

Eastern Africa Standby Force



Annual Report 2015



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EASF Member States

Burundi



Comoros



Djibouti



Ethiopia



Kenya



Rwanda



Seychelles



Somalia



Sudan



Uganda



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Message from the Chair



As the African continent continues to face many security challenges, it is critical, more than ever, that we scale up our efforts to respond rapidly to crises and assure our citizens of our willingness and collective responsibility to secure their lives. Experience has demonstrated that no single country can claim to be free of conflict or to have adequate capacity to protect its people on its own. A regional strategy is needed.

EASF takes pride in its capability to deploy a multidimensional force comprising military, police and civilians. This has been made possible through the collective efforts by member states who have demonstrated outstanding commitment towards this cause. Our personnel have worked hard and undergone rigorous training, confirming their commitment and motivation to contribute to regional peace.

As EASF moves beyond full operational capability, I take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the leadership of EASF. I thank our Heads of State and Government for their political will and the resources that they have committed to building EASF; the various ministries in member states for guiding the management of EASF and for their active participation in the successful conduct of affairs of EASF.

I also wish to thank the African Union for their support and cooperation with EASF. I extend special appreciation to EASF Partners and Friends for the technical and financial support that has brought EASF this far. Finally, I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the Director of EASF, Ambassador Issimail Chanfi and all the EASF staff for their dedication.

H.E. Major General Abdulkadir Sheikh Ali Dini (Somalia)
Chairperson, Council of Ministers of Defence and Security

Message from the Director



The EASF leadership has supported and directed the organisation since it was formed in the year 2004. They have contributed time, human resources and technical expertise that have guided the organisation to the level it has reached today. In having achieved full operational capability ahead of schedule, EASF has shown what commitment and focus in the leadership can accomplish.

We have followed the guidance from the Council of Ministers Directives through the implementation of the two previous strategic plans. As EASF opens a new chapter post-Full Operational Capability (FOC), we have reviewed our priorities and agreed a new Strategic Plan for 2015-20. The plan defines the direction in pursuit of the EASF vision and mission and commits to taking EASF to greater heights post-FOC. The Secretariat is also promoting better standards in the conduct of the EASF Activity Plan and the implementation of EASF regulations. We stand committed to achieving EASF Vision and Mission together with our leadership, partners and the Africa Union in order to actualise the dream of a peaceful Africa for development.

Ambassador Issimail Chanfi
Director, EASF Secretariat

Highlights 2015

Communications and Advocacy Strategy

The Communications and Advocacy Strategy enables EASF to engage audiences in a timely fashion and make them stay engaged. Under the motto *Promoting Peace – Because the people of Eastern Africa matter!* the strategy focuses on external communication, internal communication and efficient communication during deployment.

Start-Up Kit

EASF procured a rapid deployable and self-sustaining Forward Force Headquarters with accommodation for 70 personnel. The equipment, which packs into four shipping containers and can fit comfortably on an area no larger than 60x80m on any terrain, was co-sponsored by the Danish and UK governments and supplied by the AFEX Company.

EASF Days

EASF conducted Open Days to raise awareness in five member states – Kenya, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Sudan and Seychelles. The events raised awareness of EASF's role in enhancing peace and security in the Eastern Africa region and attracted participants from government and civil society and a number of journalists. University students showed a particularly keen interest in the work of EASF. The open days will continue in the remaining EASF member states throughout 2016.





Gender Policy

EASF recognises that fostering gender-sensitive peace operations is central to the mandate of EASF because it contributes to enhancing the sustainability of recovery by communities from conflict. The EASF Gender Policy establishes a clear vision and makes commitments to gender mainstreaming in all EASF operations.



Amani Africa II

EASF took an active part in the AU Field Training Exercise Amani Africa II. Two military platoons, one from Rwanda and one from Kenya, and two EASF civilian experts participated in the tactical exercise activities in South Africa. EASF also supplied an integrated team to the exercise mission headquarter, the strategic headquarter in Addis Ababa and to the exercise control team.

Strategic Plan

EASF rolled out a road map to maintain its operational readiness and establish itself as a major regional player in conflict prevention, management and response over the next six years. The strategic plan turns a new chapter in the institution's existence following the confirmation of its readiness to deploy.

Political Commitment and Diplomacy

Since inception EASF's development was founded on strong political will from member states and significant support from partners. Affirming the legal framework under which EASF operates, Djibouti, Ethiopia and Kenya joined Rwanda, Seychelles and Uganda as member states that have ratified the 'Agreement on Establishment of EASF'. The remaining four member states are at an advanced stage of this process.

In 2015, EASF conducted comprehensive consultations with the African Union Peace and Security Council on the situation in Burundi. In consultation with the AU, EASF developed a contingency plan for possible deployment to Burundi. Despite such challenges, Burundi remains an active member of EASF.

EASF also strengthened relationships with existing and new partners and Friends through sharing information and promoting the work of EASF. The engagement provided an opportunity to reflect on the progress of development of EASF and to identify areas of mutual interest with partners. The discussions attracted Ambassadors of EASF member states, as well as senior officials from regional and international organisations such as the European Union, League of Arab States and ASEAN countries. These partnerships will help consolidate the achievements of the multidimensional force and sustain it into the future. Proactive collaboration has raised the visibility of EASF and strengthened its position in the regional and global arena of peace and security.

Policy
Organs
Meeting
in Djibouti

In consultation with the AU, EASF developed a contingency plan for possible deployment to Burundi.



Sharing experiences



Brigadier General Ahmed
Sheikh Mohamed (Somalia)
Former EASF Head of
Finance and Head of Liaison
(2007-2013)



For six years, I was seconded to the Eastern Africa Standby Force where I served as the Head of Finance Department and later as the Head of Liaison. The invaluable experience at EASF earned me a position as the Director of the Department of Cooperation and Agreements of the Ministry of Defence on my return to Somalia in 2013.

I joined EASF during its transformation from a Brigade, with a largely military set-up, to a multidimensional force that reflects military, police and civilian contributions to peacekeeping. The principle of multidimensionality is deeply engrained in the organisation now that it has reached FOC.

My years in EASF exposed me to new approaches, strategies and different cultural practices of the EASF member states and partners. I enjoyed working in a diverse and international team towards supporting peace in the region. Today, I am proud to share my knowledge and apply the experience gained at EASF as I join the national efforts to rebuild my home country of Somalia. I continue to collaborate with my former colleagues across Eastern Africa and nurture the relationships that I built during my secondment to EASF.

88%
of EASF staff
are seconded
from their
member
state

■ **24 April 2015:** Extraordinary POM in Khartoum, Sudan.

■ **17 October 2015:** Ordinary POM in Djibouti.

Maintaining

Readiness



EASF
rapid
deployable
and Self-
sustaining
Forward
Force HQ

With the purchase of a state of the art rapid-deployable and self-sustaining Forward Force Headquarter, EASF is now well equipped to deploy.

From 2015, EASF stands ready to deploy to conflicts and crises in the Eastern Africa region and across the continent. The achievement of full operational capability (FOC) in December 2014 was a huge milestone for EASF. As the organisation emerges to a new chapter as a fully-fledged actor under the African Peace and Security Architecture, its focus shifts towards sharing the vision of EASF deployment with partners, member states and the African Union.

Training and maintenance of pledged forces and equipment constitute a major pillar in the strategic plan. This is no small feat in an organisation that spans ten countries from Sudan to Burundi and extending into the Indian Ocean to the island nations of Comoros and the Seychelles. EASF conducted 21 training courses to ensure its military, police and civilian experts have the right expertise and skills to contribute to peace and security during deployment.

Those skills were tested and practiced during Field Training Exercise Amani Africa II in October/November 2015. The objective was to validate the capacity of the African Union to mandate and deploy a multidimensional peace support operation. Over 6000 military, police and civilian officers from

across all five African standby forces participated in the exercise at both the strategic headquarters in Addis Ababa and in tactical activities in South Africa. 96 participants from the EASF region took part in Amani Africa II including in exercise planning, control and evaluation.

With the purchase of a state of the art rapid-deployable and self-sustaining Forward Force Headquarter, EASF is now well equipped to deploy. The equipment, which is co-sponsored by the Danish and UK governments and supplied by AFEX, provides offices and accommodation for 70 personnel on initial deployment to a conflict zone. It packs into three shipping containers and can fit comfortably on an area no larger than 60x80m on any terrain. While not in use, it is being stored at the EASF Logistics Base in Addis Ababa.

What is FOC?

5200 military, civilian and police personnel:

- Force HQ of 68 personnel
- HQ Support Company of 150 personnel
- Force HQ Communication and Information Systems Company of 135 personnel



MILITARY



CIVILIAN



POLICE



1 Reconnaissance Squadron of 150 personnel



Level 2 Medical Unit (basic hospital)



1 Military Police Company



120 Military Observers (MILOBS)



1 Special Forces Company



6 Formed Police Units of 140 personnel each



Aviation Unit with 4 helicopters



3 Motorized Battalions of 850 personnel each



1 Artillery Troop of 60 personnel



720 Individual Police Officers



1 Mechanized Infantry Battalion of 850 personnel



1 Light Infantry Battalion of 850 personnel



Light multi-role Logistics Unit of 90 personnel



1 Armoured Squadron of 60 personnel



360 Civilian Experts

Training

our people

EASF conducted **21 training courses** in 2015:

EASF Battle Group Commander's Course

UN Contingency Owned Equipment Integrated Course

Military Training of Trainers Course

Exercise Planning Course

Force Headquarter Staff Course

Vessel Protection Detachment Course

EASF Joint Maritime Taskforce Commander's Course

Search and Rescue Course

Logistics Movement, Convoy Management and Escort Operations Course

4 Police Pre-deployment Courses

2 Police Mid-Level Management Courses

Governance and Diplomacy for Peace and Security Course

Integrated Mission Planning Course

Integrated Crisis Management Course

Protection of Civilians Course

2 Civilian Peace Support Operations Foundation Courses

Spokesperson training for EASF staff

Civilians in the Field

Hamidouni Ymadoudine is the EASF Civilian National Focal Point in Comoros. His role is to facilitate his country's representation on the EASF roster for civilian experts and promoting civilian contributions to peacekeeping operations within his government structures. Each EASF member state has one civilian National Focal Point, most of who are civil servants in their country's administration.

In July 2015, Hamidouni participated in the EASF Civilian Foundation Course. 'My motivation was to learn more about EASF and to receive the relevant training to be able to make my contribution to maintaining and reinforcing peace, stability and development in our region and across Africa.'

All civilian experts on the EASF roster attend training providing partici-

pants with the core skills to function effectively in a mission environment. 'The training made me realize how complex it is to maintain peace and the difficulties of operating in a conflict environment,' remarks Comoros' Civilian National Focal Point.

As part of the two-week training, students learn how to cooperate with military and police colleagues, get out of a mine field, negotiate with conflict parties, pass road blocks and survive and cope with being taken

hostage. The International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC) in Nairobi offers a purpose-built training village to simulate a mission environment. With the support of GIZ, 166 civilian experts have attended the Civilian Foundation Course at training centres in Kenya and Rwanda.



Civilians during mine awareness training.

Looking forward



Field
Training
Exercise
in Jinja,
Uganda

1. Political, Diplomatic and Advocacy
2. Maintenance of a Fully Operational Standby Force and Operational Capability
3. Institutional Capacity and Sustainability
4. Regional Cooperation and Partnerships

In its Strategic Plan 2015-20 EASF rolls out a roadmap to maintain its operational readiness and establish itself as a major regional player in conflict prevention, management and response over the next six years. The plan identifies four strategic pillars around which EASF organises its core business and will apply its resources:

Member states agreed the strategic direction in October 2015 to pave the way for a concerted effort towards its vision to contribute to regional and continental peace, security and stability and enhance regional integration.

EASF recognises that fostering gender-sensitive peace operations is central to the mandate of EASF because it contributes to enhancing the sustainability of recovery by communities from conflict. EASF's commitment to gender mainstreaming has been captured in its Gender Policy. The policy establishes a clear vision and provides guidance to gender-sensitive operations in both the EASF Secretariat and EASF missions. The implementation of the Gender Policy is a priority for the Planning Element and Secretariat going forward.

Capability demands and a growing staff base need to be supported by enabling

EASF operates under strong core values:

■ Humanity

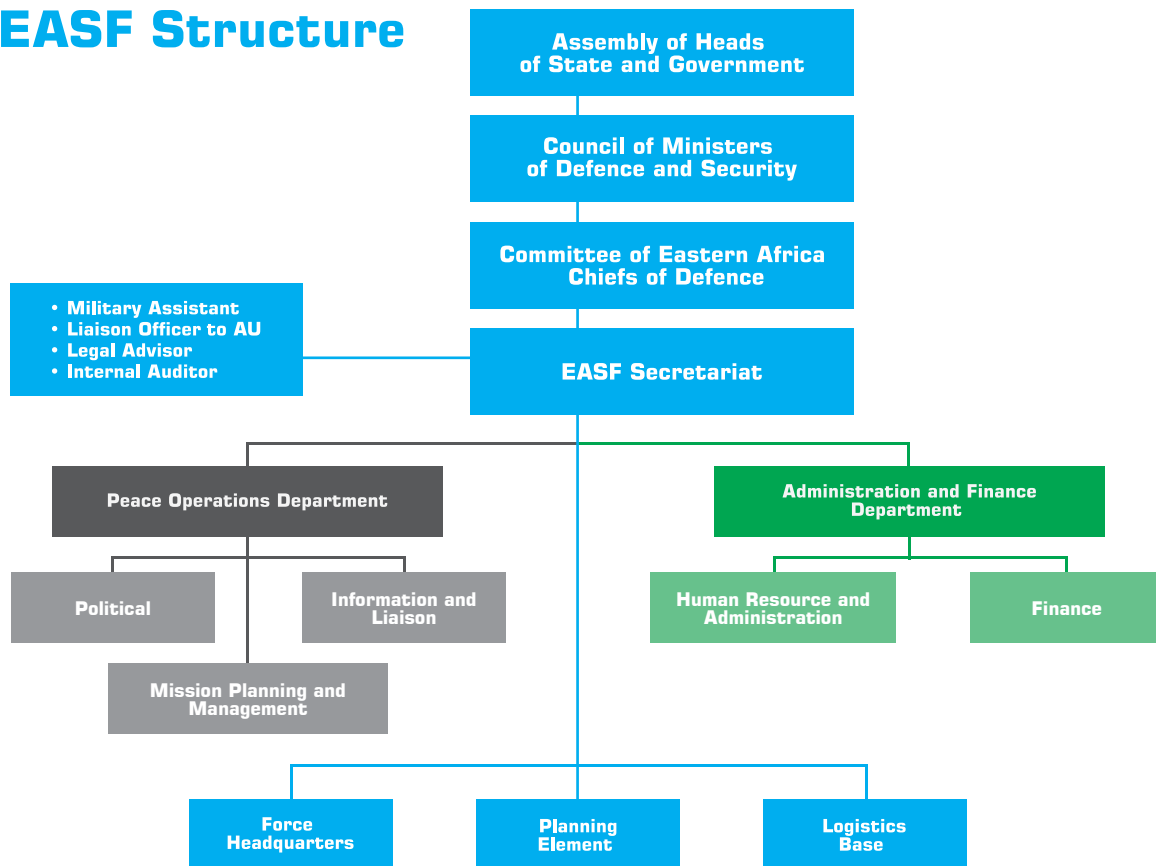
■ Multinational
projection

■ Professionalism
and efficiency

EASF's commitment to gender mainstreaming has been captured in its Gender Policy.

infrastructure. EASF started an overhaul of the internet and voice communication infrastructure at its offices in Karen. The upgrade will overcome operational constraints and take advantage of new technological capabilities with faster, more reliable and more secure internet connections. Following the procurement of the project in 2015, the physical infrastructure will be implemented in 2016.

EASF Structure



Partnerships for Peace



EASF Day
in Kenya

The EASF Open Days are part of a wider communications and advocacy strategy EASF adopted in 2015.

EASF brings together ten member states – Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somali, Sudan and Uganda. Building a large family like this requires coordination, cooperation and strong partnerships, not just among member states but with our partners, supporters and friends globally. Strategically, this translates to increasing the visibility of EASF and actively promoting EASF as a force for peace in Africa.

The achievement of FOC sends a clear message that EASF is ready to fulfil its mandate of enhancing peace and security in the Eastern Africa region. What better day to voice this message than on International Day of Peace on 21 October? EASF held its first EASF Open Day in Kenya, bringing together practitioners in the peace and security sector, academics, students, journalists, diplomats and government representatives. The day celebrated the achievements and challenges of EASF through presentations, discussions, films and an exhibition.

Following the success of the first EASF Open Day and the welcome reception by the Kenyan community, EASF held three more Open Days in Djibouti, Ethiopia and Sudan towards the end of 2015. The events are a key activity to

The strategy recognises the key audiences that make up the EASF community and the important role they play in supporting the regional and global efforts towards peace and security.'

bring EASF closer to the community and sharing the spirit of cooperation for peace in the region.

The EASF Open Days are part of a wider communications and advocacy strategy EASF adopted in 2015. The strategy recognises the key audiences that make up the EASF community and the important role they play in supporting the regional and global efforts towards peace and security. It accounts for today's complex and lightning fast information requirements inside and outside of a peacekeeping mission. The EASF Communications and Advocacy Strategy, aptly titled *Promoting Peace – Because the PEOPLE of Eastern Africa matter!* supports the development of EASF capacities to engage audiences in a timely fashion and make them stay engaged.

EASF Day
in Sudan

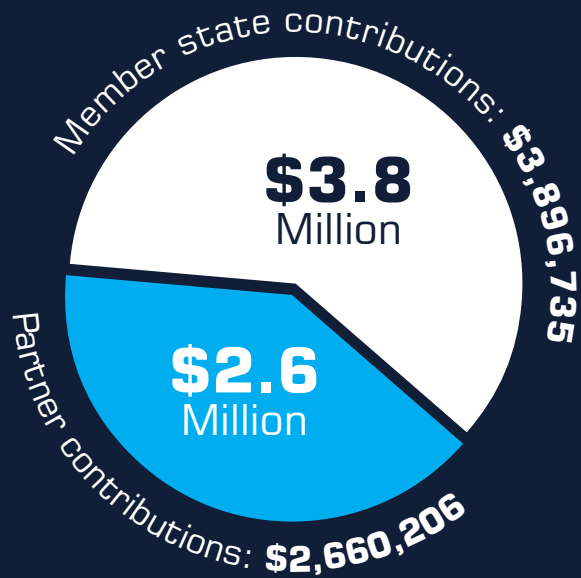


Financial

Performance

Total Budget 2015:
\$8.7 million

Total direct contributions to EASF:
\$6,556,941



Field Training Exercise in Jinja, Uganda



EASF

Partners

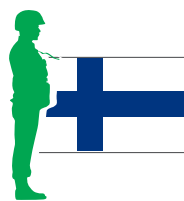
Technical advisers:



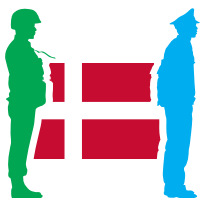
Britain: Military



Sweden: Military



Finland: Military



Denmark:
Military Police



Norway:
Military Police



Germany:
Police Civilian

Other support:



Japan through
UNDP



EU through AU



Save the Children



UNDP

Friends of EASF

Australia



Belgium



Canada



China



Denmark



Finland



France



Germany



Japan



Netherlands



Norway



Switzerland



Sweden



Thailand



Turkey



United Kingdom



United States





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