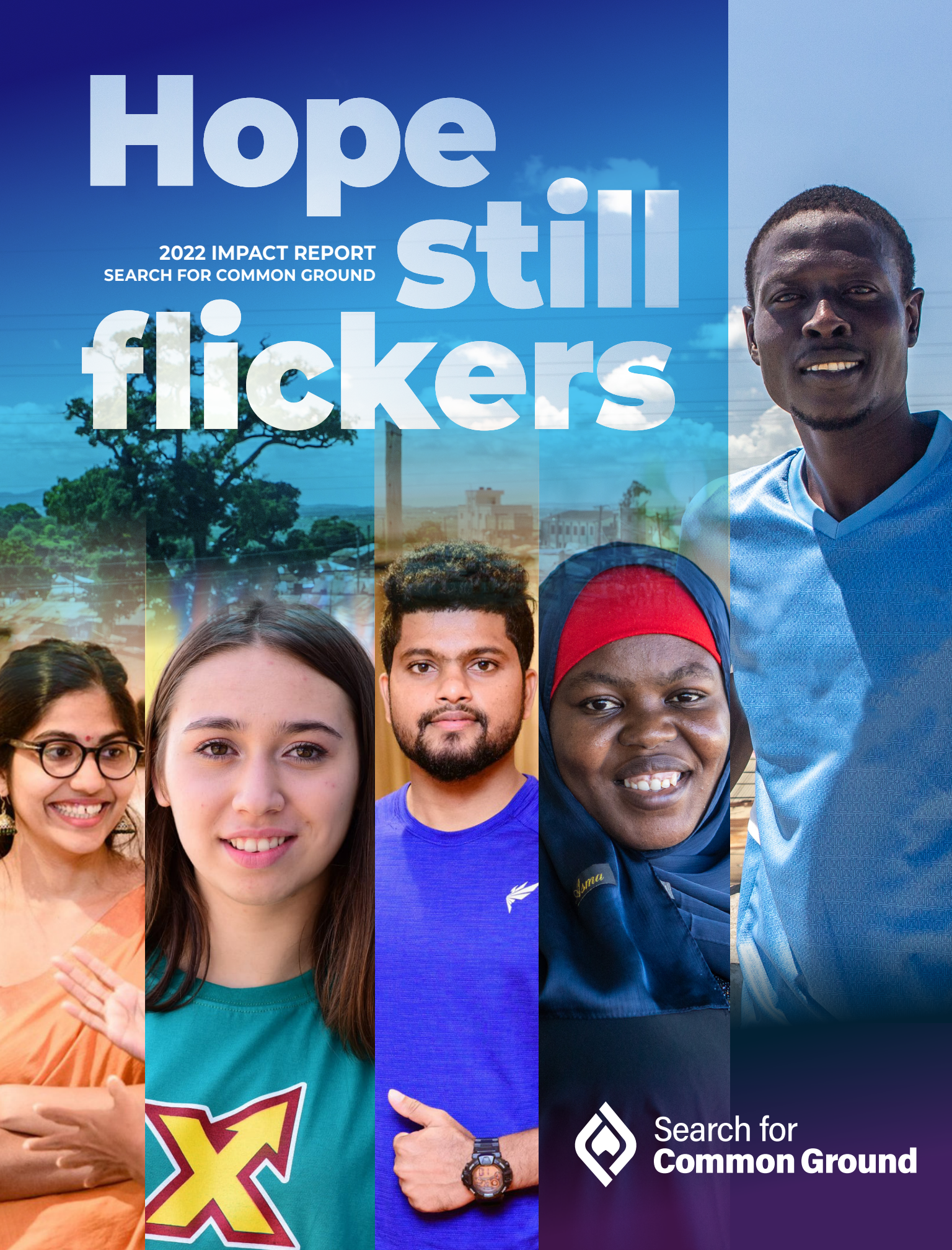


Hope still flickers

2022 IMPACT REPORT
SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND



Search for
Common Ground

To Our Supporters

In today's world, staying hopeful can seem like a daunting task. With active wars raging in Ukraine, Myanmar, and Yemen, along with continuing civil unrest around the world, it can feel like we are caught up in a rising tide of violence, retribution, and seemingly endless cycles of conflict. Even in regions that are considered at peace, the last few years have seen growing racial, political, and religious divisions wreak havoc on countries and communities both large and small, tearing families apart and shaking the very foundations of many institutions upon which civil societies have been built.

It may be hard to have hope in a world like this. But it's also been said the darkest hour is just before dawn. With that belief, Search for Common Ground continues to work towards a brighter day when peace will prevail. **And we are making progress.**

In 2022, our worldwide peacebuilding efforts reached more than 27 million people through various programs around the globe. In some of the world's most dangerous conflicts, we support acts of compassion and bravery in the work of heroic peacebuilders. Coming together from different backgrounds and religious beliefs, these peacebuilders all have one thing in common: they reject the cynical view that our divisions are too deep to overcome.

From Tanzania to Sri Lanka, Nigeria to Afghanistan, Texas to Timbuktu, Search staff around the world embrace the hope of common ground, helping former adversaries learn to trust each other while creating useful avenues for collaboration. With their hard work and diligence, we generate remarkable breakthroughs for peace. This year's report shows just how the results of their efforts remain transformative, turning enemies into allies and even war into peace.

2022 was also a year of organizational growth and change for Search as we welcomed Marjorie Newman-Williams as our new president. Marjorie brings to the position decades of executive leadership experience, including nearly three decades in increasingly senior positions within UNICEF and more than a decade in senior leadership

roles with non-governmental organizations and international development agencies.

While it's been a challenging and productive year for us, none of these achievements would have been possible without you. Whether you are a supporter of Search, partner in our programs, generous donor, or frontline peacebuilder, you can be sure that your dedicated commitment to building a safer, healthier, and more just world is making a real difference. This report outlines some of our key progress and crucial programs this year, all of which exist only because of the support of people like you.

So thank you for keeping hope alive and partnering with us as we make the world a safer, healthier, and more just place. As you read on and see all that we have been able to do, we honestly hope you feel proud of the impact you are making, just as we feel grateful for your dedicated support. In today's world, we believe that the hope of common ground is the only path forward towards a more peaceful future. Thank you for joining us on this journey.



Shamil Idriss
CEO



Marjorie Newman-Williams
President





Table of Contents

Introduction	3	Common Ground USA	32
Afghanistan, Hope Still Flickers	4	Peace Impact Framework	34
Include Women, Change Everything	8	Polarization: Kenya And Niger	38
Advancing Women's Economic		Agency: Sri Lanka	39
Empowerment in Burundi	10	Violence: Nigeria	40
Climate Change Fuels Conflicts	14	Institutional Legitimacy: Jordan	41
Digital Peacebuilding	18	Investment: Lebanon	42
Kenyan Elections	20	Leadership	44
We-Gital Heroes in Sri Lanka	22	Financial Breakdown	46
Youth: Countering Mistrust, Resentment,		Partners and Donors	48
and Social Division in the Sahel	26	Looking Forward	52
Peace Ambassador	28	Report on Integrity	54
Advocacy in Brussels	30		



Afghanistan - Hope Still Flickers

From Zuhra Bahman - Afghanistan Country Director

In the weeks and months after the Taliban takeover, we could not recognise our city. The faces at the checkpoints we went through to reach our office changed. Everyone, especially women, felt fear and uncertainty about what was to come as our local cash reserves dwindled and the banks remained closed. Throughout 2022, despite the hasty international exodus following the takeover, Search for Common Ground stayed and continued to maintain a presence in the country. While it was possible the Taliban would decide to shut us down, we continued our work. We knew the need for peacebuilding did not disappear with the departing planes – if anything, it only became greater and more acute, with more at stake for ordinary Afghans.

Our office became a home for many civil society organizations and activists. As one of the international peacebuilding NGOs active there, we have acted as a staging ground for these groups to mobilize their efforts to rebuild Afghan civil society. We took our direction from these local leaders – many now in charge for the first time – in meeting some of the challenges we were all facing. Together, we decided that breaking the cycle of violence was only possible through non-violent means. We determined that more engagement with the Taliban, rather than isolation, would yield results and that Afghans inside the country should lead this engagement.

In this spirit, the first partner to set foot in the Search for Common Ground office in Kabul after the Taliban takeover was Salima. As the leader of a local organization, she worked with us to provide employment opportunities, hygiene products, and peacebuilding interventions to women who fled from rural areas to Kabul, and who were now living in camps that were developed for internally displaced persons. Despite the threats and insecurities women faced in the early months

of Taliban rule, Salima reached nearly a thousand women, inspiring us to push through our fears and focus on what matters.

In the year since, many others have followed Salima's lead, and we now work with 22 civil society partners in 16 provinces, building community cohesion and providing protection to those that need it the most. Our work in Afghanistan has created far-reaching networks for youth and women to lead, and we have actively worked to ensure that humanitarian aid is not only conflict-sensitive but conflict-smart.

People like Salima show up every day, despite the odds, to make life a little better for the people around them. This resistance is dynamic, ranging from public protests to everyday acts of defiance, like a woman going to the shops dressed the way she wants. There are also artists creating revolutionary work, as well as tribal and religious elders negotiating for the freedom of civil society activists and journalists.

In February 2022, Charline Burton (Executive Director) and Shamil Idriss (Chief Executive Officer),





visited Kandahar and Kabul to see what the situation was like in person. They met with the People’s Peace Movement, a local non-violent collection of student and youth groups, academics, peacebuilders, civil society activists, and women working in the civil service of Taliban-run ministries. They are all still here, fighting for a better life. While much of the world may have given up hope, they have not.

As the outside world is still paralyzed from the trauma of recent tragedies and frozen by intractability, the actual situation in Afghanistan is considerably more complex. Most importantly, the country’s future is not written in stone. While there is certainly fear and tragedy, there is also

genuine hope and struggle. Mainstream journalists often contact us to be connected with women in desperate situations that meet a predefined narrative about the country’s current challenges. Yet, they resist talking to people like Salima or listening to the remarkable stories of perseverance we witness all around us every day.

False narratives of desperation, lack of agency, and victimhood result in policies that negatively impact the nearly 40 million people living in Afghanistan. Meanwhile, we continue to encourage policymakers to engage with a wider variety of voices inside Afghanistan so they can witness the country’s current state for themselves.



The restrictions on women and girls implemented by Taliban authorities in December 2022 are additional obstacles to creating a more peaceful future for the Afghan people. Women leaders play a vital role in shaping the future of the country, and it is crucial that they have the opportunity to gain the skills, knowledge, and structures necessary to do so. In an already fragile humanitarian crisis, any additional uncertainties can have devastating effects on the mental health and resilience of the young generation. It is especially important that women have access to education in order to ensure Afghan-led development.

Despite the challenges of the last year, Search for Common Ground continues to operate in Afghanistan. In the hopes of creating a more peaceful future, we attempt to engage with the Taliban on critical issues and urge the international community to do so as well. The Taliban are the de-facto authorities in the country, and their decisions impact the daily lives of Afghan citizens. Only by actively connecting with them and facilitating the

engagement of Afghans with the Taliban can we establish accountability around human rights, inclusivity, and good governance.

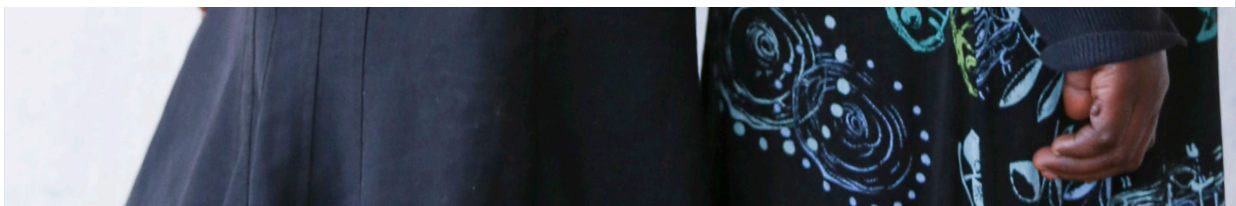
In this spirit, Salima and 14 of her peers at the Afghan Women Social Protection Organization (AWSPO) recently signed a contract with Search for Common Ground to deliver humanitarian and peacebuilding interventions in Afghanistan. This is a significant indicator of our approach working.

As the crisis in Afghanistan continues, the outside world must support those inside the country. Our peers and colleagues in Afghanistan have expressed a passionate commitment to come together and build something new, and it is our duty to assist them in those efforts. While this situation remains challenging, we believe that things can get better. It will be slow, it will involve sacrifice, and it will be a struggle, but hope still flickers.



Our Vision is Simple: Include Women, Change Everything

At Search for Common Ground, our vision is simple: include women, change everything. We know that gender inequality and violence fuel each other. The only way to build a healthy, safe and just society is for women to play a key role at every step. Inclusive policy is not just a women’s issue—it is a community issue.





Yet just 4.5 percent of aid in fragile contexts goes to projects centered on gender equality, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Traditional actors dominate within this thin slice. At one point in 2018, women-led organizations were receiving 0.39 percent of aid focused on gender equality in fragile contexts.

Simply gaining a seat at the table is not enough. We need better models for funding and building the capacity of local groups. How can we move from representation to collaboration? What would truly-equitable partnership look like, with women-led groups treated as full collaborators and not just end-of-the-line implementers?

The global range suggests the size of the challenge—and opportunity. Peace takes many forms, but it always starts the same way: with equitable partnership.





Advancing Women's Economic Empowerment in Burundi

Women's economic empowerment plays a crucial role in the recovery of conflict-affected societies and is a key condition for sustained community stability, peace, and nation building. Peace is more sustainable if women have a seat at the negotiating table, but meaningful participation in peace and political processes is not possible if the effects of women's economic realities are ignored. In Burundi, Search for Common Ground support women's access to employment and productive assets.

In Burundi, women often face a cruel paradox: they are the most impacted by high levels of violence yet the least likely to be included in any decision-making process. Especially young women have specific needs and face unique barriers to meaningful participation in society, from limited economic opportunities to a lack of agency in household decisions or being victims of gender-based violence.

Male Allies

Through the *Tuyage* (Let's Talk) project, supported by USAID and by the Belgian federal government, Search for Common Ground is tackling the social norms that restrict the ownership of property and productive assets for women in Burundi. We engage young women to take leadership positions in associations and civil society organizations, providing them with a platform to share their optimistic views on empowerment and inspire other women. Through activities that utilize communication and the media, we seek to transform perceptions of women's rights and participation. Our activities systematically engage men, making the change sustainable and minimizing the potential negative backlash in the form of gender-based violence.

One of the challenges we have identified is transforming toxic masculinity into positive masculinity. Masculinity creates invisible rules that govern how men should (or shouldn't) behave, and it is defined by society, education, the media, and role models. In Burundi, men are taught to be self-reliant, strong, and unemotional, and the societal pressure to live up to these values, often leads to the perpetuation of harmful stereotypes. Positive masculinity is about overcoming this. Through this project, Search for Common Ground has created opportunities for men and women to jointly discuss concepts such as positive masculinity and concerns around household roles. Alongside our partner Catholic Relief Services, we organized the Smart Couple approach: Through home visits, couples get guidance on certain practices aimed at reducing social norms and cultural barriers that reduce women's access to economic opportunities, as well as the peaceful resolution of (marital) conflicts.

In 2022 we implemented an approach to complement the Smart Couple training: working with influential men in the community, to positively transform their attitudes towards women's rights and women's participation in the economy. Through this, we identify male allies to take leadership in, and advocate for, women's empowerment.



“It changed a lot, and helped me feel valued as a woman. Nowadays, all family resources are managed in a joint way, responsibilities are shared, and the children’s welfare is shared.”

MBONIMPA DÉSIDÉRATE

Mbonimpa Désidérate (married with 5 children) lives in Ngozi. “Running my household has always been a full-time job”, she says with a smile. “But besides that, I’m also working as a small farmer. I was responsible for all the finances within my family. I needed to pay for food and education, or medical costs when necessary. I was really struggling to get it all figured out. My husband wasn’t really involved.”

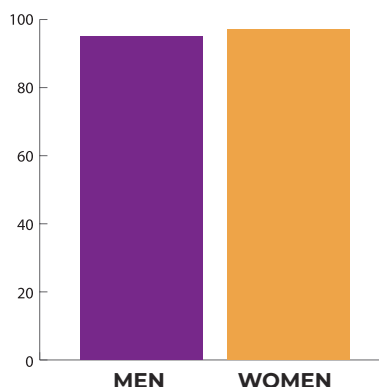
Together with her husband, Désidérate participated in a Smart Couple-training. “It changed a lot, and helped me feel valued as a woman. Nowadays, all family resources are managed in a joint way, responsibilities are shared, and the children’s welfare is shared.” Her husband recognises the importance of his wife being economically independent. And thanks to his contribution to the family budget, Désidérate has money left to invest in her small agricultural business, which makes her a successful woman in the neighborhood.



Understanding our Impact in Burundi

We started the *Tuyage* (Let's talk) in 2018. A study conducted in the spring of 2022, assesses the current state of community perspectives on women's economic inclusion and evaluates the impact of the programme. Quantitative surveys, focus groups, and indepth interviews were conducted in 12 localities across six provinces in Burundi. We used the data to build a knowledge base for recommendations for the next phases of the programming. Here are some of the key findings of the assessment.

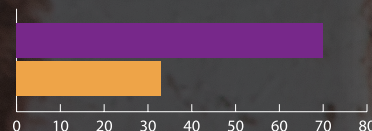
The attitude of community members towards women's economic inclusion are trending in a positive direction. Over **95%** of men and **97%** of women surveyed expressed support for women's economic inclusion.



Men and local leaders were nonetheless resistant to women's full empowerment, emphasizing that women must focus on household tasks and not challenge male social status.



Among women who participated in *Tuyage*, 73% felt economically empowered compared to 43% of non-participants,



and 70% reported increased monthly revenue compared to 33% of non-participants.



Women are seen as playing a greater role in economic activities than in the past:

65% of men surveyed felt that women were economically empowered and

97% felt that their economic inclusion was a positive thing for the community.



In interviews, men commented that women

**“are more active in the community
and are engaged in prospering income
generating activities.”**



Climate Change fuels Conflicts

The interplay between climate and conflict has become increasingly clear in the last decade. Whether it is Burkina Faso, Yemen, or Uzbekistan, we've seen significant overlap between the countries most affected by climate change and those most at risk of violent conflict. Climate change is a multiplier for violent conflict, and this will only intensify in the years to come.

In 2022, we continued to learn about this topic and share how we tackle natural resource-related conflicts by using the Common Ground Approach. Here are examples of how we brought together people across ethnic, political, religious, socio-economic, and other divides to address this pressing issue.

Peaceful Pastoralism In The Sudano-Sahel

Climate change is making life hard for livestock herders in drylands. From Nigeria to Mali, pastoral populations have had to adapt their routes to a changing climate. Where pastoralists have relied on grassy, arid savannahs for herding their animals in the past, these lands are under pressure due to long periods of droughts. Putting strain on customary approaches, livestock keepers are forced to constantly look for alternative places to find water and animal food, resulting in land disputes.

Search for Common Ground's programming directly targets farming and herding communities in the Sudano-Sahel, while also seeking to improve the broader security situation. In Mali, we provide leadership and social communication training to authorities, community leaders, local actors and security forces. These initiatives build trust between communities, and this is very valuable for solving incidents involving pastoralist populations.

"When crops are destroyed, it becomes violent," says Aminata. She is an assistant to the mayor in Banama. Each rainy season, this community, located on a transhumance route

to Mauritania, faces the same conflicts. *"The animals wander, leave the passageways and destroy crops and violence breaks out on both sides (herder - farmer)."* We created a peace club in Banamba to help the community prevent and resolve conflicts. Aminata became one of the club's peace ambassadors. *"We help parties resolve conflicts before they decide to go to the police or to resort to violence. We act as mediators to ensure that conflicts*

"The animals wander, leave the passageways and destroy crops and violence breaks out on both sides (herder - farmer)."

don't escalate. Recently, someone's cattle had eaten a farmer's crops. We brought the two sides together and asked the farmer to assess the losses. Eventually, both sides were able to come up with a peaceful way to solve their conflict without needing to escalate it."

But more importantly, Aminata helps to prevent such conflicts in the first place. *"We invite farmers, herders and members of the chamber of commerce to dialogues."* Aminata raises awareness about conflict prevention and facilitates access to information about specific regulations for farmers and herders. *"We have a rural charter that defines, among other things, livestock corridors to avoid this type of damage. The charter includes regulations for the movement of cattle, land use planning, and some pastoralism-oriented legal communal agreements."*



COP 27

In November 2022, Search for Common Ground took part in COP27, the yearly United Nations Climate Change Conference that brings countries and civil society organizations together to discuss and address climate change. We were present via two delegations. Through our Children and Youth team, Search gathered young leaders from across the Middle East and North Africa to ensure that their perspectives were heard in the global climate debate. Beyond this, Search for Common Ground was invited to be part of the formal Belgian delegation, and directly engaged throughout the conference with the Belgian Minister for Climate, Environment and Sustainable Development.

During COP 27, we hosted a side event on the link between loss, damage, and conflict. The discussion addressed questions such as: *How do peacebuilding organizations approach loss and damage in their efforts to mitigate conflict risks? What lessons have been learned and what solutions could be envisaged?* As one staffer noted during the event, “all of these collaborative efforts can snowball into activities of mutual trust, particularly safeguarding the environment.”





Lebanon: Water as a Tool for Solving Political Tension

In Lebanon, competition over access to water is an important driver of conflict. The country's water problems take two forms. First, climate change and the unsustainable use of water resources: Lebanon is suffering increasingly frequent droughts as well as overexploitation and pollution of groundwater and rivers. Second, years of mismanagement and the current fuel and financial crises have caused a public water service crisis, with Lebanon's water supply sector having come to the brink of total collapse and threatening access to safe and sufficient drinking water for much of the population. Moreover, political, personal, and sectarian tensions can exacerbate water-related conflict, and water stress and mismanagement can feed into further political and sectarian strife.



However, oftentimes cooperation over water projects can also reduce conflict over resources and transcend political enmity. Building on this, Search for Common Ground, together with American University of Beirut's Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (AUB-IFI), sought to identify hotspots in Lebanon with high water-related stress. Water-related conflict risks, community-level resilience factors, points of division, key influencers, possible champions, and social connectors were identified. All this information was collected, leading to the development of key findings and programmatic recommendations, to maximize projects' potential for peacebuilding and social impact to mitigate future risks and reduce tensions, all in the context of climate change.





Digital Peacebuilding

For too long, narratives about digital technology have focused on the ways it contributes to violence and polarization. While these risks are valid, at Search for Common Ground, we know that developing and popularizing technology can also promote togetherness. Digital technologies offer a host of opportunities to bring communities together, foster positive interactions, and build social cohesion.

Social cohesion is the glue that holds society together – particularly in the face of toxic polarization. Its promotion isn't just a matter of restricting harmful content and regulating digital spaces. We recognize the vast potential of digital technologies to foment solidarity and prevent polarization and violence, and we understand that only through concerted, cross-sectoral efforts, we can transform the potential of digital technology into a force for good.

Our work around the world reflects the changing dynamics of conflict and the role that technology can play in both preventing and causing conflict. In this section, we shine a spotlight on some of our initiatives in the digital space.

Kenyan Elections

In post-independence Kenya, violence has been a defining feature of election cycles, and in recent years, social media platforms have played a growing role in this. In Kenya, platforms like Facebook and Tiktok now pose far greater risk than mainstream media in terms of spreading hate speech and misinformation, which fuel conflict.





Due to the increased risk of election-related violence throughout Kenya's 2022 elections, Search for Common Ground and its partner organizations Human Rights Agenda (HURIA), Muslims for Human Rights (MUHURI), Kiunga Youth Bunge Initiative (KYBI), Ijara Women for Peace, Tana River Peace, and Reconciliation and Development Organisation (TRPRD) began implementation of an 18-month European Union-funded program.

The program's goal was to empower local-level actors to serve as an early warning and intervention mechanism to strengthen resilience to election-related violence during critical electioneering periods, both in the campaign and after the elections were conducted. The project targeted the Kenyan counties of Garissa, Lamu, Tana River, Kilifi, Kwale, and Mombasa, aiming to respond to increasing election-related tensions and conflicts which can incite violence and lead to radicalization and membership in extremist organizations.

While support for election-related violence is relatively low, Search addressed attitudes and online behaviors that lead to conflict in the target

counties. The spread of propaganda and hate speech, especially via social media (Facebook, WhatsApp, TikTok), remains a significant challenge in these communities. To counter this, civil society and community-based organizations played a key role in mobilizing people to engage in peaceful activities that promote social cohesion and peaceful co-existence among communities in the target counties during the latest election cycle.



We-gital Heroes- Youth In Digital Peacebuilding



The We-gital Heroes - Youth in Digital Peacebuilding project empowers young people to address the drivers of dangerous speech by developing coordinated and effective responses to counter online hate speech, misinformation, and incitement to violence. Launched in 2022, this 18-month project was designed to strengthen collaborative action among participating youth in Sri Lanka and improve sharing with regional practitioners to address the issue of online hate speech.

Over the past decade, Sri Lanka has experienced varying levels of dangerous hate speech and violence resulting from the deep ethnic and religious divisions that remain after the civil war. Since 2018, Search for Common Ground has been promoting positive alternative narratives through social media and developing the capacities of young people to identify and counter hate speech. Our two initiatives, WT2: Work Together Win Together or We Lanka (implemented in two phases from December 2018 to June 2021), and the Cyber Guardians: Empowering Youth to Combat Online Hate Speech in Sri Lanka project (March 2019 to March 2020) were both built upon by the new We-gital Heroes Youth in Digital Peacebuilding project.

Search for Common Ground used the “3C approach” of content creation, countering, and championing, focusing on digital edutainment, mentorship, a collective group approach, and regional expansion to engage in peacebuilding work. Through capacity building, soft skills training, and gamification within the digital space, integrating mentorship and

coaching sessions to analyze dangerous speech and design positive messaging campaigns that engaged a broader regional network of organizations, Search was able to meet young people where they are and bring them together across divides.

For this continuing project, Search for Common Ground aims to establish a digital learning, networking, mentorship, and professional



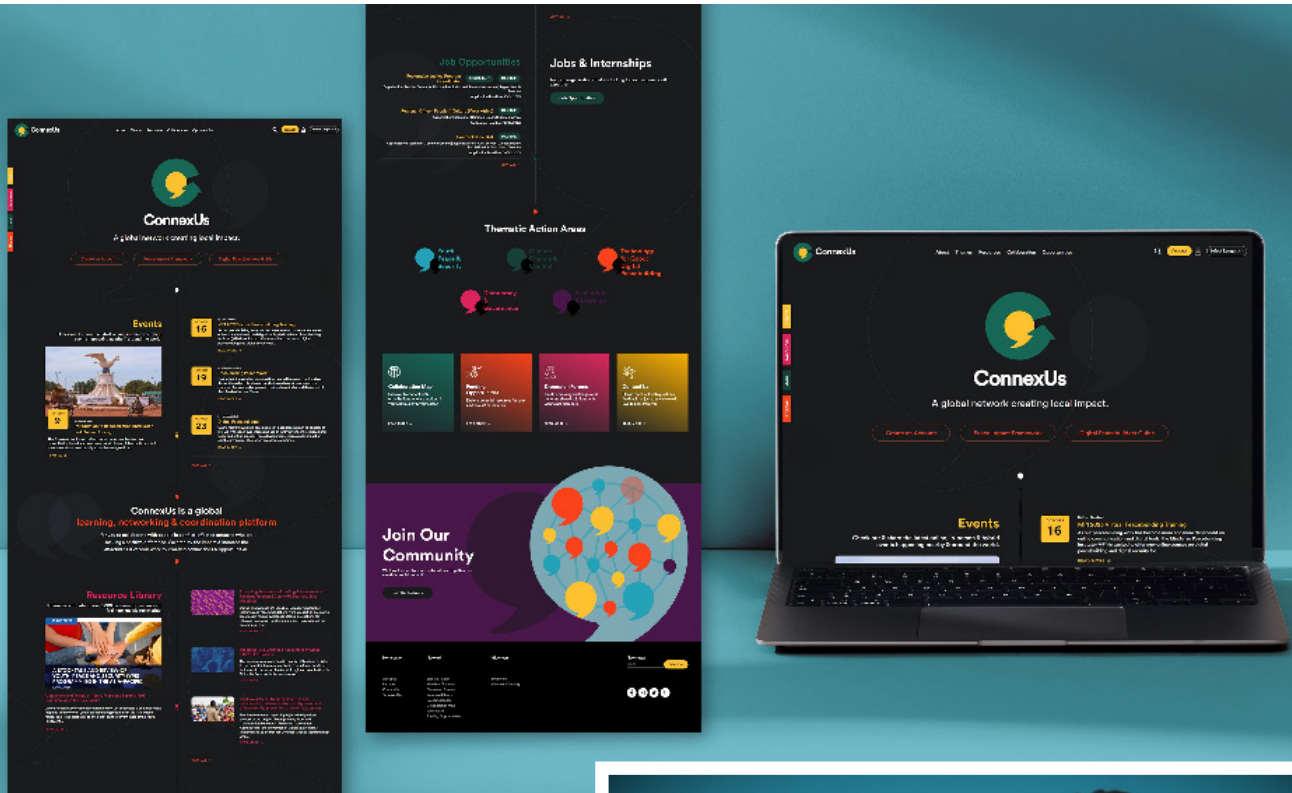
development platform for youth (ages 18-29) who are interested in addressing dangerous hate speech online. To accomplish this objective, Search for Common Ground will hold consultations with regional stakeholders and develop an online platform that contains the tools and resources that these young people need. Search for Common Ground also seeks to partner with youth to collaboratively design and implement social media that will work to counter hate speech through positive messaging campaigns. In order to do so, Search for Common Ground hopes to conduct capacity training for We-gital Heroes,

train more mentors, and conduct more mentoring sessions. Ultimately, Search wants to expand this collaboration, learning, and sharing among a regional community of practitioners, thus countering dangerous speech through regional learning exchanges and a lessons-learned document the project can pass on for future activations.

Eventually, the We-gital Heroes project aims to produce a regional consultation report developed with findings that inform Search's project focus and approaches, a digital edutainment platform, and networking opportunities in addition to virtual dialogues with youth from different ethnic and religious backgrounds. We aim to train 379 youths in countering hate speech, with 20 mentors trained to support We-gital Heroes along with 20 mentoring sessions producing 10 youth led-initiatives. At the conclusion of the project, we will inform other regional practitioners how they can lead more projects that are similar to it.

On the strength of our learnings from the We-gital Heroes and this initiative, Search for Common Ground developed a training curriculum for digital community stewards on building social cohesion in online communities and gathered 17 emerging digital leaders from 10 countries in Dubai for the global pilot of a training initiative to build healthy, safe, and just online spaces.

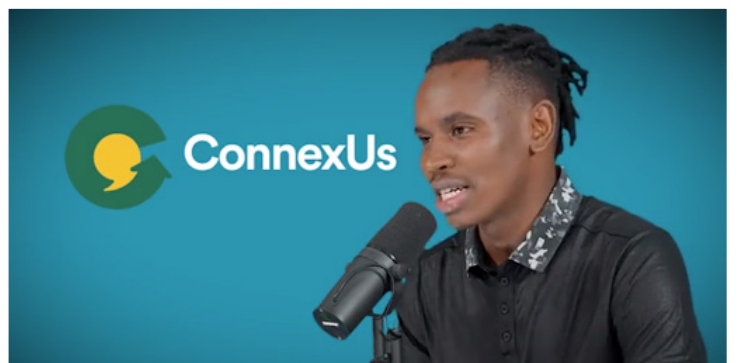




ConnexUs

ConnexUs is a powerful global learning and networking platform that connects people working in conflict-affected settings. The platform's goal is to improve access, collaboration, and impact among practitioners, researchers, donors, and other stakeholders in social impact sectors in conflict-affected contexts. With a rapidly growing community of over 256,000 annual visitors and 2,900 registered members, ConnexUs provides an engaging and dynamic space for people and organizations to connect, learn, and grow.

ConnexUs users are empowered to share and discover resources, events, job opportunities, and much more on a diverse range of topics spanning from Youth, Peace & Security to Climate Change & Conflict to Digital Peacebuilding. The ConnexUs Resource Library features over 3,000 community-sourced resources, making it easy to contribute and access knowledge. ConnexUs Thursday Talks are interactive webinars that showcase best practices, innovation, and collaboration on social



impact in conflict-affected settings. The platform also offers thematic action areas, which provide valuable digital community spaces for resources, knowledge, and connections, facilitate access to the latest resources, foster collaboration among people and organizations working on related issues, and promote holistic and sustainable solutions.

ConnexUs is widely used in over 133 countries worldwide and is available in four languages: Arabic, English, French, and Spanish. The top 10 countries utilizing ConnexUs are the US, India, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Kenya, Algeria, Pakistan, the UK, Iraq, and Tanzania. Find out more and join the community at www.cnxus.org.



The Digital Peacebuilders Guide

In 2022, Search launched the Digital Peacebuilders Guide.

This guide contains a collection of peacebuilding ideas and actions from organizations around the world responding to how technology creates new challenges and offers new opportunities to increase collaboration, connection, and inclusion.

This interactive guide is intended to strengthen the ability of global peacebuilding teams to design and implement digital peacebuilding projects by using the common needs and goals of peacebuilders as entry points. We don't do digital peacebuilding for its own sake; we all have reasons why and need to know more about the how. In 2022, the guide had over 7,000 unique users around the world.

<https://cnxus.org/digital-peacebuilders-guide/>

In the Sahel, many layers of structural difficulties and conflict come together. Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger are facing a combination of armed conflict, political tensions, displacement, drought, and hunger. Recognizing the transnational nature of instability in the region, Search for Common Ground has adopted an approach that recognizes both the country-specific and cross-border conflict dynamics. The limited presence of state services and authorities in some areas of the Sahel, the multiplication of national and foreign military activities, and the rapid deterioration of the security situation in the area, contribute to local frustration and increase the risk of community tensions over natural resources. This insecurity, combined with land degradation and cattle theft, have led many young people to join illicit trafficking networks in search of making a living. Through the *Mugina Gobe* project in Niger, Search for Common Ground set out to provide other alternative pathways for young people. Involving young people in all kinds of community centered activities help them take on more responsibility and feel connected.

Youth: Countering Mistrust, Resentment, and Social Division in the Sahel







Peace Ambassador

Boubacar, a young farmer from Tchintabariden in the Tahoua region of Niger, created a gardening cooperative to revitalize the agricultural sector in this primarily pastoral region. When the government relocated the cooperative to a 20-hectare site, shared with another cooperative, tensions arose. *“We had another way of working.”* As time passed, mutual incomprehension increasingly strained their cohabitation, exacerbated by a growing lack of water. *“The water was no longer sufficient for the 20 hectares. So we formed a union and proposed to work together on 6 hectares and share the profits.”* But mutual mistrust hindered the cooperative’s progress. Boubacar found himself in a difficult situation, torn between his cooperative and his family ties with members of the other cooperative. As a result, members of his cooperative accused him of favoritism when he tried to mitigate conflicts.

Search for Common Ground addressed both relational and structural issues. As water was at the heart of the community’s needs and a source of conflict, the project addressed this challenge first.

“Search for Common Ground replaced the pumps, allowing for

the supply of the 20 hectares. They also fenced off the plot to protect it from livestock and equipped it with solar panels,” Boubacar adds.

Boubacar also received other valuable tools. He teamed up with the other cooperative’s leader to become a peace ambassador, receiving training in conflict transformation and mediation. Together, they learned to identify and analyze the causes and triggers of conflicts, implement preventive actions, and transform conflicts peacefully. With these new skills, the two cooperative leaders joined forces to sensitize their members to conflict transformation and the importance of dialogue. *“This has helped to clarify things and to divide the tasks. This allowed us to set up collaborative frameworks like a site management and maintenance committee.”* These efforts have spread beyond the farm, with the peace ambassadors scaling up their efforts to include the entire community. *“Water was a problem for the whole community, and people blamed the authorities for not solving it. But the dialogues highlighted the efforts made. It calmed the community and inspired other young people to become peace ambassadors.”*

“Fake news can inflame conflicts”

Amid conflict, the right information can save lives. With the growth of new social media users across the Sahel, existing conflict dynamics are increasingly manifesting. Sahelians are entering a complex digital space. To stem these risks, digital literacy, responsible media consumption, and conflict-sensitive use of online tools among the Sahelian population, especially through digital empowerment of youth, is indispensable. In Mali, Search trains media professionals (journalists, bloggers, others) to step in when fake news feeds on turmoil to divide and conquer.

“I didn’t know how to check information or even what it was for,” says Lamissa, a 25-year-old blogger from Bamako. Lamissa makes his living doing what he loves most. Writing, without taboos, about the subjects he is passionate about: politics, governance and peace. As a blogger he works for an online platform that includes a section closely related

to journalism. “We have this info/intox page, where we check news.” At first, this section didn't particularly grab Lamissa's attention. But when he joined the Search project and had the opportunity to deepen his knowledge on fact-checking, he realized how important this expertise is and how it could help him improve his work. “My editor once rejected an article I wrote because I had written “We heard that...”. He told me that it wasn't credible, that it was a rumor. If I had been trained at the time, it would not have been necessary to even reject my article. I would have acted more cautiously and researched the information.”

Lamissa learned also about writing with a conflict sensitive approach in mind. “It called me to greater responsibility. Words can inflame, false information can lead to violence and cause panic. The more journalists and bloggers participate in fact-checking, the better for our communities.”



“It called me to greater responsibility. Words can inflame, false information can lead to violence and cause panic.”

Visit of 5 Youth Advocates to Brussels

As part of the Just Future Alliance, a strategic partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Search for Common Ground is supporting diverse young people from fragile and conflict-affected contexts. We help them have their voices heard in international decision-making spaces. We organized a selection process to identify 7 promising young activists from different countries: Afghanistan, Burundi, Mali, Niger, South Sudan and DR Congo. The identified youth became part of the Just Future Youth Advocacy Network. From March 2022, they were invited to a series of online learning and introduction sessions to help them connect with each other, explore advocacy approaches, set a joint advocacy goal and identify a priority advocacy target institution. In October 2022, five of them traveled to Brussels, to complete their advocacy training sessions in-person, learn more about the EU as their prioritized advocacy target, build their networks, and engage with key EU stakeholders on their joint priority (support to youth-led efforts) and specific issues in their own countries.



“During my stay in Brussels, I learned how to do advocacy in a better way. When I came back to South Sudan I passed on this knowledge, I trained youth and women on how to achieve their advocacy projects. The experience of working with other engaged young people, and being for the first time in Europe, felt good.”

Anna Maneno, South Sudan

Just Future is a 5-year Alliance program implemented in 6 countries, and is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. Search for Common Ground works together with consortium partners: Cordaid, the Women's International Peace Center (WIPC), the African Security Sector Network (ASSN), the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) and the Liaison Office (TLO).



EU Youth Action Plan

In October 2022, the EU launched its first-ever Youth Action Plan for external action. This policy framework recognises young people as drivers of positive change, whose views and actions are determinant to help shaping a more democratic and peaceful world. Thanks to our recognised expertise on Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) and experience helping diverse youth inform decision-making, including via the EU YPS Coalition, we were able to raise the priorities and insights of young peacebuilders and activists from our networks in the development of the Action Plan. Working with youth-led and youth-serving partners, we were able to ensure that some key aspects were reflected in the document, such as: training of EU-staff on YPS, more holistic protection of youth shrinking civic space, and a youth-informed pilot funding initiative (10 million euros) for youth-led efforts.





Common Ground USA

Common Ground USA (CG-USA) is Search for Common Ground's most significant investment in supporting a self-sustaining, peaceful, and inclusive democracy in the United States. CG-USA aims to strengthen collective resilience against political, hate-based, and extremist violence in America while fostering the conditions for a more inclusive, equitable, and peaceful society. To achieve this vision, our programming focuses on two pillars of engagement, American Resilience and Inclusive America. Our resilience work aims to empower diverse actors from grassroots civil society to the highest levels of government to collaboratively design and implement initiatives to prevent and address drives of political violence. Our inclusion and belonging work brings together a diversity of stakeholders including youth champions, disenfranchised communities, and the media to address historical grievances and inequalities, foster transformational leadership, and build positive partnerships for enduring, systemic change.

In 2022, CG-USA successfully marked its first full year

of operations. During this period, the team has nearly doubled in size, secured several multi-year funding commitments, and launched three multi-year projects. In addition to these wins, the CG-USA team has also invested in collaboration, developing several strategic partnerships with expert and grassroots organizations throughout the country to advance our mission to prevent political violence, and promote inclusion and belonging in the United States.

In the past year, CG-USA has made meaningful advancements across our programmatic focus areas. Contributing to both our Resilience and Inclusion pillars, CG-USA actively supported the expansion and elevation of peacebuilding work in the US, including advising government, civil society, philanthropy, and media experts. In February, CG-USA co-convoked a meeting with the Biden Administration's Domestic Policy Council, National Security Council and White House Counsel's Office, as well as the philanthropy community and other experts to build

momentum for a cohesive approach to prevent political violence. In May, CG-USA served as a founding member of the Bridging Movement Alignment Council, a council supporting a coalition of over 500 bridging and civic organizations. In late 2022, CG-USA convened diverse voices to advise on the White House Summit on Unity and presented to more than 80 organizations in the civil society pre-gatherings. These advocacy efforts have helped promote non-securitized approaches to political violence prevention while creating opportunities for cross-sectoral collaboration, as evidenced by CG-USA's participation as a member of the National Leadership Council of Dignity.us.

In 2022, CG-USA also made great strides in advancing our two Resilience projects. We launched an ambitious pilot project at the end of 2021 to shift preventing extremism out of the national lens and into local solutions through faith leadership.

The Strengthening Texas, Advancing Resilience (STAR) project brings together CG-USA's practitioner expertise alongside leading academics and faith leaders to mobilize whole communities for this sensitive and challenging work. Our progress in 2022 positions us well for expansion in 2023 with strong partnerships, evidence-based research, and networks for expansion.



In summer 2022, we launched our Resilient States project, a multi-organization effort led by CG-USA and Over Zero (OZ), to build state-level political violence prevention networks in states with an elevated risk of political violence. The project aims to build and scale state-level networks through early 2025, spanning the 2022 midterms (early stage work) and the 2024 election cycle, its aftermath, and any additional flashpoints throughout this period. These networks will empower diverse civil society stakeholders with strengthened relationships, skills, and tools to collaboratively prevent and mitigate conflict dynamics and conflict flashpoints.

Under our Inclusion pillar, the CG-USA team supported creating and launching the Council on Technology and Social Cohesion. This Council seeks to partner with peacebuilding and technology leaders to research and explore new generations of tech platforms aimed

to reverse trends of online harm and polarization. In collaboration with the Center for Humane Technology, Search for Common Ground, the Toda Peace Institute, Braver Angels, More in Common, the University of Notre Dame, Civic Health Project, and the Alliance for Peacebuilding, the Council formed a working group and commissioned a "Landscape Map of Tech and Social Cohesion" report, and launching Council on Tech and Social Cohesion in February 2023.

In 2023, CG-USA plans to expand upon our Resilience and Inclusion programming. While we made a strong investment in resilience work in our first year, we aim to prioritize bolstering our Inclusive America portfolio in the coming year. This will include the launching of our first project under our Inclusive America pillar, a two-year

historical education and community memorialization project anchored in New Orleans, Louisiana. The project intends to apply a number of approaches to reclaiming narratives and supporting collective action across differences in Louisiana with the hope of generating evidence and tools that can have a multiplier effect amongst communities grappling with similar divides throughout the country. Under our American Resilience pillar, we will consolidate

gains made from over a year of grassroots mobilization and national advocacy to continue implementing community-based political violence prevention efforts. We have reached a strong phase in our STAR program and are positioned to take a successful pilot to a larger scale and explore further the role of grassroots faith leaders as unifiers and in using this as a model for intra-group work in addressing polarization. Furthermore, while our Resilient States project is currently funded for four states, we are prepared to expand into additional states. Finally, we are launching a new project to build resilience to conflict in digital spaces. We're equipping civil society leaders with tools to curb hateful content and broaden the reach of peacebuilding messages. We bring social media platforms in conversation with the grassroots and national leaders trying to bridge differences that are too often exacerbated online.

The Peace Impact Framework



For too long, the peacebuilding field has struggled to articulate our impact on conflict.

Why does this matter?

- 1. We don't know if we're making the right investments in peace.** Across the sector, we have struggled to develop a common language for understanding peace and how we measure it.
- 2. Practitioners get little say in setting strategies and standards.** And people affected most by conflict get even less say. We have reliable data, but little clarity on whether it is valid for people's lives and what they want to see change.
- 3. Donor reporting is the priority.** Evidence is focused on short-term project cycles and outputs instead of learning and accountability that may be required in dynamic conflict settings for long-term change.

We have a wealth of research, experience & input from a wide variety of experts across the world. We need an approach that harnesses that experience & expertise & creates a structure by which these people can interact & engage with each other so the evidence they are producing propels us forward.

Over the past 6 years, Search for Common Ground has consulted over 180 organizations and government agencies and 90 local research/practitioner organizations in 45 countries. We asked: what approaches made sense to them, what were the barriers to speaking to impact, and what they wanted to see change about evidence in our field.



The Peace Impact Framework

From these consultations, Search for Common Ground has developed a framework to better understand and articulate the impact of peacebuilding programs. This framework is built on 3 core pillars, across 5 key themes.

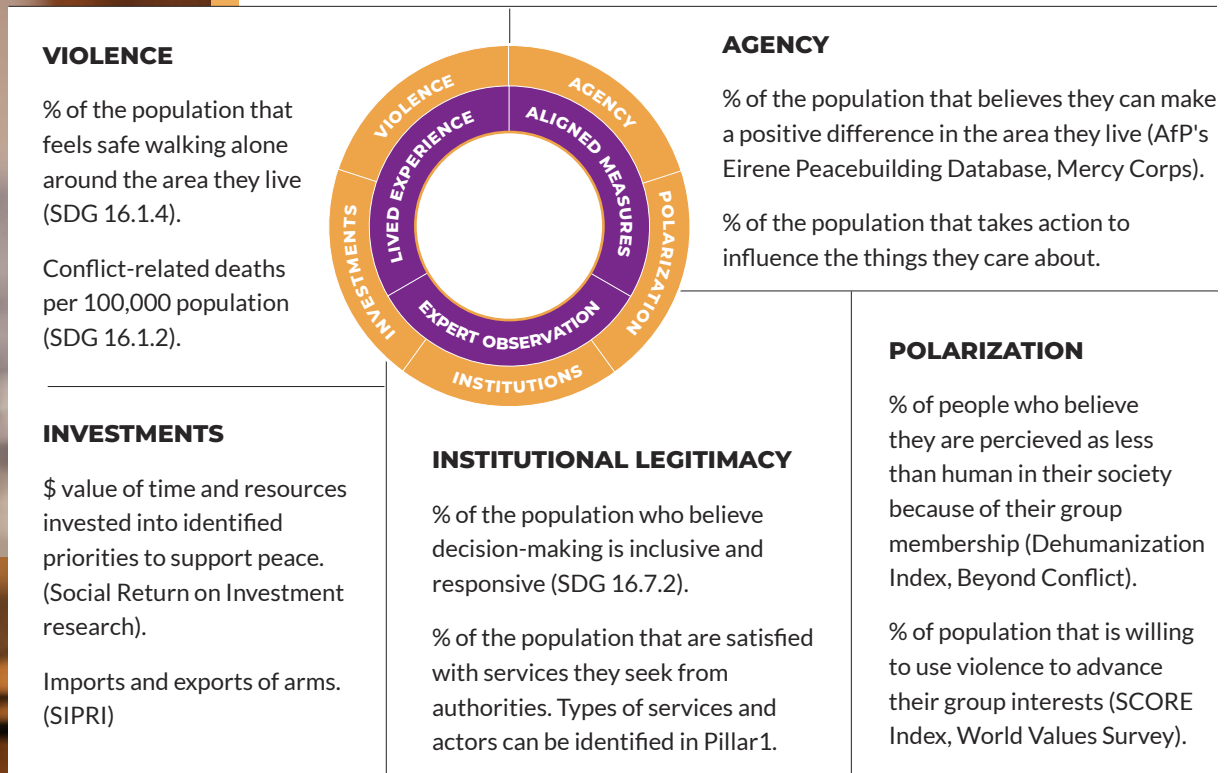


PILLAR 1:
Lived Experience

Violent conflict is constantly changing, and we need a structure that allows us to learn about conflicts from those who experience them. Peacebuilding programs need to be grounded in the needs of the communities with whom we work. This grounded accountability, allows us to design and implement programming that is context specific and directly meets the needs of the community.

PILLAR 2:
Aligned Measures

We need a starting point and a common base that can be tracked consistently to understand our engagement with peace.



PILLAR 3:
Expert Observation & Reflection

We need an adaptive system to identify new outcomes that can help us better determine the early and intermediate signs of progress. The process is about documenting the concrete changes taking place in a conflict in real time so that our field can identify relationships between actions and outcomes.

Right now, 70 local, national and international organizations across 30 countries are implementing the Peace Impact Framework in their work. Through this collaborative effort, we will be better able to develop a shared understanding and shared story of the impact of peacebuilding program.

The Peace Impact Framework in action:

Polarization

KENYA & NIGER

In the Lamu and Garissa Counties in Kenya, Search for Common Ground has been implementing programming to empower community leaders and relevant government counterparts to jointly address issues of radicalization and terrorist recruitment in at-risk areas. This programming has significantly reduced polarization in these counties, as demonstrated by the full participation of women in security matters and decision-making. Women have become the agents of change on matters related to violent extremism, which has greatly helped to strengthen collaboration and coordination not only amongst the community but also with security actors which has led to rapid responses to address violent extremist attacks and the implementation of prevention measures.

In Niger, training on the Common Ground Approach at Innovation Camps have strengthened the capacity and resilience of young people in potential conflict scenarios, while enabling them to develop communal action plans for



peacebuilding, social cohesion initiatives, and income-generating activities. These camps have helped to build trust and relationships between young people from different ethnic groups, as well as trust and relationships with the authorities. This improvement in trust and relationships between young people and their peers, alongside the authorities, supports the increased involvement of young people in the decision-making processes in their communities.



Agency

SRI LANKA



Post-war Sri Lanka has yet to recover from the effects of an ethno-political conflict, further impaired by the economic crisis, political turmoil, and the Covid-19 pandemic. Communities contend with unhealed scars of mistrust, unaddressed grievances, and widespread inequalities. They remain deeply divided along religious, ethnic, and linguistic identities, further polarized by other social, cultural, gendered, and economic factors. Women and girls face specific issues that hinder them from fully achieving their potential. Some of these barriers include low levels of political representation, inequalities in the labor market, lack of upward leadership mobility, imbalances in skills development, high rates of gender-based violence (GBV), and gendered social norms. These constraints have slowed down the overall growth of the nation.

Understanding this, alongside partner organizations, Search supported the establishment of District-level Women in Leadership and Learning (WILL) clubs in Kurunegala, Jaffna, and Ampara to work with tri-women leaders in politics, economics, and civil society. At the district level, women leaders attended training on how to

influence informal and formal political processes related to post-conflict peace, reconciliation, and economic development. The village-level training prioritized business skills and financial literacy to advance women's economic empowerment. After completing these training sessions, the clubs were requested to design and implement peacebuilding and economic development initiatives.

Following their participation in our training on leadership, a total of 35 action-oriented recommendations, public statements, and plans were presented in the council, which were produced by the elected women leaders in the local council in collaboration with constituents, community leaders, and CSOs. Women leaders now have increased agency, working more closely with their constituents to address their needs and enhancing the profile of women leaders within their constituencies.

Each village-level 'WILL' club has around 20 to 25 members, with 16 clubs across the country. To date, the project has engaged over 300 women who were trained and continue to benefit through WILL clubs.



Violence

NIGERIA

In Nigeria, Search for Common Ground has established Community Response Networks to reduce incidences of crop destruction and promote increased collaboration between local peace platforms and security actors.

In recent years, Nigeria has seen repeated and increasingly common instances of violent conflicts between farmers and herders. Both groups seek access to the region's fertile land, the former for crops and the latter for grazing and pasture. This dynamic is compounded by factors which have led to increased tensions over resources, including climate variability, environmental degradation, socio-political upheaval, and open-grazing prohibition laws that are viewed by herders as contrary to their interests. These conflicts, which started as low-level clashes confined to a few rural communities, have since spiraled into a deadly crisis that is inflaming ethno-religious hostilities locally and nationally. The Middle Belt region has numerous minority groups, which give it a heterogeneous, multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, and multi-linguistic character. This diversity has been manipulated and exploited by various actors within the conflict, including both farmers and herders, dividing communities along ethno-religious lines and disrupting the delicate ecosystem of diversity in the country.

Before the establishment of the Community Response Networks, there were a significant



number of Farmer-Herder clashes on the issues of crop destruction and night grazing. With the establishment of Community Response Networks, local communities began to take responsibility for resolving conflicts around Farmer-Herder clashes and this has resulted in an all-time reduction in night grazing and general crop destruction. This reduction is based on the implementation of shared laws and regulations, alongside the increased awareness of young herders on the dangers of night grazing and grazing during rainfall.

In a recent monitoring report, a participant shared: "Community Response Networks members have committed to making this community peaceful and with the work that we have done, farmers can go to sleep knowing that their farmlands are safe. Some farmers who were afraid of farming on some lands that are far from the communities have even gone ahead to till the soil as they feel peace has returned."



Institutional Legitimacy

JORDAN

Youth continue to be amongst the most marginalized groups in **Jordan** with unemployment and exclusion from decision making being two major challenges. The importance of addressing youth needs and increasing their participation in local and national governance became a central concern for Jordan notably with the deterioration of the situation following COVID-19. The National Youth Strategy (2019-2025) and the Kings' decree are two major steps taken to support young people and increase their presence in decision making.

Responding to this, Search for Common Ground implemented a project titled 'Promoting Constructive Relationships between Youth and Local Authorities in Jordan'. The overall objective of the project is to strengthen youth participation in local governance by developing their skills to collaborate and negotiate with local authority members in order to achieve positive change on community-level issues.

As a result of our programming, the perception of local authorities towards youth participants have positively and significantly improved, and vice versa, resulting in increased trust between local authorities and young people. Local authorities are now aware of the value of engaging young people within their respective municipalities/ ministries, and this has increased the legitimacy of the local authorities.





Investments

LEBANON

Lebanon is witnessing a political and economic crisis that has been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result, Lebanese and non-Lebanese residents are facing one of the most difficult periods since the end of the Lebanese Civil War in 1990. As a result, prolonged periods of isolation, economic insecurity, social unrest, and restricted access to medical and social services have deepened power inequalities and created the opportunity for violence against women and girls (VAWG) to continue and for new forms to occur. Findings from research conducted in 2020 indicate that online sexual harassment and blackmailing of women nearly doubled during the Covid19 lockdown in Lebanon.

Mass media and social media can play a transformative role in societies in bringing attention to gender, women, and girls' issues and influencing public opinion on gender related matters, such as sexual and gender based violence (SGBV). Search for Common Ground implemented a series of activities that targeted the media professionals including coaching sessions and several training sessions on the Common Ground Approach, gender, and media for social change. Following these activities, participants were requested to write film proposals based on their new knowledge and experiences garnered from the training and site visits. After attending all the training and coaching sessions, the film students proposed thirteen scenarios of which

Search for Common Ground and ABAAD selected five for funding which addressed a variety of social issues contributing to SGBV. The content produced was highlighted by all actors as strong and positive starting points in shifting societal attitudes towards gender, VAWG, and SGBV in communities in Lebanon.

Following the production of this content, as a result of the increased visibility and awareness of their work through this project, participants were able to access further investment and funding opportunities to support their work.





Leadership

The Global Leaders of Search for Common Ground

Shamil Idriss

Chief Executive Officer

Marjorie Newman-Williams

President

Charline Burton

Executive Director, Search Belgium

Rebecca Besant

Executive Director, Preemptive Love Coalition

Lena Slachmuis

Executive Director, Digital Peacebuilding

Nealin Parker

Executive Director, Common Ground USA

Mike Jobbins

Vice President, Global Affairs and Partnerships

Wasim Khan

Vice President, Finance

Jacqueline Oburu

Vice President, People and Culture

Michael Shipler

Vice President, Strategy and Program Quality

Naglaa Elhag

Regional Director Middle East and North Africa

Rajendra Mulmi

Regional Director, Asia

Maxwell Saungweme

Regional Director, Central and East Africa

Adrienne Lemon

Senior Director, Strategy Alignment

Beatrice Abouya

Interim Regional Director for West Africa

Sharon Rosen

Global Director of Religious Engagement

Jean-Michel Texier

Global Director, IT

Lakshitha Saji Prelis

Director, Children & Youth Programs

Jack Farrell

Director, Communications

Kara Schectman

Director, Marketing

Maritza Mejia

Director, Development

Global Board of Directors

As of July 1, 2023

Adam Berrey

Board Chair

Lesly Black

Philanthropist

Kathleen Cravero

Adjunct Professor, CUNY School Of Public Health
Former Assistant Secretary General For Conflict Prevention And Recovery, UNDP

Abigail E. Disney

Filmmaker, Philanthropist, Activist

Timothy Feige

Former Senior Vice President And International Insurance Group Executive, Prudential International Insurance

Laurie Franz

President, Five Together Foundation

Isameldein "Isam" Ghanim

President, Childfund

Jeremy S. Goldberg

President, Leagueapps

Sarah (Sally) G. Green

Former Chief Executive Officer, Richmond Federal Reserve

Genghis Hadi

Co-Founder And Managing Principal, Nahla Capital

Shamil Idriss*

CEO, Search for Common Ground

* Ex-Officio Member

UK Board of directors

As of July 1, 2023

Lisa Kadin

Philanthropist

Karen Karniol-Tambour

Co-Chief Investment Officer For
Sustainability, Bridgewater

Laurie Michaels

Founder, Open Road Alliance

Jason “Propaganda” Petty

Poet, Political Activist, Husband,
Father, Academic & Emcee

Elizabeth Riker

Senior Partner, New Profit
Innovation Fund

Ingrid Stange

Founder and Chair,
Partnership For Change
and the Pfc Social Innovation Fund

Shamil Idriss

CEO, Search for Common Ground

Jeremy Purvis

Member Of The House Of Lords

Rebecca Timms

Professional Support Lawyer

Zander Woollcombe

Director, Woollcombe Consulting

Belgium Board Of Directors

As of July 1, 2023

Sandra Melone (chairwoman)

President & Founder, Neagu
Djuvara Cultural Association

Patrick De Wolf

Managing Partner
Daldewolf

Shamil Idriss

CEO
Search for Common Ground

Dirk-Jan Koch

Chief Science Officer, Ministry of
Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands

Dr. Alexandros Spachis

Ambassador Of the
European Union (Ret.),
Secretary General, European Business
Council For Africa & The Mediterranean

Ingrid Stange

Founder and Chair of Partnership
for Change and the Pfc
Social Innovation Fund

Financial Breakdown

AS OF DEC 31, 2022

All amounts in this report are stated in USD unless otherwise noted.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31	2022	2021
ASSETS		
Cash	9,515,626	4,878,185
Grants and contracts receivable	4,201,377	5,249,353
Advances and other receivables	1,345,255	389,801
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	485,360	0
Total current assets	2,031,814	11,050,852
FIXED ASSETS		
Furniture and fixtures	226,393	226,393
Office equipment	1,396,775	1,361,220
Software and computer equipment	145,475	145,475
Website	-	338,191
Vehicles	24,925	35,785
Less: Accumulated depreciation and amortization	(1,769,534)	(1,991,567)
FIXED ASSETS, NET	24,034	115,497
Operating lease right-of-use assets	927,004	-
Deposits	106,808	154,918
TOTAL ASSETS	16,605,464	13,687,022

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	917,965	817,954
Other accrued expenses	1,891,669	2,456,465
Other liabilities	408,061	643,315
Refundable advances	7,954,082	7,214,940
Line of credit	200,000	-
Related party promissory note	-	421,910
Due to SFCG Affiliate	523,534	2,132,438
Operating lease liability	931,963	-
Total liabilities	12,827,274	13,687,022

COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

NET ASSETS		
Without donor restrictions	2,778,190	2,904,601
With donor restrictions	1,000,000	85,116
Total net assets	3,778,190	2,989,717
Total liabilities and net assets	5,671,077	11,628,869

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

Year Ended December 31, 2022	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
REVENUE AND SUPPORT			
Grant and contract revenue	37,350,696	-	37,350,696
Contributions	1,268,848	400,000	1,668,848
Other revenue	44,621	-	44,621
Interest	1,829	-	1,829
Net assets released from donor restrictions	350,000	(350,000)	-
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT	39,015,994	50,000	39,065,994
EXPENSES			
Program services:			
Africa programs	16,808,337	-	16,808,337
Asia programs	5,326,316	-	5,326,316
MENA programs	6,173,721	-	6,173,721
Global programs	6,126,517	-	6,126,517
TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES	34,434,891		34,434,891
SUPPORTING SERVICES:			
Management and general	5,663,137	-	5,663,137
Fundraising	1,527,954	-	1,527,954
Total supporting services	7,191,091	-	7,191,091
TOTAL EXPENSES	41,625,982	-	41,625,982
Change in net assets before non-operating activity	(2,609,988)	50,000	(2,559,988)
NON-OPERATING ACTIVITY			
Foreign exchange loss	(282,900)	-	(282,900)
Change in net assets	(2,892,887)	50,000	(2,842,887)
Net assets without donor restrictions, beginning of the year	5,671,077	950,000	6,621,077
NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS, END OF THE YEAR	2,778,190	1,000,000	3,778,190

Thank You to our Donors!

The work of search for common ground and its affiliates are made possible through the support of:

\$1 - \$999

Anonymous
Robin and Joel Abrams
Linda Adams
Anne Adams
Leslie Agorastos
Naseer Ahmad
Jeremy Allaire
Kajal Amar
John and Sharon Amdall
Randi Amoroso
Bob and Peggy Anderson
Sandra Anderson
Therese Anderson
Carolyne Ashton
Malcolm Avant
David Ayers
Gladys Baker
Francis Barany
Caroline Barns
Richard Barron
Leo Bartoli
Perry Beider
Human Being
Sarah Beller
Dorris Bender
Charles and Trudy Berman
Linda Betch
David Bigelow
Maria Birger
Albert Bodaski
Deborah Boehler
Ida M. Boswell
Marie Boyko
Werner Brandes
Deanne Brewster
Natalie Brody
Alexandra Brown
Patricia Brown
David Bryant
Mary Bullock
Mark Butler
Molly Byock
Pat Byram
Zarrin Caldwell
Nancy Callender
Bradley Carlson
Patrick Casey
Christina Chambreau
Virginia A. Chappell
Mary Beth Charters
Kenneth Chase
Laura Chenel
Mary-Faeth Chenery
Laura Chertock
Len and Phyllis Chorazy

Silvia Cini
Anthony Clark
Arla Clouser
Judith Cohen
Sheila Cohen
Norman Cohn
Ed Colby
Massimiliano Colonna
Patricia Coon
Kelly Cregan
Catherine Cretu
Roland Damon
Oliver and Roxanne Davidson
Cynthia Davis
Jim Davis
Billie Day
Francis Dettloff
Tracy Dexter
Eddys Disla
Sue Douglas
Brian Dunn
Lyle Eagan
Robert Fersh
Peg Finger
Jerry Folk
Mark Forry
Craig Forsman
Donald Frazier
David M. Frey
Dorothy Fuchsman
Margaret Fulton
Elizabeth Gadinsky
Benjamin Gass
Jefferson Gee
James C. Geist
Joseph and Barbara Gerstein
Christina Glavas
Charles J. Goedken
John Good
Nelson Goodman
Devin Green
Peter Green
Brian Greenberg
William Greene
Allen and Jane Grossman
John Grossman and Kate
Olmsted
Patricia Guarrera
Anne Gunderson and Paul
Dunlap
Charles and Susan Halpern
Diana Hammer
Robert Hammond
Annette Hampton
Edwin Hann
Brenda Hantman

Jamie Harmon
Sharlene Harris
David and Jan Hartsough
Will Hellmich
Rebecca Henderson
Sigrid Hepp-Dax
Dianne Herrick
Jill Hertzberg
Mary Hill
F. M. Holdeman
Gregory Holt
Pat Hoover
Gillian Huebner
Jennifer Huebner
Sheldon Hughes
Tricia Idrobo
Gretchen Ingram
Andrew Isaacs
Christine Isaacs
Caroline Isber and Peter Reuter
Julie Issa
Doris James
David Jamrog
Don and Joan Jobbins
Charles Johnson
Charles Johnson
Haakon Jonasen
Dorothy Justice
John Kalina
Dale Kasten
Sherman Katz
Adrienne Kaufmann
Michael Keenan
Douglas Kenyon
Mahsheed Khajavi
Edward Kimmel
Jeff Kincheloe
Heather Kirby and Heather
Scott
Pam Kirby
Alan Kirk
Kris Krause
Winanne Kreger Dunne and
Tom Dunne
Rosalie Kriebel
Ana Krieg
Patricia Langon
Joan LaRosa
Nenad Lazic
Joyce Leader
Polly and Andy Leaf
Victoria LePou
Harry Lerner
Mary and Bob Levering
Philip and Lynn Lilienthal
Leonard Linde

Yan Liu
Lynne Lombardo
Carolyn Long
Liz Lowenstein
Barbara Lowrey
Karme Lynn
Jane Mackenzie
Peggy MacKnight
Bonnie MacLeod
Narahari Mahadevan
Debby Maio and Chuck
Feinstein
Linnea Mandell
Andrea Markowicz
Jorg Maniewski Marman
Rabbi Steven Mason
Jim Matlack
Colleen Mayberry
Jean McBean
Laurie McCann
John McCloughry
Cam and Jeff McKinley
Ryan McKinny
Christy McMurren
Danah Mead
Peggy Megivern
Joslyn Meier and Nir Jacoby
Barbara Meislin
Daniel Miller
Jim and Martha Miller
Barbara Monick
Dee Montgomery
Susan Morikawa
Suzanne Mullar
Daniel Munter
Cheri Murray
Mark Nadel
Myra Nagel
Martha Nesbitt
Lillian V. Ney
Tam Nguyen
Elaine Norris
Betty Nussman
Jacqueline B. Oburu
Dennis O'Connor
Jean Owen
Bonney Parker
Dolores Phillips
James Pittleman
Stephen Pogust
Jeremy Pollack
Wilda Postel
Thomas Potter
Carol and Doug Powell
Cathy Rabin
Cynthia Radol

Iris Raith
Jeffrey Ratz
Thomas Reckford
Cynthia Reimel
Judy Robinson
Patrick Roohan
Brian Roseman
Joseph Rosenstein
Michael Roth
Marty Rowland
Richard Rubenstein
Jean Ruffin
Diane Russell
Jane Russo
Ellen C. Ryker
Stephen Sachs
Monique Schoen Warshaw
Chris Schoenhofer
Derek Schubert
Cole Schubert
Patricia Schubert
Susan Schwartz
Joy Scott
Joie Seldon
Tal Septon
Pat Shanahan
Ayo Oum Shanti
Deanna Shapiro
M. Shapiro
Daninel Sheinis
Lynne Siegfried
Fanchon and Manuel
Silberstein
Matthew Simonson
Mary Siwik
Teri Sklar
Marjorie Slachmuylder
Richard Smallwood
Donald Smith
Thomas Snow
Wayne Sobon
Michael Soto
Gracita Soyemi
Daniel Spencer
Sue S. Spencer
James Sprague
Joanne Sprague
Catherine Springer
Jackie and Mike Spurlock
Beatrice Steinman
Duane Stevens
Marilyn Stinson
Gordon Stoppel
Donna Stormer
Mary and Gerard Swope
Deborah Tannen

Kate Thompson
Evelyn Thornton
Amy and Alex Tirion
Daniel Tirrell
Louis Torres
William True
Charles Ullman
Aaryn Urell
Roxann and Michael Van Dusen
Linda K. Vazquez
Marilyn Vollmer
Victoria Vorotyntseva
William Walker
Linda Walter
Bradley K. Warren
Margaret Weatherly
Norman E. Weir
Lauren and Andrew Weisenfeld
Marcia Wharton
Mia Whitfield
Christopher Whytock
Judith Williams
Richard Williamson and Estelle
Ford-Williamson
Zander Willoughby
Suzanne Wolff
Nancy Wrenn
Alex Young
Barbara Young
Jocelyn Young
Manly Zimmerman
Brian Zisk
Craig ZumBrunnen
AmazonSmile
Artisan Dental
Blackbaud Giving Fund
Felician Sisters of North
America
IBM Employee Services Center
Johnson & Johnson Matching
Gifts Program
Network for Good
Outdoor Art Club
Pratt King Family Fund
US Charitable Gift Trust

\$1,000 - \$4,999 _____

Anita Altman and Gil Kulick
Kathy Barry and Bob Burnett
Eric, Julia, and Ella Berger
John Calder
Barbara Cannella
Connie Clarke
Bruce Conrad

Robert and Barbara Constable
Scott Cooper
Kathleen Cravero
Risto Cretan
Warren F. Davis
Pamela and John DiCola
Susie Dillon
Linda Fentiman and Arthur
Levine
Constance J. Freeman
Edward Friedman
Lori Gadkari
Susan Gibson and Mark
Bergman
Richard Glenn
Melanie Greenberg
Adele Grunberg
Genghis Hadi
Jo Anne Hart
Martin Hellman
Robert Hertzberg
Virginia Hughes and Cecily
Cahill
Havva S. Idriss
Gloria Joseph
Jonathan Kempner
Monib Khademi
Priscilla Kirby
Susan and Stan Krcmar
Matthew Kromer
The Lander Family
Ann Ludwig
Tom and Elizabeth Manley
Krishen Mehta
George Moose and Judith
Kaufmann Moose
John and Debra Mullins
Lori Roth
Linda and Ken Schatz
David Shochat
Cathrine Steck
Penny Tannenbaum and
Michael Aronson
Paul Wexelblat
Jill Wharton
Nicholas D. Wolfson
Jennifer and Jay Wood
Randy and Cathy Wright
Sandra Yarrington
Combined Federal Campaign
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
Miller Charitable Fund
The Shift Network

\$5,000 - \$24,999 _____

Adam Berrey and Betul Cam
Michael Emmerman and
Patricia Stockhausen
Shamil Idriss and Cynthia
Miller-Idriss
Carrie Jones-Barber
Carol S. Langensand
James Meier and Judith
Edelstein
Paul Russo
Peter Shapiro and Bryna Linett
David Silberman
Nikki Stern
Sarah Wigglesworth and Asiff
Hirji
Brodsky Family Foundation
Riker Annual Giving Fund
Robert Wood Johnson
Foundation

\$25,000 - \$99,999 _____

Marcel and Cynda Arsenault
Lesly Black and Shmuel Meitar
Tom and Mary Cooper
Timothy and Anna May Feige
Doug and Kaisa Levine
Daniel and Michelle Lubetzky
Sczerina Perot and Gary
DiBianco
Jane Toll
The Fine & Greenwald
Foundation, Inc.

\$100,000+ _____

Abigail Disney
Fred Matser



FOUNDATIONS, GIVING PROGRAMS, AND CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

Anglo Gold Ashanti
Beckton, Dickinson and Company
Bezos Family Foundation
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
The Carnegie Corporation of New York
Charles Koch Institute
The David and Louise Packard Foundation
GHR Foundation
Humanity United
John Pritzker Family Foundation
Klarman Family Foundation
Lubetzky Family Foundation
Patrip Foundation
Porticus
Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors
Skoll Foundation
Tides Foundation
Trademark East Africa
Trusted Elections Fund

THE GOVERNMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES OF:


Australia
Belgium
Canada
Denmark
The European Union
Finland
France
Germany
The Netherlands
Norway
Qatar
Sweden
Switzerland
The United Kingdom
The United States of America

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND TECHNICAL PARTNERS:

Action Contre la Faim (ACF)
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)
Altair Asesores
The American Bar Initiative
The Anti-Defamation League
Cardno
Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE)
Center for Mind-Body Medicine
CDA Collaborative Learning
Chemonics
Cordaid
Education Above All
Education Development Center
Expertise France International
FHI 360
The 50/50 Group
Freedom House
GIZ
Green / EFA Group
Ifrikyia Center for Common Ground
IREX
Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)
The International Republican Institute
The International Rescue Committee
The Jo Cox Foundation
John Snow Inc. (JSI)
Kindernothilfe
King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Center for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID)
Management Systems International
Mensen met een Missie
National Democratic Institute
NORC at the University of Chicago
Norwegian Refugee Council
Plan International
Purdue University
Social Impact
Talking Drum Studio
U.S. Institute of Peace
World Vision

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND FUNDS:

European Union Trust Fund for the Sahel
Food and Agriculture Organization
The International Organization for Migration
U.N. Alliance of Civilizations
U.N. Development Program
U.N. Peacebuilding Fund
U.N. Women
UNESCO
UNFPA
UNHCR
UNICEF
UNISFA
World Food Program



In 2022 Search for Common Ground opened new offices in Somalia and Uzbekistan. These are important milestones, opening new opportunities for Search for Common Ground's work in Central Asia and the Horn of Africa. We are looking forward to opening a new office in Benin, Mozambique and Chad in 2023, and Ivory Coast and Guatemala in 2024 from where we can extend our footprint and tackle the most challenging conflicts of the world.

We will continue to innovate and evolve. Year after year we strive to strengthen our professionalism and our impact - all this without losing sight of our core values such as the human interaction with the participants of our programs and the wellbeing of our staff. Putting collaboration at the heart of all our activities we will keep centering our work on unlocking the power of youth in conflict settings, tackling the online spread of disinformation and engaging with religious actors. In 2023, the Peace Impact Framework will remain at the center of our work, and we will keep collaborating with the peacebuilding community, academics, and policy-makers to measure the impact of our work and the value of peacebuilding investments.

**LOOKING FORWARD
PERSPECTIVES F**



**WARD:
FOR THE FUTURE**





Report on integrity

Integrity and respect are core values for us. We foster an organizational culture based on respect and accountability. It's what makes us credible, trustworthy partners in communities around the globe. It's what enables each one of us to do our job with integrity. At all times, we strive to create an environment where abuse and harassment are absolutely not tolerated. We protect victims as well as witnesses, so that they feel comfortable coming forward with reports. We commit to investigating breaches of our Code of Conduct seriously and transparently. We condemn any form of attack on integrity (abuse, fraud, corruption) both within our organization and among partners or in the context of interventions that we finance.

The Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Training are required elements of each Search's onboarding. In addition, refresher courses about key topics are released each year. In 2022, 81% of Search's global staff completed an online Code of Conduct Refresher course. A Code of Conduct acknowledgement and Conflict of Interest disclosures are collected from staff annually, when they are also reminded of Search's commitment and options for raising any concerns.

We are a signatory to the Integrity Charter of the Belgian Development Cooperation Sector. The Charter contains important basic principles on how organizations should work on maintaining their integrity. This includes having an ethical code, organizing courses on integrity, having an anonymous reporting system and contact persons designated to report any integrity violations. The integrity Charter emphasizes the importance of both financial as well as moral integrity. Search is committed to this Integrity Charter and to an organization-wide culture of integrity. We provide the necessary support, help, training, tools and procedures to achieve this.



Search for
Common Ground

1730 Rhode Island Ave. NW,
Suite 1101
Washington, DC 20036
USA

Rue Belliard 205 bte 13,
B-1040,
Brussels
BELGIUM



Peace Ambassador

Boubacar, a young farmer from Tchintabariden in the Tahoua region of Niger, created a gardening cooperative to revitalize the agricultural sector in this primarily pastoral region. When the government relocated the cooperative to a 20-hectare site, shared with another cooperative, tensions arose. *“We had another way of working.”* As time passed, mutual incomprehension increasingly strained their cohabitation, exacerbated by a growing lack of water. *“The water was no longer sufficient for the 20 hectares. So we formed a union and proposed to work together on 6 hectares and share the profits.”* But mutual mistrust hindered the cooperative’s

progress. Boubacar found himself in a difficult situation, torn between his cooperative and his family ties with members of the other cooperative. As a result, members of his cooperative accused him of favoritism when he tried to mitigate conflicts.

Search addressed both relational and structural issues. As water was at the heart of the community’s needs and a source of conflict, the project addressed this challenge first.

“Search replaced the pumps, allowing for the supply of the 20 hectares. They also fenced off the plot to protect



“Water was a problem for the whole community, and people blamed the authorities for not solving it. But the dialogues highlighted the efforts made. It calmed the community and inspired other young people to become peace ambassadors.”

it from livestock and equipped it with solar panels,” Boubacar adds.

Boubacar received furthermore other valuable tools. He teamed up with the other cooperative’s leader to become a peace ambassador, receiving training in conflict transformation and mediation. Together, they learned to identify and analyze the causes and triggers of conflicts, implement preventive actions, and transform conflicts peacefully. With these new skills, the two cooperative leaders joined forces to sensitize their members to conflict transformation and the importance of dialogue. *“This has helped*

to clarify things and to divide the tasks. This allowed us to set up collaborative frameworks like a site management and maintenance committee.” These efforts have spread beyond the farm, with the peace ambassadors scaling up their efforts to include the entire community. *“Water was a problem for the whole community, and people blamed the authorities for not solving it. But the dialogues highlighted the efforts made. It calmed the community and inspired other young people to become peace ambassadors.”*



Placeholder for stats

OUR WORK IN NUMBERS

