CONFLICT EARLY WARNING AND RESPONSE MECHANISM (CEWARN)
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CEWARN - IGAD’s Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism - was established in 2002 on the basis of a protocol signed by IGAD Member States.

The maps used in this brochure are unofficial and merely used to give rough indications of CEWARN’s Member States and areas of reporting.
IGAD Member States in establishing CEWARN made a major strategic decision to utilize early warning and early response to prevent violent conflict so as to serve the aspirations of their people for shared prosperity and a sustained just peace.

CEWARN’s mandate is to receive and share information concerning potentially violent conflicts as well as their outbreak and escalation in the IGAD region; undertake and share analyses of that information; develop case scenarios and formulate options for response; share and communicate information analyses and response options; carry out studies on specific types and areas of conflict in the IGAD region.

The mechanism aspires to become “A network of excellence that works to advance an IGAD region in which reducing the risks of violent conflict through structured and consistent early warning and early response is central to local, national and regional governance in its priority areas of intervention”.
At the heart of the functionality of the CEWARN Mechanism is data collection, analysis and the timely dissemination of information and knowledge to the right people and institutions.

The network of actors driven by a secretariat based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, was from the beginning forged to join government and civil society, at a time when security had mostly been the exclusive preserve of states. In addition, its fractal structure, joining regional, national and local dimensions in data collection, analysis and decision making has made it a significant milestone in the regional and continental efforts to build peace and security.

*CEWARN is an interwoven network of governmental and non-governmental organisations that operate with complementary mandates in peace and development matters at local, national and regional levels. The above diagram reflects CEWARN’s organizational structure from 2002-2012.*
The men and women who were recruited to start up CEWARN were given an operational challenge of piloting the CEWARN Mechanism through providing conflict early warning analysis and response options on cross-border pastoral conflicts among pastoral groups and communities. This was intended to be a starting point for eventual expansion to other kinds of violent conflict types and areas throughout the region.

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Apart from its recognition as a continental pioneer in setting up a sophisticated early warning system that constitutes a whole spectrum of government and non-government institutions, CEWARN’s decade-long operations with a focus on pastoralist and related conflicts further established it as a continental benchmark for data-based early warning and response systems.

A number of its operational methods and tools including the CEWARN Reporter- a custom-made software tool that enables CEWARN track, categorize and analyze large volumes of conflict early warning data from IGAD’s seven member states- have been adopted by the African Union Continental Early Warning System and those of other African Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

![Graph of Karamoja Cluster Violent Incident Reports](image)
WHAT WE’VE DONE WELL . . .

- **CEWARN** has gained valuable experience and credibility with officials and peace workers in its areas of operation for supporting local institutions and expanding their capabilities for conflict prevention;

- **CEWARN’s** operations have been credited with a significant reduction of violent conflict particularly along Kenya-Uganda as well as Ethiopia-Kenya-Somalia borders;

- **CEWARN** has built a precious body of data and knowledge on violent conflicts along IGAD Member State borders and

- **CEWARN** has built the ability to implement on the ground development projects that entrench peace by reducing the incentives for violence conflict.
CEWARN is part of the African Peace and Security Architecture through its working legal linkage with the African Union’s continental early warning system. The principles of vertical coordination, subsidiary and coherence among others enshrined in the continental architecture inform the relationship between CEWARN and its regional and continental counterparts.
CEWARN entered a new strategic dispensation in September 2012 following the launch in Kampala, Uganda of the CEWARN Strategy Framework 2012-2019 which informs the mechanism’s current operations.

The new strategy entails a significant expansion of CEWARN’s thematic focus – i.e. the types, causes and drivers of violent conflicts far beyond pastoral conflicts and thereby entails significant geographic expansion of its areas of operation.

In developing the CEWARN Strategy, CEWARN adopted a novel approach beginning with local consultations in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda of up to 5000 citizens and local level officials. This was followed by extensive consultations with national officials and NGOs in each member state.

The findings of the local and national consultations were presented at a regional meeting in July 2012 made up of IGAD and Member State Officials, senior researchers, conflict analysts and members of regional and international institutions. Large volumes of information from these consultations as well as the regional conversation was visualized in real time by experts from a London-based partner organization (Group Partners) that specialize in visualization.
CEWARN currently is upgrading its networks, tools and methodologies to fully operationalize its early warning and response mechanism to begin to address a wide spectrum of conflict typologies that were identified by Member States as priority for CEWARN’s current phase of operations.

They have been systematically categorized into five sectors: Security, Governance, Social, Economic and Environmental.
NEW CONFLICT TYPOLOGIES THAT EMERGED FROM NATIONAL STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT CONSULTATIONS

Somalia
- Border/territorial conflicts
- Land grabbing
- Migration
- Terrorism
- Inter-ethnic conflict
- Religious-based conflict
- Resource-based conflict/climate issues
- Imbalanced development
- Pastoral issues
- SALW
- Drought
- Piracy

South Sudan
- Child abduction
- Land ownership and dispute
- Border and boundary dispute
- Crime
- Violence between pastoral communities
- Constitutional (Statutory v.Customary law)

Uganda
- Land (conflicts arising from population growth/investment)
- Natural resource competition
- Violence between pastoral communities
- Migration
- Border disputes
- Election-driven violent conflict
- Negative ethnicity
- Environment and climate change
- Marginalization
- Food insecurity

Kenya
- Inequality
- Entrenching peace through curriculum development and delivery
- Gender-based violence
- Murder/Killing-interpersonal, intra/inter-group (tribes, pastoral groups)
- Conflict caused by environmental pressures/climate change
- Competition over resources

Ethiopia
- Refugees and IDPs
- Clan-based conflicts
- Livestock rustling
- Control of trade and revenue routes
- Trade
- Resource-based conflicts
- Land ownership and boundaries
- Food insecurity
- Climate change issues

Djibouti
- Election related violence and devolution
- Boundary and border disputes
- Conflict-sensitive development
- Natural resource exploitation
- Issues around pastoralism
- Migration
- Urbanization
- Organized crime
- SALW

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KEY AIMS OF THE NEW STRATEGY FRAMEWORK

• To serve the IGAD region as an innovative and potentially transformative early warning and response mechanism that addresses a wide range of types, causes and drivers of violent conflict;
• To continually beef up the institutional capacity of national Conflict Early Warning and Response Units (CEWERUs) and enable them to operate optimally;
• To widen networks of engagement with governmental, non-governmental and private enterprises at all levels; and leverage their unique capabilities for more effective conflict prevention and peace building work in the region including by deploying ‘The CEWARN Facilitator Corps’ - a team of local level peace practitioners that will be ready for rapid dispatch by CEWARN to support local level response initiatives;
• To regularly package CEWARN early warning products in a fashion that informs high-level decision making (which is geared towards proactive conflict preventive and mitigative policy decisions) on threats of violent conflict in the region; and hold routine policy-level fora where these products are shared; and
• To shorten the early warning and response loop at local, national and regional levels by providing modest direct support to response initiatives.

The Big prize: ‘to contribute to building an IGAD region in which conflicts are resolved peacefully and justly and whose peoples live in shared prosperity.’
MAJOR STRUCTURAL AND METHODOLOGICAL SHIFTS OF THE NEW SYSTEM INCLUDE:

- Expansion of the data collection system from sole dependence on independent Field Monitors to include SMS-based crowd sourcing and engagement with CSO networks;
- Expansion of the scope of early warning data collected from sole focus on incident and situation reports to include media reports; SMS-based field observation reports; GIS information; information from social media and structural data as well as
- Setting up situation rooms in all Member States to beef up national CEWERUS’ early warning capacity and engaging with wider network of National Research Institutes (NRIs) to beef up analysis.
OUR PARTNERS

AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

[Logos of various partners]
It’s work in progress – Join US!

IGAD’s CONFLICT EARLY WARNING AND RESPONSE MECHANISM (CEWARN)

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