The Underestimated Threat of Terrorism in Malawi: A Lesson from Cabo Delgado Province in Mozambique

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ARTICLE DETAILS	ABSTRACT
Research Paper **Keywords:** *Irregular Migration, Poverty, Radicalisation, and Threat of Terrorism.*	Terrorism threat in Malawi is imminent and there are three main areas likely to lead people/residence of the country to indulge in terrorism activities. Firstly, scarcity of food due to change in climate, resulting in unpredictable rainfall exacerbated by high cost of living. Secondly, the irregular migration especially of those from the War-Torn African Countries who intends to transit the country to South Africa. Lastly, the vulnerability may be due to radicalization of inhabitants especially in eastern region bordering Mozambique, where Al-Shabaab terrorist from East Africa invaded. Most people in this area are Muslims just like those living in the neibouring province of Niassa and Cabo Delgado where acts of terrorism have been registered. This paper shall explore how these factors are overlooked yet do provide suitable conditions for actual involvement in active terrorism activities. Using qualitative methods, a comparative research analysis was conducted to investigate how chronic socio-economic conditions exposes individuals to unnecessary behaviour, how irregular migrants may be dangerous spearheading terrorism and how poverty provides fertile conditions for radicalization. Disregarding other conditions that may contribute to prevalence of violent acts, the study results suggest that these factors can greatly influence the likelihood of terrorism acts in Malawi.

Introduction

Malawi is a land locked country previously known as Nyasaland in the southeast part of Africa and is bordering Mozambique to the east round to its south and part of southwest. To the west it is bordering Zambia, and Tanzania to the north and northeast. The country got independence in 1964 from the British Colonial Power led by the late President Hastings Kamuzu Banda in a one-party system, the Malawi Congress Party (MCP). Later, in 1994 the country adopted democratic system of government through referendum.

Since independence from the colonial rule, Malawi boasts to be one of the peaceful countries in the central and southeast Africa considering that it has never experienced civil unrest, terrorist attacks or any other related tribal wars. However, the country has occasionally been used as a transit point by migrants heading from neighboring nations to trouble spots like Syria (National Risk Assessment Report, 2018). Malawi serves as a hub for migrants from northern Africa to South Africa, where terrorist attacks have been documented. There have been multiple instances of suspected terrorists with Malawian nationality being apprehended in neighboring countries (UNODC 2023; National Risk Assessment Report, 2018), but investigations revealed that the suspects' Malawian passports had been obtained unlawfully.

Research reveals that the risk may be exacerbated by the availability of unchartered routes that most irregular migrants use to cross the country to South Africa. Most irregular migrants from war-torn regions of Africa use Malawi route (Kalezi; Padatha &Kaliza, 2022) while others even settle down in some rural areas of the country. Some of these migrants are refugees and combatants from the northern conflict regions like Somalia, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) who are escaping justice in their respective countries of origin to Republic of South Africa where others connect to fly to Europe and other parts of the world (Flahaux and Schoumaker, 2016). There is a greater possibility that these irregular migrants bring along extreme ideologies and unlawful weapons with them as they settle in the country. The vulnerabilities in the border infrastructure can easily be targeted by terrorist organisations or transnational crime organisations, as well as "Foreign Terrorist Fighters" (FTFs), who continue to take advantage of porous and uncontrolled borders of the country.

A greater risk is also manifested with the advent of the recent terrorist attacks in Cabo Delgado, a province next to Niassa which is bordering eastern part of Malawi in Mozambique. The threat of terrorism is pervasive in Mozambique, where Islamic terrorist actors, Al-Shabaab and their affiliates have advanced in sophistication and targeted assaults on civilians who have been compelled to flee from their homes (UNODC 2023). Even in his remarks at the recent 31st Anniversary of the General Peace Agreement with government's long-term opposition RENAMO, President Fillipe Nyusi of Mozambique indicated that the ruthlessness with which the terrorists conducted their operations has demonstrated that it is not a religious conflict but rather a phenomenon fueled by elements like money laundering, drug trafficking, the waste of mineral resources, and other sorts of crime.

Over a million people have been internally displaced because of the attacks in Cabo Delgado and the nearby province of Niassa. António Juliasse, a bishop of Pemba, estimates that about 5,000 people have been horribly slain (Kumar 2023). These attacks have significant social and political consequences because terrorism and its related activities can have devastating effects on a nation, including the deterioration of national institutions and the impediment to economic growth. Terrorism can only prevail when the government's counterterrorism measures involve excessively harsh measures. Consequently, the terrorists often find recruits from within especially if the government involve the use of disproportionate and indiscriminate violence against people (Gray 2007).

The implications of the events in Cabo Delgado are likely to affect Malawi in one way or the other. Remember, the country is one of the poorest countries in the world known for poor management of its scarce resources, corruption, and high cost of living (World Bank Poverty Assessment Report, 2022). As a result, the crime rate is high in the country because many young productive people have no jobs to sustain their lives living them vulnerable to radicalization. As a country that solely depends on agriculture (National Risk Assessment Report (2018), the majority is affected by the high cost of agricultural inputs leaving them helpless without enough food. The majority of people in Malawi make their living from agriculture, but because of change in climate that has resulted in unpredictable rainfall, disparities in landholdings, restricted access and high prices of agricultural inputs, little diversification, and fragile markets, vulnerability is quite high.

It is important to note that the vulnerability of the country may be further exacerbate by radicalization of the inhabitants of the region that is bordering the province where terrorists have invaded. The majority of the people living in the eastern part of Malawi are Muslims just like their counterparts living in the

neibouring province of Niassa and Cabo Delgado where acts of terrorism have been registered (Cardoso 2021). This means, the people have some shared ethnicity and beliefs which can facilitate recruitment.

Generally, a good number of researchers have distanced away the discovery of the gas and other natural resources to the advent of terrorism attacks in Cabo Delgado but rather found out that the mass movement of local residents from the site of resources fueled the grievances (Gray 2007; Cardoso 2021). This means government and security agencies now face a complex, multilayered and asymmetrical conflict, mostly drawing between addressing local grievances and networks or intensifying the security in response to Islamic terrorists' actors and affiliates. As a result, the entry of the Islamic terrorists in the province is designed to coincide with a period of local grieving over unfair treatment made worse by their expulsion from their hometown without adequate compensation from the government hence ensuring fertile ground for radicalization.

These factors have contributed to the conditions that has left most people hopeless and thereby causing many to live under the life-threatening poverty line aggravated by high unemployment of the majority. Many of these people fled to Malawi and settled in the nearby villages including the adjacent cities near this region. It is, therefore, the purpose of this paper to address how all these factors may provide suitable conditions for recruitment, radicalization and actual involvement into active terrorism activities. Therefore, this paper will basically look into how chronic socio-economic conditions expose individuals to unnecessary behaviour, how the irregular migrant may be dangerous as far as terrorism issues are concerned and how poverty provides fertile conditions in breeding issues of radicalization.

Methodology

In this study the key data sources extensively used were secondary research data (what can also be referred to as comparable research analysis) which comprised of recorded study results and also what are referred to as risk assessments results specifically from the targeted neibouring countries that registered terrorism attacks. Therefore, data was drawn from three sources. First, we used statistical data on selected demographic and socioeconomic traits of general violent offenders from research publications on terrorism attacks in Kenya, Tanzania, and Mozambique (Watheka 2015; Cardoso 2022; Orre & Forquilha 2023).

Making use of Qualitative Methods, based on comparative research analysis, we concentrated on publications that were released following the events of the Westgate bombing in Kenya, the US

embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, and the most recent attacks in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique. This approach entails a review of the literature and research papers on the linkage between migration, crime due to high unemployment rate, and socioeconomic hardship in particular, highlighting their roles in the existence of political and cognitive constraints that fuel terrorism or political violence in people.

The principal objective of this study is to enhance conception of the socio-economic attributes of the majority of individuals in the neighbouring nations where terrorism attacks have been registered, concentrating on the factors that contribute to violent crime and terrorism. In order to achieve this, we specifically singled out a portion of research articles that discuss four major terror acts that occurred in East Africa and were chosen because of their proximity to Malawi.

Secondly, we chose to restrict our analysis to an age range that is most similar to that of terrorist offenders in order to guarantee comparability with data on terrorist offenders. Based on empirical research conducted in Tanzania (Cardoso 2022), Mozambique (Orre & Forquilha 2023), and Kenya (Watheka 2015), demographic age distribution remained the same in this study.

Findings and Discussion

In the Malawian setup, the study has illustrated how socio-economic hardship relates to one's choice to join crime group or political violence. It seems that the majority of terrorist suspects and perpetrators are emerging adults, aged 18 to 30 and surprisingly, it has pronounced against the dominance of narratives causally linking such in the absence of the concept of radical ideology.

Descriptive data collected using qualitative methods (secondary data) showed that the dynamics within amalgamated offending groups vary, and it is possible that a number of underlying causes play a role at different points in this criminal spectrum. It can be noted that the unemployed youth were the most affected for the obvious reasons of their socio-economic status.

Apparently, the success of most of these attacks, according to the analysis of the selected journal articles depended on specific domestic events. Most of these articles recorded that extremist succeeding by taking advantage of vulnerable individuals facing same challenges of economic hardship, unemployment and extreme ideologies. Further analysis reveals that following each attack, scholars were increasingly drawing connections between irregular migration and terrorism.

Ideology driving violence i.e., Jihad in Extreme Muslims and the White Supremacy in the western countries, which yield to terrorism, is growing because it acts like a license to kill without the feeling of guilty. This is due to the fact that their actions and perspectives stem from a misunderstanding or misinterpretation of religious scriptures. Unless the ideology in the location and inside the mind of the terrorist is dealt with, the threat is likely to continue in the unforeseeable future. This could thus be achieved in sincere regret and repentance, thereby eliminating the catalyst for their further engagement in terrorist and extremist-related activities. Additionally, through sharing of ideas and exchanging of skills while facing the common enemy of poverty because many terrorist movements are based mostly on intellectual and ideological infrastructures (Binder & Kanyon 2022).

Vulnerability of Malawi to Terrorism Due to Irregular Migration

The porous borders of Malawi are increasingly serving as important transit points for refugees from other African nations like Ethiopia. Experts have confirmed the trend of irregular migrants from other parts of the continent smuggled through Malawi, a common route for migrants from East Africa to South Africa which is the most industrialised nation of the continent (News24, 2022). According to Lederer (2023), Africa is currently the world's hotspot for terrorism, and counterterrorism specialists indicate that almost half of the deaths occurred there last year.

Dangerous irregular movement along the Southern Route from the Horn of Africa and other war-torn countries through Malawi to other hot spot terrorist countries like Syria (Malawi, NRA-Report 2018) is made possible by a complex web of traffickers and smugglers. The associate external relations officer for UNHCR in Malawi, Kenyi Emmanuel Lukajo, told DW Journalists that, "On average we register between 200 and 400 asylum seekers coming into the country every month."

Using cases from the larger East African region, in August 1998, al-Qaeda bombed the American embassies in Nairobi and Dar Es Salaam simultaneously, killing 213 people in Nairobi and 11 people in Dar Es Salaam respectively. This incident is arguably the most prominent example of jihadist violence in Tanzania. Trying to single out from the terrorist acts in the region, recently, after crossing the porous border from Cabo Delgado, the rebels launched two raids into Tanzania in 2020 (Persecution.org., 2023). In the course of their raid on the Mtwara villages of Kitaya and Michenjele, they looted, murdered, and left apart from demolishing of property. Tanzania's close proximity to the predominantly Muslim province of Cabo Delgado in Northern Mozambique is said to have served as a breeding ground for Islamic State (IS) militants.

Reports indicate that both the Al-Shabaab and the Al-Qaeda militants have been recruiting local residents in all the places they have attacked in Cabo Delgado, Nairobi and Dar es Salaam where among other targets like malls, universities, marketplaces and USA embassies were hit. It is important to note that with the consideration to the trend, USA embassy in Lilongwe Malawi is not exceptional. People, money, and things can cross borders more easily and covertly when there are porous borders in place.

Experts' opinion suggests that because of the extreme poverty, extreme desperation among certain groups, and high levels of corruption, the country is vulnerable to acts of crime by both security and residents, such as the trafficking of Ethiopians and Somalians from Karonga or Chitipa. Roadblocks in Malawi are overstaffed with poorly paid and equipped police officers, which leads to corruption and inefficient checkpoints thereby allowing smugglers to manage to get through all of them and reach the borders of Mozambique. According to International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the mass grave was discovered by locals in the northern Mzimba region, some 250 kilometres north of the capital Lilongwe, when villagers were gathering wild honey in a forest (Africanews with AFP, 2022).

A number of undocumented immigrants who were allegedly being smuggled by syndicates have been arrested. The majority of these undocumented immigrants originates from war tone or rogue states in the Horn of Africa and beyond, including Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh. They are thought to enter Malawi via our porous borders. A high expectation is that these migrants bring along with them a number of weapons into the country. It is impossible to discuss the spread of illicit firearms in Malawi without mentioning the vast number of Mozambicans who fled their country during the late 1990s civil conflict and sought asylum in camps. Over 650,000 Mozambicans fled to Malawi during the war, and many of them continued to fight in the conflict while being refugees, which created the perfect environment for the militarization of refugees (Muggah and Mogire, 2006).

Currently, many of the refugees from Cabo Delgado have managed to sneak out of the refugee camps and are living among residence of the eastern region and in Blantyre and Lilongwe cities. The two cities also are seen with a number of Ethiopians, Somalis and others from the war-tone African nationals. This paper provides assistance in identifying the unique terrorism risk profile of the nation in an increasingly unpredictable world by quantifying its exposure and estimating its possible likelihood using violent indicators. The number of people who are grieving over the increased cost of living and poverty and the number of people who are fleeing conflict-ridden areas as refugees have an impact on the states that host them because of wider security concerns and the spreading of extremist beliefs.

In her speech, United Nations Resident Coordinator Rebecca Adda-Dontoh said: "Malawi is a destination, transit and source country for trafficking in persons; hence, the need to invest more in prevention." She said: "Even though there is no recorded availability of active terrorism in Malawi, there might be a possibility that due to the country's vulnerability and its porous borders, terrorist agents could come in and start recruiting people" (National Newspaper, 05/10/2023). Porous borders provide access for irregular migrants with diverse ideologies to cross and eventually blend in the surrounding villages in the eastern region and other parts of the country. A number of these migrants have some relations already settled in the country since they came during the political civil war in Mozambique in the 1990s. As the result, the trend provides the fertile grounds for radicalization to flourish.

Vulnerability of Malawi to Terrorism Due to Chronic Socio-economic Impact

Malawi has a total of four (4) regions namely: The North, The Central, The South and the Eastern. All these regions have their cities like Mzuzu in the north, Lilongwe, which is the capital in the centre, Blantyre in the south and finally Zomba in the East. These cities' levels of development are incredibly varied, particularly from this Eastern Region, which borders the affected province of Mozambique. It is far much less developed, and its city has no Industrial structures which result in more unemployment rate compared to the other three cities. The majority of people of this region are Muslims who share the same values with their counterpart province in Mozambique to the extent that during the attack in Cabo Delgado, some people sought refuge in the border village of Matiti in Mangochi District in Malawi (UNHCR, 2022).

Numerous reasons have been identified in studies on Islamic Terrorism as motivating causes for groups to commit acts of terror, whether through acts of violence or threats of violence. The failure of the contemporary national economy to improve the welfare of its citizens, particularly in countries with a predominately Muslim population, has been identified to be a trigger for terrorist activities in several studies (Robinson, Crenshaw, & Jenkins, 2006). In this case, Islamism would not be the only factor that would trigger the violent acts of terrorism, other issues are involved, mostly the result of the population's growing discontent and frustration over the exploitation of natural resources and land without clearly benefiting the community.

Therefore, in accordance with this perspective, the conflict could be seen as a public uprising against governmental authorities, with the involvement of foreigners or foreign ideologies being real but secondary to these domestic causes. Because of that terrorist groups use them as a recruiting tool

because they are aware that marginalised and vulnerable young people are more susceptible to brainwashing and desperate to fit in and have a purpose in life, even if it means ending their own lives.

Despite the fact that the majority of terrorism experts contends that there is no empirical evidence linking poverty to an increase in the frequency of terrorist attacks and participation, remarks made at the International Summit on Democracy, Terrorism, and Security in Madrid assert that poverty breeds marginalised people who in return provide a breeding ground for terrorists. The eastern region is among the least developed areas of Malawi with high rate of illiterate people. At the same meeting, the former president of Mauritania made the observation that "The cause of terrorism is, above all, the frustration brought about in people by poverty and illiteracy" (David Shinn 2016). Even though poverty does not generate terrorism, it frequently exacerbates the political and economic climate to the point where marginalised people find it appealing to support or join terrorist organisations.

According to some studies, radicalised people in particular, and offenders in general may be negatively impacted by low socioeconomic status (Bakker and de Bont, 2016). Being poor and having few employment possibilities might be indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage, which can increase a person's susceptibility to violent crimes in the first place (Seiter and Kadela, 2003; Kubrin and Stewart, 2006). Secondly, as pointed out by Freeman and Mirilovic (2016), it might make people more resilient to deradicalization and resocialization, which would exacerbate the issue of criminal recidivism.

Now, having concluded like this, it is important to explain how these conditions (unemployment and poverty or socio-economic hardship) are linked to terrorism. According to Merton's (1938) strain theory, numerous people would be compelled to defy accepted standards of (socially) acceptable behaviour if there was a higher focus placed on ends (i.e., social aims) as opposed to actual legitimacy and sufficiency of methods. Agnew R (1992) "updates" the work of Merton with his General Strain Theory (GST) by adding a range of social contexts where strains (or stressors) may originate. The GST states that the primary driving force behind crime is negative emotion, which is linked to the loss of positive stimuli (like the death of a close relative), unpleasant life experiences (like being attacked), and the incapacity to achieve desired outcomes (like riches or status).

In summary, under extreme stress and uncertainty, criminal activity carried out in the name of jihad thrives. People seek meaning and purpose, and Kruglanski et al. (2013) claims that this basic need, which is to matter in a society is shared by everybody. Extreme ideologies that seek to redress the power imbalance and take action against the sources of strain can arise from intense emotions of rage and

frustration brought on by severe stresses. As Mozambique emerges as the next hub for terrorism, scholars and global players persist in concentrating on the internal driving forces that facilitate the spread of terrorism in the country and Malawi is not an exception.

Today, it is abundantly evident that underdevelopment and poor or bad governance are contributing factors to resentment towards the government (as well as those viewed as their agents or followers). This resentment can also be used to recruit individuals, primarily young people, who feel marginalised and lack higher expectations for their lives. This is taking place, though not just in the Cabo Delgado Province but in most parts of Africa.

Vulnerability of Malawi to Terrorism Due to Radical Ideologies

Radicalism of migrants in camps for refugees and for the vulnerable marginalized youth with no employment is one way this can occur in Malawi. Radicalization is the process of influencing people to embrace extremist ideologies or take part in violent behaviour (Schmid 2013). Terrorist groups may attempt radicalization of migrants in refugee camps by providing resources, support, and a feeling of purpose in exchange for the refugees embracing their cause. Because they are aware that vulnerable and marginalised youth are more readily to brainwash and desperate to fit in and have a purpose in life, even if it means ending their own lives, terrorist organisations actively seek out young individuals to join them.

Schmid A (2013) advances the concept of Radical Ideology as one of the key players in the reasons why people opt for terrorism in attempt to express their dissatisfaction of the status core of their situations. He suggests that the process of becoming more radicalised towards terrorism seems to be heavily influenced by ideology. The process by which a small but significant percentage of people who are dissatisfied with the social and political structures of the society become militants is mostly due to ideological indoctrination. Ideology fosters a subculture of violence and helps to legitimise the use of violence as a tool for enacting political change.

The Middle Eastern governments that continue to disseminate jihadism among themselves and other states are the external influence behind the extreme radical jihadi movement in East Africa. There are several different types of extremism: Wahhabism, political jihadism, theological jihadism, and national jihadism (Mustafa Ali, 2017). Through legal and illegal ways, the spread of extremist values from and to the Middle East has made terrorism a global phenomenon (Chome, 2021; Mraja et al., 2021).

In Kenya, Mraja et al. (2021) implies that extremist clerics supported by Saudi Arabia to study Sunni Islam are responsible for some of the violent extremism taking place along the country's coast. In the aftermath of the historic Islamic revolution of 1978, Saudi Arabia and Iran were vying for control of the Muslim world. The Shafii Islamic beliefs were not well received in Kenya when the clerics returned. Similar events have occurred in a number of African countries like Tanzania, Mozambique and Malawi where several individuals have been offered scholarships to study in the Middle East and in their return, traces of extremism have been observed.

Comparably, in addition to receiving military training in Tanzania, Sudan, and Saudi Arabia, Nuro Adremane and Jafar Alawi, the leaders of Ansar al-Sunna, a terror group that is evolving in the gas-rich Cabo Delgado region of Northern Mozambique, had studied Islamic studies in Tanzania and Saudi Arabia (European Institute of Peace, 2018). Locals in Cabo Delgado attribute their youths' radicalization to preachers who either studied in Saudi Arabia, Libya, Sudan, or Algeria or had indirect ties to these countries.

Schmid, (2013) alludes that a small but considerable minority that is dissatisfied with the current social and political structures can become militants through ideological indoctrination. Ideology plays a role in both the subculture of violence and the acceptance of violence as a means of enacting political change. Ideology serves as a means of mitigating potential moral barriers and providing rationale for the use of extreme tactics among a wider range of political conflict resolution strategies. It frequently has a significant impact because it gives real believers the license to kill. Apart from ideology, there are other factors that may lead to radicalization of a community or a group of people to extremism. Some people join radical groups for excitement and prestige, while others do so for love, friendship and connection. Ideology simply serves to legitimise violence, as personal and collective frustrations have the power to push people towards violence (McCauley C and Moskalenko S, 2011).

Some scholars have tried to advance a diverse view that there are two distinct lines of evidence that indicate the significance of existential motive in contemporary acts of terrorism. The first is the character of contemporary living or how the "condition of modernity" affects a person's psycho-social growth. For many people, a lack of purpose in life could just be a characteristic of contemporary living (Carlisle, S; Henderson, G and Hanlon, P W 2009). However, all these views point to the condition in which man is living. Anthony Giddens (1997) describes modernity as the "modes of social life or organisation which emerged in Europe from about the seventeenth century onwards and which

subsequently became more or less worldwide in their influence." In this context, modernity is used as a broad term to represent this definition.

Finding the core causes of an issue can help to minimise it, therefore it makes sense to concentrate on the external ideological and instrumental motivations of terrorists that may be influenced by environmental shifts. If we want to come any closer to addressing the central question of what motivates someone to resort to political violence in the country, instrumental logic and the emotional aspect of terrorism should be considered and that the two cannot be separated. Perhaps in their rush to identify psychological profiles, deterministic causal mechanisms, and rational fundamental causes, academics studying terrorism and political violence have forgotten a crucial aspect of human nature that philosophers have studied and understood for millennia which is the existential drive. Few people seem to be initially driven by strong religious convictions or a sense of purpose when they join terrorist organisations.

Conclusion

It is important to note that with consideration from studies of other scholars, it is revealed that insurgents are successfully, even though opportunistically, appealing to the grievances felt by the youth there, and this has drawn recruits from both inside and outside of Cabo Delgado. Some young people were swayed by hearsay or propaganda and began viewing the insurgency as a chance to make a living as soldiers or to "be someone" (young male soldiers, for example, have been rewarded with both wages and "wives"). In addition to religious rhetoric, the insurgents share statements that reflect the anguish felt by the youth like those of Cabo Delgado and the surrounding provinces. They have witnessed a resource boom come and go, but conditions for the majority remain the same or worse than they have ever experienced.

The risk of acts of terrorism in Malawi can be avoided and security can be attained by working with communities to increase awareness and resilience, particularly among young people, and by tackling issues like food insecurity, unemployment, and other needs that put vulnerable young people at risk. Evidence has proved that many refugees that have escaped from terrorist attacks in Cabo Delgado have blended themselves into the border-villages particularly in the eastern part of the country hence the risk is greatest in that area, because of chronic livelihood instability and the limited coping strategies available to them. As perceived at the individual level, the risk here is defined as the disparity between an individual's capacity for coping with an occurrence and his degree of vulnerability or likelihood of being influenced by it. The prevention may be effective when it is laid on strategies that aim to

discourage public sympathy for extremists and persuade them to abandon violence and extremist thinking.

In terms of border security and the management of irregular migration, initially, due to the nation's incapacity to exert authority within its borders and its incompetent and corrupt law enforcement agencies, Malawi provides opportunities and more favourable conditions for impoverished youth groups to band together and engage in the illegal immigration of foreign nationals from unstable war-torn countries. Many of these irregular migrants remain in the country while others proceed to South Africa to connect to Europe as their final destination. With the influx of the refugees preexisted to the outbreak of the war in Cabo Delgado, Mozambican, Malawian and Tanzanian territory has registered heavy drug trafficking cases like heroin (also known as opium) and cocaine and also with the involvement of international mafias and the complicity of local antennas and "commission agents" (Cardoso, F J 2021).

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