

Building Peace One Change at a Time



2020 HIGHLIGHTS

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Foreword

Across the globe, humanity faced unprecedented challenges in 2020 with the COVID-19 pandemic.

This collective experience revealed enormous inequalities, deepened divides, and widened gaps.

It gave rise to new divisions and sparked violent conflicts. Importantly, however, the pandemic also opened up new approaches to peacebuilding.

And it meant drawing on our resilience.

One change at a time



Being adaptive and responsive is a hallmark of our work. This allows us to adjust to changing situations, such as the public health measures put in place across the world to control the spread of the COVID-19 virus—travel bans, limitations on in-person gatherings, and so on. More urgent and necessary than ever, inclusive peacebuilding at LPI went virtual.

We made a deliberate effort to invest in online technology at all levels as an important tool to support our staff and partners, and continue building relationships across multiple levels, with a diverse range of people. We had successes and failures. While access to technology, internet connections, and language may result in exclusions, we also see expanded opportunities for innovation and making links for greater inclusion.

In 2020, the annual United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture Review offered us a unique opportunity to change business as usual. To gather LPI and partner input for the review process, we facilitated an inclusive and participatory consultation process designed to ensure that the voices of local peace actors were heard loud and clear at the global level. Our approach was successful across the board—the messages of local peacebuilders are reflected in key UN publications linked to the review process and global actors now have a deeper understanding of how important it is to engage with local actors, in particular when it comes to global policy discussions.

This year, we are especially thankful to our partners, staff, donors, and policymakers for continuing to engage with and support us through these difficult and challenging times. We also extend our deepest sympathies to those who lost loved ones, friends, neighbours, and colleagues due to the pandemic and violent conflict. You are not alone.

Judy McCallum, Executive Director

About this report

This annual update presents select highlights from our 2020 peacebuilding activities. Focused on our collective progress toward peace one change at a time, this report emphasises the patient, careful, and deliberate work that goes into effective peacebuilding. It also underlines the importance of creativity, innovation, and adaptability.

The examples of peaceful change included 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 further benefit from the regular learning workshops we conduct with our partners, staff, and colleagues.

About Us

We build peace one change at a time. For more than **35** years, we have promoted nonviolent approaches to conflict in the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes Region. Working across **8** key programmes in **6** countries and with more than **70** staff, we support the capacity of people living with violent conflict to transform their own communities and societies into inclusive, just, and peaceful ones.

We also work to influence regional and global policy agendas, making sure local voices are heard around the world.

Peacebuilding

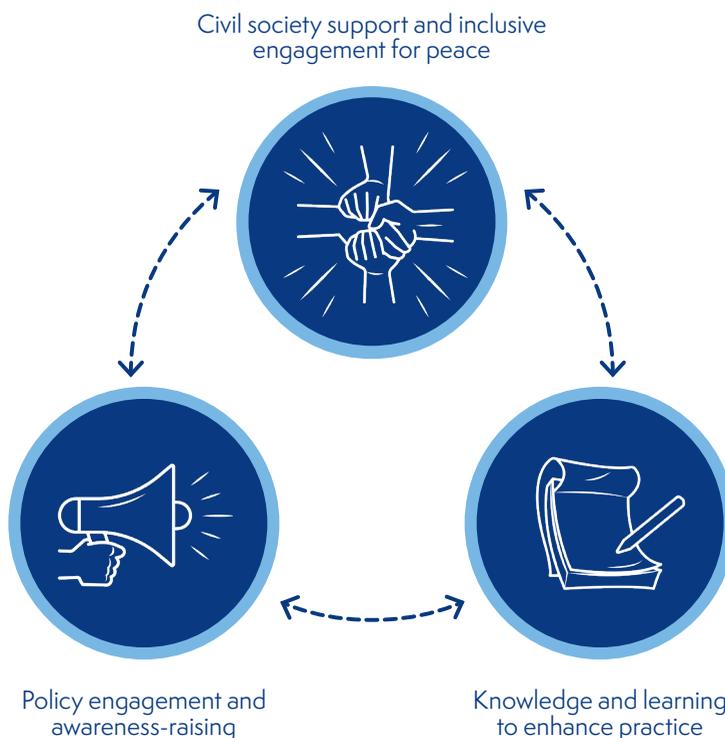
It is more important than ever to build peace. The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed enormous global inequalities. Armed conflicts have increased worldwide, especially in Africa. Climate change impacts have continued to grow and intensify.

In the countries where we work, violence remains an overwhelming daily reality for millions of women and men, and girls and boys. But we know these very same people have the knowledge, expertise, and capacity to address violent conflicts through peaceful means.

To transform violent conflict and build an inclusive peace that lasts, everyone needs to contribute—one change at a time.

Strategic priorities

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



Where We Work

SUDAN

Working in Sudan since the early 1990s, we support the Gesr Center for Development and the Sustained Dialogue Community, helping build positive relations between youth from diverse cultural backgrounds. Given recent momentous changes in Sudan, we are also pursuing new partnerships with civil society and academic institutions to actively explore opportunities for meaningful engagement and impact.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Since 2002, we have been facilitating our local civil society partners to undertake in-depth conflict transformation processes. Focused mainly in eastern DRC, this is where we first began to use Participatory Action Research with communities in conflict. Recently, we finished 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 decreased tolerance in public and political discourse throughout Europe. To change this, our Peacefinders platform empowers young people to be change-makers for peace and inclusion in Sweden. We also work with Swedish partners on policy engagement.

ETHIOPIA

LPI has supported peace work in Ethiopia since 1991 through long-term partnerships with traditional leaders, NGOs, and faith-based institutions—an expanding civil society network. We also engage university students from different ethnic backgrounds in Sustained Dialogue and community Peace Actions. And we continue to explore options for nonviolent actions in peacebuilding.

SOMALIA

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

KENYA

Our Kenya programme has operated since 1986. Initially, it was a regional hub for our early activities across the Horn of Africa. At present, the programme focuses on young people as drivers of peace. Using Sustained Dialogue, joint community Peace Actions, and community-led research projects, youth from divided communities come together to find alternatives to the varied insecurities that affect their lives.

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 and local peacebuilders with policy debates on key peace and security issues at the regional and continental level, in particular with the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.

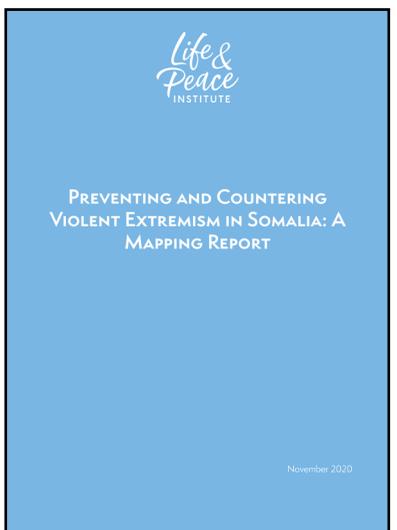
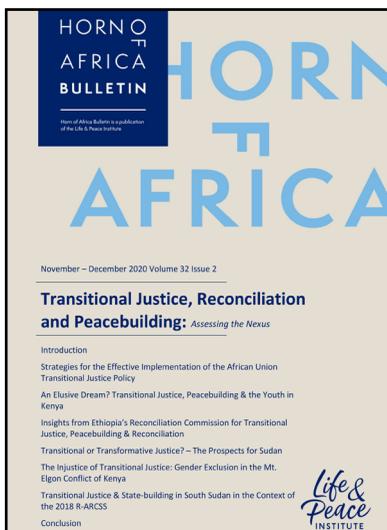
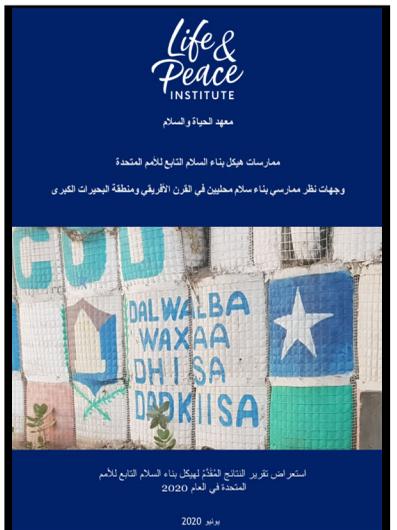
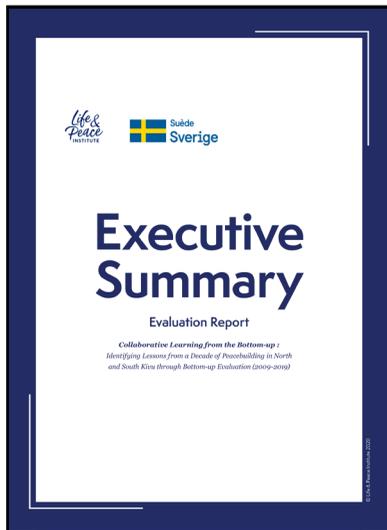
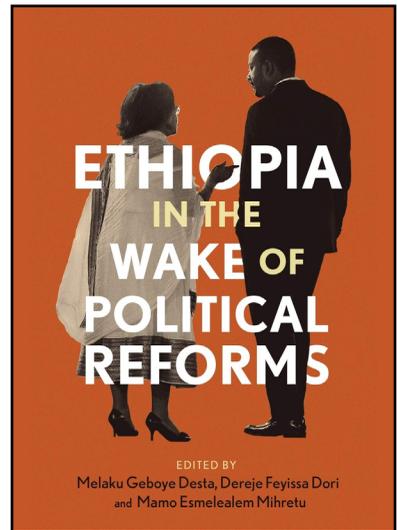
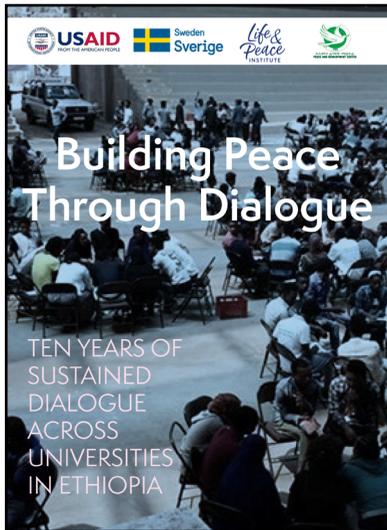
GLOBAL POLICY

Launched in 2018, the Inclusive Peace in Practice initiative is the cornerstone of our programme for Global Policy. 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.

Progressing to Peace

This update of LPI work during 2020 highlights the resilience and adaptive capacities of our local partners and our organisation as a whole—building peace one change at a time. Because peacebuilding is a complex process, it often moves forward by increments. Step by step. It is rife with obstacles and setbacks, as well as hard-won breakthroughs.

Above all, peacebuilding depends on long-term commitment and in-depth understanding grounded in the experiences of the people who live with violent conflict every day. This is why our work is always shaped by the knowledge and expertise of our partners, which is rooted in the specific needs and circumstances of the communities where they work.



Democratic Republic of Congo

The security, humanitarian, and human rights situation continued to deteriorate in eastern DRC. During 2020, targeted attacks, armed clashes between non-state armed groups—about 130 are active in the region—and between armed groups and Congolese security forces intensified. Civilians bore the brunt of this upsurge in violence, with at least 2,000 casualties reported in North and South Kivu provinces, and 2 million displacements.

There are complex drivers of conflict at local levels around access to power, resource management, and manipulation of identity. These intersected with political dynamics at national and provincial levels, in particular the ongoing decentralisation process and political manoeuvres both by the ruling majority and the opposition. Responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and Ebola outbreak exacerbated these conflict dynamics, further impoverishing marginalised groups and undermining the limited trust between the population and the government.



Our Work

In this challenging context, our peacebuilding efforts continued unabated at multiple levels. Dialogue processes in South Kivu brought together diverse armed groups to lay foundations for a Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration (DDR) strategy. Our many civil society partners played an active role in reweaving the social fabric, strengthening the accountability of authorities and security forces, and raising awareness among armed groups about alternative ways of life. Working closely with our partners in southern South Kivu, we supported them to strengthen and build on their existing peacebuilding capacities. Along with our other LPI colleagues, we contributed to the annual UN Peacebuilding Architecture Review.

“Despite several challenges, the CCI in Minembwe is now composed of an inclusive and efficient team, which enables us to resume contributing to...the promotion of a climate of peace between the respective communities.”

Member of Minembwe Cadres de Concertation Intercommunautaires (CCI)

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19



Mediation actions

10



Advocacy meetings at the sub-provincial level

9

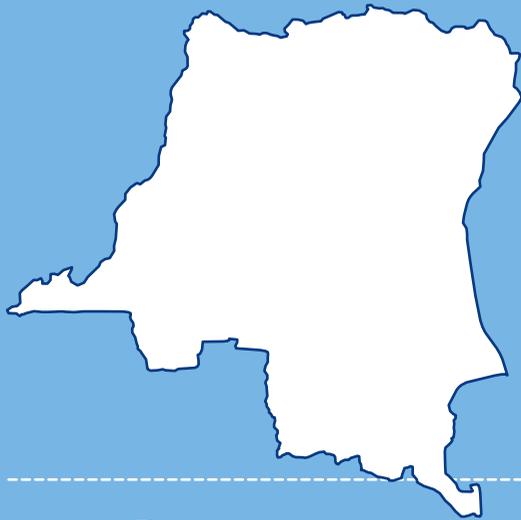


Intercommunity dialogue sessions

1



Reference coordination group with 15 strategic partners



1,600



People engaged

25%
Women

20%
Youth

Partners



Collaborators in Evaluation and Learning



39



Communities

10
North Kivu

29
South Kivu

Building on existing capacities for peace

Two existing community-based peacebuilding structures—Cadres de Concertation Intercommunautaires (CCIs)—resumed their intra and inter-community mediation and conflict transformation work in Baraka and Minembwe after a 3-year pause. With our support, LPI partners Action pour le Développement et la Paix Endogène (ADEPAE), Réseau des Cadres de Concertation Intercommunautaires (RCCI), and Réseau d’Innovation Organisationnelle (RIO) gave technical and material assistance to both CCIs, strengthening their organisational and professional capacities, and promoting coordination between them. This enabled the 2 CCIs to rebuild trust and renew relationships with diverse communities, and once again position themselves as credible agents of peace in southern South Kivu.



Key insight: *Tap the transformative potential of relevant community peacebuilding structures that already exist to revive and revitalise them. Creating new structures to replace these 2 CCIs, CCIs, in operation since 2010, would have further fragmented peacebuilding efforts in the area. Instead, we saw the value of investing in their future viability. When it comes to peacebuilding, sustainability is key.*

Inclusive community-owned peacebuilding structures

Expanding and diversifying the membership of the CCIs in Baraka and Minembwe was essential to the process of revitalising their effective community engagement. To do so, we undertook a joint validation exercise bringing community members together to determine CCI membership criteria. An inclusive group reflective of the broader community—women and men, young and old—was selected for CCI membership.



Key insight: *Adapt community-owned processes to create peacebuilding structures that are inclusive and representative of the diversity in their communities, thus better ensuring that membership is trusted. In contexts marred by intra or inter-community tensions and distrust, this is one way to implement relevant and effective peace actions.*

Collaborative bottom-up evaluation: 10 years of peacebuilding

In a unique approach that brought us together with a range of peacebuilding partners and community members, we completed a joint bottom-up evaluation of 10 years of conflict transformation interventions in eastern DRC. We took stock of success factors and identified persistent gaps and challenges in peacebuilding and conflict transformation practices and policies. Learning with and from our peacebuilding partners in the region also offered valuable insight on how to ensure our next 5-year DRC strategy is relevant, innovative, coordinated, and adds value to their peacebuilding efforts.

[Click here](#) to read the summary (in English).

[Click here](#) to read the full report (in French).

3 critical capacities for effective peacebuilding



Learning and unlearning. Constantly pay attention to what has worked so far and what needs to be done differently—because it doesn't work. This compelled us to reflect on our own limitations and unpack our core approaches.



Working hand in hand. Collaborate and coordinate to foster cumulative and collective impact on peace writ large. This was a key lesson from the 15-member reference group that guided the 10-year peacebuilding evaluation process and became a building block for us all to do just that.



Listening. Have multiple conversations to actively listen to diverse interlocutors, especially those who are most affected by a conflict and those who are rarely heard.

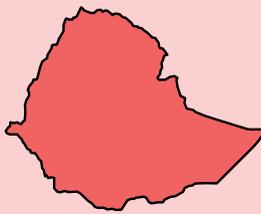
2021: Pushing the refresh button

To refresh our work, the DRC team will quadruple—growing from 4 to 16 staff members. We will also make partnership agreements with 10 national organisations, including both long-term partners and new ones. Our primary goal will be operationalising our new 5-year strategy in eastern DRC. This innovative and holistic strategy is directly informed and shaped by the collaborative evaluation findings. It also relies on consultations with a number of national and international organisations active in the region. Our strategy consists of 4 inter-related strands of activity: 1) developing and implementing bottom-up peacebuilding initiatives; 2) promoting the meaningful engagement of all levels of authority; 3) involving marginalised groups in genuinely inclusive ways to move beyond tokenistic approaches; and 4) fostering greater coordination between peacebuilding organisations.

Ethiopia

Ethiopia remained at a critical juncture throughout the year. The most populous country in the Horn of Africa faced large-scale challenges in implementing over-due political, economic, and administrative reforms. It also had difficulties in opening up to opportunities to explore the creation of more inclusive peacebuilding spaces.

On 14 April 2020, the federal government declared a 5-month state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This further complicated matters related to the national elections, originally scheduled for 29 August 2020, and resulted in a constitutional dilemma. The postponement of the national elections also gave rise to other significant political developments, including the conflict in Tigray and beyond.



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)

Our Work

Our peacebuilding carried on amidst multi-faceted challenges, competing political interests, and escalating tensions. In particular, community dialogue and reconciliation efforts were important activities; notably, our ongoing Sustained Dialogue across 5 university campuses and the Conflict-Sensitive Land Administration project, which entered into its second round of working to change perceptions about landholding in 25 different kebeles. We also developed a number of new partnerships across multiple levels—reaching from local civil society to the global arena—and expanded our Listening Tour to key hotspots throughout the country.

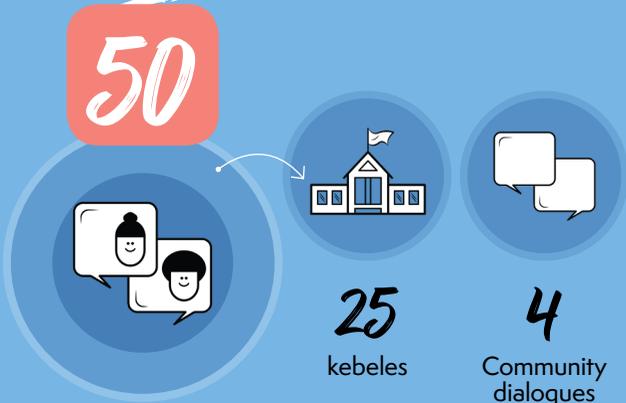
“Although I joined SD very recently, within a year it helped me to fully understand how beautiful diversity is. I am also learning how dialogue is important to understand each other, to provide agreeable solutions for differences of ideas, and to develop communication skills. It makes me more accommodating, inclusive, and tolerant of differences in the ideas and interests of others.”

Sustained Dialogue student moderator, Bahir Dar University

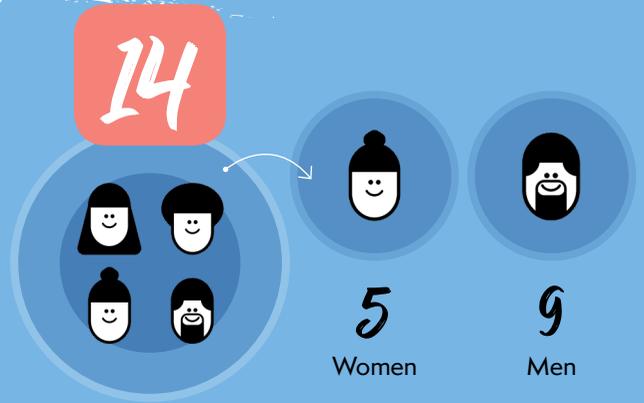
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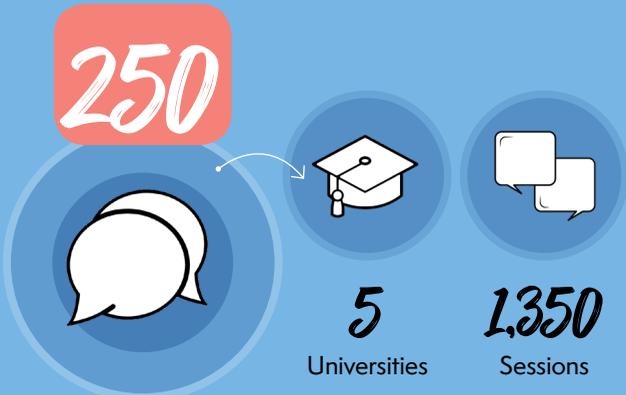
Dialogue participants in the Conflict-Sensitive Land Administration project



Community dialogue facilitators trained

250

3



Sustained Dialogues



Capacity building trainings

Partners



80

30



Youth consulted in the "COVID-19 pandemic and its nexus with peace" Listening Tour



Online participants trained for SNAP*

* Synergizing Nonviolence Action & Peacebuilding (SNAP)

Multi-level partnerships for greater change

Inclusive and sustainable peace means building relationships with many peace actors who engage at various levels, from the local to the global, and everyone in between. We put this know-how into action by offering strategic advice to LPI partner organisations that are members of the Multistakeholder Initiative for National Dialogue (MiND Ethiopia), a new civil society consortium established to facilitate national dialogue. We also strengthened our relationship with the Ethiopian Ministry of Peace by jointly identifying areas to enhance their peacebuilding capacities, including a focus on specific skills. Aiming to improve inclusive policy dialogue spaces, we facilitated a platform for scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to contribute to a book entitled *Ethiopia in the Wake of Political Reforms*, which was spearheaded by the Office of the Prime Minister.

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

We enhanced our global relationships, in particular with UNDP and the US Institute for Peace (USIP). Importantly, we bridged the local–global divide, too. Four of our long-term partners joined the consultative review of the UN Peace Building Architecture.

Connection during the pandemic

As was the case across the whole of LPI during the pandemic, we explored online and virtual methods for conducting training sessions and facilitating ongoing partner discussions. With USIP, for example, we jointly hosted a 5-session online training course, “Synergizing Nonviolent Action & Peacebuilding (SNAP). The training course equipped 30 civil society participants with skills and tools to (co-)design nonviolent actions. Although sometimes challenged by internet connectivity issues, we also hosted numerous virtual exchanges with partners and colleagues inside and outside of Ethiopia to ensure we remained in close contact.



Key insight: *It is essential to stay connected and networked, especially during challenging times. Although we prefer to get together in person, this can sometimes be impossible—because of climate considerations about travel, time that is too limited, a lack of resources, or a global pandemic. This means finding other ways to meet up. When we do engage virtually, we put a lot of thought and intention into how and when we gather in that space. This can make all the difference in the world between people feeling connected. Or feeling further apart.*

Listening to youth

We continued to develop our organisational capacity to listen in 2 key ways. First, we hosted a 3-day workshop on the Listening Methodology¹ for core LPI partners: Agency for Cooperation Research in Development (ACORD), Peace and Development Center (PDC), Inter-Africa Group (IAG), and the Inter-Religious Council of Ethiopia (IRCE). Focused on the pandemic and peace, our partners wanted to better understand how the lives of young people in Addis Ababa were being impacted. To learn more, they hosted 10 focus group discussions in 5 different neighbourhoods to listen to them. In total, 80 young people had their say. Second, we made plans to expand the Listening Tour to the Oromia, Amhara, and SNNP (Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples) regions in 2021. Our aim is to listen to youth in these conflict hotspots to hear what they have to say.



Key insight: *In times of great change, it is essential to listen carefully to people who are silent or not often heard, such as young people. To listen to their experiences. To listen to their priorities. To listen to what they consider necessary for peace. In Ethiopia, it is more important than ever for myriad voices to speak up and be heard.*

Sustained Dialogue

Our Sustained Dialogue participants were very busy before all public universities closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nearly 320 moderators were trained to facilitate a total of 250 dialogue groups. All together, they held 1,350 dialogue sessions, addressing a multitude of issues ranging from ethnicity to religion. In operation since 2017, this phase of the Sustained Dialogue programme came to an end in 2020, providing a strong foundation on which we and our long-term partner PDC will build a more holistic approach to supporting peaceful university campuses.

[Click here](#) to read the report.

2021: Building on lessons learnt for 30 years

In 2021, this phase of our Ethiopia country programme will come to an end. We intend to use this opportunity to take stock of myriad lessons learnt—learning about what worked and unlearning what did not work by listening carefully to our partners about the challenges that lay ahead for peace in Ethiopia. This process will closely inform the design our new 4-year country programme, working hand in hand with our partners to build on these lessons learnt, not only over the past 5 years but since we first began working in Ethiopia in 1991.

¹ 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, as documented by research teams made up of listeners who are close to or part of the communities where the research happens. The data collection process is informal—no notetaking, but instead documenting the conversations from memory. First developed by CDA-Collaborative Learning Projects, the methodology is increasingly applied in conflict situations. For more information, see: <http://www.centrepeaceconflictstudies.org/the-evolution-of-listeningmethodology/>

Kenya

This year was marked by identity and resource-based conflicts, corruption at the national level over COVID-19 response funds, massive job losses, and mounting crime rates. Police brutality and extrajudicial killings also increased, sparking public outrage over the excessive use of force by police officers. Cases of sexual and gender based violence also spiked, especially in informal settlements. Government-initiated safety nets to mitigate the negative impact of the pandemic included cash transfers to the most vulnerable, funds for the elderly, and a nationwide livelihoods programme for young people.

Politics took centre stage with a rift between the president and his deputy over the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI),² with the president in favour and the deputy president opposed. This disagreement led to a new political re-alignment and resulted in broader social fragmentation, with newly emergent class conflict spurred on by a weakened political opposition, led by the deputy president's party.



11 locations

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

Our Work

We focused on building sustainable connections and working closely with local partners to reinforce community resilience. We also discovered that limited LPI travel during the pandemic served to enhance local peacebuilding and deepen local ownership. We supported youth leaders to be agents of peaceful change in their communities by engaging with other youth leaders, community-based organisations, civil society organisations, and administration and security actors. We used a 3-pronged approach: 1) bridging together divided communities through inclusive multi-level dialogue; 2) sharing and generating knowledge by conducting training sessions on peacebuilding, conflict transformation, and dialogue facilitation; and 3) raising awareness about policy related to the Nairobi County Action Plan (CAP) on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) and UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS).

²The BBI is a political truce initiated by the president (Jubilee party) and the deputy president (also leader of the main opposition party, Orange Democratic Movement) shortly after the contested presidential election results in 2017. Initially seen as a genuine effort for peaceful post-election coexistence, the BBI is now seen by some as a 2022 pre-election strategy to propel the deputy president to the presidency.

Facts and Figures

6



Urban violence research sites in Nairobi: Kayole, Kangemi, Kibera, Korogocho, Majengo, and Mathare

199



Interviews



92 Women



107 Men

15



Participants per focus group in each research site

90



Respondents



42 Women



48 Men



Researchers

1



Participatory research process on climate change-peace nexus in Garissa County



2 Women



1 Man

69



Focus groups

34



Key informant interviews

18



Youth leaders in ongoing virtual contact about impact of COVID-19

18



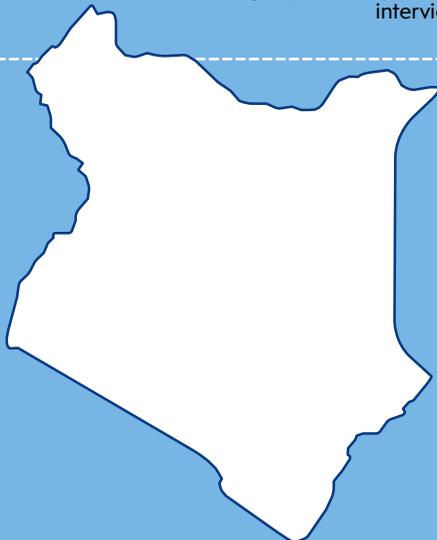
Young people from Kenya, Uganda, and Liberia celebrated International Youth Day in a virtual meeting

18



Youth-led community-based organisations supported

Partner



Youth leaders take action

Effective rapid response interventions to mitigate violent conflict benefit from an existing infrastructure of youth leadership. In February 2020, 40 recognised and respected youth leaders in Nairobi prevented retaliatory attacks after public uproar about the police shooting of a young motorbike rider, who died during an argument with the officer over where he had parked his motorbike when he brought a sick child to hospital for treatment in a drowning incident. The youth leaders mobilised more than 200 signatures for a petition to local authorities. This led to the arrest of the police officer on murder charges, signalling to the broader community that justice would be served.

Generating evidence: Community-based input for better policy

We facilitated 2 relevant community-based research projects this year. One looked at urban violence in informal settlements in Nairobi, as part of the [Peace in Our Cities initiative](#), which seeks to halve urban violence by 2030. Using a unique research methodology, young people living in each area—all of whom had experienced some form of urban violence—designed and led the research themselves, with guidance from LPI staff. The research generated valuable data on the complex, multi-layered nature of urban violence. We also researched the climate change–peace nexus in Garissa County to gather data on the multiple experiences of community members. Our aim was to better understand these conflict dynamics to formulate a tailor-made response strategy.



Key insight: *Research that is closely informed by the experiences of those who are affected by violent conflict results in more effective policies and strategies for mitigating those dynamics. Research processes that are led by community-based researchers can foster deep connection and multiple layers of transformation—from the personal to the political, and the communities in between.*

Enabling sustainable youth leadership

LPI-supported youth leaders have founded nearly 20 community-based organisations, youth groups, and theatre companies in Nairobi since 2018. These youth-led organisations engage in a wide range of community initiatives to enhance peaceful coexistence in their communities. To help them build and sustain these organisations and their leadership skills, we offered comprehensive training relevant to their needs—advanced leadership skills, visioning, group dynamics, team building, stress management, budgeting, fundraising strategies, report writing, project design, proposal writing, financial management, procurement, and developing organisational structures. To put these skills into practice, LPI invited the youth to respond to a competitive call for proposals for a small grant to implement their own projects. A total of 6 grants will be awarded in 2021.

Successful youth-led responses to COVID-19

Our long-term investment in youth leadership had notable returns during the pandemic. To reach out to their communities, youth leaders formed an online monitoring team that put them at the forefront of conflict-sensitive responses to the pandemic. This included sharing essential public health information and updates on emerging issues, distributing humanitarian aid, and supporting out-of-school children with food and tutoring. Youth leaders were also able to effectively advocate on behalf of mitigating pandemic-related challenges faced by youth.

Contributing to the pandemic response had broader ripple effects. By regular use of their WhatsApp group, the organisations they founded became stronger, more competent, and better networked. Importantly, these youth leaders were able to more actively support one another (including psycho-social support), implement joint activities, and benefit from ongoing cross-organisational learning and organisational strategies. Some were able to access different types of funding to support their communities, including cloud funding. Above all, they empowered one another to better appreciate their role in mitigating conflicts and supporting their communities.

YPS and strengthening mutual accountability

“Globalising Local Action. Localising Global Policy” showcased the numerous contributions Kenyan youth are making to the broader YPS agenda in their own country and across the world, including the premier of a film documenting this work. Our multistakeholder forum brought together a comprehensive group of key actors from the local to the global, including: young women and men spearheading the YPS agenda in their own communities; civil society representatives; Kenya government representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of ICT, Innovation, and Youth; and international diplomats and experts from the UN.

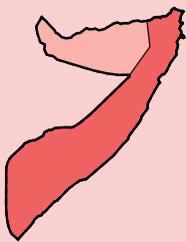
2021: Ongoing focus on youth

Our focus next year will be four-fold. First, we plan to strengthen YPS policy engagement. Kenya takes up the role of the Africa representative to the UN Security Council in 2021 and we intend to leverage this opportunity by advocating for a YPS national action plan to translate policy into practice. Second, we will continue to focus on the climate change–peace nexus in 2 ways: 1) using our 2020 research findings to inform LPI programming to prevent climate-related conflict; and 2) hosting a climate, peace, and security research workshop in Garissa County to analyse the climate change–peace nexus. Third, we will wrap up our “Amplifying People's Voices for Sustainable Peace in Kenya” project, which promotes inter-community dialogue, ethnic reconciliation, and conflict mitigation. Fourth, using key findings and recommendations from our 2020 research on urban violence, we will design activities to reduce urban violence in Nairobi, especially as Kenya heads to the next general elections in 2022.

Somalia

Somalia has made tremendous strides toward political stability since 2012 when the federal government was established, but 2020 was a troubled year for the country. The slated elections were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, creating challenges due to a lack of constitutional clarity about electoral processes in such circumstances. Ongoing lack of consensus between the federal government and the federal member states further complicated matters, resulting in destabilisation and uncertainty across both levels.

This internal political wrangling opened a door for other countries to intervene in Somalia, as some federal member states sought help from neighbouring countries and Gulf States, thus exposing the country to broader regional conflict dynamics. In addition, this move both exacerbated existing tensions and created new ones within and between clans, as well as with neighbouring countries. These various instabilities have created spaces that can be (and have been) exploited by al-Shabaab. Humanitarian issues such as locusts and flooding, along with the COVID-19 pandemic, have eroded community resilience and given rise to new levels of isolation.



31 locations

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

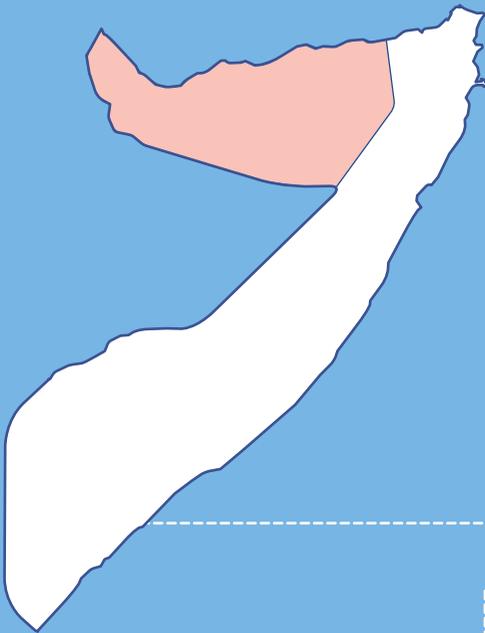
Our Work

Despite the challenges this complex situation created for our peacebuilding work, this year saw the achievement of a number of results. First and foremost, we launched our new programme strategy, “Multi-Level Conflict Transformation in South Central Somalia (2020–2023)”. Successful implementation of the strategy depends on close ongoing cooperation with our trusted long-term partners: Somali Peace Line, Somali Women’s Solidarity Organization, and the Zamzam Foundation. The UN Peacebuilding Fund also supported us to expand our Sustained Dialogue work to young people in Baidoa, Jowhar, and Abudwak so they could create much-needed space to promote their genuine inclusion in community decision-making processes.

“During the old days, people used to say, ‘Trees are for the white beards.’ Meaning, decisions could only be made by elders since the young didn’t have enough experience and were not wise enough to make good decisions. It’s our youth role to change such perceptions by being involved in all platforms for community decisions and all decision-making processes. We should not remain excluded.”

Sustained Dialogue participant, Baidoa

Facts and Figures



1



Jubbaland women's peace platform established with 25 members

540



Diverse youths engaged in Hirshabelle, Southwest, and Galmudug

Partners



12



Cross-clan peace platforms enhanced for outreach activities and advocacy engagement

8



Intra and inter-clan dialogues facilitated by Hiran and Galagduud peace platforms

Genuine inclusion: Creating space for women and youth

We continued to take incremental steps in creating space for women and young people to participate in decision-making about issues affecting their lives. This entailed 2 primary activities. First, we strengthened the respective capacities of women and young people to effectively engage with policy actors and decision makers in their communities, and beyond. As a result of bespoke training on policy issues, advocacy techniques, and conflict analysis—including hands-on practice using these skills—they were better equipped to be agents of peaceful change.

Second, we brought women’s groups and youth groups together to build stronger relationships among themselves and create greater momentum for change. We supported 4 women’s platforms to unify the voices of women peacebuilders by establishing the Jubbaland women’s peace platform, a region-wide platform of 25 members. Using the Sustained Dialogue method, we also brought together a total of 540 young people—an equal number of young women and men—in Hirshabelle, South West, and Galmudug to discuss issues affecting their communities and their own lives, and to come up with community Peace Actions to resolve some of the challenges they identified.

Joined-up peacebuilding

We supported our 12 cross-clan community peace platforms to establish stronger links and relationships for more coordinated peacebuilding efforts across the country. Key peace platform members came together to undertake community outreach activities and engage in advocacy on pivotal issues. As a result of these joint peacebuilding efforts, hotly contested issues such as land and resources were successfully addressed and resolved in Hiran and Galagdud, with peace platform members facilitating 8 intra and inter-clan dialogues.



Key insight: *Research that is closely informed by the experiences of those who are affected by violent conflict results in more effective policies and strategies for mitigating those dynamics. Research processes that are led by community-based researchers can foster deep connection and multiple layers of transformation—from the personal to the political, and the communities in between.*

Multi-level policy engagement

In recognition of the long-term peacebuilding expertise we bring to the policy table, and working hand in hand with our Somali partners, we had a busy year of engaging policymakers at the national, regional, and international level to advocate for peacebuilding needs. We collaborated with the LPI Global Policy team on their Inclusive Peace in Practice initiative to offer Somali perspectives on and input to the UN Peacebuilding Architecture Review. We also participated in a number of other high-level policy meetings, including: an invitation to become a member of the National Reconciliation Framework (NRF) advisory committee;³ joining the UN Peacebuilding Fund consultation process to identify key drivers of conflict in the country; contributing to the EU consultation meeting on key peacebuilding priorities in the Horn of Africa; and presenting the impact of COVID-19 on peacebuilding strategies at the UN Peacebuilding Commission meeting (ambassador level).

³The NRF is a national government reconciliation agenda. It is a policy developed to create a roadmap for national cohesion and find lasting solutions for peaceful coexistence in Somalia.

2021: Building on past work to secure a peaceful future

The coming year will see us widening and expanding our existing work. We will continue to engage with women and youth to amplify their voices to demand inclusion in decision-making at all levels. We plan to strengthen links between the community peace platforms and local government by building the capacities of local administrators in 2 key ways: 1) to more effectively reinforce the mediation agreements reached in the local peace platforms; and 2) to collaborate more often and more actively with the community peace platforms. Our policy work at national level will focus on the NRF, making sure that this process is more inclusive and more fully owned by local communities. This will entail awareness raising at all levels and facilitating open dialogue sessions for engagement.



President Ahmed Madobe of Jubbaland with Majerten and Ormale clan elders after the reconciliation conference in Kismayo, Somalia

Sudan

It was another very eventful year in Sudan. In October 2020, the Transitional Government of Sudan (TGS) signed a final peace deal with the National Revolutionary Front. After amendments to the South Sudanese constitutional declaration, peace agreements with South Sudanese armed movements paved the way for improved relations with Khartoum. December 2020 saw numerous developments. Amidst some controversy, the Transitional Partners Council was set up to coordinate between the transitional government and new peace partners.⁴ After 27 years, Sudan was officially removed from the US list of state sponsors of terror as part of a deal to normalise ties with Israel. And following the end of UNAMID (United Nations–African Union Mission in Darfur), the UN approved UNITMAS (United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan) to give technical assistance and support to the TGS.

For Sudanese citizens, sky-rocketing inflation continued to create economic difficulties in daily life, as did the COVID-19 pandemic. Ongoing political uncertainty exacerbated these challenges. Internally displaced people and refugees experienced a series of violent militia attacks aiming to halt their efforts to reclaim land forcibly taken under the former Bashir regime. Joining the nearly 1 million refugees already in Sudan, about 50,000 Ethiopian refugees registered in the eastern part of the country, fleeing conflict in neighbouring Tigray. The Sudanese government responded with heightened security and a state of emergency in the borderland states of Al Qadarif and Kassala.



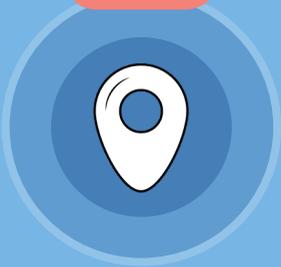
Our Work

As with our colleagues across LPI and around the globe, the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated our use of virtual technologies and saw us participating in numerous online events. We co-presented a virtual session at Geneva Peace Week with our partner, Conflict Dynamics International. We participated in a 2-day online workshop about the new LPI Resilience in Conflict Analysis Toolkit, which is designed for conducting field research on peacebuilding. As with our other LPI colleagues, we also offered input on the consultative UN Peacebuilding Architecture Review, including virtual and phone consultations with 10 peacebuilding practitioners who represent a diverse range of stakeholders from different regions in Sudan, especially community-based peacebuilders who are seldom heard in global policy discussions.

⁴The TPC has 29 members: the prime minister, 6 military representatives, 9 Juba Peace Agreement signatories, and 13 Forces for Freedom and Change members.

Facts and Figures

6



New localities in South Kordofan state

14



Listeners and researchers trained



7 Women

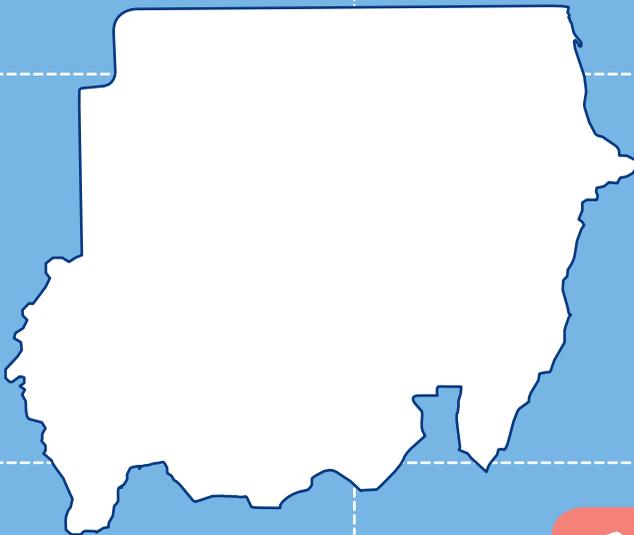


7 Men

600



Young women and men participate in Listening Tour



Sustained Dialogue Community founded by youth leaders and officially registered as a civil society organisation

Partners



75



People attended a forum on youth engagement in peacebuilding and coexistence funded by SDC

20



Participants from key government ministries, civil society, the media and national and international organisations attended a 1-day workshop

Sustained Dialogue alumni lead the way

Alumni of our Sustained Dialogue groups at Dalanj and Ahfad universities came together to establish a new youth-led CSO, the Sustained Dialogue Community (SDC), which was officially registered with the Humanitarian Aid Commission in South Kordofan. To ensure long-term sustainability, we supported SDC leadership to establish an office and develop a unique organisational identity and image. This included defining participant profiles, creating a social media presence, and SDC branding and design. We also contributed to building the professional capacities of the organisation, with workshops on project management, organisational development, fundraising, and how to succeed with a business start-up. Putting these various skills into practice, the SDC secured external funding for a forum on youth engagement in peacebuilding and coexistence, attended by more than 75 people.

Continuing to listen carefully

Building on the success of our first Listening Tour in 2019, this year we again reached out to young people to hear what they thought youth could contribute to the transition processes underway in Sudan. In 2020, we went to 6 new localities in South Kordofan state. Working closely with our partners at the Dalanj University Peace & Development Studies Center and the Gesr Center for Development, we trained 14 listeners and researchers, who talked with nearly 600 young men and women.



Key insight: *Listening carefully offers rich rewards. During the transition period in Sudan, our Listening Tours have opened up crucial channels of communication with young people across the country at a time when they really need to be heard. This has allowed them to identify and discuss what they see as the important issues affecting their lives—and tell us how they think those issues should be addressed. Their recommendations create a solid basis to effectively advocate for greater youth inclusion.*

Opening doors for youth-friendly policy

Deepening our relationship with the national Ministry of Youth and Sports, we signed a memorandum of understanding with this key ministry. This move opens a door for us to more directly contribute policy recommendations on youth issues in Sudan. Importantly, this also better ensures that the voices of young people will be listened to and heard at the national policy level—because our input is closely informed by our ongoing youth Listening Tours and our long-term engagement with Sudanese youth in the Sustained Dialogue groups we support.

We reinforced the message of youth-friendly policy on International Youth Day 2020, too. With our partner the Gesr Center for Development, we co-organised a forum to launch our first Listening Tour report from 2019. We also organised a 1-day workshop attended by about 20 participants from key government ministries, civil society, the media, and national and international organisations. Based on a summary of the recommendations in the Listening Tour report, we had a lively and productive discussion about how to move forward in strengthening policies so that they are more youth-friendly, and hence more relevant to the needs of young people in Sudan.

“During the Listening Tour, I considered the issues discussed by the young people I spoke with to be significant, particularly the issue of peaceful coexistence in South Kordofan. Also, I listened to different perspectives from young people. The majority of them were concerned about the economic situation. I wish to collaborate with all South Kordofan and Khartoum actors to influence policies that promote youth engagement. The fascinating talks with all these young people provided me with an opportunity to expand my knowledge about youth issues.”

Listening Tour researcher, South Kordofan

2021: Peacebuilding amidst continuing transitions

We intend to maintain our steady long-term engagement in Sudan, offering young people greater security in uncertain times—platforms to communicate their issues and the support they need to build their capacities to advocate for greater youth participation. Continuity and commitment will guide our work in the coming year, which will focus on 4 key areas: 1) conducting another Listening Tour, this time talking with youth in eastern Sudan; 2) undertaking inclusive and participatory conflict analysis in eastern Sudan to explore further areas for possible peacebuilding interventions and keep building our partnerships with borderland civil society; 3) providing ongoing support to civil society, especially youth organisations, with continued focus on training for nonviolent change, technical assistance, organisational development, and so on; and 4) pursuing our policy-related activities to promote youth issues and inclusion.



Street art from Khartoum, Sudan

Sweden

As across the entire world, Sweden was heavily impacted by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. In general, individuals were strongly encouraged to uphold their civic responsibility, abide by government-imposed restrictions, and refrain from most social interactions. The pandemic also revealed inequalities connected to the background, socio-economic situation, and living situations of people, with the death rate for those born outside Sweden disproportionately high.

Conversations on the political stage and in the media emphasised topics such as crime and immigration. Political polarisation, and the corresponding polarisation in broader society, was also featured in the media. The number of deadly shootings increased in 2020, with data revealing that the victims of this type of violence (which is linked to criminal environments) are mainly youth.



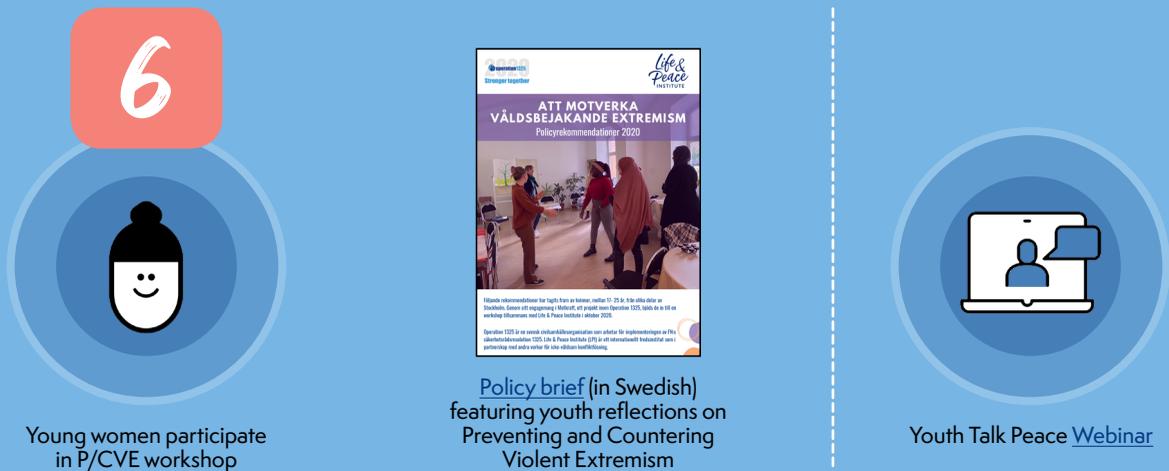
Our Work

For our Peacefinders project—the cornerstone of our Sweden programme—this was a year for new partnerships, important conversations, and listening carefully to young people throughout the country. During the numerous activities we hosted, youth participants repeatedly raised the need to discuss topics such as exclusion, racism, economic inequality, gender inequality, and segregation. It was also a year to jointly reflect on these challenges through the lens of peacebuilding. Although the COVID-19 pandemic meant we had to move to online and virtual exchanges, this did not dampen the enthusiasm of young people to participate. This also allowed us to continue building relationships and networking with colleagues and partner organisations. And it was easier to involve LPI colleagues from Africa in our Swedish events.

“It’s very interesting when you look at different authorities and institutions. When do they ask for our perspectives? It’s really when there’s a crisis. Young people started shooting at each other in 2015 in Järva. Since then, the imams and priests have buried maybe 20–25 youth in Järva alone. But now [2020] is when they are coming, asking us: ‘Why do they shoot at each other?’ We could have had this discussion 5 years ago and not let it escalate.”

Discussion participant, greater Stockholm area

Facts and Figures



A significant milestone for youth inclusion

For the first time ever, Concord Sweden included the topic of Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) in its bi-annual publication, [Barometer – CONCORD Sverige](#). A platform of 81 Swedish civil society organisations, Concord Sweden aims to influence Swedish and EU development policy. Published every other year since 2010, the Barometer is an independent civil society scrutiny of Swedish development policy. Acknowledging LPI expertise on YPS, we were commissioned to write the section on this topic, which we co-authored with [Landsrådet för Sveriges Ungdomsorganisationer](#) (LSU; the National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations).



Key insight: *Collaboration is essential. Joining with the LSU, we consistently emphasised the necessity of youth inclusion at meetings of the 2030 working group facilitated by Concord Sweden. Agreeing on the importance of this critical theme, Concord Sweden decided to include YPS in its most recent Barometer.*

Our Sweden: Giving voice to unheard youth

Working hand in hand with our Swedish partners—[Fryshuset](#), [Unga Fredsbyggare](#),⁵ and [Operation 1325](#)—we jointly hosted “Our Sweden” in Stockholm. This interactive event brought together young people and influential adults, including the Minister for Justice and Migration and a police officer. The primary purpose of this gathering was to create an open conversation and exchange about youth experiences of safety, trust, and inclusion. Regarded as a success by those who took part, the event was also a first for us. It marked a significant move beyond university campuses to directly engage with young people from diverse backgrounds.

Understanding peace in Sweden

Knowing what peace means in a Swedish context is essential to the effectiveness of our work. To better understand this, we conducted a desk study focused on 3 key peace-related themes: safety, trust, and inclusion. Beginning in 2018, we gathered our data gradually from 2 primary sources: 1) youth stories and perspectives about what matters most to them, as they expressed their views at various LPI forums and gatherings; and 2) the experiences and perspectives of our Swedish peers and partners working with youth in different contexts. Our own observations of the Swedish context also factor into the analysis.

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

⁵ Unga Fredsbyggare (young peacebuilders) is a Fryshuset project to train Swedish youth in conflict resolution and mediation using the [Dialogue for Peaceful Change](#) (DPC) method.

Profile building and networking

A key success factor for our engagement in Sweden continued to be the strong partnerships we are nurturing with people and organisations already on the ground working on peacebuilding, development, and social inclusion. We partnered up with Operation 1325 and the United Nations Office on Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) to conduct a workshop on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) with a small group of young women in Stockholm. The recommendations and insights they shared were compiled into a policy brief (in Swedish).

[Click here](#) to read the policy brief.

Going large, we reached 1,200 livestream participants—and nearly 2,000 more over a 2-week period on YouTube—with our presentation on the Horn of Africa for Swedish migration officers and others addressing integration in Västra Götaland, a county on the western coast of the country.

Alongside these activities, our LPI colleagues in Africa generously shared their peacebuilding expertise with our partners in Sweden. Our Somalia programme manager brought a wealth of experience to discussions at our Uppsala seminar on dialogue, co-hosted with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation. A young woman and LPI change-maker from Kenya also told her story at our Youth Talk Peace webinar, organised in partnership with Föreningen för Utvecklingsfrågor (FUF, the Swedish Development Forum) and LSU.

2021: Deeper focus on YPS

Next year, we will deepen our engagement with the YPS agenda, laying groundwork for activities in years to come. In particular, we intend to finalise our study on safety, trust, and inclusion, with a launch planned for autumn 2021. We will also conduct a smaller-scale youth-driven study on similar themes. Given that the first phase of our Peacefinders project comes to an end next year, we will be concluding studies, launching reports, finalising activities, and drawing lessons learnt. Building on the past 3 years of experience, Peacefinders will look ahead to develop new activities focused on YPS and further develop our Sustained Dialogue work in Sweden.

Horn of Africa Regional Programme

This year was particularly eventful for the Horn of Africa. In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, the region continued to experience political instability. Hotly contested elections in Uganda saw violent confrontations between state security forces and members of the public protesting state repression of the opposition candidate for president. In Kenya, much of the year was defined by political contestation at the national level between the president and his deputy, as the country readies for elections in 2022. Somalia, too, faced multi-level challenges related to postponing the scheduled 2020 elections due to the pandemic.

Tensions in Ethiopia escalated in the Tigray region in the north of the country, resulting in increased instability and violence (including Eritrean military involvement), a humanitarian crisis, and large-scale population displacement, mainly into Sudan. Region-wide peace and stability were also threatened by a rapidly deteriorating security situation as Egypt and Sudan intensified disputes with Ethiopia over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam. Historical border disputes with Sudan also came into play.



Our Work

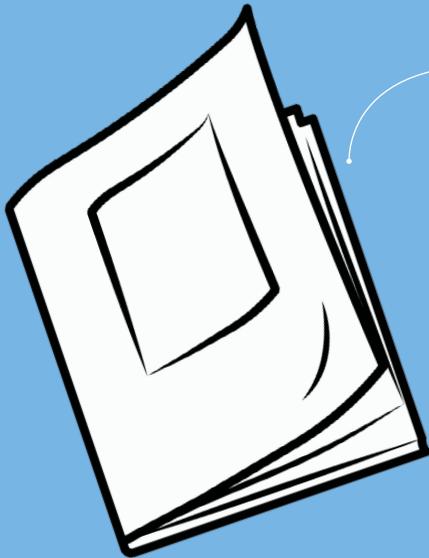
As 2020 brought HARP Phase II (2017–2020) to a close, most of our efforts were geared toward planning for HARP Phase III (2021–2024). To ensure future success and relevance, we engaged in inclusive and collaborative cross-organisational processes to identify 3 pivotal thematic priorities: 1) human security in the borderlands; 2) transitional justice and reconciliation; and 3) the climate change–conflict nexus. Our cross-cutting focus on promoting the role of women and youth in conflict prevention and peacebuilding also remains vital for HARP Phase III. As with all LPI peacebuilding work, HARP Phase III builds on lessons learnt (and unlearnt) from previous engagements.

“I would like your priorities to be my priorities.”

Ambassador Fred Ngoga, head of the AU Conflict Prevention and Early Warning Division (CPEW)

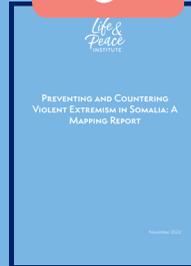
Endorsing LPI input on how to further engage our cross-border partners and enhance our conflict prevention work with the AU, this statement by the ambassador opens doors for more engagement with this major regional policy actor.

Facts and Figures



Publications finalised and made ready for publication

6



Country analyses

2



Regional reports

5



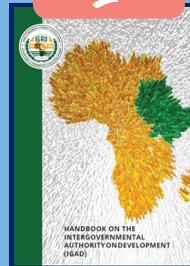
Policy briefs

15



Research reports compiled in compendium

1



IGAD compendium

Partners



26
Borderlands
CSOs



26



Community-based organisations in Cross-Border Cooperation coalition

40



Participants—government officials, diplomats, CSO practitioners, analysts, academics, and intergovernmental actors—join online workshop on transitional justice

Stronger voices for the borderlands

In many ways, borderlands in the Horn of Africa are a microcosm of the region, with human security challenges especially pressing. Some of the most marginalised groups live in borderland sub-regions—far away from power and economic centres, with extremely limited access to decision-making and basic services. Two strategic developments contributed to strengthening and growing our Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) coalition in 2020, allowing people in the borderlands to be heard more loudly. First, with the AU Border Programme (AUBP), we jointly established the AUBP–LPI borderlands civil society platform, which is designed to engage and advise the AUBP on borderland issues. Second, adoption of the AU Strategy for Better Integrated Border Governance during the 33rd AU summit in February 2020 offered an indispensable opportunity to maintain our partnership with the AU.



Key insight: *We know effective peacebuilding depends on developing strong relationships with an inclusive range of people, institutions, and organisations. In addition to continued opportunities to strengthen our bonds with the AU, this year we worked to deepen our relationship with the UNDP Africa Borderlands Centre as a potential partner for our next phase of programme. As with other LPI colleagues across Africa, we helped bridge the local–global gap, too. Members of our CBC coalition, a group of 26 CSOs active since 2017, joined the consultative review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture.*

Transitional Justice: Linking action and policy

To better support countries struggling to redress legacies of violence and human rights abuses, we looked at peacebuilding through the lens of transitional justice and reconciliation, with special attention to the AU Transitional Justice Policy (AUTJP). With the Cape Town-based Institute for Justice and Reconciliation, we jointly hosted an online workshop about the AUTJP as an effective way to prevent violent conflict and consolidate regional peace and security. Participants discussed how to use the provisions of the AUTJP to develop and guide their own in-country transitional justice and peacebuilding processes.

Our timely focus on transitional justice reached larger audiences with 2 issues of our Horn of Africa Bulletin (HAB) devoted to this theme in 2020. We also used the HAB Forum as a platform for information exchange between diverse stakeholders working on transitional justice, reconciliation, and peacebuilding to create momentum for greater coordination and the cross-fertilisation of ideas. Forum panellists—practitioners, researchers, and regional analysts—discussed current trends in transitional justice processes, highlighting potential linkages with the AUTJP.

[Click here](#) to read the HAB issues.

Knowledge, information, and analysis for peace

Demonstrating our commitment to document and inform our practice with rigorous analysis, we kept to a busy schedule of publications in 2020. Two key thematic areas were especially productive: Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) and Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD). Under P/CVE work, we produced 6 country analyses, 2 regional reports, 5 policy briefs, and 1 Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) compendium. We also created a compendium of all the research we have conducted over the past several years. A comprehensive scoping study on PCRD, conducted by an external consultant, was also undertaken. This initial overview of PCRD actors and their activities in the Horn of Africa offered us better insight on the work of like-minded organisations—invaluable for potential collaboration. Importantly, the study also established a baseline for tracking changes related to further PCRD interventions.

We produced a short video featuring our borderland partners and their numerous advocacy efforts in support of the adoption of the IGAD policy framework on informal cross-border trade. This included a focus on the benefits of signing and ratifying the Niamey Convention.⁶ The video premiered as part of the AU Border Day celebrations—a week-long virtual extravaganza.

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

2021: Fresh start for HARP Phase III

The coming year will see focused attention on implementing the initial steps of HARP Phase III. This includes mainstreaming a youth component as part of a concerted LPI-wide effort to enhance the role of youth in peacebuilding. We will work to strengthen and diversify our civil society networks, supporting them to articulate their human security priorities and participate in regional policy engagement. We aim to facilitate regional and national policy actors to have deeper and expanded understanding of the human security challenges people in the Horn of Africa face. Finally, we will jointly develop and test human security-responsive regional policy approaches and actions, working closely with an inclusive range of relevant actors, from local communities and CSOs to national and regional policymakers.

⁶ The Niamey Conventional is a key AU peacebuilding instrument for the prevention and resolution of cross-border conflict through dialogue. Our CBC coalition has been an effective advocate for getting it back on the regional political agenda.

Global Policy Programme

This year saw some landmark global events—the 3rd review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture, the 5th anniversary of the Youth, Peace, and Security agenda, 5 years since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, and the 20th anniversary of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda. In celebrating these milestones, we are aware of the realities. Many of these key frameworks have not made significant change to those they are intended to serve—people and communities across the globe who live with and experience violent conflict on an ongoing basis.

Too often, these frameworks and the discussions that go on around them are disconnected and far away from the day-to-day lived realities of the people and communities affected by violent conflict. Although well-intentioned, these frameworks struggle to reflect these experiences and perspectives. Inaccessible to local actors, policy discussions take place in a vacuum. Consequently, the policies that emerge fall far short of global responses to conflict that are transformative, relevant, and accountable to those who directly experience conflict in their daily lives.



10 locations

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

Our Work

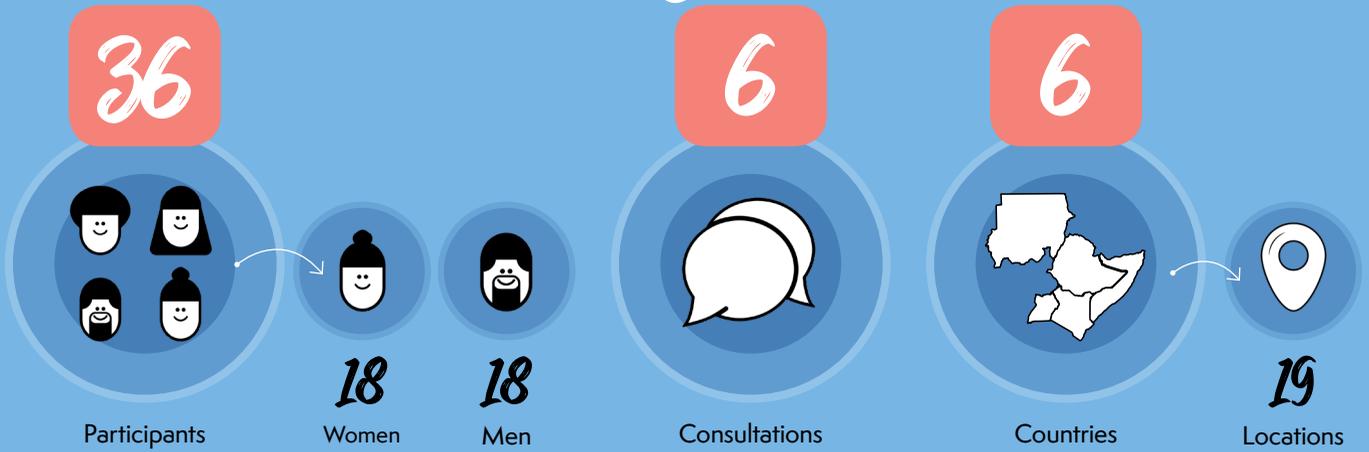
The Inclusive Peace in Practice (IPIP) initiative is the anchor of our Global Policy Programme. In 2020, we paved the way for practical collaboration by focusing on building stronger relations with our LPI country team colleagues and our many external partners. We also developed new partnerships. To guide IPIP work in upcoming years, we began laying foundations for a framework to ensure greater accountability and identified draft key principles for participation. Both this framework and our key principles are designed to support us in developing equitable, inclusive, and meaningful activities and processes for peace and conflict-related policymaking. We aim to ensure that our values and practices remain tightly aligned.

“I want to congratulate you on this successful and exciting [virtual] experiment. It worked out really well! We are currently looking at alternatives to a now inevitably cancelled high-level workshop on peacebuilding priority setting that was meant to be held in April. The LPI-facilitated workshop yesterday was a good learning experience for how we could structure our own virtual process.”

Peter Nordstrom, Senior Trust Fund Manager, UN Somalia

Facts and Figures

UN Peacebuilding Architecture Review consultations



Locally defined local-to-global engagement



Working principles for meaningful participation

Mutuality. All participants have genuine joint ownership of a process and benefit from its outcomes. This helps ensure policy processes meet the expectations of everyone involved.

Reciprocity. All participants give equally to a process and take part in an exchange. This is not a unidirectional transfer of knowledge, ideas, experiences, time, materials, or goods, but rather a multidirectional and mutual give-and-take.

Fairness. All parties are treated equally during a process and have the same amount of power and authority. The convenor or facilitator of the process is not given and does not have a disproportionate amount of power or authority over the process.

Equity. Processes seek to balance power. Those in a policy process are treated fairly and equitably according to their circumstances and capacities.

Redefining local-to-global engagement

We continued to test out a model for bottom-up policymaking that can deliver policy solutions that work. We explored how local communities in Somalia can shape their own policy agendas, prioritising what matters most to them, and what policy responses they want to see. We facilitated 7 meetings with our long-term local partners—Somali Women Solidarity Organization, Somali Peace Line, and the Zamzam Foundation—to plan and implement the policy issue selection process. This culminated in 2 community consultation processes, with more than 120 people coming together to identify and decide their priority policy issues. Following the collective decision to focus on the issue of reconciliation, our partners designed a methodology and conducted research to identify entry points for civil society engagement at the policy level.



Key insight: *Bottom-up policymaking can contribute to developing global peacebuilding policies that are more effective. In places around the globe such as Somalia, where global decisions have acute effects on the local realities of peace and conflict, it makes sense to ask local people what they think will work. And what they think won't work. They're the experts. They know their local context better than anyone else.*

Hope for the future

One small step forward. We opened up the future possibility of more inclusive peacebuilding. Typically, only large international NGOs based in New York and with established access to the UN have been involved in formal UN review processes. Past review processes for the UN Peacebuilding Architecture were no exception. This year, however, LPI brought its experience to bear to make sure the 2020 review was different.

We facilitated an inclusive and participatory consultation process designed to ensure that the voices of local peace actors were heard loud and clear at the global level. To amplify these diverse voices during the review process, we undertook 6 separate consultations with a total of 36 participants—18 women and 18 men—from 19 locations in 6 countries,⁷ including 5 borderland regions. We talked to representatives from local peacebuilding civil society and community-based organisations and associations, youth leaders and activists, civil society consultants and think tanks, and government ministry representatives.

As a result of our efforts, staff at the UN Peacebuilding Support Office (which conducted the review) better realise the value of consulting local peace actors in more meaningful ways. They also learnt that it takes innovation and commitment to make sure inclusion happens—especially when pandemic restrictions are in place.

[Click here](#) to read the reflection note.

⁷ Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, and Uganda

A more locally grounded approach—for a change

How things happened at the Voices of [SDG16+](#) event this year made for a refreshing new start. Instead of being largely facilitated and led by the international NGOs that spearhead this campaign, local peacebuilders also took the lead. Working on equal footing, local peacebuilders and their INGO colleagues came together to set the agenda, plan and organise, and co-moderate all the sessions for the 2020 event. The result was a much more locally grounded approach. To make sure this new and different mode of involvement is sustainable, the next group of Voices of [SDG16+](#) event organisers will be accompanied and guided by the alumni who facilitated the previous event.

Who decides how the pandemic affects peacebuilding?

Because participation and inclusion are core values—for IPIP and the entire LPI organisation—the ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic posed significant challenges for us. This was especially true for making sure we hosted virtual activities that were purposeful and meaningful for everyone who participated. Given LPI commitment to continuous learning, we also sought to closely examine our virtual engagements and analyse how we implemented virtual activities. Our goal was to discover key lessons for ourselves and for the broader peacebuilding community about what it means to use virtual technologies in peacebuilding spaces. What impact does this have on power dynamics? How does this affect relationships and relationship building?

In particular, we wanted to know what was only made possible thanks to the use of virtual communication applications. What was new and what was different or unique to this mode of interaction? We also wanted to reflect on the exclusions created as a result of increasingly digitalised modes of operating. We wanted to know who was missing, and why or how they were not there. Who could not or did not participate?

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

2021: What is meaningful engagement in policy responses to conflict?

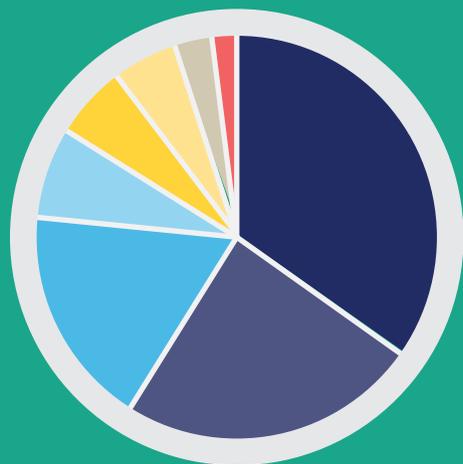
Working closely with our LPI country programme colleagues, the coming year will see us pilot at least 3 joint policy initiatives that engage local peace actors and global decision makers: 1) connecting the experience and expertise of young people in Kenya and Sudan to global YPS discussions; 2) supporting peacebuilders in Somalia to participate in the National Reconciliation Framework, which will feed into our broader policy engagement on bottom-up peacebuilding financing; and 3) implementing an innovative approach to bottom-up financing for peacebuilding by piloting a small grant initiative designed to test how civil society partners can overcome barriers to qualify for financing.

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 2020, we have consistently increased both our funding and spending on LPI peacebuilding work.

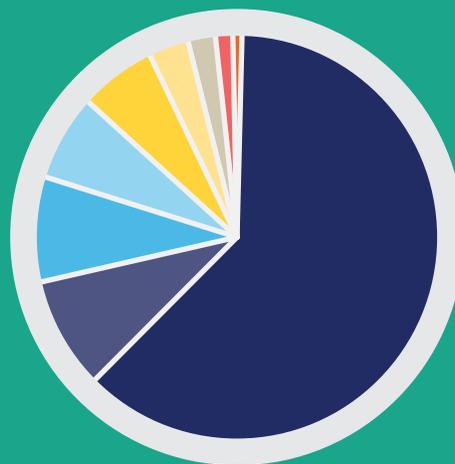
Facts and Figures

LPI spending per programme 2020



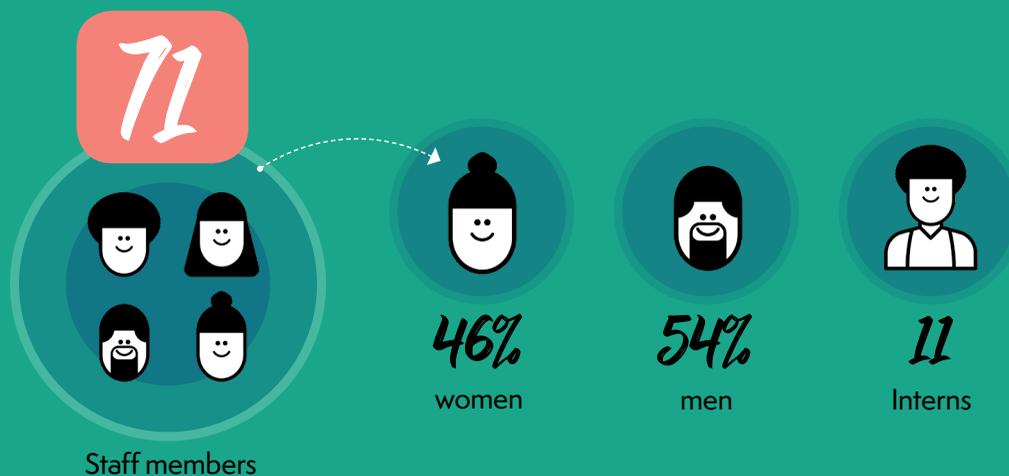
- 19,893 Somalia Programme
- 13,500 Horn of Africa Regional Programme
- 9,825 Ethiopia Programme
- 4,090 DRC Programme
- 3,506 Global Policy Programme
- 3,205 Kenya Programme
- 1,803 Sudan Programme
- 1,064 Sweden Programme

Main donors 2020



- 63% Sida Sweden
- 9% Swedish Mission Council
- 8% European Commission
- 7% UN Peacebuilding Fund
- 6% Somalia Stability Fund
- 3% USAID
- 2% Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 2% Church of Sweden
- 2% Other

All financial figures in Swedish Kroner (SEK thousands)



Governance

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. 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.

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Funders in 2020

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.



Our history

Founded in 1985, LPI grew out of the Life & Peace Conference, a major international meeting held in Uppsala, Sweden 1983. The conference was an ecumenical response to violent conflicts across the world. Since then, our core approach is working from the grassroots to effect peaceful change—one step at a time. This includes nurturing strong relationships with our local partners to build on their in-depth knowledge and expertise, and to build on their capacities to transform violent conflicts into peaceful coexistence.



Visit our website to follow or contribute to our work

life-peace.org