



CIID

KAICIID DIALOGUE CENTRE

2018



# ANNUAL REPORT





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# About the INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE CENTRE

A UNIQUE MANDATE WITH A MISSION TO PROMOTE DIALOGUE TO FOSTER RESPECT AMONG CULTURES AND RELIGIONS



**WITH ITS DISTINCTIVE** governance structure, KAICIID represents the first international organization that is mandated to bridge the gap between religious and political representatives, and provide a platform for a facilitated dialogue to foster peace and combat radicalisation.

**OUR VISION** is 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.



**AUSTRIA**



**SAUDI ARABIA**



**SPAIN**



**HOLY SEE**

## THE COUNCIL OF PARTIES

is composed of the **REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA**, **KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA** and **KINGDOM OF SPAIN** with the **HOLY SEE** as a Founding Observer.

## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

comprises prominent representatives from **5** major world religions – Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism.

## ADVISORY FORUM

comprises **43** members representing **8** different religions

We apply **INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION** through **5** key platforms



The Centre has a diverse, multicultural team with **53** professional staff from **28** countries. Our staff is **53%** female and **47%** male.

**40+** partnerships with **GOVERNMENTAL AND RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS**

# How we contributed to IRD in 2018

*His Excellency Faisal Bin Muaammar, KAICIID Secretary General*

Throughout the course of 2018 we were driven and encouraged by the crucial role played by religious leaders in efforts to address global challenges that threaten not only the preservation of diversity, inclusivity and coexistence within our communities but also, in a number of areas, those communities' very existence.

In countries around the world, such as the Central African Republic and Myanmar, we are witnessing some of the worst humanitarian disasters of our time. Violent conflict has forced people from their homes in record numbers, resulting in the displacement of millions of people worldwide. In Iraq and Nigeria, shattered communities are struggling to rebuild and heal after years of intense fighting.

Recovery can take generations, long after the dust of conflict settles. After the last intervening state and international aid organizations have withdrawn, it is often the religious leaders that are left holding the communities together. In these instances they become aid administrators, development coordinators, judges, doctors, mediators, and safe sanctuaries in general.

Collectively, we need to do more to determine how to empower these leaders and examine ways in which we can, together, move away from violent conflict and towards paths of peace.

During this past year, we focused on providing religious leaders, actors, and institutions around the world with the tools needed to address the challenges that their communities continue to face, such as poverty, violence, extremism, inequality, discrimination and displacement.

We also established the first ever interreligious dialogue platform in the Arab Region for Muslim and Christian leaders in over 1,400 years. This platform is the newest of five KAICIID-supported platforms that work to strengthen diversity, coexistence and citizenship in communities around the world. Among these platforms supported by the Centre is the Muslim Jewish Leadership Council in Europe, which works towards changing

discriminatory policies that threaten the fundamental European values of pluralism and freedom of religion.

Above all, we focused on training. Religious leaders and faith-based organizations are in need of a greater degree of understanding of how to approach and engage policymakers. With an understanding of policy frameworks, human rights, and sustainable development, as well as practical skills such as the use of social media and the protocols of advocacy, greater strides can be taken towards achieving the UNSDGs. At the same time, policymakers need training on religious literacy, interreligious dialogue and inclusion. This is the focus of our Fellows Training Programme for mid-career interfaith actors — with 71 Fellows trained in 2018 — and of our online Dialogue Knowledge Hub.

The training does not stop with the Fellows, as we actively support the efforts made by those we train in sharing their skills with others, thus sustaining and multiplying the effects of dialogue in communities around the world. We are encouraged by the results of these efforts, which are detailed in this report. However, we are also keenly aware of the need to continue this work and strive to do more.

At KAICIID, we aim to equip religious actors across all communities with the tools to work together across intra-religious and interreligious lines and to aid policymakers in their endeavour to overcome violent extremism, prevent further conflict, build bridges, foster coexistence in diversity and, in turn, strengthen communities. When religious leaders and actors have the tools to identify and overcome hate speech or incitement; when they work together as equal partners in the effort to rebuild their communities; when they have the support they need to foster peace, share knowledge with policymakers and international organizations and work together with them, then we have moved one step closer to our goal.

We have made excellent strides over this past year and look forward to working together with our partners to fully realize our mission to promote dialogue to foster respect among cultures and religions in the years to come.





**Dr. Hamad Al-Majed**  
Faculty Member, Imam Muhammad Bin Saud University



**Dr. Kezevino Aram**  
President, Shanti Ashram



**HE Bishop Miguel Ayuso**  
Titular Bishop of Luperciana, Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue



**HE Metropolitan Emmanuel**  
Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople



**The Reverend Mark Poulson**  
Secretary for Interreligious Affairs to the Archbishop of Canterbury and National Interreligious Affairs Adviser for the Church of England



**Sheikh Ul-Islam A. Pashazade**  
Chairman of the Caucasus Muslims' Board, and Sheikh Ul-Islam of Caucasus



**The Reverend Kosho Niwano**  
President-Designate Rissho Kosei-Kai



**Chief Rabbi David Rosen**  
International Director of Interreligious Affairs, American Jewish Committee



**Dr. Mohammad Sammak**  
Secretary-General of the National Committee for Christian-Muslim Dialogue



The Advisory Forum

# KAICIID Governance

## Governance

KAICIID is governed by two principal bodies — the Council of Parties and Board of Directors. The Centre's founding Member States (Republic of Austria, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Kingdom of Spain with the Holy See as a founding observer) constitute the Council of Parties, responsible for overseeing KAICIID's work. 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 the Parties to the Agreement for the Establishment of the Centre, with the Holy See attending as a founding observer. The Council convenes at least once every year. Its functions include the election of members of the Board of Directors as well as the appointment of the Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General. The Council adopts the Centre's financial regulations, work programme and annual budget. Also, on the basis of proposals from the Board of Directors, the Council nominates members of major religions and faith-based and cultural institutions to the Advisory Forum.

The Council of Parties approves international agreements and the establishment of cooperative relationships with public or private entities that can contribute to the Centre's work. It also decides on the admission of new parties and observers to the agreement.

The Council of Parties has offered continuous support to the work of the Centre since its inception. In 2018, representatives facilitated the organization of a number of meetings with high-level officials from their respective governments. Representatives of the diplomatic entities of Member States have been among the participants of the Centre's various activities around the world, including events from KAICIID's Executive Management and Programmes Departments. As host country, the Republic of Austria has actively continued to support the Centre's local outreach activities as well as organizing, jointly with KAICIID, a pivotal event in April 2018 titled 'In the Spirit of Dialogue.' The event convened over 250 local and international guests, introducing them to KAICIID and its mission as well as to the essence and value of dialogue.

## Board of Directors

KAICIID's Board Members have also contributed directly to the Centre's programmes and activities such as the Programme for the Social Inclusion of People Seeking Refuge in Europe (PSR) and the Dialogue Knowledge Hub (DKH), including its online course. Moreover, Board Members have strengthened the overall visibility and credibility of the Centre by representing it at various prominent gatherings, including the 'Alliance of Virtue' conference, the symposium 'Toward a Greener Attica: Preserving the Planet and Protecting its People', the 'G20 Interfaith Forum' and the 'Parliament of the World's Religions'. Moreover, the Board has been involved in the inception and launch of the European Muslim-Jewish Leadership Council.

## Advisory Forum

Utilising the vast pool of knowledge available among the Advisory Forum, the Secretariat has actively engaged members to assist with activities in the Arab Region, Africa, and Asia. The Secretariat has also sought the support of members on numerous occasions to develop and facilitate activities, for instance in relation to the Centre's initiatives in Asia, the PSR programme and the 'Who is Who in Interreligious Dialogue' database.

The Advisory Forum is a consultative body comprising influential leaders from world religions, religious and cultural institutions and communities representing more than 20 countries. The Forum supports the activities of the KAICIID Board of Directors and advises on their programmes.

Issue-specific task forces within the Advisory Forum focus on Capacity Building in the Field of IRD, Governance and Common Citizenship, IRD Training, and Reconciliation, with established action plans for each area.



# KAICIID Partnerships

*Ambassador Alvaro Albacete, KAICIID Deputy Secretary General*

KAICIID's external relations priorities are embedded in the Centre's Strategic Plan 2016–2019, which recognises the importance of building and sustaining partnerships. The Centre's commitment to multilateralism is a defining principle of its core policy, as KAICIID's work is carried out through, with, and for, partners. Throughout 2018, KAICIID increased efforts to cooperate with international partners, in order to prevent duplication of efforts, leverage existing synergies, and focus on the implementation of existing formal cooperation agreements.

## United Nations

In 2018, KAICIID strengthened its relationship with one of its key partners, the United Nations (UN). The Centre aligned its work with Agenda 2030, in particular focusing on the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 4 (Ensuring Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women), SDG 11 (Making Cities and Human

Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable), SDG 16 (Peace Justice and Inclusive Societies) and SDG 17 (Global Partnership for Development).

In 2018, the Centre was elected co-chair of the Advisory Council to the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Engaging Faith-Based Actors for Sustainable Development/UN Task Force on Religion. The council is composed of faith-based organizations that provide the Task Force with strategic advice and expert knowledge. KAICIID is the only intergovernmental organization that participates in this unique consultation mechanism between 17 United Nations entities and actors active in interreligious dialogue.

In February, KAICIID organized its first joint activity with UNICEF, within the framework of World Interfaith Harmony Week. Experts from KAICIID and UNICEF exchanged views and best practices on the topic of social media and youth engagement and learned about the

**In July 2018, at UN Headquarters, KAICIID and the UNAOC presented their wide range of online resources and knowledge tools, designed to support the efforts of organizations and individuals working to further peace through dialogue**



**In February 2019, KAICIID and UNICEF hosted an expert meeting that assessed the needs and challenges faced by young people using social media, particularly in conflict areas**

methodologies and tools utilised by the two institutions. The event served as a starting point for exploring possible areas of cooperation between the institutions. In 2019, KAICIID will cooperate with UNICEF, under the auspices of the UN Interagency Task Force on Religion, on activities commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of Child.

In June, KAICIID and United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) organized an expert workshop entitled: 'Strengthening Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue through Knowledge Sharing: Opportunities and Challenges', within the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2017. The half-day meeting, which was supported by the Permanent Missions of Austria, Saudi Arabia and Spain, took place at UN headquarters. The meeting convened experts in e-learning and IRD/ICD, who discussed opportunities for using knowledge platforms to further social cohesion and increase possibilities for networking. In 2019, KAICIID plans to expand cooperation with UNAOC on both the strategic and operational levels.

Furthermore, the Centre continued its partnership with the UN Office for Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect by focusing on the implementation of the Plan of Action for Religious Leaders and Actors to Prevent and Counter Incitement to Violence that Could Lead to Atrocity Crimes.

In February, over 150 religious leaders and diplomats convened at UN headquarters, agreeing to develop capacity-building activities for religious leaders and actors; to disseminate curricula for interreligious coexistence; and include youth and women throughout the implementation process.

## European Union

In 2018 the Centre engaged with the European Commission and Parliament on initiatives which focused on Art. 17 of the TFEU (dialogue with churches, religious and philosophical institutions). KAICIID also acted as co-contributor at the Fundamental Rights Forum in Vienna, which welcomed policymakers and civil society leaders to discuss topics on inclusion, safety, and security, as well as increased cooperation in these areas with religious communities.

## Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

In 2018, KAICIID paid special attention to streamlining efforts with the OSCE, in particular with regard to the establishment of a platform of religious actors that would provide expert knowledge to support political leadership. In this context, KAICIID participated in the development of the report on 'Religion and Security-Building in the OSCE Context Involving Religious Leaders and Congregations in Joint Efforts'. Furthermore, KAICIID hosted a preparatory meeting with the participation of local Viennese-based religious leaders and members of the OSCE Network of Think Tanks and Academic Institutions.

## Outreach to diplomatic community and other international initiatives

Finally, the Secretariat continued building and expanding the partnership network with non-Member States particularly interested in KAICIID's work and mandate. In addition, KAICIID participated in international events such as the G20 Interfaith Forum, a unique initiative providing a faith-based outlook on the main issues dealt with in the framework of the official G20 process.

# Women of faith take the global stage at the United Nations General Assembly

“Women are leaders in all religious communities. Their networks of influence and power, both formal and informal, often make them critical to the involvement of others in dialogue within their communities

*HE Faisal Bin Abdulrahman Muaammar, KAICIID Secretary General*

As part of efforts to enhance its partnership with the UN, KAICIID organized a side event during the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly in partnership with the Delegation of the European Union and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA). The event, entitled: ‘Keeping the Faith in Sustainable Peace: Women of Faith as Agents of Transformation,’ provided a platform for women from different faiths

to showcase their contributions to peace and social transformation at the global policy table. The event welcomed over 100 diplomats, policymakers, and civil society leaders from across the globe.

Religious leaders are critical agents of change in a global context in which 80% of the world’s population has a religious affiliation. In this context, women of faith play an essential

role in sustaining peace in their communities. However, their voices tend to be less heard and their work and achievements less visible than those of other actors.

KAICIID is actively working to connect women of faith with policymakers in order to develop synergies on issues of common concern, including the implementation of the UNSDGs.

During panel discussions, participants openly assessed the challenges faced by women of faith in their efforts for peace, such as sidelining, lack of recognition and limited resources.

Concrete recommendations included:

- ❖ Further support and partnership from KAICIID, the EU and the UN on regional activities that provide platforms for women of faith to

present their work, engage with policymakers, and scale up efforts.

- ❖ Capacity building for women working in peace and reconciliation, particularly with regard to interreligious dialogue.
- ❖ Inclusive policies that engage women of faith as interlocutors and agents of transformation in local communities.

KAICIID is committed to empowering women of faith and recognising them as equal and vital partners in peacebuilding. The Centre aims to implement the panel recommendations in its programming in 2019, with particular focus on supporting and building capacity of women in KAICIID’s focus countries.

# Positioning for the future

Fahad Abualnasr, KAICIID Director General

This report showcases the many ways in which KAICIID works at both the country and global levels, to leverage the skills of interreligious dialogue into concrete results for religious communities, civil society actors, and policymakers. Through these efforts, we are working towards inclusive citizenship and peaceful coexistence for people the world over.

In 2016, we launched our four year strategy for interreligious dialogue. With this forward-looking plan, we made the decision to focus our support on faith-based actors in parts of the world where religion is being actively manipulated for violence. We decided to concentrate our efforts on promoting the concepts of inclusive citizenship for all groups and communities, irrespective of their share of population, and to invest in bridge-building between religious communities and policymakers through training and capacity building. The strategy also enabled us to build the capacity of youth and religious leaders around the world by developing several knowledge sharing programmes, including the

KAICIID International Fellows Programme, and a joint training programme with the World Scouting Movement, titled “Dialogue for Peace”, to name but a few.

In 2018, we were able to see the results of this strategic approach — the platforms that we helped build in the Arab Region, the Central African Republic, Europe, Myanmar and Nigeria are now fully operational. We are especially proud of the fact that these platforms are completely owned and operated by local religious communities, and that their interreligious initiatives are community-led in every sense of the word, from the Interreligious Dialogue Training Centre in Myanmar, to the joint curriculum on interreligious dialogue being prepared by the Network for Theological and Religious Faculties in the Arab region. We are also committed to continuously evaluating and assessing our strategy. As we prepare to embark on the next strategic exercise for the Centre, which will give us our roadmap for the four year period beginning in 2020, we will also undertake a comprehensive evaluation of our 2016–2019 strategy and learn from the findings.



## KAICIID partners with key religious leaders and institutions to work towards inclusive citizenship and peaceful coexistence for people the world over

Our focus is on change at the community, national, and global levels, but we can never lose sight of the fact that this change is achieved through individuals, through personal transformation. And that is why, we find the strongest inspiration for our work in stories such as that of 19-year-old Myo Htut (see pages 42–43) from Myanmar, who found in dialogue a pathway to help his deeply divided community.

Or that of Ruham (see pages 36–37), a dialogue facilitator who works with KAICIID’s People Seeking Refuge Programme. Through her work, she provides a positive role model for asylum-seekers in Austria, proving that

**“ Our focus is on change at the community, national, and global levels, but we can never lose sight of the fact that this change is achieved through individuals, through personal transformation**

it is possible for people seeking refuge to successfully integrate into Austrian society without having to give up identity, culture, and religion.

Or one of our past Fellows, who was equipped through the programme with the skills needed to dialogue with a local religious leader who opposed his interreligious work (see page 31). The two are now staunch allies and are even working together on a platform for dialogue.

We celebrate our platforms, but among our proudest moments this year was the discovery that three of the members of the newly-formed interreligious council of the African Union are KAICIID Fellows (see page 40). Or the experience of watching a member of our Advisory Forum address a gathering at UN Headquarters about the unique contribution that women of faith make to peacebuilding (see page 10).

These are the stories that tell us that we are fulfilling our mandate of promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue, of advocating the inclusion of all perspectives and worldviews into policymaking, and of building bridges that make it easier for people to reach and connect with each other.



# Promoting IRD on the ground

In 2018, KAICIID developed a strategic approach to capitalise on the Centre's comparative advantages, as well as on new opportunities in each of its focus countries and regions. These include the Arab Region, Central African Republic, Myanmar and Nigeria. In this context, the Centre has worked to achieve the following:

- ❖ The establishment of inclusive mechanisms and policies, which contribute to peace and reconciliation through interreligious dialogue
- ❖ Increasing the capacity of religious actors to effectively implement interreligious initiatives and advocate social cohesion
- ❖ The promotion of peaceful coexistence through interreligious dialogue and policymaking in each of the target areas.

**“ In 2018, KAICIID took a more strategic and regional approach to its work**

KAICIID made significant progress towards all of these goals during 2018. In the **ARAB REGION**, the Centre launched the first Interreligious Platform for Dialogue and Cooperation in the Arab World during a high-level meeting in Vienna, which was attended by over 250 participants and religious leaders from different faith traditions (see page 18). The Platform supports the work of the Network of Religious Faculties and Institutes, which encourages collaboration between Islamic and Christian faculties and institutes in the Arab Region, in order to develop educational strategies in the field of interreligious and intercultural dialogue.

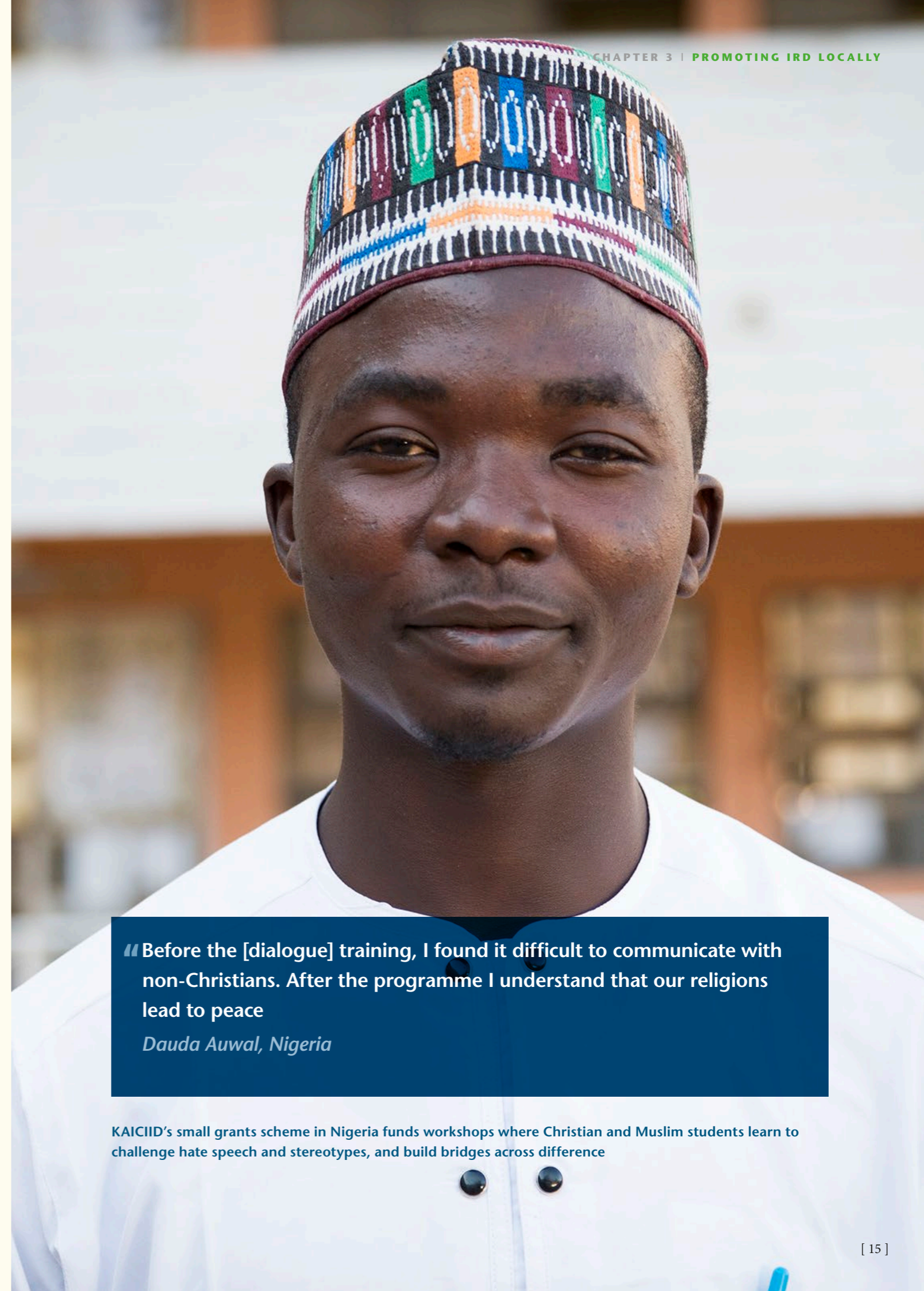
Two other key programmes in the Arab Region have been advanced under the auspices of the Platform and the Network: Firstly, the Centre launched the second Arab Fellows cohort under the Platform umbrella in 2018. Secondly, the Centre's 'Social Media as a Space for Dialogue' programme continued to equip civil society activists and religious actors in the region with the tools to counter hate speech and promote mutual

understanding. KAICIID supported a number of social media campaigns in 2018, designed to promote social cohesion and religious diversity, which emerged from these training sessions.

In the **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)**, KAICIID strengthened its support of the CAR Interfaith Platform, which facilitates sustainable peacebuilding at the community level. Moreover, building on its partnerships with government actors, the Centre moved toward an agreement with the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and National Reconciliation, in order to contribute to the national peace infrastructure by establishing local peace committees to further the reconciliation process. To that end, the Centre conducted a number of training sessions in 2018, including training key imams to better engage in dialogue with other religious communities in CAR, and training youth and women in mediation and dialogue facilitation.

In **MYANMAR**, KAICIID launched the first IRD Training Centre in the country, in collaboration with the Asia Light Foundation and the Peaceful Myanmar Initiative (PMI). Five cohorts of participants from different religious institutions, including a group of prominent Buddhist monks and members of Parliament, participated in training at the Centre. Furthermore, KAICIID continued to invest efforts in IRD initiatives in Rakhine State through collaboration with UNDP, despite the limitations to IRD activities in the country.

In **NIGERIA**, the Centre established dialogue spaces, and supported local initiatives designed to bring communities together. In 2018, KAICIID signed a collaboration agreement with the Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace (IDFP) which prioritised initiatives such as the development of interreligious education, the prevention of hate speech, and the use of dialogue as a tool for peace. Active dialogue platforms like the IDFP are key in bringing together different religious leaders and communities to prevent conflict and promote mutual respect and peace. Furthermore, KAICIID supported various initiatives through grants, which focused on advocacy of interreligious coexistence.



**“ Before the [dialogue] training, I found it difficult to communicate with non-Christians. After the programme I understand that our religions lead to peace**

*Dauda Auwal, Nigeria*

KAICIID's small grants scheme in Nigeria funds workshops where Christian and Muslim students learn to challenge hate speech and stereotypes, and build bridges across difference

# Arab Region

For centuries, religion has been a pivotal part of political life in the Arab world. Research from the field shows that religion and religious agendas are often misused by religious leaders, politicians and militants, for political gain and power plays. By claiming to act in the name of religion, violent factions have harmed the image of religion and religious values, thereby leading to increased polarisation and intensification of internal tensions throughout the region.

**“This misuse of religion has fed into the generation of lasting stereotypes and misperceptions**

This misuse of religion has also fed into the generation of lasting stereotypes and misperceptions, which has the potential to further divide communities. Therefore, concerted efforts are needed to ensure that the values and structures that support religious diversity are preserved and strengthened. As of early 2018, many Arab countries remain plagued by violence, large-scale displacement, sectarianism, violent extremism, and the collapse of critical infrastructures, the combination

**In the Arab Region, young people and religious actors are taught to use social media to promote peace and counter hate speech**



of which significantly challenges national, regional, and global stability. Since its establishment in 2012, KAICIID has recognised the urgent need to invest in religious leaders and institutions that promote a culture of diversity, pluralism and common citizenship, as well as positive and peaceful rhetoric, in their own war-torn communities.

## **Advocating social cohesion, common citizenship and human rights**

Over the past year, KAICIID has actively engaged religious leaders under the framework of the Network of Religious Faculties and Institutes in the Arab Region (launched in Amman, in May 2017), and the Interreligious Platform for Dialogue and Cooperation in the Arab World (launched by high-level religious leaders in Vienna in February 2018). In 2018, both platforms formed working groups with representatives of high-level religious leaders from various countries to develop realistic action plans that cover issues such as citizenship, education, media and partnerships with policymakers. The two platforms provide safe spaces where religious leaders, institutions and faith-based organizations can work together to advocate social cohesion, common citizenship, human rights and reconciliation in war-torn communities.



## **The Centre works with religious leaders on issues such as citizenship, education, and collaboration with policymakers**

In December 2018, the Platform convened 30 leaders from religious institutions and civil society organizations representing almost all of the religious and ethnic groups in Iraq, including Baha'i, Christians, Kakai, Sabeen, Shabak, Shia, Sunni and Yazidis. Meeting in Erbil, the participants discussed ways to build a citizenship framework for Iraq which would be inclusive and respectful of the equal rights of all. They also established a Common Citizenship Team at the national level in Iraq which will oversee the implementation of the platform's action plan initiatives.

Under the umbrella of the Network, the Centre implemented several other key initiatives during 2018, designed to tackle violent extremism and counter hate speech. Consistent with its previous project cycle, KAICIID continued in its advocacy of interfaith education and social media training. Covering 11 countries in the Arab region, and reaching over 580 participants in capacity building initiatives, the Centre succeeded in launching impactful online outreach initiatives, and designed a plan for a “Dialogue Week” campaign, designed to promote peace across the region. The social media campaigns echoed the conflict and

peace concerns of every citizen and reached far beyond Syrian borders.

In parallel, the Centre launched the second Arab Fellows Programme in 2018, also under the Platform umbrella, increasing the Fellows' abilities to replicate capacity building efforts in their respective communities. (For more on the Fellows programme, see page 29).

During the 2018 training, a group of 14 Fellows from Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Algeria, launched a dialogue initiative entitled “Arab Youth Forum for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue” teaching youth to promote the culture of dialogue, and peaceful co-existence.

As a cross-thematic issue, KAICIID was keen to uphold the values of gender equity and women's empowerment through work in the different initiatives of the Arab Region's portfolio. In 2018, the Centre, along with its partners, worked to bring greater awareness to the work of women from different faiths and denominations in their communities and also at the global policy table, as well as welcoming the representation of women in each of its activities and initiatives.

# Launching a Historic Platform for Peace

“For too long, we have allowed religion to be hijacked and used as justification for causing pain and suffering. With the launch of this platform, the leaders of religious communities say ‘enough’ to this manipulation and misuse. There has been enough talk but not enough action. Through this platform, we will set a visible, tangible example of interreligious cooperation

*HE Faisal Bin Abdulrahman Muaammar, KAICIID Secretary General*



CIID H.E. Faisal Bin Abdulrahman Bin Muaammar

On 26 February 2018, KAICIID organized a global conference titled, ‘Interreligious Dialogue for Peace: Promoting Peaceful Coexistence and Common Citizenship’, which brought together leading representatives of Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and other faith communities to speak up in one voice for social cohesion, peaceful coexistence and respect for religious diversity.

In a historic initiative, 23 of the highest religious authorities from Muslim and Christian institutions across the Arab region launched the first interreligious platform to advocate the rights and inclusion of all communities in the Arab World. Through the founding document, leaders committed to combat the instigation of hatred and sectarianism, advocate the fundamental rights and dignity of all

human beings, and to jointly address the toughest challenges faced by their communities.

The dialogue platform is the Centre’s pioneering initiative and is designed to connect religious leaders with policymakers in the region. The platform consists of three bodies: a general assembly that meets at least once every year, a representative committee comprising religious

leaders of the highest rank, and an administrative committee supported by KAICIID.

The participating institutions of the platform have agreed on a series of activities that include:

- ❖ Working with local and national authorities to review existing policies and propose new policies to promote social cohesion and equal rights

- ❖ Meeting with national and international policymakers to advocate common citizenship and to address the challenges in the region such as migration and resettlement

- ❖ Training clergy of all religions on how to combat discourse of hatred and exclusion, especially when that discourse is targeted at youth in their communities

- ❖ Supporting curricula of religious education adopted by member institutions that promote understanding and acceptance of those of other religions, through a focus on the historical religious diversity of the region
- ❖ Implementing at least 20 initiatives every year on issues of shared concern, with a special focus on activities that benefit young people and women.

# Africa Region

## Sub-Saharan Africa Region

In 2018, the Centre focused on three strategic areas in sub-Saharan Africa. Firstly, by fostering spaces for dialogue and interreligious collaboration through the establishment and support of interreligious platforms at the national level in CAR and Nigeria, as well as at the regional level

**“In Nigeria, from 1988 to 2015, thousands of lives were lost in my state of Kaduna. But, due to the intervention of KAICIID and other partners, only 20 lives have been lost since 2017. Today people of diverse religious identities — Imams and Christian clergies — are visiting each other. This success is attributable to dialogue**

*Sheikh Abdullahi Maraya, Nigeria*

in collaboration with the African Union. Secondly, through capacity building of religious representatives, policymakers, community leaders, media and other relevant actors, in order to foster and increase interreligious collaboration. Thirdly by advocating policy changes and working with local partners to increase impact at the grassroots level through targeted interventions.

### Creating spaces for dialogue

Throughout 2018, major efforts were invested in the creation and operationalisation of spaces for dialogue in CAR, Nigeria, and Africa as a whole. To that end, KAICIID has continued to build the capacity of its IRD Platforms to coordinate interreligious initiatives. The institutionalised cooperation with the respective platforms is governed by partnership agreements that outline approaches to address issues of shared concern.

In CAR, KAICIID supported the Plateforme des Confessions Religieuses de Centrafrique (PCRC) in the implementation of its three-year strategic plan, which aims to have regional offices (antennae structures) established in all of the country’s 16 prefectures and to contribute to peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts. The Centre also worked to further institutionalise the PCRC and build its capacities in order to enhance

KAICIID supports the work of local leaders, like Sheikh Maraya and Reverend Hayan, who are affectionately known as the “Kaduna Twins” due to their close friendship and shared commitment to mutual respect. The two men partner with traditional leaders to foster peace and prevent conflict



**In 2018, Simbiat (a Muslim) and Joseph (a Christian) agreed to participate in a dialogue workshop. Although initially reluctant to get to know each other, they now consider each other partners for peace**

its role in promoting peace. KAICIID provided the platform with institutional support that included a capacity building workshop for its secretariat in Bangui. Moreover, the Centre will support the functioning of the antennae offices from eight selected prefectures for an initial period of six months.

Additionally, KAICIID supported several advocacy activities to raise awareness about the causes of hate speech and the threat it poses to sustainable peace and reconciliation in CAR, as well as to equip key stakeholders with the necessary skills to counter it. Through these activities, policymakers were further sensitised to the need to ban hate speech through new legal regulations. KAICIID also signed a collaboration agreement with the CAR Ministry for National Reconciliation in support of the establishment of Local Peace Committees (LPCs) in six targeted areas, ensuring the inclusion of religious and community leaders in these structures, as well as nurturing synergies with the platform’s antennae offices.

In Nigeria, the KAICIID-backed Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace (IDFP) engaged in the implementation of its action plan, with a focus on interreligious

engagement and advocacy. In this regard, IDFP conducted town hall dialogue meetings in five crisis areas that are affected by inter-ethnic and religious tensions, linked to farmers–pastoralists conflicts, reaching more than 1,200 people.

These national efforts have been complemented on a regional level through collaboration with the African Union on the operationalisation of the African Union Interfaith Dialogue Forum (AU-IFDF) and its steering committee in the context of creating opportunities for interreligious dialogue within and among national African governments. In November 2018, the third AU-IFDF, which took place in N’Djamena, ratified a six-year strategy to implement its action plan in coordination with national interreligious platforms.

### Capacity building and training

In CAR, the Centre reinforced eight of the PCRC’s 16 antennae structures by training their members\* on dialogue facilitation techniques. Participants then replicated the training in their respective localities with assistance from KAICIID field staff. Additionally, media outlets in CAR were trained in conflict-sensitive journalism to further develop their capacities to

\*The total number of participants in this initial workshop was 24 (three from each of eight selected prefectures). The selected prefectures were prioritised according to critical need in terms of violence affecting the region and were represented each by groups including one Catholic, one Protestant and one Muslim religious leader.

# Stephen: Bridging Ethnic Divides



“As I continue to journey with IDFP, more opportunities open up for me and for my community. There are more avenues for self-awareness, interactions, and exchange of ideas

*Stephen Ojapah, Catholic priest working in Sokoto*

For Stephen Ojapah, a Catholic priest in Sokoto, interreligious dialogue has been a transformative element of his work in Nigeria for years. As Director for Interreligious Dialogue and Ecumenism for the diocese, his daily routine is spent meeting people from different faiths, and working closely with Muslim clerics on multireligious initiatives such as interfaith seminars and agricultural development.

Through the KAICIID-supported Interfaith Dialogue Forum (IDFP) in Nigeria, Stephen has found additional opportunities to expand his local

work, connecting to a network of scholars and leaders in the field.

In September 2018, Stephen and the IDFP carried out advocacy visits to areas particularly affected by conflict between farmers and pastoralists. Due to the changes in the social structure of Nigeria, threats by violent groups in the North, and environmental changes, pastoralists and their cattle have moved to search for pasture and water outside of their villages, clashing with farmers over scarcity of resources. This deep-rooted opposition is also tinged with a religious component, given that

many farmers identify as Christian and many pastoralists as Muslim. Stephen says that the IDFP advocacy visits provided, “an opportunity that millions of Nigerians don’t have: a platform of hearing and interacting with victims of conflict and violence.”

For Stephen, the trip was a transformative experience, helping him and his colleagues to engage with other groups, beyond stereotypes and prejudices across ethnic and religious divides. He notes two key experiences from the advocacy visits: Firstly, his encounter with the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association

of Nigeria (MACBAN), where participants listened to the group’s personal grievances and concerns for the country, as well as about the efforts to encourage reforms among their members. He was further encouraged by MACBAN’s willingness to hold dialogue on issues that have formed and entrenched conflict in the past. “They turned up to welcome us in the hundreds; a beautiful sight to behold,” he said.

Stephen also noted that his perceptions changed during a constructive encounter with the Emir of Anka in Zamfara state. After the

visits, Stephen was able to reach out to his new contacts in the North, discussing issues of concern and working towards positive, peaceful solutions. “The goodwill from relating well with the traditional system in the North has brought my community a lot of harmony and peaceful resolution of those smaller crises that can trigger larger national crises.”

These visits and exchanges were eye-opening, even for someone of Stephen’s experience who is well-versed in interreligious and intercultural dialogue. Through the visits, participants gained a

better understanding of the affected communities, recognising them not just by their religious or ethnic identities, but rather as fellow Nigerians. As another participant noted: “Like many of us who went with a biased mind, I came back heartbroken and sympathetic to their plight as Nigerians.”

Through IDFP, Stephen hopes to continue to advance his work in interreligious dialogue, working to end violence and diffuse tensions peacefully, with mutual respect and understanding.



In this context, eight projects were implemented in Nigeria by IDFP member organizations and five other grants were awarded to faith-based and civil society organizations. These initiatives, conducted in the context of KAICIID's grants scheme, reached more than 600 people in three regions, sensitising women and youth to hate speech within their communities and equipping them with tools to actively build bridges across religious and ethnic divisions. Furthermore, an additional 14 grants which were awarded at the end of 2018, are still in the process of being implemented. In CAR, quick impact projects included prevention of hate speech and violence as well as promotion of national reconciliation through dialogue facilitation, advocacy, IRD training and awareness raising.

Additionally in 2018, KAICIID launched its first African Cohort of the KAICIID Fellows Programme, which resulted in 21 follow-up small scale projects implemented throughout the region. These projects particularly focused on training young people and increasing peaceful interreligious messaging. In Nigeria, local partners, interfaith dialogue platform member organizations, and KAICIID Fellows joined efforts to educate others on interreligious approaches to peaceful coexistence in areas affected by violent interreligious clashes. In CAR, the sponsored Fellows' projects engaged in activities dedicated to facilitating dialogue between communities; in particular within the PK5 neighbourhood in Bangui, which remains under the control of armed groups.

The Centre plans to continue these sustainable efforts during 2019, focusing on the creation of synergies and mechanisms to increase the use of interreligious dialogue as the basis for interaction and as a tool for mutual understanding and peacebuilding. By strengthening the autonomy of dialogue platforms across the region and expanding project focused work with organizations and individuals, the Africa-focused programmes aim at building sustainable capacity and act as drivers of change in the region.

**“The training emphasised the shared responsibility of both parties in preventing hateful messaging and in promoting religious diversity and peaceful coexistence**

**The Nigeria programme equips youth and women with the skills to dialogue, challenge hate speech, and appreciate one another's differences**

**The KAICIID-backed Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace encourages local religious leaders to take concrete action on community issues, such as ensuring violence-free, fair elections**

report on inter-ethnic and interreligious issues in a more professional and responsible way. This training was conducted in partnership with the Ministry for Communication and the Higher Council for Communication, the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, as well as MINUSCA (the UN political mission in CAR), and provided an opportunity to establish links between the journalists and the Interfaith Platform, in order to increase the accurate coverage of events happening in the country.

The training emphasised the shared responsibility of both parties in preventing hateful messaging and in promoting religious diversity and peaceful coexistence. In Nigeria, members of the IDFP were supported through three quarterly capacity building training sessions that focused on the provision and development of operational frameworks, monitoring, evaluation and reporting techniques as well as emotional intelligence and successful internal and external communication. It

is expected that these skills will be expanded in 2019 and will continue to positively impact the work of the IDFP and its member organizations.

**Maximising the impact of dialogue**

In order to achieve quick and immediate impact, the Centre supports the implementation of small scale initiatives at the grassroots level in the sub-Saharan African region through the allocation of small grants. These grants are focused on supporting local NGOs in CAR and Nigeria as well as members of the KAICIID Fellows Programme (see page 29) to engage in activities that focus on building bridges between religious and ethnic communities. Areas of action included: prevention of hate speech and/or electoral violence; promotion of the freedom of religion; media engagement; interfaith exchange programmes; and interfaith education. These projects had an immediate impact and enabled KAICIID and its local partners to reach a wider range of stakeholders, thereby increasing the Centre's impact in the two countries.



# Asia Region

Conflict in Myanmar is complex, rooted in underrepresentation of ethnic and religious minority communities. Muslim minority groups have faced structural discrimination, due to anti-Muslim sentiment which has stemmed in part from decade-long mass propaganda. Consequently, a section of the majority Buddhist population perceives the Muslim community as a threat to its social and national security, as well as religious identity, resulting in a worrying increase in anti-Muslim discourse online. Moreover, the 2017 tragic events in Northern Rakhine State, which led to the displacement of over 700,000 people, threaten to further

divide the diverse religious communities in the rest of the country and create a crisis of trust between the Buddhist and Muslim communities.

KAICIID and its local partner network, the Peaceful Myanmar Initiative (PMI), a multi-religious network of religious leaders and CSOs, continued to focus on peace advocacy efforts in order to revive the spirit of tolerance in the country. The PMI is one of the largest and most influential interreligious networks in the country, and is led by highly regarded Buddhist monks, Christian, Hindu and Muslim religious leaders, as well as civil society activists.

In 2018, the KAICIID-supported network conducted interreligious initiatives in 10 of the 14 states and divisions and launched the country's first Interreligious Training Centre in April 2018 in upper Myanmar. To date, the programme has trained 559 community representatives, nine senior journalists and editors, 62 representatives of Buddhist Sangha clergy, 94 PMI peace educators and 40 policymakers on interreligious dialogue and peacebuilding.

**“The KAICIID-supported network conducted interreligious initiatives in 10 of the 14 states and divisions and launched the country's first Interreligious Training Centre**

**The training centre is the first of its kind in Myanmar and is staffed by experienced religious and community leaders, as well as graduates of the Fellows Programme**



**Young people joined 300 religious and community leaders at the International Day of Peace to call for unity in Myanmar**

Additionally, PMI trained leading Buddhist monks from 15 Myanmar townships on conflict transformation, dialogue and peacebuilding. The participants were also challenged to build partnerships with one another and facilitate intra- and interreligious dialogue in their own communities. PMI member, Sayadaw Ashin Seindida noted: “Several years ago, we did not have space for training, where our monks could learn and strategise together for the betterment of a peaceful society.”

In 2018, PMI also played an important role in meeting needs at a social level within Myanmar, in an effort to further promote dialogue and interreligious cooperation. During the monsoon season, massive floods blocked 600,000 people from necessary goods and services. Mobilising quickly, PMI allocated emergency funds to the disaster, in addition to raising money from within its network to help victims. Furthermore, in close coordination with the Myanmar parliament, the network dispatched a team to provide medicine, food and sanitary kits for 5,000 people in the Shwe Kyin township, which had been heavily hit by the flood.

In September, the PMI convened over 300 religious and civil society leaders, youth groups and faith-based organizations at its International Peace Day celebrations. The celebration included an art competition for young children, music and dance presentations, as well as a series of stirring speeches by religious leaders that highlighted the importance of peace and dialogue

among the various religious groups in the country. PMI supporter, Ashin Ariya Wun Tha Bhiwun Sa (also known as Myawaddy Sayadaw) noted: “Dialogue is essential. We need to open our minds and have an honest conversation to build sustainable peace in Myanmar. On this particular day, I also want to remind everyone that dialogue, even with the military, is very important for genuine reconciliation.” In a highly positive development, several government representatives also attended the event, expressing their support for the initiative.

Additionally, in September, KAICIID was invited to take part in a joint assessment mission with the Maulana Arshad Madani and the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind Foundations at Rohingya refugee camps and schools in Cox Bazaar, Bangladesh. The foundations run 165 schools that reach nearly 40,000 children. KAICIID held discussions with the camp administrator and the Madani Foundation about the possibility to support the camp in future humanitarian aid initiatives. Currently, KAICIID is working towards facilitating a cross-border dialogue initiative to address the gap in intercommunity relations between the refugees and the Buddhist community in Rakhine state.

Finally, in 2018, KAICIID began discussions for a Memorandum of Understanding with the Myanmar authorities, which would create a more official and effective partnership on common objectives, such as the promotion of inclusive dialogue and social cohesion.



# Promoting IRD globally

Building on its work at the regional level, KAICIID also works at the global level to strengthen interreligious understanding among religious leaders and their communities, equip communities and governments with tools for dialogue, and disseminate knowledge and e-tools related to IRD.



There have been major achievements in capacity development and international networking implemented by the Global Practices Hub programmes in 2018. The two main programmes within capacity development, the **KAICIID INTERNATIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAMME (KIFP)** and the **PROGRAMME FOR THE SOCIAL INCLUSION OF PEOPLE SEEKING REFUGE IN EUROPE (PSR)**, made significant progress in increasing sustainability, building on key partnerships, and expanding outreach during 2018.

Throughout the past year, KIFP continued to provide religious leaders, educators and other relevant actors with the necessary skills and competencies to teach, train and facilitate IRD to their students and followers within their communities and beyond. The programme is based on — and excels in — the premise that providing selected leaders and educators with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities to practice interreligious dialogue empowers them to take an active role in fostering peace around the world.

Additionally, the PSR programme continued to strengthen its partnerships through work with the Red Cross Vienna and the establishment of a **NETWORK FOR DIALOGUE**. The Network is designed to bring together local faith and dialogue actors from across Europe, in order to encourage interreligious and intercultural dialogue for effective inclusion of refugees and migrants. Furthermore, the PSR programme's **PROJECT INTEGRATION THROUGH DIALOGUE** developed a toolkit including a handbook of 13 modules focusing on integration-related themes, as well as relevant activity materials and information sheets. This toolkit is purposefully designed to support social workers, teachers and other multipliers around the world with their efforts to improve the integration process.

KAICIID also continued to expand its capacity building of youth, with the **DIALOGUE FOR PEACE PROGRAMME (DfP)** witnessing exponential growth in terms of outreach and sustainability in 2018. In this area, KAICIID partners with the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) on equipping youth with dialogue skills and thus contributing to the UNSDGs. The Centre also witnessed the adoption of dialogue on an institutional level in 2018, as WOSM included DfP as part of its service model. These efforts were crowned when dialogue was listed as the first step in the Scouts' contribution to UNSDG 16, 'Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions,' with KAICIID acknowledged as a key partner.

Finally, KAICIID worked to further promote and catalyse IRD among international organizations and partners through its **INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING PROGRAMME (INP)**. During the past year, the number of KAICIID partners expanded, encompassing over 20 international organizations and networks.

Moreover, the Centre serves on the board and advisory committees of at least four international networks and initiatives such as the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, the Strategic Learning Exchange, the Joint Learning Initiative and the International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development (PaRD). It also fostered the development of three more initiatives, the AU Interfaith Dialogue Forum and its steering committee, the Muslim Jewish Leadership Council in Europe, and the Cordoba Forum.

## CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT The KAICIID International Fellows Programme

The KAICIID International Fellows Programme (KIFP) marked several key milestones in 2018, including the graduation of its fourth International cohort, its second Arab Region cohort (which was also the first under the umbrella of the Arab Region Platform – see page 16) and its first Africa regional cohort. In total, 71 new Fellows from 32 countries graduated in 2018, having implemented 50 individual and joint initiatives that

targeted over 2,000 individuals. Additionally, another seven microgrants initiatives, including programmes designed to increase women's engagement and decision-making at the dialogue table and interreligious education programmes for youth, were implemented by alumni targeting over 500 people in their local communities.

Throughout 2018, KIFP continued to increase the programme's sustainability, launching the first national alumni chapters in Indonesia and Myanmar. To date, 118 Fellows have participated in KAICIID and partner-supported events, further multiplying the effects of dialogue in their local community long after their official training programme was completed. Moreover, KIFP held the first Training of Trainers (ToT) session for select KAICIID Fellows, who will support the training of future Fellows as the programme continues to expand.

Since 2015, KAICIID Fellows have reached thousands of stakeholders through their training, research and educational initiatives, which are shaping the religious leaders of today and tomorrow. According to an evaluation

**“Being introduced to KAICIID made me a different person. It redefined my role. I now know that my path is IRD and working for peace in my country**

*Fellows programme participant,  
anonymous evaluation survey*

**The KAICIID Fellows programme has welcomed participants from over 44 countries, representing a number of religious and academic institutions**







**A highlight of the programme for many Fellows is the visits to houses of worship where they learn about one another's religious traditions**

report conducted by an external consultant in 2018, KIFP is fulfilling its objectives and achieving its proposed outcomes: "A major achievement is that, since 2015, KIFP has grown from 20 to 183 Fellows by the end of [2018]...The Fellows represented 44 countries, and the programme is focused on

balanced geographic, religious and gender representation. The quality of programme implementation was good, and the programme activities were relevant and timely."

Further findings from the evaluation report of the programme include\*:

❖ **RELEVANCE.** The evaluation found that KIFP meets the needs and expectations of its target group of religious leaders and educators at the highest level, scoring 5/5 in alignment both with KAICIID's strategy, as well as international development goals.

In the areas below, the KIFP ranked 4/5, indicating that the programme met expectations at a high level, with further recommendations for how the programme can continue to expand and improve in 2019.

❖ **EFFECTIVENESS.** The report scored 4/5 "[KIFP] was effective in that it achieved its objectives. [Its] effectiveness was determined by its robust design, implementation and adaptation."

**“ Dialogue is now part of all of my lectures to students. I have access to hundreds of students in a year and they are now being exposed to the principles and applications of dialogue**

*Fellows programme participant, anonymous evaluation survey*

**“ In my village, we have always had problems between the Buddhists and the Muslims. There is a Muslim religious leader who has always opposed our work to create platforms of discussions in the community. He attended one of my talks on interreligious dialogue and now we are the best of friends. He is asking for more input, and recently he created a forum for Buddhists and Muslims to meet and discuss common issues. It is working very well so far**

*Fellows programme participant, anonymous evaluation survey*

- ❖ **EFFICIENCY.** In terms of cost-effectiveness, the programme scored 4/5 indicating that KIFP is achieving its desired outputs on time and within budget.
- ❖ **SUSTAINABILITY.** KIFP scored 4/5 on sustainability due to its alumni network, institutional and community engagement, regional training, and ToT in 2018. The evaluation shows that Fellows, "... have remained engaged in IRD interventions after having completed the initial training programme. Examples of these interventions include curriculum development, advocacy, training, and IRD programme design...which...contribute to the programme's overall sustainability."
- ❖ **RESULTS.** In terms of assessing the programme's results and long-term impact, the evaluation found evidence of change at three levels: micro (individual), meso (community, groups, and organizations), and macro (policy and institutional).

At the micro level, the evaluation noted significant and positive impact across the Fellows programme,

stating: "The vast majority of respondents noted that the Fellows programme had resulted in significant and lasting changes in their knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviour."

At the community (meso) level, the evaluation found "strong and numerous examples of impact," recognising that Fellows are transferring their dialogue knowledge to community members, students, colleagues, family members and even former adversaries.

While the programme is still young, there are strong indicators that KIFP is taking its first steps toward attaining macro level impact. For example, several KAICIID Fellows based in South and South East Asia are collaborating with the Ministry of Health and Savodaya organization at the policy level on creating the Interfaith Network for Disaster Preparedness and Community Resilience in Sri Lanka. This represents an intersection of dialogue within the framework of humanitarian needs, which is a new dimension for KAICIID.

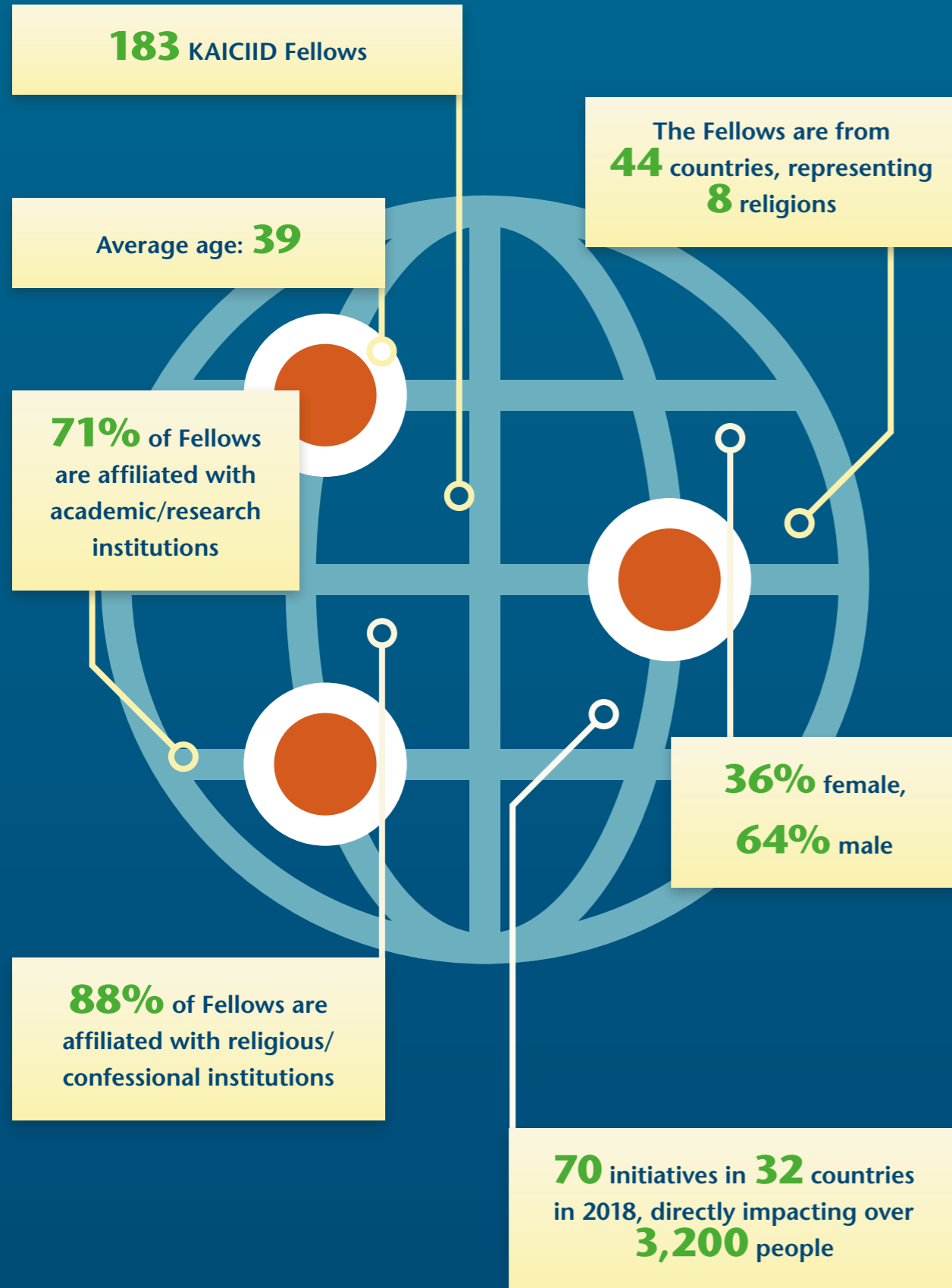
Moreover, Datu Mussolini Sinsuat Lidasan (KIFP 2016), was appointed by the president to the Bangsamoro Transition Commission in the Philippines, where he is currently seeking to integrate IRD into the work of the commission. According to Dr. Lidasan, "my initial engagement with KAICIID's programme has impacted the way I see my role in my institution. In particular, the label 'KAICIID International Fellow' bestows further clout and authority in the field of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, and this authority has positively impacted my role as an academician and field advocate of interreligious dialogue."

Dr. KM Baharul (KIFP 2016), who serves as director of the Interfaith Dialogue Programme at the PFI Foundation in India, used his KAICIID microgrant to launch a course in two major universities, containing 100 undergraduate colleges and a total enrolment of 100,000 students. Dr. Baharul is currently in consultation with high-level officials and MPs from his state and has been encouraged by their responses to mainstream the IRD foundation courses in more universities.

The programme will continue to monitor the multiplier effects of these microgrant initiatives in 2019, as well as continue to expand its alumni network and sustainability.

\*The assessment scores the programme a perfect five out of five on relevance and a high 4 out of 5 in the OECD defined areas of Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency Sustainability, and Results.

# Fellows programme profile



Fellows programme profile as of winter 2018

## CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT The Programme for the Social Inclusion of People Seeking Refuge

The Programme for the Social Inclusion of People Seeking Refuge (PSR) works to enhance the integration of people seeking refuge in Europe, as well as improve conditions for their effective participation in society, through interreligious and intercultural dialogue.

In 2018, KAICIID continued to build on **PROJECT INTEGRATION THROUGH DIALOGUE**, a grassroots initiative implemented in the Centre's host city of Vienna, Austria. KAICIID's intercultural mediators and dialogue facilitators have developed classes and activities designed to help project participants increase understanding of Austrian culture, norms and services, as well as build dialogue skills. The themes were drawn from the needs and interests of the participants themselves, as well as structured around the Austrian Integration Fund's Values and Orientation Course, which strives to transmit basic democratic values and explain cultural norms in Austria.

On the basis of lessons learned from the pilot period which ended in March 2018, the project team worked to further develop programming targeted to address the needs of people seeking refuge in Vienna in terms of integration and social inclusion. In 2018, the main Project Integration through Dialogue activities were based on these insights.

**Establishing a community dialogue house**  
In 2018, KAICIID laid the groundwork for a community dialogue centre in Vienna, which the Centre, in coordination with its partner Red Cross Austria, plans to establish in a district with a high concentration of migrant families. The house will provide additional integration support services, such as German classes or homework tutoring for children, and will enable KAICIID to cooperate with grassroots dialogue initiatives, all of which need space in which to hold integration-related activities.

**Dialogue sessions support participants with their German language lessons and help them navigate further opportunities for training and education**





During the programme, participants are encouraged to engage with art and culture, bridging traditions from both their home and host countries

### Mainstreaming interreligious dialogue through partnerships and networks

KAICIID continued to strengthen its partnerships in 2018, cooperating on a range of events and activities with Red Cross Austria. These included a joint interreligious dialogue event on World Refugee Day and a six-part intercultural and interreligious dialogue series hosted in collaboration with Project CrossTalk, which enabled people seeking refuge to dialogue with members of their host community on the theme 'Customs and Traditions'. Furthermore, KAICIID dialogue facilitators held informal meetings with Red Cross First Aid response trainers in order to answer questions about how to be more sensitive to needs of individuals with different cultural backgrounds.

KAICIID also continued to expand its partnerships with the **NETWORK FOR DIALOGUE**, which was formed in 2018 based on recommendations from an Expert's Workshop on Interreligious Education in Europe, co-hosted by KAICIID and the European Commission Representation in Austria. The Network brings together local faith and dialogue actors from a range of European

countries in order to empower interreligious and intercultural action for refugee and migrant inclusion. This KAICIID initiative seeks to build the field of dialogue within the specific area of refugee support, while also creating a mechanism for exchange between grassroots dialogue actors and policymakers.

Through joint collaboration, the Network will become a platform for developing more effective recommendations for integration and social inclusion policies for migrants and people seeking refuge in Europe. Sharing best practices, experiences and knowledge of international and interdisciplinary group within the Network will enable members to find joint solutions to the exclusion that is faced by people seeking refuge, asylum seekers and various migrant groups.

In September 2018, 11 founding Network members from nine organizations met for a two-day workshop in order to define the Network's purpose, its added value for members, its governance and structure and to develop an action plan for 2019 and beyond. The Network held its workshop and official launch event in March 2019 in Bologna, Italy.



### Integration through Dialogue

In 2018, the Project Integration through Dialogue team began work on a programme toolkit, designed to support social workers, teachers and other multipliers so they can include more dialogical activities in their work with people seeking refuge. The toolkit can be used to replicate Project Integration through Dialogue as a whole, or as a supplementary resource for trainers or facilitators who want to create a dialogue session around a specific topic. The aim of each module is to build participants' dialogue skills, empower them in their own integration processes

and provide a list of resources and services where they can seek additional support.

The toolkit's 13 modules contained in the handbook, cover various integration-related themes such as learning a new language, going shopping, and being a good neighbour. Each module has at least one activity that can easily be carried out with participants who cannot read and write.

The modules described in the handbook are supplemented by corresponding activity materials such as playing cards and scenarios for role-playing games, as well as corresponding sample handouts. Each handout contains module-relevant information and website links to further resources. The handouts were specifically developed for participants living in Vienna, Austria, and can either be photocopied and distributed directly or used as a guide for users in other countries who might choose to create a similar handout for their own participants.

The Toolkit will be published in both English and German in spring 2019, as well as available for download on KAICIID's website.

**The Network for Dialogue is an exciting space which brings together humanitarian agencies, grassroots activists, and faith-based organizations to collaborate with policymakers on integration in Europe**



# Ruham: Integration through Dialogue



**“As a migrant, I know how hard it is to start from scratch in a foreign country, in particular due to the new language and culture, and lack of support. It’s my personal goal to support people who are in similar situations, and to help them believe in themselves**

*Ruham, KAICIID dialogue facilitator*

KAICIID’s Programme for the Social Inclusion of People Seeking Refuge in Europe recognises that successful integration is vital to ensure that newcomers are not outsiders but rather a part of their new communities. The programme has worked to help newcomers adjust through specifically tailored dialogue programmes and language assistance. KAICIID Dialogue Facilitators help groups of people seeking refuge to deepen their understanding of Austrian systems,

services, and culture over the course of 13 dialogue sessions.

Ruham, a facilitator for KAICIID’s Project Integration through Dialogue, regularly shares with participants her own positive experiences and challenges with integration. She and her fellow dialogue facilitators for the programme, are Austrian citizens with migrant backgrounds — originally coming from Afghanistan and Syria.

Having worked as a dialogue facilitator with the programme for the past two years, Ruham has seen just how much the women are impacted by both the programme and her own personal story. “It was important for the participating women to see that we dialogue facilitators were able to learn German and integrate ourselves into Austrian society without having to give up our identity, culture, and religion. We have learned a lot from each other through our shared experiences.”

In addition to offering much needed emotional support, the courses also give practical advice for daily life in Austria. Dialogue sessions explain how to navigate grocery shopping, school enrolment, and doctor’s visits, and make recommendations for how to be a good neighbour. They also provide a stress-free environment for participants to practice their new German skills. “Participants were particularly motivated to practice their newly learned language. Everyone

actively participated because they could speak in a relaxed atmosphere.”

Ruham is excited by the victories that course participants experience as they adjust to their new lives. “There are countless personal success stories. It’s touching to see what a positive effect the dialogue sessions have on the participants and their quality of life.” For example, one participant was able to help her daughter find work after learning about education and

training opportunities in Austria.

The sessions have also provided participants with safe spaces to openly discuss problems, experiences and past traumas. Many of the women form close bonds during the session and still meet once the formal classes are over. Ruham and the team will continue the sessions in 2019, welcoming and supporting more women to engage their integration proactively and effectively.

## INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING

### The Youth Programme

The Dialogue for Peace (DfP) programme, jointly developed and implemented with the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM), is KAICIID's flagship programme for capacity building among youth. KAICIID sees young people as agents of change, and their role in peacebuilding has been further emphasised through the UN Security Council Resolution #2250 on Youth, Peace and Security.

In November 2018, the Scouts movement launched the largest youth mobilisation in history, 'Scouts for SDGs'. Under SDG 16, 'Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions', the movement is encouraging its 50 million members to participate in dialogue with those who are different in religion, culture, age, or gender, and work towards obtaining the DfP badge. The activities and training implemented by the DfP programme contribute to the achievement of the SDGs, educating and empowering youth to have a positive impact on their communities. Following the SDG framework within the DfP programme, KAICIID strives to provide the foundation and skills to enable youth, especially women and girls, to become active dialogical citizens.

In 2018, KAICIID further expanded its outreach in these areas, increasing the number of DfP training sessions. Over the past year, the programme equipped

over 600 young people from over 60 countries of Africa, Asia-Pacific, Eurasia and Europe with the skills and principles of dialogue. The Centre also worked to expand the boundaries of the DfP programme among youth, beginning to train young people from outside of the Scouts organization. In the summer of 2018, ten university students participated in a training session in Naypyidaw, Myanmar, and were encouraged to spread their new dialogue skills among their fellow students. The Centre will work to expand further in this area in 2019.

Gender balance remained a key focus for the DfP team, as the Centre increased efforts to engage women in training — over 30% of participants on average — and among Scout Dialogue trainers — over 50% of participants. These numbers are expected to increase substantially in 2019 due to an emerging partnership with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

In terms of the DfP's sustainability within Scouting, the Centre focused on the growth of the Scouts dialogue trainers' pool as well as ensuring the quality of their training. In 2018, over twenty young leaders began KAICIID's accreditation programme toward delivering their first DfP sessions.

Due to the success of its dialogue training with youth, the Centre launched youth workshops at its headquarters in Vienna, Austria in summer 2018. The workshops provided young people from different cultural, religious and educational backgrounds with an opportunity to learn and practice the skills and principles of dialogue in an engaging atmosphere. The Centre aims to host additional workshops in 2019.

#### DfP survey

In order to better understand the personal and institutional transformation of DfP among the beneficiaries of its training, the WOSM-KAICIID team conducted a survey in 2018 of programme participants from 2015–2017.

A significant majority (72%) of the respondents reported they had replicated dialogue training or used portions of dialogue content both in Scouting and in their local

**Dialogue equips young people to be effective agents of change in their local communities**



**The Dialogo! game offers a fun, engaging way for players to practise dialogue facilitation, dispel stereotypes, and improve listening and communication skills**

communities. Many of the participants also reported that dialogue had directly supported their personal growth and improved their daily interactions.

#### Building bridges — a guide for dialogue ambassadors

In early 2018, the WOSM-KAICIID team launched The Building Bridges Guide for Dialogue Ambassadors. The manual offers the skills and knowledge for Scouts at all levels to understand, participate in, design, and facilitate dialogue, as well as to train others in these areas. Further resources, including manuals for trainers and facilitators as well as a handbook on the Dialogue Badge Programme are in production, with dissemination expected during 2019.

#### Dialogo! Game

In early 2018, KAICIID and the Mumkin Studio, a US gamification company, finalised the development of Dialogo!, an interactive board game that supports the learning and practise of dialogue principles and skills of facilitation. The game serves as a useful and engaging tool for capacity building activities and can be played as part of training or on its own. The game is available in seven languages — Arabic, Burmese, English, French, German, Spanish, and Russian — and is available for free download from the KAICIID website. Hard copies are also available in English.

Since the launch of the game in summer 2018, Dialogo! has reached hundreds of youth and adults and has been mentioned in media coverage worldwide. Over the past few months, the game has been successfully downloaded by hundreds of people in multiple countries. Due to the positive response to the game, KAICIID has been conducting an in-depth study of its market potential, distribution and promotion channels. The resulting report will support the planning for the game's future strategy in 2019.

#### Youth strategy

In addition to the success of the DfP programme over the last four years of operation, the 2019–2023 KAICIID Youth Programme Strategy was developed and submitted for review in late 2018, as a tribute to the role of young people as agents of change, and their contributions to social cohesion and peaceful coexistence. The strategy outlines steps to expand the DfP programme beyond Scouting and to bring dialogue knowledge and skills to more young people around the world.

The strategy will become an integral part of the Youth Programme's efforts to mainstream and institutionalise dialogue within other organizations which work with youth, as well as towards making youth a cross-cutting theme among KAICIID's other programmes.

# Myo Htut: Inspiring a generation of young leaders



“ I believe the future is in the hands of young people. They represent our next generation. If young people know how to effectively facilitate dialogue then they will bring us to a better place

*Myo Htut, Scout*



Since 2013, KAICIID and the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) have trained more than 2,000 Scouts through the Dialogue for Peace (DfP) programme. The programme works to equip young people — current and future changemakers of the world — with the tools needed to inspire change and build peace in their own communities.

For 19-year-old Myo Htut from

Myanmar, dialogue has become an integral part of everyday life, since completing his DfP training in summer 2018. An aspiring teacher studying at the Yangon University of Education in Myanmar, Myo Htut is aware of the consequences of conflict due to the severe crisis in his country. As part of an ethnic minority (the Mon people), Myo Htut first became interested in the DfP programme after reading about governmental efforts to address ethnic and religious

problems through interreligious and intercultural dialogue.

“Many people in Myanmar have negative views about Muslims, as we’ve seen with the Rohingya issue in Rakhine State. It’s important that we communicate with people who are different from us. I have a good relationship with my Muslim friends because we respect each other’s identities, despite our differences. What matters is how we treat each other.”

This attitude has helped Myo Htut constructively speak out about many of the issues he sees in his country, and work with others to build positive solutions. After a Christian classmate got into conflict with other Buddhist students at Myo Htut’s school, he was quick to intervene and end the tense situation. “After the DfP training, I now believe more in myself and I understand others better. Be the best we can be — I encourage everyone to live like that.”

This attitude has affected every part of his life. Recently, Myo was concerned when he heard that the female students at his university were not allowed to take courses after 6pm due to safety issues. Using his newly acquired skills, Myo Htut instigated a dialogue between the students and the school to try to find solutions so that female students can learn freely without fear of rape and sexual assault. While there is still a long way to go, Myo knows that these are the

types of issues where young people can make real, positive change.

Myo Htut, is one of many inspiring young people, who is changing the world through dialogue. Equipping young leaders and future educators like Myo Htut will continue to be a priority of the Centre in 2019, as such actions support and promote the vital role of young people in building and maintaining peace in their communities.

## INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING

### The International Networking Programme

Since its foundation, KAICIID has built active and diverse partnerships among its international peers as well as with regional and national-level institutions, as a framework for its programmes and objectives under the UNSDGs and regional agendas. Although there are many partnership functions within the Centre's programmes, this year's newly-launched International Networking Programme (INP) is the first formalised programme that works to familiarise partners at all levels with IRD and to ensure that the skills and structures for dialogue can be regularised and embedded in their organizational structures and policies.

In 2018, the programme assisted partners with seven collaborative projects and programmes, organizing and supporting an additional 12 activities designed to promote sustainable cross-sector and interreligious dialogue. KAICIID also sent representatives to key international events, such as the 2018 African Union (AU) Summit and the Permanent Missions of OIC Member States to the United Nations in Geneva, in order to provide insight on how organizations can further their objectives and global development goals through IRD or cross-sector dialogue.

To that end, KAICIID has worked to foster inclusion of religious institutions and actors in the development initiatives of secular organizations, and on additional areas of shared concern. In 2018, the Centre partnered with the AU Commission to integrate a permanent mechanism for sustained dialogue with religious actors. The Commission is among many international organizations which recognise that faith plays a fundamental part in the lives and identities of their stakeholders. Religious institutions are major purveyors



of social services in Africa, from education and health to media and reconciliation work. Moreover, they are invaluable partners for the achievement of Agenda 2063, the continent's development plan.

Over the past year, KAICIID and the AU continued to advocate peace and social cohesion through the revival of the AU Interfaith Dialogue Forum (AU-IFDF), a platform that gives voice to Africa's diverse religious communities. The platform also allows the AU's policies to be conveyed at the grassroots level through religious representatives. In 2018, the Forum was convened for the third time, reaching several key milestones in its journey to become a sustainable feature of the AU, ready to implement its 2016 Action Plan. For the first time, the Forum was entirely organized by the AU, which convened representatives of 34 countries. During the November meeting, the six-year strategy, developed by the Steering Committee in coordination with KAICIID, was adopted unanimously, preparing the way for implementation in 2019. Additionally, a new Steering Committee was elected. KAICIID is proud to note that not only has the representation of women risen substantially, but three of the incumbent members are also KAICIID Fellows.

Furthermore, KAICIID supported the development of three emerging IRD structures within a European Context. Firstly, in April 2018, the Centre supported the founding of the Cordoba Forum, which plans to bring together institutions and individuals to work towards a more tolerant world. The Forum aims to identify obstacles to the promotion of coexistence, share experiences and success stories, and coordinate efforts that would contribute to a world of greater coexistence through concrete actions. Over the course of 2018, the founders of the Forum (which include Paradigma Cordoba, Casa Árabe, World Organization of the Scout Movement, and Salam for Cultural Communication, among others) began work on their first major event, in coordination with the UN International Day of Living Together In Peace in May 2019. KAICIID developed founding documents for the initiative including a charter and principles for dialogue, expanded the religious dimension of the meeting, and will organize a complimentary youth seminar before

**Dialogue helps institutions reach their target goals for implementing regional agendas and the UNSDGs**



**Through the MJLC, Muslim and Jewish leaders work together to build strong communities and safeguard religious freedom and pluralism in Europe**

the Forum with Initiatives for Change International and WOSM with the aim of launching an opportunity for intergenerational cooperation in the spirit of IRD.

Secondly, KAICIID furthered its work with the Muslim Jewish Leadership Council (MJLC), which significantly expanded its outreach to the European community. In 2018, after two successful meetings of the executive, the MJLC was officially registered as a recognised Austrian NGO.

Additional collaboration with the City of Amsterdam provided space for 40 leading members of Muslim and Jewish communities from 18 countries to convene in discussion of the common needs and responsibilities of European religious minorities. The meeting ratified the strategic priorities of the MJLC's executive branch, identified a number of detailed and specific actions to spread the Council's principles and activities across Europe, and expanded the membership of the body at least threefold. The Council plans to establish contact with EU bodies, to advocate more inclusive policies concerning matters like clothing, food and circumcision, and countering islamophobia and antisemitism by providing a positive counter-narrative through messages

and statements of unity. The MJLC will also build relationships with EU policymakers and religious institutions in Europe, and monitor emerging issues impacting the interests of both communities, such as discrimination.

The meeting was held under the patronage of Mairead McGuinness, First Vice President of the European Parliament, and drew the attention and support of European agencies and international organizations, such as Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, and Erna Berends, President of the Northern City Council of Amsterdam.

Finally, during a preparatory meeting of the Amsterdam gathering, the European Muslim Leaders Majlis (EuLeMa) was launched, forming an unofficial network of actors which will seek to synchronise Muslim voices in Europe, giving particular support to the work of the MJLC. This network represents a new and unique body, which KAICIID is intent on encouraging as a valuable example of intra-religious dialogue, alongside the MJLC. INP will continue to work with these emerging networks under KAICIID's partnerships strategy in 2019.

# Dialogue Knowledge Hub

In addition to KAICIID's work to enhance interreligious cooperation at both the regional and global levels, and its capacity to provide platforms for facilitated dialogue between policymakers and religious institutions, the Centre works to support these actors through knowledge dissemination and networking opportunities.

The Dialogue Knowledge Hub (DKH) is the Centre's primary online training and learning service provision arm. It empowers IRD specialists, religious leaders, policymakers, faith-based and civil society organizations, academics and students, through knowledge and learning to effectively overcome contemporary global challenges.

In 2018, the DKH developed and launched its 2019–2024 Strategic Framework which outlines action strategies in two core areas: e-learning and training; and knowledge tools and online resources. Under the new strategic framework, the platform will provide high-quality

**“The KAICIID session about the Dialogue Knowledge Hub was very informative. The Hub itself is an impressive project that I hope will be useful for Converse College's new Interfaith Studies Programme, as well as our long standing Religion programme. The Hub offers students (and others) valuable information, tools, and connections with the world of increasing interfaith dialogue and cooperation**

*Sherry Fohr, Associate Professor of Religion, Curricular Director of the Interfaith Studies Programme, Co-Director of Women's Studies, Converse College*

e-learning courses and webinars to increase capacity for IRD among its stakeholders; supply knowledge tools and services in addition to facilitating the dissemination of knowledge and best practices through networked and innovative processes; and provide open access to KAICIID online resources and databases.

All DKH online training and learning courses on IRD are linked with global initiatives and development goals for sustainable peace. In particular, they place specific focus on SDG 16: 'Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.'

## Online training courses in IRD

During 2018, DKH hosted an online training course, 'Basics of Interreligious Dialogue', designed to introduce students to the theoretical foundations of IRD and to real life best practices and experiences from the field. The course was offered in two languages: one in English, and the other as a bilingual course in French and English. Both versions of the course were integrated as a Phase #2 component of the KAICIID Fellowship Programme for the KAICIID International and Regional Fellows. The general public were also given open access to the online course through free registration. A total of 63 participants enrolled and completed the DKH online course.

In the fourth quarter of 2018, KAICIID launched a pilot edition of a new and fully restructured IRD online course, customised to the needs of policy- and decisionmakers, as well as the KAICIID Fellows programme. The course consists of eight highly interactive modules that employ advanced learning technology and methodology. In order to offer wider access and ease of use, the course was specifically designed for mobile device compatibility so that busy individuals can learn 'on the go'. The interactive course will be officially offered to the wider public in the first quarter of 2019.

## Offering joint webinars with experts from the field

KAICIID collaborated with the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith & Local Communities (JLI) on a series of webinars, in July and November 2018. The first webinar presented two of KAICIID's interreligious programmes: the newly



## DKH training and learning courses are linked with global initiatives and development goals for sustainable peace

launched Network for Religious Muslim and Christian Faculties and Institutes in the Arab World and the Centre's work with partners in Nigeria to build inclusive and sustainable platforms for interreligious and intra-religious dialogue. The second focused on refugees and forced migration with a case study from the Balkans. JLI's Refugee Hub presented on the role of local faith actors and children on the move, focusing on key themes in spiritual support, continuum of child protection and building peaceful societies and combating xenophobia. The joint series of webinars will continue through 2019 and beyond.

## Enhancing knowledge tools and online resources

During 2018, KAICIID increased its scope of research and range of partnerships in order to expand its online resources, databases, and knowledge tools. The platform explored new collaborations with the Sarajevo School of Science and Technology (SSST) and Sheikh Nahyan Center for Arabic Studies and Intercultural Dialogue, at the Balamand University, Lebanon. These new partnerships have contributed new depth to the Peace Map through the addition of regional directories, and the expansion of the national directories to include the Arab and Balkan Regions.

The Centre also began work on two research projects to be finalised and featured in 2019, which will contribute to the Dialogue Voices and IRD publications tools. These projects include a series of short videos on the Role of Religious Leaders and Communities in Supporting Implementation of SDGs in UK, USA, Egypt, Nigeria, India, and Lebanon; and a field study on the Values of Peaceful Coexistence in Muslim and Jewish Communities in France.

The Dialogue Voices database was further expanded through the 'Give more Voice to the Youth' initiative, which features educational institutions, as well as experience from students and youth volunteering in the field of IRD. In this special edition of Dialogue Voices clips, young people outline the challenges of interfaith relationships in their communities and present projects from Madagascar, Tanzania, Cuba, Peru, Mexico and Costa Rica.

Moreover, KAICIID established a collaboration with the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution in Nigeria in order to conduct an update to the country's baseline study. The update focuses on youth mobilisation and its contribution to IRD activities, the farmers/herders conflict and its religious and ethnic dimension, as well as the role of religious factors in exacerbating conflicts in Nigeria. The platform intends for examples from Promising Practices in regions throughout Nigeria to provide support for KAICIID case studies, setting a model for KAICIID focus countries to follow and replicate.

In addition to the more than 80 example initiatives, featured in the Promising Practices resource, 27 new case studies and practices were added this year. Examples of newly added initiatives include women's empowerment, social leadership, interfaith music, radio and art, film discussion and meal sharing.

The increased research scope also encompassed efforts for new and upcoming resources for 2019, such as the Who is Who in Interreligious Dialogue – a unique online directory showcasing people who are expert and active in IRD; and a Religiophobia Index that was initiated in 2018 and will be launched in 2019 along with a baseline study focused on Europe.



# Local outreach

Over the past year, outreach to the Austrian local public continued to be an integral part of the Centre's activities. The KAICIID Local Outreach Programme regularly hosts expert lectures, musical performances, art and photography exhibitions, headquarters tours and interfaith workshops; all of which are open to the general public. The exhibitions and performances provide a space for guests to experience new cultures and perspectives, and dialogue with one another, connecting individuals from Austria and around the world.

KAICIID greatly expanded its outreach to the local public in 2018, engaging stakeholders through a number of key events. These included the following:

In January, Local Outreach started the year with its regular lecture series 'Religions in Dialogue', which provides local religious communities, IRD practitioners, academics and cultural influencers with a platform to present their work and discuss issues pertaining to interreligious dialogue. During the first of several lectures held in 2018, the Centre

welcomed Prof. Dr. Zulehner, theologian and one of the most prominent figures in interreligious dialogue in Austria and Europe. The opening lecture outlined sources of fear, particularly triggered by the increased presence of migrants, as well as best practices for creating more open and better integrated communities.

In February, in celebration of UN World Interfaith Harmony Week, the Centre invited guests to enjoy an evening of photography and storytelling from Rabbi Schlomo Hofmeister's interreligious journey through India. Welcoming well-known members of the Austrian interreligious and diplomatic communities, Rabbi Hofmeister shared stories of his encounters in India with people of different faiths and drew parallels to interreligious coexistence in Europe.

In June, KAICIID and the Austrian Red Cross co-sponsored an interreligious reception on UN World Refugee Day. The event welcomed religious leaders from Austria, inviting them to share best practices for

**KAICIID coordinates with partners, such as the Austrian Red Cross, to engage with local religious leaders and the public on topics such as integration and cohesive communities**



**In celebration of UN World Interfaith Harmony Week, the Centre invited guests to enjoy a photo exhibition of an interreligious journey through India**

coordinated support for refugees within their own communities, and marked both organizations' commitment to fostering successful integration within the European framework. According to UN reports, an unprecedented 65.6 million people worldwide have been displaced from their homes, which is the largest number on record. In an effort to support people seeking refuge in Europe, KAICIID works to enhance the integration capacity of both the newly arrived and their European host communities, opening the Centre for workshops and dialogue training. This is facilitated both through the Local Outreach Programme and the Programme for the Social Inclusion of People Seeking Refuge in Europe (see page 36).

Moreover, in September, KAICIID cooperated with the Bundesdenkmalamt, opening its doors to the general public as part of the 'Tag des Denkmals'. Through this event, the Local Outreach programme was able to directly reach 285 guests, many of whom were first-time visitors,

offering a historic tour of the Centre's headquarters and informing them about its mandate and work.

In addition to these and many other events, KAICIID's Local Outreach Programme is currently exploring cooperation with respected Austrian institutions such as the Archdiocese's 'Kirche im Dialog' and the University of Vienna's research platform 'Religion and Transformation in the Contemporary European Society' to establish a permanent workshop series on implicit cognitive bias. It is foreseen that these workshops will take place at the Centre's headquarters and will be offered to local students, NGOs and other interested stakeholders.

Finally, Local Outreach ensures that all information on its programming and activities are available on the Centre's website in both German and English (when applicable), and periodically issues newsletters in German to keep all relevant stakeholders up to date.

# Engaging local communities in the “Spirit of Dialogue”

“ The Holy See has seen in KAICIID another initiative with the vision that the Church wants for all of humanity: a constructive dialogue for anyone, anywhere, anytime. A dialogue open to all. A dialogue that is inclusive and based in respect and friendship

*Bishop Miguel Ayuso, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue*



On 24 April 2018, KAICIID hosted the ‘In the Spirit of Dialogue’ event, in close cooperation with the Centre’s host country of Austria, to reflect on the Centre’s five years of work since its founding. Held at the historic RadioKulturhaus in Vienna, Austria, the event invited 220 guests from

various cultures and religions to reflect on the positive power of dialogue and multi-religious cooperation. Guests included diplomats, representatives of the media, leaders of religious communities, representatives of civil society and members of the interested public.

The evening also allowed the Centre to pay tribute to its partnerships, including those who directly supported and collaborated on the event: namely, the Austrian National Radio (Oe1); Austria Kultur/The Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign

Affairs; the Holy See; the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

In his opening address, KAICIID Secretary General, Faisal Bin Muaammar told audience members:

“We are uniting people against violence in the name of religion. More than five billion people on this planet are religious, thus their religious leaders have a huge influence on our world. Whether we want to end war, promote human rights, relieve poverty, or prevent discrimination,

we need religious leaders to be part of the solution. So we try all over the world, to bring religious leaders into dialogue with each other, and with policymakers. Peace between cultures and nations cannot be reached without dialogue and peace between the followers of religions.”

# Staff and Budget

The 2018 Programme and Budget was approved by the Council of Parties at a total of 11.4 million Euros, covering the programmes and activities of the Centre in line with KAICIID's Strategic Plan for the period 2016–2019, approved by the Board of Directors on 19 November 2015.

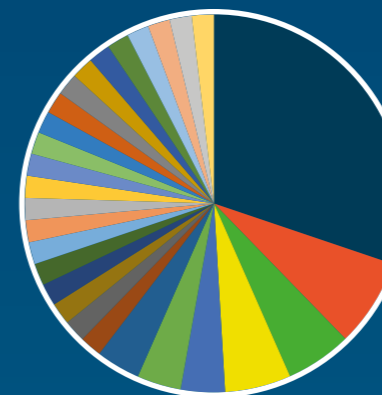
The cash surplus from the 2017 financial year, as well as further voluntary contributions received during 2018 from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, increased the 2018

allotment to a total level of 13.9 million Euros. Against this allotment level, the total 2018 expenditure level reached 12.9 million Euros<sup>1</sup>. The distribution of the expenditure by department is presented below.

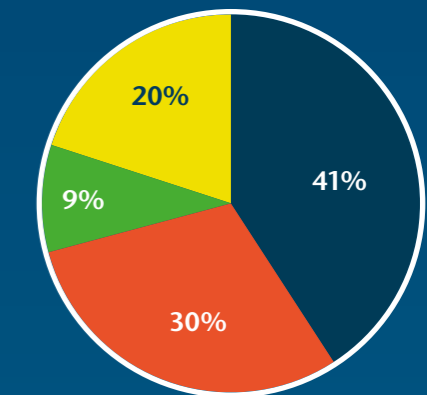
KAICIID's programmes are administered by a diverse multicultural staff from over 28 countries, including the Centre's member states.

<sup>1</sup> This figure is subject to the final audit of the 2018 financial statements.

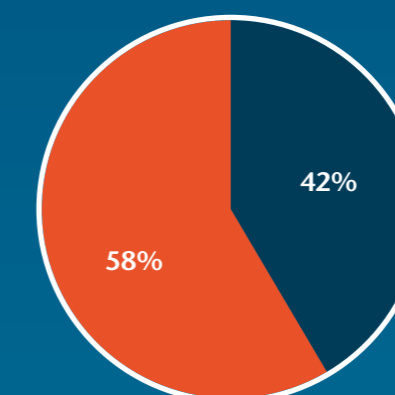
Staff nationality by country



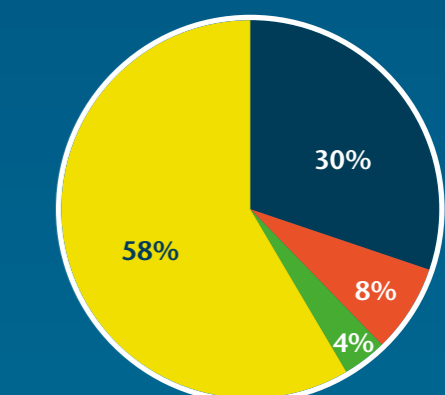
Distribution of 2018 expenditure



Staff nationality by member states – nationals vs other



Staff nationality by member states – nationals



KAICIID's Local Outreach programme welcomes members of Austria's religious communities, diplomatic circles, and the general public to engage in regularly held intercultural and interreligious events. These include expert lectures, musical performances, photography exhibitions, and tours of the historic headquarters

## List of Abbreviations

- AU.....African Union
- AU-IFDF.....African Union Interfaith Dialogue Forum
- CSOs .....Civil Society Organizations
- DfP .....Dialogue for Peace Programme
- DKH.....Dialogue Knowledge Hub
- EU.....European Union
- FBOs.....Faith Based Organizations
- IATF-Religion.....UN Interagency Task Force on Religion
- ICD .....Intercultural Dialogue
- IDFP .....Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace
- INP .....International Networking Programme
- IRD.....Interreligious Dialogue
- JLI .....Joint Learning Initiative on Faith & Local Communities
- KIFP .....KAICIID International Fellows Programme
- LPC.....Local Peace Committee
- MACBAN .....Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria
- MJLC .....Muslim Jewish Leadership Council
- NGOs .....Non-Governmental Organizations
- OECD.....Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
- OSCE.....Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
- PaRD.....International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development
- PCRC.....Plateforme des Confessions Religieuses de Centrafrique
- PMI.....Peaceful Myanmar Initiative
- PSR .....Programme for the Social Inclusion of People Seeking Refuge
- SDGs .....Sustainable Development Goals
- ToT .....Training of Trainers
- UNAOC.....United Nations Alliance of Civilizations
- UNDP .....United Nations Development Programme
- UNFPA .....UN Population Fund
- UNSDGs.....United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
- WOSM .....World Organization of the Scout Movement





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