

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 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

swiss
peace

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





UNITED FOR CIVIL SOCIETY PEACEBUILDING

We are living in geopolitically turbulent times. In the field of peacebuilding, actors are facing new challenges—both in their practical work and in the fundamental question of what role civil society organizations play, or can play, in this uncertain environment. In light of security-centered political debates and financial cuts in international cooperation, many KOFF member organizations find themselves needing to further emphasize—or even defend—their work and its significance. The fundamental questions “What does peace mean?” and “How do we contribute to it?” are of intense concern to the peacebuilding community in the current context. These questions have been discussed in various forums, including the International Cooperation (IC) Forum, Geneva Peace Week, and last year’s KOFF Annual Assembly. Within the KOFF platform, these debates and their related challenges will continue to accompany us in the coming year—as neither an easing of geopolitical tensions nor more favourable conditions for peace work are currently in sight.

Alongside these developments, new interconnections are gaining importance in peacebuilding, particularly the linkages between climate change and conflict. The KOFF platform addressed this topic last year during two roundtables: one focused on conflict sensitivity in climate projects within fragile and conflict-affected contexts, while the other explored the connection between climate justice and peace. These discussions made it clear that peace work must continuously evolve to respond to emerging challenges and complex dynamics.

Despite the diversity of KOFF member organizations, we are all united by our commitment to inclusive peace and security—making it essential to confront these challenges together in the current context. At KOFF, our goal is to foster exchange and shared learning within the platform as relevant as possible while considering the diverse needs of our members. Especially in times of growing uncertainty, spaces for dialogue, reflection, and mutual support are crucial. Formats such as the KOFF roundtables or our monthly intervention group provide valuable platforms for exchanging ideas on both major and minor challenges and learning from one another.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude—also on behalf of my team—for the constructive and enriching collaboration over the past year. Your expertise, dedication, and ideas are indispensable to our collective work. Let us continue the dialogue in the coming year and work together to highlight the expertise and relevance of civil society peacebuilding, leverage synergies, and learn from one another!

Cornelia Tobler

Coordinator of the KOFF Platform

HIGHLIGHTS



WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY

In 2023–2024, the “Alliance for Women, Peace, and Security”—consisting of KOFF/swisspeace, [Frieda](#) (the feminist peace organization), and [PeaceWomen Across the Globe](#)—has been developing civil society recommendations for Switzerland’s 5th National Action Plan (NAP) 1325 to implement the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda, which will be published in summer 2025.

In April 2024, the three KOFF organizations published the [final report](#) “*UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security: Civil Society Priorities for the 5th Swiss National Action Plan*”. This report is based on a feminist understanding of security and presents the consolidated recommendations gathered from hearings conducted the year before with around 20 civil society organizations and universities. The civil society priorities focus on preventing gender-based violence against women, girls, and queer individuals, improving their participation in decision-making processes, addressing their needs and experiences across all contexts, and advancing gender equality for a safer and more peaceful Switzerland and world. This publication was presented to 20 representatives of the federal administration in May as part of the Extended Interdepartmental Working Group (IDAG) 1325 in Bern, where it was well received. It was subsequently launched online in June during an event that brought together additional interested parties.

YOUTH & PEACE

Following an initial roundtable on meaningful youth participation in peacebuilding in 2023, KOFF set out to consolidate the existing experiences on this topic among various KOFF organizations. The outcome is the [Essential](#) “*From Policy to Practice – Meaningful Youth Participation in Peacebuilding*”, published in June 2024. This publication focuses on the implementation of the “participation” pillar of the UN Security Council resolution 2250, the UN Youth, Peace and Security Agenda (YPS). It explores how international NGOs can contribute to this pillar through their peacebuilding activities. Based on a series of interviews with 12 different NGOs and their partner organizations, the publication can serve as a practical guide to facilitate and improve youth participation in peacebuilding practice. The Essential was published together with a [Resource Mapping](#), consolidating articles, tools, policy papers and more for peacebuilding practitioners interested in engaging with youth in their work. Further, KOFF dedicated the June edition of its [à propos magazine](#), “*Why Young People Matter*”, to this topic.

CLIMATE & PEACE

The interlinkages between climate change, conflict and crises are gaining significance in the peacebuilding field. Last year, KOFF organized two roundtables focusing on different aspects of this intersection: one on [climate change & conflict sensitivity](#) in June and the other on [climate justice & peace](#) in December. The first roundtable addressed the challenges of climate-related projects in conflict-affected zones. It highlighted the risks that organizations need to consider, including sensitivity to interrelated climate and conflict risks. It also discussed “do no harm” approaches that can contribute to climate-resilient and peaceful solutions. The [second roundtable](#) focused on the connection between climate justice and efforts for more just, peaceful and inclusive societies. It shed light on policy work at the national and international levels and provided examples of climate justice in practice in two very different areas: Western Sahara and the region around Lake Titicaca.

HIGHLIGHTS

PEER-TO-PEER SUPPORT

As in previous years, the KOFF platform provided its members with a trusted space for mutual support, reflection on professional experiences and shared learning through the monthly KOFF intervention group meetings. Participants engage in discussions about specific challenges and inquiries pertinent to peacebuilding efforts. They receive support and learn from the expertise and experiences of peers. The topics of these year's exchanges ranged from the quota-reform protests in Bangladesh, over the implications of using AI in peacebuilding to conflict-sensitive communication.

SWISS ENGAGEMENT – CENTRAL AMERICA

In summer 2024, KOFF organized a well-attended roundtable with 17 participants on the current situation in Guatemala and Honduras. The Swiss Ambassador to the two countries, Roger Denzer, discussed Switzerland's engagement in the region and the challenges and current developments in both contexts with regard to human rights, the rule of law and the general political situation. Organized in collaboration with the Foro Suizo, this direct exchange provided participants with the opportunity to address concerns and questions raised by Swiss civil society actors.

FILM SERIES – “ILANZER SOMMER”

In August, KOFF organized and moderated a film series at the Ilanzer Sommer, a peace week organized by the Forum für Friedenskultur and the Cinema Sil Plaz. This year's theme focused on the diversity of voices and opinions. In this sense, the three movies emphasized the power of freedom of opinion, speech and belief. They featured an Iranian film director's resistance through cinema, a Malian community confronted with radical Islamism, and a Dalit women's newspaper in India uncovering the truth about gender and caste discrimination. The movie screenings were followed by three engaging discussions with experts from the two KOFF organizations Fondation Hironnelle and Interpeace, as well as an Iranian poet.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

JANUARY

Cornelia Tobler takes over the KOFF Coordination
KOFF Advisory Board Exchange at the Basel Peace Forum

FEBRUARY

[KOFF Podcast Episode](#) on Digital Peacebuilding
& the UNSC

MARCH

[à propos magazine](#):
Communication – Tool for Peace or Fuel for Conflict?

APRIL

KOFF Exchange on Israel/Palestine

MAY

Publication of the [Report](#): *Civil Society Priorities for the
5th Swiss National Action Plan 1325*

JUNE

KOFF [Roundtable](#) *Climate Change & Conflict Sensitivity*
Online-Launch of the Report *Civil Society Priorities for
the 5th NAP1325*

[Publication KOFF Essential](#) *From Policy to Practice –
Meaningful Youth Participation in Peacebuilding &
Resource Mapping*

[à propos magazine](#): *Why Young People Matter*

KOFF Roundtable *Switzerland in Guatemala &
Honduras* – Exchange with the Swiss Ambassador

AUGUST

[Ilanzer Sommer](#): Moderated discussions and
film screening with Cinema Sil Platz, Forum für
Friedenskultur, Interpeace & Fondation Hirondelle
Publication [KOFF Roundtable Synthesis](#): *Climate
Change & Conflict Sensitivity*

SEPTEMBER

[à propos magazine](#): *Culture – What Potential for Peace?*

NOVEMBER

KOFF Annual Assembly

DECEMBER

[à propos magazine](#): *Gender and Peace in Latin America –
What Lessons Can We Learn?*

[KOFF Roundtable](#) *Climate Justice & Peace*

Regular internal events for KOFF members:

Online Intervention Group Exchanges monthly
Advisory Board Meetings in March & November 2024
KOFF Annual Assembly in November 2024

KOFF PLATFORM IN 2024

ADVISORY BOARD

(as of December 2024)

- Christophe Barbey, APRED

Matthias Boss, swisspeace

Owen Frazer, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation

Sibylle Ganz-Köchlin, Peace Brigades International Schweiz

Una Hombrecher, HEKS/EPER

Daniel Hostettler, Fastenaktion*

Sacha Meuter, Fondation Hirondelle

Andrea Nagel, 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

Dieter von Blarer, humanrights.ch

Andrea Zellhuber, terre des hommes schweiz

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

* President of the KOFF Advisory Board

ANNUAL FIGURES

	BUDGET	ACCOUNTS
Income		
swisspeace's contribution*	246,667.04	201,130.85
Membership fees	20,000.00	19,200.00
TOTAL	266,667.04	220,330.85
Expenses		
Staff costs	179,307.04	176,222.37
Translations & website	19,000.00	3,881.05
Activities	7,000.00	4,033.13
Direct costs (KOFF administration)	25,000.00	12,502.48
Indirect costs	36,360.00	23,691.82
TOTAL	266,667.04	220,330.85

* Origin of funds from core contribution of FDFA (PHRD)

KOFF TEAM

- Cornelia Tobler: Coordinator of the KOFF Platform
- Dorothea Schiewer: Program Assistant
- 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 more than 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 jointly financed by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (Peace and Human Rights Division) and the KOFF member organizations. It 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 15 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 2024)

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

