Dear Friends of Conflict Dynamics,

These past few months have brought significant changes – both opportunities and challenges – in some of the areas in which we have been working for many years. In April, there was a monumental political change in the Sudan, where overwhelmingly peaceful demonstrations ultimately led to the ousting of the former President of 30 years and the Government.

This has been an extremely emotional, joyous, and yet worrying time for Conflict Dynamics, who has been working in the Sudan for more than 12 years, with a predominately Sudanese Team on the ground. There are many challenges ahead for the people of the Sudan, and yet many exciting new opportunities as well.

Within the organization, we have continued expanding our Team, welcoming many new colleagues throughout the year. This July, a Chief Operating Officer and a new Somali Program Director will begin and expand our capacity to prevent and resolve violent conflict and alleviate human suffering.

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?

Home Sweet Home in Mogadishu
Conflict Dynamics has officially opened its doors with a new office for the Somali Team in Mogadishu! The leadership of the Women’s Caucus of the Lower House, the Ministry of Constitution, and the District Peace Committees of Khada and Wadajir Districts had the opportunity to be our first visitors!

Navigating the Humanitarian Challenges of Maiduguri
The Humanitarian Access and Negotiations Team travelled to North East Nigeria to work with our partner Nigeria INGO Forum to train local senior humanitarian practitioners on responsible humanitarian negotiation skills. Now, 16 practitioners from Borno State will be facilitating their own negotiations trainings to humanitarian on the frontlines of conflict.

Sharing Challenges and Success in Mogadishu
Along with the Somali Youth Development Network (SOYDEN), Conflict Dynamics poses with women members of the Banadir District Peace Committee and facilitators following the seven day workshop on Knowledge and Experience Sharing of Women’s Role in Peacebuilding and Stability.

Photo: @Soyden_network

Building Networks in Puntland
In our quest to grow and build networks, the
Somali Team visited the Puntland Development and Research Center to discuss their work on peacebuilding, promotion of democracy, and respect for human rights. Conflict Dynamics is committed to working with local partners and collaborating on the ground to develop sustainable local solutions to conflicts.

Who's New At Conflict Dynamics?

Join us in welcoming the new members of the Conflict Dynamics Team

Arlan Fuller
Chief Operating Officer

Arlan joins Conflict Dynamics as the new Chief Operating Officer, based in our Cambridge Office. Prior to joining CDI, Arlan served as the Executive Director of the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University and before that as Director of Policy and Programs at the Center. He brings 20 years of experience in international development, humanitarian law, and human rights as well as a diverse academic background in economics, peace and conflict studies, and law. Arlan is currently traveling with CDI, meeting our partners and supporters so if you see him, make sure to say hi!

Hama Munyikwa
Somali Program Director

Hama is joining the Somali Team as the new Program Director, bringing extensive experience in governance and stabilization in a variety of contexts including Somalia, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, and Francophone West Africa. Hama has a strong academic background in politics and public administration coupled with eight years of field experience managing governance and stabilization projects in Africa. His skills in project management, monitoring and evaluation, and financial management along with his deep knowledge of the Somali context will make him a great addition to the team!

Dillon Kamutenga
Digital Marketing and Social Media Associate

Dillon is the newest member of the Development Team, joining us in the Cambridge Office as the Digital Marketing and Social Media Associate. Dillon is an expert with over 10 years of international experience in communication management, relationship building, brand promotion, and social media management. Before joining CDI, he was working for the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) as a Content Manager for their project on empowering African women entrepreneurs. Dillon will be applying his experience in media relations to our communications and social media, so make sure you follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter to see all the great content he has to share.

Rukiya Abdulrahman
Senior Program Officer, Somali Program

While Rukiya is not new to Conflict Dynamics and has been an important member of our Somali Team for quite some time, we are happy to announce she will be assuming a new role. Join us in congratulating Rukiya on her promotion to the role of Senior Program Officer! Over the last several years, Rukiya has led CDI’s innovative and highly impactful work on local peacebuilding and has fostered and deepened relationships with partners and with Somali leaders and officials. Rukiya is a vital part of the Conflict Dynamics family, who conducts her work with passion and commitment.

Come Join Us!

Conflict Dynamics is seeking a Junior Program Associate on the Somali Program based in Nairobi, Kenya. Visit our website for more information and be sure to apply by 20 July 2019.

Employee Spotlight
Ahmed Abdullahi
Senior Program Manager, Somali Program

Meet Ahmed Abdullahi, Senior Program Manager on Conflict Dynamics’ Somali Team. Ahmed manages the Team’s inter-governmental relations and distribution of powers work but is always willing to lend a helping hand. Not only does he support the Team’s Political Dialogue Platform work but also assists the Humanitarian Access and Negotiations Team and the Children in Armed Conflict Accountability initiative with their work in Somalia.

Ahmed has a deep passion for peacebuilding and conflict resolution, nurtured throughout his life by his father and grandfather who have taken great risks and dedicated their lives to building peace in Somalia. After leaving Somalia for Canada during the breakout of the civil war in 1990 at the age of 7, Ahmed and his family returned in 1995 where his father began working to revive the education sector. Ahmed’s father also led the establishment of a reconciliation council bringing together warring clans to find a resolution through traditional peacemaking mechanisms. Ahmed’s grandfather played an important part in traditional Somali peacemaking in the Galgadud Region, Somalia as well, serving as a lead elder in charge for preventing and managing conflict and building peace. Visiting him in the district of Eldeer in 1995, Ahmed was able to witness a peacemaking process led by his grandfather under a tree, invoking a deep interest and pride in Ahmed which has followed him throughout his impressive career.

After completing his Master’s in Peace and Conflict Studies, Ahmed worked on various peacebuilding projects in Somalia such as a mapping exercise of peacebuilding institutions including CDI. Although he was familiar with CDI, he did not begin his role until after meeting our Senior Advisor, Abdirashid. One day, Ahmed forgot his phone at the mosque and Abdirashid returned it later working with Ahmed with the International Finance Corporation. Ahmed might have been upset to lose his phone, but we are sure glad he found it.

Despite the challenges of operating in the post-conflict environment, Ahmed always continues to learn new things and solve problems. His favorite part of the job is engaging with senior leaders in government, the donor community, and civil society as well as working alongside a great group of individuals who are dedicated and supportive. Ahmed enjoys the challenge of being creative in the approach of peacebuilding and the implementation of CDI’s tools and methodology. He hopes that his work contributes to advancing political stability and supports institutional development in Somalia. We are very lucky to have Ahmed on the Conflict Dynamics Team, always bringing new ideas and creative approaches to resolving and managing conflict.

What Is Happening On The Ground?

Conflict Dynamics Continues Supporting Peace and Dialogue in the Sudan

On June 3rd, the Sudan’s months-long civil protest was brutally repressed as the Rapid Support Forces militia attacked a nonviolent sit-in killing more than one hundred people and wounding and raping many others. A shutdown of the internet, regular electricity outages, and various protests followed.

Throughout this turmoil, the Sudan Team has remained on the ground in Khartoum working to support Sudanese actors in their efforts to realize a peaceful transition of power. Conflict Dynamics remains focused on engaging groups such as the Forces for Freedom and Change (FFC), the Transitional Military Council (TMC), youth groups, and mediation initiatives on important topics including confidence-building measures, inclusive participation, and the structure and responsibilities of a transitional government.

Conflict Dynamics is currently the only organization based in the Sudan with established and strong working relationships with all of the main political actors in the Sudan. This places CDI in an unparalleled position to contribute effectively towards peace and dialogue in the Sudan through a variety of avenues.

On July 5th, the TMC and FFC came to a verbal agreement on the structure for a transitional government. Conflict Dynamics will continue to support Sudanese actors as they formalize the agreement and implement it.

Photo: Sudan News Agency/Radio Dabanga
Strengthening the Role of Women in Security and Peacebuilding in Somalia

The Somali Team successfully held an Experience Sharing Workshop on the role of women in security and peacebuilding in Mogadishu with 127 women from 17 districts of the city. Among the participants were women from District Peace Committees, Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, and civil society. The workshop enabled participants to learn, share experiences, and discuss challenges, gaps, and successes of Somali women in peacebuilding.

Currently the team is presenting at a learning event being conducted 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”.

On another note, our Political Dialogue Platform team conducted a listening tour and meeting with the Federal Government of Somalia and the Federal Member States to discuss priorities, concerns, and issues where CDI can provide support. Following this successful engagement, the team is now designing new activities focusing on elections, resource sharing, constitution, youth engagement, and the dialogue of Galmudug and Ahlusunna.

Training Humanitarian Negotiators in Borno State

Conflict Dynamics has just completed the final session of the first ever Training of Future Facilitators Program for local senior staff on Responsible Negotiations in Humanitarian Contexts. Below is an abbreviated excerpt of a testimonial from one of our 16 future facilitators on how he has applied the skills and methodologies he learned from this training in his everyday work.

One of the biggest challenges I face during my work in North East Nigeria is securing acceptance from the community. Given the tensions between the religious leaders and the humanitarian community, I used the skills from the training to organize a workshop where I taught the local religious scholars and leaders what the humanitarian organizations were doing for the community and the principles under which they operate. I also facilitated a meeting for representatives from the two groups, giving them the opportunity to ask questions and discuss issues. Religious leaders were able to learn how humanitarian organizations choose who to help and how they remain independent from religion and politics. Humanitarian organizations discussed how they could be more effective with permission to operate in certain areas.

Humanitarian access was largely granted after these meetings and many more people are able to get the aid they need. I will use the tools and skills I have learned to apply the same process between other groups such as the displacement camps, government, and other members of the humanitarian community to build stronger relationships and facilitate successful negotiations for humanitarian access throughout Borno State and beyond.

What Are We Reading at Conflict Dynamics?
Roger Middleton, member of our Somali Team and Managing Director of Sabi Insight, has co-authored a report for the Expert Working Group on Climate-related Security Risks titled "Somalia: Climate-related security risk assessment." While Somalia faces the repercussions of a severe drought, this article provides a timely look at the intersection of climate issues and violent conflict in the country.

Emmanuel Tronc, Senior Program Manager of our Humanitarian Action Program and Senior Research Analyst at the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative's Advanced Training Program on Humanitarian Action has co-authored an article titled "Local Perspectives on Peacebuilding, Development, and Humanitarian Action in Mali." This paper offers reflections on the dynamics of the international response in Mali, focusing on the 'triple nexus' concept aiming to align operations and policy of international peacebuilding, development, and humanitarian efforts.

Albert Trithart, former Program Officer for the CDI Sudan Program and current Editor at the International Peace Institute, has written an article titled "Stuck in Crisis: The Humanitarian Response to Sudan's Health Emergency." Complimenting CDI's extensive peacebuilding work in the Sudan, the article takes an in-depth look into the country's healthcare sector including the role it has played in the current protests, the conflict, and the greater humanitarian response.

DONATE and join us in our work

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.

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

Our regular digest of governance and peacebuilding scholarship - click image above to sign up!

www.cdint.org | www.humanitariannegotiations.org | www.cacaccountability.org