CEWARN’S 2019
Reflections

REGIONAL SCENARIO BUILDING EXERCISE IDENTIFIES ISSUES TO WATCH IN 2020

CEWARN facilitated a regional scenario building exercise on peace and security in the IGAD region on 28 October -1 November 2019 in Entebbe, Uganda. The exercise was undertaken within the context of CEWARN’s data-based conflict early warning and response mandate and it covered the five sectors that reflect the breadth CEWARN’s thematic focus: social affairs, economy, security, environment and governance.

The main aim of the yearly exercise that brought together sector experts from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda was to identify emerging risks of violent conflict in the IGAD region with a view to inform response initiatives in IGAD Member States.

The scenario building exercise began with identification of key issues emerging along the five key sectors in each member state and subsequently identified common trends that pointed to emerging issues-to-watch as threats to human security in the IGAD region.

CEWARN intends to refine the outcomes of the regional scenario building exercise and publish the report.

2019 was an eventful year for the CEWARN. This newsletter reflects some of the key initiatives.
A REGIONAL GIS PLATFORM SET UP TO BOOST CEWARN’S EARLY WARNING OPERATIONS

CEWARN established a regional GIS platform for use by its national Conflict Early Warning and Response Units (CEWERUs) in order to boost their conflict early warning operations. The GIS platform was set up through a two-year subscription from the Environmental System Research Institute (ESRI). It enables all national Units to access ArcGIS online services that host regional conflict data and map resources.

Subsequently, CEWARN organized GIS training for situation room officers, analysts and field-based staff of national CEWERUs of Kenya and Uganda on effective utilization of the platform.

INTEGRATING CONFLICT SENSITIVITY IN TAX ADMINISTRATION

CEWARN hosted a seminar on the nexus between taxation and conflict in the IGAD region on 19-20 June 2019 in Entebbe, Uganda. Participants included officials from ministries of finance and revenue authorities as well as representatives of special interest groups including trade unions and academic institutions.

The main aim of the seminar was to explore current policy and practice in integrating conflict sensitivity in tax governance processes in IGAD Member States.

The seminar also sought to generate policy recommendations on more effective conflict sensitive taxation processes in IGAD Member States. The seminar benefitted from several technical presentations on the nexus between taxation and conflict as well as COMESA’s structural vulnerability assessment work.

The preliminary recommendations drawn from the seminar included: the need for further exploration of level of public participation in tax initiation processes; the need for effective public information; the need for institutional capacity building for tax administration; the need for better sensitization and tax education as well as a proposal to set up a regional advisory centre on Taxation issues.
CEWARN and partners launched two livestock markets Magado and Sololo along the Ethiopia-Kenya border. These areas are located in Borena Zone of Ethiopia and Marsabit County of Kenya respectively.

The launch of the Sololo livestock market was held on location 80 Kms from Moyale town and about 4km from the closest border with Ethiopia on 14 August 2019. Officials present at the launch ceremony included Deputy Governor of Marsabit County Mr Solomon Gubo; Secretary in-charge of Peace-building and Conflict Management and Disaster Response of the Republic of Kenya Mr Peter Thuku; CEWARN Director Mr Camlus Omogo; officials representing the government of Ethiopia as well as partners.

Marsabit County of Kenya and, the adjoining Borena Zone in Ethiopia are inhabited by pastoral communities that straddle the two countries’ common border. These areas are also known for recurrent inter-communal violent conflict over grazing land and water.

The construction of the Sololo and Magado livestock markets is aimed at building on on-going cross-border peace initiatives and providing additional incentives that strengthen inter-communal ties among the borderland communities.

The markets are also intended to foster regular interaction and exchange of information among community members to mitigate inter-communal conflicts as well as provide economic stimulus to the communities whose livelihoods have been severely affected by recurring conflicts and drought in the area.

The construction of the livestock markets that began in 2011 was coordinated by the national Conflict Early Warning and Response Units of Ethiopia and Kenya with financial support from USAID Kenya and East Africa.

The markets have been partially inaugurated for use since 2015. Subsequently, additional market stalls for women vendors were constructed.

When Sololo and Magado livestock markets are functioning optimally, they are expected to serve up to 700,000 community members on both sides of the border. They will also provide options, as the only other livestock market located in Moyale requires traders from some areas to travel long distances.
Informal Cross-border trade (ICBT) is a key economic activity in Africa. While there is a general dearth of data on its exact volume and contribution to national economics, ICBT represents a lifeline for millions of borderland communities in the IGAD region. A majority these traders are also women.

CEWARN recognized the huge potential of ICBT’s to enhance cross-border security by considering its critical contribution to food security and economic survival of border communities. In addition, informal cross border trade raises the stakes for peaceful co-existence and positive inter-dependence of communities across borders.

In 2014, CEWARN engaged in a Collaborative Policy Analysis and Engagement Project (CPAE) with partners, namely: the Life and Peace Institute (LPI), the Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA) and the Inter-Africa Group (IAG).

The CPAE was envisaged to identify a pressing regional policy dilemma and facilitate the formulation of a policy response that is enriched by input from diverse governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. The CPAE was also intended to utilize the comparative advantages and competences of the four partner organisations in undertaking multi-stakeholder engagements and research undertakings.

Subsequently, the partners agreed to pick informal cross border trade and cross border security governance as theme for the CPAE exercise.

The partners used their comparative advantages to lead the different phases of the exercise that entailed conducting research on informal cross border trade along IGAD Member states’ borders; engagement with traders, CSOs and local customs officials as well as engagement with IGAD Member State officials of customs, trade and security. CEWARN convened a meeting of IGAD member state officials of trade, customs and security in March 2016 in Addis Ababa.

The information and insight gathered from these extensive engagements informed the drafting of a policy framework on informal cross border trade and cross border security governance.

The policy framework identified five broad objectives and proposed interventions therein on how to leverage informal cross border trade to advance security in the IGAD region. The key objectives of the policy framework are:

• Ensuring a coherent understanding of ICBT contributions to livelihoods and economic well-being of borderland communities;
• Enhancing greater ICBT-CBSG policy convergence and harmonization between IGAD member states;
• Strengthening border security systems and supporting trade facilitation at border crossing points (BCPs);
• Promoting the participation of borderland communities in policy consultations to ensure that Cross-border trade and security-related decisions are enriched and borderland communities’ interests and concerns promoted; and
• Ensuring availability and access to consistent, timely and reliable data and analysis on cross-border economic exchanges and ICBT.

After a series of engagements with technical experts in trade, customs and security from member states on the draft policy framework, ministers in-charge of trade from IGAD Member States convened and
adopted the policy framework on informal cross-border trade and security on 21 June 2018 in Mombasa, Kenya.

During their meeting the ministers expressed support for the implementation of the policy framework as it aligns strongly with regional and continental efforts in facilitating intra-Africa trade such as The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

They also recognized the importance of informal cross-border trade in IGAD borderland regions as an innovative and resourceful practice that can be leveraged for resilience, peace and prosperity of communities in these areas.

They further noted framework’s value in promoting the livelihood and security concerns of borderland communities.

During the ministerial meeting, Mr Mohammed Moussa, IGAD’s Director of Agriculture and Environment Division on his part stated that: “As frontiers of regional cooperation and integration, borderlands are central to the promotion of peace, security and development in the entire region.”

He added, despite their historically disadvantaged position and dire socio-economic and security conditions, borderlands currently possess high potential to transform into centers of robust economic activity in light of on-going huge investments in infrastructure as well as discoveries of natural resources in these areas. He added, currently informal cross-border trade is inextricably linked to livelihoods of borderland communities.

In 2019, CEWARN and partners hosted a workshop that commissioned a field assessment mission in order to identify pilot sites for implementation of the Policy Framework.

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CEWARN-HEKIMA TRAINED
3RD COHORT OF PEACE AND
CONFLICT TRAINING COURSE

CEWARN in collaboration with HEKIMA Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations (HIPSIR) facilitated a third round of certificate course in Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution.

Twenty-three participants from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda joined the programme that entailed an intense 12-week course that is organised in three different parts. The first part of the course consists of a 4-6 weeks online interaction between the students and the Lead Facilitator followed by an in-resident 12-day intensive workshop at the HIPSIR campus in Nairobi and a post-training research and writing that students undertake with online consultation with the Lead Facilitator.

The main modules covered include: Conflict Analysis: Understanding Contemporary Conflict and Violence; Strategies and Frameworks of Breaking Cycles.
of Violence; Community Based Trauma Healing; Fundamentals in Designing and Facilitating Training; and Researching our own Practice.

The course is designed for CEWARN Field Monitors and individuals working in the area of conflict prevention and resolution with the aim of transforming them into CEWARN Facilitator Trainers equipped and readily deployable by IGAD and Member States on demand basis to support:

- Peace negotiations;
- Communal conflict mapping;
- Participatory development of peace dividend projects;
- Participatory evaluation and learning around on-the-ground projects.

The programme targets practitioners who:

- Work or live in situations of conflict and, therefore, need time to assess and reflect on their situations and peace practices through a rigorous academic experience;
- Need an opportunity to explore and update their knowledge, skill, attitudes and strategies in Conflict Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) and peace building; and
- Develop new tools and new strategies of breaking cycles of violence through community based training and trauma-informed peace building.

The training encourages critical reflection, peer-to-peer exchange and strengthening of practical skills in community based conflict resolution work, and facilitation of community-based trauma healing work and conducting community based training in conflict resolution.
CEWARN held trainings for members of its early warning information collection networks in Djibouti, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda on its standard data collection templates and indicators.

CEWARN also refined its key early warning templates in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Political and Peace building Affairs (UN DPPA).
INTEGRATING CONFLICT AND GENDER SENSITIVITY IN CONFLICT PREVENTION

CEWARN in partnership with the UK-based International Alert conducted training on conflict and gender sensitivity in peace work for officials from CEWARN's national units and the regional office on 14-16 October in Bishoftu, Ethiopia.

The training drew together coordinators and programme officers from CEWARN's national units in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda as well as the CEWARN Unit.

The training programme's scope included: use of conflict, gender analysis and social inclusion models in peace programming as well as integration of conflict and gender sensitivity in all peace interventions. In addition, participants were taken through exercises on the development of gender-relational indicators for their activities, linked to CEWARN's Monitoring, Evaluation, Resolution, and Learning framework.

The training was conceived within the framework of a partnership agreement that was signed between IGAD and International Alert in 2017.

International Alert is a peace building organization with a well-established track record of working in the IGAD region.
SENIOR POLICY ORGAN MEETINGS APPRAISE CEWARN’S WORK

CEWARN’s senior technical and policy organs – the Technical Committee on Early Warning (TCEW) and the Committee of Permanent Secretaries (CPS) met in July and November in Addis Ababa and Juba respectively to appraise CEWARN’s activities.

Some of the recommendations that emerged from the meeting of CEWARN’s TCEW in July in Addis Ababa which were subsequently adopted as decisions of the Committee of Permanent Secretaries (CPS) included: directing the national CEWERUs to use innovative means of setting up sustainable national early warning data collection systems that are suitable to their unique contexts. The committee directed that the systems could combine various methods including engaging CSOs and crowd sourcing.

The CPS also directed the CEWARN Unit and CEWERUs to initiate a revitalization of national CEWERU steering committees and expand their membership as well as develop and/or update their operational guidelines to ensure effectiveness.

The TCEW and CPS meetings held in November in Juba mainly adopted CEWARN’s newly developed early warning report templates and considered the outcomes of the regional scenario building exercise held in October 2019.
CEWARN facilitated the revitalization and expansion of membership of CEWARN’s national Conflict Early Warning and Response Units (CEWERUs) in Kenya, Somalia and Uganda.

The aim of the revitalization exercises was to equip these national CEWERUs to more effectively engage with multi-sectorial agencies at the national level; to deliver early warning information and solicit early response to emerging violent conflicts.

This is inline with CEWARN’s current scope of early warning and response operations along five broad sectors of focus, namely: economy, social affairs, environment, security and governance.
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.

CEWARN is also 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.

**It’s work in progress**

**Join US!**

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