NILU in CAERUS - Bridging the gap: Raising aid efficiency through technology

In June 2013, the UN's refugee agency (UNHCR) reported that the number of people currently in situations of displacement has hit 45 million. These refugees from war-ridden and post-conflict societies are raising the migratory pressure towards the European Union. But most victims of war and conflict stay on in areas where crises and conflicts entail a substantial degradation of the human and social capital, and where the same crises continue to create barriers to the post-conflict recovery and stabilization.

The CAERUS consortium aims to identify which humanitarian relief actions actually pave way for human development and stability in post-conflict societies. Participants from Belgium, Norway, the Netherlands, Austria, United Kingdom and India are working together to find answers to these main questions:

- Why do some countries escape the cycle of violence and conflict, while others suffer?
- What role does national, international and European post-conflict relief action and developmental cooperation play in these cases?

Offering young people real opportunities beside warfare significantly lowers the violence and conflict rate. In line with this, the CAERUS project focus its research on health and educational policies, but is also trying to assess how European technologies such as field telecommunications and mobile laboratory capacities can be used to increase the effectiveness of service provision in remote areas. With more knowledge about this, European aid organizations may give more efficient response to outbreaks of rare and emerging pandemic diseases.

NILU – Norwegian Institute for Air Research – has long been known as a centre of excellence for climate change research, but NILU is also known for developing advanced IT systems. NILU shall support the CAERUS project by providing the architectural foundations and technologies for intelligent management of critical data for the purpose of enabling faster decision support and creating added-value applications and services in crisis/post crisis situations and areas.

NILU's software development group works within a broad spectrum of both traditional and cutting edge technologies and provides expertise in modelling, databases, communication technologies, social media platforms and mobile and web services. This provides a foundation that enables the institute to keep abreast of current trends in technology as well as provide a wealth of services in cooperation with its strategic partners.

For more information about the project or NILU's role, please contact Project Leader Mike Kobernus.

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For more information about CAERUS, visit www.caerus-info.net

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