than before in two ways.

Counter-terrorism efforts in East Africa won't solve because the source of terrorism in East Africa is terrorist groups in West Africa.

Michael D. Rettig, Ph.D. University of Virginia, research associate at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, "West Africa's terror problem needs a regional solution" Feb. 8, 2016, thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/international/268580-west-africas-terror-problem-needs-a-regional-solution

Second, the latest attacks are manifestations of regional dynamics, not domestic ones. When violent Islamist extremism struck Burkina Faso, it surprised many, and some theorized that militants shifted their attention to the country after fleeing France's intervention in northern Mali. Similarly, when gains were made against Boko Haram's territory in Nigeria in 2015, the terrorist group stepped up its activity in neighboring Chad, Niger and Cameroon. And all of the region's conflicts has been supercharged by a free-flowing arms trade. Sometimes weapons are captured from domestic stockpiles, but more often they are smuggled from elsewhere. The long-simmering stir for independence in northern Mali boiled over in 2012 partly due to an influx in arms after the downfall of Libyan strongman Moammar Gadhafi and his weapons stockpiles in 2011. More recently, Sudan has become a cheap supplier of arms to West Africa.

The US still has a long way to go to addressing West African terrorism. Thus, they can't solve for terrorism in East Africa or West Africa.

Michael D. Rettig, Ph.D. University of Virginia, research associate at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, "West Africa's terror problem needs a regional solution" Feb. 8, 2016, thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/international/268580-west-africas-terror-problem-needs-a-regional-solution

To effectively diminish the remaining terror groups in West Africa, the region's states will have to invest in cooperation, especially in policing and border security. Traditional military forces can — and have — "defeated" terrorist groups to an extent, but preventing asymmetric market bombings and hotel attacks requires a different response. Intelligence must be shared so that military and law enforcement can anticipate movements and apprehend militants in coordination, as well as work to interrupt their financing, internet recruitment efforts, and movement of fighters and arms. Perhaps "fusion centers" could place multinational military, police and customs officials in border areas in one complex, and international assistance could strengthen regional collaboration at the same time as various capacities.

We can never know for certain if we've beat terrorist groups; our experience in West Africa proves this.

Michael D. Rettig, Ph.D. University of Virginia, research associate at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, "West Africa's terror problem needs a regional solution" Feb. 8, 2016, thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/international/268580-west-africas-terror-problem-needs-a-regional-solution

Of course, total "defeat" of a terrorist groups is less clear than with enemy armies; terrorists can simply melt into the population and regroup in a less-governed area in the region. Increasingly, such groups are taking advantage of poor West African border security and international coordination to do this.

Our counter-terrorism efforts in other parts of Africa have only had limited success; we can never fully get rid of terrorism.

Michael D. Rettig, Ph.D. University of Virginia, research associate at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, "West Africa's terror problem needs a regional solution" Feb. 8, 2016, thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/international/268580-west-africas-terror-problem-needs-a-regional-solution

These forces have had mixed success, with external factors like corruption, governance, military professionalism and civilian relations sometimes affecting their success. Military action cannot fully eradicate AQIM or Boko Haram, but the cooperation such joint forces exemplify will be a necessary part of any template for future counterterrorism efforts in West Africa. The alternative is a tragic whack-a-mole, with terrorists moving around the region and local civilians paying the price.

Empirically, prioritizing counter-terrorism efforts in East Africa will worsen the humanitarian situation.

National Public Radio, Amid Aid Uncertainty, U.S. Counterterrorism Cooperation Continues In Africa, April 17, 2017, www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2017/04/17/521400443/amid-aid-uncertainty-u-s-counter-terrorism-cooperation-continues-in-africa

But the prospect of aid cuts worries many, as the region's humanitarian situation risks deteriorating. The U.N. warns there is a risk of famine in Nigeria's northeast, exacerbating a humanitarian disaster that has already seen children, especially those under the age of 5, dying of malnutrition, hunger and starvation.

African terrorist groups use foreign interference in Africa promote terrorist goals.

Nuhu Othman, senior consultant at Atta Zubairu & Associates, in Nigeria, Gatestone Institute: International Policy Council, May 11, 2016, Why Terrorism Thrives in West Africa, <https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/8020/terrorism-west-africa>

In the mid-20th century, the Western powers partitioned West Africa, and other parts of the African continent, into nation-states that had nothing in common with each other apart from geographical proximity. The general consensus among the Muslims in fragmented West Africa was that the West won over the vast Caliphate not by the superiority of its idea or civilization but by its sheer superiority in organized violence. This reasoning plays into the hands of extremist Islamic groups today.

As demonstrated in West Africa, prioritizing counter-terrorism efforts backfires and causes trampling of democratic values and suppression of freedom that causes terrorism.

Nuhu Othman, senior consultant at Atta Zubairu & Associates, in Nigeria, Gatestone Institute: International Policy Council, May 11, 2016, Why Terrorism Thrives in West Africa, <https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/8020/terrorism-west-africa>

There has been no way for people to reject the past Empire and Caliphate in West Africa as failed systems because they were not replaced by better systems. Whatever democratic values were handed to these newly independent states were short-lived, trampled by military incursions. Military leadership suppressed freedoms in every aspect. This in itself served as a gag to protest the rule of any aspiring terror group. Now Africa, especially West Africa, would like to democratize. Amid the madness of terrorism, it is calling for freedom. But is anyone listening?

President Obama's last visit to East Africa proves there's no real security threat in East Africa.

Cathy Haenlein, Royal United Services Institute, How severe is the terror threat in East Africa?, BBC News, July 20, 2015, www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-33535404

Final preparations are under way for US President Barack Obama to touch down in the Kenyan capital this week - his first visit to the country of his father's birth as head of state. As US security personnel flood Nairobi's hotels, the president will step into a country where security and politics are closely entwined. His trip has provoked divergent assessments of the security threat across Kenya and beyond. Nairobi governor Evans Kidero sees the visit as the ultimate confirmation of Kenya's security - hailing Obama's stay as a testament to the country's stability.

US successes against terrorists in East Africa just shift terrorism to different areas and only caused terrorism to grow.

Cathy Haenlein, Royal United Services Institute, How severe is the terror threat in East Africa?, BBC News, July 20, 2015, www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-33535404

The loss of strategic territory and personnel has seen al-Shabab expand its operations into Kenya and beyond. This has complicated the landscape of violent extremism in East Africa. The group has long threatened to repay Kenya for military operations in Somalia - and since 2011 has gruesomely followed through. Yet this shift is more thoroughgoing and strategic in nature. Long a territorially focused group with quasi-governmental ambitions to impose Sharia law at home, al-Shabab is now becoming a more mobile, networked regional presence. This has brought it a number of benefits. Al-Shabab's growing reach along the African coast is providing valuable new sources of funding and recruits. This is a logical adaptation: enhanced global counter-terror finance efforts have strangled funding from the Somali diaspora, amongst other international sources. In terms of recruitment, as foreign fighters have been drawn to Syria, the group has been overshadowed on the global stage. Yet al-Shabab has stepped up its Swahili-language propaganda - which plays on deep-seated social, economic and political grievances in East African states.

Working with East African countries will result in harsh crackdowns that are unpopular and spur more support for terrorist groups like Al-Shabab.

Cathy Haenlein, Royal United Services Institute, How severe is the terror threat in East Africa?, BBC News, July 20, 2015, www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-33535404

The second set of factors affecting the group's evolution remain extraneous to the organisation. These relate instead to the ability of regional governments to curb al-Shabab and affiliates' power to act as "the voice of the marginalised" on their soil. This poses new challenges - requiring governments to look inward at the deep-rooted grievances held by citizens. The tendency, instead, has been to depend on polarising hard-security crackdowns on terrorist suspects. As al-Shabab continues to recruit heavily amongst marginalised Kenyan Muslim communities, much will depend on the Kenyan government's ability to engage with underlying drivers of radicalisation.

The US has been successful in defeating Al-Shabab. Even if they remain a threat, we can now start prioritizing humanitarian assistance.

BBC News, Who are Somalia's al-Shabab?, Dec. 8, 2016, www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-15336689

Islamist militant group al-Shabab is battling the UN-backed government in Somalia, and has carried out a string of attacks in neighbouring Kenya. The group, which is allied to al-Qaeda, has been pushed out of most of the main towns it once controlled, but it remains a potent threat.

We have all but defeated Al-Shabab in East Africa. It's time to focus on humanitarian assistance.

BBC News, Who are Somalia's al-Shabab?, Dec. 8, 2016, www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-15336689

Although it has lost control of most towns and cities, it still dominates in many rural areas. It was forced out of the capital, Mogadishu, in August 2011 following an AU-led offensive, and left the vital port of Kismayo in September 2012. The loss of Kismayo has hit al-Shabab's finances, as it used to earn money by taking a cut of the city's lucrative charcoal trade. The AU-led ground offensive has been backed by US air strikes, which led to the killing of the group's leader, Aden Hashi Ayro, in 2008 and his successor, Ahmed Abdi Godane. Al-Shabab is currently led by Ahmad Umar, also known as Abu Ubaidah. The US has issued a \$6m reward for information leading to his capture. Although the military operations are weakening al-Shabab, the group is still able to carry out suicide attacks. It has also regained control of several towns, following the withdrawal of some Ethiopian troops. Ethiopia said it had pulled them out because of the financial cost of maintaining them in Somalia, though analysts said the soldiers were needed in Ethiopia to quell the biggest anti-government protests seen in more than two decades.

Kenya proves East African countries can solve terrorism without US intervention.

U.S. State Department, Country Reports: Africa Overview, Country Reports on Terrorism 2015, <https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2015/257514.htm>

The Kenyan government focused increased attention on preventing the flow of foreign terrorist fighters, including Kenyans and other nationals, to join al-Shabaab in Somalia, as well as on Kenyan national fighters returning from abroad. Kenyan officials and civil society representatives participated in global events focusing on countering violent extremism and stemming the flow of foreign terrorist fighters, including the February White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism and the Leaders' Summit on Countering ISIL and Violent Extremism that took place on the margins of the UN General Assembly in September; both events were hosted by President Obama. The Kenyan government also fulfilled its pledge to host a regional CVE conference, which took place in June.

Kenya proves East African countries can implement their own laws to counter terrorism.

U.S. State Department, Country Reports: Africa Overview, Country Reports on Terrorism 2015, <https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2015/257514.htm>

Kenya's 2012 Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2011 Proceeds of Crime and Anti-Money Laundering Act, and 2010 Prevention of Organized Crime Act together provide a strong legal framework under which to prosecute acts of terrorism. In late 2014, President Uhuru Kenyatta signed into law the Security Laws (Amendment) Act of 2014 (SLAA), a set of provisions that altered 20 existing laws to further strengthen Kenya's legislative framework to fight terrorism. Positive steps contained in the SLAA include the criminalization of participating in terrorist training, laying out the foundation for a coordinated border control agency, strengthening the mandate of Kenya's National Counter-Terrorism Centre (NCTC), and broadening evidentiary standards to allow greater use of electronic evidence and recorded testimony in terrorism prosecutions. Civil society groups, the political opposition, and the Commission on Human Rights contested several provisions of the SLAA, including those that affected freedom of speech, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the rights of the accused and refugees, arguing they violated constitutionally guaranteed civil liberties and contravened Kenya's international obligations. In February 2015, the High Court struck down eight provisions of the SLAA as unconstitutional. The Kenyan judiciary demonstrated independence, exemplified by the actions of the High Court in relation to the SLAA, and competence in cases related to terrorism. However, the judiciary remained hampered by a lack of sufficient procedures to allow the effective use of plea agreements, cooperation agreements, electronic evidence, and other undercover investigative tools. Allegations of corruption in the judiciary, including in the High Court, have persisted.

Uganda proves that East African countries can effectively fight terrorism without the US's counter-terrorism efforts.

U.S. State Department, Country Reports: Africa Overview, Country Reports on Terrorism 2015, <https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2015/257514.htm>

Uganda is a strong force for regional stability, security coordination, and counterterrorism efforts, and is an active member of the AU, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the East African Community, the Partnership for Regional East Africa Counterterrorism, and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. Uganda contributed troops to AMISOM to stabilize Somalia and counter al-Shabaab. In July, Uganda signed a memorandum of understanding with Ethiopia to strengthen defense ties. The agreement focuses on the security situation in South Sudan and Somalia and terrorism in the region.

East Africa includes key countries where conditions could cause millions of people to die without a strong commitment to humanitarian assistance.

United Nations Security Council, Amid Humanitarian Funding Gap, 20 Million People across Africa, Yemen at Risk of Starvation, Emergency Relief Chief Warns Security Council, SECURITY COUNCIL 7897TH MEETING (AM), March 10, 2017 <https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12748.doc.htm>

Twenty million people across four countries faced starvation and famine if the international community did not act quickly, the United Nations humanitarian chief warned the Security Council today, expressing alarm at the funding gap to meet the needs in Yemen, South Sudan, Somalia and north-eastern Nigeria. Briefing the Council on his recent trips to all four countries, Under-Secretary for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Stephen O'Brien recalled harrowing stories he heard from women and children fleeing fighting through waist-high swamps and rummaging the streets for something to eat. "Without collective and coordinated global efforts, people will simply starve to death," he warned, stressing that the situation had deteriorated in all four countries amid environments of increased fighting, displacements, drought and attacks on schools and medical facilities.

In South Sudan and Somalia, nearly 14 million people need humanitarian assistance now. We must prioritize humanitarian assistance over counter-terrorism efforts in East Africa.

United Nations Security Council, Amid Humanitarian Funding Gap, 20 Million People across Africa, Yemen at Risk of Starvation, Emergency Relief Chief Warns Security Council, SECURITY COUNCIL 7897TH MEETING (AM), March 10, 2017
<https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12748.doc.htm>

In South Sudan, more than 7.5 million people needed aid, up by 1.4 million from last year, he continued. Continued fighting had displaced some 3.4 million people and more than 1 million children were estimated to be acutely malnourished across the country. That included 270,000 children who faced the imminent risk of death if they were not reached in time. In Somalia, more than half of the population — 6.2 million people — required humanitarian and protection assistance, he said. Some 2.9 million people were at risk of famine. In the last two months alone, nearly 160,000 people had been displaced due to severe drought conditions, adding to the already 1.1 million people who lived in appalling conditions around the country.

Humanitarian assistance in East Africa can solve famine and food insecurity.

United Nations Security Council, Amid Humanitarian Funding Gap, 20 Million People across Africa, Yemen at Risk of Starvation, Emergency Relief Chief Warns Security Council, SECURITY COUNCIL 7897TH MEETING (AM), March 10, 2017
<https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12748.doc.htm>

In the ensuing discussion, Council members expressed serious concern over the deep insecurity faced by millions with the delegate from the United States saying that every member of the Security Council should be outraged that the world was confronting famine in the year 2017. She said that famine was a man-made problem with a man-made solution. In South Sudan, for example, responsibility lay squarely with the country's leaders who continued to fight a senseless conflict while 5.5 million people faced severe hunger. Members reiterated that the only solution to crises in those countries was a political one, and urged all parties to stop fighting and return to peace talks. The representative of Egypt, voicing concern about the current drought and famine threatening Somalia, pointed out that the "common denominator" in each of the countries was ongoing political crises. In regards to Somalia, regional efforts to combat that crisis would help ensure the delivery of aid.

Millions of East African are suffering from famine every single day.

United Nations Security Council, Amid Humanitarian Funding Gap, 20 Million People across Africa, Yemen at Risk of Starvation, Emergency Relief Chief Warns Security Council, SECURITY COUNCIL 7897TH MEETING (AM), March 10, 2017
<https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12748.doc.htm>

STEPHEN O'BRIEN, Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, briefed the Council on his visits to countries facing famine or at risk of famine namely, Yemen, South Sudan and Somalia. Having also visited north Kenya, where pastoralists were affected by the terrible drought, he said that over 2.7 million Kenyans were now food insecure, a number likely to reach 4 million by April. The United Nations would launch an appeal of \$200 million to provide timely life-saving assistance.

Living conditions in East Africa are appalling.

United Nations Security Council, Amid Humanitarian Funding Gap, 20 Million People across Africa, Yemen at Risk of Starvation, Emergency Relief Chief Warns Security Council, SECURITY COUNCIL 7897TH MEETING (AM), March 10, 2017
<https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12748.doc.htm>

In Somalia, more than half of the population — 6.2 million people — required humanitarian and protection assistance, including 2.9 million people at risk of famine, he said. In the last two months alone, nearly 160,000 people had been displaced due to severe drought conditions, adding to the already 1.1 million people who lived in appalling conditions around the country.

The US can work with the UN to provide humanitarian assistance in East Africa, which is threatened by drought and famine.

United Nations Security Council, Amid Humanitarian Funding Gap, 20 Million People across Africa, Yemen at Risk of Starvation, Emergency Relief Chief Warns Security Council, SECURITY COUNCIL 7897TH MEETING (AM), March 10, 2017
<https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12748.doc.htm>

Proposing that the United Nations begin studying the idea of deploying observers to end such access restrictions, which included procrastinating and stalling the delivery of imports, he went on to say that the suffering of South Sudan's population had also reached an unprecedented level. There was an urgent need to facilitate rapid and unhindered United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) access to affected areas. Voicing concern about the current drought and the famine threatening Somalia, and stressing the need to increase regional efforts to combat that crisis and ensure the delivery of aid, he agreed with other speakers and ongoing political crises were the "common denominator" in each of those countries. Ending the suffering of their respective populations could only be achieved through political solutions.

If the US doesn't provide humanitarian assistance, then terrorist groups like Al-Shabab will step in and propose to be the solution.

United Nations Security Council, Amid Humanitarian Funding Gap, 20 Million People across Africa, Yemen at Risk of Starvation, Emergency Relief Chief Warns Security Council, SECURITY COUNCIL 7897TH MEETING (AM), March 10, 2017
<https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12748.doc.htm>

United Nations Security Council, Amid Humanitarian Funding Gap, 20 Million People across Africa, Yemen at Risk of Starvation, Emergency Relief Chief Warns Security Council, SECURITY COUNCIL 7897TH MEETING (AM), March 10, 2017
<https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12748.doc.htm>In Somalia, there was a crucial window to take action before the drought took hold, during which the international community could help avoid a recurrence of the tragic 2011 famine. “Al-Shabaab is poised to step into the breach” if States did not step up to help, he warned, noting that Somalis would be forced to turn to the group in desperation. In Yemen, all parties to the conflict must ensure the continued delivery of commercial imports, while partners should help stabilize the banking sector and resolve the liquidity crisis. The United Kingdom had increased its assistance to Yemen to \$125 million, but it would be difficult to effectively address the crisis while the conflict continued. In that regard, he joined others in calling on the parties to work towards a ceasefire and an enduring political settlement.

Droughts are frequently causing humanitarian crises in East Africa.

Stephen Wainaina, African Arguments (a pan-African platform for news analysis, comment and opinion), Droughts in East Africa becoming more frequent, more devastating, March 17, 2017, africanarguments.org/2017/03/17/droughts-in-east-africa-are-becoming-more-frequent-and-more-devastating/

If the current drought in the East Africa brings a sense of déjà vu, it's because we've been here before – several times. This is a region where the global forces of climate change, forced migration, and volatile food supply converge, resulting in severe hunger and, at worst, famine. However, while drought is not new, it has become increasingly frequent.

The number of people in East Africa who need humanitarian assistance increases by over one million each year.

United Nations Security Council, Amid Humanitarian Funding Gap, 20 Million People across Africa, Yemen at Risk of Starvation, Emergency Relief Chief Warns Security Council, SECURITY COUNCIL 7897TH MEETING (AM), March 10, 2017
<https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12748.doc.htm>

On South Sudan, he said that more than 7.5 million people needed aid, up by 1.4 million from last year. Around 3.4 million people were displaced. More than 1 million children were estimated to be acutely malnourished across the country; including 270,000 children who faced the imminent risk of death if they were not reached in time. Having travelled to South Sudan, Mr. O'Brien recalled meeting with women who fled fighting with their children through waist-high swamps to receive food and medicine. Some of those women had experienced the most appalling acts of sexual violence. Active hostilities continued to curtail humanitarian efforts. Aid workers had been killed and their compounds attacked.

Terrorism is a real threat in other parts of Africa; they don't solve for all terrorism so their impacts are inevitable.

National Public Radio, Amid Aid Uncertainty, U.S. Counterterrorism Cooperation Continues In Africa, April 17, 2017, www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2017/04/17/521400443/amid-aid-uncertainty-u-s-counter-terrorism-cooperation-continues-in-africa

During Flintlock, training scenarios involved agents from across the region simulating the aftermath of a terrorist bombing, as well as chasing and apprehending hostage-taking terrorist suspects. "Terrorism knows no boundaries or borders," warned Nagassou, the Cameroonian police commander. Deadly Boko Haram bomb blasts and suicide bombing raids have targeted all four countries battling the terrorist network, he said. "Boko Haram has pledged allegiance to Islamic State," he said, "so geographic frontiers mean nothing to this group or other terrorist networks and their regional allies. Borders are simply a joke to them — they have connections and communications." Terrorists, he said, easily slip across.