

KOFF

Die Schweizer Plattform für Friedensförderung
La plateforme suisse de promotion de la paix
La piattaforma svizzera per la promozione della pace
The Swiss platform for peacebuilding

KOFF 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

swiss
peace

Schweizerische Friedensstiftung
Fondation suisse pour la paix
Fondazione svizzera per la pace
Swiss Peace Foundation





In 2025, KOFF developed its new strategy for 2026–2029. Elaborated in a participative manner in consultation with the member organizations, the strategy reaffirms KOFF's core objective: to enhance the positive impact of Swiss actors' efforts – both state and civil society – towards inclusive and peaceful societies. To this end, the platform will focus its efforts in the coming four years on fostering meaningful peer exchange, strengthening joint learning from practice and further reinforcing its bridging role between civil society and Swiss policy processes. Discover more about it in our Highlights on p.2 to 4.

The year 2025 was no exception to the turbulence and uncertainty the peacebuilding sector is experiencing. With concern, we have witnessed further erosion of international law and the multilateral system, alongside rising authoritarian tendencies in different parts of the world. At the same time, many governments are placing stronger emphasis on national defense and military preparedness, often at the expense of investments in peace, sustainable development and humanitarian aid. Funding cuts in international cooperation, together with shrinking civic space in many countries, are creating additional challenges for civil society actors working on peacebuilding and conflict prevention. Against this backdrop, the need for joint critical reflection and mutual support among organizations working across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus has become even more evident.

Throughout 2025, the KOFF platform facilitated exchange, learning and policy dialogue between its member organizations and with Swiss state actors, addressing several of these pressing developments and their implications for peacebuilding practice and policy. In these exchanges, members explored new approaches to strengthening civil society engagement amid authoritarian trends and funding constraints, reflected on the role democratic states can play in countering these dynamics, exchanged on implications of the USAID funding cuts, shared their experiences in advancing localization approaches, and discussed how contributions to complex social change can be meaningfully captured. KOFF also convened policy dialogue and exchanges from a geographic perspective, focusing on contexts of particular interest to members, including Syria, Israel/Palestine and Guatemala/Honduras.

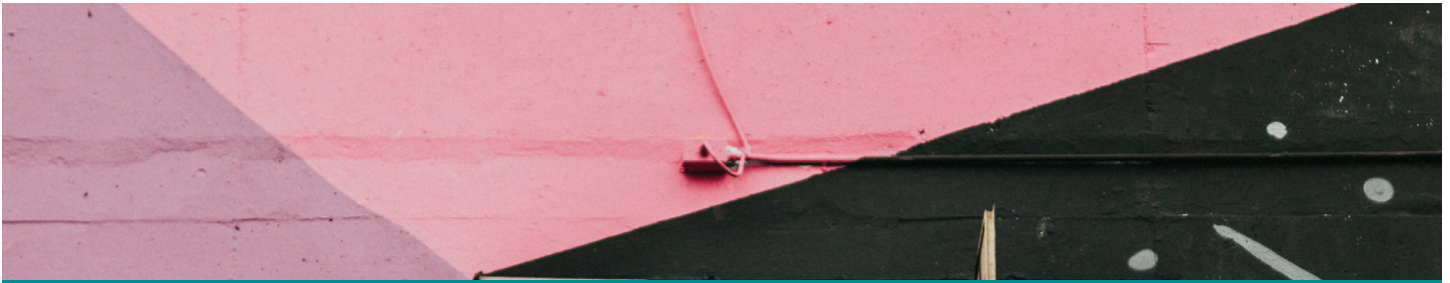
As we look ahead, many of today's challenges will continue to accompany the KOFF platform in the year to come, such as questions related to increasingly militarized approaches to security and the evolving meaning of peace in a volatile world.

I would like to warmly thank everyone who contributed to KOFF's activities in 2025: representatives of our member organizations, the KOFF Advisory Board, interlocutors from the Swiss public administration and colleagues at swisspeace. Your engagement and constructive contributions keep the KOFF platform alive as a valuable space in the Swiss peacebuilding landscape. I look forward to continuing this important work together with you in the coming year, marking KOFF's 25th year of existence.

Cornelia Tobler

Coordinator of the KOFF Platform

HIGHLIGHTS



NEW KOFF STRATEGY 2026-2029

In autumn, the KOFF platform launched a new strategy setting the overall direction for its activities over the next four years. This articulates KOFF's mission statement, the shared guiding principles, three strategic priorities and a framework illustrating how the KOFF platform functions. The strategy's development was a collective process involving the consultation with all KOFF members, including in-person meetings and a survey to capture the members' interests and priorities.

As stated in the new strategy, there is continuity in KOFF's core objective: to enhance the positive impact of Swiss actors' efforts – both state and civil society - towards inclusive and peaceful societies in a time of complex global and national challenges. To achieve this, the KOFF platform will concentrate its efforts on three priority areas:

- Foster meaningful exchange, networking and connecting among peers
- Enhance joint learning and co-creation of knowledge from practice
- Strengthen policy dialogue between civil society and state actors

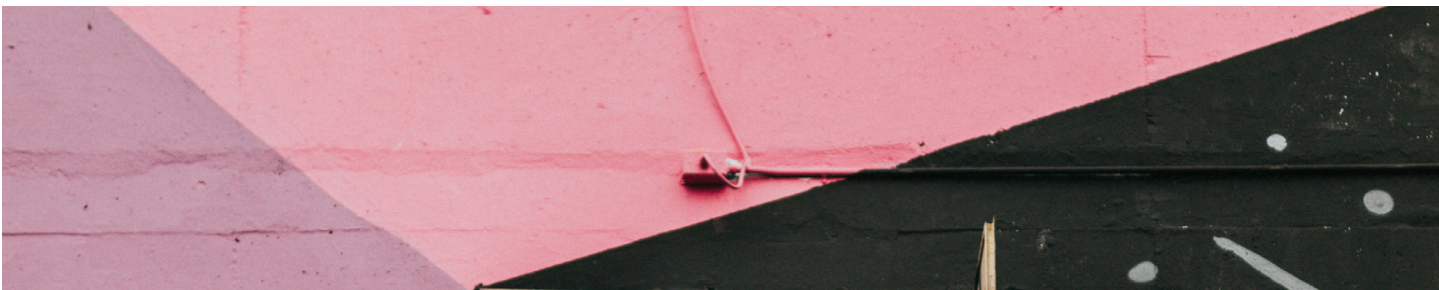
NAVIGATING SHRINKING SPACE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

Amid increasing obstacles for civil society worldwide, affecting conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts, the KOFF platform dedicated two roundtables and an à propos edition to this pressing issue. In April, the roundtable "Navigating Shrinking Space – Approaches For Strengthening Civil Society" in collaboration with HEKS, swisspeace and Helvetas explored how censorship, state capture, funding cuts and an increased fragmentation have reduced civic space in different countries. Against this backdrop, it looked at ways Swiss organizations have helped strengthen civil society engagement and discussed avenues for further support. In December, the second roundtable organized in collaboration with Amnesty International and the Human Rights Section of Switzerland's Mission in Geneva addressed this topic further, focusing on **countering rising authoritarianism**. The participants discussed remaining bilateral and multilateral avenues for democratic states, including Switzerland, to effectively strengthen human rights in this context. Finally, the last edition of the à propos magazine described how the KOFF members and their partners are navigating shrinking space for civil society in practice.

LOCALIZATION OF AID AMID PERSISTING POWER ASYMMETRIES

As numerous international organizations intensify efforts to localize their activities and programs and to **"decolonize aid"**, the KOFF platform convened a roundtable in September for a practice-based peer-to-peer exchange on this matter. While there is now broad consensus in international cooperation that localization is both effective and normatively desirable, its concrete implementation remains slow. Given these circumstances, cinfo was invited to share insights from a recent mapping they conducted of localization efforts of Swiss organizations. The exchange among participants focused on practical challenges encountered to operationalize localization agendas and reduce imbalanced power dynamics, which include rigid funding and compliance framework or internal and organizational constraints. Participants also shared with each other concrete approaches their organizations have adopted so far, different experiences made and promising practices identified. In 2026, an edition of the à propos magazine will be dedicated to this topic.

HIGHLIGHTS



MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

The formal “end” of a conflict, marked by the signing of a peace agreement, does not immediately translate into peace. Post-conflict societies often continue to grapple with deep-rooted trauma, and truth-seeking processes, emotional support, and social reintegration are essential to enable collective healing and sustainable peace. Without such efforts, trauma can persist across generations and hinder reconciliation between former conflict parties.

In October, the KOFF platform organized a [roundtable](#) on the **meaningful integration of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) into project management in conflict-affected contexts**. Participants presented their experiences of working with people affected by trauma, exchanged best practices, and reflected on strategies for coping with their own emotional burden, recognizing that peacebuilding professionals’ well-being directly affects their ability to work effectively. Through an input by a swisspeace representative, participants further explored the implementation of trauma-informed approaches, including acknowledging the widespread impact of trauma, recognizing its signs and symptoms, integrating trauma awareness into policies and practices, and actively resisting re-traumatization through organizational frameworks and working environments.

MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING (MEL)

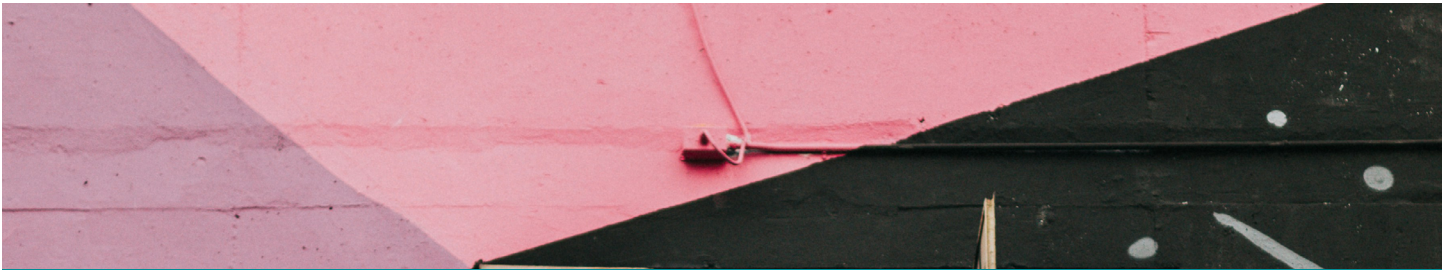
In November, the [roundtable](#) “**Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning in Complexity: How to Capture Contributions to Peace**” held in collaboration with Helvetas and swisspeace enabled an exchange on how different organizations define and capture their contributions towards inclusive and peaceful societies.

The background of this event is the increasing pressures faced across the HDP nexus to demonstrate the impacts and results of activities, especially in the context of funding cuts in international cooperation budgets. Traditional - mostly quantitative - MEL approaches that are often required by donors, pose challenges when aiming to capture social change. This calls for rethinking outcome and impact measurement, exploring more qualitative and adaptive MEL approaches to better capture HDP organizations’ contributions to peace and social change at the project, programmatic and institutional levels.

In this context, a case study by swisspeace illustrated how a project’s contributions to social change remained invisible when assessed through traditional MEL approaches, and how complementing these with complexity-informed and adaptive tools helped addressing this issue.

A Helvetas representative presented their approach to capture organization-wide impact on peace, while working primarily in development and humanitarian fields. To identify contributions to peace, including indirect and passive ones across the whole organization, Helvetas has included transversal markers on conflict transformation in its institutional results framework.

HIGHLIGHTS



PEACE AND CONFLICT DEVELOPMENTS THROUGH A GEOGRAPHIC LENS

In 2025, the KOFF platform continued to tackle peacebuilding and conflict prevention issues through a geographic lens, organizing exchanges on contexts of particular interest for KOFF member organizations. In August, KOFF convened its annual roundtable on **Guatemala and Honduras**, providing an opportunity to exchange with the Swiss Ambassador to these countries and share assessments of recent socio-political developments, the current situation in regards to human rights and the rule of law and possible future scenarios, especially linked to the elections that were upcoming in both countries.

Amid escalations in the conflict between **Israel and Palestine** and a recently adopted US-led peace plan, the December roundtable provided an appreciated space for dialogue between KOFF member organizations and the Head of the MENA Section at FDFA's Peace and Human Rights Division. The exchange offered valuable insights into Switzerland's assessment of the current situation and the different pillars of its engagement in the region. It also gave participants the possibility to share their perspectives and concerns, and ideas for future approaches. This event was a good illustration of KOFF's aim to facilitate spaces for open and constructive dialogue between civil society and a state representative, helping bridge perspectives and fostering mutual understanding.

The final roundtable of the year brought together Swiss NGOs engaged in or planning programming in **Syria**. It highlighted opportunities for renewed civil society engagement following the fall of the Assad regime in December 2024 and enabled participants to compare notes regarding their approaches and lessons learned over the past months. Through an exchange with a representative of the Syrian Development Organization (SDO), key areas for support were identified, including rehabilitation, agriculture, and youth programs. Despite cautious optimism, participants underscored remaining challenges, such as limited funding from institutional donors, navigating complex registration procedures and the need for stronger coordination between INGOs and local partners.

INCLUSIVE COMMUNICATION IN PEACEBUILDING

In June, the KOFF platform organized a roundtable on **inclusive communication in peacebuilding** in collaboration with Fondation Hironnelle and a former representative of the Colombian Truth Commission. It explored the potential of communication for strengthening social cohesion and spreading peaceful narratives, highlighting the peacebuilding role of local media in disseminating factual reporting and creating dialogue spaces, allowing diverse voices to be heard and encouraging people to make independent decisions.

The first expert-led case study examined how local media in Ukraine opened channels and fostered dialogue between local authorities and the population during a time of significant divisions within the Ukrainian society. The second case highlighted the Colombian Truth Commission's use of inclusive, decentralized communication strategies to collect testimonies and disseminate its findings, reaching diverse audiences. That way, it could play an important role in reshaping narratives to be more inclusive and fostering reconciliation.

The roundtable highlighted that in today's context of high level of polarization and disinformation, inclusive and constructive stories have the capacity to spread peaceful public narratives and counteract divisive discourse.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

JANUARY

KOFF informal exchange at the Basel Peace Forum

FEBRUARY

Survey on [KOFF 2026-2029 strategy](#)

MARCH

[à propos magazine](#): Forgotten conflicts

APRIL

[Roundtable](#): Navigating Shrinking Space – Strengthening Civil Society

Start new Associate Program Officer (C. Schumacher)

JUNE

[Roundtable](#): Inclusive Communication in Peacebuilding

[à propos magazine](#): Triple Nexus — Concept or Reality?

KOFF Annual Assembly: Presentation of new KOFF Strategy 2026-2029; election of new Advisory Board members and new chair of Adv. Board (A. Zellhuber)

AUGUST

[Roundtable](#): Exchange with the Ambassador of Switzerland in Guatemala and Honduras

SEPTEMBER

[Roundtable](#): Localization Approaches in the Shadow of Persistent Power Asymmetries

OCTOBER

[à propos magazine](#): Fragmented Times — Pathways to Social Cohesion

[Roundtable](#): Mental Health and Psychological Support for Sustainable Peace

NOVEMBER

[Roundtable](#): MEL in Complexity: How to Capture Contributions to Peace

DECEMBER

[à propos magazine](#): Working in Authoritarian Contexts — Between Resilience & Creativity

[Roundtable](#): Rising Authoritarianism - Collective Strategies to Strengthen Human Rights

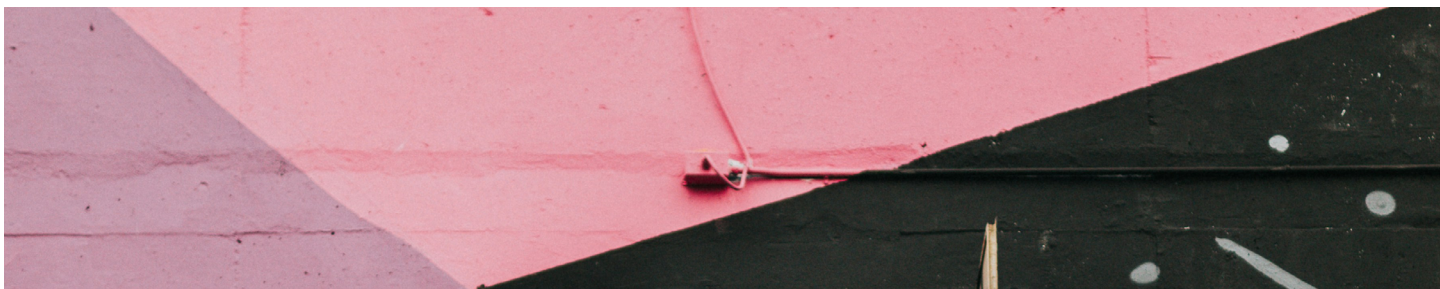
[Roundtable](#): Israel & Palestine - Current Issues and Developments

[Roundtable](#): Navigating Support to Peace, Human Rights, and Development in Times of Transition in Syria

Regular internal events for KOFF members:

Online Intervention Group Exchanges monthly
Advisory Board Meetings in March & October 2025
KOFF Annual Assembly in June 2025

KOFF PLATFORM IN 2025



ADVISORY BOARD

(as of December 2025)

Christophe Barbey, APRED

Tania Hoerler, swisspeace

Owen Frazer, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation

Corsin Blumenthal, Peace Brigades International Schweiz

Una Hombrecher, HEKS/EPER

Daniel Hostettler, Fastenaktion

Sacha Meuter, Fondation Hirondelle

Lisa Bissegger, Frieda – the feminist peace organisation

Sarah Noble, CAUX – Initiatives of Change

Diana Schenkel, Swiss Peace Council

Deborah Schibler, PeaceWomen Across the Globe

Dorina Waldmeyer, Mission 21

Andrea Zellhuber, terre des hommes schweiz*

Jana Zemp, FDFA, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

* Chair of the KOFF Advisory Board

ANNUAL FIGURES

	BUDGET	ACCOUNTS
Income		
swisspeace's contribution	241'248.23	200'201.63
Membership fees	20'000.00	18'200.00
TOTAL	261'248.23	218'401.63
Expenses		
Staff costs	175'298.23	172'973.26
Translations & website	19'000.00	4'105.24
Activities	7'000.00	2'798.48
Direct costs (KOFF administration)	25'000.00	13'538.55
Indirect costs	34'950.00	24'986.09
TOTAL	261'248.23	218'401.63

KOFF TEAM

Cornelia Tobler: Coordinator of the KOFF Platform

Chatrina Schumacher: Associate Program Officer

Sanjally Jobarteh: Communication Officer

ABOUT THE KOFF PLATFORM

The Swiss platform for peacebuilding KOFF was founded in 2001 and is today an established platform for exchange, networking and joint learning. It brings together around 40 civil society and two governmental organizations from Switzerland that are active in the areas of peace and security policy, human rights, gender equality and sustainable development.

The strength of the KOFF platform lies in the diversity of perspectives, experiences and expertise of its members based in Switzerland and their partner organizations abroad. These competencies form the basis for the platform's peace policy work and enable the development of strategies and approaches for peacebuilding.

The platform is coordinated by a team at swisspeace, which is in regular contact with the members of the platform. The KOFF Advisory Board currently consists of 14 representatives who advise and support the KOFF team in the strategic orientation of the platform. The members of the Advisory Board are elected every two years by the Annual Assembly.

KOFF PLATFORM MEMBERS

(as of end of 2025)

Alliance Sud	Cooperation (SDC)	Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)
APRED	Fondation Hironnelle	SOS-Children's Village Switzerland
Baha'i	Frieda – the feminist Peace organization	Stiftung für Integrale Friedensförderung
Basel Peace Office	GSoA	SWISSAID
Brücke · Le pont	HEKS/EPER	swisspeace
Caux – Initiatives of Change	HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation	Swiss Peace Council
Coexistences	IAMANEH Switzerland	Swiss Red Cross
Cuisine sans Frontières	IFOR/MIR	terre des hommes schweiz
DCAF	Interpeace	United Nations University – Center for Policy Research (UNU-CPR)
Eirene suisse	Lucerne Initiative for Peace and Security	Women In International Security (WIIS) Switzerland
Fastenaktion	medico international Switzerland	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)
Forum für Friedenskultur	Mission 21	World Vision – Schweiz & Liechtenstein
Frauen für den Frieden	Peace Brigades International Schweiz	
FDFA, Peace and Human Rights Division (PHRD)	Peace Watch Switzerland (PWS)	
FDFA, Swiss Agency for Development	PeaceWomen Across the Globe (PWAG)	

