The IGAD region has grappled with a number of worrisome peace and security challenges in 2021. CEWARN has remained active in monitoring these developments and engaging with decisionmakers by sharing early warning analysis.

We take this opportunity to thank all CEWARN national and regional networks as well as development partners for the continued support.

We also extend wishes for a peaceful and prosperous 2022.

– Mr. Camlus Omogo, CEWARN Director and Team!
CEWARN commissioned an exploratory study on the nexus between climate and conflict in the IGAD region in September 2021. The study involved a review of CEWARN’s conflict early warning data sets on pastoral conflicts from 2003-2015, as well as data from the IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Center (ICPAC) on forage, rainfall and vegetation.

The main objective of the study was to determine the extent to which environmental variables add value to risk scores in anticipating conflict outcomes in the IGAD region. Building upon previous studies in 2007 and 2020, the current study established that vegetation index as a measure of vegetation health did indeed influence human behavioral patterns, which in turn anticipated subsequent outcome of pastoral conflicts in a one month lag period.

As a result of these findings, the study - that draws upon data covering forty (40) Areas of Reporting (AORs) across five IGAD Member States - was able to statistically establish the nexus between climate and conflict. The conflict link with climate is drawn from the fact that vegetation conditions are pre-determined by weather or climate factors.

The study established that a ten percent increase in the vegetation index lead to a decrease of between 17.3% – 10.7% in all incidents during the following month. The highest reductions in outcomes were found in women and children deaths (24.7%) and armed conflict (20.9%). It also established that conflict incidents indeed reduced when vegetation improved. This was demonstrated by the higher risk scores of pastoral conflict that were found to be significantly associated with low vegetation values in the corresponding month. This was also demonstrated by comparing figures of three outcome indicators; armed conflicts, human deaths and livestock loss of the same month over successive years within an AOR.

The study was further able to establish that there was a notable reduction in the outcome figures (Uganda and Ethiopia) in the subsequent year where the vegetation index went down.
Youth unemployment, pandemics & extreme climate among key issues-to-watch

CEWARN completed its 2021 regional conflict early warning profiling and scenario building report which contains nine key issues of conflict early warning concern in the IGAD region. The key issues identified are: youth unemployment, pandemics, mismanaged electoral processes, extreme climatic conditions, land and natural resource-based conflicts, polarized ethnicity and tribalism, violent extremism, inter-state conflicts, and proliferation of small arms.

The report contains a trend analysis of identified issues as well as an analysis of causes and actors. The report further casts best and worst-case scenarios and provides corresponding recommendations.

Country-specific conflict profiles and scenario-building reports and national thematic research outputs served as an input to the report. The regional report was validated in a regional workshop that was held on 13-15 April 2021 in Bishoftu town, Ethiopia.

9 KEY ISSUES OF CONFLICT EARLY WARNING CONCERN IN THE IGAD REGION.
CEWARN held a communications training for coordinators, programme leads and communications focal persons of its national Conflict Early Warning and Response Units (CEWERUs) in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda on 14-16 July 2021.

The training’s content includes: developing ‘messages that resonate’, multi-media story-telling, writing OP-EDs and effective media engagement. CEWARN recently completed the development of a new communications strategy that aims to expand the mechanism’s reach and impact.

In line with the thematic scope of CEWARN’s early warning and response work, CEWARN intends to expand its partnership base to embrace all key national and regional institutions working in security, governance, economy, social affairs and environment sectors in the IGAD region.

The CEWARN communications strategy prioritizes a strong positioning of CEWARN to inform high-level decision making on peace, security and development issues in the region. It also emphasizes proactive engagement with mainstream and social in promoting conflict prevention and peace building.
CEWARN Rapid Response Fund managing committee considers regional projects for funding

CEWARN convened a steering committee meeting of the Rapid Response Fund (RRF) to appraise 64 short-term rapid response project proposals submitted for funding by CEWARN’s national Conflict Early Warning and Response Units (CEWERUs) on 20-21 October 2021 in Adama, Ethiopia. The CEWARN Rapid Response Fund (RRF) is a basket fund facility that was set up in 2009 to support national and cross border rapid response initiatives.

The RRF currently operates with a three million Euro grant from the European Union Trust Fund to support Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (CPMR) and capacity building projects as well as research and technical studies in IGAD Member States.

The RRF Steering Committee oversees the fund’s operation and has thirteen voting members, namely: heads of national Conflict Warning and Response Units from each IGAD member state; four representatives of civil society organizations; the CEWARN Director and a representative of the IGAD Peace and Security Division. Representatives of development partners also participate as a non- voting members.

Projects eligible to receive CEWARN RRF grants are typically short-term emergency peace building interventions with a maximum value of Euro 50,000. CEWARN’s national units who oversee project implementation appraise RRF projects that are initiated by local peace structures before they are presented for consideration for funding to the Steering Committee that convenes bi-annually.

ALLOCATION OF RRF FUNDS

Allocation of RRF funds is strictly project-based and only non-commercial organizations (Government, NGOs, CSOs) are eligible for funding.

URGENT PROJECTS

Must obtain approval for funding by CEWARN Director

REGULAR PROJECTS

Projects up to 10,000 USD

Projects up to 50,000 USD

Projects in excess of 50,000 USD

A total of 63 projects have been presented to the steering committee:

DJIBOUTI 9 | ETHIOPIA 4 | KENYA 11 | SOMALIA 7
SOUTH SUDAN 20 | SUDAN 3 | UGANDA 9
CEWARN launches a book: ‘Conflict early warning in the Horn: CEWARN’s Journey’ on its two-decade of operations


The book launch was held at the 16th Meeting of the CEWARN Committee of Permanent Secretaries (CPS) on 28 April 2021 in Entebbe, Uganda. Those in attendance included the Minister of Interior of the Republic of Uganda Hon. Gen. Jeje Odongo; the IGAD Executive Secretary Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu; Permanent Secretaries of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of IGAD Member States as well as heads of national Conflict Early Warning and Response Units (CEWERUs).

The book’s content covers the mechanism’s experiences, methodological development, accomplishments and challenges in conflict prevention and mitigation - especially pertaining to its first phase of operations on cross border pastoral conflict. It also includes some reflections on CEWARN’s expanded operations and its future prospects.

The content was developed through a diverse set of methodologies including commissioned articles on relevant themes from experts; interviews of CEWARN stakeholders from all member states ranging from field monitors to high- level officials; travelogues by a commissioned writer from some of CEWARN’s areas of operation as well as methodological articles on the CEWARN system, maps and vignettes.

The book also targets a broad range of readers including policymakers and diplomats in the Horn of Africa and abroad, researchers and peace workers and citizens interested in peace and security issues in the region.
Senior IGAD Member State officials convene on strengthening regional cooperation in conflict prevention

CEWARN’s Committee of Permanent Secretaries (CPS) convened on 28 April 2021 at the Imperial Botanical Beach Hotel in Entebbe to deliberate on strengthening regional cooperation in conflict prevention in the IGAD region.

The committee that convenes bi-annually comprises Permanent Secretaries of Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. The Minister of Interior of the Republic of Uganda Hon. Gen. Jeje Odongo and the IGAD Executive Secretary Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu officiated the meeting. In his remarks Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu stressed the need to act early & engage strategically to tackle root causes of conflict and to adequately address peace and security challenges in the IGAD region. He also said regional cooperation in conflict prevention has never been more urgent.

Ethiopia and Djibouti National Conflict Early and Response Units convene to expand membership

CEWARN convened a revitalization workshop of the national Conflict Early Warning and Response Units (CEWERUs) of Djibouti and Ethiopia on 16 March in Arta, Djibouti and 10-12 May in Bahr Dar town of Ethiopia respectively.

The workshops brought together relevant representatives of line ministries and institutions; provincial administration officials as well as representatives of civil society organisations and the academia from the two countries.

The main objective of the workshop was to reconstitute the steering committees of the national CEWERUs in Djibouti and Ethiopia and expand their membership to
embrace a wider network of national institutions that have a peace, security and development mandate relevant to CEWARN’s early warning and response operations. CEWARN’s operations currently cover human security concerns across economy, social affairs, environment, governance and security sectors.

On both occasions, participants were introduced and inducted on the CEWARN protocol in general, and the role and functions of the committee as well as operational guidelines in particular, as stipulated in the Article 11 of the Protocol.

ArcGIS Platform Online Training for National CEWERUs Account Managers

CEWARN conducted a training on the its GIS platform – the ArcGIS platform - for National CEWERUs to empower account managers with capacity to operate their National ArcGIS online accounts on 22-26 November in Entebbe, Uganda. Participants were drawn from national CEWERUs and IGAD technical staff.

The customized GIS online training will enable the account managers to manage, maintain and regularly upload products for dissemination. A post -training technical support is organized to ensure the capacities are developed as well as to sustain the utilization of the platform.

CEWARN’s GIS Unit regularly produces maps that provide spatial analysis of conflicts in the region containing physical and human factors of conflicts - where applicable.