

ANNUAL REVIEW

2018–2019



About us

Our vision

We believe 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 work to create environments where the following three conditions for peace are in place:

- 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 their power to promote just and equitable societies.

Our values

- We believe in the worth, equality and dignity of every person, and respect the richness of social and cultural diversity.
- We believe that inclusivity and accountability are essential in society for people to enjoy security, justice and peaceful co-existence.
- Our actions must show honesty and transparency, and consistency with our principles and mission.



30
YEARS

A message from the Chair of the Board, Jeremy Lester

In November 2019, we celebrate Saferworld's 30th anniversary. As we reach that significant milestone, we have a chance to reflect on our achievements. Today, we are at the forefront of policy development and practice on conflict prevention and peacebuilding, strongly rooted in the lived experiences of the communities we work with – people who face conflict and insecurity every day. We know that we would not be the organisation we are today without the expertise, commitment and exceptional skills of our many partners, who are absolutely fundamental to our work, and who enable us to carry out our mandate of preventing violent conflict and building safer lives.

Over the past year, we have seen conflicts continue to destroy and disrupt people's lives around the world. Those in power all too often give priority to costly military 'solutions' and disregard the rights of those affected. From conflict in Yemen and South Sudan to the unprecedented numbers of people displaced and on the move, communities continue to bear the brunt of decisions that are beyond their control. This is a challenging time, but in recent years there are also encouraging signs of progress towards peace.

In 2014, the Arms Trade Treaty, a global treaty regulating the international arms trade, entered into force. One year later, an ambitious set of global initiatives aiming to end poverty, reduce violence and address inequality – known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – was adopted by the United Nations (UN). Among the goals is SDG16, which makes addressing conflict and building peace an explicit objective. Saferworld contributed substantially to these positive outcomes, and in 2018–19 we started to translate these global policies into effective change in communities.

In order to enhance our impact on global policy, in 2018–19, Saferworld pushed back on short-sighted responses to terrorism and migration, and advocated for the promotion of people's security and justice across Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

Over the last year, peacebuilders have faced resistance, resource challenges and a political environment where the need for their work is increasing. In our advocacy work, Saferworld stands out for two reasons. The first is that our recommendations are grounded and led by the work we do in many of the most challenging environments. The second, thanks to the knowledge and passion of Saferworld staff and partners, is the outstanding quality of our research.

I wish to thank our staff, partners and the communities we work with, who, over the last 30 years, have given their time, energy and unwavering dedication to building peace and bringing positive change to people's lives. I also want to thank our donors who have recognised Saferworld's contribution and have given their moral and financial support to our efforts. Yes, we have made important inroads, but as we look to the future, we also know that the work of Saferworld and our partners is more crucial than ever as we rise to the challenges ahead.

Jeremy Lester, *Chair of the Board of Trustees*

30 YEARS



A message from Saferworld's Executive Director, Paul Murphy

As Saferworld reaches its 30th birthday, I have reflected on our launch in 1989 as a small independent research organisation. I am proud of our international standing in the world today, as an expert and well-respected organisation working hand-in-hand with communities and partners around the world to prevent violent conflict and build peace. This recognition is the result of our efforts over three decades, of building partnerships that have given crucial strength and credibility to our organisation. Our relationships – with our donors, partners, civil society organisations, authorities, the communities we work with and others – form the backbone of our organisation, and clearly illustrate that when people unite for a common cause, foundations are laid for incredible sustainable change to take place.

Indeed, just over the last year, Saferworld has witnessed many noteworthy events which stand out as inspiring examples of the potential collective of ordinary people. The re-emergence of popular peaceful campaigns for social and political change, especially in Africa, highlights this trend. Earlier this year, we saw non-violent resistance in Algeria precipitating changes

in power, and days later, protesters in Sudan witnessed the ousting of Sudan's president of 30 years. I have had the privilege to meet remarkable groups and individuals across Asia, Africa and the Middle East who have demonstrated extraordinary courage and commitment in situations where political accountability and change is purposely denied, sometimes for decades.

A prevailing feature in these and other contexts is the significant role being played by young people and women, who are on the front line of developments. Among the social movements and community groups that make up coalitions of public action, young people are playing a leading role in challenging injustice and inequality. This is something we take seriously, especially as young men and women today are more educated, more aspirational and more connected to the world than ever before; yet they also experience deep disenchantment and chronic unemployment.

We are embracing the challenge to better harness their potential to champion peace and usher in non-violent political

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I am proud of our international standing in the world today, as an expert and well-respected organisation working hand-in-hand with communities and partners around the world to prevent violent conflict and build peace.

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Local authority and community representatives talk to a police officer at a community meeting, Tajikistan.
© Khusrav Zuhurov

and social change, and we are integrating this into our work with partners. In countries where we work, we support young women and men to research, design and deliver their own initiatives, to tackle injustice, create more equal opportunities, and improve conditions to build safer communities and for peace to take root.

This year we have developed new relationships with youth groups in Bangladesh, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen – bringing them together to discuss the issues they face, supporting their work, and helping bring voices and perspectives to the international stage.

The impact of these efforts is only one of a number of issues highlighted in this annual review – which is just a snapshot of our achievements. Marking 30 years this year, Saferworld continues to channel the exceptional skills and expertise of individuals, colleagues and partners in making a significant difference for people experiencing the stress and horrors of violent conflict and instability across the world. Building on what is now an exceptional organisational legacy, it is with

growing confidence and fortitude that I look forward to the future role we will play with others – including our partners and collaborating organisations – in making long-lasting contributions when addressing the challenging political conditions that keep societies divided, relationships unequal, and opportunities for a just and sustainable peace denied.

We will continue to shape our organisation as one fit for the new challenges ahead, constantly adapting our policies and ways of working so that we remain a relevant and credible agent of change. This includes the recent work we are undertaking to strengthen internal systems, reviewing ways to empower partnerships and promoting a positive culture around safeguarding. Like other internal developments, we remain committed to viewing the latter as a long-term organisational culture change, rather than a tick-box exercise.

We look forward to working closely with you over the next 30 years.

Paul Murphy, *Executive Director*

30 YEARS



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Saferworld launches as a politically independent research organisation.

We begin looking at broader elements of conflict such as governance, power, marginalisation, access to resources and development.

A grant from the UK Department for International Development enables us to double in size.

We work with the Kenyan government to develop two community-based policing projects.

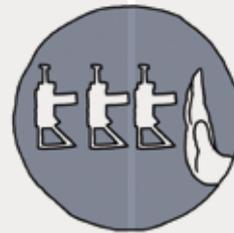
1989 1993 1994 1998 2000 2001 2002 2008

We receive our first major grant and start working on reducing and preventing small arms proliferation and misuse in a more systematic way.

After six years of research and advocacy by Saferworld and others, member states finally agree the EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports.

We help develop a Regional Implementation Plan for Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Balkans.

We launch a new programme in China focusing on arms transfer controls, conflict prevention and China-Africa cooperation.



We help to organise the first meeting between Somali civil society groups and the UN Security Council.



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© FIQ



© Karen Wykurz

Our Middle East and North Africa programme is established and work begins on Yemen.

We publish our *Community security handbook* to help policymakers and practitioners implement and improve community security interventions.

We begin a policy programme focused on peacebuilding responses to terrorism and migration.



© Saferworld

We launch our first major regional project in the Middle East and North Africa, looking at women's safety and security concerns in Egypt, Libya and Yemen.

Saferworld begins working with partners in Myanmar to improve community security and advocate for security and justice governance reform.

We establish the Conflict Advisory Unit, formalising our work on conflict sensitivity and our support to external organisations.

2010 2011 2012 2014 2015 2017 2018 2019



© Anil Poudel/Saferworld

We undertake a gender audit of all our work and begin mainstreaming a gender perspective across the organisation.



© Alexis Haulot

After 20 years of campaigning by Saferworld and others, the Arms Trade Treaty becomes international law on 24 December 2014.

With Conciliation Resources and International Alert, we launch a three-year, DFID-funded research programme on supporting more inclusive peacebuilding in a range of conflict-affected states.

We publish a report outlining recommendations for European leaders to work towards a humane model for migration.



We begin working with UN agencies, civil society and governments to ensure that peace is included in the Sustainable Development Goals, which are agreed in 2015.



© Diego Ibarra Sánchez/Saferworld

A community activist from a Saferworld partner shares information about Nepal's new federal system with people in Bahudarmai municipality, Nepal.

© GMB Akash/Panos/Saferworld



Building the best possible partnerships

Throughout Saferworld's 30-year lifespan we have put people at the heart of our approach, believing that people and communities in conflict-affected countries should lead long-term efforts for structural change and lasting peace. We work in partnership with organisations that work in and with communities affected by conflict, recognising them as best placed to create change. Saferworld has formal partnership agreements with over 60 partners in the countries where we work, and we have affiliations with many others.

In 2018–19, we took forward commitments from our strategic plan and reviewed our partnership approach. We developed a new, more reciprocal Memorandum of Understanding, to ensure our partners hold us to the commitments we make

in our partnerships, and to enable partners to have greater influence in decision-making and in determining how funds are used.

To ensure our work with partners supports them to develop as organisations, we provided spaces for peer-to-peer learning and exchange for Saferworld staff and our partners. Last year, this included learning exchange visits for our South Sudanese partners to share experiences on programming, organisational governance, finance and learning from working with communities. We also brought partners to our organisational learning event in Hargeisa. Our regional programmes pooled knowledge and experiences, shared challenges and solutions, and fostered cross-organisational collaboration and learning.

Ensuring a seat at the table: civil society voices in global policy spaces

2030 Agenda in action

Despite efforts to make global policy forums more inclusive and open, they often remain closed and inaccessible to civil society groups. Saferworld is committed to redressing this imbalance, to make sure that those most affected by conflict, injustice and exclusion can reach the decision makers involved in setting policies relating to peace and security. This includes the peace and security-related goals within the SDGs, known as SDG16+.

In March 2019, we launched a campaign together with the International Peace Institute and the Transparency, Accountability and Participation Network to showcase the ‘Voices of SDG16+’ at the international level. The campaign partners invited civil society groups – no matter how big or small – change agents and activists to submit short videos explaining how their work is contributing to peace, security, justice and equality (SDG16+). Over 150 videos were submitted from a range of contexts – from Guatemala to the Philippines, Cameroon and Afghanistan.

The 13 winning entrants were sponsored by campaign partners to participate in various events at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York in July 2019. This provided an opportunity for them to share their experiences of tackling conflict, injustice and exclusion, bringing their lived experience to a global policy stage.

The campaign was also an opportunity for us to work with other peace, development and human rights organisations – including the Life and Peace Institute, Article 19, Conciliation Resources and Peace Direct, among others – to maximise our outreach to those working on SDG16+ around the world.

In action in Somaliland

In Somaliland, there is a great appetite for civil society engagement in global policy spaces, epitomised by the decision to establish a SDG16+ Coalition of Somaliland civil society organisations. In February 2019, we supported the Chief Justice of Somaliland and our partner, the Human Rights Center, to attend the Global Justice Partners Forum in The Hague. The forum, which brought together 150 justice leaders, officials and experts from around the world, provided an opportunity for a side event on how to increase access to justice in Somaliland. The Chief Justice and Guleid Jama, a lawyer and founder of the Human Rights Center, spoke about recent developments in the justice sector and shared the experience of the SDG16+ coalition.



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Civil society represents the public and it has a vision that is different from the views of government. Including civil society from the beginning ... [and throughout all] global processes makes the Sustainable Development Goals more inclusive, more responsive and based on the needs and the demands of the public.

Guleid Jama, lawyer and founder of the Human Rights Center in Somaliland.

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Above: Participants present as part of a Voices of SDG16+ event in New York, 2019.

© Saferworld

Top: These illustrations were drawn to depict the stories of the 13 winning entrants in New York.

© ImageThink

An integral gender perspective

Understanding the links between gender, peace and security is fundamental to Saferworld's work.

Our 2017–21 strategic plan identifies five organisational objectives, one of which is to challenge and transform the gender norms that cause and perpetuate insecurity and violent conflict. We have mainstreamed gender sensitivity across the organisation and throughout our work, integrating a strong gender perspective into our community security programming, working with partners to understand the particular challenges faced by women and girls, and supporting women's participation in public debate, policy-making and peace processes.

Partnering against gender-based violence in Somalia

Following the collapse of the government in 1991, Somalia has endured decades of violent conflict. On top of these dangers, women and girls must contend with a unique set of challenges that include sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), discrimination and lack of access to justice. Despite the hardship, significant efforts by civil society organisations to better the lives of women are making a difference.

In an attempt to restore stability to people's lives, Saferworld is working in partnership with the [Somali Women's Development Centre](#) and the [Somali Women Solidarity Organization](#). The aim is to address insecurities through community groups that amplify people's voices, particularly those who are marginalised, and to help build peace from the bottom up.

Salma, a mother of nine and a member of a Saferworld-supported community action group, fled Somalia with her children after violence erupted in her home town: "I'll never forget at the border in Elwak when we met those who we were fleeing from. With us were injured people, women, children, even leaders. As we rested, we were attacked from all sides."

In 1995, Salma returned during a period of relative calm. Upon her return, she found her home occupied and no formal legal structures to claim it back. She has since lived in a camp for internally displaced people in the port city of Kismayo, where she faces ongoing insecurity. "Thieves will rape women, mothers and young girls alike, by scaring them with knives, because the houses we live in are not secure; some live in houses made of plastic canvas and iron sheets."

According to records, each month over 100 cases of SGBV are reported to the Somali Women Development

Centre. The centre provides legal assistance and psycho-social support to victims of SGBV and other forms of discrimination.

Saferworld is also supporting the formation of community action groups which act as champions for their communities' safety. Made up of 20 men and women members, they act as contact points for communities to get help in addressing their grievances, as well as working to change the attitudes of authorities and communities alike.

Asha, a mother in Mogadishu, came into contact with a community action group after her daughter was sexually assaulted on her way to evening school. "It was when we took my daughter to the hospital for treatment that I met someone who told us he would connect us to an organisation that deals with violence against women and girls. The group helped us to get justice through legal aid and a fair trial. The perpetrator was jailed for six years and fined. The counselling [facilitated by the community action group] has helped my daughter a lot. There were times when she could not even talk; she used to lock herself in the house and not eat well for days. My daughter is much better now."

Cultural gender norms in Somalia often prevent women from seeking justice. From interference of elders and families in customary law, to the absence of women within the police and judicial systems, women often bear the brunt of injustice.

"The community action groups have successfully advocated for the recruitment of women in the police service and even in the courts to handle issues relating to women in Kismayo. It was not possible for women to get their rights before the community groups got involved and I congratulate them for their efforts," explains Shukri Abdi, an elder and a member of an action group in Kismayo.

In their communities, many women's primary safety concerns were the assault and abduction of children. Asha in Mogadishu said there was a pattern of kidnapping and killing children to remove their vital organs. "We usually keep our children indoors during the evenings," she explained. Salma in Kismayo said, "I talk to my children about security. I tell them not to take sweets or money from strangers; do not go to where people are gathered; do not go to other people's houses." Concerns such as this are often identified at bi-weekly meetings hosted by the groups with the wider community. These meetings also help to raise awareness of priority concerns and to connect the police with community members to discuss individual cases and plan next steps.

As for Asha, the road ahead to get justice for her and her daughter is a long one, as the perpetrator's family continue to challenge the prosecution. But community groups have had a lasting impact on her life.

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I appreciate the efforts of the community group; they have helped heal our wounds and we would like them to stand with us until we get justice.

Asha.

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Supporting young peacebuilders to take the reins

In many fragile and conflict-affected areas, young people make up a significant proportion of the population. Young people have enormous potential to build peace in their communities but they are often denied the opportunity. Instead, they are frequently stigmatised, seen as agitators of conflict, excluded from political processes and not given a say in decisions that affect their lives.

Over the last 12 months we have supported young people in leading the work to create safer communities. Young people's efforts to promote understanding, tolerance and peace – often in areas that are hard to reach – are vital, and their work demonstrates adaptability, pragmatism and creativity. They are laying the groundwork for peacebuilding, and they are contributing to the social fabric of their communities.

Keeping hope alive: WhatsApp peacebuilding for Yemen's young people

Yemen is facing one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, after an outbreak of conflict in 2015. Thousands of civilians have been killed and millions are in need of humanitarian assistance.

Since the escalation of the conflict in 2015, Yemeni peacebuilders have had to adapt to heightened insecurity and restrictions on movement. The conflict has taken a substantial toll on young people, drastically reducing their opportunities to make a living or participate in politics. Yet across the country, many young Yemenis are working for peace and responding in innovative ways to the impact of the war.

Saferworld is supporting young Yemeni peacebuilders who are piloting the use of a peacebuilding course via WhatsApp – the most commonly used mobile messaging platform in Yemen – to help young activists stay connected and develop creative ways of coping in challenging conditions. The topics covered in the course include building resilience, how to ensure work minimises harm and contributes to peace, and relationship-building.

“It's important for youth activists to continue to do peacebuilding work – to remind people that peace is possible,” said a participant of our remote peacebuilding course in Yemen. “People are frustrated and fed up with the conflict and its impact on their lives.”



Yemeni boys play in the street in Taiz, Yemen.
© Alex Kay Potter

Using WhatsApp has allowed Saferworld to reach remote and often divided communities, and to promote trust between people who usually have few opportunities for interaction. It also places more power in the hands of those communities affected by conflict, putting them at the centre of peacebuilding responses.

After our first WhatsApp training pilot was launched in 2016, we completed a second cycle of the course in 2018. From the pilot, we learnt that it was better to have fewer course participants in each group to maintain involvement – so in the second phase we finished with 51 participants in four different groups.

We also introduced microgrants in this second phase, helping young Yemenis create their own solution-based projects. After completing the course, participants had the opportunity to apply for a microgrant of up to USD\$1,200 for a project that would make a difference in their community.

Twenty-two applications were submitted for the grants, and four were selected as winners. In addition to the money, the winners were given technical support on how to plan and deliver their projects. The projects focused on a range of issues, from providing first-aid training to waste clean-up campaigns. In one of the winning initiatives, called ‘With our Hands’, the project team provided psycho-social support for 105 war-affected children in Al-Qahirah district, in Taiz governorate. Away from violence, the project created child-friendly spaces for drawing and playing, also acting as a relaxed atmosphere for psycho-social support.

Not only do these projects fill the infrastructural gaps of the war-torn country, they also enable young people to demonstrate their skills, develop new networks and build their confidence. The project proves that encouraging people to use their skills to take control of issues that affect them and their communities can create a ripple effect. It fosters new relationships and expands confidence and creativity in adverse conditions.

Three aspects underpin the success of the WhatsApp courses: staying local, keeping hopeful action alive through microgrants and connecting it to a ‘system’ that can provide technical support. Based on what we have learnt, we are working with partners in Kyrgyzstan to run a similar training course that will help bring together young people working for peace.

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Working to promote peace and helping others is a way of self-resilience; it gives activists a rewarding feeling.

Yemeni youth activist.

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30 years on . . . progress in controlling the arms trade

Saferworld was set up in 1989 to pioneer work for more effective arms controls. Over the last 30 years, we have made significant progress in this area, advancing the systems necessary for the effective control of the international transfer of conventional arms across the world. Today, with the growing imposition of more comprehensive legal frameworks and pressure from parliaments and civil society, many states now feel under increasing pressure to deny deals that could result in serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.

One of Saferworld's most significant policy achievements to date is our contributions to the signing of the historic Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in 2013, the culmination of over 20 years' work to bring the ATT into force. The ATT is the first legally binding international instrument for the regulation of the conventional arms trade. It has the potential to bring the global arms trade under much more effective control and reduce the suffering and harm that all too often result from irresponsible and poorly regulated arms transfers.

Through our policy development, research and advocacy, Saferworld is at the heart of work to ensure that the ATT fulfils its potential. Working with civil society partners from around the globe, and drawing on long-established expertise in arms transfer controls, we mobilise and influence public and political opinion to encourage greater participation in, and better implementation of, the ATT.

Despite the progress made, the ongoing war in Yemen demonstrates the need for more work. "The supply of arms to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates for use in the conflict in Yemen demonstrates how some states are still willing to ride roughshod over the accepted principles and legal obligations that have taken so long to establish," said Roy Isbister, Saferworld's lead on arms transfer control.

We have played a central role in coordinating and mobilising civil society advocacy in the UK, the European Union (EU) and internationally, to increase pressure on states still selling arms at risk of being used in Yemen. Our role in convening the UK Working Group on Arms, the Brussels Group – a network of



European arms experts – and co-chairing the [Control Arms Coalition](#) puts us at the forefront of civil society engagement in shaping global policies and advocacy on arms control.

This has led to a change in policy from a number of European states – including [Austria](#), [Denmark](#), [Finland](#), [Germany](#), [the Netherlands](#), [Norway](#) and [Switzerland](#) – which have stopped or restricted their sales of weapons to states involved in the Yemen conflict. But several states, including the UK, refuse to shift their policies and continue to supply weapons, contributing to one of the [world's worst humanitarian crises](#).

In an environment where international cooperation and moves towards peace are facing strong challenges, it is disappointing that some states continue to either turn a blind eye or actively pursue arms sales that risk intensifying and prolonging violent conflict. If we want to achieve effective regulation of the international arms trade that complies fully with international law, the work that organisations like Saferworld have been doing over the past 30 years must continue at pace for some time to come.

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We have played a central role in coordinating and mobilising civil society advocacy in the UK, the European Union and internationally, to increase pressure on states still selling arms at risk of being used in Yemen.

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YEARS



Working with partners around the world in 2018–19: highlights

South and South East Asia highlights

Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, we disseminated the learning of our pilot programme Business for Peace with the local business community, harnessing their ability to reduce intra-communal and political violence in the country. We also did scoping research in the context of the refugee crisis in Cox's Bazar district and launched a project that aims to foster social cohesion between the host and refugee communities by empowering women and girls.



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In our engagements with authorities, we have used findings from the survey [in south-east Myanmar] to demonstrate why specific, targeted interventions are necessary to improve the security situation for communities.

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Myanmar

The Myanmar government has never fully established its security, justice or other governance mechanisms in many conflict-affected areas across the country. Many different ethnic armed organisations (EAOs) operate in these communities, with several providing these services. This has resulted in a contested security and governance landscape for communities living there.

In 2018–19, we worked with civil society and authorities in the south east to improve security and justice for communities, and advocated for security and justice systems to be more inclusive and accountable to the different needs of all gender, ethnic and religious groups in Myanmar.

With partners Karen Human Rights Group and Karen Women's Empowerment Group, we expanded our work to support 31 community groups. We supported our partner – the Karen Legal Assistance Centre – to amend laws, improve village leaders' legal knowledge and train 208 village justice providers on case reporting pathways and protection mechanisms for women. As a result, we have seen civil society groups strengthen their advocacy, and communities become more skilled and confident at bringing their security and justice concerns to government and EAO authorities. The number of cases referred to the township and district courts has increased, indicating a wider recognition of the roles and jurisdiction of justice providers at different levels. Similarly, authorities have become more responsive in addressing major concerns to make their communities safer.

Investigating perceptions of conflict

Myanmar's longest-running armed conflict between the government of Myanmar and the Karen National Union has resulted in high levels of violence, abuse and exploitation of communities. Last year, we undertook new research into the experiences of ordinary people amid the conflict. With our partner, the Karen Peace Support Network, we surveyed 2,020 people from 72 villages across south-east Myanmar on their perceptions of security, justice and governance. This was the first completely randomised survey of its kind. Eighty per cent of households reported experiences of violence or abuse by authorities during their lifetime. We noted a shift in the pattern of violations after the 2012 ceasefire, with land conflict becoming a primary concern. Only 14 per cent of respondents were confident that the peace process would lead to sustainable peace, and a majority feared that armed conflict would break out again. The findings – published in our report, *Security, justice and governance in south-east Myanmar: a knowledge, attitudes and practices survey in Karen ceasefire areas* – constitute a unique evidence base to help identify and address the root drivers of conflict and insecurity.

Following the research, we held 25 briefings to share the findings and recommendations with a range of international organisations, donors and foundations, as well as practitioners and representatives from the Myanmar government and EAO authorities. Discussions focused on how to work with the numerous overlapping state and non-state governance systems to promote security, peace and justice. In our engagements with authorities, we have used findings from the survey to demonstrate why specific, targeted interventions are necessary to improve the security situation for communities.

Nepal

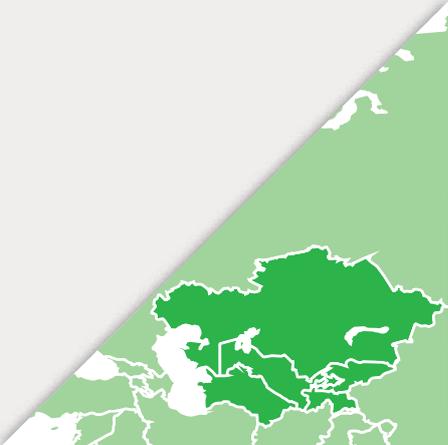
Nepal has been making a steady transition towards federalism after elections in 2017–18 for local, provincial and federal-level governments. This is a positive step, as the country looks to consolidate its relative peace and stability after nearly two decades of political conflict. However, the high expectations for delivery and the lack of understanding among citizens and newly elected representatives may pose problems. If the population becomes quickly frustrated, the country could slip back into instability and violence.

In Nepal, we worked to support federalism by partnering with civil society organisations and government officials to engage more communities and marginalised people in governance processes. We formed 16 community groups

that have been working with their local governments to push for more involvement in decision-making and to identify and resolve community-level conflict. We also established a policy group, composed of parliamentarians and civil society experts at the provincial level, to encourage interaction and address issues of marginalisation.

We published four ‘early warning, early response’ reports that analysed causes of conflict and mapped trends of violence to help prepare responses. In addition, we designed a resource pack to aid people’s understanding of the new federal system, rolling it out to 429 community members. We organised workshops on conflict and gender sensitivity for 121 civil society and community members, and we engaged with 262 elected representatives around supporting federalism.





Central Asia highlights

Kyrgyzstan

Despite the improved security situation in Kyrgyzstan since 2010, providing a stable environment for growth and development remains a challenge. The country continues to face threats to long-term peace and security, including weak governance, political instability, poor access to justice, violence against women and girls and inter-ethnic tensions. Our work focuses on community policing and community security and supporting young people to build peace.

With our partners – including the Foundation for Tolerance International – we delivered four workshops on peacebuilding responses to violence for 88 police officers and members of crime prevention centres, and we conducted 27 outreach campaigns to promote community policing to authorities and police. We met regularly with government officials to discuss Kyrgyzstan's national policies on crime prevention, and to coordinate a joint approach to community policing and community security with the crime prevention centres that we

support. The officials expressed a keen interest in continuing to work with us on crime prevention legislation.

We conducted a three-day participatory youth forum with 60 young people from remote areas of Kyrgyzstan to discuss their role in preventing violence, improving security and building peace in their communities. We trained 210 young women and men on peace, tolerance and democracy at a four-day camp for young people, and over 5,000 people participated in outreach campaigns led by young people on conflict sensitivity and alternative messages to divisive narratives. We also organised debates and theatre forums on democracy, religion and tolerance, and tours to universities for girls and their parents to give them an insight into higher education.

Tajikistan

In Tajikistan, a legacy of mistrust between police and the communities they serve has made communities feel less secure. In 2018–19, we continued to support the Ministry of Internal Affairs on its national police reform strategy and processes, with a focus on community-based policing



Members of a local crime prevention centre in Simiganj community, Tajikistan.
© Max Slaughter/Saferworld

and community security. Together with five civil society organisation partners (Association of Scientific and Technical Intelligentsia of Tajikistan, Zarshedabonu, Marifatnoki, Lawyers' Association of Pamir and Jahon), we informed more than 500 people from community groups, civil society and local authorities on community policing and security through our trainings and workshops. We supported 26 community-led action plans to address a wide variety of security concerns identified by community members. An estimated 45,000 people from across Tajikistan were impacted by the action plans, which created space for community members to raise concerns, connected them to service providers such as the police, and strengthened partnerships between community members and authorities through joint problem-solving activities.

We supported the renovation and furnishing of four community policing centres in remote regions of Tajikistan to provide safe spaces for police and communities to work together on joint plans for crime prevention and problem-solving, bringing the total number of community policing centres to 14. We worked with 30 civil society organisations to support them in

developing their communications, awareness raising and advocacy work. We also mentored them to facilitate community policing meetings and dialogue workshops within and between communities and between communities and authorities, to identify and address security issues.

We trained and supported five groups, working across different sectors in society, to identify the underlying drivers of insecurity and violence. We provided them with resources for conducting outreach and strategic messaging campaigns aimed at changing the attitudes and behaviours of community members and authorities.

Regional

In Central Asia, we began work with civil society organisations in Uzbekistan to implement a six-month pilot project on community policing and security, and convened a regional conference in June 2018 to promote community policing and security approaches in the five Central Asian countries – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Saferworld staff discuss land conflict issues with the community in Lodi village, Uganda.
© Saferworld



East Africa highlights

Kenya

Despite relative calm in Kenya throughout the year, divisive politics, corruption and insecurity continued to bring challenges. In Samburu County, as part of a project to promote sustainable pastoralism through improved rangeland management, Saferworld helped to form eight community action groups. The groups will actively resolve resource-based conflicts, such as conflicts over land, and they will work with the county government to develop policies and legislation that streamline climate governance in the planning and management of rangelands.

Two of our partners organised a pastoralist leadership summit. The summit brought together governors, members of parliament and members of county assemblies from 15 pastoralist counties, who discussed the population census (which took place earlier this year) and the boundaries review as critical areas of focus in the search for sustainable peace and development in the pastoralist areas.

In Nairobi, in an effort to improve relations between citizens of Nairobi's informal settlements and the police, Saferworld is implementing a project with partners to address high levels of extra-judicial killings in three urban settlements. The project employs collaborative approaches between civil society organisations and the state to enhance political and socio-economic justice, non-violent conflict resolution, good governance and rule of law.

To promote balanced reporting by the media, Saferworld trained journalists on conflict-sensitive reporting techniques.

Somalia/Somaliland

In Somalia, daily violence and changes in the political landscape have created a volatile environment across the country. At the national level, in Somalia and Somaliland, respective governments have become increasingly open to the role of civil society. As a result of our sustained advocacy with partners, Somaliland President Muse Bihi Abdi signed the Sexual Offense Bill to tackle sexual and gender-based violence. In Puntland, we supported civil society organisations to secure the passing of a 30 per cent quota of women in parliament.

In Kismayo, Baidoa and Mogadishu, we supported 12 community groups to develop 20 action plans for addressing safety concerns. Building good relationships between police commissioners and communities has been a priority for our work in Somalia this year. We supported 58 police advisory committee visits to police stations and conducted advocacy with senior officials. Fifty female police officers were trained and deployed to ease women's access to police services.

At the international level, as part of our global policy work, we produced research on how current counter-terror tactics in Somalia are undermining the potential for sustainable peace, and we advocated for a rights-based approach to ending the conflict. There was strong engagement with the research report from the UK government, the US Department of State and the African Union.

South Sudan

In South Sudan, we continued our work with 12 partners to implement community security and peacebuilding programmes in 20 locations across eight of the country's former ten states. Together, we worked to support



communities and civil society organisations to address the root causes of conflict, reconcile different groups and build peace – with a focus on women, young people and tackling sexual and gender-based violence. As part of this work, we set up 21 new community groups, and we trained group members on community security and peacebuilding. In addition, we facilitated 15 exchange and learning visits to connect these new groups with existing ones. We also supported 86 groups to conduct 694 regular meetings, in which they made 121 action plans to address communities' peace and security concerns.

We organised 30 community awareness campaigns and 28 dialogues within and between conflicting communities. Through these discussions, 15 conflicts over resources were resolved. Our advocacy priorities included linking up community voices to national and regional peace processes, including the revitalised peace agreement. We also mapped and worked with state-level actors, holding roundtable discussions and conferences, and producing briefing materials for national and international organisations.

Together with our partner Solidarity Association for Rehabilitation and Recovery Affairs, we brokered a successful peace agreement between the Baari and Omorwo communities. This has significantly reduced levels of violence and gives hope for an end to the seven-year conflict in Torit.

Sudan

Our work on Sudan focuses on peacebuilding and conflict transformation. Over the last year, in order to pave the way for peace, we supported partners to sustain community-led initiatives aimed at tackling the underlying conditions that give rise to conflict. Our partners are developing various ways to work with communities, such as through community action

groups. In 2018–19 these groups developed plans to address their concerns and they sought community-led solutions to problems in their communities. We also facilitated dialogue and coordination among civil society organisations and communities. Through our policy centres, we made sure that issues around peacebuilding and the causes of conflict in Sudan are on the agenda of regional and international bodies.

Uganda

Through community dialogues, outreach work, radio shows and drama performances, Saferworld continued advocating for inclusive development, equal access to resources and land rights protection for marginalised people in northern Uganda. Ten community action groups were set up to take community-owned initiatives forward. We also started a project to encourage conflict-sensitive land-based investments across five districts in northern Uganda and Karamoja. The aim is to promote a process of collaborative conflict analysis and decision-making – on conflict prevention and resolution, land rights and mining – between and among private investors, communities and authorities. As a result of community groups' advocacy, the Adjumani district government has formulated by-laws to defend the rights of marginalised groups, protect the environment and prevent illegal land sales.

Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in Uganda, Saferworld chaired a national youth symposium on SDG16 to discuss the role of young people in peace and conflict. We also coordinated a national civil society working group on SDG16+, to amplify the voices of civil society groups in high-level decision-making in relation to peace, justice and strong institutions. Additionally, we have continued to convene the National Land and Investments Working Group – a platform that steers the National Land Engagement Strategy's agenda on investments and tenancy rights.

Middle East and North Africa highlights

Yemen

In Yemen, the conflict remains volatile, despite the signing of the Stockholm Agreement in December 2018 that aimed to de-escalate the fighting. Civil society space to address the needs of the communities we work with has continued to narrow. This year we have sustained our efforts to build peace in communities by supporting locally led initiatives.

We continued working with women's action groups that have been implementing campaigns on a range of community security projects including street cleaning, lighting of public spaces, disarmament and anti-drugs. One group in Ibb successfully registered and received formal identification for 199 women in their community, overcoming a number of initial gender-related barriers; 80 to 85 of the 199 women who received formal identification are now enrolled in university or employed in some capacity. We conducted a series of interviews with Yemeni women on their experience of war, and we researched how gender roles have continued to change since the beginning of the conflict in the domestic, economic, social and political spheres.

We helped to form community groups that piloted a new participatory research methodology in their communities in preparation for their planned peacebuilding initiatives. As part of a community security assessment led by the groups, women and young people played a leading role in identifying concerns, speaking with relevant authorities and planning activities to build peace in the community.

Earlier this year, we held a conflict-sensitivity workshop with partners, during which we conducted a conflict analysis of different governorates in Yemen. We also supported a workshop for the Yemeni diaspora in the UK on their role as

peacebuilders, resulting in concrete recommendations and initiatives going forward. The learning from our community-based peacebuilding work in Yemen also informed our contributions to the First International Symposium on Youth Participation in Peace Processes, held in Helsinki in March 2019.

Regional

The regional Middle East and North Africa team also increased its engagement on Syria and Lebanon. In December 2018 we submitted an advocacy briefing with recommendations to the consultation on the 3rd Brussels Conference Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region; and in January 2019 we continued conflict-sensitivity training and mentoring for an international non-governmental organisation (INGO) partner together with Lebanese and Palestinian organisations working to support Syrian, Lebanese and Palestinian adolescents.

Piloting community-owned processes in humanitarian crises

We have invested in scalable community-owned processes with our partners in Yemen, enabling communities to rapidly undertake or scale-up their own initiatives for improving human security and community well-being. The use of microgrants and the provision of demand-led training have been key to this adaptation.

Beyond learning from our work, we are developing a joint study with Save the Children Sweden to understand how civil society in conflict-affected situations can be better supported by INGOs to serve crisis-affected people. Our aim is to identify and analyse some of the practical strategies being used by civil society organisations and INGOs. The study will examine pathways to more locally led crisis response and what these might look like in conflict-affected situations. This will put a spotlight on how locally led crisis response might change the role of INGOs in conflict-affected contexts.





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Voices from Yemen

Hiba, 27, is a mother of two from Taiz. She and her husband both suffer from speech and hearing impairments and this, combined with the challenges of living in an area of conflict, has exacerbated their sense of isolation. For Hiba, our women's project in Yemen has helped her to overcome her fears and to develop new confidence and hope.

"My mother died when I was young, so we moved from Taiz to Aden, but my father was then killed in a road accident. When I heard that someone with disabilities similar to my own wanted to marry me, I agreed. I didn't want to live alone.

"When the war began, I was so scared. I was hiding all the time. I didn't want to lose my husband as well. We had very little food. So we left our house, which then got robbed and demolished. When we came back, we had nothing, so we lived in one of the abandoned flats. It's only one room and the windows are broken. I live in fear of being kicked out.

"I have always lived in fear of everything. When I was young, I wasn't allowed to go out alone because I cannot hear, and I was bullied at school. I don't have many friends. I have one

friend but she lives far away and I cannot travel to her area alone. My husband's brother lives in Sana'a and we can't see him either because of the conflict. My husband misses his brother. Now with guns everywhere, I am so worried something bad might happen to my husband. I don't let my children play outside. It's not safe and I can't hear them.

"My cousin found out about the women's project and my husband and I enrolled. It was a new experience for me. I was happy to go simply because we got access to free food so I could bring some back for my children. But then I really settled into the group. We had an interpreter who explained everything. I felt important. I realised I was smiling the whole time I was there.

"Before I would rarely leave the house and I had little experience of talking to people outside of my family. Now I say to myself: 'I want to work; I want to gain more knowledge; I want to be strong like these other women in my group'. When I am sad and alone at home, I think about them and that I can be like them, and I start to smile again."

Weapons collected from a disarmament campaign are moved to a holding place, South Sudan.

© Pete Muller



Global policy and advocacy

From Saferworld’s conception 30 years ago as an independent research organisation, our policy work has advanced significantly but our central aim remains the same – to build a world that’s safer, more prosperous and where people can live in peace. Today, Saferworld is proud to be at the forefront of conflict prevention thinking, practice and policy development worldwide. The following highlights from our policy work during 2018–19 reflect the significant impact we are making across the globe.

Arms controls

In the past year, Saferworld’s arms control work has focused on increasing pressure on states to stop selling arms that are at risk of being used in the conflict in Yemen. We have played a leadership role among NGOs at the UK, EU and international levels to influence messaging and advocate for changes in arms export policies. At the EU, we organised a number of events addressing the crisis in Yemen, in combination with feeding into an ongoing review of the EU arms transfer control system. This included an EU-wide conference of NGOs and member state officials, and a series of events in Berlin in recognition of the role Germany is now playing on the export control issue.

We have also supported elected representatives in the UK and European parliaments to push for greater restraint in arms exports, and to influence their parliaments’ approach towards peace talks and resolutions on Yemen. This has contributed to a number of European states stopping or restricting arms sales to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

We worked with national authorities in Sierra Leone to review the country’s arms transfer control legislation, systems, processes and mechanisms, and to identify the necessary changes to boost their compliance with the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). We also looked at how the government cooperates with other countries on arms controls. We published a national action plan which sets out the objectives and activities required to get Sierra Leone to a position of full ATT compliance.

Conflict Advisory Unit

Our work on conflict sensitivity over the past year has consolidated our position as a sought-after partner on the subject. We completed 33 helpdesk tasks for the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, providing tailored support to its programmes around the world – from water management in Mali to tackling the illicit drugs economy in Afghanistan. We expanded our helpdesk services to support the Austrian Development Agency and the European Investment Bank, helping them understand and adapt to the complicated regions they work in. We also delivered conflict-sensitivity training to staff at European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations; the European Investment Bank; the EU and Europe Aid; Save the Children Syria; and to authorities, civil society and communities across South Sudan. This work has not gone unnoticed: we were invited to feed into the World Bank’s strategy development process for their new fragility, violence and conflict strategy.

After the successful pilot of the Conflict Sensitivity Resource Facility (CSRF) in South Sudan, we secured five years of funding to scale-up the programme under the new title of ‘Better Aid in Conflict’. This unique resource gathers learning from a wide range of humanitarian, development and peacebuilding individuals and organisations in the country about their successful conflict-sensitive approaches. The CSRF is supported by the governments of the UK, Switzerland and Canada and by Dutch donor missions in South Sudan. It provides tailored support – in the form of training, mentoring, and research and analysis – to aid donors, NGOs, UN agencies, contractors and academics, to help them better understand and navigate the complex conflict dynamics in the country.

We have also developed new relationships with humanitarian and development organisations, including the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions. Our work with Save the Children Sweden is supporting them to incorporate and prioritise conflict sensitivity across their portfolio. To aid this, they have asked us to rethink how they and the wider aid sector can offer support to communities that are taking control of responses to the humanitarian crises that affect them.

Sustainable Development Goals

We are now more than a quarter of the way towards the end-point of the SDGs in 2030. While global implementation has not taken place at the speed some would have liked, the past few years have seen increasing efforts to incorporate the SDGs into the policies and plans of some governments. This year, we supported this process by working with civil society organisations in East Africa to increase awareness of what difference the SDGs, particularly SDG16+ for peaceful, just and inclusive societies, can make in practice. We produced various communication materials to support this, including several videos and an infographic showing steps on how to put SDG16+ into practice. We also collaborated with a range of national and international partners to build networks and strengthen their role in driving change through the 2030 framework. As a result, we have seen governments begin to act on SDG16+, for example in Somaliland where the government has prioritised ending female genital mutilation and has increased women's political participation.



A member of a women's action group in Aden speaks at an anti-drugs awareness campaign meeting in Yemen.

© Saferworld

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Organisationally, we have prioritised supporting our staff and partners in building their skills and knowledge on gender-sensitive programming.

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Gender-sensitive conflict prevention

For our work on gender to have genuine and sustainable traction it is imperative we apply it across the breadth of our strategic vision – from policy recommendations to research, funding and community action. This year, in partnership with various other organisations, we launched ‘Beyond Consultations’ – a toolkit to facilitate the participation of women in conflict-affected states in decision-making practices, and to avoid work on gender being reduced to a tick-box exercise in consultations. With our partners in South Sudan, Somalia and Yemen, we conducted research with women and women's organisations on what meaningful participation means and on how national and international actors, including donors, consult women in their programmes and use these findings.

For two years, Saferworld has been advocating on gender, peace and security to the US government. This work recently bore fruit when the US Department of State adapted and used our *Gender analysis of conflict toolkit*. We also inputted substantially into the EU's new draft strategic approach to women, peace and security, highlighting the dangers of integrating counter-terrorism and countering/preventing violent extremism approaches into the agenda. Many of our suggestions were adopted, including the need to finance gender-sensitive conflict prevention.

UN agencies have used Saferworld's gender and conflict analysis methodologies to strengthen the focus on gender in their peacekeeping missions, and UN Women reported that they can now see a difference in how the missions are incorporating a gender perspective in their work.

Organisationally, we have prioritised supporting our staff and partners in building their skills and knowledge on gender-sensitive programming. In response to the experiences of women in conflict environments, we developed a comprehensive internal guide on dealing sensitively with people who have been affected by gender-based violence (GBV). The guide is intended for staff and partners, to help them respond to survivors of GBV, focusing on their needs and concerns. This has been essential to our work, as GBV remains a primary security concern and a major obstacle to women's empowerment and participation in the communities we work in.

Security and justice

Over the last year, 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 levels, to influence decision makers and advocate for a people-focused approach. We continued research on 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 in some contexts how they might better cooperate with formal systems. In Myanmar, we worked with non-state justice providers and civil society to increase people's access to non-state justice services. We also inputted into donor government reviews of their peacebuilding and development work, including the UK's Department for International Development's ongoing review of how it can re-engage on security and justice programming. One of the most significant successes in this period has been the launch of a three-year Strategic Plan for Judicial Reform (2018–21) by the Somaliland Chief Justice.

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Saferworld has been working to encourage more collaboration across the international community working for peace and human rights in their efforts to challenge counter-productive aspects of counter-terrorism, CVE and responses to migration.

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Peacebuilding responses

Western foreign policy is increasingly preoccupied with 'combatting' irregular migration and terrorism. In many countries, this underpins an over-reliance on military tools, support for problematic partners, and aid that focuses more on 'countering violent extremism' (CVE) than human security for the local population. In response, we have grown our public profile and policy engagement on peace and rights-based responses to crises and threats.

At the invitation of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Saferworld produced a report on how the UN works in complex environments. This was the basis for a keynote presentation at a conference for senior UN officials in July 2018, to explain the risks of counter-productive UN engagement with counter-terrorism operations.

We influenced decision makers in London, Washington DC, Brussels, Mogadishu and the UN with new research, promoting a peace and rights-based approach to ending the conflict in Somalia. In addition, we stimulated debate among donors, UN agencies and civil society groups and organisations working in Kyrgyzstan about the effects of prioritising CVE over other major peace concerns in the country.

Saferworld has been working to encourage more collaboration across the international community working for peace and human rights in their efforts to challenge counter-productive aspects of counter-terrorism, CVE and responses to migration. Over the last year, we began working with a new partner, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, along with Rethinking Security, Oxfam and others to lay the groundwork for a new initiative on security policy alternatives. We also co-hosted a public event with UK Minister for the Middle East Alistair Burt MP, focusing on the role of civil society in breaking cycles of conflict in the Middle East.

At the UK and EU levels, we continued working with policymakers and parliamentarians on the damaging consequences of current securitised migration and border control policies. Our peacebuilding perspective on the Syrian refugee crisis in Lebanon fed into EU preparations for the 2018 Brussels conference on Syria and into discussions between senior Lebanese officials coordinating the response to the Syrian refugee crisis. Our concerns about migration control 'partnerships', such as in Libya or the Khartoum Process, were recognised by the UK's International Development Committee inquiry into displacement.

In the UK, we partnered with the UN Peacebuilding Support Office to host launches of the Independent Progress Study on youth, peace and security, with over 250 people attending three events. Our work with members of the UK Labour Party has led them to consult with Saferworld on their development of a 'peace doctrine', while our work with all parties continues to shape various approaches to peacebuilding and conflict.

Saferworld staff discuss findings from the Peace Research Partnership data collection in south-east South Sudan.

© Lucian Harriman/Saferworld



Influencing global policy

Peace Research Partnership

This is the second year of the Peace Research Partnership (PRP), undertaken with our partners Conciliation Resources and International Alert. The three-year programme, funded by the Department for International Development, provides evidence, analysis and recommendations for policymakers and practitioners on how development in conflict settings can be more inclusive. It focuses on economic development, peace processes, decentralisation, and security and justice. It also looks at causes of conflict from a gender perspective, and mainstreams a gender focus throughout the research process.

In 2018, we published a report and podcast on how Kenya's devolution process has affected inclusion and conflict dynamics at the local level. We published research on security and justice providers in south-east Myanmar and their perceived legitimacy and effectiveness. In 2019, we carried out research in South Sudan through a similar lens, and we are also undertaking comparative research into the federalisation process in Somalia.

We carried out research with Yemeni partners into the changing roles of women as peacebuilders in Yemen, and a subsequent study looking at relationships within and between South Sudanese refugee and host communities in northern Uganda.

In all cases, the research and reports produced under the PRP have provided detailed evidence and nuanced analysis to the UK government and other policymakers. The findings have been presented in a series of workshops and other events, and the research evidence has been widely appreciated – in a number of cases, informing official analyses and strategies. In the third and final year of the research partnership, we will focus on working with policymakers and practitioners to translate the research findings into practical lessons for policy and programming.

Saferworld's Head of Research and Learning, Ivan Campbell, commented: "Policymakers face a variety of constraints that often prevent a straightforward response to the evidence. Our aim is to use the PRP research on inclusion as a means to engage officials in grappling with the consequences of the analysis: creatively thinking through how – despite the constraints – they can be more inclusive in their interventions in conflict settings."



European Union

The EU is an important player for peace and security. However, political currents are creating an increased focus on stemming migration and reducing terror threats to the EU. The rise of far-right parties across Europe has pushed those in power to prioritise short-term and securitised approaches to respond to external crises, with domestic concerns of member states increasingly impacting all aspects of the EU's foreign policy.

This year, our Brussels office was registered as a Belgian NGO and, since 1 March 2019, Saferworld Europe has been operational. At the EU, we fed into policy frameworks and documents to ensure they reflect our approach to peace and conflict, including in the areas of: conflict and gender sensitivity; women, peace and security; human security; and Common Security and Defence Policy missions and operations.

We briefed officials from the European External Action Service, the European Commission and EU Member States on Central Asia, Lebanon, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen. We also held meetings with them on conflict and gender sensitivity, arms export control, alternative approaches to counter-terror and outsourced migration controls.

UK

Against the backdrop of a turbulent political environment in the UK, we continued to raise issues around conflict overseas and to push for approaches that emphasise peace, rights and conflict sensitivity. We worked with parliament and policymakers to advocate for these approaches to guide the UK's actions on migration, its approach to the conflict in Somalia and the government's response to autocratic regimes.

A number of lessons from our research on counter-terror and stabilisation were reflected in the UK Stabilisation Unit's new official guidance and, as co-chair of the Bond Conflict Policy Group, we led a process of feedback to the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund on transparency, monitoring and evaluation, and contracting. We continued to work with a range of parliamentarians and organisations, including the Campaign Against Arms Trade, calling for a halt to the sale of arms that are at risk of use in Yemen and for a long-term strategy for peace.

US

In the US, we pushed for the US government to take up people-centred approaches to conflict prevention and non-violent conflict resolution. Under our new strategy, we focused on the changing contexts in Central Asia, Somalia and Sudan; Sino-American peace and security implications of the Belt and Road Initiative; and on the localisation and gender, peace and security agendas.

Staff and partners from our policy team and from our Sudan, Somalia, Kyrgyzstan and China programmes travelled to the US to strengthen policy recommendations by providing evidence-based research grounded in their experiences. They spoke on panels, hosted roundtables, and briefed congressional staff, State and Defense Department officials and staff from the United States Agency for International Development.

China

In China, we worked with government agencies, companies and other organisations to improve understanding of and compliance with international laws and good practices that limit the risk of weapons, and sensitive goods and technologies being used or diverted for illicit or irresponsible purposes. We held seminars and roundtables in Vienna and Beijing, and organised study visits to Germany and the UK. The aim was to improve national practices and encourage the sharing of international experiences and learning on strategic trade controls and compliance – bringing together government representatives, businesses and civil society experts from around the world. With assistance and input from an international expert working group, we also developed a resource manual supporting government outreach and industry compliance on strategic trade controls.

We worked with Chinese policy experts and companies to understand how China's policies and actions in countries affected by conflict could either contribute to peace or worsen conflict. We also facilitated discussions and conducted analyses on China's role in international conflict and peace issues, including through its Belt and Road Initiative.



Participants during discussions at a learning event co-hosted by Saferworld in Uganda, 2019.
© Emmanuel Museruka/Malaika Media/Saferworld

Learning and adapting

Saferworld is committed to adaptive monitoring and evaluation and a culture of learning across the organisation. Over the past year, our country programmes involved more partners in our bespoke monitoring, evaluation and learning approach, known as ‘outcome harvesting’. This approach looks at achievements, or ‘outcomes’ – usually changes in behaviour, policies or relationships – and encourages staff to come together to talk about them, learn from them and share them with other teams. Even in Yemen, where we faced challenges bringing staff and partners together, we managed to organise outcome harvesting with partners and we conducted one session in Ibb via WhatsApp. We rolled out our outcome monitoring software, the Kwantu Results App, to all teams, helping us to collect outcomes across the organisation. The app runs reports for each team, project and strategic objective. This can be displayed visually to help staff adapt their projects.

We were invited by the European Commission’s Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development to run a learning session on our theory of change and outcome harvesting systems in South Sudan. The UK’s Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) asked us to lead a session on outcome harvesting at their annual learning conference and to support other CSSF grantees to introduce the approach to their work. Other civil society organisations including Humanity & Inclusion, Integrity Action, InterNews and Peace Direct also asked us for training and support to introduce outcome-focused monitoring.

Our commitment to organisational learning led us to establish our Community Engagement Lab to foster cross-organisational learning from Pakistan, Somalia and Sudan. In July 2018, we held our first lab event in Hargeisa, Somaliland, for 43 staff and partners to share knowledge, experiences, challenges and solutions to issues around community security and partnerships.

Policy and regulations

In 2018–19, Saferworld responded to changing policies and regulations around reporting, data protection, safeguarding and terrorism.

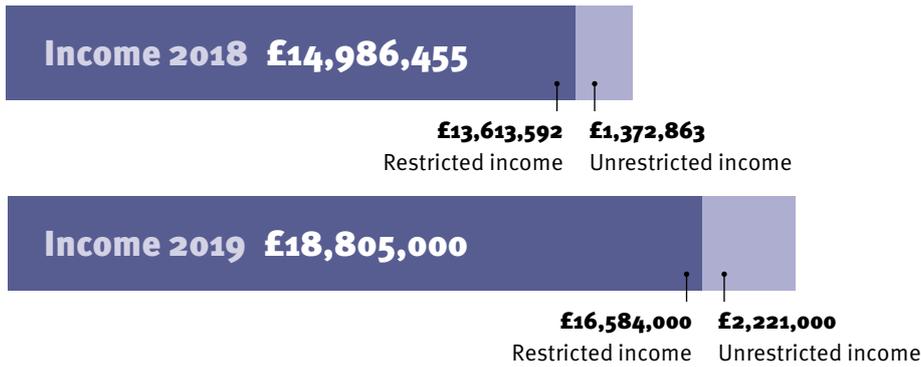
- Following the introduction of the general data protection regulation, we have worked to apply due diligence to ensure we are fully compliant with these policies by updating our privacy and transparency policies.
- We have increased our reporting in line with the International Aid Transparency Initiative requirements and institutionalised our vetting processes using the US Specially Designated Nationals And Blocked Persons List, among others.

Saferworld has a zero-tolerance policy for any type of abuse, exploitation or harassment. This year, we have made significant progress in strengthening our safeguarding policies and practices.

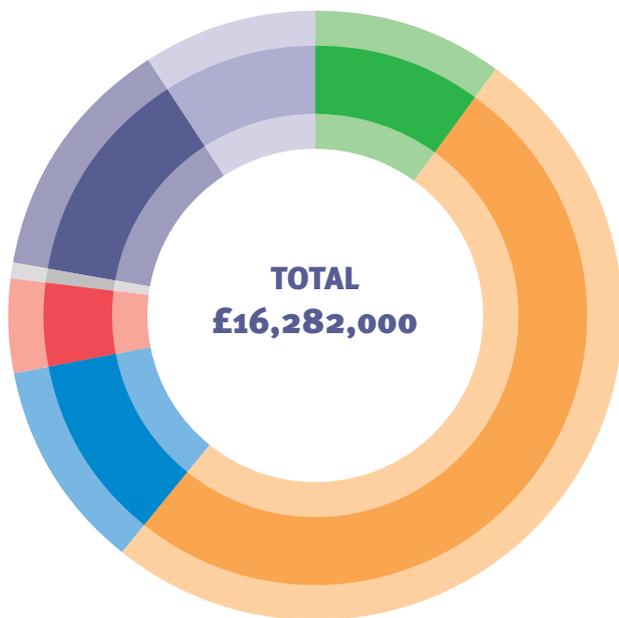
- We revised and rolled out our Safeguarding policy and procedures to all staff and partners, and amended all partner memorandums of understanding to reflect the new policy requirements.
- We appointed a board trustee to act as a safeguarding focal point to provide additional governance and oversight.
- We established a Safeguarding Working Group composed of senior management and country representatives to ensure we are embedding strong safeguarding standards in all functions and departments in the organisation. The group is leading on the development of a training pack for Saferworld staff and partners on safeguarding. This will include: a strong reflection on organisational culture and how power and gender dynamics need to shift to prevent safeguarding incidents; an overview of the types of abuse covered in our policy; Saferworld’s reporting mechanisms; and our survivor-centred approach to safeguarding.
- We have also set up a safeguarding focal point system with at least one representative in all our offices, in order to provide survivor-centred support to all staff members, partner organisation staff and programme participants with safeguarding concerns.

Financial update

This is a top-line summary of Saferworld's income and expenditure in 2018-19, taken from our full audited accounts. You can see our full accounts in our Report and accounts (available at www.saferworld.org.uk). You can also download them from the Charity Commission website.

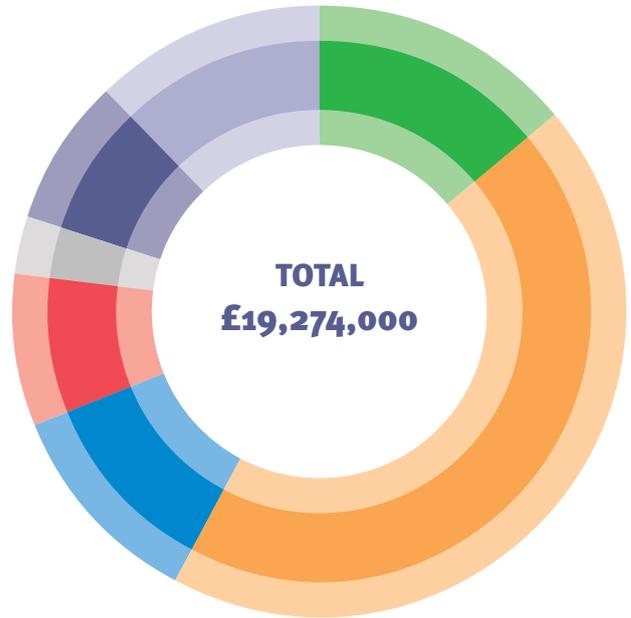


Expenditure by region 2018



Europe and Central Asia	£1,706,000
East Africa	£8,345,000
South and South East Asia	£1,787,000
Middle East and North Africa	£748,000
China	£97,000
Global policy and advocacy	£2,052,000
Core	£1,547,000
TOTAL	£16,282,000

Expenditure by region 2019



Europe and Central Asia	£2,628,000
East Africa	£8,569,000
South and South East Asia	£2,175,000
Middle East and North Africa	£1,568,000
China	£489,000
Global policy and advocacy	£1,615,000
Core	£2,230,000
TOTAL	£19,274,000

Organisations we worked with this year

- ACTED
- Alf Ba Civilization and Coexistence Foundation (Alf Ba)
- Association of Scientific and Technical Intelligentsia of Tajikistan (ASTI)
- CDA Collaborative Learning Projects (CDA)
- Center for Policy Research (CPR), University at Albany, State University of New York (SUNY)
- Centre for Conflict Resolution (CECORE)
- Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre (CWIN Nepal)
- China Arms Control and Disarmament Association (CACDA)
- China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR)
- Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation (CAITEC)
- Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament (CPAPD)
- Church and Development (C&D)
- Collective Campaign for Peace Nepal (COCAP)/NepalMonitor.org
- Community Empowerment for Progress Organization (CEPO)
- Community Initiative for Partnership and Development (CIPAD)
- Conciliation Resources (CR)
- Entrepreneurs Foundation (Rowad)
- Foundation for Human Security (Wujoood)
- Foundation for Tolerance International (FTI)
- Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
- Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC)
- Institute of Human Rights Communication Nepal (IHRICON)
- International Alert
- Isha Human Rights Organisation (IHRO)
- Jahon
- Jan Jagaran Youth Club Nepal (JJYC)
- Karen Human Rights Group (KHRG)
- Karen Legal Assistance Centre (KLAC)
- Karen Women's Empowerment Group (KWEG)
- Lawyers' Association of Pamir
- Madesh Human Rights Home (MAHURI HOME)
- Maridi Service Agency (MSA)
- Marifatnoki (Awareness)
- Nepal Madesh Foundation (NEMAF)
- Pamoja for Transformation (PFT)
- Puntland Non-State Actors Association (PUNSAA)
- Resonate! Yemen (Resonate)
- Rural Initiatives for Community Empowerment (RICE-WN)
- Samagra Janutthan Kendra (SAMAGRA)
- Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies
- Shanghai Institute for International Studies (SIIS)

- Somali Women Development Centre (SWDC)
- Somali Women Solidarity Organisation (SWSO)
- Somalia South Central Non-State Actors (SOSCENSA)
- Somaliland Non State Actors Forum (SONSAF)
- SUDIA
- Support Nepal
- swisspeace
- The National Organisation for Community Development (NODS)
- The Organization for Children's Harmony (TOCH)
- United Youth Community Nepal (UNYC)
- Young Innovations
- Zarshedabonu (Sunrise)

Our donors

- Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Austrian Development Agency (ADA)
- Danish International Development Agency (Danida)
- Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development – Canada (DFATD)
- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Embassy of Finland, Kenya
- Embassy of the Netherlands, South Sudan
- European Commission/Union
- European Investment Bank (EIB)
- Humanity United
- Irish Aid
- Joint Peace Fund
- Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Open Society Foundations
- Oxfam
- Paung Sie Facility (previously Peace Support Fund)
- Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH
- Save the Children Sweden
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- The Arms Trade Treaty Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF)
- The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust
- UK Department for International Development (DFID)
- UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
- United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (UNPBF)
- United States Department of State
- United States Institute of Peace

SAFERWORLD

Saferworld is an independent international organisation working to prevent violent conflict and build safer lives. We work with people affected by conflict to improve their safety and sense of security, and conduct wider research and analysis. We use this evidence and learning to improve local, national and international policies and practices that can help build lasting peace. Our priority is people – we believe in a world where everyone can lead peaceful, fulfilling lives, free from fear and insecurity. We are a not-for-profit organisation working in 12 countries and territories across Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

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Cover photo: Amina Arale, the Executive Director of the Somali Women Development Centre, during a learning event on community approaches to peacebuilding.

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