"To promote the nexus between peace, security and development for an accelerated implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)"

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No Development …. No peace ….

- Active conflict, instability and conflict incidents show a clear upward trend across the continent over the past five years. According to one database, in 2019 there were 27 active conflicts in 19 countries in Africa and 8,855 known fatalities as a result of those conflicts.

- Since 2015, the number of conflicts has slightly increased. In addition, from 2015 to 2020, the number of incidents related to civil unrest nearly doubled.

- The AU "Silencing the Guns" program has been extended. From 2020 to 2030. 10 years more. Because the targets have not been met. Guns have not been silenced on the opposite, and Covid 19 has exarcebated instability in Africa.

- We need to take the lessons.

- No peace …. no development. No development …..no peace. But in most of the situations conflict arises because inclusive development has not been delivered.

- What has been missing in the African policy making that has prevented some African countries to deliver durable peace?

What has been missing?

- Conflicts have many different causes, drivers and triggers.
- The 2021 SG Promotion of Durable Peace Report examined the challenges of prevention and sustaining peace in Africa from a perspective that is often overlooked, namely the role of weak or failed public service planning and delivery as a source of instability and potential driver or trigger of conflict
- We need to recognize that are external factors:
  - i) Africa is a geopolitical arena for external interest competition over Africa's natural resources;
  - ii) Climate change pushing entire populations to below poverty levels and conflict over scarce resources, land - water;
- But, in today's conversation, I would like to focus on the internal factors:
  - The lack of social services and public goods,
  - The lack of planning processes and service delivery that do not promote inclusion of all segments of the population;
  - Corruption in service delivery; and
  - Services delivered by non-State armed groups and criminal groups.
- Maybe these internal factors indicate the shrinking of some African States and their lack of capacity to occupy the territory with education, health, water, electricity, ... leaving fertile ground to the emergence of terrorist activity and instability.
- If in 21st century we Africans still face weak States, What has been missing in the African policy making that has prevented some African countries to deliver durable peace?

The right mind set to change the paradigm …

- And I would like at this stage to bring an important notion that I have been presenting in the past 10 years and I did it again a couple of weeks ago in the General Assembly/informal consultations of the SG 's Common Agenda:
  - Sustainable development in Africa requires a change in paradigm—a long-needed shift that has still not happened.
  - And external shocks are giving us the opportunity: 2008 financial crisis, Covid 19.
  - A shift from managing poverty based on external financing to manage development based on Domestic Resource Mobilization … This is clearly the call of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030.
  - **Managing poverty and managing development are two different challenges not to say animals**
  - Have African policy making been managing poverty or development?
  - Moving from managing poverty to manage development requires to incorporate the nexus approach: peace, security, and development and build strong States and strong institutions.
  - A new narrative is required that places the focus on people centered policies based on inclusive and transparent institutions and policy frameworks that empower Africa to own its development path ..from managing poverty to manage development.

2021 Report of the Secretary-General

Promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

The Report …

- This report examines the **challenges of prevention and sustaining peace** in Africa from a perspective on the role of **weak or failed public service planning and delivery** as a source of instability and potential driver of conflict.

- It explores this challenge through **four main fault lines in public service delivery** observed in Africa: 1) inequality in access to service delivery; 2) planning processes that do not promote inclusion of all segments of the population; 2) corruption in service delivery; 3) services delivered by non-State armed groups and criminal groups.

- The report also provides examples of **how the United Nations system makes use of its diverse range of capacities to support prevention-focused development.**

- It also proposes measures to strengthen the collective efforts to accelerate the implementation of the **2030 and 2063 Agendas** during the Decade of Action in a prevention-oriented way.

Data and methodology

The production of this report relied on data from various sources:

- **2020 Africa Sustainable Development Goal Index and Dashboards Report and Database**
  - Sources publicly available data from World Bank, WHO, ILO, and other organizations and provides information on each African country's index score and status of implementation (on track or maintaining achievement; moderately improving; stagnating; decreasing) for each of the 17 SDGs.
  - Used to analyze the impact of violence and conflict on the progress towards the SDGs.

- **The UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Database**
  - Jointly produced by the **Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP)** at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University and the Centre for the Study of Civil War at the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) tracks armed conflicts around the world **since 1946.**
  - Information was gathered on the number of active armed conflicts in Africa as well as location, actors, location, and battle-related deaths, using the latest dataset for 2019.

- **Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) 2020**
  - A disaggregated data collection, analysis, and crisis mapping project which compiles information on the dates, actors, locations, fatalities, and types of all reported violence and protests around the world.
  - ACLED data were analyzed and aggregated at the subregional level to reflect the year-on-year trends in civil unrests and violence/war incidences in different parts of Africa.

Sustainable development landscape in Africa

- The majority of African countries **are on track** with respect to climate action (SDG 13), and many are making moderate advancement towards achieving zero hunger (SDG 2) and preserving life on land (SDG 15).

- Three-quarters of African countries recorded **moderate improvements** towards SDG 3 (health), **more than half remain stagnant in their efforts to provide quality education (SDG 4), clean water and sanitation (SDG 6), and sustainable housing (SDG 11).**

- **There has been limited progress across the continent towards creating peaceful and inclusive development, access to justice, and effective institutions (SDG 16).**

- **In a context of strong demographic growth**

Source: 2020 Africa Sustainable Development Goal Index and Dashboards Report

	On track or maintaining achievement	Moderately improving	Stagnating	Decreasing	Average regional Index score	
	↑	↗	→	↓		
SDG 1: End poverty	13	10	18	7	44.08	
SDG 2: Zero hunger		23	29	2	43.89	
SDG 3: Good health and wellbeing		41	13		48.46	
SDG 4: Quality education	1	13	33	6	48.35	
SDG 5: Gender equality	2	23	28		51.82	
SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation	5	22	27		53.18	
SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy	1	22	28	3	46.76	
SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth	6	31	13	3	57.21	
SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure	1	16	35	2	24.29	
SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities		14	26	13	46.49	
SDG 13: Climate action	44	6	1	2	91.22	
SDG 14: Life below water		15	18	4	63.02	
SDG 15: Life on land	13	20	12	9	70.38	
SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions	2	13	36	3	53.50	
SDG 17: Partnership for the goals	5	15	16	16	52.51	

Conflict and instability landscape in Africa

- From 2015 to 2020, the number of civil unrest-related incidences in Africa nearly doubled.

- Despite declines in Eastern, Northern, and Southern Africa, the continent as a whole still experienced a **30 percent increase in violent wars** and conflicts from 2015 to 2020, largely due to a major uptick of conflict events in Central and Western Africa in 2015-2020 and a notable increase in both civil unrest and war in Eastern Africa in 2019-2020.
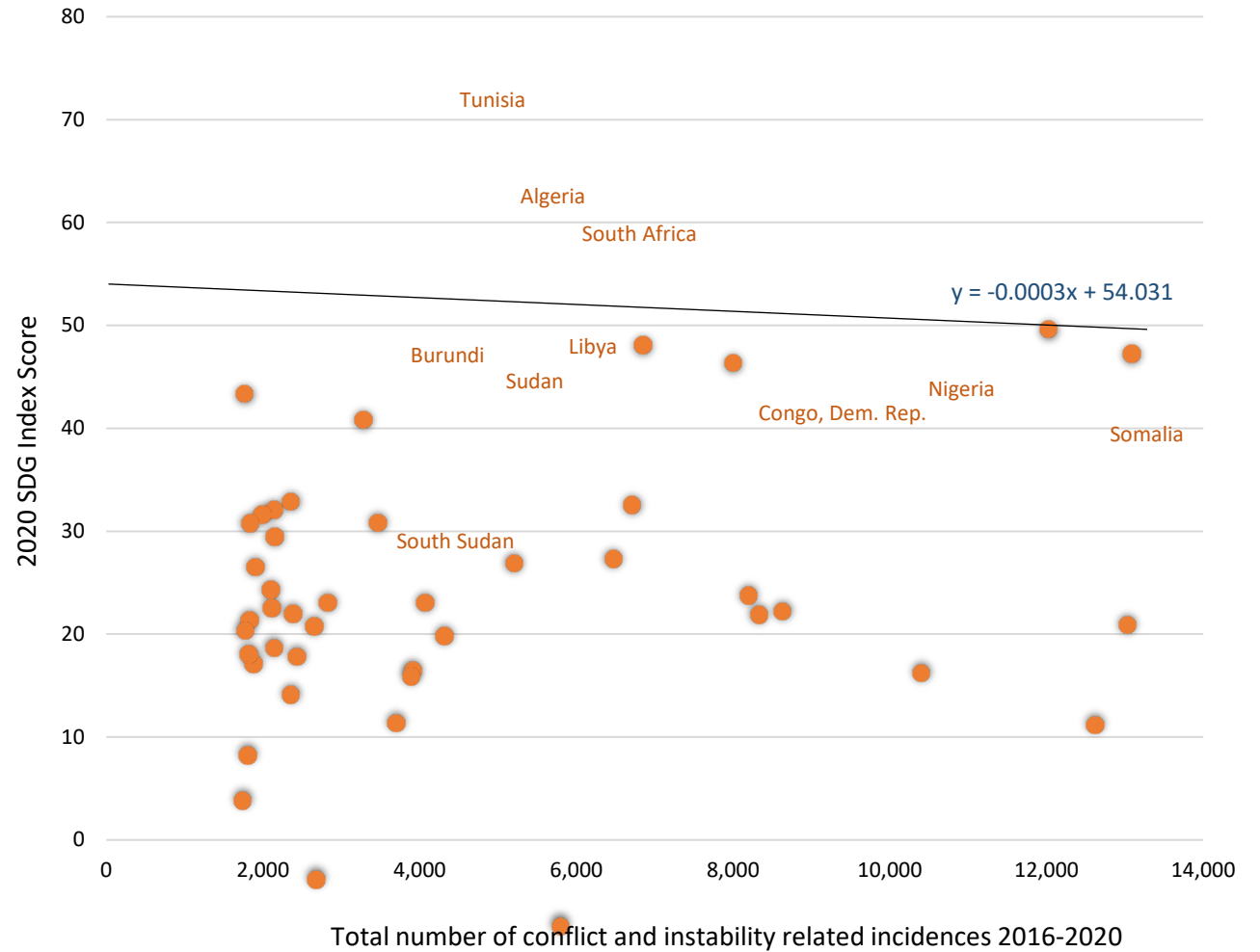
Source: Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) database, 2020.

Trends in Civil Unrest Incidences

Region	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2015-2020	2020 (total)
Eastern Africa	↑ 203	↓ 237	↓ 211	↓ 201	↑ 115	↓ 331	1246
Central Africa	↑ 20	↑ 19	↑ 5	↑ 572	↑ 94	↑ 710	1092
Northern Africa	↑ 158	↑ 189	↑ 66	↑ **3976**	↓ 556	↑ **3833**	5262
Southern Africa	↓ 74	↓ 453	↑ 91	↑ 437	↑ 160	↑ 161	1862
Western Africa	↓ 222	↑ 257	↓ 1	↑ 623	↑ **1015**	↑ **1672**	3014

Trends in Violent Conflict/War Incidences

Region	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2015-2020	2020 (total)
Eastern Africa	↑ 100	↑ 284	↓ 212	↓ 387	↑ 208	↓ 7	2578
Central Africa	↑ 127	↑ 236	↑ 359	↓ 93	↑ 439	↑ 1068	1560
Northern Africa	↓ 251	↓ 596	↓ 244	↑ 608	↓ 80	↓ 563	1584
Southern Africa	↓ 17	↑ 7	↑ 1	↓ 1	↓ 9	↓ 19	9
Western Africa	↓ 7	↑ 271	↑ 195	↑ 249	↑ 612	↑ 1320	1949

Conflict and SDGs in Africa

- Analysis linking implementation of the 2030 Agenda and recent conflict and instability related incidences in 48 African states revealed that **countries that experienced more conflict related incidences during the years from 2015 to 2020 scored lower in the 2020 Africa Sustainable Development Goal Index.**

- It is therefore crucial to **prioritize prevention and the systematic resolution of underlying causes and drivers of conflict** in order to achieve the SDGs and the aspirations of the Agenda 2063.

Scatter plot with labels: Tunisia, Algeria, South Africa, Burundi, Libya, Sudan, Nigeria, Congo, Dem. Rep., Somalia, South Sudan. Trend line equation: $y = -0.0003x + 54.031$. Y-axis: 2020 SDG Index Score. X-axis: Total number of conflict and instability related incidences 2016-2020.

Service Delivery and Conflict / Instability

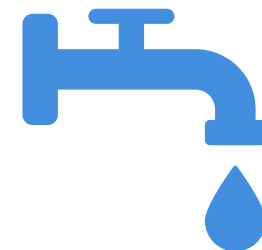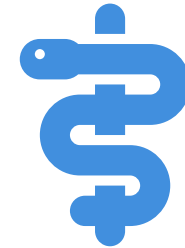The report focuses on the delivery of basic services:

| Housing | Healthcare | Education | Water & Sanitation |

- It explores this challenge through four main fault lines:

    (1) inequality in access to services;

    (2) exclusionary planning processes;

    (3) corruption; and

    (4) service delivery in areas where there are challenges to governance.

Key Findings of the Report …

1. In Africa, exclusion from service delivery has been shown to have a clear link to conflict as a driver, a trigger or as fertile ground for instability.

2. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and reinforced the underlying structural inequalities that drive conflict in the first place. Marginalized groups have been disproportionally affected, often aggravating long-held grievances.

3. **Inequality in Access to Services**: particularly along group allegiances such as ethnicity, religion, language, regional identities, and other affiliations, has been linked to a significantly higher risk of civil unrest and violent conflict across the continent.

Key Findings, cont…

- **4. Exclusionary Planning Processes:** including lack of transparency and meaningful inclusion in decision-making, and the absence of oversight and accountability mechanisms, can enable corruption in service delivery and foster grievances towards perceived government unfairness and/or corruption, all of which have a destabilizing effect.

- **5. Corruption**: With respect to service delivery, the worst consequences of corruption on the continent have been borne by poor, marginalized, and vulnerable populations, exacerbating inequitable wealth distribution as well as social and identity-related divisions. While service-related corruption might not directly cause conflict, it frequently creates conditions for criminality and widespread public disaffection to thrive on the continent, with the potential for protests and even uprisings.

- **6. Challenges to Governance:** Areas where governments face challenges to governance are often the areas where violent extremism and criminality can take root. In such areas, underdevelopment and neglect, manifested in lack of access to basic services, livelihood opportunities, personal safety and security, and trust in authorities, often provide opportunities for criminal and extremist groups to take root and gradually gain influence. Thus, the failure of government to deliver services can serve to empower/embolden Non-State Armed Groups and criminal groups

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Preview – in 2022…

- The report will assess how **<u>historical factors</u>** have impacted **<u>governance structures</u>** in African countries, creating fertile ground for the mentioned dynamics of inequality and conflict.

- Particular attention will be paid to the **<u>three geographies</u>** that affect African countries:

  1. The pre-colonial **territorial expansion of tribes/ethnicities/nations**
  2. The artificial **borders of African countries**, decided by external powers
 3. The limited **presence of the state** within their territory

Relation between conflict, borders, and ethnicities in West Africa
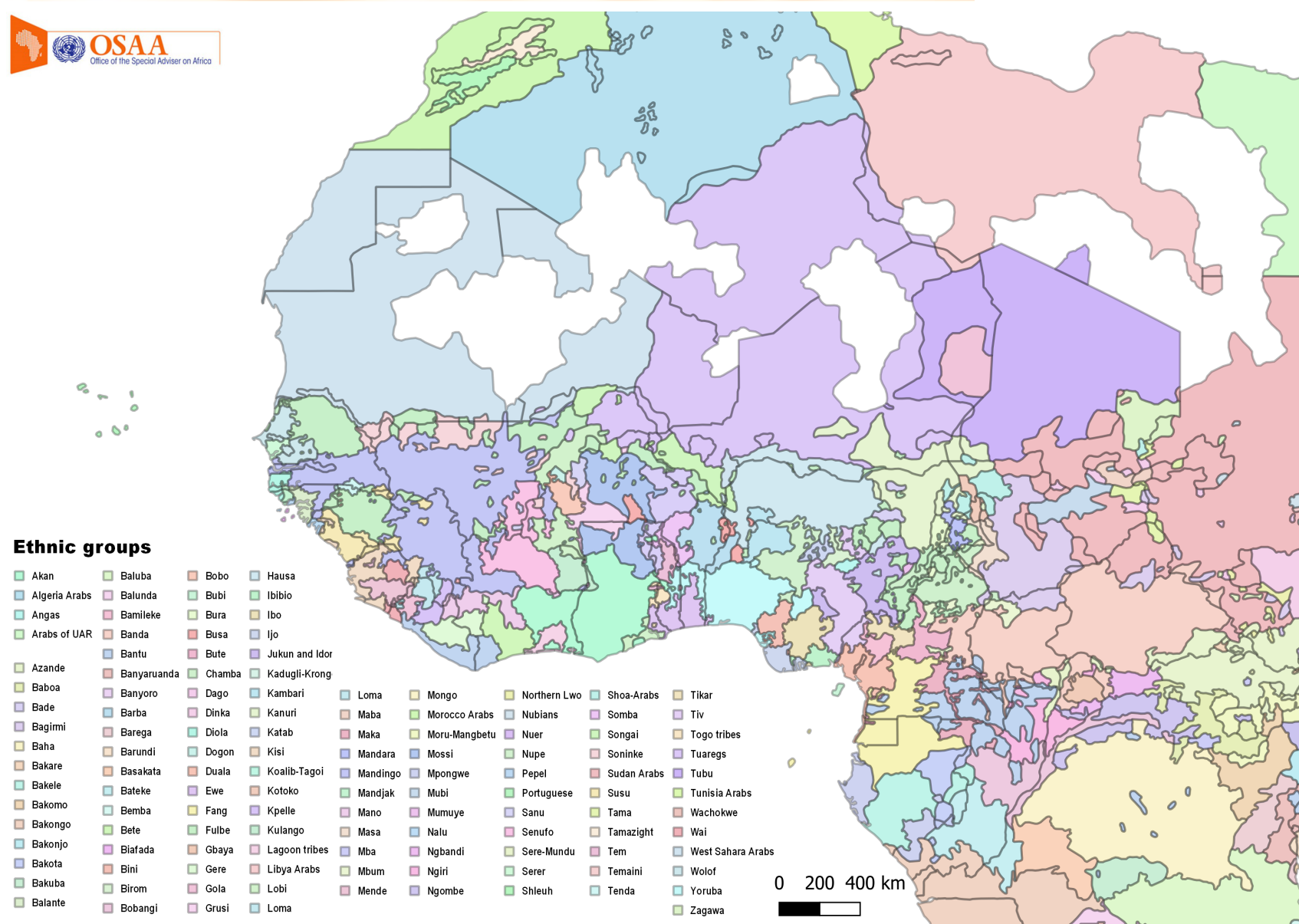
- In West Africa, there are over 100 ethnic groups distributed along the territory, based on historical patterns, in many cases related to nomadism and pastoralism

Ethnic groups

Akan	Baluba	Bobo	Hausa
Algeria Arabs	Balunda	Bubi	Ibibio
Angas	Bamileke	Bura	Ibo
Arabs of UAR	Banda	Busa	Ijo
	Bantu	Bute	Jukun and Idor
Azande	Banyaruanda	Chamba	Kadugli-Krong
Baboa	Banyoro	Dago	Kambari
Bade	Barba	Dinka	Kanuri
Bagirmi	Barega	Diola	Katab
Baha	Barundi	Dogon	Kisi
Bakare	Basakata	Duala	Koalib-Tagoi
Bakele	Bateke	Ewe	Kotoko
Bakomo	Bemba	Fang	Kpelle
Bakongo	Bete	Fulbe	Kulango
Bakonjo	Biafada	Gbaya	Lagoon tribes
Bakota	Bini	Gere	Libya Arabs
Bakuba	Birom	Gola	Lobi
Balante	Bobangi	Grusi	Loma

Loma	Mongo	Northern Lwo	Shoa-Arabs	Tikar
Maba	Morocco Arabs	Nubians	Somba	Tiv
Maka	Moru-Mangbetu	Nuer	Songai	Togo tribes
Mandara	Mossi	Nupe	Soninke	Tuaregs
Mandingo	Mpongwe	Pepel	Sudan Arabs	Tubu
Mandjak	Mubi	Portuguese	Susu	Tunisia Arabs
Mano	Mumuye	Sanu	Tama	Wachokwe
Masa	Nalu	Senufo	Tamazight	Wai
Mba	Ngbandi	Sere-Mundu	Tem	West Sahara Arabs
Mbum	Ngiri	Serer	Temaini	Wolof
Mende	Ngombe	Shleuh	Tenda	Yoruba
				Zagawa

0   200   400 km

Relation between conflict, borders, and ethnicities in West Africa

- Ethnic groups were divided by country borders, leading to a situation in which **a single ethnic group** was **spread through different countries**, while d**ifferent ethnicities** were **grouped into one single country**
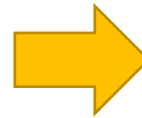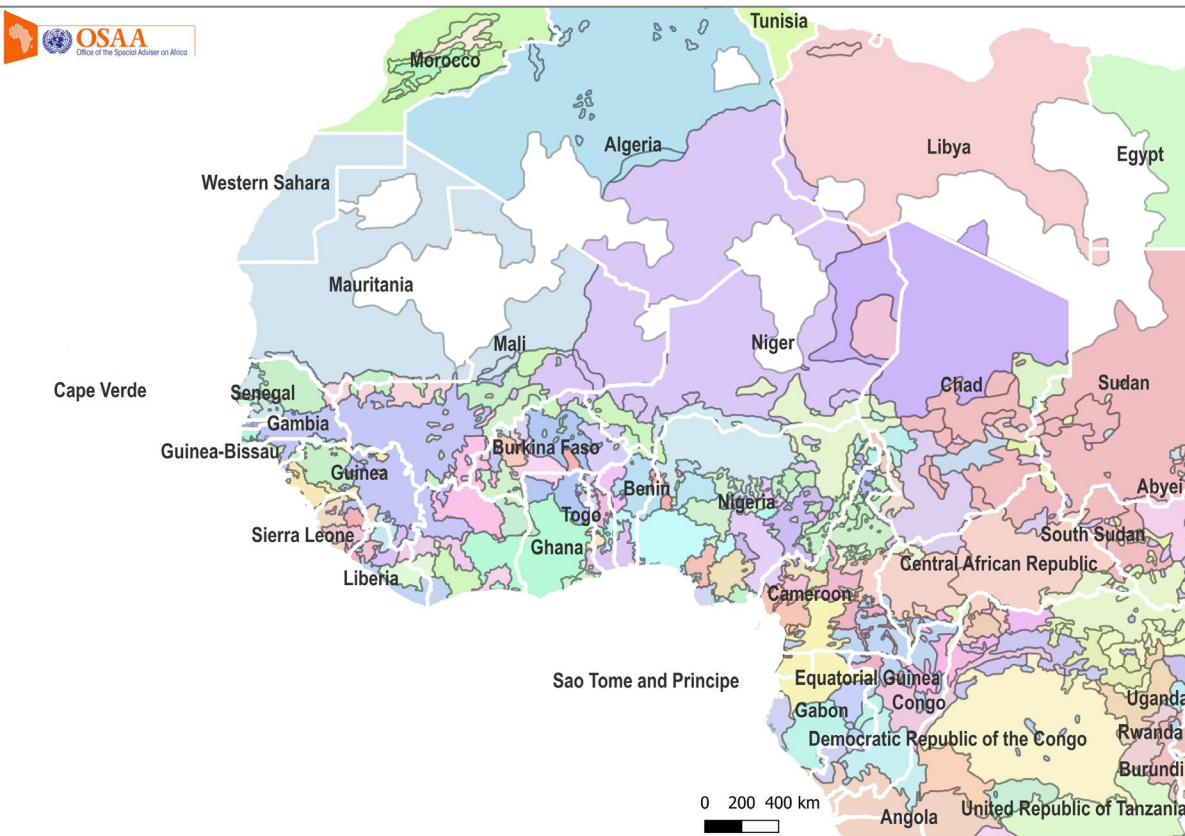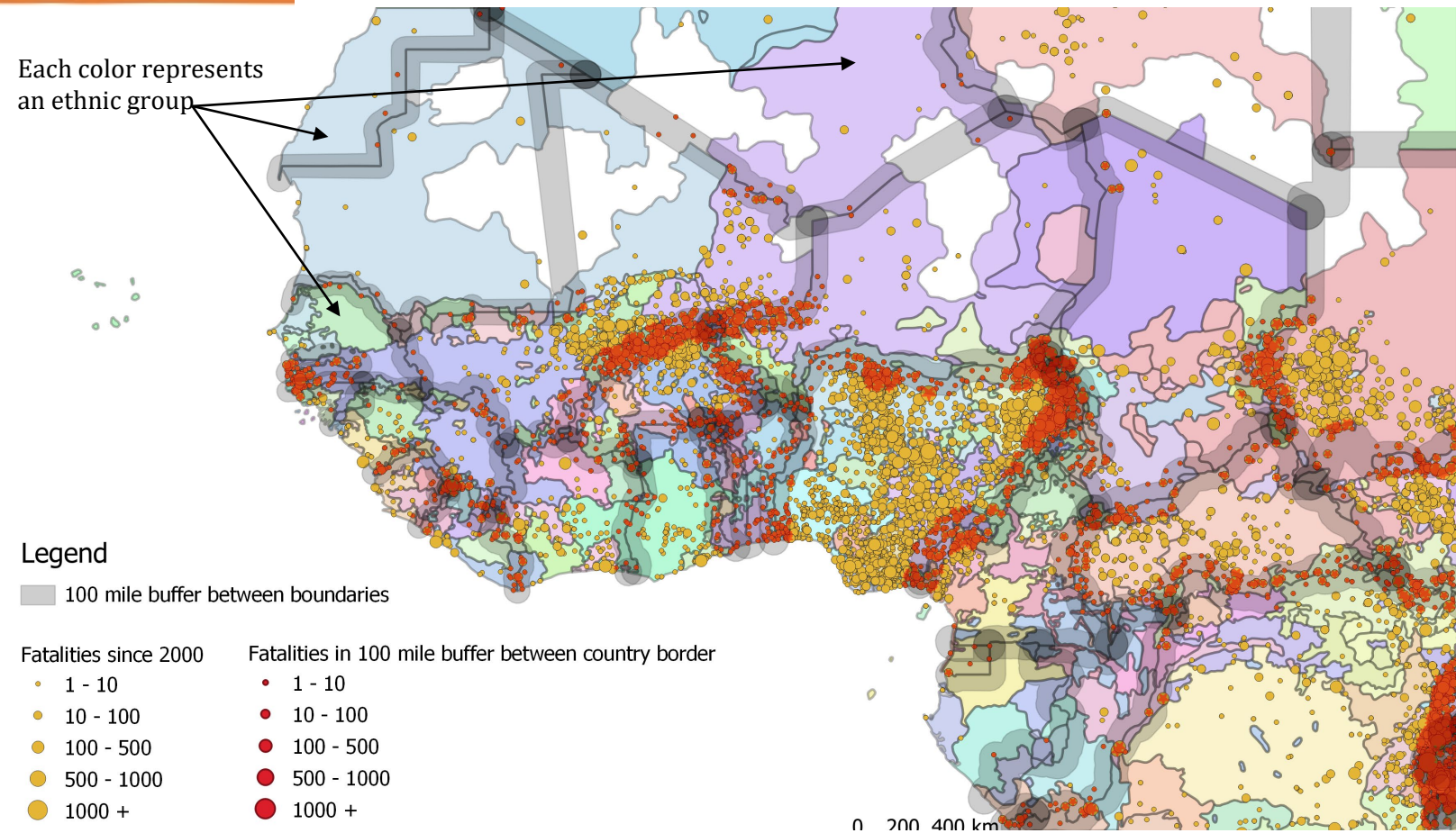
Relation between conflict, borders, and ethnicities in West Africa

- A case in point is the Fulani ethnic group, which is divided into 11 different countries across all Western Africa, from Senegal to Cameroon
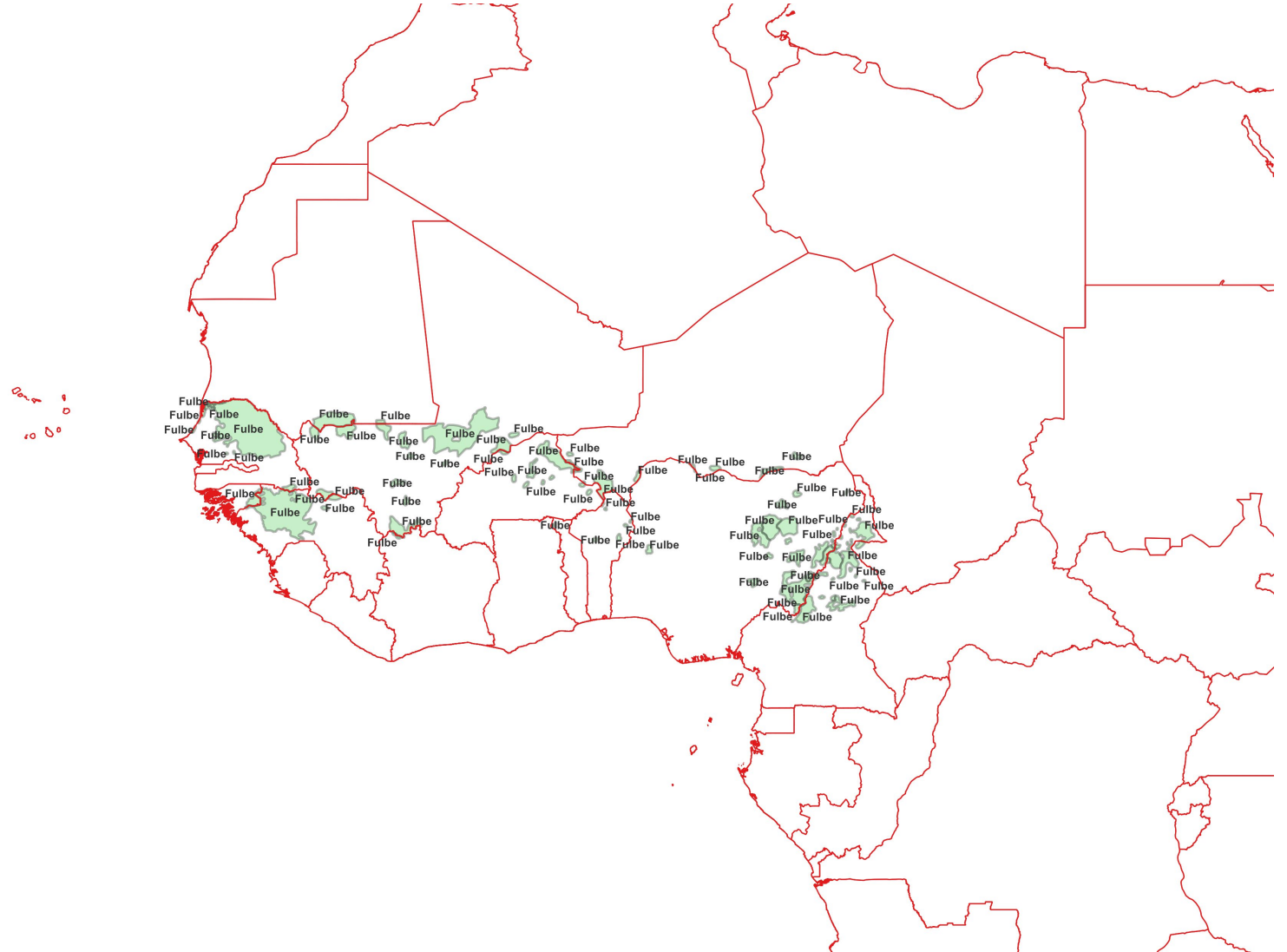
Relation between conflict, borders, and ethnicities in West Africa

- If we **cross these geographies with data on fatalities**, we immediately realize two facts:

- **Fatalities are significantly higher in bordering areas**, which suggests a transboundary element. In this case the correlation between the area of presence of **the Fulani** and fatalities from the **border between Mauritania and Mali to the border between Cameroon, Chad and Nigeria** is pretty evident.

- **Fatalities within the territory of a country** are significantly higher **in countries with a multiplicity of ethnicities**, such as the case of Nigeria

Each color represents an ethnic group

Legend

100 mile buffer between boundaries

Fatalities since 2000
- 1 - 10
- 10 - 100
- 100 - 500
- 500 - 1000
- 1000 +

Fatalities in 100 mile buffer between country border
- 1 - 10
- 10 - 100
- 100 - 500
- 500 - 1000
- 1000 +

0 200 400 km

Source: Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) database, 2022.

KMs ….

- **No Development …. No peace ….**
- **The right mind set to change the paradigm …**
- A shift from managing poverty based on external financing to manage development based on Domestic Resource Mobilization … This is clearly the call of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030.
- **Managing poverty and managing development are two different challenges**
- Moving from managing poverty to manage development requires to incorporate the nexus approach: peace, security, and development and build strong States in their 'core business' and strong institutions.
- A new narrative is required that places the focus on people centered policies based on inclusive and transparent institutions and policy frameworks that empower Africa to own its development path ..from managing poverty to manage development
- The Regional Integration dimension of African policy making is crucial to deliver durable peace … an important tool to address the 3 geographies.

The Africa we want
is the Africa the World needs

THANK YOU
GRAZIE