



4. INCLUSIVE PEACEBUILDING

26,134

PEOPLE WE HAVE WORKED WITH DIRECTLY



23 PARTNERS SUPPORTED

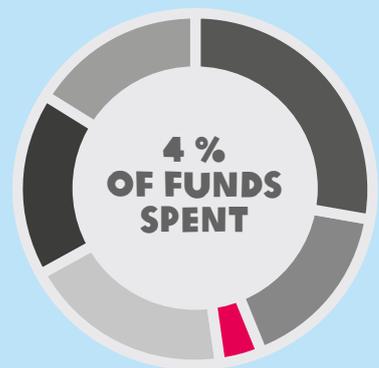
54 %

WOMEN AND GIRLS



41 %

YOUTH



- 5** GENDER EQUALITY

- 16** PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

- 17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

- 18** YOUTH EMPOWERMENT


The overarching focus of Oxfam IBIS' programme on the Inclusive Peacebuilding (IPB) theme is to support civil society engagement in peacebuilding efforts at national and community level. In 2020, the IPB theme plaid in-creasing attention to effective modalities for supporting community-led peacebuilding efforts, and to piloting different approaches to partnership in order to be more adaptive, flexible, effective, and partner-led. This attention related to the shifts in conflict dynamics at country and regional level, the impacts of COVID-19, as well as the increased maturation of the peacebuilding work of Oxfam and its partners.

In almost all eight countries undertaking peacebuilding initiatives, there was a notable increase in violent conflict. This was particularly the case in the Sahel, South Sudan, and Yemen, while the enforcement of lockdown measures also exacerbated insecurity and violence, particularly for women with rising levels of GBV and harassment, in Colombia and Uganda. In many countries, the COVID-19 pandemic also resulted in authorities further limiting civic space and the capacity of peace and rights activists to speak up about conflict issues and rights violations and to engage in ground-level peacebuilding work was severely restricted. In countries such as Colombia and South Sudan there were notable delays in the implementation of peace agreements.

Faltering peace processes in Yemen and South Sudan provided some entry points to engage in advocacy at national and regional level, while the pivot towards greater emphasis on supporting community-level peacebuilding efforts (first flagged in the 2019 Results Report) remained. In March 2020, as the pandemic began to unravel globally, the UN Secretary-General called for a global ceasefire. Oxfam IBIS played a key role in Oxfam Confederation-wide advocacy efforts to persuade Member States to buy-in to the ceasefire call, and to draw particular attention to the need to support inclusive, locally led peacebuilding efforts. This initiative included the publication of the "Conflict in the time of Coronavirus" by Oxfam and the #IMatter campaign, which spotlighted the work of our partners supported in Burkina Faso, Colombia, Yemen, and South Sudan.

There were several other campaign and advocacy initiatives which connected the work of Oxfam and partners to relevant decision-making forums, including in the context of the African Union's "Silencing the Guns" initiative and the EU Sahel Strategy. In addition, Oxfam IBIS supported the roll-out of Oxfam's #IMATTER campaign on women in crises and conflicts in the Sahel and globally, and provided both financial and technical support to a number of research, policy and advocacy initiatives particularly related to Women, Peace and Security (WPS), including the "No Time to Mourn" anthology, which

includes poems, stories and art pieces created by South Sudanese women refugees and activists, WPS policy briefs, and Oxfam's essay collection on feminist peace.

In 2020, Oxfam IBIS undertook a mid-term review of the Inclusive Peacebuilding portfolio, which took stock of the progress, results, and lessons emerging from programme implementation to date. A key element of the portfolio's relevance and added value has been to put into practice Oxfam's commitment to the localisation agenda and taking this one step further, in supporting the localisation of peacebuilding and strengthening the opportunities for women and youth, who are normally excluded from decision-making spaces, to determine their own solutions and priorities in preventing and resolving conflicts, as well as helping to amplify their experiences and priorities in higher level policy discussions.

In 2020, Oxfam IBIS expanded peacebuilding and nexus programming in Lebanon and in Mozambique (EU funds). In addition, Oxfam IBIS has continued to provide technical assistance to Oxfam in the Central African Republic's UN Peacebuilding Fund project as well as to Oxfam in Burkina Faso and Oxfam in Niger on conflict-sensitivity in collaboration with the PeaceNexus Foundation. Oxfam IBIS currently coordinates the Conflict Sensitivity Community of Practice Hub in West Africa, and together with Islamic Relief, World Vision, and PeaceNexus we have facilitated a number of training exercises for INGOs and national civil society actors across the region on themes such as remote conflict analysis, conflict sensitivity, gender sensitivity, and conflict and natural resource management. In Denmark, Oxfam IBIS acts as Chair for the Network for Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding, a similar peer-to-peer platform which connects counterparts from across NGOs, academia, and relevant ministries, and coordinates the Danish civil society group on WPS, which, among other things, engaged in dialogue with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and provided guidance on the development of the new Danish National Action Plan on WPS, which was finalised and adopted in December 2020.

RESULTS ACHIEVED

The overall progress in 2020 of our Inclusive Peacebuilding programmes is rated satisfactory measured against the objectives of the thematic area. There has been progress across all performance indicators, and table 3 provides an overview of Oxfam IBIS' results measured against the global strategic targets for 2018-2021.

There has been significant progress regarding support to **peacebuilding initiatives with participation of women and youth**, with 33 concrete initiatives in 2020 compared to 13 in 2019. It is the outcome of groundwork

TABLE 3: INCLUSIVE PEACEBUILDING

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULTS 2018	RESULTS 2019	RESULTS 2020	RESULTS 2018-2020	TARGETS 2018-2021 (CUMULATIVE)	FUNDING SOURCE
3.1.1 Number of multi-stakeholder initiatives in peace negotiations supported by Oxfam IBIS and/or partners to include women and youth, including refugees and displaced persons	2	2	3	7	10	SP
3.1.2 Number of peacebuilding initiatives, such as multi-stakeholder dialogues, with participation of women and youth, including refugees/displaced persons	1	13	33	47	40	SP
3.1.3 Number of provisions, recommendations, or actions agreed in high-level negotiations and/or multi-stakeholder dialogues which specifically relate to the role of women and youth in peacebuilding	1	4	5	10	10	SP
3.2.1 Number of changes in international stakeholders' policies, programming and practices related to peacebuilding at global, regional and national levels in selected fragile and conflict affected contexts	2	1	4	7	7	SP
3.3.1 Number of women and young peacebuilders' organisations strengthened and enabled to participate in peacebuilding processes	N/A	10	24	34	40	SP
3.4.1 Percentage of partnership development plans improving partners' organisational, thematic and/or advocacy capacity	N/A	91%	100%		85%	SP
3.5.1 Number of people worked with, who are engaged in the project/programme and/or directly benefit from a product or service	687	21,846	26,134	48,667	30,000	SP

with partners and community stakeholders over the past three years, which has now come to fruition. This has been critical, given the onset of COVID-19, as it has allowed Oxfam to continue to support and accompany community stakeholders into leading and engaging in peacebuilding efforts with reduced onus on Oxfam engaging or facilitating directly. The result also reflects the commitment of Oxfam IBIS and Oxfam country offices to pursuing more innovative approaches to peacebuilding, such as small grants and accompaniment support to young South Sudanese peacebuilders currently living as refugees in Uganda, and in Ghana, to youth groups and women actively engaged in communication about peace on social media and radio and in communities ahead of the national elections, which were largely peaceful despite fears of renewed vigilantism and risk of increased tensions due to COVID-19.

In 2020, five **provisions, recommendations or actions were agreed upon in high-level negotiations or multi-stakeholder dialogues**. One example is from Niger, where the governmental institution the High Authority for the Consolidation of Peace, which has the responsibility of coordinating all peacebuilding related activities in Niger, agreed to have youth representatives on the established peace committees in all municipalities. Advocacy work by our partner Réseau Panafricain pour la Paix, la Démocratie, et le Développement (REPPAD) led to the successful result.

A growing number of **women and youth-led peacebuilding organisations are supported** and enabled to participate in peacebuilding processes. In 2020, 24 organisations were supported, compared to ten in 2019. Supporting such organisations has become a core focus across all eight countries included in the peacebuilding

portfolio. In Uganda, Burkina Faso, and Yemen, this has involved emerging initiatives or organisations, and the collaboration has therefore focussed on organisational and substantive capacity support, which is now translating into more concrete results in terms of peacebuilding contributions.

This continued growth is also reflected in the number of people working. In 2020, **26,134 people participated in peacebuilding activities** especially including community mobilisation or awareness raising activities. We worked with a total of **23 partners and networks**, and all partners with a Partnership Development Plan in place reported a positive improvement of their thematic, organisational and advocacy capacities.

LESSONS LEARNED

2020 marked the 20th anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on WPS – an agenda, which, in 2020, also experienced significant challenges and pushbacks from multiple directions, requiring continued reflections and efforts on how to re-approach both policy and programmatic efforts to ensure that women’s rights and roles in peace processes are meaningfully supported. One concrete illustration of this is in Yemen, where women are routinely side-lined in peace processes, including those led by international stakeholders. In 2020, it became increasingly difficult for organisations to work on gender-related issues in the northern parts of the country. As a result, Oxfam IBIS’ support to WPS and peacebuilding had to be shifted to southern Yemen, resulting in significant operational delays.

Across the board, the realities of the global COVID-19 pandemic have further reduced avenues for advocacy by women peace activists, especially towards regional and global stakeholders and fora. In the first half of 2020, there was a 40% reduction in the number of women civil society briefers to the UN Security Council, clearly demonstrating the impact of the pandemic on access and opportunity and calling into question the level of commitment amongst duty bearers to upholding women’s rights in conflict-affected contexts and the WPS agenda as a whole. Oxfam and partners have had to re-think how to keep momentum on the WPS agenda and bridge the gap between lived experiences and local-led peacebuilding priorities at the community and national level, regarding the regional and global decision-making forum. One way this has been done is through the #IMatter campaign and by providing direct support to women-led peacebuilding advocacy initiatives at the grassroots and national level, which have sought to spotlight women’s perspectives and experiences in peacebuilding.

NEXT STEPS

Overall, Oxfam IBIS Inclusive Peacebuilding work is on track to contribute to the global results envisaged during this four-year period. The necessary adjustments in focus and approach in late 2018 and early 2019 have, by and large, been validated, as can be seen by the strengthened capacities of both Oxfam country offices and partners in their engagement in peacebuilding initiatives, both at community-level and at national level. There are also strong linkages between country level engagements to regional and global advocacy, particularly on the WPS agenda, which also informs Oxfam IBIS’ engagement in the Danish National Action Plan on WPS. At country level, good practices are emerging in connecting peacebuilding efforts to “nexus”-type programming, for example in Niger, Uganda, Lebanon and Mozambique, while community-level peacebuilding is increasingly addressing issues related to conflict, climate change and natural resources. Addressing the impact of climate change and natural resources on conflict dynamics will continue to be a key focus of Oxfam’s peacebuilding work in the Sahel, Ghana and in South Sudan and Uganda.

CHANGE STORIES

WHATSAPP PLATFORM AS A SPACE FOR YOUTH TO LEARN AND DEMAND ACCOUNTABILITY – MALI

Initially instated as a project coordination mechanism between the youth ambassadors and the Oxfam IBIS partner Action Mopti in Mali, the WhatsApp group quickly grew to an online platform with over 125 dynamic participants, also outside of the project, sharing their experience, observations, and their own activities. In a society shaped by customary rules and hierarchy, where young people often have limited opportunity to speak up, this online platform has become a space where they can express themselves, even if it involves traditional and formal customs often governing their lives.

While Action Mopti now moderates the platform and has introduced rules of respect, participants are the ones introducing topics and driving the discussions. Rather than replication, the key question is how to sustain this space and support youth into actually arriving at joint action. As identified by the participants of the WhatsApp group, capacity support in online communication and campaigning could be very useful in order to attract more youth to join them. Likewise, beyond only being participants in projects, many strive towards leading and implementing their own activities, calling for technical and financial accompaniment. Oxfam explores how to continue to support these youth through accompaniment initiatives.

SDG targets 16.1, 16.2 and SDG 18, the additional Danish goal on youth.

LOCAL PEACE CHAMPION – BIDIBIDI REFUGEE SETTLEMENT - UGANDA

“My name is Towongo Vincent. I am 29 and a father of three children. I live in Village 1. Since my arrival in 2016 (from South Sudan), I have witnessed rampant occurrences of violence during firewood collection, water points involving mostly women in my village. However, I always saw it as the work of community leaders to resolve it. Until in November 2020, when I was trained for two days as a Local Peacebuilder under the Sawa Le Salaam project by CECI (Community Empowerment for Creative Innovation). Since then, I have successfully mediated and resolved micro conflicts in ten households relating to domestic violence, theft, teenage pregnancy, and children. Also, I co-organised a joint community dialogue with both refugee and host communities through our mixed peace committee. Thus, refugee communities now access grass and firewood freely compared to before, which involved battering, and the number of cases of violence being reported per month to commu-

nity leaders have drastically dropped from 25 cases five months ago to two-three cases. I now believe that small acts can make huge change. I am fully convinced that small acts like mine, if multiplied by a thousand others could change my community forever,” Towongo Vincent, resident in Bidibidi Refugee Settlement, Uganda.

Vincent’s story demonstrates the capacity in terms of skills and knowledge that the Saving Lives Now and Future project supported by Oxfam IBIS has developed and strengthened over the last six months in community leaders, youth and women enabling them to effectively and consistently respond to and resolve local conflicts peacefully encouraging peaceful co-existence among and between the refugee and host communities in Bidibidi Refugee Settlement. It also helps to draw lessons learned for improved ways of working in peace-building initiatives.

SDG target 16.1.