Preventing War. Shaping Peace.

West Africa Analyst Cynthia Ohayon introduces the findings of Crisis Group’s report on northern Burkina Faso to marabouts, Quranic scholars, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso - 10 October 2017.
More wars
More death
More refugees
More suffering
More societies ripped apart
More economies destroyed
More lives and livelihoods lost.

Over the past decade, the number of wars has grown by nearly 50%. Violence forced almost 75,000,000 people to flee their homes in 2018 alone, and the following year, war caused economic losses exceeding $500 billion.
The global order has been badly shaken.

Great-power rivalries are back, authoritarianism and polarisation are rising, and multilateralism is retreating. All this is taking a human toll. So are new threats: emboldened jihadists and criminal gangs, climate change, cyber-warfare and now the novel coronavirus.
The first and most important victims of conflict are the people and especially the civilians caught in harm’s way. Around the globe, war is causing human anguish on a scale unseen in a generation.

Inflicting misery has become a political strategy.

In the weeks that followed the military crackdown in Myanmar’s Rakhine State in late August 2017, hundreds of thousands of Rohingya muslims crossed the border into Bangladesh. While Bangladesh allowed them in, border guards often waited for several thousands to amass in one location before letting them move further inland. September 2018.
Tamil women light candles in memory of their missing relatives. Jars with notes and pictures memorialise those disappeared in the Sri Lankan war. Mannar district, Sri Lanka, 6 April 2019.

Governments and others locked in conflict often see only what they want to see – and refuse to talk to each other.

Governments and others distant from the battlefield often look the other way – even though eventually they, too, will pay the price in humanitarian assistance.
Few can credibly engage with all sides and with all social groups in conflict zones. Fewer still can devise realistic policies for protecting the world’s most vulnerable.

It can seem all but impossible to imagine that deadly conflict is preventable and resolvable.
But what if it were?
What if it were possible to sound the alarm from places where war is brewing and spur the world to act?
An underground shelter in a school close to Armenia’s border with Azerbaijan. Many such facilities date back to Soviet times, when Moscow feared war with world powers. Since the early 1990s, however, it has been gunfire exchanged by the Armenian and Azerbaijani armies that has driven students into these fortified structures. Tavush, Armenia. 16 September 2019.

What if it were possible to craft pragmatic compromises before the violence starts to head off the need for humanitarian aid in the first place?
Deadly conflict is preventable and resolvable.
At Crisis Group, this is what we believe.
At Crisis Group, this is what we do.

We gather crucial information from all sides and deliver impartial, field-based insights to wherever decisions are made – whether an insurgent’s home, a refugee camp or a prime minister’s office.

We open channels of communication and find innovative solutions, proving that de-escalation, diplomacy and negotiated outcomes are feasible.
Yemen’s war has killed more than 112,000 people and left 24 million in need of humanitarian assistance.

24 July 2019.

We are a unique group of former officials, researchers, analysts, activists, academics and journalists, representing some 40 nationalities, backed by a board of former heads of state and other dignitaries.

We are political “first responders” to a crumbling international order. Speaking and writing directly from war zones, we warn the world of imminent threats to lives and livelihoods and urge action to stop them.

At Crisis Group, this is who we are.
Since our founding 25 years ago after the tragedies in Bosnia, Rwanda and Somalia, Crisis Group has been the foreign ministry for those who don’t have one.

Our independence and impartiality remain our most cherished qualities, high-level access and field-based research our most valued assets, saving lives our ultimate goal.

Two girls at play in Maiduguri, Nigeria. 14 December 2018.
Rima (left) is an Armenian refugee from Baku, Azerbaijan. She was displaced from her home about three decades ago, along with some 725,000 other ethnic Armenians and Azerbaijanis. Since then, she has lived in this single room, which she shares with her mother and sons, in the slums of Armenia’s capital, Yerevan, Armenia. 20 September 2019.

Whether in the spotlight or behind the scenes, our work is indispensable, trustworthy and actionable.

We deliver exactly the right information to exactly the right people at exactly the right time.

Our impact is hard to quantify but our influence is impossible to deny.
This work has never been easy. And it’s getting harder.

Precarious field conditions complicate access. Increasingly bitter geopolitical rivalries obstruct peacemaking efforts and domestic problems preoccupy governments everywhere.

Quite simply, we have to do more if we want to end today’s violent conflicts and ward off tomorrow’s.
And with your help we can.
With your help, we can

Produce analysis today to prevent disaster tomorrow.

Assess implications of geopolitical trends for mass violence.

Identify threat multipliers such as climate change, economic instability, gender dynamics and inequalities, and new technologies.

Pioneer use of cutting-edge data analytics for conflict prevention and resolution.
Ramp up advocacy to deliver solutions where and when they are most needed.

Guide a wide array of peace and security actors, including the private sector, with pragmatic policy advice.

Run intensive campaigns on the conflicts that produce the greatest suffering and where we can have the greatest impact.

With your help, we can
Baghdad’s millennials are at the heart of Iraq’s civil society, which has grown more vibrant as politicians failed to end the country’s economic crisis, prevent the Islamic State’s rise, or otherwise improve people’s lives. Baghdad, Iraq. 4 November 2018.

With your help, we can

Shape the foreign policy debate.

Diversify our outputs to capture decision-maker and donor attention.

Emphasise the human consequences of conflict, through videos, infographics and interactive web content.
With your help, we can stop and prevent war.
Please support Crisis Group today.