



January-February 2008

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Africa

Kenya post-election violence response

At the beginning of the year, Saferworld responded to the violence triggered by the disputed Kenyan Presidential elections of December 2007, by supporting a locally-owned initiative called Concerned Citizens for Peace (CCP). CPP sought to prevent the spread of violent conflict, to link conflict prevention and peace building at the community level with processes at the national level and to establish structures necessary for reconciliation and peace building. Known as the "Nairobi Peace Zones" (NPZ) initiative, Saferworld and CCP conducted a local-level conflict analysis and began establishing participatory peace committees with community partners in Nairobi that brought together local administration, civil society and community representatives. Eight "Division Peace Committees" and three "District Peace Committees" have now been established in Nairobi Province with mandates to spearhead community level peace action. It is envisaged that this experience will serve as a basis for replicating community level conflict prevention mechanisms in other parts of the country.

South Sudan security and arms controls

In January, Saferworld convened the second meeting of the civil society working group on Community Security and Arms Control (CSAC) in Southern Sudan. As well as agreeing the wider process for coordinating civil society action in the process, Saferworld was able to finalise arrangements on how to take forward the practical organisation of the workshop and agree a future programme agenda.

Uganda conflict-sensitive training

In January, Saferworld conducted a second round of training in conflict-sensitive approaches to development for civil society organisations (CSOs) operating in Arua district, Uganda. The training helped equip Arua-based CSOs with the skills and knowledge to enable them to make their work and that of other stakeholders more conflict-sensitive.

Uganda exploratory meeting on water and sanitation policy and conflict sensitivity

During January and February, Saferworld met with RiPPLE (Research-inspired Policy and Practice Learning in Ethiopia and the Nile Region) in Uganda to discuss potential linkages between their work on water policy and Saferworld's conflict-sensitive approaches to development. Saferworld also met with representatives of the Uganda Water and Sanitation Resource Centre (WATSAN) to develop understanding on how conflict issues in the water sector are currently addressed and to explore future opportunities for working more closely on water governance issues.

Asia

SASA-Net visit to Saferworld's London office

In January, Saferworld and Sri Lanka partner SASA-Net (South Asia Small Arms Network), organised an exchange visit for the programme manager of SASA-Net to visit Saferworld's London office. The visit helped SASA-Net develop their knowledge of UK conflict prevention strategies, explore options for future engagement of Sri Lankan parliamentarians on small arms control initiatives and look at further ways of promoting UK-Sri Lanka linkages on this. During the visit, meetings were held with Andy Love MP, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Sri Lanka, and Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials.

Sri Lanka human security meeting

In January, Saferworld convened a meeting of regional think tanks in partnership with the Regional Centre for Security Studies (RCSS) in Sri Lanka. Participants from Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka were invited to make presentations on the theme 'Human Security + 10', to identify emerging threats to human security for the South Asia region in the coming decade. The discussions will inform a future RCSS report and a number of short papers exploring key human security threats.

Climate change and security work in Bangladesh

In January and February, Saferworld continued preparations for a forthcoming survey to assess the impact of climate change on security in Bangladesh. As well as mapping the likely patterns of environmentally-caused migration within Bangladesh and to neighbouring countries, the survey will seek to highlight the likely 'hotspots' of future insecurity and conflict. The research will take place during March 2008 and will inform a report to highlight the key outcomes of the research, lessons learned and key policy recommendations.

New report on public safety and policing in Nepal

In February, Saferworld published a new report on public safety and policing in Nepal. The report highlighted the attitudes, expectations and concerns of the Nepali public regarding security and policing and makes recommendations on how these concerns might be addressed. Read the report in full at: http://www.saferworld.org.uk/publications.php/300/public_safety_and_policing_in_nepal

Pakistan parliamentary election 'Ballot without the Bullet' campaign

In February, Saferworld provided support to the Pakistan Community Appraisal & Motivation Programme (CAMP) to conduct a 'Ballot without the Bullet' campaign aimed at reducing the use of small arms in the parliamentary elections in Pakistan. Through a targeted public awareness and advocacy campaign in the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) of Pakistan, 'Ballot without the Bullet' encouraged political groups and the general public to restrain from 'arms display and use' during the elections. Media interest prompted two special radio discussion programs on the issue. The campaign helped to raise awareness on the need for small arms control in the NWFP and promoted the wider impact of small arms misuse during elections. Selected districts were more peaceful than others and displayed better voter turnouts on the day of the elections.

Nepal security sector reform

In February, Saferworld travelled to Nepal to continue exploratory work assessing how a future programme of work on security sector reform (SSR) might be initiated. Alongside consulting with a range of different stakeholders from civil society and officials, Saferworld has been exploring ways in which SSR issues could be integrated more closely into the work of the parliamentary committee on SSR, as well as key technical working groups within the Army and the Police. The Swiss Government has contracted The Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) to work on SSR issues in Nepal and Saferworld will support this process in an advisory capacity.

Europe

Ukraine transfer controls project

In January, Saferworld travelled to Kiev to hold an inception meeting with Ukrainian officials for the Transfer Controls Initiative project. This was an opportunity for Saferworld to present the project - supported by the British Embassy in Ukraine - directly to the relevant Ukrainian officials involved in the system of arms export control and implementation of Ukraine's commitments under the UN Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons. The meeting was attended by representatives

of the Ukrainian State Service for Export Control, National Security and Defence Council, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Internal Affairs, Customs and Border Control Services, and our Ukrainian NGO colleagues from the Scientific and Technical Centre and the Centre for Army Conversion and Disarmament Studies. While in Ukraine, Saferworld secured a number of research interviews and meetings with relevant Ukrainian government agencies and distributed draft copies of the 'Measuring Up?' report on Ukrainian arms transfer control system for comments and feedback.

Supporting Community-Based Policing in Bosnia and Herzegovina

In January and February, Saferworld travelled to Bosnia and Herzegovina to review recent work and address challenges in the four community safety sites of Janja, Grcica, Podhum and Brankovac, run in partnership with local partner the Centre for Security Studies. The visit also afforded Saferworld the opportunity to present the draft Operational Handbook on Police-Community Partnership to the newly-established Community-Based Policing (CBP) Strategy Implementation Working Team. The handbook, developed at the request of the Working Team, will provide tools for the implementation of the CBP Strategy at the field level throughout the country.

NGO meetings about Saferworld's conflict analysis of Bosnia and Herzegovina

In February, Saferworld met with various NGOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina to inform the ongoing preparations for a country-wide conflict analysis. The meetings helped identify the possible input that some of these organisations might provide for the analysis of conflict drivers in the country. The first step of the conflict analysis process has already started and will be followed by in-country workshops, interviews, meetings and focus group discussions during the next three to four months.

Discussing conflict-sensitivity with officials in Kosovo

During January and February, Saferworld met with several representatives of local and international organisations in Kosovo to follow up on findings from the December 2007 conflict analysis. Meetings were held with the Minister of Internal Affairs and several policy-makers within the ministry, representatives from the Kosovo Assembly's Committee for Security and Internal Affairs, the President of the Kosovo Chamber of Advocates and senior officials in the Kosovo Police Service. Saferworld also met with representatives of the EU's Planning Team, responsible for preparations for the EULEX ESDP mission to Kosovo. Read Saferworld's Kosovo conflict analysis report at:

http://www.saferworld.org.uk/publications.php/296/kosovo_at_the_crossroads

Community safety in Kosovo

In partnership with Kosovo partner, the Forum for Civic Initiatives (FIQ), Saferworld continued its community safety work in Kosovo in January and February. FIQ is working with the local NGO Communication for Social Development to develop a community safety site in Graçanicë/Gračanica, which aims to improve communication between citizens, authorities and security providers. Saferworld and FIQ also followed up on the work of community safety sites elsewhere in Kosovo.

Georgia meetings

In February, Saferworld travelled to Tbilisi and met with partner organisation, the Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development (CIPDD) to discuss plans for future cooperation and follow-up on the project, 'Improving Democratic Governance of Security Sector in Georgia through Empowering Civil Society' - funded by the EC (EIDHR) and Saferworld. During the visit, further meetings were also held with the Georgian Ministry of Interior, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the Swedish International Development Agency. A meeting was also held with the Director of the Open Society-Georgia Foundation, to discuss a CIPDD/Saferworld-commissioned research paper on security sector governance in Georgia. Saferworld and CIPDD are now developing plans for future work on small arms and light weapons and human security, and assessing further opportunities for work on international transfer controls, security sector reform and conflict sensitive approaches to development in Georgia.

Bosnia conflict analysis scoping activities

In February, Saferworld met with various NGOs in Bosnia to inform ongoing preparations for a country-wide conflict analysis. The meetings helped to identify NGO peacebuilding priorities and learn more about how civil society actors in Bosnia might input into this programme of work.

Moldova community based policing

In January, Saferworld went to Moldova to agree a programme of activities to finalise the police reform inception programme with the Moldovan Ministry of Interior. Saferworld also provided guidance

to Moldovan NGO partner Institute for Public Policy, for continuing support of the police reform programme beyond reform inception.

Kosovo policing report

In February, Saferworld and the Forum for Civic Initiatives published a new report on public perceptions of policing in Kosovo. Part of a series tracking changing human perceptions of security in Kosovo, the report examines the safety and security issues facing communities in Kosovo. Drawing on data collected in a Kosovo-wide household survey and focus group discussions, the report gives recommendations on how the Kosovo Police Service can improve its performance and work more effectively with the community. The report will be available on the Saferworld website in March.

International advocacy and communications

Preparing for the French EU presidency

During January and February, Saferworld met with several representatives of the French Government in Paris and Brussels in preparation for the French presidency of the EU in the second half of 2008. The meetings fostered constructive discussions around a number of development priorities, including small arms and light weapons, arms transfer controls and security sector reform.

Labour Party conflict prevention policy

In January, Saferworld met with the UK Labour Party's international policy officer to find out what the next steps were for their policy commission process. Saferworld subsequently submitted views on conflict prevention to the 'Britain in the World' manifesto consultation.

Meeting the new Secretary-General designate of the Commonwealth

In January, Saferworld met with the Secretary-General designate of the Commonwealth, who was conducting consultations in the run-up to becoming Secretary-General in April. Discussions ranged from the Commonwealth's involvement in trying to resolve the ongoing crisis in Kenya to its potential role in promoting the Arms Trade Treaty.

Discussing conflict prevention with the FCO

In January, Saferworld and other NGOs met with the UK Foreign Secretary's special advisor on conflict prevention and other FCO officials to discuss the FCO's understanding of conflict prevention since it has become one of their four priority areas.

Conservative Party international development policy

In February, Saferworld met with two UK Conservative Party international development researchers to discuss the review of the Export Control Act, the international Arms Trade Treaty and Saferworld's recent Kosovo work. Saferworld was also invited to feed into the Conservative's international development green paper which will be published in the summer.

NGO meeting with World Bank President

In February, Saferworld attended an NGO dinner with the President of the World Bank in London. The event provided an opportunity to learn about World Bank engagement with fragile states and conflict prevention and outline NGO priorities on these issues.

The Peacebuilding Partnership

In February, in Brussels, Saferworld attended a presentation on the 'Peacebuilding Partnership' given by the EU Directorate-General for External Relations which explored how the Partnership might best work with civil society.

Government response to Export Control Act review

In February, Saferworld and the UK Working Group on Arms (UKWG) issued a joint public statement on the Government's initial response to public consultations on the effectiveness of UK arms export controls. While welcoming the announcement of some improvements to the controls, the UKWG warned the Government must go further if it wishes to signal a new approach to UK arms exports. The UKWG will continue to work with the Government, defence industry and parliamentarians to support this ongoing review process.

New Saferworld briefing on the Arms Trade Treaty

In February, Saferworld published a new advocacy briefing providing an overview of why an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is needed, the process so far and outlining next steps. The briefing coincided with the first group of governmental experts, that met in New York in February to discuss the feasibility, scope and draft parameters of a legally-binding international ATT. Read the briefing in full at: <http://www.saferworld.org.uk/images/pubdocs/Saferworld%20Arms%20Trade%20Treaty%20briefing%20-%20Feb%202008.pdf>

Mapping Security System Reform policies and mechanisms

In January and February, Saferworld's Brussels office continued their work on the 'Initiative for Peacebuilding' (IfP) project, conducting a security sector reform policy and institutional mechanism mapping exercise with the Clingendael Institute. This has included several interviews with representatives of European institutions as well as bilateral donors. The first results of this on-going process are to be presented during the IfP management committee meeting in March.

Fostering co-operation between NGOs on Security and Development issues

In January and February, Saferworld's office in Brussels co-ordinated a number of informal meetings bringing together NGOs with humanitarian, development, peacebuilding and conflict prevention backgrounds. The aim is to increase advocacy co-operation and exchange of views on common issues such as Situations of Fragility, the European Security Strategy and the European External Action Service.

Strategic issues

Saferworld presentations at informal COARM meeting

In January, in Ljubljana, Saferworld attended an informal meeting of the EU Council of Ministers' working group on conventional arms (COARM). Saferworld gave two presentations, the first setting out its views on outreach for the EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports and the second reviewing the conclusions of the EU NGO-government conference on arms transfer controls that Saferworld held in November 2007.

Helsinki conflict prevention meeting

In January, in Helsinki, Saferworld met with the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs to outline our current priorities and to hear about theirs. Topics covered included small arms and light weapons, arms transfers, security sector reform and other conflict prevention work.

Ukraine UN PoA dialogue

In January, in Kiev, Saferworld met with Ukrainian officials to open dialogue and arrange for future research interviews to inform the assessment of Ukraine's progress in implementing its small arms and light weapons transfer control commitments under the UN Programme of Action (PoA).

Government-NGO GGE strategy meeting

In January, in London, Saferworld met with other NGOs and representatives from the UK's Department for International Development, Ministry of Defence and Foreign and Commonwealth Office to discuss strategies for the first meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in February. Saferworld also travelled to Geneva to meet with several ATT Resolution co-authors to discuss preparations and strategies for this meeting.

Meeting International IDEA

In January, in Stockholm, Saferworld had an introductory meeting with Swedish membership organisation, International IDEA. Alongside learning about International IDEA's work on supporting political parties and development agencies to be more democratic, Saferworld was provided with an overview of their research work on how constitutions can be used as a Peacebuilding tool.

Saferworld Uganda presentations in Stockholm

In January, Saferworld participated in a workshop hosted by the Peace and Security in Development Cooperation division of the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), about integrating conflict-sensitivity and rights-based approaches into sector support. Saferworld presented on its

findings from an assessment of the conflict-sensitivity of the Justice Law and Order Sector in Uganda. Saferworld also presented lessons from our conflict-sensitive development work in the water sector in Uganda at a seminar hosted by Sida's Department for Natural Resources and the Environment.

SSR discussions with DFID

In January, in London, Saferworld met with security sector reform (SSR) advisers at the Department for International Development (DFID) to discuss the role of private contractors in SSR, upcoming research on public participation in SSR and a proposal to produce guidance on the monitoring and evaluation of SSR with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's 'Development Assistance Committee' (OECD DAC).

Netherlands meetings

In January, in The Hague, Saferworld met with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and the Clingendael Institute primarily to discuss funding issues with the MFA and project proposals for SSR.

Discussing SSR in Nepal with the UK government

In February, Saferworld met with Ministry of Defence and Department for International Development representatives from the Security Sector Development Advisory Team and a DFID Nepal expert to discuss general SSR issues as well as specific Nepal-related initiatives.

Chevening Conflict Resolution Course at York

In February, Saferworld led a seminar on conflict prevention as part of the Chevening conflict course at the Post-war Reconstruction and Development Unit at the University of York. The presentation and discussions focused on the role of Saferworld in relation to conflict prevention globally, Saferworld's approach to conflict prevention, and the relationship between prevention and resolution.

Saferworld speaks at University of Leeds

In February, Saferworld spoke at the School of Politics and International Studies at the University of Leeds. The topic covered the role of NGOs in conflict prevention and peacebuilding work with a particular focus on approaches to conflict-sensitive development.

Organisation

Funding

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Welcome to:

Lach Fergusson - Africa Team Leader

Richard Nabudere - Uganda Team Leader

Emma Phillips - Funding Co-ordinator

Subindra Bogati - Nepal Project Officer

Internal appointments:

Dorte Hvidemose - Europe Project Officer

Rob Parker - Head of Strategic Issues

Mia Marzouk - Acting Head Europe team

Good bye and thank you to:

Victoria Garcia Guillen - EU Advocacy and Policy Project Officer