



PROGRESS IN 2017-18

TOGETHER WITH OUR PARTNERS:

- In South Sudan, we expanded our community security work into two new counties and set up 12 new community groups.
- Across South Sudan, we carried out 41 community-level awareness-raising campaigns on peace and security issues.
- In Yambio, South Sudan, for the first time in two years, community groups and state authorities held a peace dialogue, bringing together over 500 people from five conflicting ethnic groups, thus preventing inter-communal violence.
- In Kenya, we worked with civil society to develop a coordinated network for early detection and response to election violence nationally and at the county level.
- In Somalia, we trained and deployed 620 domestic election observers for the 2017 Somaliland presidential election and held trainings for peace committees to rapidly address election-related conflict.

IN ADDITION:

- In Uganda, Nwoya district, we developed guidelines for conflict-sensitive investment to facilitate better engagement between local investors, the district government and communities. This was set up as a direct result of the success of Saferworld's previous work in bringing communities and authorities together to settle a land dispute.
- We produced three publications on land, mining and conflict in Uganda. These informed investors and authorities of the impact of investments on communities.



A woman looks on as men work in a marble mine in Rupa sub-county, Uganda.

HIGHLIGHTS East Africa

KENYA

In Kenya, presidential elections are a source of insecurity for citizens who find themselves caught up between rival elites competing for power. To ensure that the 2017 elections were conducted peacefully, with our partners we worked with civil society organisations and religious leaders at the national level, while engaging political parties and politicians to resolve disputes – especially around the contentious presidential elections. We also worked closely with the police, county and local peace committees and government officials, elders, interfaith forums and youth groups to flag up early warning signs of conflict, taking collective action to address tensions and raise awareness of electoral processes and relevant legislation.

Through a civil society coordination framework that we developed with partners, we supported a unified approach to preventing electoral violence nationally and in the counties. We also set up new peace structures, including a dialogue reference group, county religious mediation teams, county coordination forms, and early warning and election observation teams. With young people in



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Students talk outside of Kenyatta University's business centre in Nairobi, Kenya.

communities and at universities, these groups helped organise conciliatory community dialogues, bringing together different ethnic groups affected by divisive politics – including young people, students, women and others who had previously been excluded.

Together with our partners, we trained some of these young people on non-violent approaches to protest, as well as advocating for their rights.

In Kisii, Homa Bay and Nairobi counties, we partnered with theatre and musical youth groups to educate communities of different ethnic groups on tolerance – before, during and after the general elections.

In Nairobi and Migori counties, where many had experienced police brutality, we and our partners provided safe spaces for psychosocial support for affected communities – including for women through talking circles.

SOMALIA/SOMALILAND

In Somalia/Somaliland, we promoted democratisation and improved governance by supporting organisations, particularly women’s and youth groups, to get involved in decision-making processes on peace, security and development. With our partners, we trained and deployed 620 domestic election observers for Somaliland’s presidential election in late 2017, and supported peacebuilding committees to address post-election grievances lodged by candidates from all political parties.

We supported political parties themselves to organise reconciliation meetings among members to address divisions that arose during campaigning. Across Somalia and Somaliland, with partners we influenced policy by supporting civil society groups to participate in peacebuilding and statebuilding processes. Regional mediation networks set up in Awdal, Togdheer and Sanaag regions, with a total of 49 members, were trained in February 2018 to act as mediators. In partnership with local organisations

we supported the creation of community groups to research and identify safety concerns, and we worked with security providers including the police to find solutions. We set up police advisory committees, which were then validated by the three regional administrations in Baidoa, Mogadishu and Kismayuu. We also carried out field research across Somalia, and held interviews to assess the potential for people-centred alternatives to militarised counter-terror approaches in the country.



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Women in New Hargeisa, Somaliland, wait to vote during the 2017 elections.

SUDAN

In Sudan, Saferworld supported partners to influence national processes for building peace. We facilitated dialogue and coordination between civil society organisations, providing

a platform for different voices to be heard and breaking down traditional barriers. With partners, we worked with young people, providing them with opportunities to share their views and perspectives on the

issues, challenges and opportunities they face when participating in peacebuilding processes. Saferworld worked internationally to support national efforts for a just, peaceful and democratic Sudan.

SOUTH SUDAN

In South Sudan, the armed conflict that broke out in 2012 continued, with severe impacts on the economy and communities, including violence and displacement.

We continued our work to support communities in peacebuilding, carrying out 41 community-level awareness-raising campaigns across the country aimed at addressing conflict in partnership with local organisations. This covered issues such as gender-based violence, crime prevention, cattle raiding,

clashes between farmers and herders, and communities’ roles in maintaining peace.

With support from our networks, we set up 25 new community action groups, connecting the new groups to older ones and also to the authorities – this helped strengthen communities’ abilities to work on the security issues that most affect them. In Juba, for example, a newly established community action group in Nyakuron identified homeless children as a major concern and came up with an

action plan. Women in the group contributed money, prepared food for the children, and invited parents and authorities to discuss how to support the children to reunite with their families.

With partners, we also supported efforts to diffuse ethnic tensions by organising and facilitating 23 community dialogues. In Yambio for example, we brought together five conflicting agrarian and pastoralist groups to discuss their concerns, thus reducing tensions.

UGANDA

In Uganda, disputes over land, oil and minerals remain an issue for many communities. With our partners, we promoted discussions and collaboration by bringing together communities, authorities, civil society organisations and commercial actors. Our work ensured that communities (especially marginalised groups) could claim their rights to land and minerals, and participate in decision-making on natural resource governance. We also worked with partners to ensure businesses consulted with communities in a way that did not worsen tensions or existing divisions, and that ensured authorities’ decisions and actions were informed by evidence on conflict and gender dynamics. We also identified conflict drivers in the humanitarian sector, and we developed strategies to work with host communities, refugees, authorities and civil society to promote social cohesion and conflict-sensitive humanitarian action.



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Several women participate in an advocacy planning workshop in Purongo sub-county, Uganda, aimed at increasing engagement with authorities and upholding land rights.