

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 Highlights 2019: Joint Learning in Peacebuilding

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swiss
peace

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



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Founded in 2001, KOFF is a dialogue and exchange platform facilitated by swisspeace connecting Swiss state and non-state actors active in peacebuilding. Its mission is to ensure that Swiss peacebuilding activities are strengthened, relevant, and visible. To do so, KOFF facilitates dialogue and learning processes in Switzerland and abroad and fosters information sharing with a view to develop strategic alternatives, policy recommendations and joint initiatives for peace with its member organizations.

Editorial

I am writing the editorial for the KOFF 2019 Annual Report from my home office in the midst of one of the most formidable global crises of the past few decades. There is (still) a lot that we do not know, **but what is clear is that this crisis also raises a myriad of questions relating to peacebuilding**: What effect does the coronavirus have on conflict dynamics? What are the decisive factors in the spectrum between the global ceasefire called for by the UN Secretary-General and an increase in tensions, conflicts, and violence in the context of this crisis? To what extent can conflict-sensitive measures and peacebuilding approaches prevent the dismantling of fundamental rights and democracy, increasing nationalism, racism, and militarization or the rise in domestic violence? In times of fear and uncertainty, how can the psychosocial dimension of this crisis be confronted and trust in fellow human beings, society and state institutions be strengthened? How can we prevent inequalities - both at a global level and within societies - from increasing, and how can we use the crisis as an opportunity to ultimately shape more just, peaceful and inclusive societies? These questions have now become urgent matters. However, KOFF, the Swiss platform for peacebuilding, has



Anna Leissing, Project Manager KOFF

always been concerned with them in principle, and continued in the same vein in 2019. As a platform, KOFF promotes exchange and joint learning in order to harness the diversity of knowledge, experience and perspectives, and to develop synergies, strategies and solutions. It is in this spirit that the KOFF 2019 Annual Report was written in collaboration with KOFF member organizations and is based on the idea of **“Learning together for peace.”** Joint learning manifested itself in a variety of formats in 2019: KOFF roundtables and a panel discussion focused on **civil society and human rights in Latin America** and the significance of Swiss commitment to language (p.12),

the interface between art and peace was the subject of a KOFF Master Class (p.8), and a KOFF Essential provided an overview of the **potential and risks of new technologies in peacebuilding** (p.10). In the joint learning process on peace and migration, regular learning sessions were held to develop approaches on how **migration can be strategically integrated into peace policy and peacebuilding** (p.14). Last year, we were able to convey clear messages and political recommendations to the Swiss administration, parliament, civil society and the interested public from the National Action Plan 1325 project on **Women, Peace, and Security** (p.6). “Learning together for peace” takes place within this arc of tension from selective exchanges and institutionalized learning processes through to the joint development of approaches and policy recommendations. **These kinds of processes strengthen networking, cooperation, and trust in KOFF members and help to lend peacebuilding a greater sense of relevance and visibility.** Examples include the KOFF Statement on International Cooperation 2021-2024, the four parliamentary initiatives on women, peace, and security in autumn 2019, participation in the Agenda 2030 platform, and the broad readership of the KOFF magazine à propos.

In this spirit, we would like to thank all KOFF member organizations for their

diverse contributions to strong, relevant and visible peacebuilding. Special thanks go to the members of the KOFF Advisory Board (p.17), who were elected during the KOFF members meeting in 2019 and who are providing strategic support to KOFF and help to shape the organization.

I would also like to thank the members of the KOFF team. The inspiring dynamics and numerous activities (p.18) would not have been possible without their highly motivated commitment. Amélie Lustenberger, Elizabeth Mesok, Lara Ehrenzeller, and Jonas Hinck left us in 2019 to pursue new professional challenges. The current team (p.17) consists of Andrea Grossenbacher as head of the Migration and Peace nexus, Leandra Bias as project leader for the Women, Peace, and Security project, Sanjally Jobarteh in Communications, and Hannah-Milena Elias as intern.

A review of the past year confirms the relevance and potential of joint learning within KOFF. The here and now and the outlook for the future point to the need for flexibility in adapting to rapidly changing circumstances and the shifting requirements of our member organizations. This year, we therefore plan to work together to develop the new KOFF strategy and thereby creating a strategic framework. I am looking forward to this.

Anna Leissing, Project Manager KOFF

Women, Peace & Security: A long journey

The [‘Women, Peace and Security: Reclaim Prevention!’ conference](#) took place on September 18. Swiss and international experts and personalities from the fields of politics, civil society and academia discussed gender justice, peacebuilding and the ‘Prevention of Violent Extremism’, as well as the implementation of UN Resolution 1325 and the future of the ‘Women, Peace and Security’ agenda. More than 130 people took part in the conference in

ten follow-up resolutions have been adopted. However, women still play only a minimal part in peace processes, while violence against women in conflicts is widespread and programs under this agenda receive miserable funding.

The linking of ‘Women, Peace & Security’ with ‘Prevention of Violent Extremism’ is also controversial. The former represents a human rights agenda, which is now being linked to issues

such as terrorism and violent extremism. Women activists and academics fear that women’s rights and gender equality will be instrumentalized and subordinated to military interests. There is also a risk of stereotypes becoming entrenched and, for example, of the role of women being reduced to that of mothers who have to make sure

that their children are not radicalized. KOFF, PWAG and cfd point out these and other connected issues in the [report ‘Women, Peace and Security and the Prevention of Violence’](#), which was prepared in partnership with a broad spectrum of civil society organizations and launched at the conference. It was followed in December by a [‘Policy Brief’](#) which made political recommendations to Switzerland.

Although the recommendations are addressed to Swiss state bodies, there is also an important role for civil society. It can, for example, demand that governments actually implement the National Action Plans they have adopted. Politics also has an important part to play. At the conference, four Swiss National Councilors (three women and a male colleague) presented proposals that had been submitted in the autumn

session. The proposals put questions about Switzerland’s responsibility in the area of ‘Women, Peace and Security’: for example the connection between the ownership of private weapons and domestic violence, or Switzerland’s promotion of the participation of women in peace processes.

The conference gathered professional women from various countries, such as Afghanistan, Kenya, the USA and Palestine. All were united by their commitment to the participation of women in peacebuilding at all levels. In many countries where peace negotiations are taking place, men say ‘Peace first, and then women’s rights’. However, these women know that women’s rights are an integral part of a sustainable peace, and that women must sit at the negotiating table if a sustainable peace is to be assured.



Arrival of Pascal Baeriswyl, State Secretary FDFA, September 2019, Picture: PeaceWomenAcross the Globe

Bern, which was run by KOFF in collaboration with PeaceWomen Across the Globe (PWAG) and the feminist peace organization [cfd](#).

One important function of the conference was to show that there are serious problems with the implementation of the Resolution. Since the year 2000,

2019 in brief: The adoption by the UN Security Council of [Resolution 1325](#) on ‘Women, Peace and Security’ in the year 2000 is regarded as a milestone, because it put women’s concerns at the heart of the international security agenda for the first time. It obliges UN member states to ensure the equal participation of women in conflict management and peacebuilding and to protect women from sexualized violence in conflicts. In Switzerland, KOFF, together with PeaceWomen Across the Globe and the feminist peace organization cfd, is coordinating civil society support for the fourth National Action Plan for the implementation of Resolution 1325 ([NAP 1325](#)).

The project [‘Contribution of civil society to the implementation of the Swiss NAP 1325’](#) is intended to ensure that the experiences and know-how of civil society are taken into account in the official implementation of the Swiss NAP 1325. Its main objectives are to promote a gender-sensitive peace strategy in Swiss domestic and foreign policy and to raise public awareness.

Text in collaboration with **Flurina Derungs**, Managing Director [PeaceWomen Across the Globe](#)

Art and peace: a creative pairing

The use of art in peace processes is not a new phenomenon and art initiatives are enjoying increasing attention in peacebuilding. Over the years, creative artists, activists and grassroots movements, international NGOs and state actors have gained experience in preventing and resolving violent conflicts as well as in reconstruction work and dealing with the past.

The KOFF platform is committed to ensuring that people can engage in dialog and come together to critically reflect on this experience, giving them the opportunity to learn from each other. That is why KOFF organized the “Poetry, Gender and Peace” Master Class in March 2019. The guest speaker was [William McInerney](#), educator, poet, postdoctoral researcher and journalist, who is investigating the links between creative expression and conflict transformation. As part of the KOFF Master Class, he focused on the spoken word poetry art form and talked about his work with young men who are using spoken word poetry to deal with questions relating to masculinity and preventing violence. Spoken poetry has a sociocritical tradition that opposes dominant discourse and makes room for alternative narratives. It offers people a creative and critical channel for personal and col-

laborative expression, giving it the potential to exercise a positive influence on conflict transformation. People can use poetry to speak out against cultural and structural violence and thus emotionally underpin peacebuilding programs. Poetry can also be a tool for marginalized groups to demonstrate their resistance in a non-violent way and to promote cross-cultural communication.

Using art as a means of communication and exchange is also at the forefront of a project being implemented by KOFF member organization [HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation](#). Its sister organization in Germany, [Helvetas Intercooperation gGmbH](#), joined forces with the [Pansodan Gallery](#) to develop the “[Open History – Art for Peace](#)” project. In a country that has experienced a multitude of complex conflicts since gaining independence, this project offers a platform for exchange that goes beyond ethnic and social borders. Many of the country’s regions are playing host to exhibitions that present historical photos provided by the locals. These exhibitions are supported by panel discussions, readings, music, and dance performances. This project brings together women, men, and young people from different ethnic and



Master Class “Poetry, Gender and Peace” 23.03.2019. Picture: swisspeace

social backgrounds, giving them the chance to exchange information about their history, their culture and their visions for the future. The project promotes mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence by using art as a way of connecting different groups in society.

Specific projects and experiences of this kind are enormously valuable for discussions on art and peace on the

KOFF platform. They teach us which approaches work and which do not, the impact of art in regions affected by conflict, and where the potential of art for peace lies and where it does not. A critical examination of these and other questions is key when it comes to learning to understand the role of art in peacebuilding - not just as a nice addition, but also as an independent approach with a coherent impact hypothesis.

2019 in brief: KOFF has been grappling with the issue of [art in fragile and conflict-stricken](#) contexts for several years now. In 2019, KOFF addressed a specific artistic form of expression, spoken word poetry, and worked with [William McInerney](#) to hold the KOFF [Master Class](#) “Poetry, Gender and Peace”. Not only did the participants gain a conceptual understanding of the links between “spoken word poetry, masculinities and preventing violence”, they also composed a poem themselves on the spot. This exchange also sparked a [critical reflection](#) on the matter, as well as an interview on [Radio RaBe](#), in which the full force of the spoken poetry of Will McInerney came into effect.

Text in collaboration with **Peter Schmidt**, National Director of [Helvetas Myanmar](#)

Technology in peacebuilding – more than just a tool

Until a few years ago, most people believed that information and communication technologies (ICTs) were just tools and what mattered was how they were used. It has since become clear that new technologies have a more profound effect, shaping discourses, changing incentives and altering identities.

In 2019, KOFF, the Swiss platform for peacebuilding, examined the potential and challenges posed by new technologies in peacebuilding in the KOFF Essential “[Information and Communication Technologies in Peacebuilding](#)” by taking part in exchanges, discussions, and bilateral dialog with interested member organizations. This publication investigates the opportunities and limits of new technologies in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. It found that ICTs are relevant in conflict analysis, early warning systems and conflict prevention, peace negotiations and dealing with the past – particularly with regard to the restrictions on civil society’s scope for action in authoritarian contexts. ICTs involve a variety of potentials and risks, depending on the situation.

Overall, however, the publication demonstrates that there are two funda-

mental approaches to new ICTs in peacebuilding. The first approach coincides with the new technological advances in the global North and claims that ICTs can radically transform peacebuilding in a positive direction. They are seen to have the potential to revolutionize the nature and speed of communication, thereby providing new opportunities for peacebuilding initiatives.

The other approach is more critical and highlights problems such as a lack of accessibility, particularly in conflict-affected regions. The reasons for this include costs, illiteracy and the fact that these technologies are not usually equipped for the circumstances in these locations. It is also argued that interactions mediated by ICTs do not hold the same power as face-to-face encounters and are thus not capable of changing deep-rooted attitudes and intentions.

Both approaches have valid arguments and, as is so often the case, the reality is probably somewhere in between. Experience shows that peacebuilding activities tend to be most successful when ICTs enrich and complement existing processes of social transformation. They create additional areas for change and can thus improve the effectiveness

of peacebuilding activities.

To be more specific, we can look at the example of data: The scope of available data has quickly increased thanks to new technologies, allowing conflict early warning systems to be fed with more data more quickly. Projects are currently under way which record hate speech on social media. If these are suddenly increasingly directed against a certain group, this could be an indication that physical violence will soon occur. In an ideal scenario, it would be possible to intervene in a situation like this at an early stage and even prevent the outbreak of violence.

Unfortunately, data collection also has a dark side, as intimate and personal profiles of people can be created based on user data. These profiles, combined with behavior models, can be used to predict a person’s behavior. Algorithms based on this data tend to reinforce and radicalize already existing opinions, as they only show users content that the algorithm “knows” corresponds to their

opinion and world view, based on their likes and dislikes. This can serve to intensify political polarization on a certain matter. Most people are unaware which data has been collected about them and therefore do not know when they are leaving behind data trails that could have a negative impact on them. It is clear that this opens the door to prejudice and discrimination against users. Social media and mobile data are already being used to assist with bank lending decisions.



Picture: Pexels.com

2019 in brief: The KOFF platform has been addressing the issue of “Technologies in Peacebuilding” for some time now. Experiences and perspectives on this subject have been exchanged in previous KOFF training sessions and at Intervision Group meetings. The Essential “[Information and Communication Technologies in Peacebuilding](#)” was published in 2019. This 30-page document provides an overview of the use of information and communication technologies in fragile and conflict-affected contexts and outlines the risks and restrictions involved in peacebuilding.

Civil Society in Latin America: A turbulent year

For several years now, a worrying trend has been emerging. Civil society is increasingly losing its room for manoeuvre and its ability to act is becoming more and more restricted. Although these are global trends, 2019 was an especially turbulent year for Latin America.

In numerous Latin American countries, tensions were exacerbated by political instability and authoritarian govern-

ment from working by legal or financial means. Some examples of this are the way NGOs in Brazil have found it harder to get funding, the closure or reduction of the budgets of countless ministries (including the Secretariat for Women's Affairs) in El Salvador or the increased persecution of LGBT and environmental activists in Honduras.

At the same time, 2019 was also a year



Chilean protests in 2019 in Puerto Montt (North Patagonia). Creative Commons

ments. Activists were arrested, persecuted or even murdered, people who took a critical stance were defamed and threatened in the media and civil society organizations were prevented

of protests. People took to the streets in large parts of Latin America (Ecuador, Colombia, Chile, Bolivia, Brazil, Argentina and Honduras). They felt that the political elite did not represent them

and protested against the inequalities they experienced. Some initiatives met with success: In Ecuador, President Lenín Moreno was forced to withdraw fuel subsidies at the start of October after serious protests. In other countries, such as Honduras or Chile, the demonstrations were suppressed by military force within a very short time. Building on its longstanding commitment to Latin America, KOFF addressed these developments at various events (see box), including a panel discussion organized in collaboration with KOFF member organization Brücke · Le pont.

Lessons learned in the process: If we are to help improve the way civil society functions in any country, it is important for us to work both on the ground there and in Switzerland. In the countries concerned, institutions must be strengthened and the younger generation must be sensitized and encouraged to become involved.

Thanks to its decades of experience, Switzerland has so far been able to provide clear added value, particularly in Central America, and enjoys great confidence as a mediator. KOFF and its members active in Latin America therefore regret the decision to withdraw bilateral development cooperation from Latin America by 2024 and expressed this in their Statement regarding the Dispatch on Switzerland's Strategy for International Cooperation 2021–24. Even though the points made were not taken up by the Government, this Statement demonstrates the need to lay the foundations of a common political commitment in Switzerland as a KOFF platform. This would require a longterm and continuous exchange of experiences, perspectives and expertise to build trust and create synergies between KOFF member organizations, their partner organizations on the ground and other players.

2019 in brief: The dwindling scope for civil society action in Latin America has long been a matter of concern to KOFF. Several events on this topic were held in 2019: The Roundtable on '[Peace and Human Rights in Colombia and Honduras: An operation fraught with risks!](#)' in November, a panel discussion on '[Limited room for maneuver in Latin America: Civil Society under pressure](#)' in June, a Roundtable on '[Dealing with the Past in Colombia: Truth, Gender and Justice](#)', the Colombia Roundtable on '[The Human Rights Situation under President Duque: Possibilities for Civil Society Action](#)' in April and the Guatemala Roundtable on '[Land Conflicts and Indigenous Rights in Guatemala: Perspectives of a Human Rights Activist](#)' in March. In 2017, following a joint learning process with [HEKS](#) and [Peace Watch Switzerland](#), KOFF published a swisspeace Essential, '[Civil Society Space for Action in Honduras](#)'.

Text in collaboration with **Fabienne Jacomet** of [Brücke · Le pont](#)

Migration and peacebuilding: zooming in on Bangladesh

As the numbers of displaced people rise, perceptions of (forced) migration as a threat to societal and state security dominate the public and political discourse in many regions of the world, in particular in the Global North. However, securitized policies tend to create a narrow perspective on a highly complex phenomenon. Consequently, there is a demand for new perspectives. In this context, KOFF has launched a [“Joint Learning Process on Peacebuilding and Migration \(JLPM\)”](#), which brings together KOFF members and other interested organizations from the fields of peacebuilding, development, human rights, migration governance, refugee protection and humanitarian aid to discuss risks and opportunities at the intersection of migration and peacebuilding (see box).

In the frame of the JLPM, KOFF conducted a case study on the challenges and opportunities of social cohesion for peacebuilding in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh. Research Initiatives Bangladesh (RIB), a Bangladeshi non-profit organization that specializes in participatory action research with marginalized communities, facilitated the field visit for this case study. One of RIB’s recent activities includes working with host communities and Rohingya refugees in Cox’s Bazar. Hence, the collaboration

with RIB opened doors for KOFF to benefit from their experience, knowledge and trusted connections to people in the area. In the following, Ruhi Naz, Project Coordinator at RIB, shares her view on the current situation in Cox’s Bazar and the importance of addressing social cohesion in migration-affected contexts.

The new arrival of hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees in a short span of time in 2017 brought a number of challenges for Bangladesh. Many among the refugees were victims of a brutal military atrocity in Myanmar. They brought with them heart-wrenching experiences of pain, suffering and destitution. Consequently, as part of emergency responses, support poured in from all corners of the world. Humanitarian support flowed in from governments, the international community and financial institutions, UN bodies, civil society organizations and individuals alike.

Two and half years further down the road, the plight of the refugees has now expanded to include grievances regarding their daily lives and survival. The refugees are cramped in densely populated camps spread over a large area bordering Myanmar. They try to cope with new realities and worry about their uncertain future. Many signs of

unrest in the camps have been reported, indicating more difficult times to come in the near future. The atmosphere in the overcrowded camps and the surrounding region is giving rise to frequent conflicts. The frustration of refugees and local communities living under such dire circumstances is driving tensions. The local population, who were the first responders to the crisis, are now getting impatient due to the protracted nature of the displacement. Tension is brewing among local community members, due to their conviction that the presence of refugees is an encroachment on their lives, livelihoods and environment. The Rohingya and local residents in Cox’s Bazar both feel that their respective communities do not share harmonious relationships with each other. The main source of tensions between these two communities is employment and livelihoods. Cultural differences, lack of access to education and restrictions on mobility

- especially for Rohingya women - as well as the menace of drug and human trafficking give rise to frequent tensions and discomfort in the Cox’s Bazar region.

Given the obvious long-term protracted nature of the crisis combined with the increasingly pressing challenges faced by both the Rohingya and the local community, it is imperative to formulate a medium-term development plan with a social cohesion approach. The elaboration of a medium-term development plan at the District level, involving humanitarian, peacebuilding and development actors is a necessity. It could provide for a holistic community engagement and development-led approach by improving the lives and livelihoods of both the local and the refugee people. In addition, international communities should provide adequate and proper support to the government of Bangladesh for the effective implementation of the multi-year plan.

2019 in a brief: [KOFF’s “Joint Learning Process on Peacebuilding & Migration” \(JLPM\)](#) started in May 2019, based on discussions with KOFF member organizations and the findings of a [swisspeace desk study on the peace-migration nexus](#) from 2018. In the frame of the JLPM, KOFF has facilitated several learning meetings and conducted desk- and field research for three case studies: social cohesion in the Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh, participation and inclusion of people in exile in the Colombian Truth Commission and approaches to migration governance & peace in Ethiopia. The insights stemming from the different meetings, desk-research and case studies will feed into the development of a toolbox, which provides guidance to policy makers and peacebuilding practitioners on how to address migration at different stages of conflict and peacebuilding. This project is supported by the Section Migration Foreign Policy of the Human Security Division.

Text in collaboration with **Ruhi Naz** from [Research Initiatives Bangladesh \(RIB\)](#)

KOFF's communications news

2019 has also seen many changes in terms of communications. KOFF has a new [website](#), which is clearer than the previous one and reflects the platform's new corporate design (with street art images). Through this new website, KOFF still provides the opportunity to its member organizations to publish news related to events, publications or job vacancies, which was something very well received in 2019.

Furthermore, member organizations wrote numerous articles for [the KOFF peacebuilding magazine à propos](#) (a total of 64 articles in five issues). The topics covered were extremely diverse and included religion, youth, Development Goal 16, women and Myanmar – all related to peacebuilding.

The KOFF Communications team actively participated in the project "[Women, Peace and Security: Critical Voice of Civil Society](#)". Among others - the team was responsible for the layout of the [report](#) and the [policy brief](#), carried out media work and provided communications support for the "[Women, Peace & Security: Reclaim Prevention](#)" conference in September.

KOFF has also focused its communications efforts on raising visibility around the topic of civilian peacebuilding, notably through the publication of a [KOFF Essential](#) "Internet & Communication Technologies in Peacebuilding", the Critical Reflection "[Poetry, Gender and Peace](#)" and the [2018 KOFF annual report](#).

Head office KOFF

Annual figures 2019

	Accounts 2019	Budget 2019
Income		
Contribution swisspeace	207'336.78	237'700.00
Membership fees	25'800.00	25'000.00
Other Income	493.70	
TOTAL	233'630.48	262'700.00
Expenses		
Personal Costs	136'818.33	165'600.00
Activities	28'768.30	26'000.00
Organisation & members	12'229.52	13'000.00
Direct costs (ZEWO)	31'794.08	33'600.00
Indirect costs	24'022.25	24'500.00
TOTAL	233'630.48	262'700.00

Staff members

- [Anna Leissing](#): Project Manager
- [Andrea Grossenbacher](#): Program Officer
- [Elizabeth Mesok](#): Gender & Peacebuilding
- [Amélie Lustenberger](#): Communications
- [Lara Ehrenzeller](#): Intern
- [Jonas Hinck](#): Intern

Advisory Board (as of December 2019)

Brigitte Altwegg, CAUX – Initiatives de Change; Christophe Barbey, APRED; Matthias Boss, swisspeace; Laura Bott, SDC; Flurina Derungs, PeaceWomen Across the Globe; Sibylle Ganz, Peace Brigades International Switzerland; Regula Gattiker, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation; Hans Ulrich Gerber, IFOR-MIR, Katharina Gfeller, Mission 21; Catriona Gourlay, Peace Nexus Foundation; Daniel Hostettler, Fastenopfer; Una Hombrecher, HEKS/EPER; Carmen Meyer, cfd (the feminist peace organisation); Sacha Meuter, Fondation Hirondelle; Peter W. Ottiger, LIPS; Ruedi Tobler, Friedensrat; Dieter von Blarer, humanrights.ch; Yachar Nafissi-Azar, HSD



Cover picture of the à propos magazine from September 2019

List of activities 2019

- January**
 - Project NAP 1325: Field research with civil society organizations in Kenya for greater access to security agendas such as P/CVE
- February**
 - à propos N°159: “Religion, Conflict & Peacebuilding”
 - KOFF Leadership meeting “Peacebuilding by Swiss actors: Quo Vadis?”
 - Platform Agenda 2030: evaluation meeting on the alternative report “How sustainable is Switzerland?”
- March**
 - KOFF Advisory Board Meeting
 - Critical Reflection: Poetry, Gender and Peace
 - Master Class – A Practitioner’s Workshop on Arts & Peacebuilding “Poetry, Gender & Peace”
 - Interview with William McInerney on Radio Rabe about spoken poetry
 - Roundtable “Land Conflicts and Indigenous Rights in Guatemala: Perspectives from a Human Rights Activist”
 - Informal exchange “Human Rights Situation in Israel/Palästina”
 - Publication: “Informations and Communication Technologies in Peacebuilding”
 - Lara Ehrenzeller starts as intern
- April**
 - Roundtable “The Human Rights Situation under President Duque: Possibilities for Civil Society Action”
 - à propos N°160: “Youth & Peacebuilding”
 - Roundtable “Working with the State in conflict-affected and authoritarian contexts”
 - Project NAP 1325: Meeting with the Civil Society Support Group
- May**
 - KOFF members’ meeting with a program focus on Colombia
 - Roundtable “Dealing with the Past in Colombia: Truth, Gender and Justice”
 - Film screening: “To end a war”- a film about the Colombian peace process
 - Performance at Radio Rabe: “What do oranges and onions have to do with peacebuilding?”
 - Roundtable: Myanmar Update-Series: “Addressing religion in conflict”
 - Publication of the KOFF annual report
- June**
 - Podium: “Limited Room for Manoeuvre in Latin America: Civil Society under pressure”
 - Roundtable “Participation of Victims in Dealing with the Past in Cambodia”
 - JLPM kick off meeting “Joint Learning Process on Peacebuilding & Migration”
 - Project NAP 1325: Reflection meeting on gender & prevention of violent extremism (PVE) with IDAG 1325

- Input at the General Assembly of the Agenda 2030 platform on international cooperation 2021-2024
 - Exchange with Ivan Velásquez, head of the International Commission against Impunity (CICIG) in Guatemala
- July**
 - KOFF statement on international cooperation 2021-2024
 - Film screening and discussion: “The interrupters – Breaking the Cycle of Violence”
 - à propos N°161: SDG16: “Peace, justice and strong institutions – Where do we stand?”
 - Project NAP 1325: Meeting with the Civil Society Support Group
 - August**
 - Jonas Hinck starts as intern
 - JLPM Learning Meeting “Security and Human Rights in Migration Governance: Dilemmas and Alternatives from a Peacebuilding Perspective”
 - September**
 - Roundtable “Civil Society’s Room for Manoeuvre in the Horn of Africa”
 - Project NAP 1325: Conference “Women, Peace and Security: Reclaim Prevention”
 - Project NAP 1325: Report: “Women, Peace, Security and the Prevention of Violence”
 - à propos N°162: “Women, Peace & Security: Challenges and Opportunities”
 - Input during the Swiss Peacebuilding Training Course about NGOs and civil society
 - Roundtable “Central America with the Swiss ambassador for Guatemala and Honduras”
 - October**
 - KOFF advisory board meeting
 - JLPM learning meeting: “Social Cohesion, Migration & Conflict Transformation: Challenges & Opportunities”
 - Project NAP 1325: Input on women, peace, security and the prevention of violence at the meeting of the Interdepartmental Working Group 1325 (IDAG 1325)
 - JLPM case study on social cohesion in Bangladesh
 - November**
 - Roundtable “Peace and Human Rights in Colombia and Honduras: An operation fraught with risks!”
 - à propos N°163: “Myanmar – Diverse or divided?”
 - Launch of the new website
 - December**
 - JLPM learning meeting on migration in peace processes: “Participation & Inclusion”
 - Input from Fastenopfer on alliances in peacebuilding



KOFF is a dialogue and exchange platform facilitated by swisspeace. It is jointly supported by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) and the following Swiss NGOs which are members of the platform (as of December 2019):

ae-centre	Graines de Paix	Peace Watch
Alliance Sud	GSoA	Switzerland
APRED	HELVETAS Swiss	Quaker United Nations
artasfoundation	Intercooperation	Office
Baha'i	HEKS	Schweizerischer
Brücke · Le pont	IAMANEH Switzerland	Friedensrat
Caux – Initiatives of	IFOR/Mir Switzerland	Swiss Red Cross
Change	Interpeace	Solidar Suisse
cfd – the feminist Peace	IRAS COTIS	SOS Kinderdorf
Organization	Lucerne Initiative for	Stiftung für Integrale
Coexistences	Peace and Security	Friedensförderung
DCAF	medico international	Swiss Academy for
Eirene Switzerland	Switzerland	Development
Fastenopfer	Mission 21	Swissaid
Fondation Hirondelle	MIVA Schweiz	Terre des Femmes
Women for Peace	Peace Brigades	Switzerland
Switzerland	International	Terre des hommes
PeaceWomen Across the	Switzerland	Switzerland
Globe	Peace Nexus Foundation	