Dear Friends of Conflict Dynamics,

During these past three months, I had the opportunity to travel to several of the countries in which we work. I met with our colleagues and partners working in Somalia and Sudan, visited our office in Kenya, and met some of our interlocutors in Ethiopia.

It has been inspiring to see how we can practically support people working to bring positive change in their societies ... and the incredible energy and persistence of people striving for change, especially young people. We are supporting Sudanese changemakers at an important time, when military and civilian actors have taken an important step forward in the political transition by signing a Constitutional Declaration for a three-year transition period.

In Somalia, we see such great potential. We are working with partners to support dialogue on critical issues such as the system for elections (planned for 2020), through the recently-launched Dialogue Platform initiative.

As we enter into the last few months of 2019, I am looking forward to many outreach and discussion opportunities, including during Geneva Peace Week in November. Please stay tuned for our upcoming events, we hope to see you there!

Thank you as always for your support and interest in our work.

Gerard Mc Hugh
Founder and President

Where In The World Is Conflict Dynamics?

Expanding European Networks
Conflict Dynamics' leadership traveled to

New Faces in Mogadishu
New members of Conflict Dynamics
the Netherlands to introduce new staff members and engage with partners. The team met with officials from @DutchMFA and discussed @cdint Peace Action program of work including projects in Somalia and Sudan.

Community Approaches to Building Peace

Members of the CDI Somali Team presented at a learning event held in Nairobi in collaboration with Saferworld and the Knowledge Platform Security and Rule of Law in Nairobi under the theme: “Sustainable Community Approaches to Peacebuilding in Securitized Environments.”

15 Years: Reflection and Strategizing

Conflict Dynamics’s staff from all over the world gathered in Kenya last week to reflect on the past 15 years of achievement and plan on how to strengthen its approach and methodologies for the future to enhance its impact.

What is Happening on the Ground?

Sudan On A New Course Toward Peace And Stability

Sudan’s transition period offers an opportunity to break cycles of exclusion that have driven conflict and for Sudan to steer a new course toward peace and stability. The last three months have seen significant activity to begin this period, both in Sudan and CDI’s work. The Transitional Military Council (TMC) and Forces for Freedom and Change (FFC) agreed on a transitional period, and the first bodies of Sudan’s transitional government were formed. The nascent government then initiated talks with Sudan’s armed groups, most of whom agreed to engage in a peace process.

During this exciting time, CDI has provided support to members of the FFC and TMC on the design and formation of a transitional government. The team also conducted the workshop “Advancing Youth Participation in Political Transition”, the first workshop in the country to bring together youth from across Sudan to explore their participation during the transition. CDI continues to support...
Participants in the peace process, which is the first major step of the transition period and will likely set the tone going forward.

Photo: @Getty Images/AFP/E. Hamid

Supporting District Peace Committees in Somalia

Conflict Dynamics and the Somali Youth Development Network (SOYDEN) conducted an assessment on peace, stability and capacity in the district of Bardere, which was followed by the establishment of a district peace committee with a total of 21 members. After that, a four day training workshop on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management was held from 31 August to 3 September 2019. The workshop was attended by 120 participants comprising of representatives from the Community Sector Groups. Among participants were, Women, Elders, Youths, Spiritual Leaders, Internally Displaced Persons, and the Business Community and local government administrative authorities. The training was aimed at equipping participants with basic peacebuilding and conflict management skills.

Photo: @SOYDEN

Navigating the Humanitarian Landscape while Countering Terrorism

The Team took a break from the frontlines to visit Switzerland, discussing one of the most significant current obstacles in humanitarian aid, the intersection of counter-terrorism and aid. Earlier in September, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs gathered experts in Bern to discuss the challenges they face and recent developments in the field. Among the participants were representatives from government, civil society, and humanitarian collaborators.

Conflict Dynamics’ President, Gerard Mc Hugh, who was among the panelists, shared some insights on engaging parties to conflict and others for humanitarian purposes. In the presentation: ‘The Impact of Counter-Terrorism measures and narrative on humanitarian action,’ Gerard called for humanitarians to work together more closely, rethink their roles and strengths, and focus on the obstacles between each other in their contexts. Too often, there is tension between counter-terrorism laws and international law, and all parties must remember that it is everyone’s responsibility to ensure the protection of civilians during conflict.

Photo: @SDC

Employee Spotlight
Meet Airokhsh Faiz Qaisary, Research Assistant at Conflict Dynamics’ Cambridge office. Airokhsh works with our Research and Methodology team assisting various CDI programs providing case studies, and other relevant support. She was born and raised in the midst of a civil war in her home country of Afghanistan. Growing up, she witnessed and lived the impact of the conflict, the international intervention, and the peace and transition process. As a result, Airokhsh became a passionate advocate for peacebuilding and girls’ education.

Airokhsh graduated in 2015 from Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania majoring in International Politics and Peace and Conflict Studies. She attended Juniata through The Initiative to Educate Afghan Women, a program that partners with U.S. colleges and universities to educate and provide leadership training for the next generation of women leaders in Afghanistan. During her summer breaks, Airokhsh served as an intern for Sahar, an organization that builds schools, and computer centers for Afghan girls. To help decrease the rate of child marriage, Airokhsh designed a 15-day training program to educate school girls about the consequences of early marriage. As a result, hundreds of girls who have received the training are leading the change themselves. She earned her master’s in Gender Analysis in Conflict Resolution from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in 2018 and joined Conflict Dynamics in early 2019.

Airokhsh understands the difficulties inherent to educating girls, because not long ago, she was a girl fighting for her own right to be educated in Afghanistan. Since girls were not allowed to be educated under the Taliban regime, Airokhsh's mother ran a secret school for children in the community. She was lucky to have parents who encouraged all of their children to pursue their dreams and never stop learning, regardless of their gender. Airokhsh is a passionate speaker and advocate about the issues of women's rights and women's education, not just in Afghanistan but around the world. She brings the texture of her own personal experiences to her advocacy work.

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Stay connected for news on upcoming celebrations for CDI's 15th anniversary throughout 2019!

Conflict Dynamics is an innovative, independent, high impact not-for-profit organization seeking to prevent and resolve violent conflict and alleviate human suffering through dialogue, convening, mediation, technical support, and humanitarian policy development.

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