



2021

ANNUAL REPORT



CID

KAICIID DIALOGUE CENTRE



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Abbreviations



ACWAY	A Common Word Among the Youth
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AU-IFDF	African Union Interfaith Dialogue Forum
ECRL-RfP Europe	European Council of Religious Leaders
EPDF	European Policy Dialogue Forum
GNI	Gusdurian Network Indonesia
IDFP	Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace
IPDC	Interreligious Platform for Dialogue and Cooperation in the Arab World
KAICIID	International Dialogue Centre
MINUSCA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic
MJLC	Muslim Jewish Leadership Council
PaRD	International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNAOC	United Nations Alliance of Civilizations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UPEACE	University for Peace
WOSM	World Organization of the Scout Movement



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About the International Dialogue Centre



Council of Parties

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



Mission & Vision

Mission:

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

Vision:

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

The impact of our work



7,000+
dialogue practitioners
trained



400+
Fellows graduated from
74 different countries



5 dialogue
platforms established
around the world



6 interreligious
networks established



13 cooperation
agreements with international
organizations

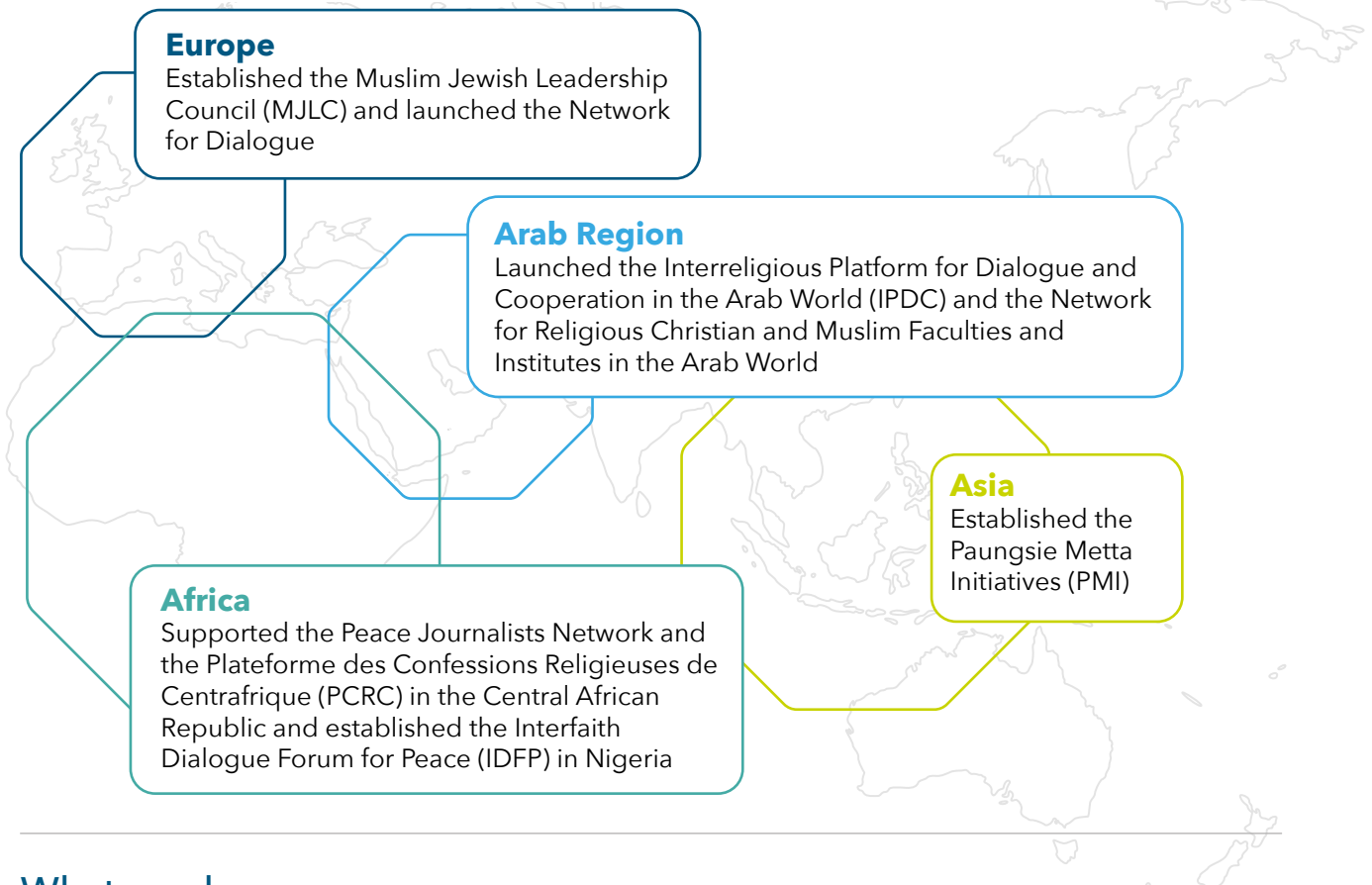


5

MAJOR RELIGIONS
represented on the
Board of Directors

BUDDHISM
CHRISTIANITY
HINDUISM
ISLAM
JUDAISM

Where we work: Interreligious dialogue initiatives



What we do



CAPACITY-BUILDING

Teaching dialogue is at the forefront of many of our programmes. Through our Dialogue Knowledge Hub, Fellows Programme and partnership with the World Organization of the Scout Movement, we work together with dialogue experts around the world to give people the tools to mainstream dialogue in their communities.



SUPPORTING POLICYMAKING

As a convener, KAICIID brings together religious leaders and policymakers to promote dialogue as a fundamental aspect of policymaking aimed at tackling global problems such as COVID-19, climate change, inequality and poverty. Through our work, we aim to recognise and promote the invaluable contributions of religious communities to peace and development, and to work with them to solve global challenges.



PROMOTING SOCIAL COHESION

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

Foreword

Perhaps more than any other, 2021 was a year that gave me hope. Although the COVID-19 pandemic raged on across the globe, we witnessed numerous partners, platforms and Fellows rising to meet its challenges.

Faisal Bin Muaammar
KAICIID Secretary General





The multireligious Board of Directors of the International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID) started the year by reminding us of the shared values that bind us together – peace, hope and love for our neighbours.

We watched these values play out in 74 countries across the globe. The Centre was honoured to support 231 local projects globally, many of which were carried out by our 11 dialogue networks and platforms and over 400 Fellows. These projects tackled rising hate speech and incitement to violence and provided support to vulnerable and marginalised communities.

Our platforms across the Africa, Arab, Asia and Europe regions stepped forward with innovative policy recommendations and initiatives designed to foster religious pluralism and promote inclusion.

As religious leaders and dialogue practitioners addressed increasing divisions exacerbated by the pandemic, we listened to their need for more resources. At a time when many international organizations have had to decrease operations, faith leaders have played a vital role in keeping peace, advocating for mutual respect and distributing humanitarian aid.

KAICIID proudly launched the new global networking and knowledge-sharing platform, Connect2Dialogue, in 2021. Through this platform, we hope to help grassroots peacebuilders and dialogue practitioners identify partners, share best practices, and find funding and resources for community projects.

Additionally, we launched two new guides – *Overcoming everyday challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic* and *Guide to interreligious dialogue: Bridging differences and building sustainable societies* – which provide case studies and tips for people hoping to implement dialogue projects in their own communities.

In 2022, the Centre will enter its tenth year of operations. With this, come exciting new opportunities and expansion of programmes that have been the cornerstone of our success.

I am delighted to announce that KAICIID will begin this next chapter with a new headquarters in Portugal – a country that has made immense strides in fostering a culture of openness and inclusion. We are grateful to our Portuguese hosts for their eagerness to further interreligious dialogue, both at home and around the world.

As we look forward to a new year, I end my second term as KAICIID Secretary General. I am immensely proud that I leave our centre as a well-respected, resilient intergovernmental organization.

Rest assured the work does not end here. Although it is time for me to pass on the mantle of leadership, I will forever continue to champion the success of KAICIID. The Centre’s incredible Board, senior advisors, partners and friends will ensure our vision carries on.





Governance Update

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

Council of Parties

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

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

In 2021, the Council of Parties approved international agreements with key partners in the context of interreligious dialogue internationally, including a memorandum of understanding with the Oslo Center.

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

The Council of Parties has offered continuous support to the work of KAICIID since its inception. In 2021, representatives of the Council of Parties protected KAICIID interests and guaranteed its future in a new host country by finalising the Headquarters Agreement with Portugal, signed on 29 October 2021.



Board of Directors

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



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

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

Members of the Board of Directors lent their individual knowledge in specific areas through an ongoing interview series available on the KAICIID website and through the Light of Hope and Faith event, which featured messages and prayers centred on each member's reflections on their own spiritual traditions and the theme of hope for 2021, especially in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Board of Directors supported KAICIID programmes locally, such as at the virtual meeting with KAICIID Fellows from India in September 2021.

On 10 November 2021, the Board of Directors convened for its second annual Regular Session. Members provided advice on the Centre's programmatic areas and lent their expertise to the programmes for 2022.

Advisory Forum

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

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

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

CHAPTER 1

Multilateralism and External Relations

The year 2021 underscored the importance of cross-sectoral dialogue and multistakeholder partnerships in effective responses in fragile settings. KAICIID continues to be an active member in international networks, strengthening the collaboration between faith actors and policymakers.



The COVID-19 pandemic has intensified inequalities, impacted the level of conflict and violence – in many cases reversing peacebuilding gains – and contributed to a rise in hate speech and human rights violations.

KAICIID's answer to these challenges is to build back together. Joint approaches and solutions are determining factors in building a culture of peace. Drawing on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17 (partnerships for the Goals), the Centre has partnered with governments, intergovernmental organizations and nongovernmental organizations throughout the year to connect religious actors and policymakers and foster interreligious and intercultural dialogue towards the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In 2021, the Centre:

- supported the work of the United Nations Multifaith Advisory Council;
- co-chaired the GIZ-led International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development (PaRD) Steering Group with the United States Agency for International Development and ACT Alliance;
- co-led the PaRD SDG 16 Workstream with DanMission, the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers and World Vision International.

In September, together with other international organizations such as A Common Word Among the Youth (ACWAY) and the Fondazione per le Scienze Religiose, KAICIID co-hosted the G20 Youth Interfaith Forum. The Centre also led an interactive youth talk show and a high-level religion and policy panel reacting to crises in the Arab region.

In November, alongside the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Centre contributed to an online symposium on ethics education for learning to live together led by Arigatou International.

Embracing digital transformation, the Dialogue Knowledge Hub:

- promoted messages from key programmes such as Generation Restoration, Generation Equality and the Faith4SDGs project;
- held six sessions at the online Parliament of the World's Religions;
- launched Connect2Dialogue, a global networking and knowledge-sharing platform to help grassroots peacebuilders and dialogue practitioners identify partners, share best practices, and find funding and resources for community projects.

Of the many webinars KAICIID partnered in 2021, highlights include:

- Restoring the Planet: Faith Drives Urgent Action – the culmination of an eight-part series by KAICIID and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Faith for Earth initiative;
- Recovering Better for an Equitable and Sustainable World – a KAICIID and University for Peace (UPEACE) commemoration of the International Day of Peace.



Arigatou International, KAICIID, PaRD and World Vision focused on faith-sensitive mental health and psychosocial support through the event Resilience and Children on the Move.

As part of the United Nations SDG Action Campaign's Global Festival of Action, KAICIID and the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) showed how dialogue and global partnerships can #TurnItAround for people and the planet.

KAICIID partnered with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Institute for Peace and Reconciliation and organised online dialogue sessions for 24 officials on preventing and resolving conflicts and promoting social cohesion.

KAICIID partnered with the European Council of Religious Leaders and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in April at the Expert Consultation on Countering Hate Speech through Interfaith Cooperation and Multi-stakeholder Partnership in Europe. This ambitious consultation exposed drivers of online and offline attacks on religious and other minority groups. It culminated in a high-level meeting of policymakers at the hybrid European Policy Dialogue Forum on Refugees and Migrants in Lisbon in October.

In October, KAICIID and the European Council of Religious Leaders, as part of the Religions for Peace network (ECRL-RfP Europe), gave a master class on building capacity to counter hate speech at the third Fundamental Rights Forum.

KAICIID supported 231 local partners worldwide, reaching tens of thousands of people, including through the Dialogue 60 project (renamed as Dialogue 360) through the Interreligious Platform for Dialogue and Cooperation in the Arab World (IPDC).

KAICIID joined the African Union to protect sacred sites by supporting 12 projects led by members of the African Union Interfaith Dialogue Forum (AU-IFDF). In November the two partners held a consultation on this theme with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Religions Initiative.

In addition to partnering with MEERU and the Oslo Center in Europe, KAICIID signed a memorandum of understanding with Religions for Peace and launched a Latin American and Caribbean Regional Fellows cohort 2021–2022 in partnership with Religions for Peace Latin America and the Caribbean.

Despite the limitations and challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, KAICIID built on existing partnerships in supporting interreligious dialogue and increased the number of its partners, its reach and its impact.



KAICIID partners with United Nations agencies to develop an SDGs-focused e-learning course



It is widely recognised that religious leaders, faith-based organizations and local faith actors can play a significant role in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in achieving the SDGs. When these entities collaborate, putting their knowledge and experience together, the outcome is always far more effective than the sum of their individual parts.

The results of one such collaboration is the new online e-learning course *Engaging Faith Actors to Support the Implementation Process of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*, piloted by the KAICIID Dialogue Knowledge Hub in late 2021. The design of the course was based on the experiences of KAICIID and its consortium of partners of various United Nations agencies, Institut Superior de Ciències Religioses de Barcelona, the Lutheran World Federation, the National Muslim Council of Liberia, UNEP and UPEACE.

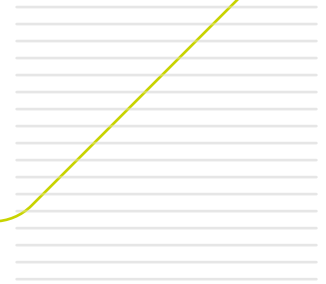
The consortium was able to design and implement a comprehensive course comprised of seven moderated instructor-led e-learning modules that includes guidelines, tools, approaches, models and case studies, specifically tailored to demonstrate the use of interreligious and intercultural dialogue as a tool for engaging faith actors to support the process of implementing the SDGs and building peace and social cohesion.

The course opened for registration to external participants in early 2022.

CHAPTER 2

Promoting Interreligious Dialogue Locally





KAICIID promotes interreligious and intercultural dialogue in four ways: convening people of all faiths and backgrounds; using education to engage people in successful dialogue; researching issues related to dialogue and identifying the most promising approaches; and engaging with policymakers so that dialogue has a place in the public sphere. The aim is to reduce tensions by promoting dialogue as part of efforts to tackle the interlinked issues of social cohesion, conflict, migration and the climate emergency. For each of these, dialogue can provide ways forward for the common benefit of humanity.

As with most organizations around the world, KAICIID's approach to work has been changed profoundly by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Centre responded to the pandemic by supporting grassroots organizations to carry out programmes aimed at promoting information about public health, reducing vaccine hesitancy and providing social support, especially for women and young people.

In May, KAICIID staff returned to the office. The Centre began planning in-person events and held training sessions for European and international Fellows cohorts in Belgrade and Vienna.

KAICIID published guides on how dialogue and religious organizations could help during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Centre used digital platforms to convene events to spread awareness and solidarity, promoted vaccination, and drew on the work of many partners to show how religious groups can tackle the alienation and isolation that hurt so many people around the world.





Practising faith in times of COVID-19

The Centre's longstanding work on hate speech came to the fore as it aimed to reduce harmful attacks on minorities, migrants and others. Faith-based groups, from those running hospitals to those finding ways to include people in worship despite the need to isolate, have been key to the global response - and KAICIID Fellows were part of this. Rabbi Alex Goldberg, Dean of the College of Chaplains at the University of Surrey, organised support for 16,000 students and 2,000 staff alongside his colleagues from several faiths.

Master Tan Zhixia, Taoist priest at the Temple of the Heavenly Jade Emperor Yu Huang Gong, helped elderly worshippers continue their practice by staggering times for key rituals, such as the cleaning of graves for the Qingming Festival.

Yudhistir Govinda Das, Country Director of Communications for the International Society for Krishna Consciousness in India, helped organise online ceremonies and distribution of food for people in quarantine.



The virus does not care about ethnicity or nationality, faction or faith. It attacks all, relentlessly. Together, we can and will defeat this virus - with cooperation, solidarity and faith in our common humanity.

— António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General

A major event in Lisbon in October brought together policymakers with Network for Dialogue members and religious leaders from across Europe to discuss issues around migration, inclusion and hate speech.

As the pandemic unfolded, uncertainty fuelled anxiety. Physical isolation continues to be an uncomfortable reality for many people. KAICIID Fellows, partners and networks played a vital role by responsibly bringing communities together. The Centre also continues its work to promote health care and support for people who need it.



Africa Region

KAICIID engages in Africa in several ways: supporting dialogue platforms engaged in peacebuilding in the Central African Republic and Nigeria; supporting dialogue and research across the continent through the Fellows Programme; working with the African Union on issues such as the protection of sacred sites; and supporting United Nations agencies in the region to reach the SDGs.

Religious and cultural sites in Africa have come under sustained attack through destruction, desecration and vandalism over the past decade. Sites in Algeria, Egypt and Libya, among others, have been destroyed during internal and cross-border conflicts.

The importance of preserving religious and cultural sites throughout Africa, countering hate speech and fostering peacebuilding emerged as top priorities during a virtual meeting in November between the African Union Economic Social and Cultural Council, AU-IFDE, KAICIID, UNESCO and the United Religions Initiative.

Delegates attending the virtual meeting Protection of Sacred Sites and Cultural Heritage spoke of the urgent need to teach the importance of respecting sacred and cultural sites and engaging in dialogue with faith and traditional leaders.



Violence leads to violence in the short, medium and long term. There needs to be a sincere and inclusive dialogue, the application of which must not suffer from any political calculation.

— **Imam Abdoulaye Ouasselogue**

Central African Republic

The Central African Republic has seen some of the most disruptive violence in Africa since 2014. KAICIID supports local religious leaders from Christian and Muslim communities in peacebuilding. KAICIID aims to foster an environment in which religious actors work together to build trust to promote social cohesion and peace by:

- establishing inclusive mechanisms that strengthen the capacity of religious community leaders to successfully engage with each other, including an early warning mechanism to monitor, mitigate and prevent interreligious violence in conflict areas;
- developing the capacity of religious actors to conduct interreligious initiatives, including training Muslim leaders for future intergroup cooperation with Christian leaders;
- supporting religious leaders in peace advocacy and mediation missions across the country and engagement with armed factions, government authorities, the national army, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and the various communities;
- implementing pilot initiatives in targeted conflict areas in partnership with members of the existing Plateforme des Confessions Religieuses de Centrafrique (Interfaith Platform);
- providing technical and financial support to the Interfaith Platform to coordinate activities of its members.



Nigeria

In Nigeria, the work of the Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace (IDFP), a group of 100 religious figures, maintained a busy schedule as the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted travel and worsening insecurity made life difficult for many people across the country.

Concentrating its efforts across the Middle Belt of the country, an area that has seen many security problems in recent years, the IDFP led a number of missions to encourage dialogue and support local peace mechanisms. Middle Belt states have seen a rise in tensions over resources, clashes between farmers and herders, and a worsening incidence of conflict that is often blamed on religion. The region has, however, also seen a growth in local peacebuilding institutions and networks.

The IDFP focuses on the establishment of interfaith networks, social cohesion, interfaith education, freedom of religion, protection of sacred sites, interfaith exchanges, media sensitisation and countering hate speech. Recent activities include:

- joint efforts by religious leaders to encourage COVID-19 vaccination, including training for religious figures in countering misinformation;
- establishment of a school at a camp for internally displaced children in the capital Abuja;
- efforts to encourage youth groups to help elderly people during the pandemic in Kaduna state;
- visits to communities in Benue, Kaduna, Plateau, Taraba and Zamfara states affected by tensions between farming and pastoralist groups;
- a high-level intra-faith round table meeting on deradicalisation of extremist tendencies in Nigeria, resulting in a roadmap and a consensus working document for further implementation by the Muslim community;
- a round table for Christian and Muslim students on the prevention of hate speech;
- a workshop for women to raise awareness on hate speech and incitement to violence and equip participants with tools to foster peace;
- training for 120 Nigerian youth on the positive role of religion in peacebuilding within their communities.



Africa in numbers

Central African Republic



15

projects and activities implemented in peace advocacy, interreligious dialogue in education, prevention of hate speech, and development of local peace and reconciliation committees



15,000

members of various communities reached and sensitised against hate speech

Nigeria



5

projects implemented in COVID-19 resilience and protection of sacred sites, setting up the Interreligious Dialogue Units, presenting to the Committee on Constitutional Review, and developing a Code of Conduct by religious leaders for religious leaders

1,040

people reached



761 Men
279 Women
570 Christians
450 Muslims
20 unaffiliated



150

125 Men
25 Women
75 Christians
75 Muslims

people trained in interreligious dialogue by the Interreligious Dialogue Units

12



9 Men 6 Christians
3 Women 6 Muslims

policymakers reached from the Kaduna State Peace Commission, the Plateau Peace Building Agency, 9 primary health-care agencies, the national primary health-care development agency, and the state police and security forces

29



local projects on prevention of hate speech, protection of sacred sites, COVID-19 resilience and peaceful coexistence supported, reaching over 12,800 direct beneficiaries

Regional



12

projects implemented in protection of sacred sites across Africa in collaboration with AU-IFDF



1

regional consultation held with 54 key regional actors, including AU-IFDF, UNESCO and the United Religions Initiative



Attending school in Nigeria brings joy, hope and sense of security to children



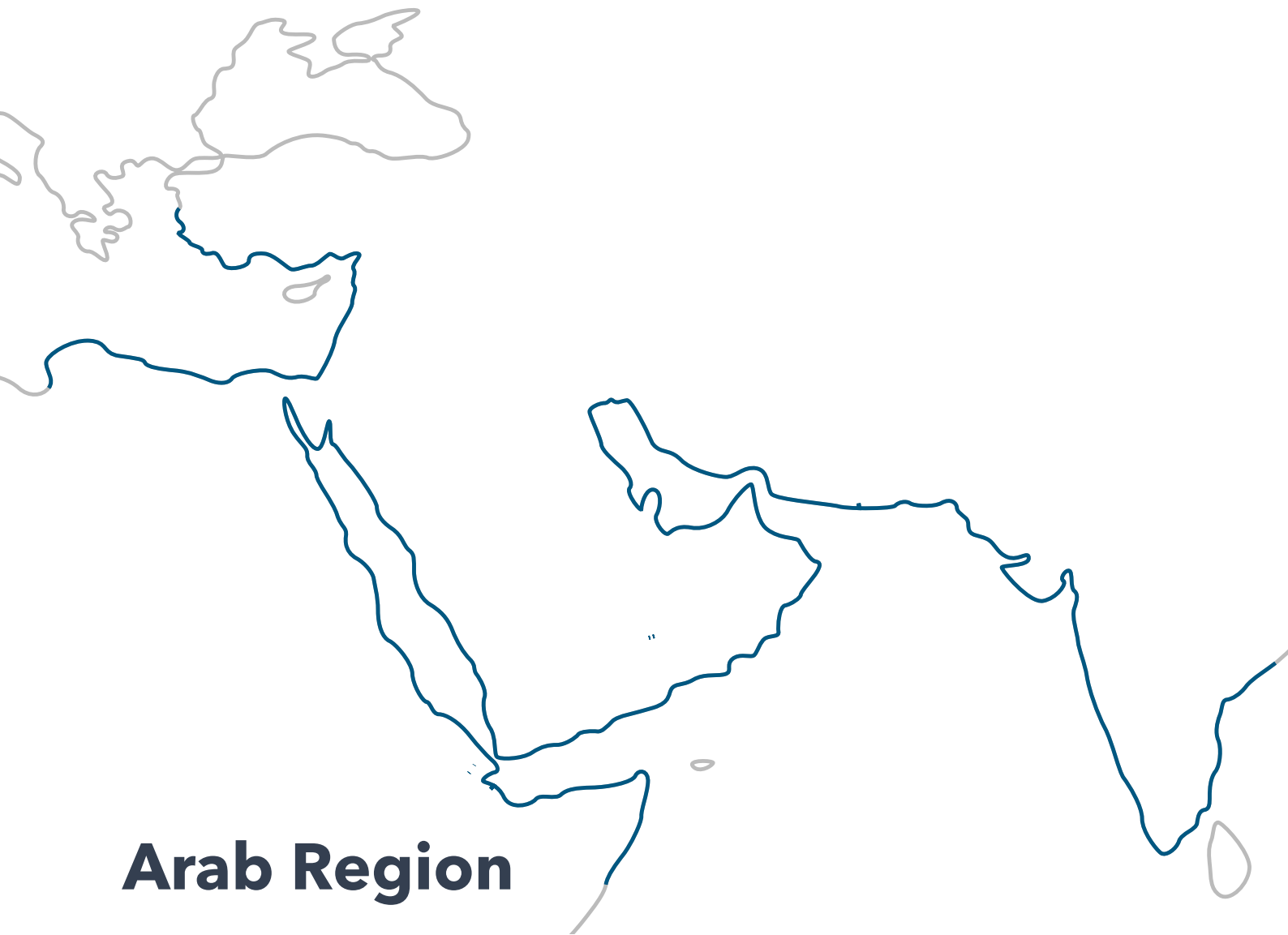
Children have suffered more than any other group due to the worsening instability in Nigeria. Schools have been raided by violent groups such as Boko Haram, which have kidnapped children for ransom and held some for many years. Girls have been forcibly married to their abductors. Tens of thousands of children have been displaced because of worsening fighting and criminality. COVID-19 has been another blow to education, closing schools for months and setting back children across the country.

In March 2021, the Nigerian Ministry of Education announced that 10.1 million children were out of school, an increase of more than 3 million from the previous year. Experts attribute this rise to the pandemic and lack of physical security.

In 2019, members of the IDFP visited the Abuja Capital Territory Pigba camp for more than 2,000 internally displaced people. Supported by KAICIID, the IDFP draws from membership across many religious communities, including Christian, Muslim and traditional religions around Nigeria, using their unique access and experience to address social and interreligious issues.

After visiting the camp, members of the IDFP established a nursery and primary school. The IDFP supports teachers' salaries, provides learning materials, and advocates for official recognition of the school. In 2021, despite the pandemic and other challenges, nearly 200 students were enrolled in the school.

Boys and girls aged 9-12 years listed mathematics, English and social studies as their favourite subjects. They expressed their great enjoyment of learning and the sense of hope and safety that they felt from attending the school.



Arab Region

From its inception, KAICIID has focused on encouraging interfaith dialogue in the Arab region. The Centre works to reduce conflict and hate speech, and enhance a sense of shared citizenship and respect. The COVID-19 pandemic brought a new focus on improving health and ensuring women are represented in dialogue and policy processes.



Our partnership with KAICIID has not only enabled us to tackle problems related to tolerance in our city but has also changed our paradigm. We used to believe that we should think globally and act locally, and now we believe that we must act both at local and global levels if we wanted to make real change.

— Mohamed Issa Lamzouk,
Coordinator, Youth Ambassadors
for Forgiveness, Morocco

Dialogue 360, a programme of support for individuals and grassroots groups, promotes dialogue and mutual understanding regionally and in 11 countries across the Arab region by countering or preventing hate speech, enhancing the role of interfaith dialogue in responding to COVID-19, promoting social cohesion and peaceful coexistence, and protecting cultural heritage and religious sites. There are 67 local, 27 national and 6 regional projects. The support to local projects in particular empowered local organizations that have limited access to international funding and proved to be very efficient in reaching the most vulnerable and less advantaged groups.

In 2021, Dialogue 360 opened to receive more applications for sponsorship. Accepted new partners had the opportunity to meet with those who were supported the previous year and have now qualified to be sponsored throughout the second phase of their projects.

In 2021, the initial group of projects (awarded in 2020) reached more than 8,000 direct beneficiaries. The 2021 cohort of projects are expected to directly reach 4,500 beneficiaries in Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco,



Palestine, Somalia, Sudan and Tunisia. One of the projects has a regional reach that includes the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen.

The 40 newly awarded projects join the previous cohort:

- 17 new projects addressed promotion of common citizenship, diversity and education through interreligious dialogue, bringing the total number of projects on the topic to 28;
- 15 new projects focused on countering hate speech, bringing the total number of projects on the topic to 40;
- 4 projects addressed protection of cultural heritage, which is a new scope added this year;
- 4 new projects considered the role of interreligious dialogue in responding to the pandemic, bringing the total number of projects on the topic to 28.

The Centre supports IPDC as a way to enhance engagement among Christians and Muslims across the region. In 2021, much of this work focused on the continued response to the blast that destroyed parts of Beirut in 2020.

Graduates from the Arab Region Fellows Programme, the Arab Youth Forum, participants from KAICIID training on women's empowerment and local partners mobilised to provide support on the ground, especially to children directly affected by the blast. Although the Centre is not a relief agency, it was able to provide support and mobilise religious groups to help one of the most diverse cities in the Arab world.

The KAICIID Arab Region Programme offers three training streams: the Arab Region Fellows Programme, Journalism For Dialogue and She4Dialogue. The cohorts in these streams train together and apart across the year.

Journalism for Dialogue is a new programme that brings together media workers from 12 countries. It aims to improve coverage of religious issues, promote interreligious dialogue and improve relations between religious communities.

Journalism for Dialogue builds on the Social Media as a Space for Dialogue programme, which trained more than 400 religious leaders, activists and others on



I am proud of what we achieved with the [Dialogue 360] projects last year and look forward to many more successful projects this year. These projects share KAICIID's vision and goals of fostering the role of inter-religious and intercultural dialogue in peacebuilding and coexistence in their communities.

— **Faisal Bin Muaammar, KAICIID Secretary General**



Singing towards peace and reconciliation in Darfur, Sudan

A report by Rights for Peace, a British charity, found that hate speech and incitement to violence are often directly responsible for clashes between ethnic groups.

Hate speech can take many forms in Sudan. One such form is through Hakamat songs. Hakamat are traditional Sudanese women singers whose martial themes and lyrics are considered by some to encourage community violence in the North Kordofan, West Kordofan and South Darfur regions. Hakamat songs often revolve around warrior chants, dwelling on themes of honour, bravery and cowardice and encouraging violence.

In 2021, through the Dialogue 360 programme, KAICIID supported a project by Rights for Peace to turn this around by using traditional songs as a pathway to peace and reconciliation. Rights for Peace brought together 22 Hakamat women from 18 locations around Sudan. In a country where women have significant influence within their communities, the workshop aimed to encourage Hakamat women to moderate the songs with messages of peace, while at the same time seeking to develop a culture of tolerance and dialogue.

Nahla Yousif, Executive Director of Almustagbal, a Sudanese partner of Rights for Peace, was a key figure in planning the workshop. She described the influence of the Hakamat songs: "Such singing may create hate between communities or individuals or even within the same family ... leading up to conflicts."

Yousif said the singers were encouraged to reflect on the role their songs have played in conflicts in the region: "An important question was put into discussion ... who they are, what they want and whether what they provide is good for society or whether there are songs that fuel conflict."

On the second day of the workshop, participants produced two songs calling for peace and coexistence, underlining their agreement that Hakamat women and local leaders could mobilise their communities to contribute to peacebuilding and prevention of hate speech.



how to develop social media into a space for dialogue. Eight in every ten people across the Middle East use social media on a daily basis. Social media has become known as a place for hate speech and a driver of polarisation. Promoting religious dialogue through social media is a key means to create spaces that challenge the negative side of social media.

The Journalism for Dialogue programme has also been a way to bring new voices into dialogue, with women and young people joining discussions in ways that were not always possible. An external evaluation of this project in 2021 confirmed the pioneering role of KAICIID in creating a positive dynamic around the use of media, including social media, in interreligious and intercultural dialogue.

The programme inspired several organizations to advocate for the importance of amplifying positive messages of religious institutions as role models. KAICIID leveraged the combined moral, intellectual and societal leadership of its constituency to develop a counter-narrative to the prevailing manipulation of religion to justify violence, which is often artificially amplified on social media. The collaborative platforms and joint activities around shared values, tolerance and diversity show that another way is possible. The role of KAICIID as a catalyst of this appreciative and collaborative approach cannot be understated.

In collaboration with IPDC, KAICIID developed the She4Dialogue project to train women from five Arab countries – Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Syria – on dialogue and peacebuilding. The project brings together women from across the region and supports dialogue projects that engage women from different faiths. In May 2021, KAICIID launched its pilot training programme for women to train in interreligious dialogue.



It is crucial for women to be awakened and informed, so that they can acknowledge their own rights, and to be trained so that they can be confident, skilled and independent.

– **Sister Emily Tannous, Director, Middle East Council of Churches Theological and Ecumenical Department**





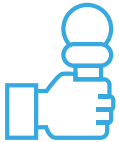
Arab region in numbers



24 **Fellows**
from 8 Arab Region
countries trained



60 **new participants**
in the Power of Social
Media programme



28 **journalists**
from 12 countries in
the Media for Peace
programme



40 **new projects**
sponsored as part
of the Dialogue 360
programme



12 **new regional**
and national online
campaigns on dia-
logue and counter-
ing hate speech



28 **women**
from 5 countries in
the She4Dialogue
programme



+4,500

direct beneficiaries
of the Dialogue 360 programme, with more than
2 million people reached through the programme's
media and online campaigns



Women in Palestine respond to the COVID-19 pandemic through aid and dialogue



The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the whole world. In the Arab Region, it has magnified decades-long challenges, including protracted conflict, inequality, unemployment, poverty and human rights concerns. In Palestine, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated an already dire economic situation, stretching the capacity for emergency responses to breaking point.

According to the United Nations, Palestinian women were disproportionately affected by the pandemic. They experienced higher rates of unemployment, increased levels of gender-based violence, and lower rates of political and community engagement in shaping a humanitarian response to the pandemic. Many women's organizations reported severe funding cuts, putting them at risk of closing in a time when they were needed most.

In the face of these challenges, Fidaa Abu-Turkey, Chair of the Palestine-based organization Iradah, sponsored by KAICIID's Dialogue 360 project, mobilised 100 Palestinian women from diverse religious backgrounds to shape a humanitarian and policy response to the pandemic. Iradah seeks to give women economic, social and political empowerment and uphold their human rights.

Bringing together women religious leaders from diverse backgrounds, including Christian, Muslim and Samaritan, participants were tasked with raising awareness of the role of women in preventing the spread of COVID-19. They also distributed kits including soaps, masks and other essential goods.

In addition, Abu-Turkey hosted five dialogue sessions that discussed women's participation in policymaking and the crucial role of women religious actors in



confronting the long-term effects of COVID-19 on marginalised communities, including unemployment, hate speech, gender-based violence and barriers to education.

Following the dialogue sessions, participants developed a strategy document, which was signed by 300 women leaders, religious actors, community and political leaders and members of the media.

Recommendations included the establishment of a permanent office in Palestine to conduct a monthly review of the needs of women critically affected by the pandemic; improvement of social services that are not based on religious or ideological lines; use of diverse religious platforms (Christian, Muslim and Samaritan) to reduce hate speech against women, particularly in light of the pandemic; and a call for the Ministry of Education to include curricula that promote religious tolerance and reject extremism.





Asia Region

The military coup and overthrow of the elected government in Myanmar has been a massive setback to all aspects of life in the country. KAICIID was forced to end its support for dialogue processes among religious communities in a country where relations have been deeply strained. The situation makes it unlikely that the Centre will be able to resume its activities in the same manner any time soon.

KAICIID has refocused its work to develop a multifaith platform to engage in interreligious dialogue on key issues affecting the Asia region.



The training was very effective for me as a development practitioner and activist, especially for developing messages and campaigning over social media. Online activists should develop this technical knowledge or they will struggle to have an impact.

– Participant, pilot social media training programme

Social Media as a Space for Dialogue

Drawing on the Social Media as a Space for Dialogue programme pioneered in the Arab region, the Asia Region Programme initiated its own social media programme by revising the trainer’s manual to the context of South and Southeast Asia. The process included translation, adapting the manual’s content in consultation with Fellows from the region, online pilot training attended by 15 religious influencers, educators and actors, and peer review by a group of regional experts, including from Arigatou International and the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers.

Eight participants from the pilot training received KAICIID support to implement social media campaigns. The result is the Asia region’s Social Media as a Space for Dialogue programme, equipping religious actors to actively combat hate speech.



Photo © BeansproutP/
Shutterstock.com

Collaboration with ASEAN

A highlight for the Asia Region Programme was collaboration with the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation, the leading regional intergovernmental organization in Southeast Asia focusing on peace. A total of 24 officials from 8 ASEAN Member States completed training on interreligious dialogue, intercultural dialogue techniques, and conflict management and resolution. The training highlights the promotion of tolerance, respect for religions, and the resolution of differences and disputes through peaceful means.

During the launch of the training programme, Ambassador I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja, Executive Director of the Institute, highlighted the timely collaboration with KAICIID on empowering the ASEAN culture of prevention through dialogue. KAICIID was invited to participate in the ASEAN Youth Interfaith Camp in October 2021, organised around the theme of championing youth as agents of interfaith harmony. The opening plenary was entitled “Why Should Youth be Agents of Interfaith Harmony?”

Work with regional partners

A series of high-level consultations between almost 100 experts, KAICIID Fellows, diplomats and local and international organizations took place in 2021. The consultations addressed network-building in the region and contributed to the KAICIID strategy to build a multifaith regional platform in 2022 and beyond.

The KAICIID regional team engaged with local partners and networks in Asia to contribute actively to the G20 Interfaith Forum, due to take place in Bali in 2022.



Previously I “knew” that dialogue is aiming to understand each other, but from the training I got to finally “understand” that dialogue is not actually a negotiation, and therefore it doesn’t have to result in a concurrence or resolution. So, dialogue is actually not result oriented, but process oriented.

— **Shinta Permata Sari,**
Education, Youth and Sports
Division, Human Development
Directorate, ASEAN Socio
Cultural Community
Department



When we acknowledge our differences, they are easier for us to talk about.

— **Bonang Titian Rahardjo, Communications Intern, ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation**

Asia in numbers



100

experts

Fellows Alumni and others engaged in discussions around developing a new Southeast Asia network



24

officials

from 8 ASEAN nations trained in interreligious dialogue methods



8

social media

campaigns on hate speech launched by participants in pilot training in Social Media as a Space for Dialogue



A legacy of protecting religious minorities in Indonesia

Inheriting a father's legacy is never easy, especially when he was a country's first democratically elected president in a generation. When Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid, popularly known as Gus Dur, died in 2009, millions of people visited his grave in the remote East Javanese town of Jombang. Even now, the local tourism agency reports that half a million people visit each month.

Although he was President of Indonesia for only two years, Gus Dur's legacy endures beyond his time in office. When he died, people from across Indonesia's religious and political spectrums felt a deep sense of loss for a much-loved humanitarian whose compassionate activism transcended religious boundaries.

For 2017 KAICIID Fellow Alissa Wahid, being Gus Dur's daughter and the granddaughter of one of the founders of Nahdlatul Ulama - the largest Muslim organization in the world, with 40-60 million members - is quite a legacy to live up to.

"You can imagine what kind of expectations I was born into," she said, with a portrait of her father hanging behind her. "It was this huge burden." Even so, she channelled her family's legacy into founding an interreligious movement of her own - the Gusdurian Network Indonesia (GNI) - in 2010. GNI works with grassroots activists across Indonesia to promote interreligious reconciliation, active citizenship, democracy and human rights.

It is hard to measure the full extent of GNI, as it has no formal membership structure, but it has chapters in over 114 locations across Indonesia and international chapters in Egypt, Germany, Malaysia, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. On Twitter, GNI enjoys 235,000 followers alongside Wahid's 449,300.

As GNI National Director, Wahid has been at the forefront of fighting for the rights of religious minorities in Indonesia, promoting a vision of interreligious exchange between Muslims and non-Muslims, and seeking to build on and extend her father's legacy.

The journey to being a public servant was not self-evident. Her sister, Yenny, went into politics and took up the job of directing her late father's research centre, the Wahid Institute, but Alissa initially shunned the public eye. When her father died, representatives of various religious minorities came to her house to pay their respects. They also shared their struggles and asked her to intervene.

"They said things to me like, 'Now that your father has passed away, who should we come to when we suffer? Who will protect us?' In those moments, I thought back to what my father always told us: 'You have to realise your capacity.' He always said we could live whatever lifestyle we wanted, but we could not abandon our calling."

This was a tipping point for the organization - and for Wahid. "I realised then that this work is not just nice talk. This is about defending freedoms, protecting people, especially vulnerable groups."

Since those early days, the organization's prominence and Wahid's convictions led her to wade back into politics. The rise of religious extremism in Indonesia worries many members of government, and in recent years they have increasingly called on Wahid to help address the popular shift to the right. During her KAICIID Fellowship, Wahid came to see again how influential religious leaders can be. "Many things can be mobilised by using religion," she said. "Religion can be a good thing or also misused as a tool for conflict."





Europe Region

The Europe Region Programme devoted 2021 to gathering information via five expert consultations, a survey and a research paper, the results of which will inform the design of capacity-building resources for religious leaders in 2022.



[The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights] has come to understand that under the right conditions which enable their meaningful participation in society, religious actors and faith-based organizations can make a decisive contribution to addressing the manifold interlinked challenges of our time, whether social, economic, environmental or humanitarian. In fact, their contributions can be civilisational.

— Kishan Manocha,
Head, Tolerance and Non-
discrimination Department,
Office for Democratic Institutions
and Human Rights

With the launch of the Social Cohesion Initiative in 2021, in partnership with the ECRL-RfP Europe, and with the support of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the Europe Region Programme began a project to counter the increasingly prevalent problem of hate speech.

Third European Policy Dialogue Forum on Refugees and Migrants

The partners continued efforts to bring together policymakers, religious leaders and grassroots organizations at the third European Policy Dialogue Forum (EPDF) on Refugees and Migrants in Lisbon in October. This event welcomed 200 attendees online and in person for 2 days of discussions on supporting the social inclusion of migrants in Europe. Many of those who joined are leaders of organizations delivering services and support to refugees and migrants, helping them to adapt to life in their new homes and bridging divisions with host communities.

A full day was dedicated to countering hate speech, bringing together religious actors, policymakers and experts to discuss how to stem the rising problem of online abuse directed against faith communities and migrants.



Several policymakers from Portugal, which will host KAICIID from 2022, took part in the conference, with Foreign Minister Augusto Santos Silva joining on the final day, alongside senior figures from the European Union and UNAOC.

The EPDF is a key annual event for the Network for Dialogue, a gathering of grassroots organizations that come together to learn from each other, enhance interfaith dialogue and discuss issues with policymakers. The Network for Dialogue is a good example of how KAICIID works. It helps local groups organise into multifaith platforms, allowing them to engage with policymakers to enhance their work and public policy responses to key problems in migration and inclusion. In July 2021, the Network for Dialogue published three policy briefs on building trust in local communities, supporting inclusive education and narrative change in European societies.¹

The EPDF discussed a number of working papers to be published in 2022 on engaging refugees and migrants in policymaking, improving access to education and expanding interfaith dialogue.

Portugal is a multireligious society. Most of our population is Catholic but we have Protestant, Orthodox, Jewish, Muslim, and other religions, as well as non-believers and agnostics. In our view, pluralism enriches societies. The right to freedom of thought, freedom of conscience, religion or belief is a basic constitutional right in Portugal. All religions are equally recognised before our law.

— **Augusto Santos Silva,**
Foreign Minister of Portugal

¹ <https://network4dialogue.eu/resources/>





We live in a world of large, ever deeper divisions. Tensions in society are growing. That is why the work of the Muslim Jewish Leadership Council is so important, because it is one of those initiatives that brings people together.

— **Bohut Pahor, President of Slovenia**

Muslim Jewish Leadership Council

KAICIID supports religious freedom and minority rights in Europe through the Muslim Jewish Leadership Council (MJLC), which brings together religious leaders for dialogue and policy engagement. In November 2021, the MJLC held a meeting in Slovenia.

During the three-day meeting, a delegation of Jewish and Muslim religious leaders held talks with senior politicians, including President Borut Pahor, Prime Minister Janez Janša and Mayor of Ljubljana Zoran Janković, raising issues of minority rights, hate speech and interfaith cooperation. The aim of the meetings was to push for protection for religious communities and rites amidst a rise in anti-Muslim and anti-Semitic hatred and behaviour in Europe.

Discussing these critical issues, the delegation of MJLC leaders called upon European policymakers to promote religious pluralism, advance interfaith dialogue, tackle hate speech and discrimination head on, and introduce laws that increase rather than undermine protections around minority rights.

At the meeting, members of the MJLC delegation were given the opportunity to visit Ljubljana's new synagogue. Under the stewardship of Elie Rosen, President of the Jewish Community of Graz and President of the synagogue of the Association of Jewish Communities Graz and Ljubljana, a group of eight rabbis delivered a copy of the Torah to the synagogue's sanctuary.

The MJLC delegation also visited Slovenia's first mosque. The Islamic Religious and Cultural Centre, which opened in February 2020, provides Slovenia's Muslim community with a space to worship and is also open to visitors.



Europe in numbers



75

speakers
from 7 religions at EPDF



100

participants
in Lisbon and
100 online at EPDF



30

Jewish and Muslim
leaders from 20 countries
attended the MJLC
General Assembly



70

experts
on hate speech consulted
about the current state
of affairs in Europe



5

public statements
on topics of concern to Jewish
and Muslim people issued
by the MJLC



9

**policy and
research papers**
developed by the Network
for Dialogue and KAICIID



Community cohesion one family at a time

One of KAICIID's most important activities in Europe is the development of the Network for Dialogue, a group of organizations across the region that support refugees and migrants through dialogue. The most recent Network for Dialogue member to join is MEERU, a Porto-based nonprofit organization that helps recent arrivals in Portugal.

Far from traditional land and sea routes used by people seeking refuge, Portugal has remained fairly isolated from people fleeing to Europe's shores. While many of its neighbours are tightening borders, Portugal has increased immigration flows by nearly 40 per cent.

According to MEERU Executive Director Pedro Amaro Santos, Portugal has actively relocated refugees from overcrowded camps in Greece and Italy, earning widespread praise from international agencies, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Still, he says, newcomers in Portugal face significant challenges - which is where civil society organizations can help.

"When we speak of people on the move, there is always something to add," Santos said. "MEERU tries to complement the system through the creation of bonds of affection and friendship in the local community."

Noticing that many people seeking refuge were experiencing disconnect and loneliness, Santos and his team launched the MEERU Aproxima project. This project recruits local volunteers from communities in northern Portugal and pairs them with refugee families. Volunteers take families on cultural excursions, and help newcomers navigate language barriers and community expectations, while building lifelong relationships.

"We have 37 volunteers right now from 8 cities working with 10 families, and we are working to recruit more [volunteers]," said Isabel Martins da Silva, Director of Community and co-founder of the project. "Our objectives are quite ambitious - maybe not in scale or number but in permanence. We want to create permanent bonds in the community."



Martins da Silva admits that building community connections has grown increasingly difficult. “Dialogue is everything,” she said. MEERU’s use of interreligious and intercultural dialogue helps volunteers and families “create a safe space to get to know one another and learn to live together,” contributing to social cohesion. The project has also manifested in surprising ways: “volunteers and refugee families are helping each other with home renovations. The little brother of one of the volunteers is now the best friend of the little sister in the refugee family he is hosting. Everyone in the process is part of the community system.”

The uniqueness of MEERU’s dialogue-focused project in the Portuguese context motivated the team to seek expertise and knowledge-sharing from other countries. Shortly after the organization was launched, Santos discovered KAICIID’s Project Integration through Dialogue and corresponding toolkit through an online search.

This led to discovering the KAICIID-supported Network for Dialogue, which connects grassroots actors with experts and policymakers in the field of integration. Network members and observers include well-established refugee aid and dialogue organizations such as ADRA, Arigatou International, HIAS Europe, Initiatives of Change UK, the International Federation of the Red Cross, Islamic Relief and the Jesuit Refugee Service. Soon after, MEERU announced its own membership.

MEERU representatives met other Network for Dialogue members during the 6th Network for Dialogue meeting, held on 19–21 November 2021 in Belgrade. At the meeting, members had the chance to exchange and learn from each other about the latest projects, define next steps for the Network for Dialogue in 2022 and discuss public policy. The meeting included a field visit to ADRA Serbia, where members had an opportunity to learn how projects on social inclusion of refugees and migrants are implemented in transit countries such as Serbia.



CHAPTER 3

Promoting Interreligious Dialogue Globally





KAICIID organises its work in six groups: the four regional areas described above, the Fellows Programme and the Dialogue Knowledge Hub. Of equal importance in 2021 was the overarching focus on youth, women’s empowerment and supporting policymaking. All the groups are linked.

The Fellows Programme brings together people across 75 countries. Fellows and others around the world connect KAICIID to what is happening on the ground and where fostering understanding and harmony through dialogue can make a difference. Convening religious leaders and policymakers means the Centre can learn lessons from these efforts and translate them into wider change.

The Dialogue Knowledge Hub provides digital knowledge tools, online courses and webinars which teach dialogue as a tool to solve global issues. All online courses are linked with global initiatives and development goals for sustainable peace. Additionally, the Connect2Dialogue networking platform, launched in 2021, fosters knowledge and exchange by connecting interreligious dialogue practitioners and experts from across the globe.

Across all its programmes, KAICIID aims to support and encourage youth, empower women and build the capacity of religious actors to engage in policy discussions.





Creating Connect2Dialogue: A unique online dialogue networking platform

Building on the success of the Peace Map and Who is Who in Interreligious Dialogue, and after more than a year of development, on 22 November 2021, KAICIID launched the Connect2Dialogue platform,² to bring together all its online resources. Connect2Dialogue is an online network for people working in interreligious dialogue, and is the first of its kind in such a comprehensive format. Beyond providing information to those involved in dialogue, the aim of the platform is to build communities of practice to share knowledge and promising approaches to encourage interreligious dialogue. It provides a digital space for interreligious dialogue practitioners and experts to interact, exchange ideas, participate in online and in-person interreligious dialogue events, publicise their events and look for opportunities in the field.

“During the pandemic we have seen how important online networks are,” Anja Piskur, Programme Manager for Peace Mapping and Virtual Platforms, said. “We wanted to create a unique networking opportunity to ensure dialogue continues across the globe, so that dialogue practitioners can find the resources and funding they need, especially when in-person exchange remains challenging.”

The new digital space is directly targeted at interfaith exchange and better collaboration. In addition to offering resources for the general public, Connect2Dialogue will also offer special members-only features such as the ability to expand personal contacts regionally and around the world, foster partnerships with others working on similar projects, exchange ideas and resources, and form interest groups. Additionally, members will have access to job boards, funding opportunities and a shared calendar of interreligious dialogue events.

Professor Patrice Brodeur, KAICIID Senior Adviser, explained that “KAICIID’s e-learning programme’s main objective has always been to strengthen the individual, institutional and organizational capacities of KAICIID stakeholders and the wider interreligious dialogue community. The aim of launching Connect2Dialogue and adding it to our pre-existing online resources is to provide an engaging environment that fosters not only an exchange of ideas but also a safe online environment for more interreligious collaborations on the ground.”

² <https://www.connect2dialogue.org>



Fellows

The KAICIID Fellows Programme lies at the heart of the Centre’s work. An expanding group of religious leaders, dialogue practitioners, academics and policymakers who have been part of the programme carry out projects around the world promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue. Fellows come from the five major religions represented on the KAICIID Board and from many other faiths.

KAICIID Fellows represent an extraordinarily diverse array of people from around the world. They include:

- a Spanish academic who studies “cathedral thinking” – or the way religious organizations address issues in the long term;
- Buddhist and Muslim leaders working to bring peace to southern Thailand;
- an Iraqi professor working to bring inclusive education to Kurdish children;
- a Kenyan Scout leader who supports young people’s efforts to better understand differences.

By the end of 2021, some 450 people had gone through the year-long KAICIID Fellowship Programme, taking part in 3 sessions of training and engagement and carrying out a project supported by the Centre. With 3 new chapters formed this





year in the Central African Republic, Europe and the United Kingdom, the number of alumni chapters increased to 10.

The Programme stimulates new forms of cooperation and has generated numerous studies, books and documentaries. Fellows' work has led to generation of new ideas for policymakers in key areas such as conflict, climate, migration and social cohesion.

The Fellows Programme aims to make an impact in four areas:

- mainstreaming interreligious dialogue in Fellows' religious and educational institutions and communities;
- equipping educators at institutions that train future religious leaders with the knowledge and skills necessary to teach interreligious dialogue;
- building up more educators and policymakers who will advocate for dialogue, are committed to the Centre's mission, and will act as ambassadors for dialogue, especially in conflict zones;
- regularly connecting Fellows through a network with each other and with KAICIID.

COVID-19 restrictions on travel and gatherings limited some of the most important aspects of the programme in 2021. Convening Fellows and helping them forge bonds is a critical part of the work, generating collaborations and friendships, often across wide religious divides. Although the pandemic has disrupted some of the face-to-face activities that are so important in building friendships and partnerships, KAICIID has still managed to build links through online events. Current Fellows and Alumni Fellows have come together for online seminars.

In 2021, the ground work was laid for two new initiatives: a network of Fellows' institutions that will bring together academic and other institutions, and a Fellows mentorship programme in which people are paired with senior religious figures from a different faith from their own to guide their work on interfaith dialogue. The year also saw the selection of the first cohort from Latin America, including representatives from an array of faiths from across the continent.



Fellows in numbers



170

Fellows and Alumni Fellows'
initiatives supported



44

Fellows
from 2021 European
and International cohort
trained



33

capacity building
courses, and online
and in-person training



19,000

beneficiaries
of Fellows and Alumni
Fellows' initiatives



46

new Fellows
selected for international
and Latin American
cohorts for 2022



20

books and
other publications
published by Fellows



Recent publications by KAICIID Fellows

Women and Religion: Voices From the Past, edited by Kanchan Chandan (India, English)

Kanchan Chandan's edited volume features six academic articles from a series of KAICIID-supported webinars in 2020. The book is designed to "make it easier for women to promote peace and resolve disagreements," said Chandan.

Corona, Religion and Life: The Role of Religious Institutions in Confronting Epidemics and Crossing Crises, by Hani Dawah, Ramy Atta and Christine Fahmi (Egypt, Arabic)

This is a collection of articles from Egyptian religious leaders and specialists on how religious institutions have confronted the COVID-19 pandemic, with a particular emphasis on how to overcome its psychological, social and economic effects. The authors also focus on the ways Christians, Muslims and others in Egypt have learned to work together.

Nature and Spirituality: Religions' Cosmivision in View of Global Change, by Juan Carlos Ramchandani (Krishna Kripa Dasa) (Spain, Spanish)

The idea for this book came from an interreligious panel - What Religions Can Do to Preserve the Earth - at the 2019 United Nations Climate Change Conference. The book contains diverse voices and multiple perspectives that Ramchandani hopes will "encourage religious leaders to teach their followers about how their own religion promotes nature care as well as to learn from other paths."

Module on Media Information Literacy, by Amana Nurish, Muhammad Afdillah, Kristan, Kamilia Hamidah, Zon Vanel, Fransiska Widyawati and Nur Hidayah (Indonesia, Bahasa)

This book provides an overview of new media dynamics, media literacy, netiquette, digital representation and information, digital activism, and the online threat of radicalism for activists working on digital literacy and interreligious dialogue.

Pictorial Art for Interreligious Dialogue, by Christopher Evan Longhurst (New Zealand, English)

This book explores the unique usage of pictorial art to undertake interreligious dialogue, presenting a practical guide to help educators learn and teach an effective and enjoyable interreligious dialogue in both academic and informal settings.

- **Colourful Children's Book**, by Ashin Achara and Tin Ma Ma Htet (Myanmar, Burmese)
- **Interreligious Dialogue as an Important Part of Youth Political Participation in Bosnia and Herzegovina**, by Arijana Aganovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian)
- **Love All Hate None**, by Mihlar A.M. (Sri Lanka, Sinhalese/Tamil)
- **Global Religions and Religious Diplomacy**, by Giancarlo Anello (Italy, English)
- **At Our Neighbour's Table: Get to Know Various Religious Traditions through Prayer and Sharing Meals**, by Maryana Hnyp (Belgium, English)
- **Interfaith Lessons for Youth**, by Tin Maung Htwe (Myanmar, English/Burmese)
- **A Guidebook for Interreligious Dialogue in Sri Lanka**, by Mohammad Ismath Ramzy (Sri Lanka, English)
- **Booklet on Interreligious Dialogue**, by Muhammad Jan (Pakistan, Urdu)
- **Building Bridges in the (Post) Conflict Times / Former Yugoslav region**, by Jelena (Jorgacevic) Kistic (Serbia, Serbian/English)
- **Development of an e-Literacy Teaching Guide in Tamil Language for Islamic Religious Scholars in Sri Lanka to Counter Hate Speech**, by M.H. Mohamed Hishan (Sri Lanka, Tamil)
- **Interfaith Dialogue for Promoting Peaceful Communities**, by Babu Ram Poudel (Nepal, English)
- **The Power Struggle of Interfaith Women in Facing the Pandemic**, by Wiwin Siti Aminah Rohmawati (Indonesia, Bahasa)
- **Religious Leadership in the COVID-19 Crisis**, by Rejendra Senchurey (Nepal, Nepali)
- **COVID-19 ABC for Religious Leaders**, by Mercy Wambui Muigai (Kenya, English)
- **A Beginner's Guide to Understanding the Major Faiths of the World**, by ZAF Wazniya (Sri Lanka, English/Sinhala/Tamil)

Leading by example: KAICIID Fellows bring interreligious dialogue to Thailand



Conflict has waxed and waned in southern Thailand for more than 100 years since the mostly Muslim and ethnic Malay area was incorporated into the predominantly Buddhist kingdom. In 2004, conflict flared again and more than 7,000 people have died. On 28 September 2021, one of a regular series of bombs exploded in Chanae District, killing two police officers and injuring four others.



Violent acts have worsened a deepening polarisation between the Buddhist and Muslim communities in the south, with mistrust increasing and the communities pulling apart. Two KAICIID Fellows have been challenging this through interreligious dialogue.

Since meeting at KAICIID events in 2017, Ven. Napan Santibhaddo Thawornbanjob and Kriya Langputeh have worked together to counteract suspicion and violence between their communities. They convene community visits and provide dialogue training for Buddhists and Muslims in southern Thailand. They believe the connection they have formed and their efforts at replicating that relationship between their communities not only provide a path towards

peace but can also inspire others to do the same when they face challenges in their own communities.

“There are many people saying many things,” said KAICIID 2015 Fellow Langputeh, “but too often Buddhists and Muslims – both sides – are not calling for peace, are not coming together to cross the chasm between the two communities.”

Born in southern Thailand’s Satun Province, Langputeh comes from a native Malay-speaking ethnic group and is a product of Thai public schools and Malay language-based Islamic institutions. He is currently working on his PhD at the University of Brunei Darussalam, with a dissertation entitled *Interreligious Dialogue: Approaches for Peacebuilding*.

After both serving as Fellows in different cohorts, Langputeh met Thawornbanjob at a KAICIID conference. “From that moment on, we decided to start working together,” said Langputeh. “I said to him, ‘You are Buddhist. I am Muslim. But we have the training from KAICIID in common. It is our responsibility to bring this back home. We are the bridge if we work together.’”

Thawornbanjob is a well-known monk and Assistant Abbot at the Golden Mount Temple in Bangkok, a symbol of the city and of Thai Buddhism. He came to fame as anchor of the award-winning reality TV show *True Little Monks* in 2013. Seeking to steward his symbolic influence well, Thawornbanjob has been visiting southern Thailand to lead training for Buddhist community leaders and help prevent further conflict in the region.

Thawornbanjob and Langputeh received KAICIID support for training programmes to promote peace based on their respective religious outlooks and values. Langputeh said, “The main aim is to provide the framework for peaceful coexistence.” When they lead the training, “Venerable Napan wears the yellow robe of a monk, I wear the garb of a Muslim.”

“We are different from the outside, but have the same goal in mind – to build peace.”





Youth

KAICIID has identified youth as a priority since its inception by institutionalising interreligious and intercultural dialogue at global youth organizations. Such organizations work to encourage shared citizenship and respect and counter hate speech.

In 2021, with a focus on youth, KAICIID joined the Big 6 Youth Organizations at the Global Youth Summit, organised by the Global Youth Mobilization for Generation Disrupted initiative. At the event, young leaders, policymakers and other change-makers came together to address challenges facing young people across the world during the COVID-19 pandemic. With 120 participants from around the world, KAICIID addressed the themes of faith and empathy through an interreligious dialogue lens from multiple angles. On the evaluation survey, 80% of youth participants expressed inspiration to invest further efforts in engaging with diverse communities and contribute to building and sustaining cohesive societies, especially in times of crisis.

Together with international youth institutions, KAICIID helped bring the issue of youth inclusion into the international agenda at the G20 Interfaith Forum in Italy, by co-hosting the G20 Youth Interfaith Forum in partnership with ACWAY and other organizations. KAICIID supported youth activists at the Forum and interactively simulated dialogue with the DialoGo! game.³

The G20 Youth Interfaith Forum brought together a diverse group of 48 young participants from 30 countries and 12 religious and cultural traditions to share experiences, tools and techniques for building and sustaining interfaith and intercultural engagement in local communities, and to discuss key issues within the G20 Interfaith Forum framework. KAICIID supported several Scouts in attending the G20 Youth Interfaith Forum.

KAICIID also joined the G20 Interfaith Forum Youth Working Group. The aim of the Working Group is to draw on the expertise of member organizations, engage young people systematically, and institutionalise the role and involvement of youth within the G20 Interfaith Forum processes.



³ <https://www.kaiciid.org/what-we-do/dialogo-game>



KAICIID and WOSM

KAICIID engages with young people through long-term collaboration with WOSM. In March 2021, together with WOSM, KAICIID hosted a webinar on Global Action through Dialogue focusing on how dialogue and global partnerships can promote sustainable development as part of the #turnitaround global campaign. Experts shared how they overcame challenges in the implementation of the SDGs and best practices for collaboration and broadening geographic engagement.

In May 2021, KAICIID and WOSM participated in a webinar to celebrate World Day for Cultural Diversity and demonstrate how dialogue is being used to help frame solutions to some of the most important issues of our time, including emotional well-being, gender roles, spirituality and social affairs. The webinar provided a valuable overview of the use of dialogue in different settings throughout Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East.

Another webinar in May 2021, co-sponsored by KAICIID and WOSM, focused on protecting religious sites as part of the International Day of Living together in Peace. The webinar addressed the preservation of religious and cultural sites. Raising awareness and preserving religious and cultural sites significantly contribute to building solidarity and social cohesion, in particular where a community is involved in the site's restoration and protection.

In August 2021, Dialogue for Peace facilitators trained by KAICIID led 22 sessions on innovation, leadership and global citizenship by using intercultural dialogue at the 14th World Scout Youth Forum held virtually, with the theme Bridging the World. More than 700 Scouts from around the world participated. During the sessions, WOSM facilitators were able to creatively adapt the programme content into the regional context to better engage with participants.

Local Scout organizations are also supported by KAICIID, including being beneficiaries of the Dialogue 360 Project. Supported initiatives included countering hate speech, promoting social cohesion and COVID-19 support initiatives.



Women

Inequality and structural discrimination of women and girls continue at different levels. Women and girls are confronted with barriers in society and challenged by deep-seated disparities at political and legal levels – and this has been worsened in many cases by the COVID-19 pandemic.

KAICIID aspires to empower women and girls around the world. It acknowledges its ethical duty to play its part in the global call of António Guterres to make the 21st century “the century of women’s equality.” In this context, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDG 5 on gender equality, which envisions a world “of universal respect for human rights and human dignity [in which] every woman and girl enjoys full gender equality and all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment have been removed,” are central to the Centre’s institutional principles and operations.

In 2021, the Centre joined the world in celebrating International Women’s Day through a webinar that aimed to advance women’s leadership in peacebuilding. The Centre promoted the Generation Equality and Orange the World global messaging through webinars on women’s resilience to rebuild their lives in the face of violence or the refugee and migrant experience.

KAICIID participated in the 2021 Parliament of the World Religions by addressing moral challenges and engaged in regular consultation processes on women’s empowerment with key experts through its membership of the G20 Interfaith Forum, PaRD, and working groups on gender equality and women’s empowerment of the United Nations Multi-faith Advisory Council. The Centre supported the G20 Interfaith Forum by organising a webinar entitled Intersectionality of Policy, Gender and Religion.





KAICIID acknowledges the remarkable power and potential of women, which can be brought to the fore through their inclusion in processes. Mechanisms are in place to enable equal accessibility to opportunities and visibility within programme implementation to ensure institutional operations and programming are holistic and offer comprehensive approaches to global and local challenges.

Informed dialogue at the local level is vital to reassess discriminatory practices without disparaging a culture or religion as a whole and without restricting their core values. Real change cannot happen without religious engagement and investment in religious ethos and without investment in the potential of women of faith as agents of transformation.

If women of faith have access to training in connecting spiritual engagement with human rights issues and mechanisms, they can act as agents of transformation within their communities, driving inclusion and participation of women in decision-making.

In May 2021, in collaboration with IPDC, KAICIID launched the She4Dialogue pilot training project on encompassing gender mainstreaming in dialogue and peacebuilding for 28 women from Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic, who then implemented training sessions for community members in their localities.

Challenges around gender parity and responsiveness have been key cross-cutting issues of the KAICIID Fellows Programme and Fellows initiatives. In 2021, KAICIID incorporated sessions on the role of women in interreligious dialogue and gender sensitivity in its Fellows training. The Centre organised a thematic session for Fellows Alumni on incorporating a gender lens into interreligious dialogue projects. As part of the project implementation phase, Fellows developed impactful women's rights projects such as Their Voices for Peace, aimed at breaking stereotypes related to women's issues in Arab societies, and EmpowHER, addressing contextual issues on women's rights within communities. These efforts have borne fruit, with Fellows' publications starting to address issues around women.

These outcomes are clear indicators that it is a joint responsibility to continue empowering women of faith to enable sustainable and inclusive solutions. Supporting women's advocacy in their respective communities is crucial for social cohesion and development.



Supporting Policymaking

In 2021, KAICIID programmes systematically expanded their strategic objectives by including policy components. A unique governance structure, with Member States and a multireligious Board, positions KAICIID as a key organization at the nexus of policymakers and diverse religious communities. Some of the main activities in 2021 included raising awareness among religious actors on policy issues, building their capacity to engage in policy discussions, and convening them with policymakers.

The Europe Region Programme provided several engagement opportunities between religious actors and policymakers through dialogical events. Under a project aimed at countering hate speech, high-level cross-sector dialogue took place in the context of the EPDF, convening 200 religious actors and prominent European policymakers physically and online. In support of the work of the Network for Dialogue,⁴ the Europe Region Programme developed and circulated three policy briefs on different aspects of the social inclusion of refugees and migrants:



- Supporting Teachers in the Use of Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue and Inclusive Education for Refugees and Migrants;
- Building Trust through Dialogue in Local Communities: A Key Component for the Social Cohesion of Refugees and Migrants in Europe;
- Reshaping Narratives on Migration through Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue.

The Centre supported a delegation from MJLC to meet with the Slovenian Prime Minister and President advocating for changes to laws that limit religious minorities' freedom to practise their faiths. The visit took place while Slovenia held the presidency of the Council of the European Union.

⁴ <https://network4dialogue.eu/resources>



The Africa Region Programme increased its focus on policy through collaboration with the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution in Nigeria, aiming to create a network of policymakers and religious leaders to work on the development of more inclusive policy.

In the Central African Republic, the peace advocacy missions led by the main religious leaders of the Interfaith Platform mediated between the local community, military, armed groups and MINUSCA, developing strategies and solutions for local problems.

At the regional level, work has been done to protect sacred sites in support of the implementation of this year's African Union thematic priority, promotion of cultural heritage, culminating in a regional consultation in partnership with AU-IFDE, UNESCO and the United Religions Initiative, with the aim of developing a platform integrated into African Union structures and dedicated specifically to the protection of sacred sites.

The Fellows Programme is working on introducing training components on policy engagement for the next year. The Programme has already hosted an online session on global diplomacy and interreligious dialogue, where Fellows engaged with Ambassador Philip McDonagh, the co-author of *On the Significance of Religion for Global Diplomacy*. Network for Dialogue members received a training session on the goals and cycle of public policy.

KAICIID has continued to play an active role in several international networks that work to bridge the gap between faith-based civil society organizations and policymakers. The Centre expanded its role within PaRD, a unique network that brings together governments, intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations to work together on sustainable development. The Centre has had

an ongoing role in the steering group of PaRD, the SDG 16 Peace Workstream, and the Water, Environment and Climate Action Workstream, undertaking several joint projects that engage all three entities in the PaRD network. In November 2021, the Centre joined the Gender Workstream to expand on this work.

KAICIID continues to engage directly with the World Bank as part of its Moral Imperative Steering Committee and participated in the strategy process to shift to a more formal faith advisory consortium.

KAICIID continues to play a key role in the G20 Interfaith Forum development and policy process, contributing to the development of policy papers in the working groups on education, Latin America and peacebuilding. It also held a high-level side-event engaging policymakers and religious leaders from the Arab region on how to address current crises in the region.

The Centre published the third book from its Dialogue Series, *Evaluating Interreligious Peacebuilding and Dialogue: Methods and Frameworks*, which aims to improve monitoring and evaluation of interreligious dialogue and peacebuilding projects. KAICIID hopes this book will simplify the engagement of intergovernmental and government organizations on faith-based peacebuilding projects in the field. The book identifies gaps and challenges, but also provides examples of new evaluation models adapted to interreligious peacebuilding.

In 2022, the Centre will keep realigning its capacities and programming to position itself as the lead organization on issues related to interreligious dialogue and policy engagement for religious actors. Building on the successful EPDF model, similar policy forums will be established in other regional programmes. The Centre will continue to create a body of research papers to support policy approaches and training modules to support the engagement of interreligious dialogue in the policy domain.





Dialogue Knowledge Hub

Online learning is a key component of the Centre’s work, as it allows a wide audience to access expertise developed over many years and vastly increases the number of people reached. In 2021, 29 cohorts (1,398 participants from 124 countries) attended the Dialogue Knowledge Hub’s instructor-led and self-paced e-learning courses. More than 10 new courses in Arabic, English and French were developed and piloted.

The Centre has focused on cooperation with other organizations, including developing a series of e-learning courses with the United Nations on the SDGs. The Centre is increasing its reach by producing more courses in Arabic and French, as well as English. Directories of people involved in interreligious and intercultural dialogue around the world have been developed to support their efforts, and online communities facilitate the exchange of knowledge.

In 2021, over 52,000 new users accessed the open-access information provided by the KAICIID interactive interreligious dialogue directories and online resources. The various pages were viewed over 127,000 times.

The number of users participating in short self-paced courses grew steadily during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, more than 100 new applicants enrolled in KAICIID e-learning courses each month, with many saying they were using the new skills they learned. In countries affected by conflict, such as Nigeria and the

Philippines, participants said they had learned many practical steps to improve their peacebuilding work.

In 2021, the Dialogue Knowledge Hub hosted 13 thematic webinars⁵ attended by over 500 participants globally, ensuring ongoing advocacy efforts, in collaboration with partners that included ACWAY, Habitat for Humanity International, the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities, UNEP, UNESCO, the United Religions Initiative, UPEACE, World Vision International, WOSM and various universities. KAICIID's thematic webinars are video recorded, stored and accessible on the KAICIID website and YouTube channel. Topics such as freedom of religion and belief, hope for a more sustainable world, youth action towards sustainable actions and goals, restoring the planet, racial justice, and mental health in times of COVID-19 were explored and discussed through the webinars.

The post-COVID-19 era created a new reality of online participation. New solutions were implemented, such as the blended learning approach, which combines online training courses, webinars, sessions and materials with traditional face-to-face and place-based training workshops for high-impact learning. While this approach was introduced by KAICIID in 2018, it has increasingly taken hold and has since been applied to several KAICIID global training programmes, including the Fellows Programme.

The KAICIID Fellows training programme delivery model and approach has embraced the blended learning concept. Thematic webinars and two e-learning courses – Using IRD for Strengthening Peace and Social Cohesion and Basics of Results Based Management (RBM) – were developed and fully integrated as mandatory components within the Fellows Programme's training cycle, significantly strengthening it.

Training in 2022 will continue to use blended learning, with face-to-face workshops, e-learning courses, webinars, and tutors using online videoconferencing platforms to deliver course content.



⁵ <https://www.kaiciid.org/dialogue-knowledge-hub/webinars>

Dialogue Knowledge Hub in numbers



52,000

new users
of online resources



19

e-learning courses
available, with 11 new
e-learning courses in
3 languages developed
and piloted



1,398

participants
in online courses
from 124 countries

E-learning courses participant feedback



I will use it to build trust between various believers in my country.

– Imam, Cameroon



I think that the practical examples provided during the course ...are fundamental to everyday work and everyday life.

– PhD student, Saudi Arabia



I learnt how to facilitate dialogue in conflict situations. I gained useful tools to apply in my work.

– Educator, South Africa



This course will allow me to initiate exchange workshops on religious diversity within my national scout association.

– Student, Côte d'Ivoire



I will use the skills and knowledge derived from the programme in the implementation of various programmes like workshops, seminars and conferences.

– Educator, Nigeria



The course gave me numerous ideas on the designs and concepts for the training of our Scouts to become advocates for interfaith dialogue.

– Student, Philippines



The course helped me in the development of true dialogue processes with people.

– Teacher, Nigeria

CHAPTER 4

Staff and Finance

Staff

Number of staff per country:



USA 2

MEXICO 1

VENEZUELA 1

BRAZIL 2

58

Total Staff

Countries 28



53%

47%

Staff by Gender

Male 31
Female 27

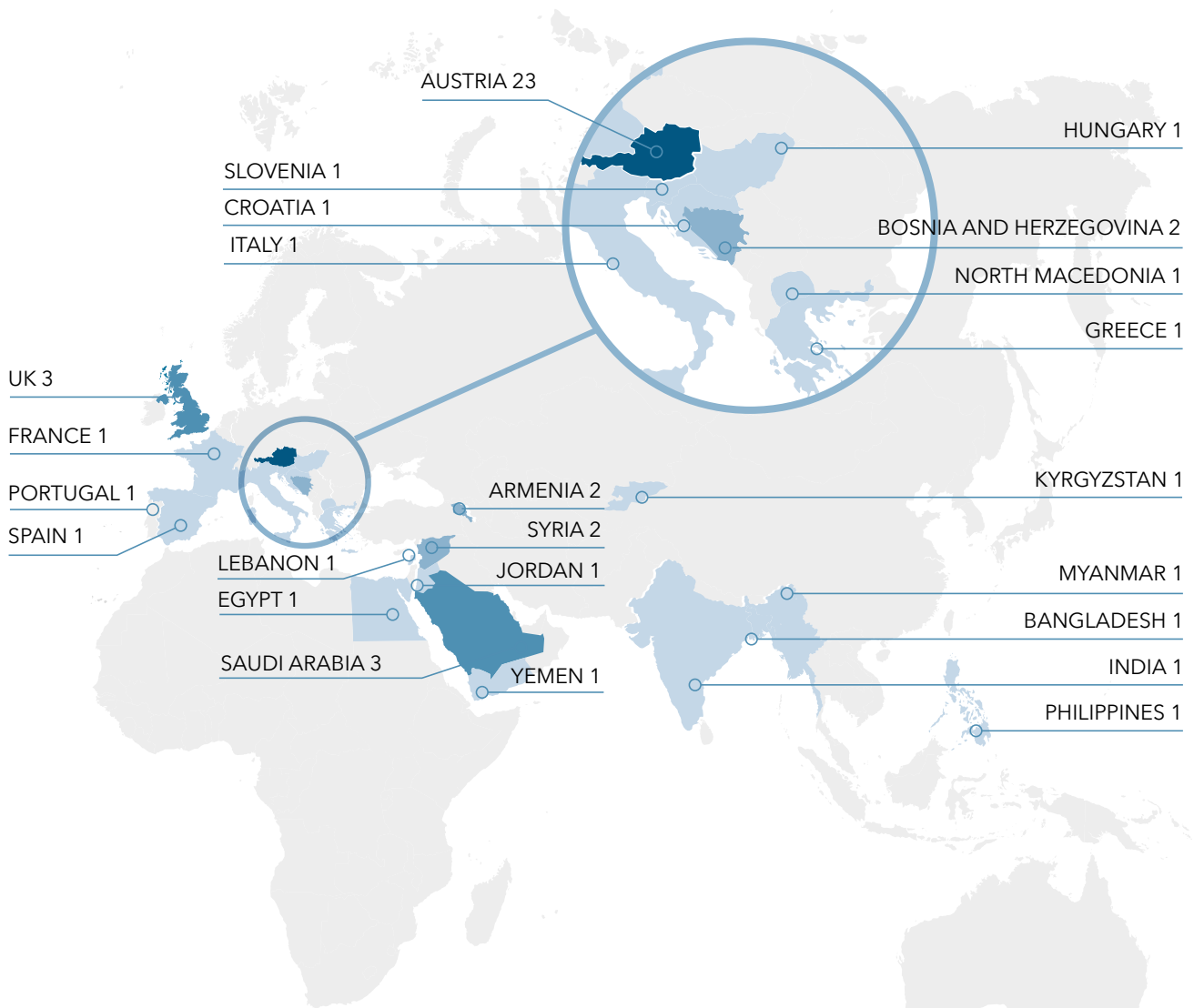
Staff Nationality

BY MEMBER STATES

Country	Number of Staff	% of Staff
Austria	23	41%
Other	31	53%
Saudi Arabia	3	5%
Spain	1	2%
Total	58	100%

BY CONTINENT

Continent	Number of Staff	% of Staff
Africa	1	2%
Asia	13	22%
Europe	38	66%
North America	3	5%
South America	3	5%
Total	58	100%



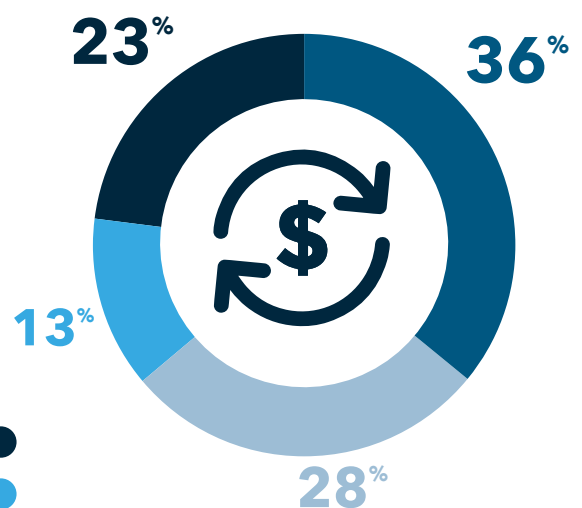
Finance

The 2021 programme and budget was approved by the Council of Parties at a total of EUR 16.2 million, covering the programmes and activities of the Centre taking into account the second year extension to the Strategic Plan for the period 2016-2019.

The cash surplus from the 2020 financial year, as well as further voluntary contributions received during 2021 from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, provided the financing of the 2021 programme and budget. The total 2021 expenditure reached EUR 11.55 million (this figure is subject to the final audit of the 2021 financial statements).

Distribution of 2021 Expenditure

- Programme Department ● Organizational Support Services ●
- Executive Management ● Communications Department ●





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