



Central and East African Regional Seminar on Best/Promising Practices on Armed Violence Reduction

Nairobi, 23-25 February

Introduction

On 31 October and 1st of November 2011, the Geneva Declaration on armed violence will hold its second Ministerial Review to assess progress of global achievements in armed violence reduction and prevention (AVRP) and promote best practice AV monitoring tools and armed violence reduction programming. In order to prepare for the Ministerial Meeting, a series of regional meetings are being held in order to foster discussion and experience-sharing at regional level, assess the progress of implementation of AVRP programmes and identify promising and innovative practices generated from AVRP to date in each region to be disseminated at global level.

The Nairobi Seminar was the second regional meeting of the series and was attended by over 50 armed violence reduction practitioners from or working on Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. While the seminar was targeting states, there was a significant contribution from representatives of regions like Somaliland and Southern Sudan, regional and international civil society organizations, UN Agencies and Regional Organizations. Prior to this seminar, a civil society meeting took place in Nairobi in November 2010 aimed at “creating a community of practice on armed violence and development in Eastern Africa”¹.

The objectives of the Seminar were as follows:

- 1) Review the development and progress of the implementation of armed violence prevention policies and strategies within the Central and East African regions, particularly as related to commitments made by regional governments to the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development and the Oslo Commitments on Armed Violence and Development;
- 2) Share experiences, lessons-learnt and good practices on armed violence

¹ For the full meeting report please contact the Quaker United Nations Office (quno1@quno.ch).

- prevention programming;
- 3) Increase regional cooperation between governments, international organisations, civil society and development co-operation agencies;
 - 4) Continue to bridge the gap between the security, arms control and development sectors, as well as with actors working on citizen security frameworks, for the development of policies aimed at preventing and reducing armed violence.

Overview of the Seminar

The first day of the meeting set the scene with plenary sessions and presentations made by speakers from the international and the regional AVRPP Community, including representatives of governments, regional and international CSOs, UN Agencies and International organizations. After a recap of the regional and international commitments to armed violence reductions, panelists gave an overview of AVRPP programming worldwide and specifically, efforts conducted in the sub-region, including active programming and data collection initiatives. The afternoon was dedicated to two core cross-cutting issues: instruments of violence and gender.

The second and third days consisted of a series of workshop focusing on key common regional patterns of armed violence: youth and urban violence, pastoral community conflict and cross-border issues and challenges to monitoring and measuring armed violence. After initial presentations on each topic and related activities conducted in the region, participants were divided into groups where they exchanged experiences on each area, sharing concrete examples of programming activities and discussing challenges and potential innovative ways forward.

East and Central African Countries' commitments to AVRPP

Central and East Africa is one of the regions of the world most affected by armed violence; however, countries in the region are also actively committed to tackling armed violence and participate significantly in the international AV policy (see Table 1).

Table 1 Central and East African Countries and major global and regional AV Commitments

	Geneva Declaration signatories	Oslo Commitments endorsing states 2010	Africa Declaration Signatories 2007
Burundi	2007	Yes	Yes
CAR	-	-	-
Chad	-	-	-
DRC	2007	Yes	Yes

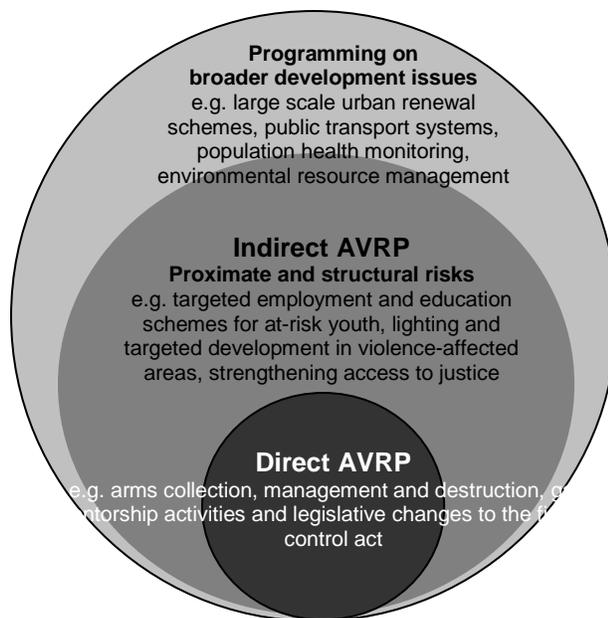
Ethiopia	2007	-	Yes
Kenya	2006	Yes	Yes
Republic of Congo	-	Yes	-
Rwanda	2007	-	Yes
Somalia	-	-	-
Sudan	-	-	Yes
Tanzania	-	Yes	-
Uganda	2007	Yes	Yes

Source: www.genevadeclaration.org and www.osloconferencearmedviolence.no

AVRP in Central and East Africa: a vast range of programmes and practitioners

Despite the existence of common drivers and patterns of armed violence such as resource-based conflict or criminality and cross-border armed violence dynamics, countries undergo different types and levels of AV and have devised a diverse range of responses to the issue. To help with the typology of these initiatives, practitioners distinguish between direct and indirect programming: while direct AVR addresses armed violence actors, instruments (see Box 1) and institutions via arms collection and demobilization of armed groups, for instance, indirect AVR tackles structural factors of armed violence through the likes of education programmes, facilitating access to health services and justice systems. Indirect AVR incorporates a very large scope of initiatives and many practitioners do not actually realize that they are actually engaging in AVR.

Figure 1 Conceptualizing AVRP



Source: OECD-DAC study on Armed Violence Reduction and Prevention, forthcoming.

The outcomes of the seminar demonstrate that, as reflected in other parts of the world, AVRPP indirect initiatives are far more prevalent than direct ones.

Box 1 Controlling Instruments of Armed Violence in Central and East Africa

The prevalence of firearms in Central and East African countries is one of the most important in the world and yet very difficult to capture. Illicit proliferation of weapons and ammunition fuels conflicts, increases their impact and hinders development in general. Illicit circulation is encouraged by, among other things, porous borders, the presence of mobile non state armed groups and diversions of weapons from state stockpiles.

Arms control measures are a key direct type of AVRPP and a broad range of those measures have been adopted by states in the sub-region. However, seminar participants emphasized the need to conduct arms control initiatives within a broader AVRPP programme. The majority of countries have undertaken **weapons collection** programmes through DDR or civilian disarmament with varying results. **Stockpile management** initiatives are also being conducted in many countries. Indeed, RECSA has supplied equipment and training to states in the sub-region to mark their weapons: in 2011 for example, Rwanda completed the marking of the Rwandan police weapons. **National legislation** is also key to arms control and many efforts are being made in this regard and there is a regional initiative to harmonize legislation under the auspices of RECSA. As an emerging country, Southern Sudan is currently working to elaborate its legislation regarding SALW in order to help curb the significant level of illicit possession, use and circulation of weapons in the country. While addressing demand is essential, it is equally important to address supply and **international measures to control the arms trade**, such as the ATT, are crucial. Representatives of two governments, without denying the significance of illicit trafficking in the region, highlighted the importance of involving international arms producers and brokers who contribute to the export of weapons on the continent.

Finally, participants reiterated that while firearms are the most visible and damaging instrument tools of armed violence, one should not underestimate the use of bladed weapons especially in interpersonal and intimate violence and the difficulty of dealing with these legal “tools”.

While AVRPP is a relatively new concept, initiatives that fall under its umbrella are not necessarily innovative. On the contrary, conflict prevention and dispute resolution mechanisms are not new in Central and East Africa: each country has its own historic traditional mechanisms such as the Bashigantahe in Burundi or Gachacha in Rwanda that are still in use. Not only are these mechanisms still relevant but they also inspire new initiatives and are reactivated in certain areas. For instance, peace committees in Kenya were reactivated and those in Somalia are one of the key actors of the Somali Community Safety Network.

Finally, aside from traditional initiatives, the region has worked as a laboratory for different types of AVRPP programming such as conventional post-conflict security

programmes. The Central and East African region is the sub-region that has undergone the widest range of DDR-type programmes in the world and yet, the outcomes of these initiatives in the respective countries were severely questioned during the seminar.

AVR Practitioners in Central and East Africa

One of the major innovations of the AVR concept has been the success of bringing different stakeholders together and the seminar was enriched by the variety of expertise of those who attended. The vast range of participants mirrored the multi-sectoral and cross-cutting nature of armed violence reduction and prevention and offered a ground for strengthening the relationship between the security and the development communities; however, various weaknesses in terms of participation reflected real shortcomings of AVR in Central and East Africa.

According to the AVR Community mini-survey conducted during the seminar, profiles were more diverse among the civil society contingent than those from governments. The vast majority of the representatives sent by governments were from bodies working directly on SALW issues. While most of these people also considered their work part of a broader security and peace-building agenda, there was a lack of diversity in the representation of governments. Further seminars should encourage the presence of more diverse government representatives and should serve as a forum for exchange and fostering cooperation between national agencies that generally do not interact a great deal.

It was also regrettable that actors from the private sector, be they private security companies, that are for instance very numerous in Somalia, or broader economic actors, were absent from the conference.

Lastly, the seminar was attended by representatives of bilateral aid governmental agencies and UN bodies. As one speaker explained, contrary to more middle income countries such as Brazil or Colombia, sub-Saharan AVR initiatives seem to be funded primarily on a bilateral and multilateral basis. However, several governmental and CSOs participants, have emphasized the importance of national and local ownership; as one international speaker put it, formalizing programmes at the national/governmental level is key to sustainable programming.

Identifying good practices

Efforts to identify good practices are progressing but regional practitioners still do not have a thorough understanding of what works and what does not. Notwithstanding, throughout the seminar, participants highlighted key AVR principles that are identified as contributing to good practice.

The challenge of identifying good practices from bad

Most participants in the seminar identified measuring and monitoring initiatives as the best practice to take away with them (see section below on MandM); however, regarding actual programming aimed at addressing armed violence, it was difficult to clearly identify good and bad practices from the wide list of initiatives suggested.

First, when it comes to tackling structural vectors of violence, processes can take a very long time: as one of the participant put it “causes of pastoral conflicts are deep and can’t be addressed over night, impacts of our work are therefore difficult to see”. Seminar discussions have confirmed that measuring the success of initiatives is especially challenging since benchmarks are difficult to identify and monitoring and evaluation efforts are not being systematically conducted in parallel with programming. Integrating monitoring and evaluation components in AVRP related activities is still work in progress. The second factor that hindered the identification of what works and what does not was the general sensitivity of participants to discuss failures: there was no discussion about circumstances in which state initiatives failed or were counterproductive.

Key AVRP principles that contribute to good practices AVRP in Central and East Africa

There was a broad agreement with respect to key principles of AVRP as being crucial to good practices in Central and East Africa. While not new, these principles were consistently reiterated by participants in the workshop and the mini-survey as application is still in progress. These include:

- Conduct baseline to enable production of evidence-based programming and support evaluation
- Adopt an integrated multi-sectoral approach to armed violence that would bridge security and development efforts
- Foster multi-partner cooperation between governmental authorities and civil society, national agencies and regional organizations
- Strengthen active participation of civil society since AVRP can only be successful with the engagement of both governmental and non-governmental actors – The active participation of religious actors is one of the specifications of CSOs work on AVRP in the region
- Engage with communities and promote bottom-up approach
- Involve traditional authorities in the design and implementation of programming as they are the most trusted authorities in many countries where state security providers are absent from certain areas and where confidence in them is generally lacking.
- Include women in the design and conduct of programming as well as in beneficiaries

Box 2 From Research to Action: the Comprehensive Approach of the Armed Violence Prevention Programme (AVPP)

The AVPP is a multi-UN agency programme (WHO, UNDP, UN-HABITAT, UNODC, UNODA) aimed at supporting the development of national AVRPP capacities through a coordinated multi-sectoral approach engaging state authorities, civil society and international development agencies.

The AVPP therefore builds on a vast array of expertise and technical capabilities and looks at providing a comprehensive approach to AVRPP including data collection, subsequent evidence-based programming and policies, and monitoring of activities. The AVPP is currently in its second phase and will focus specifically on pilot countries, including Kenya, that were identified by their level of armed violence, their data collection potential and the existence of AVPP initiatives.

Focus on regional Armed Violence Patterns

1. Cross-Border Crime and Pastoral Conflicts

Cross-border dynamics are crucial factors of armed violence in the sub-region. Borders enable armed groups to seek refuge in fall-back positions and their porosity encourages the trafficking of weapons and other illicit goods. In addition, border areas are primarily affected by the impacts of armed violence in terms of the potential influx of refugees, which, for example, destabilizes local social peace. Finally, borders are often peripheral areas which national authorities tend to neglect: health, educational facilities and security provisions are lacking, encouraging the population to develop alternative ways of assuring their security, including by acquiring weapons and resorting to violent ways of dispensing justice. Pastoralist groups often live in these deprived peripheral areas and sometimes resort to violent confrontation to settle disputes between groups regarding, among other things, access to resources, historical rivalries and territorial boundaries.

A vast array of issues were discussed and explored at the seminar and while there were some parallels between countries, there were also some important differences, particularly with respect to the “pastoral” challenges. Beyond the typology of emerging promising practices and recommendations regarding the issues that were elaborated on during the workshops (see Table 2), some specific key points emerged from the discussions.

- **View borders as opportunities:** rather than exclusively as risks or threats to regional or domestic security. Investment in joint intelligence, policing and defense must be coordinated in parallel with investment in economic growth, opportunity and equitable development in border regions.
- **Strengthen inter-state cooperation:** Countries increasingly seek for attempt to generate regional responses to regional problems: in Kenya and Uganda, for example, security forces combined to control the border, to stop violent cross-border cattle raiding by pastoralist groups and arms trafficking.

- **Stop viewing pastoralist groups as a minority:** Pastoral groups represent a significant proportion of the population and occupy an important share of the territory in several countries of the sub-region; considering them as a minority therefore undermines their political and cultural rights and discourages authorities from making efforts to integrate them in the local and national economy and community.

Table 2 Drivers of pastoral conflicts and cross-border violence, related promising AVRP interventions and recommendations

Drivers of violence	Promising Intervention	Recommendation
Porous borders: borders lacking adequate police, customs and related services. In some cases, clan and ethnic affiliations transcend borders.	Bilateral/trilateral cooperation: Shared intelligence police activities, and customs – for instance like between Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and DRC.	Develop a framework for international, regional and bilateral cooperation: International assistance can promote platforms for cooperation. Interpol, WCO, and WMO can all play an important role.
Smuggling of contraband: There are extensive flows of non-taxed, illegal and often dangerous goods across borders, including small arms, light weapons and ammunition	Community policing: There are promising instances of community-based policing efforts designed to enhance information flows and action against illegal activities, as well as community protection. The homeguards in Kenya are a good example of this.	Adopt an “integrated border management” approach: Such an approach is system wide and needs to be scaled up in countries beyond Rwanda where it is being piloted. Enhance information availability and communication on strategies.
Underdevelopment of peripheral/border areas: in many cases drives the movement of certain criminal actors across borders.	Border development: There are some noteworthy cases of investment in border development to reduce incentives for cross-border movements, as in Sudan-Chad for example.	Borders as opportunities: There is a key role to be played in investing in borders as growth poles. See borders as opportunities for development promotion.
Economic deprivation of pastoralists communities: Threaten their way of life and encourage cattle raiding and violence to a certain extent.	Integrate pastoralists in national economy: In Ethiopia, the LEAP project supports access to markets by pastoralist’s communities and helps them to organize cooperatives.	Make pastoralist way of life more viable: There is no need for pastoralists to renounce their way of life. A preferable option would be to make their livelihood better by developing cattle

		husbandry to produce quality beef and milk and give them access to markets.
Lack of basic services and governance: State institutions, including security provision, health, education and administration are generally lacking in pastoral peripheral areas.	Mobile services: South Sudanese authorities currently support the development of alternative education and mobile schools for pastoralist groups	Inclusion of pastoral communities into the state system: develop mobile education, health, veterinary and administration services as well as political representation at the national level.
Negative stereotypes: Marginalization and despite for pastoralist culture feed negative stereotypes that are sometimes the basis for policies which create further marginalization	In Ethiopia, a Pastoralist Development Commission was set up by different NGOs in order to coordinate efforts aiming at voicing concerns of pastoralist and promoting their culture.	Create positive stereotypes: Promotion of pastoralist cultures through media/tourism material, include pastoralist culture in national school curriculum, support pastoralists in political representation.
Availability of arms and ammunition: the significant availability of arms in certain pastoralist areas increases the feeling of insecurity and makes conflicts more deadly.	Inclusive disarmament: To avoid security dilemmas, Uganda and Kenya conduct simultaneous disarmament campaigns in respective pastoralist areas where groups from the two countries cross the border to raid each other.	Curb supply and demand: Strengthening border control and stockpile management to curb supply and provide security to fight demand. Disarmament efforts should be based on voluntary processes rather than enforced.

2. Youth and Urban violence

Rapid and uncontrolled urbanization in Central and East Africa tend to be associated with increased rates of violent crime. While the growth of cities in Africa often goes hand in hand with the expansion of unregulated overpopulated slums, the development of economic opportunities and infrastructure are not necessarily happening in parallel, resulting in the deprivation of a large share of the urban population, and more specifically, youth. More than 48% of the populations of Central and East African countries are young adults (Geneva Declaration, 2008), the sub-region therefore faces major challenges regarding the “youth bulge”.

Youth is one of the “vulnerable” groups in terms of urban violence. According to available statistics, young people are not only the primary perpetrators of armed violence but also the principal victims, the vast majority of whom are young men. The outcomes of the different working groups demonstrated that there was broad agreement that the

youth related issues required more attention and targeted programming; nevertheless numerous indirect AVRPs are being conducted in the majority of countries. Specific key points emerged from discussions:

- **Capitalize on youth** as a positive energy rather than just a problem
- **Create space for listening and social interaction:** dialogue with youths and acknowledgment are crucial to curbing frustration and violence. Organizations such as FEMNET in Kenya or THARS in Burundi promote dialogue initiatives and advocate for youths' concerns to be voiced and heard. Participants highlighted the need for "exchange zone" areas in urban environments.
- **Avoid linking poverty to violence:** while the relationship between poverty and violence sometimes constitutes the underlying basis for AVRPs (see below), the causal link between youth poverty and violence is not proven and such a link should be avoided as armed violence is far from being simply about economic deprivation.

Box 3 Gender and armed violence

An entire section of the seminar was dedicated to gender and armed violence/AVRP and highlighted innovative perspectives on the issues. Armed violence is highly gendered and affects women, girls, men and boys in different ways. While men are much more likely to be victims of armed violence, women are 6 times more likely than men to be victims of intimate violence. The active involvement of men in the fight against GBV is therefore crucial. In Kenya, the Amani Communities Africa organization engages men in violence prevention through the "male allies dialogue" where men are sensitized to GBV and where they in turn advocate against GBV.

In relation to armed violence, women's roles are not restricted to that of passive victims. Firstly, there was broad consent on the fact that women's role in AVR should be strengthened in the design, implementation and evaluation phases of projects. Secondly, speakers insisted on the importance of understanding the role of women as fuelling armed violence, a factor which is less acknowledged. Women can be direct perpetrators of violence when, for instance, they participate in combat in conflicts. Women can also contribute to perpetuating the interrelation between violence and masculinity which results from social constructs: in some parts of Somalia, for instance, women are known to humiliate men who do not want to take part in clan fights.

Until now, gender and armed violence have mainly been interpreted through the "female" lens, however, several presentations of gender related AVRPs demonstrated the importance of looking at masculinity and its relation to violence. According to FEMNET (Kenya), men are expected to be the bread winners, a factor which sometimes pushes them into crime in order to fulfill this expectation. It is therefore crucial to continue working on both gender identities and their relation to violence.

Table 3 Drivers of youth and urban violence and related promising AVRPs interventions and recommendations

Drivers of violence	Promising Intervention	Recommendation
<p>Scarcity economic opportunities for youth: Unemployment rate is particularly high among youth which creates frustration and potentially encourages criminality.</p>	<p>Professional Insertion Programmes: In CAR, such programmes have been implemented in the 3 regions most affected by conflict, i.e where lots of young people joined armed groups. In Chad, a Ministry of Microfinance has been created and gives particular consideration to youth.</p>	<p>Create programmes for alternative livelihoods and income generation activities are crucial to curb youth unemployment and develop local and national economies.</p>
<p>Youth Marginalization: Youths are often excluded from decision-making circles, their concerns are therefore often neglected.</p>	<p>Setting Integrated Youth Policy: in Ethiopia, a “youth policy” has been implemented by the government which includes 7 pillars, including training, access to credit and political bodies.</p>	<p>Involve youth in decision making at local, national and regional level.</p>
<p>Lack of appropriate judicial measures for youth offenders: Putting young people into prisons for minor offences is counterproductive since they are likely to come into contact with more serious offenders and potential extremists.</p>	<p>Juvenile judicial processes: in Somalia, for instance, in collaboration with UNICEF the authorities have set up a juvenile judicial process which aims at avoiding sending youth offenders to jail.</p>	<p>Alternatives to prisons, including psychological support, should be thought through and implemented. As one participant put it trauma healing might also help preventing offenders to commit a second offense.</p>
<p>Legacy of armed conflict: The majority of countries in the sub-region have suffered conflicts which drained arms and encouraged the formation of armed groups which recruited young people. Outcomes of DDR are generally limited in terms of weapons collection and “demobilization” of the mind.</p>	<p>After DDR, the Burundian authorities organized a civilian disarmament programme in order to collect weapons and ammunition with positive results.</p>	<p>Design appropriate DDR programmes which really work by reintegrating youth in a sustainable manner rather than quick fix measures which are not sufficient. Conduct awareness-raising campaigns which make gun possession less socially acceptable.</p>

<p>Rural-urban migration: Resources scarcity in rural areas and mobility of young people often lead to youth migration to the city. Important and rapid unregulated urbanization causes urban disturbances as authorities face difficulties to keep pace with the phenomenon.</p>	<p>Strengthening local governance capacities to address urban safety. The Safer Cities project in particular works in this regard. Programmes have been conducted projects in Dar Es Salaam and Nairobi for example.</p>	<p>Enhancing decentralization and empowerment of local governance.</p>
<p>Lack of urban planning: The increasing concentration of people in slums and the lack of facilities seem to go hand in hand with the increase of violence. The lack of urban planning impacts on the social fabric.</p>	<p>Making urban environment safer: In Kenya, the “adopt a light” initiative is aimed at providing street lightening in order to increase real and perceived levels of security.</p>	<p>Managing the urban environment in order to foster social cohesion by creating open spaces and areas of recreational activities where people can interact.</p>

3. *Measuring and Monitoring Armed Violence (MandM)*

Monitoring and measuring armed violence is key to the realization of the Geneva Declaration objectives and Oslo commitments which state that countries must achieve a “measurable” reduction in levels of armed violence. MandM indicators and tools have largely been developed since the signing of the GD and the AVRCP Community mini-survey shows that MandM-related practices were the most commonly chosen best practices by participants to bring home.

The Central and East African region represents a challenging place in terms of measuring armed violence and its impact. However, different armed violence monitoring systems have been implemented throughout the region in order to assist the design of evidence-based policies and projects and contribute to the evaluation of programme effectiveness which includes injury surveillance, crime observatories and early warning systems. The following key points have emerged from the discussions:

- **Central and East African countries actively contribute to global MandM development:** The sub-region is not only host to measuring tools developed elsewhere but has also witnessed the creation of its own tools: for example, Burundi was one of the first countries to set up an armed violence observatory and worldwide new crowd-sourcing tools often draw on the experience of Ushaidi which was developed in Kenya after the post-electoral crisis of 2008.

- **Data exists:** Institutional datasets exist in most countries (judicial, police, public health). While they may be scattered and not systematic, rather than generating new data, existing data collection efforts should be strengthened and coordinated.
- **Data is not politically neutral:** AV related data is sensitive and can be open to manipulation: there are strong incentives to abuse statistics for political purposes, specifically on homicides or gun production.
- **Measuring positive peace:** rather than focusing on measuring negative peace data such as homicides, measuring positive peace (ie. the absence of violence), would be an innovative way of helping prevent violence and measure effectiveness of AVR.
- **Evaluating AVR impact in the long term:** Programme assessments often reflect the need for donors to ensure that resources are used effectively and therefore focus on short-term impact; however, sustainable effectiveness of AVR can only be evaluated in the long term.

Box 4 Gathering data in war torn areas: the creation of the Observatory of Conflict and Violence Prevention (OCVP), Somalia

Created in 2010 and based at the University of Hargeisa, Somalia, the OCVP collects and generates data on violence and conflict in the Somalia an independent and politically neutral way. The OCVP uses different research tools including victimization surveys, community safety and security analyses, safety and security data monitoring, collection of institutional datasets (public health and criminal data) and district economic and social profiles- in order to capture the situation as accurately as possible and better understand the various drivers, actors, instruments and impacts of armed violence.

This armed violence monitoring system is a component of the Somali Community Safety Framework which includes CSOs, international NGOs, academic units and UN agencies working on AVR in Somalia.

The OCVP also builds local capacities by providing trainings on conflict management related topics, including SALW.

<http://www.somalipeacebuilding.org/>

<http://www.ocvp.org>

Table 4 Challenges to monitoring and measuring armed violence and AVR effectiveness and emerging best practices

Challenges to MandM	Emerging best practice
Achieving a comprehensive vision of armed violence at national level: data on armed violence exists but is often scattered, non systematic and even secret.	In 2008, with the support of UNDP, Burundi has set up an Observatory of Armed Violence which collects data on acts of armed violence on a systematic basis. The Observatory centralizes national institutional data (police, intelligence services) and other

	available sources (human rights NGO, BINUB, media reports).
Difficulty to capture cross-border/regional AV phenomena due to the lack of regional data collection coordination and sharing of national data.	The conflict early warning and response mechanism (CEWARN) is a joint effort by the 7 members of IGAD which focuses on regional pastoralist conflicts. Their information database relies on a field monitoring network which reports on pastoral related conflicts and cross-border violence. The timely data serves as a good basis for designing intervention. CEWARN looks at expanding its focus and monitoring other types of conflicts in the region.
Importance of assessing more “intangible” factors: The success of demobilization processes is for instance difficult to assess. A demobilization card is not sufficient to attest to the transformation of the mind. “Disarming the mind” is an expression which was used several times during the seminar and creating tools to assess the mind was judged to be crucial.	In Somalia, the OCPV conducts mindset assessments of youths.
Assessing governmental AVR-related projects: While project evaluation is often required by donors, governmental structures are less prone to assess the effectiveness of their action.	In place since 2008, the Kenya performance contracting system aims at measuring public service delivery. This system, which operates on a quarterly basis, seeks to ensure the accountability of public officials and defines clear indicators of effectiveness in the management of public affairs, including programmes on SALW.

The way forward

While former armed violence gatherings focused more on analyzing trends, risk factors and impacts of armed violence, the Nairobi seminar and subsequent regional meetings aim to go one step further in the fight against armed violence by focusing on concrete AVRP initiatives.

The seminar fostered an exchange of experience on AVRP initiatives between countries and also between various types of practitioners. The seminar showed that an increasing number of actors are already working on the issue of armed violence and development. Discussions demonstrated that the sub-region is host to an impressive range of emerging promising practices which would be worth disseminating more widely.

Nevertheless, participants also identified major shortcomings which included the difficulties for governments to tackle AV in an integrated manner and the challenge for programmers to demonstrate effectiveness.

The seminar also focused on the Geneva Declaration and its implementation. On the road to the GD second 2nd Ministerial Review, it is important to generate political support and consensus the importance of investing in armed violence prevention and reduction. In terms of programming, it remains key to identify, systematize, evaluate and invest in promising armed violence prevention and reduction programmes.

On October 31 and November 1st 2011, the 2nd Ministerial Review Conference will bring together the 108 signatory states to the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development. The goals of the Review Conference will be to:

- Reaffirm engagement of all the signatories
- Assess progress in armed violence reduction and prevention
- Disseminate monitoring and evaluation tools and best practices
- Link global policy and practitioners on the ground

The conference will be the opportunity for governments, municipalities, private sector, civil society and NGOs/UN agencies to share experiences in tackling armed violence. Unlike previous meetings, the emphasis of the meeting is on “practice” (and not norms) so there’s a major effort to identify participants with practical experience on the ground.

The Ministerial Review Conference is going to be important to sustain and strengthen wider global commitment to armed violence prevention and reduction, and agenda that needs a long-term commitment as well as investments in terms of resources from states, international organizations and NGOs alike.

The contribution of Central and East African countries to these two tracks is key for understanding progress and the various challenges related to AVR. While disseminating the Central and East African emerging promising practices² at global level was identified as crucial, experts also expressed their desire to strengthen AVR experience-sharing and capacity-building at a sub-regional level. It was suggested to organize regular meetings within the sub-region to continue assessing the development of AVR practices and progress in terms of reduction of AV. Finally, meetings at parliamentary level were also recommended in order to increase awareness and ensure a strong positive impact on national policy-making.

² The information on AVR practices from the regional seminars will be captured in a series of “Good Practice Notes” – summaries from Latin America and the Caribbean, Central and East Africa, and South and Southeast Asia. These reports will be translated and widely circulated.