

## FROM EARLY WARNING TO EARLY RESPONSES

A common criticism of early warning efforts is that, even if an early warning system were in place, it would do little to generate political will to prevent genocides or to halt their escalation. The answer is simple: in the absence of a working early warning system, we simply do not know if official responses would be more forthcoming. The aim of our early warning approach is to narrow the time frame by using the accelerator model to identify the warning flags that a geno/politicide is in the making six months before its onset. This work has just begun, but with some promising results (see note 6). At this stage, the risk assessment model provides the capacity to identify most hot spots in the world, meaning those areas in which the risks of genocide and politicide are high. More timely and reliable early-warning estimates based on the analysis of accelerators are not yet available. The ultimate objective is to help persuade policy-makers to engage actively in high-risk situations such as Rwanda. With more time to prepare and foreknowledge of what to expect, responses could be tailored to the situation, effectively saving lives and resources. Early warning capacities may be just one more incentive to nudge policy-makers into action.