



PROGRESS IN 2017-18

- Saferworld and partners successfully advocated for a comprehensive monitoring framework for SDG implementation that was adopted by the UN in March 2016.
- In January 2018, we brought together civil society from Uganda, Kenya, Somaliland, Sudan and Ethiopia to share emerging practices and challenges integrating SDG16+ into their work. For many participants, this was the first time they had considered joining together to work on SDG16 in the East Africa region.
- We linked our global policy work by bringing civil society representatives from East Africa to speak at the High Level Political Forum and at the UN General Assembly. They talked directly with global policymakers, sharing practical experiences of national level discussions.
- We coordinated the production of the first report for the SDG16 Data Initiative, a collective project compiling global data to help track progress toward the achievement of SDG16.
- Our video, 'An SDG16+ story in Somaliland' was viewed over 300 times within the first week of launching. It featured in regional media including the Horn Diplomat and Somaliland Sun.

CASE STUDY

Turning commitments into action: The 2030 agenda in Africa

The 2030 Agenda – also known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – is an ambitious global initiative that aims to end poverty, reduce violence and ensure prosperity for all by 2030. Recognising that other targets from across the whole 2030 Agenda are necessary for peace, SDG16+ brings them together to provide a single peacebuilding framework for governments, civil society and organisations.

While these commitments look great on paper, they need concrete action to transform them into reality. Evidence from past experiences shows that international frameworks like the SDGs can motivate governments to take action, legitimise the work of activists in civil society, and bring together in a common cause different groups working on a range of interrelated issues like gender, justice and transparency. Saferworld has been working in East Africa

– with governments, civil society and communities – to ensure that these commitments are translated into action.

In Somaliland, the government used the targets and indicators of SDG16+, ultimately signing off a national development plan in August 2017 and taking on issues such as ending female genital mutilation, improving effective governance, reducing corruption, increasing access to justice and ensuring safe migration.

“We spoke with representatives from 55 civil society organisations and institutions to come up with priority actions,” said Zainab Hassan, participatory governance programme coordinator at our partner Somaliland Non-State Actors Forum (SONSAF). “Our consultations included people from a wide range of backgrounds, such as women’s, youth and disability groups, and those who focused on minority rights.” From these

consultations, Saferworld and partners identified three short-term priorities for action: increasing women’s representation in leadership roles; reducing female genital mutilation; and upholding the rule of law. We also consulted with the Ministry of Planning and Ministry of Justice, and donors in Somaliland. Through this approach, we have been able to raise awareness of SDG16+, promote shared ownership of national development, and set the stage for donor investment.

In Sudan, we supported research institutes to raise awareness of commitments to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies within the 2030 Agenda.

In Uganda, we worked with leading civil society coalitions on SDG16+ issues throughout the country. “Uganda was one of the countries that really embraced the SDG Agenda, because it coincided with our second National Development Plan process,”

said Esther Nakayima who works for the Uganda National NGO Forum. “There is recognition by government that civil society organisations are key in this process and we are bringing something to the table.”

Our partners in Kenya echoed a similar sentiment. “Kenya has had a cycle of political violence which needs to be addressed, as well as issues of inclusion and access to justice,” said Stephen Kadenyo of Pamoja for Transformation. “So I see SDG16 as a very good opportunity to engage the government more constructively on these kinds of issues.”

Our SDG work can be seen in a series of videos, showing how we are working to turn the 2030 Agenda into action.
<https://saferworld.org.uk/sdg16+>



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Stephen Kadenya, Pamoja for Transformation

Workshop participants discuss SDG16+ in Kampala, Uganda.