



Project Update #18

Welcome to our eighteenth [CENTAUR](#) Project Update!

In this issue, we share recent highlights, featuring our participation in events and a summary of the latest report publications.

What's happening around the world?

- **[Sri Lanka](#)**: In late November, tropical storm DITWAH made landfall on Sri Lanka's central-eastern coast, bringing sustained winds and heavy rainfall. The storm triggered widespread flooding and landslides across multiple districts, causing river overflows in urban and rural areas. As of 19 December, authorities reported almost 650 casualties and more than 66,000 people still sheltering in safety centres. Housing damage remains a major driver of humanitarian needs, with over 100,000 homes partially damaged and more than 6,000 destroyed.
- **[Morocco](#)**: On 14 December, intense rainfall led to sudden urban and flash flooding in Safi Province, overwhelming drainage systems and inundating densely populated areas. The event resulted in over 50 reported fatalities and affecting approximately 700 households.
- **[Bolivia](#)**: In mid-December, prolonged heavy rainfall caused the Pirai River to overflow in eastern Santa Cruz, resulting in severe flooding. Authorities reported several fatalities and at least two dozen people missing. Hundreds of families were left without shelter, with about 2,100 families affected and search and rescue operations ongoing as waters recede.
- **[Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya](#)**: The eastern Horn of Africa faced an exceptionally poor October–December rainy season, driven by La Niña and a strong negative Indian Ocean Dipole. Rainfall was expected to be less than 50 percent of average across most areas, sharply reducing harvests and pastoral conditions. FEWS

NET estimates over 20 million people need food assistance, with drought the primary driver.

How could CENTAUR contribute?

CENTAUR strengthens early warning, monitoring, and situational awareness for urban flooding, while also supporting broader food and water security analysis. A core component of this work is the development of dedicated flood indicators, designed to improve early detection, impact monitoring, response coordination, as well as post-event damage assessment.

These indicators integrate environmental, hydrometeorological, and exposure data to help identify emerging flood risks, track evolving flood events, and assess their potential consequences for populations, infrastructure, and essential services. [Read more about CENTAUR methodology.](#)

What has CENTAUR been up to?

EU Science for Preparedness Conference

On 4-5 November 2025, CENTAUR representatives participated in the [EU Science for Preparedness Conference](#), which took place in Turin. Organised by the Joint Research Centre's [Copernicus Emergency Management Service \(CEMS\)](#) and the [Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre \(DRMKC\)](#), the event provided a platform to exchange knowledge and strengthen networks for advancing EU crisis preparedness and response. [Read more.](#)



CENTAUR representatives presenting our research poster at the [EU Science for Preparedness Conference](#). From left to right Jessica Jeune (ECMWF), Matilde Oliveti (Ithaca), Emanuele Cassin (Ithaca).

CENTAUR Final Demo Review (FDR)

On 14 November 2025, the CENTAUR consortium and its Advisory Board held the Final Demo Review (FDR) meeting, marking the conclusion of the project's demonstration phase. During the session, the team presented the final configuration of CENTAUR's indicators, reviewed recent platform updates, and shared results of the "hot-case" analyses carried out over the past months. The FDR served as a key milestone to assess how CENTAUR's tools perform in real-world scenarios and to prepare for the final stage of the project. [Read more in our news item.](#)

Copernicus Thematic Workshop on Water

On 1 December 2025, CENTAUR representatives participated in the [Copernicus Thematic Workshop on Water](#), bringing together experts, policymakers and industry stakeholders to explore how Earth Observation data can support sustainable water management across Europe. The workshop, co-organised by [DG DEFIS](#), [DG ENV](#) and [EUSPA](#), showcased advances in Copernicus water-related services, with a focus on the Water Framework Directive (WFD), flood and drought management, and climate adaptation. [Read our news item to find out more about the event.](#)



CENTAUR was represented on site by Beatriz Revilla-Romero, Senior Flood Risk Expert and Project Manager at GMV, and by other consortium partners representatives from UNISTRA-SERTIT and ECMWF who contributed online.

Suggested Readings

1

FAO | World Food and Agriculture - Statistical Yearbook 2025

[Read More](#)

2

WFP & FAO | Hunger Hotspots 2025 Report

[Read More](#)

3

WMO & FAO | Extreme Heat and Agriculture Report

[Read More](#)

Facts & Figures

40%

of global arable land affected by aridity - UNCCD & JRC

Over 295 million

people across 53 countries faced acute hunger in 2024 - WFP

35%

minimum projected increase in drought-related economic losses by 2035 - OECD



CENTAUR

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