



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

HORN
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

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ABOUT THE HORN INSTITUTE

Objective. Independent. Definitive

The HORN International Institute for Strategic Studies is a non-profit, applied research, and policy think-do tank based in Nairobi, Kenya.

VISION

A progressive Horn of Africa served by informed, evidence-based and problem-solving policy research and analysis.

MISSION

Contribute to informed, objective, definitive research, and analytical inquiry that positively informs policies of governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

OBJECTIVES

- A. Conduct cutting-edge action research and analysis to help inform policy making and action in defence and security; terrorism, violent extremism, and radicalization; diplomacy and foreign relations; governance, statecraft and conflict management; and transnational crimes and strategic threats.
- B. Engage in conflict resolution and peacemaking.
- C. Strategic communication for preventing and countering terrorism, responding to conflicts and emerging threats.
- D. Participate in routine advocacy on security, conflict resolution, and peacemaking.
- E. Design courses and deliver training on themes relating to the Institute's focus areas.

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Chairman's Statement

The emergence of COVID-19 in the first quarter of 2020 challenged us like it did to many throughout the world. The virulent speed with which COVID-19 spread across the globe negatively impacted and disorganized many organizations and plans. Global focus shifted to containment of the virus. While the impact of coronavirus demoralized many, including the team at the HORN Institute, it did not break the resolve to continue contributing to informed, objective, definitive research, and analytical inquiry. The Institute continued to positively inform the policies of governments, intergovernmental, and non-governmental organizations.

As the world adjusted to the new reality, the Institute found ways to continue its work, leveraging technology to hold meetings and interact with different policy makers and policy takers actively. The Institute also started researching the impact of COVID-19 on Kenya. It formed a COVID-19 Response Team, undertook COVID-19 surveys, and published survey reports, and studies. The Institute undertook many other tasks that put it on national and global stage.

I am therefore excited to say that the HORN Institute was included, and ranked in the 2021 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report as "a think tank to watch" following the Lauder Institute's Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) recognition of the HORN Institute's "excellent research and innovative advances" in the past two years. This public and global acclaim has reinvigorated the HORN Institute. The Institute did not achieve this alone, but with the support of its contemporaries, and partners. For this, I thank you most sincerely.

The Institute will continue engaging with you and others to realize its vision of a progressive Horn of Africa served by informed, evidence-based and problem-solving policy research and analysis. As this journey continues, I invite you to continue supporting and working with us.

Mustafa Y, Ali Ph.D.

Chairman, HORN International
Institute for Strategic Studies



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Director's Statement



Our relative success has led the Institute to be recognized as one of 'The Think Tanks To Watch' (No. 18) in the world by the *Global Go To Think Tank Index Report* in 2020

In 2020, the Horn of Africa region faced immense challenges that were exacerbated by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. These included complex and protracted conflicts, increased terrorist activities, unstable political transitions, and declining democracy. As the director of the HORN Institute, a leading think-do tank in the region, I recognize that we have a unique responsibility to provide objective policy-oriented analyses on these issues.

In 2020, the Institute conducted research and held discussions on a wide range of areas within its focus. In particular, the Institute conducted COVID-19 related survey and its impact on security, held a series of roundtables Horn security, regional diplomacy among others. In addition, the Institute held webinars, workshops, and trainings on various themes in partnership with the University of Nairobi and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). These events produced reports, policy briefs, op-eds, and other briefing documents.

In just four years, our Institute has grown remarkably well in terms of its achievements and impact. Our relative success has led the Institute to be recognized as one of 'The Think Tanks To Watch' (No. 18) in the world by the *Global Go To Think Tank Index Report* in 2020. The ranking is a testament to the HORN Institute's growth and influence in research and policy analysis in the region. While such recognition is much appreciated, it challenges us to do more in contributing to informed policy discourse on the complex challenges that we face as a region, and to a considerable degree, as a 21st Century world.

Hassan Khannenje Ph.D.

Director, HORN International
Institute for Strategic Studies



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Annual Report captures the HORN Institute's work and achievements between January 2020 and December 2020. It highlights the Institute's outputs in research; various fora; thematic analyses of issues affecting the Horn of Africa region, including COVID-19. It also includes media, communication, outreach; and prospects for 2021.

The emergence of the COVID-19 led to the delay or cancellation of some of the Institute's planned activities and projects, but also provided opportunities for new ones. As COVID-19 spread across the world, the Institute joined other think tanks in the world in scenario-creation and analysis of the novel virus, guided by the Institute's COVID-19 Response Team. The Institute published several articles, policy briefs, and a white paper on mitigation measures, and a COVID-19 study. Additionally, the Institute conducted four COVID-19 surveys. The surveys assessed the level of knowledge, awareness, and perceptions of Kenyans on COVID-19, as well as their thoughts on government responses to the pandemic. The survey reports were shared with line ministries, policymakers and the public. Further, a range of data visuals,

including graphs, charts, time series sequences, and heat maps on Kenya's COVID-19 curve, case trajectories, fatalities, and vulnerable population segments were created and shared with different stakeholders, including policymakers and the general public.

In partnership with the Center for Sustainable Conflict Resolution (CSCR), the Institute continued with D-PRIVE (Diminishing the Prevalence of Radicalization into Violent Extremism) programmatic activities with strict observance of the COVID-19-related mitigation measures instituted by the government. In June 2020, the Institute, in partnership with IGAD Centre of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (ICEPCVE), co-hosted a Webinar on P/CVE in which scholars, researchers, and experts from IGAD member countries participated. Among others, the webinar mapped out priority areas of research as well as challenges facing P/CVE organizations in the region and funding options in the wake of COVID-19.



In July, the Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies (IDIS) at the University of Nairobi and the HORN Institute jointly organized a webinar titled: *Retreat to Nationalism in the 21st Century Globalization: Lessons for Africa from COVID-19*. The conference was organized to provide a platform for African scholars and policy practitioners to deliberate on the challenges to globalization occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant containment measures. In August, the IGAD-HORN team, with the support of USAID, conducted a Strategic Communication Training Workshop on developing and disseminating counter-messages and alternative narratives. The Workshop was based on a Training Manual developed by the HORN Institute in 2019. The virtual Workshop was aimed at youth networks, civil society organizations, and government officials who are potential users of the Manual.

In a series of roundtables, consultative fora, and other colloquia – under the *Horn of Africa Program* that began in November 2020 – the HORN Institute has also been analysing political and security trends in the Horn of Africa region. Through these fora, the Institute aims to provide pragmatic policy options for policymakers and other key actors for a more peaceful and secure region. Three roundtables were conducted in November and December 2020, and reports were shared with policy and decision-makers as they navigate the challenges blighting the region. The Institute will continue holding such discussions in the first quarter of 2021.

In 2021, the Institute published six bulletin Issues and four policy briefs. The Institute also published a white paper entitled *COVID-19 in Kenya: Containment, Mitigation, Recovery, and Reopening*. This paper laid out the roadmap to recovery and reopening of the Kenyan economy following a partial lockdown instituted by the government. Other policy documents focused on various other aspects of the pandemic.

In order to broaden the understanding of the Egypt-Ethiopia conflict among policy makers, scholars and conflict experts, the Institute conducted and published a study titled *The Egypt-Ethiopia Nile Conflict: Sources, Forces, Spoilers, Scenarios, Implications, and Options*



“It is very important for Kenya to deploy Special Forces to support other security agencies in the Kenya-Somalia border. The Special Forces can reinforce the moderately equipped police to deal with the threat that al Shabab is posing.”

for Kenya and the Horn of Africa. This study traces the origins of the conflict, examines the nature of the treaties, and proffers a prognosis of the conflict.

On communication and outreach, the Institutes’ experts and members of the HORN Council of Advisors continued to be the most preferred source of expert analysis for local, regional, and international media on a range of thematic

areas. The assassination of Iranian Major General Soleimani, COVID-19 pandemic, the Ethiopia-Tigray crisis, and Somalia elections attracted significant media attention. The Institutes’ experts and staff also published commentaries various media outlets. To expand its reach, the Institute also created podcasts, videos, and infographics on the Institute’s focus areas that were shared on social media platforms, as well as the website.





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The HORN in 2021

The Institute achieved its goal of increasing outputs in and understanding of governance, statecraft, and conflict transformation in Kenya, and the region. In addition to providing information and analysis on the impact of COVID-19 on governance, the Institute covered political transitions in Burundi, Sudan, South Sudan, elections in Burundi, and CAR, as well as delayed elections in Ethiopia and Somalia. It also provided analysis of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), and the impact of Tigray conflict on the region's peace and stability.

As a premier think-do tank in the greater Horn of Africa region, the Institute will continue providing expert analysis on the ever-changing political and security situations in the region. Thus, as a continuation of the *Horn of Africa*

Program – a program that focuses on conflict, political and security trends in the Horn of Africa countries – the Institute will continue holding fora composed of scholars, practitioners, political leaders, diplomats, and policy makers in view to providing actionable policy options. Ethiopia-Tigray crisis, Ethiopia-Sudan's Al-





Fashaqa border conflict, Somalia elections and its implications for regional security and stability, al Shabab resurgence, Sudan's transition, and South Sudan peace process are some of the issues that the Institute will be focusing on in 2021.

Africa-Middle East relations will also be a priority area for the Institute. As a follow-up to the yet-to-be published study on relations between the two blocs, the Institute will hold an international conference on Africa-Middle East relations. The Conference, which was postponed in 2020 due to restrictions related to COVID-19, will be held in 2021. This conference aims to create deeper understanding of historical, political, economic, cultural, religious, investment, and ideological ties between Africa and the Middle East.

Expanding partnership through collaborative engagements, fellowships and joint ventures will also be part of the programming at the institute in 2021.





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RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

In 2020, the HORN International Institute for Strategic Studies was listed as one of 'The Think Tanks to Watch' in the world by the *Global Go To Think Tank Index Report*. According to the *2020 Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program – The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) of the Lauder Institute at the University of Pennsylvania*, the HORN Institute was ranked at position 18 out of 109 think tanks to watch, alongside Brookings Institution, Chatham House, and the Atlantic Council among other top global think tanks in the world. The rankings are the result of an international survey of over 70,000 scholars, public and private donors, policymakers, and journalists who helped rank more than 8,000 think tanks using a set of criteria developed by the *Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program*.

over
70,000
scholars





in Burundi, and CAR; Kenya's third election to the United Nations Security Council as a non-permanent member; the election of United States of America's next President, Joseph Biden; and, in the tail end of 2020, the Tigray conflict.

COVID-19 Surveys

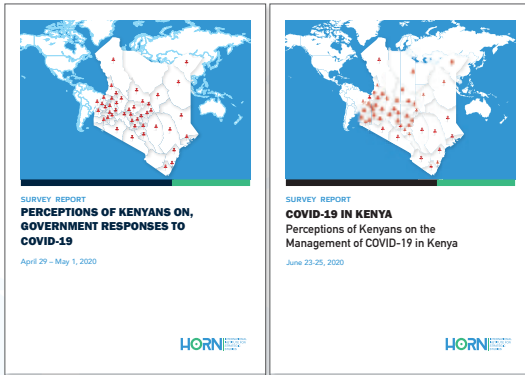
To better understand the pandemic; its evolution and dynamics; its political social, and economic impact; Kenyans' knowledge, attitudes, and practices related to the pandemic; Kenyans' perceptions on government responses; and to inform health-related policies, the Institute conducted four surveys in which respondents from all the 47 counties participated:

1. *Perceptions of Kenyans on, and Government Responses to COVID-19* (April 29 – May 1, 2020) (504 respondents)
2. *COVID-19 in Kenya: Perceptions of Kenyans on Government Communication and Mass Testing* (May 13 - 16, 2020) (562 respondents)
3. *COVID-19 in Kenya: Impact of COVID-19 on Kenyans, and Perceptions on Reopening the Country* (May 26-29, 2020) (747; and 386 respondents)
4. *COVID-19 in Kenya: Perceptions of Kenyans on the Management of COVID-19* (June 23-25, 2020) (647 respondents)

The ranking is a recognition of the Institute's increasing impact on the Horn of Africa region – linking research and policy while applying academic rigor to modern-day policy issues affecting the region. Since 2017, the Institute has held more than 40 theme-specific fora, conducted research and published numerous policy documents (white papers and policy briefs); books, articles and commentaries; bulletins; reports; and studies among other publications on its focus areas in the Horn of Africa. The HORN Institute resident and non-resident experts are also increasingly featured in local, regional, and international media houses.

In 2020, the Institute used both qualitative and quantitative methodologies for research and its analyses of key issues and challenges that emerged in greater Horn of Africa region in 2020. The most significant one was COVID-19, a viral disease that emerged in Wuhan, China, in December 2019 and spread to the rest of the world 2020. Other issues were presidential elections that were (set to be) held in Burundi, Central African Republic (CAR), Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Somalia; political transitions

“...multi-agency approach, borne of institutional coherence and enhanced coordination between the relevant organs charged with dealing with terrorism, is key to



In these surveys, the Institute found that Kenyans had some knowledge of the pandemic – obtained from mainstream media, social media and community actors. Additionally, the government made some commendable policy actions. These, coupled with the high number of asymptomatic Kenyans, helped to keep the

country's case load to a comparatively low number. The country reopened in a phased manner in the last quarter of 2020. In addition to providing information and timely analyses of critical topical issues, the Institute gathered comprehensive COVID-19 insights, emerging as one of the country's go-to research institutes in 2020. Some of these survey reports are available on the Institute's website.

In addition to the surveys, the Institute also studied the eight phases of COVID-19 in Kenya (latent, germinal, incipient, metastatic, emergency, resignation, recovery, and reconstruction); containment and mitigation of the virus, and recovery and reopening of the country. Reports of these studies were published on the Institute's website.

COVID-19 Trend Analyses

To help measure the impact of this virus in Kenya, the Institute embarked on in-depth data analysis of the trend of infections. In the first and second quarter of 2020, the Institute created more than 30 visuals on the patterns of the spread of COVID-19 in Africa, particularly, on countries in the Horn of Africa region. These graphics (which include charts, graphs, and heat maps) have been shared on social media platforms as well as on the Institute's website.

BRAVE Insight

Working with one of its key partner Institutions, CSCR (the BRAVE program), the Institute assessed the impact of COVID-19 on violent extremism and terrorism in the region, and published *Brave Insight*. This (*Brave Insight*) is an incisive, analytical reflection of how violent extremist (VE) groups such as al Shabab and the Islamic State responded to the outbreak of novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). A key finding was that terror groups, including al Shabab,

This is an incisive, analytical reflection of how violent extremist (VE) groups such as al Shabab and the Islamic State responded to the outbreak of novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

were using the pandemic (a public health threat) as a source of renewed inspiration to create violent extremist narratives (including narratives portraying the pandemic as a "divine punishment meted out against nonbelievers across the world for their evil deeds against Muslims and jihadists" as well as those that challenge government directives on the public health precautions against the



pandemic terming them illegitimate and the coronavirus as an answer to jihadists prayers by Allah) to advance their goals such as radicalization and recruitment of ‘at risk’ populations in the region. In the Horn of Africa as well as other parts of the world where terrorists operate, the pandemic was met with anti-Western rhetoric that labelled the pandemic mainly as European, American, and Chinese problem. *Brave Insights* offers counter narratives, and alternative narratives, and a reflection on the positive involvement of religious leaders and clerics in Somalia in collaborating with and supporting government in the fight against the pandemic.

“...multi-agency approach, borne of institutional coherence charged with dealing

In addition to COVID-19 related research, the Institute conducted research on its key thematic areas, prioritizing governance, statecraft, and conflict management. The findings of the research were published as website articles, bulletin articles, policy briefs, and studies, as detailed in the following section.

Articles

The Institute published 45 website articles, and 24 bulletin articles.

Website Articles

Most (25 of the 45) website articles were on the governance, statecraft, and conflict management theme, in keeping with the main research priority of 2020. 13 were on diplomacy and foreign

relations; four on defence and security; two on transnational crimes and strategic threats; and one on terrorism, violent extremism, and radicalization. Notably, *‘Burundi: Negotiating*

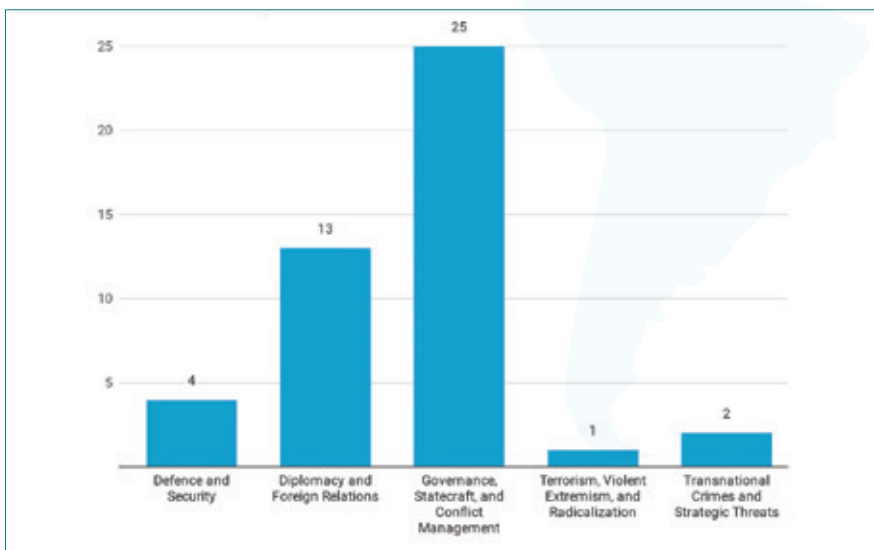


Figure 1: Summary of Thematic Categorization of 2020 Website Articles



the Cusp of a Post-Nkurunziza Future,’ published by the Institute on June 16, 2020, was included in the Briefing Booklet containing dozens of articles, commentaries, and data sets on Burundi for Ambassador Nominee Melanie Higgins ahead of her Senate Confirmation Hearing that took place in the US in August 2020.

This website article publication pattern reflects two main factors: the Institute’s 2020 research priority, and the emergence of COVID-19 in the greater Horn of Africa region in March 2020. Having made a significant impression in the past two years in the areas of defence and security; and terrorism, violent extremism, and radicalization, the Institute prioritized its research on governance, statecraft, and conflict management in 2020.

COVID-19 was reported in most of the Institute’s 13 focus countries between March and April 2020. This had two main effects on website publication. First, it increased the number of publications in governance and statecraft from four in 2019 to 25 in 2020. This is because although the cross-border viral disease became a cross-cutting issue relating to defence and security; diplomacy and foreign relations; governance, statecraft, and conflict management; and strategic threats, its containment within states relied heavily on government decisions, and the responses of citizens to COVID-19-related government policy decisions. Secondly, while the exact extent to which COVID-19 containment measures such as lockdowns and curfews reduced violent extremist activity in the region has not yet been established, there was

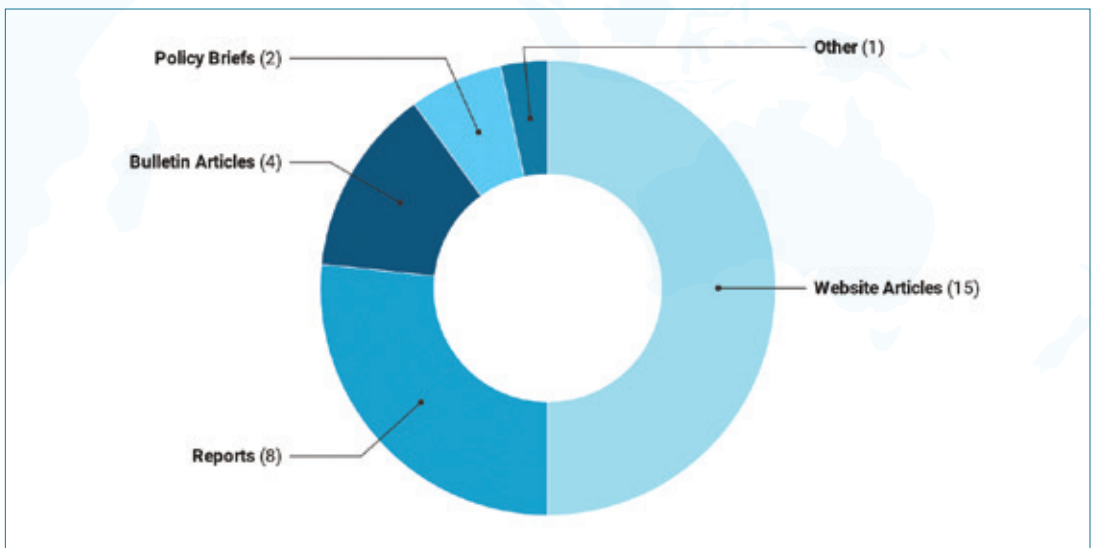


Figure 2: Comparison of Research Products by Topical Issues

a reduction in the number of terrorist-related incidents in the region, resulting in a reduction in the number of terrorism-related articles.

Bulletin Articles

The Institute published 24 articles in six bi-monthly issues of the HORN Bulletin. Of these, six articles were on regional peace; four

on COVID-19; four on terrorism; and two on presidential elections.

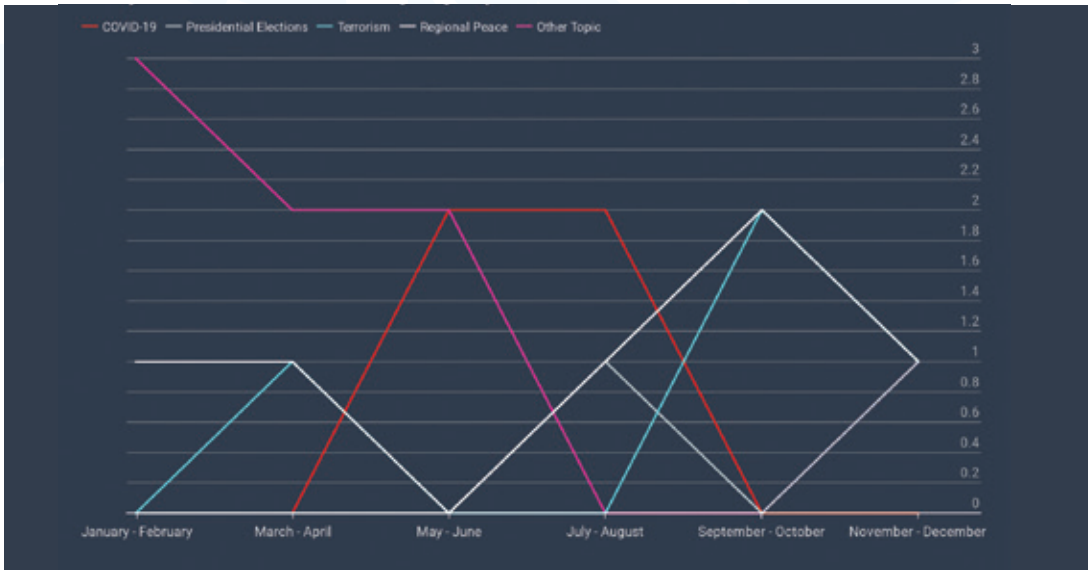
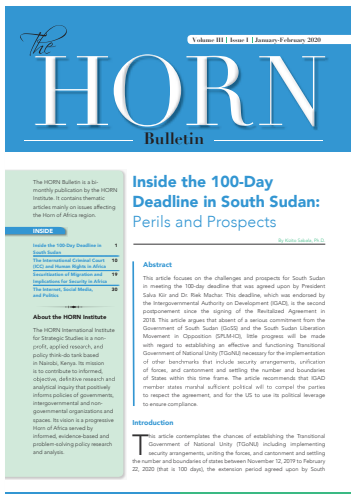


Figure 4: Comparison of Key Topical Issues in the Six 2020 Issues of the HORN Bulletin

There was heightened interest in COVID-19 between May and August 2020 compared to the periods before April and after August.

Additionally, with the exception of the period between May and June 2020, there was interest in regional peace throughout the year.



governments and multilateral institutions can adopt to preserve their space and advance their interests in the ongoing shifts.

Horn of Africa and COVID-19: Peace and Security Implications and Possible Policy Options

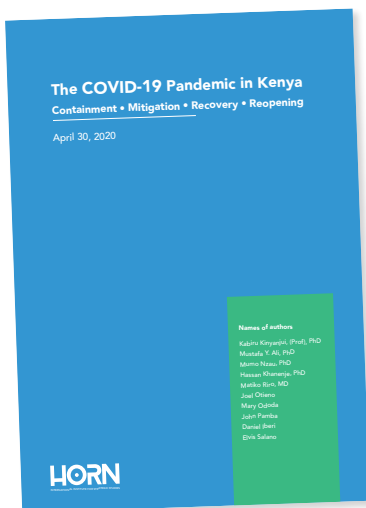
This brief discussed the likelihood of increases in threats to peace and security in the region, such as crime and violence; terrorism; political disunity; and weakening of peacekeeping missions, in the wake of COVID-19. It recommended the cooperation between states in the region, and intelligence sharing.

b) White Paper, and other Briefing Documents

In addition to the three policy briefs, the Institute developed three additional policy documents:

White Paper: COVID-19 in Kenya: Containment, Mitigation, Recovery, and Reopening

This paper discusses Kenya’s fight against COVID-19 as well as strategies for reopening the economy. The paper consists of two sections: Section A contains the introduction; challenges the country is facing; COVID-19

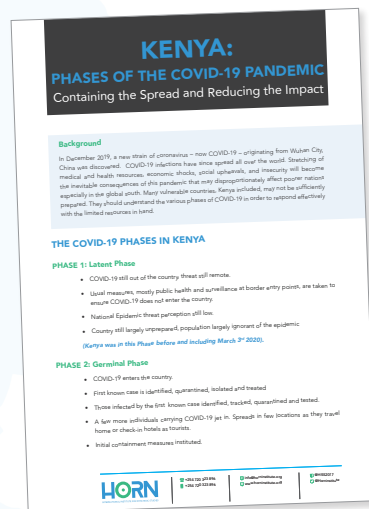


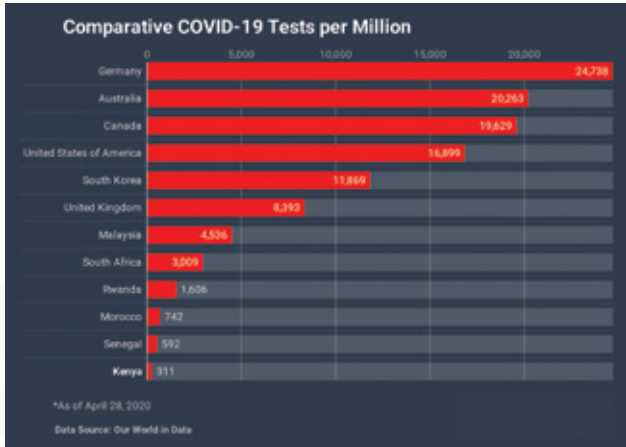
phases; the current status; Kenya’s status in relation to the global outlook; mass testing; possible explanations for relatively low infection rates in Kenya, and critical action points. Section B recommends a sectoral phased strategic approach in reopening the country. It features the “Containment, Mitigation, Recovery and Reopening (CMRR)” strategies and options for the government.

This document highlights key health, economic, and physical securities relating to five COVID-19 scenarios in Kenya, and urges the country to invest in understanding her national and county curves and trajectories, and build resilience against the disease to maintain the safety of citizens, and the peace and security of the territory.

Phases of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Containing the Spread and Reducing the Impact

This document outlines and explains the phases of COVID-19 in Kenya, and the actions that Kenya could take to reduce the negative impact of the virus on the country.



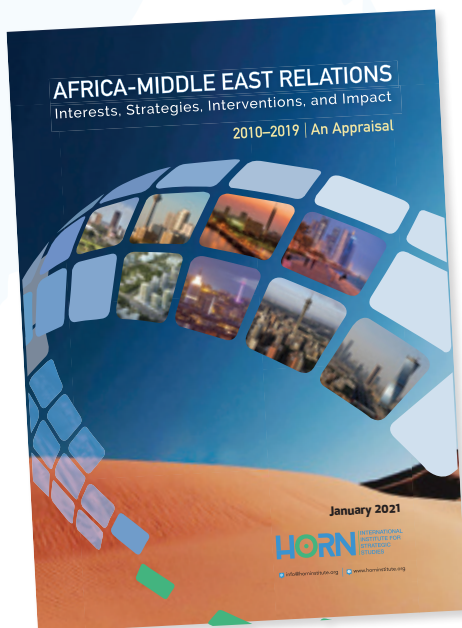


These phases include: Phase 1: Latent Phase; Phase 2: Germinal Phase; Phase 3: Incipient Phase; Phase 4: Metastatic Phase; Phase 5: Emergency Phase; Phase 6: Resignation Phase; Phase 7: Recovery Phase; and the Phase 8: Reconstruction Phase

c) Studies

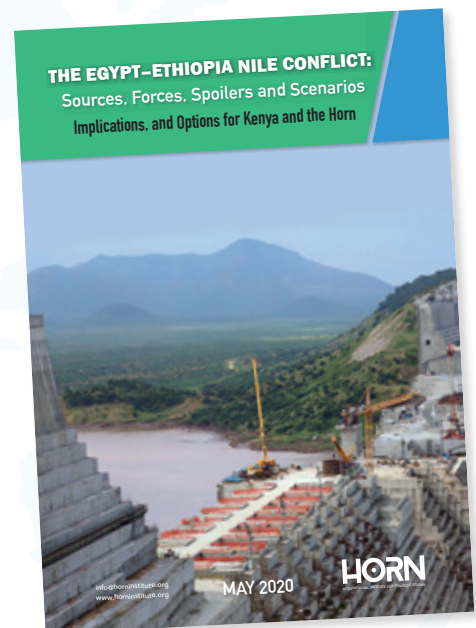
Africa-Middle East Relations: Interests, Strategies, Interventions and Impact: An Appraisal (2010-2019)

In December 2020, the Institute updated a yet-to-be-published study titled 'Africa-Middle East Relations:



Interests, Strategies, Interventions and Impact: An Appraisal (2010-2019)' by adding a chapter on the ideological foundations of radicalization and violent extremism in Africa. The goal of the study is to increase understanding of the impact of the interventions of the United Arab Emirates, Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Turkey in Africa on individual countries and the African continent. The study's findings will inform Africa-Middle East foreign policies, and promote mutually beneficial relations, and regional stability.

The Egypt-Ethiopia Nile Conflict: Sources, Forces, Spoilers, Scenarios, Implications, and Options for Kenya and the Horn of Africa



This study provides an in-depth analysis of the Nile conflict. It examines the sources of the conflict, the treaties, the current status of the conflict, key actors and spoilers, resolution scenarios and implications for Kenya.

The following is a summary of the type and number of research products in the period 2017 to 2020.

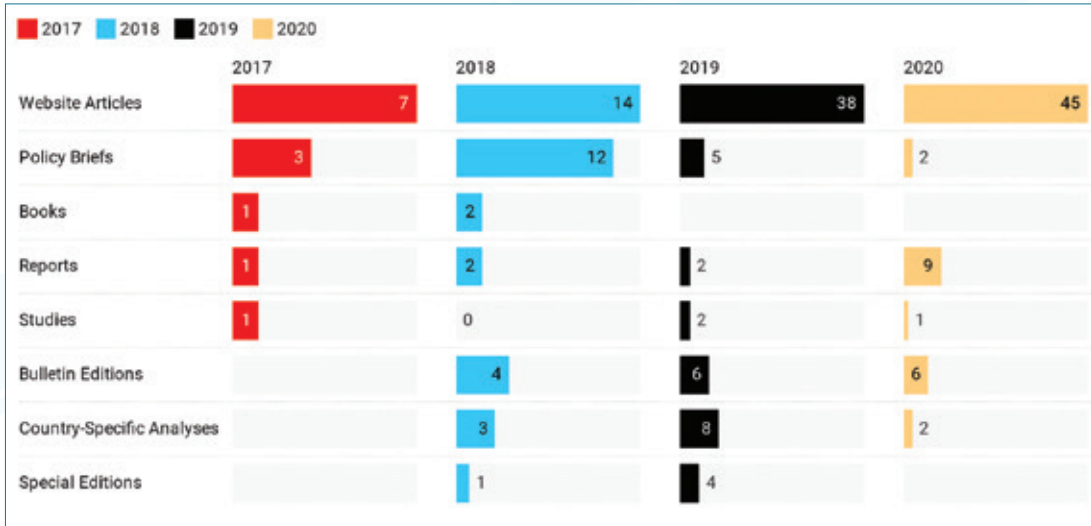


Figure 3: A Comparison of the Type and Number of Research Products between 2017 and 2020

Research Collaboration

The Institute continued to collaborate with its partners to undertake research-related activities. Most notably, the Institute worked with ISD Global (a “leading” London-based, “global ‘think and do’ tank dedicated to understanding and innovating real-world responses to the rising tide of polarization, hate, extremism and disinformation”) and its partners to develop a joint funding proposal through which the HORN Institute would undertake baseline, and end-line surveys, and a training manual.





KEY ACTIVITIES

The D-PRIVE (Diminishing the Prevalence of Radicalization into Violent Extremism) Program

D-PRIVE (Diminishing the Prevalence of Radicalization into Violent Extremism) programmatic activities kicked off in earnest at the turn of the year but was halted by the spread of the COVID-19 in Kenya and related mitigation measures. Before the outbreak of the virus, the Institute had reworked the project implementation matrix for Deep Dialogue sessions to correspond with 2020 calendar. The plan of activities was also prepared with Center for Sustainable Conflict Resolution's input. The Institute is monitoring the situation in the country and may restart these activities if the situation in the country improves.

Global Think Tanks Town Hall Forum

In April and May 2020, the Institute participated in Global Think Tanks Town Hall Forums organized by The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) of the Lauder Institute at the University of Pennsylvania. The main aim of the virtual meetings was to find solutions for managing COVID-19 and its impact, including on think tanks and research institutions. "1,226 think tank executives representing more than 540 institutions in over 87 countries" participated in three Town Hall meetings, according to the organizers.

The Institute was involved with the Working Group, *Being Fit for an Uncertain Future: New Operating Models For Think Tanks – Research, Communications, and Funding*. This was

1,226 think
tank executives
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one of five working groups. The “70 senior experts and executives from 61 think tanks and research centers” who participated in the Group discussed how to overcome strategic and operational challenges to think tanks arising from COVID-19. The Institute provided a written contribution, titled *‘Best Practice on “Outsourcing” Research to Cut Costs in a COVID-19 Environment’* by Mustafa Y. Ali, Ph.D., the Institute’s Chairman, which proposes inter- and intra- North-South collaborations to overcome the challenge of restricted travel to contain COVID-19 and advance research. This was published in the Group’s Policy Paper.

Webinar: Impact of COVID-19 on PCVE: Setting the Research Agenda

The HORN Institute, in partnership with IGAD Centre of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (ICEPCVE) hosted a webinar featuring regional researchers to discuss the evolving research agenda on P/CVE

in the context of COVID-19. The objectives of the webinar were to bring together researchers, policy practitioners, and development partners in the P/CVE space to discuss the evolving research agenda on P/CVE in the context of COVID-19; to cultivate ideas and create a common understanding on the impact of COVID-19 on P/CVE work in the IGAD region; to identify existing gaps in research and create a basis for future research in the P/CVE space, and to create a new research agenda on the impact of COVID-19 on P/CVE.

The Webinar took place on July 2, 2020 and it focused on the following themes: COVID-19 and trends in terrorism, al Shabab and Islamic State (IS); COVID-19 and the changing narratives for radicalization and violent extremism; COVID-19, gender and radicalization; impact of COVID-19 on PCVE interventions; and the role of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in addressing radicalization and violent extremism in the time of COVID-19.



Webinar: Retreat to Nationalism in the 21st Century Globalization: Lessons for Africa from COVID-19

The Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies (IDIS) at the University of Nairobi and the HORN International Institute for Strategic Studies jointly organized a virtual conference on July 16, 2020. The theme of the conference was Retreat to Nationalism in the 21st Century Globalization: Lessons for Africa from COVID-19.

The conference was organized to provide a platform for African scholars and policy practitioners to deliberate on the challenges to globalization occasioned by COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant containment measures. Specifically, the conference set out to map out the effects of the pandemic on international cooperation in the world and Africa in particular; assess Africa's foreign policy options in a divided, increasingly nationalistic international system; understand the impact of an accelerated hostility between leading world economies on African countries; and lastly, assess the role of multilateralism and international cooperation in the post-COVID-19 world. Organized into four sessions, the conference featured an opening address by the Vice-Chancellor of University of Nairobi, Chairman of the HORN Institute, and the Director of IDIS.

A Training Workshop on Developing Counter Messages and Alternative Narratives on P/CVE in the IGAD Region

IGAD Centre for Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (ICEPCVE), with the support of USAID, commissioned a 'Training Manual for Developing and Disseminating Counter-Messages and Alternative Narratives,' in 2019. The Manual was developed by the HORN Institute. On August 20-21, 2020, the



IGAD-HORN team conducted a Strategic Communication Training Workshop to pilot the Manual and validate its usefulness.

The virtual Workshop was aimed at youth networks, civil society organizations, and government officials who are potential users of the Manual. Participation was invited from ICEPCVE's six focus countries (Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Tanzania). The Workshop's key outputs were six counter-messages and alternative narratives developed by the participants that would be disseminated according to a social media communication plan developed prior to the Training. More than 30 participants representing five IGAD countries (Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, Uganda, and Ethiopia) participated in the Workshop on August 20, 2020, and on August 21, 2020.

Horn of Africa Program

The *Horn of Africa Program* was conceived to provide expert analyses and prognosis of political and security developments in the region. Through this program, the Institute has been focusing on Ethiopia-Tigray armed conflict that began in November 2020; the elusive Somalia elections and its implications for regional security and stability; the

developing Ethiopia-Sudan Al-Fashaqa conflict; Sudan's political transition; and South Sudan's peace process.

By December 2020, the Institute had held three roundtables. The first roundtable, *Experts Roundtable Forum: Trends in Politics and Security in the Horn of Africa*, was held on November 5, 2020. The Forum's main objectives were to: discuss the recent and ongoing political, and security developments in the Horn of Africa, and assess the implications of the changing political and the security dynamics on the region. Discussions centered around the following issues: Ethiopia's political developments; River Nile Hydropolitics; Sudan's Transition and the South Sudan peace deal; Elections in Tanzania, Somalia, Uganda, and Ethiopia; Somalia's stability; and AMISOM's exit from Somalia.

Some of the key recommendations from this forum include: the need for regional states to support Ethiopia's reform efforts and remain vigilant so that Ethiopia stays stable and that Somalia's elections are successful; engage in multilateralism and cooperation for a joint strategy and action to, among other things, stabilize Somalia and the region. This will involve a united approach to extra-continental actors in the region, developing Somalia, and managing threats such as COVID-19 better; increase intra- and inter-state focus on non-military causes of human security such as flooding, drought, locust invasions, and COVID-19, coupled with more thought migration and displacement as a result of any of these factors; create an integrated maritime strategy is needed both to address the common challenges and exploit available opportunities; hold more focused expert discussions on the implications of the aforementioned political and security trends on regional stability are needed.



“Through this program, the Institute has been focusing on Ethiopia-Tigray armed conflict that began in November 2020; the elusive Somalia elections and its implications for regional security and stability”



The second roundtable, *A Roundtable Discussion Navigating Troubled Waters: The Role of Kenyan Somalis in Strengthening Kenya-Somalia Relations*, was held on December 5, 2020. This forum featured Kenyan Somali intellectuals, business people, politicians, student leaders, influencers, among others who shared their ideas on how they can assist to strengthen Kenya-Somalia relations. It is hoped that ideas from the discussion would contribute towards reducing suspicion, mistrust, and

incidents that escalate conflict, such as the recent diplomatic fallout, and increased toxic narratives that are harming the fragile relations between the two countries.

Recommendations from this roundtable discussion include: the need to re-frame the discourse on Kenya-Somalia relations that has been manipulated by political actors and to follow up and reverse the perceptions and narratives that are not evidence-based; Kenya



and Somalia need to practice good politics starting with the government, politicians, civil society organizations, elites, and businessmen; civil servants, diplomats, politicians from both Kenya and Somalia should brief their respective governments on factual and accurate matters; hold a strategic dialogue between Kenya and Somalia to iron out some of the issues that contribute to the strenuous relationship; Kenyan Somalis should steer the Kenyan government towards adopting the right view of Somalia and not take sides. They should also encourage the

Somalia government to have a much more tempered language and discourse towards Kenya; Kenyan scholars also need to collaborate with other public intellectuals in Somalia and the larger Horn of Africa through research think tanks briefs, and op-eds. They should also strive to be objective; and diplomats, political elites, scholars, practitioners, government officials from the Horn of Africa need to hold more forums and focused group discussions to discuss the Kenya-Somalia relations.







The third roundtable, *A Consultative Forum towards a Peaceful Neighborhood: Understanding Kenya-Somalia Relations*, was held on December 17, 2020. This forum brought together academics, scholars, and experts to discuss and assess the trends in Kenya-Somalia relations. Main discussions centered on understanding the dynamics of relations between Kenya and Somalia; internal politics and upcoming elections in Somalia; assessing the geopolitics of the Horn of Africa and their impact on Kenya-Somalia relations; the current tensions and impact on regional peace and stability; the trade outlook between Kenya and Somalia.

Some of the recommendations from the consultative forum include: the need to appoint a special mediatory team to look into the current issues and launch a diplomatic offensive against Villa Somalia. The team should work towards persuading Mogadishu to normalize relations with Nairobi; appeal to regional and extra-regional allies to put pressure on Somalia to normalize relations. Kenya can use Daadab refugee camp which houses hundreds of thousands of Somali refugees as a negotiating card and thus create regional support for Nairobi's position towards Mogadishu; Leverage historical ties and previous support to Somalia to build a stronger positive image among Somalis both in Kenya and Somalia; seek the suspension of the maritime case at the ICJ to give more room for negotiations towards an out-of-court resolution of the matter should President Farmaajo fail to secure a second term in office; and pay attention to the shifts in regional geopolitics and locate the potential impact of external actors in influencing Mogadishu's hostilities towards Nairobi. Particularly, Nairobi should remain vigilant against external interests that might be fueling the current tensions.



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COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA OUTREACH

In 2020, the Institute's experts were featured prominently on local, regional, and international media offering expert analysis on key political and security developments in the region and across the world. On Ethiopia-Tigray conflict and Somalia elections themes alone, the HORN Institute experts were invited to more than 20 local and international media houses (television, radio, and newspaper) to give expert analysis on political and security trends. These experts (resident and non-resident) also published more than 15 op-eds on these subjects in local and regional dailies, as well as in the HORN Institute's website. All these publications were shared on the Institute's social media platforms.

Some of these media outlets include BBC World Service, BBC Focus on Africa, BBC Swahili, China Global Television network (CGTN), Deutsche Welle (DW), Garowe Online, Channel Africa, Austria Broadcasting Corporation, News Central TV, Nation TV (NTV), Citizen TV, The Standard, Sunday Nation, The East African, Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC), South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), among others.

The Institute
has published
more than
15 op-eds on
these subjects
in local and
regional dailies,
as well as in
the HORN
Institute's
website

CGTN

DR MUSTAPHA ALI
Security Analyst

Africa LIVE
CGTN Africa @cgtnafrica cgtn_africa CGTN Africa

07:13:44
amlive

STANDING ON GUARD
MOI - THE DEATH OF A STATESMAN

11:28 CAT

IN OTHER NEWS
FORMER LUY MINE WORKERS IN MPUMALANGA CALL FOR REMOVAL OF MINE'S BUSINESS RESCUE PRACTITIONER

BREAKING NEWS
BODY OF MISSING PARKTOWN HIGH LEARNER ENOCH MPIANZI FOUND
M WEST - MPIANZI IS BELIEVED TO HAVE GONE MISSING DU

SABC NEWS
SABC NEWS 24

London Nairobi

NEWS SWAHILI
DHA YA DUNIA
bbc.com/swahili

DANIEL ARAP MOI | 1924 - 2020

THE MILITARY SHOW
Processions started from State House to Nyayo Stadium

1 UPDATES
BODY WAS REPAID BY A SUN CARBON IN A PROCESSION FROM STATE HOUSE TO STADIUM

09:46 PM

Nairobi LIVE

COVID-19: KENYA - TANZANIA RELATIONS
Tanga PC orders Kenyan truckers to be turned

Nairobi Studio Nairobi

WESTGATE ATTACK TRIAL
Two suspects found guilty, one acquitted

Africa LIVE
01:05 BEIJING
Travel campaign in trouble amid surge in COVID-19 Shoppers forecast 8% contraction

07:11:11
amlive

STANDING ON GUARD
INTERIOR CS MATIANGI, KENYAN TEAM MEETS WITH SOMALIA PRESIDENT

COVID-19 UPDATES
CHINA INFECTIONS 80778 DEATHS 3136

London Nairobi

WORLD NEWS
FOCUS ON AFRICA

South Sudan unity government
President & opposition leader agree to unity government

INTERACTIVE

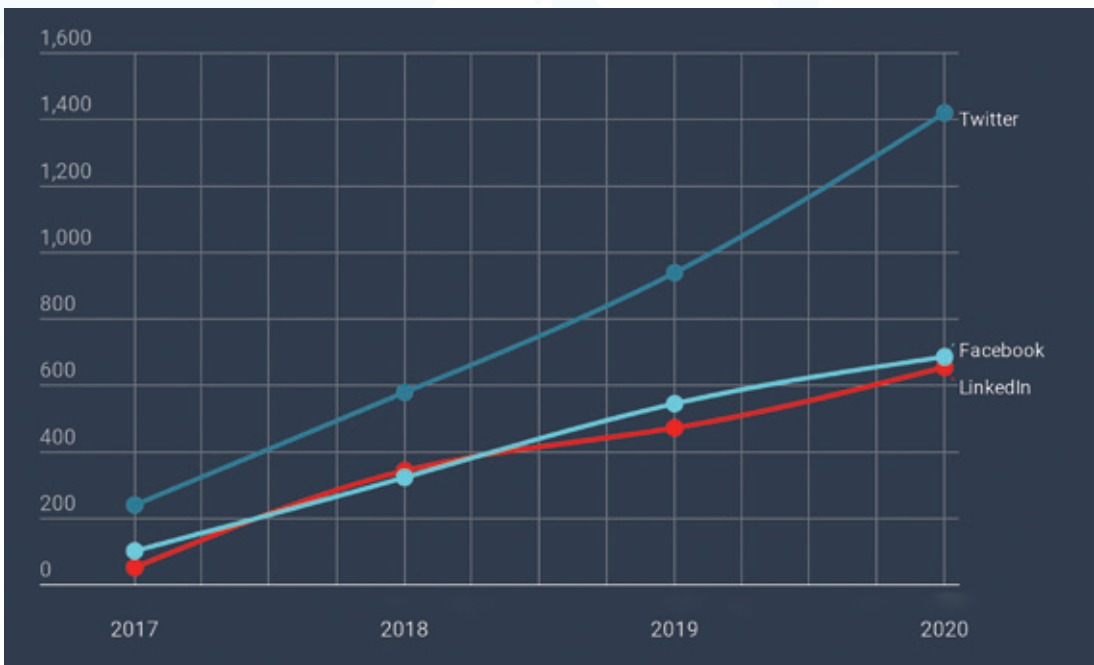
Dr Hassan Khamenji
Horn of Africa analyst

WORLD NEWS
FOCUS ON AFRICA
bbc.com/news

Social Media: The Institute increased its social media presence. Due to continuous engagements with its audience, there was a marked growth of followers and posts reach across all the social media platforms. More than fifty infographics on the Institute’s focus areas were created and shared across the Institute’s social media platforms. Some can be accessed on the Institute’s website. Twitter followers

increased by 220 to 1,192 while Facebook posts reached more than ten thousand people.

Podcasts: The Institute has created and published ten podcasts on various subjects. The podcasts were published on the Institute’s website and on all social media pages. Some of the podcasts were adopted from other sources such as World Health Organization (WHO) but cited accordingly.



Website metrics

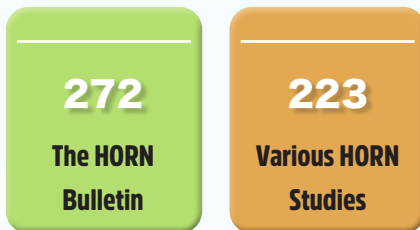
The HORN Bulletins were the most downloaded documents in 2020 followed by the Flirting with Hyenas study. Most of the website visitors came from Kenya followed by the United States, South Africa, among others. In 2020, there were 24,541 unique website visitors. A cumulative of 627,679 pages were viewed with a total of 1,628,616 hits.

In 2020, there were **24,541** unique website visitors. A cumulative of **627,679** pages were viewed with a total of **1,628,616** hits

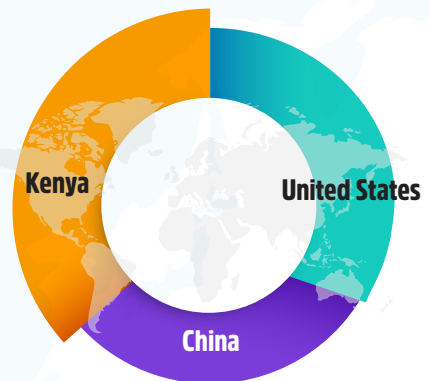
HORN WEBSITE IN NUMBERS



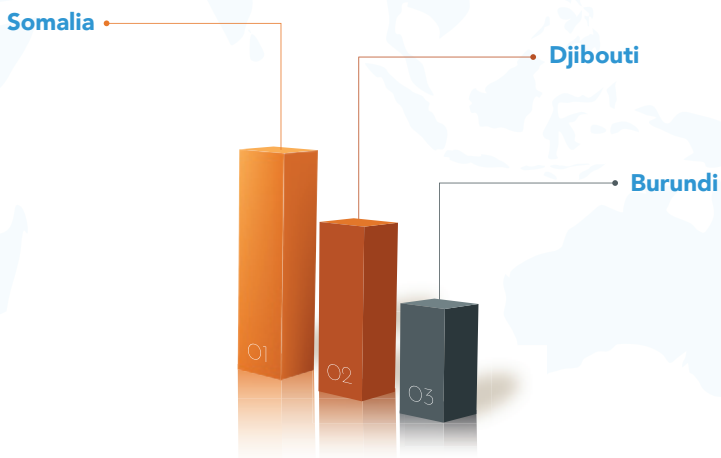
MOST DOWNLOADED DOCUMENTS



TOP THREE WEBSITE VISITORS BY COUNTRY (2020) IN THE WORLD

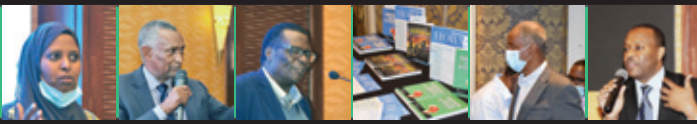


TOP THREE WEBSITE VISITORS BY COUNTRY (2020) IN THE HORN OF AFRICA REGION



KEY MEDIA HOUSES

BBC World Service, BBC Focus on Africa, BBC Swahili, China Global Television network (CGTN), Deutsche Welle (DW), Garowe Online, Channel Africa, Austria Broadcasting Corporation, News Central TV, Nation TV (NTV), Citizen TV, The Standard, Sunday Nation, The East African, Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC), South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC).



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H.E. Erastus J. Mwencha, E.G.H., M.B.S., Chairperson, African Capacity Building Foundation



Rev. Samuel Kobia, Ph.D., Chairman, National Cohesion and Integration Commission



H.E. Yusuf Nzibo, Ph.D., E.B.S., Former National Chairman, Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims (SUPKEM)



Titus K. Ibui, E.G.H., Chairman, Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia-Transport (LAPSET)



Mumo Nzau, Ph.D., Lecturer, University of Nairobi, and National Security Strategist



Mustafa Y. Ali, Ph.D., Director, Arigatou International – Nairobi, and Secretary General, GNRC

2020 in Pictures



2020 in Pictures





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HORN
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

+254 720 323 896
+254 735 323 896

info@horninstitute.org

www.horninstitute.org

@HISS2017

@Horninstitute