2020 was a challenging year. Since the first case of the COVID-19 pandemic was reported in our region in March 2020, our day-to-day lives have seen an unprecedented disruption - with heavy restrictions on movement, businesses as well as political and socio-economic activities.

While proactive measures by the region’s governments helped to lessen the pandemic’s impacts, the pandemic continues to have a devastating toll on lives and livelihoods. Long term impacts on national economies as well as implications on human security in the region are yet to be fully understood.

CEWARN has remained active in monitoring developments in the region and in sharing early warning analysis with decision-makers both in IGAD and in the Member States. We thank all CEWARN local, national and regional level networks as well as our partners for the strong support that allowed us to remain on course.

We also send our warm wishes for a brighter 2021.

Mr. Camlusc Omogo (CEWARN Director) and Team!
CEWARN DEVELOPS NEW OUTREACH STRATEGY

In the first quarter of 2020, CEWARN developed a new outreach strategy intended to adequately support its conflict early warning and response operations that cover a broad spectrum of peace and human security issues in the IGAD region.

The main aim of CEWARN’s new outreach strategy is to draw visibility to CEWARN’s human security focus with its work organized around five sectors of human activity, namely: governance, security, economy, social affairs and environment.

The outreach strategy will support CEWARN in expanding its stakeholder-base along its broad geographic and thematic themes of operation. This is both in terms of engagements related to the provision of conflict early warning analysis to responders as well as in working collaboratively with other national and regional actors in conflict prevention and peace building.

Furthermore, the outreach strategy is intended to enhance CEWARN’s engagement with high-level decision makers to bridge its direct prevention efforts to structural prevention.

CEWARN’s new outreach strategy comprises an elaborate mapping of CEWARNs’ internal and external stakeholders. It also identified CEWARN’s key early warning reports and products as well as dissemination methods and tools.

CEWARN used a co-creation approach in developing the strategy by bringing together Heads, technical officers and communications focal persons of national Conflict Early Warning and Response Units (CEWERUs) as well as representatives of CEWARN local networks, IGAD Units and partner organizations to a workshop in on 20-21 February 2020 in Naivasha. A Nairobi-based firm, NAMU Communications worked alongside CEWARN in strategy development.

The CEWARN communications strategy development was supported by the European Union through the IGAD Promoting Peace and Stability in the Horn of Africa Region (IPPSHAR) Programme.
CEWARN’s Rapid Response Fund Avails €3 Million for Conflict Prevention Initiatives in Region

CEWARN held a virtual meeting of its technical committee on early warning that comprises heads of CEWARN national Early Warning Units and representatives of civil society organizations from IGAD Member States, namely, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda on 2 June 2020.

The Committee convened to appraise new funding and operational modalities of the CEWARN Rapid Response Fund (RRF) that was established in 2009 to support Member State Response actions to prevent and mitigate violent conflicts.

The RRF was established to support Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (CPMR) efforts in Member states as well as to support response capacity of government and non-government structures at national and sub-national levels.

The RRF has gone through an evolution in line with the expansion of CEWARN’s conflict early warning thematic focus and it is currently reconstituted to support response initiatives beyond cross-border areas.

Support through the RRF is done on project-basis with ordinary disbursements ranging between 10,000 USD and 50,000 USD - with designations as urgent and regular projects respectively. Currently, the RRF manages three million Euros that is ready for use by member states for a period of two years. The funds were obtained through contributions from the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), the governments of Netherlands and Sweden as well as the European Union through the IGAD Promoting Peace and Stability in the Horn of Africa Region (IPPSHAR) program.

An inaugural meeting of the new Rapid Response Fund Steering Committee, which convenes bi-annually to oversee the fund’s operations and appraise project proposals for funding, followed the technical meeting. The steering committee comprises CEWARN Director and Director of IGAD Peace and Security Division as well as heads of CEWARN national Units and civil society representatives from member states.

The inaugural meeting of the Steering committee discussed the new funding mechanism under IPPSHAR as well as on how to conduct national sensitization programs as well as identify priority activities that can be implemented in light of current constraints related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
ANTICIPATED IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE IGAD REGION

According to data gathered from IGAD Member State Health Ministries, Africa CDC and WHO, as of December 2020, the IGAD region is estimated to contribute to 11.4% of all cases reported on the African continent.

The number of confirmed infections in the region currently stands at 264,505 with total recoveries reaching 191,585 and 5,088 fatalities. Three IGAD countries namely Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda are among the five countries that registered a high number of newly reported cases in Africa. Ethiopia is the fourth African country - next to South Africa, Morocco and Egypt- with the continent’s highest cases.

CEWARN shared the following reflections in March 2020 in terms of anticipated impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on human security in the region:

- Some of the challenges related to containment measures in the IGAD region include the typically high-density of urban and semi-urban areas and the communal lifestyle of the population. Enforcing containment measures in slums, informal settlements, cross-border areas as well as in Refugees’ and IDP settlements proves particularly difficult;
- The well-known limitations of health systems and the limited health workforce to population size ratio as well as meager critical care capacities in the region would make it difficult to manage in case of a spike in local transmission of the pandemic;
- There is growing concern about the anticipated impacts of the pandemic in both socio-economic and political terms. While the economic impacts of the pandemic have not been monetized, they are expected to be far-reaching with a large section of the population that relies on the informal sector already hard-hit;
- The pandemic comes at a time when the region is still recovering from a series of natural disasters including floods and droughts as well as the worst desert locust invasion in 25 years. The region is currently bracing for a second invasion. The cumulative effect of these challenges is likely to have devastating consequences for food security and livelihoods across the region;
- In terms of peace and security, the pandemic is expected to derail the pace of important transitions that are ongoing in Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan. Somalia was slated to have its highly anticipated first ever one-person-one-vote elections in early 2021. The election is considered to be a historic milestone, which would set the country along a path back to security, stability and prosperity following decades of civil war and political crisis;
- South Sudan has also recently established Revitalized Government of Transitional National Unity (R-TGoNU) and the pandemic has already caused delays in the completion of some important pre-transitional tasks such as the reconstitution of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly (TNLA). This was expressed as a serious concern by the IGAD Council of Ministers when it convened on 23 April 2020;
- Sudan’s momentous political transition and ongoing efforts towards economic recovery are also likely to be disrupted due to the burden posed by managing the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Furthermore, the pandemic is expected to impact preparations for upcoming elections in Djibouti (2021), Ethiopia (August 2020), Uganda (March 2021) and Kenya (2022). Election preparations including the nomination of candidates, the review and update of voter registers and related tasks will all risk delay due to lockdown measures in all these countries. This is taking place in a context where some election dates are constitutionally mandated and fixed, and in some instances, for example in Ethiopia, the last possible constitutional extension has been reached. These extensions and the ripple effects could cause discontent among the general population; and
- Lastly, job losses and severe economic strain on the majority of the population could push many to desperation and result in a rise in crime.
CEWARN held a virtual policy seminar on the assessment of the efficacy of CEWARN’s early warning methodology in anticipating violent conflicts. The seminar that was held on 21 October 2020 drew together Permanent Secretaries of foreign affairs of IGAD Member states; IGAD committee of Ambassadors as well as senior representatives of partner organizations including Amb. Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, UN Secretary General’s Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa.

The IGAD Executive Secretary Dr. Workneh in his opening remarks stated that since its establishment in 2002, CEWARN has grown into a robust mechanism that is able to deal with a broad scope of peace and security challenges. In its initial years, CEWARN had an exclusive focus on early warning for cross border pastoral conflicts in borderland regions of IGAD member states.

He stated that the assessment is timely and pertinent as strengthening regional cooperation in conflict prevention through early warning and response is a critical priority for IGAD. He said the need is currently more pronounced as the IGAD region’s peace and security challenges are compounded by multiple hazards including the COVID-19 pandemic, severe floods and desert locust invasion.

The CEWARN Director, Mr. Camlus Omogo presented the findings of the assessment on the efficacy of CEWARN’s early warning methodology that was conducted by using data sets from 2003-2015. He indicated that the assessment covered a retrospective review on whether CEWARN’s situation reports predicted incidents that were recorded in that period.

Mr. Omogo stated that the assessment yielded substantive evidence in support of the CEWARN Risk model while identifying areas for improvement. These include the need for greater investment in improving infrastructure and human resource capacity at the national level as well as achieving higher levels of consistency in field reporting.

CEWARN’s current scope of conflict early warning operation is organized under five sectors namely: economy, social affairs, security, governance and environment. CEWARN monitors developments in the region in each sector that impact regional peace and security.

Mr. Omogo stated that CEWARN’s current risk model is much more cutting age and supports: multi-dimensional and engendered situation analysis; monitoring and analysis of response intervention; identification of at risk groups as well as an integration of engendered groups at risk in every field situation assessment.
In 2020, CEWARN facilitated national conflict profiling and scenario building exercises for five member states, namely: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan.

The exercises were facilitated at national levels and drew together thematic experts in governance, Security, economy, social affairs and environment sectors that reflect the broad areas of focus of CEWARN’s conflict early warning work. The experts also represented a mix of governmental and non-governmental entities drawn from provincial and federal entities.

The aim of these exercises is to identify emerging risks of violent conflict with a view to inform CEWARN’s early warning and response work. The national conflict profiling exercises entailed identification of key developments along the five sectors of focus and corresponding trends-to-watch as threats to human security in these countries.

The Conflict Profiling and Scenario building exercises were supported by the European Union through the IGAD Promoting Peace and Stability in the Horn of Africa Region (IPPSHAR) Programme.
In Djibouti, the national conflict profiling and scenario building exercise was held in Arta on 22nd November 2020. Five districts (regions) of Djibouti namely Arta, Ali Sabieh, Dikhil, Tadjourah and Obock were covered by the exercise.

Key Issues which were identified as potential generators of conflicts in the five districts and Djibouti city included: social inequalities, youth unemployment leading to delinquency, territorial disputes related to land demarcation, religious tensions among sects, illegal migration and human trafficking engendering conflict between host communities and migrants as well as access to resources and gender based violence. Participants also observed the crisis in Ethiopia has had socio-economic impact in bordering regions of Djibouti.

In Ethiopia, the country profiling exercise was held on 19 – 23 October in Bishoftu.

Some of the themes that came up include: youth unemployment and radicalization; heightened ethnic-based tensions; migration and internal displacement; questions related to constitutional reform; environmental degradation/disasters as well as resource based conflicts.

In Kenya, the country profiling exercise was held on 9-14 November 2020 in Naivasha, Kenya. The exercise covered six cross border counties in Kenya, namely: Marsabit, Madera, Wajir, Garissa, Turkana and West Pokot.

Issues that were raised pertaining to peace and security across the six counties included: rivalry over political/ elective offices and negative ethnicity; internal and cross-border boundary disputes; resource based conflicts (including among mobile pastoralists involving Cattle rustling), highway banditry, violent extremism (including threat of homegrown radicalization); small arms proliferation; disputes related to oil/gas exploration and disputes related to displacement of communities for development as well as gender based violence( including early marriages and FGM.)

It was also noted that contestations for political offices during the 2022 general elections are likely to be accompanied by risks of insecurity.
National conflict profiling and scenario building for Somalia was held on 29th December 2020 in Djibouti. The exercise covered five regions of Somalia: Hirshabele, Galmudug, Puntland, South West and Jubbaland.

Concerns identified as threats to human security across the five regions were land disputes related to border demarcation between regions and clan based ownership; violent extremism (presence of extremist groups such as Alshabab and ISIS); gender based violence and early marriage; natural resources conflicts opposing farmers and pastoralists; political conflict linked to clan based political system; and impact of climate change such as desert locusts and flooding which cause internal displacement of communities.

In South Sudan, the national conflict profiling and scenario building exercise was conducted on 23-27 November in Nimule, South Sudan.

Some of the issues that were raised include: Pending issues from the implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA); Child abductions; child trafficking; cattle rustling; rampant inter-communal clashes; internal and cross-border boundary and land disputes among others.
INTRODUCING THE CEWARN GIS 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. CEWARN uses open source data from its incident reporter database and its situation room reports as well as other available data sources like ACLED.

Currently, there are three categories of maps highlighted below, which can be easily accessed through the links provided. Links are regularly updated whenever modifications are done.

**IGAD Region Civil Dissents Map:**

Civil dissent incidents include Protests, Riots, and Demonstrations in the region that have been captured in these various sources. The incidents are analysed and mapped on a bimonthly basis. Civil dissent incidents are important as a key indicator on the state of affairs and stability or fragility of a given country or Region.


**Map on the IGAD Region Nile Riparian States, Existing and Contested Investments and Conflicts:**

Major investments along the main tributaries of the Nile, riparian states and contested investments.


**Map on Inter communal conflicts in the Major Pastoralist clusters in the Region:**

Cluster 1, (Karamoja, Turkana and Toposa) Pastoral conflicts associated with adverse weather and environmental conditions

[https://cewarn.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=2c042570a1604aff8b2151b0ac0aebf](https://cewarn.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=2c042570a1604aff8b2151b0ac0aebf)
CEWARN convened an annual review meeting of its conflict early warning indicators from 24-26 November in Naivasha, Kenya.

CEWARN broke norm this year by inviting representatives of line ministries from the seven IGAD member states: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda that reflect is five sectors of Focus. In preceding years, the exercise involved representatives of CEWARN’s national research institutes with relevant expertise.

Since 2012, CEWARN’s conflict early warning and response operations are organized around five sectors, namely: security, governance, social affairs, economy and environment. The multi-sectoral focus that cumulatively covers all scopes of human activity enables robust conflict prevention and peace building interventions to human security challenges in the IGAD region. CEWARN’s early warning operations are also guided by a set of indicators across its five sectors of focus that were methodically developed to monitor and analyze regional developments.

Given that CEWARN’s current strategic focus is engaging with high level decision making in IGAD Member States, engagement with relevant line-ministries is a step forward in this direction. This move is aimed at complementing CEWARN’s routine short-term or crisis management focus with longer-term structural prevention support to Member States.

Accordingly, the review meeting entailed: a presentation on CEWARN’s operations with a focus on its early warning methodology and tools as well as presentation on CEWARN’s analytic reports/ products. Subsequently, delegates worked along sectoral groups to examine CEWARN’s early warning indicators and proposed improvements. The delegates also provided their inputs on customization of current analytic products to better suit the needs of their respective institutions.

CEWARN ENGAGES MEMBER STATE LINE MINISTRIES TO REFINE EARLY WARNING INDICATORS
CEWARN conducted a training on Monitoring and Evaluation that covered data collection, analysis and reporting for National CEWERUs technical persons and situation room officers on 7-11 December in Entebbe, Uganda.

The training was preceded by a field assessment undertaken in Member States to assess CEWERUs’ monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems.

Monitoring and evaluation officers from the IGAD HQ and specialized institutions as well as regional M & E experts of partner organisations also took part and shared their experiences.
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!*