



PRESS RELEASE

CEWARN Rapid Response Fund Steering Committee meets to review progress of ongoing cross-border peace building projects

20 February 2012, Addis Ababa – The CEWARN Rapid Response Fund (RRF) Steering Committee holds its fifth regular meeting today in Addis Ababa to review the progress of ongoing peace building projects in the predominantly pastoral cross-border areas of the IGAD region.

The RRF was set up as a multi-donor basket fund in 2009 to enable CEWARN to support locally driven and timely response projects to contain the spread and escalation of violent conflicts along the borders of Ethiopia-Djibouti; Ethiopia-Kenya-South Sudan-Uganda; as well as Ethiopia-Kenya-Somalia.

While CEWARN's primary mandate is providing conflict early warning through data gathering and analysis to government and non-government peace actors in its member states, the RRF extends its role to supporting response. It does this by supporting short-term efforts – including dialogue promotion and modest developmental projects that provide a peace dividend to communities – that are intended to be catalysts for longer-term structural and policy responses to conflicts.

A recent independent evaluation of the effectiveness of the RRF and its projects, which is one of the topics for today's meeting, revealed that projects implemented through RRF support have led to a significant decrease in violent conflict.

This was most visible in CEWARN's areas of reporting along the Kenya-Uganda and the Ethiopia-Kenya-Somalia borders. Peace dialogues initiated with RRF funds have also proved instrumental in fostering peaceful co-existence marked by cooperation, free mobility and resource sharing among neighboring communities.

The Rapid Response Fund has so far supported 21 projects ranging in worth from USD 10,000 – 50,000 ranging from dialogue support, promoting joint access to specific local resources, as well as enhancing the skill-sets of local peace structures in conflict prevention and resolution in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. The combined worth of these projects is USD 700,000.

CEWARN is entering a new phase of operations in the post 2012 period which entails a significant expansion of both its geographic and thematic scope to cover new areas in South

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Sudan and Somalia as well as to look at issues of climate change and food security impacts on Conflicts. This will significantly expand the scope and outreach of the RRF.

Developmentpartners contributing to the RRF include Austrian Development Agency and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) as well as the Governments of Belgium, Denmark, Italy and the United Kingdom.**END**

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