Security Challenges and Migration in the Central Africa

Mugadam Mahamat Mugadam[1]✉, Oumar Sidibe[2]

[1] RUDN University
6 Miklukho-Maklaya str., Moscow 117198, Russian Federation

✉ e-mail: omersidibe@gmail.com e-mail: mmougadammahamat@gmail.com

Резюме

Relevance. In modern society, migration issues are closely related to security. The dynamics of the migration crisis in the context of Central African countries reflects civil wars, political and economic instability, hunger, massacres, impoverishment, and in addition to these, the phenomenon of terrorist threats has appeared.

Purpose. The purpose of this article is to highlight situations with internal migration, aspects of the geopolitics of insecurity, threats, and security restrictions. The authors also analyze the link between security and migration.

Objectives. Obtain more information on the properties of the compared phenomena and examine the direct and indirect relationship between migration and security in Central Africa.

Methodology. To find out the reasons for the existing difficulties, set goals, develop methods and options for eliminating problems, a system analysis was used. And the authors used the method of comparative analysis to obtain added information about the properties of the compared phenomena, about their direct and indirect relationships and, about the general trend of their functioning and development.

Results. According to researchers, in recent years, the relationship between migration and security has been of different nature. We can consider the problem of the security of African communities, societies and states affected by various problems of migration flows, and we can also consider the security aspect of African migrants in Central African countries.

Conclusions. The African continent has now fully entered economic globalization and the international community, and it would be inevitable to question this statement in the name of preserving political, economic difficulties, security, migration, and refugees. The AU is in fact moving towards greater liberalization of intra-African movement, in a critical spirit of the European approach. The increasingly growing intra-African migratory movements are mainly and very often regional.

Keywords: Intra-African migration; migration; security; refugees; Central Africa; terrorism; conflicts.

Conflict of interest: The Authors declare the absence of obvious and potential conflicts of interest related to the publication of this article.

Угрозы политической безопасности и миграция в Центральной Африке

Мугадам Махамат Мугадам[1] ✉, Умар Сидибе[2]

[1]Российский университет дружбы народов
ул. Миклухо-Маклая 6, г. Москва 117198, Российская Федерация

✉ e-mail: mmougadammahamat@gmail.com

Резюме

Актуальность. В современном обществе вопросы миграции тесно связаны с безопасностью. Динамика миграционного кризиса в контексте стран Центральной Африки отражает гражданские войны, политическую и экономическую нестабильность, голод, массовые убийства, обнищание, в дополнение к этому возник феномен террористических угроз.

Цель этой статьи – осветить ситуацию с внутренней миграцией, аспекты геополитики незащищенности, угрозы и ограничения безопасности. Авторы также анализируют связь между безопасностью и миграцией.

Задачи: получить дополнительную информацию о свойствах сравниваемых явлений и изучить прямую и косвенную связь между миграцией и безопасностью в Центральной Африке.

Методология. Для выяснения причин имеющихся трудностей, постановки целей, разработки методов и вариантов устранения проблем был использован системный анализ. Также авторы использовали метод сравнительного анализа, чтобы получить дополнительную информацию о свойствах сравниваемых явлений, об их прямых и косвенных отношениях, и также об общей тенденции их функционирования и развития.

Результаты. По мнению исследователей, за последние годы связь между миграцией и безопасностью имеет разные характеры. Авторы рассматривают проблему безопасности африканских общностей, обществ и государств, затрагиваемых разными проблемами миграционных потоков, также аспект безопасности африканских мигрантов в странах Центральной Африки.

Выводы. Африканский континент теперь полностью вступил в экономическую глобализацию и международное сообщество, и было бы неизбежно подвергнуть сомнению это заявление во имя сохранения политических, экономических трудностей, безопасности, миграции и беженцев. Фактически, АС движется к большей либерализации внутриафриканского движения в критическом духе европейского подхода. Все более растущие внутриафриканские миграционные потоки носят в основном и очень часто региональный характер.

Ключевые слова: внутриафриканская миграция; миграция; безопасность; беженцы; Центральная Африка; терроризм; конфликты.

Конфликт интересов: Авторы декларируют отсутствие явных и потенциальных конфликтов интересов, связанных с публикацией настоящей статьи.

***

Introduction

Compared to other regions of the African continent, Central Africa is often viewed as a zone of intense and recurrent tensions. According to observers, Central Africa is an African subregion in which the diversification of conflicts, the problem of migration and refugees, terrorist groups, criminal networks and new security risks are linked to problems of governance and sustainable development. Most of the countries of Central Africa have experienced cycles of violence in their pre- and post-colonial history. It should be noted that to say that the colonial legacy has greatly influenced the current situation in Central Africa, as well as throughout the continent [1].

All these factors highlight the seriousness of security and stability problems in Central Africa and allow us to consider improving the governance of security and migration issues. Since the independence of the countries of Central Africa and all African countries in general, all violent conflicts have been associated with the creation and consolidation of states because of their colonization [2].

Methodology

To find out the reasons for the existing difficulties, set goals, develop methods and options for eliminating problems, a system analysis was used. And the authors used the method of comparative analysis to obtain added information about the properties of the compared phenomena, about their direct and indirect relationships and, about the general trend of their functioning and development.

Results and their discussion

Migration situation in Central Africa: causes and consequences

Migration and security issues in Central African countries are complex and serious problems. Due to the lack of informational data of migrants or refugees and weak border controls, the countries of Central Africa cannot improve with these tasks [3]. Central Africa is a vast region of 9 densely populated countries with an area of 6,613,000 km2, home to approximately 179,595,124 people, or just over 6% of the world's population[1].

The dynamics of migration in the context of Central Africa is a consequence of civil wars, political instability, hunger, massacres, or external pressures that participate in massive transformations and population movements and form new migration pat-

terns[2]. In 2017, the number of migrants to Africa is estimated at over 7 million from around the world. In 2017, the number of intra-African migration according to the estimates of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Central Africa was 2,898,797 people, immigrants accounted for 65.95% of the total resident population.

Migration in Central Africa is often associated with poverty, but other factors such as youth unemployment, urbanization and climate change are at the root of this phenomenon. Massive population movements are also associated with an unstable environment in Central African countries [4, p. 9].

Migration in Central Africa is often associated with poverty, but other factors such as youth unemployment, urbanization and climate change are at the root of this phenomenon. Massive population movements are also associated with an unstable environment in Central African countries[3].

The weakening of the poles of political and economic stability, and the conflicts in the Central African Republic and the two Congos, which have led to large movements of refugees. In addition to that, the gradual closure of legal immigration routes to Europe, the strengthening of European and Maghreb border controls and interception operations off the West African coasts, forcing populations to move towards the countries from Central Africa.

For the Central African Community like all the communities of other African regions, intraregional movements are also seen in their positive dimension, as the cor-

---

[1] Age pyramids for the entire world from 1950 to 2100. URL: https://www.populationpyramid.net/fr/afrique-centrale-middle-africa/2020/. (accessed 25.03.2021)

[2] Mercklé P. Migrations en Afrique centrale: recompositions territoriales et dynamiques extérieures // Chamada de trabalhos, Calenda, Publicado terça, 2005. URL: https://calenda.org/197800. (accessed 25.03.2021)

[3] Robinet C. Conflicts, uncontrolled migration, jihadism, criminal networks, failed states: in Africa, new security risks are now primarily linked to issues of (bad) governance and (bad) development. 2018. URL: https://www.vie-publique.fr/parole-dexpert/271196-afrique-le-defi-de-la-securite. (accessed 19.03.2021)

nerstone of the subregional integration process. But unfortunately, until the day the countries of Central Africa do not have an undeniable advantage: that of having a subregional legal framework establishing freedom of movement, establishment, and residence for all nationals as well as West Africa (ECOWAS). In addition, ECOWAS also has a relatively advanced legal framework for the protection of the rights of migrant workers and the protection of human rights in general.
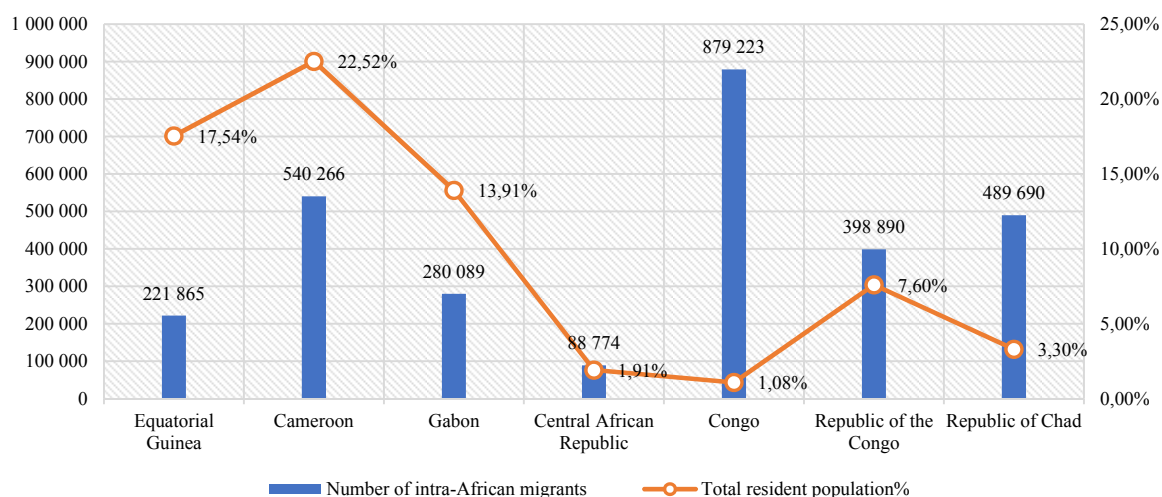

Fig. 1. Number of intra-African migrants and total resident population of Central African countries in 2017

It is important to note that about the protection of refugees more specifically, Central African states have developed national asylum laws, which also protect the rights of refugees[1]. Migrants and refugees face so far, in practice, different difficulties in moving freely and settling in the subregion. During their journey, as in their country of installation, nationals but also non-nationals of Central Africa are not always protected against the risk of violations of their fundamental rights.

Border crossing remains difficult, subject to informal taxes, discriminatory practices, and arbitrary violence or detention, human trafficking which is considered one of the major concerns for the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and intolerance towards migrants are the consequences of ineffective management of mi-

grants. Forced intra-African migration has been caused by several reasons, such as environmental degradation and natural disasters, land disputes, electoral violence, violent conflict, political, and economic instability have led to forced migration of people [4, p. 19].

It should be noted that all migrants, including legal and political migrants, are mainly people who are forced to leave their usual place of residence and seek asylum in a new place, and many believe that these migrants are considered "refugees". However, this perception seems intolerant of the fact that a significant number of migrants remain in their country of origin. This paper discusses how the actions of the Boko Haram rebels triggered different types of forced migration in Central African countries[2].

---

[1] Robert Ebénezer Nsoga. Refugee protection in Central Africa: what governance of forced migration for Central African States? // The case of Cameroon. URL: https://tel. archives-ouvertes.fr/tel-02997878/document. (accessed 24.03.2021)

[2] Yahaya Umar Namahe. Boko Haram uprising and forced migration in Nigeria // Journals at IDEAS. 2018. URL: https://ideas. repec. org/p/sek/iacpro/7209183.html. (accessed 04.04. 2021)
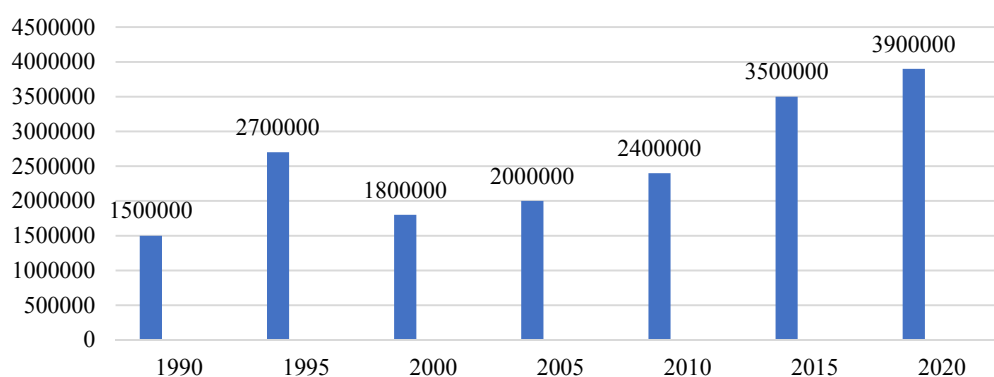
Fig. 2. Statistics of international migrants in Central Africa (1990–2020)

Here we look at statistics pertaining to the population of international migrants in Central Africa (1990–2020), which includes all residents of the country who were born abroad, regardless of when they arrived in the country. For countries that do not have data on persons born abroad, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs relies on data on foreign nationals[1].

We cannot talk about migration in Central Africa without mentioning the refugee phenomenon for which this region is breaking a record in Africa. Asylum seekers fleeing conflict can be found in countries such as Cameroon, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad, Sudan, and Congo. Even though it is in Central Africa that we find the largest number of refugees in the world who are displaced persons, but with the difference that they find refuge in other countries,

Take the recent case in the Central African Republic: the number of people fleeing from the CAR to Cameroon, the Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Chad, and DRC until February 2021 due to the electoral situation was 647,798 people. This dramatically current and humanely burning situation is one of the serious problems for the entire region[2].

In this crisis, a migration and refugee governance structure are needed that ensures practical, humane, and respectful human rights. Strengthening mobility mechanisms in the region will smooth and balance the migration process, allowing people to legally work abroad and then return to their country to participate in the sustainable development of their states[3]. At the beginning of March, the number of new asylum seekers arriving in the Republic of the Congo reached about 1,000 per week. Cameroon, Chad, and DRC did not report significant increases in new arrivals. Central African refugees and internally displaced children deprived of their basic right to education[4].

By analyzing the normative and institutional mechanisms for the protection of refugees in Central African countries, we can criticize and consider the shortcomings of the refugee protection system in Central Africa, which are reflected in the mechanisms of legal protection and in the care of refu-

---

[1] Migration data portal. URL: https:// migrationdataportal.org/fr/data?focus=profile&t= 2020&i=stock_abs_&cm49=148. (accessed: 26.03.2021)

[2] Refugees from the Central African Republic // Source - UNHCR, Government, COR.

URL: https://data2.unhcr.org/fr/situations/car. (accessed 17.03.2021).

[3] Robert Ebénezer Nsoga. Refugee protection in Central Africa: what governance of forced migration for Central African States? // The case of Cameroon. 2020. URL: https:// tel.archives-ouvertes.fr/tel-02997878. (accessed 21.03.2021).

[4] UNHCR External Update - CAR Situation - 15 March 2021. URL: https://data2.unhcr. org/fr/documents/details/85509. (accessed 18.03.2021).

gees by humanitarian organizations host countries.

The central problem underlying this complex issue is the issue of uncoordinated management of refugees in the migration process between the countries of Central Africa, to what extent migrants and refugees, among other things, cannot be supported by organizations such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and others. This in no way relieves the suffering they endure. The socio-political context underlying asylum is the same as for forced internal displacement in Central African countries [5].

Impact of terrorist activities on migration movements in Central Africa

Terrorism is a growing concern of the international community, which has witnessed several attacks by terrorist groups in the recent past. Speaking about terrorism, which has a national dimension, and even the system of state terror, we can say that they remain one of the real phenomena for the African continent, but also dividing all of humanity [6].

The globalization of the terrorist threat is partly due to human mobility. The world has faced a sharp increase in migration flows since the beginning of the war in countries in Africa and the Middle East and others.

The issue of the link between migration and terrorism has received attention in recent years, although conceptual thinking remains limited. The true link between migration and violent extremism remains largely unexplored and is the subject of new research [7]. Note that, according to statistics, the number of migrants involved in violent extremism is negligible, and disputes the opinion that communities affected by terrorism are themselves terrorists, as far as there is no empirical data in Africa confirming a direct link between migration and extremism. The issue of terrorism is becoming a common phenomenon not only in the countries of Central Africa, but throughout Africa. Therefore, it is now impossible to

think about the fight against terrorism without having in mind the fight against illegal immigration.

In recent years, large numbers of people displaced by Boko Haram receive relatively little assistance and take refuge where they are received. Some travel hundreds of kilometers, crossing the border with neighboring Chad, Niger, or Cameroon.

The phenomenon of terrorist activity can affect different countries [8]. One of the conclusions reached by various researchers is the idea that rich and successful states deal with the economic consequences of terrorist threats much more easily than in the case, for example, when it comes to poor developing states[1].

Wealthy and successful states can better control the arrival of potential terrorists, access to national and regional territories, which require the creation of control instruments that, as a result, affect the admission of migrants and the right of asylum [9].

As we saw with the example of Boko Haram, with the emergence of this terrorist organization in the region, this terrorist organization turned into one of the deadliest terrorist groups operating on the African continent. Boko Haram[2]. and related actors have conducted hundreds of terrorist attacks, resulting in more than 5,000 deaths in 2014 and 6,000 in 2015 [10].

Terrorists have no borders, they do not target a specific nationality, they do not respect any religion, and they do not allow any exceptions. Terrorism threatens human security and has a devastating impact on development. Terrorist attacks are becoming more destructive every day, and the terrorist

---

[1] Inozemtsev V. Disease of the poor: how terrorism affects the economy "Yarovaya Law" // RBK. 2016. URL: https://www.rbc.ru/opinions/ society/30/03/2016/56fb68fd9a7947f07c04e6b7. (accessed 23.03.2021)

[2] Global Terrorism Index 2015 // Institute for Economics and Peace 2015. URL: http://economicsandpeace.org/wp-content/ uploads/2015/11/Global-Terrorism-Index-2015.pdf. (accessed 21.03.2021)

threat poses unprecedented dangers. The economies of Central African countries are not seriously dependent on themselves, and fears of threats and instability affect investor sentiment very strongly. In addition, in recent years, for most governments of Central African countries, the fight against terrorism has been one of the priorities, since today terrorism is not only a regional phenomenon, but also a phenomenon at the national and international levels. In recent years, Chad has deployed troops to fight jihadists in Mali and counter the expansion of the Boko Haram terrorist sect in Nigeria and Cameroon. The costs associated with various interventions by the Chadian Defense and Security Forces in the fight against terrorism in the subregion currently amount to more than 250 billion CFA francs, approximately $ 500 million).

Since 2003, it has also hosted a considerable number of refugees, estimated at over 750,000 and 130,000 Chadian returnees from the Central African Republic (CAR). In this extremely tense context, especially in economic and financial terms, it is important to give new impetus to budget support.

Precarious security conditions in Central Africa, including attacks on civilians in Cameroon and the Lake Chad Basin, continued to be of concern to the Security Council[1].

Security situation in the region (political instability - proliferation of small arms and light weapons)

The colonial system in Africa has spawned new states whose territories are well divided but include populations whose history remains tied. This is how one can understand contemporary relations between the states of Central Africa. The most striking example is the contradictory relations between Greater Congo and states such as Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi.

Since gaining independence in 1960, Central African countries have experienced political crises and regional civil wars. From the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, which killed more than 700,000 people, to the war in the Congo, which killed 3 million people, conflicts are intensifying and destabilizing the region.

In Chad, for example, a form of cyclical violence in the name of power has continued since 1960. This security and political crisis confront a rebel group whose danger depends on its external support (often Libya or Sudan) by the militarily backed state of Chad[2]. The case of Chad and Sudan is a good example of this. The Sudanese regime supported opponents of the Chadian regime based in Darfur, and Chad supported the Darfur rebels who opposed the Khartoum regime [11].

It was in the same dynamics that on February 25 and 26, 1999, the conference of Heads of State and Government of the member countries of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Issues in Central Africa took place in Yaoundé. At this meeting, various questions were raised about the role and future of the sub-regional body for conflict prevention.

Thus, the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 28 May 1992, in accordance with resolution 46/37 B of 6 December 1992, created an instrument of preventive diplomacy aimed at preventing conflicts within and between the Member States of the Community. African States (Economic Community of Central African States).

However, these various initiatives have failed to make a significant contribution to peace in the region. Border conflicts were ongoing (Cameroon-Nigeria; Rwanda-Burundi; DRC (Democratic Republic of the Congo, former Zaire) - Rwanda; Burundi-Democratic Republic of the Congo); Internal conflicts escalated (Rwanda, Burundi, Con-

---

[1] La situation sécuritaire en Afrique centrale, sur fond de pandémie, reste une source de grande préoccupation pour le Conseil de sécurité. UN SC Posted 10 Dec. 2020.

[2] Beginning of the civil war in Chad. 1979. URL: https://perspective.Usherbrooke.ca/bilan/servlet/BMEve/551. (accessed 26.03.2021)

go, Angola) and the arms trade flourished (Chad, Angola, Congo).

These various problems were often politically motivated, such as defending national interests, seeking sub-regional leadership. In addition, they often manifested themselves in the non-signing of regional pacts in favor of security and peace [12]. It should be recalled that the security situation in this area is characterized by spaces and regions remote from the centers of national politics and security.

These regions receive little or often no public investment. However, they are subject to very intense cross-border trade in all types of products: from agriculture to weapons[1]. It should be noted that the permeability of borders and the inability of various states to fully control the situation is an essential security factor.

Even if they are not the direct cause of the armed conflicts tearing apart Central Africa and other parts of the continent, the proliferation of small arms is at least their catalyst. When civilians or insurgent groups feel a violation of their rights and possess a weapon, they are far more likely to use it to get their voices heard than to sit at a discussion table. In other words, if the accumulation of weapons does not in itself cause civil wars, the fact remains that their anarchist propaganda encourages resorting to violence, which is perceived as a solution to disputes and tends to stir up conflicts and make them more deadly. For example, the 1994 genocide in Rwanda could have been avoided if weapons had not been distributed to the population in advance.

In addition, the nationalist movements of the 1950s seriously questioned the stability of states that are still very fragile. Ethnic conflicts also erupted. To rise to the top of state power or to be represented in various political institutions, each ethnic group does not hesitate to resort to illegal means and

force. This illegal and anti-democratic method of seizing power, used by some political elites in Central Africa, has caused frustration and deep resentment among the population, who accepted arms to rebel against the existing anti-democratic regime.

At the beginning of independence, in the years after it, and after the end of the Cold War, countries in Central Africa experienced bloody civil wars or became involved in them. By way of illustration, the ongoing war in Chad in 1970–1980, long-standing armed conflict in Angola, ethnic conflict in Rwanda in 1994, civil war in the Republic [13].

Moreover, in the 1990s, when numerous conflicts erupted in Central Africa, the use of children increased. There are thousands of them in Central Africa: 10,000 currently in Burundi and up to 14,000, according to some sources[2], over 6000 in the Republic of the Congo[2]; more than 20,000 people would have taken part in hostilities in the DRC from 1996-97[3], and a similar number of child soldiers were reported to have fought in Rwanda.

The scale of exploitation of children during the war is significant. In fact, attacks by the Boko Haram terrorist organization continue in the Lake Chad Basin, where they have used significant numbers of children as suicide bombers.

According to the organization's 2017 Annual Report, Child Soldiers, there were 203 confirmed cases of recruitment in 2017 in Nigeria and Cameroon. In 2017, there were over 3,000 cases of recruitment by armed groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and at least 19,000 children under

---

[1] In Central Africa, insecurity is cross-border and linked to other regions. URL: https://news.un.org/fr/story/2020/12/1084182. (accessed 24.03.2021)

[2] Watch List on Children and Armed Conflict: Burundi. Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, 2002. URL: https://reliefweb.int/report/burundi/watch-list-children-and-armed-conflict-burundi. (accessed 26.03.2021)

[3] Singer P. W. Child soldiers. Paperback // USA: University of California Press. 2006. April. URL: https://www.chegg.com/textbooks/children-at-war-1st-edition-9780520248762-0520248767. (accessed 24.03.2021)

the age of 18. 18 of them will be involved in the conflict in South Sudan and we are seeing an increase in the recruitment of children in the Middle East.

A distinction must be made between the landlocked states of Central Africa such as Angola, Cameroon, Congo, and landlocked states such as Rwanda, Burundi, and Chad. This distinction is necessary, although all states are prone to piracy on rivers and lakes, because they all have inland rivers and lakes, sea piracy only affects countries with a coastline. Acts of piracy on rivers and lakes also occur regularly in Central Africa, whether in lakes (Chad, Tanganyika, Albert, Mweru ...) or along rivers (Ubangi, Sangha, Chari, Vuri, Benue, Congo, Ogoue).

Cross-border terrorist activities in the region

The activity of terrorists inevitably increases the costs of states for security. After terrorist attacks in a particular country, the volume of retail trade can rapidly decrease. The tourism and entertainment industry are particularly at risk. Airlines and insurance companies can face the most serious difficulties. Terrorist attacks can exacerbate the process of falling stock prices in the stock market.

Any terrorist activity gives the impression that such attacks will continue. This impression has an impact on the economy of the sphere, for example, on a business that begins to consider investments in this city, region, or country risky and initially tries to include an additional risk premium in the cost of their goods or services, which leads to a decrease in business activity and an increase in prices. In addition to terrorist attacks, it can force businesses to spend money on their own security, making less more productive investments. Since the relations between Africa and Russia cannot be explained by geographical imperatives and by the demands of history.

In Central Africa, the threat of al-Qaeda and Salafi jihad does not seem as important and complex as in the Sahel-Sahara zone. One of the most serious terrorist threats in the area is the threat from Boko Haram. Boko Haram's activities threaten both West and Central Africa. We saw this in the recent French hostage-taking in northern Cameroon, on the border with Nigeria. Furthermore, some analysts have established that this aggressive group has developed close relationships with AQIM and Ankar Eddin in Mali and with Shabaab in Somalia, who will be engaged in the ideological and military training of their fighters[1].

In the first half of 2015, Boko Haram was responsible for 1,059 deaths in northern Nigeria. The violence that originated in Nigeria has spread to neighboring countries Cameroon, Chad, and Niger, where a series of deadly terrorist attacks have been conducted against government and civilian targets[2]. Boko Haram remains a serious threat in the Lake Chad Basin, with an increase in attacks and kidnappings[3].

In Central Africa, as well as in West Africa, there is a relationship between a mix of terrorist groups of various natures working with militant political and armed groups as well as criminal organizations. They are scattered across Africa, but interact with each other in varying degrees of cooperation, advancing the interests of their individual organizations [14]. Although the West African region is one of the preferred routes for criminal organizations operating in Latin America and Asia to bring drugs to Europe[4],

---

[1] Zeïni Moulaye. The problem of transnational crime and democratic control of the security sector. 2014. P. 1–33.

[2] Global Terrorism Index 2015. Measuring and understanding the impact of terrorism. URL: http://economicsandpeace.org/wp-content/ uploads/2015/11/Global-Terrorism-Index-2015.pdf. (accessed 24.03.2021)

[3] Report of the Secretary-General: The situation in Central Africa and the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa. URL: https://www.securitycouncilreport. org/atf /cf /%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_2020_1154.pdf. (accessed 24.03.2021)

[4] U.S. Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration. FY 2016 Performance Budget Congressional Submission. URL:

some recent reports suggest that drugs may begin to be manufactured in Europe, West Africa, and Central Africa.

Some terrorist organizations, such as MUJAO, are said to be directly involved in drug trafficking. AQIM plays a different role and mainly levies "transit taxes" or provides protection[1] AQIM there is not only in West Africa and especially in the Sahel region, but also in Central Africa.

Moreover, among the terrorist activities in the region, one cannot fail to mention the participation of terrorist organizations in the illegal circulation of gold, diamonds, and other natural resources. These activities are difficult to detect, and although there is intelligence information about these activities.

According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), in 2015, transnational crime revenues were $ 1.6 trillion[2].

Terrorist groups such as AQIM and MUJAO identified as directly or indirectly involved in human trafficking activities[3]. These terrorist groups are accused of smuggling small groups of people and or protecting and facilitating smuggling networks of illegal migrants in exchange for financial compensation.

On the other hand, Boko Haram has recently become a priority for discussion in the Economic Community of Central African States. Over the past two years, the armed conflict in northeastern Nigeria, where an armed group has been waging a war against the Nigerian state since 2009, has spread to neighboring countries, including Central African countries. Chad and Cameroon, two member states of the Economic Community of Central African States affected by armed conflict, provide troops for the Joint Multinational Force (FMM)[4] created by the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), which are currently under the mandate of the African Union. The heads of state of the Economic Community of Central African States have pledged their support for the FMM, and the Economic Community of Central African States is collaborating with its West African counterpart, ECOWAS.

Counterterrorism Mechanism and Initiatives to Stabilize the Region (Peacekeeping, Public Policy and Regional)

Armed conflicts that are spreading in some member states of the Economic Community of Central African States pose a serious threat to peace and security in the region. The organization's responses were varied. For example, during the crisis in the Central African Republic, the states of the region used a military presence in the Central African Republic.

Since 2008, the Economic Community of Central African States took the lead in resolving the conflict when the CAR plunged into a new cycle of violence in 2013. The same cannot be said for the peacekeeping mission. MIKOPAX is a world that, despite growing from 700 to 2,000 soldiers and a strengthened mandate, has failed to achieve its goals, in particular the protection of civilians.

---

https://www.justice.Gov/about/congressional-budget-submission-2016. (accessed 24.03.2021)

[1] Mutual Evaluation Report. Measures against money laundering, terrorist financing, Mali. 2019. URL: https://www.fatf-gafi.org/media/fatf/documents/reports/mer-fsrb/French-GIABA-Mutual-Evaluation-Mali-2019.pdf. (accessed 22.03.2021)

[2] Transnational organized crime: the globalized illegal economy. URL: https:// www. unodc.org/toc/en/crimes/organized-crime.html. (accessed 22.03.2021)

[3] Africa Center for Strategic Studies African migration funds criminal and terrorist networks. URL: https://issat.dcaf.ch/Learn/ Resource-Library/Policy-and-Research-Papers/Les-migrations-africaines-financent-les-reseaux-criminels-et-terroristes. (accessed 22.03.2021)

[4] International Crisis Group. Report 291 / Africa 7 july 2020. Quel rôle pour la force multinationale mixte dans la lutte contre Boko Haram? URL: https:// www.crisisgroup.org/ fr/africa/west-africa/what-role-multinational-joint-task-force-fighting-boko-haram. (accessed 15.03.2021)
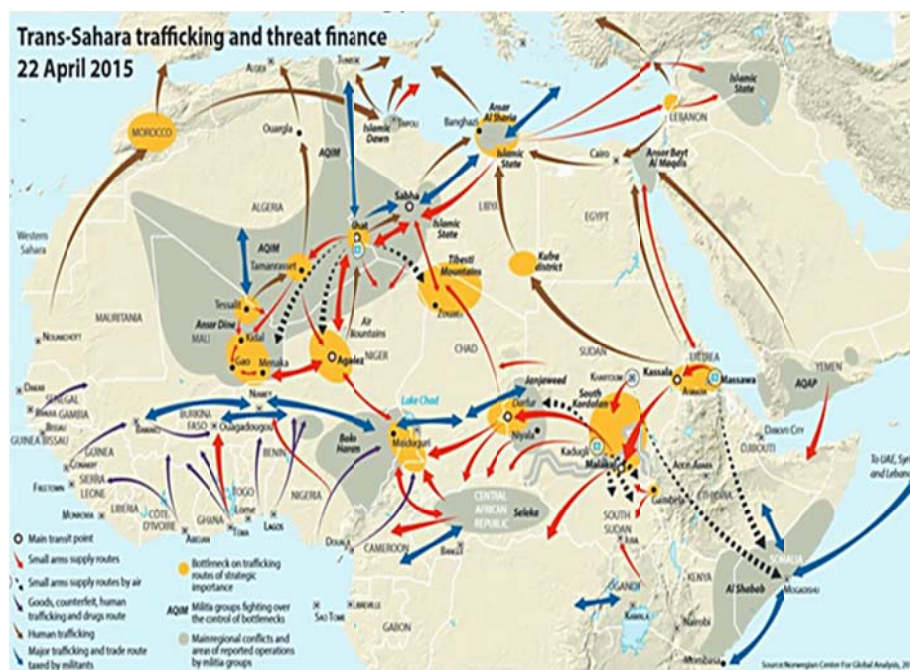
Fig. 3. Map of various trafficking routes Source: Norwegian Center for Global Analysis, 2015

Most ECOWAS member states continued to participate in the CAR, contributing significant troops to AFISCA and the subsequent UN mission MINUSCA[1]. Seven member states of the Economic Community of Central African States share the coast of the Gulf of Guinea, an area where piracy has grown steadily over the past decade. Attacks on ships, theft of oil and smuggling threaten both the security and economic development of the member states of the Economic Community of Central African States.

Faced with this challenge, the member States of the Economic Community of Central African States have made efforts to strengthen the observation of resources at sea and along the coast. To date, the most notable results have been achieved in the maritime zone controlled by Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon, where attacks have declined since 2010.

It is important to emphasize that the Economic Community of Central African States was the first regional organization to establish the 2009 Maritime Security Strategy against piracy. Strategies to combat this scourge are not only regional, but also inter-regional.

Four maritime focal points have been established: an interregional focal point in Cameroon linking the Economic Community of Central African States and ECOWAS, a CRESMAC regional focal point in the Republic of the Congo, a multinational focal point for maritime areas established in Cameroon and Angola, respectively; and national maritime centers. However, the effectiveness of these focal points is hampered by a lack of technical equipment, financial resources, and highly qualified personnel. Therefore, even if the structure exists, none of the centers is yet fully functional.

---

[1] Amanda Lucey, Gustavo De Carvalho. Consolidation of fractured peace in the Central African Republic Lessons for the engagement of the African Union. 2016. URL: https:// issafrica.org/fr/recherches/note-danalyse/console-dation-de-la-paix-fracturee-en-republique-centrafricaine.   (accessed 27.02.2021).

States in the region are also aware of transnational smuggling flows that undermine their construction and keep Central Africa insecure. Until now, the Economic Community of Central African States has focused primarily on the military, but the organization has identified the need to develop tools for collecting and sharing intelligence, and to facilitate both strategic cooperation and technical cooperation between neighboring states.

The weakness of the states of the region, manifested in their inability to control the entire territory of Central Africa, gives illegal armed groups the opportunity to exploit the vast and valuable natural resources of the region, which contributes to instability and conflict. These armed groups participate in the trade in minerals, drugs, wildlife, and the smuggling of migrants and small arms and light weapons circulating in the region. To address this issue, the Economic Community of Central African States established the Criminal Border Program in 2008.

Until now, the Economic Community of Central African States has focused on military action, but recently it has identified the need to develop tools for collecting and sharing intelligence. It is for this reason that the Economic Community of Central African States has established several training centers, one of which specializes in police training.

The region faces several security challenges that require preventive action to tackle issues such as the rise in terrorism in West Africa [15].

Chad is part of the Sahel Five operating in the Sahel region. This demonstrates inter-regional mobilization to counter the rise of terrorism in the region. The brutality of the Sahelian War forced the Sahelian states to unite militarily to counter the threat. One of the consequences of this war was the creation of the G5 Sahel in 2014 by Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Chad. A year later, the heads of state (G5 Sahel) announced in N'Djamena the formation of a joint anti-terrorist armed forces.

Conclusion

Africa, as the youngest continent, is racing against time, so it is essential that economic development must address the root causes of insecurity and instability. It is important to note that the only guarantee of security in the long term is paramount for all Central African countries.

The African continent has now fully entered economic globalization and the international community, and it would be inevitable to question this statement in the name of preserving political, economic difficulties, security, migration, and refugees. Political analysts and observers argue that most of the post-independence crises of insecurity on African borders are the result of colonial legacies and the introduction of new socioeconomic and political structures. It is obvious that for a long time several African leaders have been practicing a system of differentiated and preferential treatment of the population of the African continent, based on regional, tribal, status and ethnic differences.

The AU is in fact moving towards greater liberalization of intra-African movement, in a critical spirit of the European approach. The increasingly growing intra-African migratory movements are mainly and very often regional. Since the early 2000s the African Union, in coordination with regional organizations, have adopted a roadmap as well as a large number of policies and legal frameworks and normative without forgetting the brand-new revised Midfielder Policy Framework for Africa and 2018-2030 Action Plan (MPFA) heralds an important paradigm shift. The most important question is whether all the countries

of Central Africa really consider Migration as a factor of development?

Instead of the African Union understanding migration in its entirety, by broadening legal avenues to fight against migrant trafficking networks, African countries must first focus on intra-African irregular migration.

Indeed, Africa needs peace and security to give more hope to its populations and preserve its meager infrastructure resources essential for economic development. In this regard, good governance is an essential factor in creating the conditions for the functioning of strong institutions to induce confidence and release energies for the benefit of development.

All African regions can offer great investment opportunities, but it appears that in several areas, political instability, security, and governance problems are hampering investment in sectors that would be promising such as infrastructure, transport, agriculture, and telecommunications.

Unfortunately, the profitability and viability of investments are often threatened by governance problems, political instability, and terrorist threats, despite the enormous potential offered to investors.

Today, Africa has a priority and immediate need, that of resolving its conflicts, promoting national reconciliation, and creating favorable conditions for the reconstruction of the economies of countries emerging from crisis situations.

We suggest the interest of questioning the future of Russian-African relations not only in the context of secretarial management, but also in the field of investments, strengthening of educational systems.

References

1. Braeckman C. African terror. Burundi, Rwanda, Zaire: The Roots of Violence. *Foreign Policy*, 1997, no. 62, is. 1, pp. 215–216.

2. Abramova I. O. African migration: a regional issue or a global problem? *Problems of the modern economy*, 2007, no. 4 (24). (In Russ.) Available at: www.m-economy.ru/art.php? nArtId=1635. (accessed 24.03.2021)

3. Kommegni Fongang J. P. Forced Migration in Sub-Saharan Africa. *Vestnik RUDN. International relations*, 2019, no. 19 (2), pp. 264–273. (In Russ.)

4. Yao Konan S., Anich R., Van Lidth T., Mona P. International Organization for Migration (IOM): Migration in West and Central Africa. *Regional Overview*, 2011.

5. Cambrézy L. Refugees and exiles: Crisis of societies Crisis of territories. Editions of contemporary archives, 2001. P. 218.

6. Cilliers J. Africa and Terrorism. *Contemporary Africa*, 2004, no. 209, pp. 81–100.

7. Jean-Baptiste Meyer. Le lien entre migration et terrorisme. *Hommes & migrations*, 2016, no. 1315, pp. 49–57.

8. Davydov N. D., Min S. Military-political features of international terrorism. *Vestnik RUDN. Series: Political science*, 2006, no. 1 (6), p. 21–36. (In Russ.)

9. Baumberger M. Influence de la lutte contre le terrorisme sur le droit d'asile en Allemagne et en France. (Mémoire M2 Recherche Droit public compare). Paris, 2019. p 107.

10. Terrorist financing in West and Central Africa. FATF-GIABA-GABAC, 2016. P. 50.

11. Tubiana J. The proxy war between Chad and Sudan and the "Darfourization" of Chad: Myths and Reality. Geneva, Small Arms Survey, 2008, pp. 1–45.

12. Ela Ela E. Conflict prevention mechanisms in Central Africa. *World wars and contemporary conflicts*, 2001, no. 202–203, pp. 227–239.

13. Fusibet F. Pierre Dufour, France in Chad, since 1969. *Historical review of the armies*, 2011, vol. 262. 191 p.

14. Terrorist financing in West and Central Africa Paris, FATF-GIABA-GABAC, 2016. 50 p.

15. Davidov N. D., Antonio N. G. Antonio. Migration expansion in the EU: causes, mechanisms, consequences. *Questions of political science*, 2016, is. 1 (21), pp. 184–191. (In Russ.)

Информация об авторах / Information about the Authors

Мугадам Махамат Мугадам, аспирант кафедры политического анализа и управления, Российский университет дружбы народов, г. Москва, Российская Федерация, e-mail: mmougadammahamat@gmail.com, ORCID: 0000-0002-5533-5655

Mugadam Mahamat Mugadam, Post-Graduate Student of the Department of Political Analysis and Management, RUDN University, Moscow, Russian Federation, e-mail: mmougadammahamat@gmail.com, ORCID: 0000-0002-5533-5655

Умар Сидибе, аспирант кафедры политического анализа и управления, Российский университет дружбы народов, г. Москва, Российская Федерация, e-mail: omersidibe@gmail.com

Oumar Sidibe, Post-Graduate Student of the Department of Political Analysis and Management, RUDN University, Moscow, Russian Federation e-mail: omersidibe@gmail.com