



EEARTH

Environmental Early Action & Risk Tracking Hub



Anticipating Risk, Averting Deadly Violence

The Situation

As climate change accelerates, so does the risk it poses to global peace and security. Millions of people worldwide are already experiencing record heat waves, extreme precipitation, droughts and rising sea levels.

These climate shocks can fuel instability and conflict by exacerbating food insecurity, water scarcity and competition for natural resources. Such problems are particularly visible in the Horn of Africa, where severe weather events have intensified civil strife.

In South Sudan, prolonged flooding has displaced herders in northern regions, sparking violent struggle with rival groups for pasture and water. In Somalia, amid two and a half years of drought, insurgents have exploited the crisis to punish dissenting communities by taking control of the shrinking number of water points.

Together, climate shocks and conflict disrupt the delivery of humanitarian aid and climate adaptation efforts by raising operational risk and deterring investment. Some of the Horn's most vulnerable people are left to face these mutually reinforcing crises virtually alone.

The Challenge

With half of the most climate-fragile countries also facing conflict, decision-makers need to better understand risks in order to prevent and mitigate outbreaks of climate-related violence. The latest advancements in climate modelling and satellite data can help anticipate such events, but especially in wartime, climate management and disaster response cannot be disassociated from politics on the local, national and regional levels.

Early warning systems must better integrate real-time conflict analysis if they are to effectively inform programming and prevent maladaptive outcomes. Filling this gap will improve early action, reducing the need for costly interventions later. Most critically, it will save lives.

Our Vision

Building on deep conflict expertise and the latest forecasting technologies, Crisis Group is developing a climate security early warning system for the Horn of Africa: the Environmental Early Action and Risk Tracking Hub (EEARTH).

Starting with pilot projects in South Sudan and Somalia, EEARTH will identify early indications of deadly conflict stemming from climate shocks and encourage expeditious action to head it off.

In so doing, the system aims to bridge the gap between climate analysis and crisis prevention, sounding the alarm and reaching affected populations with vital information sooner, faster and in a more targeted way.

Our Approach

EEARTH's multidisciplinary approach combines cutting-edge climate forecasting, examination of data and on-the-ground political analysis. The system follows a three-stage process for tracking dangerous climate patterns that could lead to deadly conflict:

- 1. ANALYSIS:** Identifying the pathways through which climate change exacerbates conflict by combining field research with quantitative data on climate hazards, livelihood exposures and conflict vulnerabilities.
- 2. ANTICIPATION:** Real-time monitoring of climate, livelihood and conflict risks, through satellite data and fieldwork, in order to build scenarios and formulate early action recommendations.
- 3. ACTION:** Disseminating monthly situation reports, quarterly risk outlooks and urgent conflict alerts through a public interface as well as targeted advocacy with practitioners and decision-makers.

The platform will consolidate data from various organisations in the climate and social sciences, humanitarian and peacebuilding sectors but will remain grounded in Crisis Group’s deep field expertise and draw on its network of analysts.

We are uniquely able to bring together multi-hazard analysis, real-time monitoring and actionable insights in order to inform decision-making.

Intended Impact

EEARTH will serve several distinct audiences. It will help decision-makers understand, with great specificity, the interlinkages between climate and conflict risk, allowing them to formulate responses before deadly violence erupts.

It will help donor countries and UN agencies allocate funding to areas with the greatest climate security spillover

risk and take preventive action to head off costly humanitarian and peacekeeping interventions. In the Horn of Africa, the system’s granular monitoring and forecasting will inform climate programming attuned to conflict risks, enabling greater adaptability, collaboration and impact across the climate, humanitarian and peace nexus.

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MILESTONES AND NEXT STEPS



Front page: A drought-stricken area in Laikipia County, Kenya. December 2022. CRISIS GROUP/Michelle Malaney

PREVENTING WAR. SHAPING PEACE.

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