



BRIEFING

ARC East Africa Weekly Chronology 14 – 20 August 2025

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20 Aug 2025 **Kigali (Rwanda)** *Reuters*. **United States**-headquartered **Human Rights Watch** reports that Rwanda-backed **M23** rebels killed at least 140 civilians in eastern **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)** in July, with total deaths in **Rutshuru** territory possibly exceeding 300;

20 Aug 2025 **Djibouti (Djibouti)** *The Japan News*. Defence minister **Hassan Omar Mohamed Bourhan** and his **Japanese** counterpart **Gen Nakatani** agree to strengthen cooperation, focusing on deterring piracy in the **Gulf of Aden** to maintain regional peace and stability;

19 Aug 2025 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Borkena*. Trade and regional integration minister, **Kassahun Gofe**, holds talks with **Russia's** economic development minister, **Maxim Reshetnikov**, focusing on **World Trade Organisation (WTO)** membership negotiations and strengthening bilateral trade;

19 Aug 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. President **William Ruto** announces the creation of a multi-agency team to tackle corruption following allegations that members of parliament are accepting bribes to influence legislation;

19 Aug 2025 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. **Bank of Tanzania** (central bank) data shows that Tanzania is rapidly shifting toward a cashless economy, driven by the widespread adoption of digital payment systems and mobile money services;

18 Aug 2025 **Kigali (Rwanda)** *Kigali Today*. The health ministry announces that the **National Electronic Medical Record System (E-Ubuzima)** will be fully implemented across all hospitals and health centres by the end of 2025, allowing patient information to be digitally recorded and managed;

18 Aug 2025 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Monitor*. Government and **M23** rebels miss the deadline to reach a peace agreement in **Doha (Qatar)**, raising concerns over the progress of talks;

18 Aug 2025 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Borkena*. Residents report that crime is rising sharply in **Tigray Region**, particularly in cities like **Mekelle**, with killings, kidnappings, robberies and even attacks on children becoming more frequent, often involving armed groups;

18 Aug 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. President **William Ruto**, deputy president **Kithure Kindiki**, and former prime minister **Raila Odinga** hold a joint parliamentary group meeting in **Karen**, which ends abruptly due to allegations of members of parliament (MPs) collecting bribes and obstructing justice;

18 Aug 2025 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Industry and trade ministry reports that Tanzania is driving a \$3 billion regional investment boom in the cement industry, positioning itself as a key player in **East Africa's** infrastructure and construction growth;

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**SOURCE-BASED INFORMATION
EXPERT ANALYSIS**

18 Aug 2025 **Kampala (Uganda) Monitor**. The finance ministry, in collaboration with the **Bank of Uganda** (central bank), is implementing reforms to address weaknesses in its Information Technology (IT) systems that led to an US\$ 53 billion (\$14m) theft in 2024;

17 Aug 2025 **Gitega (Burundi) The Chanzo**. **Tanzania** and Burundi launch its \$2.15 billion cross-border standard gauge railway project to link **Uvinza** (Tanzania) to **Musongati** (Burundi);

17 Aug 2025 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) Borkena**. Local media reports that two senior journalists were allegedly abducted in Addis Ababa within a week, as press freedom continues to decline;

17 Aug 2025 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) The Citizen**. Tanzania introduces new satellite-to-phone guidelines that could significantly impact the country's telecommunications landscape by enabling satellite operators to deliver mobile services directly to smartphones;

16 Aug 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya) The East African**. President **William Ruto** reshuffles the country's foreign service, bringing back experienced officials, including **Florence Bore**, the former labour cabinet secretary, who has been nominated as high commissioner to **Windhoek (Namibia)**;

14 Aug 2025 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) Borkena**. Ethiopia and **Uganda** agree to strengthen bilateral ties during talks in Addis Ababa, focusing on economic cooperation, regional peace and security;

14 Aug 2025 **Nairobi (Kenya) Daily Nation**. President **William Ruto** warns corrupt officials to "carry their own cross" and accuses members of parliament (MPs) of watering down an anti-corruption bill that was intended to curb sudden wealth accumulation;

14 Aug 2025 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) The Citizen**. Tanzania revives its \$3 billion **Mchuchuma-Liganga** mining and energy project, aiming to boost industrial development and energy production;

14 Aug 2025 **Kampala (Uganda) Monitor**. Voting for sub-country chairpersons and councillors in the ruling **National Resistance Movement (NRM)** is marred by violence, low voter turnout, and delays due to disputes between party leaders, election officers and police;

14 Aug 2025 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) Press Herald**. Foreign minister **Gedion Timothewos** holds separate phone talks with **Burundi's** newly appointed foreign minister **Édouard Bizimana** and **Rwanda's** foreign minister **Olivier Jean Patrick Nduhungirehe**, discussing bilateral, regional and continental cooperation;

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