



BUILDING PEACE IN THE HORN OF AFRICA:

THE EFFECTS OF THE EU TRUST FUND ON CONFLICT PREVENTION

A THEMATIC NARRATIVE

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Cover photo: The Strength Through Tolerance Project, funded by the European Union Trust Fund for the Horn of Africa, is implemented by a consortium led by the European Institute for Peace (EIP), in partnership with the Elman Peace Centre (EPC) and Africa's Voices Foundation (AVF). The project aims to strengthen the collaboration and joint approach between the government and communities in addressing the factors contributing to violent extremism. © Elman Peace/Zamzam Ahmed.

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CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS	4
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
1. INTRODUCTION.....	8
1.1. Background.....	8
1.2. Objectives	8
2. METHODOLOGY	9
2.1. Research questions	9
2.2. Methodology and analytical framework	9
2.3. Challenges and limitations	10
3. CONFLICT TRENDS IN THE HOA	12
4. THE EUTF AND CONFLICT PREVENTION	14
4.1. EUTF support to conflict prevention	14
4.2. Conflict prevention approaches within the EUTF portfolio	15
5. EUTF EFFECTS ON CONFLICT PREVENTION.....	17
5.1. Overview of available outcome data.....	17
5.2. Key findings	20
6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	36
6.1. Conclusions	36
6.2. Recommendations	38
ANNEX	40
List of the 48 conflict prevention projects and their related funding	40

ABBREVIATIONS

ALP	Accelerated Learning Programme
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
EUTF	European Union Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa
FGS	Federal Government of Somalia
FMS	Federated Member States
FORESITE	Food security and resilience in transitioning environments Programme
GBV	Gender Based Violence
JPP	Joint Policing Programme
JRoL	Joint Rule of Law Programme
KRCS	Kenya Red Cross Society
HoA	Horn of Africa
LC	Local Councils
MLS	Monitoring and Learning System
NCTC	National Counter Terrorism Centre
NDICI	Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument
P/CVE	Preventing/ Countering Violent Extremism
PMAs	Producer and Marketing Associations
RDPP	Regional Development and Protection Programme
RUSI	Royal United Services Institute
RSF	Rapid Support Forces
RWC	Refugee Welfare Councils
SAF	Sudanese Armed Forces
SUPREME	Security, Protection, and Economic Empowerment
SPRS-NU	Support Programme for Refugee Settlements in the Northern Uganda
SSRD	South Sudan Rural Development
STRIVE	Strengthening Resilience to Violent Extremism
TPLF	Tigray People's Liberation Front
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The European Union Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa (EUTF) was launched in 2015 with four strategic objectives (SO), including SO4: ‘Improved governance and conflict prevention and reduction of forced displacement and irregular migration’.¹ Six strategic priorities were set by the Strategic Board in April 2018, including ‘Essential stabilisation efforts in the Horn of Africa (in particular in Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia)’.² In that context, the EUTF has funded a number of projects aiming to prevent and mitigate conflict.

This report reviews how EUTF-funded programmes have supported conflict prevention in the Horn of Africa (HoA). It looks at the effects of the funded interventions on conflict prevention, with the objective of identifying best practices, missed opportunities, and drawing recommendations for future EU programmes.

THE EUTF AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

A mapping conducted by the MLS team identified 48 relevant projects, for a total of €125 million (M) in contracted EUTF funds allocated to conflict prevention in the Horn of Africa. The team selected projects for which conflict prevention was part of the project’s overall or strategic objectives, and/or projects that had outcome indicators focused on conflict prevention. Projects that exclusively focused on governance, forced displacement and/or irregular migration, gender, human rights, justice and/or protection were excluded from this analysis. (See Annex 6.1 for a detailed list of projects.) The largest share of funding went to regional initiatives (€48.8M) and Somalia (€35.1M). This thematic narrative is based on qualitative insights from these 48 projects, as well as, when available, impact and outcome data reported by the projects.³

Most of the identified 48 projects implemented activities *directly* linked to conflict prevention. These activities included establishing or reinforcing peacebuilding committees, supporting the security of judiciary systems, organising community events to improve social cohesion or awareness raising sessions on human rights or radicalisation. Four of these projects,⁴ however, focused only on activities *indirectly* linked to conflict prevention, such as improving livelihood opportunities and/or strengthening basic service delivery.

Most projects adopted either a double nexus (peace–development) or a triple nexus (peace–development–humanitarian) approach. In addition to activities directly linked to conflict prevention, many projects incorporated support for livelihood opportunities and/or the delivery of basic services. These efforts aimed to reduce tensions and foster social cohesion. This approach was consistent across a range of sub-thematic areas, including conflict prevention and resolution, perceived safety, social cohesion, and preventing/countering violent extremism (P/CVE). **A number of projects aimed**

¹ The four Strategic Objectives of the EUTF are: SO1 ‘Greater economic and employment opportunities’; SO2 ‘Strengthening resilience of communities and in particular the most vulnerable including refugees and other displaced people’; SO3 ‘Improved migration management in countries of origin, transit and destination’ and SO4 ‘Improved governance and conflict prevention and reduction of forced displacement and irregular migration’.

² The six strategic priorities are i) returns and reintegration; ii) refugee management; iii) completing progress on the securitisation of documents and civil registry; iv) anti-trafficking measures; v) essential stabilisation efforts in Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan; and vi) migration dialogue. EUTF, ‘Annual Report 2018’, March 2019. Retrieved [here](#); EUTF, ‘Minutes of the fourth board meeting of the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF for Africa), 24 April 2018. Retrieved [here](#).

³ The analysis for this thematic narrative is based on 55 outcome indicators coming from 21 projects (the rest of the projects did not have usable outcome indicators).

⁴ This was the case of the CRRF Urban Development, a regional project implemented by IRC and three RDPP Ethiopia projects (the ones led by IRC, DCA and NRC) – see Section 6.1 for a detailed list of all the projects as well as the indicative funding used.

at improving social cohesion and conflict prevention as a means to achieve broader objectives. For example, some sought to strengthen social ties and prevent conflict as a way to reduce forced displacement and irregular migration. Others used conflict prevention as a strategy to ultimately enhance food security.

KEY FINDINGS

This thematic analysis highlighted several key insights.

- **Multi-faceted approaches were the most effective in improving social cohesion and preventing conflict.** Successful approaches either combined peacebuilding objectives with development and/or humanitarian objectives, sometimes also following a cross-border approach.
- **Mentorship programmes targeting youth proved effective in combating violent extremism and radicalisation, especially when combined with life skills training that can boost self-esteem.**
- **Connecting mentees and mentors of the same age but from different backgrounds seems to have been particularly successful.** Mentors and mentees within the same age group were better able to connect through shared experiences, which strengthened trust, mutual understanding, and the impact of the mentorship relationship.
- **It is key to complement traditional violent extremism prevention initiatives with interventions that address the underlying causes of grievances.** The drivers of radicalisation are often complex and interconnected, including frustration, marginalisation, and a perceived lack of opportunities to plan for a good future.
- **Identifying and training local leaders seems to have proven effective in improving social cohesion and ensuring the sustainability of conflict prevention efforts.**
- **Identifying and consistently involving local peace actors – from both government institutions and communities – proved challenging in some contexts, hindering the implementation of conflict resolution activities.**
- **Involving existing local stakeholders, leaders or structures was key to improving local conflict resolution mechanisms.** It is also crucial to engage traditional and informal authorities, and particularly clan and cultural leaders, who are often responsible for conflict resolution in communities of intervention.
- **Using a 50/50 approach to targeting refugee and host populations (instead of the commonly used 70/30 split) was shown to be effective in reducing inter-communal tensions.**
- **Improved delivery of integrated basic services (such as water, energy and education) was effective in improving social cohesion when combined with relevant training for local authorities.** Projects that coupled service delivery with capacity building for local institutions created a safer and more favourable environment for sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- **Livelihood programming in displacement-affected areas faced several implementation challenges.** In some cases, the challenge stemmed from the differing needs of host and refugee populations, making it difficult to implement livelihood strategies that were relevant to both groups. In other cases, livelihood activities were not as popular as expected.
- **Projects with built-in flexibility were better able to remain relevant and effective in the face of rapidly evolving contexts.**
- **Training local actors and CSOs in peacebuilding helped improve sustainability but needs to be combined with complementary capacity building on business, fundraising and reporting.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the key findings, the team made some recommendations for future projects.

- **In terms of design, future projects should allow for budget flexibility, including rapid response funds for crises.**
- **Future conflict prevention projects should also seek to empower local CSOs by ensuring funding and representation in steering committees**, by including them as implementing partners and by building their capacity in peacebuilding, financial management, reporting, and fundraising.
- **Projects that improve the delivery of integrated basic social services should be considered when seeking to improve social cohesion between refugees and host communities.** When developing such projects, **include relevant capacity building for local authorities** to be trained in the delivery of such services (water, energy, education).
- **When designing livelihood support programmes targeting hosts and refugees, ensure that the support is relevant for both communities**, which may have very different needs.
- To facilitate the easing of tensions between communities, it is recommended to **use a 50/50 host-refugee project split (rather than 70/30)**. It is also recommended to raise community awareness to prevent conflicts through social events, the identification and training of community focal points, and the dissemination of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials.
- **Conflict resolution projects should also leverage existing local structures** (e.g., Refugee Welfare Councils, Local Councils) for conflict resolution and engage traditional leaders in conflict mediation processes.
- **Another key recommendation for future conflict prevention projects is to set up conflict mitigation volunteer networks as early warning systems**, embed these systems within broader project frameworks, and link them to law enforcement institutions.
- For projects focused on P/CVE and social cohesion, it is recommended to **scale up existing mentorship programmes**, such as Youth KE RUSI's mentorship model for at-risk youth in marginalised areas. It is also recommended to **link such mentorship programmes to employment/training opportunities to enhance sustainability**. Findings also highlight the need to **integrate mental health and psychosocial support** into projects targeting social cohesion, especially for youth and women.
- Finally, and in light of the impact of climate change and of growing conflicts over natural resources (especially water and pasture) on smallholder farmers, **future projects should further strengthen a climate-smart agricultural approach, including natural resource management.**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND

The European Union Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa (EUTF for Africa, or EUTF) was launched in November 2015. Since then, the fund has committed €1.8 billion (B) to 231 operational projects through its Horn of Africa (HoA) window in Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda.¹

The EUTF HoA funded a number of projects aiming to prevent and mitigate conflict. In 2018, the Commission accepted, upon proposal of the Trust Fund's Board, six priority criteria for the Horn of Africa window, which included 'Essential stabilization efforts in the Horn of Africa (in particular in Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia)'.² This priority remains in the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) – “Global Europe”, under the ‘Thematic Pillar’ which ‘will fund support to human rights and democracy, civil society, stability and peace’, with €910M specifically allocated to peace, stability and conflict prevention.³

Since 2017, Altai Consulting has been implementing the Monitoring and Learning System (MLS) for the EUTF. Through its monitoring component, the MLS has collected output- and outcome-level data for EUTF-funded projects every semester and published 17 monitoring reports. The learning component aims to complement the quantitative data by drawing lessons and best practices from projects' implementation, with the goal of informing future programming.

1.2. OBJECTIVES

In the context of the EU's continued commitment to strengthening peace and stability and supporting displacement-affected communities (DACs), the MLS was tasked with **reviewing how the EUTF-funded programmes supported conflict prevention, with the objective of identifying recommendations for future programming.** The study:

- i) Examines the effects of EUTF interventions on conflict prevention in the HoA, and how external conflict trends in the HOA have affected those effects,
- ii) Identifies best practices and lessons learnt as well as missed opportunities,
- iii) Presents recommendations for future programming on conflict prevention for the EU and other actors.

¹ In addition, regional programmes under the Trust Fund currently cover decisions implemented in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda.

² EUTF, 'Annual Report 2018', March 2019. Retrieved [here](#); EUTF, 'Minutes of the fourth board meeting of the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF for Africa)', 24 April 2018. Retrieved [here](#).

³ European Commission, 'Global Europe – The Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Factsheet', June 2021. Retrieved [here](#).

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

To fulfil the objectives of the thematic narrative described above, the following research questions have been identified

1. Context

- How have conflict-related trends evolved since the start of the EUTF in the HoA (2016)? How have contextual trends (for example, the outbreak of conflict in Sudan from April 2023, the war in Tigray Region, Ethiopia, between 2020 and 2022, and the Al-Shabaab insurgency in Somalia) and their related internal and cross-border displacements impacted the EUTF's efforts to improve conflict-related trends across the HoA?
- What are the dominant conflict-related drivers in the Horn of Africa, at the community and state levels?

2. EUTF's support to conflict prevention

- Which types of conflict prevention-related interventions have been most frequently implemented with EUTF funding in the HoA?
 - How does the nature of these activities vary according to:
 - Different conflict prevention objectives (social cohesion, preventing and countering violent extremism, security, cross-border, communal violence, etc)
 - Different contexts (country, rural/urban, fragility)
 - Different target populations (displaced/non-displaced, gender, age)?
 - How much funding has the EUTF dedicated to conflict prevention in the HoA?

3. Outcome data

- Which effects can be inferred from the outcome data on changes in conflict prevention, social cohesion, capacities on conflict prevention, and other relevant trends across the HoA?
- Which positive or negative/unintended changes have occurred in the EUTF implementation areas of relevant projects since the start of the EUTF, and how do these findings correlate with overall conflict trends in the HoA?

4. Effects

- Which approaches have worked well in decreasing conflict and improving relationships among and within communities facing high levels of conflict? Which have not?
- What best practices and lessons learned can be identified from the different approaches implemented with EUTF financing on strengthening conflict prevention outcomes?
- How have the different approaches and activities improved project participants' perceptions of safety, well-being and cohesion? (Concrete examples from specific projects).

5. Sustainability of the EUTF efforts

- How have recent projects integrated learning from past EUTF projects?
 - Which long-term effects are remaining today, in particular after the completion of the projects selected for further analysis? To what extent are these the result of dedicated continuity efforts?

2.2. METHODOLOGY AND ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

The MLS team conducted a mapping for this thematic narrative and identified 48 relevant projects, for a total of €125M contracted funds allocated to conflict prevention. The research team selected EUTF projects for which conflict prevention was part of the project's overall or strategic objectives, and/or projects that had outcome indicators focused on conflict prevention. Based on

available project documents and data reported to the MLS, projects that exclusively focused on governance, forced displacements and/or irregular migration, gender, human rights, justice and/or protection were excluded from this analysis. As a result, 48 projects were identified as conflict prevention-related and therefore within the scope for this thematic narrative (see Annex 6.1 for a detailed list of projects).

This report builds on eight years of monitoring and learning work by the Monitoring and Learning System (MLS). The team drew findings from the learning and monitoring components of the MLS, as well as from EUTF key project documents and data reported by the projects, and additional external sources. Research and analysis for this study took place between December 2024 and February 2025.

Qualitative insights were taken from four case studies conducted as part of the learning component of the MLS: i) Conflict prevention, peace, and economic opportunities for the youth, Lessons learned from a consortium approach to stability and conflict prevention in Kenya (January 2019); ii) Collaboration in cross-border areas of the Horn of Africa region, Case study on the EUTF Cross-Border Programme (January 2021); iii) Assessing effects of the Kenya-EU partnership National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) on operationalising the national strategy to counter violent extremism in Kenya (September 2024) and iv) Assessing approaches to social cohesion through the lens of three key EUTF projects (September 2024).

This thematic narrative also builds on quantitative analysis coming from outcome indicators. In 2021, the EUTF MLS began collecting impact and outcome data (collectively referred to as 'outcomes' here) reported by EUTF-funded projects in the HoA, to substantiate an analysis on higher-level changes effected by the Trust Fund. EUTF projects have reported outcome data across several thematic areas, including economic opportunities, basic services (WASH, health, education, energy), food security and nutrition, and conflict prevention.

55 outcome indicators coming from 21 projects were used for the quantitative analysis. Out of the 48 projects identified for this thematic narrative, 43 were completed at the time of writing, and 21 had shared a midterm and/or endline evaluation which included usable outcome indicators.¹ Only half of the completed projects had midterm and/or endline evaluations with usable data² at the time of writing, limiting the quantitative analysis as further explained below.

2.3. CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

The reader should consider the following limitations when reviewing the findings of this study:

- The analysis of outcome data relied on the **availability and quality of quantitative data reported by different implementing partners of EUTF interventions**. In instances where projects had limited or no outcome data, qualitative documentation was applied as far as possible. Outcome data was also triangulated with qualitative findings to ensure consistency in findings.
- **Outcome and impact data reported on by projects under the EUTF were not set up with the purpose of allowing for an aggregated outcome analysis across projects.**³ The MLS team has sought to overcome this by identifying commonalities for the reported outcomes. In addition, as piloted in the 2022 EUTF outcomes and impacts study,⁴ outcome analysis reports

¹ Usable data is defined as outcome indicators (excluding those defined as outputs) with one or two comparable datapoints between the baseline and end-term, or between the midterm and baseline or endline, or a datapoint referring to an increase/decrease.

² Some of the projects may have ended recently and have not completed an endline yet.

³ See: EUTF MLS, 'EUTF outcomes and impacts', October 2022. Retrieved [here](#).

⁴ See: EUTF MLS, 'EUTF outcomes and impacts', October 2022. Retrieved [here](#).

on the number and proportion of indicators reflecting positive changes (versus those reflecting no change or a negative change).¹

- Not every project conducted endlines, meaning that **available outcome information is not sufficient to allow for an exhaustive analysis**. In addition, the analysis must rely on implementing partners' choices of indicators. The analysis therefore used qualitative information to substantiate findings.

¹ 'Positive change indicators' refer to indicators that saw an evolution reflecting a positive change (including indicators with no target or a target either partially or fully achieved). Indicators for which the baseline was '0' and the target was either partially or fully achieved are also included. 'Negative change indicators' refer to indicators reflecting a negative change, and 'no change indicators' refer to indicators where no apparent differences were reported between baseline, midterm or endline.

3. CONFLICT TRENDS IN THE HoA

The Horn of Africa has remained one of the most conflict-prone regions in the world, marked by prolonged violence, political instability, and armed insurgencies. Between 2015 and 2025, conflict trends in the region have directly contributed to forced displacement, with millions of people fleeing within their own countries or seeking refuge in neighbouring states. The combination of inter-state tensions, civil wars, insurgencies, and climate-induced displacement has exacerbated an already existing humanitarian crisis. Countries like Uganda, Ethiopia, Sudan, and Kenya are the main host countries for refugees in the region, while asylum seekers from the region are also among the top applicants in Europe. Four major conflicts have shaped the regional displacement patterns over the past decade, and have had spillover effects on the whole region.

The civil war in South Sudan, which began in 2013 as a power struggle between President Salva Kiir and Vice President Riek Machar, escalated into widespread ethnic violence and national fragmentation. From 2015 onwards, after the first peace agreement collapsed, fighting intensified, leading to mass displacement, famine, and atrocities against civilians. In 2018, a revitalised peace agreement was signed, resulting in a fragile power-sharing deal and the formation of a unity government in 2020. However, implementation has been slow and uneven, with persistent local violence, delayed elections, and growing disillusionment among communities and armed groups. The war has led to massive displacement and deep political mistrust, shaping South Sudan and its neighbouring countries.

The war in Ethiopia's Tigray Region between 2020 and 2022 was one of the deadliest conflicts of the decade, with widespread reports of mass atrocities, displacement, and a severe humanitarian crisis.¹ Fighting between Ethiopian federal forces, Eritrean troops, and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) resulted in tens of thousands of deaths and the displacement of millions. While a peace agreement was signed in November 2022, humanitarian needs in northern Ethiopia remain high and the political landscape fragile. The conflict not only triggered refugee outflows into Sudan but also aggravated ethnic tensions across Ethiopia, with violence spilling into Amhara, Afar, and Oromia Regions, further contributing to forced displacement and instability.²

The Al-Shabaab insurgency in Somalia surged in 2022, making it the deadliest year in the country since 2018. More than 6,500 people were killed as the group intensified attacks.³ Frustration with Al-Shabaab's demands for money and recruits, as well as its violent collective punishment for non-compliance during the drought, fuelled an uprising by clan militias, with which the Somali federal government allied to launch an offensive in August 2022. The military campaign pushed the insurgents out of parts of central Somalia. That offensive has since stalled, however, leaving Al-Shabaab in charge of swathes of territory.⁴ The ongoing violence continues to displace Somalis internally and into neighbouring countries, particularly Kenya and Ethiopia. While the federal government has shown renewed commitment to combating Al-Shabaab, the insurgency remains a major driver of instability and displacement in the region.

The outbreak of conflict in Sudan in April 2023 has been one of the most devastating crises in the region, triggering large-scale displacement both internally and across borders. The power struggle between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) rapidly escalated into a nationwide conflict, leading to thousands of civilian casualties and the collapse of essential services. Millions have been displaced internally and fleeing to Chad, South Sudan, Egypt, and Ethiopia, further straining regional humanitarian capacities.⁵ The violence has also disrupted trade

¹ Ethiopia: Conflict and Food Insecurity – 40 Years On From the 1984 Famine, House of Lords Library, UK Parliament. Retrieved [here](#).

² Conflict in Ethiopia, Council on Foreign Relations – Global Conflict Tracker. Retrieved [here](#).

³ Context Assessment: Heightened Political Violence in Somalia, ACLED (Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project), March 2023. Retrieved [here](#).

⁴ Fighting Climate Change in Somalia, International Crisis Group, Report No. 316, December 2024. Retrieved [here](#).

⁵ CrisisWatch – Africa, April 2023, International Crisis Group. Retrieved [here](#).

routes, worsened food insecurity, and intensified intercommunal clashes in border areas. The instability in Sudan has had a destabilizing effect on the broader region, particularly affecting refugee movements and humanitarian access.¹

These conflicts have collectively made the Horn of Africa's a major source of displacement. As political and security dynamics evolve, sustained humanitarian efforts, regional cooperation, and initiatives to strengthen peacebuilding platforms and conflict resolution mechanisms are critical to mitigating these crises.

¹ Sudan Situation Update – 25 April 2023, International Organization for Migration (IOM). Retrieved [here](#).

4. THE EUTF AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

4.1. EUTF SUPPORT TO CONFLICT PREVENTION

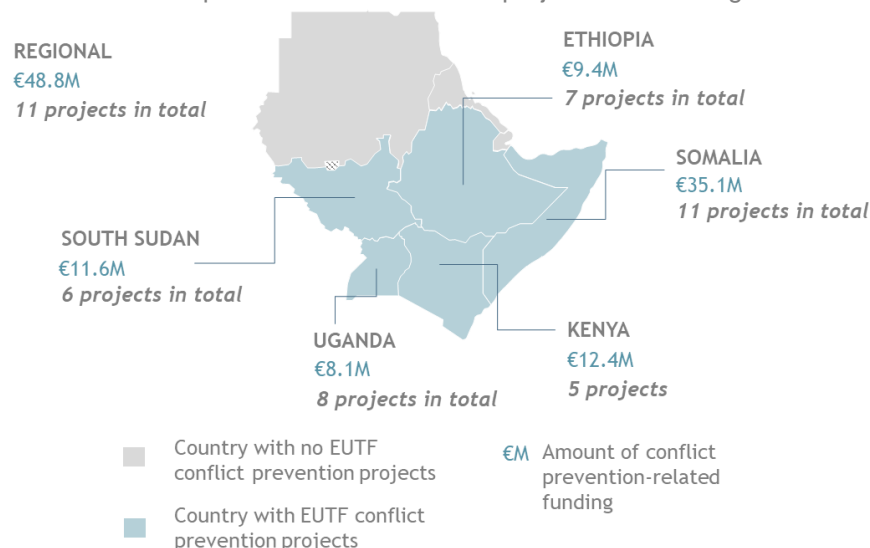
The EUTF was created in 2015 to address the root causes of irregular migration and displacement. It set up four Strategic Objectives: i) Greater economic and employment opportunities, ii) Strengthening resilience of communities and in particular the most vulnerable, including refugees and other displaced people, iii) Improved migration management in countries of origin, transit and destination, iv) Improved governance and conflict prevention and reduction of forced displacement and irregular migration.

The 48 projects mapped for this thematic narrative had activities falling under Strategic Objective 4 (see methodology section for further details). Out of these 48 projects, 11 are regional, with the rest spread between Somalia, Uganda, Ethiopia and South Sudan.¹

Collectively, these projects account for approximately €125M in total to support conflict prevention in the HoA. Most of the funding was allocated to regional projects (€48.8M), followed by projects in Somalia (€35.1M), Kenya (€12.4M), South Sudan (€11.6M), Ethiopia (€9.4M) and Uganda (€8.1M).

The funding analysis is based on an indicative calculation of the amount each of the identified projects allocated to SO4². Four of the 48 projects³ were included in this thematic narrative⁴ even though their indicative SO4 budget is null. These four projects have conflict prevention-related outcome indicators and conflict prevention is included in one of their specific objectives. However, they did not implement activities directly linked to conflict prevention. They aimed at preventing conflict by providing integrated basic service delivery for refugees and host communities. As such, none of the budget for these four projects was allocated to SO4.

Figure 1: Overview of conflict prevention-related EUTF projects and funding in the HoA (48 projects)



¹ Based on the criteria used for selecting relevant conflict prevention projects for this thematic narrative, no project was selected in Sudan. This is due to the fact that EUTF projects implemented in Sudan mostly focused on the provision of basic services, particularly health and education, as well as food security.

² SO4: Improved governance and conflict prevention and reduction of forced displacement and irregular migration.

³ The four projects that are excluded from the funding analysis are CRRF Urban Development, a regional project implemented by IRC and three RDPP Ethiopia projects (the ones led by IRC, DCA and NRC). See annex for a detailed list of all the projects as well as the indicative funding used for the analysis.

⁴ And are included in the list of projects in the annex.

4.2. CONFLICT PREVENTION APPROACHES WITHIN THE EUTF PORTFOLIO

The vast majority of the 48 identified projects implemented activities *directly* linked to conflict prevention. These included establishing or building the capacity of peacebuilding committees, improving the functioning of the security or judiciary system, organising community events to improve social cohesion, or organising awareness sessions on human rights. Such activities were for example included in the Cross-Border programme¹, which aimed at establishing or strengthening peacebuilding committees and building the capacity of government officials in conflict prevention and resolution, establishing and reinforcing existing early warning mechanisms, and conducting behaviour change campaigns.

Four projects had conflict prevention-related objectives but only implemented activities *indirectly* linked to conflict prevention, such as improving livelihood opportunities or service delivery. This was the case for the CRRF¹ Urban Development project, which supported the Assosa (Ethiopia) and Koboko (Uganda) municipalities to improve urban planning and service provision in order to reduce conflicts over scarce resources and ultimately improve well-being and safety. The project's objective was to enhance social cohesion and community dialogue by providing adequate services and promoting socio-economic development. The interventions were carried out in different thematic areas including WASH, health, protection and sexual reproductive health services and the service delivery capacity of private and public organisations.

Most projects followed a double (peace – development) or triple (peace – development – humanitarian) nexus approach. This means that most projects combined activities directly linked to conflict prevention with support to livelihood opportunities and/ or the provision of basic services, with the ultimate objective to reduce conflict or increase social cohesion. This approach was prevalent across different sub-thematic areas such as conflict prevention and resolution, perceived safety, social cohesion, and Preventing/ Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE). For example, Youth KE KRCS² focused on educational opportunities for young people in Kenya. The project relied on the assumption that if young people are given inclusive access to better vocational educational opportunities, which lead to decent jobs and livelihoods for target groups, then grievances decline, and better economic opportunities are created. This contributes to reduced vulnerability, enhanced economic stability and positive peace³. Another example is SPRS-NU DRC⁴ (part of the Regional Development and Protection Programme in Uganda), which followed a three-sector approach combining livelihood initiatives, peacebuilding between the refugee and host communities, and educational support for dropouts through an Accelerated Learning Programme.

Many projects aimed at improving social cohesion and conflict prevention in order to fulfil other objectives. Some projects⁵ targeted social cohesion and conflict prevention with, as a secondary objective, the reduction of forced displacement and irregular migration. Others included conflict prevention related objectives, the ultimate goal being to strengthen food security. This is for example the case of SSRD⁶ World Vision/FORESITE⁷, whose specific objective was to improve food security for rural smallholders in Greater Bahr el Ghazal and to empower them to cope with environmental volatility and insecurity. The project worked towards peacebuilding and gender equality goals as enabling factors for addressing food insecurity.

One project (SSRD World Vision/FORESITE) directly targeted peacebuilding and gender equality goals as strategies (enabling factors) for addressing food insecurity. The project was grounded

¹ Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework.

² Kenya Red Cross Society.

³ The concept of positive peace goes beyond simply the absence of violence (which is called negative peace) and refers to the presence of the conditions, institutions, and relationships that create and sustain peaceful societies.

⁴ Support Programme for Refugee Settlements in the Northern Uganda (SPRS-NU).

⁵ This is for example the case of the Cross-Border UNDP Peace project and Cross-Border El Niño SS FAO, and RDPP ET.

⁶ South Sudan Rural Development.

⁷ Food security and resilience in transitioning environments.

in the assumption that conflict undermines livelihoods and resilience through its negative effects on people's assets, on the systems upon which their livelihoods depend, and on their ability to physically access their farmland due to safety concerns.

Many P/CVE projects focused on tackling structural factors such as social exclusion and negative narratives, which create the conditions for radicalisation and support for violent extremism. This thematic narrative identified different approaches to combat P/CVE. Youth KE RUSI¹ created mentoring groups and supported educational opportunities for young people in Kenya. The Strength through tolerance project built the capacity of the Somali Government and strengthened community-level approaches, creating opportunities for citizens and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to further engage with the government on P/CVE.

One project focused on strengthening law enforcement agencies, particularly the police forces. JPP² UNOPS's overall objective was to improve security and access to justice for civilian populations in the major population centres and their supply routes in Somalia. It specifically aimed to increase and ensure the presence, visibility, capability, and accountability of federal and state level-police and enable them to deliver policing services effectively to civilian populations. The SSCO³ IOM project also provided support to the police (Ugandan Police Forces or UPF), with a specific focus on PVE and human rights, which were added into the UPF training curriculum.

Projects that targeted well-being and safety had holistic approaches and often targeted multiple sectors, for example the judicial system, human rights awareness, along with law enforcement agencies like the police. For example, JRoL⁴ Somaliland UNDP supported improved justice, security, policing, gender equality and human rights with the ultimate objective of ensuring Somaliland was more secure, peaceful, stable, and progressive. Activities included legal aid and mobile court services, trainings, justice infrastructure support but also awareness events on human rights and the functioning of the judiciary system. Another example is SUPREME⁵ Justice LWF, implemented in Uganda, which aimed at increasing the capacity of duty bearers and the awareness and skills of rights holders, to achieve a sense of social responsibility and lead to more peaceful communities for improved well-being.

Some projects targeted rural or cross-border areas, with the aim to support agro-pastoral communities. They followed different approaches. SSRD World Vision/FORESITE worked towards peacebuilding and gender equality goals as strategies to address food insecurity for rural small-holder farmers in South Sudan. Also implemented in South Sudan, Cross-Border El Niño (FAO) aimed at improving household food security, nutrition and income and enhancing livelihood resilience of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities, aiming to improve conflict prevention and reduce forced displacement and irregular migration. While having different intervention logics, both projects included activities to support natural resource management and the diversification of beneficiaries' livelihoods.

¹ Royal United Services Institute.

² Joint Police Programme.

³ Strengthening Social Cohesion and Stability in Slum Populations.

⁴ Joint Rule of Law.

⁵ Security, Protection, and Economic Empowerment.

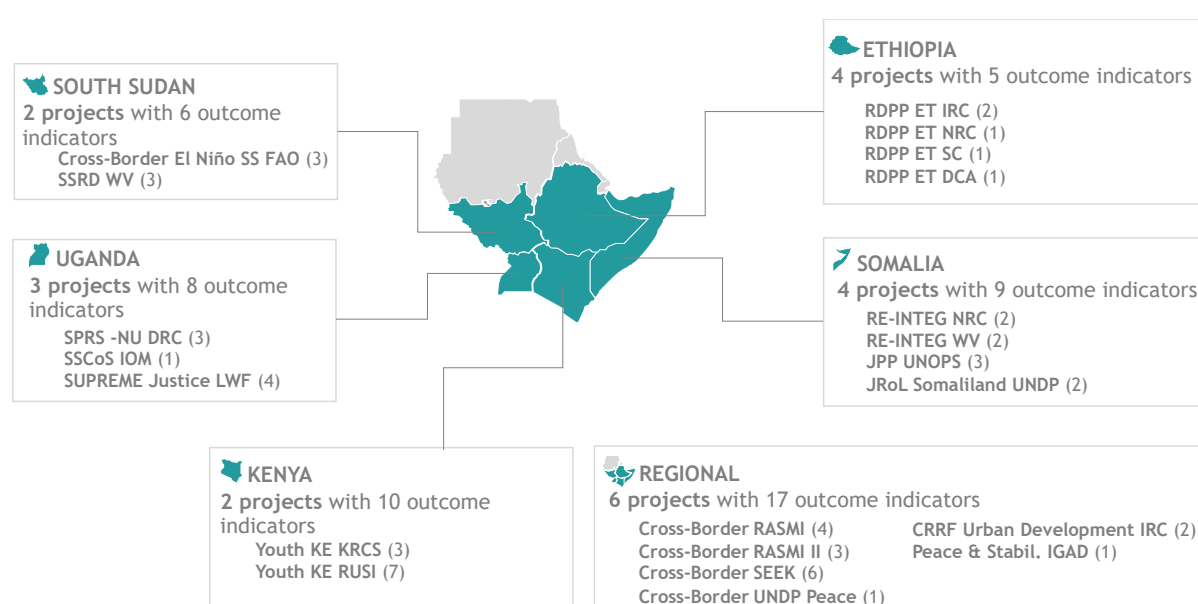
5. EUTF EFFECTS ON CONFLICT PREVENTION

5.1. OVERVIEW OF AVAILABLE OUTCOME DATA

As explained in the methodology section, the team identified 21 projects (out of the total 48 mapped) with usable outcome data, yielding a total of 55 indicators. Of these, 46 were quantitative and 9 were qualitative.

17 indicators came from regional projects. The remaining 38 indicators were evenly split across countries. In terms of projects, Youth KE RUSI and Cross-Border SEEK were the ones reporting the most indicators (six and seven each). Six projects reported only one outcome indicator, as described in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2: Overview of available reported outcome indicators per EUTF-funded project on conflict prevention in the HoA



Most indicators (36) reported positive changes, 9 reported negative changes and only 1 reported no change.¹ In most countries, the indicators were overall positive. Kenya and Somalia showed fewer positive results, and had similar numbers of positive and negative reported changes (Figure 3).

In Somalia, the presence of negative indicators is likely linked to external factors. As described in Section 3, political and security unrest in Somalia, particularly in 2022, led to a significant deterioration in civilian security and therefore, most likely, their perceived sense of safety. The three indicators that scored negatively in Somalia come from JRoL Somaliland UNDP (*Percentage of public sampled indicating feeling somewhat or very safe walking in their local area*, and *Percentage of public sampled rating policing services as somewhat or very good*). They were both calculated in S2 2022, which could explain the registered negative variation. A more detailed analysis of the effects of this project on conflict prevention is provided in Section 5.1.2.6. (Security/policing). The third indicator reporting negative change (sometimes referred to as a ‘negative indicator’ in the text for simplicity) in Somalia is from JPP UNOPS. It captured the overall number of state police officers. Even though the number of state police

¹ Out of the 46 quantitative indicators that are usable for this analysis.

force did increase in some Federated Member States, it remained approximately the same in other states where the JPP UNOPS did not pay stipends.¹ Therefore, the overall target was not met.

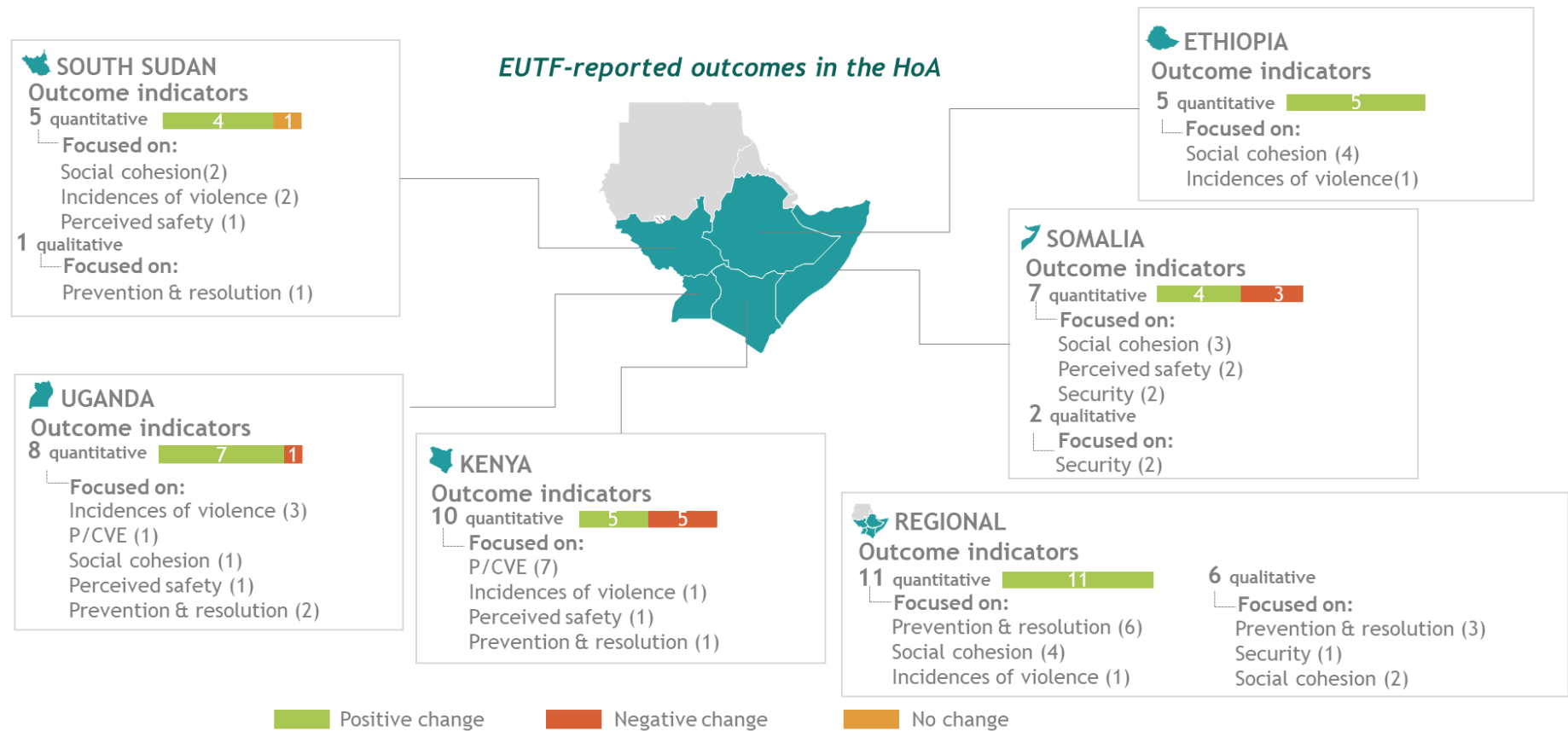
In Kenya, the five negative indicators were reported by the Youth KE programme (both the KRCS and the RUSI projects). These were linked to security, feelings of safety, and narratives around violence and radicalisation. The two indicators from the Youth KE KRCS project focused on the presence of criminal activity and feelings of safety.² Results were averaged across the different intervention areas. While some areas of intervention reported positive change, others reported negative change, and overall the indicator results were slightly negative. These variations appeared to be context-specific, reflecting local-level dynamics rather than indicating an overall failure of the programme. The three other negative indicators were from the Youth KE RUSI project. These were about perceptions and reflections on narratives of violence and radicalisation, as well as support systems available to youth.³ A more detailed analysis of these findings is provided in Section 5.2.1.4 (P/CVE), which explores the Youth KE RUSI project in more depth.

¹ The JPP did contribute to an increase of 20 to 30 % of the state police force in Hirshabelle, Jubaland and Southwest, since 2017, while the number of state police officers in Puntland and the Banaadir Regional Administration (where the JPP did not pay stipends) stayed approximately the same.

² Number of respondents who witnessed criminal activity, average and Percentage of respondents who feel safe in intervention areas, average.

³ Percentage of mentees reporting that violence is not acceptable under any circumstances; Percentage of mentees who reported support systems and diversity of networks, i.e. they agreed with the statement that they had support systems and a diverse network; Percentage of mentees who identified radicals as damaging to the community.

Figure 3: Overview of available outcome indicators (quantitative and qualitative)



5.2. KEY FINDINGS

This section combines qualitative and quantitative data (outcome indicators) to analyse EUTF effects on conflict prevention. It is organised into six sub-thematic areas, each related to conflict prevention: i) prevention and resolution; ii) social cohesion; iii) prevalence of violence; iv) perceived safety; v) P/CVE and vi) security and policing.

For each sub-thematic area, this section provides an overview of the number of outcome indicators and whether they reported positive or negative changes.¹ This section also includes findings from projects that did not report outcome indicators.

This section also provides deep dives into six projects that had particularly interesting best practices and/or lessons learnt. Those were selected based on the diversity of their approaches to conflict prevention, the availability of outcome data and measured changes, geographical diversity and target population.

5.2.1. PREVENTION AND RESOLUTION

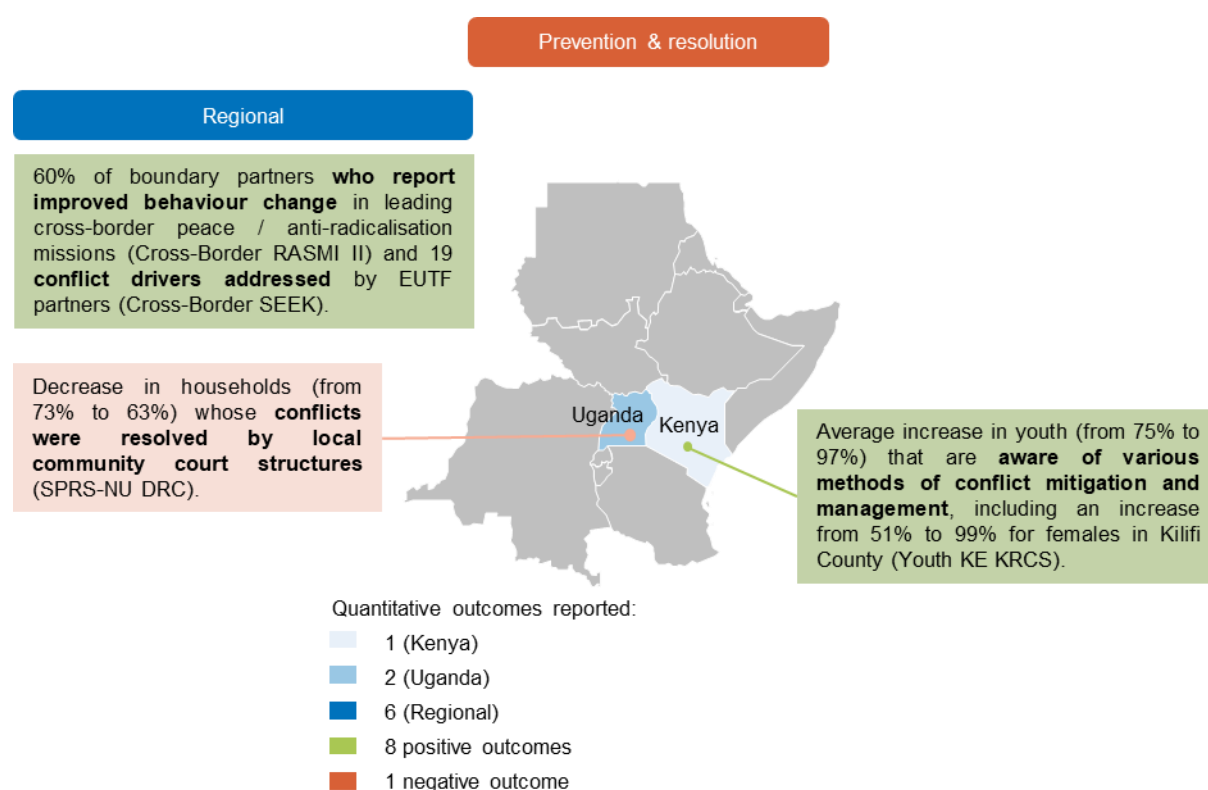
This category includes outcome indicators related to the prevention and resolution of conflicts, including the number of addressed conflict drivers and incidents, the use of conflict early warning systems, the number of resolved conflicts by community structures and the level of knowledge on conflict mitigation. Out of the nine quantitative outcome indicators, eight were positive (see Figure 4).

An interesting positive change came from the Cross-Border SEEK project, where local peacebuilding partners reported improved behaviour change in leading cross-border peace and radicalisation missions. As described in Section 5.1.2.2, the project's approach combined a cross-border angle as well as a double-nexus approach (combination of peacebuilding and development objectives). It relied on cross-border peace actors as its primary beneficiaries and focused on building their capacity to function as effective peace champions in the most fragile borderland areas.

The negative indicator was reported by SPRS-NU DRC, which noted a decrease in the number of households whose conflicts were resolved by local community court structures. As further explained below, this could be linked to a lack of clarity about the kind of conflicts targeted by the programme, and/or due to a lack of inclusion of clan and cultural leaders in conflict management interventions.

¹ Indicators can be qualitative or quantitative. Given that some of the qualitative indicators were both positive and negative, and for ease of reading, the figures only include quantitative indicators. Each figure highlights some of the most interesting quantitative indicators, either because they have the highest or lowest absolute variations, or because they performed above target. However, the analysis does include the nine qualitative indicators.

Figure 4: Quantitative indicators from EUTF-conflict prevention related projects focused on 'prevention and resolution'



This sub-thematic area (prevention and resolution) also included four qualitative indicators. Cross-Border SEEK, Cross-Border RASMI and Cross-Border RASMI II all reported improved knowledge and skills of community members to mitigate and prevent conflict at the end of their projects. Cross-Border RASMI II also described positive changes in the willingness of community members to respect, trust and tolerate others, including community members from rival clans. Lastly, Cross-Border El Niño SS FAO reported that households found new ways of resolving conflicts over natural resources at endline. The main conflict resolution mechanism at the end of this project was community and individual dialogue. Further, they mentioned that natural resource management committees played a role in conflict mitigation, which was not the case at baseline, and a bigger role for government and county peace commissioners.

FOCUS ON THE SUPPORT PROGRAMME TO THE REFUGEE SETTLEMENTS AND HOST COMMUNITIES IN NORTHERN UGANDA (SPRS-NU, UGANDA)

Timeline	Location	Lead IP	Sub-thematic areas	Quantitative Indicators
2018-2020	Uganda	DRC	Social cohesion, Incidences of violence, Prevention and resolution	three indicators (two positive, one negative)

Context and objectives

The project aimed at reducing conflicts between refugees and host communities in the districts of Adjumani, Arua, Kiryandongo and Yumbe through sharing and increasing access to resources. The project also supported conflict management mechanisms. Beneficiaries were

engaged under different components: livelihood, education and conflict management. The assumption was that if host communities and refugees benefit from shared livelihoods assets, improved service delivery and conflict management mechanisms, inter-communal relations and development outcomes would improve.

Approach and activities

The project implemented a three-sector approach (livelihoods, conflict management and education). Livelihood interventions included the provision of farm inputs, training of farmers, formation and support of Producer and Marketing Associations (PMAs), formation of Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) and formal linkages to financial institutions. Conflict management interventions included strengthening the capacity of the existing community level structures - Refugee Welfare Councils (RWCs) and Local Councils (LCs) - to engage their populations to prevent, manage and resolve behaviours which contribute to violent conflict, training of local government, local courts and traditional leaders and elders on alternative dispute mechanisms and legal processes, as well as community driven awareness raising campaigns. Finally, on education, the Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) component included training of trainers in ALP curriculum, procurement and providing of instructional materials including teaching, learning and recreational materials to facilitate learner's engagement.

Effects on conflict prevention

The project significantly reduced conflicts in general. The percentage of people that had witnessed a violent conflict in the past 12 months reduced from 34% at baseline, to 12% at midline, and 19% at end line, all against the 20% target. Despite these successes, it is important to note that land disputes and other resource related conflicts still existed in some of the communities as well as tribal related conflicts.

The conflict management component of the project aimed specifically at improving community dialogue at local level and conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms in the settlement with the host community. The percentage of individuals with strong positive perception towards peaceful co-existence, increased from 77% at midline, to 96% at end line (target of 70%). However, the programme was vague on what kind of conflicts were being targeted, which potentially explains the decrease of the outcome indicator 'Percentage of households whose conflicts were resolved by local courts'. This could also be linked to the fact that while RWCs and LCs were enrolled into conflict management interventions, clan or cultural leaders were not, despite being responsible for some conflict resolution (especially land related conflicts) in some communities.

Best practices and lessons Learnt

- **Partner coordination:** A three-sector approach was adopted by the consortium, where each partner took the lead of one of the components (livelihood, education, conflict management) for which they had thematic expertise and geographical experience. This led to a targeted division of labour, and an effective coordination across partners.
- **50/50 approach:** The success of this project demonstrates that projects aiming to ease tensions between refugees and host communities should provide equal support to both communities, rather than following the commonly used 70/30 split that prioritises refugees over host populations.
- **Sustainability:** The programme integrated its approach into national development plans, which was essential for both refugees and hosts, and consistent with the "leave no one behind" pledge in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The education component utilised the national curriculum and built capacity of the existing teachers in schools and Accelerated Education Programme centres; the livelihood component integrated into the national and district plans, and the conflict management involved existing local structures in dispute resolution mechanism. However, and despite strong commitments, there was no concrete plan to incorporate the structures created by the project in the different settlements.

- **Resource management:** Promoting sharing of resources between the refugees and the host communities indirectly prevented resource-based conflicts.
- **Utilising existing RWC and LC structures as court systems enhanced confidence and trust.** Building the capacity and supporting local courts with tools such as stationery or simplified legal books enhanced their capacity and effectiveness to handle cases.
- **Participation in activities that did not include handouts (food items, household utensils, etc.) was challenging,** as previous programmes have built certain expectations around assistance.
- **Livelihood support should be tailored to the beneficiaries' specific needs:** hosts and refugees might not face the same struggles (e.g. struggles with access to land vs. life skills), and hence a common intervention might not be relevant.

5.2.1.1. Social cohesion

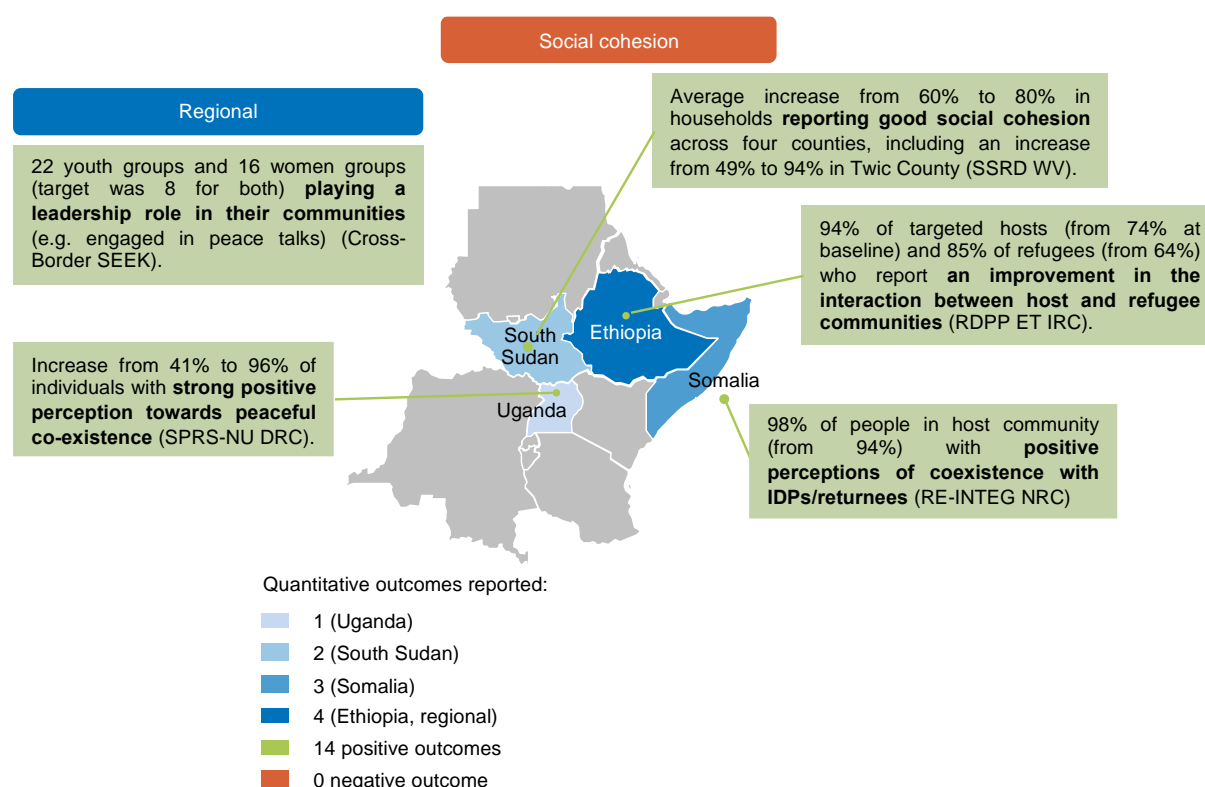
Social cohesion refers to the quality of relationships between individuals and groups within society (horizontal dimension) and between institutions and the people that they serve (vertical dimension).¹

14 quantitative indicators were included in that sub-thematic area, all positive (see Figure 5). The biggest positive change was reported from SPRS-NU DRC (Uganda), with the percentage of individuals with strong positive perception towards peaceful co-existence increasing from 41% to 96% (horizontal social cohesion). Details about this programme's best practices and lessons learnt can be found in the previous section.

Interesting achievements in terms of social cohesion could also be noted from Cross-Border SEEK. The project's approach proved very successful for social cohesion. For example, the project reported increases (above the targets) in the number of youth and women groups playing a leadership role in their communities. A detailed analysis of Cross-Border SEEK's effects is provided below.

¹ UNDP, Social cohesion brief, 12 July 2020; Cox, F.D., Fiedler, C. & Mross, K. (2023). Strengthening Social Cohesion in Conflict-Affected Societies: Potential, Patterns and Pitfalls. *IDOS policy brief*, 3, 2023.

Figure 5: Quantitative indicators from EUTF-conflict prevention related projects focused on 'social cohesion'



FOCUS ON CROSS-BORDER SEEK I (REGIONAL)

Timeline	Location	Lead IP	Sub-thematic areas	Quantitative Indicators
2018 - 2021	Southwest Ethiopia and Northwest Kenya	PACT	Social cohesion, Prevention and resolution	Four (positive)

Context and objectives

The project tackled drivers of conflict, insecurity, and instability, while supporting structures and institutions that manage peace. The overall objective of the project was to prevent and mitigate the impact of local conflicts in selected areas of the Kenya and Ethiopia cross-border region through the promotion of peacebuilding, conflict management, and conflict resolution capacity at the community and cross-border levels. To summarise, the project aimed at i) creating strong local and cross-border peace and security structures; ii) improving social capital and cohesion and iii) increasing conflict-sensitive development and investment.

Approach and activities

Cross-Border SEEK I followed both a cross-border and double nexus (peace and development) approach. Its boundary partners (i.e. cross-border peace actors, who are the primary beneficiaries) approach provided a unique methodology to peacebuilding in the cross-border areas. The project i) **clustered** activities that tackled the same issues in different locations and/or focused on a given location with a variety of activities; ii) **sequenced** and designed activities to build off the outcomes and learning from previous ones and iii) **layered** activities in each cross-border location to ensure they were mutually reinforcing. Activities included creating sustainable local peace networks and building the capacity of local peace actors and governments to function as effective peace champions in the most fragile borderland areas.

Effects on conflict prevention

The project managed to bring together historically conflict-prone clan communities, into joint discussions and activities focused on promoting peace and preventing and mitigating conflict. The project also increased the presence, status and legitimacy of youth leaders (from 0 to 22) and women leaders (from 0 to 16) and there were several examples of these groups challenging the status quo and advocating for change.

Cross-Border SEEK I supported communities became better organised to address climate change and resource competition through the establishment of joint Resource Sharing Committees in each conflict system. The project empowered community elders to lead their own communities and to work jointly across communities in conducting dialogues to develop resource sharing agreements. Community elders were trained in facilitation and mediation, as well as conflict management over resources, to encourage communities to negotiate over natural resource use.

The project was also successful in improving conflict management skills. Local security agents reported a significant improvement in knowledge and skills on rights-based policing, non-violent ways of resolving conflict, and mediation. Moreover, agents in most of the project areas of intervention (three of four) reported improved policing behaviours.

Best practices and lessons learnt

- **“Peace champions”:** Cross-Border SEEK I supported the emergence of new “Peace Champions” by expanding the number and type of individuals in the communities who could legitimately and effectively publicly champion peace and begin to hold power brokers and spoilers accountable.
- **Adaptability:** The project’s operating systems were designed with the full knowledge that the operating environment may change every day in the Southwest Ethiopia-Northeast Kenya border areas. The programme had the systems in place to manage any subsequent pressures and stood ready to pivot quickly and scale up or down as needed, which was demonstrated through its prompt and agile reaction to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- **Coordination and capacity of implementers:** Cross-Border SEEK I delivered less cross-border interaction than planned. All of the consortium partners had limited experience in implementing EU programmes and were still developing their financial management capacities. The project was impacted by communication, planning and administrative challenges within and among the partners. NGO implementors, who were meant to be delivering mirrored programming, ended up having different budgets, timelines and workplans. These challenges resulted in slowing implementation and peace dividend distribution.
- **“Business of peace”:** There was a prevalent motivation from government and community stakeholders to use meetings primarily as a venue to access resources (per diems), and it was challenging to consistently bring the same peace actors together.

5.2.1.2. Prevalence of violence

This sub-thematic area looks at indicators measuring incidences of violence or inter and intra community conflict and criminal activity. Eight quantitative outcome indicators are included in that category, most (six) reporting positive changes.

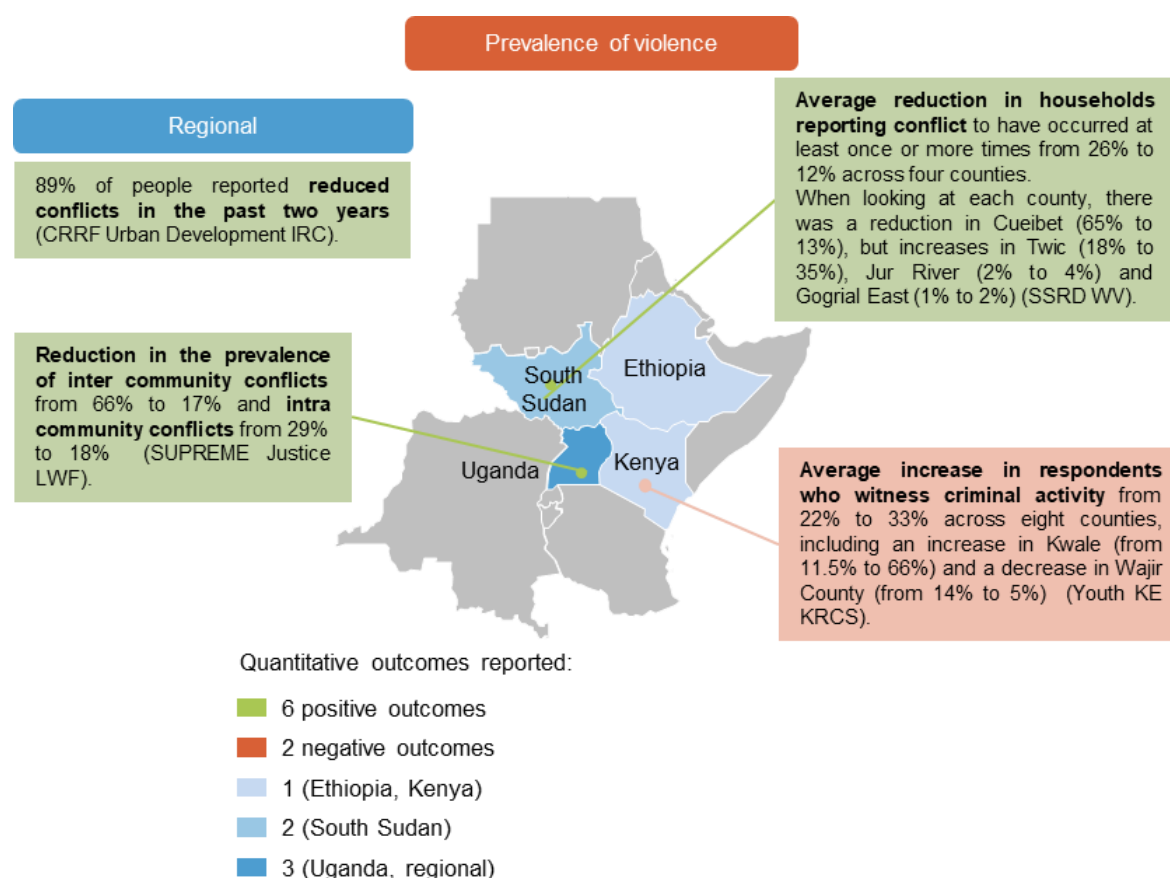
SUPREME Justice LWF (Uganda) reported positive changes on both inter and intra community conflicts. The project relied on the assumption that i) if duty-bearers had improved capacity to provide mediation, justice, law, and order, and ii) rights-holders had increased knowledge and skills to access their justice rights, then respect of dignity, kindness and a sense of social responsibility would increase, leading to more just and peaceful communities for improved wellbeing.

The project supported community integration through events like community galas and football competitions between refugees and host communities, as well as community dialogues and meetings, under the assumption that understanding each other's cultures reduces conflict. Joint learning sessions through mobile courts and/ or mobile legal aid clinics bringing together refugees and host communities fostered a common understanding of how the justice system works, while also increasing access to justice, especially for refugees, who were then able to access formal courts while saving on travel costs and time from settlements.

One identified best practice was that the project intentionally strengthened existing structures, which improved its sustainability. The endline evaluation established evidence of increased capacities of both formal and informal justice actors who could identify and respond to refugees and host communities' protection needs. This strengthened the community referral system and created a safe environment for a peaceful resolution of conflicts.

The one negative indicator in that sub-thematic area (prevalence of violence) was from Youth KE KRCS, which reported an overall increase in respondents reporting criminal activity. The overall indicator result (which is an average of the results of each area of intervention) was negative, with positive and negative changes reported depending on the counties. As detailed in Section 5.1.1, the effects on conflict prevention seemed to be highly dependent on structural context specific factors, with some areas along the Kenya-Somalia border (Mandera County) and some coastal counties (Kwale, Tana River, Kilifi) where peace remained very fragile.

Figure 6: Quantitative indicators from EUTF-conflict prevention related projects focused on 'prevalence of violence'



5.2.1.3. Perceived safety

Perceived safety includes indicators measuring to what extent respondents feel safe in their areas. Five quantitative outcome indicators were reported in that category (two negative and three positive, see Figure 7).

SSRD World Vision/FORESITE reported an improved sense of safety: the number of respondents who felt that their community was a safe space for women and youth increased. A detailed analysis of the effects of this project is included below.

An overall deterioration in feelings of safety was registered for Youth KE KRCS. The indicator was an average of the reported values for the eight counties of implementation.¹ Some counties registered an improvement, others a deterioration. Overall, the indicator registered a slight decrease, which seems to be context-specific and linked to structural factors in some of the counties of implementation such as the prevalence of drug trafficking and conflicts.

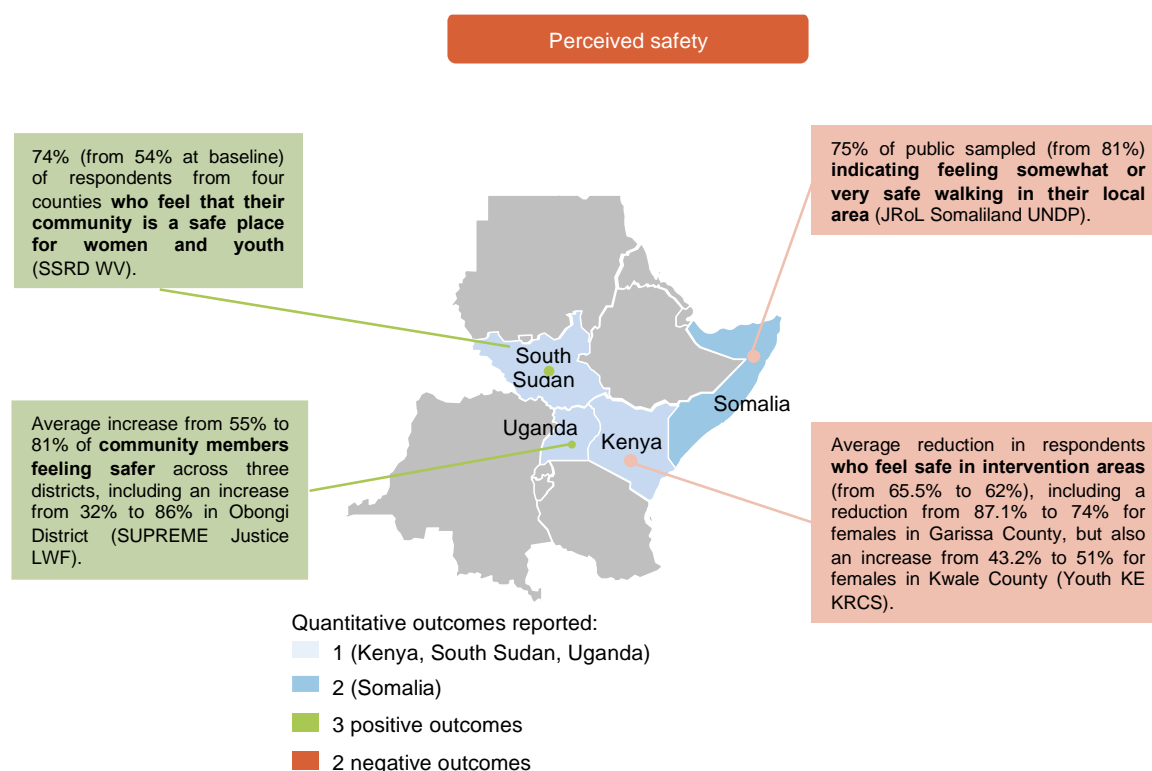
Youth KE KRCS's overall objective was to contribute to increased peace, stability and inclusive economic opportunities for young people in marginalised areas in Kenya. The approach included three components: i) a research one, to better understand the sources of conflict and exclusion and inform policy and interventions; ii) a vocational educational one, to provide youth with skills that can be used to improve employment and livelihoods prospects; and iii) a capacity building one, to strengthen the capacity to manage and prevent conflict and improve trust between the state and communities.

Despite some successes in conflict mitigation capacity among local actors and improved livelihoods, peace remained fragile, especially in certain counties, explaining the overall reported lower sense of safety. The project established and trained youth peace committees thus improving their skills in peace negotiation, dialogues, alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, crime prevention, feedback, and reporting. These committees acted as peace ambassadors and contributed to overall peace and security in their communities. The project also achieved remarkable improvement in youths' access to sustainable livelihoods. However, the peace attained in the project areas remained fragile. The areas along the Kenya-Somalia border remained vulnerable to terror attacks and other forms of violent extremism. In the coastal counties, some remnants of violent gangs still presented a threat of resurgence, and drug abuse persisted as a significant driver of conflict and violence. As such, perceptions of safety varied widely across the counties. In four counties - Mombasa, Kwale, Tana River and Lamu - more than half of the youth interviewed reported an average score or less on their perception of safety.

In Somaliland, under the JRoL Somaliland UNDP, the number of people feeling somewhat or very safe walking in their local area decreased. As highlighted above, this could be linked to the 2022 overall deterioration of the security situation in Somalia. A more detailed analysis of this project's effects on conflict prevention is provided below in Section 5.1.2.6. (Security / policing).

¹ County governments of Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, Tana River, Lamu, Kilifi, Mombasa and Kwale counties, selected based on their high vulnerability to conflicts and youth radicalization into violent extremism.

Figure 7: Quantitative indicators from EUTF-conflict prevention related projects focused on 'perceived safety'



FOCUS ON SSRD WORLD VISION/FOOD SECURITY AND RESILIENCE IN TRANSITIONING ENVIRONMENTS (FORESITE, SOUTH SUDAN)

Timeline	Location	Lead IP	Sub-thematic areas	Quantitative Indicators
2019-2023	Greater Bahr el Ghazal (South Sudan)	World Vision	Social cohesion, Incidences of violence, Perceived safety	Three (positive)

Context and objectives

The project aimed at strengthening resilience of communities in South Sudan, improving governance and conflict prevention and reducing forced displacements due to loss of livelihoods. Its specific objective was to improve food security of rural smallholders in Greater Bahr el Ghazal and to empower them to cope with environmental volatility and insecurity.

Approach and activities

The **SSRD World Vision/FORESITE** project was designed based on the rationale that conflict directly undermines livelihoods and resilience through its effects on people's assets, on the systems upon which their livelihoods depend, even directly on their ability to reach their fields safely. The project worked towards peacebuilding and gender equality goals as enabling factors for addressing food insecurity. It put women empowerment at the centre in order to reduce barriers to engagement of women in resilience building, food security and income generating activities.

Activities included awareness raising activities to promote attitude and behaviour change of men and women, supporting peace committees, but also livelihood activities like delivering prioritised assets

through cash for assets, supporting natural resources management, training local government in conflict resolution as well as women's groups in community-based peacebuilding.

Effects on conflict prevention

Indicators showed improved social cohesion, lower incidences of violence, as well as an increased feeling of safety. The project set up and trained peace development committees and youth-led peace clubs, improving peace dialogue and social cohesion within and between the communities. The project also created awareness on different laws regarding Housing, Land and Property (HLP) rights through training traditional court leaders. The percentage of households reporting good social cohesion increased from 60% at baseline to 80% at endline.

Results also showed a reduction in the number of conflicts in the community between baseline and endline. This is particularly true for cattle-raiding related conflicts. Before the project, inter and intra-communal cattle raiding and revenge killings were rampant. The peace committees established mechanisms to identify instigators of raiding, start a dialogue, and ensure that affected communities were compensated. This helped stop the cycle of raiding and revenge killings and fostered peaceful existence between communities.

A positive cycle was achieved between peace and stability, displacements, income generation and resilience. The overall improved peace and stability in the communities contributed to reducing conflict and associated displacements (formerly displaced people returned to their villages of origin). This enabled households to concentrate on food production and income generation and facilitated movements between communities and to markets. Ultimately, the strengthened food production and incomes have contributed to improved food security and resilience capacities (increased availability of food and stability of food prices in local markets).

Best practices and lessons learnt

- **Cost recovery approach:** The project adopted a cost recovery approach¹ which turned around the thinking or the assumption that farmers are poor and cannot pay or contribute and always need to receive handouts. Such an approach could however be challenging if other partners, in one of the project locations, give free inputs.
- **Networking:** The project brought people from varied ethnic backgrounds to work in different project groups (such as farmer and saving groups). This immensely contributed to promoting networking, experience sharing between members, and most importantly strengthening social cohesion between and within communities for peaceful coexistence.
- **Focus on certain areas:** In the counties with the highest rates of violence, the project gave extra attention to conflict prevention and resolution activities. Aside from the peace-related activities implemented across all counties, the project conducted a conflict mapping exercise and collaborated with local authorities to hold a peace conference, also including communities that were not supported by the project.

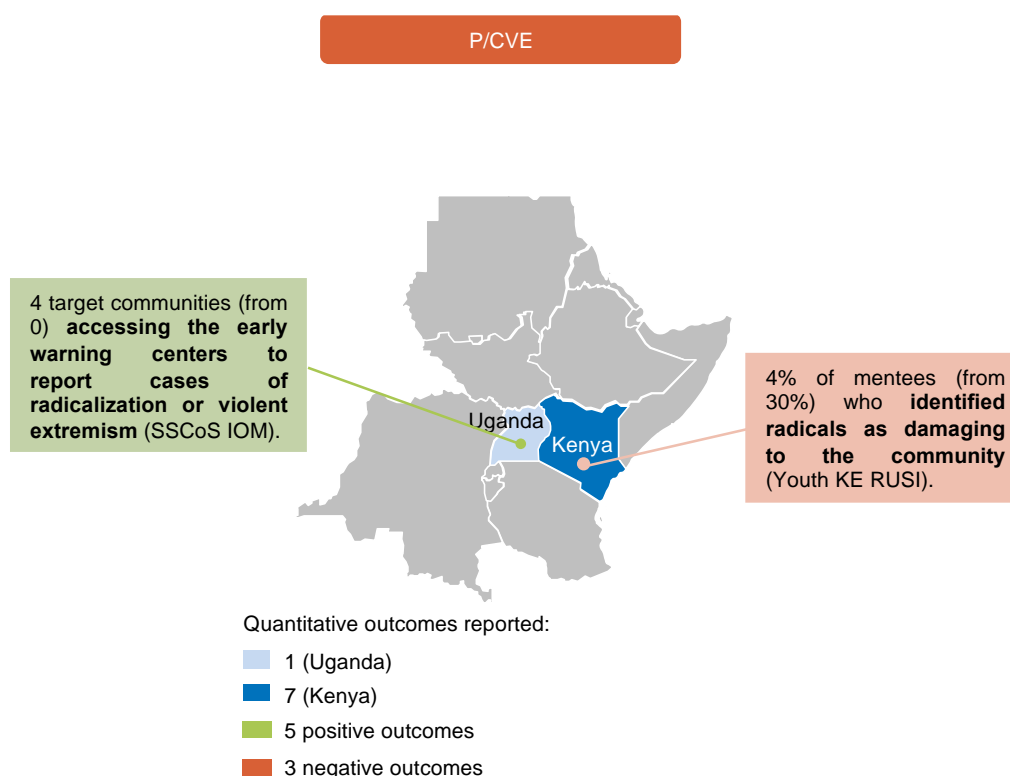
5.2.1.4. P/CVE

Indicators measuring early warning systems on radicalization or violent extremism, as well as the evolution of narratives around radicalization are included here. Of the eight quantitative indicators, seven come from the Youth KE RUSI project – including all three of the negative indicators. Details on the project's approach and effect is included in a focus box below.

Despite not having reported any outcome indicators at the time of writing, the Somalia Strength through tolerance project presents interesting lessons learnt and is therefore also included in a focus box below.

¹ The approach was one of cost-sharing on strategic agricultural inputs such as ox-ploughs and promoting contract farming.

Figure 8: Quantitative indicators from EUTF-conflict prevention related projects focused on P/CVE



FOCUS ON YOUTH KE RUSI: STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE TO VIOLENT EXTREMISM (STRIVE II, KENYA)

Timeline	Location	Lead IP	Sub-thematic areas	Quantitative Indicators
2017-2020	Kenya	Royal United Services Institute (RUSI)	P/CVE	Seven (three negative, four positive)

Context and objectives

Youth KE RUSI (STRIVE II) aimed to contribute to the reduction of radicalisation, recruitment and support for violent extremist groups. The project followed the successfully delivered STRIVE I project (2014-2017). The project had four main objectives: i) Tackling structural factors such as social exclusion, marginalisation and institutional cultures & political narratives which create the conditions for radicalisation and support for violent extremism; ii) Addressing group-based dynamics which contribute to and encourage pathways towards radicalisation, such as peer pressure, group norms, radical flank actors.; iii) Countering enabling factors which stem from contact with those actors who seek to radicalise and recruit to violent extremist groups, and the rhetoric which aims to garner support; and iv) Reducing individual incentives to participation and support which can range from an individual's feeling of injustice and desire for revenge to perceived financial gain and rewards in the afterlife.

Approach and activities

- i) **Mentorship:** aiming to reduce the susceptibility of young people to political and ideological violence.

- ii) **Law enforcement:** CVE training for senior and mid-level managers and frontline officers from a range of agencies to strengthen prevention capabilities and response to violent extremism with strategies compatible with international law and human rights standards.
- iii) **Preventive communication:** strengthening the voice of marginalised youth by improving their self-expression, sense of participation and representation in key media spaces.
- iv) **Research:** improving CVE programming and enhancing the understanding of relationships between conflict dynamics and recruitment patterns.

Effects on conflict prevention

The project scored positively on four outcome indicators, which measured mentees' confidence, but also their perceptions on the risks and benefits associated with radical groups. The project created a sense of belonging, which not only led to increasing participants' self-esteem, but also to decreasing the comparative attractiveness of joining violent groups. There were positive shifts in the knowledge, attitudes and behaviours of mentors and stakeholders, including in ways that directly contributed to and cemented their roles as community actors in countering violent extremism. All groups engaged in the programme showed substantial shifts in their understanding of violent extremism, recognising the interplay of a more complex set of factors and the multiple pathways which draw individuals to extremist groups. The strengthening of life skills, e.g. responsibility and self-esteem, indirectly strengthened conflict management skills for RUSI's participants. The programme had a clear and powerful focus on group dynamics, illustrating well the role of positive social identity as a bulwark against violence, extremism and negative life choices.

The three negative indicators were on the percentages of mentees i) reporting that violence is not acceptable under any circumstances; ii) agreeing that they had support systems and a diverse network and iii) identifying radicals as damaging to the community. For the first indicator, the endline saw a small shift from mentees reporting that violence is not acceptable under any circumstances or only for political or economic reasons to mentees reporting that violence is justified for self-defence and defence for other people. This could possibly be explained by the national elections that took place in Kenya during implementation. The elections saw a surge in political and ethnic violence and some mentees stated during qualitative interviews that they had to use violence to protect their interests and those of their communities.¹ With regard to the second indicator, qualitative interviews showed that mentees have support networks. However, even though the mentees seemed accommodative to diverse opinions, they stated that their network of contacts remained the same and that they continued to associate with people who shared their opinions. According to literature, exposure to people with different opinions does not necessarily lead to a new network. The exposure has to be intense and combined with separation from the current network.² Lastly, the decrease of mentees reporting radicals as damaging to the community could possibly be explained by the fact that mentees mentioned other elements as more damaging to their community (political and criminal) during the qualitative interviews.³

Best practices and lessons learnt

- **Having mentors/mentees in the same age group, but from different communities,** to maximise the capacity of mentees to relate and therefore improve social cohesion. Mentors have had similar life experiences to their mentees and have a deep understanding of their community context.
- Successes in the law enforcement area were possible thanks to the project's **interaction with both traditional and non-traditional partners,** as well as to the incremental learning

¹ Sahgal, G. & Kimaiyo, T., 'Youth resilience to violent extremism: An evaluation of a mentorship intervention in Kenya', 2020.

² Ibid.

³ RUSI, 'STRIVE – II Mentorship project. Mentees baseline–endline findings', 2020.

curve of modular training, which catered for their needs and the needs of the communities they served.

- **Tailoring trainings to beneficiaries' needs:** the training for radio professionals included a technical training on general radio production, so that the training was attractive from the start and useful. It ultimately created a real shift in knowledge and attitudes related to CVE and conflict-sensitive journalism.
- **One important lesson from the project is the need to complement traditional violent extremism prevention activities with activities addressing the underlying causes of grievances.** Factors behind joining radical movements are often a complex combination of frustration, marginalisation, and an overall lack of opportunities to imagine a better future. RUSI mentors suggested that to limit risks of relapse, psychological support should be complemented with an economical and/ or financial support. These could take the form of small grants or start-up kits, combined with business mentoring. Linkages could also be made with VSLAs or youth cooperatives, to build collective resilience. Finally, mentees could take part of cash-for-work programmes.
- As the programme matured, the focus should have shifted to sustainability and longer-term outcomes including the **potential to put more formal structures in place to support mentees into employment and educational opportunities.** Linkages to vocational training programmes or job employment platforms could be implemented.

FOCUS ON STRENGTH THROUGH TOLERANCE (SOMALIA)

Timeline	Location	Lead IP	Sub-thematic areas	Quantitative Indicators
2020-2024	Somalia	European Institute for Peace (EIP)	P/CVE	None (no endline evaluation)

Context and objectives

The project's overall aim was to support the development of a nationally owned, transparent, accountable and integrated approach to P/CVE. It specifically sought to i) develop an improved analysis of conflict, drivers of violent extremism and capacities for peace; ii) strengthen the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) P/CVE policy and mainstream it across line ministries; and iii) support the implementation of the FGS P/CVE policy and action plans through community-based interventions.

Approach and activities

The activities included trainings for government officials, strategic advisory to the government in renewing the national strategy for P/CVE, the provision of equipment to the Office of the Prime Minister P/CVE coordination office and other key focal points, as well as technical and administrative support to P/CVE meetings. The project also organised consultations with local youth and women and P/CVE stakeholders, and trained youth and women leaders. Finally, the project developed interactive radio series to engage local youth and women.

Effects on conflict prevention¹

¹ While looking at the effects of this programme, it is important to note that the latest reporting was from May 2023, and that activities had just ended (November 2024).

Strength through tolerance faced several external and internal challenges that delayed implementation. These included protracted national elections and the resulting political crisis, COVID-19 restrictions and shifting government priorities. The programme was further challenged by weak government structures, with some offices being led by acting or interim officials or demonstrating limited ownership, and a general lack of coordination between government agencies at the Federal Government of Somalia and federal member state levels.

The project was successful in selecting and training youth and women leaders and in improving their understanding of P/CVE. It demonstrated potential for long-term impact, with some youth beneficiaries running for local council office in Puntland, or engaging in peace advocacy during clan conflicts. The project increased community engagement through its workshops and trainings and strengthened social cohesion through community activities and games that promoted problem-solving and conflict resolution.

Best practices and lessons learnt

- The project brought together federal ministries, federal member states, civil society, and communities, positioning itself as a **bridge between governments and society**.
- The initiative **supported technical capacity development** within Somali ministries and federal member state institutions to implement the national P/CVE framework.
 - However, the **project did not adapt to the changing context** in Somalia, nor to feedback from the community or to the research conducted. For example, when the government's approach to combating Al Shabaab shifted from a centralised military strategy to a decentralised approach mobilising local militias, the project did not respond effectively, instead continuing to focus on supporting formal state and institutional frameworks.
 - Stakeholders noted the **need to expand the scope of the project to reach other stakeholders (religious leaders, households and mothers)**. The project also missed opportunities to integrate local security actors (e.g. clan elders) into dialogue, governance, and accountability frameworks.
 - Implementation was hindered by the **limited local presence of implementing partners and by a lack of proactive engagement with government counterparts**.
 - **The project's inclusion of local women leaders and CSOs was seen as a strength by stakeholders. However, partners highlighted the need for continuous capacity building** to strengthen these actors' skills in financial management, evaluations and report writing.

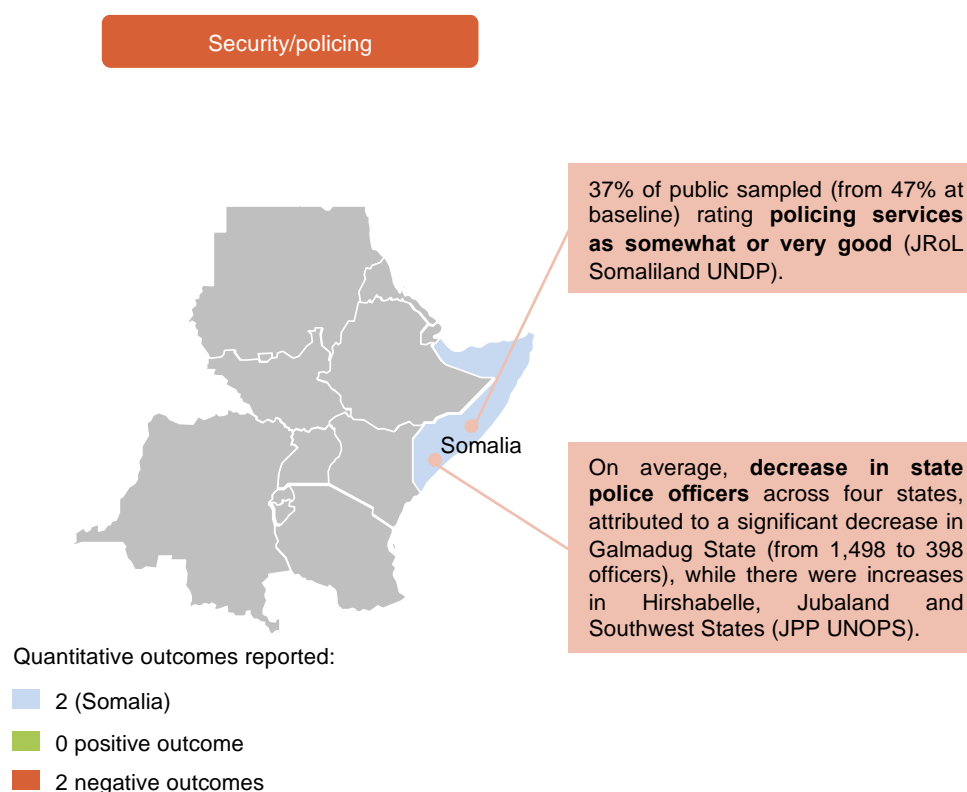
5.2.1.5. Security / policing

Only two quantitative indicators related to security and policing were measured by EUTF HoA projects. **Both showed negative change and come from projects implemented in Somalia (JRoL Somaliland UNDP and JPP UNOPS) and both were specifically related to policing (see Figure 9).**

In Somaliland, the percentage of respondents rating policing services as somewhat or very good decreased (JRoL Somaliland UNDP). Further analysis of the project's effects on conflict prevention are presented in the focus box below. The other negative indicator comes from JPP UNOPS, which reported an overall decrease in the number of state police officers – despite the project's overall objective to increase the presence, visibility, capability, and accountability of federal and state-level police forces. As explained at the beginning of this section, this outcome seems to be linked to the broader deterioration of the security context in Somalia in 2022. It should also be noted that while the number of officers decreased overall, it increased in some areas of implementation.

In addition to this quantitative indicator, **JPP UNOPS** also reported against two qualitative outcome indicators related to security.¹ Community representatives described the cooperation between the police and citizens as open, positive and constructive. The project endline also stated that national and federal member state police forces had conducted joint operations and activities in the fight against Al Shabaab, which was perceived as positive. However, most federal member state police officials surveyed for the endline expressed concerns that their decisions were often undermined by the national police force and not taken into consideration, negatively affecting local leadership and coordination.

Figure 9: Quantitative indicators from EUTF conflict prevention-related projects focused on security and policing



FOCUS ON JOINT RULE OF LAW PROGRAMME (JRoL UNDP, SOMALILAND)

Timeline	Location	Lead IP	Sub-thematic areas	Quantitative Indicators
2020-2021 (extended to 2022)	Somaliland	UNDP	Perceived safety, security	Two (negative)

Context and objectives

JRoL Somaliland UNDP supported improved justice, security, policing, gender equality and human rights – with the ultimate objective of ensuring a more secure, peaceful, stable, and progressive Somaliland. Building on the achievements of the first phase of the Joint Rule of Law Programme (2015-2018), this new phase expanded its focus to remote rural areas. The project supported Somaliland authorities in improving access to justice for hard-to-reach populations,

¹ There is one additional qualitative indicator for security, from the IGAD Peace & Stability project. The team was however not able to find any information about it in the programme documents.

focusing on women and marginalised groups. The programme followed a people-centred approach, ensuring that justice and security systems responded to local needs and were accessible at the local level.

Approach and activities

The programme supported access to justice through the provision of legal aid and mobile court services and by improving infrastructure for policing and justice services (police stations and court buildings). It also delivered capacity building support to government institutions¹, focusing on governance, delivery of justice, human rights and gender. Capacity building was also delivered to local legal aid service providers, traditional elders and religious leaders, with the aim of supporting legal aid, addressing negative social norms and strengthening access to justice for women.

Effects on conflict prevention

Legal aid and mobile court services enhanced access to those who would otherwise be excluded from the formal justice system because of cost or geography, including the most marginalised groups. Infrastructure support increased the capacity of the police forces to effectively deliver services in more rural areas and improved the functionality of the formal court system.

The capacities of local legal aid service providers were built, specifically in the areas of legal aid, women's rights and transformational leadership. Women's awareness of their rights and available services was increased through establishing women's associations, who were trained on transformative leadership, organisational development, and finance and accountability. Finally, the project enhanced effective governance of the security sector in Somaliland through targeted training support to the Parliamentary Security and Defence Committee.

However, the project's two outcome indicators – one on perceived safety and the other measuring the perceived quality of policing services – showed negative change. At the time of reporting in 2022, Somalia was experiencing heightened political tension related to the elections, marked by street protests and arbitrary arrests. These developments contributed to reduced stability and an increase in arbitrary detentions by the police, including a rise in arrests of journalists. It is therefore likely that the broader political and security context influenced the indicator results. Despite some successes, peace remained fragile, and structural factors largely shaped the project's impact on conflict prevention.

Best practices and lessons learnt

- **The project demonstrated elements of sustainability.** Project activities were mostly led by national actors, staff from national partner institutions experienced improved capacities, and the number of legal professionals increased. Some activities – particularly those with a longer history of operating in Somaliland (such as mobile courts), or those with limited budget implications (such as the coordination fora) – were assessed to be sustainable without continued international support.

¹ Particularly the Parliamentary Committee for Security and Defence and the Armed Forces Court.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1. CONCLUSIONS

This section draws best practices and lessons learnt from the 48 identified EUTF projects linked to conflict prevention, with a particular focus on the projects for which a deep dive was included in the previous section.

Multi-faceted approaches were the most effective in improving social cohesion and preventing conflict. Successful approaches either combined peacebuilding objectives with development and/or humanitarian objectives, sometimes also following a cross-border approach. For example, SPRS-NU Uganda followed a three-sector approach, combining livelihood, education and conflict resolution. Each sector was led by a partner who had the relevant technical and/or geographical expertise. This enabled effective coordination between partners and a successful approach to improving social cohesion and the local resolution of conflicts. Another relevant example is Cross-Border SEEK, which followed a cross-border and double-nexus (peacebuilding and development) approach. The project successfully brought historically conflict-prone clan communities together in joint dialogue, contributing to strengthened peace and the prevention and mitigation of conflict. Another key success was the improvement of local stakeholders' conflict management skills.

Mentorship programmes targeting youth proved effective in combating violent extremism and radicalisation, especially when combined with life skills training that can boost self-esteem. This was evident in the Youth KE RUSI initiative, which is considered a tried and tested model for supporting youth from marginalised communities at risk of violent extremism. Youth KE RUSI's mentorship programme created a sense of belonging, contributing to increased confidence and self-esteem among participants. Positive shifts were observed in participants' knowledge, attitudes and behaviours, strengthening their roles as community actors in countering violent extremism. The strengthening of life skills, such as personal responsibility, combined with improved self-esteem, also contributed to enhanced conflict management skills among participants.

Connecting mentees and mentors of the same age but from different backgrounds seems to have been particularly successful. This approach was also used by Youth KE RUSI to maximise mentees' capacity to relate to others and therefore improve social cohesion. Mentors and mentees within the same age group were better able to connect through shared experiences, which strengthened trust, mutual understanding, and the impact of the mentorship relationship.

However, one important lesson learned was the need to complement traditional violent extremism prevention initiatives with interventions that address the underlying causes of grievances. The drivers of radicalisation are often complex and interconnected, including frustration, marginalisation, and a perceived lack of opportunities to plan for a good future. Youth KE RUSI mentors suggested that psychological support should be complemented with economic and/or financial support to effectively reduce the risk of relapse. P/CVE programmes should therefore combine mentorship and awareness-raising activities with livelihood or educational support.

Identifying and training local leaders seems to have proved effective in improving social cohesion and ensuring the sustainability of conflict prevention efforts. The Cross-Border SEEK project supported the emergence of "Peace Champions" – youth and women leaders who publicly champion peace and are beginning to hold local stakeholders accountable. These "Peace Champions", also referred to as "boundary partners", are grassroots change agents that the project supports to reduce conflict and bring about peace at the community level. The project reported many examples of these new "Peace Champions" challenging the status quo and advocating for change.

The boundary partners approach engendered sustainability by ensuring that members of the community themselves are part and parcel of the peaceful solutions in their communities. It ensured that key stakeholders owned the conflict management and resolution processes, helping to

build sustainable mechanisms and systems that have the best chances of continuing after the end of the project.

Identifying and consistently involving local peace actors – from both government institutions and communities – proved challenging in some contexts, hindering the implementation of conflict resolution activities. This was the case for Cross-Border SEEK, which reported challenges in facilitating meetings with peace actors. The project highlighted the issue of a prevailing “business of peace” dynamic in which government and community stakeholders viewed peace meetings primarily as opportunities to access resources (such as per diems), rather than as genuine platforms for dialogue.

Involving existing local stakeholders, leaders or structures was key to improving local conflict resolution mechanisms. For example, SPRS-NU DRC worked through existing structures such as Refugee Welfare Councils (RWCs) and Local Councils (LCs), using them as court-like systems. This approach reportedly enhanced confidence and trust, which in turn facilitated the resolution of local conflicts. The project also demonstrated the importance of engaging traditional and informal authorities, and particularly clan and cultural leaders, who are often responsible for conflict resolution in communities of intervention.

Using a 50/50 approach to targeting refugee and host populations (instead of the commonly used 70/30 split) was shown to be effective in reducing inter-communal tensions. SPRS-NU DRC applied this approach to ensure that host communities and refugees benefitted equally from shared livelihoods assets, improved service delivery and conflict management mechanisms. Equal support to both communities was a key factor of success in easing tensions between refugees and host communities and in improving development outcomes more broadly.

Improved delivery of integrated basic services (such as water, energy and education) was effective in improving social cohesion when combined with relevant training for local authorities. Projects that coupled service delivery with capacity building for local institutions created a safer and more favourable environment for sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Livelihood programming in displacement-affected areas faced several implementation challenges. In some cases, the challenge stemmed from the differing needs of host and refugee populations, making it difficult to implement livelihood strategies that were relevant to both groups. In other cases, livelihood activities were not as popular as expected. For example, it was difficult to incentivise participation in activities that did not include handouts (such as food or household items), as previous programmes have created expectations around this type of assistance.

Projects with built-in flexibility were better able to remain relevant and effective in the face of rapidly evolving contexts. For example, Cross-Border SEEK budgeted funds for rapid response, which enabled the project to rapidly pivot and scale up or down as needed. This was demonstrated through its prompt and agile response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is worth noting that this budget line, while deemed important by partners, was also perceived as too small for the project to be able to fully support communities in times of crisis. On the other hand, Strength through tolerance was not adaptive to the changing political context in Somalia and moreover reportedly failed to incorporate feedback from the community, which made it less relevant to local needs.

Training local actors and CSOs in peacebuilding helped improve sustainability but needs to be combined with complementary capacity building on business, fundraising and reporting. Many projects focused on building the capacity of local actors in terms of peacebuilding and conflict resolution, which proved to be an effective way of ensuring the sustainability of the projects’ effects after completion. However, some projects, such as Strength through tolerance in Somalia, found that this capacity building needed to be complemented by trainings on topics such as business management, fundraising and report writing.

6.2. RECOMMENDATIONS

This section includes recommendations for future programmes targeting social cohesion and conflict prevention. It is based on the lessons learnt and best practices identified across the 48 EUTF projects included in this thematic narrative.

Project design

- **When relevant, design programmes that adopt multi-faceted approaches (peacebuilding objectives combined with development and/ or humanitarian objectives),** as these approaches have proven to be particularly effective in improving social cohesion and preventing conflict.
- **Consider projects that improve the delivery of integrated basic social services when seeking to improve social cohesion between refugees and host communities.** When developing such projects, it is important to include relevant capacity building for local authorities to be trained in the delivery of such services (water, energy, education).
- **For livelihood support programmes targeting hosts and refugees, ensure that the support is relevant for both communities, which might have very different needs.** Also ensure that livelihood activities are attractive in the local context, depending on what other actors have been doing, and the culture that has developed in terms of aid programmes.
- **Consider using a 50/50 approach** when implementing projects targeting hosts and refugees, to facilitate the easing of tensions between communities. This reportedly helped conflict prevention programmes achieve their objectives, rather than the traditional 70/30 split.
- **Include activities around conflict awareness (drivers, mitigation measures) and sensitisation of communities and local stakeholders,** as the project evaluations demonstrated that some of the conflicts can be avoided if communities are adequately sensitised on the causes of conflict and how to mitigate them. Future projects could distribute Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials through the local structures specifically sensitising masses about mitigating the causes of conflict and about the existing referral pathways in case the conflict arises. Other initiatives could be implemented such as community-led risk mappings, community-building events that include some peace education or short talks on conflict mitigation, conflict management workshops including exercises in small groups such as role-playing, or training local mediators or community focal points that can be 'called in' before a conflict escalates.
- **Scale up mentorship approaches, especially the ones that match youth within the same age group:** Youth KE RUSI's mentorship approach should be considered a tried and tested model for supporting youth people from marginalised communities in Kenya which, owing to the work of a committed team of RUSI staff, mentors, mentees and stakeholders, has produced remarkable, positive effects on the lives of youth at risk of violent extremism.
- **Add linkages to employment or training opportunities for mentees** as part of mentorship programmes, to support their capacity to create sustainable livelihoods and create alternatives for their future.
- **Mainstream mental health and psychosocial support** in social cohesion projects, especially those targeting youth and women. Given the characteristics and level of vulnerability of youth in marginalised areas, integrating these components into future programming is essential to address their specific needs and strengthen resilience.
- In light of the impact of climate change and growing conflicts over natural resources (especially water and pasture) on smallholder farmers, **further strengthen a climate-smart agriculture approach, including natural resource management.** Use the example of SSRD World Vision/FORESITE initiative, which could be further scaled up.

- **Ensure that project design allows for budget flexibility in times of crisis.** In particular, consider the inclusion of rapid response funds to enable timely adaptation to shocks and unforeseen events.
- **When designing programmes that involve extensive training or travel for officials, consider measures to mitigate the distortionary effects of per diems.** These could include harmonising per diem rates across agencies and donors, publicly disclosing the rates to establish clear norms, replacing flat-rate per diems a system of global per diems by a system of reimbursement of receipts for travel and accommodation, or to tie participants' attendance to certain deliverables (meeting minutes, follow-ups, etc.).

Conflict resolution mechanisms

- **Ensure projects use existing mechanisms and structures for conflict resolution** and the justice system. For example, local RWCs and LCs structures can be used as local courts.
 - **Enrol traditional or informal leaders**, especially clan, religious and cultural leaders, in conflict resolution mechanisms as they are sometimes responsible for conflict resolution locally.
 - **Identify conflict mitigation volunteers in target communities to form early warning systems.** These systems can help detect potential risk factors early and engage local structures to mediate before tensions escalate into conflict. They can operate independently while complementing the work of local courts.
- **Early warning systems should be conceptualised in a broader, systemic, and holistic perspective** within the projects, systematically linked to other project components. It should also be embedded in the police system/institutional framework.

Sustainability

- **Strengthen the role of local CSOs**, both in terms of funding and representation in the Programme Steering Committees.
- **Invest in the long-term capacity of local CSOs.** Capacity building should go beyond peacebuilding skills to include training in reporting, fundraising and report writing. This ensures that local CSOs are well-equipped to sustain their work beyond the life of the project.
- **Incorporate low-cost sustainability measures into mentorship schemes.** Establishing WhatsApp communication groups and email exchanges between mentors and mentees can promote ongoing communication and relationship-building in a cost- and resource-effective manner.

ANNEX

LIST OF THE 48 CONFLICT PREVENTION PROJECTS AND THEIR RELATED FUNDING

Programme Name	EUTF ID	Project Name	Lead IP	Indicative EUTF SO4 Budget and Status ¹	Useable outcome data
Regional					
CRRF: Inclusive Urban Development and Mobility	T05-EUTF-HOA-REG-67-01	CRRF Urban Development and Mobility: Promoting Inclusive Urban Development in Assosa town, Ethiopia (CRRF Urban Development IRC)	IRC	.. ² (completed)	Yes
CRRF: Displacement responses through regional cooperation and technical exchange (CRRF DIRECT)	T05-EUTF-HOA-REG-79-04	Protection, health and livelihood for refugees in Burundi (CRRF DIRECT IRC)	IRC	€660,000 (completed)	Yes
Collaboration in Cross-Border Areas of the Horn of Africa (Cross-Border)	T05-EUTF-HoA-REG-26-01	Regional Approaches for Sustainable Conflict Management and Integration (Cross-Border RASMI)	PACT	€2,672,250 (completed)	Yes
	T05-EUTF-HoA-REG-26-03	Collaboration in Cross-Border Areas: Cluster I- Lot 1 (Cross-Border PACT SEEK)	PACT	€2,709,784 (completed)	Yes
	T05-EUTF-HoA-REG-26-06	Cross-border cooperation between Ethiopia and Kenya for conflict prevention and peacebuilding in Marsabit-Moyale cluster (Cross-Border UNDP Peace)	UNDP	€734,978 (completed)	Yes
	T05-EUTF-HoA-REG-26-07	Cross Border Cooperation In Western Ethiopia And Eastern Sudan (Cross-Border GIZ)	GIZ	€5,406,000 (completed)	No
	T05-EUTF-HoA-REG-26-08	Regional Approaches for Sustainable Conflict Management and Integration II (Cross-Border RASMI II)	PACT	€979,189 (completed)	Yes
	T05-EUTF-HoA-REG-26-10	Collaboration in Cross-Border Areas of the Horn of Africa Region: The Southwest Ethiopia-Northwest Kenya Border - Selam, Ekisil II (Cross-Border PACT SEEK II)	PACT	€3,137,521 (completed)	No
	T05-EUTF-HoA-REG-36-01	Promoting Peace and Stability in the Horn of Africa Region (Peace & Stability IGAD)	IGAD	€4,819,762 (completed)	Yes
Promoting Peace and Stability in the Horn of Africa (Peace and Stability)	T05-EUTF-HoA-REG-36-02	Promoting Peace and Stability in the Horn of Africa Region (Peace & Stability ADA)	ADA	€25,248,000 (completed)	No

¹ The contract status (budget and implementation status) is as of August 2024.

² As explained in Section 4.2, Four projects were included in this thematic narrative but their indicative SO4 budget is null. These four projects have conflict prevention-related outcome indicators and conflict prevention is included in one of their specific objectives. However, they did not implement activities directly linked to conflict prevention. They aimed at preventing conflict by providing integrated basic service delivery for refugees and host communities. As such, none of the budget for these four projects was allocated to SO4. The four projects are CRRF Urban Development, a regional project implemented by IRC and three RDPP Ethiopia projects (the ones led by IRC, DCA and NRC).

	T05-EUTF-HOA-REG-36-03	Promoting Peace and Stability in the Horn of Africa Region II (Peace & Stability II IGAD)	IGAD	€2,392,859 (completed)	No
Somalia					
Enhancing Somalia's responsiveness to the management and reintegration of mixed migration flows (RE-INTEG)	T05-EUTF-HOA-SO-03-04	Durable Solutions for IDPs and Returnees in Somalia (RE-INTEG CARE)	CARE NL	€449,380 (completed)	No
	T05-EUTF-HOA-SO-03-05	'Wadajir' – Enhancing durable solutions for and reintegration of displacement affected communities in Somaliland (RE-INTEG WV)	World Vision	€195,596 (completed)	Yes
	T05-EUTF-HOA-SO-03-06	Innovative durable solutions for IDPs and returnees in Mogadishu through enhanced governance, employment and access to basic and protective services (RE-INTEG UN-Habitat)	UN-Habitat	€378,135 (completed)	No
	T05-EUTF-HOA-SO-03-07	Enhancing Integration of Displacement Affected Communities in Somalia (RE-INTEG CW)	CW	€160,000 (completed)	No
	T05-EUTF-HOA-SO-03-08	Durable Solutions and Reintegration Support to Displacement affected communities in Jubbaland state of Somalia (RE-INTEG NRC)	NRC	€199,400 (completed)	Yes
	T05-EUTF-HOA-SO-03-10	Amplifying Durable Solutions in Somalia (ADSS) With Africa's Voices Foundation (RE-INTEG AVF)	AVF	€75,000 (completed)	No
	T05-EUTF-HOA-SO-03-13	Enhancing integration of displacement-affected communities in Somalia – Baidoa (RE-INTEG CW 2)	CW	€49,899 (completed)	No
Promoting a culture of tolerance	T05-EUTF-HOA-SO-16-02	Strength through tolerance	European Institute of Peace	€4,740,000	No
UN Joint Rule of Law Programme for Somaliland	T05-EUTF-HOA-SO-46-06	JRoL Somaliland UNDP	UNDP	€3,868,617 (completed)	Yes
Partnership Coordination Facility Project for Somalia	T05-EUTF-HOA-SO-46-08	Partnership Coordination Facility Project for Somalia (PCFP UNOPS – Security)	UNOPS	€2,000,000 (completed)	No
Enhancing security and the rule of law in Somalia (Security and RoL)	T05-EUTF-HOA-SO-46-02	Enhancing security and rule of law – UNOPS (JPP UNOPS)	UNOPS	€23,000,000	Yes
Ethiopia					
Regional Development and Protection Program (RDPP)	T05-EUTF-HOA-ET-15-01	Regional Development and Protection Programme in Ethiopia-Shire Area (RDPP ET IRC)	IRC	.. ¹ (completed)	Yes
	T05-EUTF-HOA-ET-15-02	Regional Development and Protection Programme in Ethiopia-Dollo Ado Area (RDPP ET NRC)	NRC	.. ² (completed)	Yes

¹ See footnote 2, page 41.

² See footnote 2, page 41.

Stability & Development Tigray Trócaire	T05-EUTF-HOA-ET-15-03	Regional Development and Protection Programme in Ethiopia – Jigjiga Area (RDPP ET Save the Children)	Save the Children	€515,601 (completed)	Yes
	T05-EUTF-HOA-ET-15-04	Regional Development and Protection Programme in Ethiopia-Bahrale and Aysaita Areas (RDPP ET DCA)	DCA	¹ (completed)	Yes
	T05-EUTF-HOA-ET-76-01	Stability and socio-economic development for vulnerable and marginalised communities in the Tigray region of Ethiopia (Stability & Development Tigray Trócaire)	Trócaire	€2,414,900	No
Stability & Services Gambella	T05-EUTF-HOA-ET-77-01	Promoting stability and strengthening basic service delivery for host communities, refugees and other displaced population in Gambella Regional State of Ethiopia (Stability & Services Gambella IRC)	IRC	€3,920,000 (completed)	No
	T05-EUTF-HOA-ET-77-02	Promoting stability and strengthening basic service delivery for host communities, refugees and other displaced population in Gambella Regional State of Ethiopia (Stability & Services Gambella IRC II)	IRC	€2,500,000	No
South Sudan					
Strengthening the livelihoods resilience of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in South Sudan's cross-border areas with Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda	T05-EUTF-HOA-SS-21-01	Strengthening the livelihoods resilience of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in South Sudan's cross-border areas with Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda (Cross-Border El Niño SS FAO)	FAO	€3,849,907 (completed)	Yes
South Sudan Rural Development: Strengthening Smallholders' Resilience (SSRD)	T05-EUTF-HOA-SS-49-02	Food Security and Resilience in Transitioning Environments (SSRD WV/FORESITE)	WV	€2,167,500 (completed)	Yes
	T05-EUTF-HOA-SS-49-03	Strengthening Smallholders' Resilience in Greater Upper Nile (SSRD IRC)	IRC	€1,338,750 (completed)	No
Building Sustainable Peace and Reconciliation in South Sudan (Conflict Resolution SS)	T05-EUTF-HOA-SS-61-01	Support the monitoring and overseeing of the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (Conflict Resolution SS RJMEC)	RJMEC	€2,000,000 (completed)	No
	T05-EUTF-HOA-SS-61-03	Grassroot level peacebuilding and reconciliation activities support (Conflict Resolution NCA)	NCA	€1,900,000 (completed)	No
	T05-EUTF-HOA-SS-61-04	Strengthening Local Conflict Prevention and Resolution Mechanisms in South Sudan (Conflict Resolution SS Swisspeace)	Swisspeace	€301,750 (completed)	No
Uganda					

¹ See footnote 2, page 41.

Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP): Support Programme to the Refugee Settlements and Host Communities in Northern Uganda (SPRS-NU)	T05-EUTF-HOA-UG-07-02	Support Programme to the Refugee Settlements and Host Communities in Northern Uganda (SPRS-NU DRC)	DRC	€1,743,018 (completed)	Yes
	T05-EUTF-HOA-UG-08-01	Strengthening Social Cohesion and Stability in Slum Populations (SSCoS IOM)	IOM	€1,197,303 (completed)	Yes
Strengthening Social Cohesion and Stability in Slum Populations (SSCoS)	T05-EUTF-HOA-UG-68-01	Strengthening, Protection and Economic Empowerment (SUPREME) in Uganda – Livelihood Component (SUPREME Livelihoods WV)	WV	€ 1,916,298	No
	T05-EUTF-HOA-UG-68-03	Strengthening Safety, Protection and Peaceful Co-existence for Women and Youth in Northern Uganda (SPACE) (SUPREME SPACE IRRI)	IRRI	€750,000 (completed)	No
	T05-EUTF-HOA-UG-68-04	Supporting a Peaceful and Safe Environment in Northern Uganda (SPESE) (SUPREME Justice LWF)	LWF	€648,000 (completed)	Yes
	T05-EUTF-HOA-UG-68-05	Promoting sustainable access to justice for socially deprived women and children in Northern Uganda (SUPREME Justice PRI)	PRI	€501,231 (completed)	No
	T05-EUTF-HOA-UG-68-06	Strengthening Integrated Systems to Accelerate Access to Gender, Child and Youth Justice (SUPREME JLOS IRC)	IRC	€ 704,941 (completed)	No
	T05-EUTF-HOA-UG-68-07	Advancing Peaceful Co-existence & Respect for Human Rights among Refugees & Host Communities in Northern Uganda (SUPREME JLOS KRC)	KRC	€643,500 (completed)	No
Kenya					
Regional Development and Protection Programme in Kenya: Support to the Kalobeyei Development Programme (RDPP Kenya)	T05-EUTF-HOA-KE-17-01	Regional Development and Protection Programme in Kenya: Support to the Kalobeyei Development Programme (RDPP KE UNHCR)	UNHCR	€ 437,031 (completed)	No
Conflict prevention, peace and economic opportunities for the youth (Youth Kenya)	T05-EUTF-HOA-KE-18-01	Strengthening Resilience to Violent Extremism II (Youth KE RUSI)	RUSI	€3,720,866 (completed)	Yes
	T05-EUTF-HOA-KE-18-03	Conflict Prevention, peace, and economic opportunities for the youth (Youth KE KRCS)	KRCS	€2,811,185 (completed)	Yes
	T05-EUTF-HOA-KE-18-04	Conflict prevention, peace and economic opportunities for the youth (Youth KE SAIDC)	SAIDC	€171,666 (completed)	No
Kenya-EU partnership for the implementation of the national strategy to counter violent extremism in Kenya (NCTC-EU partnership)	T05-EUTF-HOA-KE-34-01	Kenya-EU partnership for the implementation of the national strategy to counter violent extremism in Kenya (Kenya-EU partnership NCTC)	NCTC	€5,300,000 (completed)	No