



AGENCY FOR
PEACEBUILDING

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Agency for Peacebuilding

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ABOUT THE AGENCY FOR PEACEBUILDING

The Agency for Peacebuilding (AP) is a non-profit organisation whose mission is to promote conditions that can enable the resolution of conflict, reduce violence and contribute to a durable peace across Europe, its neighbourhood and the world. Founded in 2015, AP is the first Italian organisation specialising on peacebuilding. This allows us to occupy a unique role in the European landscape: on the one hand, we interpret and synthesize relevant topics for the benefit of Italian agencies and institutions working on peace and security; on the other, we highlight the experiences, capacities and resources specific to the Italian system, which can contribute to the resolution of violent conflict.

AP's overall vision is of a world where conflicts can be transformed – through research of innovative solutions that are non-violent and sustainable – into opportunities to promote cooperation based on open and honest dialogue.

Conflict is, in fact, the manifestation of existing differences between people, institutions and nations, as well as the reciprocity that binds their actions. If effectively managed, conflict can represent an opportunity to resolve common challenges and support human development. However, insufficient efforts can risk generating further violence.

Because of this, AP works to manage conflicts non-violently, promoting diversity and reciprocity and collaborating with other actors engaged in building peace.

AP works on the basis of five guiding principles:

- The use of civil capacities and tools;
- The primacy and leadership of individuals and groups who are directly affected by violent conflict;
- Reciprocity as a precondition for establishing relationships that are truly equal between the individuals, communities and agencies that are engaged in finding solutions to conflict;
- An appreciation of the diversity that exists among people, communities and institutions; and
- A peacebuilding approach that is concrete, results-oriented and open to confrontation, innovation and creativity.

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SUMMARY

The war in Ukraine has had unthinkable costs in terms of lives, and its consequences have been felt across Europe and the world. For AP, the impact of the invasion has been deeply and immediately felt. Internally, it created questions about the relevance of our work, as well as its real impact. Externally, it created a new demand for what we do, and also complicated the context in which we do it. All of a sudden, it felt like peace was at the centre of all political discussions, and the focus of constant media attention. Yet, the tone of these new debates was far from peaceful, or constructive: new dividing lines quickly emerged and conversations around peace became often manipulated in the service of individual or national political objectives.

Ultimately, doubts and questions helped to gather clarity, and from this to arrive at a renewed commitment to constructive action. We produced several articles in which we explained what civil peacebuilding is and how it can contribute to developing responses to the conflict, whether individual or institutional, which are centred not just the need to end suffering, but also on the need to account for justice and ensure human rights. At the same time, we continued working in contexts receiving far less attention on account of the war in Ukraine, but whose needs remained unaltered. And we remained focused on pursuing our strategic objectives, seizing the opportunities provided by the new and central role that peace has had in Italian and European debates, but avoiding too opportunistic or drastic changes to our charted course of action.

In the end, this approach has borne fruit. **The year 2022 has resulted in a lot more attention to our work, and helped us to become a better-known entity in Italy and also in Europe.** This has had significant positive impact, as we have seen, for example, in the context of the annual Bologna Peacebuilding Forum, which returned in-presence after the pandemic years, and received considerable media attention. Just as important, however, is the fact that this increased visibility is now coming on the shoulders of an organisation that is much more consolidated—in terms of operating procedures, systems and capacities—than a year ago. This, above else, is what inspires our confidence to be able to participate in and influence the crucial debates, around peace and security, that will continue to take place in 2023 and beyond.

Bernardo Monzani, President

OBJECTIVES AND HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout 2022, our work has been guided by the same three overarching objectives agreed by AP's members at the end of 2020. Overall, the objectives continued to be relevant to the international context in spite of unforeseen events—chief of all the invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces—and our ambition has remained to become a more consolidated organisation, in terms of both our programmes and our internal processes.

Our first objective has been to consolidate and promote AP's existing expertise, programmatic and geographic, and thus consolidate the work we have done over the last few years. Concretely, this has resulted in a series of highlights and positive results. We have, for example, organised the fourth edition of the Bologna Peacebuilding Forum, the first in-presence after the online editions of 2020 and 2021. In conjunction with the Forum, we also published a landmark report on Italy and peacebuilding. The result of original research conducted with the support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the report was the first of its kind in trying to assess Italy's contribution to the international peace and security architecture.

Still under this objective we continued our engagement on the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda, organising three expert seminars together with the University of Bologna and joining the Open-Ended Working Group on Italy's National Action Plan on WPS. We have then continued supporting other NGOs in assessing, understanding and improving the impact of their peacebuilding interventions, through various monitoring, evaluation and learning assignments. We have continued and even increased our participation in the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO), the main network of NGOs working on peacebuilding in Europe. Lastly, we continued building long-term relationships with different partners, an effort that this year resulted in our participation in two multi-year grants, which we will start in 2023.

Internally, we then pursued **twin objectives of increasing our fundraising capacity, on the one side, and consolidating our communication practices on the other.** Under the former we have expanded our portfolio of projects through partnerships with larger NGOs and the establishment of direct lines of communication with several donors, private and public. establish longer-term relations with donors. Under the latter, we have institutionalised a professional figure to support and grow AP's profile, not just on social media, but also on more traditional platforms.

All these efforts have had the desired effect of making AP a more consolidated and sustainable organisation, representing the ideal basis for developing new programmes in 2023.

BOLOGNA PEACEBUILDING FORUM 2022

The Bologna Peacebuilding Forum (BPF) is a key event on peacebuilding in Italy and Europe and it aims at strengthening the network of peacebuilding scholars and practitioners in order to improve policy-oriented research and fieldwork as well as opening up the peacebuilding domain to a wider audience.

Since 2019, the BPF has developed as a major annual gathering fostering open and constructive dialogue on key issues and challenges facing the discipline. Peace processes have complex dynamics, therefore the BPF offers a platform for debating relevant and timely topics concerning various aspects of peacebuilding. After three successful editions, from 2019 to 2021, the BPF has become a prime venue for peacebuilding discussions in Italy, connecting scholars, practitioners, foreign policy experts, civil society actors, and the wider public.



Photo: A moment from Day 1 of the BPF 2023 (Credit: Rosa Lacavalla/ Agency for Peacebuilding).

On 3-5 May 2022, AP organised the 4th edition of the Forum, on “Re-imagining conflict prevention”. After two successful online editions, the Forum came back as an in-person event with the three-day gathering. The first day, held in the Municipality of Bologna, was dedicated to enabling the representatives of Italian-based NGOs to increase their knowledge of EU peacebuilding policies and practices and to learn about NGO advocacy efforts on the topic through a roundtable organised by the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO).

The main international conference was then held at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS Europe) with policy-makers, researchers and practitioners discussing different dimensions of conflict prevention. The conference was structured around four panels. Speakers included: Roberta di Rosa (European External Action Service), Juan Lucero Zelada (School of Transnational Governance), Hafsa M. Maalim (Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security, African Union), Bert Koenders (President of the Dutch Advisory Council on Peace and Security and Former Minister of Foreign Affairs for The Netherlands), and Marina Sereni (Vice-minister of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation).

During the Forum, AP also launched its study on Italy’s infrastructure and practices in the peacebuilding and conflict prevention domain. The study takes stock of the capabilities of Italian political institutions and non-governmental actors on peace and how they work in conflict-affected areas and it has been realised in collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

The last day of the BPF was dedicated to the so-called “Next Generation Forum”, an opportunity for university students to deepen peace and conflict topics through a role-play activity on conflict prevention and social visit to institutions and civil society organisations in Bologna.

A final report for the event is available on our website.



Photo: A moment from Day 2 of the BPF 2023 (Credit: Rosa Lacavalla/ Agency for Peacebuilding).

GENERATING NEW KNOWLEDGE FOR PEACEBUILDING

In 2022, AP published the first research report on Italy and Peacebuilding. Realised with the support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the analysis explored the country's efforts on peacebuilding, from the perspective of both institutions and civil society.

In Italy, peacebuilding has received limited consideration, not being recognised as a specific strategy for political intervention. However, the concept of peace is often mentioned in legislative documents, for instance in the general law on international development cooperation, which clarifies from the first article that the expression cooperation and development is a synthesis of "international cooperation for sustainable development, human rights and peace". Peacebuilding is, however, absent from the institutional infrastructure. Indeed, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has no offices or task forces dedicated to this area. From the point of view of funding, Italy allocates over two thirds of its official development aid to multilateral institutions with what might be called a "gregarious" approach.

From a non-governmental point of view, Italian civil society has traditionally been very active in international cooperation, from small and medium-sized associations to international NGOs engaged in dozens of countries. Despite the reputation and the extensive work on cooperation, the specific skills of the main Italian NGOs on peacebuilding are very limited. The field of peacebuilding appears mostly limited to pacifist associations and movements. In this regard, AP's report examines an interesting pilot project, which constitutes an exception to the lack of specialisation on peacebuilding: the Civil Peace Corps. This initiative aimed at training civilian operators capable of carrying out non-military interventions in conflict areas, but at the moment it remains incomplete.

Overall, the analysis revealed the absence of a focus on peacebuilding at the institutional level, despite several references to peace in legislative documents. At the same time, civil society demonstrates a strong sensitivity to international peace, with a tradition of pacifist movements and a remarkable number of NGOs, mostly active on cooperation and development. As a result, the report suggests a number of recommendations, which mainly refer to developing a specific focus on peacebuilding in Italian institutions, and to explore the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding nexus in civil society.

ADVOCATING FOR PEACE

Engaging Italian Institutions on Peacebuilding

In 2022, AP established regular dialogue and exchange with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with other political institutions on peacebuilding-related issues. For example, in June, we organised a presentation of the report “Italy and Peacebuilding” during a dedicated internal seminar at the Ministry. The seminar was attended by diplomats from different units.

On June 20, AP together with Archivio Disarmo/IRIAD and the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) Brussels presented for the first time in Italy the results of the Global Peace Index 2022. The Global Peace Index (GPI), now in its 16th edition, presents a comprehensive analysis of trends in peace worldwide, including the attitudes, institutions and structures that create and sustain peaceful societies. This year's report showed that peacefulness declined to the lowest level in 15 years, fuelled by post-Covid economic uncertainty and the conflict in Ukraine. The event represented an opportunity to present this research to an audience of Italian policy-makers and practitioners.

As part of this policy work, on June 23 AP's Director, Bernardo Venturi, was invited as a speaker to *Coopera 2022*, the official annual national conference on development cooperation. In particular, AP contributed to the Side Event entitled “Peace, Emergency and Development” organized by Associazione delle Organizzazioni Italiane di Cooperazione e Solidarietà Internazionale (AOI), in collaboration with Coordinamento Italiano NGO Internazionali (CINI), Link 2007 and the National Conference of Civil Service Organizations.

Then, on July 5 AP presented its report “Italy and Peacebuilding” at the Italian Parliament, highlighting recommendations for a more strategic Italian action on peacebuilding. During the press conference, references were made to the *Decreto Missioni* (Decree on International Missions), which determines the Italian participation in international missions, and which has been a focus of AP's advocacy efforts in years past. As a direct result of these exchanges, in December 2022 the Ministry decided to appoint a senior diplomat as focal point on “Italian capacity on mediation”, which represents an element of clear innovation compared to the past, when no specific unit or individual had been mandated to work on peace-related issues.

Lastly, in October AP co-organised a roundtable within the framework of the 13th Edition of the *Diplomacy Festival*. The event focused on the future of institutional building, starting from the case study

of Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover in 2021. The seminar was attended by different institutional representatives and by relevant stakeholders.

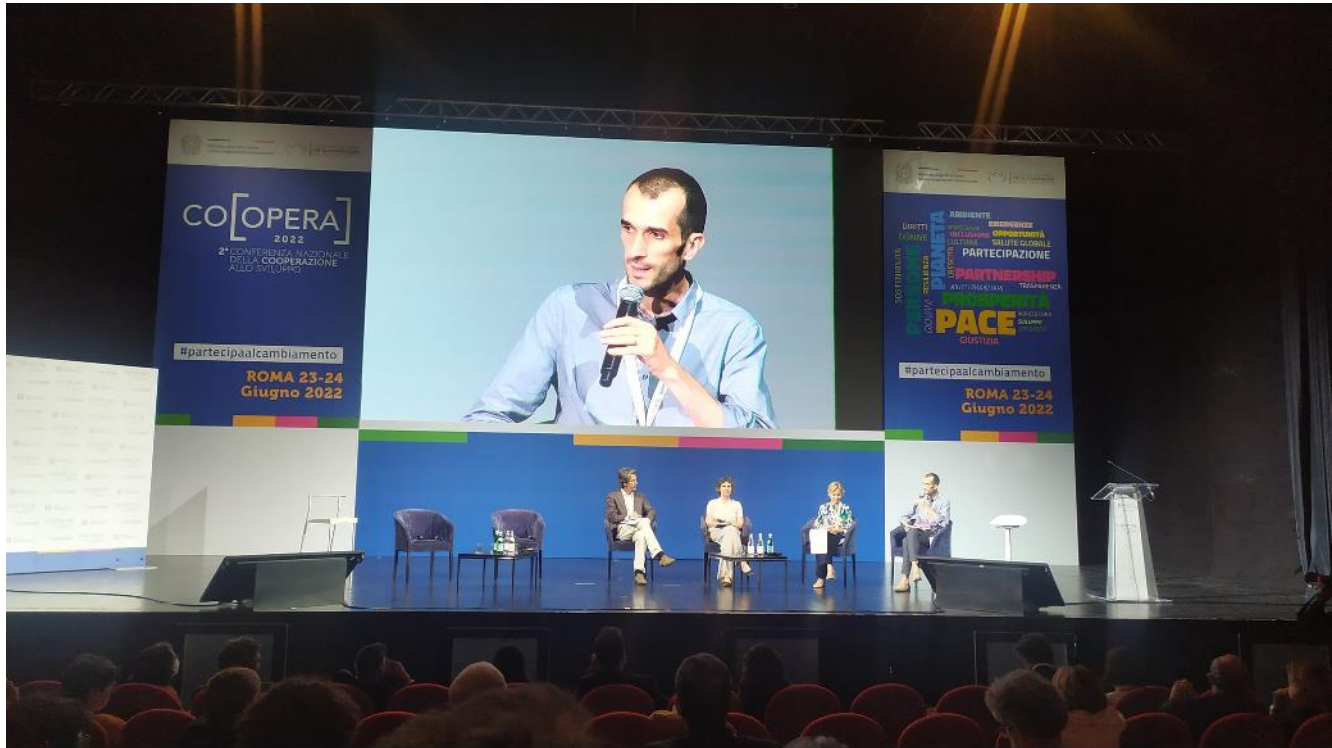


Photo: AP's Director, Bernardo Venturi, at the Coopera 2022 conference (Credit: Agency for Peacebuilding).

Efforts with the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office

The European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) is the largest and most important European network of non-governmental organisations working on peacebuilding and conflict resolution. EPLO has 50 member organisations from 17 European countries. Its secretariat is based in Brussels and serves as the hub to monitor European policies on peace and security, and coordinate joint advocacy efforts. AP joined EPLO in 2020 and has been an active contributor since then, participating in regular policy working groups and events.

For example, in May AP held in Bologna the first EPLO training workshop on EU and Peacebuilding to be organised in Italy. The overall objective of the meeting was to enable representatives of Italian-based NGOs to increase their knowledge of EU peacebuilding policies and practices, and to learn about NGO advocacy efforts on the topic.

Through EPLO, AP also maintained relations with other peacebuilding organisations in order to monitor and advocate for peace transnationally and at the European level. For example, in April AP co-signed a letter to Anne Linde, the Swedish Minister, to Matilda Ernkrans, Minister for Development Cooperation,

and to Carin Jämtin, Director-General of the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) on the Swedish Government's restrictions on SIDA's payments for development cooperation in 2022.

Advancing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda

AP continues to engage on the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda. In particular this year we were able to contribute to a series of reflection workshops on the progress achieved to promote women's participation in peace and security in line with United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 (2000).

AP together with the University of Bologna hosted three events between March and May 2022 to explore the evolution and prospects of the WPS Agenda. The events aimed to foster a dialogue on how to enhance gender equality and women's empowerment in peace and security contexts—in Italy, in Europe and in its neighbourhood. Experts from the EU, Eastern Europe and North Africa, representing civil society and academia, participated in the events to share their experiences and identify the main trends.

On March 31st, the inaugural seminar of the series—entitled “Gender, Peace and Security: Towards a more inclusive agenda”—was held online, addressing one of the most pressing issues in the debate on the future of the WPS Agenda: the imperative of re-conceptualising “inclusion”. For the majority of the past two decades, the Agenda has maintained a very strong emphasis on women. However, this emphasis has also been implemented in often narrow and rigid ways. According to many experts, it has neglected to acknowledge the multiple and intersecting identities that women possess. It has not adequately engaged with men and masculinities. And it has fallen short of promoting the inclusion and participation of key groups, such as youth and LGBTQI+ community.

The subsequent seminar, “Women and Conflicts from Sarajevo and Kyiv”, was hosted at the Forlì Campus of the University of Bologna, on April 21. The event centred on the role that women have assumed, and are assuming, in conflict and peacebuilding in Eastern Europe. The region has a pivotal role in the evolution of the WPS Agenda. The enactment of UNSCR 1325 was, indeed, largely propelled by the international media's coverage of widespread gender-based violence during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Balkans were also a proving ground for the execution of the Agenda. And presently the war in Ukraine is again compelling practitioners to contemplate and revise how we help women in conflict.

The final seminar, “Mediterranean Perspectives on the Future of Women in Peace and Security”, was hosted again at the Forlì Campus of the University of Bologna on May 19. The focus was, again, on the

role of women in advancing the WPS Agenda; only the context shifted, moving from Eastern Europe to Western Europe and North Africa. There, too, women have been assuming a frontline role in movements and initiatives aimed at bringing about social change, including on matters related to peace and security. Yet, they also continue to be largely marginalised in all decision-making processes. In sum, these three points offer a direction for where to search for innovation and new thinking that can help advance the WPS Agenda. In this regard, there are opportunities for Italy, both institutions and civil society, to lead, building on a long record of engagement and leveraging existing resources.

Lastly, this year AP joined the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Italy's National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security. The OEWG is convened by the Inter-ministerial Committee on Human Rights (*Comitato interministeriale per i diritti umani*, or CIDU) of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, to monitor the implementation of Italy's NAP, now in its fourth edition. The OEWG brings together representatives from various ministries and civil society.

Advancing the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda

AP contributed to efforts toward the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda through participating in the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security (GCYPS), and more specifically, through Celina Del Felice being part of the team who organised a series of webinars and an in-person seminar looking at efforts to implement the agenda at national level. This activity brought together for the first time public officials, youth leaders, and representatives of international organisations working on the implementation of the agenda at national level. The in-person meeting was the continuation of a series of online workshops held during August, September and October, and took place between 21 and 24 November 2022 in Helsinki, Finland. It was coordinated by the United Network of Young Peacebuilders, Search for Common Ground, and it was hosted and supported by the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. One of the main resources used was the Guide for Public Officials "Implementing the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda at Country-level", published by the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security, and to which Mikhail Sustersic, Bernardo Monzani and Celina Del Felice contributed to editing in 2021, as external consultants.

SUPPORTING PEACEBUILDING PROCESSES

Supporting Youth Empowerment on Peacebuilding on the Swahili Coast

In 2022, AP was able to build a new partnership with CEFA Onlus to start a new peacebuilding project in the Swahili Coast. The project represents the consolidation of AP's expertise working in the region, where it has been active since 2017 conducting research on peace and conflict, and of our efforts to strengthen the peacebuilding efforts of other actors. Specifically, AP was able to engage CEFA, an Italian NGO with more than 30 years of experience working on economic and livelihood programmes in East Africa, and build a partnership with them that will allow them to integrate a peacebuilding approach into their ongoing efforts.



Photo: Beneficiaries of CEFA's Kathita Kiirua Water Project in Kenya (Credit: CEFA Onlus).

The resulting project is entitled “Kujenga Amani: Building peace on the Swahili Coast” and will take place in various coastal districts of Kenya, Mozambique and Tanzania with the overall goal of empowering and mobilising young women and men as lead actors in peacebuilding and dialogue processes. The project’s specific objectives are:

- To strengthen Swahili coast communities’ resilience to prevent and counter violence and conflict through the dissemination of positive narratives and opportunities for dialogue and exchange; and
- To foster leadership, agency and socio-political inclusion of young men and women in the Swahili coast regions, as agents for change in the promotion of peacebuilding processes and prevention of identity-based violence.

The project is based on a partnership that includes CEFA and AP, as well as local partners GRCF in Tanzania, MWARP and Samba Sport in Kenya, and Muleide in Mozambique. Submitted to the European Commission in May 2022, the project has been approved in November and will start in the first trimester of 2023, lasting for three years. AP will lead on the project’s research components, as well as design and run training workshops on peacebuilding for local partners and various stakeholders.

Transforming the Role of Media in Somalia

This year AP created a partnership with the Horn Afrik News Agency for Human Rights (HANAHR), a Somali CSO. While the partnership was new, it focused on a theme on which AP has been working for a while: media and conflict. By connecting and engaging with HANAHR, AP identified the opportunity to support a more constructive role for Somali media in their country’s transition from violent conflict to peace—a process that is ongoing and that has garnered considerable momentum in the last few years.

In the face of this, HANAHR and AP developed a proposal to establish a media hub for peacebuilding and human rights in Somalia, so that media can play its role in supporting the country’s transition from war to peace. This will be achieved by engaging a group of journalists and media representatives from different locations—including Mogadishu (Banaadir State), Garowe (Puntland) and Hargeisa (Somaliland)—and transforming them into agents of positive change, with the confidence and capacity to act as models for others to follow.

The proposal was submitted to the Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (IFA), a German foundation that funds conflict resolution projects (under their so-called *zivik* programme). Submitted in May 2022, the project was approved in November and will start in the first trimester of 2023, lasting one year. AP will lead on the project’s research components.

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING

Evaluation of the Policy-Influencing Efforts of the International Center for Transitional Justice

In 2022, AP completed an evaluation for the International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), which had started at the end of the previous year. The aim of the evaluation was to assess ICTJ's efforts to influence policies at both national and international levels. ICTJ is one of the most important and well-known organisations working on transitional justice globally. Headquartered in New York and Brussels, ICTJ supports governments and civil society organisations in over 20 countries, and leads advocacy efforts also at the international level, vis-à-vis institutions like the EU and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. In this context, the organisation wanted to review its efforts to inform policy discussions in the international arena from 2018 to the present, with the aim of understanding how these efforts could be made more impactful in the future.

The evaluation focused on three case studies: ICTJ's support to the transitional process in The Gambia, which was delivered to various CSOs as well as the national Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission; ICTJ's support to Syrian CSOs working on justice and accountability for victims of that country's civil war; and the organisation's convening of the Working Group on Transitional Justice and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Overall, the evaluation found ICTJ's efforts to have made an important contribution to impact, in particular where it could effectively empower CSOs and support their agency in political processes.

Evaluation of Youth-led Peacebuilding in Bangladesh, Pakistan and the Philippines

AP completed an evaluation for the Kofi Annan Foundation to assess a project entitled "Leading the way to Peace – Youth Together for Social Cohesion", which the organisation implemented together with local partners in Bangladesh, Pakistan and the Philippines. The partners included the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) and Rupantar in Bangladesh, the College of Youth Activism and Development (CYAAD) in Pakistan, and the Kristiyano-Islam Peace Library (KRIS) in the Philippines. The project itself was designed to respond to the recruitment of urban youth by violent extremist groups in South and Southeast Asia and its overall aim was to enhance the capacities of CSOs and young people for youth-led prevention of violent extremism (PVE) through identification and comparison of different approaches and good practices to be shared and replicated in the region and beyond.

The evaluation found the project to have been extremely relevant, considering that violent extremist groups across the region are increasingly targeting urban youth. The peer-to-peer approach used by the Foundation, and matched with capacity building efforts, was able to unlock the potential for youth to become powerful change-makers. The action was effective in increasing youth understanding of PVE, critical thinking and self-confidence in engaging their communities. It was youth-led and action-oriented: young people were given skills and support to come up with ideas and implement them. The project successfully expanded young participants' leadership skills and contributed to giving participating young people a greater role in their communities. The evaluation also found that changes in attitude and behaviours, especially when it comes to violent extremism, require a long-term engagement and thus these kinds of projects would benefit more from a longer duration.

Baseline Assessment of a Dialogue and Reconciliation Project in Zanzibar

A team led by Bernardo Venturi and Hashim Pondeza conducted the baseline of Search for Common Ground's project entitled "Supporting Post-Election Dialogue and Reconciliation in Zanzibar", which sought to strengthen inclusive dialogue and reconciliation efforts in Zanzibar following the elections. Specifically, the project, which is led by Search for Common Ground and will last two years (from October 2021 to April 2023), wants to improve the integration of high-level political actors into community-level post-election dialogue and reconciliation efforts.

The baseline assessment, which was conducted early in the year, had the following objectives: (i) to assess the validity of the theory of change, the general objective and the expected results of the project; (ii) to collect the baseline values of the project indicators; (iii) to conduct a risk analysis related to Do No Harm and conflict sensitivity; and (iv) to provide recommendations for the project execution strategy. Overall, the data collected showed several opportunities for collaboration and positive interaction between the national government and Zanzibari communities.

Evaluation of a Peacebuilding Project in Tanzania and Zanzibar

Bernardo Venturi and Hashim Pondeza also conducted the evaluation of Search for Common Ground's project entitled "Jenga Amani Yetu - Building peaceful communities in Tanzania". The project, which was funded by the EU, had the overall aim of supporting and strengthening civil society organisations' contribution toward the promotion of fundamental freedom and democracy in Tanzania and Zanzibar. It was implemented between January 2020 and June 2022 in partnership with the Legal Human Rights Centre (LHRC) and the Zanzibar Legal Services Centre (ZLSC).

The evaluation, which focused on the criteria of relevance, effectiveness, impact and sustainability, found that the project significantly strengthened the chain of collaboration and mutual understanding between government representatives and other key stakeholders in selected locations, including representatives of CSOs, journalists and community members themselves in addressing different social disputes and other forms of conflict. A key dimension of the project was the media component, and this was found to be successful with the exception of locations where local radio outlets were weak or absent. Recommendations were thus made to ensure that similar efforts could be more effective and impactful in the future.

Evaluation of Community Policing Project in Burundi

A team led by Bernardo Monzani, Ylenia Rocchini and Kelly-Ange Irakoze conducted the evaluation of the project “Tubiri Tuvurana Ubupfu: Strengthening Trust and Positive Relations Between Youth and Police in Burundi”. Implemented by Search for Common Ground and funded by the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany, the project ran over a period of 30 months from September 2019 to February 2022, with the main aim of strengthening trust and positive relationships between youth and police to prevent violence before, during and after the 2020 electoral cycle. To this effect, the project set out to transform the relationship between the police and youth, who have often been at the forefront of political clashes, by encouraging constructive and humanising interactions between them and with other members of the community. The project intended, in particular, to harness the potential of mixed security committees, community policing structures that have been set up in communities across the country, and to strengthen them to become vehicles where the community, police and local authorities could safely interact and de-escalate tensions.

The overall goal of the evaluation was to provide an external and independent assessment of the project as a whole, with the particular aim of measuring the extent to which the project has been successful at achieving its outcomes, and why and where improvements for the future can be made. In so doing, the evaluation focused on the criteria of effectiveness, impact and sustainability. Overall, the general assessment was positive: all intended results—capacity building, dialogue and the creation of positive narratives—were achieved, with clear benefits for all target groups. This said, some challenges remained, in particular in the engagement of the police and the inclusion of women. These were the focus of recommendations made to improve similar programming in the future.

Evaluation of the Y-Med Project by the International Organization for Migration

At the end of 2022, AP started a collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to evaluate the first three editions of the Y-MED project. This is a project implemented by IOM Italy in coordination with IOM missions in Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia and it aims at providing young people from these countries with the opportunity to carry out internships at Italian companies. This is expected to contribute to the development of their professional skills and to the transfer of knowledge across countries. Indeed, the project intends also to raise the awareness of private sector actors on the value of skills' circulation and cultural diversity within companies. To date, the Y-MED project has involved a total of 78 interns from the four countries and engaged 57 Italian companies based in Morocco and in two Italian regions (Veneto and Lazio).

In this context, AP has been asked to assess the performance of the project to identify results and challenges and provide recommendations to inform the fourth edition of the project. With a view to capturing project achievements in target countries, evaluation activities are planned to take place remotely and in the field with missions in Morocco and Tunisia. The evaluation was launched at the end of 2022 and will be completed by mid-2023.

Webinars

As part of its organisational commitment to information sharing and learning, AP organised 6 webinars presented by staff, associates and advisors on the following topics:

- Turning communication into actions (by Silvia Meiattini);
- Transformational Leadership and Intergenerational Collaboration for Peacebuilding (by Shadi Shahbaz);
- Discouraging irregular migration and enhancing regular pathways: building peaceful society? (By Dr. Caterina Francesca Guidi);
- Experiences related to the evaluation of the project “Strengthening Young Women’s Participation in Local and National Peace Processes in South Sudan” (by Bernardo Venturi and Hisham Pondeza);
- Experiences related to the evaluation of the project “Leading the way to Peace – Youth Together for Social Cohesion (by Bernardo Monzani and Mikhail Sustersic); and
- The Western Sahara conflict: the promise and peril of engagement (by Bernardo Monzani).

AWARENESS-RAISING AND COMMUNICATION

Awareness-raising, through communication, is at the heart of AP's mission, and it has two objectives.

The first is to help raise the visibility of peacebuilding among public opinion, as well as relevant stakeholders; and the second is to foster greater understanding of peacebuilding processes and their importance. Lastly, through communication we provide information on our activities in a spirit of transparency and accountability.

In 2022, AP's communication efforts included the following types of publications: a monthly newsletter; our "Insights", analytical articles on topical issues (through our website); opinion editorials (through HuffPost Italia); project and research reports; articles on external journals; and press releases. Members and advisors of AP also took part in various events during the year. Lastly, we continue to invest in our social media presence.

Insights

In 2022 we published 7 analytical articles on our website, several of which were collected, edited and published as part of a general call for articles aimed at gathering and disseminating new and original perspectives of peacebuilding issues from all over the world and related to several different themes.

- ["On the side of peace"](#)
Author: Valentina Bartolucci and Giorgio Gallo
- ["Women's marginalization and the failures of the Libyan peace process"](#)
Author: Bernardo Monzani and Mariachiara Giaccai
- ["The desperate need for a peace initiative in Pakistan's Baluchistan province"](#)
Author: Marco Mezzera
- ["Winds of War in the Sahara Desert"](#)
Author: Bernardo Monzani
- ["Imagination: the Key to Peacebuilding"](#)
Author: Juan Lucero
- ["Let's talk about the Football World Cup: An opportunity for peace education"](#)
Author: Celina Del Felice
- ["Resisting the normalisation of violence"](#)
Author: Bernardo Venturi

Op-eds

In 2022 we continued our fruitful rapport with the editorial board of Huffington Post Italia, and we were able to publish 10 op-eds (all in Italian only):

- [“Pakistan, quando l'estremismo violento diventa pop”](#)
Author: Mikhail Silvestro Sustersic
- [“Aiutare l'Ucraina con il cuore, ma anche con la testa”](#)
Author: Mikhail Silvestro Sustersic
- [“Il piano italiano per la pace in Ucraina può essere affossato, ma mostra un percorso”](#)
Author: Bernardo Venturi
- [“La prevenzione dei conflitti come priorità”](#)
Author: Stefano Marinelli
- [“Oltre le armi”](#)
Author: Bernardo Monzani
- [“Missioni internazionali dell'Italia, qualche novità e i soliti ritardi”](#)
Author: Bernardo Venturi
- [“La COP africana che non ha risolto la vulnerabilità dell'Africa”](#)
Author: Ylenia Rocchini
- [“L'incredibile \(e assurda\) fascinazione per la guerra”](#)
Author: Valentina Bartolucci
- [“Identità intersezionali in guerra e in pace”](#)
Author: Mikhail Silvestro Sustersic
- [“Le proteste in Russia e le scelte dell'Italia”](#)
Author: Dafne Carletti

Reports

This year, we published 6 reports:

- [“Strengthening trust and positive relations between youth and police in Burundi: final evaluation report”](#)
Authors: Kelly-Ange Irakoze, Ylenia Rocchini and Bernardo Monzani
- [“Strengthening community peace mechanisms in Zanzibar: Conflict Snapshot and Baseline Study”](#)
Authors: Bernardo Venturi and Hashim Pondeza
- [“Italy and Peacebuilding”](#)
Authors: Bernardo Venturi and Stefano Marinelli
- [“Bologna Peacebuilding Forum 2022: Event report”](#)
Authors: Stefano Marinelli and Bernardo Venturi, Bernardo Monzani, Mariachiara Giaccai
- [“Leading the Way to Peace: Evaluation summary report”](#)
Authors: Bernardo Monzani and Mikhail Silvestro Sustersic

- [“Harder Than You Think: Reflections on the Past, Present and Future of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda”](#)

Authors: Bernardo Monzani

Lastly, a team of AP members including Celina Del Felice, Mikhail Silvestro Sustersic and Bernardo Monzani coordinated the publication of the [“Guide for Public Officials on the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda at Country-Level”](#). This is a joint publication of the Global Coalition for Youth, Peace and Security and the United Nations Office of the Special Envoy for Youth.



Photo: Copies of “Italy and Peacebuilding” report (Credit: Rosa Lacavalla/ Agency for Peacebuilding).

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

AP's total income for fiscal year 2022 was €127.229. The total expenditure was €130.833.

The following graphs provide a snapshot of the finances for this year. Public sources of funding included the Council of Europe, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Further information can be found in AP's annual financial statements, available upon request.

Figure 1: Expenditure by type

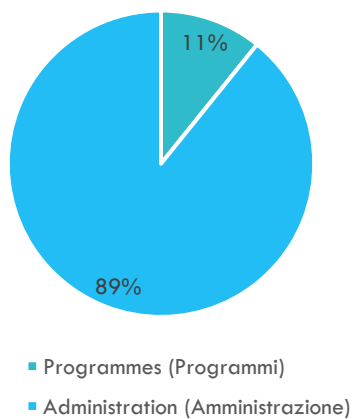


Figure 2: Income by source

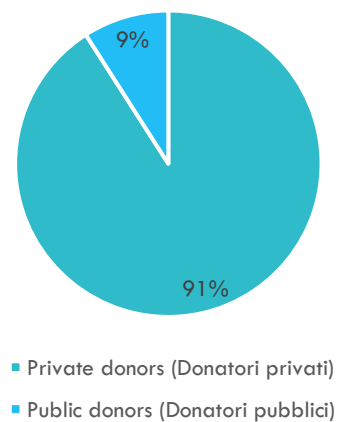
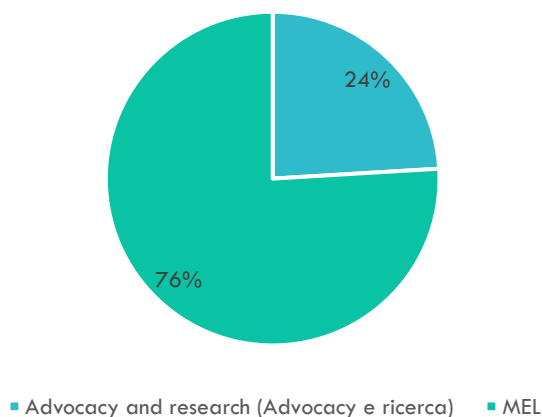


Figure 3: Expenditure by area of work



PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

For all the activities completed in 2022, AP wants to acknowledge and thank all of its partners and supporters:

- Agenzia italiana per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo (AICS)
- American University of Rome
- CEFA Onlus
- Centro Studi di Difesa Civile (CSDC)
- Council of Europe
- Emilia-Romagna Region
- Federazione Organismi Cristiani Servizio Internazionale Volontario (FOCSIV)
- HuffPost
- IBO Italia
- Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (IFA)
- Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)
- International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
- Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)
- Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS Europe)
- The Kofi Annan Foundation
- Municipality of Bologna
- Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
- Peaceful Change Initiative (PCI)
- Prometeia
- Rotary Club Bologna Ovest
- Search for Common Ground (SFCG)
- Scuola Superiore di Sant'Anna
- University of Bologna
- WeWorld-GVC Italy Onlus



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