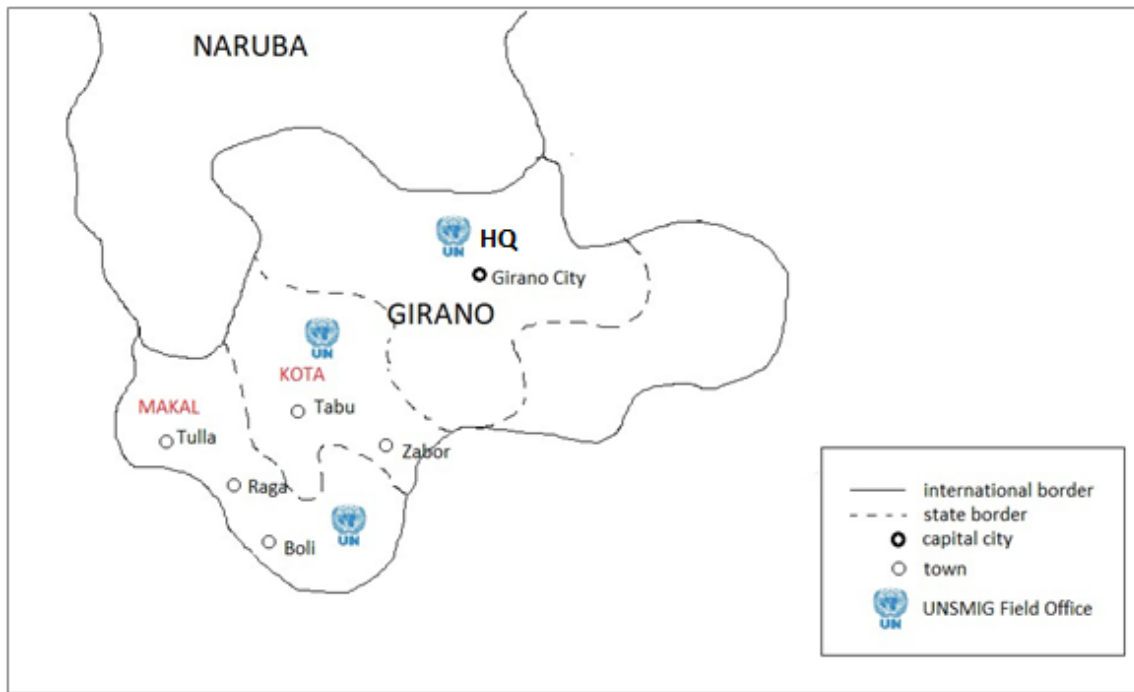


Activity 3.2: Girano Case Study

Girano Case Scenario Fact Sheet



Country Names

Naruba
Girano, gained independence from Naruba

Inhabitants

Naruba: Approximately 40 million people
(After Girano gains independence: 28 million people)
Girano: Approximately 12 million people

Religious affiliation

Naruba: Christian: 60%
Muslim: 30%
Other: 10%
Girano: Christian: 10%
Muslim: 89%
Other: 1%

Ethnic Groups

Girano: Lunga: 55%
Barado: 40%
Tibisi: 5%

Political system Presidential System

Political leadership

Naruba: President: Mr. Bernard Baako, elected January 1993
Religion: Christian

Girano: President: Ms. Khadija Kamisi, appointed January 2015
Head of Girano Freedom Democracy Movement (GFDM)
Religion: Muslim
Ethnic group: Lunga

Vice-President: Mr. Ahmed Al-Aziz, appointed January 2015
Former GFDM – establishes the Girano Barado Freedom
Democracy Movement (GBFDM) in April 2017
Religion: Muslim
Ethnic group: Barado

Peace Agreement Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA)

Signed in 2014 to end the civil war between north and south
and created independent state of Girano (south Naruba)

Girano Political Pact (GPP)
Signed in 2017 between GFDM and GBFDM

UN Mission United Nations Stabilization Mission in Girano (UNSMIG)

Mission size: 9000 military, 3,000 police personnel

Mandate:

UNSMIG was established in 2015 under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. It is established to support the Government of Girano in peace consolidation, thereby fostering longer-term state building and economic development.

The operational tasks of the mandate include (among other things):

(a) Protection of civilians:

- i. To protect civilians under threat of physical violence, within its capacity and areas of deployment, with specific protection for women and children;
- ii. To deter violence against civilians, especially through proactive deployment, active patrolling and identification of threats and attacks against civilians, including through regular interaction with civilians and working closely with humanitarian, human rights and development

organizations, in areas that are at high risk of conflict, including, as appropriate, schools, places of worship, and hospitals;

- iii. To implement a mission-wide early warning strategy, including a coordinated approach to information gathering, monitoring, verification, early warning and dissemination, and response mechanisms to threats and attacks against civilians that may involve violations and abuses of human rights or violations of international humanitarian law;

(b) Monitoring and investigating human rights:

- i. To monitor, investigate, verify and report publicly and regularly on abuses and violations of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including those that may amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity;

(c) Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

- i. Provide support to the DDR process to reintegrate combatants not suspected of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity or abuses of human rights and their dependents to a peaceful civilian life, paying specific attention to the needs of women and children formerly associated with armed forces and groups;
- ii. Support government authorities and relevant civil society organizations in developing and implementing community violence reduction (CVR) programs, including gender-sensitive programs, in cooperation with development partners and together with communities of return;

(d) Security sector reform

Work with the Government of Girano:

- i. To reform the police and military, including by enhancing accountability, efficiency, self-sustainability, training, vetting and effectiveness;
- ii. For the implementation of any appropriate recommendations for justice and prison sector reforms, including on the fight against impunity for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, in order to develop independent, accountable and functioning justice and security institutions

Background

Naruba is a small country, comparable in size to Uganda, with approximately 40 million inhabitants, located in the Great Lakes region of Africa. The country has been plagued by a history of civil war since it gained independence from colonial rule in 1963, in particular between the Christian majority and Muslim minority (located primarily in the southern state of Girano). The Christian majority has typically controlled both political and economic power in Naruba. The most recent civil war between the Government of Naruba and the Muslim minority, represented by the Girano Freedom Democracy Movement (GFDM), erupted in 2009 when President Baako imposed emergency laws and extraordinary security measures that eroded fundamental rights in Girano. During the civil war, atrocities were committed by the armed forces of Naruba against the populations in Girano. In response the armed wing of the GFDM also committed crimes against Christians. Over 3 million Muslims, belonging to the Barado and Lunga ethnic groups living in the north, were displaced during the war and fled into Girano. No one was ever held accountable for the crimes committed during the civil war.

The civil war in Naruba ended in November 2014 with a UN and African Union (AU) negotiated Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA), which rendered independence to the southern state of Girano. In January 2015, following the signing of the CPA, the leader of the GFDM, Ms. Khadija Kamisi, was appointed interim President of Girano. Mr. Ahmed Al-Aziz, a key figure of the GFDM, was appointed interim Vice President. Elections in Girano are scheduled for **January 2019**.

The UN

In February 2015 the UN Security Council authorized the deployment of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Girano (UNSMIG) with a mandate to support the government of Girano in peace consolidation, thereby fostering longer-term state building and economic development. UNSMIG's mandate includes providing assistance to the authorities in exercising its responsibilities for conflict prevention, protecting civilians, developing capacity to provide security by training military and police, establishing the rule of law, and strengthening the security and justice sectors in the state.

The initial authorized strength of the Mission stands at up to 9,000 military personnel, including military liaison officers and staff officers, up to 3,000 police personnel, including as appropriate formed units and an appropriate civilian component, including technical human rights investigation expertise.

Developments in Girano

By early 2016, fractures began to appear between President Kamisi and Vice-President Al-Aziz over allocation of government posts and resources. In media interviews, Al-Aziz began voicing his perception that the most important government positions were disproportionately being given to the majority Lunga ethnic group, to which President Kamisi belongs.

For many years, Kamisi and Al-Aziz, who are both Muslims and members of the GFDM, yet representing different ethnic groups, were united in their common fight for autonomy from the Christian majority government of Naruba. However after

independence was granted to Girano, internal rifts within the GFDM began to appear along ethnic lines.

Ethnic Groups in Girano

In Girano the two largest ethnic groups are the Barado and the Lunga. The Barado communities are largely pastoralist, whereas Lunga communities are primarily agricultural. Although the two ethnic groups have generally lived together peacefully, skirmishes over access to land and grazing have remained a feature of societal relationships between them. The recurring skirmishes become more frequent between the months of September and December, when the monsoons end. The onset of the dry season enables the groups to mobilize quickly because the unpaved roads throughout the region become accessible. After the civil war, with the increased militarization of communities due to the flow of arms, the skirmishes have become more violent.

In November 2016 in the Makal region, a violent clash between Lunga and the Barado left 150 people dead. Doctors without Borders reported that a local field hospital treated over a 100 people with moderate to severe injuries, mainly children and elderly people. Additionally, at the 2016 annual fair of cattle traders held in the Kota region, clashes between Lunga and the Barado communities left over 60 dead and over 100 injured. At least 20 women and girls, and some men, have been raped and sexually assaulted with sticks and mutilated with knives in ethnically-charged sexual attacks.

Between 10 and 15 November, UNSMIG received reports of Lunga soldiers conducting house-to-house searches for civilians of Barado origin in areas near Raga. Barado civilians were killed, houses were marked and later destroyed.

On 20 November, a group of Islamic leaders, the “Six Imams,” launched the Action Plan for Peace to try to create neutral spaces for dialogue to address the underlying ethnic and political tensions. In Girano, imams are among the most respected individuals and have played a key role in local reconciliation to halt inter-communal violence for many years.

Climate and Environment

As a result of a shortage of rainfall and long dry seasons, populations in Girano continue to face severe food insecurity. This has led to increasing clashes in communities that are hosting large displaced populations from the Christian majority parts of Naruba that moved to the south during the civil war. The displaced populations live in camps and are often discriminated against by the host communities of both Lunga and Barado ethnic groups. The severe droughts between 2012-2015 have further exacerbated community and ethnic tensions with multiple violent outbreaks reported across Girano.

State Institutions

The newly created state institutions in Girano lack sufficient resources. Access to justice and basic government services remains poor. Government officials including the police receive salaries intermittently, encouraging a culture of corruption.

Girano's leadership has struggled to mitigate ethnic tensions, in particular as its police and military capacities are weak. Although the Girano's National Police Service (GNPS) remains the lead agency for internal security, several local militias have formed along ethnic lines to provide self-defense and community security. Acquiring a gun, ammunition and other small arms in Girano is relatively easy and has created a highly militarized society. Over 65% of the population of Girano's population is below the 25 years of age and a lack of economic opportunities contributed to youth joining these militia groups.

Since its establishment, UNSMIG has been mandated to build the capacity of the state of Girano; however, beginning in late 2015 UNSMIG has been increasingly called upon to provide protection to populations from ethnic violence. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) Mr. Abdullah Omar has continued to report on the worsening security situation in the country, which has severely limited the Mission's ability to assist the government in capacity building activities. SRSG Omar meets regularly with the President and Vice-President and is perceived to be well regarded by both.

As a result of the diplomatic efforts of the SRSG and other countries in the region, President Kamisi convened a "Unity Meet" of GFDM's National Council in March to discuss the future of the party with Vice-President Al-Aziz. However, the Unity Meet failed, as Kamisi and Al-Aziz did not interact constructively and could not agree on the future of the party. Al-Aziz ultimately left the Unity Meet early.

Political rifts between President Kamisi and Vice-President Al-Aziz came to a head, when on 17 April 2017 Al-Aziz announced the launch of a new political party, the Girano Barado Freedom Democracy Movement (GBFDM). At the launch of the political party, Al-Aziz declared that the manifesto of the party included advancement of the Barado people within Girano. The launch of the party was met with celebrations among the Barado community and led to some incidents of violence between the youth militias of Barado and Lunga community.

The international community greeted the political move with caution. Commentators believe that a rift between Kamisi and Al-Aziz could derail the peacebuilding activities in the community and could further fracture Girano along ethnic lines.

On 28 April a group of Barado youth militia fighters attacked Boli town, mainly inhabited by Lunga people, where they burnt down and looted houses, leading to an unknown number of casualties, including civilians. Multiple sources reported clashes between Barado and Lunga rebels in the town of Raga, in the east of the country. In Kota State, in the town of Tuba, gunfire has been exchanged between the two armed groups. Lunga rebels allegedly raped a group of seven women who were on their way to the market. The Chief of the Girano National Police Service allegedly ordered the cops present in Tuba to not intervene or arrest when violence broke out.