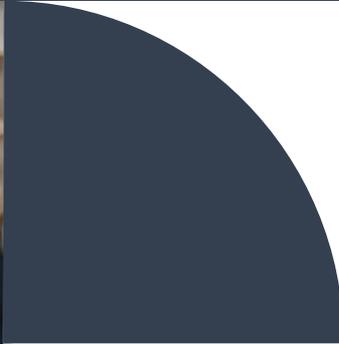




2022

ANNUAL REPORT





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Abbreviations



ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AU-IFDF	African Union Interfaith Dialogue Forum
ECOSOCC	African Union Commission Economic, Social and Cultural Council
ECRL	European Council of Religious Leaders
EPDF	European Policy Dialogue Forum
EuLeMa	European Muslim Leaders' Majlis
IDFP	Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace
IPDC	Interreligious Platform for Dialogue and Cooperation in the Arab World
JLI	Joint Learning Initiative on Faith & Local Communities
KAICIID	The International Dialogue Centre - KAICIID
MINUSCA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic
MJLC	Muslim Jewish Leadership Council
PaRD	Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development
PCRC	Plateforme des Confessions Religieuses de Centrafrique
RfP	Religions for Peace
RJSC	Réseau des Journalistes Sensibles aux Conflits [Network of Conflict-sensitive Journalists]
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UPEACE	University for Peace
WOSM	World Organization of the Scout Movement



2022

ANNUAL REPORT

About the International Dialogue Centre – KAICIID



Council of Parties

Austria, Saudi Arabia, Spain and the Holy See as a Founding Observer



Mission and vision

MISSION

A unique mandate with a mission to promote dialogue to foster respect among cultures and religions

VISION

A world in which there is respect, understanding and cooperation among people; justice, peace and reconciliation; and an end to the abuse of religion to justify repression, violence and conflict



Impact of our work

7,000+

DIALOGUE PRACTITIONERS TRAINED

450+

FELLOWS GRADUATED FROM 86 COUNTRIES

5

DIALOGUE PLATFORMS ESTABLISHED AROUND THE WORLD

6

INTERRELIGIOUS NETWORKS ESTABLISHED AND SUPPORTED

14

ACTIVE COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



5

MAJOR RELIGIONS REPRESENTED ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- Buddhism
- Christianity
- Hinduism
- Islam
- Judaism



What we do



WE BUILD CAPACITY

Teaching dialogue is at the forefront of many KAICIID programmes. Through the E-Learning Programme and the International Fellows Programme, and partnership with the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM), we work with dialogue experts around the world to give people the tools to mainstream dialogue in their communities.



WE CONVENE

As a convener, KAICIID establishes and supports interreligious networks and dialogue platforms around the globe, and hosts conferences, local workshops and other fora. We bring together religious leaders and policymakers to promote dialogue as a fundamental aspect of policymaking aimed at tackling global problems such as COVID-19, climate change, inequality and poverty. Through our work, we aim to recognise and promote the invaluable contributions of religious communities to peace and development, and to work with them to solve global challenges.

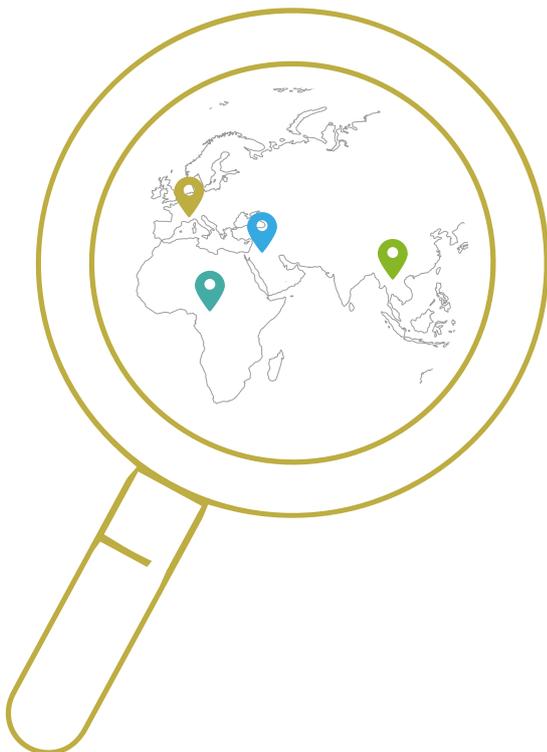


WE WORK REGIONALLY

Whether it is due to religious differences or conflict over land or resources, dialogue is essential in jointly overcoming challenges. KAICIID programmes promote social cohesion through dialogue in communities around the world. We build platforms where sustained dialogue can take place in conflict-prone situations and societies in Africa, the Arab region, Asia and Europe.



Where we work



INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE INITIATIVES:



AFRICA

Supported the Réseau des Journalistes Sensibles aux Conflits (Network of Conflict-sensitive Journalists, RJSC) and the Plateforme des Confessions Religieuses de Centrafrique (PCRC) in the Central African Republic, and established the Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace (IDFP) and the Network of Policymakers and Religious Leaders to Support Reconciliation, Peace and Security in Nigeria.



ARAB REGION

Launched the Interreligious Platform for Dialogue and Cooperation in the Arab World (IPDC), the Network for Religious Christian and Muslim Faculties and Institutes in the Arab World, and the Social Media Regional Network.



ASIA

Supported and strengthened the Paungsie Metta Initiatives.



EUROPE

Established the Muslim Jewish Leadership Council (MJLC), supported the European Muslim Leaders' Majlis (EuLeMa), and launched the Network for Dialogue.

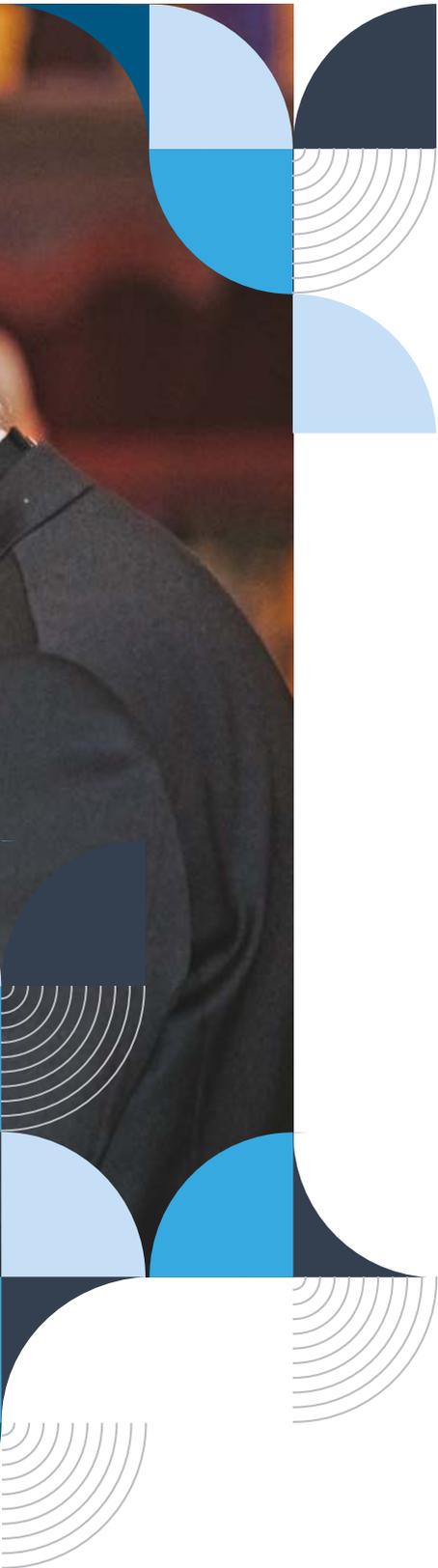
Dr. Zuhair Alharthi
Secretary General
The International Dialogue Centre – KAICIID



Foreword



In 2022, KAICIID relocated to its new home in Lisbon, Portugal, I began my term as Secretary General, and we celebrated the Centre’s tenth anniversary. Over the course of a decade, the Centre’s efforts in dialogue have underpinned sustainable peace processes, championed the work of the United Nations, supported global agendas on sustainable development, and promoted human rights and gender equality worldwide.



Our ideals – dialogue, respect, understanding, cooperation, justice, peace and reconciliation – are beacons for a better world.

Our networks and platforms operate in some of the world's most fragile conflict and crisis contexts.

In the Arab region, where communities have been rocked by instability and violent extremism, we are training journalists to combat hate speech and equipping women and youth with peacebuilding and mediation skills.

In the Central African Republic, platform leaders are mediating between political and armed groups to de-escalate tensions caused by the constitutional review process.

In Nigeria, religious leaders are fearlessly negotiating peace amid increased attacks and kidnappings by bandit and extremist groups, and clashes between farmers and livestock herders.

In many of these conflicts, religion has been an important identity marker that cannot be left out of peace processes. Religious leaders and actors are well positioned to use dialogue to diffuse intercommunal tensions.

When conflict does erupt, driving refugees to distant shores, the KAICIID Europe programme and the European Policy Dialogue Forum (EPDF) bring together the best and brightest faith-based organizations, academics and policy-makers to ensure policies on integration are inclusive and promote social cohesion. This is reinforced by the work of the European Muslim Leaders' Majlis (EuLeMa) and the Muslim Jewish Leadership Council (MJLC), which is advancing pluralism and respect for religious traditions in Europe.

Spreading dialogue to every corner of the world has been fundamental to the KAICIID vision. We have trained thousands of practitioners worldwide. This includes our Asia programme, which is equipping the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) officials to use interreligious and intercultural dialogue in peacebuilding and conflict resolution in the south and southeast Asia region.

The flagship International Fellows Programme – an ongoing capacity-building and networking programme designed to cultivate a network of leaders committed to fostering peace in their communities – has hosted 22 international and regional cohorts, with over 450 participants from 86 countries and 11 religions.

KAICIID also offers thematic webinars; a digital networking platform, Connect2Dialogue, which connects interreligious dialogue practitioners from across the globe; and 28 e-learning courses that train and inspire hundreds of religious actors, dialogue practitioners and policymakers worldwide.

The courses are practical and address challenges such as teaching religious actors how to further the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Many include the input of partners such as the Institut Superior de Ciències Religioses de Barcelona, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the University for Peace (UPEACE).

This is but a tiny snapshot of the work that KAICIID has carried out over the past decade. It makes me extraordinarily hopeful and excited about what we can accomplish together in the future. May we walk forward together in the spirit of dialogue.

Dr. Zuhair Alharthi
Secretary General
The International Dialogue Centre – KAICIID



CHAPTER 1

A decade in dialogue: celebrating 10 years of KAICIID



Since the launch of KAICIID on 26 November 2012, its mandate has been clear: to foster dialogue among and between religions and cultures.



Yet, as the past decade has illustrated, building capacity for understanding and peaceful coexistence is a complicated endeavour – imbued with urgency, but permeated by immense opportunity and challenging complexity.

Hundreds of examples from the past decade illustrate the convening and collaborative power of KAICIID. A few in particular have shaped the nature of its work.

In 2013, after signing a memorandum of understanding with WOSM, KAICIID developed the Dialogue for Peace programme, which provided Scouts with the skills to participate in dialogue processes and serve as agents for positive change in their communities.

In 2015, KAICIID launched its flagship International Fellows Programme, which has welcomed over 450 Fellows from 86 countries and 11 religions. Fellows are selected based on their ability to advance interreligious dialogue in their institutions and communities. To date, they have implemented over 500 dialogue initiatives, which have impacted over 300,000 people.

In 2016, seven Jewish and seven Muslim leaders met at the former KAICIID headquarters in Vienna, Austria to found MJLC, which has played a critical role in addressing issues such as Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and xenophobia in Europe.

Recognising the important role played by religious leaders in combating hate speech and preventing violence, KAICIID helped draft the United Nations Plan of Action for Religious Leaders and Actors to Prevent Incitement to Violence that Could Lead to Atrocity Crimes (the Fez Plan). This was launched by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres in 2017.

In 2018, KAICIID was elected co-chair of the Multifaith Advisory Council to the United Nations Interagency Task Force on Religion and Sustainable Development.¹ In 2019, the Centre collaborated on another landmark document – the Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites launched by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations.

In 2020, KAICIID hosted an online conference to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations and the role of faith in advancing Agenda 2030 and the 17 SDGs. Also in 2020, the Centre co-hosted the seventh annual G20 Interfaith Forum in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, which provided a platform for religious leaders to engage on global agendas related to the G20 Leaders' Summit. The five-day conference welcomed 2,000 guests from over 90 countries.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, as the need for digital tools and training grew, KAICIID expanded its offerings through its E-Learning Programme, formerly the Dialogue Knowledge Hub. The Centre launched Connect2Dialogue – an online networking platform that fosters best practices and knowledge exchange by connecting interreligious dialogue practitioners, experts and other stakeholders around the world.

KAICIID has learned many important lessons from its efforts to spread the transformative power of dialogue to every corner of the world.

In areas of Nigeria affected by conflict, KAICIID learned that sustainable peace cannot be achieved without addressing the root causes of violence. Thanks to its partnership with the IDFP, the Centre set up effective local interfaith dialogue units.

Through its work in the Arab region and the collaborative launch of the IPDC, KAICIID grasped the vital importance of partnering with grassroots organizations. Projects such as She for Dialogue emphasise that sustainable peace is impossible

¹ Originally, the Interagency Task Force on Engaging Faith-based Actors for Sustainable Development.



without women, and more platforms are needed to empower women’s leadership and ensure their perspectives are included in peace processes.

In Asia and Europe, KAICIID learned to build trust and confidence between policymakers and religious communities by fostering opportunities to exchange ideas and develop policy recommendations. For example, the KAICIID-established Network for Dialogue convenes grassroots faith-based and secular organizations to address issues of social inclusion of refugees and migrants through dialogue.

KAICIID identified the media as a strategic dialogue partner. In the Central African Republic, the Centre founded the Réseau des Journalistes Sensibles aux Conflits (Network of Conflict-sensitive Journalists, RJSC) to promote ethical reporting, combat hate speech and reduce conflict. In the Arab region, the Centre launched the Media for Peace project, which includes the Dialogue Journalism Fellowship and the Media Dialogue Forum to create a culture of dialogue and peacebuilding within the media.





KAICIID has institutionalised a culture of learning by implementing strategic evaluations aimed at organizational improvement. Its results-based management principles and approaches complement, inform, guide and improve the self-evaluations conducted by the programmes themselves.

As KAICIID looks to the future and settles into Lisbon, Portugal, it understands how vital it is to build on past successes, knowledge and relationships.

Looking back on the past 10 years, KAICIID celebrates the lives and communities it has helped transform and looks forward to continuing its work with renewed effort towards greater visibility, innovation, expanded mobilisation and impact.





CHAPTER 2

Multilateralism and external relations



In July 2022, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres encouraged the international community to strengthen multilateralism as the only sustainable path to achieving peace and meeting development agendas. The work of KAICIID is tied first and foremost to global development agendas such as Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, which tackle economic, social and environmental issues. The Centre believes that dialogue is vital to restoring multilateralism and getting global development agendas back on track.

In 2022, the new KAICIID leadership reaffirmed the importance of partnerships at the global, regional and local grassroots levels. The new leadership and host country set out a new phase for the Centre, laying the foundation for a more strategic external relations approach.

KAICIID draws much of its value from its unique ability to bring together individuals and organizations who otherwise might never engage with each other, such as religious leaders and policymakers. This is evident in the institutional makeup of KAICIID as the only intergovernmental organization governed by a multireligious board of directors alongside representatives from Member States who comprise the Council of Parties. Multilateralism is the foundation of the KAICIID external engagement strategy – as an organisational objective and operationally, through cooperation with States, international, local and faith-based organizations.

KAICIID brings together policymakers and religious leaders through its involvement with the advisory committee of the G20 Interfaith Forum, the leadership council of the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith & Local Communities (JLI), the steering group of the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, and maintaining membership in the steering group for the Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development (PaRD).

In 2022, as a member of the steering group, KAICIID actively participated in the PaRD Annual Forum on Religion and Sustainable Development to consider how faith leaders can help the international community to address the growing climate crisis. The Annual Forum, organised in cooperation with the Indonesian Ministry for Religious Affairs, convened more than 100 representatives from the United Nations, the World Council of Churches, the World Resources Institute, and other prominent religious institutions, government ministries, academic organizations, civil society organizations and indigenous groups. The KAICIID leadership conveyed the Centre's commitment to the PaRD mission and mandate to increase multisectoral cooperation on sustainable development, with a particular focus on religious and interreligious actors and organizations.





Since 2018, KAICIID has been an active member of the United Nations Multifaith Advisory Council – an extraordinary coalition of faith-based partners that advise the United Nations on climate and environment, gender, global governance, and peace and security. In 2022, the Council met to advocate the rights of women and children, solutions for climate change and the SDGs.

At the regional and local levels, KAICIID has strengthened key partnerships with the African Union Commission, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, and the European Council of Religious Leaders (ECRL). KAICIID has worked with the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation to train officials to use interreligious and intercultural dialogue in peacebuilding and conflict resolution in south and southeast Asia.

In 2022, as part of the African Union Year of Nutrition under Agenda 2063, KAICIID and the World Resources Institute launched a collaborative project to examine how faith-based organizations and religious leaders can promote nutrition and tackle food loss in Rwanda. In the Central African Republic, the Centre signed memoranda of understanding with the University of Bangui and the École Normale Supérieure de Bangui to include interreligious and intercultural dialogue in their teaching curricula.



Also in 2022, KAICIID partnered with Arigatou International, the Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for Peace, the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to develop a pilot fellowship that encourages investment in ethics education in formal schooling systems. The fellowship training convened dozens of public officials working in education ministries across east Africa and south and southeast Asia.

In the digital space, KAICIID has regularly partnered with intergovernmental and civil society organizations and universities to organise joint webinars, e-learning courses and training. In March 2022, at the United Nations Environment Assembly, UNEP announced its intention to develop a new series of joint e-learning courses with the KAICIID E-Learning Programme. In May, the first cohort participated in the jointly developed e-learning course entitled “Faith, environment and climate change”, which empowers faith actors to address environmental challenges and contribute to the SDGs.

In 2023, KAICIID will continue to push for strong multilateralism built on the foundations of dialogue, which unites stakeholders and organizations from across the faith, humanitarian, development, academic and political spectrums.



Multilateralism contributes to inclusion of faith-based actors in ECOSOCC strategic plan



International networks and platforms are important in many ways – as direct partners; as platforms for developing new partnerships and strengthening existing partnerships; as a means for inclusive efforts and sharing knowledge in the field of interreligious dialogue and beyond; and for impactful, high-quality outcomes.

Such values can be measured by the density of options and actions undertaken at the right time in the right place. The value created and obtained through networks is usually perceived subjectively. Networking is one of the most important factors determining the Centre’s value-creating and policy advocacy activities.

International platforms include alliances, associations, consortia, fellowships and movements.

In 2022, the KAICIID Africa Programme was invited by the head of the African Union Commission Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) Secretariat to participate in the validation meeting of its 2022-2026 Strategic Plan. The meeting was facilitated by the ECOSOCC presiding officer as a result of continued KAICIID involvement in the PaRD steering group. The validation workshop in March 2022 provided an excellent opportunity to institutionalise the collaboration between ECOSOCC and KAICIID, given their overlapping strategic cycles.

The meeting produced several results, including the insertion of specific reference to religious actors and faith-based organizations in the text of ECOSOCC Strategic Objective 4, Output 2, which now reads: “Developed an inclusive strategy on gender, indigenous groups, people with disabilities, young people, diaspora and religious actors and faith-based organizations.”

The meeting effectively influenced the ECOSOCC regional agenda and secured religious actors and faith-based organizations in its constituency as an important part of civil society.

KAICIID continued its partnership with ECOSOCC, contributing an inter-religious perspective to the ECOSOCC Citizens’ Forum on Unconstitutional Changes of Government in July 2022. This was organised in collaboration and partnership with the African Development Bank, the African Peer Review

Mechanism, the African Union Commission and strategic partners. The forum convened over 200 representatives from African Union organs and institutions, including the African Governance Architecture platform, civil society organizations, the private sector, academic institutions and think tanks, faith-based organizations and the media. The overall objective was to provide citizens with a platform for in-depth reflections on social and political contexts giving rise to the recent upsurge of unconstitutional changes of government in Africa.

MULTILATERALISM IN NUMBERS

14



- African Union Commission
- Arigatou International
- École Normale Supérieure de Bangui
- Institut Superior de Ciències Religioses de Barcelona
- Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- Oslo Centre
- Religions for Peace (RfP)
- United Nations Alliance of Civilizations
- Universidad Complutense de Madrid
- Universiti Malaya
- University of Bangui
- University of Montreal
- UPEACE
- WOSM

COOPERATION agreements

MEMBER OF KEY BODIES
AND WORKING GROUPS OF



7

ORGANIZATIONS

- Faith Action for Children on the Move Coalition
- G20 Interfaith Forum
- JLI
- Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers
- PaRD
- United Nations Multifaith Advisory Council, United Nations Interagency Task Force on Religion and Sustainable Development
- World Bank Group



CHAPTER 3

Promoting interreligious dialogue locally



KAICIID organises its work in six groups: four regional areas (Africa, Arab region, Asia, Europe), the International Fellows Programme and the E-Learning Programme. In its regions of operation, KAICIID works locally to reduce tensions by promoting dialogue as part of efforts to tackle the interlinked issues of social cohesion, conflict, migration and the climate emergency. For each of these, dialogue can provide ways forward for the common benefit of humanity.

AFRICA

In Africa, KAICIID works at the local, country and regional levels to foster inter-religious and intercultural dialogue in some of the world's most fragile conflict and crisis contexts. The Centre partners with governments and intergovernmental organizations such as the African Union, including the African Union Commission Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC).

Central African Republic

In 2022, the Central African Republic continued to experience high levels of conflict and societal division. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, military clashes have decreased in intensity, but violence against civilians and insecurity outside urban centres continues to impact millions of people. Rates of sexual and gender-based violence are increasing rapidly. Food insecurity and poverty are fuelling tensions.

In this context, the KAICIID programme in the Central African Republic continues to support high-level religious leaders on the frontlines of conflict mediation and peacebuilding through the Plateforme des Confessions Religieuses de Centrafrique (PCRC). By providing the interfaith platform with technical and operational support and equipping it with skills and capacities, the Centre ensures the PCRC Secretariat and its 16 prefectural antennae offices remain effective and active in defusing tensions and resolving conflict. The PCRC leaders are some of the main actors mediating between the various political and armed groups to ensure the non-escalation of tensions caused by political disputes.

KAICIID continues to support the capacities and operations of the Réseau des Journalistes Sensibles aux Conflits (Network of Conflict-sensitive Journalists,





RJSC), which has equipped 400 local journalists with skills to counter hate speech and promote peace. The RJSC cooperates with the Central African Republic High Council for Communication to promote and disseminate a national action plan against hate speech. Under the framework of this action plan, the RJSC conducts regular field missions to sensitise the population on the effects of hate speech on peace processes.

In 2022, the PCRC and the RJSC successfully cooperated with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) to engage communities to reopen, maintain and ensure access to sacred sites in Bangui, including neighbourhoods at the centre of flareups between diverse religious and ethnic groups in the country. Protecting religious sites contributes towards improved access to religious expression and practices for the Central African population.

KAICIID recognises that investing in the education of future generations is the best strategy to ensure the prevention of conflicts. KAICIID began cooperating with the École Normale Supérieure de Bangui and the University of Bangui to include interreligious and intercultural dialogue in their teaching curricula. Leveraging the capacity of the Fellows Alumni Network Central African Republic chapter, KAICIID was able to ensure the delivery of a series of initial training sessions to representatives from these two institutions.

The path to stabilisation and coexistence in the Central African Republic remains difficult. In a context where 60 per cent of the population believes that raising awareness of coexistence can be the main source of peace between



communities,² and where religious leaders are the main unifying force, the work of the Centre continues to be crucial to ensure the possibility of a peaceful future for the country.

Nigeria

Ahead of hotly contested federal elections in 2023, Nigeria slipped inexorably into election fever. Despite the touching speeches and promises that raised hopes for a better tomorrow, almost no day passed in 2022 without killings and destruction associated with religious and ethnic terrorism, kidnapping for ransom, conflicts between cattle herders and farming communities, and regional self-determination agitations.

The KAICIID-supported Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace (IDFP) concentrated its efforts on sensitisation and strengthening capacity of religious leaders, civil society organizations and policymakers for effective violence prevention. In February 2022, the IDFP conducted a workshop on the protection of sacred sites drawing on the United Religions Initiative continental framework on religious freedom. During the workshop, 55 participants learned about resources, tools and best practices to prevent religious conflicts and implement the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations plan to protect holy sites.

In March, the IDFP hosted its fourth annual peace conference and general assembly, entitled Building and Sustaining the Culture of Peaceful Elections in Nigeria: the Role of faith and Traditional Leaders. More than 100 Christian and Muslim leaders gathered, committing to increase their efforts to promote interreligious dialogue and understanding to sustain a culture of peace. The IDFP initiated follow-up activities in key areas of the country to support religious leaders to use their strategic influence to campaign for violence-free elections.

To enhance long-term sustainability of the platform, the IDFP has established five new partnerships over the past year. It also secured additional funding from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (PaRD) to increase the work of KAICIID-supported interfaith dialogue units in 10 states. Members of these units use early warning and early response techniques to identify signs of conflict or to calm rising intercommunal tensions. The funds have supported new initiatives targeting food insecurity due to current conflicts.

The IDFP has partnered with the National Human Rights Commission in Nigeria to create a mechanism to monitor the freedom of religion and belief, which is of key concern to the Nigerian Government. The IDFP is working with the Interfaith Mediation Centre to promote dialogue between women's groups in the South South region. The IDFP is also working with Vision Africa to support inclusive stakeholder dialogues on insecurity and the country's constitutional review process. These projects will further strengthen the IDFP relationship with policy-making in Nigeria.

In cooperation with the Nigerian interfaith community, the IDFP and KAICIID developed an interfaith code of conduct for Christian and Muslim leaders and interfaith community members. The code helps mitigate religious conflict and

² http://www.peacebuildingdata.org/kmaps/maps/car06/#/?indicator=21_2_7



improve social cohesion and peaceful coexistence between people of different religious beliefs and creeds in Nigeria.

Regionally

Since 2016, KAICIID, together with the African Union Citizens and Diaspora Directorate, has provided technical and operational support to the African Union Interfaith Dialogue Forum (AU-IFDF). This offers religious leaders a platform to identify key areas of intervention, jointly address the needs of African citizens, and engage policymakers on shared challenges.

In 2022, KAICIID attended the fourth meeting of the AU-IFDF steering committee, which resulted in the development of a plan of action, in effect until the end of 2023. The findings and recommendations of the AU-IFDF review report, sponsored by KAICIID and conducted by two independent consultants, were presented. The meeting facilitated the sharing of experiences and best practices among AU-IFDF members, strengthened relations between key regional partners such as the AU-IFDF and ECOSOCC, and ensured the proper functioning of AU-IFDF organs through the extension of the mandate of the current steering committee.

In 2022, KAICIID began a collaboration with the World Resources Institute. The African Union declared 2022 the “Year of Nutrition”, with the goal of strengthening resilience in nutrition and food security in Africa. According to the World Food Programme, 38 per cent of the African population lives below the poverty line, and almost 20 per cent is food-insecure. Appreciating the complex nature of food and nutrition issues, KAICIID and the World Resources Institute are launching a collaborative project to examine how faith-based organizations and religious leaders can promote nutrition and tackle food loss and waste in Rwanda.



400 KAICIID-supported journalists promote peace in Central African Republic



For over 15 years, Albert Mbaya has reported on peace and security in his home country of the Central African Republic, which has faced decades of turmoil and armed group opposition.³ Through the RJSC, Mbaya and a large number of journalists from the Central African Republic are committing to ethical and factual rigour and using constructive reporting and calls for unity to counter incitement to violence and divisive rhetoric.

KAICIID supports the RJSC as part of an effort to engage media in dialogue in conflict areas, a strategy that has proven effective. Pietro Siena, KAICIID Programme Manager for Africa, said: "Until a few years ago, the country's newspapers were full of loaded language, and the way information was shared really contributed to the tension... we decided that working to encourage conflict- and religious-sensitive reporting was a precondition for successful peace engagement in the country."

The RJSC is also supported by MINUSCA and the PCRC, which have extensive experience in mediating between the country's armed groups and elected officials.

"The role of the media is ... informing and contributing to the local population's civic education by providing real-time information about threats to peace and coexistence," said Mbaya.

The RJSC supports 400 local journalists by equipping them with skills to counter hate speech and promote peace. It brings journalists closer to the communities they cover, helping them to report on local challenges, amplify diverse voices and build trust as promoters of peace.

Selda Junior Bouté, an editor at Agora News, took part in a mission to the eastern town of Baoro, where Christian and Muslim civilians have been killed



³ <https://www.kaiciid.org/news-events/features/400-kaiciid-supported-journalists-promote-peace-car>

by armed militia in recent years. According to Bouté, the RJSC “is very important and its work has really contributed to curbing hatred. It makes journalists engage in the reality of [the Central African Republic] crisis and it helps the population understand it and overcome it.”

Bouté adds that the connection between the PCRC and the RJSC has been crucial in addressing a crisis that is too often blamed on interreligious divisions rather than hate speech.

Bouté hopes the RJSC can continue to operate in the Central African Republic and extend its operations to new areas: “There is hope that if the network broadens its reach, we may really get out of this situation.” He is convinced that looking at examples of other African countries that have overcome internal conflicts where religious and ethnic divisions were used as propaganda tools to spread hatred may help the RJSC do an even better job in the Central African Republic.



AFRICA IN NUMBERS

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

14 training sessions and 9 awareness-raising activities organised across all platforms

76 PCRC and RJSC members trained in hate speech and rumour prevention, and 8 members trained in monitoring and evaluation

82 representatives of educational institutions trained in interreligious dialogue

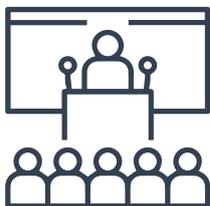
3 places of worship restored and equipped with trained managing committee, and 1,800 individuals sensitised on reopening and managing sacred sites



1,512

community members across 10 locations trained in interreligious dialogue, hate speech and rumour prevention, reached in popularisation of the national action plan against hate speech, and involved in awareness-raising on political rights of minorities

NIGERIA



100

members attended IDFP General Assembly and Peace Conference

55

IDFP members trained in protection of sacred sites



ARAB REGION

Since its inception, KAICIID has focused on encouraging interfaith dialogue in the Arab region. The Centre works to reduce conflict and hate speech and enhance a sense of common citizenship, mutual respect and peaceful coexistence. According to the United Nations, the Arab region is “being weakened by conflicts, battered by the COVID-19 pandemic, and pummeled by the climate crisis”.

The war in Ukraine has added to the region’s burden in the form of soaring food and energy prices and spiralling inflation. In 2022, under the umbrella of the Interreligious Platform for Dialogue and Cooperation in the Arab World (IPDC), KAICIID focused on investing in grassroots development initiatives, empowering women to participate in peacebuilding and dialogue processes, and equipping journalists to report more ethically on religious and ethnic communities.

The need to train journalists in dialogue followed the Arab Spring uprisings, which altered the region’s media landscape. Since 2011, the majority of media channels in the Arab region offer clearly politicised content, and the journalistic values of objectivity and neutrality have suffered. According to the Center for International Media Assistance, “Sensational coverage has blurred the line between information and rumor and ... has exacerbated social and political divides... With antagonistic narratives propagated in media and hate speech and misinformation growing at an alarming rate ... questions of ethics and weak professionalism are more important than ever.”⁴

KAICIID runs the Dialogue Journalism Fellowship in the Arab region. This is a year-long fellowship programme launched in 2021 in partnership with the German nonprofit Media in Cooperation and Transition. The programme enhances the

⁴ <https://www.cima.ned.org/publication/building-regional-strategies-for-media-development-in-the-middle-east-and-north-africa/>



cooperation with Arab media outlets as a critical partner in countering hate speech and preventing conflicts by promoting dialogue and supporting journalists and media outlets to uphold the highest ethical standards in their reporting on religious and ethnic groups.

The 2022 cohort welcomed 26 mid-career journalists, mostly aged 30–40 years, from 11 Arab countries. Participants attended three workshops in Amman, Lisbon and Tunis and designed initiatives to foster intercommunity dialogue and promote peace and sustainable development in the region by the Arab media.

The workshops were designed to improve journalists' understanding of conflict analysis and the role of interreligious diversity in promoting peacebuilding within the region. Participants learned to promote a culture of dialogue, bridge religious and cultural divides, and combat hate speech. During the second workshop, the journalists developed a series of guidelines for reporting on religion in the Arab media. They also met with KAICIID Secretary General Dr. Zuhair Alharthi and Deputy Secretary General Ambassador António de Almeida-Ribeiro in a roundtable discussion on the role of the media in promoting peace and countering hate speech.



Following their graduation in December 2022, the participants are now establishing a network to continue collaborating on the promotion of dialogue and social cohesion.

She for Dialogue is the first KAICIID project with a specific focus on gender-sensitive interreligious and intercultural dialogue. Held over the course of a year, the training sessions and workshops are open to women from the Arab region. Participants learn to apply interreligious dialogue skills, use social media to promote peace, and tackle topics such as gender bias and stereotypes. Participants are equipped with skills in dialogue and conflict resolution, policy advocacy and sustainable development.

The She for Dialogue project aims to achieve change across three levels:

- Thematic: integrate critical issues related to peace and social cohesion in interreligious dialogue, combat gender-based violence, and improve gender-sensitive religious discourses.
- Institutional: increase women's participation as decision-makers in religious institutions, civil society and local communities taking hold of opportunities in countries where political and religious circles are becoming more open to women.
- Social: demonstrate that women religious leaders are acknowledged as essential partners in policymaking processes and as agents of change in their communities and at the national level.

In 2022, KAICIID celebrated the graduation of 17 project participants from Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic. The participants began in 2021, attended three workshops, and graduated in November 2022 in a ceremony in Lisbon.

During the workshops, participants discussed gender equality, violence against women and girls, and issues that impact women's lives and economic situations across the region, including climate change, desertification and drought. Many of these issues are also fuelling conflict and instability in the region. Participants implemented five individual and group initiatives in their countries, and discussed how to involve more women in leadership and interreligious dialogue.

The KAICIID Dialogue360 project (formerly Dialogue60) sponsors and supports interreligious and intercultural dialogue initiatives throughout the Arab region. The initiatives engage religious and faith-based organizations, nongovernmental organizations and universities.

In 2022, Dialogue360 supported 40 dialogue initiatives in 12 Arab countries. The initiatives align with the four areas of countering hate speech; enhancing the role of interreligious dialogue in crisis response; education and common citizenship; and protection of cultural heritage and religious sites.

As part of the Dialogue360 project, KAICIID invited sponsored organizations and local partners to attend a week of networking and capacity-building. KAICIID provided training on strategies to engage policymakers, diversity management, use of social media, and monitoring and evaluation methods.



Dialogue360: protecting cultural and religious heritage



Historical and archaeological sites, ancient sculptures, monuments and manuscripts stand as a testimony to our diversity and complex history.⁵ They are also the edifices of our cultural achievements. Destruction of cultural and religious sites is used by invaders and extremists to demolish and annihilate a nation's collective memory.

In light of rising attacks on religious and historical sites, and increasing violence in the name of religion, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution in 2021 to protect religious sites, with the aim of safeguarding tolerance.⁶

Through its Dialogue360 project, KAICIID has supported several initiatives in the Arab region to protect heritage and historical sites. With these initiatives, sites have been used to promote interreligious dialogue, coexistence and tolerance.

In Egypt, the Ibrahimia Media Center launched the Alexandria Peace Sites initiative to raise awareness of the archaeological and historical sites in the city. The project aims to rebuild harmonious coexistence between different religious groups in Alexandria, using archaeological sites to remind people of times when a culture of acceptance existed in their city.



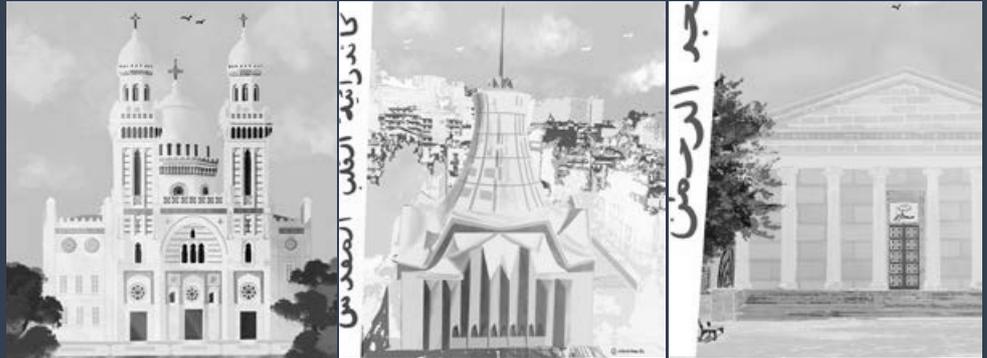
According to Sameh Megalaa, coordinator of the Ibrahimia Media Center: “[In the past] everyone acculturated [sic.; amalgamated], as one can find a mosque built in the vicinity of three different churches belonging to the Anglican, the Coptic and Armenian churches. This proves the ancient culture of coexistence was pervasive.”

Mirathe is a KAICIID-supported project launched by Aicha Wided Sengouga to tell stories about historical and religious sites in Algeria.⁷ Sengouga uses

5 <https://www.kaiciid.org/news-events/features/protecting-cultural-and-religious-heritage-battle-unknown-soldiers>

6 <https://www.un.org/sg/sites/www.un.org.sg/files/atoms/files/12-09-2019-UNAOC-PoA-Religious-Sites.pdf>

7 <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100076270838441>



social media platforms to disseminate photos and graphics with information about the sites to remind people about the diversity of Algeria.

“Young people, including myself, were not raised to know Algeria as a diverse country with different ethnic and religious groups,” Sengouga says. She explains that protecting these sites is an act of protecting people’s collective memory: “Preserving historical and religious sites should be as important as protecting human life.”

ARAB REGION IN NUMBERS



17

women from 5 Arab countries graduated from She for Dialogue programme



26

journalists from 11 Arab countries graduated from Dialogue Journalism Fellowship

DIALOGUE360

40



dialogue initiatives in 12 Arab countries sponsored through Dialogue360 project

9,000+

BENEFICIARIES

of Dialogue360 initiatives,

and 3 million+ people reached through media and online campaigns





ASIA

As COVID-19 travel restrictions eased, KAICIID made significant progress towards establishing a regional presence in southeast Asia. Notable KAICIID engagements included those with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Institute for Peace and Reconciliation, the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue at the Universiti Malaya, the Centre for Religious and Cross-cultural Studies, Gadjah Mada University, the Indonesian Ministry of Religion, the International Network of Engaged Buddhists, the Muhammadiyah Society in Indonesia, Nahdlatul Ulama, and the Singapore Ministry of Community, Culture and Youth.

Over the past year, the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation and KAICIID worked together to expand earlier interreligious dialogue training by developing a manual and curriculum specifically for ASEAN officials. The Centre has previously trained 24 officials in the use of dialogue as a means for conflict prevention and resolution in the south and southeast Asia region.

In July 2022, KAICIID hosted its first training of trainers in south and southeast Asia on the Social Media as a Space for Dialogue programme. The first cohort welcomed nine participants from across the region. Training covered the importance of promoting dialogue on social media, designing effective campaigns and combating hate speech. Participants received practical skills to lead national-level training themselves.

Following the training, participants developed and launched their own national social media campaigns. Three of the campaigns took place in Indonesia and



emphasised respect for diversity during religious events, diversity as an expression of strength and beauty, and dialogue as a way to combat violence against women.

One campaign sought to encourage women in remote areas of Pakistan to combat violent extremism. The other three campaigns aimed to empower youth to use social media to promote dialogue in Bangladesh, India and Thailand.

KAICIID developed a new pilot fellowship in partnership with Arigatou International, the Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for Peace, the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity and UNESCO. The Ethics Education Fellowship, hosted in October 2022, brought together 28 officials from the ministries of education in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Kenya, Mauritius, Nepal and Seychelles. Although this is run through the Asia programme, the participation of African ministries highlights the programme's importance and the global need for greater investment in ethics education in formal schooling systems.

In October 2022, KAICIID collaborated with the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers and PaRD on the Regional Conference to Advance Priority Goals and Foster Engagement Between Women, Youth and Religious and Traditional Peacebuilders. The event convened leaders from groups that are often left out of policymaking processes, including pandemic responses and recovery, addressing climate emergencies and advancing technology for peace. Their recommendations are being consolidated for presentation to policymakers.

KAICIID initiated its first joint collaboration with the International Network of Engaged Buddhists, which supported Buddhist organizations to enhance multi-faith engagement with other faith traditions in south and southeast Asia. KAICIID and the Network opened a call for proposals to support local organizations in the region with dialogue initiatives. Four initiatives were selected for implementation:

- In Myanmar, the Saya Foundation worked with 30 teachers to incorporate dialogue in the classroom and increase awareness of religious and cultural diversity among 350 schoolchildren.
- In central Java, Indonesia, the Buddhist College, Sekolah Tinggi Agama Buddha Syailendra, partnered with Yayasan Perdamaian Lintas Agama dan Golongan to build capacity of 50 Buddhist women and youth. Participants were equipped with skills in interreligious dialogue, conflict transformation, and using social media as a space for dialogue.
- In Indonesia and Thailand, an initiative by Fellows Alumni Dr. Amanah Nurish examined best practices and policy options for protecting sacred sites.
- In Thailand, the Institute of Buddhist Management for Happiness and Peace Foundation helped young people address religious-related disinformation, fake news and hate speech.

KAICIID also attended working meetings at the first G20 Religion Forum (R20), hosted and organised by Nahdlatul Ulama in cooperation with the Muslim World League ahead of the G20 Leaders' Summit.



KAICIID contributes to ethics education in education officials in east Africa and south and southeast Asia



In October 2022, as part of its pilot Ethics Education Fellowship, KAICIID co-led a series of workshops in Indonesia on the importance of mainstreaming ethics education in global curricula.⁸ The programme was created in partnership with Arigatou International, the Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for Peace, the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity and UNESCO to build the capacity of teachers to foster positive relationships and empower their pupils to participate in more inclusive, harmonious and resilient societies.

The eight-day international event was hosted in the Indonesian city of Yogyakarta. It was attended by 28 officials from education ministries in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Kenya, Nepal, Mauritius and Seychelles, who took part in training seminars, workshops and site visits led by practitioners and experts. The participants were provided with the knowledge and tools needed to craft and deliver effective ethics education programmes in their own countries.

Facilitating intercultural and interreligious dialogue in an educational context is a key component of ethics education. As Mike Waltner, KAICIID Senior Asia Programme Manager, explained: “Dialogue provides a positive way for learners to encounter religious and cultural differences respectfully and to identify common areas where they work together to make a better world... Interreligious and intercultural dialogue processes are therefore a central pillar of ethics education.”

Erica Derjacques-Inacio, representing the Seychelles Ministry of Education, reflected on the crucial nature of dialogue in the education space: “More than ever, we need to sit around the table without any prejudice... Dialogue for us is vital, not only with different religions, but also with different theories, because within the education system there are different theories being put forward – and at times there are clashes of those theories, and that can prevent ethics education from really being carefully implemented.”

The training also focused on placing children at the centre of learning, solving problems, thinking critically and having compassion for others. A key message

⁸ <https://www.kaiciid.org/news-events/news/ethics-education-focus-kaiciid-workshop-indonesia>



was how to develop concrete action plans for the implementation of ethics education programmes, supported by monitoring and evaluation tools, which are critical to the tracking and effectiveness of curriculum changes.

Workshop participants were given guidance on how to achieve the goals, primarily through the use of transformative teaching techniques that support the social, emotional and spiritual development of pupils, and by extension help create communities that are more peaceful and cohesive.

ASIA IN NUMBERS



officials from **6** countries trained in **ethics education**



participants trained as trainers in **Social Media as a Space for Dialogue**



people attended **Regional Conference to Advance Priority Goals and Foster Engagement Between Women, Youth and Religious and Traditional Peacebuilders**



EUROPE

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in 2022 the number of refugees in Europe more than doubled and the number of internally displaced people rose to almost 9 million. Refugees sought shelter across the continent from armed conflict and violence, with the majority coming from Ukraine, followed by Afghanistan and other areas. The resulting humanitarian crisis has intensified divisions in Europe along religious and ethnic lines.

The KAICIID Europe Region Programme aims to strengthen social cohesion in Europe through three thematic priorities: social inclusion of refugees and migrants; countering hate speech; and protecting sacred sites. These priorities are achieved through the programme's support of the leading religious platforms such as the Network for Dialogue, the Muslim-Jewish Leadership Council (MJLC) and the European Muslim Leaders' Majlis (EuLeMa).

The programme brings together religious actors and policymakers to listen to each other's concerns and provide support and cooperation. Through interreligious



and intercultural activities, KAICIID acts as a convener for cross-sector dialogue and discussions on policy in Europe. This is done with the conviction that dialogue can address Europe's current divisions and strengthen social cohesion to obtain human dignity for everyone, including religious and cultural minorities.

In February, the KAICIID-supported Network for Dialogue, which brings together 26 organizations focused on integrating refugees from 15 countries, participated in a session called "A world of neighbours", which highlighted the experiences of refugees navigating life in a new country, and the role of dialogue in transforming community relationships.

"The work of faith-based organizations in helping migrants is more impactful when it is done with the local communities and within both the migrant and domestic populations," said Danijela Popovic from the Synparxis Ecumenical Refugee Programme, Church of Greece and Network for Dialogue member at the World of Neighbours workshop.⁹

The KAICIID flagship event is the yearly European Policy Dialogue Forum (EPDF), co-organised with the Network for Dialogue. This welcomes over 100 participants each year to discuss urgent challenges to the social inclusion of refugees and migrants in Europe and countering hate speech efforts. In April and May, the results of the third EPDF were presented and discussed in two online workshops involving 90 experts. Participants discussed three policy briefs produced by the Network for Dialogue and two research papers on countering hate speech.

In May, Network for Dialogue co-organised the Europe Bottom-up! conference in Athens with the Migration Working Group, where 25 participants discussed solutions to current challenges that refugees are facing in Europe.

In June, further discussions were facilitated at the European Academy of Religion Conference, with several policy conversations on hate speech and freedom of religion and belief, which were sponsored and co-hosted by KAICIID. These dialogues provided input for the International Ministerial Conference on Freedom of Religion or Belief, held in London in early July.



⁹ <https://aworldofneighbours.org/>



Throughout the year, the Network for Dialogue implemented a series of joint initiatives. These included using storytelling approaches to create a toolkit, foster intercultural exchanges, and provide capacity-building and training to policy actors and media representatives in Portugal and Serbia. Network members from Greece and Spain gave voice to refugees and migrants by reshaping the narrative on migration. A joint effort from members in Italy and Luxembourg resulted in trust-building exercises being used in Sicily for refugees.

In June and November, the Network for Dialogue held its seventh and eighth regular meetings. The June meeting was co-organised and hosted by God's House, a collaborative interfaith meeting space in Sweden. The November meeting was held in Barcelona, in collaboration with the Network for Dialogue member organization, Blanquerna Observatory. Representatives from 22 member organizations attended both meetings and discussed opportunities for policy engagement and increasing community trust through dialogue.

Directly after this meeting, more than 40 religious actors, policymakers and other experts gathered at a preparatory workshop outside Stockholm to discuss challenges and opportunities for the social inclusion of refugees and migrants in Europe's cities and countering hate speech efforts. The gathering, jointly organised by KAICIID, the European Council of Religious Leaders/Religions for Peace Europe (ECRL/RfP) and the Network for Dialogue, with the support of

the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, was part of the preparatory process for the fourth EPDF. During the two-day workshop, participants addressed the need for improved partnerships to ensure the smooth integration of refugees and migrants across European cities.

“We want to understand which challenges [cities] are facing and which best practices they have established to support the building of a cohesive, inclusive urban society,” said Rev. Dr. Thomas Wipf, President of the ECRL/RfP at the EPDF Preparatory Workshop.

In November, KAICIID, the Network for Dialogue and partners hosted the fourth annual EPDF in Barcelona, Spain. More than 120 participants from 29 European countries and 7 religions joined the conversation on improving social inclusion for refugees and migrants in cities and countering hate speech efforts. Participants discussed two input papers that were prepared in advance and refined the policy recommendations, highlighting the role of religious actors and the power of dialogue.

Dr Sónia Pereira, High Commissioner at the High Commission for Migration, Portugal, said: “We don’t often have the chance to share our approach with other countries and learn from other experiences. KAICIID has provided an interesting space for that to happen, enabling us to share different perspectives by bringing together faith-based and civil society organizations, government entities and municipalities.”

KAICIID supports religious freedom and minority rights in Europe through the MJLC, which brings together religious leaders from across the continent for dialogue and policy engagement. In January, MJLC members participated at the annual commemoration of the Holocaust in Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp. In July, an MJLC delegation participated at the commemoration of the 1995 Srebrenica genocide.

“I hope that such a ... pilgrimage to a place of such terrible carnage and suffering of Muslims in particular, but humanity in general, will deepen positive Muslim-Jewish relations,” said KAICIID Board of Directors member, Rabbi David Rosen, at the Srebrenica commemoration.





In July, the European Parliament organised a dialogue seminar on the humanitarian response to the war in Ukraine. In October, the European Commission met to discuss freedom of religion and religious slaughter. Imam Yahya Pallavicini and Chief Rabbi Michael Schudrich, co-deputy chairs of the MJLC, provided inputs.

In December, the MJLC celebrated the launch of its Ambassador Programme, which is building a network of young Jewish and Muslim leaders to promote shared understanding of their communities. Starting with a round of interfaith training in Warsaw, Poland, the new 12-month programme will equip participants with the dialogue skills necessary to address Europe's rising tide of intolerance and bigotry, and provide resources and funding to implement joint initiatives that support stronger cross-community relations. The official launch of the MJLC Ambassadors Programme was hosted in the Nozyk synagogue, Warsaw's only synagogue that was not destroyed during the Holocaust.

As part of the MJLC, Muslim members created EuLeMa in 2018, which includes 22 members from 22 European countries. In November 2022, Imam Pallavicini from Italy led a delegation to Brussels to register EuLeMa as an international association in Belgium.

The work of KAICIID in Europe will continue to focus on social cohesion efforts around the continent and strengthen existing interreligious and intercultural dialogue initiatives. It will seek to provide spaces for new initiatives when possible, through partnerships from the local to the European level.



WOSM Jon Rasmussen joins KAICIID-supported Network for Dialogue



Jon Rasmussen from Denmark, who has worked for the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) since 2010, became a facilitator for the Dialogue for Peace programme in 2017.¹⁰ KAICIID and WOSM created the programme for and with the help of young people. It aimed to institutionalise dialogue as part of WOSM and create opportunities for Scouts and young people across the world to design their own local intercultural and interreligious dialogue sessions and approaches.

Having witnessed Rasmussen's dialogue efforts at WOSM, KAICIID reached out to him, confident he would make an excellent addition to the Network for Dialogue. The Network for Dialogue is a KAICIID-supported, pan-European platform founded to bring together faith and civil society actors to promote the use of dialogue and develop more effective recommendations for social inclusion policies for migrants and refugees in Europe.

Rasmussen accepted: "I said yes because it was a space where so many different actors from the region came together with this common goal, of creating positive change in the social inclusion of refugees and migrants – a path that felt very right to me. In the Network, I can learn many extraordinary things from scholars, doctors, journalists, politicians, and people like me that work at the grassroots level."

Rasmussen brings his humility and curiosity to his work: "Dialogue shapes all aspects of my work, so that whenever I enter a room – physical or virtual – I do so with openness and respect towards those I meet, and with an eye towards how best to engage with them to build a better relationship."

Being a dialogue practitioner has given Rasmussen a different perspective on humanity. Through the Network, he has deepened his sense of how humans are linked politically, pragmatically and spiritually: "I believe we are all linked," he said, "and what I've learned about that in the Network I now bring to my wider work with WOSM."

¹⁰ <https://www.kaiciid.org/news-events/features/jon-rasmussen-saying-%E2%80%9Cyes%E2%80%9D-path-dialogue>



While learning much as a member of the Network, Rasmussen also contributed his own skillset, encouraging his colleagues to be more “dialogical”. He said: “I truly feel that Scouting is my home, but Dialogue for Peace has changed my practice of dialogue, and underlined that belonging even more.”

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EUROPE IN NUMBERS

2



policy papers published

2



Network for Dialogue meetings attended by 22 members

2



commemorations of MJLC at Auschwitz and Srebrenica

124



participants at 4th EPDF, with 40 participants at the pre-EPDF workshop

60

speakers from 7 religions at 4th EPDF





CHAPTER 4

Promoting interreligious dialogue globally



KAICIID promotes interreligious and intercultural dialogue in four ways: convening people of all faiths and backgrounds; using education to engage people in successful dialogue; researching issues related to dialogue and identifying the most promising approaches; and engaging with policymakers so that dialogue has a place in the public sphere.

In addition to its four regional programmes, KAICIID achieves its work through the International Fellows Programme and the E-Learning Programme. Across its local, regional and global programmes, KAICIID builds capacity through cross-cutting topics, youth, women's empowerment and supporting the engagement of policymakers.

INTERNATIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAMME

The International Fellows Programme is an ongoing capacity-building and networking programme designed to connect and cultivate a network of leaders committed to fostering peace in their communities. The programme equips Fellows with dialogue skills to tackle real-world challenges and involve their institutions and communities through effective collaboration for change. The Fellows Alumni Network connects programme graduates with a vibrant community of global changemakers, fostering an environment of opportunity and cross-disciplinary collaboration. The Fellows Alumni Institutional Network seeks to incorporate and promote dialogue at the institutional level.

By the end of 2022, the Fellows Alumni Network welcomed over 450 graduates who are educators, religious leaders, dialogue practitioners and policymakers. Each Fellow contributes to the prevention of conflict, promotion of interreligious dialogue and knowledge-sharing across geographical and religious borders. Fellows come from 86 countries in 5 continents and represent 11 religions and diverse denominations. The average age is 40 years, and 38 per cent are women.

In 2022, the International Fellows Programme welcomed 71 participants from 45 countries and 9 religions across 4 cohorts. This included 21 Fellows in the international cohort, 15 in the Arab region cohort, and 14 in the south and southeast Asia cohort (in coordination with the Centre for Religious and Cross-cultural studies). It also included 21 Fellows as part of a new Latin America cohort, launched in partnership with Religions for Peace Latin America and the Caribbean.





The 2022 Fellows attended in-person training sessions, online sessions, e-learning courses and visits to religious sites. They also designed 68 individual and joint initiatives, including conferences, summer schools, interreligious football games, field visits, films, plays and publications, focusing on promoting peace through dialogue, commemorating the Holocaust, countering hate speech, and empowering youth and women in interfaith relations.

In 2022, the Fellows Alumni Network hosted 10 monthly online sessions for Fellows Alumni, tackling issues such as climate change, disaster responses, women's empowerment, gender mainstreaming and gender-sensitive programming, prevention of hate speech, ethics and interreligious education.

In May, the European Fellows Alumni Chapter was launched in Lisbon, connecting 30 Fellows Alumni from different graduation years and cohorts. This is the first regional chapter and the tenth chapter worldwide. Together, these Fellows Alumni identified areas of work and collaboration on interreligious education, using social media to promote dialogue and countering hate speech.

In November, to gain experience in policy engagement, 26 south and south-east Asia Fellows Alumni attended a Fellows Alumni meeting entitled "Religious



engagement in regional policy affairs”. The meeting was hosted by KAICIID and held within the framework of the PaRD Annual Forum in Bali, Indonesia. KAICIID representatives presented the challenges and opportunities of building and working with networks on policy engagements. The Fellows Alumni actively engaged in the Forum, offering transformative ideas from their fieldwork and fellowship experiences. This was also an opportunity for the Fellows Alumni to explore synergies and exchange ideas with policymakers.

In December, KAICIID published the book *Managing Religious Diversity in the Arab Region: Examples and Experiences*. The book is edited by Prof. Abu Nimer and Dr. Ramy Atta, with chapters written by nine Fellows: Dr. Mohamed Fawzy Abdel Hay, Dr. Romdhane Al-Barhoumi, Dr. Marcel Issa Boulos Al-Jawaniat, Hani Dawah, Youssef Edward, Dr. Kamal Boraiqa Abdelsalam Hassan, Dr. Basma Ahmed Jastaniah, Rokia Ouhejjou and Dr. Ramy Atta Seddik. The book critically explores the current mechanisms and processes of religious diversity management in the Arab region.

As part of efforts to encourage Fellows Alumni to sustain dialogue efforts in their communities, KAICIID awarded 14 microgrants in 2021–2022 for implementation in 10 countries (Argentina, Central African Republic, China, Finland, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines and Uganda). The Centre awarded 33 microgrants for the 2022–2023 period. In addition, five Fellows Alumni received support from the Fellows Alumni Learning and Professional Development Grants, intended to enhance their skills in dialogue by funding their participation in conferences, forums and symposiums.





Graduating Fellows reflect on the impact of the International Fellows Programme



Graduating Fellow Maryana Hnyp applied to the International Fellows Programme looking forward to the connection and intense training.¹¹ As founding Chair of the Catholic University Leuven interreligious Lifestance Network and member of the Board of Directors of the European Network on Religion and Belief, Hnyp knows that people from diverse backgrounds who live in close proximity to each other need opportunities to connect and converse.

The International Fellows Programme gave Hnyp the opportunity to learn how to lead others to discover others' traditions, rituals, belief systems, values and methods of communication. The "theoretical and empirical knowledge" and opportunity to meet with "likeminded" dialogue practitioners that the Programme offers serve as an invaluable means to promote peaceful and flourishing coexistence across difference.

Another graduate, Abdul Kareem, Founder and Co-Executive Director of the Strength in Diversity Development Centre and the Inter-Religious Coalition Against Corruption in Nigeria, said the International Fellows Programme allowed him to focus on his career while encouraging interreligious dialogue among his community:

"To be selected as one of the 25 beneficiaries among 500 applicants is really an honour for me and a turning point in my career. The level of organization and coordinate of the whole impactful year of the fellowship is really commendable and has actually taught me a lot about dedication, patience, commitment and collaboration – especially among the facilitators, Programme Director and the KAICIID team."



¹¹ <https://www.kaiciid.org/news-events/news/lisbon-kaiciid%E2%80%99s-latest-fellows-cohorts-graduate-join-growing-alumni-network>

Kareem said: "The KAICIID Fellows programme actually changed my plans and focus on my career by using my communication skills to enhance [interreligious dialogue] in my country."

Former Fellow Karen Castillo, director of the Mexican Institute of Catholic Social Teaching, said her Fellowship had helped her open up a number of pathways to social transformation:

"Being a Fellow of this programme has been a great gift from life. Interreligious dialogue has been a beautiful path that has allowed me to meet very valuable people, which has confirmed to me that diversity enriches us. Participating in the programme has opened a window to meet other faces, to discover other paths and to know that the participation of the different actors in dialogue is essential to also achieve a social transformation."

She continued: "I take a lot from this training, and perhaps it would be very difficult for me to choose one thing; however, it has been essential to know that there are a large number of initiatives at the international level and from different religious traditions, even in dialogue [and to know] that these initiatives arise to provide answers to specific problems that can be addressed from a political, ecological, theological, spiritual or cultural scope or framework ... [and to discover] that the capacities of each person are a fundamental tool for justice and peace; that religious convictions can be enriched from diversity."

FELLOWS IN NUMBERS



71

FELLOWS trained

from

45 countries



9

RELIGIONS and across 4 cohorts



- 21 International Fellows
- 15 Arab region Fellows
- 14 South and Southeast Asia Fellows
- 21 Latin America Fellows



with

68

initiatives designed and implemented

9



national and 1 regional Fellows Alumni chapters

33



new and 14 ongoing Fellows Alumni initiatives supported through microgrants



E-LEARNING PROGRAMME

The E-Learning Programme includes digital knowledge tools, e-learning courses and thematic webinars that teach dialogue as a tool to solve global issues. The courses are linked with global initiatives and development goals for sustainable peace. They build the capacity of global leaders to address current challenges by using interreligious dialogue to establish ethical policymaking frameworks, support peace processes, and address discrimination and religiophobia at the national and local levels. The courses are interactive, free of charge, and designed to benefit dialogue professionals and the general public.

In 2022, KAICIID launched two new moderated e-learning courses: the seven-module “Engaging faith actors to support implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals”, and the eight-module “Faith, environment and climate change” developed jointly by KAICIID and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It also launched the self-paced four-module “Integration through dialogue” based on the KAICIID “Project integration through dialogue toolkit” designed to empower people seeking refuge in Europe.

Throughout the year, KAICIID convened 52 instructor-led e-learning courses, 2 massive open online courses, and a series of short self-paced online courses with more than 1500 participants from 124 countries. Additionally, 18 new e-Learning courses in Arabic and English were opened for registration.

KAICIID integrated selected e-learning courses as mandatory components within each of its international and regional programme cycles. A number of United Nations agencies and other organizations and institutions, including the Lutheran World Federation, the Southern Africa Youth Forum, UNEP, the University of Montreal, the University of Münster, the University for Peace (UPEACE) and WOSM, incorporated KAICIID e-learning courses as components of their existing training programmes or educational curricula.

KAICIID hosted seven thematic webinars covering topics such as the COVID-19 response, localisation, gender equality and youth capacity-building. Videos on the webinars were made available on the KAICIID YouTube channel. Three webinars were co-hosted with the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith & Local Communities (JLI) and Tanenbaum.

The Connect2Dialogue digital networking platform provided open access to online dialogue directories, knowledge tools and resources. In 2022, a directory of the KAICIID Fellows' initiatives was included on the interactive map. Over 6,000 users visited Connect2Dialogue over 9,000 times. Connect2Dialogue aims to build communities of practice through which knowledge and promising approaches to interreligious dialogue can be shared. The platform provides a digital space for dialogue practitioners and experts across the globe to interact, exchange ideas, join events, publicise their own events and look for opportunities in the field of dialogue.



[The course] was really useful for me, and I will definitely use the learned lessons in my future work. It gave me more information from the academic point of view regarding interreligious and interfaith dialogue, and other topics related to the title of the course. The combination of activities, such as listening to audio records, viewing video presentations and forum activities made this course very interesting and dynamic."

— Programme manager from a faith-based organization in Bosnia and Herzegovina



This course ... expanded my understanding of the role of faith-based organizations in the pursuit and attainment of sustainable development. It further gave me a clear appreciation of the need to include faith-based leaders in the bracket of stakeholders that should be consulted for the successful completion of any developmental project that has the potential to contribute towards the SDGs."

— Public policy expert from the Southern Africa Youth Forum Zimbabwe



It was very helpful to address the basics of climate and environment while at the same time relating each subject to religion. I learned a lot about other religions and how they relate to this topic. I think this course ... and the learning outputs would be very useful for Digni partners and members. Most certainly we will try to run these courses or customised versions in our regional network meetings gathering multiple partners and members from around the world."

— Senior advisor at Digni in Norway



"Learning about the different dimensions of culture when it comes to intercultural communication was eye opening. I think this e-learning course ... has helped me in having a deeper understanding of culture as a whole. I really enjoyed the case studies. These are real situations happening in Africa, and for me it was interesting to see how the topics that were covered in the course can be applied in the case studies."

— Researcher from Malawi



Providing skills for a more peaceful future through e-learning



Locked in a cycle of intercommunal conflict, ethnoreligious bloodshed is a daily occurrence in Nigeria – something Oluwasegun Ogunsakin understands better than most.¹² As a student of peace and security, the 34-year-old has analysed the complex causes of his nation’s endemic violence. As a project manager with Bellwether International, a human rights nonprofit organization, he has seen first hand the consequences of sectarianism.

Interfaith dialogue is the solution – or at least a starting point for peace – in Ogunsakin’s opinion: “We need a society where Christians, Muslims and other religious groups can come together to discuss their mutual interests and concerns... Only by talking to one another, by seeing each other as humans and equals, can we close the gap of mistrust and conflict.”

It was this desire to foster closer cross-community relations that led Ogunsakin to take the KAICIID course “Using interreligious dialogue (IRD) to strengthen peace, reconciliation, and social cohesion”, designed to address the lack of accredited interfaith tuition available online.

Using the skills he developed during the eight-week interreligious dialogue programme, Ogunsakin organised a conference and workshop in Nigeria that brought together dozens of individuals of different faiths and ethnicities.

He said: “The event educated people on the importance of dialogue, and showed them that whether you’re Hausa or Igbo or Yoruba, whether you’re a Christian or a Muslim or a traditional worshiper, you can work together to overcome barriers and build a more peaceful future.”



12 <https://www.kaiciid.org/news-events/features/providing-skills-more-peaceful-future-stories-kaiciid%E2%80%99s-e-learning-programme>

In Lesotho, a small country in southern Africa, Mantopi Martina de Porres Lebofa is channelling the same determination for sustainable development. In 2004, Lebofa founded Technologies for Economic Development, an environmental protection nongovernmental organization that works with stakeholders, including religious groups, to develop equitable climate mitigation strategies.

Lebofa said: "I have always believed that faith-based organizations are best placed to tackle the environmental and social challenges our communities face, which is why it's so important to work closely with them to strengthen their capacity on sustainability issues so that they realise their potential and added value."

To enhance her engagement with religious leaders, Lebofa completed the KAICIID course "Engaging faith actors to support the implementation process of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)". In addition to learning about the important parallels between scriptural teachings and modern ideas of conservation and social justice, she developed skills to help religious groups become more sustainable.

Lebofa said: "Faith organizations in Lesotho are not aware of their contribution to the SDGs and so they are not able to act on the opportunities they have to make a contribution to their capability in the implementation of the SDGs."

In an effort to correct this, Lebofa is planning a series of dialogue sessions designed to educate local religious leaders on their role in contributing to the 2030 Agenda. She explains that faith groups have a unique ability to influence the behaviour of their followers, and real progress can be made by helping them leverage that influence.

E-LEARNING IN NUMBERS



28

e-learning courses available



INCLUDING

18

new courses
in 2 languages

1,500+



participants from 124 countries trained in e-learning courses

7



partner agencies use e-learning courses in their programmes

52



moderated courses convened



CAPACITY-BUILDING: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Supporting policy engagement

KAICIID works with religious leaders and policymakers to help foster interreligious and intercultural dialogue.

In Nigeria, KAICIID, in collaboration with IDFP and the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, supported the establishment of the Network of Policymakers and Religious Leaders to Support Reconciliation, Peace and Security. This network of high-level policymakers and religious leaders for the purpose of sustained interfaith dialogue, reconciliation and policy development focuses on the development of more inclusive and comprehensive policies that place human security at the top of local and national agendas.

The Nigerian Inspector General of Police, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Women Affairs and other high-level government officials attended the Network inauguration.

Through quarterly meetings, the Network raises strategic questions and identifies key challenges to human security in Nigeria. It creates a space to enable policymakers and religious leaders to build a protective infrastructure against critical and pervasive threats and come up with practical policy recommendations to achieve successful and sustainable human security in Nigeria. The recommendations tackle

many of the challenges faith-based communities encounter in Nigeria, such as lack of economic opportunities, poor health care, food insecurity and political instability.

In the Central African Republic, through its support of the RJSC, KAICIID directly supports the High Council for Communication in the popularisation of the national action plan against hate speech. This action plan outlines the Central African Republic Government's plans to counter hate speech as a way to prevent conflict and promote coexistence.

The programme also contributes to the development of Central African Republic Government policy in the context of the return to peace and its consolidation through local committees of peace and reconciliation. These monitoring structures are set up by the Government for the prevention, management and transformation of intercommunity conflicts. KAICIID has supported the creation and operation of some of these committees through its partner Search for Common Ground. KAICIID is in dialogue with the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and Reconciliation to continue this support at a high level of government.

In the Arab region, over 185 religious leaders and policymakers have been actively involved in the majority of Dialogue360 initiatives. Many initiatives focused on combating hate speech have relied on policymakers and religious leaders as the main bearers of awareness messages.

Globally, the KAICIID Fellows Alumni Network provides graduates with ongoing learning and professional development and opportunities to learn key concepts of policymaking and engaging with policymakers. In 2022, this was demonstrated by the attendance of the south and southeast Asia Fellows Alumni at the PaRD Annual Forum, where they had the opportunity to participate, interact with policymakers and assist in drafting policy recommendations.



Women

In an attempt to enhance accountability systems for Security Council Resolution 1325 and to increase the number of women active in peacebuilding to prevent conflict in Nigeria, KAICIID, through IDFP, collaborated with the Interfaith



Mediation Centre on a project to promote dialogue tools to women's groups in six states from the South South region in the country. As part of the project, 70 trained women will be qualified as trainers to improve the skills of their communities in settling civil disputes and achieving solutions through dialogue. The aim is to create a culture of practical peacebuilding approaches using dialogue and to recognise women as positive change agents in transforming the crisis in the region and nationally.

In addition to the She for Dialogue programme, all Arab Region initiatives ensure adequate engagement of women. Around a third of Dialogue360 beneficiaries are initiatives coordinated by young women. One such initiative in Iraq invites women on to a radio programme to share their experiences as active citizens and to be role models to other Iraqi female activists.

As the KAICIID International Fellows Programme grows and develops, it becomes more gender-responsive. The review committee is aware of the necessity for gender balance and representation when selecting participants. Many Fellows implement initiatives specifically tailored for women. Once part of the network, Fellows Alumni are invited to monthly online sessions, with at least one session a year being dedicated to the role of women in interreligious dialogue.

In 2022, KAICIID ran a series of webinars called “Women’s Voices”. The four-part series highlighted female-led interfaith initiatives to challenges facing women, held around and echoing themes of United Nations international days. The webinar “Women’s Voices for a Sustainable Future” marked International Women’s Day in March and drew attention to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental disaster and disaster risk reduction. In November, KAICIID joined the United Nations campaign #16 Days of Activism by hosting the webinar “Women’s Voices for a Future Without Violence”.



Youth

In the Central African Republic, PCRC mediation efforts always take place with the presence of youth representatives from Christian and Muslim communities. This inclusive approach is crucial in a context where the average age of armed group members is 28 years, and youth advocating to youth can achieve a greater resonance and preventive effect. Given the high insecurity surrounding the reporting assignments, the KAICIID-supported RJSC is composed mainly of young independent journalists. The RJSC also engages in prevention of hate speech targeted at users of social media, who are mostly young people.

Youth aged 19–30 years are the largest group benefiting from the Dialogue360 project in the Arab region. Many of the initiatives are designed, implemented and led by youth with gender, religion, ethnic and cultural diversity.

In Europe, eight youth MJLC Ambassadors were trained in dialogue and countering hate speech to develop joint initiatives between young Jewish and Muslim community leaders to strengthen social cohesion in their city. The KAICIID-supported Network for Dialogue gives opportunities to its members from a variety of organizations to collaborate.



Network for Dialogue members from the Adventist Development and Relief Agency in Italy and Formation et Sensibilisation de Luxembourg coordinated the project Building Trust through Dialogue in Local Communities in Sicily. This project aimed to create a stronger relationship between organizations and local governments and to strengthen the building of inclusion and dialogue between young representatives of local and refugee communities.

Several KAICIID Fellows and Fellows Alumni work with youth, promoting peaceful coexistence through a number of initiatives, including organising events for people from different religious orientations and cultures, with the objective of enhancing social cohesion and interactions among youth from different religious communities. The Fellows Alumni Network promotes the importance of engagement of young people in interreligious dialogue.

The webinar “Youth Capacity Building in Reducing Inequalities” combined and celebrated the 2022 international days on youth and education by investigating how the efforts of youth in interfaith capacity-building have contributed to the reduction of inequalities in relation to education. The discussion canvassed efforts from the perspective of KAICIID, capacity-building organizations, individuals and youth.



Youth and women as beneficiaries of Arab region Dialogue360 initiatives



When Abdi Matan and William Tolbert of the Horn of Africa Aid and Rehabilitation Action Network, a nongovernmental organization that works with abled and disabled people in **Kenya and Somalia**, sought to make a positive change, they turned to the KAICIID Dialogue360 project.¹³

“We wanted to combat violence and extremism in the context of the border areas of Somalia and Kenya,” said Tolbert. “What inspired us with KAICIID was to bring about a conversation about violence and extremism, because it has affected those regions so much.”

Matan said: “Most of the communities who live in these areas are affected by extremist people, and most of the young people were radicalised by militias... Younger people, when they are jobless, don’t have any support. They join those militias who are radicalising the youth.”

Tolbert and Matan focused their efforts on some of the most marginalised groups, including youth, women, people with disabilities, internally displaced people and elders.

Tolbert says the project has sparked a vital conversation about citizenship in his country: “Our training is teaching people that they are all citizens, they are allowed to speak, and they all have a voice. This is something that really encouraged us. This project is triggering social transformation around negative cultural barriers and inequality and very sensitive issues that people have not previously talked about.”

The training targets teachers and students. The intention is to establish peace clubs within several schools in coordination with the Ministry of Education in Somalia.



¹³ <https://www.kaiciid.org/news-events/features/dialogue-360-project-%E2%80%9Ctriggering-social-transformation%E2%80%9D-somalia>

In **Lebanon**, art is being used as a tool to defuse interreligious and sectarian tensions and elude extremism among youth.¹⁴ The country has gone through several political, economic and social challenges, aggravated by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. A lack of basic supplies such as fuel and water has contributed to increased tension between different sects and religious groups.

Arts and culture are increasingly being used as tools to promote social cohesion, coexistence and reconciliation. With KAICIID support, the Women’s Platform to Lead in Lebanon launched the project Messages Through Art to Promote Dialogue and a Culture of Tolerance, with the aim to raise awareness in the Baalbek-Hermel governorate, mainly among youth, on the importance of dialogue and tolerance and to encourage interreligious coexistence and acceptance.

The main activity of the project was a play entitled The Enchanted Village. The project participants were aged 14-25 years. “This is the demographic that is most neglected in Lebanon and yet vulnerable to extremism,” Baki explains.

The play participants were divided into two groups - one trained in playwriting and acting, and the other in filming, lighting and video editing techniques to produce promotional videos for social media platforms. The play was shown in three major Shia and Sunni towns in the governorate.

Bassam Baki, project coordinator at Women’s Platform to Lead, says that arts have “magical powers”. He explained: “Using arts in interreligious dialogue activities creates a safe environment for the participants to voice their opinions and allows them to express themselves more freely. It also eliminates tension between different or conflicting religious groups. It is a uniting force.”



¹⁴ <https://www.kaiciid.org/news-events/features/creativity-builds-social-cohesion-how-turn-art-tool-coexistence>



In **Morocco**, the Glimmer of Hope Association, a local civil society organization founded by a group of youths, has launched programmes to train students as youth ambassadors to work in schools to spread a culture of tolerance.¹⁵ All implemented activities were executed in close cooperation with the Youth and Consultation Council, another local initiative, and facilitated by the Regional Directorate of the Ministry of National Education, which agreed to assist the organization in delivering its programmes.

In its first year, the Youth Ambassadors Programme for Tolerance trained a group of 20 male and female students aged 14–18 years on the concepts of tolerance and acceptance, allowing them to identify the characteristics of hate speech. The programme integrated a larger group of students into tolerance and education clubs so they could be active units in school activities.

These tolerance and education clubs have played a major role in opening up a space for the students in this remote town to engage in civic activities and create a sense of community, while broadening their horizons.

During the programme's second year, Youth Ambassadors against Hate Speech 2.0 trained a group of 18 students to produce online multimedia content to combat hate speech. The objective was to share the content widely online and within tolerance and educational clubs.

Mohammed Aissa Lamzouwaq, Director of Programmes at the Glimmer of Hope Association, said the second year complemented the first by helping young ambassadors deliver training sessions on the psychological and social effects of hate speech. He said, as in any town or country, hate speech and discrimination in his home town of Kalaat Sraghna have cultural specificities. Hate speech comes from stereotypes associated with different components of a society: "Discrimination in this town is usually based on gender, and thus the programme worked on empowering girls to take leadership roles."

¹⁵ <https://www.kaiciid.org/news-events/features/young-ambassadors-combat-hate-speech-and-discrimination-morocco>

CHAPTER 5

Organizational update



GOVERNANCE UPDATE

For KAICIID, 2022 has been an extraordinary year. On 1 July 2022, the Centre relocated to its new host country, Portugal, overseen by Elham Alshejni, Interim Deputy Secretary General (1 November 2021 to 30 September 2022).

On 16 September 2022, the Council of Parties unanimously appointed Dr. Zuhair Alharthi the Centre's new Secretary General, and Ambassador António de Almeida-Ribeiro the new Deputy Secretary General. KAICIID's new leadership took office on 1 October 2022 and will guide this unique international organization for the next four years.

KAICIID is governed by two principal bodies – the Council of Parties and the Board of Directors. The Centre's founding Member States – the Republic of Austria, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Kingdom of Spain, with the Holy See as a Founding Observer – constitute the Council of Parties, responsible for overseeing the work of KAICIID. The Board of Directors comprises high-level representatives of major world religions, including Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism.



Council of Parties

The Council of Parties consists of representatives of parties to the Agreement for the Establishment of KAICIID, with the Holy See as a Founding Observer. Its functions include the election of Members of the Board of Directors and the appointment of the Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General.

The Council of Parties adopts the KAICIID financial regulations, work programme and annual budget. Based on proposals from the Board of Directors, the Council of Parties nominates members of major religions and faith-based and cultural institutions to the Advisory Forum. The Council of Parties also approves international agreements and the establishment of cooperative relationships with public and private entities that can contribute to the work of KAICIID.

The Council of Parties decides on the admission of new parties and observers to the Establishment Agreement.

The Council of Parties has offered continuous support to the work of KAICIID since its inception. In 2022, representatives of the Council of Parties enabled the successful relocation of KAICIID from Austria to Portugal.



Board of Directors

KAICIID Board Members have been instrumental in contributing directly to the Centre’s programmes and activities by providing strategic input. They have strengthened the overall visibility and credibility of the Centre by representing it at various prominent gatherings.

This year, the Board of Directors elected Dr. Kezevino Aram as Chair and Dr. Mohammad Sammak as Vice Chair. The Board of Directors contributes regularly to the Centre’s knowledge resources, offering thought leadership and insight, and often participates in high-level events organised by the Centre.

This year, members of the Board of Directors have released a variety of statements condemning acts of violence perpetrated in the name of religion, bringing attention to the issue worldwide.

The Board of Directors supports KAICIID programmes directly, including participating in webinars and other activities. In November, Dr. Kezevino Aram participated in the webinar “Women’s Voices for a Future Without Violence”.

On 16 February, the Board of Directors convened to discuss and provide feedback on the future programmatic direction of the Centre. Members provided advice on the Centre’s programmatic areas and lent their expertise to the programmes for 2023.

From left to right, top to bottom:

Dr. Hamad Al-Majed, Dr. Kezevino Aram, H.Em. Cardinal Miguel Ayuso, H.Em. Metropolitan Emmanuel, Rev. Kosho Niwano, His Virtue Prof. Dr. Allahshukur Pashazade, Chief Rabbi David Rosen, Dr. Mohammad Sammak and Rev. Richard J. Sudworth



Advisory Forum

The Advisory Forum is a consultative body comprising influential leaders from world religions and religious and cultural institutions and communities across the world. The Advisory Forum supports the activities of the KAICIID Board of Directors and advises on its programmes.

Through the vast pool of knowledge of Advisory Forum members, the Secretariat is briefed on developments in regions where KAICIID operates.

Members contribute alongside the Secretariat to guarantee the successful implementation of the KAICIID programme of work. Members help raise awareness of KAICIID and advocate for its goals in all corners of the globe.

STAFF UPDATE



Total staff posts

63 POSTS



Staff nationality

KAICIID multinational staff come from **21** countries

STAFF PER COUNTRY



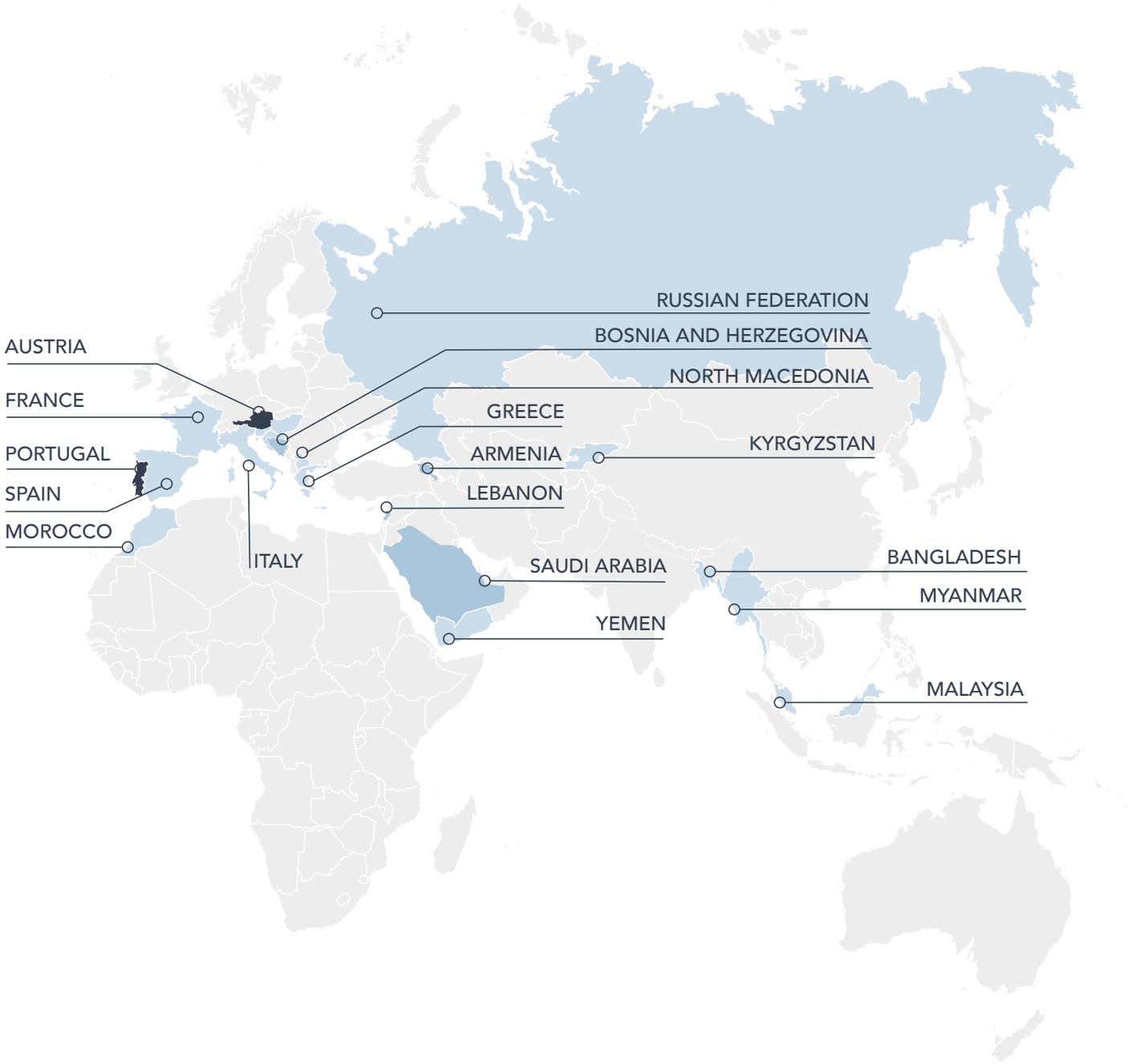
BY CONTINENT

Continent	% of Staff
Africa	4%
Asia	20 %
Europe	58 %
North America	7 %
South America	11 %
Total	100 %

BY MEMBER AND HOST STATES

Country	% of Staff
Austria	24%
Portugal	13%
Other	57%
Saudi Arabia	4%
Spain	2%
Total	100%





Staff by gender



59% 41%



FINANCIAL UPDATE

The 2022 programme and budget were approved by the Council of Parties at a total of 17.7 million euros (including the supplementary budget), covering the programmes and activities of the Centre.

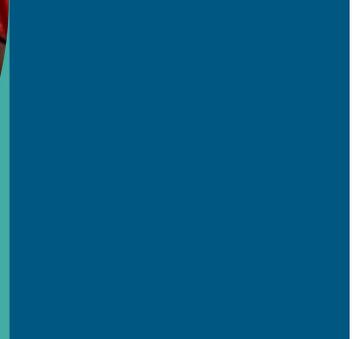
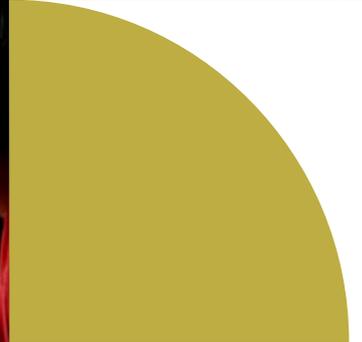
The cash surplus from the 2021 financial year and further voluntary contributions received during 2022 from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia provided the financing for the 2022 programme and budget. The total 2022 expenditure reached 12.90 million euros. (This figure is subject to the final audit of the 2022 financial statements.)

DISTRIBUTION OF 2022 EXPENDITURE



- Programme department
- Organizational support services
- Executive management
- Communications department





KAICIID DIALOGUE CENTRE

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