

SAFERWORLD
PREVENTING VIOLENT CONFLICT. BUILDING SAFER LIVES

ANNUAL REVIEW | 2015 2016





OUR VISION

Saferworld believes in a world where everyone can lead peaceful, fulfilling lives, free from fear and insecurity.

OUR MISSION

We work to prevent violent conflict and build safer lives.

We believe there are essential conditions necessary for peace to become established. We work to create environments where:

- people play an active role in preventing and transforming conflict and building peace
- people have access to fair and effective paths to address the grievances and inequalities that drive conflict
- people with influence exercise power to promote just and equitable societies

These are not the only conditions needed to bring about peace, but we believe they are particularly important and that Saferworld, with its partners, can help achieve them.

OUR VALUES

Our integrity as an organisation is based on a belief in equality, dignity, inclusivity, accountability, honesty, transparency, and consistency. We put these values into practice through a set of guiding principles underpinning all our work.



Women walk past a collapsed roof of a destroyed building in Yemen's capital Sanaa. © REUTERS/KHALED ABDULLAH



INTRODUCTION

Violent conflict has continued to wreak havoc across many parts of the world during the last year, with implications that touch every country. Saferworld has responded, with staff, partners and community groups continuing to work intensively towards conflict prevention and peace, and supporting people affected by conflict to build safer lives. We work in more than 20 countries, and in particular, much of our work has focused on conflict hot-spots such as Yemen, Somalia and South Sudan.

High levels of violent conflict and insecurity are contributing to the world's migration crisis (which in 2016 reached unprecedented levels with over 65 million people forcibly displaced) and an intensification of terror-style violence and violent extremism. These trends are having far-reaching implications on global peace and security, including a preoccupation with national security priorities in Western states. There is a tendency to emphasise securitised approaches to stabilisation and countering violent extremism – often retreating to a 'war on terror' mentality at the expense of pursuing effective long-term conflict prevention and peacebuilding strategies. States that border conflicts are bearing the brunt of the migration crisis in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Many of these states are conflict-affected themselves and ill-equipped to cope, leaving refugees vulnerable and states exposed to further instability. And when we look at how the migrant crisis is affecting Europe – with the largest movement of people since

World War II – it is obvious that states are not coping. The scale of the crisis is testing the limits of international protection regimes and revealing limitations to humanitarian action. And it's unlikely to change soon as the complex mix of push factors including violent conflict, repression, poverty and inequality remains.

Saferworld's mission is to promote and help to implement a broader perspective towards human security: one that takes people's *experiences* of insecurity and injustice as the starting point and builds collaborative efforts to help people live safer, more fulfilling lives. It is vital that we continue working with people and communities who are living with and responding to violent conflict, supporting their efforts to reduce violence and build peace. It is also about viewing conflict transformation holistically, and stressing the links between access to basic entitlements – such as adequate food and nutrition, health, employment as well as

safety, security and justice – and the achievement of sustainable peace. This Annual Review reflects our mission in action throughout 2015–16. It captures examples from across the world where with our support people are taking greater control of their own lives and working with each other and with authorities to address grievances and injustice in a peaceful way. It also reflects our efforts to ensure that external actors understand and seek to address the underlying structural drivers of instability and violent conflict.

In Yemen, for example, where the current war is now in its second year, our team on the ground and partners continue to work with communities on localised peace-building initiatives in extremely challenging circumstances. This has empowered youth and women's groups to mobilise across conflict divides and improve living conditions despite challenges. Our review also highlights the active work undertaken internationally to challenge governments over continuing arms exports to external parties intervening in the conflict and the effect this is ultimately having on civilians (p. 8).

South Sudan is another region that endured extreme violence last year, including widespread violence against women and girls. Our work here persevered in ten locations throughout this period, offering support to community groups who courageously faced the horrific consequences of civil war and took actions to improve local safety and freedom of movement (p. 6).



“Saferworld’s mission is to promote and help to implement a broader perspective towards human security: one that takes people’s *experiences* of insecurity and injustice as the starting point and builds collaborative efforts to help people live safer, more fulfilling lives. It is vital that we continue working with people and communities who are living with and responding to violent conflict, supporting their efforts to reduce violence and build peace.”



Even in such perilous situations we can and do make a positive impact. In Somalia and Somaliland, the civil society platforms Saferworld established and has supported for many years are playing an active role in democratisation, particularly around the Somalia elections in late 2016 and Somaliland elections in March 2017.

Other examples in the review also reflect how, often against the odds, community-based approaches to peace and security make a tangible difference. This community-led work illustrates the fundamental role civil society organisations and associations play in challenging and influencing conditions. However, in many of the contexts where we and our partners work, individuals and civil society are denied opportunities to play active peace-building roles and to participate in national political processes. Governments have imposed financial, legislative and political restrictions on civil society activity in an attempt to silence dissenting voices and stifle local activism. Saferworld is not immune from this pressure, many of our programmes are facing these challenges in their daily work and reviewing our approach to this will be a key part of our strategic thinking in the coming year.

At national, regional and international levels last year, Saferworld continued to produce expert evidence-based research, analysis and advocacy leading to positive change in many areas. Playing an active leadership and facilitation role we were instrumental in bringing about the inclusion of peace as a cross-cutting

development priority in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and we made significant contributions to the dialogue on how states measure progress against the global goals. We worked with states to implement commitments made in recent global agreements such as the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), for example, supporting an ATT Expert Group and implementation at the national level. The perspectives we brought to the debate on current counter-terrorism, stabilisation and statebuilding approaches are especially noteworthy, challenging over-securitisation and providing evidence to reassess less violent and more people-focused alternatives instead.

As Saferworld approaches the end of its 26th year, our experience in many contexts has deepened our solidarity with those enduring violent conflict or those forced to flee their homes. Our work is underpinned by a strong belief in the urgent need for change that responds to people’s needs, to bring about stability, justice and peace today.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated partners and staff – without whose outstanding support, drive and devotion our work would not have been possible. We would also like to thank our valued donors for their ongoing support. We are truly grateful.

Paul Murphy Executive Director

Dr Owen Greene Chair, Board of Trustees

See and hear more in our multimedia Annual Review at:
www.saferworld.org.uk/annualreview

Once one of Mogadishu’s most luxurious hotels, Al-Uruba lays in ruins after civil war.
© UN/TOBIN JONES

CONFLICT AND THE NEED FOR LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

Conflict-related issues have increased in prominence this year and have dominated the news headlines. The number of armed conflicts has risen. Long-standing conflicts such as those in Iraq, Syria, Somalia, South Sudan, Libya, Ukraine, Palestine, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Afghanistan have continued. Other conflicts have intensified, such as in Central African Republic and Yemen. The consequences of these conflicts are not confined by state boundaries. Challenges include economic stagnation, increased terror attacks, climate change and growing mass migration. In 2015, estimates suggested that well over a million refugees and migrants entered the European Union – many of them fleeing conflict and violence.

In the face of these challenges, we have seen increased security and legislative responses to conflict. However, these responses have often been in opposition to meaningful reflection, dialogue and effective peacebuilding.

During the last year, while the media spotlight moved from one conflict to another, Saferworld staff worked behind the scenes to promote peace and justice. And our work is paying off. One example of success is the inclusion of peace as a cross-cutting development priority in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. While this is a major achievement, we recognise that there’s still more to do to see this translate into positive change on the ground. Saferworld will continue its work to ensure that the security and justice needs of those affected by conflict are at the centre of our responses. We do this through both our programmes and policy work in more than 20 countries across four regions. Our experience in the field clearly demonstrates that positive change is achievable.



SAFERWORLD BELIEVES THERE ARE ALTERNATIVE, PEOPLE-FOCUSED LONGER-TERM APPROACHES AVAILABLE THAT ADDRESS THE ROOT DRIVERS OF CONFLICT WHILE MINIMISING THE POTENTIAL NEGATIVE RISKS OF INTERVENTION.

65.3
MILLION

PEOPLE HAVE BEEN FORCIBLY DISPLACED WORLDWIDE

(UNHCR)

AN ESTIMATED

118,454

PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN CONFLICT IN 2015, THE SECOND HIGHEST FATALITY RATE IN 20 YEARS

(UPPSALA CONFLICT DATA PROGRAM)

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HOST OVER

86%

OF THE WORLD’S REFUGEES

(UNHCR)

875
MILLION

SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS ARE IN CIRCULATION WORLDWIDE – PEOPLE USING THEM ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MORE THAN HALF A MILLION DEATHS EACH YEAR

(SECURITY COUNCIL REPORT)

Deputy Chairperson of a community security working group.
© SAFERWORLD/MARCUS PERKINS

Case study

IMPROVING PEACE AND JUSTICE IN SOUTH SUDAN

OUR SOUTH SUDAN COMMUNITY SECURITY AND PEACEBUILDING PROGRAMME IS SUPPORTING AND FACILITATING COMMUNITIES AT THE GRASSROOTS LEVEL TO ADDRESS THE SECURITY CHALLENGES THEY FACE. WE ARE SEEING TANGIBLE, POSITIVE RESULTS.

Since 2006 there have been frequent outbreaks of violence between four *payams* in Rumbek East, Lakes State: Aduel, Akot, Atiaba, and Paloch. Rooted in cattle raiding, violence has escalated and led to communal attacks, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), revenge killing, road ambushes, and a consequent decrease in economic activity in the area.

Saferworld and partner Community Empowerment for Progress Organization (CEPO) worked with local residents from these *payams* to form peace committees for chiefs, men, women, and young people in early 2016. Key to the success of these groups was the inclusion of the armed youth cattle keepers, *Galweng*. After identifying and prioritising problems affecting the *payams*, initiatives were set up to create dialogue and promote peace. A key area of contention was demand for accountability for the *Galweng*'s perceived crimes.

Chiefs, having the greatest authority, played an important role emphasising that engagement on peace dialogues, including discussion with the bereaved, was the only long-term route to the cessation of violence. Women previously involved in composing war songs, were persuaded to desist, and compose peace songs instead. Where SGBV had been committed, women were encouraged to report crimes to government authorities, in order to increase awareness and demand action through the formal justice system and for it to deliver justice to stop the cycle of violence and revenge crimes.

However, the greatest and perhaps most sustainable avenue to peace was created through exchange visits by 100 *Galweng* youths from their respective *payams* to the *payams* of former enemies. These visits built trust, involving dialogue, dance, music, and other cultural activities to cement bonds. The work done by the peace committees has already seen increased use of the road between Rumbek Central and East, which also leads to Juba, thus opening up economic activity, as well as marriages between members of different *payams*.

SAFERWORLD SUPPORTED
38
COMMUNITY ACTION GROUPS IN SOUTH SUDAN
WITH A TOTAL OF OVER
900
MEMBERS



SAFERWORLD REACHED OVER
35,000
HOUSEHOLDS
IN SOUTH SUDAN AND
140,000
PEOPLE THROUGH THE WORK OF
THESE COMMUNITY GROUPS

Case study

RETHINKING APPROACHES TO COUNTER-TERRORISM

High-profile terror attacks across the globe marked 2015–16, along with an increase in the number of countries fighting the Islamic State (IS) – in Iraq and Syria. Armed groups pledged their support or more formal allegiance (*bayat*) to IS in at least 19 countries. In turn, there has been a widening of international efforts to combat IS. Terrorism is at the top of the political agenda across the world and Western countries face genuine dilemmas in deciding how to respond to security threats and impending atrocities. However, responses are dominated by counter-terror objectives and military approaches which are reinforcing rather than addressing drivers of conflict. These military approaches are crowding out a focus on effective conflict management, human security, freedom of expression and rule of law and thus making the goal of achieving lasting peace more remote.

While all approaches to peacemaking have drawbacks, alternative approaches include:

- Avoiding defining conflicts narrowly as problems of 'terror', 'extremism' or 'radicalisation', and instead adopting a more impartial, holistic and sustainable approach to resolving them.
- Changing international and national policies and approaches that fuel grievances.
- Redoubling efforts for diplomacy, lobbying and advocacy to make the case for peace and adherence to international law by conflict actors.
- Looking for opportunities to negotiate peace – and doing so in a way that balances pragmatic considerations with a determined focus to achieve inclusive and just political settlements as swiftly as possible in any given context.
- Considering the use of legal and judicial responses and carefully targeted sanctions.
- Supporting transformative reform efforts to improve governance and achieve inclusive, fair, responsive and accountable state-society relations.
- Choosing not to engage if harm cannot be sufficiently mitigated or avoided and no clear solution is evident.

IN 2015 TERROR ATTACKS RESULTED IN THE DEATHS OF

28,328
PEOPLE

(US DEPARTMENT OF STATE)

LESS THAN

0.5%

OF ALL DEATHS FROM TERRORISM HAVE OCCURRED IN WESTERN COUNTRIES SINCE 2001

(GLOBAL TERRORISM INDEX 2015)

Somali soldier travels through Mogadishu. © IRIN/ZOE FLOOD



IN 2015–16, SAFERWORLD CONTINUED TO RAISE AWARENESS OF MORE SUSTAINABLE, LESS VIOLENT, MORE RIGHTS-BASED APPROACHES.

We published in-depth research looking at US, UK and EU counter-terror, stabilisation and state-building approaches in Afghanistan, Somalia and Yemen. Saferworld launched reports at events across the globe including a panel discussion hosted by the Open Society Foundations in Washington DC. Our response to the UK's Strategic Defence and Security Review challenged some of the contradictions in current UK policy on development, conflict, terror and extremism. We were also invited to present at a number of forums, including the Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development and the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform.



THERE WAS A RECORD HIGH IN THE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES (72) THAT DECLINED IN MEASURES OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND RULE OF LAW.

(FREEDOM HOUSE)

Elders discuss the morning news in the streets of Taiz, Yemen.
© SAFERWORLD/ALEX KAY POTTER

Case study

RESPONDING TO CONFLICT IN YEMEN

In Yemen, the escalation of conflict in 2015 has turned the country into one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. More than 10,000 people have been killed and tens of thousands wounded with all parties to the conflict accused of violating international humanitarian law. Meanwhile the impact on infrastructure and the blockade of imports have left over 80 per cent of the population in need of humanitarian aid. Yet the responses of the communities we work with have highlighted the will of local people to build peace.

Members of Saferworld's community action group in Taiz, hit hard by devastating fighting, have worked to improve the standards of living for their community in face of the crisis. They have distributed food and water for poor families, conducted awareness-raising campaigns about the effects of dengue fever, addressed the health risk of accumulating rubbish and provided solar-powered street lighting.

IN THE MIDST OF THE CONFLICT, MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY ACTION GROUPS THAT SAFERWORLD SUPPORTS HAVE BEEN RESPONDING TO THE GROWING HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AND PROMOTING PEACE.

Saferworld also supported international awareness-raising campaigns promoting peace. This included an online campaign #LetsCoexist produced by young Yemenis featuring Yemenis talking about what they like about Yemen and expressing their desire for an end to the conflict, and a video by Oscar-nominated Yemeni filmmaker Abdurahman Hussain, in which acclaimed Yemeni street artist Murad Subay talks about how he has been using his art to inspire collective action to build peace.

As well as supporting grassroots peace building initiatives, we prioritised advocating for changes in international policies that have contributed to the destruction in Yemen, scrutinising the role of arms exported to conflict parties and used within Yemen. In December 2015, Saferworld and Amnesty International commissioned a legal opinion from law firm Matrix Chambers which concluded that arms exports to Saudi Arabia were in breach of the UK's national, regional and international arms transfer control obligations. This received widespread national media attention. We worked with parliaments to put pressure on policymakers to scrutinise their actions. This included giving evidence to UK parliamentary committees and, at the EU level, pushing for a European Parliament resolution urging a cessation of arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

OVER
10,000

PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF CONFLICT IN YEMEN

OVER
21.2
MILLION

PEOPLE (80% OF THE POPULATION) ARE IN NEED OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

(OCHA)



OVER
5,000

YOUTUBE VIEWS ON PEACEBUILDING IN YEMEN VIDEOS SUPPORTED BY SAFERWORLD

1,500

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED TO PARTICIPATE IN SAFERWORLD'S LOCAL PEACEBUILDING WORKSHOP IN APRIL 2016

A marble miner from Rupa sub-county in Moroto district, Karamoja.
© SAFERWORLD/RAMON SANCHEZ ORENSE

Case study

UNDERSTANDING GENDER, LAND AND CONFLICT IN UGANDA

Karamoja, in north-eastern Uganda, has seen considerable changes in recent years in relation to conflict dynamics and the gendered behaviours of women and men. Despite a decrease in previously high levels of armed violence, the current period of relative stability has also brought new challenges, including those resulting from the activities of multinational companies mining for gold, marble and limestone.

Peacebuilders are increasingly recognising the importance of gender dynamics to effective programming in conflict-affected contexts. Saferworld has developed a toolkit for conducting gender analysis of conflict to help national and international non-governmental organisations and other peacebuilding practitioners integrate gender perspectives into conflict analysis, providing a foundation for more gender-sensitive peacebuilding programmes. In March 2016, in partnership with the Uganda Land Alliance (ULA), Saferworld piloted this toolkit in Moroto district, Karamoja region, using the approach to explore how gender norms – the ways in which societies pressure their male and female members to behave – are influencing local conflict dynamics.

Our research in Karamoja found that pre-existing feelings of emasculation and injustice were being exacerbated by pressure over access to land and mineral resources and the activities of mining companies. The work reinforces how peacebuilding responses must take into account gender norms and practices as part of a larger picture, also considering

how to address the injustices which women and men face. These injustices include the removal of resources necessary to survival, domestic violence, exploitative trade and employment practices by investors, and the policy and legal frameworks which enable (or fail to prevent) these rights violations.

WHILE GENDER NORMS AND PRACTICES ARE NEVER THE WHOLE STORY, THEY ARE AN IMPORTANT ASPECT WITHOUT WHICH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THE DRIVERS AND IMPACTS OF CURRENT CONFLICTS IN THE REGION.

The toolkit was launched in Kampala, Brussels and the Hague and has been received positively. A further launch is planned in London in late 2016. Saferworld continues to provide bespoke training on gender, peace and security to governments, multilateral institutions, agencies and civil society partners. We plan to develop a gender programme in Uganda and to pilot the toolkit in other countries in 2017, aiming to strengthen our own programming and generate more of an evidence base on the issue. Since its launch in July 2016, the toolkit has been downloaded over 3,100 times.



GENDER ANALYSIS OF CONFLICT:

- Provides a better understanding of underlying social power relations and how these influence and are affected by conflict
- Sheds light on drivers of conflict and violence, as well as opportunities for peace
- Helps us better understand who to work with, to change attitudes, to design interventions or to address particular vulnerabilities.

Highlights 2015–16

OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

We focus our work around five strategic objectives which guide our programming in-country and our policy and advocacy efforts.

1. Strengthen people's security and access to justice through the development and effective delivery of responsive, accountable and locally-appropriate security and justice

Despite a difficult year in many of the contexts where we work, our community security and community policing programmes in 13 countries continued to bring authorities and communities together to identify and address their security concerns. Training and supporting over 100 community liaison groups, our community security programming is tailored to each context and builds on long-term partnerships and local participation to deliver tangible improvements in people's security. In Somalia and Kyrgyzstan we piloted a new assessment tool to find out whether and how people's experience of injustice links to violence. We launched reports in the Hague and in Osh, Kyrgyzstan and set up a monthly justice blog inviting experts from different fields to explore the links between injustice and violence. We currently run a security and justice seminar series with the Overseas Development Institute.

Evidence from our programmes drives our international advocacy work and there

has been some encouraging progress this year: Saferworld provided expert technical support to the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the development of its new security and justice police framework; we provided input to the Independent Commission on Aid Impact's (ICAI) report on DfID's performance, *Review of UK Development Assistance for Security and Justice*, to help improve the UK's overseas security and justice work; in Bangladesh, we took part in BRAC's strategic planning process for the first time; we presented at UNDP's annual meeting on 'Rule of Law and Conflict Prevention'; and we began to engage the Open Government Partnership on peace and security issues.

2. Challenge gender norms that cause and perpetuate conflict and insecurity

Marking 15 years since the passage of the UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, 2015 was an important year which saw a global stock-take of progress on these issues. Saferworld was involved in the UN High Level Review on Women, Peace and Security, pushing for a greater emphasis on conflict prevention and challenging gender norms which drive

conflict and violence. The resulting Global Study reflected important themes in Saferworld's work, including the need to challenge militarisation and address the role of masculinities (socially constructed gender norms which associate masculinity with power, violence and control) in perpetuating conflict and insecurity.

We are developing our work on gender, peace and security. For example, in Egypt we examined the effectiveness of the government's newly created Violence Against Women Unit, and we worked with civil society partners to explore how gender sensitivity could be incorporated into wider police reforms. We strengthened gender perspectives in our community security work, gathering lessons from Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, South Sudan and Yemen on the benefits of using a gender-sensitive approach and the effectiveness of community security approaches in addressing gender-based violence.

Elsewhere, Saferworld has engaged emerging global actors on gender, peace and security issues, holding events in India and South Africa to encourage dialogue among civil society organisations on how their governments can take this agenda forward.

ABOVE: A Madeshi woman speaks up about community problems during a public hearing in Sunsari District, Nepal. © SAFERWORLD/RAMESH BHATTARAI

3. Reduce the impact of external conflict drivers, including weapon flows, illicit finance, and militarised responses to security threats

The past year has been significant for Saferworld's work on constructive alternatives to current counter-terror approaches – the long-term goal of which is the adoption by the UK, US and EU of more sustainable, less violent, more rights-focused responses to conflict, terror and violent extremism. We published in-depth research looking at US, UK and EU counter-terror, stabilisation and statebuilding approaches in Afghanistan, Somalia and Yemen, and held launch events in London, Brussels, Washington DC, Beijing, and Juba.

At the landmark first Conference of States Parties (CSP) to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), held in Mexico in August 2015, several important decisions were taken about the future operation of the Treaty. The CSP also saw the launch of the first ATT Monitor Report (to which Saferworld contributed) and a briefing paper by the Expert Group on ATT Implementation, a group convened by Saferworld. Throughout the year, we helped developing countries to implement the ATT. This included: hosting our first African regional meeting on ATT implementation involving officials from 12 West African countries; supporting the work of the EU ATT Outreach Project in Ghana and Zambia; and preparing for

Saferworld's first national assessment of ATT implementation, to be undertaken in Liberia.

At a Saferworld-organised EU NGO-government conference in May 2015, concerns about arms exports to the Middle East were highlighted with a particular focus on the Yemen conflict. The legal opinion that we commissioned from Matrix Chambers with Amnesty International concluded that arms exports to Saudi Arabia were in breach of the UK's national, regional and international arms transfer control obligations, and this received widespread media attention. Our parliamentary work included giving evidence to parliamentary committees in the UK and the EU.

Continuing to develop our work on other transnational factors that drive conflict, we participated in forums with various stakeholders on the connections between transnational organised crime, illicit financial flows and conflict and development. A specific area of interest for Saferworld is on how the global production, transit and sale of illicit drugs – as well as attempts to control them – risk perpetuating further conflict and fragility. We worked alongside other NGOs to feed into the UN General Assembly Special Session on Drugs.

With migration increasingly dominating Western agendas, we began a new area of work examining the links between conflict and migration. Saferworld will continue to advocate for addressing the underlying

drivers of conflict and instability, rather than short-term securitised responses, which risk further exacerbating tensions.

4. Ensure international political, economic, development and security engagement in conflict-affected contexts is sensitive to conflict dynamics and contributes to sustainable peace

In September 2015, UN member states adopted a new plan for achieving a better future for all: **The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**. Saferworld published evidence and advocated on the need to include peace as a central pillar of the Agenda. It was encouraging to see our major asks reflected in this Agenda: a goal on peace, justice and governance (Sustainable Development Goal 16); and peace as an overarching issue across all the goals. Following the Agenda's adoption, our work is now to ensure that this strong focus on peace translates into action. We worked with a group of supportive stakeholders to generate political buy-in and prioritisation of SDG 16 at both national and international levels, providing technical advice on how it can help drive meaningful change on the ground. Through innovative research, strategic partnerships and global advocacy, we contributed to the develop-



A 70-year-old grocery store owner shares a joke with her family member, Myanmar. © UN/KIBAE PARK

A woman crosses one of Bangladesh's more than 700 rivers.
© SAFERWORLD/
TOM MARTIN



ment of a robust and effective indicator framework for measuring progress in achieving SDG 16 over the next 15 years.

At the national level, we raised awareness of the 2030 Agenda through consultations on implementing its peace-related aspects in Kenya, South Sudan, Myanmar, Pakistan and India. We spoke with policy actors in India and South Africa on the implementation of the gender, peace and security-related elements of the 2030 Agenda.

Over the last year, we worked with public, private and civil society organisations to ensure more conflict-sensitive engagement across a range of settings. For example, we supported the Swedish Government to focus their development programmes and country strategies on crucial conflict issues in eight countries across three continents. We provided technical advice and practical support to donors, government agencies and civil society organisations, including in Uganda and Kenya, on assessing and strengthening the conflict sensitivity of their strategies and programmes. In addition, we have been developing an online training course for EU staff members on integrating conflict sensitivity into EU external action.

With eight leading INGOs, we designed and integrated a conflict prevention and resilience-strengthening methodology, currently piloted in Kenya and Pakistan. We also supported over 50 civil society organisations, across 16 countries, through a major EU-funded programme, *Capacities for Peace* (in collaboration with Conciliation Resources), focusing on early warning

systems as a conflict prevention tool. We also helped to develop and disseminate new research, including World Vision research on conflict analysis, *Making Sense of Turbulent Contexts*.

We worked with the UN Global Compact to encourage conflict-sensitive practices among international businesses operating in conflict-affected contexts. We continued our work to improve understanding of the impacts of Chinese investment on peace dynamics in South Sudan. And to inform Saferworld's programme design processes at country level, we developed a new conflict analysis methodology.

5. Promote peacebuilding processes and governance systems that are inclusive, fair, responsive and accountable, and address the root causes of conflict

In 2015 we began to consider how best to facilitate joint governance and peacebuilding approaches in conflict-affected countries. SDG 16 brings governance, peace and justice together under one goal and initiatives such as the Open Government Partnership (OGP) have already attracted conflict-affected and fragile states as members. Aligning approaches geared towards transparency and accountability with those that centre on community-driven peacebuilding is challenging but vital if conflict-affected

states are to make progress towards participatory governance.

In November 2015 we convened a discussion at the OpenGovHub in Washington with our partners Global Integrity and Development Gateway. This brought together donors and practitioners from governance and peacebuilding communities to collaborate, learn from each other and adapt their approaches. In February 2016, we set up a dialogue involving donor agencies, the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding and OGP to further develop those mutually reinforcing links.

Notably throughout 2015–16, we worked in Nepal, Kenya and Sri Lanka to bring together local open government practitioners with peacebuilding partners. These joint sessions explored how to maximise the potential of OGP membership to further peace agendas and increase transparency and accountability. This, in partnership with OGP and others, will form the basis of our work in the years ahead.



ADVOCACY

EUROPEAN UNION

Saferworld has continued to influence the **European Union's (EU)** policies and decisions to maximise its conflict prevention and peacebuilding potential. We produced an operational guidance handbook for conflict-sensitive EU programming and led a team of consultants – contracted by the European Commission – to develop an online course on conflict sensitivity. This course will aid the design and implementation of EU projects. We worked with EU institutions, examining their community-based approaches to security to ensure that EU approaches in peacebuilding and statebuilding are more effective at addressing people's security and justice needs and concerns. We raised awareness about EU arms exports to Saudi Arabia – arms used in Yemen – and informed a European Parliament resolution on Yemen which called for an EU arms embargo against Saudi Arabia.

To amplify our outreach and impact on EU institutions, Saferworld's Brussels staff also partnered with and contributed to the work of several Brussels-based platforms and networks, such as the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office and Crisis Action.

ABOVE: Saferworld's Roy Isbister at a hearing on arms exports controls in Brussels.
© SUBCOMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND DEFENCE AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT/ALEXIS HAULOT

UNITED STATES

Saferworld's **United States** office advocates for the US to adopt more people-centred security approaches to its foreign policy and security strategy. In the last year we built contacts within the US Government and within the policy community in Washington DC.

In 2014, Saferworld led a NGO peacebuilding component of a United States Institute of Peace (USIP)-led training for US officials. Participants included different branches of the military and other civil society organisations. Following the training, General McChrystal – former commander of International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan – stated that he understood the importance of NGO and peacebuilding involvement in reconstruction and stabilisation operations better than before, and was taking lessons learned back to Afghanistan. This success led to Saferworld's involvement in the design as well as execution of the 2016 exercise. In 2015, the State Department funded Saferworld to conduct joint work with USIP, examining the interaction of security and justice with violent extremism. This led to an award from the Open Society Foundations to examine the human rights implications of the growing countering violent extremism agenda. Saferworld has contributed to high-level policy documents such as the US Government's Quadrennial Development and Diplomatic Review, and now regularly helps to shape policy design workshops for US officials and serving military officers.

UNITED KINGDOM

We continued to engage with the **UK** government, parliament and UK-based development organisations on the UK's approach in conflict-affected contexts. Playing a leading role with partners in the Bond Conflict Policy Group, we developed a briefing on conflict issues for new parliamentarians after the general election. We also contributed to the new Strategic Defence and Security Review, pressing for continued attention to conflict prevention and the wider conflict sensitivity of the UK's foreign, defence and development policies.

Saferworld liaised with parliamentarians and the policy community to analyse and respond to new policy commitments with a renewed UK focus on fragile states. We focused on ensuring policy coherence, including in the robust and consistent application of the UK's arms export controls. Commissioning a legal opinion on the UK's arms sales to Saudi Arabia in light of the conflict in Yemen, we provided evidence to the International Development Committee and Committees on Arms Export Controls to inform their inquiries into the UK's role in Yemen. In addition, in coordination with Saferworld teams from Yemen, South Sudan, Sudan and Somalia, we carried out advocacy work with UK policymakers to help raise awareness of urgent conflict issues and to highlight the need for a constructive UK response in these contexts.

Community member listens to discussions between government and community representatives in Nepal.
© SAFERWORLD/ANIL POUDEL



CHINA

Saferworld worked with **Chinese** businesses to increase their understanding of the importance of conflict sensitivity when working in fragile and conflict-affected environments. We conducted a conflict analysis that looked at the potential impact of a planned Chinese-led major infrastructure project in South Sudan. We also provided guidance to a leading Chinese oil company on how to adapt its corporate social responsibility policy to reflect the particular needs and challenges of conflict-affected contexts.

2016 saw the conclusion of a dialogue process managed by Saferworld between UK and Chinese experts on conflict prevention. The first of its kind, the process demonstrated that despite differences in both principles and approaches to conflict prevention, there is increasing policy convergence between the UK and China. This reveals a clear basis for continued dialogue and possible future cooperation.

Saferworld established a new line of engagement with important Chinese institutions involved in dual-use and arms trade controls. (Dual-use items are goods, software, technology, and documents which can be used for both civil and military applications.) A technical working group on dual-use and arms trade controls was established, which brought together officials and other experts from China, Russia, South Korea, the UK and the US to share experiences, policies and practices in the implementation and enforcement of dual-use and arms export controls.

ASIA

With **Nepal's** new constitution launched in September 2015 following devastating earthquakes in April and May, there is a major opportunity to build sustainable peace. However, recent civil unrest highlights the need for consistent engagement with communities. We began working with Nepali civil society within the 'Open Government Movement' and with marginalised groups to ensure that initiatives emerging from developments in Nepal's power-sharing and governance arrangements are conflict sensitive.

Saferworld raised awareness of the need for conflict-sensitive post-earthquake project responses. Additionally, we conducted regular conflict assessments to help inform a large-scale multi-year local governance project. We supported local civil society actors to identify and analyse early conflict warning signs, including online via Nepal Monitor. We worked with communities to improve their safety and security in the Eastern, Mid-Western, and Far-Western Terai. This included awareness-raising campaigns on concerns including gender-based violence and the links between injustice and violence and promoting a 'justice as prevention' agenda. These were championed by the communities and youth groups we support. We strengthened the gender, peace, and security component of our community security work. Saferworld's Nepal gender experts provided technical input into the Nepal MenEngage Alliance's Draft Strategy and UNDP's *GBV Prevention Peer Education Training Manual*.

In **Pakistan**, with continued political violence and community-level conflict, we focused on increasing capacity of civil society to analyse the impact of the drawdown of international forces from Afghanistan in 2014. We brought nineteen civil society representatives from five regions for training on conflict sensitivity. Saferworld provided expert technical assistance on community policing and gender responsive policing in Pakistan. We fed into Pakistan's gender-responsive policing policy; and we reviewed good practice guidelines for women police desks and for gender-sensitive approaches in police procedures. As part of the START Network, Saferworld contributed to disaster risk reduction training and local-level power analyses, aiming to build community resilience to disasters. With Oxfam Novib we conducted research in twelve districts across three provinces on formal and informal justice systems in Pakistan, and community perceptions of both.

In 2015–2016 ongoing political polarisation increased the threat of violence in **Bangladesh**. Saferworld brought together young people from different cultures to peacefully debate the future of Bangladesh and to engage constructively with security services. Working with the Bangladesh Enterprise Institute in Satkhira district, a known hotspot of political violence, we established a Youth, Democracy and Justice Forum, linking urban and rural young people to act as a cross-regional platform for youth to share experiences and forge networks. The forum acted in partnership with local authorities, including the police, to reduce young people's susceptibility to

violence, and to increase the community's resilience to extremism.

With partner BRAC we continued to work with communities to increase their ability to respond to local safety issues. In the final year of the project, communities' activities expanded beyond the original locations. This was due to demand from communities following increased local awareness through positive media coverage, the mobilisation of large numbers of volunteers, and demand from security providers responding to community pressure.

In **Myanmar**, Saferworld began a three-year project designed to help build safer communities in Karen areas of south-east Myanmar, while contributing to the development of a security sector that is more responsive to the needs of communities in the country. In light of recent developments in Myanmar's peace process and changes in the political landscape, questions around the future structure and governance of Myanmar's security sector have become central to the interests of Myanmar's long-term stability and development. Saferworld advocates that these future structures should be inclusive and informed by the communities themselves.

We worked with our civil society partners in Kayin and Kachin states, refocusing conversation and practice relating to conflict sensitivity so that it is based upon a community-led vision. Unless the ongoing influx of international resources is based on consultations with local communities so that their perspectives are heard and acted upon, it risks exacerbating conflict.

A Yemeni girl in Taiz enjoys time with her cat.
© SAFERWORLD/ALEX KAY POTTER



MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

In **Yemen**, where one of the world's worst humanitarian crises has unfolded, as a result of the protracted conflict, Saferworld continues to carry out on-the-ground peacebuilding work together with our Yemeni partners, despite huge challenges. In March 2016 we brought 23 activists from across Yemen to Amman, Jordan, to share experiences about local peacebuilding and to come up with new ideas for how to start building peace in communities even as conflict continues. While bringing people together from across Yemen has been challenging, we increased our national outreach through social media and developed an innovative remote learning course on peacebuilding and community activism using Whatsapp. Internationally, we raised awareness of the conflict through supporting small Yemeni initiatives such as the short video 'Let's coexist' and a workshop on public health impact. We have strongly advocated for an end to the conflict and for a halt to the export of arms to all parties to the conflict, including the Saudi-led coalition. This included commissioning an independent legal opinion on UK arms sales that considered the UK to be in breach of UK, EU and international laws on arms transfers.

We have supported local initiatives promoting social peace and coexistence, for example, through micro-grants and mentoring for youth activists. In Taiz, a community group established by Saferworld and the National Organisation for Community Development took the initiative to run a rubbish removal campaign to improve sanitation in the

Al-Muthaffar area, and a street lighting project in Bab Musa in response to the impact of the conflict.

Saferworld supported civil society's efforts in **Egypt** to advocate for police reform. We provided technical expertise and case studies on topics such as police response to GBV and public order policing, as well as compiling information on popular perceptions of security in Egypt. While police reform has stalled under the current government, Egyptian media and campaigners continue to draw attention to the need for both a more accountable and more effective police force. In **Tunisia**, the international community has begun to increase support significantly on counter-terrorism and other security issues. Saferworld has carried out research on civil society's role in advocating for security sector reform. Questions remain about how to move forward in reforming the security services but we will continue to support civil society in this regard.



EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Central Asia is suffering from a range of local-level safety issues including a perceived increase in religious radicalisation. In **Kyrgyzstan** and **Tajikistan** we supported the establishment of community policing forums and set up local crime prevention centres (LPCs). We contributed to the institutionalisation of community policing and the development of sustainable problem-solving partnerships between police, local governments, and communities. Members of LPCs jointly identify, prioritise, and resolve community problems related to crime, safety, security, and quality of life, many of which are drivers of radicalisation and violent extremism.

The community policing forums we support became more open to raising sensitive community issues. Out of sixteen community security response plans, ten addressed issues related to radicalisation and violent extremism – a problem that was not recognised as an issue in previous years. In most locations, police have become more active partners in community policing forums. We continued to support civil society in promoting community policing and establishing partnerships at the local and higher levels for security provision, through dialogues, advocacy and analysis.

Our publication *Radicalisation and extremism in Kyrgyzstan: perceptions, dynamics and prevention* focuses on perspectives from different actors at the local and national levels. It examines the potential causes of extremism and existing responses. We recommend talking

more to local people and developing more inclusive and less securitised responses. These should seek to address the underlying drivers and contributory factors of violent extremism and radicalisation within the broader conflict context.

We supported vulnerable, conflict-affected communities in **eastern Abkhazia**, in **Shida Kartli and South Ossetia**, and along both sides of the **Armenia-Azerbaijan border**. In the border communities of Armenia and Azerbaijan, where fighting escalated in spring 2016, Saferworld brought community members from both sides together for the first time during an experience exchange in Georgia. We provided small grants to communities and set up a database which tracked incidents targeting civilians and their property in the conflict-affected border area between Armenia and Azerbaijan. We also launched a participatory photography project, training communities in photography so that they can record their safety and security concerns. The images will be displayed at exhibitions in Baku, Yerevan and Tbilisi in 2016, to raise awareness about the plight of the people in the border area. In Georgia, our Shida Kartli and South Ossetian partners collected stories from local people affected by conflict on both sides of the Administrative Boundary Line to highlight the importance of recognising the human dimension of the conflict, which is often overlooked.

In Abkhazia, we worked with civil society, security providers and government officials to highlight effective policies to address communities' security concerns.

We conducted research and supported cooperation between civil society actors from different regions of Abkhazia. We also organised an experience exchange between senior law enforcement officials and civil society members and police institutions in Scotland.

In the **Western Balkans**, we continued dialogue to identify good practices in community policing and community safety in the region. This included participating at a regional conference in June 2015 with officials from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, police officers, community safety forum representatives and members from civil society organisations. We shared experiences and lessons learned from Saferworld's work in Kosovo, Central Asia (Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan), and Kenya.

ABOVE: Youth in Batken, Kyrgyzstan shake hands before taking place in a sporting event organised by the Saferworld supported community security working group and local crime prevention centre. © SAFERWORLD

ABOVE RIGHT: A community action group in Kisumu discuss governance issues affecting the county. © SAFERWORLD/EMMANUELO PRODUCTIONS



EAST AFRICA

Increased availability and misuse of small arms in **Kenya** in recent years has contributed to endemic cycles of violence and hundreds of injuries and deaths. Over the last year we improved people's security through promoting arms control in communities in Isiolo and West Pokot counties. Working with the National Police Service, we supported groups to digitise records of firearms held by the National Police Reserve (NPR). We helped teams monitor how the NPR use their firearms, we trained the NPR on codes of conduct for using firearms, and we fed into national processes to tackle police reform and the proliferation of arms. The introduction of devolved governance in Kenya following the 2013 elections means that for the first time county-level structures are responsible for a range of new areas, including delivering basic services and playing a role in local-level peace and security provision. We worked to influence both national-level devolution institutions and county governments to adopt conflict-sensitive approaches to implementing devolved governance, which is transparent and takes into account people's different needs. This is to ensure that national-level divisions and tensions are not replicated at the devolved county level. Our conflict analyses in three counties examined the impact the current devolution process has had on local conflict dynamics; there is still much to do. We have also supported the drafting and subsequent consultations on the National Peace Council Bill (2016), which seeks to define and set up peace councils at national and county levels. In advance of the 2017 general elections,

Saferworld is supporting a multi-agency peace platform, Uwiano, to develop strategies on the prevention and management of violent conflict.

We began a new area of work to push for transparent electoral processes in **Somaliland**, where presidential and parliamentary elections are planned for 2017. This included the re-establishment of the Somaliland Civil Society Election Forum (SCISEF) by partner SONSAF to advocate and positively influence the Somaliland authorities and important members of the international community on issues of democratisation. SCISEF is training and fielding domestic observers for all upcoming electoral processes in Somaliland. During the ongoing voter registration process, SCISEF-supported observers have been posted in more than 70 per cent of registration stations.

We continued to support three non-state actor platforms in **Somalia** and Somaliland to play an active role in policy and decision-making on peace, security and development. A crucial part of this is improving non-state actor platforms' mechanisms for governance and oversight to enable a greater sense of ownership over their future. This year, for the first time, the platforms have directly sought funds from major international donors. We have devoted new resources to increasing platform involvement in significant governance processes, including the planned Somaliland elections and the 2016 political transition and constitutional review processes in the Federal Republic of Somalia.

In partnership with the south central non-state actors (SOSCENSA) in Somalia, Saferworld conducted research into peace-building and statebuilding needs in the Gedo, Lower Juba, and Middle Juba regions, which together form the emerging federal member state of Jubaland. SOSCENSA will use this research to advocate to the federal government and authorities in Jubaland with regards to recommendations on reconciliation and stabilisation.

In **Uganda**, Saferworld worked with communities, authorities, investors and civil society to promote conflict-sensitive approaches to land and extractives. Our position paper on the laws around mineral extraction fed into changes made by the Ugandan Government to mineral laws. Several Ugandan communities experienced conflicts relating to land use and mineral exploitation. Saferworld has helped stakeholders to find both safe platforms for dialogue and solutions to the conflict issues. We expanded our work from northern Uganda and Karamoja, into the southern districts of Mukono, Mityana and Mbale, piloting the idea of 'talking circles' dialogue platforms – with success. The platforms provide a safe space for community members to share their concerns with authorities. They discuss issues of land, urbanisation, industrialisation and development, without limitations or fear of rank or government protocol.





This process has improved relationships between the police, local government and communities. For example, as a result of a talking circle held in Olilim sub-county, Otuke district, community members shared their security concerns about a paramilitary group. As a result, local authorities established a police outpost. Saferworld also continued to provide conflict-sensitive technical advice and support to donors in Uganda.

In **Sudan**, Saferworld has supported civil society partners in their efforts to shape and create opportunities for national conflict transformation processes. We supported the Sudan Democracy First Group (SDFG) to become a leading Sudanese voice on national political, economic, social and regional issues, and we worked with the group to convene cross-constituency dialogues. We continued to facilitate dialogue and coordination between a diverse group of civil society actors, providing a platform that permits multiple voices to be heard, and allows the breakdown of traditional barriers. Through this, we supported a theory of change, based on a shared vision that provides guidance for coordinated civil society efforts towards conflict transformation in Sudan. Saferworld has continued to engage influential international actors to support national efforts for a just, peaceful and democratic Sudan, at a time when the country has successfully positioned itself as a beacon for stability in the region by furthering its cooperation with major powers on anti-terrorism efforts.

The Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in **South Sudan**, signed in August 2015 to end the renewed conflict that broke out in December 2013, brought some hope for stability. The country faces an uphill struggle with ongoing fighting in some areas, a severe food shortage, risk of economic collapse and huge numbers of internally displaced people. In this context, despite operational challenges associated with the conflict, Saferworld has expanded and deepened our work to promote peace and security at the community level. We now work in ten locations, in eight states, with nine local civil society partners. Along with our partners, we established 54 community action groups to identify and prioritise community concerns and to find solutions to address their immediate safety issues. Problems ranged from water disputes, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, to intra and inter-communal conflicts, cattle raiding and revenge attacks. With the support of Saferworld, many groups have initiated additional activities – highlighting the impact of our programme in developing long-term sustainability in local-level peacebuilding.

Responding to sporadic outbreaks of violent conflict in Western Equatorial and Western Bar El Ghazal states, we reshaped our community security approach in these locations, focusing on supporting dialogue to build trust in the communities. In Lakes state, where cattle raiding, communal conflicts and revenge killings are commonplace, we supported and facilitated dialogues that resulted in local peace

agreements between clans who have fought for years. Additionally we used local media to spread peace messages, bringing the programme beneficiaries to speak about their safety concerns to a national audience on radio.

Our national-level advocacy work on firearms legislation finally moved a step forward this year. Since 2010, we have supported the drafting of the Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Bill, including fine-tuning it with technical reviews. The Bill now remains to be passed by the legislature before being signed into law.

ABOVE: Members of the Lakatoc cattle camp in South Sudan meet with the Chief to discuss community issues. © SAFERWORLD/MARCUS PERKINS

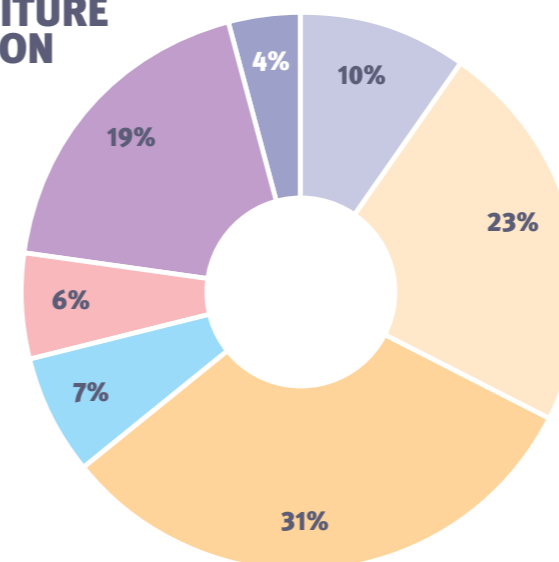


INCOME

£7,890,000 Restricted income	2015 TOTAL £10,350,000	£2,460,000 Unrestricted income
£9,953,000 Restricted income	2016 TOTAL £12,301,000	£2,348,000 Unrestricted income

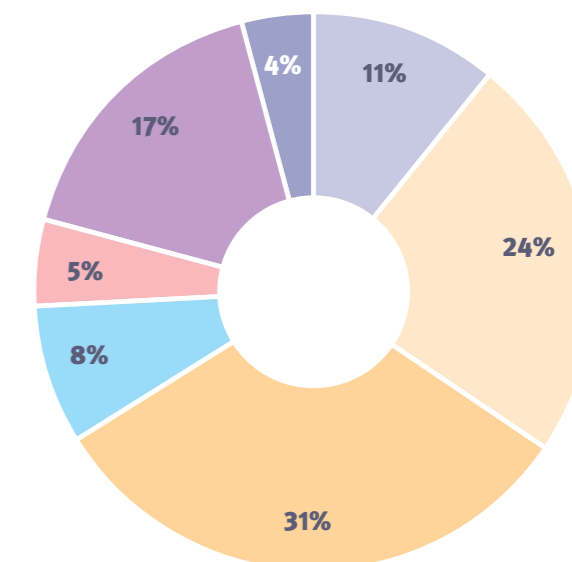
FINANCIAL UPDATE

EXPENDITURE BY REGION



2016

Europe	£1,117,000
Kenya & Horn of Africa	£2,702,000
Uganda & Great Lakes region	£3,670,000
Asia	£806,000
Middle East & North Africa	£637,000
Policy, advocacy & communications	£2,155,000
Central	£467,000
TOTAL	£11,554,000



2015

Europe	£1,290,000
Kenya & Horn of Africa	£2,921,000
Uganda & Great Lakes region	£3,883,000
Asia	£945,000
Middle East & North Africa	£568,000
Policy, advocacy & communications	£2,123,000
Central	£534,000
TOTAL	£12,264,000

This is a top line summary of Saferworld's income and expenditure in 2015–16, taken from our full audited accounts. You can see our full accounts in our online multimedia Annual Review or our Report and Accounts (both available at www.saferworld.org.uk). You can also download them from the Charity Commission website.

Saferworld is an independent international organisation working to prevent violent conflict and build safer lives. Our priority is people – we believe that everyone should be able to lead peaceful, fulfilling lives, free from insecurity and violent conflict. We work with local people affected by conflict to improve their safety and sense of security, and conduct wider analysis, research, and surveys of local perceptions. We use this evidence and learning to improve local, national, and international policies and practices that can help build lasting peace.

SAFERWORLD

PREVENTING VIOLENT CONFLICT. BUILDING SAFER LIVES

THANK YOU

Saferworld would like to thank all the individuals and organisations who have provided the funding and other support which makes our work possible. Our donors for grants in excess of £100,000 include:

Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Danida

European Commission

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland

Irish Aid

Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Open Society Institute

Peace Support Fund (joint mechanism between DfID, Australian

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Sweden)

Switzerland Development Cooperation

United Kingdom Foreign & Commonwealth Office

United States Agency for International Development

United States Department of State

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Saferworld has staff based in: Bangladesh, Georgia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Myanmar, Pakistan, Somalia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Uganda, and Yemen – as well as Addis Ababa, Brussels, London, Washington, and Vienna.

Company no. 3015948 (England and Wales) · Charity no. 1043843

Read more in our online Annual Review 2015–16

www.saferworld.org.uk/annualreview

FRONT COVER PHOTO: A boy releases a dove as part of a campaign to push for peace, in Sanaa, Yemen, June 2016.
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