

PROGRESS IN 2017-18

- Our thinking, tools and advocacy on gender and peacebuilding influenced external actors and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) including: the United Kingdom Stabilisation Unit; the United Nations Working Group on Women, Peace and Security; and groups such as the Reconciliation and Dialogue Forum in Nepal.
- Our advocacy on arms control contributed to Finland, Germany and Norway tightening their policies on supplying arms that risk being used in the Yemen conflict.
- We now lead a new conflict sensitivity helpdesk for the European Investment Bank (EIB), complementing our helpdesk work for the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and the Conflict Sensitivity Resource Facility (CSRF) in South Sudan.
- Our management of the Knowledge Platform: Security and Rule of Law (a vibrant network of experts) led to the creation of the Knowledge Management Fund.

Influencing global policy

International security and development policies should help build a world that's safer, more prosperous and where people can live in peace. Yet this is not always the case – too often because the voices of people affected by conflict and violence are excluded from the conversations and decisions that affect their future. In 2017-18, our research and advocacy helped influence a range of policies on issues relating to peace and security.

Growing instability across the Middle East, Asia and many parts of Africa has presented huge challenges for communities – most notably, record levels of forced displacement and terror attacks. In this context, we expanded our research and analysis on the impacts of **migration and counter-terror** policies on conflict-affected contexts. Through our advocacy, we highlighted the short-sighted

and damaging effect of the EU's focus on limiting migration, and instead pushed for alternative approaches that take into account the concerns of communities. We published research exploring the impact of 'countering terrorism and violent extremism' approaches on peace, development and human rights in Syria, Kenya, Tunisia and Egypt. We also presented our analysis and recommendations to people with influence over the counter-terror agenda, including the European Union's Council Working Group on Terrorism, which brings together officials from all EU member states and European institutions, and the US National Security Council.

Our work on **security and justice** focused on understanding the challenges communities face and supporting them to develop solutions. We sought to bring people's concerns

to the national and sub-national level to influence decision makers and advocate for a people-focused approach. We researched the effectiveness and legitimacy of informal security and justice systems, looking at how and why people access these services, how they could be more inclusive, and how they could cooperate with formal systems rather than contradict them. Initial research took place in south east Myanmar, to be followed by research in South Sudan later in 2018. This work is part of a wider multi-country research consortium with Conciliation Resources and International Alert. We also provided input into donor government reviews of their peacebuilding and development work, including DFID's (the UK's Department for International Development) ongoing review of how it can re-engage on security and justice programming.

Global conflict prevention frameworks and multilateral approaches to resolving global crises are under enormous pressure. Finding ways to tackle **gender inequality** and negative gender norms that drive conflict is a critical challenge. One way we have pursued changes locally, nationally and internationally is by building the skills of Saferworld staff, partners and other stakeholders in conflict-affected countries. ▶

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A young man guards his herd in Tonj North, in South Sudan.

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In 2017-18, we shared our gender learning and tools with partners, international organisations and others. In partnership with Conciliation Resources, we trained over 60 representatives from civil society, the EU and other donors working on Pakistan, Somalia and South Sudan to conduct gender and conflict analysis.

Internally, we continued to strengthen the abilities of our staff to integrate gender perspectives into all our research and programmes. In particular, Saferworld teams from Myanmar, Pakistan, South Sudan, Sudan, Somalia and Yemen participated in training on gender and conflict analysis. The Myanmar team used these skills to research gender aspects of land confiscations in Myanmar. In partnership with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), we also published a policy brief on

how our gender analysis of conflict toolkit can be used in different ways and in different contexts. We led consultations on women, peace and security with organisations in Somalia and Myanmar. This helped the UK Government to decide to prioritise these countries in their National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

Due to increased global levels of conflict, many organisations, groups and people are rethinking how they work in complex, politically sensitive and insecure environments. In 2017 Saferworld became the lead agency providing research support on **conflict-sensitive** approaches for the European Investment Bank (EIB). This was complemented by our leading role providing research support on human security and humanitarian assistance through a helpdesk for the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and as a partner supporting

the Austrian Development Agency. During 2017-18 these helpdesks have helped these agencies navigate complex conflict environments such as in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Rwanda, Uganda, Guatemala and Gaza – and have contributed to their regional and global strategies and approaches.

Saferworld began training EIB staff on conflict sensitivity in 2018, and continues to provide quarterly training for staff across EU institutions. We recently began to scale up our support for humanitarian actors. We began a new partnership supporting Save the Children to integrate conflict-sensitive approaches into their work with people affected by the Syria conflict, and we continued to work with the Start Network by supporting leading humanitarian organisations to take conflict dynamics into account in their work in fragile settings.

In South Sudan, we continue to manage the **Conflict Sensitivity Resource Facility (CSRf)**. This facility provides research, analysis and technical assistance for humanitarian, development and peacebuilding initiatives – helping them ensure their work makes a positive impact rather than causing further harm.

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Our **arms** control team has supported countries to comply with the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) through engagement with formal institutions and the Conference of States Parties. In 2017-18, we worked with the governments of Ghana, Liberia

and Zambia on complying with different aspects of the treaty. We are conducting an assessment of Sierra Leone's arms transfer control capacity, working with national authorities to develop a national action plan that will help with ATT implementation and compliance. We also convened the ATT Expert Working Group that brings a broad range of government licensing officials, academic researchers and other civil society organisations from ATT States Parties together to discuss aspects of ATT implementation and make recommendations to the broader ATT community. In the UK and EU, we raised the profile of the desperate situation in Yemen and the role of arms exports in worsening human suffering there. We also provided technical support to the judicial review launched by the Campaign Against the Arms Trade, challenging the UK's practice of exporting arms to

Saudi Arabia for use in Yemen. Our work with partners across Europe urges restraint in exporting arms to all of the warring parties to the conflict. In the United States, our advocacy on arms sales to the Saudi coalition contributed to the growing momentum against US weapons and equipment being used in the war in Yemen.

During this period, Saferworld has also continued to be closely involved with **Rethinking Security**, a network of non-governmental organisations, academics and activists with a shared concern about the current approach to national security that dominates in the UK and beyond. Its aim is to help shift public and political narratives in the UK about what security is and how it is best developed, challenging existing approaches to national security and building confidence in alternative approaches that put people at the centre.