

CARANA – COUNTRY STUDY

The Country Study provides a short overview about the essential aspects of the country and the conflict.

The information reflected in the Country study has been collected through:

- Public sources (internet, publications)
- Information provided by International Organizations represented in Carana
- Information provided by UN Member States

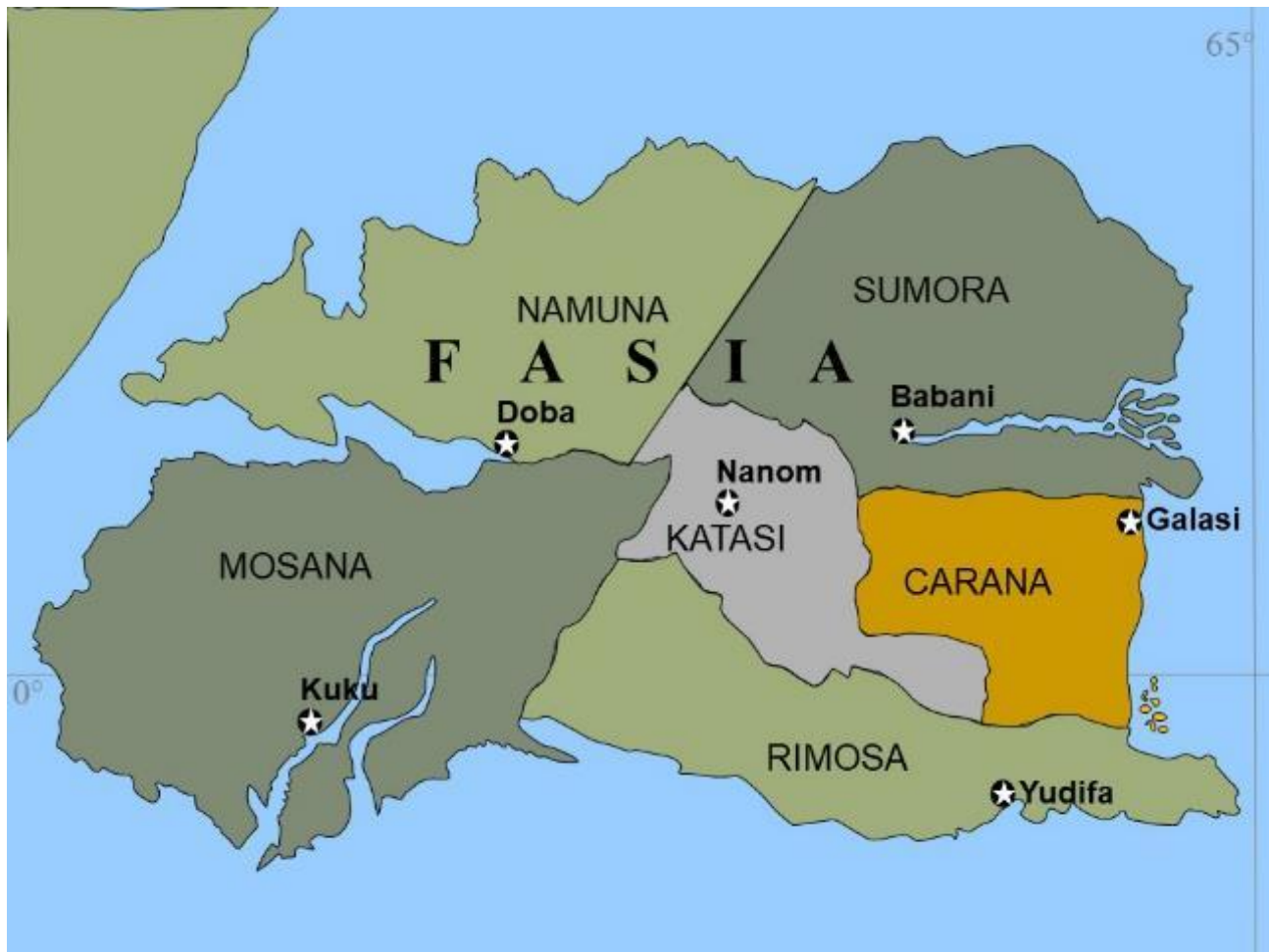


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1. Carana Country fact sheet

Republic of Carana	
Country name:	Republic of Carana (conventional long form); Carana (short form)
Government type:	Republic
Capital:	Galasi (1.28 million legal inhabitants)
Districts / Provinces:	Fellari, Guthar, Leppko, Barin, Hanno, Mahbek, Tereni, Koloni
Independence:	22 October 1968
Executive branch:	Chief of state: President Jackson Ogavo,
Head of government:	Prime Minister William Degusa
Legal system:	Based on the national constitution and a legal code from 2013. Customary law is also observed based on unwritten traditional practices for the indigenous sector.
Political parties:	Parti Démocratique de Carana (PDC)
Flag description:	Green, blue and white. An armillary sphere in the middle represents the Portuguese heritage (found on their flag as well). The writing in the Wheel Says: Notre (French = our), Patria (Italian = Country), Carana, as well as the Year of Self-Governance (not independence). Within the wheel are three diamonds, which not only symbolize one of the country's natural resources, but which also represent each ethnic group. The cross is also indicative of Carana's colonial history and Christian roots.
Population	
Population:	17,024,561 (last census conducted 2015)
Population growth:	3.6 % (annual growth rate)
Age Distribution	<15 : 44 % 15 to 18 : 13 % 18 to 60 : 39 % >60 : 4 %
Fertility Rate	5.1 children per woman
Sex Ratio	1.06 females/male
Infant Mortality	9.1 deaths per 100 live births
Life Expectancy	Total population: 45.3 years Male: 42.1 years Female: 47.9 years
Disability	An estimated 14% of the population have physical and mental disabilities, including due to conflict- and mine/UXO-related injuries.
Languages:	In Carana there are more than 20 original languages or tribal dialects spoken. The official and administrative language is French.
Ethnic groups:	Falin 60 %, Kori 20 %, Tatsi 15 %.
Religions:	Roman Catholic (40%), Protestant Lutherans or Baptists (35%), Muslims (20%), all with mixed in indigenous beliefs (45%)
Literacy:	40% of adult population can read and write (77.5% males, 62% females); 20% of youth can read and write (under 18)

Economy	As of 2015
GDP:	14,05 billion
GDP per Capita:	\$ 825 US dollars
GDP composition by sector	Agriculture: 27% Manufacturing: 16% Mining: 32% Services: 25%
GDP growth	1919 to 2000: average 3% per year 2015: -4% 2016: -2.5% 2017: -2.8% 2018: -2.9%
Labour force:	10.2 million
Labour force by occupation:	Agriculture: 50% Industries: 10% Mining: 10% Services: 30%
Country Comparison to the World	174 ^d
Inflation rate	12,35%
Unemployment rate:	Total: N/A. In urban areas more than 29%
Population below poverty line:	45%
Agriculture products:	fruits, vegetables, grains, fish
Export commodities:	fruits, vegetables, textiles, mineral goods, frozen fish
Export partners:	US, France, Italy, Germany, Portugal, China Sumora, Rimosa
Imports:	machinery equipment, transportation equipment, communication and electronics equipment, manufactured goods, foodstuffs
Import partners:	France, Italy, Portugal, China
Currency code:	Carana Franc (CF) 100 CF = 1.5 \$ US
Infrastructure	
Communication:	Supported by telegraphy, telephone and weak (unreliable) radio connections.
Railways:	Two railway tracks operated by Carana Rail (CR), from Galasi to Akkabar and the other from Maldosa to Mia. There are also 'land-trains' hauled by enormous tractors.
Highways:	A number of paved roads and highways remain intact, though there are a number of unpaved roads and tracks that are fairly robust. Car and coach are the most predominant forms of transportation.
Airports:	International airports (Galasi, Corma), 4 local (Alur, Folsa, Amsan, Mia). Additionally there are basic 25 airfields around the country. None of these airfields has paved runways. The length and quality of facilities at each airfield varies considerably.
Ports and Harbours:	3 (Galasi, Cereni, Maldosa)

2. Introduction

In November 20xx, negotiations for a ceasefire and peace agreement, the Kalari Peace Treaty, give hope to end almost 10 years of civil war and a legacy of ethnic discrimination and conflict. Negotiations facilitated by the Fasia Union, the ceasefire agreement foresees that a United Nations mandated mission would take over from the Fasia Union Advisory Mission in Carana (FUAMC) to assist in overseeing and verifying the ceasefire as well as in the stabilisation of the country.

Despite the cessation of violence, Carana remains a politically unstable country and a transitional government under the leadership of President Ogavo has had limited success in re-establishing order and the rule of law in the country. Small uprisings and violent clashes still occur in the rebel-controlled regions of West and South Carana.

The United Nations Security Council recently considers the creation of a UN Assistance Mission in Carana (UNAC) under Chapter VII of the UN Charter to assist the parties in implementing the Peace Agreement, to support in the country's transition into a secure and peaceful democracy and to make recommendations for the establishment of a UNAC. UNHQ is planning the mission to date using its internal capacities.

The document and its annexes are provided as pre-reading to allow course participants to become familiar with the scenario that will be used throughout the complete course. They reflect the first information/material based on which UNHQ prepares strategical and technical assessments. At later stages, they may also serve as an introduction to the new Mission Leadership Team (MLT) by UNHQ.

3. Geography of Carana

Location

Carana is located on the East coast of the Fasia continent. The total area of Carana is 119,480 km² with 300 km coastline. Carana has land boundaries of 1500 km with its neighbouring countries, Rimoso (southern border), Katasi (western border) and Sumora (northern border).

Hydrography

The three main rivers in Carana, the Kalesi, Mogave and Torongo, flow from the western highlands in an easterly direction and discharge in the ocean. The huge Kalesi River is very salty, like the Dead Sea, and almost divides the country into equal halves. It discharges in a large delta with surrounding swamplands. Though all major rivers are in principle navigable, only the Torongo mouth is the site of a major port (Maldosa) and thus the only waterway used for larger cargo transportation. Two dams along the Kalesi and Mogave are used to produce electricity. Carana has no large natural lakes.

Vegetation

Carana was originally completely covered by jungle and dense bush land. Over the last century, the central and eastern areas have been cleared and cultivated, being used for agricultural purposes. Even though the soil in Carana is fertile, the intensive use of the land as pasture has left large areas barren and useless for agricultural purposes.

Approximately 20 % of the total area is currently in use for growing grain, millet, vegetables and fruit. The West and South of the country is still covered by jungle and dense bush land. Small areas in the jungle are used for agricultural purposes.

Topography

Carana is topographically divided into two major areas; the plains in the eastern and central parts of the country and the highlands in the West and Southwest areas. The terrain in Carana generally increases in elevation from East to West from sea level to a height of 1200 m.

The composition of the ground is mostly flat and sandy with insignificant areas of rocky, steep terrain. The terrain along the coastline is flat with no cliffs or rocks. The water is calm but with only a few areas suitable for deep-water ships.

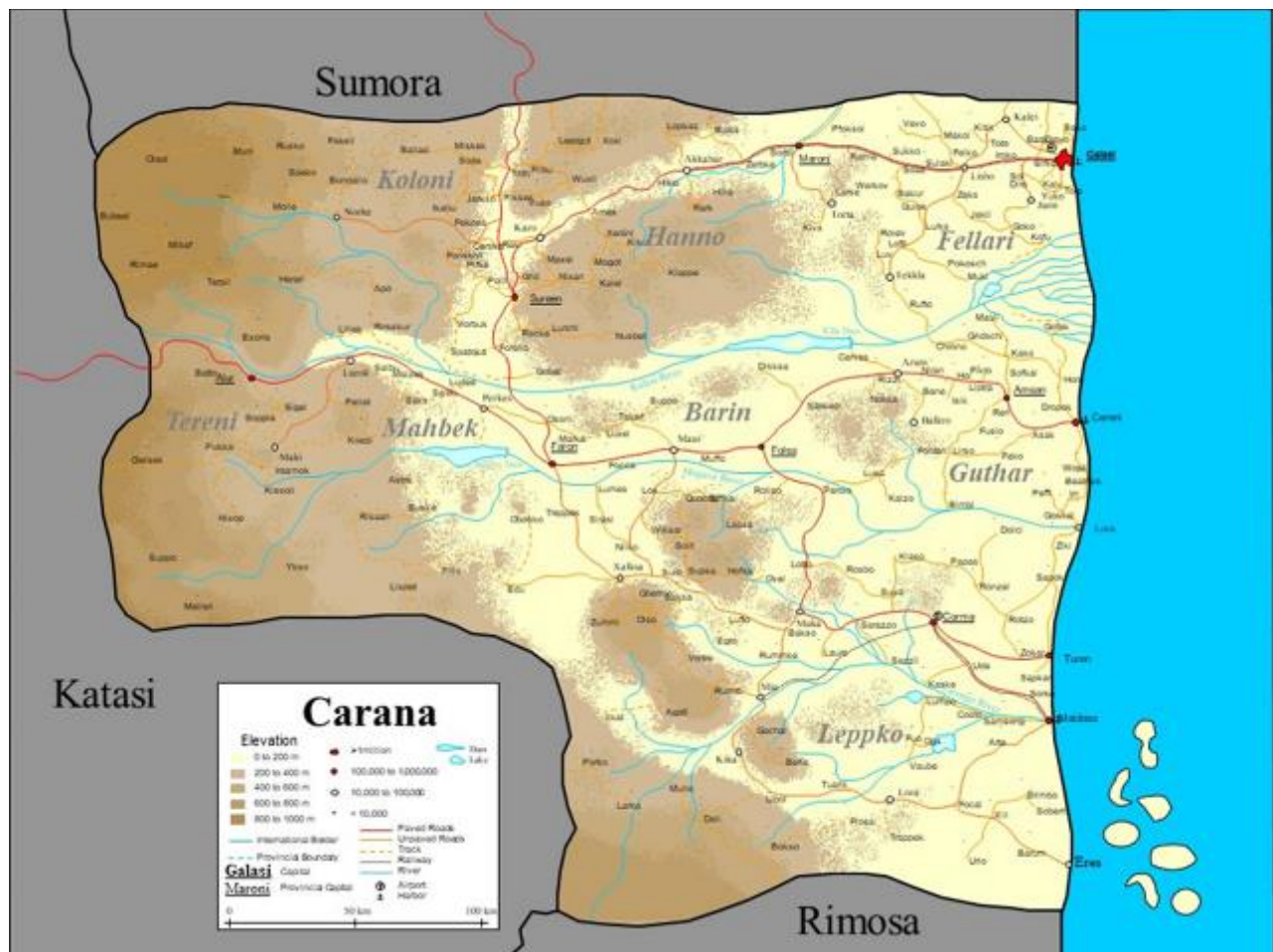


Figure 1 – Carana basic map

Climate and Weather

The west of Carana experiences heavy rainfalls (monsoons) from August to October with an average precipitation rate of 250 mm a month and mild temperatures throughout the year. During winter season, especially at higher elevations, temperatures might fall towards the freezing point. In summertime, one sees colourful vegetation and karst mountains.

The north of Carana has a milder climate. There are pine forests and many trees, though it is also possible to find rough deserts and mountains. The northern coast of central Carana has a

lot of inlets especially around the Kalesi River Delta. Most time of the year the weather is mild, expect for the mountain areas in the North-West of Carana.

In the East and South of Carana the weather is mainly hot and dry with an average daily temperature during the dry season is 36°C. Palm trees and desert plants are the typical vegetation in the southern part of Carana. However, there are also very green highlands and the presence of the Torongo River enriches the region with minerals like diamond and copper.

Natural Resources

Carana is rich in natural resources, which are not equally dispersed throughout the country. In the jungle-covered mountains of the West, rare wood and timber are the main natural resources. Diamonds are found along the Kalesi River in the provinces of Mahbek and Barin. Copper is mined in the highlands West of Mia. Coal is mined in the province of Hanno. Further alkali metals (lithium, sodium, potassium, etc.) are found in Central Carana as well as oil off the southern coastline of Carana.

The soil in Carana is naturally fertile. The rivers and coastal waters are rich in fish.

4. People and culture

Human Geography

Human development in Carana has been shaped by differences in climate zones, creating a divided society featuring disparate social structures organized around different modes of subsistence. The most salient cleavage is between the semi-nomadic pastoralists inhabiting the pasturelands in the southwest, and the largely sedentary farmers and miners in the east.

Population

Major cities: Galasi, Maroni, Amsan, Cereni, Turen, Maldosa, Corma, Folsa, Sureen, Alur, Faron (100,000 to 1 million).

Ethnic Distribution

The population of Carana consists of more than 15 ethnic groups. Most of these groups are small in number and socially and politically marginalised. The three major ethnic groups, the Falin, Kori and Tatsi represent 95% of the population. The Kori (20%) live in the West and are the dominant ethnic group in the provinces of Tereni and Koloni. The Falin (65%) are the ethnic majority in the country and mainly live in the East and centre of Carana. The Tatsi (15%) live in the South, and are the majority in Leppko Province.

The national boundaries result from the colonial time and do not represent the ethnic distribution of the region. The Falin make up 54% of the population of neighbouring Sumora, the Kori make up 65% of the population of Katasi and the Tatsi make 95% of the population of Rimoso.

Religion

According to the last census conducted in 20xx app. 75% of the population of Carana are Christian. About 35% of the population are Protestant Lutherans and Baptists, while 40% are Roman Catholic. Islam is practised by over 20% of the population, mainly in the South/West.

The vast majority of Muslims are Sunni, who overwhelmingly live in the West of Carana. However, there are small but active Shia communities in the South of Carana and along the coastal plains. Several Sunni groups are extremist in nature and have instituted Sharia Law in the southwestern areas of Leppko. On the other hand, syncretism and indigenous beliefs form a vital part of many Caranians' religious experience.

In terms of ethnic distribution, the majority of the Falin are predominantly Christians, while the majority of the Kori and Tatsi are Sunni Muslim. Indigenous beliefs, which have been embedded in the main religious, are practised by parts of the population.

The 20xx Constitution (suspended) provides for freedom of religion while prohibiting certain forms of religious fundamentalism. Christian holidays are celebrated as national holidays. Missionary groups within Carana are tolerated and include Lutherans, Baptist, Grace Brethren and Jehovah's witnesses. They tend to operate only in the West and South. The Catholic Church is influential in Falin occupied territories.

5. History

Carana historically formed a vital part of the ancient and early modern trading hub Fasia, as described in Briefing 01–Fasia. Portuguese and Italian colonialism preceded the now dominant French colonial impact.

Colonial Period

The invading powers faced significant resistance by local kingdoms, the most bloody of which the kingdom of Galasi upheld. The Italian army finally conquered the kingdom in 1898 and established formal colonial rule. After the Italian defeat in World War I, the French government took over the territory as French protectorate and developed the country according to their policy of “assimilation” with Galasi to remain the capital city. Since the French administration focused on the exploitation of the natural resources and accepted the tribal structure in the country, as well as the role of local authority, the period between 1919 and 1979 was relatively calm and peaceful.

The following period was characterised by rapidly evolving civil unrest based on the increasingly popular movement for national liberation. From 1979 unrest and riots were frequent and developed into more organised actions and violence against the colonial power. In the beginning of 1982 the French lost control of most of the country outside the capital and the main coastal cities. To retain a minimum level of control, the French were forced to agree to certain forms of cooperation and to an autonomous State of Carana. In 1984 the legal status of Carana changed from a French protectorate to a Republic of the French Community. Carana was finally granted full independence from France on 22 October 1986.

Because of a long period of French colonial rule, a strong French influence on nearly all-cultural, social and economic aspects of the country is still visible, and in some areas still dominates. Important parts of the infrastructure, particularly the railway and road systems were built during the French colonial period and have not been improved until now. The architecture of the political/administrative system in Carana also reflects the strong French influence imposed over recent decades.

Post-Colonial Period

After gaining independence, and although being faced with multiple challenges, Carana experienced approx. 10 years of decent development and stability, first under a communist/socialist system led by Falin-backed president Joseph Uroma, then after a military coup in 1991 by the former Chief of the Falin dominated Army Christian Hakutu, who re-established links with France and other Western countries. The successor regime under the Falin General Tarakoni, in power until 2003, facilitated humanitarian, human rights and economic crises as well as strong civil political opposition. The death of General Tarakoni in February 2003, however, created an opening for the country’s first democratic elections in many years, where Jackson Ogavo, a Falin, from the Parti Democratique de Carana (PDC) was elected President in April 2003.

During the early years, some economic and social reforms were realised but over time, Ogavo's focus changed and he became preoccupied with suppressing all opposition groups and enhancing his own power base. Since 2008 he expanded the influence of the central government on all economic and social activities by laws and administrative rules. Ogavo was re-elected for four consecutive terms (2003, 2008, 2013, 2018), though opposition to his regime began to grow early 2010 due to a lack of economic growth and increasing discrimination against Kori and Tatsi members by the ruling – and predominantly Falin – party. All opposition

to the government was met with either the threat or use of armed force, and eventually escalated into civil conflict in January 2014.

Current developments

Starting in 2014 some small rebel movements in the Tereni province joined the larger and better-organised rebel groups known as Movement Patriotique de Carana (MPC) and formed a well-structured and efficient military opposition. The MPC defeated the Forces de la Défense du Carana (FDC) in some local battles and gained increasing support from the local population in the West. In February 2016 the FDC lost control of some areas in the western highlands. Though the MPC's military engagements were well coordinated and successfully executed, the rebels failed to formulate a comprehensive political program and failed to capitalise on their success. Their only clearly stated aim was to remove Ogavo from power. Early 2018 the MPC gained control of the three provinces in the West (Koloni, Tereni and Mahbek).

Low level but frequent MPC operations in the West increasingly tied down the FDC, leaving it with weak capability in the south of the country in Leppko province, and creating an opportunity for elements of the predominantly Muslim Tatsi minority to attack government institutions. Initially this amounted to little more than a few localised incidents but it quickly escalated into more radicalised activities including particularly brutal reprisals against ethnic Falin civilians. Realising that the government could do little against them, a number of these small rebel groups united and called themselves Combattants Indépendants du Sud Carana (CISC). Both the MPC and the CISC took as their initial aim the removal of President Ogavo from power, though cooperation between the two groups has been minimal.

All parties have suffered numerous defeats, though the civilian population of Carana has been particularly targeted by all parties, leading to an estimated 150,000 killed from violence, famine or disease. The CISC's exploitation of resources in the south has helped fuel their efforts, while the MPC has exploited diamonds and has been receiving external support from the neighbouring country of Katasi. A combination of war-weariness and strategic manoeuvring led the leaders of both the MPC and CISC, as well as President Ogavo, to start negotiating a cease-fire and peace treaty in November 20xx. The "Kalari Peace Treaty" will most likely mandate all parties to disarm and establish a power-sharing arrangement in a new transitional government, including integration in a new Forces de la Défense et Sécurité du Carana (FDSC) and take over from the Fasia Union Advisory Mission in Carana (FUAMC) to assist in overseeing and verifying the ceasefire.

6. International relations

Neighbouring Countries

Sumora is the main trading partner of Carana in the region. The relations between Carana and Sumora are traditionally good, with ethnic Falin making up approx. 54 % of the population. In the recent past, the government of Sumora has tended to support the position of President Ogavo.

The relations between Carana and **Katasi** are strained. Carana repeatedly accused Katasi of supporting the MPC rebels with money, weapons and fighters; these allegations were not

without foundation and have been corroborated by reports from a number of international organisations, although the scale of support remains unclear. The government of Carana does therefore lay the blame for its inability to deal with the MPC at Katasi's door. By supporting the MPC, Katasi hoped the fall of the Ogavo regime would lead to better trade relations with Carana. These hopes have been stalled, both by the continued regime and the El Hasar insurgency further straining the relationship. Following a request by the Government of Katasi, French Forces are conducting Counter Insurgency Operations (COIN) operations against El Hasar. El Hasar fighters have now been evading into West Carana, causing instability and insecurity as they conduct attacks against the local population to obtain logistics supplies.

The relations between Carana and **Rimosa** are also tense. Rimosa has been in the grips of a civil war between two rival ethnic groups, the majority Tatsi, who hold nearly all positions of power in the Rimosan government, and the Muslim minority of the Elassi, pastoralists who claim that they suffer ethnic discrimination and persecution. Most of the interethnic fighting in Rimosa has taken place in northern Rimosa, near the border of Carana. The rebel group Elassi Liberation Front (ELF) has waged a guerrilla-style campaign against government forces and pro-government Tatsi militias and has established links to the CISC for financial and logistics support. All aforementioned groups at times cross the border into Carana and conduct raids for obtaining food and supplies, posing a threat to the local population.

In addition, there is a political dispute between Rimosa and Carana over the ownership of some of the islands along the southern coastline of Carana, as well as over related fishing rights in the respective national territory. Oil was also discovered in the Labta Sea in the southeast of Carana, offshore of Maldosa. However, due to the ongoing border dispute and the high start-up-costs required for the exploiting of the oil resources, no company or consortium is currently willing to invest.

Caranese refugees (particularly the Falin) in Sumora and Rimosa have been consistently discriminated and are often under attack by local police and armed forces. Rimosan (Tatsi) refugees in Carana and Katasi face similar treatment, as do Katasi refugees to a lesser extent.

Membership in International Organisations

Carana is a member of the Fasia Union (FU). Its main goal is to have a common political and diplomatic representation / voice for the six Fasia member states as well as to improve the continent's economic development. Carana has also been a member of the United Nations since 09 October 1987 and Member of the Fasia Union since 23 October 2005.

On occasion, however, the FU has brought political and diplomatic pressure to bear when tensions arise between some of the Member States of the Union. Since Mid-2013 the FU has attempted to mediate between the warring factions in Carana. In February of that year, it did succeed in bringing the main groups to the negotiating table, only to see the opportunity for peace slip away when a member of the Sumoran government, who held the FU presidency, was accused of arranging arms shipments to President Ogavo. The allegations were subsequently proven unfounded but too late to save the talks.

The state of Mosana assumes the rotating FU presidency at the end of 2019. Being more distant from Carana, Mosana has the advantage of not being seen to have any stake in the Carana conflict, and has pledged to renew the FU efforts to resume negotiations.

International Trade

45 foreign companies (from Anglo and Western Europe and more recently from Asia) rival the quest for mineral and other natural resources of Carana. France is one of the main trading partners in military goods with Rimosa, which is providing support to the CISC in Carana. China favours the factions opposing the Carana government in order to improve trade relations with the resource-rich country. In general, Carana's trade balance reflects its colonial legacy: with industry capacities limited to the food sector, exports comprise mainly raw goods (timber, diamonds, copper, cotton and to a lesser extent fish, fruit and woodcrafts) and processed food to other emerging markets. In contrast, manufactured goods (industrial products, vehicles, food, and petroleum products), services, official development assistance (7.3% of GNI) and remittances (3.6% of GNI) comprise the spectrum of imported goods and capital, mainly from France, the US and other Western nations.

7. Economic System

The economy in Carana is based on a free market system with free enterprise but with strong government participation and influence. The government controls the mining sector and all foreign trade activity; however, rebels groups control some major diamond mining areas.

Mining

The mining of coal, diamonds and copper is an important contributor to the GDP. Hanno district has several coal mines in Akkabar and Maroni; Kika produces diamonds from the Gachal and Herla swamps. Copper is also mined in Lora and being exported via Maldosa. Due to the conflict and weak infrastructure, exports, however, are only at about 15% of possible capacity. Prior to 1997, the mining industry was controlled by private enterprises but since then the government has progressively taken control of the industry. Illegal exploitation of natural resources and exportation by private businesses to neighbouring countries is rife and armed groups and rogue security force elements are heavily involved.

Along with rare wood, timber and cotton, diamonds and copper are the main export of Carana. Coal is mostly used in the country for production of electricity.

Oil Exploration

Oil is also found in the Labta Sea in the southeast of Carana, offshore of Maldosa. Initial exploration and export have commenced, however, due to the unresolved border conflict and ownership of the oil resources between Carana and Rimosa, international investors / corporations are reluctant to invest. Neither Carana nor Rimosa have the financial capacity to further develop infrastructure for exploration or refining the oil resources.

Manufacturing

The main activities in this sector are the food and fish industries, production of goods for local markets, and the processing of timber and textiles. The manufacturing sector suffers from a lack

of infrastructure, skilled workers, an inefficient administration and widespread corruption. Manufacturing contributes 16% to the GDP.

- Metallurgic industry (creating useful objects from metals): both heavy and light (e.g. machine building, shipyards)
- Textile industry - All major cities have a clothing factory.
- Food industry - Food-preparing factories are built across the country to bottle and can many things. Food storage facilities (silos) are mostly located in the northwest region of Carana.

Agriculture

Providing 27% of the GDP and roughly 50% of the labour force employed, agriculture is a relatively large sector in the economy of Carana. The Northeast and Central Region of Carana produce large quantities of agricultural produce that not only feed the people of Carana, but are also used for export. The soil is fertilized by using the "slash-and-burn" technique on a large scale. Products are fruits, corn, grain sesame seed, cocoa, coffee, ginger, groundnut, coconut, rice and maize.

Most of the agricultural land exists as small farm lots owned by the local population. Cotton is the only commodity produced on large farms using employed labour.

Approximately 31% of the total land area of Carana is used for agricultural purposes.

8. Political System

Government

Carana is a Presidential Republic in line with the first Carana constitution adopted by a referendum in 1987. The President is serving as head of state, elected for a five-year term. The head of the government is the Prime Minister, who is appointed by the President. The Prime Minister appoints the ministers and heads of the government departments.

A Parliament with 256 elected members has broad authority and was intended to be representative of the ethnic balance of the country. Under the Ogavo regime, the oversight functions of the parliament as foreseen in the Constitution were merely ornamental and there was no actual institutional counterweight to the personal rule of Ogavo. The Commission on Defence and Security of the Parliament is weak and has limited power in the effective democratic control of the security sector.

Although the constitution supports a democratic political system, President Ogavo has gradually suppressed any effective opposition and since 2013 Carana has effectively been a one-party state. Today the only legal political party is the Falin-dominated PDC (Parti Démocratique de Carana). All members of parliament are members of the PDC or have close ties to the PDC.

Administration

The state of Carana is divided, following the French model, into eight provinces (Tereni, Koloni, Mahbek, Hanno, Barin, Fellari, Guthar, and Leppko) and a special capital zone of Galasi. The President appoints the governors who are the administrative heads of the provinces, and report directly to the President. The administrative system of Carana is a centre-orientated administration. The central government controls most governmental issues.

The central government has intervened particularly in Hanno, Barin, and Leppko provinces to assure the selection of local District Heads predominantly from among the Falin group, who are often outsiders. Appointments to Head arrondissements in Galasi have been at the demand of the President, and usually awarded to cronies (close associates and friends of the government).

9. Judicial System and Police

Legal System

In theory, the Constitution and judicial (legal) system in Carana is based on modern democratic principles comprising three levels of courts: Supreme Court, provincial and district courts.

De facto, the judiciary sector has lacked institutional capacity and resources for years and has suffered from limited territorial coverage, with no actual presence in some districts, and endemic corruption. Basic administrative tools are missing, and, as a result, the case management flow does not work properly and response times for cases are extremely long. This has also exacerbated the overcrowding of prisons, from which convicts regularly manage to escape. Salaries of judicial staff often are unpaid for months, leading to absenteeism and corruption. Meanwhile, legislation remains outdated and often discriminatory against women, ethnic minorities and other vulnerable groups. In some regions, local traditional authorities hold considerable influence over the district courts or act as de facto legal authorities in parallel to or in the absence of the state system.

Under the State of Emergency imposed in March 2018 a system of mixed civilian/military courts with very limited rights of appeal has been put in place to try all treason, terrorist and other similar cases. Carana courts regularly impose the death penalty for serious crimes.

In 2017, the Interior Ministry also ran 10 jails, with room for 20,000 inmates, though among these, only three are still in operation with a nominal capacity of some 2,000 inmates.

Police and Civil Security

Prior to the conflict, the Carana police was organized under the Ministry of Interior, based on Western principles. In general, especially in the urban areas the police were sufficiently trained and equipped and functioned according to those principles. Due to the conflict and the domination of the military confrontation, all parties to the conflict neglected the police force in Carana.

The Carana law enforcement agencies are divided into the Carana National Police (CNP) and the Gendarmerie. CNP are located in population centres and are controlled by the Ministry of

Interior via the provincial administration. The Gendarmerie is part of the Ministry of Defence and maintains the police presence in rural areas and is responsible for border security. However, in recent years the Gendarmerie has been used more often to suppress opposition political groups than for rural security or border control. In addition, FDC army units often undertake policing tasks in the internal security role, often on an ad hoc basis.

In recent years, CNP and Gendarmerie have suffered a critical shortage of qualified personnel, aging staff, low morale because of unpaid salaries, lack of logistical and financial resources, and training. Police corruption is a severe problem in most government-controlled areas. Police stations have little or no equipment, while the police-training centre is basically a building shell. Within government-controlled areas, a national police presence is visible but not able to deal efficiently with the high level of crime. Police detention facilities are overcrowded and in a dilapidated state. In addition, they have been plagued by heavy politicisation, corruption and mismanagement.

Police presence in Carana is very low. The estimated number for CNP and Gendarmerie officers amounts to 10,000 officers, or one officer for every 1,400 citizens. Out of this number, only 5 % are female officers and they are in largely administrative roles. The majority of police are ethnic Falin, including in areas populated mainly by minorities.

In the rebel-controlled areas, there is no governmental police presence. In the West, the MPC took over basic police functions to maintain civil order, while in the CISC area there is no policing at all.

Land and marine border policing, immigration, customs, port authority and other related sectors of internal security have ceased to function. In recent months, evidence of organised criminal activities, especially drug and human trafficking as well as diamond smuggling have come to light, in some cases involving collusion or active participation by law enforcement officials.

Crime rates particularly in population centres are high and there are numerous reports of human rights abuses and looting perpetrated by the law enforcement agencies. A small group of officers has been involved in reported human rights abuses. This inefficiency and erosion of professional standards has led to a widespread loss of their credibility and trust within the population.

10. Public Services

Carana School System

In comparison to other countries within the region, Carana originally had a well-developed educational system, which includes first, second and third level education. Prior to the outbreak of war, Carana had one of the best-developed educational systems in the region.

The formal school system in Carana follows a 7-3-2-2 pattern. This pattern represents primary, lower secondary; upper secondary and pre-tertiary levels respectively. The Université de Carana, Institut de Technologie Carana (the Carana Institute of Technology), provides education and training at the post-secondary level, in both academic and professional fields.

The Carana Nursing College and various technical and vocational education institutions and training centres provide further opportunities.

Carana Medical System

The Carana Medical system before the conflict was sufficiently developed and structured. Hospitals were available in the major cities (Galasi, Maroni, Sureen, Alur, Faron, Folsa, Cereni, Corma, Turen and Maldosa) and mid-level cities had decent health facilities (clinics and/ or health stations). Because of the civil war and economic policy abortive developments, the medical situation of the population has deteriorated dramatically. Even in the regions that are not affected by the civil war, the range and quality of medical services deteriorated and medical support / supply are insufficient. In addition, the supply with drinkable or potable water represents a problem in some regions.

Postal Services

The Carana Post Office provides postal and money-transfer services, as well as postal savings accounts. Its 1,580 post offices and other facilities handled more than 7 million items each workday in 2000, delivering mail to some 5 million addresses. In its first year in power, the PDC opened at least 70 new post offices and upgraded many others in previously ill served areas. It also installed an estimated 700,000 new mailboxes at private addresses and in post-office box locations. Carana was admitted to the Universal Postal Union in 1992, enabling it to participate in international technical assistance programs and accounting facilities within the Union.

Telecommunications

The landline telephone system covers less than 20% of the country and is unreliable. Cellular telephone coverage is expanding and generally covers the main towns and routes throughout the country. Some of the more remote border areas can access nodes in neighbouring countries. Governmental institutions and major companies also use satellite communications, particularly in the more remote areas.

Media

There are approximately 20 daily newspapers, two radio stations and two television channels in the country. The radio stations are operated by state cooperatives while most newspapers are privately owned. The two largest newspapers are government owned and the Catholic Church publishes another. Additionally, there are some low power, community radio stations and locally printed media with local and very limited distribution. A few months ago, MPC started producing a regional newspaper and operating one radio station. International newspapers are only available in Galasi. National newspapers are available in the provincial capitals and in some other towns.

In principle, the Ministry of Information controls all media. The censorship is very limited in the case of the small, local media but nearly absolute in the case of the official radio stations and main newspapers. A significant part of the population is very active on social media, which they can access through mobile phones. Social media is used as a tool for awareness raising and democratic mobilisation, but also to spread hate speech and incite to ethnic violence.

11. Infrastructure

Roads

Carana has a system of capable paved roads, which connect most parts of the country and key urban centres. In the West and the North, these roads also ensure cross border travel with neighbouring countries. Most paved roads can withstand the effects of the monsoon season.

Carana also has a dense network of partially robust unpaved roads and tracks. Unpaved roads and tracks are mostly very vulnerable against significant rains and floods and deteriorate quickly if not maintained. The years of civil war, harsh weather, minimal investment and maintenance have degraded it significantly with the result that the road network is often impassable in the rainy season.

Bridges along the paved roads are normally steel and concrete constructions, which can carry trucks and heavy vehicles. Bridges along the unpaved roads are normally of wooden construction and must be assessed individually.

Railways

The two railway tracks running with a total length of 280 km between Galasi - Akkabar and Maldosa - Mia are both operational but not dependable. The entire track system and loading facilities were built during the French colonial period. Even though the track from Maroni to Akkabar is operational, the northern line ends in Maroni because the railway bridge west of Maroni was damaged by flooding in March 2020. The stations in Galasi, Maroni, Akkabar and Maldosa are sufficiently equipped for loading and unloading of containers, vehicles and all types of goods. The station in Mia is specialized for the transport of copper and has no container facilities. A lack of maintenance has resulted in the rail system being in bad shape.

Airports

The international airports in Galasi and Corma are both operational and meet international standards for air traffic. Both airports are suitable for heavy and extremely heavy transport aircraft and used by international airlines. However, their cargo handling capacity is currently limited.

The airports in Alur and Folsa are suitable for medium transport aircraft but they do not have equipment to handle heavy air cargo. All other airfields, without additional construction work are only suitable for light fixed wing aircraft. They can be used for communication and small size personnel transport. Consistent fuel supplies are only available in Galasi and Corma.

Harbours

In Carana there are three harbours for deep-water ships and some smaller harbours for fishing boats. The smaller harbours have no capacity to support the loading and unloading of ships, but they are suitable for coastal vessels. The main harbour in Galasi is well equipped with sufficient capacity for large ships and with RoRo capability.

The harbour in Cereni has no RoRo capability but does have capable cranes and sufficient transport equipment to handle heavy loads and containers. The harbour in Maldosa, which

has railroad access, is mostly specialized for the transport of copper but it is also capable to handle regular transport ships. The fact that just two wharves are equipped with cranes for vehicles and containers can cause limitations for deployment and support. The location of the harbour in the town results in a lack of free space to store containers or to assemble vehicles. There is plenty of space for this purpose available outside the city.

Electricity

Carana could be relatively self-sufficient in the production of electricity; this is generated by three coal power plants (the Kilu Dam, the Salobo Dam and the power plant in Galasi) and two hydro-electric power stations. In previous years, the country was a net exporter of electricity during and after the rainy season.

During the conflict, most of the power supply equipment around the Salobo Dam was destroyed or damaged. This, together with a weak distribution network, leads to a consistent power supply only to Galasi, the provincial capitals, and some other cities. The majority of the country is currently without regular power supply. Some small local water power plants and generators provide electrical power for small numbers of the rural population.

Water and sanitation

Only the capital and some larger cities have a water supply system for the central area of the city. All other towns and villages rely on wells and water trading. Potable water is available in most parts of the country but the quality of water varies. In dry areas southwest of Maldosa and west of Galasi drinking water during the dry season is mostly taken from small ponds and slow flowing brooks.

The quality of this water is low and causes several diseases. The wells in this region are not deep enough to reach clean water. The quality of water provided by the few supply systems does not meet international hygiene standards but causes no direct health threats for the population. The water quality in the rural areas is mostly satisfactory. Even the water quality of the crowded Galasi suburbs and the IDP camps is problematic.

There is no system of sanitation and garbage removal in Carana, leading to permanent disease and health problems, particularly in the heavily populated areas.

12. Security and Defence Sector

Security Overview

There have been several disputes with neighbouring countries in the past few decades; however, there were no external military threats to Carana. The main internal security problems continue to be the high level of crime in urban areas (resulting from the poor economic situation), the activities of uncontrolled armed groups and the conflicts between government forces and rebels.

An estimated 12,000 people have been killed in recent months and anything up to 700,000 were forced to flee their homes because of the fighting between government forces and rebels in the North and the South. The large numbers of combat-related IDPs further affects the security situation.

With the formation of the El Hasar Terrorist Group in Katasi, new external threats evolved, as well as with the fundamentalist groups in Rimosa that challenge the progress and stability of the ongoing peace process within Carana. While relations with Katasi and Rimosa remain tense, currently the likelihood of intra-state conflict is considered low. This might however change if the situation further escalates and the territorial integrity of Carana is being challenged through these groups.

Security in Carana is negatively impacted / may be impacted:

- If the ongoing peace process based on the Kalari Peace Agreement is delayed in time and conducted without full participation of all parties to the conflict, especially the impact of the CISC splinter groups on the implementation.
- If spoilers to the peace process (CISC splinter groups) pose a threat to the local population of Carana
- through increasing evidence of criminal usurpation of the diamond mining in the North and West, probably with government connivance and controlled by cartels based in Sumora.
- If the El Hasar terrorist group infiltrate the West of Carana to avoid the French COIN operations in Katasi and exploit local communities for logistics and supply.
- If the militia groups (warlords) conducting illegal exploitation and trade of diamonds in central Leppko pose threats to the local population and impede the peace process.

The poor economic situation has resulted in increased and more radicalised level of criminal activity, some of it organized in urban areas. In the North and West there is increasing evidence of criminal usurpation of the diamond mining, probably with government connivance and controlled by cartels based in Sumora. Rimosa and Carana still dispute the ownership of some of the islands along the southern coastline of Carana, as well related fishing rights in the respective national territory. Armed groups abducted many civilians, mainly by extremist rebel and militia elements. There are, however, also reports of violations conducted by the parties to the PA.

Presidential Guard

The Presidential Guard has a strength equivalent to two infantry battalions and it is not part of the regular defence force. The commanders and most officers are from the tribe of President Ogavo.

Members of the Presidential Guard received intensive training and are entitled to several privileges. This unit is a loyal elite force with the task to protect the President. It is also used for special purpose tasks. In the recent past, the Presidential Guard was used several times, together with Gendarmerie units, to fight against rebel groups, and has a reputation for being particularly brutal.

Forces de la Défense du Carana (FDC)

The FDC has a total strength of approximately 20,000 men (17,500 Army, 1,600 Air Force, 900 Navy). The chiefs of the services report direct to the president. With a small number of coastal and river patrol boats the Navy plays a specialised but insignificant role in the Defence Force.

The Air Force is equipped with a squadron of armed helicopters, transport helicopters and a few light bombers, which have a limited strike capacity. Although a limited capacity, it allows the government to project its' power over the entire country. However, this limited capacity is not sufficient to deliver decisive strikes against the various rebel groups.

The main service in the FDC is the Army, primarily but not solely recruited from the Falin people. Its senior leadership is almost wholly Falin. Structured in four area commands it represents the power of the central government all over the country. The areas of responsibility of these commands do not necessarily match the administrative and provincial boundaries. Instead, they reflect the location of the headquarters and troops rather than the real responsibility for a certain precise, defined area. Troops, especially those employed in rural areas, face recurrent problems of non-payment of wages. A number of units are composed of integrated armed group members, lack operational capacity and commitment to human rights, conduct, and discipline standards.

Women's participation in the armed forces is low, with female soldiers and higher-ranking officers making up some 6% of the FDC in total. During the Uroma regime and on Uroma's specific request, women were recruited and received substantial training abroad, which eventually led to positions as senior officers. A small but steady recruitment of female soldiers continued over the following decades, although their status has been continuously deteriorating due to lack of political support for women's participation.

The French and Russian Governments provided most of the existing military equipment during the 1980s and early 1990s. Since this time, equipment maintenance has often suffered from a lack of spare parts and well trained mechanics. The level of equipment availability is estimated as low.

All Services have the same set of SALW, app. 3.000 modern assault rifles (M-16), all in good quality and app. 15.000 older types, nonetheless functional (a mix of Belgian and British made FN FAL and some German G3).

Mouvement Patriotique du Carana (MPC)

The MPC is an avowed secular organization with broad appeal that has a total strength of 10,000 fighters and 10,000 to 20,000 supporters. The level of public support is high in the West and cuts across the different religions. The MPC is structured in to groups of 700 men. Each of these groups is led by a field commander and has a local network of supporters. The groups have no internally defined military structure, but a system of sub-commanders with different numbers of fighters. The loyalty to the commanders is high and discipline is very good.

The official HQ of MPC is in Alur but this is more a symbolic HQ than an operational one. In some areas the MPC have taken over government and basic administrative functions. Because of the broad public support for the rebels, and the dissatisfaction with the government, the new role of the MPC is well accepted by the largely Kori population in the West.

No detailed information on the equipment and training standards of the MPC is currently available.

Combattants Indépendants du Sud Carana (CISC)

The CISC is an unstructured formation of rebels with diverging backgrounds. Some members are Tatsi deserters from the FDC, while others have fled the civil war in Rimoso and joined CISC for lack of alternatives. The total strength is estimated to be around 3,000 to 5,000 fighters. They are organised in company-strength formations (nominal battalion formations), many of which are under-strength. The public support for CISC is based mainly in the Tatsi dominated Leppko Province because of many acts of FDC violence against the population.

The movement has been successful in recruiting young men to its cause through a combination of government anti-Muslim excesses, religious zeal and the poor economic situation, as well as due to recent rebel successes. The discipline and internal cohesion of this rebel group is low, as is the standard of training, although lately there is increasing evidence of the presence of experienced foreign extremists who have upped the tempo and quality of CISC operations.

No detailed information on the equipment and training standards of the CISC is currently available.

Militias, gangs and warlords

During the years of fighting, several smaller armed groups have formed in Leppko. Some of these groups are fragmentations of the CISC or deserters from the government forces. Other groups have arisen from local vigilant groups built to protect their villages from attacks from soldiers and rebels.

These groups operate mainly in the northern Leppko province, chiefly for economic reasons (theft, illegal exploitation of resources, ransom) and are perceived as loyal to their leaders (warlords). Initial information indicates that these groups consists of 300 up to 1,000 fighters with light weapons.

The aims and loyalties of these groups are very uncertain and the boundary from local militias to armed bandits is affluent. None of these groups is part of the ongoing peace process.

13. Foreign Military Groups / Military Forces

The Fasia Union Advisory Mission in Carana (FUAMC) was established by the Fasia Union October 2019 to support the ongoing peace process. The FUAMC consists of 300 Advisers with the HQ in Galasi and field offices in Alur, Sureen, Faron and Corma.

El Hasar Islamist Group

The El Hasar Islamist group was formed in 2018 in the neighbouring country of Katasi and turned into a "terror organisation" requesting their own state and engaging in guerrilla type terror operations against the Katasi government. Recently, following anti-terror operations conducted by the Government of Katasi supported by the French Forces, El Hasar fighters/elements crossed the border into Carana in the western parts of the Koloni and Tereni Region. Local communities report armed attacks and raids on villages by these elements, the latter stealing money, food, supply items like spare parts, gas and ammunition. Reports also indicate violence against civilians such as rape, torture and other casualties.

Unconfirmed reports claim the fundamentalist elements from both the Tatsi and Kori communities are supporting / sympathising with the El Hasar fighters/elements.

The FDC and MPC do not have the capability to engage the El Hasar elements. Both, however, agreed to allow the French Forces to pursue the fighters into the territory of Carana.

Elassi Liberation Front (ELF)

The ELF was formed in 2018 in the neighbouring country of Rimosa and is conducting insurgency operations against the Rimosa government. They mainly operate south of the Carana border in Rimosa, but have begun to challenge CISC in southern Carana and collaborate with some CISC splinter groups. Recruitment for ELF has surged both in Carana and Rimosa during the past year. Carana communities along the border report armed attacks and raids on villages by ELF elements. ELF plans the establishment of an Islamic Caliphate in Rimosa, possibly to be extended to Carana, as non-negotiable and is not part of the peace negotiations.

Carana communities along the border report armed attacks and raids on villages by ELF elements, who are held to be stealing money, food, supply items like spare parts, gas and ammunition. Reports also indicate violence against civilians like rape, torture and other casualties.

Banditry / Piracy

With the discovery of oil and its initial exploration offshore of the southern coast of Carana, and the shipping of copper ore from Maldosa, incidents of piracy and hijacking of transport vessels are growing more frequent. The bandits/pirates operate mainly by using the island as base/cover and attacking the vessel to demand ransom for further passage.

There is little information about these pirates, who seem to have the support of the local population, based on economic gains and local investment from these illegal operations. Due to the ongoing border dispute between Carana and Rimosa, both Naval Forces are preoccupied and are not engaging the emerging threat of piracy.

14. Humanitarian situation

As result of the fighting, many people in Carana fled their homelands, but most remained in the country. An estimated 100,000 have taken refuge in the neighbouring countries of Sumora (app. 40,000 refugees), Katasi (appr. 40,000 refugees) and Rimosa (appr. 20,000 refugees). Another 700,000 settled in IDP camps around the harbour cities where they are now clustered in makeshift camps and shantytowns in or near urban areas. The largest part of these IDPs currently live in the camps around Galasi, the majority arrived within the last 12 months.

News of the possible arrival of a UN mission has buoyed the hopes of the nearly 900,000 refugees and IDPs to return home. UNHCR, however, has expressed concerns about whether the environment is sufficiently safe and secure for their return. All parties to the conflict are reported to have used mines. In many areas from which people are displaced there is little prospect of employment or other livelihoods.

Finally, the country of Rimosa, sharing a border of approximately 200 km with Carana, has suffered from civil conflict between the two rival ethnic groups, the majority Tatsi and the minority Elassi. As a result, approximately 30,000 Elassi have taken refuge in southern Carana. Most of these Elassi refugees are sheltered in Camp Lora near the village of Lora, approximately 50 km from the Rimosan border, and are a source of potential instability within the Tatsi dominated Leppko Province. UNHCR and two NGO implementing partners, Refugees International and Care for the Children, maintain Camp Lora.

Conditions of health, sanitation and hygiene in these areas are dangerously inadequate and increasingly provide a breeding ground for extremist discontent. The situation in the IDP camps is poor and has significantly deteriorated during the last months.

Nutrition

Although all basic food is available at the market, large numbers of the population cannot afford the necessary food for sufficient nutrition. In rural areas most people can compensate for inflation and unemployment through self-sufficient agriculture. However, severe nutritional problems exist in the urban areas and the IDP camps. The child mortality rate has dramatically increased during the last several years. The most affected areas of malnutrition are the Barin Region, the area between Faron and Folsa and the coastal area south of Cereni. These areas are already experiencing humanitarian emergencies.

A humanitarian emergency is forecasted to affect approximately 2 million people next year. Projects recently started by the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and other NGOs are not sufficiently funded and cannot to prevent a widespread humanitarian crisis.

Health

Almost no medical infrastructure exists in the rural areas. The rudimentary health system that exists in the cities is unable to provide basic medical support. One of the main humanitarian concerns in Carana is the acute lack of functioning medical facilities in the rebel held South and West. Here there is a critical lack of emergency supplies required for displaced and vulnerable populations, particularly in the IDP camps.

If the situation in the large cities continues to worsen, the threat of epidemics will increase. The WHO (World Health Organisation) has already reported 70 cases of cholera in Carana to date.

15. Explosives

During the conflict, landmines were used extensively by both sides. Similar to other cases, mine warfare was not conducted with documented mine obstacles. Landmines were used by all sides as a means of terror and deterrent and to prevent access to certain areas. As a result, the precise location of mines and explosive devices is not documented and mostly unknown. Further analysis is necessary to identify high mine threat areas.

Carana first pledged its support for a ban on antipersonnel mines in November 2009 and it was a supporter of the Ottawa process that led to the signing of the Mine Ban Treaty on 02 December 2011. Carana was one of the signatories of the treaty, never ratified the treaty, however, due to the outbreak of civil war. Carana also did not attend any Treaty-related meetings and abstained from voting in favour of every pro-ban United Nations General Assembly resolution since 2011.

Carana is not an identified producer or exporter of antipersonnel mines. At the same time, Carana has not enacted any internal measures to prohibit its production or export of antipersonnel mines. The size and origin of Carana's mine stockpile is not known. Antipersonnel mines have been used extensively in the recent civil war by all sides to the conflict. The PA prohibits further use, however, uncorroborated reports of continuing mine use appear.

16. Civil society organizations

Civil society in Carana is weak and there are no groups with substantial influence outside of the PDC party structure. The PDC did have an affiliated social movement organising activities in sports and culture, but the organisation is elitist (oriented exclusively towards ethnic Falin party cadres) and not viable without party support. Non-affiliated organisations have been harassed and persecuted under the Ogavo regime. Remaining elements of former parties have lost their internal structure and are represented by a few motivated individuals only. Some smaller political movements were nevertheless identified, including small communist groups in the capital of Galasi and in Maldosa, as well as ethnically motivated minority groups of Kori along the coastline. These groups are not very well organized and suffer from a lack of followers.

The well-established civil society organizations pre-dating Ogavo's crackdown on opposition outside of parliament, the National Bar Association and the Carana Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, are staffed by known members of the opposition as well as by close allies of the PDC. Their internal struggles have rendered them de facto unimportant in the process. Some members of the NBA have acted as advisers to the Peace Process; however, their agenda is unclear.

The coal and copper miner's trade unions have limited political influence, but are active only as single-interest organisations that have not challenged the political leadership. The teachers' union may currently also be considered a single-interest organisation, demanding their salaries be paid, and face violent backlash.

Women's organisations are starting to form at grassroots level but so far are poorly organised. Some local human rights organisations are becoming more active. Currently, social activity and organisation connected to the religious institutions is increasing. Traditional structures in the form of chiefdoms with some de facto authority exist, particularly in the rural areas.