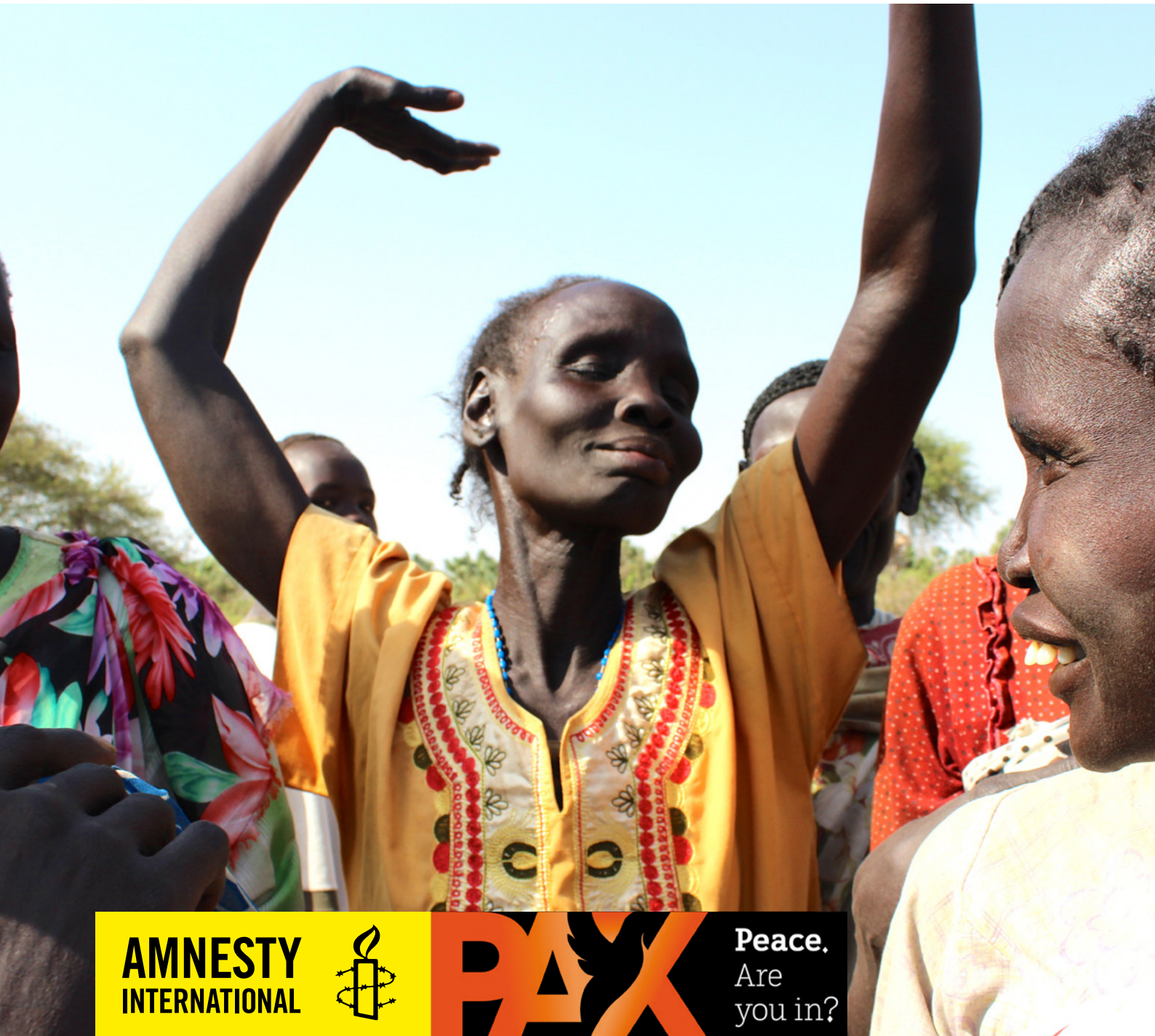


FREEDOM FROM FEAR ALLIANCE



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**DIALOGUE & DISSENT STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
FINAL REPORT 2016-2020**

Colophon

Photo cover:

PAX works with several organisations to strengthen women's leadership skills and to raise their participation in political decision-making and in handling security issues, like here in South Sudan.

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Acronyms and abbreviations

D&D SP	Dialogue and Dissent Strategic Partnership
FfF alliance	Freedom from Fear Alliance (PAX and Amnesty International NL, 2016-2020)
PoV SP	Power of Voices Strategic Partnership
SCC Alliance	Strengthening Civil Courage Alliance (ABAAD, Amnesty International NL, DefendDefenders, PAX, 2021- 2025)
ATT	Arms Trade Treaty
CBS&CR	Community-based Security & Citizens' Rights
CCM	Convention on Cluster Munitions
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
CBO	community-based organization
CSO	civil society organization
DSP	Defence and Security Policies
EU	European Union
EWIPA	explosive weapons in populated areas
FFG	Fair Finance Guide
FoRB	Freedom of Religion and Belief
HSS	Human Security Survey
ICAN	International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
IIIM	International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism
IPC	International PoC Capacities
IW	Impunity Watch
LPC	local peace committee
LRA	Lord's Resistance Army
MDR	Monitoring, Documenting & Reporting
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NVA	nonviolent activism
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OHCHR	UN Commissioner for Human Rights
PoC	Protection of Civilians
RBC	Responsible Business Conduct
RPW	Refugee Protection Watch
SGBV	sexual and gender-based violence
TJ	transitional justice
ToC	Theory of Change
TPNW	Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
UN	United Nations
UNGP	United Nations General Principles
UNITAD	UN Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes by Da'esh/ISIL
UNMISS	UN Mission in South Sudan
UNOCHA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
WHO	World Health Organization

Acronyms and abbreviations	3
<hr/>	
1. LOOKING BACK AT FIVE YEARS FREEDOM FROM FEAR	5
Contributions to change, considerations for the future	11
2. COMMUNITY-BASED SECURITY & CITIZENS' RIGHTS	17
Central and West Africa	19
Northeast Africa	22
The Middle East	25
Europe	30
3. DEALING WITH THE PAST	33
Contributions to change	35
Considerations for the future	37
4. HUMANITARIAN DISARMAMENT	39
Contributions to change	41
Considerations for the future	44
5. NATURAL RESOURCES, CONFLICT & HUMAN RIGHTS	45
Contributions to change	47
Considerations for the future	49
6. PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS	51
Contributions to change	52
The direction of the new programme	55
<hr/>	
Annex: 2020 outcomes per dialogue and dissent indicator	56

1

LOOKING BACK AT FIVE YEARS FREEDOM FROM FEAR

Commitment to peace and human rights in a changing world

In the vision of the Freedom from Fear (FfF) Alliance every human being has the right to a dignified existence free from fear, in which human rights are guaranteed. Our mission was to contribute to peace, security and respect for human rights, to the prevention and resolution of violent conflicts and to the international legal order in which security and human rights are guaranteed. With our programmes in 23 (post)conflict countries and regions during the five years of the Dialogue & Dissent Strategic Partnership, we aimed to contribute to the goal of 'just, peaceful and inclusive societies' (SDG16), where all citizens enjoy access to justice, are free from violence and insecurity, and have trust in effective, accountable and inclusive governmental and civic institutions.

This report presents a selection of the alliance's many positive contributions to change over the past five years, from conflict resolution and tangible improvements in security at community level, to protection of civilians in conflict and supporting victims of violence in their efforts for truth, justice and reparations, to the adoption of policies and treaties which control or prohibit the use of controversial weapons that cause immense human suffering.

Few of these changes were easily achieved. The regions where we focused our efforts are known for their complexity and volatility: from the local community up to the national level, the political and security situations are highly dynamic. In several instances, we had to adjust our strategies or activities, and accept that some changes we had hoped to achieve will take longer to materialize. Sometimes the security situation became so dire that our partners had to temporarily halt or refocus their human rights and peacebuilding work. In the last year of the strategic partnership, the Covid-19 pandemic challenged us to quickly adapt our ways of working together with our partners to respond as best as possible to the new situation (see box 1).

Beyond the country-specific challenges, a general trend that compels us to think critically about our work and strategies, is a shift in the dominant global political discourse and the framing of conflict – away from peace, human rights and democratization towards state security. Increased authoritarianism and ethno-nationalism, as well as extremism, make it more difficult to create the best conditions possible for sustainable peace. The fierce repression of civic space in many countries where we work affects the political role of civil society. This particularly impacts vulnerable groups, including women, who suffer from exclusion and inequality. Exclusion from justice and security forms a breeding ground for violent mobilisation of group grievances, especially where human rights violations take place and the state lacks capacity or legitimacy. This fuels a deep distrust among citizens and between citizens and state authorities.

The international community is selective in its condemnation of states that actively limit civic space and create obstacles for peace and human rights. Moreover, European governments which traditionally acted as advocates of human rights, enact foreign policies that curb civic space. Not only states but also companies are responsible through their involvement in arms trade, the deployment of controversial weapons and human rights violations associated with the exploitation of natural resources.

We see an important task for ourselves in the years ahead in challenging the new dominant discourse by more proactively advancing our vision on how the protection and promotion of human rights, access to justice and inclusive peacebuilding must go hand-in-hand, also at the international level. In our vision, civil activism plays a vital role in the creation of peaceful and inclusive societies. Our confidence in this vision is strengthened by the positive developments that we also witnessed in the past five years. The Black Lives Matter movement created new opportunities for activism against racism and discrimination across the world. The global movement to stop climate change continues to gain traction and pays more attention to the linkages between climate change, conflict and human rights. Also, in countries where we work, such as Sudan, non-violent civilian activism brought about major shifts in political power. In these movements, young women and men from all backgrounds are at the forefront of those speaking out against inequality and polarization. They are unyielding in their call for more inclusive societies where the wellbeing and rights of all generations, as well as the health of our planet, are safeguarded.

Theory of Change

In our application for the strategic partnership¹, we described the interrelationship between five themes:

- 1→ Community-based Security and Citizens' Rights
- 2→ Dealing with the Past
- 3→ Natural Resources, Conflict and Human Rights
- 4→ Humanitarian Disarmament
- 5→ Protection of Civilians

By intervening in these themes, we help to create five vital transformative processes in fragile and conflict-affected situations (see visual on page 7):

¹ See Application Alliance Freedom from Fear, pages 83-86.

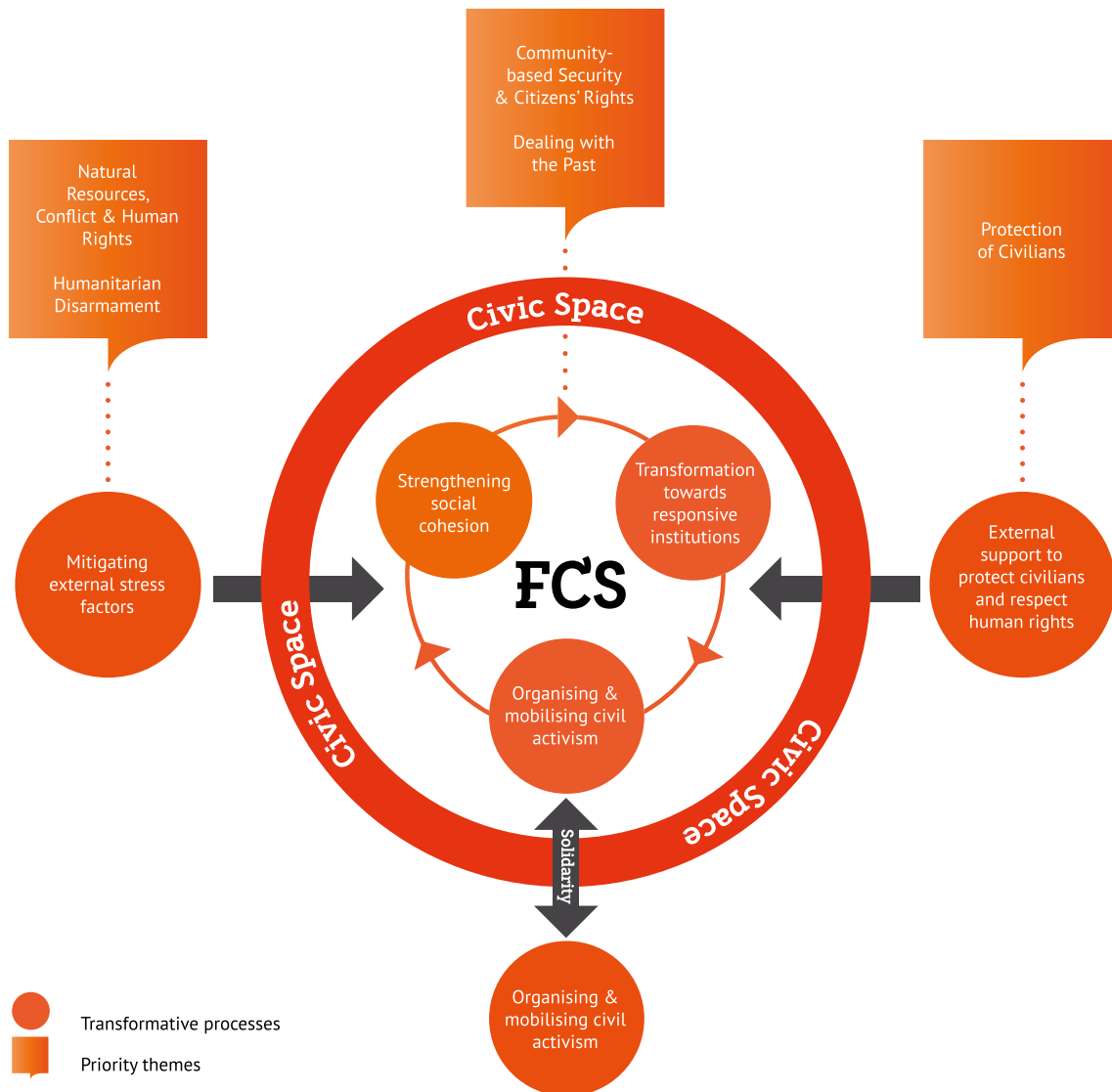
- 1→ *Organization and mobilization of civil activism*: without pressure from an organized civil society, political elites often feel insufficiently compelled to enter into or renew the social contract with their citizens. International interconnectedness and solidarity play a key role in the organization of civil activism, which includes both defenders of human rights and peace activists. However, the power of citizens to bring about change is also limited by repressive measures which restrict the political space. By working together and reinforcing their capacities, citizens can become 'civic change agents' and can contribute to structural change as a counterforce to the state and the corporate sector.
- 2→ *Strengthening of the social cohesion within society and between and within and among hostile groups*: the lack of social cohesion feeds mutually reinforcing processes of further fragmentation of society on the one hand, and a weakening of the state on the other. Social cohesion is essential in order to stop this negative spiral.
- 3→ *The reformation of the state into responsive and legitimate institutions*: a legitimate state which offers its civilians security, access to justice and employment plays a crucial role in stopping the vicious circles of violence and injustice. Inclusive political processes, dialogue between civilians and the state and the development of a resilient society are necessary in order to fashion a social contract. This requires interventions with a view to the position of vulnerable groups, including women, minorities and young people.
- 4→ *Mitigation of external stress factors*: international arms trafficking, the use of controversial weapons and the irresponsible exploitation of natural resources increase the risk of violence and human rights violations. Strengthening the resilience to these factors reduces the risk of armed conflict.
- 5→ *Mobilization of international support for the Protection of Civilians and compliance with human rights*: the development of social cohesion in society and responsive and legitimate institutions requires support from the international community. By identifying the human security interests of civilians and their communities, and supporting local communities in their dialogue with international peacekeeping missions, we help the international community to act on its responsibility to protect the security of civilians and their human rights.

In our programmes, the interventions in the areas of Community-based Security and Citizens' Rights and Dealing with the Past contribute to the transformative processes in societies (1, 2, 3). The interventions in the areas of Natural Resources, Conflict and Human Rights, and Humanitarian Disarmament help to mitigate external stress factors (4), while the interventions in the field of Protection of Civilians contribute to the provision of external support for the protection of civilians and compliance with human rights (5).

Gender inequality and harmful gender norms are also conflict drivers. Violent conflict reinforces gender stereotyping and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). There is a positive correlation between gender equality and peace. Women's participation and influence in peace processes increase chances of success. Over the past five years, we have strengthened our inclusive programming by focusing on more equal gender roles and relationships and the transformation of harmful gender norms. This is integrated into all themes and programs.

For each theme, the theory of change was specified, strategic objectives were formulated and translated into intended outcomes (see chapters 2 to 6). Over the past five years we have adjusted strategies and tactics to realise the intended outcomes. Looking back we can conclude that the essence of our theory of change has remained highly relevant. In a number of areas, such as the responses to shrinking civil space, our theory of change is even more relevant than ever.

Theory of Change Alliance Freedom from Fear



FCS Fragile and conflict-affected situations

Cooperation within the strategic partnership

The D&D strategic partnership between the Freedom from Fear Alliance (PAX and Amnesty International NL) and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs built on cooperation at three levels. First and foremost, PAX and Amnesty cooperated with our many partners who work in the (post)conflict areas in the Middle East, Africa, Europe and Latin America. Their commitment is what keeps our vision alive, their resilience is what keeps our work going. Our key achievements are due to this cooperation, and the understanding of local conflict dynamics and opportunities for interventions and advocacy that our partners bring to the partnership.² Equally vital are the coalitions of likeminded organizations that we work with at the international level, to advance human rights and humanitarian disarmament objectives. Lessons learned about the collaboration with this diversity of partners are included in this report.

² It is Amnesty policy to never mention partner names in public reports. In this report, we applied this same policy for all partners (Amnesty and PAX).

Secondly, the cooperation between PAX and Amnesty primarily focused on capacity building, but stretched out beyond the strategic partnership to joint advocacy and campaigning.³ On capacity building, the intended cooperation was effective in some countries, but did not materialise in all countries, due to differences in partner strategies and partners' advocacy agendas. The collaboration was deepened through a joint workshop in Noordwijk in 2019, where we clarified our interpretations of peacebuilding and human rights concepts and approaches, and further investigated how we can enhance their complementarity for maximum impact and effective programming. The workshop insights laid the foundation for the continuation of the Amnesty – PAX collaboration in the Strengthening Civil Courage (SCC) alliance under the new Power of Voices (PoV) strategic partnership.

Thirdly, the collaboration between the alliance and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs focused mainly on shared topics of interests, including the protection of civilians, human rights of Syrian refugees, and the security situation in the Sahel. The collaboration was further deepened through the linking and learning programme of the Ministry. We had anticipated that collaboration with the Embassies in the programme countries would get a boost through the strategic partnership, for instance on the protection of human rights defenders and responses to the shrinking of civic space, but this did not materialize as hoped for.

How to read this report

The end of the strategic partnership provided a natural opportunity to reflect on the past five years. In addition to our annual outcome harvesting exercises, seven reflection sessions were organized in April 2021 where PAX and Amnesty staff spoke about what we achieved and can build on in the future, and about what should be adjusted or let go of, in terms of our interventions, collaboration with partners, and our objectives and underlying assumptions. The insights from these sessions are woven into this report.

Each thematic chapter includes a separate box with the Theory of Change and strategic objectives, and an infographic that presents the key contributions to change that were achieved across the different projects that were implemented for this specific theme. These infographics reflect our qualitative analysis of the outcomes that were harvested over five years across all projects implemented under the specific theme. The colour-coding used indicates the level at which changes took place, e.g., at community or CSO level, at the level of local or (inter)national governments and judicial institutions, or with corporate and financial actors. The results and changes that we achieved often represent significant stepping stones towards a long-term goal of improved human security and human rights. We have tried to identify trends across the many context-specific results and changes observed, to be able to tell a story about the relevance of our work that goes beyond the achievements of individual projects. These trends were validated during the reflection sessions. In the narrative of each thematic chapter, we illustrate the trends captured in the infographic with stories of change from different countries. Each chapter also includes a section on considerations for the future, which again was inspired by the reflection sessions. In line with previous annual reports, the Annex lists the 2020 outcomes according to the Dialogue and Dissent indicators.

³ Such as on the Fair Banking and Fair Pension guides and the banking covenants. NB. Amnesty did not use the D&D SP funds for their lobby and advocacy activities, as it is Amnesty policy to only use government funding for human rights education purposes, which under this partnership was limited to the capacity-building and support of local partners.

Box 1: Impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted the work of the alliance throughout the last year of the strategic partnership. First and foremost, the pandemic has both illustrated and exacerbated inequalities worldwide, burdening communities in conflict disproportionately. People in conflict situations are extra vulnerable, for example because they have no access to proper health services (because hospitals are not functioning or have been bombed), or because they live in overcrowded refugee camps. Furthermore, in many countries with a violent past and where the fight against impunity is imperative, governments have used the pandemic to curtail the rights of victims and the civil liberties of their citizens more broadly. In Colombia, for instance, the already existing risks for victims of gross human rights violations associated with coal mining to participate in processes of truth, justice and reparation due to a lack of security guarantees, have been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic and related isolation measures, giving armed groups an opportunity to strengthen control over territories and populations.

Even if human rights were not actively being curtailed under the pretence of fighting Covid-19, policy makers' preoccupation with the pandemic, and the associated public health and economic challenges, made them less receptive to advocacy on peace and human rights issues. It equally affected progress in other areas of work of the alliance. For instance, the negotiations between over 70 states on a political declaration about the humanitarian impact of explosive weapons in populated areas, were paused due to Covid-19.

On a positive note, many of our partners in conflict countries proved extremely flexible in adapting to the new situation. We are in awe of their resilience and determination to continue their work, or quickly shift to Covid-related priorities, despite the new and increased obstacles. In Iraq, the local peace committees established as part of our programme immediately started to cooperate with local governmental health departments to conduct awareness raising sessions. They initiated social media campaigns on preventive measures as well as on the topic of sexual and gender-based violence, which was signalled to increase as a result of the lockdown (see also chapter 2). Our partner in Lebanon published a research report on the impact of Covid-19 on the Freedom of Thought, Religion and Belief and human rights, with the contribution and engagement of over fifty young people from all over the country. The [Refugee Protection Watch project](#), a collaboration between PAX and partners in Lebanon, issued a policy brief specifically on the catastrophic consequences of the double burden of the economic crisis and Covid-19 on Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

Finally, our local partners quickly adapted their working methods and tools, by organizing online courses, webinars, and meetings to continue joint learning as well as advocacy. Victims' organizations supported by Impunity Watch in Guatemala, for instance, learned to use virtual tools to continue their struggles and resistance. We realized that the increased digital means of organising international advocacy, consultation and training activities had a significant upside: these events became more accessible because travel restrictions or obtaining a visa no longer presented hurdles for participation. For partners and activists from, for instance, Iraq and Syria this opened new possibilities for voicing their concerns, and contributing to shared learning events.

For PAX and Amnesty staff in the Netherlands, the Covid-19 pandemic made it more difficult to keep abreast of developments in project countries because of the lack of face-to-face conversations with local partners. While PAX and Amnesty staff continued at the best of its ability to remotely engage with its partners, Covid-19 did delay programme implementation because, for instance, skills training activities that required international travel by Amnesty staff, trainers or participants could not be implemented. The impact of Covid-19 was felt most strongly in cases where digital infrastructure was insufficient to maintain efficient channels for exchange of information, insights and conclusions with partners. On the other hand, the increased use of digital communication allowed the alliance to include more participants from different countries in meetings and events. These experiences will inform our strategizing for future partnership models and local ownership, while restricting CO₂-emissions as a result of less traveling.

Contributions to change, considerations for the future

The remainder of this first chapter provides a brief overview of key contributions to change that were achieved across themes and countries, and the associated considerations that are taken on board for future programming and collaboration between the alliance partners.

1. Results achieved in terms of improved human rights and peacebuilding, especially at the local level, present significant stepping stones towards human security

In policy circles, there is increasing recognition for the importance of locally owned efforts towards building lasting peace. The alliance's long track record in working with local actors and leaders, human rights defenders, community groups, and through multi-stakeholder structures has contributed to positive results in the past five years in terms of conflict resolution and (re)building social cohesion in divided societies. This bottom-up work always starts from a thorough understanding of the local conflict dynamics, the human rights situation and people's priorities for peace and justice. Women and youth were capacitated to strengthen their contribution to these processes, which are stepping stones towards improved human dignity, human security and human rights. Examples of results achieved across countries in Africa, the Middle East and Europe are discussed in chapter 2.

Considerations for the future:

- ◆ We will continue working with and through a diversity of partners in (post)conflict countries, and strengthen existing practices with regard to local ownership. We build on the positive results of working with community-based organizations (CBOs) and leaders who are strongly rooted in and trusted by their communities, and who therefore enjoy the legitimacy to speak on their behalf and have the capacity to mobilize key local stakeholders.
- ◆ We will continue to work with women and youth, who proved to be skilled conflict mediators and instigators of positive change, and support their empowerment. At the same time, we will strengthen our inclusive programming by focusing not only on gender, but on intersecting identities that play a part in how people experience conflict and the roles they can play in building peace (e.g. cross-cutting age, gender, religious, ethnic, and political-ideological identities). Meaningful decisions about inclusion of different groups and identities should always be based on a thorough analysis of local conflict dynamics.

2. CSO partners and human rights organizations have more influence as a result of capacity and coalition building

Capacity development was a central aspect of our work in the past five years. Amnesty, PAX and local partners have supported, trained and coached local CSOs and human rights groups and organizations in a wide range of skills and knowledge areas (e.g., Monitoring, Documenting and Reporting (MDR), lobby and advocacy, dialogue and mediation, transitional justice mechanisms, evidence-based research and case building, citizen mobilization, organizational strengthening, and last but not least, digital and physical security). Their strengthened capacities and confidence have paid off in observable gains in credibility and leverage with local and national authorities. Our support to improved coordination, networking and coalition building initiated by CSOs nationally, has further strengthened our partners' leverage and influence.

Considerations for the future:

- ◆ Long-term relationship building with partners and offering moral support as well as coaching and follow-up training are vital to strengthening civil society in conflict settings.
- ◆ Physical safety and digital security training and support will be a specific point of attention and integrated into capacity development programmes for CSOs and human rights organizations.
- ◆ Capacity development is a mutual process. Under the Strengthening Civil Courage (SCC) alliance, PAX and Amnesty (as well as the two new alliance partners, ABAAD and DefendDefenders) will strengthen joint learning trajectories with partners and expand (inter) national linking and learning opportunities between partners. We will mitigate obstacles to ensure equal power relations and commit to making all important strategic decisions in consultation with our partners.

3. In specific cases, government and legal authorities responded with positive action to our partners' lobby and advocacy on the protection of human rights, access to (transitional) justice, and inclusive governance

Lasting improvements in human security and human rights require the positive involvement of state, security and legal authorities, as they ultimately create the enabling environment for the protection of human rights, for peace, and for securing truth, justice and reparations for victims of violence and human rights violations. Through persistence and smart, long-term strategizing, our partners have achieved important results by engaging local and national-level authorities. This has led to more inclusive local governance, government participation in multi-stakeholder platforms for conflict resolution, legal action or policy changes towards the protection of human rights, and cooperation with legal transitional justice institutions. Specific country examples are discussed in chapters 2, 3 and 6. In several countries, the cooperation between the alliance and embassies has been important in translating lobbying and strengthening the position of civil society toward the authorities. In other instances, however, authorities in (post)conflict situations remained reluctant, or refused, to engage in dialogue with civil society actors.

Considerations for the future:

- ◆ Building on our knowledge of the particular challenges of involving state actors, PAX and Amnesty will strengthen the capacities of staff and/or local partners to engage with state actors in conflict areas, and strengthen strategies for trust-building, and where possible cooperation, between citizens and authorities.
- ◆ Building on the experience of the past five years, we will strengthen the collaboration and division of roles between Amnesty, PAX and our local partners to achieve more effective lobbying of state authorities based on high-quality MDR of human rights violations.
- ◆ In response to increased repression of civil activism in many countries, we will invest even more in mobilizing the capacities of civil society groups and organizations to act as a pressure force and strengthen their networks both nationally and internationally.
- ◆ We will build on positive experiences with including government actors in multistakeholder approaches for conflict resolution (e.g., on regional conflicts in Central and Northeast Africa).

4. Support to (networks of) nonviolent activists contributed to a momentum of change

In areas where active war and violence, or harsh repression of civil society, made formal CSO activity near impossible, support to the tireless and courageous efforts of individual nonviolent activists and their networks has had a significant impact. These activists have contributed to nonviolent protests that ultimately led to regime change (Sudan), and to improved social cohesion and building a culture of nonviolence through education (Syria) and through the arts and culture (Syria, Israel/ Palestine and Lebanon). Supporting these activists, who may be loosely organized in (digital) networks and are often forced to work underground, required flexibility in terms of the support and capacity development we could offer. It resembles the work PAX did in the 1980s when we set up national and European solidarity networks for and with the dissidents in the Warsaw Pact countries. Given the enormous relevance of this work, we call on donors to extend the possibilities for such innovative and flexible programming. Specific country examples of this work are discussed in chapter 2.

Considerations for the future:

- ◆ We will strengthen our efforts for linking up partners to enhance their resilience, safety and influence in situations where repression of civic space is increasing. This includes creating spaces (physical & virtual) where activists, including women and youth, can come together to exchange and learn from each other, give and receive moral support, and build new alliances.
- ◆ Building on our growing experience with supporting activists and their networks, we will invest in strengthening strategies to help them increase their political influence. This requires responding to the strengths, restrictions and opportunities of local activist initiatives in their specific contexts. Supporting the organic growth process of movements that have local legitimacy and impact is explicitly different from building formal NGO structures.
- ◆ To get a better grasp of the impact of our support to this type of informal nonviolent activism, which is typically difficult to measure and attribute, we would like to invest in long-term monitoring, following up with activists networks for periods of at least five to ten years.

5. Evidence-based lobby together with local partners on human rights violations and war crimes, and the Protection of Civilians influenced state actors and multilateral organizations

In the past five years the Fff alliance and partners effectively lobbied state actors and multilateral agencies (EU, UN) on their responses to conflicts and human rights violations, including war crimes. Our [Siege Watch](#) reports on Syria, [Iraq Alerts](#) (with Impunity Watch), [Sudan Alert](#), and more recently the [Refugee Protection Watch](#) reports on Syrian refugees in Lebanon, are among those that influenced political discussions within the Dutch government, the UN General Assembly, and the EU. Through our International PoC Capacities (IPC) and Defence and Security Policies (DSP) projects, we ensured that military missions and policymakers at the UN, NATO, EU and elsewhere remained interested in locally-informed data and policy guidance on the protection of civilians (PoC), based on the [Human Security Survey \(HSS\)](#) methodology implemented in Iraq and South Sudan. Our political liaisons based in New York and Brussels contributed to all aspects of this lobbying, which is always based on high-quality and locally informed research and monitoring of human rights violations, or of the implementation of peace agreements (e.g. Colombia). Examples of this research-based lobby process and its results are found in chapters 2 and 6.

The [Siege Watch](#) reports monitored and documented the systematic nature of the sieges in Syria. Photo: Moayed al-Hafi Ghouta Medical Centre



Considerations for the future:

- ◆ We will keep investing time and resources in high-quality research which systematically integrates the knowledge of our partners, evidence of human rights violations documented by organizations capacitated by Amnesty, as well as first-hand information from networks of activists on the ground ('citizen science').
- ◆ Building on our track record, we will continue investing in opportunities to conduct lobby together *with* rather than *on behalf* of our partners, as this significantly strengthens the legitimacy, credibility and influence of our political messages and policy recommendations.
- ◆ PAX's new programme on the Protection of Civilians (funded by the MFA for the period 2019-2023) is instrumental for increasing our opportunities to effectively engage international policy and security actors on our HSS findings and its implications, building on the efforts initiated during the D&D SP. In addition, PAX has seized new opportunities for active engagement on new civilian harm tracking, analysis and response mechanisms, working with a variety of expert partners.

6. Victim groups are empowered to participate in transitional justice processes, and to demand truth and reparations from companies involved in human rights violations

Inclusive and victim-centred processes to deal with a violent past, which contribute to truth, justice and reparation, are indispensable for sustainable peace. The work of PAX, Amnesty and Impunity Watch has focused on promoting this inclusivity. We contributed to the empowerment of victim groups and organizations through capacity development (e.g., on dialogue and mediation, TJ knowledge, monitoring and case building, physical & digital security), by providing psychosocial support, as well as by lobbying for the provision of security guarantees. Finally, movement building both nationally and internationally has been an important strategy for increasing the resilience and influence of victim groups. As a result of these combined efforts, victim groups have strengthened their lobby and advocacy influence. In certain cases, they observed that state and legal authorities, as well as corporate actors implicated in human rights violations, were increasingly receptive to dialogue and recognizing the importance of victims' narratives. Examples of these achievements are discussed in chapters 3 and 5.

Considerations for the future:

- ◆ Through our work with Impunity Watch, local partners and victims' organizations we have acquired expertise in dealing with the inevitable dilemmas about which combination of TJ strategies and elements best fits which context (see chapter 3). We will systematize these experiences and develop policy frameworks to guide our staff and partners in the strategic development and implementation of context-specific, victim-centred trajectories for dealing with the past.
- ◆ We will continue to develop and test strategies to engage actors who oppose transitional justice altogether, or who are unwilling to contribute to TJ processes that are meaningful for victims and designed to attend their needs.
- ◆ We will continue our breadth of support to victims' organizations, and pay specific attention to linking local victims' organizations to national organizations and institutions, as well as to international exchanges and movement building, to increase their safety, learning, and influence.



In October 2020, the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons reached the required 50 states parties for its entry into force. Photo: Aude Catimel

7. International campaigning and lobby of state actors and multilateral organizations has resulted in significant strides forward towards the prohibition of controversial weapons and regulation of arms trade

In the past five years, PAX continued our proven combination of evidence-based research and monitoring of the impact of controversial weapons on human suffering, public campaigning, and national and international lobbying of state actors and multilateral organizations, who have the power to translate progressive views on humanitarian disarmament into binding laws and treaties. The highlight was the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in July 2017, which entered into force in January 2021. This result exemplified a vital strength of our work, that is, smart coalition-building and joint strategizing with likeminded organizations and activists internationally. We continued to invest in the leading role we play in the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), the Control Arms Coalition, Cluster Munition Coalition, Campaign to Stop Killer robots, and the International Network on Explosive Weapons. As a result, more states ratified international treaties (e.g., CCM and TPNW), and governments and parliaments increasingly called for political discussions, or for the negotiation of an international political declaration (EWIPA), on the financing, development, production and/or trade of specific controversial weapons, including new weapons technologies (armed drones and killer robots). Our research-based lobbying on arms trade related to the conflict in Yemen had a tangible impact on arms exports, and on wider EU discussions on arms trade to fragile states. More strategies and results are discussed in chapter 4.

Considerations for the future:

- ◆ We will invest in seeking more diversity in the membership of our international coalitions and networks, ensuring that they are more representative of the conflict regions where controversial arms cause human suffering. Positive experiences with effectively lobbying together with our Yemenite partner in the Control Arms coalition will be built on, for instance, for engaging partners from the Sahel.
- ◆ We will continue to invest in designing lobby strategies around countries that are scarcely, or not at all, receptive to arguments about international norms on controversial weapons, such as China, Russia, and the United States.

8. Significant results were achieved by targeting financial institutions to use their influence over controversial weapons producers and over extractive industries involved in gross human rights violations

In the past five years, we have strengthened our lobby and campaigning strategies of leveraging the financial sector for the benefit of humanitarian disarmament and the protection of human rights. As a result, financial institutions have adopted policies that forbid investments in companies associated with the production of controversial weapons or arms trade. They have also started implementing due diligence processes based on the OECD Guidelines and UNGPs. In several cases, this led to divestments in companies whose operations are prohibited according to international treaties (CCM, TPNW), are associated with controversial arms trade, or who are implicated in gross human rights violations (especially coal mining companies in Colombia). Our tactic of encouraging a 'race to the top' for financial institutions that adopt comprehensive policies and/or actively divest from such companies, is clearly paying off. Our key tools for this are flagship monitoring reports ([Don't Bank on the Bomb](#), [Worldwide Investments in Cluster Munitions](#)) and the [Fair Finance Guide](#), combined with publicly stigmatizing controversial weapons, or naming and shaming specific companies implicated in human rights violations. Investors and other financial institutions explicitly reported that our research, lobby and campaigning informed and influenced their divestment decisions. Specific results are reported in chapter 5.

Considerations for the future:

- ◆ Our increased involvement in business and human rights issues in conflict-affected areas, prompted the need for new capacity building methodologies and tools for our partners, which will be piloted by Amnesty, and for improving our own methodologies.
- ◆ As part of those new methodologies, we need to decide where we will focus our future efforts - on contributing to the development and implementation of soft or hard law, or both.
- ◆ In addition to targeting financial institutions, we will also continue to contribute our expertise to the development of enhanced human rights due diligence standards for companies operating in conflict-affected and high-risk areas.

2

COMMUNITY- BASED SECURITY & CITIZENS' RIGHTS

Theory of Change:

Rebuilding social cohesion within and between communities is vital to achieving durable, peaceful solutions to violent conflict. And so is restoring trust between citizens and the authorities. By supporting our partners in building bridges between (antagonistic) communities, we contribute to the peaceful resolution of conflicts and therefore to social cohesion within societies. By engaging with or increasing pressure on local authorities, the military and police, we contribute to the development of a responsive and legitimate state and space for civil activism.

Strategic Objectives:

- ◆ Civil change agents and their communities contribute to social cohesion by facilitating dialogue and negotiation processes between antagonistic groups.
- ◆ Civil change agents engage and increase pressure on their government for reforms to create responsive and legitimate institutions that protect human security and human rights.
- ◆ Civil change agents put pressure on governments, while mobilising the international community, to improve the enabling environment for civil activism.

CBS&CR represented the largest part of the Freedom from Fear programme. This chapter discusses the highlights of how the programme contributed to change in the four regions where projects were implemented: Northeast Africa, West and Central Africa, the Middle East and Europe. Each of the four region-specific sections in this chapter starts with an infographic that reflects our analysis of the key contributions to change. Below, we first share some overall observations about the progress of the CBS&CR programmes over the past five years.

The analysis of the results of CBS&CR projects implemented in 17 countries, reveals that *the most tangible results were achieved at the local community/municipality up to provincial level*, by addressing human rights violations and contributing to conflict resolution within or between communities, as well as between communities and local authorities. There are examples of this in all countries where we worked. In terms of *results at the level of government and legal authorities and the responsiveness of their institutions*, the analysis shows that in several countries our CSO partners were successful in their lobby and advocacy, leading to policy and legal changes, or an improved implementation of policy reforms, as a result of their increased leverage and collaboration, often through more inclusive decision-making processes (e.g., DRC, Iraq, Kosovo, Ukraine). However, engaging with and influencing of government actors to contribute to more responsive and legitimate institutions, proved more challenging than anticipated at the start of the D&D SP.

The CBS&CR projects reveal once more the complexity of local dynamics in terms of political histories, security and safety, as well as age, gender and religious identities. This compels us to contextualize our interventions. Across the four regions, programme support was therefore offered to different types of actors:

- ◆ Incipient as well as established CSOs and human rights organizations (nearly all countries)
- ◆ CBOs and informally operating community groups and or women's / peace committees (e.g., DRC, South Sudan, Uganda, Iraq and Kosovo)
- ◆ Individual nonviolent activists and human rights defenders and their networks, especially in areas where active war and violence, or harsh repression made formal CSO activity very difficult (e.g., Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and Sudan)
- ◆ Local government officials (e.g., Ukraine and Kosovo, DRC, Iraq)

To achieve positive changes in community-based security and human rights we supported these different actors in strengthening their organizational capacity; in signalling conflict and facilitating inclusive, multistakeholder approaches to conflict resolution and peacebuilding through improved dialogue skills at community, provincial as well as regional (cross-border) level; in building evidence through improved Monitoring, Documentation and Reporting (MDR) skills to feed into lobby and advocacy efforts; and in joint lobby and advocacy strategizing and national coalition building. Our continued support to evidence-building and research by and with our partners benefitted the lobby and advocacy work at local, national and international level. Ensuring that local organizations and networks not only gain the needed knowledge and skills, but also have sufficient credibility, personal security and organizational resilience to contribute to processes of reconciliation, justice and peacebuilding remains a priority also in our future programmes. Promoting and facilitating collaboration and shared learning between partners is an important aspect of this. *The specific intervention strategies that were deployed in the four regions, are included in the infographic at the start of each section.*

These combined efforts through and with our local partners contributed to tangible positive changes in the local human security and human rights situation, particularly in the project areas across the African continent. In the Middle East and Europe, we witnessed the strengthening of social cohesion as a stepping stone towards sustainable peacebuilding.

CENTRAL & WEST AFRICA

CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHANGE

Local partners have improved their MDR skills and produce more regular and accurate cases and reports on human rights violations, which has contributed to their credibility and leverage in lobby and advocacy

Local and/or provincial and/or national government authorities have taken action, including by implementing policy changes, in response to the lobby and advocacy of local partners and communities

Local partners working on the protection and advancement of human rights initiated and/or strengthened their collaboration and coordination, which increased their influence and leverage vis-à-vis authorities

Local partners and/or local peace committees/groups trained by the programme successfully mediated in local conflicts, resulting in decreased violence and conflict resolution

Legal authorities have become more responsive to the L&A of our partners and/or created mechanisms or implemented policy changes that can provide or enhance people's access to justice

Human security has improved as a result of the de-escalation of conflict between communities, or between communities and authorities/companies

- Communities and local change agents
- CSOs and human rights organizations
- Government/legal/security authorities
- Improved human rights and human security

Capacity building of CSOs and human rights organizations (in MDR, lobby and advocacy and strategic campaigning, organizational strengthening, and (physical & digital) safety and security)

CAPACITY BUILDING

Supporting partners in report writing based on research and monitoring of human rights violations for L&A purposes

RESEARCH & MONITORING

Setting up and supporting peace committees at community level and informal HR monitoring committees/ groups at local level

Facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogue processes with community, provincial and national actors, to resolve inter-community and cross-border conflicts

FACILITATING DIALOGUE

Starting lobby and advocacy strategies from the local level (e.g., advocacy panels), gradually building coalitions and moving upward

LOBBY & ADVOCACY

Local partners who have been trained use their social networks, radio, television, advocacy panels, social media, etc. to raise public awareness about human rights, including women's rights

PUBLIC CAMPAIGNING

INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

Central and West Africa

In this region, the alliance worked on CBS&CR in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Central African Republic (CAR), Burundi, Zimbabwe, Mali, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Mauritania, Cameroon and Chad, and recently started a regionally focused Sahel programme. Our reflection on the changes that the projects contributed to (see infographic), highlighted three key issues: the importance of capacity development and CSO collaboration for influencing local authorities, the strength of multistakeholder approaches for addressing local and cross-border conflicts, and the need for smartly linking improved MDR skills to lobby strategizing.

Strengthened capacity and collaboration to influence local authorities

The improved MDR and lobby capacities of CSOs and human rights organizations that were trained by the programme have paid off, witness their increased credibility and leverage. In the DRC, for instance, local government, state security actors, and prison authorities responded to the persistent lobbying of Amnesty's partners, resulting among others in the withdrawal of a fee-paying policy for prison visits, investigations into arbitrary arrests, and the release of illegally detained persons in 2020. The increased collaboration between human rights CSOs and activists in the North Kivu province, in which Amnesty strongly invested, was an important factor in these successes. Through effective coordination, CSOs not only increase the scope and leverage of their work, but are also in a stronger position to withstand the divide and rule tactics that state agencies often use against human rights activists.

Box 2: New capacity building approach in Burundi

In Burundi, the political climate is such that human rights activity is hardly possible and human rights investigators have very limited accessibility to the country. This situation caused a change in approach to capacity development, where Amnesty and local partners shifted away from in-person physical training of a rather diverse group of human rights defenders in exile, to remote training of a select group of human rights monitors who are actually living in the country, but have to operate secretly. Documented evidence by these monitors indirectly contributed to the successful (inter)national lobby for the extension of the mandate of the UN Commission of Inquiry on Burundi. The success of this form of security-conscious remote training and coaching is an important lesson also in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Multistakeholder peacebuilding from the bottom up

At the start of the D&D SP programme in the DRC, PAX supported the establishment of local peace committees, many of which successfully mediated community-level conflicts, by engaging local authorities (e.g., police, local courts and government) on security concerns. Bringing communities and authorities together in dialogue platforms, also explains the success of our project in Tshopo province, where we mediated an armed conflict between communities of different ethnic backgrounds over access to land after a natural disaster. A similar multistakeholder dialogue setup resulted in a signed agreement meant to help resolve the violent conflict between local communities, armed citizens and national park authorities over access to the buffer zone of the newly established national park. Also, in Tshopo, a protocol was negotiated between communities, local authorities and logging companies. Artisanal miners and an industrial mining company reached an agreement that the artisanal miners could continue their work in the industrial mining concession, after an intensive process of dialogue and lobby. In all cases, this reduced violence and insecurity on the ground. Building on these experiences, we started investing in a multistakeholder process for addressing the cross-border aspects of conflict dynamics between the DRC, Central African Republic, South Sudan and Uganda (see box 3).

Box 3: Cross-border conflict resolution

In the past years, the illegal influx and presence of foreign pastoralist groups – called Peulh or Mbororo – and their alleged collaboration with Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) combatants became a major source of violent conflict between Mbororo and local communities and a security risk in northern DRC (Haute and Bas Uele) and in the bordering provinces of the CAR. With our Congolese partner, we analysed this cross-border conflict, promoted the defection of armed LRA combatants and managed to get the illegal presence of Mbororo on the political agenda. Due to our interventions, Ugandan, Central African and Congolese combatants defected and were disarmed and reintegrated into the communities. Our 2020 dialogue process with Congolese national authorities, Mbororo leaders, local communities and the UN missions led to the engagement of all parties in a national mediation process to work towards sustainable solutions with a regional perspective. This has reduced the number of violent incidents on the ground.

Translating MDR skills to effective lobby

In 2019, we started developing a regional programme for our work in the Sahel to better respond to the cross-border conflict dynamics. One lesson we are taking on board in this programme, is the need for smart approaches to link the improved MDR skills of our partners to targeted lobby and advocacy strategizing. One concrete challenge is how to translate the results of CSO monitoring at local level to effective lobby of national-level authorities. In the DRC, local partners experimented with awareness raising activities for state security actors. The positive result was that it not only built their human rights knowledge, but also contributed to relationship building. We noticed that it is easier to move from monitoring to advocacy if CSOs and state actors, whose relationship is often hostile, get to know each other in a shared learning environment. If and how to engage state/security actors, however, needs careful case-by-case consideration.

Another strategy for strengthening lobby impact is coalition building. Our local partner in Cameroon initiated the creation of the Civil Society Coalition for the Anglophone Crisis. The Coalition unites 32 Francophone and Anglophone Cameroonian CSOs that seek to address the Anglophone crisis in a more concerted way. The first tangible success of the Coalition was that Cameroon's 'National Development Strategy 2020-2030' took into account its recommendations on strengthening the rule of law and the security of people and property in the Anglophone region. Secondly, on 17 December 2020, a trial opened against three members of the Cameroonian military accused of involvement in the Ngaruh massacre (committed 14 February 2020), after pressure from Human Rights Watch and the Civil Society Coalition spearheaded by our local partner. The trial is considered a vital move in tackling impunity among Cameroon's security forces.

Box 4: Truth and reparations in Gambia

The Alliance's project with its local partner in Gambia aimed to review, document and report on 60 cases of victims and witnesses of human rights violations (extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrest and detention) that were committed under the regime of Yahya Jammeh, for both future litigation and for advocacy with national and international institutions. Close cooperation in 2020 between our partner and Gambia's Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC) resulted in a higher number of victims being registered by the TRRC. The Research and Investigations unit of the TRRC makes use of our partner's database of documented cases to identify victims. Our partner specifically collaborated with the Women's Affairs Unit of the TRRC, to ensure that women are included in the process.

NORTHEAST AFRICA

CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHANGE

CSOs and human rights organizations improved their skills in monitoring and reporting of human rights violations and make effective use of this for lobby and advocacy

CSO partners increased their leverage at national and regional levels as a result of collaboration and joint strategizing, at times across national borders

Activists trained in non-violent action tools and strategies and digital security started documenting human rights violations and contributed to peaceful protests that successfully put pressure on government and security authorities

CBOs and CSOs have improved Human Security Survey as well as community mediation and dialogue skills as a result of capacity development

Women increasingly play an assertive role in peace and security issues through participation in peace committees and local justice mechanisms, and by restoring relationships between communities in conflict

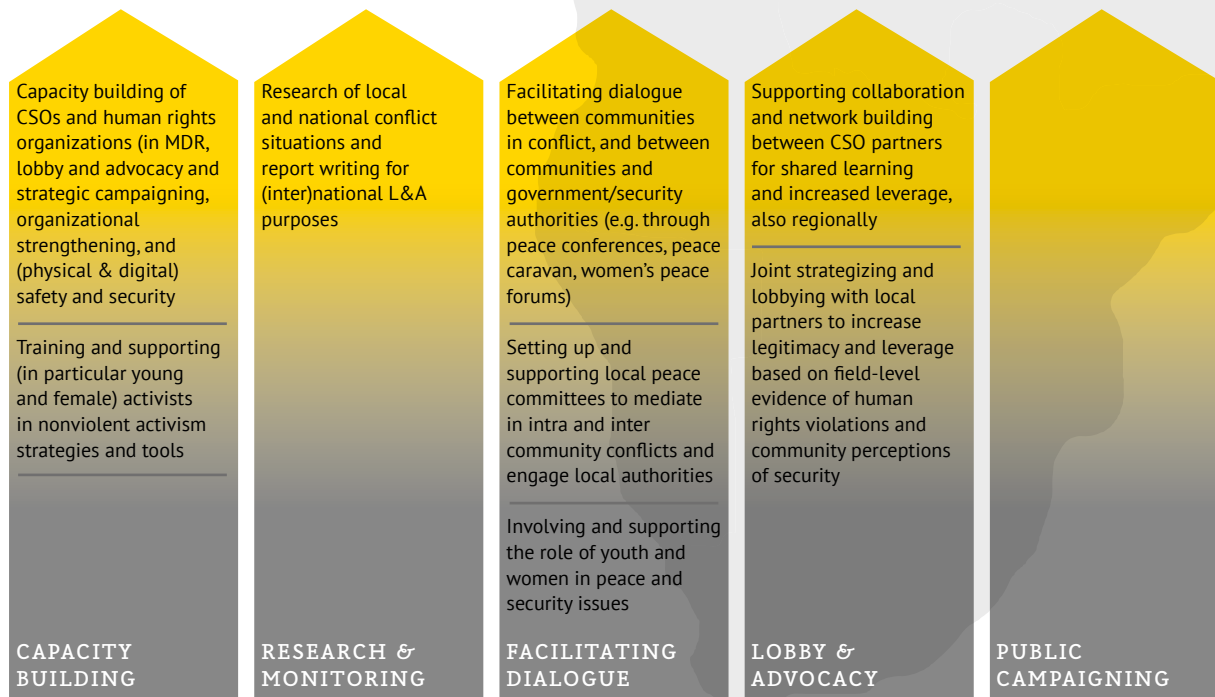
Human security has improved (witness free movement and sharing of vital natural resources) as a result of the de-escalation of conflict between or within communities

Peace committees, as well as community and youth leaders, successfully mediated to resolve intra- and inter-community conflicts, or between communities and local police/security authorities

Local government/security authorities started engaging in dialogue with community members to resolve conflicts between communities, or between communities and authorities

Local government/security authorities responded to lobby and advocacy by CSOs, peace committees or youth leaders, resulting in positive action towards conflict resolution and peacebuilding, including the implementation of policy and legal changes

- Communities and local change agents
- CSOs and human rights organizations
- Government/legal/security authorities
- Improved human rights and human security



INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

Northeast Africa

In this region, we worked on CBS&CR in South Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia and Somaliland. Our reflection on the changes that the projects contributed to (see infographic), highlighted three key issues that are discussed below: the importance of linking up (with) the right partners; working with informal networks of activists; and gender-sensitive programming.

Linking up (with) the right partners

The infographic shows the many different partners at CSO and community level that contributed to our programme's progress in the past five years. We learned that selecting the right type of partners, and the capacity development that best suits their needs and opportunities, is very much context-dependent, and as such challenging. The significant results of the programme implemented in the border areas of South Sudan, Kenya and Uganda can for a large part be attributed to the choice of partners. In all three countries, we worked with individuals and CBOs that are strongly rooted in and trusted by their communities, and therefore enjoy the legitimacy to speak on behalf of their communities on sensitive and political issues of violence and conflict resolution. The fact that we invested in creating and maintaining linkages between these different partners, which resulted in an active cross-border network of peacebuilders, was another key success factor. The programme contributed to improved human security in many locations, witnessed by the decrease in cattle raids, the sharing of water sources and pastureland in the dry season, and the reopening of regional roads and markets.

We learned that, when working on conflict resolution from a grassroots perspective, the legitimacy of the individual may be a more important impact factor than whether or not s/he belongs to a CSO or any 'formal' organization. In certain situations, the only option is to work with individual activists and their informal networks, as was the case before and during the 2019 revolution in Sudan (see Box 5). The impact of training individuals in such circumstances multiplies through their own networks. However, monitoring the specific contribution of our interventions with individuals, and responding to fast-changing capacity development priorities and needs, is more difficult.

Women activists were at the forefront during the revolution in Sudan.



Box 5: Reframing nonviolent activism in Sudan

2020 was a year of transition in Sudan after the revolution and toppling of the Bashir regime in 2019. For years, we had worked underground on supporting Sudanese activists in non-violent activism (NVA) strategies. The women and men we trained and supported played important roles in the peaceful revolution, and some of them have now taken up roles and positions in the new transitional government bodies. The new political reality meant that we had to reflect, together with our partners, on new strategies and ways of working. Our activist partners now have different questions: How should they relate to the transitional government authorities, and how can they play a role in community involvement in democratization processes such as civic education? We agreed that NVA is still important, and we therefore continued with NVA trainings in 2020, but shifted our focus from resistance tactics to community organizing and campaigning. We acquired funding for three new programmes. During 2020, many NVA activists became active in the Covid-19 response and other humanitarian relief related to the economic crises. This confirmed the value of the large body of well-trained and organized networks of involved activists.

The ups of gender-sensitive programming

Several projects in South Sudan and Sudan worked on gender-equality, addressing (S)GBV, and the role of women in peacebuilding. In the Nuba mountains in Sudan, the establishment of women's groups opened up new avenues for women from across frontlines to communicate and work together. In Lakes State and Unity State, grassroots women's groups were established and supported, and women became key members of the local peace committees. Capacity development strengthened their knowledge, skills and – importantly – confidence. Women gained a reputation for their mediation and conflict resolution skills, in particular for effectively addressing youth violence. They also started taking up roles in traditional courts. Their efforts and leadership, also at women-only peace forums, contributed to improved security at the local level. Achieving objectives at the national level, e.g. ensuring female representation at GBV courts and in political decision-making processes, proved more challenging. It confirms the importance of continued expert input on gender-sensitive programming. This was a spearpoint also for our Sudan programme development in 2020. In our new strategizing for NVA capacity development, we were mindful of the fact that women who had played a key role in the revolution are being pushed to the background and are not fairly represented in the new political structures. Beyond that, in our new programmes, we developed and included strategies to address the structural and intersectional issues of (S)GBV and racism, which continue to be key drivers of conflict in Sudan and South Sudan.

Box 6: Ruling on land conflicts in northern Uganda

Land disputes are a key source of conflict in northern Uganda. Our project therefore sought, amongst others, to strengthen the capacities of Acholi cultural and traditional institutions to effectively protect and promote land rights of their respective constituencies, particularly through building on protection elements in the customary tenure principles of Acholi Chiefdoms. Through capacity building sessions and exchange visits, the traditional chiefs were empowered to defend the land rights, promote access, utilization and control of land resources by vulnerable groups and individuals, especially women in various capacities. The capacity building initiatives further increased the capacity of community-based activists against massive violation and abuse of land rights in the Acholi region. The Acholi chiefs became appreciated by conflicting parties and local government authorities for their role in mediating land conflicts. Conflict resolution through the cultural leaders proved more efficient than through formal courts, and is considered more conciliatory as they work with truth telling rather than making judgements based on scant information or influenced by corruption. The chiefs gained more confidence to rule in favour of regular citizens, including vulnerable groups such as widows, divorced women and orphaned children. This is relevant, as prior to the project, Acholi chiefs lacked capacity to properly deal with land matters involving e.g. the rights of women, which meant that many land disputes involving the rights of women kept escalating.

THE MIDDLE EAST

CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHANGE

Local peace committees asserted their role in signaling and mitigating tensions between opposing groups, in (re)building social cohesion, and in engaging local (government, security, religious) authorities in reconciliation and peacebuilding efforts

CSOs, human rights organizations and activist groups initiate or strengthen collaboration and build networks, also regionally, to advance transitional justice, accountability and peacebuilding objectives through shared learning, strategizing and L&A

Community members (particularly women and youth) reached out across former (ethnic, religious) divides, rebuilt trust and embraced new perspectives on reconciliation and inclusive peacebuilding

Activists in conflict areas asserted their role in rebuilding and strengthening social cohesion by initiating safe, independent and free (cultural and educational) activities and spaces based on nonviolent activism

CSOs, human rights organizations and activist groups have more credibility and leverage with local and national authorities and/or international organizations to advocate for justice and accountability as a result of capacity building and shared learning

Authorities (local/district/provincial/national and religious) show increased appreciation for and willingness to commit to peacebuilding and strategic justice objectives in response to L&A

International community actors (states and multi-lateral organizations) respond to L&A by PAX and partners, by putting specific human rights, Protection of Civilians and peacebuilding issues on the political agenda or adopting resolutions and policies

Youth in (post)conflict areas are empowered through shared learning and capacity building to initiate activities that contribute to social cohesion within and between communities, and successfully engaged local authorities on justice and peacebuilding priorities

- Communities and local change agents
- CSOs and human rights organizations
- Government/legal/security authorities

Capacity building of CSOs and human rights organizations (in MDR, L&A and strategic campaigning, organizational strengthening, and (physical & digital) safety and security)

Supporting activists - especially youth - in nonviolent activism strategies and tools, L&A, networking and digital security

Promoting and facilitating networking and collaboration of partners by facilitating shared learning events and tools, also regionally

CAPACITY BUILDING

Conducting and facilitating research, and publishing evidence-based (inter) national reports and policy papers for L&A purposes

Building research reports on information and evidence from local activists and HR monitors, including through citizen science and other innovative data gathering methods

RESEARCH & MONITORING

Setting up and supporting local peace committees to build social cohesion and engage local authorities

Supporting youth and women in creating (virtual/physical) spaces to come together, in voicing their perspectives on peacebuilding towards authorities, and in taking an active role in (cross)community peacebuilding

FACILITATING DIALOGUE

Networking and building alliances at national and international level to increase our leverage in lobbying state actors and international organizations (EU, UN) and facilitating joint L&A with local partners

Supporting our local partners in their L&A activities and strategizing towards local/national government and security authorities

Building our L&A agenda and policy recommendations on the perspectives and priorities of people in conflict-affected communities

LOBBY & ADVOCACY

Engaging the Dutch public for moral and financial support to Syrian and Iraqi activists and to put pressure on the Dutch government regarding its position on conflict in the Middle East

PUBLIC CAMPAIGNING

INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

The Middle East

In this region, we worked on CBS&CR in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and Israel and Palestine. Our reflection on the changes that the projects contributed to (see infographic), highlighted three key issues that are discussed below: the power of local research for joint lobby; the opportunities and challenge of supporting nonviolent and cultural activists; and the role of youth in conflict resolution.

Citizen research and joint lobbying for impact

In the past five years, we persistently lobbied the UN, EU and state actors on the situation in Syria. We learned that it is worth investing time and resources in high-quality research which systematically documents first-hand evidence from partners and networks of activists on the ground. Our eleven quarterly [Siege Watch](#) reports (2016-2018), based on citizen research as well as innovative open-source investigative tools, got a lot of traction; the EU Council adopted important conclusions that reflected recommendations on reconstruction in Syria from our report [No Return to Homs](#). Advocacy that our public affairs liaisons in New York and Brussels conducted jointly with our partners also strengthened our influence, because of its increased legitimacy and credibility. The lesson about co-designing and executing research and advocacy with local partners, was taken on board in our more recent [Refugee Protection Watch](#) (RPW) project on the situation of and prospects for Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries. Its influence was notable in 2020, not least in the EU and UN's co-host statement for the Brussels IV conference on 'Supporting the future of Syria and the region', which reflected many of the concerns and policy priorities on refugee protection that RPW pushed for. NGOs and diplomats have started inviting RPW coalition members to meetings, and used our research in their work. In August 2020, we published our [RPW research findings](#) on the catastrophic impacts of the double – economic and Covid-19 – crisis on Syrian refugees in Lebanon. While Siege Watch and Refugee Protection Watch are designed to provide regular research updates for ongoing lobby purposes, the same approach of working with local partners and researchers was also used in one-off research projects that responded to specific urgent international policy debates, offering action points for the international community. Involving local communities in research is fundamental, it is empowering and gives agency. It is a form of power shifting. Traditionally research tends to be done by Northern based researchers who report and whose status as 'expert' is growing while the status of the victim is not. By collaborating with victim communities our alliance has created new opportunities for empowerment of victims and gives them the rightful central role in changing their communities. One example was the research report [Fragmented Jerusalem](#), published after president Trump's controversial decision to move the US embassy to Jerusalem.

Box 7: Accountability for war crimes committed in Syria

In late 2016, the UN General Assembly set up the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM) to investigate serious crimes committed in Syria since 2011 and to prepare files for criminal cases. To support Syrian CSOs in their efforts to contribute to this and other accountability processes, the alliance organized three training workshops on war crime accountability and strategic justice in 2017-2019, and continued to support one of the organizations throughout 2020. Despite delays caused by Covid-19, by the end of 2020 this partner had:

- ◆ contributed to the prosecution or investigation of 17 suspects of war crimes in Syria within Europe; helped identify another 12 suspects of such crimes; and continued building case files for other suspects in, amongst others, the Netherlands, France and Germany. As a result, one Syrian defector was sentenced in Germany to 4.5 years in prison in February 2021; being the first former Syrian official to be convicted of crimes against humanity. The sentence of a second defector is to be announced in the third quarter of 2021.
- ◆ documented testimonies of 17 victims currently living in five European countries, contributing to further case building of several grave human rights violations committed on Syrian soil.
- ◆ advised the Dutch International Crimes Unit, the Special Witnesses Team and the Prosecutor's Office on the prosecution of suspects of all parties to the Syrian conflict on Dutch soil, as well as on secure communication with Syrian witnesses and victims. These discussions have likely contributed to the decision of the Dutch government in September 2020 to be the first country that will hold the Syrian regime responsible for grave human rights violations under international law.

Nonviolent and culture/arts activism

In response to the context of widespread insecurity and repression, we did not only work with CSOs and formal human rights organizations, but also with small groups of activists who use arts and culture as an avenue for building social cohesion in (post)conflict situations. These activists working in the cultural scene often managed to create safe spaces to address politically sensitive issues. In Jerusalem, the '12 cities' exhibition with art works by Palestinian designers from twelve cities, created a space for learning about the cultural heritage of Palestinians from the occupied West Bank, Area C and East Jerusalem, fostering conversations between Jerusalemites from different religious and ethnic backgrounds and neighbourhoods about the cultural and political past and the present. In 2020, our partner in Lebanon continued to serve as a platform for bringing youth of different socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds together through [film](#) and [drama](#) to strengthen citizen engagement.

In Syria, we supported small-scale cultural activities through the Adopt a Revolution campaign, and worked with different networks of nonviolent activists who persist in building peace in the most unlikely circumstances. We learned that they highly value our solidarity, even if our support seems trivial from our perspective. We also learned that, as long as people enjoy local legitimacy, their impact can be substantial. One example is our CSO partner, which started as a group of Syrian activists who in the past five years have provided education based on principles of nonviolence, freedom and democracy to thousands of primary school children, many of them traumatized by the war. Several times their schools had to close due to active violence, but each time they opened again in new locations. Starting from a very local presence, the organization has earned the recognition of parents, teachers and school directors, as well as educational authorities, for its tangible contribution to inclusivity in a highly divided society.

Supporting small-scale initiatives and nonviolent activism required flexibility in terms of funding and logistics, capacity development, and digital and physical safety. Given the enormous relevance of this work in conflict areas, the Dutch ministry of Foreign Affairs enabled funding to extend the possibilities for such innovative and flexible programming.



In Lebanon, art and culture is being used to break through the existing social structures.

The role of youth

In all countries in the Middle East, our programmes invested in youth. The ‘Kulluna Muwatinun’, or ‘We Are All Citizens’ project in Iraq and Syria trained committed young people from diverse religious and ethnic communities on citizenship, freedom of religion and minorities’ rights, gender analysis tools and dialogue skills. They initiated events to build social cohesion in divided societies and communities, e.g. between people who have been internally displaced and their host communities, and increasingly tried to engage local authorities. The project gave young people the opportunity to freely express their beliefs and participate in public affairs. Exchanges were organised between young activists from Syria, Iraq and Lebanon Lebanon to network, learn from and support each other. In 2020, these activities happened online. Youth leaders from Palestine, Iraq and Lebanon developed a regional understanding on discrimination related to Freedom of Thought, Religion and Belief (FoRB), a central capacity development theme in 2020, through attending bi-weekly online dialogue sessions.⁴ A group of young women in the Palestinian refugee camp Shu’fat received training in participatory video making to empower them to make their voices heard on issues that affect their daily lives in the refugee camp. Representatives of the Palestinian Ministry of Women’s Affairs and the Ministry of Education highly appreciated the presentation of the final films, one of which titled Our Right to Health and Happiness addressed the lack of human security and the stigma that is attached to women’s mental health issues in Palestinian society.

Youth play an indispensable role in societal processes of conflict resolution and peacebuilding, yet we must be cautious of equating youth with ‘being progressive’ and make sure that all generations are included in the peacebuilding efforts. An interesting challenge for our organizations is how we monitor the longer-term impact of the young people that we support and coach today.

⁴ This project, which fell outside the D&D SP funding structure, is mentioned here because it closely related to our D&D SP projects working with youth as change agents in the Middle East. It is funded by the International Organization and Human Rights Department, “Freedom of Religion and Belief in Iraq, Lebanon and Occupied Palestinian Territories: Countering four pillars of discrimination”.



Box 8: Local peace committees respond to Covid-19

Bottom-up peacebuilding structures initiated and supported throughout the past five years, proved very valuable when the Covid-19 pandemic hit Iraq in 2020. Local peace committees (LPCs) in West and East-Ninewa immediately sought cooperation with local authorities. Responding to the lack of health care equipment and capacities in local health centres, LPCs launched awareness campaigns on social media about preventative measures promoted by the government and WHO to mitigate the Covid-19 crisis. They also distributed brochures and sterilization equipment that helped 1200 families in West-Ninewa. The situation created new opportunities to address societal dynamics and taboos. For instance, responding to the increase in sexual and gender-based violence caused by the lockdown, LPCs and partners organized a survey and six online campaigns about the topic, reaching over 500 women and girls and their families. In East-Ninewa, LPCs organized activities to address the impacts of Covid-19 on mental health and well-being in the communities. In Ayadiyya in West-Ninewa, women's participation in LPC activities had been obstructed from the start of the project. Community recognition for the role that women quickly took on in the fight against Covid-19, created new opportunities for them to act as agents of social change and social cohesion.

EUROPE

CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHANGE

Citizens trained in dialogue and mediation skills are confident and equipped to initiate and lead dialogues for conflict resolution at different levels

CSOs and citizens started engaging more constructively with local government authorities thanks to improved citizen-state relationships, and contributed to the implementation process of policy reforms

Antagonistic groups (communities across conflict lines, authorities, religious leaders) are more willing to engage in dialogue and find solutions to their conflicts

CSOs and citizens started participating in local governance processes and contributed to municipal policy changes or institutional reforms that take into account citizens' interests

CSOs and local authorities/municipalities have increased their knowledge and skills on citizen mobilization and L&A on the one hand, and inclusive governance mechanisms on the other hand

As a result of improved trust and cooperation between civil society/citizens and local government authorities or between ethnic communities, social cohesion and resilience are strengthened. This can be considered a stepping stone towards sustainable conflict resolution.

Increased support on the part of authorities for women's participation in local government decision-making processes and for the importance of gender-sensitive programming in conflict

- Communities and local change agents
- CSOs and human rights organizations
- Government/legal/security authorities
- Improved human rights and human security

Training and coaching of dialogue facilitators/Peace Engineers

Capacity building of municipal and (local) government actors, and religious leaders, on dialogue skills and/or inclusive governance mechanisms

Capacity development of CSOs on monitoring & reporting, L&A, organizational strengthening as well as citizen mobilization and inclusive governance mechanisms

CAPACITY BUILDING

Conducting and supporting research

Facilitating citizen engagement in local governance through different activities (e.g. e-platform)

Supporting partners in mobilizing youth to act as civic change agents in conflict prevention and mediation through dialogue

RESEARCH & MONITORING

Organizing activities to bring dialogue into practice, e.g. Youth Peace Tour

Supporting collaboration and network building between CSO partners for shared learning

Supporting partners in mobilizing youth to act as civic change agents in conflict prevention and mediation through dialogue

FACILITATING DIALOGUE

Joint strategizing and lobbying with local partners

Engaging the EU public in debates on the role of Europe as Peace Project

Supporting partners in mobilizing youth to act as civic change agents in conflict prevention and mediation through dialogue

LOBBY & ADVOCACY

Engaging the EU public in debates on the role of Europe as Peace Project

Supporting partners in mobilizing youth to act as civic change agents in conflict prevention and mediation through dialogue

Supporting partners in mobilizing youth to act as civic change agents in conflict prevention and mediation through dialogue

PUBLIC CAMPAIGNING

INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

Europe

In Europe, we worked on CBS&CR in Ukraine and Kosovo. Our reflection on the changes that the projects contributed to (see infographic), highlighted the opportunities for promoting citizen participation in local governance processes, and the need for inclusive programming that goes beyond a focus on women's participation.

Citizen participation in local governance processes

In Ukraine and Kosovo, we worked on improving trust and cooperation between citizens and state authorities, as a means to contribute to more responsive and inclusive local governance. We purposely included not only CSOs and citizens, but also municipal civil servants and other government representatives in capacity development on inclusive governance, dialogue and conflict resolution. In both countries, positive outcomes were achieved in terms of increased social cohesion and actual contributions by citizens to local governance processes. In Ukraine, our advocacy efforts were mainly directed to the needs of conflict-affected groups and residents of non-government-controlled areas, and how they too can be included in dialogue processes and the implementation of the policy reforms. We noticed a shift over the past five years towards more inclusive language mainly by national authorities, and more inclusive and citizen-engaging action by local authorities. We are building on the lesson learned that, when working with government institutions, combining a training component with lobby efforts makes both much more efficient.

In Kosovo, municipal authorities have become more responsive to the needs of the community, including of women and youth. With the adoption of Citizens' Participation Plans and e-platforms used for communication with citizens, seven municipalities in northern Kosovo have taken concrete steps to make governance processes and decision-making more inclusive and transparent. Together with partners we

In Ukraine, young people from different regions stayed with communities of different faiths and backgrounds during the Youth Peace Tours.



explored possibilities for strengthening inter-municipal cooperation in northern Kosovo. In the context of this project, inter-municipal also implies inter-ethnic cooperation. The notable strengthening of the social contract is encouraging, especially given the negative impact of the unsuccessful EU peace talks between Belgrade and Pristina on local governments in the north. However, we are concerned about the sustainability of these positive changes in the four Serb-majority municipalities, which are still very much oriented towards and under the influence of Serbia.

Box 9: Ukraine Youth Peace Tour

The Youth Peace Tour was PAX's first project in Ukraine, running in the four consecutive summers of 2015-2018. The Tour wanted to equip young people with the (personal) leadership skills to shape Ukraine's transition into a democracy with responsible citizenship, and to learn them deal with diversity as an asset rather than a problem. In groups of up to 15 participants from different regions, accompanied by two facilitators, they travelled through Ukraine and stayed with communities of different faiths and backgrounds. They practiced non-violent communication and leadership skills to learn to promote dialogue and find creative solutions. The 2018 edition of the Tour included participants from Russia, which helped all participants to broaden their perspectives even further. The shared journey inspired them to overcome prejudices, open their horizons, and handle differences in a respectful way. Many participants carry the experience of the Tour, and the contact with their peers, with them as a meaningful enrichment in their further activity as journalists, activists, civil servants, and local politicians.

From women and gender to intersectionality

The highly complex history and ongoing conflict dynamics in Kosovo and Ukraine demand inclusive approaches to sustainable peacebuilding. In the past years, we proactively included men and women in our activities and supported women's empowerment, e.g. by successfully lobbying for women's participation in local government decision-making processes in Serb-majority municipalities in northern Kosovo. In Ukraine, our research insights on the gender dimensions of conflict were appreciated by policymakers and Members of Parliament..

We learned that a wider range of identity issues need to become integrated into our programming. Gender, age, ethnic and religious identities, as well as political-ideological affiliations, all cross-cut through communities in different ways and influence how conflict and violence are experienced, and what solutions are possible and desired. For instance, while working with youth is vital for conflict resolution in Kosovo, it is not enough if the generations are not brought together. And do you include women or men or religious leaders, or all, when addressing the issue of masculinity and male heroism in relation to conflict-induced sexual violence? Such decisions need to be based on a very thorough context analysis addressing the roles of different segments of society in the history of conflict.

Through our gender pilot and work on religious pluralism, we are strengthening the inclusive programming of our efforts in Ukraine. In 2020, religious leaders came together in a roundtable to discuss religious tolerance with Dutch diplomats and PAX staff. The Netherlands' Special Envoy on Religion and Belief also made a first official visit to Ukraine. He met with civil society representatives and religious leaders to learn about identity-related challenges in the country, including the non-government-controlled areas. Meanwhile, we started regular online meetings with our partners and other (inter)national actors, sharing approaches and strategies for our work on the nexus of religion and peacebuilding in Ukraine, and published a research report on the peacebuilding potential of religious communities in Ukraine.

3 DEALING WITH THE PAST

Inclusive and victim-centred processes to deal with a violent past, which contribute to truth, justice and reparation, are indispensable for sustainable peace. The Freedom from Fear Alliance, in collaboration with Impunity Watch, contributed to these processes in Guatemala, South Sudan, DR Congo and Burundi, Iraq and Syria, Kosovo and the Western Balkans. Our reflection on the changes that our projects contributed to (see infographic), highlighted that significant outcomes were achieved at CSO and community level, also through memorialization initiatives. Securing the commitment of government and legal authorities to victim-centred transitional justice proved more difficult. This challenges us to continue our search for strategies to engage actors who oppose transitional justice altogether, or who are unwilling to contribute to transitional justice processes that are meaningful for victims and designed to attend to victims' needs. Meanwhile, we will continue the breadth of support we provide to our partners and victims' organizations.

Theory of Change:

Many post-conflict countries are prone to recurring violence. Peace agreements rarely address the sensitive issues of 'dealing with the past'. By systematically looking at how governments and civilians deal with the violent past, and by supporting inclusive processes of truth finding, justice and reparation, we reduce the risk of violence recurring and help victims receive reparations. This improves social cohesion and helps to create a more responsive and legitimate state.

Strategic objective:

That local and national authorities, and the international community – taking into account the wishes and grievances of victims and communities – contribute to processes of truth, justice and reparation that are as inclusive as possible, thus reducing the risk of reversion to violent conflict.

DEALING WITH THE PAST

CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHANGE

CSOs and/or victims' organizations are increasingly willing to collaborate towards achieving shared truth, justice and reparation objectives

Local partners' lobbying and advocacy efforts for transitional justice have been strengthened as a result of capacity building

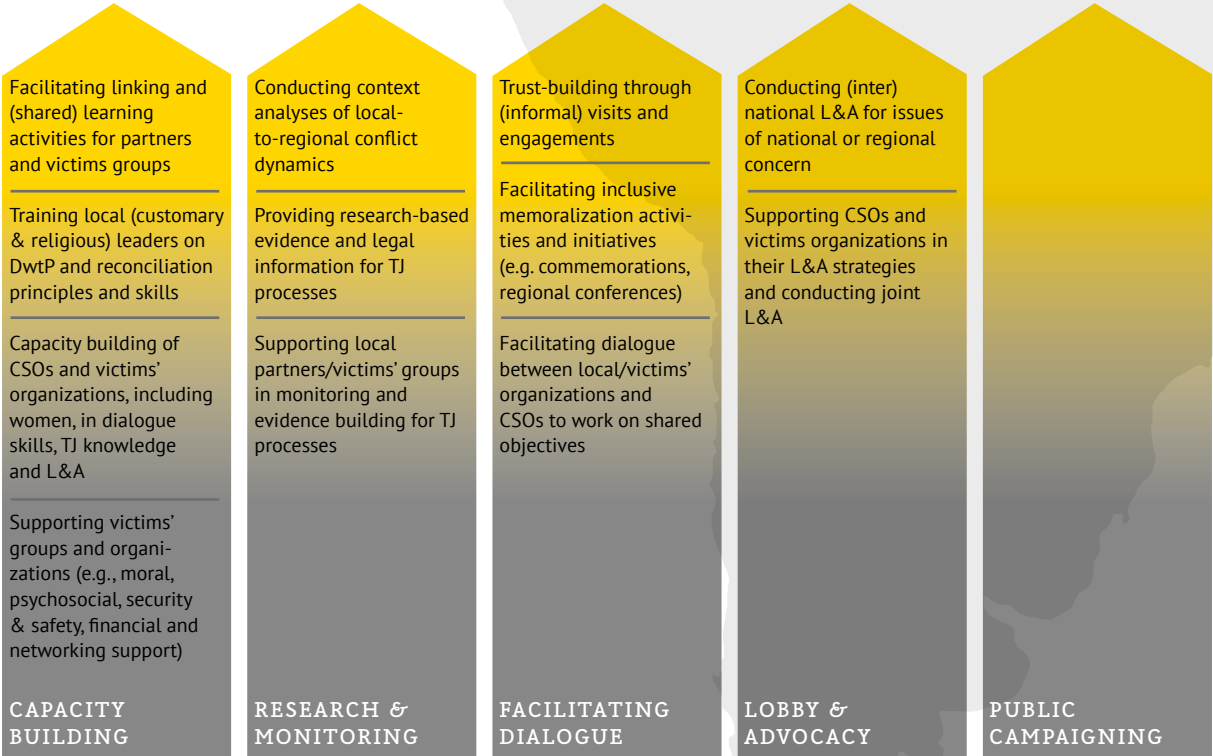
Local (customary, religious) leaders are better equipped to support victims and defectors and promote reconciliation within and/or between communities

Victims, perpetrators and their communities engaged in dialogue and acknowledge multiple narratives, as part of inclusive memorialization processes

National and/or legal authorities, and/or corporate actors implicated in human rights violations, increasingly recognize the importance of victims' narratives

National, legal and/or international authorities took action in support of victim-centered DwtP and TJ processes, thus paving the way for increased access to truth, justice and reparations

- Communities and local change agents
- CSOs and human rights organizations
- Government/legal/security authorities



INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

Contributions to change

Significant outcomes at CSO and community level

The analysis reflected in the infographic above reveals that most tangible outcomes were achieved at the level of CSOs and victims' organizations, and within and between communities. In South Sudan, victims of gross human rights violations inflicted by extractive industries got better organised and strengthened their knowledge, skills and confidence to lobby for and participate in transitional justice processes. They also started collaborating with likeminded groups in their fight for justice and reparations. This networking - which the alliance has actively supported - not only increased their leverage vis-à-vis authorities and companies, but also provided a direly needed degree of protection in the unsafe circumstances that human rights defenders and witnesses operate. In Guatemala, Impunity Watch supported movement building between local victim organisations on the national level. This resulted in their much stronger advocacy in among others Guatemala's National Reparations Programme, with victims sitting around the table with senior decision makers of the programme, congress and government, including the Vice president of the country. IW's efforts to coordinate concerted advocacy and lobby efforts of the national victim platforms and civil society on the national and international level to stop the passage of an amnesty law, was successful and led to a decision of the Constitutional Court to archive the draft law for being unconstitutional.

In Haute Uele in the DRC, PAX's work on dialogue and reconciliation with communities that suffered from violence by the Lord's Resistance Army, resulted in improved security at the community level. Alongside customary leaders, women in particular played a key role in the delicate process of convincing combatants to defect from the LRA and in supporting their reintegration into the community. In parallel, IW worked with a coalition of Congolese NGOs (Congolese Coalition for Transitional Justice) to develop a locally grown agenda on transitional justice which formed the basis for their advocacy with senior officials on the national and international level. In communities in Burundi where partners of Impunity Watch worked on rebuilding social cohesion through youth 'peace brokers' and by offering psycho-social support, less violence and political/ethnic tension were reported during the 2020 general elections.

Inclusive memorialization

There are always multiple and conflicting perspectives on a violent past. Only if these different narratives can be voiced, shared and heard, does sustainable peace stand a chance. This is why inclusive memorialization initiatives became an important theme and element in our intervention strategies, including research, policy and advocacy work and work on concrete memorialization initiatives in different countries, such as in Burundi, the Western Balkans and Iraq. One example is the storytelling that PAX's partner facilitated in Niniveh province in Iraq. After years of divisive violence, women took the courageous step to visit each other, and share personal stories of loss and grief, crossing boundaries between Arabs, Kurds and Yazidis. In Burundi, IW engaged in intergenerational memorialisation projects, through dialogue and art, to address inherited conflict identities and divisions as well as intergenerational trauma. In the Western Balkans, we noticed that memory activism⁵ is a civil society activity that appeals to young people. This is significant given that European actors still struggle to support civil society-led transitional justice projects in the region. In 2020, we supported the important contributions by women to memory activism and the civil society campaigns against glorification of war crimes and male war criminals across the Western Balkans. Another example of inclusive memorialization events are public commemorations of violent events.

⁵ The term 'memory activism' originated in the Israeli/Palestinian context to refer to activism by citizens and civil society to challenge official narratives of the conflict or past events put forth by the Israeli state. PAX has started to use the notion in the Western Balkans as a form of solidarity with victim groups whose existence and experience is downplayed or denied by the state. Memory work is activist in challenging the underlying structures that maintain uneven power relations in the present and enabled serious human rights violations in the past.

Box 10: International movement building of victim groups

The support provided to movement building of victims' organizations resulted in a broad range of international lobby activities on the one hand and the promotion of victim movement building on the national and international levels on the other. An example of such a movement/ network is the creation of 'the International Network of Victims and Survivors of Serious Human Rights Violations (INOVAS)' in 2020. IW mentors this network so it is able to offer peer to peer support and solidarity to victim groups around the world, and can serve as a platform to connect victim groups and organizations to key policy makers in the countries where we work, as well as at regional (EU/AU) and international organizations, notably the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on Transitional Justice and the Office of the UN Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). In 2020, two INOVAS core group members served on the special panel on victims' perspectives on reparations at the high-level conference that Impunity Watch was invited to co-host with the OHCHR and AJAR. The conference entitled [The Catalytic Power of Reparations](#) took place in December in the framework of the 15th anniversary of the Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law. The victim panel was commended for offering deep insight in what reparations concretely mean for marginalized victims on the ground and for the recommendations the victim panellists offered on the way forward. As a result of the positive feedback on the conference as a whole, the OHCHR requested Impunity Watch to become their formal partner to organize year-long attention over 2021 around the topic of reparations. IW will give an important role to INOVAS in these efforts. In the framework of this 15th anniversary project, Impunity Watch will offer support to the development of an international policy framework for the OHCHR and member states focused on how to engage in meaningful reparations and the key role of meaningful victim participation thereto.

Authorities' commitment to transitional justice – mixed outcomes

Despite consistent efforts by our partner CSOs and victims' organizations, it proved challenging to secure the active commitment of government and judicial authorities for victim-centred, inclusive transitional justice processes. The government in Guatemala has started dismantling institutions that were set up by the previous government as part of the Peace Accords and which are imperative for victims' rights to truth, justice and reparations. The victims' organizations that Impunity Watch and partners have supported for many years, initiated legal actions in 2020 to prevent the closure of these institutions. In the DRC, victim groups in South and North Kivu, as well as journalists, who had organised themselves into committees following capacity building sessions by Impunity Watch and partners in 2020, presented recommendations for inclusive TJ at policy forums. While provincial authorities expressed support, the political elite continued to resist TJ processes that connect historical injustice to present-day impunity.

In Iraq, PAX organized consultations with female Members of Parliament from Mosul province on principles of post-Daesh reconstruction and revitalisation of Mosul. Following the violent suppression by Kurdish security forces of popular uprisings in Sulaimaniyya governorate, our partner organized a very first public debate between Members of Parliament, activists, journalists and the public, in December 2020. The authorities followed up with promising statements about the need for accountability, however, no action was taken. Such treatment of legitimate protest demonstrates the continued flawed approach to justice in Iraq, failing to deal with past grievances and allowing new ones to grow. A positive development was that, in response to joint advocacy by Impunity Watch and partners, UNITAD established a dialogue mechanism with Iraqi civil society groups. Because digital meetings became the norm due to Covid-19, Iraqi CSOs and activists could more easily participate and voice their concerns and demands, without the need for visas. In general, however, our partners noted that the Covid-19 pandemic caused policymakers to be less receptive to advocacy on transitional justice in 2020.

Box 11: Putting victims' needs first

Our work together with IW in different post-conflict countries over the past five years has confirmed the importance of a comprehensive approach to transitional justice. One that starts from the needs of the victims and is not limited to judicial procedures. In PAX's latest research report on the role of the [Kosovo Specialist Court](#), we show that the predominant focus on war crimes trials to deal with the violent past in Kosovo has done little to deal with the past at a societal level. The lack of investment in truth-seeking and documentation, commemoration, reparations and compensation, stands in the way of building a peaceful, inclusive and forward-looking society. Recognition and support for all the victims and survivors of the conflict, regardless of their identity and status, is vital.

Considerations for the future

The lessons on transitional justice and victim participation shared below are informed by the collaboration between PAX and Impunity Watch in the past five years. In various post-conflict settings, PAX and Impunity Watch developed projects together, in some other cases Impunity Watch provided PAX with valuable advice and knowledge.

Reconsidering transitional justice approaches

In the past five years, we received recognition - both in the countries where we work and internationally - for our programmes that prioritized context-specific and victim-centred DwtP and TJ processes.⁶ At the same time, however, international actors continue to focus on top-down and technocratic approaches to TJ, while in many conflict and post-conflict settings the political repression of civic space, or widespread insecurity, make it very difficult for victims and civil society to participate meaningfully in TJ mechanisms. These circumstances demand that, together with our partners, we continue to design approaches to DwtP and TJ processes in line with the needs and opportunities of each specific context. Key questions when designing these approaches, include:

- ◆ When should we support *non-judicial* processes to contribute to better conditions for reconciliation through, among others, dialogue or inclusive memorialization, and when should we support the *judicial* route by means of strategic litigation and/or partnering with judicial TJ mechanisms? The wishes and demands of victims are a decisive factor in weighing these options. Regardless of the route taken, we aim at supporting witnesses and victims. Where needed, this will include supporting the safety of witnesses and victims, and seeing to it that governments take responsibility for providing security guarantees.
- ◆ When should we support *official (state-led)* transitional justice processes, and when should we shift our focus and deploy our efforts and resources to supporting *unofficial (non-state-led) processes*, given the disappointing results and options for victims participation that formal structures tend to offer (e.g. DRC, part of the Western Balkans), and their tendency to reinforce harmful power dynamics (e.g. Syria and Iraq)?
- ◆ How do we find the right balance between supporting *retributive justice* processes and supporting *restorative justice* processes, taking into account the wishes and demands of victims, yet knowing that the two approaches can collide and that each in its own way can trigger new conflict?

In answering each of these difficult questions, we always need to consider how we put the interests of victims first, where our strengths lie and how we can create the most impact, given the specific situation, and in partnership with victims' organizations and other partners.

⁶ This most certainly is also true for PAX's work on Srebrenica, which is not discussed here because it was not funded under the D&D SP.

Offering moral, security and psychosocial support to partners

Victims' organizations and CSO partners fought and fight, often against all odds, for peace and justice and for keeping DwtP/TJ issues on the political agenda. The capacity development we provided in the areas of TJ knowledge, dialogue skills, lobby & advocacy, and institutional support, helped to strengthen their organizations and national leverage. An important lesson that we carry with us, is the vital importance of offering continuous moral, psychosocial, and safety & security support to our partners who often work in physically very unsafe and mentally taxing circumstances. In South Sudan, witnesses in the war crimes investigation against Lundin Energy Petroleum allegedly received serious threats to their personal safety (see chapter Natural Resources, Conflict & Human Rights), and so do victims of violence and human rights defenders who engage with the national mechanisms for transitional justice in Latin-America. We will continue to support the mobilisation of better security guarantees, as well as psychosocial support to victims' organizations and other partners, where needed through expert organizations. We have learned that linking local victims' organizations with national organizations not only strengthens their leverage, but also provides moral support and protection in their fight against impunity. Finally, we learned from our work that, because the road to justice is very long, we need to factor in long-term support and coaching to victim groups once we commit ourselves to their cause, something that does not sit well with relatively short-term funding cycles.

Questioning masculinities

Militarised, or violent masculinities play a central role in the marginalisation of women and minority groups in society, undermining women's human rights on the one hand and barring their political participation and access to leadership positions on the other as a consequence whereof their experiences and perspectives are not taken into account in critical policymaking processes, including in relation to peacebuilding and conflict prevention, transitional justice and establishing democratic rule. An important part of our work around gender and promoting women's human rights therefore has focused on looking at the intersection of gender, militarised masculinities and the fight against impunity, through among others comparative research, policy and advocacy work and awareness raising in countries such as Burundi, Guatemala, Iraq, and the Western Balkans – as well as on the international level, including the UN and in relation to the SDG16 agenda. An example of an awareness raising activity through which IW has sought to make policy impact is the podcast on militarised masculinities and its effects on peace that was produced in 2020 and that was launched in the framework of the Geneva peace week.

At the same time, PAX identified the need to work with men in its work to tackle violent masculinities and promote peace. Engaging men, in particular (demobilised) soldiers, is critical in promoting change in (societal) behaviour. In various projects (e.g. in the Western Balkans, Ukraine, DRC and South Sudan), PAX has included among others among others demobilised soldiers, demobilised soldiers, former child soldiers and military chaplains in specific activities. In these activities listening to and capturing their stories and needs featured centrally, in order to provide them with tailor-made assistance and help them to translate their specific war experiences into a tool for peace work.

4

HUMANITARIAN DISARMAMENT

Theory of Change:

We mobilize political and public pressure to regulate and reduce the production, trade and use of controversial weapons. The term 'humanitarian disarmament' means that we start from the perspective of civilians and the impact that weapons have on them. By mobilising political and public pressure for the regulation and reduction of the production, trade and use of weapons, thereby mobilising support of governments in cooperation with our partner organizations and within international networks, we contribute to the mitigation of weapons as a stress factor.

Strategic objective:

States, companies and other actors contribute to the effective regulation of trade in, and the significant reduction of the production and use of, forbidden and controversial weapons.

During the past five years of the D&D SP, we strived to contribute to the prohibition of controversial weapons and more effective regulation of the arms trade. Controversial weapons are weapons that are inherently indiscriminate and/or inhumane, and thus in violation of requirements of precaution, distinction, and proportionality under International Humanitarian Law (IHL). Examples are nuclear weapons, cluster munitions, anti-personnel mines, and explosive weapons used in populated areas. We also targeted new weapons technology, especially armed drones and fully autonomous weapons ('killer robots'). We took on the entire chain of conflict: from (financial investments in) the development and production of controversial weapons, to the arms trade and the use of such weapons in conflicts, including their environmental impact. Our work with the financial sector, lobbying for disinvestment in controversial weapons, is discussed in the Natural Resources, Conflict & Human Rights chapter.

The infographic captures the trends in the changes that our programme contributed to across the different controversial weapons we targeted, including controversial arms trade.

HUMANITARIAN DISARMAMENT

CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHANGE



INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

Contributions to change

Long-term strategizing and persistence pays off

The infographic illustrates that we used different strategies and that these strategies led to results, each of which represent a stepping stone towards the prohibition of controversial weapons and/or controversial arms trade. Though individual approaches and campaign strategies may differ between the different weapons, the logic we use applies to all: from lobbying and advocacy to get our views about controversial weapons and the threat they pose to human security onto political and corporate agendas, to lobbying for actual policy or legal changes and/or the drafting of international resolutions and treaties, to finally campaigning for the strict interpretation and monitoring the implementation of policies and treaties once they have entered into force. For different types of weapons, our efforts focus on different aspects of this logic, depending on the phases that we refer to as norm building (killer robots, armed drones, conflict & environment), norm setting (explosive weapons) and norm compliance (cluster munitions, nuclear weapons, arms trade).

We have learned that a smart combination of evidence-based research and monitoring (increasingly using innovative data gathering tools), campaigning and national and international lobbying brings the best results. Year in, year out keeping up public and political pressure has been the strength of our programme throughout. The absolute highlight of the past five years, which proved that this persistent lobby and advocacy for policy influencing can pay off, was the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in July 2017, which entered into force in January 2021. For many years, PAX had been at the forefront of international campaigns for this milestone agreement to ban nuclear weapons. This result also exemplified another vital strength of our work, that is, smart coalition-building and joint strategizing with likeminded organizations and activists internationally. PAX is not only a board member of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017, but also a founder or board member of, among others, the Control Arms Coalition, Cluster Munition Coalition, Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, and the International Network on Explosive Weapons.

The infographic shows that our lobby has been primarily directed at state actors and multilateral organizations, because at the end of the day, they have the power to translate progressive views on humanitarian disarmament into binding laws and treaties. In the past five years, our policy liaisons in New York, Brussels and The Hague have played a key facilitating role in engaging these actors. Increasingly over the past five years, we also targeted financial institutions, to use their leverage over weapons producers. As mentioned, the results of this part of our work are covered in the Natural Resources, Conflict & Human Rights chapter.

Proving a positive impact on human security

The core of our work, campaigning and lobbying, mostly takes place at the level of national and international, corporate and state actors. However, ultimately all our 'humanitarian disarmament' efforts are meant to reduce the human suffering caused by controversial weapons. Our results of the past five years have contributed to the mission of the SP, that is, to improve human security and human rights. Substantiating this claim with figures is difficult. How many people worldwide were *not* maimed or killed because certain companies stopped the production of cluster munitions? This is hard to calculate. And yet, we can safely assume that lives are being saved with every company that stops the production of cluster munitions, especially because the wide ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) makes it increasingly unlikely that new production lines will be opened.

It is not only hard to quantify the impact of our work on human security because it requires measuring 'something that didn't happen', but also because this impact cannot be measured on a timeline of five years. The Mine Ban Treaty came into effect more than twenty years ago, and only now are we able to measure its impact on the ground. It was worth the wait and is reason for optimism: the impact of our ongoing global efforts for the prohibition of EWIPA, armed drones or killer robots, will be substantiated in the future.

Box 12: Selection of lobbying results in 2020

Killer robots

- ◆ 170 Dutch scientists in Artificial Intelligence and robotics call on the Dutch government to work towards a treaty
- ◆ Increased support for a treaty by EU states, witness coalition agreements
- ◆ The Ethics Council of the Norwegian Pension Fund Global advises to exclude killer robots from portfolio

Armed drones

- ◆ Strengthened coordination and information sharing through offline and online meetings between 16 organisations in Europe and the US, through the European Forum on Armed Drones, coordinated by PAX
- ◆ The Dutch government engaged more in developing international policies on the use and export of armed drones over the last four years at bi- and multilateral level
- ◆ UNOCHA and the UN Special Rapporteurs on targeted killings published reports on the use of armed drones, reflecting input provided by PAX

Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas

- ◆ More attention in the Dutch parliament for EWIPA in the run-up to the UN General Assembly
- ◆ Increased focus on EWIPA during (virtual) 1st Committee of UN General Assembly, and 112 states acknowledge harm caused by EWIPA
- ◆ 70 states are in the process of negotiating a political declaration, which got stalled by the Covid-19 pandemic

Nuclear weapons

- ◆ The Dutch parliament continues its stronger delegitimizing narrative regarding nuclear weapons
- ◆ Groningen, Rotterdam and other city councils call on the Dutch government to sign the TPNW
- ◆ 86 countries sign and 52 countries ratify the TPNW

Arms trade

- ◆ EU states take steps to mitigate risks related to arms transfers to fragile states as part of the new European Peace Facility, in line with the EU Common Position
- ◆ One Dutch insurer decided to engage one company because it was listed by PAX as involved in controversial arms trade
- ◆ The Norwegian ethics committee recommended Norway's Government Pension Fund Global (one of the largest investors in the world) include a new criterion to check whether companies the Fund wants to invest in supply military goods to countries where the risk is substantial that these are used in violation of IHL.

In the shorter term, we see positive impacts in terms of arms trade. Each country that stopped exporting weapons to Yemen, partly due to our research-based lobbying (i.e. Day of Judgment report), means a contribution to human security, for weapons that could have been used against civilians, weren't used. Given the incredible scale of human suffering and human rights violations in Yemen, it is a small win, but hopefully one that will set a precedent for future decision-making by states on controversial arms trade.

Box 13: Conflict and the environment

The environmental legacy of wars and conflicts is enormous. The use and testing of certain weapons, bombing of industrial facilities, setting off oil fires, and burning of military waste all leave toxic remnants that contaminate the environment. In 2017, PAX won the Green Star Award for collecting and sharing data about toxic war remnants and their impact on communities in Syria, Iraq and Ukraine. Since then, we continued to play a lead role in the international coalition that calls for stronger laws and full implementation and monitoring of the international legal framework on protection of the environment in armed conflicts. In 2020, PAX and Amnesty International together with several other NGOs, launched the publication Witnessing the Environmental Impacts of War with case studies from eight countries, building on innovative research methods and the input from affected communities. Well-researched cases help to raise the issue, witness the fact that several states addressed concerns in the UN Security Council over oil spills in northeast Syria and the potential ecological threat from the FSO SAFER oil tanker at the coast of Yemen. Numerous international media reports furthermore quoted research by PAX on environmental impacts of the conflicts in Syria and Iraq in relation to forest fires, damage to agricultural lands and food security. A key issue for us is the acknowledgment of the inextricable link between the protection of the environment and the protection of civilians. In 2020, UNOCHA addressed this linkage as spelled out in the yearly UN Secretary General report on Protection of Civilians, in the UN Security Council.

In Iraq, PAX researched the effects of conflict on the environment, like the large oil spills and burning oil wells near the town of Qayyarah in 2017.



Considerations for the future

Lobbying unresponsive states

A challenge that needs our continued attention, is how to devise lobby strategies around countries that are scarcely, or not at all, receptive to arguments about international norms on controversial weapons. Important examples are China, Russia, and the United States. During the Trump presidency, for instance, we had to put our lobby against armed drones on the back burner as the administration held entirely opposite views, in the same way that Trump once again allowed the use of cluster munitions and withdrew the US's undersigning of the ATT. In 2020, China joined the ATT. This positive development nevertheless throws up many questions. How do we lobby China, where civil society has so little voice, on the implementation of the treaty? A confrontational approach may be counter-productive, but collaboration throws up many ethical and practical issues too. Our approach is to strengthen interaction with states that may not agree now with the policy changes we seek, but are nevertheless willing to engage in conversation, in order to set the stage for when political changes may lead to new opportunities. In addition, we will keep putting pressure, for instance through the financial sector, on other actors involved in controversial (use of) weapons, including weapon producers. Despite the many challenges, we believe that further stigmatization of controversial (use of) weapons will ultimately advance our goals.

Diversity within international coalitions

Most of our results were achieved by working through coalitions and international networks. We are a founder or board member of many of these. Working through coalitions amplifies our reach and gives us political clout as well as legitimacy – together we represent the voices of many world citizens. A lesson of the past years is that we need to seek more diversity in the membership of our coalitions and networks, ensuring that they are more representative of the conflict regions where controversial arms cause human suffering. CSO members from conflict countries have access to first-hand knowledge of the situation on the ground, which is extremely important for evidence-based lobbying. Their participation increases the legitimacy of our joint political messages. Their presence means that we can lobby *with*, rather than *on behalf* of our partners, which is not only more inclusive but also much more effective. We have seen these advantages with our Yemenite partner that joined the Control Arms coalition, and are planning to similarly engage partners from the Sahel.

5

NATURAL RESOURCES, CONFLICT & HUMAN RIGHTS

Theory of Change:

The corporate sector can contribute to violence, human rights violations and state fragility through their investments in countries that are prone to conflict, through the production of controversial weapons or through arms trade. People are forcibly removed from their land and habitats, livelihoods are destroyed by companies and people die or get injured through the indiscriminate use of weapons. We mobilise political and public pressure to prevent and address the adverse impact on human rights linked to business activity.

By urging and supporting states and the corporate sector to follow the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in the exploitation of natural resources, we mitigate the risk of violence and human rights violations and promote remedy for victims of violence and human rights violations. By mobilising support from the financial sector, we increase the leverage on the corporate sector to prevent and address the adverse impact of their business activity on human rights.

Strategic objectives:

- ◆ Ensure that human security and the human rights of civilians are respected and protected during the exploitation of natural resources by companies and governments.
- ◆ Ensure that civilians who have suffered human rights violations as a result of the exploitation of natural resources can claim access to justice and reparations in a peaceful manner.
- ◆ Ensure that the financial sector increases its leverage on the corporate sector to prevent and address the adverse impact of their business activity on human rights.

NATURAL RESOURCES, CONFLICT EN HUMAN RIGHTS

CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHANGE



- Communities and local change agents
- CSOs and human rights organizations
- Government/legal/security authorities
- Corporate actors and financial institutions



INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

This chapter brings together our results and lessons on two closely related areas of work. First, holding companies in the natural resources industry accountable for the violations of human rights caused by their operations. Second, promoting the application of international human rights standards by companies and financial institutions and leveraging the financial sector for the benefit of humanitarian disarmament and human rights. During the D&D SP, these strategies and activities involving economic and financial actors were part of two separate themes – Natural Resources, Conflict & Human Rights, and Humanitarian Disarmament. For the sake of readability and clarity, all activities related to the financial sector are included in this chapter.

The infographic captures our analysis of the trends in the results that were achieved and strategies used over the past five years.

Contributions to change

Financial sector leverage on controversial weapons

Under the D&D SP, we continued our research, campaigning and lobby to end investments in controversial weapons. Our strategy is to target financial institutions that, through their investment policies and practices, can use their leverage over weapons producers. Our track record, and three tools in particular, are central to the proven success of this strategy. First, the research report about global investments in nuclear weapons, [Don't Bank on the Bomb](#). This report has become a resource for financial institutions looking to expand their policies and find information about which companies to exclude from investment because of their involvement in the production of nuclear weapons. The same holds true for the Worldwide Investments in Cluster Munitions report, our tool for monitoring investor actions in relationship to cluster munition producers, in line with the CCM. Third, the online [Fair Finance Guide \(FFG\)](#) offers consumers in thirteen countries information on the investment policies and practices of their banks, insurers, and pension funds. Within the FFG, PAX has focused on investments in companies involved in arms sales to high-risk countries. In all this research and the associated lobby and public campaigning, we collaborate with national and international partners and coalitions. Within and outside Europe, citizens have started using our tools to persuade their own banks and pension funds to divest from nuclear weapons producers.

All three tools use the tactic of encouraging a 'race to the top' for financial institutions that adopt comprehensive policies and/or actively stop investing in companies that produce controversial weapons or that are involved in controversial arms trade. This tactic works because of our parallel efforts to publicly stigmatize these controversial weapons for the grave human suffering they cause. The stigma attached to controversial weapons is reinforced by the increasing political pressure for a strict interpretation of the international treaties on cluster munitions (CCM) and nuclear weapons (TPNW). An increasing number of states announced that they consider investing in cluster munitions producers or the financing of nuclear weapons a form of assistance that would be prohibited under the CCM/TPNW. Our international lobby and campaigning, which contributed to these public statements, is thus helping to build and maintain new societal norms.

Box 14: Results of financial leverage on weapons producers and arms trade in 2020

Investors and other financial institutions explicitly report that our research, lobby and campaigning inform and influence their disinvestment decisions.

A selection of results in 2020 include:

- ◆ Japanese megabank Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Inc announced it will ban the provision of financing for the production of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. 16 other banks indicated policy changes.
- ◆ The Norwegian ethics committee recommended that Norway's Government Pension Fund Global expands its definition of nuclear weapon producing companies to also include delivery platforms for nuclear weapons.
- ◆ One Dutch insurer divested from a company that PAX listed as involved in controversial arms trade.
- ◆ One Dutch pension fund and two Dutch insurers started engagement with a Japanese company over its joint venture with a military-owned company in Myanmar.
- ◆ Dutch insurers developed, with PAX, a framework to advise on preventing and mitigating the risks of investments in producers of military goods, which was also shared with pension funds.
- ◆ Ten Dutch pension funds improved their responsible investment policies on in total 171 counts

Responsible Business Conduct

Again as part of a coalition, we contributed to the development of the innovative Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) agreements through which Dutch banks, insurers and pension funds commit to improving their human rights due diligence. By 2020, all Dutch banks had started publishing a human rights report in line with the UNGP Reporting Framework, while most larger institutional investors, including 50% of Dutch insurers, had improved their human rights policies and/or explicitly committed themselves to the OECD Guidelines and UNGPs. Importantly, PAX and Amnesty successfully pushed for inclusion in the RBC agreements that financial institutions have a responsibility to act when companies that they invest in are involved in human rights violations. This further strengthened our contribution to bringing business involvement in human rights violations under public scrutiny, which has helped create an environment in which human rights due diligence legislation is a viable option.

South Sudan and Colombia⁷ – dialogue or litigation?

Our other main area of work under this theme concerns extractive industries. In Colombia and **South Sudan**, we have been closely involved with victim groups and organizations who demand truth and accountability, and/or justice and reparations from companies and/or governments that violated their human rights during the exploitation of natural resources – coal in Colombia, oil in South Sudan. In 2020, we continued to support them in claiming access to justice and reparations in a peaceful manner. Simultaneously, we have lobbied and put pressure on the implicated companies to change their corporate policies and practices and to take responsibility for past wrongs. We also target value chain actors, such as the buyers of coal (European energy companies) or the ports where 'blood coal' is traded (Amsterdam). We have also successfully used public campaigning to engage consumers and local governments.

⁷ The work of PAX in Colombia that was financed through D&D SP funds was not a country programme, but part of the FfF alliance's thematic international campaign on responsible business conduct in value supply chains (in this case coal).

A growing dilemma is, when should we opt for facilitating dialogue between victims and companies as a route to justice and reparations, and when choose for strategic litigation? In the case of South Sudan, our research report [Unpaid Debt](#) initiated a criminal investigation in Sweden against the Chairman and the former CEO of Lundin Energy. The investigation is in its final stages and an indictment for aiding and abetting war crimes in South Sudan during the period 1997-2003 is expected for mid-2021. The Swedish Prosecution Authority will request the court to forfeit €300 million in criminally obtained benefits from the company itself. The case may have profound implications for criminal liability of corporations for harming people and the planet. Our efforts, together with our partners, to convince shareholders and financiers of Lundin Energy that the company should assess its human rights impacts and allocate resources for remedy and reparation of victims has fallen on deaf ears. In 2019, the Swedish Prosecution Authority opened a second, parallel criminal investigation into harassment, threats, and bribery of court witnesses, with the CEO and Chairman of Lundin Energy as the suspects. Meanwhile, we continued to support the network of victims of violence from communities in Lundin's former concession area and have been building coalitions with NGOs in Sweden, Norway and Austria that are committed to their right to remedy and reparation. In addition, we have built the infrastructure to monitor and court proceedings and report about the trial to South Sudanese and international audiences.

In **Colombia** too, we continued our long-term support to the victims of violence from the coal mining region Cesar. This support ranges from providing capacity training in dialogue and negotiations skills, strategic campaigning and mobilizing, to facilitating collaboration between CSOs and victims groups for increased protection. Our strategy vis-à-vis the companies that were involved in the human rights violations has been different from South Sudan. In Colombia, we focused on appealing to the willingness of the mining companies (Prodeco and Drummond) to start a dialogue with the victims of violence and meet their call for truth, recognition and reparations. This strategy was successful in that gradually over the past five years, they took steps into this direction. Early in 2020, before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Prodeco attended a meeting at PAX headquarters, where it expressed its willingness to set up a dialogue mechanism, including for joint truth-finding. Later in the year, Prodeco held follow-up discussions with leaders of the victims organization *Asamblea Campesina* about the roadmap, agenda and facilitation of a dialogue process. Also in early 2020, Drummond held a first exploratory meeting with a delegation from the *Asamblea Campesina*, and later wrote to the victims' leaders about its willingness to hold follow-up talks. The COVID-19 pandemic, has since halted the dialogue process. In December 2020, the Colombian public prosecutor charged two Drummond officials with criminal charges for involvement in gross human rights violations.

Looking back at the past five years, we might have given more attention – as a 'plan b' – to supporting the legal options for meeting the victims' demands, for instance by supporting other actors in finding and documenting evidence for litigation purposes. We have learned that it is vital to be attuned to when it is time to switch between different strategies, for instance, to be confident to act accordingly when dialogue processes are stalling or being thwarted. This requires that we constantly keep abreast of developments locally, in terms of changing security situations or new evidence that becomes available. Conducting an ongoing context analysis, with the support of our local partners, has been one of our strengths in this regard, and is something we will keep investing time and resources into.

Considerations for the future

Shifting strategies, multiple allies

Our experience in the past five years reconfirmed that to be effective in our lobbying efforts, and to effectively support victims in achieving their goals, we need to be willing and flexible enough to shift and switch between strategies depending on the context and political momentum. For instance, depending on where we are in the process of pushing financial institutions or companies into action, we alter between the tactics of positively encouraging a race-to-the-top on the one hand, and naming & shaming on the other hand. In a politically highly sensitive case such as Colombia, strategies and tactics need to be very carefully weighed to not end up being counterproductive. For example it is not possible as PAX to work towards or facilitate a dialogue process between victims and companies and at the same also call for litigation. As we intend to take on more such cases in

the future, we need to invest even more in building partnerships with various types of allies, including CSOs with legal expertise, or think tanks on the rule of law/transitional justice. While PAX can support victims in collecting and documenting evidence for case building, and prepare them psychologically for court hearings, we need human rights lawyers and legal experts to assess the potential benefits or risks of litigation. We need to logically and smartly divide roles between ourselves and our partners, where one uses more confrontational and the other more reconciliatory approaches, either simultaneously or consecutively, to get corporate actors moving.

New methodologies and tools for capacity development

Our increased involvement in business and human rights issues in conflict-affected areas, prompted the need for new capacity development methodologies and tools for our partners. The issues that partners have to deal with under this theme go beyond MDR of human rights and subsequent lobbying and advocacy, which were the foci of Amnesty's capacity development during the D&D SP. For victims organizations and other partners to be able to take the lead in holding companies accountable for involvement in human rights violations, and in involving national governments in these processes, they need to have a thorough understanding of international voluntary standards (soft law) and binding legislation (hard law) concerning responsible business conduct. Based on our experiences of the past years in applying different strategies, we are building capacity among beneficiaries (victims' organizations and CSOs) and partners, and simultaneously we are improving our own methodologies. Amnesty is planning to pilot new training tools that were recently developed specifically for this purpose. In addition, it remains vital to keep offering moral, psychosocial and security and safety support to partners and victims' organizations that are involved in processes of holding companies and governments accountable for human rights violations committed against victims, community leaders and representatives, and other human rights defenders (see also chapter 'Dealing with the Past')

Soft and/or hard law?

Until recently, responsible business conduct was mainly regulated through non-binding (voluntary) international standards such as the OECD Guidelines and UNGPs (i.e. soft law). The implementation of these standards depends on the goodwill of companies, and can be promoted through public pressure. However, a growing number of countries and the EU are currently considering to issue binding legislation (i.e. hard law) concerning responsible business conduct. This often focuses on binding norms for companies to conduct human rights due diligence in commodity supply chains. Against this background, PAX and Amnesty need to decide where to focus their future efforts - on contributing to the development and implementation of soft or hard law, or both. In the past years, we learned that smaller (financial) institutions are more receptive to the influence of soft law as it often matches niche markets they seek to access (e.g., customers interested in sustainable investments). The behaviour of larger financial institutions suggests that binding legislation will eventually be needed in this regard, we are pleased that in 2020 both the Dutch government and the European Union actively started working on a proposal for mandatory human rights due diligence through national/European legislation. Amnesty's research on cobalt mining⁸ in the DRC ([This Is What We Die For \(2016\)](#) and [Time to Recharge \(2017\)](#)) confirmed that such legislation is needed. Research published by Amnesty and PAX in for instance the [Fair Finance Guide](#) equally confirmed this. PAX and Amnesty continue to work on promoting the implementation of the EU's Conflict Minerals Regulation. We are also contributing our expertise and long-term experience in conflict areas to the development of enhanced human rights due diligence standards for companies operating in conflict-affected and high-risk areas.

⁸ Amnesty's research on cobalt mining in the DRC, or in the framework of the Fair Finance Guide, is not financed with D&D SP funds.

6

PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS

Theory of Change:

The Protection of Civilians is high on the international agenda. But who ensures that security, and how? The answers to such questions depend on the conflict's local conditions. This is why we work with partners on the ground in conflict areas on protecting civilians from the bottom up.

By identifying the human security interests of civilians and their communities, and supporting local communities in their dialogue with international peacekeeping missions, we help the international community to act on its responsibility to protect the security of civilians and their human rights.

Strategic objective:

The UN and its member states carry out their interventions for the protection of civilians based on the local security priorities of civilians and their communities.

The protection of civilians has been at the heart of our work during the past five years. We have extensively used our Human Security Survey (HSS) methodology to conduct research and facilitate community dialogues in South Sudan and Iraq on how to best protect civilians against the destructive power of war, with the ultimate aim that human security is improved. All the work was done together with local activists and trusted partner organizations. The insights from the HSS were used for two purposes: contributing to community processes for improving security and building peace, and advising policymakers in politics and the military at local, national and international levels.

To translate the largely grassroots-focused work of the HSS projects to the international level, the Protection of Civilians (PoC) team at PAX also implemented two initiatives aimed at improving both policy and practice around civilian protection. The International PoC Capacities (IPC) and Defence and Security Policies (DSP) projects both focused on promoting within military missions and policymakers at the UN, NATO, EU and elsewhere a more civilian-centred approach to protection. The DSP project focused on crafting the policy instruments to formalize PoC responsibilities within international missions, whereas the IPC project was aimed at making sure these missions possessed the right skillset and resources to fulfil their protection responsibilities.

From September 2019, our work on the protection of civilians migrated from the Dialogue & Dissent Strategic Partnership as it was granted new funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the period through the end of 2023. Below we briefly summarize some key achievements from the period up to September 2019, as well as the lessons that we took on board for the new programme.

Contributions to change

The Human Security Survey at the community level

Between late 2016 and September 2019, we managed to complete 2 HSS project cycles in South Sudan (Jonglei, Eastern Lakes, Jubek and Southern Unity states) and 3 in Iraq (Kirkuk, Basra and Salahaddin governorates). A complete cycle includes the context-specific design and translation of the survey, the training of local data collectors, detailed interviews with a wide cross-section of the population, analysis of the data and validation of the main findings by the communities. Finally, through this process, we aim to create or leverage opportunities for people to engage in constructive dialogue with authorities from local government, security forces, religious and social institutions and local armed groups about the security priorities of civilians. An important aspect of the HSS is its approach to collecting the data and discussing the gendered outcomes with local communities. This is vital not only because of the varying understandings of what constitutes SGBV in conflict, but also more generally to be able to promote inclusive approaches to the protection of civilians that incorporate a nuanced understanding of the security needs and priorities of diverse civilian populations.

During the period of the D&D SP, approximately 4.226 people were interviewed in South Sudan and 5.885 in Iraq. Their answers on questions about the nature of security threats, their perceptions of their vulnerability to violence, the impacts of these experiences and perceptions on their daily lives and their expectations for the future, all provided valuable input and insights for dialogues with various authorities. By repeating the HSS cycle over multiple years, PAX and its partners managed to track trends in security needs and capacities, which helps to work towards more effective and sustainable protection of civilians in these locations. For instance, it was readily apparent in HSS data from Basra governorate in Iraq in 2017 and early 2018 that the public had waning trust in government, was dissatisfied with the provision of basic public services and was suffering from worsening economic conditions. Our respondents themselves said that these factors were likely to result in future conflict in their communities. Therefore, before the rest of the world turned its eyes to Basra when large-scale public protests erupted in the summer of 2018, PAX and its partners were already working with civilians on the ground to consolidate and present their priorities to officials.

At the local level, we witnessed that dialogues based on the HSS findings instigated positive changes. Community security committees were set up in all four survey locations in South Sudan to facilitate that the local priorities identified during the data feedback sessions after each round of the HSS would be pursued, and that a structure would be in place to hold authorities accountable for following through on commitments they made. At the Lakes-Unity border region, for instance, these committees contributed to the developing peace process between neighbouring Dinka and Nuer communities (see Box 15).

Box 15: Promoting peace between border communities

For years, the relationship between the Nuer and Dinka communities living in the Lakes-Unity border region was marred by violent cattle raiding and targeted killings of traders and travellers along the Nile. Historically, there had been cooperative relationships between these groups, but repeated cycles of local and national conflict deteriorated relations and broke down any mechanisms for dispute resolution. After surveying both regions in 2017 and 2018 and conducting extensive local dialogues about security conditions, PAX's local partner in the region convened a peace conference attended by a total of 40 participants, largely comprised of community and border chiefs, women leaders and youth. After three days of exchange, a list of 14 resolutions was signed committing to ensuring freedom of movement, pursuing sensitization among local communities to support the peace process and to abandoning the practices of revenge killings and cattle raiding. PAX and the local community security committees continue to work in this region and help facilitate ongoing dialogue and address emergent issues that could result in further conflict.

In other situations, there was less space to directly contribute to a peace process or other structural change. For example, it was clear in the HSS results from 2017 in Kirkuk that while security conditions were improving somewhat as a result of efforts to liberate the region from Islamic State control, deeper root causes of conflict remained, such as the ongoing dispute between Federal Iraq (Baghdad) and the Kurdish Regional Government (Erbil) over the status of disputed territories, including Kirkuk. When the Kurdish authorities held a non-binding referendum in September 2017 wherein over 92 percent of voters called for independence from Federal Iraq, tensions flared dramatically. As a result of a military crackdown by Iraqi forces, the Kurdish government lost nearly half of its territory and its main source of revenue in the Kirkuk oil fields. These conditions made it impossible for PAX and its partners to safely conduct research or community engagement efforts in Kirkuk, particularly around sensitive security issues, for more than a year. While the project was able to conduct another survey in 2019, the structural issues around territorial disputes remain out of reach and off the table.

Box 16: HSS capacity development

During the years 2017-2019, our local partners in South Sudan and Iraq and our local networks of enumerators, substantially strengthened their knowledge and skills relevant to research, facilitation and advocacy. These capacity gains provided an important foundation upon which we built our new PoC programme. Annual four-day trainings (on interviewing skills, research ethics, gender sensitivity, security and communication protocols and digital security best practices), as well as periodic learning events where the harvested data were analysed jointly, contributed to the capacity developments within participating individuals and institutions. In addition to improving technical skills for quantitative data collection and analysis, we focused on building advocacy capacity, both for facilitating community dialogues and for engaging effectively with local and national security actors. Over the years, we saw an increase in the number of community dialogue events as well as the diversity of participants and security concerns tackled. Based on the lessons from a formal external evaluation of the two HSS projects in 2018, our partners in Iraq started organizing separate sessions with community members to validate the survey findings and solicit civilians' priorities, followed by more targeted advocacy meetings with the authorities to share these reflections. This change in approach (instigated by the partners) resulted in more open and safe dialogues. In South Sudan, where we first started the HSS in 2016, the improved local staff capacities have made it possible to gradually hand over a range of tasks and responsibilities related to project management to our local staff and partners.



Enumerators in Yirol, South Sudan, receive their certificates

Engaging policy and security actors on human security implications

We advocate that institutions such as the UN and NATO and their member states should carry out their interventions for the protection of civilians based on the local security priorities of civilians and their communities. The HSS was developed as instrument to feed first-hand knowledge about these priorities into policy processes, operational protocols and training modules, facilitated by the IPC and DSP projects. In the past years, the opportunities for open dialogue and engagement of security actors at local and national level – such as the military, the police, peacekeeping missions as well as local armed groups – fluctuated as a result of the changing security situations in Iraq and South Sudan.

At the international level, international missions remain very interested in the locally informed data and policy guidance that PAX's PoC team can provide, although most missions and troop contributors still lack the operational structures, skillsets and resources to effectively protect civilians in practice. The UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), and particularly the Civil Affairs Division and Joint Mission Analysis Centre (JMAC) was increasingly open to discussing HSS results and implications over the years. In Jubeq, our local team and UNMISS co-organized a farmer-pastoralist forum in July 2018 in Mangalla County to discuss ways to promote mutual coexistence. It lent prestige to have UNMISS play a visible role in convening the event, and enabled staff from the mission to hear first-hand about community needs and capacities to promote peace. Additionally, the new interactive dashboards that were developed in 2019 enhanced our advocacy and networking potential with international audiences in particular regarding Iraq and South Sudan. In Iraq, for instance, it supported our partner in reaching out to the Protection Cluster Coordinator and others within the UN system to discuss potential utilization of HSS results.

In the period up to 2019, PAX's PoC team also increasingly found inroads with NATO headquarters, especially advising them on the development of training and education standards for international military staff, e.g. by contributing to NATO processes for developing a PoC Military Handbook, a Human Security policy and a review of PoC policy implementation to date. As for the PoC Handbook, we successfully argued for a more inclusive approach that emphasizes the need to understand the specific security concerns of all different groups in society, rather than applying a stove-piped 'vulnerable groups' analysis, which usually singles out women and children while ignoring the concerns of other relevant groups.

With the UN secretariat and member states, we organized a range of expert round tables on topics such as community engagement, human security and how to include civilian voices in decision making. Most of these took place in New York, but we either brought partners from the field or made sure we based interventions on their insights and experiences. In some cases, we were able to connect local directly with international, for instance during workshops in South Sudan together with partners and various UN agencies on how to improve community engagement. We also convened two international PoC-themed events during the D&D SP period to bring together Dutch and global experts on protection to discuss tangible ways to advance PoC policy in practice. The first annual PoC event was focused on the topic, "Protection of Civilians: Shared Goals, Different Visions?" Representatives with experience from various UN missions, as well as from the Dutch Ministry of Defence and peer institutions like Forsvarets Forsknings Institutt (FFI) and the Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC) discussed the paramount challenges to effective PoC implementation, and potential opportunities for overcoming them via improved training and policy approaches. The 2018 PoC event zeroed in on how to better utilize data in peacekeeping operations. Again, convening a wide range of international experts, including researchers, practitioners, policymakers and peacekeeping staff, participants discussed various types of data (e.g. need assessments, remote sensing, open source, big data) and their potential application through practical tools (e.g. threat analysis, data management systems, surveys etc.) for more informed peacekeeping operations. From 2019 onwards the team continued organizing these events with our growing network of PoC experts, leveraging PAX's thought leadership on this topic.

The direction of the new programme

In 2019 the PoC team worked closely with counterparts at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Department of Stabilisation and Humanitarian Aid to develop the next phase of PAX's PoC Programme. The new programme (2019-2023) continued certain aspects of the work initiated under the D&D SP, including both HSS projects, which largely maintained the existing implementation strategy but expanded in scope and scale. The new programme also enabled the team to apply lessons learned from the previous period to develop two new internationally focused projects, Engaging International Actors on PoC (EIA) and Protection in Practice (PiP). The EIA project is aimed at using advocacy and PAX's convening power to better integrate local civilian perspectives in policy- and decision-making processes within the UN, NATO and EU, as well as relevant member states that we are cultivating as so-called "champions of PoC". The PiP project is oriented around building the necessary capabilities within military missions to actually implement effective PoC through targeted advice and training, specifically around enhancing data-driven decision making; improving practices to adequately track, analyse and respond to civilian harm incidents; and developing capacity for in-mission assessments of PoC effectiveness.

The overall goal of the new PoC programme is to improve the effectiveness of PoC interventions by enabling civilians to hold local and international security actors to account, and by equipping and motivating security actors to pursue protection strategies that are more civilian-centred. Ultimately, the aim is to contribute to improved human security for civilians living in situations of conflict.

ANNEX: 2020 OUTCOMES PER DIALOGUE AND DISSENT INDICATOR

By end 2020, the Alliance and its partners reflected on their contribution to change during the year. The table below summarises the identified outcomes. Most outcomes cannot fully be attributed to our interventions. However, we are convinced that the alliance and its partners contributed to them, at least to some extent. Outcomes are kept confidential if publishing them could harm our partners or staff, or if disclosure could negatively impact relationships with particular stakeholders or the effectiveness of strategies.

Community Based Security & Citizens' Rights - North-east Africa

DD1: # of laws, policies and norms implemented for sustainable and inclusive development	1
One (1) confidential outcome.	
DD2: # of laws, policies and norms/attitudes blocked, adopted or improved for sustainable and inclusive development	1
One outcome showing that authorities of Eastern Equatoria and Greater Pibor in South Sudan restored peaceful co-existence between conflicting communities (Jie, Toposa, Murle, Kachipo), after many years of conflict on cattle raiding and abductions, including killings. The joint ceremony took place after a series of dialogues facilitated by PAX's partner.	
DD3: # of times that CSOs succeed in creating space for CSO demands and positions through agenda setting, influencing the debate and/or creating space to engage	6
Three (3) outcomes referring to actions of sub-national and local authorities in public debates on gender-based violence and equal positions for girls in schools in South Sudan, showing their support for our partners' cause.	
One (1) outcome showing that church leaders addressed recurring conflicts between Murle, Nuer and Dinka Bor communities in Jonglei and Pibor (South Sudan) by engaging with youth and with political leaders. Moreover, they established a committee to recover the abducted children and women.	
Two (2) confidential outcomes.	
DD4: # of advocacy initiatives carried out by CSOs for, by or with their membership/constituency	8
One (1) outcome showing that youth leaders from Made and Dinka Bor communities in Nimule (South Sudan) overcame antagonism, addressed conflicts in a peaceful way and contributed to increased intercommunity exchange of goods.	
Two (2) outcomes showing that women and youth committees in Bentiu (South Sudan) stimulated debate on the need for a participative and comprehensive conversation to transform the violent conflict that continues to impact the communities. They positively contributed to reconciliation and reducing revenge killings and gender-based violence.	
Five (5) confidential outcomes.	
DD5: # of CSOs with increased lobbying and advocacy (L&A) capacities	7
Capacity development support in previous years and in 2020 to PAX partners in South Sudan paid off in improved strategies, more meaningful reporting and improved admin capacities. A number of them improved their peacebuilding capacities by participating in targeted trainings (e.g. on gender sensitive programming) or by recruiting new staff, leading for instance to increased participation of women in peace activities, more pro-active community engagement in peace and reconciliation processes and more effective engagement with traditional leaders and armed youth groups. In 2020, PAX started a digital nonviolent action training with peace practitioners from South Sudan and other countries, focusing on improved knowledge and skills as well as on action learning from participants' practices.	
Amnesty International provided training to human rights defenders in Kenya, resulting in improved knowledge and skills for monitoring and reporting on cases of extrajudicial executions and enforced disappearances.	
DD6: # of CSOs included in Strategic Partnership (SP) programmes	15
Most of our partners reach out to local CSOs, e.g. peace committees, human rights monitoring committees and activists, and they in their turn contribute to strengthening capacities in civil society for peacebuilding and claiming rights. This broader outreach is not reflected in the indicated number of CSOs.	

Community Based Security & Citizens' Rights - West and Central Africa

DD1: # of laws, policies and norms implemented for sustainable and inclusive development

4

One (1) outcome pointing to prosecution of Cameroon security forces after the Ngarbuh Massacre that took place in February 2020. Reporting by Amnesty's partner in Cameroon contributed to the decision to do so.

One (1) outcome showing Congolese local authorities acted against human rights violations connected with Covid-19 measures. Reporting by our Congolese partner contributed to their decision to act.

One (1) outcome showing that building bridges and promoting dialogue between antagonistic communities in Isangi territory in the Congolese province Tshopo ultimately led to a formal agreement on dispute settlement and its implementation in terms of legal transfer of land, public reconciliation acts, resettlement of a number of families and establishment of a joint committee to address future problems.

One (1) outcome showing that the quality of its documentation and reporting enabled Amnesty's partner in the Gambia to establish cooperation with the country's Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC), leading to an increased number of registered victims.

DD2: # of laws, policies and norms/attitudes blocked, adopted or improved for sustainable and inclusive development

5

One (1) outcome referring to the UN Human Rights Council extending the mandate of the Commission on Inquiry on Burundi. Coordinated advocacy by civil society organisations probably contributed to that decision.

Two (2) outcomes, respectively referring to the newly developed National Development Strategy 2020-2030 and two new laws in Cameroon (General Code of Decentralized Territorial Collectivities; a law creating a national mechanism for the prevention of torture). The Cameroon partner contributed to public debate and provided input.

One (1) outcome showing that communities, armed self-defence groups, park management and local communities formally committed to enter into a dialogue on their conflict over the access to natural resources in the National Park Lomami and the loss of communities' livelihoods. Violent activity was stopped.

One (1) outcome showing partner contribution to the Gambia's TRRC Guide to the Reparation Process for Victims and the General Public, resulting in an easy-to-read document that responds to victims' needs.

DD3: # of times that CSOs succeed in creating space for CSO demands and positions through agenda setting, influencing the debate and/or creating space to engage

3

One (1) outcome showing the improved listening and responsiveness by local authorities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, after coordinated advocacy by human rights monitors.

One (1) outcome showing the release of illegally arrested and detained persons in DR Congo following advocacy actions by human rights monitors.

One (1) outcome showing the response of Gambia's the TRRC's Women's Affairs Unit to reported female and child victims in remote areas of arrests and ill treatment under the Jammeh regime; identification and reporting not only led to formal registration of the victims but also to a Memorandum of Understanding between the Unit and ten civil society organisations on future cooperation.

DD4: # of advocacy initiatives carried out by CSOs for, by or with their membership/constituency

5

One (1) outcome showing the increased visibility of the partner in Cameroon, due to participation in radio shows and contributing to public debates.

One (1) outcome showing the increased collaboration amongst human rights organisations in Cameroon on human rights issues related to the Anglophone crisis; this resulted in the establishment of a Civil Society Coalition for the Anglophone Crisis in which over thirty CSOs join forces.

One (1) outcome showing increased knowledge on violation of human rights and the right to reparation for victims, following awareness raising activities amongst local population in the Cameroon border zones, particularly victims of arbitrary arrest, detention or torture.

One (1) outcome showing increased awareness in different Congolese communities on human rights violations at illegal roadblocks and also in situations of public health emergencies such as with Covid-19.

One (1) confidential outcome.

DD5: # of CSOs with increased L&A capacities	10
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In Burkina Faso, a network of 18 monitors was trained in monitoring, documenting and reporting on human rights. With support from Amnesty International, also its partner in the Gambia enhanced skills in documenting and reporting, enabling the partner to strengthen its role in contributing to transitional justice processes. Amnesty's partner for Burundi got advice and accompaniment in switching from face-to-face working with human rights defenders in exile to training in-country human rights monitors remotely. This will help the partner in sharing more credible and accurate reports with relevant investigation and judicial mechanisms or other international actors. Likewise, advice and technical support to the partner in Cameroon helped to improve accuracy and reliability of reports on human rights violations or abuses in Cameroon's Anglophone regions, leading to increased credibility of the partner. Two Amnesty partners in the Democratic Republic of the Congo received fundraising training, enabling them to develop fundraising plans aimed at sustaining their resource bases for future work.

PAX partners in DR Congo conducted a 'gender audit', improving awareness, knowledge and skills on gender sensitive programming and gender relations within the organisations. Both partners asked for follow-up and planned for changes in their strategies, programmes and even staff composition. Some capacity development also took place in strategic thinking and planning, lobby & advocacy and in safety and security. The inability to travel due to Covid-19, combined with the severe limitations to digital/phone communication in DR Congo, hindered progress in training, coaching and accompaniment of the Congolese partners.

DD6: # of CSOs included in SP programmes	10
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Most of our partners reach out to local CSOs or grassroots organizations, e.g. peace committees, human rights monitoring committees and activists, and they in their turn contribute to strengthening capacities in civil society for peacebuilding and claiming rights. This broader outreach is not reflected in the indicated number of CSOs.

Community Based Security & Citizens' Rights - Middle East

DD1: # of laws, policies and norms implemented for sustainable and inclusive development	4
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Three (3) outcomes showing improved access for victims of (the war against) ISIS in the Iraqi Governorate Ninawa, to compensation and reparation and to basic services like health care, after advocacy by Local Peace Committees

One (1) confidential outcome.

DD2: # of laws, policies and norms/attitudes blocked, adopted or improved for sustainable and inclusive development	6
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Two (2) outcomes showing a changing attitude on participation of women in the Iraqi police force, both at national level (pledging budget for hiring female police officers) and at local level (accepting female volunteers into the community police).

Two (2) outcomes showing a supportive attitude at EU level for the protection of Syrian refugees in Lebanon and returnees to Syria, in line with evidence-based advocacy messages on their situation and needs.

One (1) outcome showing responsiveness of the Dutch International Crimes Unit to a plea for safe communication with victims and witnesses of war crimes.

One (1) confidential outcome.

DD3: # of times that CSOs succeed in creating space for CSO demands and positions through agenda setting, influencing the debate and/or creating space to engage	9
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One (1) outcome showing the engagement of the Iraqi Ministry of Defence with women's groups and its interest in training on subjects like gender, sexual and gender-based violence and human rights.

Two (2) outcomes showing increased openness at international level on engagement with the Refugee Protection Watch Coalition, providing Syrian and Lebanese NGOs with opportunities for participation in international discussions on refugee policies.

Two (2) outcomes showing increased openness with several religious leaders in Lebanon for dialogue with young people on freedom of religion and other societal subjects important for youth, such as educational system reform.

Four (4) confidential outcomes.

DD4: # of advocacy initiatives carried out by CSOs for, by or with their membership/constituency**27**

One (1) outcome showing that the Iraqi partner trained in monitoring, documenting and reporting human rights violations, disseminates its knowledge and skills to other human rights activists in the country enabling them particularly to investigate cases of torture and maltreatment.

Nine (9) outcomes showing that the local peace committees in the Iraqi province Ninawa are able to reach out to communities, raise their awareness on different subjects, activate citizens, advocate their interests and effectively cooperate with local governmental bodies.

Four (4) outcomes showing that several local peace committees worked on social cohesion by including Sunni Arabs in the committee, bridging between antagonistic groups, and by deliberately reaching out to displaced persons in the camps in East and West Ninawa.

One (1) outcome citing members of the peace committees who stated that participation in one of the committees enhanced their self-confidence and spirit of cooperation, enabled them to discuss sensitive issues, to engage with decision makers and to participate in political processes.

One (1) outcome showing that one of the Iraqi partners increased its capacities to conduct research on cases of sexual and gender-based violence, to report the results and to use them in evidence-based advocacy.

One (1) outcome showing that Palestinian millennials were able to mobilize their peers to advocate for free and fair elections in Palestine, with increased opportunities for youth.

One (1) outcome showing that one of the Lebanese partners – based on investigative journalism – was able to correct governmental figures on the casualties following the explosion in Beirut harbour and thus contributed to truth finding.

One (1) outcome showing that workshops organised by the Activist Academy in Lebanon not only helped participants in enhancing their skills in accountability, investigative journalism, non-violence et cetera, but also contributed to mutual empathy, increased understanding of each other's perspectives and interconnectedness between participants.

Two (2) outcomes showing that youth leaders in Lebanon, Iraq and Palestine – through online and offline trainings and dialogue sessions – enhanced their understanding of issues related to freedom of religion and belief, and the impact of discrimination.

One (1) outcome showing that one of the partners – despite Covid-19 – succeeded in providing a platform for expression by marginalized groups in the South of Lebanon.

One (1) outcome showing continued support from and increasingly active involvement by parents in northern Syria in peace values-based education.

One (1) outcome showing the development of a community-based methodology to document violations of Housing, Land and Property Rights. PAX and partner developed and piloted the methodology with displaced Kurdish people in Northeast Syria who left their homes during the Turkish offensive in the region in 2019.

Three confidential outcomes.

DD5: # of CSOs with increased L&A capacities**13**

Iraqi partners showed their learnings from PAX' outcome harvesting training (end of 2019) in improved and clearer reporting. In 2020, they were trained in communicating about conflict sensitive topics and in digital security. Some of them also improved their advocacy and campaigning skills. Results were for instance visible in improved cooperation in campaigns, improved planning with concrete objectives and focused targeting, and in tangible results. Lebanese partners improved their capacities in conflict sensitive programming and project implementation through training and learning by doing. They also got support in improving their planning and monitoring skills. One of them integrated a new approach (community mobilisation) in its human rights work. Also, with the Palestinian partners conflict sensitivity and advocacy were training topics. One of them explored new tools and methods in participatory research with youth and conducting online community dialogues. PAX partner in working on Syria acquired new skills in international lobby and advocacy, and in applying human rights monitoring and reporting skills to a new area of work: Housing, Land and Property Rights.

Amnesty's training activities with its partner in Iraq proved to have a wider impact than originally foreseen. The partner not only improved its own monitoring and reporting practices, but also improved on its facilitation and training skills, which they are using to benefit other Iraqi human rights activists. In 2020, Amnesty also worked closely with a Syrian partner on collecting victims' testimonies and building case files for strategic litigation purposes.

DD6: # of CSOs included in SP programmes**19**

In the Middle East as well, most of our partners reach out to local peace committees, other community-based organizations, human rights defenders or activists. This wider outreach is not reflected in the indicated number of CSOs.

Community Based Security & Citizens' Rights – Europe

DD1: # of laws, policies and norms implemented for sustainable and inclusive development	
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DD2: # of laws, policies and norms/attitudes blocked, adopted or improved for sustainable and inclusive development	2
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Two (2) outcomes showing increased responsiveness of local authorities to citizens' rights and needs in seven municipalities (mix Serb- and Albanian majority) in Mitrovica (Kosovo) and local planning based on citizen consultation processes, including also minorities, women and youth.

DD3: # of times that CSOs succeed in creating space for CSO demands and positions through agenda setting, influencing the debate and/or creating space to engage	4
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Three (3) outcomes showing that religious leaders in Ukraine were prepared to engage with PAX and/or partner for discussing subjects related to religious pluralism and war & peace.

One (1) confidential outcome.

DD4: # of advocacy initiatives carried out by CSOs for, by or with their membership/constituency	4
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One (1) outcome showing that local civil society organisations in Mitrovica region (Kosovo) are able to develop and implement successful initiatives that link citizens across divided communities, facilitate exchange between them and respond to cross community needs.

Two (2) outcomes showing that the network of Peace Engineers in Ukraine is expanding and is strengthening its capacities with newly educated Peace Engineers practicing their skills in organising and facilitating dialogues in communities and between antagonistic groups, and more experienced Peace Engineers taking a role as (assistant) trainer in subsequent training cycles.

One (1) outcome showing that (inter) national actors working on the nexus of religion and peace building in Ukraine started to meet regularly for sharing approaches and strategies.

DD5: # of CSOs with increased L&A capacities	1
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The 2019 PAX workshop on lobby and advocacy with one of the partners in Ukraine resulted in improved advocacy practices in 2020 re developing a lobby agenda, identifying connecting opportunities with relevant actors, networking and building trust with relevant stakeholders.

DD6: # of CSOs included in SP programmes	6
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Partners in the Balkans and Ukraine reach out to grassroots organizations, youth groups and local communities. The indicated number of CSOs does not reflect this wider outreach.

Dealing with the Past

DD1: # of laws, policies and norms implemented for sustainable and inclusive development	
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DD2: # of laws, policies and norms/attitudes blocked, adopted or improved for sustainable and inclusive development	1
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One (1) outcome showing that the Kosovo government adopted a citizen-centred and inclusive Strategy for Transitional Justice into its official program of work, after research and lobby by PAX and partners.

DD3: # of times that CSOs succeed in creating space for CSO demands and positions through agenda setting, influencing the debate and/or creating space to engage	12
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Five (5) outcomes showing that international actors like the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights, the African Union, the European Union and several member states are responsive to advocacy by and seek advice of our partner Impunity Watch and its local partners, through participation in fora and other meetings on general subjects like victims' participation in transitional processes as well as on country specific issues.

One (1) outcome showing that traditional chiefs and commanders of security forces in the Congolese provinces Haut- and Bas Uele increasingly acknowledge and appreciate the role of female community leaders work with defectors and victims of the Lord Resistance Army, therewith actively supporting processes of dealing with the past and present violence.

One (1) outcome showing the chances for engagement with (inter) national level policy makers and politicians provided by a policy forum on transitional justice options for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, organized by Impunity Watch and the Congolese Coalition for Transitional Justice. The forum's recommendations have been picked up by other policy fora and round tables.

One (1) outcome showing that the Kosovo Specialist Court increased and improved its outreach to diverse communities in Kosovo, after intense advocacy by PAX and partners.

One (1) outcome showing that the UN Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL (UNITAD) developed a dialogue mechanism for engaging with civil society organisations. The mechanism should provide civil actors with better opportunities to participate in the investigative processes and to be heard.

One (1) outcome showing that international actors such as the UN Commission of Inquiry of Syria and the UN Special Envoy for Syria put issues of Syrian detainees and disappeared on their agenda.

Two (2) confidential outcomes.

DD4: # of advocacy initiatives carried out by CSOs for, by or with their membership/constituency	22
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One (1) outcome showing that previously trained youth leaders were able to ease tensions and prevent violence during the election process in Burundi.

One (1) outcome showing that communities in Burundi that participated in awareness raising activities increased their knowledge and understanding of transitional justice.

Two (2) outcomes showing that journalists in the Congolese province South Kivu enhanced their understanding of the importance of transitional justice processes and their possible role in them.

One (1) outcome showing that civil society organisation in South Kivu found each other in developing common views of convenient judicial mechanisms to address serious human rights violations.

Two (2) outcomes showing that targeted groups of survivors and victims in South and North Kivu strengthened their capacities to organise themselves, and enhanced their understanding of and skills for participation in transitional justice processes.

One (1) outcome showing research-based advocacy on inclusive memorialisation in the Western Balkans, mobilising civil society organisations as well as engaging with donors and international actors in the region.

Two (2) outcomes showing that research findings and policy recommendations on transitional justice found their way from our partner Impunity Watch to civil society groups and policy makers.

Two (2) outcomes showing that victim groups in Guatemala quickly acquired enhanced skills in working with virtual tools and acted as defenders of peace institutions in the country.

One (1) outcome showing mobilised solidarity, including raised funds, with victims of enforced disappearances in Santa Lucia, Guatemala.

One (1) outcome showing the establishment of the International Network of Victims and Survivors of Serious Human Rights Violations (INOVA). The network connects organisations, groups and individuals from across the world in order to allow their voices as claim makers to be heard, facilitate exchanges and reinforce solidarity.

Two (2) outcomes showing support for and amplifying the voices of members of the pro-reform protest movement in Iraq so that their plea for accountability is heard at international level.

Two (2) outcomes showing that a conference after the popular uprising in the Iraqi governorate Sulaimaniyya brought together civil society activists, journalists and Members of Parliament, enabling them to exchange publicly on the uprising as well as the violent reactions.

One (1) outcome showing that the continued cooperation between the International Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM) and Syrian Civil Society Organisations strengthened mutual trust and expanded the knowledge and skills of the CSOs.

One (1) outcome referring to a policy brief and subsequent virtual public event on the violation of housing, land and property rights in Syria, its negative effects on social cohesion and the position of vulnerable groups in particular.

One (1) outcome showing the increased strength of Syrian victims and survivors as demonstrated by enhanced participation and influence in international advocacy for justice and accountability in Syria.

One (1) confidential outcome

DD5: # of CSOs with increased L&A capacities	28
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In its capacity development work our partner Impunity Watch paid a lot of attention to victim participation. Across its partner network, local organisations increased their knowledge on victim participation in transitional justice processes, strengthened their skills on conducting awareness sessions among affected communities, and learned how to advocate for victims' rights. In addition, Impunity Watch partners improved their access to policy makers and their advocacy results, by better networking, joining forces, developing common agendas and conducting policy fora. Some of the partners also strengthened more general capacities like financial administration, planning, monitoring and evaluation.

PAX South Sudanese partner built on the training it received in 2019 on trauma healing and data collection on memorialisation of lost ones. It succeeded in acquiring a plot of land for building a memorial centre, improved in organising memorialisation activities, improved the documentation of lost ones and created a database on memorial materials.

DD6: # of CSOs included in SP programmes	36
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One partner in DR Congo and one in Kosovo are working on both community-based security and dealing with the past. In order to avoid double counting, the indicated number of CSOs does not include them. The number does include local partners of PAX's strategic partner in the Dealing with the Past programme, Impunity Watch. Where PAX and Impunity Watch partner networks overlap, partners are counted only once.

Natural Resources, Conflict and Human Rights

DD1: # of laws, policies and norms implemented for sustainable and inclusive development	
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DD2: # of laws, policies and norms/attitudes blocked, adopted or improved for sustainable and inclusive development	
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DD3: # of times that CSOs succeed in creating space for CSO demands and positions through agenda setting, influencing the debate and/or creating space to engage	7
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One (1) outcome showing the openness of the EU and its member states for discussing with and recommendations from NGO networks on improved implementation of the EU Regulation on Conflict Minerals.

One (1) outcome showing that the Colombian Truth Commission reached out to mining companies from Cesar through various closed-door meetings, to persuade them to participate in truth-finding about human rights violations in the Cesar mining region. PAX and partner participated in the technical round on companies' participation in the work of the Truth Commission.

One (1) outcome showing that the coal buyers organisation 'Better Coal' asked and accepted PAX input into the Action Plans on which it must reach agreement with the mining companies.

Four (4) confidential outcomes.

DD4: # of advocacy initiatives carried out by CSOs for, by or with their membership/constituency	4
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Four (4) confidential outcomes.

DD5: # of CSOs with increased L&A capacities	2
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In 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic and related confinement measures had impact on capacity building efforts with both partners, mainly because international and national travel was hardly possible throughout the year. Nevertheless, both showed progress in strengthening their capacities. One partner improved dialogue, lobby and advocacy skills. The other consolidated its organisational structure and improved organisational capacities, by revising its statutes, clarifying responsibilities and tasks, developing an institutional security plan and streamlining processes and procedures. In addition, it paid special attention to well-being of staff through facilitated online sessions.

DD6: # of CSOs included in SP programmes	2
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One Congolese partner is working on community-based security as well as on responsible business conduct. In order to avoid double counting, the indicated number of CSOs does not include this partner. The two partners in the Blood Coal project work with local victims' associations and other CSOs. Although the role of these associations and CSOs is key for the project, these actors are not included in the indicated number of CSOs.

Humanitarian Disarmament

DD1: # of laws, policies and norms implemented for sustainable and inclusive development

DD2: # of laws, policies and norms/attitudes blocked, adopted or improved for sustainable and inclusive development

2

One (1) outcome showing the additional number of states that ratified or signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and the number of states that support the treaty as expressed by their voting for UN Resolution A/75/399.

One (1) outcome showing that the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and the UN Special Rapporteurs on targeted killings, published reports on armed drones, partly reflecting PAX recommendations.

DD3: # of times that CSOs succeed in creating space for CSO demands and positions through agenda setting, influencing the debate and/or creating space to engage

13

Two (2) outcomes showing the growing concern expressed by states about (fully) autonomous weapons, increased cooperation among states that plea for regulation on meaningful human control over critical functions of these weapons, and increasing support among European states for development of a treaty on that subject.

Three (3) outcomes showing the increasing concern about the harm caused by the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, the progress made in negotiations about a UN level Political Declaration on the topic and the growing number of states participating in those negotiations.

Two (2) outcomes showing PAX research resonating in international public and UN level political debate on conflict related environmental damage in Syria and Iraq.

One (1) outcome showing that the Dutch government increased its engagement in developing international standards on the use and export of armed drones.

Five (5) confidential outcomes.

DD4: # of advocacy initiatives carried out by CSOs for, by or with their membership/constituency

8

One (1) outcome showing that a large number of scientists in artificial intelligence and robotics publicly warned for the use of armed drones and called on the Dutch government to work toward a treaty on the subject.

Three (3) outcomes showing the concern about nuclear weapons amongst the Dutch population and the increased support among citizens and local governments for the Dutch government to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

One (1) outcome showing the increased coordination between civil society organisations on environmental dimensions of armed conflict, leading to joint positioning and raising the profile of the issue.

One (1) outcome showing the strengthening of collaboration in the European Forum on Armed Drones (EFAD), leading to joint position papers, coordinated statements in international fora and continuous information sharing.

Two (2) confidential outcomes.

DD5: # of CSOs with increased L&A capacities

In international coalitions, continuous peer learning takes place by exchanging insights, tools and approaches.

DD6: # of CSOs included in SP programmes

Most of our work on humanitarian disarmament, including that with regard to the financial sector, is developed and implemented in international coalitions.

Financial Sector

DD1: # of laws, policies and norms implemented for sustainable and inclusive development

3

One (1) outcome showing that several new Australian financial institutions confirmed policies and practices preventing financial exposure to companies involved in nuclear weapon production.

Two (2) outcomes showing that Dutch insurers acted upon PAX monitoring data on companies involved in controversial arms trade, either by divestment from or by engaging with a particular company.

DD2: # of laws, policies and norms/attitudes blocked, adopted or improved for sustainable and inclusive development

3

One (1) outcome showing that insurers – with input from PAX - developed an advisory framework on preventing and mitigating the risks of investments in producers of military goods. The framework was shared with the pension sector as well.

Two (2) confidential outcomes.

DD3: # of times that CSOs succeed in creating space for CSO demands and positions through agenda setting, influencing the debate and/or creating space to engage

11

One (1) outcome showing that the advisory committee of the Ethics Council of the Norwegian Pension Fund Global recommended to exclude Lethal Autonomous Weapons systems from the investment portfolio.

One (1) outcome showing that a company listed by PAX, sold all its interests related to nuclear weapons development, production, testing and maintenance. It is no longer considered as a company involved in nuclear weapon production and will no longer be excluded for investment for that reason.

One (1) outcome showing that PAX' research influenced the debate in the Swiss Parliament on further restricting investments in companies associated with the production of war materials.

One (1) outcome showing that the Dutch government decided that binding legislation is needed to enforce human rights due diligence by companies.

Two (2) outcomes showing cooperation with insurance companies on guidance for the sector on investing in controversial arms trade and in companies that operate in conflict affected areas.

Five (5) confidential outcomes.

DD4: # of advocacy initiatives carried out by CSOs for, by or with their membership/constituency

1

One (1) outcome showing that Shareholders for Change, a network of European institutional investors, published content on their websites and social media channels to inform their clients on the importance of avoiding investment in nuclear weapons.

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