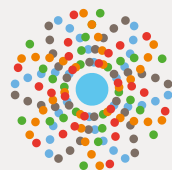


Kofi Annan
FOUNDATION



BUILDING RESILIENCE

Annual Report 2020



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More than ever before in human history,
**we share a
common destiny.**
We can master it only if we face it
together.

Kofi Annan



KOFI ANNAN

FOREWORD

Elhadj As Sy

Chair of the Kofi Annan Foundation Board

The temporary pause in conferences and travels imposed by the pandemic in 2020 suddenly gave us more time for conversations, observation and reflection. We were forced to rethink much of what we do and how we do it. Study after study has shown that inclusive leadership and positive civic engagement were key to the success of countries and organisations in battling the coronavirus and mitigating its economic and social impact.

In this context, the work of the Kofi Annan Foundation is more relevant than ever in facilitating dialogue and channelling expertise to ensure that legitimate and accountable governments are in place, that communities in fragile societies emerging from conflicts trust their institutions and that young people are fully included in decision-making processes.

Likewise, the lack of cooperation and general acrimony that characterised the international community's first response to the pandemic made it even more urgent for the Foundation to amplify Kofi Annan's legacy in promoting collaboration across borders and sectors.

The resources and expertise exist to address many global challenges.

We can strengthen the capacity of our societies to withstand current and future shocks, including climate change. But only if we face our common destiny together, as our founder urged us.

Together with the other members of the Foundation's Board, I will work to advance this vision. I am delighted that Ivan Pictet joined us in 2020. His expertise in private-public partnerships and effective governance will be of great value to the Foundation.

Partnerships are crucial to our continued success. Throughout the year, we have worked to deepen our existing collaborations and pursue new ones with international and regional organisations, academia, businesses, civil society organisations, and youth networks. This is giving us access to cutting-edge expertise and allows us to exert influence through our trusted partners. We are very grateful to our long-time donors for



ELHADJ AS SY

“We can strengthen the capacity of our societies to withstand current and future shocks, including climate change.”

their contributions and steadfast support in a difficult financial environment and hope that others will join them.

I want to express particular appreciation for the Foundation's staff, who showed a great capacity to adapt to the challenging circumstances and who continued to serve with talent, creativity and dedication. I look forward to working with them, with my fellow Board members and all of you to build the fairer, more peaceful world that Kofi Annan imagined.

Elhadj As Sy

MESSAGE

Corinne Momal-Vanian

Executive Director of the Kofi Annan Foundation

2020 was a year like no other. As waves of COVID-19 infections overwhelmed health services, shuttered schools and businesses, ravaged retirement homes, and brought travel to a halt, many national governments were severely tested, as were multilateral and regional institutions.

Yet, as scientists shared crucial information about the virus, several effective vaccines were developed in record time. The overwhelming majority of people, subjected to unprecedented limitations and hardship, complied with health regulations and demonstrated solidarity and patience. In most countries, the social fabric, although frayed by decades of growing inequalities, withstood the pressure of the pandemic.

So, we are choosing to focus our 2020 Annual Report on humanity's extraordinary resilience.

Though disproportionately impacted by the socioeconomic crisis, young people showed their unique capacity to adapt and were often the first responders, helping the aged and the vulnerable, speaking in favour of peace and demonstrating in large numbers against racism and hatred. The leaders of Extremely Together, our programme to counter violent extremism, organised a Digital Dialogue series to ensure young voices were heard. Extremely Together

also published an important position paper on youth leadership in complex crises, with recommendations to increase their inclusion in peace and security efforts, which we shared with policymakers.

We continued to support their international advocacy work and their action on the ground – in the Philippines, Somalia, Uganda and Pakistan.

And although challenges to democracy – already in retreat in many regions of the world before 2020 – were exacerbated under the guise of responding to the virus, it remains the fairest and most effective system of governance. It is also the one most people aspire to, as shown in countless surveys and the streets of Kampala, Hong Kong and Minsk. Recent events from Washington DC to Yangon only confirm the vital importance of protecting electoral integrity and democratic institutions and promoting positive civic engagement.

Throughout the year, our Elections and Democracy programme kept the spotlight on democratic processes. We advocated and worked with a range of stakeholders globally and locally to ensure that democracy did not become the silent victim of the pandemic and that digital technologies reinforce rather than weaken democratic institutions. With partners, we developed and disseminated guidance for civil society on elections with integrity during

COVID-19 and hosted a conference on “COVID-19 and Democracy in East Africa.” We also called attention to the disturbing issue of violence against women in politics.

The Foundation, therefore, demonstrated its own resilience and capacity to adapt and deliver on all fronts, despite the many constraints brought about by the pandemic.

We have ambitious plans for 2021: projects to foster peacebuilding, trust and reconciliation, strengthen democracy and promote youth leadership. Realising these projects will require that the Foundation secure sufficient resources, a significant challenge as its traditional donors reorient much of their funding towards immediate COVID-19 relief.

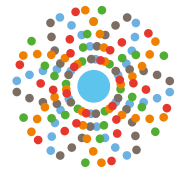
Kofi Annan would urge us to forge ahead and build new alliances – and this is exactly what we will do, as we are determined to pursue his work and protect his legacy. Two years after his death, his name, vision and values retain unique appeal and influence. From the Africa Centre for Disease Control to Mansfield College at Oxford University, institutions worldwide use his name – with our authorisation – for programmes that honour exceptional leadership, innovation or cooperation.

The Kofi Annan Foundation will continue to steward Kofi Annan's reputation carefully for acting with courage, fairness and impartiality as it helps build peaceful, democratic, and resilient societies.

Corinne Momal-Vanian

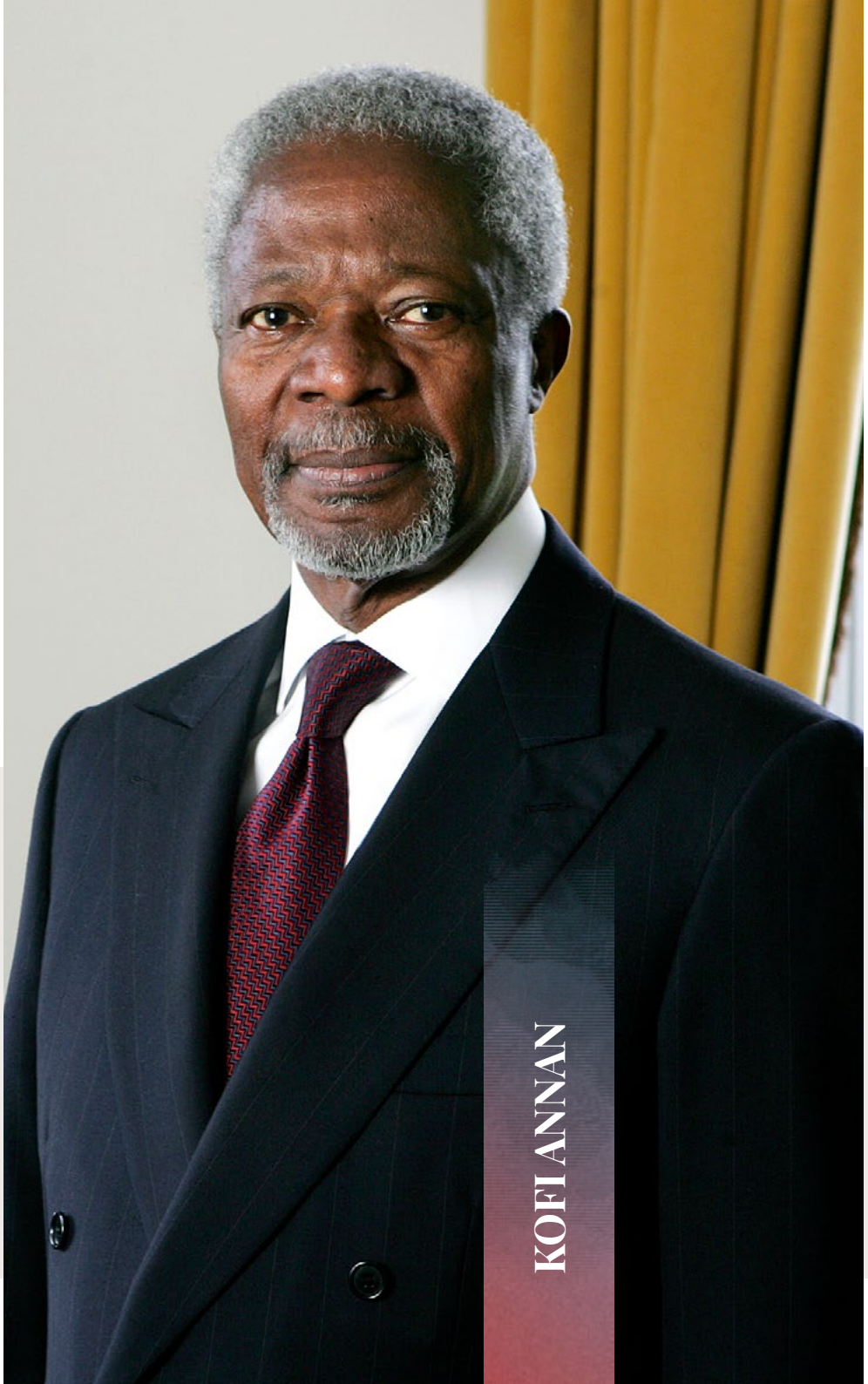



CORINNE MOMAL-VANIAN



About the Kofi Annan Foundation

The Kofi Annan Foundation is an independent not-for-profit organisation, established in Switzerland in 2007 by the late former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Our Board is composed of prominent personalities from the public and private sectors on four continents and we have a small team based in Geneva, Switzerland.





As a small Foundation, our impact is measured through our influence on key actors, as evidenced by changes in their opinions, policies, or behaviours.

The Foundation works closely with partners from international and regional organisations, foundations, universities, and civil society. We channel expertise, convene all stakeholders around the table and forge coalitions of trusted influence which can make change happen.

We are funded by public and private donors and take particular care to ensure funding sources are beyond reproach and that contributions are politically untied.

We carefully steward Kofi Annan’s reputation for acting with honesty, fairness and impartiality. Our work is underpinned by the same courage, integrity, and creativity that characterized his efforts to resolve even the most intractable of global challenge.

 **OUR MISSION**
To help build peaceful, democratic, and resilient societies.

 **OUR VALUES:**
Inclusion, diversity, innovation and sustainability are at the heart of everything we do.

-  **OUR CORE AREAS OF WORK:**
-  Elections & Democracy
 -  Youth Leadership
 -  Peace & Trust
 -  Protecting & Enhancing Kofi Annan’s Legacy
-  **WHAT WE DO:**
- Policy development
 - Public advocacy
 - Country engagements through:
 - Private diplomacy
 - Advisory and operational activities.

20 ways we helped build more peaceful, democratic and resilient societies in 2020

The work of the Foundation reaches all corners of the globe. Our work depends on donors and partners from around the world, and in addition to our Geneva headquarters, our team has relationships with organisations and partners on the ground on all continents.

What follows is a snapshot of our activities around the world in 2020.



5

The number of Kofi Annan scholarships awarded with Mansfield College, Oxford

90m readers reached

by our Open Letter “Democracy must not become the silent victim of the Coronavirus pandemic” published in two major newspapers

17

The number of languages spoken by our team

Our Board expanded to include

10 members

who hail from

4 continents

Our Executive Director, Corinne Momal-Vanian, joined a network of

254 international Gender Champions

...and she committed to 2 actions focused on gender equality in 2020

42

The number of local youth-led initiatives run by Extremely Together Chapters to prevent violent extremism

4

#KAFDialogues organized online in 2020

30

The number of speaking opportunities and media placements Extremely Together Leaders undertook to advocate for youth leadership in peace and the prevention of violent extremism

22,000

x | 🔍

young people were engaged in Extremely Together online consultations on the effects of the pandemic on youth action for peace and preventing violent extremism

4

Extremely Together local chapters established (Somalia, Uganda, Pakistan and the Philippines) with more to come!

13

The number of recommendations in our KACEDDA report

18 DONORS

Thank you!

31 partners

11

members of the Electoral Integrity Initiative

3,000

The number of people who watched our event on COVID-19 and the threats to democratic norms

40

The number of experts who presented during our two-day conference on “COVID-19 AND DEMOCRACY IN EAST AFRICA”

64,600

people follow the Foundation on Instagram

6

organisations endorsed the Guidelines for civil society and its supporters on elections with integrity during COVID-19

12

young Kofi Annan Changemakers will be chosen to dialogue with senior leaders every year starting in 2021!



Elections & Democracy

KEY CHALLENGES

- In 2020, over 70 elections at national or local level were postponed or cancelled due to COVID-19.¹
- Since the coronavirus outbreak began, the condition of democracy and human rights has worsened in 80 countries.²
- Restrictions on the news media as part of the response to COVID-19 occurred in at least 91 countries.³
- 64 percent of experts contributing to a recent Freedom House Report agreed that the impact of COVID-19 on democracy and human rights in their country of focus will be mostly negative over the next three to five years.⁴

Although challenges to democracy - already in retreat in many regions of the world before 2020- were exacerbated under the guise of responding to the coronavirus, democracy remains the fairest and most effective system of governance. It is also the one most people aspire to.

References:

1. International IDEA. (2020). Global overview of COVID-19: Impact on elections. Available online at www.idea.int/news-media/multimedia-reports/global-overview-covid-19-impact-elections

2. Freedom House. (2020). Democracy under Lockdown - The Impact of COVID-19 on the Global Struggle for Freedom. Pp. 1. Available online at <https://freedomhouse.org/report/special-report/2020/democracy-under-lockdown>

3. Freedom House. (2020). Democracy under Lockdown - The Impact of COVID-19 on the Global Struggle for Freedom. Pp. 3. Available online at <https://freedomhouse.org/report/special-report/2020/democracy-under-lockdown>

4. Freedom House. (2020). Democracy under Lockdown - The Impact of COVID-19 on the Global Struggle for Freedom. Pp. 1. Available online at <https://freedomhouse.org/report/special-report/2020/democracy-under-lockdown>

ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRACY

A selection of our work in 2020

ELECTORAL INTEGRITY

In 2013, the Kofi Annan Foundation launched the Electoral Integrity Initiative (EII). The EII is an informal network of organisations and individuals who share a common concern for the unaddressed political challenges that undermine elections, especially in countries that have recently emerged from, or are experiencing, prolonged political instability.

In partnership with the Open Society Foundations and other Electoral Integrity Initiative members, the Foundation helped develop and disseminate guidelines that would facilitate safe and credible elections during a pandemic. The guidance provided a set of goals civil society actors and supporters could advocate for to make voting safe and accessible in the age of COVID-19. [See the Guide >](#)

Arnaud Akodjenou, the Foundation’s senior advisor for Africa, visited Côte d’Ivoire to assess the electoral environment situation ahead of the October 2020 elections. Arnaud met with key political actors, opposition groups, civil society organisations, and religious leaders. All groups welcomed the Foundation’s willingness to contribute to efforts to reduce tensions ahead of the presidential election.

The Foundation hosted two Electoral Integrity Initiative (EII) Core Group Meetings in 2020. The meetings bring together key experts to discuss upcoming elections that may lack credibility and develop unified responses and address critical thematic developments that undermine democracy.

ELECTIONS & DEMOCRACY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

The Kofi Annan Commission on Elections and Democracy in the Digital Age (KACEDDA) launched its final report at the World Economic Forum in Davos. The event marked the start of a concerted outreach and advocacy campaign, which was unfortunately curtailed by the impact of COVID-19 and associated restrictions. Discover the recommendations in the [KACEDDA Final Report >](#)

The Foundation welcomed Facebook’s policy on political advertising, which was in line with the final recommendations of the Kofi Annan Commission on Elections and Democracy in the Digital Age. The policy allows users to opt-out of seeing political ads and provides additional information about the purchaser of the ad and its target audience.



ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRACY:

Advocating for the Protection of Democracy

The Foundation hosted an online event linked to COVID-19 and the threats to democratic norms. The event included former presidents Doris Leuthard and Goodluck Jonathan, Foundation Chair ElHadj As Sy, and Prof. Ghassan Salamé. Over 3,000 people around the world viewed the discussion.

[Watch the discussion again >](#)

The team also hosted a series of webinars linked to the impact of COVID-19 on democracy in Latin America, Africa and Southeast Asia.

[More about the #KAFDialogues series >](#)

The Foundation participated in an event on digital threats to democracy hosted by the École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) in Lausanne. The event included private sector actors, technology companies, academics. It served as an ideal platform to discuss and advocate for the findings of the Kofi Annan Commission on Elections and Democracy in the Digital Age.

The Kofi Annan Foundation and the Inter-Parliamentary Union hosted a webinar on “Youth Engagement in Politics in the Hashtag Age” during Geneva Peace Week 2020. With a focus on Africa, this discussion looked at social media as a positive and negative tool used by youth in electoral processes.



PROTECTING ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRACY

To mark the ‘International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women’, the Foundation organised a webinar in cooperation with the Inter-parliamentary Union. The event brought together gender experts to reflect on solutions to violence against women in politics. During the webinar, we presented a policy paper on Violence Against Women in Politics, authored by Carmen Alanis (former president of the Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judicial Branch, Mexico). [Find out more about how to protect women in politics against violence >](#)

The Foundation released a statement supporting the elections in Ghana, calling on Ghanaians to continue the country’s democratic tradition - cherished by Kofi Annan - and to lead by example as the chair of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The statement welcomed the code of conduct the presidential candidates were to sign under the aegis of the National Peace Council and called on all voters to abide by the public health guidelines issued by the election commission.

The Foundation published an Open Letter signed by 28 global leaders calling for measures to ensure that the COVID-19 pandemic is not used as an excuse by leaders to curtail fundamental freedoms and undermine democracy. The letter was published in Le Monde and El Pais and reached over 90 million readers globally. [See who signed the letter >](#)

The Head of the Elections and Democracy Programme, Sebastian Brack, was interviewed about the erosion of democratic freedoms and the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on elections worldwide. Geneva Solutions published an article based on the interview in November.

Sebastian Brack was also interviewed by the Swiss news agency ATS about the impact of the US election outcome on democracy, both within the United States and in other countries across the world.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Protecting voters, Protecting the vote

The conference ‘COVID-19 and Democracy in East Africa: Protecting Voters, Protecting the Vote’, organised by the Kofi Annan Foundation and the Society for International Development, with the support of the United Nations Democracy Fund, examined the state of democracy in East Africa¹ in the context of a pandemic that has led to democratic backsliding in over eighty countries around the world.²

The conference could not have been more opportune, taking place only a few weeks after the controversial general elections in Tanzania, which saw the ruling party clinch 98.86% of the seats in Parliament. The event also happened the day after the Ugandan security forces killed over fifty opposition supporters and arrested the President’s leading rival in the upcoming elections over violations of COVID-19 related restrictions on the size of campaign rallies.

It also took place only a few days before the report of the Building Bridges Initiative was launched in Nairobi to initiate a constitutional amendment process ostensibly mooted to help fix some of the country’s deep-rooted challenges such as the cyclic post-election violence.

Surveys show that Africans express support for multiparty democracy³, and open and fair elections in particular.⁴ Yet many African and Eastern African countries have experienced democratic setbacks over the past few years.⁵ As highlighted during the high-level segment of the conference, the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated and exacerbated the assault on democracy and human rights globally. Graça Machel noted that in many parts of Africa, as elsewhere, governments viewed COVID-19 as an excuse to shift the balance of power in their favour.

The conference explored the challenges the region is facing and sought to identify opportunities for protecting and promoting democratic norms and ensuring electoral integrity. As emphasised by President Goodluck Jonathan in his keynote address, democracy remains a challenge to many African countries, but the aspiration to genuine democracy has taken root, especially among youth, and in this generation, he sees hope for a better future.

[Discover the 14 recommendations from the report >](#)



1 Defined narrowly to include only Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda

2 Freedom House: Democracy under Lockdown – The Impact of COVID-19 on Global Freedom <https://freedomhouse.org/article/new-report-democracy-under-lockdown-impact-covid-19-global-freedom>

3 Afrobarometer: Africans increasingly support multiparty democracy, but trust in political parties remains low. <https://afrobarometer.org/press/africans-increasingly-support-multiparty-democracy-trust-political-parties-remains-low>

4 Afrobarometer: Africans want open elections – especially if they bring change https://afrobarometer.org/sites/default/files/publications/Policy%20papers/ab_r7_policypaper58_africans_want_elections_especially_if_they_bring_change.pdf

5 Freedom in the World 2020: A Leaderless Struggle for Democracy; The Retreat of African Democracy <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/africa/2019-01-17/retreat-african-democracy>



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Eliminating Violence Against Women in Politics

Violence against women in politics is an intolerable violation of women's rights which poses fundamental challenges to democratic values and electoral processes. To tackle this issue, the Kofi Annan Foundation commissioned Carmen Alanis, the first female Chief Justice at the Superior Chamber of the Electoral Court of Mexico, and member of the Kofi Annan Foundation's Electoral Integrity Initiative, to produce a policy paper which highlights the barriers women face in their attempts to access political spaces, as well as the challenges they encounter if elected to public office.

The paper addresses three vital questions:

1. Why do women face barriers in exercising their political and electoral rights?
2. If violence against women in politics is a global phenomenon with a negative impact on democracies, why is the problem still not being adequately addressed by states?
3. Do current models of access to justice engage with the issue effectively?

The paper demonstrates that violence against women in politics undermines electoral integrity by disregarding the principles of universal suffrage and political equality. These principles are not being fulfilled in newer or older democracies across the world, with various barriers to equal and universal political participation.

For a very long time, women's interests, voices and opinions were not represented and although this changed with the advent of women's suffrage, affirmative measures (such as quotas and reserved seats) and progress towards parity, much remains to be done to build truly inclusive democratic societies where women can participate in political life and institutions on an equal footing.

The paper provides a series of recommendations to eliminate violence against women in politics, addressed to states, civil society actors, academics and others. By mobilising the appropriate resources and political will to implement the recommendations, we can help bolster electoral integrity and uphold the values of equality and inclusivity that lie at the heart of democracy.

[Download the Paper >](#)

ELECTIONS & DEMOCRACY

A selection of projects we hope to deliver in 2021 & beyond

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY
AND ELECTORAL INTEGRITY IN WEST AFRICA

2021 will mark the 20th anniversary of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Protocol on Democracy and Governance. The Foundation hopes to work with key partners in the region to highlight the enduring importance of this document and recommit all political actors to its implementation.

THE KOFI ANNAN COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
AND DEMOCRACY IN THE DIGITAL AGE (KACEDDA)

Awareness has increased in the past few years among governments, political scientists, traditional media and the public at large of the impact that digital platforms and online services can have on social cohesion, democracy and electoral processes. The Foundation will continue efforts to implement several recommendations in the KACEDDA report, including: the development of an Index to predict the weaponisation of social media within an election, codes of conduct for political campaign consultants, and new norms to push back against malicious foreign interference.

The Foundation will also encourage discussions across continents on the challenges and opportunities that lie at the intersection of democracy, politics and digital technologies and whether different solutions are needed for different contexts. It will convene a panel of experts in the fields of digital technologies and political science to explore the situation in Europe and Africa.



Promoting Youth Leadership

Key Challenges

- In 2020, there were 1.85 billion young women and men 10 to 24 years of age in the world, 90 per cent of whom live in developing countries.¹
- One in four young people is affected by violence or armed conflict.²
- Young people (15-24) were the group most affected by the rise in unemployment precipitated by the pandemic between February and March 2020.³

Young people demonstrated a unique capacity to adapt and grow their activities for peace and the prevention of violent extremism despite restrictions and challenges brought about by the pandemic. They were often the first responders in helping the most vulnerable.

1. Youth and peace and security - Report of the Secretary-General (S/2020/167): https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B658FCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_2020_167_e.pdf

2. Disproportionately Affected Youth Must Be Central to COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery Plans, Experts Tell Security Council, Stressing Their Key Role as Game-Changers: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2020/sc14170.doc.htm>

3. <https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/youth-and-covid-19-response-recovery-and-resilience-c40e61c6/>

PROMOTING YOUTH LEADERSHIP

A selection of our work in 2020

EXTREMELY TOGETHER NATIONAL CHAPTERS: EMPOWERING YOUTH AS LEADERS OF PEACE

In early 2020, the Foundation established the first Extremely Together country Chapters in Uganda, Somalia, Pakistan and the Philippines. These national chapters aim to build a network of young people, equipped to understand the causes of violent extremism and to lead actions that promote social cohesion and peace in their communities.

All Chapters were affected by COVID-19 restrictions but managed to adapt to their new environment.

- In Uganda, for instance, the Chapter replaced some of its in-person dialogue sessions with talk-shows on community radios to provide a platform where young people can express their concerns in a constructive way at a time of increased hardship.
- In Somalia, the Chapter launched an online campaign to direct the spotlight on young female nurses and doctors and emphasize their role as conveyors of peace, and to counter misinformation related to the pandemic.
- In Pakistan and the Philippines, the teams adapted their research methodology to carry out interviews and focus group discussions by phone and through online platforms.

PROMOTING YOUTH LEADERSHIP

PROMOTING YOUTH LEADERSHIP

A selection of
our work in 2020

Somalia & Uganda

The Somalia and Uganda Chapters are led by Extremely Together young leaders Ilwad Elman and Hassan Ndugwa respectively, and their organizations, Elman Peace Centre and the Uganda Muslim Youth Development Forum (UMYDF), with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

In Somalia, the Chapter held weekly meetings and capacity-building activities for youth in Mogadishu in a 'Youth Hub' created for the Extremely Together Chapter and hosted at the Elman Peace Centre. They also organised a series of awareness raising and training sessions in conflict analysis and violence prevention in schools, universities and Internally Displaced People camps.

Throughout the year, the Uganda Chapter focused its engagement on Kampala and Bugiri, a district in the east of the country that has been a target of recruitment by violent groups. The Chapter facilitated regular community dialogues between youth from the

marginalised and self-isolated Salafi community and representatives of Bugiri local authorities, as well as between disenfranchised young people from one of the hotspots of Kampala and the rest of the community. The Chapter also used theatre as a tool to raise awareness of the threat of extremism, break prejudices and foster mutual understanding among the students from two secondary schools in Kampala and their families.

"The Chapter facilitated regular community dialogues between youth from the marginalised and self-isolated Salafi community and representatives of Bugiri local authorities, as well as between disenfranchised young people."



In the context of the 2020/2021 parliamentary and presidential elections in both countries – elections fraught with risks of political violence- the two Chapters held workshops to educate youth on democratic and electoral processes. In Somalia, the Chapter focused its efforts on university students. In Uganda, the Chapter facilitated a dialogue with

political parties and young people to stop political parties from manipulating youth into violence and to encourage them to take youth priorities into account in their political programmes. The Chapter has inspired the creation of peace committees at the community level in Kampala focused on diverting youth from violent electoral action.



PAKISTAN AND THE PHILIPPINES

PROMOTING YOUTH LEADERSHIP

A selection of
our work in 2020

Pakistan & the Philippines

National Extremely Together (ET) Chapters were also launched in Pakistan and the Philippines with the support of the European Union, and in the context of a two-year regional project. The project is led by KRIS in the Philippines, the College of Youth Activism and Development (CYAAD) in Pakistan and the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) in Bangladesh. It aims to foster the capacity of civil society organisations to promote youth leadership in preventing violent extremism and analyse the drivers of violent extremism among urban youth in these three countries.

The Philippines and Pakistan Chapters are led by Extremely Together young leaders Arizza Nocum and Syed Ali Abbas Zaidi.

■ In Pakistan, the Chapter held a series of training workshops in preventing violent extremism (PVE) for young people in Lahore, Islamabad and Peshawar. Later, participants developed city-wide campaigns to apply their new knowledge, using art, sports and inter-faith dialogue to promote unity and respect for diversity across all communities.

■ In the Philippines, the team organised its first training activities on peace and PVE for youth in Manila.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

The Importance of Youth Involvement in Peace & Security

Concerned at how extremists worldwide are exploiting the uncertainty and fear created by the COVID-19 pandemic to reinforce their rhetoric and enrol new recruits, Extremely Together young leaders and the Kofi Annan Foundation published a position paper in summer 2020.

The paper calls on global decision-makers and young people to join forces and address the discrepancy between the leadership demonstrated by young people in dealing with the tensions created by the crisis and their continued exclusion from the peace and security agenda, and from decision-making in general.

In 2020, young people demonstrated how fast and effective they have been in responding to the pandemic by helping the vulnerable, spreading messages to prevent violent extremism (PVE) and filling gaps in governments' responses. But youth continue to encounter structural barriers to their meaningful participation in peace and security efforts.

The position paper suggests that an intergenerational effort is the only way to address young people's increasing distrust in institutions, solve the most pressing challenges of today and build up the world's immune system ahead of the next crisis.

The paper lays out concrete recommendations drawn from the Extremely Together series of virtual youth consultations and an online survey that engaged over 22,000 young people worldwide to reflect on the effects of the pandemic on young people's PVE efforts. In 2020, the fifth anniversary of the UN Security Council resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security was a unique opportunity to accelerate the necessary shift from seeing youth as 'not ready for the job' to mainstreaming intergenerational co-leadership.

Two animated videos were shared on social media, including by the UN Youth Envoy, to disseminate the policy recommendations as widely as possible in an innovative and easily accessible format.

[See the videos >](#)

Find out more about the challenge of youth exclusion from decision-making, and what multilateral organizations, member states, young people, and youth groups can do.

[Download the paper >](#)

YOUTH ADVOCACY

Building on the position paper, Extremely Together directed specific advocacy efforts towards the European Union, a major actor in the peace, security, human rights and development agendas.



Together with the Kingdom of Denmark, the Foundation organised an online event featuring high-level EU officials on the “5th anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Resolution: Learning from good practice to accelerate youth inclusion in building peace”. The panellists representing the EU, the Danish government and Extremely Together offered concrete examples of how they have increased youth leadership in peace and security through policy formulation, funding support and in-country engagement. They also reflected on what remains to be done and proposed additional actions to achieve genuine youth inclusion in peace and security.

The Civil Society Dialogue Network's consultations on the European Union's new funding instrument around the 'Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention' thematic provided another opportunity to share the recommendations with European institutions.

Extremely Together Leaders Ilwad Elman and Hajer Sharief advocated for increased youth inclusion in the Youth Silencing the Guns intergenerational dialogues organised by the Office of the African Union Youth Envoy. The Foundation was a partner of the dialogues.

The Extremely Together Leaders shared their expertise in youth leadership and preventing violent extremism through a variety of publications, interviews and events, including:

Fatima Zaman and Bjorn Ihler led a virtual Extremely Together walk in July as part of the 24-hour Mandela Mile livestream, which honored the legacy of Nelson Mandela and Kofi Annan.

The Kofi Annan Foundation partnered with the AU-EU Youth Hub on their virtual Youth Meet-Up, which included Ilwad Elman and Fatima Zaman as panelists in the Peace and Security segment.

PROMOTING YOUTH LEADERSHIP

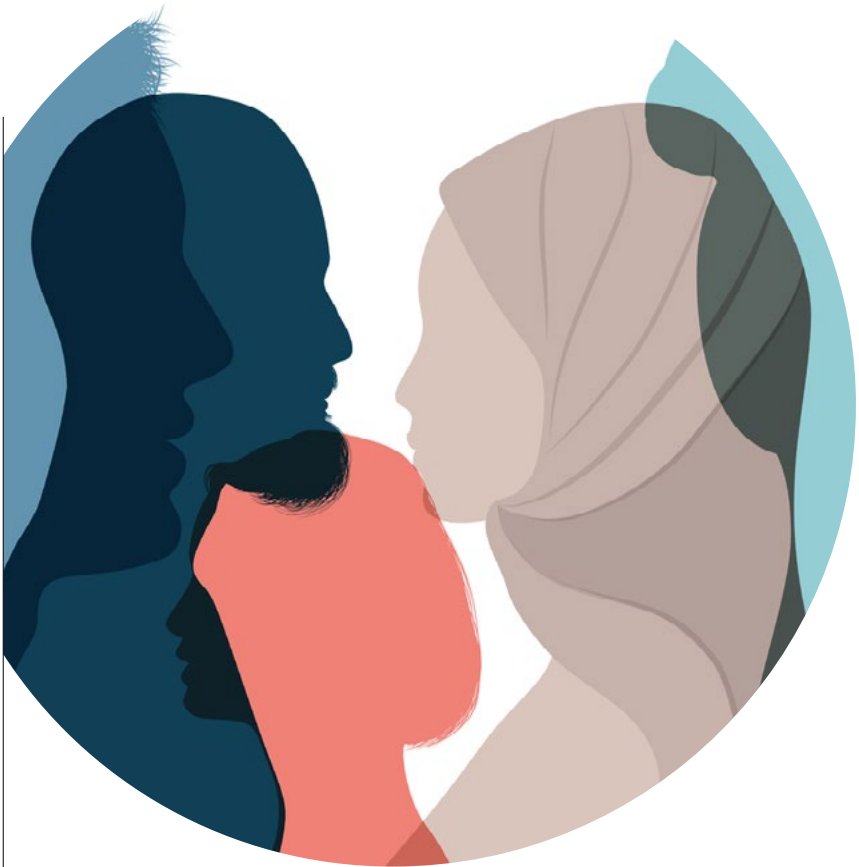
A selection of projects we hope to deliver in 2021

— EXTREMELY TOGETHER NATIONAL CHAPTERS —

- Expanding Extremely Together into the Sahel region, a region deeply affected by violent extremism.
- Young people from Extremely Together Uganda and Somalia Chapters will meet for a regional exchange of experiences and lessons on promoting peace and youth-led PVE in Africa.

— GATHERING INSIGHTS ABOUT YOUNG LEADERS —

Joining forces with ChangemakerXchange and a group of like-minded organisations including youth networks to carry out a first of its kind Global Study of Young Changemakers. Due to be published in June 2021, the report will aim to dive beneath the surface and analyse in depth the situation of young people striving to make a change. The research will gather key insights about young changemakers’ needs, barriers, and unfulfilled potential and produce concrete and applicable recommendations about how policy-makers and organisations can best support young changemakers to increase their impact.



PROMOTING YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Kofi Annan Changemakers Intergenerational Dialogue for Impact

In 2021, the first annual cohort of the Kofi Annan Changemakers initiative will come together online and in-person (in Geneva, Switzerland) for a project to make the voices of young people truly count. 12 young leaders from around the world will be chosen. The cohort will have demonstrated commitment and impact in their diverse fields. They will interact with leaders in the high-level network of Kofi Annan and his Foundation, and identify ways to build and strengthen their capacity for positive action.

Aligned with Kofi Annan’s strong belief in the importance of youth leadership, the Kofi Annan Foundation has designed an initiative based on three pillars:

- 1.** Dialogue and mutual learning between this new generation of changemakers and experienced experts and leaders who worked closely with Kofi Annan and/or his Foundation.
- 2.** Insight into the “Kofi Annan Way” through a series of encounters and workshops to teach and bring to life the values and approaches underpinning the work of Kofi Annan and his colleagues.
- 3.** Each Changemaker will be matched with a mentor/expert in their field to exchange with during and after the programme and brainstorm how to apply what they have learnt and how best to use a seed grant given to them to scale up a project.



Building Peace & Trust

Key Challenges

- Globally, the number of war-related deaths has been declining since 1946. However, conflicts and violence are on the rise again, with many conflicts today waged between non-state actors such as political militias, criminal, and international terrorist groups.¹
- Between 1992 and 2019, only 13 per cent of negotiators, 6 per cent of mediators, and 6 per cent of signatories in major peace processes worldwide were women.²
- About seven out of every ten peace processes did not include women mediators or women signatories.³

¹ Vision of Humanity Global Peace Index 2020, Institute for Economics and Peace

² and ³ UN Women. Facts and figures: Women, peace, and security. https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/facts-and-figures#_edn1

COVID-19 has disrupted peace efforts by delaying diplomatic initiatives and putting a halt to mediation processes from the Middle East to South Caucasus and Latin America, preventing post-conflict societies from receiving the support they need to establish effective approaches to lasting peace. The crisis has also aggravated existing inequalities by limiting people's access to public services and has severely jeopardized their livelihoods.

These injustices pose a clear threat to long-lasting peace in fragile countries. Yet, peacebuilders remain engaged around the world in efforts to promote reconciliation and foster trust in societies emerging from conflicts. Their knowledge and good practices need to be made available to all those trying to build peace.

PEACE & TRUST

Making Peace Last

A selection of our work in 2020

PROVIDING EXPERT INPUTS INTO RECONCILIATION HANDBOOK

The Legatum Institute invited the Foundation to review its publication entitled “Breaking the Cycle of Violence: Fostering peace and reconciliation in post-conflict environments”, which examines the individual, community and national levels at which reconciliation occurs. Studying countries at different stages in their peacebuilding processes (Rwanda, Colombia and Sri Lanka), the report showcases various approaches to dealing with the legacies of violence. It emphasizes the importance of healing individual trauma to foster social cohesion.

FEEDING RECONCILIATION EFFORTS ON THE ISLAND OF IRELAND WITH LESSONS FROM OTHER POST-CONFLICT COUNTRIES

The Kofi Annan Foundation joined forces with the ‘Our Generation’ project led by Cooperation Ireland and

Action Mental Health. The Foundation provides advice and assists with regional cross-community and cross-border sharing of learning as a ‘Project Reference Group member’.

The project aims to build positive relations and emotional resilience in communities impacted by four decades of The Troubles across the island of Ireland. It provides prevention, early intervention, and recovery activities delivered on a cross-border and cross-community basis to support children and young people’s mental and emotional well-being within local communities. The Foundation presented lessons drawn from reconciliation processes in various countries.

Learn more about the lessons in our report: [Challenging the Conventional: Making Post-violence Reconciliation Succeed.](#)

ELEVATING YOUTH VOICES

[The Principles for Inclusive Peace](#) is a two-year process, launched in late 2020, that aims to develop international principles to enable local, national and international actors to design and implement more inclusive peace processes that result in long-term sustainable peace. It is led by a High-level Commission and supported by a Secretariat hosted by Interpeace. The Kofi Annan Foundation contributes to the initiative as a member of its multi-stakeholder platform that provides advice and recommendations to the Commission. Together with its Extremely Together young leaders, it will also run country consultations to collect young people’s perspectives on existing flaws in peace processes and make them more inclusive.

"There is no development strategy more beneficial to society as a whole – women and men alike – than the one which involves women as central players."

Kofi Annan

ADVOCATING FOR THE MEANINGFUL INCLUSION OF WOMEN IN PEACEBUILDING

20 years after the adoption of the United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, which recognised the importance of women participation in all UN peace and security efforts, much remains to be done. During the ‘16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence’, held every year in November and December, the Foundation published an opinion piece that stresses the need to move beyond a merely quantitative approach to women’s inclusion in peacebuilding processes and provide the conditions for their meaningful involvement.



MAKING PEACE LAST



Women's Participation in Peace Processes – is it enough?

The inclusion of women in peacebuilding cannot be a box-ticking exercise. Women should be included in every phase of peacebuilding, and patriarchal norms and other structural fault lines that are often at the heart of conflicts should be addressed head-on. We need processes that truly promote and value the power of women's agency, as highlighted in "Challenging the Conventional: Making Post-Conflict Reconciliation Succeed."

The report, produced by the Kofi Annan Foundation and Interpeace, emphasises that "it is the quality of women's participation rather than the quantity that is significant to the overall success of peace agreements." The report also highlights that "fostering women's participation in reconciliation processes can facilitate the development of public debate around the transformation of negative gender paradigms that are often associated with – and in some cases underpin – polarising and conflictual socio-political dynamics."

INCLUSION FOR THE RIGHT REASONS

As a first step, peacebuilders need to include women for the *right* reasons. Too often, their inclusion is based on assumptions that reproduce gender stereotypes:

1. PARTICIPATION DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT

It is sometimes said that women need to be included in peace negotiations because of their natural inclination for dialogue and empathy and for acting as neutral peace negotiators. However, do women need to be included in decision-making just as a means to an end (i.e. higher probability of peace negotiations to succeed given to their alleged 'empathy superpowers')? Or do they need to be included because their voice is equally valuable? Good intentions are not enough, and participation alone does not necessarily mean meaningful involvement in peacebuilding processes.

2. WOMEN ARE MORE THAN VICTIMS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE DURING CONFLICT

At times, women have been included in peacebuilding decisions when they relate to gender-based violations but have remained shut out of other discussions. This would suggest that women must be part of peace negotiations only in so far as they are the victims of the conflict. However, women are more than victims of gender-based violence during conflicts. They are agents of change and long-term transformation. The case study of Northern Ireland, as mentioned in the Kofi Annan Foundation's report, is an encouraging example of women contributing to a complete historical narrative of the conflict – one that does not only reflect the armed groups' perspectives – and allowing for greater ownership of the peace process.

3. REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN SHOULD NOT BE BASED ON PERCEIVED GENDER ROLES

One also often hears that women need to be included because they are the community's primary caregivers. Their central role in managing inter-communal relationships will be cited, as will the widely shared perception that they are less threatening and more inclined to engage in dialogue than men. Using traditionally established or perceived gender roles to justify women's representation, although it may serve short-term goals, risks reinforcing stereotypes and could ultimately be counter-productive.

[Read the full article on our website >](#)



PEACE & TRUST

A selection of projects we hope to deliver in 2021 and beyond

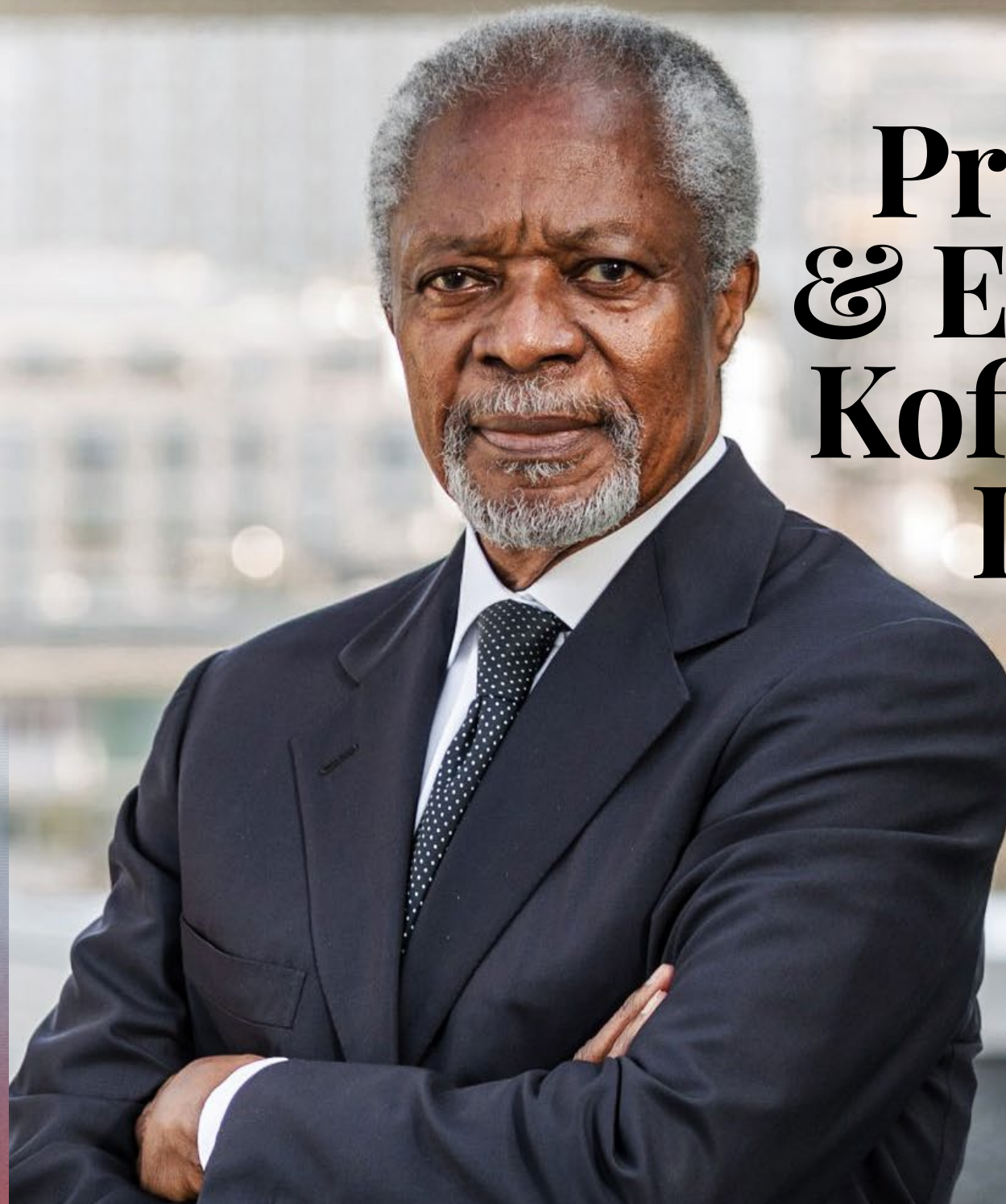
BUILDING PEACE ONLINE

In partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the Kofi Annan Foundation hopes to roll out the Building Peace Online initiative, a digital knowledge portal and training platform to enhance peacebuilding and mediation capacity on truth-seeking, reconciliation and accountability. Building on the Foundation's '[Challenging the Conventional](#)' research findings, the platform will include learning materials, targeted training programmes and experience sharing exchanges between diverse actors engaged in peace efforts through expert webinars, regional workshops and strengthening peer support systems.

USING MUSIC TO STRENGTHEN PEACE

In Colombia, the Foundation, together with local organisations Alianza para la Paz and Batuta, will use music teaching and training in gender equality and reconciliation to build the resilience of children and their families in some of the communities most affected by the conflict. Batuta's musical centres will become spaces for peace, reconciliation and recreation of memory for children, adolescents and their communities through a model of musical-psychosocial care.

KOFI ANNAN



Protecting & Enhancing Kofi Annan's Legacy

The Vision Annan programme aims to strike a balance between the protection of the name "Kofi Annan", with respect for the wishes and recommendation of the Annan family, and the promotion of the values associated to it. In doing so, it bolsters the work of Kofi Annan Foundation by ensuring the interest in the name and values of its founder continues.

PROTECTING AND ENHANCING KOFI ANNAN'S LEGACY

A selection of our work in 2020

KOFI ANNAN ROAD SAFETY AWARD

Every year, over 1.35 million people die in road accidents, and 50 million are seriously injured. Road traffic injuries are the leading cause of deaths for young people, with more than 1000 young lives lost daily. Since 2011, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the World Bank's African Transport Policy Program (SSATP), have worked to stabilise and reduce these numbers worldwide.

The Kofi Annan Foundation was delighted to grant these partners the use of the name Kofi Annan to launch a non-monetary biennial Road Safety Award in honour of the late Kofi Annan.

The Kofi Annan Road Safety Award aims to motivate key stakeholders – governments, the private sector, and civil society organisations – to develop innovative and outstanding initiatives to save lives on Africa's roads. The maiden award ceremony will be held in

Accra, Ghana, the home country of Kofi Annan, as soon as pandemic-related sanitary conditions allow and will recognise African governments that have performed well during the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020.

KOFI ANNAN SCHOLARSHIPS

A Grant of Use agreement given to Mansfield College, Oxford University for five fully funded scholarships to be awarded in honour of Kofi Annan.

ESPACE KOFI ANNAN

The renaming of the **Protocol area/VIP lounge of Geneva airport, Switzerland** as “Espace Kofi Annan”, announced on April 8th, 2020, to mark what would have been Kofi Annan's birthday.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Supporting the Future

The Kofi Annan Scholarship Programme with Mansfield College

In 2020 Mansfield welcomed its first ever cohort of Kofi Annan scholars of the Weidenfeld-Hoffmann graduate programme.

Kofi Annan officially opened the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights at Mansfield in June 2018.

The Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Scholarships and Leadership Programme aims to provide outstanding university graduates and professionals from developing and emerging economies with the opportunity to pursue study at Oxford. In addition to

their studies, the graduates participate in a tailor-made Leadership programme to give them additional practical skills and opportunities.

The Kofi Annan Scholarships at Mansfield represent a new partnership between the University of Oxford's Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Scholarships and Leadership Programme and the College. They have been made possible thanks to the generosity of Mansfield alumnus, Jan Fischer (PPE,1989).

THE 2020 SCHOLARS



MIRZA SAAIB BÉG
Master of Public Policy



ALEJANDRO BIONDI RODRIGUEZ
MSc in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation



KESSEM ADIV
MSc Refugee and Forced Migration Studies



NATALIA BRIGAGÃO
Magister Juris



SARANI JAYAWARDENA
MSc in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation

PROTECTING AND ENHANCING KOFI ANNAN'S LEGACY

A selection of projects we hope to deliver in 2021 and beyond

KOFI ANNAN GENEVA PEACE ADDRESS

In collaboration with the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies and the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform (GPP), we hope to organise a high-level lecture on peace every year at the start of the Geneva Peace Week.

AFRICA CDC KOFI ANNAN GLOBAL HEALTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Supporting aspirational public health leaders (Fellows) from Africa in acquiring advanced skills and competencies to strategize, manage and lead public health programmes that will transform public health in Africa.

Fellows admitted in the programme will be senior public health professionals from African Union Member States who will contribute to and lead the implementation of a new public health order for Africa, and in turn mentor and develop the next generation of public health leaders for the continent.

THE KOFI ANNAN ROOM AT DITCHLEY

The UK-based Ditchley Foundation works with people from across the world to help sustain peace, freedom, and order. It is dedicated to creating space and time for deep reflection, sharing ideas, and making new connections across divides to build common ground and move toward solutions to complex problems.

Kofi Annan delivered Ditchley's thirty-fifth annual lecture in 1998 when he was Secretary General of the United Nations. He spoke passionately of the need to protect people above all and when necessary the imperative for states, backed by the authority of the Security Council, to intervene in the affairs of a country where human rights were being flagrantly abused. The balance between sovereignty and international obligations continues to dominate many Ditchley discussions.

Over a ten-year period, Ditchley plans to radically expand its capacity to connect people. At the heart of Ditchley Park is a Grade 1 listed house, dating from c. 1722 and built for the second Earl of Litchfield to a design by the architect James Gibbs. As part of a plan of restoration, renovation, and adaptation of the house, one of the rooms will be named in honour of Kofi Annan.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Supporting public health in Africa

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention Kofi Annan Global Health Leadership programme

In May 2020, The African Union Commission announced the launch the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) Kofi Annan Global Health Leadership Programme, at a press conference attended by Elhadj As Sy, Chair of the Kofi Annan Foundation Board. The Africa CDC is a public health agency of the African Union that supports member states' public health initiatives. It strengthens the capacity of their health institutions to deal with disease threats.

The Africa CDC Kofi Annan Global Health Leadership Programme aims to develop a core of well-trained, well-informed public health leaders and contribute to a new public health order on the continent.

THE THREE ELEMENTS OF THE PROGRAMME

1. THE PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME (PHLP)

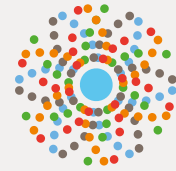
To equip emerging and established global public health leaders (fellows) to become more efficient in initiating innovative, bold, visionary, and implantable African-owned solutions to address disease threats and challenges in the 21st Century.

2. THE PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOLAR PROGRAMME (PHSP)

To support the placement of experienced, public health experts within National Public Health Institutes and Ministries of Health to enable strategic leadership, mentorship, and policy development.

3. THE VIRTUAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY (VLA)

To become the continent's leading digital "think tank" platform to democratise the search for new insights and solutions for African public health needs.



The Kofi Annan Foundation Board

We have an exceptional Board made up of global leaders from around the world.

Biographies correct as of print date.



Elhadj As Sy

Chair of the Board

Former Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).



Nane Annan

Nutrition advocate, artist, and former lawyer. Nane Annan is the wife of the late Kofi Annan.



Louise Arbour

Canadian lawyer, prosecutor and jurist. Former Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for International Migration.



Doris Leuthard

Swiss politician and lawyer. Member of the Swiss Federal Council between 2006 and 2018. She was elected as President of the Swiss Confederation for 2010 and 2017.



Graça Machel

International advocate for women's and children's rights. Former freedom fighter and first Education Minister of Mozambique.



Susana Malcorra

Former Foreign Minister of Argentina, former Chief of Staff to the United Nations Secretary-General and Under-Secretary-General for Field Support and former chief operating officer and Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme.



Bernard Mensah

President of International for Bank of America, member of Bank of America's executive management team, Chief Executive Officer of Merrill Lynch International.



Michael Møller

Former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and the 12th Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva.



Ivan Pictet

Former Senior Partner of Swiss multinational private bank Pictet & Cie and former President of Fondation pour Genève.



Ghassan Salamé

Lebanese academic, politician and diplomat who served as the Lebanese Minister of Culture from 2000 to 2003. Founding Dean of the Paris School of International Affairs.

Kofi Annan Foundation Staff



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Programme Officer, Building Trust and Peace & Promoting Youth Leadership



Sébastien F. W. Brack
Head of Programme, Elections & Democracy



Lieve Caron
Programme Associate, Building Trust and Peace & Promoting Youth Leadership
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Programme Associate, Elections & Democracy

We also want to thank our interns and any staff not listed who supported our work in 2020.

Special advisers



Alan Doss
Special Adviser



Dr. Tesfai Tecle
Senior Adviser on Food Security



Arnould Akodjenou
Special Adviser on Africa

Funding

FUNDERS



PRIVATE DONORS

Sylvie Albisati

Nane Annan

Françoise Demole

Alain Dick

Ardeshir Zahedi

We would also like to thank our donors who contributed anonymously.

PARTNERS

The Foundation works closely with a wide range of partner organisations. Our achievements in 2020 would not have been possible without the expert support provided by partners, including:

Alianza para la Paz

AU-EU Youth Hub

ChangemakerXchange

College of Youth Activism and Development

Democracy and Culture Foundation

Elman Peace Centre

European External Action Service

Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund

Goodluck Jonathan Foundation

Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva

Greycells – Association of former international civil servants for development

Instituto Nacional Electoral

International Crisis Group

International Foundation for Electoral Systems

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral

Assistance

Inter-Parliamentary Union

Interpeace

Kristiyano-Islam Peace Library

National Democratic Institute

Office of the AU Youth Envoy

One Young World

Open Society Foundations

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Society for International Development

Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Carter Centre

The Elders

Uganda Muslim Youth Development Forum

United Nations Democracy Fund

United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

United States Institute of Peace

Finances

(for the year ended 31 December 2020)

The Foundation collaborates with a variety of other organisations and operates on a modest overall annual budget; for the fiscal year 2020, its annual expenditure was CHF 2.5 million.

SUPPORTING DEMOCRACY AND ELECTIONS

CHF 1,128 | 45%



PROMOTING YOUTH LEADERSHIP - EXTREMELY TOGETHER

CHF 658 | 26%



ADVOCACY, PARTNERSHIPS, LEGACY ACTIVITIES

CHF 522 | 21%



TRANSITIONS TO PEACE

CHF 165 | 6%



COMBATting HUNGER

CHF 63 | 2%



FIGURES IN THOUSANDS OF CHF

2020 Expenses

(unaudited)

TOTAL

CHF 2,536

FOUNDATIONS

CHF 1,017 | 42%



PRIVATE

CHF 651 | 27%



GOVERNMENTS

CHF 649 | 26%



CORPORATE

CHF 125 | 5%



FIGURES IN THOUSANDS OF CHF

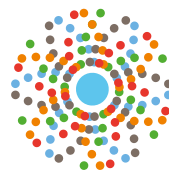
The Foundation provides transparent and detailed financial and narrative reports on its activities to its donors and partners. Grants are received on the understanding that the Foundation's integrity and confidentiality of its work will not be put at risk.

2020 Sources of Funds

(unaudited)

TOTAL

CHF 2,442



Funding our work

with your philanthropic gifts and grants

The Kofi Annan Foundation is an independent, not-for-profit organisation under Swiss law funded by a mix of public and private donors. None of our income is guaranteed, and without financial contributions from individuals, foundations, governments, and other institutions, we cannot carry out our work.

We actively seek support from individuals and organisations who share our values and aims and who wish to invest in peace, democracy, development, human rights and youth.

- Do you want to establish a long-term relationship with the Kofi Annan Foundation?
- Do you have an active interest in a specific issue that the Foundation addresses?
- Do you want to support a particular activity of the Foundation?
- Do you seek ways to back urgent responses to unforeseen threats to peace, democracy, equality, inclusion and the rule of law?

FUNDING OUR WORK

Please get in touch!

Kofi Annan Foundation

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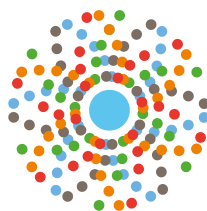
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Kofi Annan

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