



Protests for Democracy in Khartoum, Sudan© 2021

Dear Friends of Conflict Dynamics,

As we close the chapter on 2021, we think back to all the challenges we have weathered around the world as well as all the inspiring moments we have experienced.

Like many of you, we began the year full of hope that we would be putting the coronavirus pandemic behind us and that we would be able to return all of our attention to supporting ongoing peace processes and political transitions. New virus variants have emerged, climate disasters have exacerbated humanitarian needs, and conflicts and coups have threatened peace, yet in all of this we remain hopeful. We have seen our colleagues and friends in Sudan display unwavering commitment to democracy and peace. We have witnessed people in Somalia cast ballots for representatives of their choice, including the first one-person-one-vote local elections in decades in Puntland. In Mali and South Sudan, we have heard first-hand from humanitarian practitioners about how they have worked together and overcome incredible challenges to address humanitarian crises.

This winter will mark the end of the second year of the pandemic, but where there is despair there is also hope. The pursuit of peace does not wait and thanks to peacebuilders in communities around the world, it has continued in spite of some of the greatest challenges we have encountered in the field. No matter where you find yourself this holiday season, we hope that you take the time to reflect on all that we and you have accomplished this year, whether in small steps or big changes.

For those celebrating, very best wishes for the holiday season and a safe and healthy New Year to all.

Thank you as always for your interest and support of Conflict Dynamics,

Gerard Mc Hugh
Founder and President



ADADO, SOMALIA - SOYDEN, supported by Conflict Dynamics, has established a new District Peace Committee (DPC) in Adado, Galmudug. Prior to its establishment, 120 community members including elders, women, youth, religious leaders, members of the business community, and internally displaced persons were trained in peacebuilding and conflict management. Of this group, ten men and five women formed the DPC and will work throughout the community, solving issues peacefully to prevent future conflict.

📍: SOYDEN



PUNTLAND, SOMALIA - Conflict Dynamics congratulates Puntland for holding one-person-one-vote elections for the first time in over fifty years. Over 28,000 votes were cast for local council representatives in the districts of Qardho, Eyl, and Ufeyn. Women made great strides in the political arena, securing 27% of seats in both Qardho and Eyl and 29.6% of seats in Ufeyn. Our colleague Subeida said it best, "You have made history and moved the needle forward for representation!"

📍: The African Union Mission in Somalia



KHARTOUM, SUDAN - The 25 October military coup has cast great uncertainty over the democratic future of Sudan. Although Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok has been reinstated and an agreement with the military has been reached, members of the civilian resistance continue their protest, making clear that the military government and political actors associating with them are not representative of those taking to the streets.

Since the coup, the Sudan Team has been engaging with local stakeholders and developing a guiding document on the 'Factors and Scenarios' for potential ways forward for Sudan. The document has been shared widely among both Sudanese and international stakeholders and is being updated as the situation develops. Keep your eye on our website for the newest version, updated frequently!



VIRTUAL/SOMALIA - Conflict Dynamics and [Forum of Federations](#) have partnered with the [Heritage Institute for Policy Studies](#) to hold a series of roundtable sessions on unblocking agreements on important federal arrangements in Somalia. The goal of these discussions was to offer a practical framework for healthy debate and to hold leaders accountable for taking action in reaching agreements that might lead to a long-overdue permanent constitution in 2022.

The sessions were held over three days with an average attendance of 29 Zoom participants including influential Somali politicians as well as civil society and practitioners. The discussions began with big picture questions about Somalia's vision for federalism and what model would best serve the country, followed with a deep dive into intergovernmental relations and power distribution.



BAMAKO, MALI - The Humanitarian Engagement and Access Team has recently returned from Mali, where they teamed up with [Save the Children International](#) and the [Harvard Humanitarian Initiative](#) to implement a training on Humanitarian Access and Negotiations in Situations of Armed Conflict. Save the Children staff as well as staff from their national implementing partners were able to build their capacity to negotiate access and to strategize engagement with different stakeholders in their context to increase the impact of their work. Read more about this training and the second pilot workshop in South Sudan in the 'What is Happening on the Ground' section below.



VIRTUAL/SOMALIA - Conflict Dynamics recently partnered with the [National Endowment for Democracy](#) to host a series of virtual governance workshops with members of civil society, academics, and politicians from across Somalia. These events focused on the role of the Upper House of the federal government. Participants were able to learn about how other federal systems of governance work in order to generate ideas and solutions that are suited to the Somali context. Ideas generated focused on accommodating different political and social interests, reconciliation, and building a form of government that represents the diversity of Somalia and the best way forward for the country.

What is Happening on the Ground?



Advancing Women's Participation Workshop in Khartoum, Sudan

FOSTERING PEACE FROM THE GROUND UP IN SUDAN

Despite the setbacks in the democratic transition caused by the current political climate, Conflict Dynamics forges ahead with activities that can assist parties in creating a peaceful resolution to the crisis. There is much to be done in the areas of analysis, product development, and engagement to prepare for the resumption of transitional activities. In light of the changing trajectory of the transition and the evolving political and security environment, Conflict Dynamics is focusing on activities which will contribute to enhancing prospects for transition that meets the basic needs of each group involved as well as prevents and mitigates the effects of the negative scenarios that threaten to hinder the democratic transition process.

Currently, the Sudan Team is leading follow-up sessions with young women leaders to build upon previous workshops and focus on the implementation of ideas generated. Introductory trainings on the Political Accommodation Methodology are being conducted for neighborhood resistance committees to teach members how to accommodate differences internally and operate cohesively. The Team continues to engage and advise young leaders from political parties and armed groups, representing a crucial voice in the pursuit of peace and democracy.



Humanitarian Negotiations Training in Juba, South Sudan

BUILDING HUMANITARIAN NEGOTIATION CAPACITY IN MALI & SOUTH SUDAN

According to the [2022 Global Humanitarian Overview](#), 274 million people will need humanitarian assistance and protection next year. That is 39 million more people than last year, which was already the highest number in decades. Increasing insecurity in contexts such as Afghanistan and Ethiopia, historic natural disasters like flooding in South Sudan, and rapidly developing variants of the coronavirus continue to threaten the humanitarian field and create obstacles for the delivery of assistance. These challenges have demonstrated the power of national humanitarian practitioners who operate in these complex environments, many times after the international presence leaves. It is important that all practitioners, no matter where they work, have access to negotiation skills and tools to increase their access to people in need.

Alongside Save the Children and the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, Conflict Dynamics has successfully implemented the first two pilot workshops in their program of work building capacity of Save the Children country staff and their national implementing partners to successfully negotiate humanitarian access. Participants were able to explore different negotiation strategies and techniques to employ when negotiating with a variety of different parties specific to their contexts. They were able to share lessons learned from their experiences in different sectors of the humanitarian field as well as learn from experts of other organizations as to what has worked for them and what challenges they face working within their unique mandates. Stay tuned for more information on our workshops scheduled for early 2022. Where will we go next?



Training of Trainers on Women's Participation in Local Peacebuilding in Mogadishu, Somalia

MORE WOMEN, MORE PEACE: SUPPORTING WOMEN IN LOCAL PEACEBUILDING IN SOMALIA

As women in Somalia continue to carve space for themselves in the political arena, it is important that they have access to the tools they need to make their voices heard. The Somali Team has designed a training manual for local women peacebuilding actors, to supplement their knowledge and skills enabling them to participate fully in conflict resolution in their communities and beyond. This manual for trainers will be used by the District Peace Committees throughout Somalia in their general peacebuilding work, to train both men and women peacebuilders to mainstream gender considerations for a more inclusive conflict resolution process.

Between 16th October and 1st November, Conflict Dynamics and SOYDEN conducted

a Training of Trainers where ten participants (six women and four men) were taught how to use the manual, facilitation techniques, and the importance of working together as a team. The new trainers, supported by Conflict Dynamics and SOYDEN, then conducted an eight day training of 51 DPC members on the six modules of the manual. These 34 women and 17 men worked together to learn about gender considerations, foster buy-in and goodwill, and learn about the importance of an inclusive peace process. Their input on the participation of women in the Somali context was invaluable for the final version of the manual, which will be released at the beginning of next year in both Somali and English.

Who's Who at Conflict Dynamics?

Employee Spotlight



Dr. Azza Mustafa

Senior Advisor, Sudan Program

Dr. Azza M. Ahmed, PhD, is a Senior Advisor on the Sudan Team and leads many of the Team's activities including the workshops with young women leaders, the Political Accommodation trainings for neighborhood resistance groups, and the engagement with political parties and armed groups.

Outside of her work with Conflict Dynamics, Dr. Azza is an assistant professor in International Relations at the University of Medical Science and Technology in Khartoum, Sudan. She teaches courses on Gender and International Relations, Non-Governmental Organizations and Policy, and Introduction to Social Research Methods. Dr. Azza's own educational background includes a PhD in Political Science and an MA in International Relations from Khartoum University and an AB in English from Ahlia University.

Dr. Azza is a member of several civil society organizations which focus on youth and gender perspectives and her main interests include civil society and political parties and gender issues. She conducts Training of Trainers for organizations dealing with civil society development and is a democratic transformation consultant for Life & Peace Institute, the EU, and various national organizations. She has worked as a national expert on democracy, human rights, and good governance and on political parties in Sudan for various international projects. We are very lucky to have her as a member of the Sudan Team, providing expert analysis and direction for our research and programs.

Meet Our Newest Team Member!



Sameer Jamal

Research Assistant, Peace Action

Conflict Dynamics is excited to welcome Sameer to the Peace Action Program where he will support both the Somali and Sudan Teams in their ongoing work. With an interdisciplinary background in media, culture, and political governance, Sameer will be bringing his prior experience in research, communications, and policy analysis to the organization. He will be conducting policy-oriented research in areas of peacemaking, peacebuilding, political accommodation, governance, and political processes, specifically in the context of polity in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Sameer is currently a Master's candidate at The Julien J. Studley Graduate Program in International Affairs at The New School in New York. His academic and research interests are in examining the intersectionality between race, class, and social justice, specifically in the context of international relations, political engagement, and development. He was formerly a research fellow for diversity, equity, and inclusion at the International Rescue Committee and a research consultant with Slum Dwellers International Kenya.

Born and raised in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, Sameer lives and works between East Africa and the United States. He is incredibly passionate about working with grassroots organizations, international institutions, and marginalized communities combatting racism and global injustices. Outside of this work, he enjoys outdoor activities, watching European football, and international cricket. We are very excited to have Sameer as part of our Conflict Dynamics team and look forward to having his unique skills and passion for inclusivity as part of our Peace Action Program.

What are We Reading at Conflict Dynamics?

Scholarship from colleagues, partners, and friends in the fields of Humanitarian Action and Peace Action.



Somalia - District Peace Committees: Summary 2020

Conflict Dynamics International

SOYDEN and Conflict Dynamics have established and support 38 DPCs across south and central Somalia. This recent publication explores the DPCs'



Restoring Justice *Lydia Lyle Gibson*

An important part of conflict resolution is addressing grievances and preventing future violations from occurring. In this article, the author explores restorative justice as an alternative to crime and

experiences throughout 2020 and the 193 disputes they oversaw. The DPCs had an incredible success rate of peacefully resolving 180 cases with 13 still pending. Most of the cases brought before the DPCs related to clan conflicts, farmer and herder altercations, gender-based violence, and disputes over land, housing, and inheritance.

A success story from the report details a dispute over an alleged land grab that escalated into the death of two people and further violence. The DPC and authorities worked together to stop the violence by organizing a reconciliation meeting of clan elders from both parties which lasted over three months. The meeting concluded with both clans agreeing to provide the *dia* (traditional blood compensation payment) and bring an end to the violence.

📄: SOYDEN

punishment, highlighting the power of discussing the environment and context in which crimes occur.

Although relatively new in the field of American criminal justice, restorative justice has roots in the systems of indigenous people around the world. In Africa, it traces to *ubuntu*, a concept which explores the humanity of all involved. Conflict Dynamics has experienced the importance of this while working with DPCs in Somalia, finding it necessary to address decades of historical grievances on the journey to finding solutions to current issues. The key to restorative justice is to focus on exploring the issue holistically, as the author points out - asking 'what happened?', 'who was hurt and what do they need?' and 'who is responsible for finding a solution?'.

📄: Article Illustration - James Heimer

PEACEPulse

Transnational Migration and Environmental Security in Africa: Theory and Evidence from Nigeria

Deborah O. Obi, Dominic Chukwuemeka Onyejebu, Casmir Chukwuka Mbaegbu, Chukwuemeka Enyiazu

Conflict Dynamics' latest edition of the Peace Pulse is here, a collection of the recent debates and scholarship related to peacebuilding and governance. The theme of the September-October Edition is 'Migration and Displacement: Implications for Peace and Security' which includes a variety of articles centered on different aspects of forced migration ranging from root causes, responses to receiving migrants, and best practices for integration into host communities.

Featured under this edition's theme is the article "Transnational Migration and Environmental Security in Africa: Theory and Evidence from Nigeria". Authors focus on Nigeria, exploring how environmental migration engages with the current context and fuels farmer and herder conflicts which have escalated in recent years. The study concludes that climate change adaptation, migration policies, and conflict management need to be comprehensively integrated into programs to be effective rather than continuing as standalone policies.

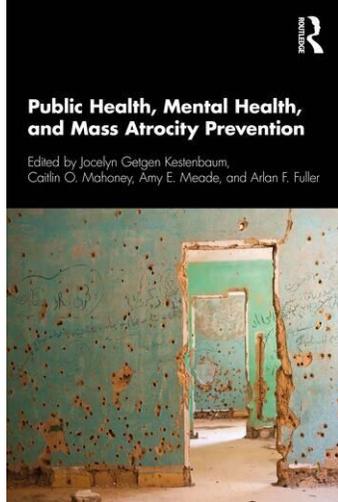


A Guidance Note on the Making and Shaping of Constitutions from a Gender Perspective

Nanako Tamaru

Nanako Tamaru, former member of Conflict Dynamics' Peace Action Program, has recently published a guidance note for UN Women on constitution making with a gender perspective. Conflict Dynamics' work in gender and peacebuilding has shown that the most effective peace and political processes incorporate gender and other inclusive considerations from the planning stage throughout the entire process. This note helps those involved in the constitution-making process advance gender equality and women's rights at all stages.

This guidance note focuses on maximizing the impact of women's participation across three phases of a constitutional review including creating the agenda; consulting, negotiating, designing, and adopting the constitution; and implementing the constitution. It also looks at eight groups of constitutional provisions related to gender equality and women's rights. Strong gender considerations in important political documents, such as constitutions, is crucial to improving women's participation in other areas of politics and peacebuilding.



Public Health, Mental Health, and Mass Atrocity Prevention

Jocelyn Getgen Kestenbaum, Caitlin O. Mahoney, Amy E. Meade, Arlan F. Fuller

This book, edited by Conflict Dynamics' COO Arlan Fuller, is a compilation of multi-disciplinary perspectives on the role of public health and mental health policies and programs in the prevention of mass atrocity, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

Spanning a variety of fields with voices from both the global north and the global south, authors examine atrocity prevention at various stages of conflict and post-conflict, presenting research on frameworks, methods, tools, and strategies that can be applied in a comprehensive interpretation of atrocity prevention. Insights are drawn from across the fields of law, political science, international studies, public health, mental health, philosophy, clinical and social psychology, history, and peace studies to constitute a truly diverse and insightful compilation of research and practice.

Statement during the United Nations Security Council High Level Open Debate on Peacebuilding and Sustainable Peace: Diversity, State Building and the Search for Peace

*H.E. Honorable Uhuru Kenyatta, C.G.H,
President of Kenya*

Kenya, president of the UN Security Council for the month of October, organized an open debate on 'Diversity, State Building, and the Search for Peace'. In his opening statement, President Kenyatta focused on the key message that the "poor management of diversity is leading to grave threats to international peace and security". He continues by pointing out that exclusion, which is often institutionalized in governance and economics, leads to inequality and manifests in stereotyping and bigotry. Conflict Dynamics has found in its contexts of work that violent conflict escalates from strife which is almost always rooted in exclusion from political, economic, and socio-cultural opportunities. Therefore inclusion is a crucial aspect of peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

DONATE and join us in our work



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



Passing the torch to the new Gender in Peacebuilding trainers!

Stay connected for news on our activities!

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.

This Quarterly Newsletter isn't what you signed up for? Click unsubscribe anytime to opt out of our communications.

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

