

Making Peace Inclusive

2019 HIGHLIGHTS



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"The community is diverse. It brings uniqueness, and there is a strength about it. A strength in diversity. The priests and Muslims, people from different professions, and financial status. The diversity is a strength."

Male youth leader and researcher, Majengo, Nairobi, Kenya

Foreword

Building lasting peace requires everyone to participate, contribute, and experience change. In 2019, we seized a unique opportunity to jointly reflect with our partners and peers on what it means to ensure that our work is truly inclusive and bottom-up, both in our peacebuilding practice and our policy engagement. In a world that is fundamentally set up to exclude, we turned a critical eye on our role in this quest for inclusion.

Youth leader addressing peers during Sustained Dialogue event in Nairobi, Kenya

Inclusion is essential for sustainable peace



We also explored how power plays out in the peacebuilding sector, coming to learn that inclusion often falls far short of expectations. Largely rhetorical, inclusion means being invited into a system of power and adapting to it, rather than transforming the system. We know this needs to change. Sustainable peace depends on the genuine inclusion and meaningful participation of those who experience and live with conflict. To make this happen, the system must be transformed.

Writing this foreword well into 2020, the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic across the world have further deepened divides. More urgent than ever, inclusive peacebuilding also now becomes an issue in virtual spaces, creating new challenges for reaching the most marginalised people. While access to technology, internet connections, and language may result in exclusion, we see opportunities for innovation and making links for greater inclusion.

We are thankful to our partners, staff, and donors for accompanying us on this journey to discover creative ways to ensure our peacebuilding practice and policy engagement embody genuine inclusion. In the end, this is about making sure that the people who are most affected by conflict are heard. And that they have a real say in how conflict in their daily lives and in their communities is addressed and resolved. This would be a profound change.

Judy McCallum, Executive Director

About this report

This update of our activities in 2019 illustrates some of the changes LPI peacebuilding work with our partners has created across our 8 programmes. It also lays out how we work, with emphasis on the specific approaches that guide our peacebuilding efforts and enable us to make a difference. Our partnerships are essential to everything we do. So is genuine inclusion.

The examples of peaceful change presented here draw on the monitoring and evaluation processes we use across all our programmes to ensure the high quality and relevance of our work. The insights in this report also benefit from the regular learning workshops we conduct with our partners and staff.

Key Achievements

>10,000



People directly engaged as participants in dialogue, research, listening conversations, workshops, and trainings

93



Locations

97



Youth and women-led Peace Actions in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, and Sweden

2,400



Sustained Dialogue sessions (1-2 hours per session)

62



Civil society partners and peers

21



Knowledge products generated or published

24.1 Mio SEK



Grants to partner organisations



About Us

We persevere. For more than **35** years, we have been patient champions of peacebuilding and nonviolent approaches to conflict in the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes Region. Working across **8** key programmes in **6** countries with nearly **80** staff, we support and build the capacity of local people to transform their own communities and societies into inclusive, just, and peaceful ones. We also work to influence global policy agendas, making sure local voices are heard around the world.

The urgency and importance

of peacebuilding is as great as ever. Over the past decade, armed conflicts have increased worldwide, especially in Africa. In the countries where we work, violent conflict remains an overwhelming daily reality for millions of women and men, and girls and boys.

As our long-term experience shows, these very same people hold the knowledge, expertise, and capacity to address violent conflicts through peaceful means. Our country-specific programmes in Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, and the broader Horn of Africa region help them succeed. We now also engage in Sweden.

Being adaptive and responsive is a hallmark of the LPI approach. This allows us to adjust our work as the situation changes. Reflective practice is equally important. In close collaboration with our partners, we think and learn together so we can improve our peacebuilding work for greater impact. All our programmes promote inclusivity in peacebuilding. We focus on women and youth, along with outreach to marginalised communities.

We firmly believe it is necessary to involve all people—especially those directly affected by conflict—in transforming violent conflict and building peace that lasts.

Our background and principal aim

LPI was founded in 1985 as a result of the Life & Peace Conference, a major international meeting held in 1983 that was a response by the churches to the conflicts in the world. The principal aim of LPI is to support the work of local partners to enhance their capacity to build and maintain peace and to transform violent conflicts into peaceful coexistence.

Where We Work

SUDAN

Working in Sudan since the early 1990s, we support Sustained Dialogue processes for university students, helping build positive relations between youth from diverse cultural backgrounds. Given recent momentous changes in Sudan, we have pursued new partnerships with civil society and academic institutions, with a specific focus on listening to the aspirations young people have for their country.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Since 2002, we have been working with our local civil society partners to undertake in-depth conflict transformation processes. We first began to use Participatory Action Research with communities in conflict in eastern DRC. We are also currently engaged in a unique collaborative evaluation process of the broader peacebuilding sector in the country.

SWEDEN

In 2018, we brought our peacebuilding experience home to Sweden as a response to growing inequalities and increasingly divisive public and political discourse throughout Europe. To change this, we work with Swedish partners on policy engagement. Our Peacefinders platform also supports university students and young people to be change-makers for peace and inclusion in Sweden.

ETHIOPIA

LPI has supported peace work in Ethiopia since 1991 through long-term partnerships with traditional leaders, NGOs, and faith-based institutions. We also engage university students from different ethnic and religious backgrounds in Sustained Dialogue and community Peace Actions. The new political landscape emerging in Ethiopia now lets us leverage our experience in thoughtful and creative ways.

SOMALIA

Active in Somalia since the mid-1990s, our peacebuilding focuses on community-led conflict transformation—*intra* and *inter-clan* dialogues, peace agreements, shared peace platforms, and creating new spaces for women and youth to mobilise for peace. With our Somali partners, we add to multi-level reconciliation processes to enhance wider state-building and stabilisation efforts.

KENYA

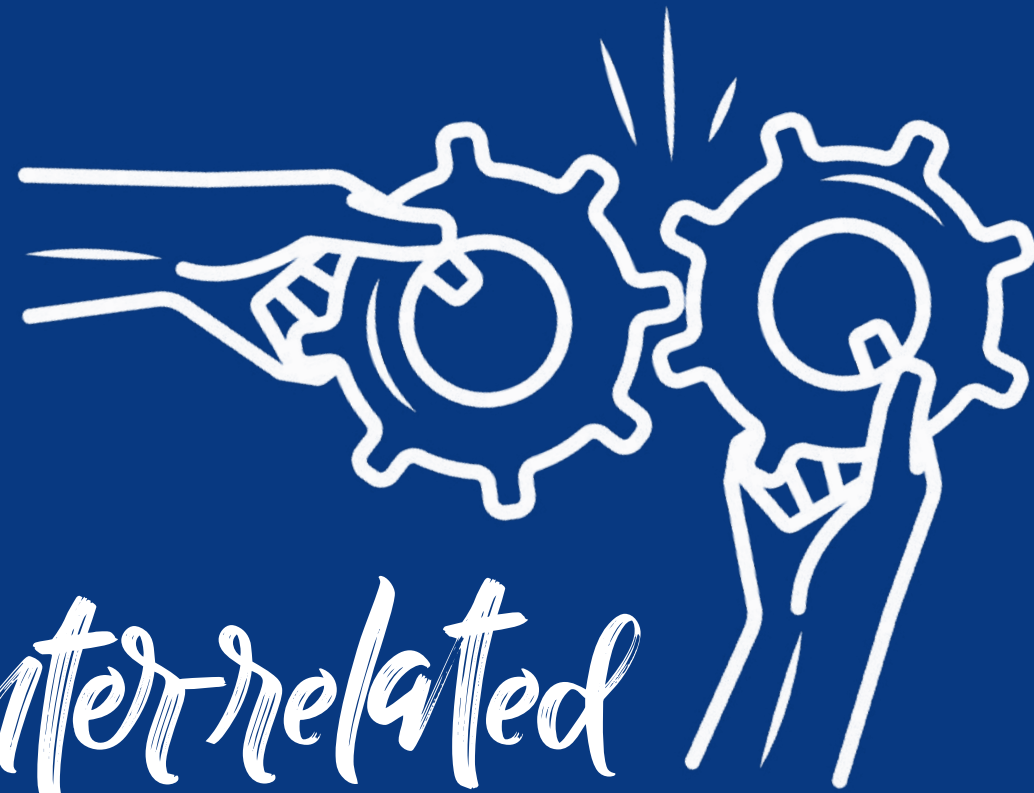
Our Kenya programme has operated since 1986. At present, the programme focuses on youth as drivers of peaceful change. Through dialogue and Peace Actions, youth from divided and marginalised communities come together to find alternatives to the varied insecurities that affect their lives, with a strong focus on urban violence.

HORN OF AFRICA REGIONAL PROGRAMME

Our regional programme was launched in 2013 and is based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Building on our long-standing engagement in the Horn, we link local peacebuilding initiatives with policy debates on key peace and security issues at the regional and continental level, in particular with the African Union and the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development.

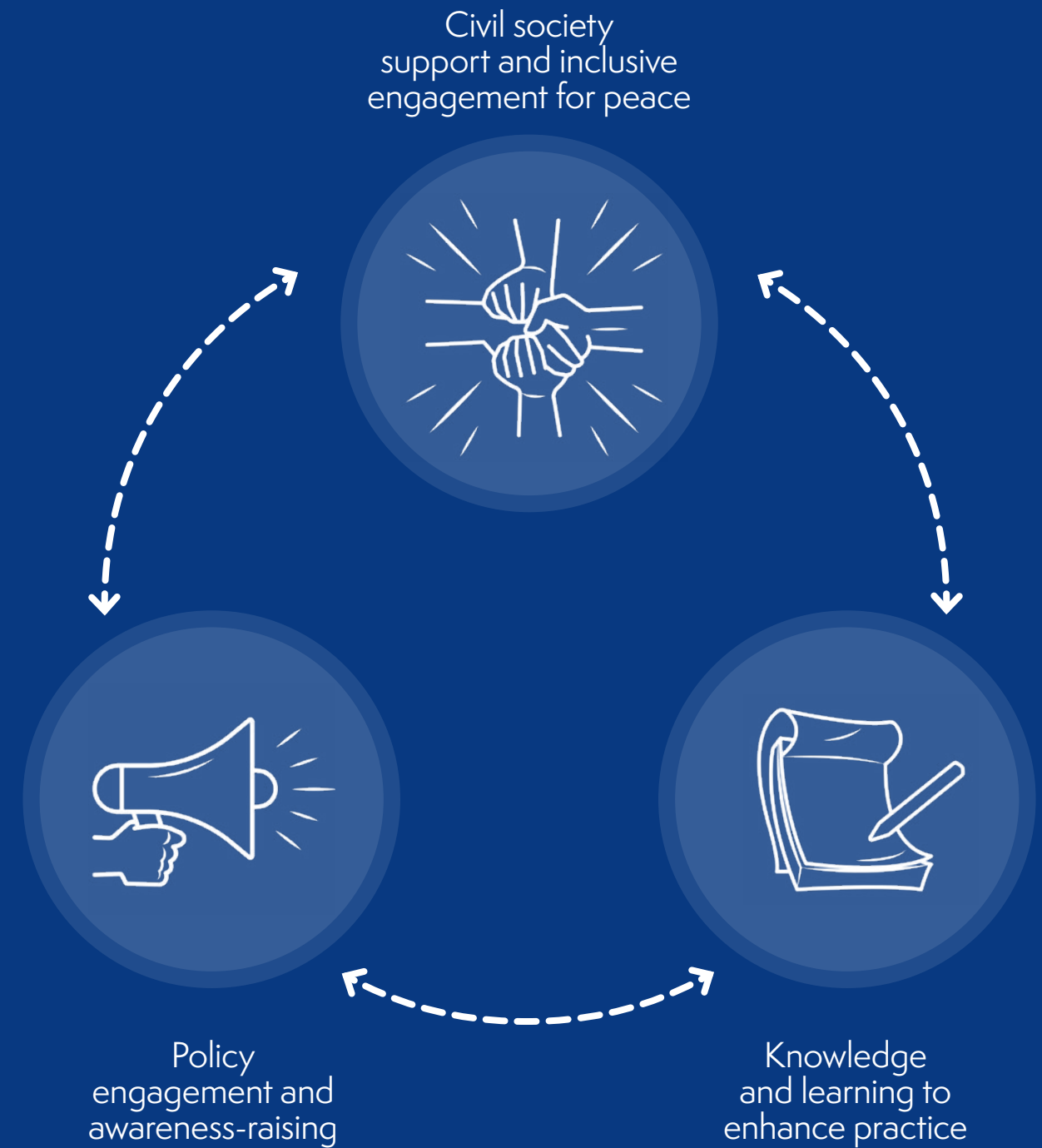
GLOBAL POLICY

Launched in 2018, the Inclusive Peace in Practice initiative is the cornerstone of our Global Policy Programme. It aims to rethink how peacebuilders and global decision makers interact on and formulate policy. This is about genuine collaboration and meaningful participation to create better global policies for responding to conflict and promoting peace around the world.



3 Interrelated Strategic Priorities

Our peacebuilding work is closely guided by 3 inter-related strategic priorities. The combined strengths of these priorities enable us to fulfil our vision to support and promote nonviolent approaches to conflict transformation in line with our core organisational values. Our strategic priorities are consistently and coherently reflected across all 8 LPI programmes.



How We Work

Our work is always shaped by the specific needs of our partners. Together, we undertake joint analyses to better understand what these needs are and figure out how best to address them. For us, this is a mutual learning experience through which we add value to one another.

Community Dialogue participant during Peace Action, Kamukunji, Nairobi, Kenya

Peacebuilding is complex

It requires close collaboration and diverse partnerships to ensure ever greater inclusion. It means working at multiple levels to effect change. It needs safe spaces to discuss problems, challenges, and aspirations. And develop greater understanding and trust. It recognises that conflict transformation processes are rife with obstacles and setbacks, as well as hard-won breakthroughs. It takes deep reflection, innovation, and creativity to overcome these difficulties.

Above all, peacebuilding depends on long-term commitment and in-depth understanding that is strongly anchored in the experiences of the people who live with violent conflict every day.

How we work is designed to meet these challenges.



Street Art at AUW campus, Omdurman, Khartoum, Sudan



Partnerships

We know peace begins with people. This is why partnerships are the very heart and soul of our work. We pay careful attention to the relationships we forge with our partners over time. We value mutual respect, trust, openness, and joint learning. We deeply appreciate the strengths and capacities of our partners.

Our approach to working with partners is multi-faceted. This includes support to partners to enhance their organisational and financial capacities. It covers accompaniment on specific activities or processes. We promote networking and exchange by convening forums, meetings, and discussions between partners on topical issues. We also facilitate connections and make links with policymakers and international actors for our partners, helping them to create opportunities to speak. And be heard.

At LPI, building a diverse and inclusive range of partnerships—in civil society, academic, and policy spheres—is critical to our shared successes. Importantly, we always seek to build on the local knowledge and skills of our partners and the people who experience conflict in the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes Region. Together, we use a varied mix of peacebuilding methods and tools. With our partners, we decide how to work with these resources, depending on the specific conflict issues that need to be addressed, and the available opportunities for engagement in each context.

We also accompany community-based and grassroots actors to support organising in civil society spaces that mainstream development, humanitarian, and peacebuilding actors often do not reach. In our experience, this approach creates new potential for genuine locally owned peacebuilding.



Inclusive Peace Lab, Nairobi, Kenya



Dialogue

Dialogue is essential to how we carry out our peacebuilding work. We use a variety of models across all our programmes—community dialogues, women-to-women dialogues, dialogues that build on traditional methods of conflict resolution, multi-level dialogues, and Sustained Dialogue.¹ The type of dialogue we support depends on the needs of the people with whom we work.

Dialogue is much more than just talking. It is a process that brings people with different experiences and perspectives together to listen to one another and share these experiences and perspectives in a safe space. It also involves joint analysis of conflict dynamics. This often requires preparing people to be able to constructively participate. They may need help to improve their listening skills. They may need to develop more confidence to speak up. Or they may need to enhance their leadership and facilitation skills.

The primary aim of any dialogue we support is to broaden and deepen mutual understanding between conflicting parties. In LPI experience, this can have powerful effects. Dialogue can transform relationships in positive ways. It can catalyse joint action to address conflict. And it can create more peacebuilders.

Women-to-women dialogue

Creating safe spaces for diverse women to dialogue is one way to support women to be active peacebuilders. Women-to-women dialogue is designed to respond to the limitations of conventional peace processes and political settlements, where the perceptions and voices of women are rarely heard or formally represented. This approach to dialogue aims to develop a fuller understanding of how women contribute to conflict and peace—from the perspective of women themselves. It also put this knowledge into action.

Women are vital for breaking cycles of violence. Delivering on their genuine inclusion is essential for long-term conflict reduction and improving the chances of sustainable peace.

¹The Sustained Dialogue methodology was developed by the late Dr Harold Sanders, president and founder of the Institute for Sustained Dialogue. For more information, see: <https://sustaineddialogue.org/>



Reflective Practice



Conflict Analysis



Research



Generating Knowledge



Finding Evidence

We know local knowledge is a cornerstone of peacebuilding processes. Only deep and detailed understanding about how conflict occurs (its root causes), and how it affects the daily lives of those who experience it, can bring change. At LPI, strategic engagement to support the nonviolent transformation of conflict often begins here.

We are deeply committed to reflective practice. This is key to our effectiveness. We use a wide range of approaches and methodologies to conduct joint conflict analysis and research, and to generate relevant evidence-based information. In particular, we use Participatory Action Research to develop new perspectives, clearer insights, and deeper understanding in the dialogues and collective Peace Actions we support our partners and their communities to undertake.

Our commitment to reflective practice also motivates us to continually question received wisdom, given assumptions, and terminology in the peacebuilding field. We do this because it leads to innovation. We believe that discovering new insight is most powerful when it empowers us, our partners, broader community stakeholders, and policymakers on all levels to act differently—to do better—in our collective efforts to build peace.

Participatory Action Research

As we apply Participatory Action Research in LPI peacebuilding work, our primary aim is to enable those partners who take part in this process to identify and use nonviolent solutions to conflict. This methodology differs from classical research and other peacebuilding interventions in key ways. It establishes new relationships between research and action, theory and practice, and researcher and conflict stakeholders. In Participatory Action Research, conflict stakeholders are the experts.

Participatory Action Research is about producing knowledge and simultaneously transforming the realities of destructive intractable conflicts. An inherently participatory process, when we use this method in a conflict setting, we aim to engage all parties to the conflict. We support them to analyse the range of interpretations expressed by participants—what they think the causes and consequences of the conflict are, as they see this from their multiple perspectives. We then help these local conflict analysts to identify constructive nonviolent actions for the future. And put them into practice.



Creativity

Looking for new ways to transform violent conflict—testing and experimenting with different methods to see what works best—is part and parcel of our approach. Peacebuilding is a complex challenge, so we need to be inventive in how we engage.



Art & culture for peacebuilding

At LPI, we know building peace takes imagination to visualise alternative ways of living, feeling, and acting in the face of conflict. To encourage this, we adapt a variety of artistic methods in our work: Body Mapping, theatre and skits, poems, songs, music, and relevant traditional ceremonies.



Making the most of technology

From mobile communication and social media, to geo-spatial mapping and creating virtual spaces, we use a range of technological tools to enhance our peacebuilding practices—always mindful of the challenges virtual reality poses for working in inclusive ways. Technology can create links between people who are hard to connect, making it easier for them to interact. It also helps us keep in touch with our partners, especially in remote areas.



Applying design thinking

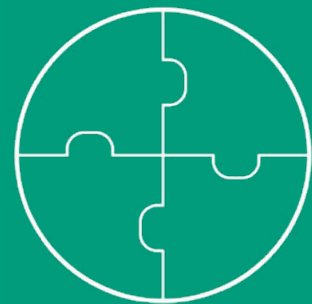
Putting many heads together can make for the best ideas. We use think-lab methods to convene diverse groups of people who understand a given challenge, allowing them to creatively explore and identify pathways to action. This can result in innovative pilot projects designed to test a model or practice that has not been tried in the same way before.

Key Principles of Practice




Conflict Sensitivity

Conflict sensitivity is a core component of all our peacebuilding work, from start to finish. It determines how and what we decide to do, always in ongoing consultation with our partners. It also informs our choice of partners and participants. We know that who joins in, and when, impacts both the function and outcome of our activities. Whether we are supporting community-level dialogue processes, providing capacity building or technical support, convening forums and summits, engaging in global advocacy, or conducting and publishing our field work, conflict sensitivity is embedded in all we do.



Adaptive Programming

Peace and conflict are not static conditions. They are processes that continually shift and change—often in quick, complex, and unpredictable ways. In our experience, the nature of peacebuilding work requires us to constantly assess and evaluate risks, challenges, and emerging opportunities. It also means we are on a perpetual learning curve to better understand the changing contexts in which we work. Our commitment to results-based management and Outcome Harvesting² drive our need to use adaptive programming. This ensures our peacebuilding work continues to make effective and relevant contributions to achieving our overall objectives and goals. If something does not work, we adapt to find a new solution.



Transformative Approaches to Gender

We take a whole-of-programme approach to gender, including mainstreaming gender issues across all 8 LPI programmes. We also design, analyse, and implement projects that specifically address the marginalisations, exclusions, and inequities linked to gender norms. We know that a transformative approach to gender in peacebuilding both emphasises women's concerns and aspirations, and focuses on conflict itself as a gendered experience—how it is understood, its effects on gender roles and dynamics, how it affects men and women differently, and how their peacebuilding needs might differ. To ensure that the knowledge and evidence we generate takes full account of gender issues, we always collect sex-disaggregated data across our programmes and activities.³

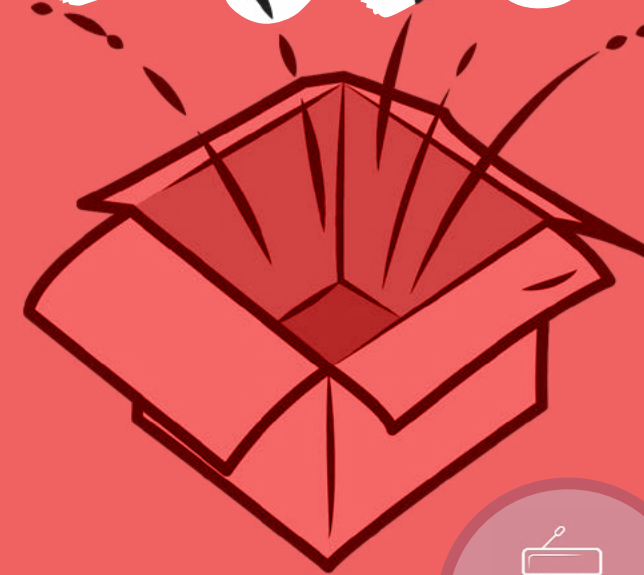
²Outcome Harvesting is a monitoring and evaluation approach inspired by Outcome Mapping and utilisation-focused evaluation. This method collects evidence of what has been achieved in the programme or project area and works backwards to determine whether and how the intervention contributed to the change. It differs from other evaluation methods that start with predetermined outcomes and measure progress towards them. See: Wilson-Grau, R (2105). Outcome Harvesting. Better Evaluation, http://betterevaluation.org/plan/approach/outcome_harvesting

³LPI acknowledges that sex and gender identities are multiple and do not always align with the dominant binary categories of female and male. Across the majority of our eight programmes, however, it is extremely unusual (and often dangerous) for people to be open about other forms of gender identity. Consequently, descriptions of programme activities and participants reflect prevailing normative cultural perspectives where we work.

Making Change

This overview of LPI work during 2019 highlights the diversity of our approach to peacebuilding. But one factor unites all our programme activities. They contribute toward the achievement of our overall vision that peace, justice, and nonviolent relations prevail through the active work and commitment of all people.

New in 2019



Listening Tour to hear youth voices in Sudan



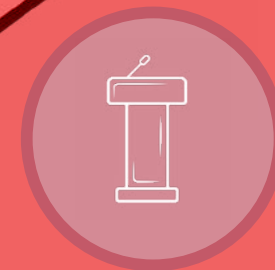
Inclusive Peace in Practice initiative to promote meaningful local-to-global engagement



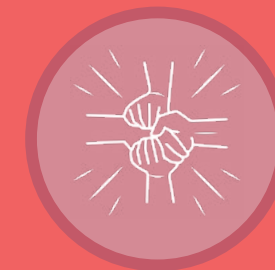
Civil society networking in Ethiopia and Sudan



A first: UN Peacebuilding Fund support for our civil society-led youth peacebuilding project in Somalia



Creating space for women's political participation during Somali regional elections



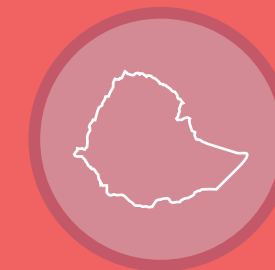
Collaborative evaluation of 10 years of peacebuilding in the Democratic Republic of Congo



A New Table, novel approach to informal global policy discussions



Youth-led action for urban peacebuilding and joining the Peace in Our Cities Campaign



Youth-led Peace Incubation projects across 12 locations in Ethiopia



Gloco-LoCo Lab in Sweden

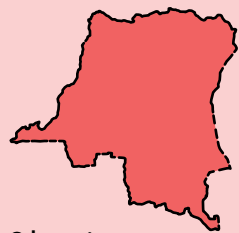


Innovative toolkit to explore resilience in situations of violence and insecurity

Democratic Republic of Congo

This year, our work in the DRC primarily focused on improving peacebuilding and conflict transformation practices and policies in the country, with specific attention to North and South Kivu. We invited a diverse range of local and international peacebuilding practitioners, UN agencies, and DRC authorities to join us in a unique collaborative evaluation process. Together, we reflected on 10 years of peacebuilding results—from 2008 to 2018. Working with a highly experienced external evaluation team, we are now half-way through this evaluation process, which will be completed in 2020.

In late 2019, we also started a project in the southern part of South Kivu with 3 partners: Réseau d’Innovation organisationnelle (RIO), Réseau de Concertation des Cadres intercommunautaires (RCCI) and Action pour le Développement et la Paix Endogène (ADEPAE). The project supports community peacebuilding structures in their response to violence and efforts to strengthen cross-community collaboration.



9 locations

- Ruzizi Plain
- High Plateaux of Fizi (including Minembwe)
- Moyens Plateaux of Uvira and Fizi
- Fizi littoral (including Baraka)
- Kalehe littoral
- Moyens Plateaux of Kalehe
- Bunyakiri
- Bukavu
- Goma

Despite the first peaceful transition of power since 1960, with the election of President Tshisekedi in 2018, and the opening up of more space for civil society, the country remains caught in a cycle of violence that appears to be worsening. This is especially the case in North and South Kivu, where violent clashes and military confrontations continue between old and new armed groups—growing in number—and the national army.

The consequence of this long history of tension and violence is a profound lack of trust between communities, and between communities and political authorities, especially the security sector. Prolonged violence and instability have resulted in deep-seated conflicts that revolve around the complex intersection of access to land, power, and identity. For nearly 20 years, we have supported our peacebuilding partners in the DRC to address these challenges through in-depth and long-term conflict transformation processes.

“In our committee, there are Barundi, Bifulero, Banyamulenge, and Bavira. We work together to mediate conflicts. Initially, we were hesitant. We were not at ease. But now, we have worked together for 3 years. We know each other and collaborate well. This is sending a good signal to the community.”

Member of a community peacebuilding structure in Sangé, Uvira territory, DRC, interviewed during the collaborative evaluation process

Facts and Figures



Focus group discussions



People



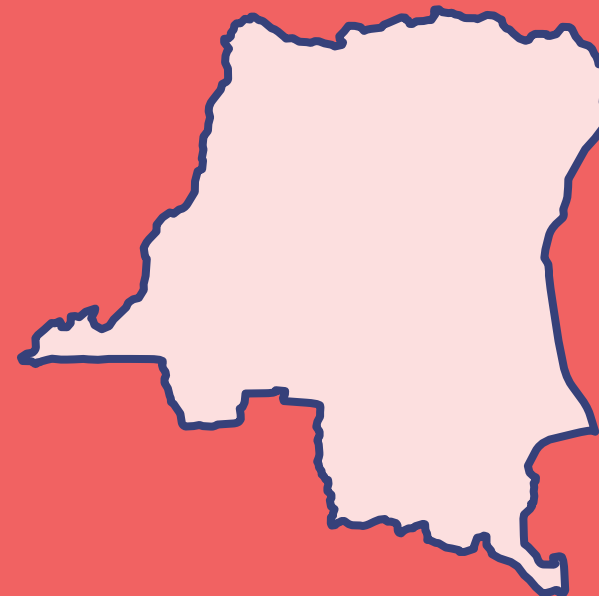
Women in South Kivu



Women and men youth leaders



Community members not involved in local peace initiatives or activities



5 key groups engaged



Local authorities from the customary, administrative, and security realms

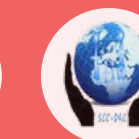


Members of local peace groups



Women leaders

Partners





Collaborative learning from the bottom-up

A fundamental question drove the initiation of our unique joint learning project in 2019: How effective has local peacebuilding work been in the DRC? To find answers, we undertook a sector-wide evaluation of 10 years of peacebuilding efforts in North and South Kivu. Our goal was to draw lessons from this long-term peacebuilding work to generate knowledge and determine best practices and pitfalls. Most important of all, we sought to help peacebuilders address the complex conflict challenges in the DRC by engaging them in a meaningful process of shared learning.

Our emphasis was on the how. A critical ingredient for the success of the evaluation process was to develop a framework for collaboration among local and international peacebuilding practitioners. This consisted of establishing an experienced, well-balanced, and diverse reference group of 15 organisations—10 Congolese and 5 international groups, including LPI. Guided by the external evaluation team, the reference group was tasked with advising and informing the evaluation process, selecting the evaluation sites, jointly designing the evaluation methodology, developing relevant questions, and contributing to data collection.

At the core of this evaluation effort was deep and broad engagement with people living in areas where peacebuilding work has been done. Careful preparation and participant identification allowed us and our partners to engage a wide diversity and breadth of women, men, and young people to share their various experiences of and with peacebuilding.

Reflecting our commitment to engage on multiple levels, an essential part of the initial process was to make sure we involved relevant local authorities, including the government Stabilization and Reconstruction Programme (STAREC). Key donors and other international actors in the peacebuilding sector were also engaged to generate interest and support for the evaluation.



Key results to date

The thoroughly participatory approach, along with the focus on learning about the peacebuilding sector in eastern DRC, was an effective way to nurture strong support for the evaluation process and begin documenting experiences from the ground up—how people who live with violent conflict see the changes that result from 10 years of peacebuilding efforts. Not only has it prompted partners to reflect on their own approaches to peacebuilding, but donors and other international actors also appreciated the relevance of the evaluation to their own work in the DRC. Collaboration between the 15 organisations in the reference group has been significantly enhanced as a result of the process, which allowed us to create a conducive space for joint learning. In particular, the local peacebuilding partners were pivotal in preparing the way for data collection. Their deep knowledge of the local contexts in which they work, staff presence in the data collection sites, and being well-known by the local authorities was invaluable. Their capacity to mobilise local participation was essential for making sure that a diverse group of people shared their views.

How to enhance peacebuilding roles

Young people are saying...

- Support research and dialogue processes specifically for young people or undertake accompaniment in other processes to allow for real participation with influence in dialogue processes—beyond simply fulfilling quotas
- Promote the emergence of inclusive and responsible young leadership
- Create dialogue and accountability spaces between young people and authorities, in general and to counter manipulation by political actors
- Strengthen peacebuilding and conflict transformation efforts with socio-economic empowerment (job creation)

Women are saying...

- Organise for targeted support and accompaniment to prepare them for meaningful participation
- Provide support for action rather than doing awareness-raising and information sharing

Source: Initial findings from South Kivu evaluation team report on data collection

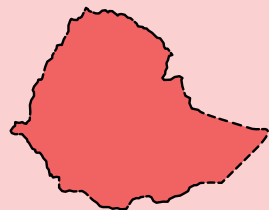


Focus Group Discussion in Kigoma, South Kivu, DRC

Ethiopia

Given the current large-scale transitions underway in Ethiopia, we used adaptive programming to ensure that our peacebuilding work remained relevant with this changing context, using opportunities as they arose. In 2019, our overall priority was to enhance and empower young people as peaceful change-makers.

We focused on 4 areas of engagement, working closely with our partners. First, we continued and developed the Sustainable Dialogue project with university students. Second, we experimented with a Peace Incubation initiative that allowed participants to create peacebuilding platforms for young people in their communities. Third, we made headway in strengthening capacities for conflict-sensitive land administration, and women’s participation. Finally, we facilitated exchange and joint work to strengthen diverse civil society organisations as effective peacebuilding actors, with a working group that now meets on a regular basis.



17 locations

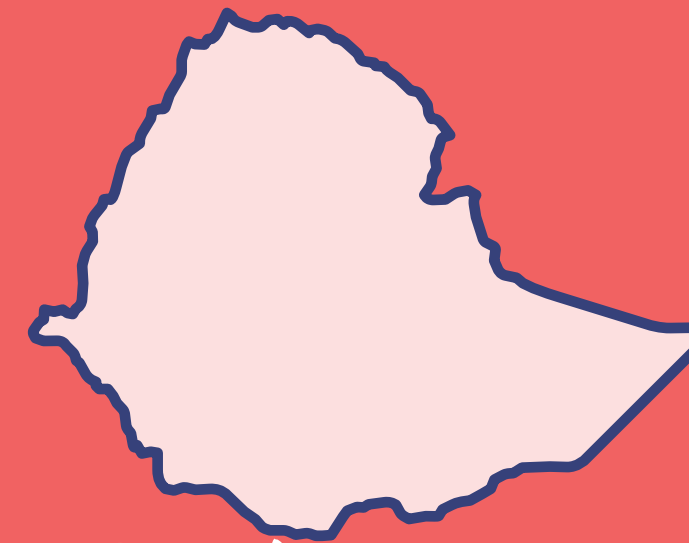
- Haramaya University
- Jimma University
- Ambo University
- Bahir Dar University
- Gondar University
- Eastern Hararge Zone
- 11 Peace Incubation actions (Meki, Shashemene, Dodola, Dire Dawa, Debre Markos, Feresbet, Gendawuha, Kose, Dedo, Mizan, Debrework)

The current transition of power and opening of political space—including revisions to the laws governing civil society, media independence, and freedom of expression—initially created a new sense of hope in Ethiopia. With the opening of more space for civil society, and broad recognition of the massive peace and conflict challenges in the country, interest to collaborate with civil society on peace issues has increased. Despite these positive developments, 2019 was a turbulent year that saw heightened political instability, a deteriorating security situation, and increasing inter-ethnic conflicts.

"I used to look for my own ethnic group members to interact and socialise with. But after joining the Sustained Dialogue project, I learnt how to interact and mingle with other ethnic groups and I found it very interesting. I had the opportunity to get to know different cultures and languages to learn."

Sustained Dialogue participant (male), Ambo University, Oromia, Ethiopia

Facts and Figures



Coffee ceremonies to share personal impact



Panel discussions to promote culture, diverse views, and perspectives

Reached

by the Conflict-Sensitive Land Administration project



Student-led Peace Actions



Football matches to build trust



Art to spread the message of peace and tolerance



Peace walks and tree planting

Partners

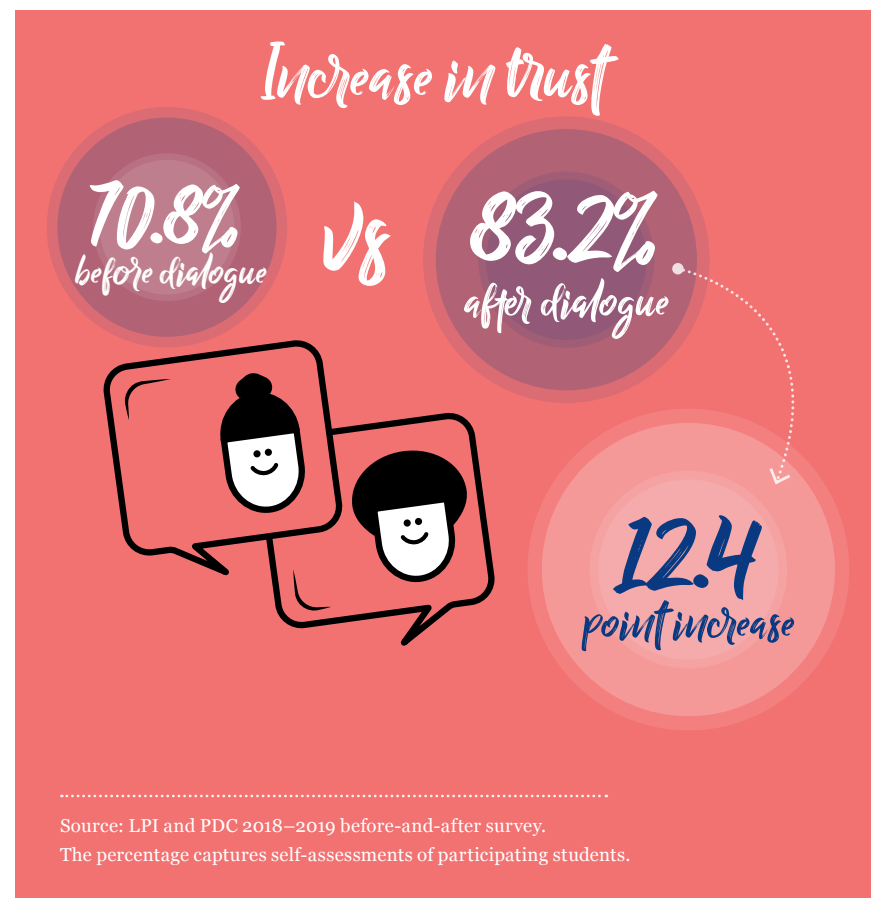




Addressing conflict at universities amid tensions

With our long-term partner, PDC, we have been implementing the Sustained Dialogue project on 5 university campuses since 2017. This year, all these universities were challenged by ethnic tensions and violent conflicts. Despite this, we achieved a number of positive outcomes.

We gathered clear evidence that these student-led dialogue processes are effective in building bridges across deeply divided communities—creating a range of changes at individual and inter-personal levels. The 2018–2019 before-and-after surveys document increased levels of understanding and trust between student participants, with data showing a significant positive change in the percentage of Sustained Dialogue participants who believe that they either “completely trust” or “somewhat trust” people from another ethnic group. There was also an increase in the number of Sustained Dialogue participants who recognize the concerns of people from different ethnic backgrounds.



Students take the lead

Demonstrating that the Sustained Dialogue process in Ethiopia has been significantly scaled up, participants reached more than 25,000 new students through a week of Peace Actions across all 5 university campuses. In a unique development, student participants also spearheaded a new initiative to address growing tensions on their campuses through targeted inter-group dialogue. Another highlight in 2019 was the establishment of the Sustained Dialogue Alumni Network, with 40 founding members who had been part of Sustained Dialogue at their universities. Moving forward, the alumni group and their broader networks will be critical for capitalising on the capacities of young people in Ethiopia to address conflict through dialogue and nonviolence. To build on these achievements, PDC and LPI developed a broader university conflict management and peacebuilding programme designed to deepen a culture of peace and resilience.



Building peace back home

Peace Incubation is a new approach to creating a dynamic environment for outstanding student leaders to develop new ideas about spreading the message of peace and nonviolence beyond their university campuses. With support and direction from LPI staff and outside experts during a 2-week Peace Incubation period in Addis Ababa, these young peacebuilders from the Sustained Dialogue project incubate ideas for innovative solutions to social problems faced by their home communities. Equipped with a plan and a small budget, they return home to implement their projects during university break. This year, our Peace Incubation initiative hosted 16 peace innovators—an equal number of young women and men from diverse ethnic backgrounds.

A key success factor is to involve the local formal and informal authorities in their home communities. This had positive knock-on effects. In Ethiopia, young people are often seen as troublemakers and agents of violence. But our peace innovators actively changed that view. They showed their communities and local authorities that young people could play a valuable and effective role in peacebuilding and in efforts to redress violence. Their capacity for leadership earned them more respect and gave rise to more openness for inclusion across generational divides.

“The power of the youth hasn’t yet been explored. Their potential and power has to be developed. We have to train and support them and mould them as peacebuilders like this organisation [LPI] is doing. We have to give the youth responsibilities according to their capacities and take them seriously.”

Local government official, Shashemene, Ethiopia



Women come to the fore in land-related matters

The Conflict-Sensitive Land Administration project, also led by PDC, continued to make good progress in improving land administration during 2019. After 2 rounds of empowerment training, women were able to claim more space as agents of peaceful change, especially as effective mediators in land-related conflict. Reflecting increased community acceptance that women have an important role to play, for the first time ever 7 women (all trained by the PDC team) were included in a local government land administration committee for the woreda and kebele level. This is a significant development. It offers concrete proof of changing views among local policy actors towards women.

This year, elders and women also underwent similar training processes to create greater alignment in how they understand land-related conflicts. This contributed to more coordination and collaboration between them to resolve conflicts in peaceful ways, which we saw happen in Ejjigina kebele in Kombolcha woreda. In this kebele, women and elders also came together to help resolve a conflict between 2 Muslim sects over the acceptance of a religious leader. Egu kebele offers further evidence of increased cooperation. And local initiative. All those who were trained—10 elders and 5 women—established themselves as a mediator group to deal with land-related disputes at the kebele level.

These are unprecedented developments. They show strengthened relationships and more space for women to have authority and influence in this traditionally male-dominated domain.

"My husband was in conflict with one of our neighbours over a plot of land. ... I de-escalated the conflict in my neighbourhood over farmland by calming down my husband and inviting third parties to help them mediate the problem. Finally, the conflict, which potentially could have led to death, was resolved peacefully through mediation and dialogue."

Female training participant in Naga Umer Kule kebele of Fedis woreda, Ethiopia



Art for Peace event, Shashemene, Ethiopia

Global Policy

The Inclusive Peace in Practice initiative is now the cornerstone of our Global Policy Programme. A 3-year pilot project (2020–2022), our initiative aims to find new ways for peacebuilders and policymakers to interact and work together. This means building stronger partnerships between those who lead the practical work of peacebuilding at the local level and those making decisions on peace policy in global discussions. This is also about making these relationships more equal, building on the diverse forms of power they each hold.

We believe this will create better global policies that more effectively respond to conflict and promote peace around the world. We also hope it will result in new policymaking processes that are genuinely participatory and mutually beneficial. Inclusive and sustainable peace depends on this.



10 locations

- Sweden – Stockholm
- Somalia – Kismayo, Mogadishu
- DRC – Bukavu
- Kenya – Nairobi
- Belgium – Brussels
- UK – London
- US – New York, Washington DC
- Ethiopia – Addis Ababa

Global peacebuilding policies often fall far short of intended goals and achievements. Despite the best of intentions and political will, they fail to create lasting peace. In large part, this is because of a huge gap between global policymakers and the people who work every day to build peace in their own communities. With rising levels of violence around the world, there is an urgent need to bridge this gap.

But the reality is that interactions between global policymakers and local peacebuilders are rare. When they do happen, they tend to be one-off meetings or relatively superficial conversations, with global policymakers defining the terms of engagement—who, what, when, and where. Our Inclusive Peace in Practice initiative works to change this.

"We seem to be working to navigate a challenging system. But are we working to change it? And are we just looking at technical changes in how we work and implement projects? Or really to change it?"

INGO representative, validation workshop, New York, US

Facts and Figures

313

Individuals reached during the inception period



158
women



155
men



25%
youth

7

Major global peace building networks



24

Funders and private sector actors engaged

77

Civil society organisations across Africa, Europe, and the United States



Co-designing the Inclusive Peace in Practice initiative

In 2019, we focused on laying solid foundations to ensure that our Inclusive Peace in Practice initiative encompasses the diverse needs and interests of peacebuilders. We began by exploring the opportunities and challenges related to shaping and influencing global peacebuilding policy from local perspectives. What could meaningful participation really look like? How could global policy genuinely reflect local needs—and knowledge? Equipped with key findings from a wide range of in-depth consultations, we set out to test the relevance of emerging insights, and discuss where there was momentum for change. To jointly create options for action, we then hosted an Inclusive Peace Lab as the culmination of this inception phase. A collaborative process to co-develop and fine tune the initiative, our collective aim was to develop strategies to start shifting and changing the policymaking system. The result was the Inclusive Peace in Practice initiative.

Barriers to meaningful local-to-global engagement

PARTICIPATION: Meaningful participation is rare. Local-to-global interaction is often tokenistic, one-off, ad hoc, and reinforces existing power dynamics.

EVIDENCE AND EXPERTISE: Technical quantitative social science-driven data continue to be privileged over lived or experiential evidence, leading to a small group of individuals who are seen as the experts on a given conflict.

LOCATION AND SPACE: Decision-making on peace and conflict takes place in a small group of largely inaccessible policy capitals in the Global North. This means that the terms and topics are determined by international actors, who are far away from where the people and issues are actually are.

FRAMEWORKS: A wide variety of policies and agendas guide global discussions. These are viewed as being developed from above and implemented on the ground through top-down localisation processes.

LANGUAGE: The language and discourse of the global peacebuilding architecture is inaccessible. It communicates to some people and institutions at the expense of others.

COLLABORATION AND FINANCING: The culture of international peacebuilding is competitive and operates in a way that is difficult for local actors to access. This entrenches the role of international intermediaries and maintains accountability to donors rather than to communities.



Creating new spaces, new ways to engage

Our participation in the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development in New York in July 2019 was as an opportunity to learn more about the global peacebuilding policy space. We were also part of the [Voices of SDG16+](#) campaign, which highlighted local peacebuilders at this global meeting. Convened by a group of civil society peacebuilding organisations, including LPI, this campaign solicited more than 200 video submissions from local peacebuilders to tell their stories. Of these, 14 peacebuilders were invited to attend the HLPF to share more about their experiences and present their work. Importantly, this also enabled them to engage with high-level decision makers about how to change global peacebuilding policymaking so it is more effective for their local communities. The peacebuilders came from a variety of contexts—Afghanistan, Cameroon, Canada, India, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Somaliland, and Uganda.

Alongside our participation in the HLPF, we test-drove a new way to take conversations about peacebuilding policy out of UN officialdom to informal settings in 2 restaurants in Harlem, one of the most historically marginalised communities in New York. We designed the 2 events as small dinner parties with 6 guests each. The guests came together in semi-facilitated conversations to spark dialogue, where the food and the story of both restaurants—Red Rooster, owned by an Ethiopian-Swedish chef, and Safari, the only Somali restaurant in New York—were also part of the conversation. We call this A New Table.

Click here to see the [film](#).



Inclusive Peace Lab, Nairobi, Kenya



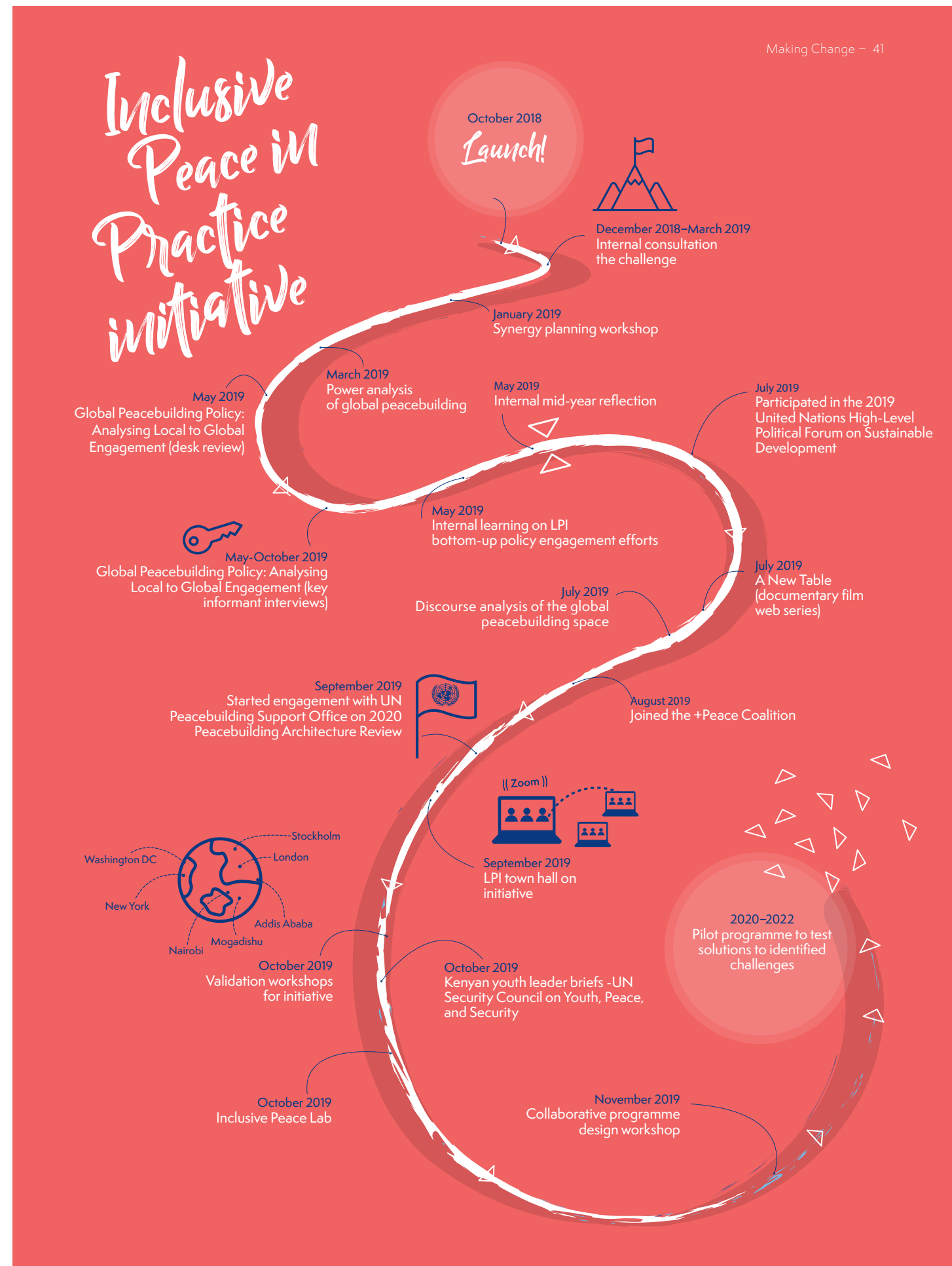
Linking local insight to global policy

An opportunity to influence the development of new approaches to global policymaking in practice emerged in mid-2019 when the UN Peacebuilding Support Office in New York asked us to host a regional consultation as part of their 2020 UN Peacebuilding Architecture Review. We plan to use this invitation to create space in a formal policy process to hear from a diverse range of stakeholders working in the Horn of Africa and Great Lakes Region. Our engagement in this review process will form a cornerstone of the Inclusive Peace in Practice initiative in 2020.

As we move into full-fledged implementation for the 3-year pilot phase of our initiative, we will also test out a model for developing policy responses to conflict that works from the bottom up. This approach enables local communities to shape their own policy proposals, prioritising what matters most to them, and what policy responses they want to see. This is the opposite of traditional top-down models for making global peacebuilding policy, where other (more powerful and often external) actors decide what local communities need to address their conflict-related challenges. During 2019, we began exploring how to use a bottom-up policymaking model with the LPI team and partners in Somalia, where global decisions have acute effects on local realities of peace and conflict. This is also practical. It builds on our long-term work in the country.

"How do we create space for the people who are closest to these issues—who know the issues and have the convening power? ... My colleague in Uganda spends half of his time trying to write proposals in the language of the donor. Even though he has the most amazing ideas for peacebuilding, he will probably not have much of a chance."

INGO representative and former donor, at HLPF, New York, United States



Horn of Africa Regional Programme

The Horn of Africa Regional Programme (HARP) was launched in 2013 and is based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Building on our long-standing engagement in the region, we link local peacebuilding initiatives and local peacebuilders with policy debates on key peace and security issues at the regional and continental level, in particular to the African Union (AU) and the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD). Because our country programmes in Somalia, Kenya, Sudan, and Ethiopia also work on related issues, cross-organisational cooperation is central to our regional activities.

In 2019, we mainly focused on 2 key thematic areas of policy and practice in need of stronger peacebuilding and human security perspectives: borderlands and preventing/countering violent extremism (P/CVE). As we anticipated, long-awaited results have begun to materialise.

8 locations

- Addis Ababa
- Nairobi
- Kampala
- Moyale, Ethiopia
- Moyale, Kenya
- Busia, Uganda
- Busia, Kenya
- Kassala, Sudan

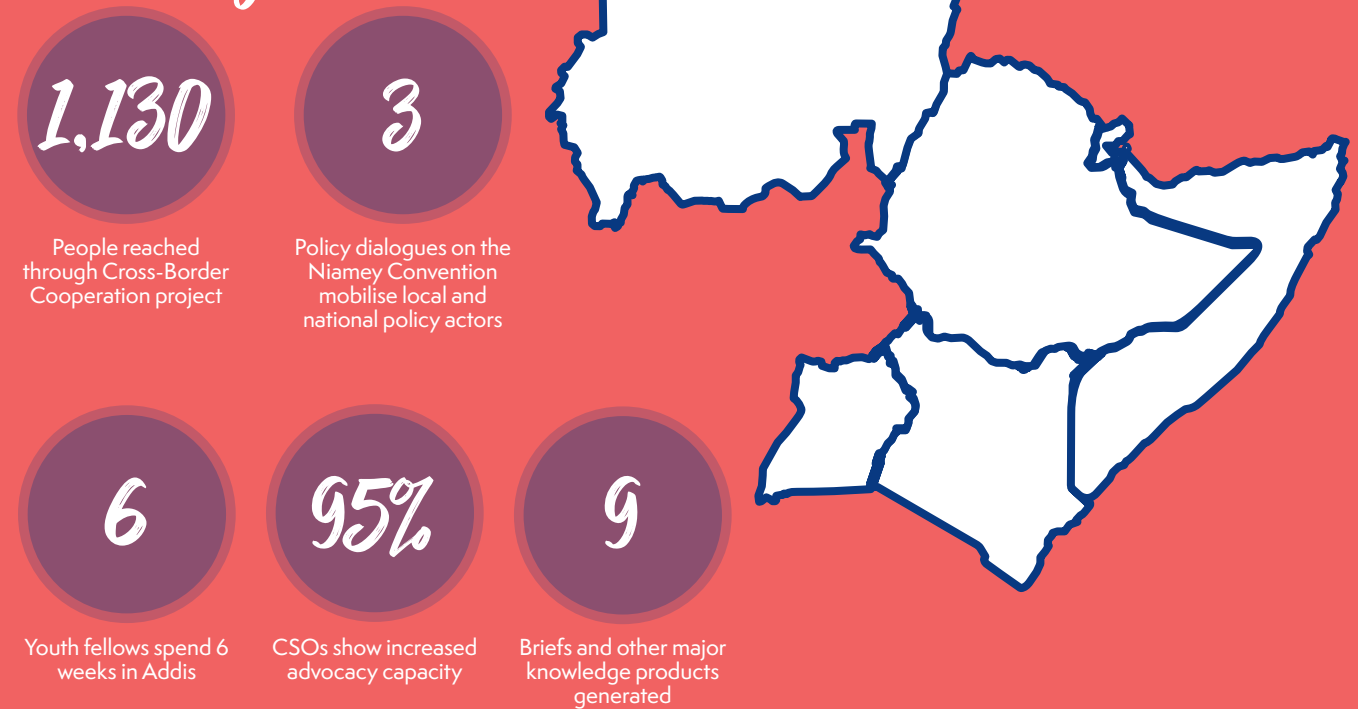
Regional responses to security issues in borderlands and violent extremism are highly securitised and regarded as the exclusive domain of states. In the Horn of Africa, these issues are rarely seen in terms of the human security challenges they create for local communities, with very few spaces for civil society to meaningfully engage and influence relevant policy agendas. We work to reverse these tendencies by advocating and supporting states and intergovernmental bodies to take an inclusive human security approach to policymaking—one that more actively involves civil society. In our experience, this is more likely to result in successful win-win outcomes over the long run.

"We have provided a platform for the people living in border areas in Busia to participate in decision-making on border issues through community dialogues with community and religious leaders, and community-facilitated radio talk shows."

Member of the borderland coalition, Alliance for Sustainable Health and Wealth in Africa (ASHWA), Busia, Uganda

Facts and Figures

Policy actors



#BridgingAfricanBorders

Following the frequent posts about the Niamey Convention, the EASSI Facebook page has risen from



Partners





Improving human security in borderlands

Started in March 2017, the Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) project is a large civil society-led initiative co-implemented with 3 regional partners to engage a coalition of 26 borderland civil society organisations. Our objective is to increase civil society participation in regional and continental cross-border policies that affect communities at these borders. In 2019, we saw some significant developments.

CREATING TRACTION FOR BORDERLAND PRIORITIES

This year, we witnessed CBC coalition members make important contributions to the cross-border policy environment. For example, our new initiative brought together 6 CBC fellows—3 young women and 3 young men—to engage with AU and IGAD officials in advocacy at the regional policy level. Demonstrating the capacities of these future civil society leaders, the CBC fellows achieved some key results. The AU Border Programme (AUBP) and the AU Continental Early Warning Situation Room expressed readiness to work with borderland CSOs to enrich their own regional work. They also commissioned the CBC fellows to generate a database of borderland CSOs that play a critical role in conflict early warning and related interventions. This marks a shift in mindset at the AU away from prior focus on national-level CSOs, and signals growing interest to more actively involve borderland civil society actors on peace and security issues in their areas.

Another very promising shift was renewed AUBP focus on the Niamey Convention, a key AU peacebuilding instrument for the prevention and resolution of cross-border conflict through dialogue. The head of the AU Conflict Prevention and Early Warning Division (CPEW) also played a pivotal role across the continent in getting the convention back on the agenda. Revived interest comes after several CBC coalition meetings with AUBP and CPEW officials, positive interactions between the AUBP and CBC fellows, sustained social media activities, and awareness-raising, especially with policymakers in Kenya and Uganda, about the value of the Niamey Convention in helping them to more effectively fulfil their roles. The AUBP is now undertaking a concerted push for signature and ratification of the Niamey Convention continent wide—a real CBC coalition success.

Cross-border crisis intervention

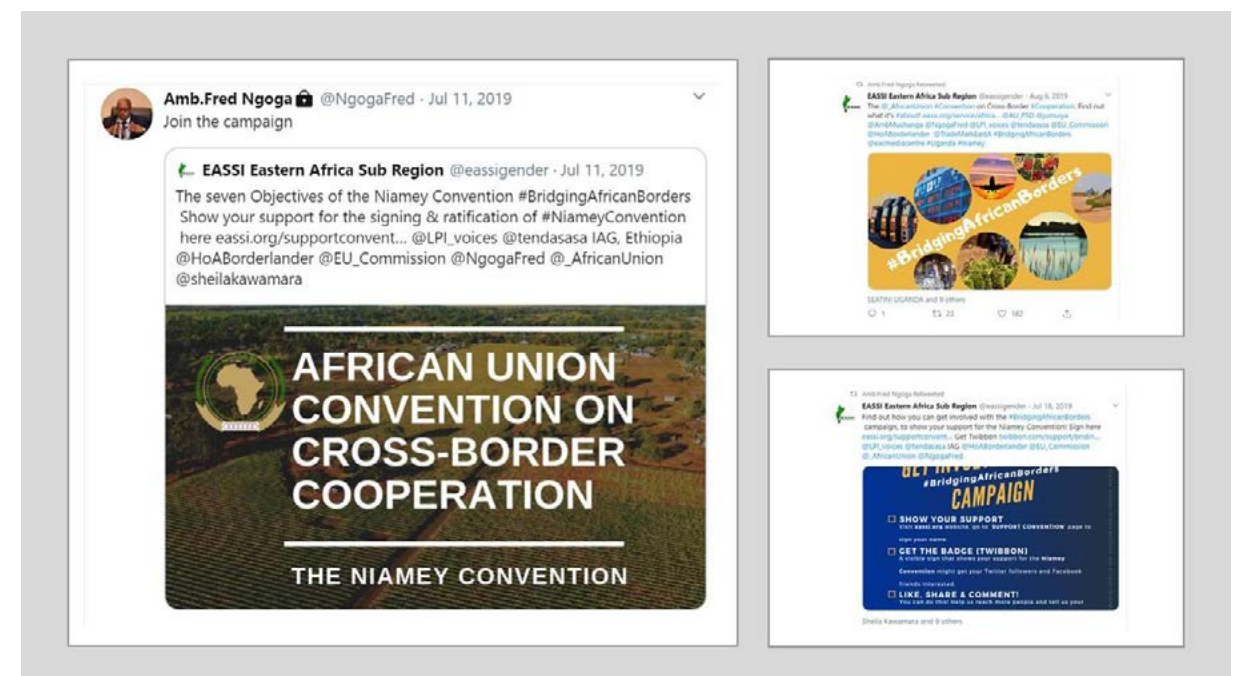
In Busia, CBC coalition members on both sides of the Kenya–Uganda border mobilised to prevent conflict from breaking out in this volatile area. Community tensions immediately rose when Ugandan police arrested 6 Kenyan women cross-border traders based on allegations by Ugandan business owners. Coalition members quickly called for a joint cross-border security meeting with key officials, who agreed to release the women to restore peace. The effective nonviolent resolution of this potentially dangerous situation offers concrete evidence of the strides our local partners have made in improving their advocacy skills, strategic organisational development, resource mobilisation, and capacities to collaborate with one another—and with local authorities and policymakers.

MOVING FROM POLICY FRAMEWORK TO ACTION

Our collaborative process for developing better policy responses to the nexus between Informal Cross-Border Trade and Cross-Border Security Governance (ICBT–CBSG) has now moved to the next phase of implementation. This innovative joint policymaking initiative includes the IGAD Conflict Early Warning Mechanism (CEWARN), Inter-Africa Group (IAG), the Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA), and our Horn of Africa Regional Programme, known as the Quartet. The new ICBT–CBSG policy framework developed by the Quartet was formally adopted by IGAD member states in June 2018.

The Quartet made a start on putting the policy framework into action. In mid-November 2019, relevant IGAD departments, Quartet members, and the research team met to discuss and agree a range of critical issues—how the pilot process would work, devising pilot site selection criteria and suggesting possible pilot sites, and designing the research component. Agreement on these issues was paramount for ensuring buy-in of the site selection process among all IGAD member states and establishing a solid foundation for implementation.

This year, we also convened CBC coalition members to create actionable work plans for their advocacy efforts on the IGAD ICBT–CBSG policy framework. Representing civil society from 3 borderlands—Moyale, Kenya; Moyale, Ethiopia; and Kassala, Sudan—our local partners came together to focus on how they could build awareness, political will, and popular support for the new IGAD policy framework in their own countries.



Social Media interactions between the Cross-Border Cooperation project and the African Union



Preventing/countering violent extremism

Our multi-year dialogue initiative uses a peacebuilding lens to critically assess the effectiveness of P/CVE practices in the Horn of Africa. Collaborating closely with a variety of stakeholders, we aim to ensure that P/CVE approaches are evidence-based, conflict sensitive, and harmonised with broader peacebuilding efforts in the region.

In 2019, we discovered there was more appetite than originally thought for dialogue on regional approaches to P/CVE, especially for Somalia. This encouraging insight emerged from a joint LPI–Saferworld discussion forum we hosted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: Time to Reconsider? Counter-Terrorism and the Search for Alternatives in Somalia. This event offered space for collective reflection and exchange among influential policymakers, analysts, international delegations, and civil society representatives on existing counter-terror approaches to the conflict in Somalia and future prospects for peace. It also opened up opportunities for our Horn of Africa Regional Programme to strategically leverage its comparative advantages on P/CVE to engage with new like-minded actors seeking access to this space. This is crucial for extending the reach and impact of our P/CVE work.

Our evidence-based research came to fruition in 2019 with the finalisation of 4 key analyses of the complexity and challenges related to P/CVE programming both at the regional level and in specific country contexts (Somalia, Kenya, Sudan, and Uganda). These knowledge products are scheduled for public release in mid-2020. Given the sensitive nature of P/CVE—a fast-growing area of practice and donor interest—we took time to reflect on how best to disseminate these reports in an effective and responsible manner. Conflict sensitivity, risk analyses, and how to appeal to government actors were crucial considerations throughout this process.

Our collaborative relationship-building approach to establish rapport was clearly one ingredient for success. In Uganda, we were the only civil society organisation invited to participate in the validation workshop for the draft P/CVE country strategy. Developed by the National Technical Committee, with members primarily from the security and intelligence sectors and led by the Ugandan Ministry of the Interior, this was largely a closed process. Nonetheless, our recommendation to include civil society representation in the committee was positively received, in particular by representatives from the UNDP, which is the primary funder for the Ugandan policy formulation process. Promising developments in Ethiopia, especially in Moyale, one of the most contentious border areas in the country, also open up new possibilities for P/CVE research. Previously unheard of in this context, security actors and local political authorities have actively participated in and expressed willingness for further engagement with community events organised by CBC coalition members.



Inclusive Peace Lab, Nairobi, Kenya

Kenya

During 2019, our work in Kenya focused on young people as agents of peaceful change in their own communities. We continued to involve with a broad range of partners—formal CSOs, local community-based organisations, and individual youth leaders. We undertook 2 primary types of activities. First, we convened a range of inclusive community-based dialogue processes to bridge divided communities and bring them together for joint Peace Actions. Second, we supported youth to engage with policy and security actors—especially the police—to improve relations between them and take concrete measures to improve security.

A key priority since 2015, we deepened our focus on urban peacebuilding by joining the global [Peace in Our Cities](#) Campaign in 2019. We also extended our urban peacebuilding work to 3 new informal settlements in Nairobi to reach more young people.



11 locations

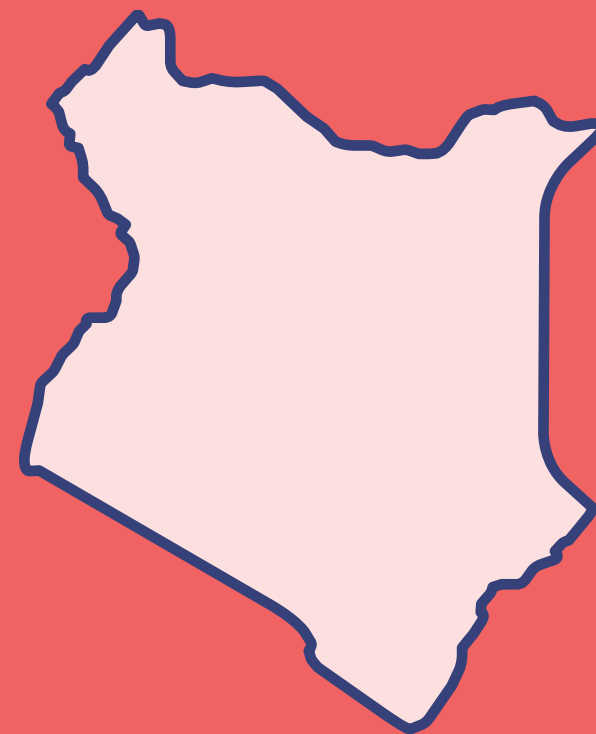
- Mandera County (Mandera Township, Ramu)
- Wajir County (Wajir Township, Griftu)
- Garissa
- Nairobi County (Eastleigh, Majengo, Mlango Kubwa, Kibra, Korogocho, Mathare)

An increasingly polarised political situation, high levels of corruption and impunity, resurgent violent extremism, growing crimes rates, and resource-based conflicts have strained relationships between Kenyan citizens and the security services. In particular, trust between young people and the police has been badly damaged. Intra and inter-ethnic tensions linked to identity and territorial boundaries have continued to dominate socio-political realities and faith-based communities in the country, leading to intractable conflicts. Environmental hazards and climate change—drought, floods, locust infestations, and fires—have exacerbated these challenges. LPI has been promoting sustainable peace by strengthening relationships between different social groups and reinforcing community resilience to issues that divide them since 1986.

“This was a turning point in my life. It is here where I learnt about peacebuilding and found real mentorship in leadership skills, and on peace and security issues. Having been brought up in Majengo, I knew violence was the way to resolve any manner of conflict, however small. It was in these Sustained Dialogue sessions that I learnt there are nonviolent ways of resolving conflict—a skill I have embraced to date.”

Male youth leader, Sustained Dialogue participant, Nairobi, Kenya

Facts and Figures



Youth-led community based organisations created or supported



Sustained Dialogue sessions



Hours of Sustained Dialogue



Peace Actions supported



Young people in Sustained Dialogue



women



men

Partners





Youth speak out

Youth are the largest age group in Kenya. They are also disproportionately affected by violence, both as perpetrators and victims. Consequently, young people are often seen as the problem. But their voices are rarely heard in their local communities or at policy levels. Our peacebuilding work contributes to changing that, with Sustained Dialogue groups empowering young women and men to make sure their voices are heard.

In Wajir, for example, youth dialogue participants met with county government officials to successfully tackle a problem with poor waste disposal that had bothered the whole community for some time. This helped improve public perceptions of youth and earned them a place at the table. For the first time, young people in Wajir are now welcome to participate in public forums to share their views.

During the Kibra by-election in November 2019, LPI youth leaders worked with other youth and key stakeholders, including state administrators, to call for peaceful elections. This contributed to cordial relations between the 2 main political parties and the absence of election-related violence. One LPI youth leader showed her commitment to youth leadership by standing for the seat. Although she did not win, her decision to stand for election in the first place was a genuine victory. In Kenya, it is unusual for women, even more so for young women, to vie for electoral seats.

Making youth perspectives heard at international levels was another key result, with one women LPI youth dialogue leader invited to brief the UN Security Council on peace and security issues affecting Kenyan youth. This also opened up other leadership opportunities, including her selection to the community policing team in her local area.

Click here to read her [blog](#).

"Life is a journey. We don't know where it will take us, but one thing I am certain of is that I am destined for a blissful journey where I will touch lives and leave this planet better than I found it."

Youth leader from Nairobi, Kenya, writing about her experience addressing the UN Security Council



Youth-led theatre performance in Nairobi, Kenya



Organising for sustainable change

More than these leadership successes, young dialogue participants were further inspired to take initiative to change their own communities. And their own lives. Over the course of the year, many of them decided to start new community-based organisations to help sustain the progress they have made in building peace. In the process, they actively contributed to the growth of civil society in Kenya, expanding this space to include groups that tend to be invisible in peacebuilding and community engagement work.

Youth-led dialogue processes resulted in significant positive personal transformations, too. Peer-to-peer discussions and youth-to-youth mentoring throughout the course of dialogue processes have successfully supported young people engaged in crime, gang activities, and drug use to stop these activities and change their lives for the better—restoring self-worth and motivating young people to become active peer influencers themselves.

A number of other LPI youth leaders and dialogue participants also put their skills and energy together to establish small businesses to support themselves, their families, and offer employment opportunities to people in their communities. Although an unintended side effect of our youth dialogue work, this entrepreneurial spirit further demonstrates the resilience and ingenuity of young Kenyans.

Youth change-makers for peace

We use youth-to-youth approaches because we know they work. Numerous examples show that youth-led Sustained Dialogue processes have far reaching effects. They build relationships across divides to nurture a stronger sense of mutual concern and trust. They showcase the deep commitment to peacebuilding among Kenyan youth. Key examples are presented here.

The Rhamu youth dialogue group took action to address the long-term inter-clan conflict in their area. For the first time in many years, the clans met to discuss how to resolve this conflict, with clan leaders developing a memorandum of understanding. This youth-led initiative had a powerful effect. It gave the broader community hope that they could co-exist and live peacefully.

One LPI youth leader in Kibra, also the founder the Feminists for Peace, Rights and Justice Centre, decided to recognise other young women leaders who have established women-led initiatives in her area, including 2 LPI-supported youth leaders. This was #women beyond the odds.

Dialogue participants in Mandera were inspired to set up a youth vocational training centre that reflects the value of inclusion. Based on lessons from the Sustained Dialogue process, the founders made it a point to break the mould by enrolling students from diverse clans, including minority clans, and people with disabilities.

In Nairobi, youth launched an advocacy campaign for the return of National Youth Service, collecting 5,000 signatures to support this initiative. They presented these to the Mathare MP and petitioned him to take their request to parliament, with the hope that the service would be re-started.

"I have gained courage as a result of Sustained Dialogue. Before I joined, I was shy and could not address a crowd. I would sit in sessions and take notes quietly, but by the second year, I facilitated sessions of up to 14 participants."

Female Sustained Dialogue moderator, Mlango Kubwa, Nairobi, Kenya



Transforming relationships

During 2019, interactions between young people and security actors, especially the police and local neighbourhood watch groups (Nyumba Kumi), contributed to dispelling mutually shared negative perceptions and helped build better relationships. Responding to the strained relations between youth and police, for example, we facilitated a joint forum with nearly 20 participants from Nairobi, Mandera, and Wajir. Together, security actors and youth reflected on their contrasting needs, roles, and responsibilities to take a deeper look at the challenges and opportunities of including young people in peacebuilding. The result was increased trust, better communication, and greater understanding—stronger and more resilient relationships—between these groups.

In Wajir, the youth and security actor dialogue group decided to hold their first football tournament as their Peace Action. Ever since, security actors have allowed youth to practice and play football at the police camp. In Nairobi, youth and security actors came together to create crime-free zones for their joint Peace Actions. They put up gazebos inscribed with messages advocating against youth crime and substance use in support of building more resilient communities. In another Peace Action, a police woman led her colleagues to join local youth in a community clean-up. Going viral on social media because it was the first of its kind, afterwards it became a regular event, with youth and police now doing community clean-up every Monday and Thursday.

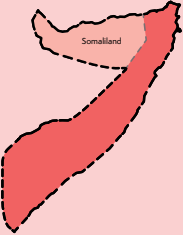


Security actors networking forum, Mombassa, Kenya

Somalia

Our work in South Central Somalia revolved around 3 critical initiatives during 2019. First, we supported increased participation for women and young people in peacebuilding and political processes across Jubbaland and at the national level. Second, we continued with our cross-clan dialogue work through inclusive community peace platforms in the Hiran, Middle Shabelle, and Galgadud regions, watching as these platforms became more autonomous. Third, we focused on young people and women in Baidoa, South West State and Jowhar, Middle Shabelle, supporting their efforts to have a more meaningful role in peacebuilding in their local communities.

Coming to an end in December 2019, our 3-year programme, Nabadeynta Beelaha Somaliya: Multi-level Conflict Transformation in South Central Somalia, has made significant contributions to peacebuilding in Somalia. Forming a solid foundation for our next 4 years of programming, we witnessed important breakthroughs in 2019.



31 locations

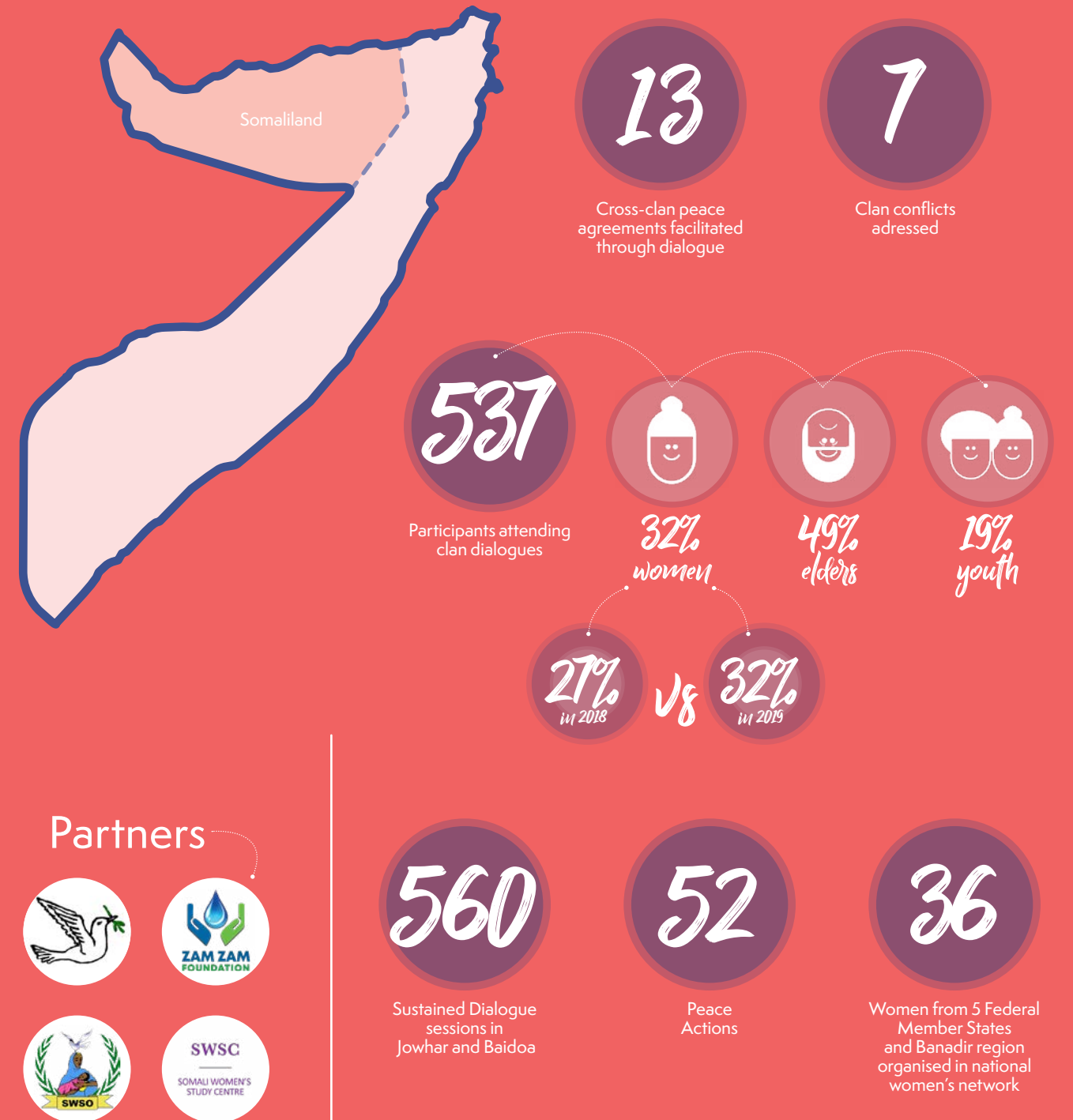
- Mogadishu
- Hiran (Mataban, Qodqod, Omad, Qabno, Berdegid)
- Middle Shabelle (Jowhar district, Jameo, Daymosame, Mandhere, Ba'ad district, Gololey, Dom'adele)
- Galgadud (Herale, Lajide, Balambale, Yo'ale, Balihawd, Marere, Gur'el, Ina Gible, Balibore, Korgoys, Elasha)
- Bay (Baidoa)
- Lower Jubba (Kismayo town and Dhobley)
- Gedo (Dolow, Garbaharey, Luuq and Beled Hawa)

South Central Somalia continues to face substantial obstacles in the national journey towards peace and stability, with numerous hotspots of recurrent and historic clan-based violent conflict. The 2016–2017 elections allowed for a peaceful transition of power, but the security situation in the country remains fragile. Al-Shabaab still has significant control in rural areas and carries out frequent attacks in the capital, Mogadishu, and elsewhere. Elections in the Federal Member States also emerged as flashpoints for political tensions, including interference from other countries in the region. Active in Somalia since the mid-1990s, joint efforts with our partners focus on community-led conflict transformation, emphasising an inclusive range of local stakeholders—elders, women, youth, and local authorities.

“Before this peacebuilding project, the power and capacity of your militia was the only thing you believed in for solving problems...This project has really enlightened our sense and put hopes in our heart that we can solve our disputes peacefully.”

Male member of the Hiran Inter-Clan Platform, Hiran, Somalia

Facts and Figures





Carving out more political space

Making women's voices count requires continuous support and investment—addressing the various dimensions of change needed for real gains in influence. Several years of close collaboration with our partners SWSO and SWSC contributed to impressive results in 2019. We saw unprecedented increases in women's representation in the Jubbaland parliament in August 2019, with 9 women elected to the state parliament as a result of successful lobbying by the women's platforms across the region that are supported by LPI, SWSO, and SWSC. Only 2 women served in the last state parliament. We also saw progress in youth representation, with 7 young people running for state parliament. Of these, 1 young woman was elected.

All the women's platforms we support in the region invested significant energy into increasing women's inclusion in political processes ahead of the election. They developed a united message to present to a number of strategic actors, including clan elders, the Jubbaland Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, women leaders, youth groups, and the state president. Collaborative advocacy and lobbying targeted these key stakeholders to gain their support for nominating women to elected positions and public appointments. Using media messaging, these women also encouraged more women's participation in their own communities to challenge negative attitudes about women in leadership positions.

The Kismayo Women's Platform worked hard to help prevent election-related violence, too. They made crucial contributions with numerous peace messages to the community and awareness-raising about the need for joint responsibility on the part of both political candidates and clan elders in preventing violence. All 3 major clans and the minority clans in Kismayo are represented in the women's platform, and they shared a simple agenda—Keep the Peace. This was effective. Although there were heightened tensions, there was no election-related violence. The situation remained peaceful.

"I appreciate the Kismayo Women's Platform for their warm welcome. ... We are not satisfied with the 8 seats women got in the Jubbaland parliament. We deserve more than that and we will double our efforts to have more women's representation in other government positions, as well as in the upcoming 2020–2021 federal government election."

Female MP from Jubbaland parliament, attending meeting with platform members, Kismayo, Somalia

Launching a new national network of women working at grassroots levels

Somali women peacebuilders came together to launch a nation-wide grassroots network to support one another in their local peacebuilding work. In July 2019, 36 women from a variety of clans and regions throughout the country met to develop linkages to share their strategies and experiences in peacebuilding engagement and empowering women. They also built relationships across their divides. The women now have a WhatsApp group to help connect with one another and learn more about what is going on in other parts of the country. These grassroots leaders also engaged women members of parliament in Mogadishu as part of their joint advocacy strategy for women's empowerment at the grassroots level.



Kismayo Women's Platform meeting, Kismayo, Somalia



Cross-clan peacebuilding platforms champion nonviolent practices

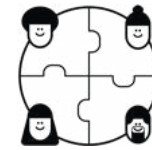
For the last 7 years, we have worked closely with our partner, the Zamzam Foundation, to engage diverse clan stakeholders in developing more effective responses to clan conflict at the local level and build stronger relationships. Following several years of incremental dialogue, we supported the establishment of several cross-clan peacebuilding platforms. These platforms have emerged as pivotal peace actors in their areas. In 2019, we saw a critical shift. Platform members handled a number of challenges on their own, indicating strong local ownership and initiative.

The broad legitimacy these cross-clan platforms have is based on a collective view that they are inclusive. Through their ongoing dialogue, reconciliation, and awareness-raising activities, we continue to see changes towards enhanced collaboration and nonviolent approaches to resolve conflicts. This is a large-scale transformation that demonstrates the willingness—and capacity—of local communities to embrace new ways of interacting.

The once prevalent culture of revenge killing and stealing property is changing in positive directions, with people instead choosing nonviolence and dialogue to address conflicts that arise. When violence does happen, communities increasingly take actions to hold an individual accountable for violent acts rather than assigning blame to the entire clan of the perpetrator, as in the past. There is also greater interaction between clans and sub-clans, unlike before. Now, they jointly discuss common resources to find amicable ways of sharing them fairly. In Hiran (Hirshabelle State), Herale, Guriel, and Balambale (Galmudug State)—places that had not traded together for many years—people now trade again, as evidenced in the growing free movement of people and goods, and rising levels of inter-clan business transactions.

This year, we also expanded our women-to-women intra and inter-clan dialogues to Garbaharey and Dhobley. This built on experience of women-to-women peacebuilding dialogue in Kismayo. These new dialogue processes culminated in the formation of 2 women’s inter-clan peacebuilding platforms, with 20 members representing all clans in the area. A key issue raised in the dialogues was clan supremacy, which leads to exclusive employment and resource-sharing practices. Women’s political participation and leadership positions in women’s groups were also addressed as central issues.

Platform members now communicate easily across clan lines and can quickly organise joint actions. They have also formed executive committees for ease of coordination, with representatives elected by the broader platform membership.



Pushing for more meaningful inclusion

Traditionally, peacebuilding processes are the domain of male elders in Somalia. Research and experience show, however, that the meaningful inclusion—with influence and power—of young people and women is essential for moving toward the genuine nonviolent transformation of clan-related conflicts. With our long-term partner, Somali Peace Line, we have learnt that Sustained Dialogue is a powerful tool to create new spaces for Somali women and youth in peacebuilding, as shown in numerous examples of personal transformation and relationships built across divides. This year, we saw the various Sustained Dialogue groups come together in collective Peace Actions to push for greater inclusion in decision-making and address challenges in their communities.

In Baidoa and Jowhar, for example, Peace Actions focused on a range of issues relevant to youth and women: The role of women and young people in peacebuilding; discriminatory clan practices; decision-making and leadership; education for girls; irregular migration (tahrib), early marriages, environmental issues, and domestic violence. Peace Actions were inclusive, bringing together government officials—members of parliament, senior South West and Hirshabelle state officials, including director generals and representatives from the state Ministry of Women and Human Rights and the Ministry of Youth and Sports—and diverse community groups, including elders, women, young women and young men, business community and religious leaders, school teachers, and internally displaced persons.

Action for accountability

The youth dialogue groups in Baidoa organised a successful Social Accountability Forum at which South West State ministers and the state president were asked questions by the public. Youth-led events such as this are rare in Somalia. This demonstrates the talent, confidence, and capacities youth have gained through their participation in the Sustained Dialogue groups. This event also enabled young people to begin building constructive relationships with government authorities, especially around the crucial issue of accountability.

Sudan

This was an extraordinary year in Sudan, with massive political change. A civilian-led transitional government is now in power until planned elections can be held in 2022. The military removed former President Omar al-Bashir from power in April 2019, but change was actually catalysed by sustained peaceful popular anti-government movement. Despite being confronted by security forces firing live bullets and tear gas to kill and disperse them, protesters continued to use strikes, sit-ins, marches, and other nonviolent means to bring about change.

Given rapidly changing circumstances, we adapted work plans to respond positively and make constructive contributions to the evolving situation in Sudan throughout the year. In 2019, LPI work was all about nonviolence and young people engaging for peaceful change to build a new future in Sudan.



5 locations

- Khartoum State (Khartoum City, Omdurman, Bahri City)
- South Kordofan State (Dalanj and surroundings)
- Kassala State

Our overall goal in Sudan is to develop positive relations within and between different communities through dialogue and action-oriented peacebuilding. Focusing on youth and women from civil society, academia, and local communities, we directly accompany these key actors as they engage in peacebuilding activities. We also provide organisational and technical capacity building to support our local partners so they can help create a vibrant civil society and a peaceful Sudan.

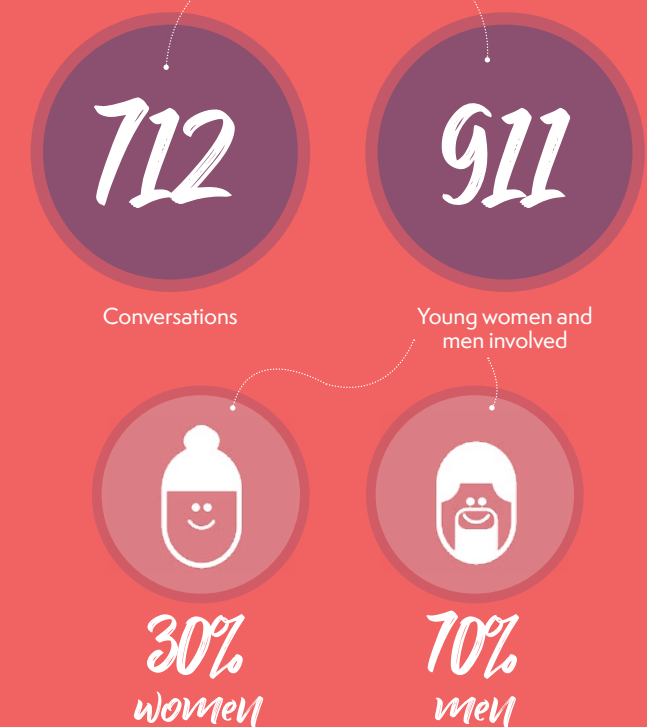
"I believe that the partnership with the Life & Peace Institute and Gesr Center came at a strategic and vital period in the history of Sudan, with Gesr being part of the historical transformation. At the same time, the support provided by the partnership to the Gesr Center has contributed to developing the center's management systems. The partnership has gained strength and has sought to find creative solutions for project challenges as well as for designing and implementing new and different methods of intervention that are appropriate to the youth target group."

Gesr project manager in an interview with LPI country manager, Khartoum, Sudan

Facts and Figures



Listening Tour in Khartoum



Partners



Introducing the Gesr Center

This year, we developed a new dynamic partnership with the Gesr Center for Development. This was a pivotal step in laying new foundations for enhanced reach and impact of the programme. A youth-led civil society organisation, Gesr strongly believes youth are key drivers of change in Sudan, especially at this critical moment in history. The organisation has widespread networks of volunteer youth activists in Khartoum and across the country, as well as long-term experience in leadership capacity development for youth and women. The Gesr office in Khartoum—including a new Peace Corner—hosts numerous events by other youth and activist organisations, making it a valuable hub for networking and broadening connections with civil society actors in Sudan. Responding to Gesr needs, in 2019 we provided a range of technical support, including the joint development of training materials for youth engagement in peacebuilding and civil society.



Training in nonviolent protest

The Neighbourhood Resistance Committees were a central focal point for civil society to organise sit-ins, strikes, and rallies during the height of political unrest in 2019. We supported 7 of these neighbourhood-based groups in Khartoum to engage peacefully by training them in the methodologies, strategies, and tactics of nonviolent protest. This was LPI adaptive programming in action, allowing us to constructively respond to the rapidly changing situation in Sudan.

This new knowledge of peaceful resistance was quickly applied on the ground at a number of events organised by the Neighbourhood Resistance Committees. In particular, the large-scale public sit-ins that occurred during Ramadan in city squares throughout Khartoum (and in other states) witnessed direct contributions from people who had participated in the LPI training sessions on nonviolent protest. Multiplying the value of this training, they used the sit-ins as an opportunity to share their knowledge and raise awareness about peaceful resistance with those around them.

We also engaged at the national level with the transitional government to share our experience in peacebuilding. We addressed the necessity to reach out to all segments of society for an inclusive approach and discussed various approaches to peace processes with armed groups.



The Listening Tour

Voiceless for decades, young people raised their voices loud and clear. To build on this extraordinary energy, together with Gesr, we launched a Listening Tour—a first for Sudan. At this historic juncture, we decided to try a new approach to finding out what young people think and feel about the massive changes going on in their country. And what they want to contribute. With Gesr, we trained 20 listeners—equal numbers of young women and men from diverse backgrounds—to go out and have conversations with young people in 7 neighbourhoods in and around Khartoum. They canvassed the opinions of more than 900 youth (nearly 30% of whom were young women), asking them about their expectations and ambitions, the challenges they face, and the potential roles they saw for themselves during the transition and beyond.

As part of their training, our listeners actively contributed to developing the scope of the study, including the types of questions to guide their conversations. Their input on key themes and topics of conversation offered valuable insights about youth experiences during the political transition. This was crucial. It meant our listeners asked questions that were more relevant for the young people they interviewed. It also ensured that the findings more genuinely reflected their views.

The Listening Tour is a great way for young people to be more powerful change-makers. Our listeners are already learning how to amplify the voices of the young people they heard by channelling key findings to top-level policy actors and decision makers. The views and aspirations of those who participated in the Listening Tour will also make a significant contribution to broader advocacy work in coming years. The Listening Tour catalysed youth activism, too. Some of our listeners were so motivated by their experiences that they volunteered to help with the data entry process for the interviews.

“Also, an important thing to highlight is my participation in the listening as an actor too, and not just a person who goes to the field to ask questions and return with answers. Gesr and LPI succeeded in integrating the listeners as individuals into one team. We contributed to the design of the process, implementation, and the analysis. My co-listener and I volunteered ... to help enter the data for the interviews because we believe it is important that the voices of the young people we met be heard.”

Male listener, Listening Tour, Khartoum, Sudan



Street Art at Ahfad University for Women, Omdurman, Khartoum, Sudan

New youth-led peacebuilding alliance

Empowering a wide range of youth actors is essential for finding durable and inclusive solutions to long-standing problems at the root of violent conflict in Sudan. Strategic networking efforts resulted in a vibrant new peacebuilding alliance led by Sudanese youth. With Gesr, we convened a diverse group of 15 civil society organisations actively working on youth-related issues to focus their attention on peace. With our technical support, members of the new peacebuilding alliance created a shared vision for youth-sensitive peacebuilding in Sudan—the first of its kind. To realise their vision, they also drafted an advocacy strategy focused on bottom-up reconciliation, developing a national youth policy, and ensuring the meaningful inclusion of youth during the transition. And over the long term,



Students push for change

For more than 6 years, we have facilitated students at 3 universities to engage in Sustained Dialogue to enable them to build strong and trusting relationships across their divides. But with universities abruptly closed and students sent home at the beginning of 2019, we had to postpone many of our planned activities for the year. We embraced this delay to create new opportunities. The result was the founding of the Sustained Dialogue Society, made up of programme alumni who wanted to continue peacebuilding work by taking action in their own communities.

Over the course of the year, Sustained Dialogue alumni worked with us to build their capacities to design and implement community-based Peace Actions. They learned how to network and engage with key community leaders. In a unique and innovative collaboration, together we designed a transparent mechanism for awarding micro-grants for their community-based projects to raise awareness about peacebuilding, coexistence, and diversity.

We also saw ripple effects from the micro-grants that point to sustainability. Some society members broadened their networks by reaching out to other donors and organisations supporting peacebuilding in their home areas. And some were so enthusiastic about their community outreach projects that they decided to continue these activities with their own funds. This is how ripple effects start changing communities.



Sustained Dialogue alumni during community peacebuilding initiative, Khartoum, Sudan

Sweden

Our programme in Sweden revolved around 2 primary strands of activity in 2019. The first focused on our new Peacefinders project, which works with youth from a variety of different backgrounds to empower them as change-makers for inclusive peace. This year, we focused on engaging university students across Sweden. The second strand engaged with Swedish policymakers, to draw attention to the need for domestic and foreign policy to be more responsive to Global Goal 16 on Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. We also continued to build relationships with a range of Swedish civil society and development actors.



Following broader trends across Europe, and in step with global challenges, Sweden is an increasingly divided society. The country has experienced growing segregation and rising income inequalities over the past decades. Political and social discourse have become harsher. The political scene is more fragmented and polarised. Lack of inclusion is a perception shared by different social groups—immigrants, youth, people living in rural areas, and other marginalised communities. All this points to a need for greater cohesion and social inclusion in Sweden, as well as policies and actions that can respond constructively to these sharpened lines of social division.

Given these changes, we decided it was time to bring our experience home and began working in Sweden in 2018. Building on our long history of working with transformative approaches to peace and conflict in the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes Region, our goal is to use these skills to contribute to creating a Sweden that is peaceful, just, and inclusive for all.

“Though under-represented, it was when young people spoke their truth that the air positively vibrated with applause—a statement to the power of young people and the necessity of their inclusion.”

Peacefinders project officer, reflecting on her experience at the High-Level Political Forum, New York, United States

[Click here to read her blog.](#)

Facts and Figures





Peacefinders: Youth leading for the Global Goals

Our Peacefinders project has worked closely with student associations in 4 Swedish universities throughout the country: Uppsala, Stockholm, Jönköping, and Malmö. Overall, we aim to develop student awareness of the Global Goals (especially Global Goal 16) and empower them to take collaborative action for peace.

Our Gloco-LoCo Lab—Global Goals to Local Action—was a genuine highlight in 2019. This was the first time we tried out a think-lab approach to collaborative project design. For 3 days in May 2019, Gloco-LoCo brought together more than 20 people to generate ideas and inspire joint action to champion the Global Goals. This included a diverse mix of students, Kenyan youth leaders, and LPI staff from Kenya, Sudan, Sweden, and our Global Policy Programme. The lab inspired 2 youth-led initiatives: Uprising for Peace educated participants on peaceful ways of protest; and the OSINT event, which taught participants how to use Open Source Intelligence methods to become seekers of truth in a post-truth world.

Gloco-LoCo did more, too. After hearing about LPI support for student-led initiatives at Malmö university, 4 other students who were not involved in our campus activities were inspired to come to us with their idea for local action. We supported them to implement their plan to use dialogue and food as a way to bring conflicting communities together. The short film these students made of the community dialogue was showcased during the Breaking Bread event, held at Malmö university in December 2019.

To increase student knowledge about the Global Goals and empower them to take action, we held a series of workshops at our partner universities to support participants to develop skills in peacebuilding and increased their awareness of how the Global Goals play out in their everyday lives. Students gave positive feedback about their learning experiences, with the vast majority (85%) saying they realised they could be change-makers for peace. Many also indicated they were now more aware of what the Global Goals are, what they mean, and how they could contribute to making them a reality in Sweden.



Gloco-LoCo Lab, Uppsala, Sweden



Workshop group, Jönköping University, Jönköping, Sweden



High-level access to policymakers

Our efforts to raise awareness of the need to improve Swedish policymaking for inclusive peace met with success. In recognition of LPI value-added, we were invited by the Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs to join the official country delegation to the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development in New York from 9 to 18 July 2019. The main theme of the meeting was Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusive. A total of 6 Global Goals were reviewed, including Global Goal 16 on peace

LPI staff members had numerous opportunities to directly engage with Swedish and other global policymakers to share our insights and knowledge about local peacebuilding, especially our experience in engaging with youth as change-makers for peace. We put those words into action, too. Not only did we advocate for greater youth inclusion at the HLPF, but one of our LPI staff members on the Swedish delegation was a youth—a young woman under the age of 30. Throughout the HLPF, we also provided the Swedish delegation with reports on the events we attended, highlighting recommendations for further action. These included: Investigating the possibility of creating a Youth Council for the Global Goals; increasing efforts to include more youth by supporting youth-led HLPF events and inviting more youth representatives to join the Swedish delegation; and exploring the use of unofficial data and lived experiences to measure progress on the Global Goals (particularly Global Goal 16).

The invitation to join the official country delegation to the HLPF opened up access to previously unreachable policy spaces and allowed us to directly engage in advocacy with key policymakers. It also helped raise our profile and visibility as a reputable peacebuilding organisation in the Swedish context. A tribute to the value of our contribution, we have been invited by the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs to offer input on the review of the HLPF as a forum for accountability and reporting progress on the 2030 Agenda.



Success factors: Partnership and collaboration

The effectiveness of our Swedish engagement relies on developing partnerships and building networks with people who are already on the ground working on peacebuilding, development, and social inclusion issues in Sweden. In particular, our Sweden team creates critical linkages between LPI work in Africa and the Swedish development sector.

Deepening our institutional bond with [Fryshuset](#) was a key development in 2019. Fryshuset is a non-profit youth organisation working to empower young people to shape their own future and the society in which they live. With operations in 9 different locations throughout Sweden, collaboration with Fryshuset—and other similar organisations—can help us reach out to more diverse groups of young people. The Sustained Dialogue training we hosted in collaboration with the Sustained Dialogue Institute for Fryshuset staff was an excellent opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience between our organisations. And continue building our relationship to mutual benefit.

The LPI approach to learning—especially our use of Outcome Harvesting—also contributed to deepening bonds with other actors in Sweden. Outcome Harvesting is a method we use to monitor and evaluate changes in behaviour emerging from our work across our 8 programmes. Outcome Harvesting sparked the interest of the Swedish Mission Council to learn more about how we use this method. Sida also invited us to talk about Outcome Harvesting at their dialogue meeting for partners working with the Information and Communication grant at the Sida Partnership Centre in Härnösand. These gatherings represented valuable opportunities for exchange with other development actors, and allowed us to showcase how we integrate learning into exploring peacebuilding in Sweden.

For the first time, in 2019 we participated in Almedalsveckan in Gotland, the largest and most high-profile annual political forum in Sweden. At this pivotal event in the Swedish political calendar, our Ethiopia country manager presented a seminar on the role of civil society in peacebuilding in Africa. In collaboration with the Global Policy Programme team, we also hosted a discussion on local-to-global engagement in peacebuilding with 25 participants from Sida, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and civil society organisations, creating space for joint reflection on key challenges and opportunities related to bottom-up policymaking approaches.



Glocao-Loco Lab, Uppsala, Sweden

Knowledge and Learning

We are deeply committed to bringing to bear the wealth of knowledge and experience of our partners and the people with whom we work. This motivates us to continually think about and interrogate our work—always evaluating our peacebuilding practices, the terminology we use, and the assumptions we make. We also carefully monitor and document our work, using Outcome Harvesting as a primary tool. This is how we discover evidence of change. This is how we generate knowledge.

Cross-organisational learning

During 2019, we actively increased our cross-organisational learning to better draw on the breadth of experience and resources we have and continue to develop. Reflection happens in different ways across LPI—in programme teams, across country teams, with the entire organisation, with partners, and with peers. We share best practices and experiences of failure. We think and learn together from different perspectives to deepen our knowledge and improve our practice. Coming together also stimulates creativity and innovation.

Our approach to learning enables us, our partners, community stakeholders, and policymakers to act differently—to do better—in our collective efforts to build peace.

“I would like my story to be shared and documented. It’s highly recommended that other researchers emulate the LPI technique used to validate reports and conduct research.”

Coordinator of Kamukunji Justice Centre and community worker, Nairobi, Kenya



Resilience research launch event, Mathare, Nairobi, Kenya

Knowledge and Learning Products



Resilience to Violence

Analysing Resilience: A Peace and Conflict Model explores the many ways people demonstrate resilience to conflict and insecurity in their everyday lives. We want to know more about the decisions people make to pursue nonviolence in situations of long-term protracted violence and insecurity. What enables them to exhibit strength? What gives them the will power to change their circumstances using peaceful means?

Begun in 2018, this 4-year action research project seeks to understand these questions from case studies in Kenya, Sudan, and Somalia. Over the long term, it aims to improve peacebuilding by cultivating a practice of transformative resilience—building on the existing resources and skills in communities to support more effective locally driven peacebuilding approaches.

Throughout 2019, we focused on understanding resilience in urban spaces in Nairobi characterised by high levels of multifaceted insecurity. With 8 youth leaders from various parts of the city, we co-designed a bespoke research methodology. Together, we reflected on the power relations in research, ethical research practices, and how to promote participatory approaches that ensure research benefits the communities where it takes place.

Then the young researchers went to work. They convened 80 conversations, produced transcripts, and participated in data analysis. Once we had preliminary key findings, our researchers returned to the research sites, with the aim of giving back to the people in those communities. This was a real success. Those who participated in the community launches and validation sessions said the research methodology we used gave them space to open up, as a way of healing. They were also inspired by our engaging and inclusive approach, prompting them to think about what they could personally do to change their communities.

The case study of our resilience research in Nairobi offers rich evidence of the creative ways in which people nonviolently respond to conflict. It uncovers the many sources of their resilience. And it documents what they want to see happen to strengthen their ability to respond to violent conflict in transformative ways.

Based on our research findings, we also developed a new resource: The Resilience in Conflict Analysis Toolkit. This resource focuses on 11 themes—the sources of resilience people identified and the factors that appear to influence their resilience. In 2020, we plan to use the toolkit in Sudan and Somalia to understand what shape these themes take in those contexts.



The Art of Listening

In times of great change, it is essential to listen carefully to people who are silent or not often heard. To listen to their experiences. To listen to their priorities. To listen to what they consider necessary for peace. With several countries in the Horn of Africa undergoing profound changes, notably Sudan and Ethiopia, it is more important than ever for myriad voices to speak up and be heard.

This year, we improved our organisational capacity to listen by exploring and testing the Listening Methodology.⁵ This methodology creates a collective voice by identifying the main themes that emerge from listening to a wide variety of people who hold diverse points of view. The data collection process is informal—no notetaking, but instead documenting the conversations from memory. The research teams are made up of listeners who are close to or part of the communities where the research happens.

Listening is powerful

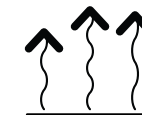
Unique to the Listening Methodology is a focus on listening as a human act, which is so fundamental to peacebuilding processes. One training participant captures this beautifully: “Listening is a deep human experience. People are affected directly. They do speak a lot, to be released and find an outlet. They do not have channels for their story to be heard, an opportunity to talk to someone else or to the world, whom they trust. Listening is an exercise of solidarity. In listening, we connect around a common humanity. We feel together. That in itself is a huge purpose. The end result from synthesising can catalyse action and social transformation. ... Until we listen, we cannot move on with reconciliation. For us as listeners, it is our experience that makes us better human beings.”

The Listening Methodology was also an opportunity for cross-organisational learning at LPI, with our staff and partners from around the Horn of Africa coming together for a joint training programme in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. We invited the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (CPCS) to facilitate the training based on their long-term experience of using this method in several conflict contexts in Southeast Asia. Given the success of our first Listening Tour in Sudan in 2019, we plan to continue exploring opportunities to conduct other Listening Tours in our programmes in coming years.

⁵CDA-Collaborative Learning Projects developed the Listening Methodology to listen to communities receiving humanitarian aid. Since 2009, CPCS has been using this methodology in various locations across Asia to access those voices that are not often heard in situations of violent conflict, post-conflict, and peace processes. For more information, see: <http://www.centrepeaceconflictstudies.org/the-evolution-of-listening-methodology/>



Sustained Dialogue kick-off event, University of Gondar, Ethiopia



Bottom-up Policy Engagement

Synthesising internal learning

In May 2019, we began a process to distil lessons learnt across our most significant experiences of using bottom-up processes for policy engagement. We selected 3 diverse policy engagements as case studies for learning: 1) the 2014–2018 Collaborative Policy Analysis and Engagement Pilot process facilitated by our Horn of Africa Regional Programme; 2) the 2016–2018 Kismayo research on women and the locally driven policy recommendation development exercise conducted by the Somalia Programme; and 3) DRC Programme experience with bottom-up policy engagement on land management in the framework of Participatory Action Research processes.

Following in-depth case studies that involved partner representatives from across all our programmes, we formed a working group of 10 LPI colleagues—from our programme teams and those with cross-organisational functions—to draw out collective learning and future implications across the experiences. This culminated in a 3-day learning-shop in Nairobi, with fluid conversations, and individual and collective reflections to think deeply about our practice. We paid attention to our assumptions and how our principles translate into practice. In particular, we discussed who really participates, and how, in various stages of a policy engagement process. We documented our emerging insights in a learning paper that forms an initial basis for our continued efforts to promote and practice bottom-up policymaking.

Strategic Organisational Development

Meeting contextual challenges and being a good partner require continuous efforts to learn, adapt, and grow as an organisation. This year, we took several critical steps to strengthen our processes and systems.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU'RE TRYING TO SOLVE?

1) TAKE A STAB AT FRAMING IT AS A DESIGN QUESTION

2) NOW, STATE THE ULTIMATE IMPACT YOU'RE TRYING TO ACHIEVE

3) WHAT ARE SOME POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

4) WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CONSTRAINTS THAT YOU'RE FACING

YOUR ORIGINAL QUESTION NEEDS REEVALUATION



Developing our security and safety procedures

With support from Open Briefing, a UK-based consultancy service that assists NGOs in security and risk management, we developed a new organisational security framework. Country-specific security plans are under development. Our improved procedures roll out in 2020, better ensuring the safety of our partners and staff.



Switching to a new financial system

We began implementing our new financial system on 1 January 2019. The system allows us to more efficiently manage our financial resources and obligations. We are now better able to track our work and respond to internal and external requests for financial information, thus enhancing our accountability and transparency.



Updating a key policy

We recognise that our work could lead to situations in which LPI staff, volunteers, and partners may be placed in a position of power over others—especially vulnerable youth and women. Because this could result in sexual harassment, exploitation, or abuse, we developed a specific policy to prevent this.



Revamping our visual identity and website

Following discussions at an all-organisation staff retreat in 2018, we decided to renew our visual brand with a new logo and more functional website. Operational since September 2019, the new website (life-peace.org) enabled us to address technical challenges and enhance accessibility, in particular for users with slower internet connections.



Facilitator doing graphic recording during Inclusive Peace Lab, Nairobi, Kenya

Looking Ahead

In 2020, we will continue to work in close collaboration with all our partners to respond to emerging dynamics in our programme areas. Broadening inclusion and expanding our reach to diverse women and youth will also remain primary activities.



Key Programme Developments



Democratic Republic of Congo

Our collaborative bottom-up evaluation of the peacebuilding sector in eastern DRC will be completed. Once the results are analysed and validated, key findings will be published and widely disseminated. Next year, we will also contribute to reviving dialogue and peacebuilding processes in Fizi territory.



Ethiopia

Flexibility will be important in 2020, due to the current transition in the country. We will emphasise and diversify our youth-related work. We also intend to utilise opening spaces for civil society to support the changing peacebuilding landscape, enabling key actors to be strong and principled at a time when fears of violence and tension point to more fragmentation.



Global Policy

Our planned 2020 activities under the Inclusive Peace in Practice initiative include engaging with the UN system as it reviews its own peacebuilding architecture. We will draw consistent attention to the priorities, experiences, and perspectives of local civil society actors in the Horn of Africa and the DRC. Support for bottom-up policy work is integral to this.



Horn of Africa Regional Programme

A variety of knowledge outputs and other materials have been long in development and their dissemination in 2020 is an exciting prospect. We look forward to the borderland CSO coalition continuing joint work for cross-border cooperation. Transitional justice will be a new thematic area—a timely contribution to those countries struggling through transitions.



Kenya

We will continue to leverage our broad network of peacebuilders in Nairobi. Dialogue in informal settings will create opportunities for bridging divides, including use of the Analysing Resilience in Conflict Analysis Toolkit to catalyse local sources of strength in response to insecurity. We will promote policy changes to address urban insecurity through the Peace in our Cities Campaign.



Somalia

We start a new 4-year Somalia programme in 2020. Running until December 2023, this builds on decades of peacebuilding. We will continue to support partners in community peacebuilding and strengthen the sustainability of clan reconciliation processes. We will test new approaches to bottom-up policymaking for better policies at national and global levels.



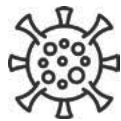
Sudan

Our partnership with the Gesr Center will be critical in the next year, as will facilitating effective advocacy to influence youth inclusion in the formal peace processes in Sudan. With more opportunities for engagement, we also aim to extend our work in other parts of the country, including Eastern Sudan and South Kordofan.



Sweden

Our Peacefinders project will continue to engage youth around the Global Goals. Strategic collaborations with peace actors will remain a critical vehicle for synergies in contributing to a more inclusive and peaceful Sweden. We will also use the Sustained Dialogue approach in the Swedish context, building on skills and interest created in 2019.



Peacebuilding in the Pandemic

With the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic in early 2020, we had to adapt our way of operating to respond to this evolving situation. All LPI teams and partners will strategise on an ongoing basis to find ways to support peacebuilding processes—even more needed in these challenging times. Building on existing networks and resources will be essential. We will seek ways to deepen our engagement on the intersection between the pandemic and peacebuilding, both to learn and share experiences with the global community throughout the coming year.



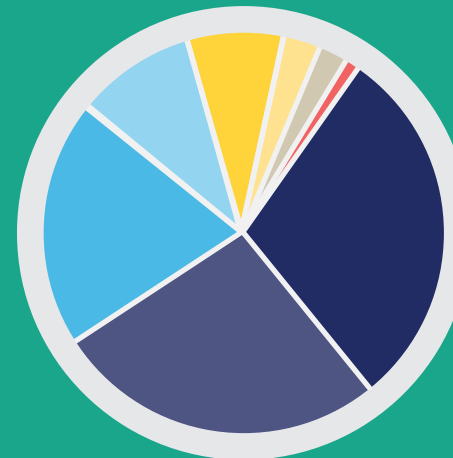
Problem tree analysis during a workshop in Kenya

Finances

LPI works with robust financial management and effective financial transfer systems. This ensures that our financial practices are transparent and accountable. We work with our partners so they meet these same standards, too. We receive funds from multiple sources, including governmental and international organisations, foundations, trusts, churches, and ecumenical organisations. Over the last years, and again in 2019, we have consistently increased both our funding and spending on LPI peacebuilding work.

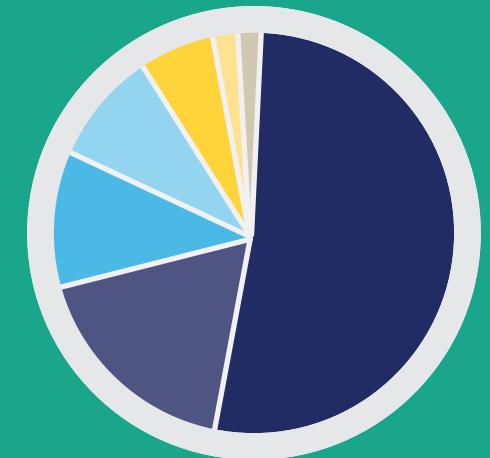
Facts and Figures

LPI spending per programme 2019



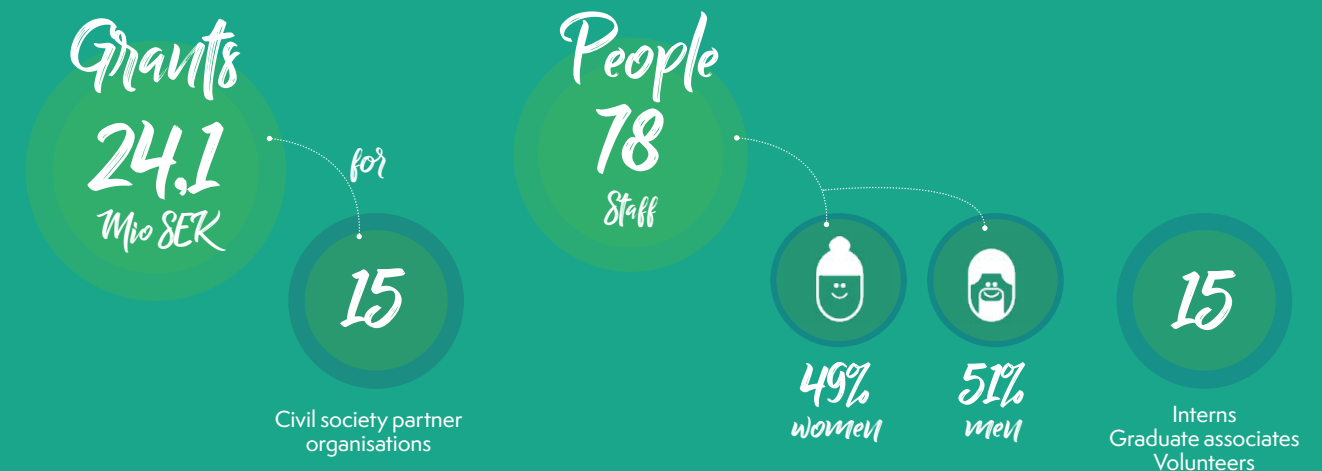
- 21,135 Somalia Programme
- 19,197 Horn of Africa Regional Programme
- 14,512 Ethiopia Programme
- 7,071 Kenya Programme
- 5,438 Global Policy Programme
- 2,162 DRC Programme
- 1,700 Sudan Programme
- 816 Sweden Programme

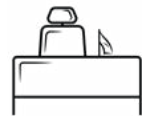
Main donors 2019



- 53% Sida
- 18% EU
- 11% Swedish Mission Council
- 9% Somalia Stability Fund
- 6% USAID
- 2% Church of Sweden
- 2% Other Grants and Collections

All financial figures are in Swedish Kroner (SEK).





Governance and Board

LPI is governed by an International Board comprised of diverse leaders from across the globe. Members of our International Board decide the overall strategic direction of the organisation and play a critical role in accountability, including through the Finance, Risk, and Compliance committee. Board members meet in person 2 times per year, and hold at least 3 additional virtual meetings. In 2019, our International Board was expanded to 9 members to increase the diversity and expertise represented in this governing body. Our International Advisory Council includes globally respected peacebuilding practitioners, academics, and researchers, who provide advisory support to our programmes and teams as needed.

At LPI, we are committed to a model of inclusive, transparent organisational governance consistent with and fully aligned to our peacebuilding practice. We aspire to an organisational leadership that is accessible to staff, both at the level of our Senior Leadership Team and our International Board. We emphasise deliberation, consultation, and information sharing internally and with our partners.

Stein Erik Horjen
Minister, Church of Norway
Norway

John Katunga Murhula
Regional Technical Advisor, Peacebuilding and Justice, East Africa Region, Catholic Relief Services
Kenya

Dr Fulata Lusungu Moyo
Programme Executive, Women in Church and Society, World Council of Churches
Switzerland

Dr Angela Muvumba Sellström
Researcher, Assistant Professor, Uppsala University, Department of Peace and Conflict Research
Sweden

Alice Nderitu
Mediator and Conflict Analyst
Kenya

Shamsia Ramadhan
Programme Manager, Capacity for Inter-Religious Community Action, Catholic Relief Services
Kenya

OUR INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Dr Mohammed Abu-Nimer
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United States

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Hippolyt Pul
Coordinator, Africa Justice and Peace Working Group, Catholic Relief Services
Ghana

OUR INTERNATIONAL BOARD

Reverend Gustaf Ödquist
President, LPI Board of Directors
Minister (retired), Church of Sweden
Sweden

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Vice President, LPI Board of Directors
Chaplain and Tutor Fellow, Liturgy and Pastoral Studies, Regent's Park College, University of Oxford
United Kingdom

Dr Nada Mustafa Ali
Faculty Fellow, Center for Governance and Sustainability and Lecturer, Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department, University of Massachusetts Boston
United States



Funders in 2019

To achieve our impact in peacebuilding in some of the most challenging and difficult environments around the world, we depend on the generous support of our funders. Thank you.

"You ask me how I feel about the programme? If you stood over there in the hot sun, and if you stood there for a long time, and then you came back into the shade... How would you feel? You would feel cool and relieved. The way we were then and the way we are now is like the difference between being in the hot sun and being in the shade."

LPI partner project facilitator, Somalia





Visit our website to follow or contribute to our work:

life-peace.org