

Peacebuilding Programming Achievements 2025

Contributing to conflict prevention, promoting community
safety and bottom-up peacebuilding



Annual Report 2025

Contents

Summary.....

Overview.....

• Geographic Coverage and Participants Reach.....

• Peacebuilding Activities and Reach.....

Countries Achievements.....

• Europe & Asia | Ukraine, Myanmar, Afghanistan.....

• Middle East & North Africa | Iraq, Libya.....

• East Africa, Central Africa & Great Lakes | Uganda, South Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan, Chad, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo.....

• West Africa | Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso (PREVENIR, BRICS, RecAP).....

Case studies.....

External engagement & visibility.....

2

3

3

4

5

6

7

14

17

21

Summary

In 2025, DRC and partners, implemented peacebuilding programming across Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. This broadly covered the fields of conflict management and security governance. Through collaboration with and support to conflict and displacement affected communities and groups involved in conflict prevention and management, this included work on early warning systems, inclusive dialogues, mediation and community-led peace initiatives.

It also involved support to community safety initiatives and engaging key stakeholders, such as security providers, in dialogues around safety and security governance. Furthermore, DRC conducted conflict analyses, conflict sensitivity assessments and provided peacebuilding capacity strengthening. By supporting communities, youth, women and civil society to engage in security governance, peaceful conflict management and inclusive dialogue, DRC contributed to bottom-up peacebuilding, social cohesion and local resilience.

Key figures

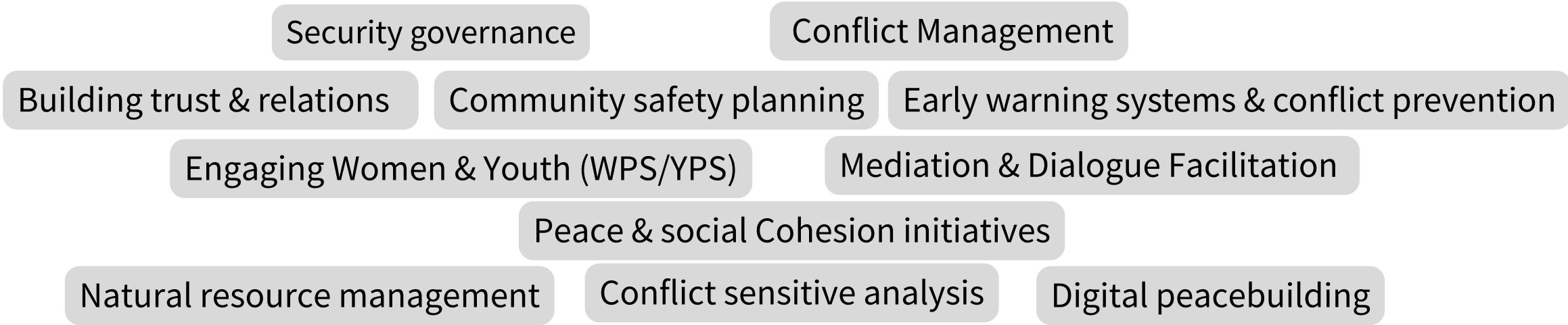


17 countries



79,196 participants*

Areas of work



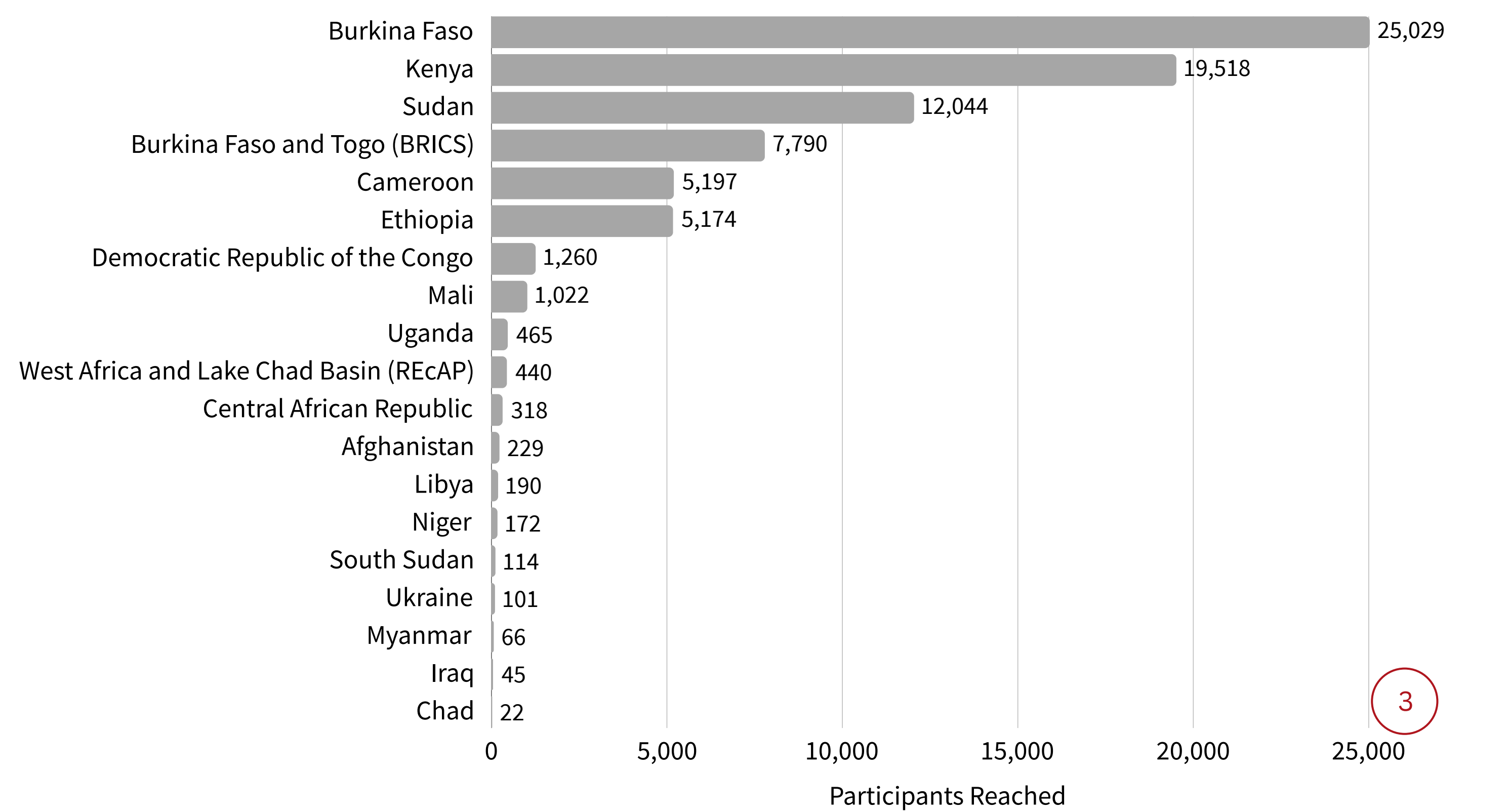
**The reported total number of participants directly reached should be considered a minimum estimate. For some activities, only the number of sessions was recorded, while participant numbers were not captured. Consequently, the actual number of participants reached is likely higher than the figure reported.*

Overview

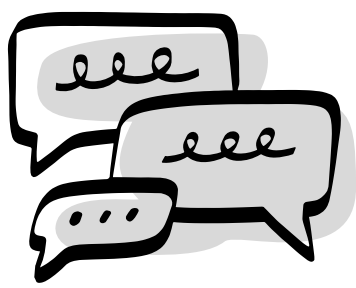
Geographic coverage



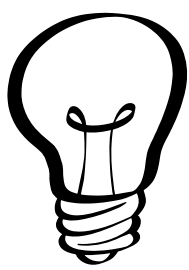
Number of participants reached per Country/Region



Peacebuilding Activities



356
Dialogues & Mediations
facilitated or supported
19,755 participants



349
Conflict Management Trainings
11,940 participants



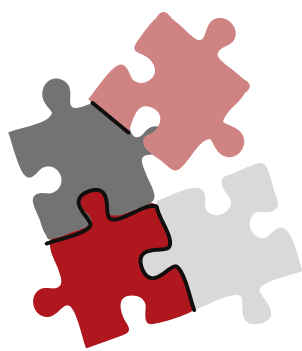
27
Conflict analysis & conflict
sensitivity trainings
813 participants



31
Conflict Sensitive
Analyses



107
Engagements on
community safety and
security governance
engagements

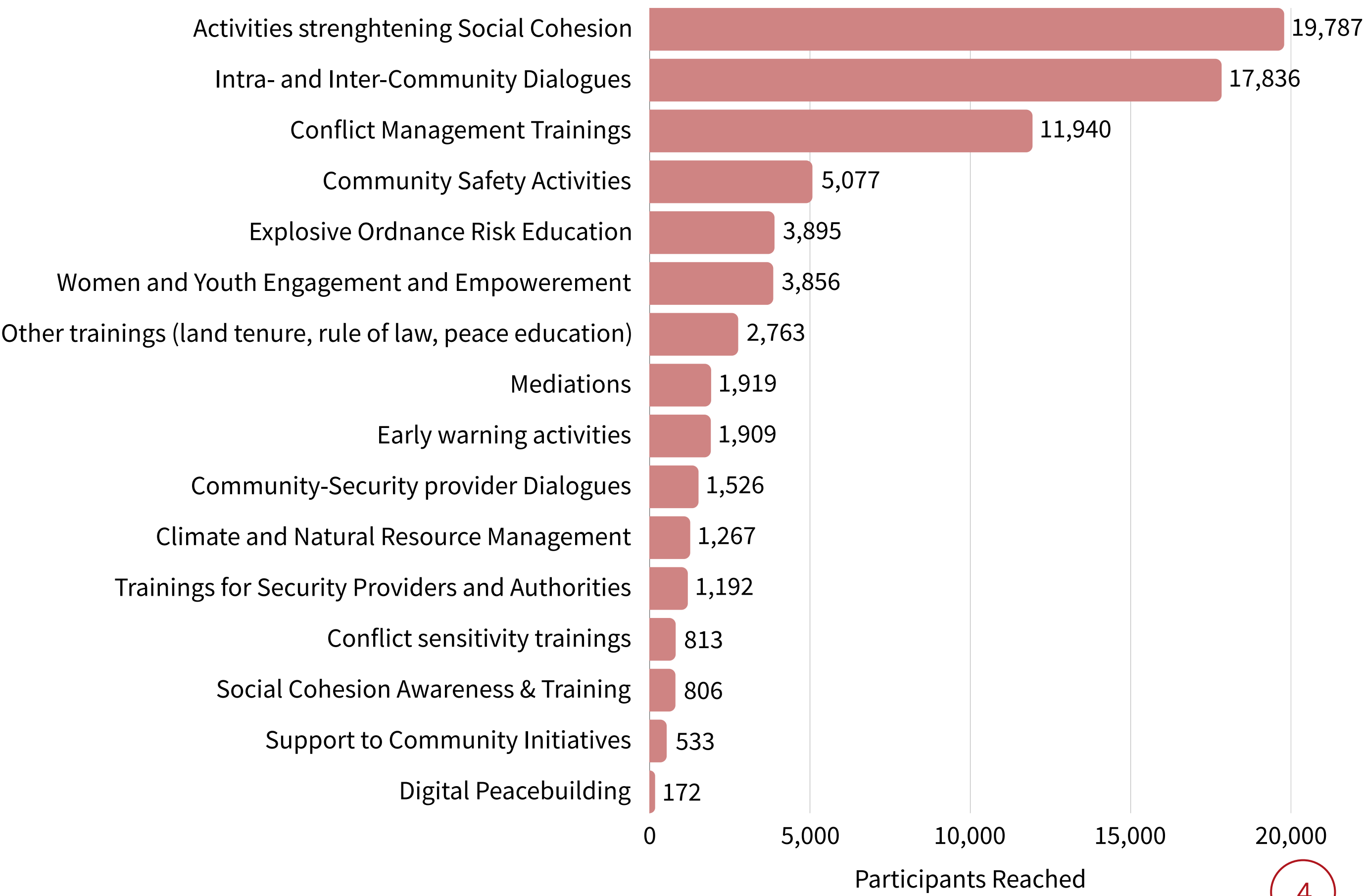


3,856
Women & Youth engaged in
WPS/YPS focused activities



+19,787
participants in initiatives
strengthening social
cohesion (sports, culture
etc.)

Participant Reach per Activity



Achievements per country

Europe & Asia

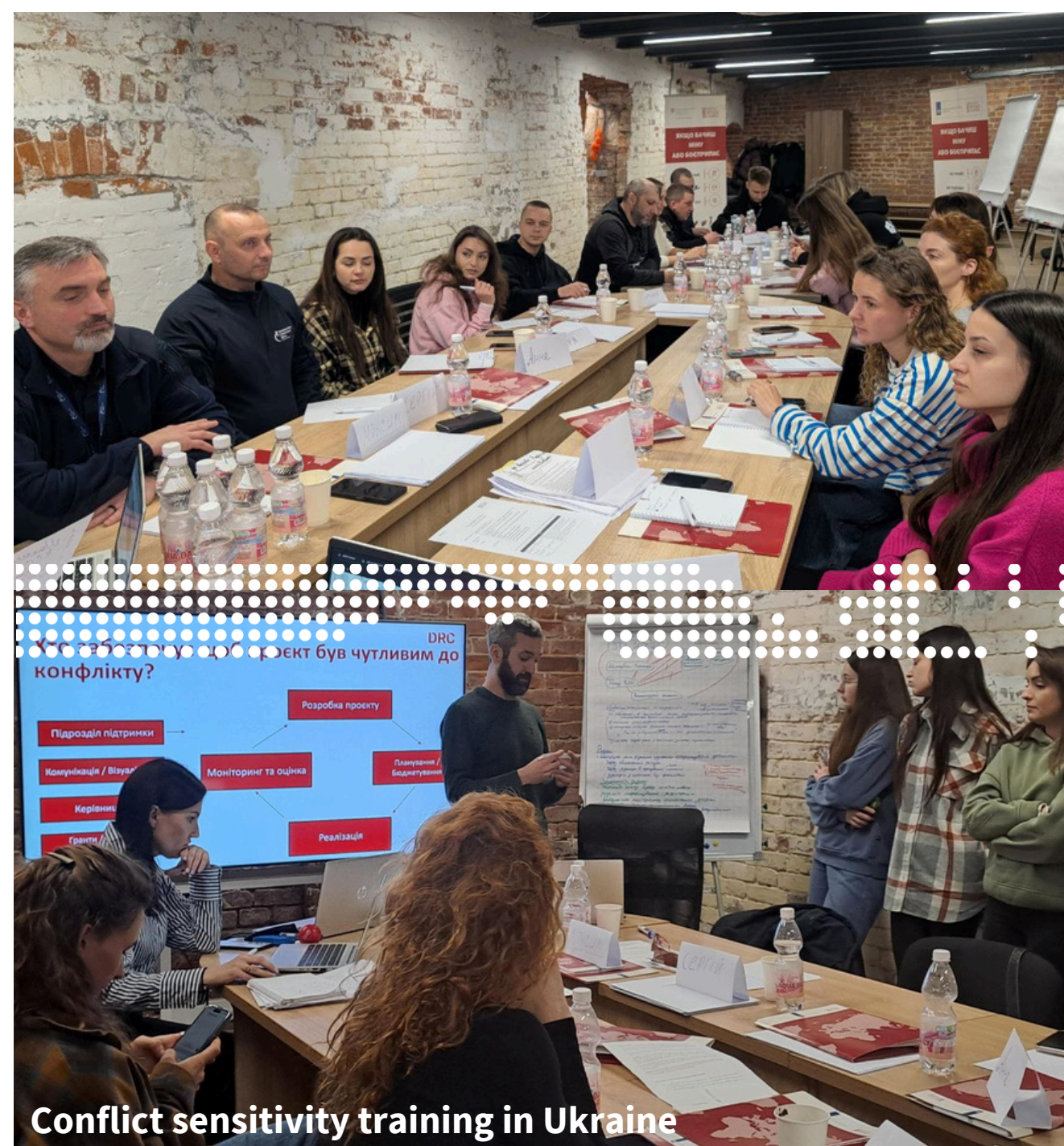
Ukraine

- Conflict sensitivity trainings delivered to DRC staff and implementing partners. A total of **48** DRC staff (31 women and 17 men) participated in **3** conflict sensitivity trainings and **100** partner organization staff and community leaders (74 women and 26 men) participated in **5** trainings.

Myanmar

DRC continued the roll out conflict sensitivity as a DRC operational principle in emergency response and adaptation of activities through:

- **1** Training of Trainers (ToT) with **13** participants.
- Development of a set of programme recommendations for conflict sensitivity adaptation of activities.
- **2** conflict sensitivity trainings organized at field level by trained staff, reaching a total of **53** individuals (mostly front-line respondents in partners, 28 women and 25 men).



Conflict sensitivity training in Ukraine

Afghanistan

- Within a project focused on economic recovery and supporting vulnerable households, the team conducted **1** social cohesion analysis covering areas in Kabul and Ghazni provinces through focus group discussions and key informant interviews. The main objectives were to better understand the impact of returnee movements on local communities in Afghanistan amid deteriorating socio-economic conditions and to explore risks, opportunities and potential contribution of the humanitarian response to social cohesion in the Afghan context. The results highlighted recommendations for humanitarian interventions in the country, in particular in coordination with economic recovery programmes.
- The team provided social cohesion and conflicts management trainings to **20** self-help groups across the two provinces. The self-help groups focused on female economic inclusion through various business and financial initiatives. Overall, our team provided trainings to **229** members of **20** self-help groups.



Social cohesion analysis, Afghanistan 2025



Peace Code Camp in Baghdad, Iraq

Middle East & North Africa

Iraq

- In Anbar, the project aimed to foster social cohesion between IDPs and host communities through inclusive digital engagement, with a strong emphasis on empowering women as peace actors and digital content creators. The campaign uses AI-powered storytelling and community-driven digital platforms to share positive narratives, address local tensions, and build resilience.
- A Peace Code Camp was organized in Baghdad, with **45** participants from the Digital Innovation Network, government representatives, digital initiatives and activists, academic institutions, and civil society organizations.

Libya

- As part of DRC's social cohesion initiative, **150** participants from diverse ethnic backgrounds came together to celebrate the Amazigh New Year on January 13. The event served as a platform for fostering positive interaction across social groups and reinforcing coexistence messaging following DRC's 2024 peacebuilding activities, in Zuwara.
- **40** local leaders and activists from Yefren and Al-Mashashiyah communities, including civil society actors and municipal representatives, attended structured dialogue sessions and Focus Group Discussions. Jointly, they identified local conflict drivers, perceptions of community safety, and social cohesion dynamics, contributing to rebuilding stakeholder trust and informing adaptive programming.
- **1** KAPB (Knowledge, Attitude, Practice and Behavior) study was conducted in Yefren and Al-Mashashiyah focused on SALW (Small Arms and Light Weapons) risks, revealed a normalization of civilian weapon possession linked to perceptions of self-protection, low trust in formal security institutions, and limited awareness of indirect risks such as accidental harm and youth exposure. The findings highlighted generational differences in attitudes toward arms presence and identified gaps in community-level prevention messaging, directly informing the design of DRC's targeted awareness and engagement strategies.
- **2** conflict sensitivity reports were published for Yefren and Al-Mashashiyah, each grounded in findings from the KAPB study. The reports mapped key actors, dividers and connectors, contextual risk triggers, and mitigation strategies, informing DRC's conflict-sensitive programming approach.
- Note: Due to security reasons, all activities were suspended for more than six months, and the DRC mission in Libya was closed (March–September 2025).



Libya

East Africa, Central Africa & Great Lakes

South Sudan

Under the Anticipatory Humanitarian Action for Displacement (AHEAD) Project :

- **1** conflict sensitivity analysis conducted in Abyei.

Under the UNPBF:

- **26** participants trained in conflict analysis and conflict sensitivity (18 men and 8 women).
- **1** Fashoda-Akoka peace conference conducted as part of dialogues and trust-building activities in Malakal, Upper Nile state, with **88** participants (66 men and 22 women).



Opening session of the Fashoda-Akoka Peace Conference in Malakal Town/photo IOM

Uganda

Under Karamoja Strong Programme (KSP):

- **5** Community security providers dialogue meetings with **104** participants (66 men and 35 women)
- **1** Conflict management Education Training for Security providers (Uganda Police force) facilitated with **24** participants (20 men and 4 women)
- **4** Conflict management education trainings facilitated for Community members with **87** participants (40 men and 47 women)
- **2** Dialogue meetings supported between conflicting tribes with **250** participants



Conflict management education for communities, Uganda



Community Security providers Dialogue meeting, Uganda



International Day of Peace 2025 march in Mandera County, Kenya

Kenya

- Supported the celebration of international day of peace in four counties Garissa, Turkana, Mandera and Pokot, with **215** participants. Peace agreements and international day of peace gathered **930** participants (**7** sessions).
- Implemented a peacebuilding project with UNDP “Integrating peacebuilding and social cohesion into refugee management in Kenya project.” Dadaab
- Increased partnerships with local partners from **3** to **7** organizations
- DRC Kenya Peacebuilding programme received a peacebuilding award from Mandera county for its peacebuilding work in the region.
- Advocacy, law and policy engagements involving **30** participants

Dialogues & Mediations

- **42** inter and intra community dialogue meetings with **3,411** participants
- **23** mediations with **1,492** participants
- **4** mediation networks established and operationalized, with **92** participants
- **17** partners staff and agencies staff training on mediation skills by Global peacebuilding advisor in Dadaab

Women & Youth engagement

- **11** trainings on leadership and advocacy with women and youth : **326** participants
- **8** sessions on youth mentorship with **195** participants
- **13** youth dialogues/peace forum with **475** participants
- **3** women & youth engagement forums with **367** participants

Security Governance

- **32** security provider/authorities dialogue and cooperation with communities (CPDCs) with **822** participants
- **27** Conflict Management and Conflict Sensitivity trainings (security providers/duty bearers/state actors) with **601** participants
- **12** security coordination meetings with **685** participants

Trainings

- **12** trainings on conflict-sensitive programming with **478** participants
- **38** trainings on conflict management education (CME) with **1,352** participants
- **17** trainings on mediation and dialogue facilitation with **683** participants
- **8** trainings on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) with **256** participants
- **12** trainings on community engagement (state actors) with **367** participants
- **50** sessions on peace education and in-school peace club with **2,620** participants
- **1** training of civil society organisation (CSO) in governance with **23** participants
- **7** trainings on digital peacebuilding with **127** participants



Some impact highlights

- Community structures engaged in conflict management and prevention led to grazing agreements during severe drought.
- Resolved host-refugee dispute over football ground access, restoring shared public space use (Garissa, Dadaab).
- Dialogues translated to reopening markets and school in Loya after months of closure (Turkana, Loima)
- Capacity building empowered committees to recover 45 goats without retaliation (Turkana, N. Pokot).



Traditional weather and conflict forecast by elders, Kenya



Integration of conflict & climate nexus in strengthening programs (FCDO, Danida and Karamoja Strong KSP projects)

- **12** trainings on climate change adaptation & resilience (climate/livestock/Regenerative Agriculture - combined) with **413** participants.
- **3** sessions of county climate action plans (CAP / FLoCCA) with **112** participants.
- **28** sessions of community climate-security planning & coordination (CSG/SCSG/county), **1,246** participants.
- **5** sessions of Participatory Scenario Planning and Indigenous Traditional Knowledge (PSP-ITK) discussions seasonal-forecast workshops with **662** participants (*see case study 3*).
- **16** sessions of awareness raising and information sharing on climate change, with **494** participants.
- **2** sessions on DRR structures & drought contingency planning with **51** participants.
- Livelihood support & supported initiatives (gensets, seeds, goats, solar, mechanics).

Ethiopia

- **1,304** participants in intra and inter community dialogues.
- **429** participants in awareness raising and information sharing sessions on Alternative Dispute Resolution and gender sensitivity.
- **200** participants in Community Safety Planning and supported initiatives.
- **800** youth and women engaged in peacebuilding through dedicated dialogue sessions that promote their participation in conflict prevention and social cohesion.

Security governance

- **600** participants in dialogues between security providers/authorities and communities.
- **200** security providers trained on conflict sensitivity and effective engagement in community dialogue processes.

Training on conflict management

- **90** frontline workers, government staff, partners and stakeholder received training on Conflict prevention and peacebuilding.
- **300** local organization staff enhanced their capacities in conflict management to support community-level peacebuilding initiatives.
- **600** community members trained in conflict management through structured capacity-building interventions at community level.
- **50** participants trained to strengthen community cohesion, leading to sustainable integration of displaced individuals and improved local capacities for disaster risk reduction and peacebuilding.
- **125** participants trained to ensure that programs minimize negative effects, including "Do No harm", increase accessibility, provide accountability and promote inclusion and participation - women, men, girls, and boys - are safe in their communities and receive support when they experience harm.



Ethiopia

Under the Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus (HPDN) Consortium Project for the Aba'la location and, Filtu and Dolo in the Somali Region

- **3** conflict sensitivity analyses conducted, through community consultations and participatory processes to identify and priorities the drivers of instability and opportunities for positive peace outcomes(1 per location: Dollo Ado, Filtu, Aba'ala).
- Establishment of **13** peacebuilding committees (including women and young people, IDPs/returnees/host), and one committee was trained (**9** training sessions) on negotiation, mediation and non-violent conflict management, with **158** participants.
- Training of CSOs, CBOs and community leaders on peaceful coexistence, social cohesion and conflict management, through **4** training sessions with **147** participants.
- Development of **11** participatory peacebuilding plans with the community (linking with the planned interventions of the project and leveraging NRM and other activities as peace dividends).
- Facilitated and supported **5** community peacebuilding dialogue forums, **171** participants.

Sudan

Inclusive community dialogues and healing sessions

- Based on conflict assessment findings, **12** inclusive dialogue and community healing sessions were conducted to address key cultural conflict drivers, including inter-communal mistrust and unresolved grievances.
- The dialogues brought together **1,324** participants from diverse age groups, genders, and social backgrounds.
- As a direct outcome, **5** community action plans were jointly developed and implemented, translating dialogue outcomes into locally owned and conflict-sensitive peace actions.

Reactivation and capacity building of Peace and Reconciliation Committees (PRCs)

- DRC supported the reactivation and strengthening of **49** active Peace and Reconciliation Committees (PRCs)
- **280** PRC members were trained in conflict management, conflict sensitivity, negotiation, mediation, Do No Harm, and inclusive participation (**9** trainings).

This strengthened both formal and informal conflict-management mechanisms, addressing cultural and structural conflict drivers and contributed to establishing a functional local peace ecosystem.

Community-based natural resource management

In response to assessment findings that highlighted land use and resource competition as major conflict triggers, DRC supported:

- **3** cultivation and harvest protection committees were established.
- **60** community members were trained and actively engaged in conflict-sensitive natural resource management.

This community-based natural resource management resulted in a cultivation season with no major reported conflicts between farmers and herders, demonstrating the preventive impact of locally negotiated resource governance.

Shared infrastructure projects as peace dividends

Conflict analysis and sensitivity assessments identified lack of access and infrastructure as structural stressors. Accordingly, communities jointly rehabilitated priority infrastructure using locally mobilized resources, with technical and material support from DRC.

- Infrastructures projects as peace dividends:

2 bridges were constructed and 14 kilometers of roads rehabilitated, including culverts and water crossings, across Nertiti, Golo, and Umdukhun, improving market access while strengthening inter-communal cooperation.



International Day of Peace celebrations in Sudan, 2025

Empowerment of women & youth

Informed by gender and youth inclusion gaps, **160** women and youth participated in peacebuilding trainings focused on leadership, advocacy, and social cohesion. Participants are now actively engaged in community-level peace awareness and dialogue, contributing to more inclusive and representative peace and reconciliation processes.

Promoting local ownership of durable solutions and early recovery

Building on assessment recommendations emphasizing sustainability and local ownership, **2** Durable Solutions Groups were established in Nertiti and Umdukhun and formally endorsed by local authorities, promoting local ownership of durable solutions and early recovery. The groups comprising native administrations, civil authorities' technical teams, de facto authorities, and PRCs now lead conflict-sensitive planning for durable solutions, early recovery, and long-term peacebuilding.



International Day of Peace
celebrations in Sudan, 2025

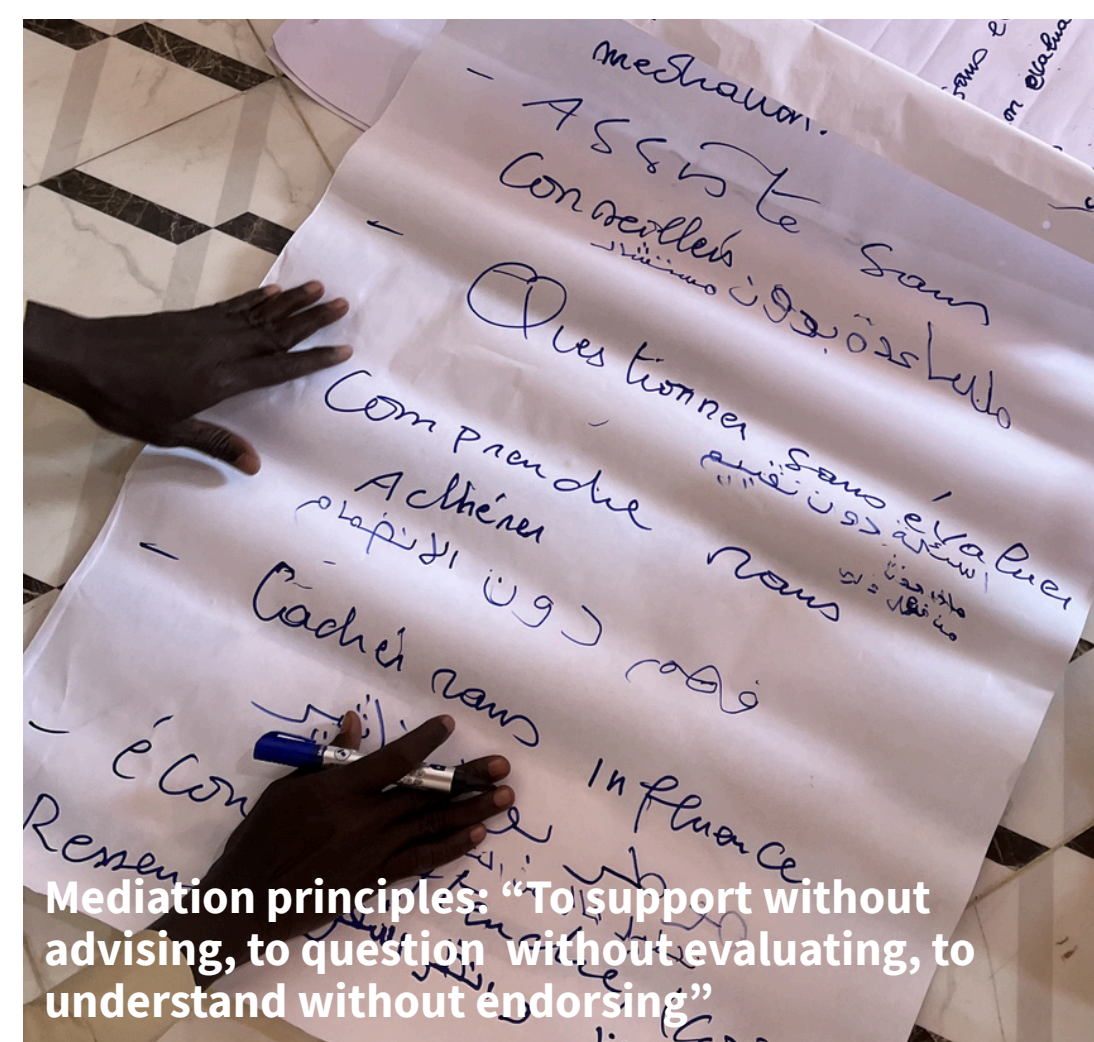
Key achievements of Peace and Reconciliation Committees (PRCs)

- **Social Fabric Agreement**, restored safe market access and freedom of movement for over **500,000** people. **1** in-depth case study focusing on the Social Fabric Agreement along the Zalingei–Nyala road corridor. The study was based on primary data collected directly from beneficiaries and traders who regularly use the corridor. Findings demonstrated that locally led agreements, facilitated through PRCs and involving engagement with armed actors, can translate directly into improved food security and livelihoods (FSL), enhanced market access, reduced safety and protection risks, and renewed economic circulation along a critical humanitarian and commercial route.
- **Sarafaya Market Agreement**, through mediation, restored the market as a neutral and safe trading space. The agreement enabled the resumption of trade and reduced tensions among more than **20** communities, including both nomadic and farming groups, contributing to improved inter-communal relations and economic recovery.
- **2** targeted workshops, with **60** participants, focused on strengthening community protection mechanisms and collaboration with local authorities, enhancing community awareness of protection principles, reinforcing respect for local governance and rule of law, and improving early warning and response to localized conflicts.
- Prevention of the escalation of **Umdukhun market**-related tensions through structured dialogue, joint community patrols, and mediation efforts, including cross-border mediation and coordination initiatives. These actions contributed to sustained market functionality and reduced risks of localized and cross-border conflict, between communities from Chad, Central Africa and Sudan.
- Cultural events and peacebuilding sports leagues brought together over **10,000** participants from more than **50** communities representing diverse cultural backgrounds. These initiatives strengthened social cohesion, promoted peaceful coexistence, and reinforced a shared sense of community identity.
- PRCs played a critical role in facilitating secure access to land for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and safeguarding cultivation and harvest seasons. This included mediation and coordination around the relocation and establishment of the permanent **New South Camp in Nertiti**, reducing land-related tensions and supporting sustainable livelihoods.

Chad

In Eastern Chad, in the areas that have seen a massive arrival of Sudanese refugees caused by the civil war in Sudan, DRC launched peacebuilding programming to complement the humanitarian interventions. With EU FPI and SDC funded projects, the program is focused on peaceful co-existence and social cohesion between host communities, refugees and returnees.

- **1** conflict analysis training for DRC employees and partner organisations, with **22** participants.
- **1** conflict analysis conducted.
- Establishment or re-establishment of **8** mixed conflict management committees, consisting of host community members, Sudanese refugees, and Chadian returnees.



Cameroon

Under EU SOLID/DANIDA

- Trainings of CSO on community dialogue, **12** participants.
- **4** community dialogue sessions, in 50 communities, with sessions on social cohesion and protection, **4,487** people reached through **200** sessions.
- Implementation of **10** microprojects (**6** water sources developed, **1** drying area built, **2** community sheds built, **1** culvert built). These micro-projects are resulting from the actions identified through dialogues and community development planning workshops for peacebuilding.
- Refresher training of members of **46** local protection committees and community leaders on conflict management with **374** people trained (**11** training centers/**8** members per committee trained).
- Broadcasting social cohesion radio spots on **3** community radio stations. The social cohesion messages were elaborated by youth and women during participatory workshops.
- Community awareness-raising related to International Day of Peace by partner CSO (**55** people reached).
- Conflict management by local protection committees through mediation and conciliation, **269** participants, especially facilitating agro-pastoral conflicts, water access, marital conflict, relational conflicts.

Central African Republic

Under DANIDA

- **144** participants — including representatives from local organizations, peace committees, and CSOs — were trained by partner organization I3D on peaceful conflict management, creating a safer environment for dialogue and community collaboration.
- **12** community meetings were held to share achievements, strengthen local coordination, and engage communities in peacebuilding.
- **74** attended activities aimed at preventing violence and ensure constructive conflict management. Through this participants strengthened capacities in peaceful conflict management, social cohesion, community dialogue, attitudes to show when facing conflict, local leadership, and peacebuilding.
- **3** intra- and inter-community dialogue activities were organized in three localities of Taley, Ngaoundaye, and Kouï, presenting high protection risks according to protection monitoring data. The organized dialogue brought together a total of **75** people representing different social groups, including sedentary herders and farmers.
- **25** staff members of local NGOs, civil society organizations (CSOs) were trained in conflict management.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

DRC continued the roll out of conflict sensitivity as operational principle in emergency response and adaptation of activities with the financial support of FCDO and ECHO, through:

- **12** conflict sensitivity analyses conducted in 4 provinces, Ituri, Nord-Kivu, Sud-Kivu and Tanganyika.
- **1200** community leaders trained in conflict management (763 men and 437 women), **30** sessions.

Peacebuilding activities funded by ECHO-HIP:

- **2** conflict sensitivity analyses
- **240** community leaders trained on Peace Education in Angumu and Fataki in the Ituri province (164 men and 76 women), **6** sessions.
- **60** members of committees COPAs and COGEs trained on social cohesion (37 men and 23 women), **3** sessions.



Development of an action plan for peace education in schools and host communities in Angumu/Ituri, DRC, April 2025



Participatory analysis of biases and stereotypes conducted by members of the COPA and COGE committees of AKICHIRA, during training on social cohesion, Democratic Republic of the Congo

West Africa

PREVENIR: Prevention and Resilience for the Future

The Dutch MFA funded PREVENIR project aimed to reduce local conflicts and mitigate the impact of armed violence in border areas of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, particularly in the Liptako-Gourma region.

Mali

Advocacy and governance

- 4 advocacy initiatives stemming from local action plans to advocate with decision-makers by local and national civil society organizations and human rights advocates to bring local concerns to higher levels of decision-making
- 1 meeting with donors and 1 other meeting with civil society organizations and project participants.
- 5 local authorities supported in strengthening early warning systems

Conflict analyses and studies

- 2 conflict analyses
- 3 rapid analyses of conflict dynamics
- 2 studies on factors contributing to conflicts, and on the perception of political governance.

Mediations and dialogues

- 20 emergency mediation missions
- 1 dialogue supported regarding land tenure, natural resource management, and other root causes of conflict identified locally as priorities
- 1 dialogue process organized

Youth engagement

- 1,022 vulnerable youth aged 15 to 35 supported in developing livelihood strategies
- 1 community supported with collective investments aimed at strengthening sustainable livelihoods for youth and community protection through the implementation of a community action plan
- 4 collaborations (Youth Coalition Action Plans) with local and national civil society and human rights advocates to bring local concerns to higher levels of decision-making for peacebuilding



Burkina Faso

- 10 conflict management/mediation trainings
- 19 dialogues
- 75 awareness raising sessions on social cohesion
- 5 community activities supported technically and financially
- Developed 2 animated explainer videos to raise NGOs' awareness on the importance of conflict sensitivity in humanitarian settings



Niger

Mediations and dialogues

- 4 emergency mediations conducted in Téra and Madarounfa, with **66** participants.
- 8 community dialogues held in Téra and Madarounfa between pastoral communities and agro-pastoralists on the unregulated occupation of a pastoral area by agro-pastoralists in Diagorou (**18** participants)

Trainings

- Training on land tenure conducted in Téra by the partner AREN, with **60** participants (12 women and 48 men).
- **28** insider mediators, of which 5 women, were identified, trained and accompanied. Being trusted actors they contributed to peacefully prevent and to transform diverse conflicts thanks to strengthened capacities in active listening, conflict management and negotiation.

Study

- **1** “étude de capitalisation” conducted in Niger’s border areas of Madarounfa and Téra, documenting how DRC’s humanitarian and insider mediation approaches strengthened conflict prevention and management, contributing to social cohesion amid local conflicts “*Capitalisation des pratiques de médiation humanitaire et endogene au Niger*”



BRICS: Inclusive Infrastructure as a Pathway to Peace

The BRICS project aims to build and rehabilitate essential community infrastructure in order to strengthen social cohesion in crisis-affected areas in Burkina Faso and Togo.

Burkina Faso & Togo (BRICS)

Implementing partners: DRC (lead), Tin Tua in Burkina Faso, and Humanity & Inclusion (HI) and GEVAPAF in Togo
Financial Partner: PATRIP Foundation

In 2025, communities in eastern Burkina Faso and northern Togo continued to face acute insecurity, displacement and pressure on basic services. In such fragile border areas, infrastructure projects often risk exacerbating tensions when perceived as unfair or exclusionary. Through the BRICS project, DRC and partners demonstrated that infrastructure can instead become a powerful peacebuilding tool when designed and implemented through inclusive, conflict-sensitive processes.

Rather than focusing solely on construction, BRICS invested in participatory planning and dialogue as foundations for social cohesion. Across **13** villages in both countries, structured community consultations were conducted to identify priority infrastructure needs. Women, youth, internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees and persons with disabilities were intentionally and consistently included in decision-making processes that are traditionally dominated by a few actors.

In total, **869** community members participated in consultations in 2025, including more than **450** women and over **250** youth. Community priorities were subsequently reviewed and validated through technical and communal processes, ensuring alignment with local development plans and national standards. This transparent approach reduced tensions around resource allocation and strengthened trust between communities and local authorities.

Recognising that sustainable peace depends on local capacity, BRICS also reinforced mechanisms for dialogue and conflict prevention. In Togo, **26** members from **22** local coordination and dialogue platforms were trained in mediation and conflict-sensitive communication. In Burkina Faso, previously inactive conflict prevention structures were revitalised and supported to develop concrete action plans. By the end of the year, these mechanisms were actively addressing disputes such as land conflicts, natural-resource tensions, and relations between host communities and displaced populations.

Youth engagement was another cornerstone of BRICS' peacebuilding approach. In 2025, young leaders were trained and supported to design and implement their own initiatives promoting social cohesion. Nine youth-led initiatives, including community dialogues, cultural events, sports activities and cross-border exchanges, mobilised more than **3,000** participants. In areas where opportunities for peaceful interaction had significantly declined, these initiatives reopened spaces for dialogue and collective action, including a symbolic cross-border sports event involving young people from Burkina Faso, Togo and Ghana.

In Burkina Faso, BRICS also integrated Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) as a protection and peacebuilding measure. Sixty community and state actors were trained and accredited, and **3,835** people, nearly half of them women and girls, were reached through community sensitisation sessions, strengthening both civilian safety and trust in local institutions.

By the end of 2025, BRICS had laid stronger and more durable foundations for peace, reducing tensions around infrastructure, strengthening inclusive governance and positioning communities, especially youth and women, as active actors in conflict prevention.

REcAP: Research and Action for Peace

The REcAP network aims to strengthen conflict prevention, action-oriented research, and collaboration among peacebuilding actors in West Africa and Lake Chad Basin.

- Facilitated **21** training sessions on peacebuilding themes, including conflict prevention and management, gender and peace, advocacy for peace, conflict sensitivity and mediation, reaching **440** participants (32% women and 39% youth) from local CSOs (including women and youth organisations), national NGOs, research institutions, local authorities and community representatives across nine countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Senegal, Togo and Niger.



Burkina Faso

Under DANIDA, RESCOM, BPRM:

- 124** conflict management/mediation trainings with **5,473** participants*.
- 36** social cohesion activities, with 6,412 participants.
- 179** dialogues, with **5,799** participants*.
- 48** early warnings, involving **1,860** participants.
- 3 social** cohesion awareness raising sessions, 806 participants*.
- 5** conflict context analyses, **107** participants.
- 13** community activities supported technically and financially, with **533** participants*.
- 1** “étude de capitalisation” conducted for the PREVENIR programme.

**the number of participants include the participants under the PREVENIR programme (page 14)*



Case studies

Restoring safe access through community led peacebuilding in Central Darfur, Sudan

During Sudan's ongoing conflict, DRC has supported locally driven peacebuilding efforts in Central Darfur. This demonstrates how locally driven solutions and support to local peacebuilding structures can meaningfully improve safety, access, and livelihoods even amid war.

Peace and Reconciliation Committees (PRCs) successfully facilitated and enforced the Social Fabric Agreement that restored safe market access and freedom of movement for over **500,000 people**. This included the reopening of the strategic road corridor from Nyala to Zalingei via Nertiti, significantly improving mobility, trade, and humanitarian access while reducing tensions linked to movement restrictions.

With support from DRC and partners, **PRCs** successfully mediated the reopening of the Zalingei–Nyala Road, restoring a vital lifeline for trade, civilian movement, and humanitarian access. The Zalingei–Nyala corridor links major towns and links Central Darfur to regional markets, and routes into Chad. When conflict escalated in 2023, the road became unsafe and largely closed. Traders were forced onto longer and riskier routes, transport costs soared, and food and essential goods became scarce and expensive, deepening food insecurity, reducing incomes, and increasing tensions as communities competed over limited resources.

In response, local PRCs, bringing together traditional leaders, women, youth, displaced people, and pastoralist representatives addressed the situation through dialogue and mediation. With technical and operational support from DRC, **dialogue was facilitated between communities and armed actors** controlling different sections of the road. Through sustained **dialogue and mediation** focused on practical solutions, the PRCs helped secure an agreement to reopen the road for civilian movement and trade, reduce harassment and unofficial fees, allow safer access to grazing land, and encouraging armed actors to refer disputes to community mechanisms rather than resorting to violence.

The reopening has had immediate economic effects. Transport times have shortened, goods now move more reliably, and market shelves are more consistently stocked. Small businesses, particularly food stalls, repair services, and shops serving travellers, have reopened or expanded.

Many households report improved incomes and purchasing power, as a woman working along the corridor declared:



“Alhamdulillah, now I can meet all the needs of my household without depending on anyone!”

Strengthening local conflict management

Beyond economic gains, the process strengthened community trust and local conflict management systems. Armed actors increasingly recognised the neutrality and legitimacy of the PRCs, and communities increasingly turn to them to resolve disputes before they escalate. This experience demonstrates how community led peacebuilding, supported by DRC, can reduce violence, improve access, and enable recovery even in active conflict settings, while continued support remains essential to sustain and expand these gains.

Building peace from the ground up in Asangola Kebele, Ethiopia

In Ethiopia's Afar Region, communities have endured years of violent conflict, climate-related shocks, and intensifying competition over scarce natural resources. These pressures have weakened traditional conflict management mechanisms, allowing many disputes to escalate into violence. In Asangola Kebele, however, a community-led approach is changing this trajectory.

Through the Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus (HDPN) Programme, funded by SIDA and the Norwegian Embassy in Ethiopia, DRC supported the establishment of **inclusive Peacebuilding Committees** that bring together elders, women, youth, and representatives of diverse community groups. Committee members received training in conflict analysis, mediation, negotiation, and early warning. With strengthened skills and local peace structures, they are now able to prevent, mitigate, and reduce conflicts by fostering dialogue, promoting mutual understanding, and resolving disputes through non-violent means.

Importantly, the committee's work is rooted in traditional Afar conflict management mechanisms, particularly *Mada'a* (customary law), but applied in a more proactive manner. Instead of intervening only after violence erupts, the committees now act early—when tensions are still manageable and peaceful solutions are possible. As one Peacebuilding Committee member reflected:

“Previously, we intervened only after conflicts became serious. Now, we act early, when tensions are still manageable and solutions can be found peacefully.”

Tangible results through early action

The results of this proactive approach are tangible. In Asangola, the committee successfully **mediated seven local conflicts**, including disputes over floodwater use, farmland boundaries, grazing routes, and tensions related to humanitarian assistance. These early interventions have reduced the likelihood of violence and strengthened trust between conflicting parties.

One of the most significant achievements was the prevention of a potentially violent inter-ethnic conflict between farmers from Asangola Kebele and herders from neighboring communities that have long competed over grazing land and water along the administrative border.

A Peacebuilding Committee member described this case: “In October 2025, during the farming season, herders from a neighboring Tigray region, moved into a border village of this kebele. Unfortunately, cattle damaged crops belonging to a local farmer. In the past, incidents like this often led to violent retaliation and even loss of life, especially because the issue involved different ethnic groups.”



The situation escalated and physical clashes led to injuries. Upon receiving the information through *Dagu*, the traditional Afar information-sharing system, the Peacebuilding Committee intervened immediately. They assessed the extent of crop damage, ensured the injured received medical treatment, and applied *Mada'a* to guide the resolution process.

The parties involved covered the medical costs, while surrounding communities voluntarily contributed to compensate for the damaged crops—demonstrating strong community commitment to peace. Once the injured individual recovered, both parties were brought together to reconcile and a meal was shared.

Beyond resolving the immediate dispute, the committee organized community-wide peace dialogues to address underlying tensions, raise awareness, and prevent further escalation. These efforts significantly reduced the risk of resource-based violence in the area.

Peace beyond local boundaries

Trust in the Asangola Peacebuilding Committee has grown steadily, with local residents increasingly turning to the committee for non-violent resolution whenever disputes arise. The committee's legitimacy and effectiveness are now recognized beyond the kebele, as neighboring communities increasingly request its support in mediating disputes.

The Asangola experience demonstrates how empowered local actors can build peace that extends across administrative and ethnic boundaries. By strengthening social cohesion, revitalizing traditional mechanisms, and preventing violence before it erupts, Peacebuilding Committees are proving that community-led solutions are essential to sustainable peace within the Humanitarian–Development–Peace Nexus.

Karamoja Strong Programme (KSP): Community-led resilience in the face of climate-induced loss, displacement and conflict, Kenya-Uganda

Under Danida funding, DRC, is working in partnership, in Uganda with Caritas Moroto Diocese, Karamoja Herders of the Horn (KHH), and in Kenya, SIKOM, Frontiers Children (FCDO), Caritas Lodwar and across both countries African Women Rising (AWR) and Samuel Hall East Africa.

This Uganda-Kenya cross-border program strengthens community resilience to climate change through **regenerative agriculture, cross-border collaboration, early warning, conflict prevention and management, security governance and Anticipatory Action (AA) activities**. The initiative strengthens locally led anticipatory and adaptive practices and interventions in cross-border Karamoja areas by supporting communities to adopt responsive gender-sensitive, climate-resilient livelihood practices. It enhances the capacity of cross-border authorities to monitor and assess climate risks, ensuring that information is well-connected, accessible, and available to communities most affected by climate change. These efforts contribute to reducing loss and damage linked to both climate and conflict-related events, while building climate resilience and enhancing peaceful co-existence across the Karamoja Cluster communities.

Under the Karamoja Strong project, DRC Kenya, in partnership with the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) and the Meteorological Department, convene **Participatory Scenario Planning and Indigenous Traditional Knowledge (PSP-ITK) discussions** on key weather issues among community representatives, elders, women leaders, government officials, and technical experts. PSP-ITK workshops aim to strengthen climate resilience by collaboratively interpreting seasonal weather forecasts through both indigenous knowledge systems and scientific meteorological data, fostering community ownership over disaster preparedness measures. Turkana elders share traditional climate and social cohesion risks gathered through interpreting patterns in the intestines of a freshly slaughtered goat.



These localised predictions are compared and aligned with the Meteorological Department seasonal forecasts for the rainfall season, including expectations of above or below normal rainfall, pasture and water availability, and corresponding potentials for heightened flood and disease risks. Participants received clear, actionable guidance on flood preparedness, farming and livestock planning, and community dissemination on weather information.

The activity strengthens trust and coordination between communities and technical institutions, demonstrated the value of integrating indigenous and scientific knowledge, and lays down the groundwork for follow-up climate information sharing across neighboring communities to enhance early action and reduce the potential impacts of climate-related risks.

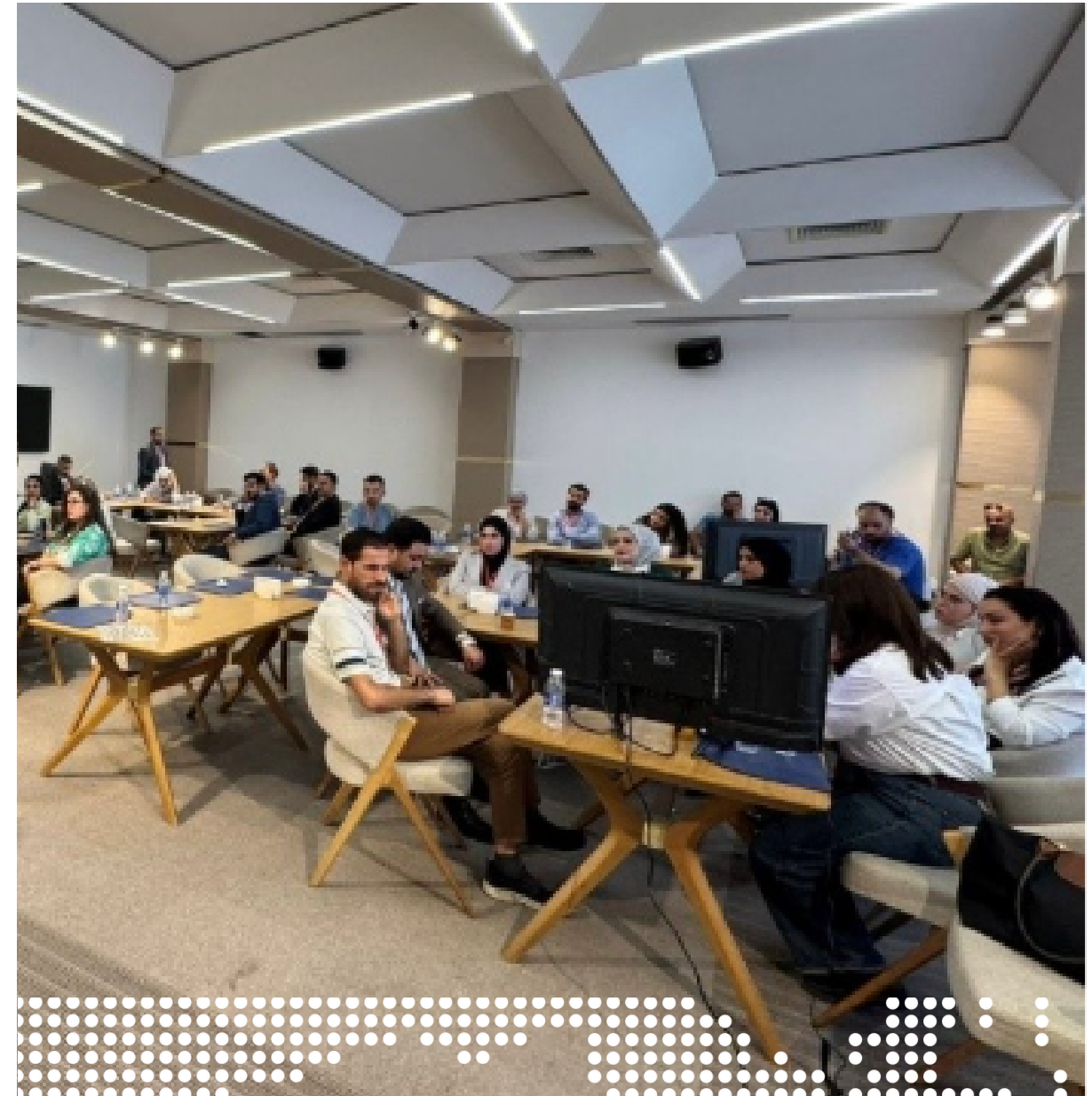


Digital Peacebuilding for Social Cohesion, Iraq

Funded by the DRC Innovation Flex Fund (DANIDA), the Digital Innovation for Peacebuilding Project promoted social cohesion in Anbar, through innovative digital approaches that strengthened collaboration between internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities. The initiative placed a particular focus on empowering women and youth as peace actors and digital content creators, enabling them to play a more active role in fostering dialogue and addressing local tensions.

The project leveraged community-driven digital platforms, digital storytelling, and AI-supported tools to amplify positive narratives, encourage constructive online engagement, and enhance community resilience. Through targeted trainings, workshops, and awareness-raising activities, participants strengthened their skills in digital communication, content creation, visual storytelling, and responsible use of digital technologies. These efforts contributed to the development of locally led content promoting inclusion, coexistence, and social cohesion.

A key achievement was the establishment of the **Digital Peace Network**, which brought together youth, women, civil society organizations, and other community stakeholders to collaborate on digital peacebuilding initiatives. The project also developed a strategic framework for social cohesion messaging and created a dedicated online platform to support knowledge-sharing and community engagement.



As part of the initiative, a **Peace Code Camp** was organized in Baghdad, bringing together 45 participants from the Digital Peace Network, government institutions, digital initiatives, academia, civil society organizations, and activist groups. The event provided hands-on experience with innovative digital tools and explored the use of artificial intelligence to counter misinformation, hate speech, and online polarization.

The project demonstrated how digital technologies can complement traditional peacebuilding approaches by strengthening local capacities, fostering collaboration, and amplifying positive community narratives. By equipping local actors with the skills and tools needed to engage effectively in digital spaces, the initiative laid the foundation for sustainable, community-led digital peacebuilding efforts in Iraq.



External engagement & visibility

REcAP Network Conference

Regional Cooperation and Coordination on Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Prevention of Violent Extremism, Dakar – 10 & 11 February 2025

DRC co-convened the third regional Research and Action for Peace (REcAP) Network conference in partnership with SIPRI and the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding. The conference brought together researchers, civil society actors, policymakers, and international partners working across West Africa and the Lake Chad Basin to strengthen collaboration on conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

Held under the theme of regional cooperation and coordination, the two-day event facilitated knowledge exchange through roundtables, interactive workshops, and the presentation of REcAP research outputs, including studies on drivers of conflict and violent extremism. Participants emphasized the importance of locally driven and inclusive peacebuilding approaches, capacity-building for civil society organisations, and stronger engagement of youth and communities in peace and security processes.

The conference also served as a platform to consolidate lessons learned from REcAP activities and to promote regional research collaboration and evidence-based policymaking. By supporting dialogue among local, regional, and international actors—including think tanks, NGOs, and the European Union—DRC contributed to strengthening regional networks and enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of peacebuilding efforts in fragile contexts.

Geneva Peace Week, October 2025

DRC organised and presented during two Panels at the Geneva Peace Week 2025.

Joint Panel: Harvesting Peace: Food, Jobs, and Social Cohesion in Conflict-Affected Settings – 16 October 2025

This joint panel was co-organized by DRC, represented by the head of one of the Peace & Reconciliation Committee in Darfur, Sudan, alongside International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) and Interpeace. It explored how decent work and food security can contribute to conflict prevention and the rebuilding of social cohesion in fragile and post-conflict settings.



In areas affected by violence and instability, the breakdown of food systems and the erosion of livelihoods can heighten vulnerability and social division. The session brought together local experiences and institutional perspectives to reflect on emerging lessons and ongoing challenges in connecting decent work and food security to broader peacebuilding strategies. Through dialogue that bridges field realities with policy frameworks, the panel provided practical insights and foster cross-sectoral learning.

Peacebuilding and Civilian Protection: Lessons from Darfur, South Sudan and Conflict affected regions in Niger - Workshop Session

DRC organized a workshop session together with Non-Violent Peaceforce. DRC presented experiences of peacebuilding programming from Darfur and Niger to showcase the links between peacebuilding and protection of civilians. Non-Violent Peaceforce (NP) presented a focus on advocacy needs and experiences from their Unarmed Civilian Protection (UPC) work in South Sudan and Ukraine.

DRC engagement in Danish Network for Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding (NCPBP)



DRC continued to be an active member of the Danish Network for Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding (NCPBP). The Network works to improve the capacity and prioritisation of Danish CSOs and other relevant actors to integrate conflict prevention and peacebuilding in their programme work. It is also a community of practice and facilitate knowledge generation and knowledge sharing on conflict prevention and peacebuilding. The Network also supports strengthening the understanding, uptake, and advocacy of effective conflict prevention and peacebuilding in policy and practice in Denmark and globally.

Women Peace Security event in Copenhagen and Nordic Women Mediators (NWM) Annual Meeting 2025

Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Copenhagen – 24 & 25 November 2025

DRC supported the organisation of a WPS event in Copenhagen and the NWM Annual Meeting 2026.

The NWM annual meeting brought together 57 women peacebuilders, mediators, and experts from the Nordic region, the Baltics, and conflict-affected countries. Held in the context of the 25th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and marking a decade of Nordic cooperation through NWM, the meeting provided a platform for dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and strategic collaboration on advancing women's participation in peace and security processes.



Founded in 1956, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) has worked for 70 years to support displaced people in their pursuit of a dignified life. As Denmark's largest humanitarian NGO and a leading international organisation, DRC works in nearly 30 countries with a dedicated team of around 6,000 employees and thousands of volunteers.

DRC advocates for the rights of and solutions for displacement-affected communities, and provides assistance during all stages of displacement: In acute crisis, in exile, when settling and integrating in a new place, or upon return. DRC supports displaced persons in becoming self-reliant and included into hosting societies. DRC works with civil society and responsible authorities to promote protection of rights and inclusion.

Our more than 5000 volunteers in Denmark make an invaluable difference in integration activities throughout the country.

DRC's code of conduct sits at the core of our organizational mission, and DRC aims at the highest ethical and professional standards. DRC has been certified as meeting the highest quality standards according to the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability.

HRH Queen Mary is DRC's patron.

To read more about what we do, see: www.drc.ngo



*Supporting refugees and displaced
towards a dignified life*