



AGENCY FOR
PEACEBUILDING

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Agency for Peacebuilding

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ABOUT THE AGENCY FOR PEACEBUILDING

The Agency for Peacebuilding (AP) is a think-and-do organisation committed to bridging the gap between research and practice in peacebuilding.

AP aims to contribute to more peaceful and just societies by preventing and transforming violent conflict and creating spaces for dialogue and cooperation across sectors and divides.

AP pursues its aims through the following areas of work:

- **Research and analysis.** AP conducts applied research and analysis of peace, conflict and security issues as a basis to promote informed dialogue and interventions.
- **Advocacy.** AP advocates for the improvement of peacebuilding efforts in Italy, Europe and globally.
- **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning.** AP carries out monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) activities, focusing not only on peace and security, but also on participation and governance implemented in the context of international development agendas.
- **Support for peacebuilding actors.** AP supports peace processes by engaging directly with key actors, both locally and internationally.
- **Capacity building.** AP promotes capacity building activities for peace, security and development actors to help them further develop competencies on peace and conflict dynamics

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

Armed conflicts continue to directly affect millions of people, testing our governance systems, as well as our capacities for peaceful conflict transformation. While the war in Ukraine continues, in 2023 the conflict between Israel and Palestinian escalated, creating a dire humanitarian crisis. At the same time, we see other violent conflicts not receiving the same media attention, yet sharing the devastating effects of violence: for example, the civil war in Sudan, the tensions in Nagorno-Karabakh with thousands of people fleeing the region, and the instability in the Sahel region, indicated by events such as the coup d'état in Niger, added to those in Mali from 2020-2021 and Burkina Faso in 2022. We also see the growth of armed violence and insecurity linked to drug trafficking in practically the entire American continent.

At a European level, the apparent situation of peace is shaken not only by the above-mentioned wars, but also by the lack of positive peace. This means the absence of respect for the human rights of all, as well as widening social inequalities, and the worsening of multiple forms of violence and discrimination, such as gender-based violence, racism, LGBTQIphobia and ableism. While there may be a general perception among European citizens that wars happen elsewhere and far-away, and thus, that is where peacebuilding is needed, we cannot overlook such severe social tensions and polarisation as well as the fact that thousands lose their lives trying to reach Europe. At the same time, military spending is increasing while resources for peacebuilding are being cut. These are issues to carefully consider if we want to build peace in a responsible and sustainable way in a world that is more than ever interconnected.

This year also saw positive developments: the progress towards the implementation of the peace agreement in Colombia as acknowledged by the UN Secretary General's based on the United Nations (UN) Verification Mission report of October 2023, and a greater engagement of women in peacebuilding spaces, such as the UN Peacebuilding Commission.

All these events impact the work done at AP as well as the entire peacebuilding community, and reinforce our commitment to approaches that put open dialogue, timely applied research and local and international collaborations at the centre. It also strengthened our efforts to work in a sustained way with communities and organisations both in Europe as well as in other regions, notably through

partnerships. We know that peacebuilding requires continued, patient, inclusive, creative and collaborative efforts.

For AP, 2023 was a year of consolidation of our lines of work and strengthening of our internal governance procedures. Both the coordination team and the number of collaborators grew in order to face new and more complex demands and projects. Finally, the identity of the organisation and its strategic objectives were thoroughly reviewed, seeking continuity and change at the same time.

We whole-heartly thank all those that have been part of the journey, and who support AP's work. More than ever, we need the commitment of all to be true agents of peace.

Celina Del Felice, President, and Mikhail Silvestro Sustersic, Director.

OBJECTIVES

In 2023 AP's work was guided by three strategic objectives:

- To strengthen and consolidate advocacy and research activities;
- To launch and consolidate direct support to peacebuilding actors;
- To strengthen internal coordination, administration and financial systems.

These objectives aimed to both deepen and strengthen AP's core lines of action of research, advocacy and evaluation projects, as well as broaden and consolidate direct support to peacebuilding actors through longer-term partnerships and programmes, which combine research, dialogue support and training activities.

AP implemented slightly less projects than in 2022 (10 projects in 2023 in comparison to 14 in 2022), yet some of the projects were more complex, longer and bigger in terms of income, activities and human resources involved. A more continuous and deeper engagement in some regions, notably East Africa, through partnerships had been a pre-set target, which was largely achieved this year. Finally, this growth in operations was accompanied by the development and adjustment of internal governance and management systems and procedures.

BOLOGNA PEACEBUILDING FORUM 2023

On May 2-3 and 4, 2023, AP organised the 5th edition of the Bologna Peacebuilding Forum (BPF) on “Peace in Europe and Beyond”. The Forum 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 Forum has developed as a major annual gathering fostering open and constructive dialogue among scholars, practitioners, foreign policy experts, civil society actors, and the wider public.



Photo: Panel at the Municipality of Bologna on May 2, 2023 (Credit: Rosa Lacavalla/ Agency for Peacebuilding).

The first day, held in the Municipality of Bologna, was dedicated to the presentation of the report “Italy and the Triple Nexus”. One of the key ideas highlighted was that with the adoption of the Italian strategic guidelines on the Triple Nexus approaching, their implementation offered a unique opportunity for the Italian foreign policy and cooperation system to best apply the tools available to address the needs that affect areas of fragility around the world.

The main international conference was then held at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS Europe) on May 3rd, with policy-makers, researchers and practitioners discussing different dimensions of conflict and peace in Europe. The Forum provided the opportunity to analyse different peace and security scenarios, and possible future trajectories with a focus on the European continent. This included discussions on the roles of different actors, such as the EU and its capacity and instruments to work for peace and how civil societies are adapting and reconsidering their role in the future. The war in Ukraine was very present in the Forum discussions as it has impacted Europe and the rest of the world. The conference included prominent speakers such as Professor Sergey Radchenko (SAIS Europe), Stephanie Fenkart (International Institute for Peace), Ivan Vejvoda (Institute for Human Sciences), and Vlada Lisenco (University of Tiraspol). The event was closed by a keynote exchange between Ambassador Lamberto Zannier (former Secretary General, OSCE) and journalist Maria Cuffaro. The last day of the Forum saw a workshop on the relationship between media and peacebuilding held for university students, with the participation of journalists and experts on peacebuilding.

A final report for the event is [available on our website](#).



Photo: Panel at SAIS Europe on May 3rd, 2023 (Credit: Rosa Lacavalla/ Agency for Peacebuilding).

GENERATING NEW KNOWLEDGE FOR PEACEBUILDING

In May 2023, AP published the report “[Italy and the Triple Nexus](#)“, with the main objective of re-launching the exchange on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (the Triple Nexus) between political institutions, specialised civil society and the research field to foster analytical skills, greater mutual understanding and the implementation of the same Nexus approach. First, the report describes the state and evolution of international cooperation, and the affirmation of the Triple Nexus and analyses recent critical turning points of the Triple Nexus. Second, the report presents the Triple Nexus in relation to how it has been discussed within Italy’s institutional governance framework; the opportunities and challenges in implementing it are then presented and discussed. The study also provides recommendations for the next operational steps. The report was written by Bernardo Venturi and Mariachiara Giaccari, and it has been published with the support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

In September 2023, AP published the report “[Media and Peacebuilding in Somalia](#)“. This report looks at the role that media plays and can play to support peacebuilding in Somalia as the country goes through a social and political transition of momentous importance. Somali media can promote the participation and inclusion of different people and communities, and thus contribute to changing the narrative around the country’s state-building processes. Yet, very little efforts have so far been made to focus on the specific role and capacities of Somali media. And because of this, very little is still known about the media sector. This is the gap that the present research report wants to fill. The research engaged civil society representatives and young people across the country, who were invited to share how they perceive the media in relation to their country’s transition. The emerging picture is extremely interesting and timely. The report was written by Hodan Ahmed, Bernardo Monzani and Mikhail Silvestro Sustersic. It was made possible thanks to the generous support of the Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (IFA), under its Zivik funding programme.

ADVOCATING FOR PEACE

Engaging Italian Institutions on Peacebuilding

In 2023, AP continued dialogue and hold exchanges with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (*Ministero degli affari esteri e della cooperazione internazionale*, or MAECI), with the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (*Agenzia italiana per la cooperazione allo sviluppo*, or AICS) and with other political institutions on peacebuilding-related issues. In particular, AP was in dialogue on the Italian Guidelines on the Triple Nexus, the Italian capacities on mediation and its role in international peace missions. Notably, in April 2023, AP's Director Bernardo Venturi was invited by officials in MAECI to a close-door working lunch in Rome with Jean-Pierre Lacroix, UN Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations.



Photo: Participants and speakers at the presentation of the Global Peace Index in Rome (Credit: Agency for Peacebuilding).

On September 22, 2023, AP together with the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) Brussels and the University Luiss Rome, hosted the presentation of the 17th edition of the Global Peace Index 2023, produced by IEP. The Global Peace Index 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 the average level of global peacefulness deteriorated by 0.42 per cent, continuing this negative trend of the past 15 years. The event represented an opportunity to present this research to an audience of Italian policy-makers and practitioners, as well as students.

On October 24, 2023, AP co-organised a roundtable on [“Inclusion in peace processes: promoting participation to ensure sustainable results”](#) within the framework of the 14th Edition of the [Diplomacy Festival](#). Speakers included Giulia Ferraro (Inclusive Peace), Alessandro Azzoni (MAECI), Luisa Del Turco (Centro Studi Difesa Civile), Marco Mezzera (independent expert), Loredana Teodorescu (Istituto Affari Internazionali, IAI) and Bernardo Venturi (AP). The seminar was attended by different institutional representatives and relevant stakeholders.



Photo: Panel at Diplomacy Festival on October 24, 2023, Università Lumsa, Rome (Credit: Agency for Peacebuilding).

"Inclusion in peace processes is central to their sustainability. The more mediations include different actors, including non-governmental ones, the more solid and lasting peace agreements are."

Intervention by Bernardo Venturi, AP's Head of Policy and Research, at the 2023 Diplomacy Festival.

Lastly, on December 13, 2023 Mikhail Silvestro Sustersic contributed as a speaker to the session on UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security, which discussed the possibility of developing an Italian National Action Plan at the Italian Parliament, in cooperation with CSPPS. One of the main conclusions of the event was that including youth in peacebuilding is not only 'fair': it is fundamental as they have special knowledge about the realities of young people, and can contribute as experts, peacebuilders, activists and practitioners.



Photo: Session on Youth, Peace and Security at the Italian Parliament, Rome. (Credit: Agency for Peacebuilding).

“Including youth is not just ‘right’. It is fundamental. Many of the peace processes implemented so far have simply failed. The exclusion of women, youth and many other voices has clearly not worked. Young people have a deep understanding of the complexities of the world. They bring innovation and foresight. This is why they must be involved in today's major debates and decision-making processes, from climate change to disarmament, from new technologies to security, from global order to new forms of democracy.”

Intervention by Mikhail Silvestro Sustersic, AP's Director, at the Italian Parliament.

Exchanging Experiences at the European Level

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. Through EPLO, AP has also maintained relations with other peacebuilding organisations in order to monitor and advocate for peace transnationally and at the European level. For example, AP regularly contributes to EPLO's work on EU Policies related to the peace sector on paramount areas such as the European Peace Facility (EPF) and the Civilian Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).

AP at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe representing civil society

On December 4, 2023, at the Italian Chamber of Deputies, AP represented civil society at the meeting of the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The session focused on the Council of Europe's strategies and instruments to ensure respect for human rights, the rule of law and democratic obligations in conflict resolution. Among the speakers were the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy Antonio Tajani, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Tiny Kox, and representatives of human rights organisations and bodies.

AP at the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) meeting in Romania

Mikhail Silvestro Sustersic, AP's Director and Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) expert attended the joint meeting of the RAN Families, Communities & Social Care (FC&S) and Rehabilitation Working Groups in Bucharest, Romania. The event focused on better preparing receiving communities for their involvement in the rehabilitation process of former radicalised individuals and AP was able to bring to the discussion the peacebuilding's perspective on Prevention and Countering of Violent Extremism (P\CVE).

AP institutional visit to Casa África, Spain

On 13 November 2023, AP members visited Casa África to learn more about its work, present AP's work in Africa and explore ideas of collaboration. Casa África's mission is to foster relations between Spain and African countries through economic, social, cultural, institutional and political activities. It is a public diplomacy effort of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the Government of the Canary Islands and the Municipality of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.



Photo: AP's visit to Casa África, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (Credit: Ángeles Jurado, Casa África).

Advancing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda

AP continues to engage on the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda, in particular through the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Italy's National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security, which we joined in 2022. 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. In 2023, the OEWG held two meetings, which AP joined. AP also made contributions to the annual report that CIDU publishes, highlighting the progress towards the implementation of commitments under the NAP.

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, AP co-organised a webinar entitled "The Scout Movement and its contribution to peacebuilding". This event was hosted by the Knowledge Management Working Group of the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security on 13 September 2023 and facilitated in cooperation with PhD Candidate Andrés Morales, University for Peace/ Red Cross and World Scouting.

SUPPORTING PEACEBUILDING PROCESSES

Supporting Youth Empowerment on Peacebuilding on the Swahili Coast

In 2022, AP established a new partnership with CEFA Onlus to start a three-year peacebuilding project in the Swahili Coast entitled “Kujenga Amani: Building peace on the Swahili Coast” and several activities of this project were rolled out in 2023 in Kenya, Mozambique and Tanzania. The project’s overall goal is 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 GRFC in Tanzania, MWARP and Samba Sport in Kenya, and Muleide in Mozambique. AP’s role has been leading on the project’s research components, as well as the design and implementation of training workshops on peacebuilding for local partners and various stakeholders.

In 2023, AP conducted a comprehensive and a participatory conflict analysis of project locations in Kenya, Mozambique and Tanzania. The analysis describes the main dynamics and causes of tensions and violent conflict in key locations across the three countries. It also includes the role that government institutions, civil society organisations (CSOs) and youth play to either contribute to the conflict dynamics, or to counter them. The report covering findings for Kenya and Mozambique was published in September 2023, while the report for Mozambique will be published in the first quarter of 2024.



Photo: Participants in the training of trainers with AP's trainers, Hallima Nyota and Hashim Pondeza, Dar es Salam. (Credit: MWARP).

As part of the project, AP also organised a training of trainers for staff from all implementing partners. The learning objective of the event was to provide skills and knowledge about peacebuilding to those staff members who will be responsible for the implementation of later activities under the project, which will include sports tournaments, the creation of school peace clubs and community dialogues. The training, which was held over 4 days in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, brought together 30 people, representing all organisations. It was a useful opportunity to develop relevant skills, but also a moment to come together and learn about each other's experiences.

“The topics were relevant and we had opportunities of sharing field experience with colleagues and have a chance to understand the dynamics in three different countries”

Comment by one of the participants in the training of trainers under the Kujenga Amani project.

Transforming the Role of Media in Somalia

This year AP implemented the project; [“Somalia Media Hub for Peacebuilding and Human Rights” project](#), in partnership with the [Horn Afrik News Agency for Human Rights](#) (HANAHR), a Somali CSO. 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.

The project brought together a group of 20 Somali journalists for a three-day training in Mogadishu in November 2023. The objective of the training was to strengthen the capacities of the journalists with knowledge, capacities and skills on peacebuilding and conflict-sensitive reporting.



Photo: Participants in an awareness-raising event held in Hargeisa, Somaliland. (Credit: HANAHR, 2023).

Importantly, in 2023 a Media Hub was established in both English and in Somali. This was 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 project was supported by the Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (IFA), a German foundation that funds conflict resolution projects (under their so-called “Zivik programme”).

“I gained new skills about the linkages between media and peacebuilding. These types of programmes are very useful for society, instead of focusing on politics... the sessions helped increase my knowledge and understanding of the implications of media and peacebuilding. I used the skills to conduct interviews with peacebuilders.”

Comment by a female journalist who took part in the training of trainers under the “Somali Media Hub for Peacebuilding and Human Rights” project.

Training of Italian Peace Civil Corps

Finally, AP trained Italian Peace Civil Corps who are engaged in actions to build peace and address the climate emergency. The training was organised by FOCSIV in cooperation with AP on October 26, 2023.

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING

Evaluation of two projects on violent extremism in the Balkans

In 2023, a team led by Mikhail Silvestro Sustersic completed the final evaluation of two projects funded by the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF). The first project, titled “Resilience and Safe Reintegration (RSR) for Children and Mothers returning from the war zones”, was implemented by Terre des Hommes (TdH) Mission in Albania with the overall objective of modelling and implementing good practices of rehabilitation and reintegration (R&R) of returnee foreign terrorist fighters (RFTFs) and their families. The second one, titled “Building Strong and Resilient Communities in Mitrovica”, was implemented in the city of Mitrovica, in Kosovo, by Community Building Mitrovica (CBM), with the aim of preventing violent extremism among at-risk youth, to work on intercultural and interreligious understanding, and to strengthen local capacities for preventing or countering violent extremism (P/CVE).

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).

The evaluation was completed in 2023 following visits to Morocco and Tunisia. AP was asked to assess the performance of the project, to identify results and challenges, and to provide recommendations to inform the fourth edition of the project.

Final evaluation of the *Tuyage* (“Let’s Talk”) project in Burundi

In 2023, AP designed and conducted the final evaluation of the “Tuyage (Let’s Talk): Information Access and Economic Discourse Strengthening” project, which Search for Common Ground (Search) implemented with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), through a subaward agreement with Freedom House. The Tuyage project’s overall goal was to foster an enriched information landscape and a culture of open discussion on concerns that directly affect Burundians in their daily lives, with a focus on shared economic concerns and opportunities that can serve as a means of expanding civic engagement, increasing dialogue across divides, and building social cohesion.

Overall, the evaluation found that, albeit the Tuyage project was an ambitious project, it successfully achieved most of its expected outcomes. Even more, it achieved significant unexpected positive results, including the participation of Burundi’s President. The project also encountered challenges, the greatest of which was with scale: the project’s first component had the resources to engage the entire media sector. Recommendations were made to improve similar projects in the future.

Baseline study of the “Inclusive Peace and Security in the Levant and Yemen” project

AP then embarked on the completion of the baseline study for the “Inclusive Peace and Security in the Levant and Yemen” (IPS) programme, which Search for Common Ground (Search) started to implement with the support of the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). The IPS programme has the overall goal of strengthening women and youth’s meaningful, enduring participation in advancing inclusive peace and security in several countries in the Middle East, including Iraq, Lebanon and Yemen.

The specific objectives of the baseline study were to: (1) Define the baseline values of the program’s indicators; (2) Outline key needs and opportunities of women-rights organisations (WROs) and youth-led organisations (YLOs) in target countries, including inclusion, protection and safeguarding needs; and (3) Review the programme’s theory of change, with particular attention to coherence and relevance. The baseline study identified key barriers and dynamics related to conflict and youth participation (or marginalisation) for all target countries.

Final evaluation of the “Women Preventing Violent Extremism” Programme

The “Women Preventing Violent Extremism” (WPVE) programme, implemented by the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) from 2018 to 2023 in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, aimed to enhance women civic leaders’ engagement and influence in preventing violent extremism in the Horn of Africa. AP performed the evaluation between September 2023 and the beginning of 2024. The overall purpose of the evaluation was to assess the effectiveness and scalability of the programme, and to provide an opportunity to understand the progress of the program as well as to enhance future iterations of this work.

The evaluation engaged relevant stakeholders, especially civil society partners and government representatives in all countries, while also maintaining a whole-of-society approach which was able to engage people with first-hand experience of violent extremism, going beyond a ‘usual suspects’ approach and ensuring the participation of marginalised groups. AP noted how, even if the programme aimed to enhance women’s engagement and influence in PVE, it also sensitised and engaged men. Investing in capacity building was also pivotal: strengthening PVE and peacebuilding competences of human rights, gender and development CSOs was extremely important, as was the building of useful competencies for the management of domestic conflict, gender discrimination and gender-based violence.

Final evaluation of the IGAD Promoting Peace and Stability in the Horn of Africa

Finally, in 2023 AP completed the final evaluation of the “Promoting Peace and Stability in the Horn of Africa Region” (IPPSHAR) Programme, which the Peace and Security Division (PSD) of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development) implemented from 2017 to 2023), in partnership with other programme units and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA). AP conducted the final evaluation from August 2023 to January 2024. The overall objective of this evaluation was two-fold. The first objective was to assess the IPPSHAR programme, to guarantee accountability. The second was to contribute to learning for future programming and implementation.

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 2023, AP's communication efforts included the following types of publications: a) monthly newsletter (1101 subscribers in December 2023, 25% being Italy, and the rest being based in multiple countries); b) our "Insights", analytical articles on topical issues (through our website); c) opinion editorials (through HuffPost Italia); and d) project and research reports as detailed below. We also continue to invest in our social media presence. In X AP has 3330 followers and in LinkedIn, 10742 (out of which 1911 became new followers in 2023).

Insights

In 2023, AP published 6 analytical articles on our website.

- [“Social Media for a Positive Peace: Transnational Digital Resistance in Egypt”](#) (by Dafne Carletti, on 27 January 2023)
- [“From Clicking to Beating: Dealing with Physical Violence”](#) (by Imani Henrick, on 23 February 2023)
- [“Online Gender-Based Violence: A silent flesh-eating cancer in Tanzania”](#) (by Imani Henrik, on 29 March 2023).
- [“What can be learned from the local turn in international peacebuilding?”](#) (by Cyrielle Trebosc, on 12 May 2023)
- [“Has peace been given a chance? Northern Ireland and 25 years since the Good Friday Agreement”](#) (by Megan Gethin, on 28 November 2023).
- [“Lessons learned from a year of peacebuilding in Somalia”](#) (by Bernardo Monzani, on 19 December 2023)

Op-eds

In 2023 we continued our collaboration with the editorial board of Huffington Post Italia, and we were able to publish 10 op-eds (in Italian):

- [“Il cambio di paradigma necessario nella questione israelo-palestinese”](#) (by Mariachiara Giaccai, on 27 January 2023)
- [“Il ponte più invalicabile di un muro. Viaggio nella città kosovara divisa di Mitrovica”](#) (by Mikhail Silvestro Sustersic, on 28 February 2023)
- [“Iran-Arabia Saudita: in Medio Oriente un altro accordo senza pace”](#) (by Bernardo Monzani on 29 March 2023)
- [“La sfida di una rinnovata architettura di pace europea”](#) (by Bernardo Venturi, on 27 April 2023)
- [“Perché l'Italia deve fare passi avanti sul nesso tra aiuto umanitario, sviluppo e pace”](#) (by Mariachiara Giaccai, on 30 June 2023)
- [“Nuova Agenda per la Pace: documento di svolta o aria fritta?”](#) (by Bernardo Venturi, on 25 July 2023)
- [“Il fallimento mondiale sull'uguaglianza di genere”](#) (by Bernardo Monzani, on 28 September 2023)
- [“Tra cessate il fuoco e mediazione”](#) (by Bernardo Venturi, on 30 October 2023)
- [“Gli spettri e le illusioni della Pax Europaea”](#) (by Mikhail Silvestro Sustersic, on 29 November 2023)
- [“Il dialogo come ponte della “crepa” tra noi e loro”](#) (by Celina Del Felice, on 21 December 2023)

Reports

This year, we published 4 reports:

- [“Italy and the Triple Nexus”](#) (By Bernardo Venturi and Mariachiara Giaccai)
- [“Bologna Peacebuilding Forum 2023: Event report”](#) (By Mariachiara Giaccai and Bernardo Venturi)
- [“Media and Peacebuilding in Somalia”](#) (By Hodan Ahmed, Bernardo Monzani and Mikhail Silvestro Sustersic)
- [“Conflict analysis of Coastal Areas in Kenya and Tanzania”](#) (By Bernardo Monzani, Hashim Pondeza, Mikhail Silvestro Sustersic and Bernardo Venturi)

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

During 2023 AP worked on its institutional development in a number of ways. From June onwards the organisation engaged in a period of transition to strengthen leadership roles and further develop specific areas of work. AP members reviewed AP's history, institutional identity and strategies in order to revisit AP's future plans. AP also engaged in a review of its governance mechanisms and internal procedures, developing and approving an organisational Code of Conduct.

AP hosted four interns and four volunteers in cooperation with Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS Europe) and the University of Bologna. Interns and volunteers take part in an induction process introducing them to the work of the organisation, support AP projects and join internal training activities.



Photo: Members' General Assembly, November 11-13, 2023 (Credit: Stefano Marinelli/ Agency for Peacebuilding).

Webinars

As part of its organisational commitment to internal information sharing and learning, AP organised 4 webinars presented by staff, associates and advisors on the following topics:

- “Practices of P/CVE and relief and re-integration in Albania and Kosovo” (by Mikhail Silvestro Sustersic, on 12 April 2023)
- “Media and conflict” (by Dafne Carletti, on 28 June 2023)
- “Lessons learned from the evaluation of the Y-MED project in Tunisia and Morocco” (by Ylenia Rocchini, on 27 September 2023)
- “Gender persecution in armed conflicts” (by Huma Saeed, on 30 November 2023)

“Thank you for an incredible, rewarding internship experience this past fall. I learned and gained so much, not only through my projects and assignments, but also through my meetings, conversations, and lunchtime chats with all of you.”

Comment by one of AP's interns in 2023.

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

AP's total income for fiscal year 2023 was €369.191. The total expenditure was €323.290.

The following graphs provide a snapshot of the finances for this year. Public sources of funding included 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

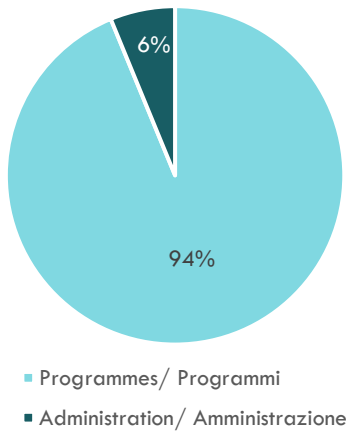


Figure 2: Income by source

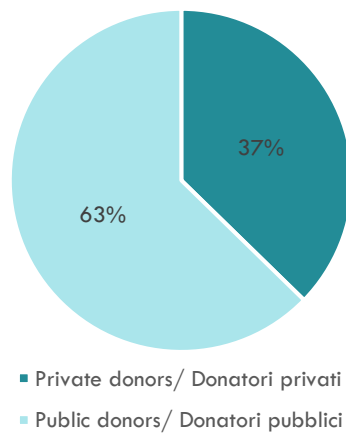
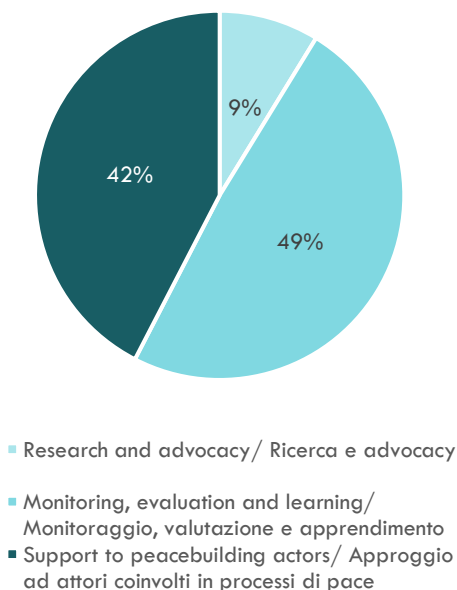


Figure 3: Expenditure by area of work



PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

AP wants to acknowledge and thank all of its partners and supporters in 2023:

- Agenzia italiana per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo (AICS)
- European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA)
- American University of Rome
- Associazione Nazionale Vittime Civili di Guerra (ANVCG)
- CEFA Onlus
- Center for Youth Dialogue (CYD)
- Centro Studi di Difesa Civile (CSDC)
- Council of Europe
- Emilia-Romagna Region
- European Union (EU)
- Federazione Organismi Cristiani Servizio Internazionale Volontario (FOCSIV)
- Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo
- Global Religions for Children Foundation (GRCF)
- HuffPost Italia
- 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)
- Muleide
- Municipality of Bologna
- Muslims Women Advancement of Rights and Protection (MWARP)
- Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
- Otto per mille Chiesa Valdese
- Peaceful Change Initiative (PCI)
- Prometeia
- Rotary Club Bologna Ovest
- SambaSports Youth Agenda
- Search for Common Ground (SFCG)
- Scuola Superiore di Sant'Anna
- University of Bologna
- WeWorld Italy



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