Description of Proposed Project

Children Peace Initiative (CPI) Kenya works to transform long-running conflict between pastoralists in northwest Kenya. It starts by organizing holiday camps for children from two communities on either side of a dispute. This builds friendships that influence parents, elders and eventually even warriors. Parallel to this, CPIK supports activities that create interdependency between the two communities and further reduce the pressure to fight. CPIK's most innovative program, Heifers for Peace, awards a cow to two families on both sides of a conflict on the condition that they rear the animal together and share the revenue from milk and calves. This kind of cooperation also makes the pastoralists more resilient to drought and climate change, which is forcing pastoralists to move into land used by other tribes.

This summer, I will help CPIK's founders Hilary and Monica to integrate more climate-related programming into their work and develop the outlines of a 3-year program. We will travel to 16 villages to survey stakeholders, assess the impacts of climate change on the conflict, map water resources, and identify how such resources might get shared. We will also develop baseline surveys that will give CPI data to begin integrating more climate adaptation and resilience into their peacebuilding programs.