Dear Friends of Conflict Dynamics,

During the past few months a wave of mass protests has taken place in Hong Kong, Iraq, Lebanon and elsewhere. People are protesting exclusion and inequality, especially exclusion from political, economic, and social opportunities. In these and other places, many people have lost trust that politicians are acting in their best interest, and people also learned that support from outside can be fickle and self-interested.

The good news is that ‘people are doing it for themselves’, taking direct action which for the most past (at least on the part of the protesters) has stuck with a non-violent approach. This is why our work in Somalia, Sudan, and elsewhere focuses on inclusive dialogue and governance as a means of addressing exclusion. You can read more about what that work looks like in practice in the sections below.

Next year is shaping up to be another important year for Conflict Dynamics. We will be launching a new Strategic Plan and are delighted to be inviting new members onto our Board of Directors as well.

For those celebrating, I wish you a peaceful and calm end-of-year Holiday Season, and best wishes for a successful year ahead in 2020.

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

Gerard Mc Hugh
Founder and President
**Engaging with the Humanitarian Community**

**GERMANY** - CDI's Humanitarian Engagement and Access Team participated in the *High-Level Panel & Professional Roundtable on Strengthening the Capabilities of Humanitarian Organizations to Negotiate on the Frontlines Conference* in Berlin from 26-27 November. The event allowed CDI to engage and share perspectives with fellow humanitarian practitioners, training providers, and donor governments.

**Support for the Somalia Elections**

**SOMALIA** - On December 9, CDI's Somali Team, along with Somalia’s *National Independent Electoral Commission*, and the *Rift Valley Institute*, held an information-sharing workshop with Somali political parties. These workshops are one component of the joint initiative to support a series of dialogue sessions within and between different Somali constituencies on the elections and other important issues.

**Stakeholder Engagement in Somalia**

**SOMALIA** - Conflict Dynamics and the *Rift Valley Institute*, in collaboration with *SONSA*, organized a three day consultation workshop in Mogadishu to support the proactive participation of civil society organizations, academics, and the private sector in the 2020/21 electoral process.

**Catching Up**

**SWITZERLAND** - CDI President, Gerard Mc Hugh caught up with Dr. Achim Wennmann, Executive Coordinator of the *Geneva Peacebuilding Platform*, during Geneva Peace Week this November. It was an exciting opportunity to discuss better ways of building peace and resolving conflict as well as to contribute to the global peacebuilding conversation.

**What is Happening on the Ground?**

**Sudanese Youth Ready to Participate in the Political Transition**
As part of its ongoing support to youth and women’s groups, Conflict Dynamics hosted a workshop, “Advancing Youth Participation in Political Transition,” in Khartoum. The workshop was the first to bring together youth from all of the states across Sudan to discuss their engagement during the three year transition period. The participants expressed readiness to help rebuild Sudan to ensure the State will represent all voices and discussed a number of avenues to do so. They shared their perspectives on the workshop and requested future support, which will enable them to actively participate in Sudan’s transition. Below are some of the comments they shared with us:

'I thank the organization for helping us to advance our homeland and wish more of the workshops, especially [for] the state of the Red Sea and its people who lack such aspects.'

'More workshops must be held at the level of grassroots and universities. Provide workshops to consolidate peacefulness, coexistence, reconciliation, tolerance, and establishing the concepts of rights and citizenship.'

Conflict Dynamics will continue supporting Sudanese youth through active engagements and hosting of peacebuilding workshops, among other initiatives.

CDI Trains Humanitarian Practitioners from Libya

Conflict Dynamics’ Humanitarian Engagement and Access Team traveled to North Africa this fall to facilitate a Humanitarian Access and Negotiation Training with Danish Refugee Council and Danish Demining Group staff working in Libya.

National practitioners from across Libya came together for three days of training and discussion on how to approach complex humanitarian challenges through effective negotiation and structured response. We wish them great success in their work to make Libya a safer place and know that these participants will put the manuals and methods to good use when developing local, sustainable solutions.
Continued Support for Somali District Peace Committees

CDI and the Somali Youth Development Network SOYDEN facilitated a three-day capacity building training for the members of the newly established Dinsoor District Peace Committee (DPC).

The workshop covered topics such as the role of the District Peace Committee, peacebuilding and conflict analysis, early warning, early response, and management. The training was attended by 24 participants comprising of 17 new DPC members and 7 representatives from the District Administrative Authority. The training allowed DPC members and the district administration to establish an effective mutual working relationship.

The Dinsoor DPC is made up of representatives from the community sector groups (women, elders, youths, religious leaders, internally displaced persons, the business community, and minority groups).

Photo: @SOYDEN

The Dialogue Platform Kicks Off Information Sharing Workshops

The Platform for Political Dialogue and Accommodation in Somalia, which seeks to support dialogue around planning for elections in Somalia, kicked off activities in November with the hosting of a series of dialogue workshops with several stakeholders. This project, which is implemented by CDI in partnership with the Rift Valley Institute (RVI), is funded by the United Kingdom Department for International Development.

Universal suffrage elections have not been held in Somalia for decades, and in recent years, there have been indirect electoral processes to facilitate political transition. The federal government has committed to one-person-one-vote elections at the end of the current term in late 2020 or early 2021. However, there is still debate over an electoral model, and the electoral bill has not yet passed through Parliament.

Therefore, the Platform team held workshops and dialogue sessions to facilitate
discussion around contentious aspects of electoral design and to build consensus on key principles, bringing in representatives of the federal government, state governments, civil society, political parties, the business community, and academics. CDI plans to continue this work in 2020 as preparations for elections continue.

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**Employee Spotlight**

*Join us in welcoming a new member to the Conflict Dynamics Team*

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**Eunice Mutua**  
**Junior Program Associate, Somali Program**

Eunice Mutua joins Conflict Dynamics as the new Junior Program Associate for the Somali Program. She brings her experience in quality and performance management. In her previous role as a Customer Relations & Quality Performance Specialist, she provided leadership and support to colleagues, including monitoring and coaching to ensure quality and productivity standards were met. She has also volunteered for various charity courses benefiting youth, orphans, and vulnerable children.

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**Airokhsh Recognized for Advocacy Work on Girls'**
Join us in congratulating Airokhsh Faiz Qaisary, Research Assistant at Conflict Dynamics, for being recognized by Sahar for her advocacy work on Afghan girls' education. Airokhsh was part of a panel of young women who worked for Sahar through a fellowship in which she focused on the design of early marriage prevention through education.

Airokhsh is a passionate speaker and advocate about the issues of women's rights and women's education, reflected in her work at Conflict Dynamics on women and youth's participation in peacebuilding.

Save the Children has published a new report titled 'Mapping of Child Protection Accountability Mechanisms in Armed Conflict in Africa.' This comprehensive look at accountability mechanisms for African Troop-Contributing Countries, relies on Conflict Dynamics’ definition of accountability as developed in The CAC Accountability Framework.

Conflict Dynamics' Sudan Team has been working in country since 2007, supporting the people of Sudan and their representatives to reconcile different political interests through dialogue processes. Their work has reached a new level given the events of 2019, preparing for a transition to democracy.

Did you ever wonder what the protests looked like on the ground from the view of local peacebuilders? Click here to read an account of the events of this summer from an eye witness who was at the front lines of the
countries. Read more on their finding from Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, and Uganda. We are excited to see our framework expanded out into new contexts and thematic areas!

'We when the violence stopped we did not disperse. Somehow, we grew stronger'

DONATE and join us in our work

Click above to sign up to our regular digest of governance and peace building scholarship.

Stay connected for news on our activities in 2020!

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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