



**CIVIL SOCIETY  
PLATFORM**  
FOR PEACEBUILDING  
AND STATEBUILDING

# **MIGRATION, PEACE AND SECURITY**

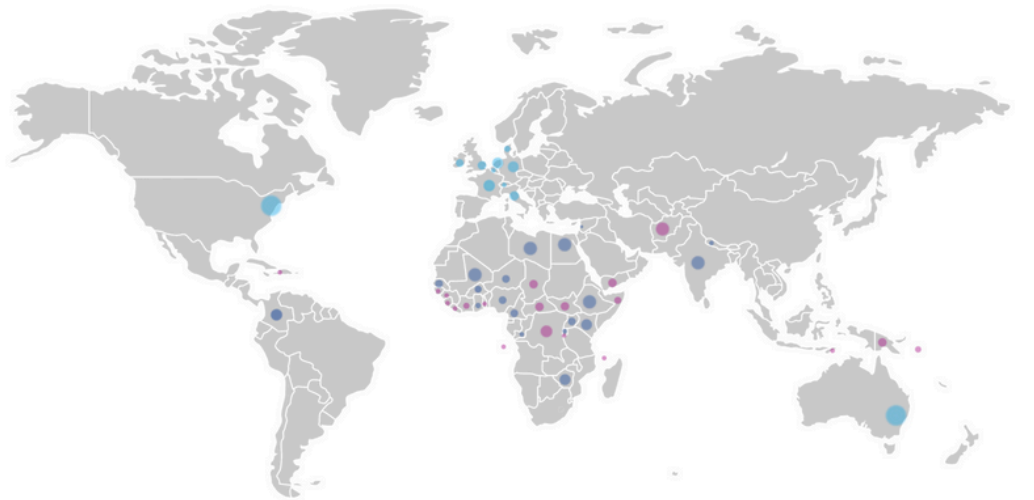
## **CSPPS BRIEFING PAPER**

**MAY 2025**

## ABOUT CSPPS

The Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS) is a global network of civil society organisations supporting peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts in fragile and conflict-affected settings. CSPPS brings together a diverse representation of civil society globally from countries affected by fragility, conflict and violence, and international civil society organisations working on the issues of peacebuilding, statebuilding, conflict prevention and development. CSPPS supports in-country interventions to amplify the voice of civil society in political dialogues and relevant policy processes.

At the global level, CSPPS represents civil society in the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS); a unique strategic tripartite partnership for political dialogue gathering civil society actors, governments from the g7+ group of countries, and donors represented by the International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF).



## ABOUT THE CSPPS BRIEFING PAPERS

As part of a grant from the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), CSPPS is developing a series of briefing papers on various themes interlinked with peacebuilding and conflict prevention. These include Gender Equality, Climate Change, Migration and Forced Displacement, Digitalisation, Health and COVID-19, Food Security and Poverty, in addition to Youth, Peace & Security, Civic Space, and Inclusion. The briefing papers are written based on consultations led by the secretariat with the CSPPS membership, and remain close to the knowledge shared as a result.

On this basis, the briefing papers aim to give a general introduction to how peacebuilding and conflict prevention are interconnected and interlinked with the various themes aforementioned. Most importantly, they present, illustrate and highlight the multifaceted and diverse work of various CSPPS members, their expertise and insights on how these interlinkages play out in practice.



The background of the entire page is a faded, high-angle photograph of a large crowd of people, likely at a public gathering or protest. The people are seen from behind, looking towards the right side of the frame. The image is in grayscale and has a soft, out-of-focus quality.

## **ABOUT THE MIGRATION, PEACE AND SECURITY BRIEFING PAPER**

This briefing paper aims to highlight how the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding perceives the overlapping and interplaying effects of migration, peace and security.

The paper begins by exploring the multidimensional nature of migration and its integration in the international policy framework and the peace and security discourse, highlighting the role of civil society in advocating for comprehensive migration governance. Secondly, the paper delves into the complex interaction between migration, peace and security, analysing the impact of migration in different contexts. The paper underscores the need for integrated approaches that address root causes, foster social cohesion, and promote inclusive policies. Finally, the paper examines CSPPS's efforts to advance a holistic understanding of the migration, peace, and security nexus. It showcases and illustrates the work of CSPPS members in addressing migration challenges and contributing to peacebuilding through advocacy, lobbying, and grassroots initiatives.

By bridging the gaps between humanitarian response, development, and peacebuilding, this paper advocates for a comprehensive and integrated approach to migration that supports more resilient, just, and peaceful societies.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

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# BORN HERE, BUT WILL NOT DIE HERE

## GRIOT OF DUGBOR

In the heart of Liberia, where the rivers run deep,  
We chant our stories, in the silence we keep.  
“I was born here, and I’ll die here,” we say,  
But whispers of doubt cloud the light of our day.

The love of Liberty brought us to this shore,  
Yet many now ponder what they’re fighting for.  
Citizenship, a bond, a promise we share,  
But rights are denied, leaving hearts in despair.

Once proud of our roots, now we long for the skies,  
Half of our people seek a new paradise.  
In a global village, where borders blur and bend,  
We chase distant dreams, but where does it end?

Côte d’Ivoire beckons, a land of refuge and hope,  
But what of our homeland? Can we learn to cope?  
With history of movement, both near and afar,  
We’ve crossed many rivers, but now we’re left scarred.

Civil wars shattered the fabric of trust,  
Communities polarized, in division we rust.  
When the state fails to nourish, when the well runs dry,  
The underprivileged rise, seeking wings to fly.

Gruesome images haunt us, of souls lost at sea,  
Drowning in desperation, where’s the safety we plea?  
Why should our youth risk their lives on the tide,  
When the land of their birth should be a place of pride?

Bad governance reigns, poverty grips like a vice,  
While the elite dine in comfort, we pay the price.  
With less than a dollar, we scrape by each day,  
Yet hope flickers still, in the hearts of the fray.

Education, a right, but a system in shambles,  
Illiteracy looms large, as opportunity scrambles.  
Our youth gamble their futures, lost in the game,  
Dreaming of a paradise, but who’s to blame?

FIFA’s funds flow like rivers, but where do they go?  
Promises unfulfilled, as the youth’s talents grow slow.  
Trafficked and lost, they seek solace in pain,  
In a world where the game’s just a pawn in the game.

Laye Donzo’s, a survival of human trafficking, tale  
speaks for thousands,  
Of journeys through darkness, of loss, and of pain.  
In Libya’s chaos, he found no safety, no peace,  
Just echoes of suffering, where hope seemed to cease.

So let us rise, Liberians, let our voices unite,  
For the love of liberty must reign in the fight.  
To build a new future, where all can belong,  
In this sweet land of liberty, let’s right every wrong.

Born here, yes, but we will not die here,  
With courage and strength, we’ll conquer our fear.  
For the heart of our nation beats strong in our chest,  
Together we’ll rise, for together we’re blessed.

Let’s reclaim our story, let’s rewrite the tale,  
For in unity and hope, we will prevail.  
From the ashes of struggle, let our spirits soar,  
In this sweet land of liberty, we’ll fight for more.



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# I. UNDERSTANDING THE MIGRATION PEACE AND SECURITY NEXUS: AN INTRODUCTION

## Defining Migration

The International Organisation for Migration defines migration as “the movement of people away from their usual place of residence, either across an international border or within a State”.<sup>1</sup> However, while there is no universal consensus on the definition of migration, it includes more than the physical displacement of a population. Migration is also part of cultural phenomena and a dynamic element in the population.<sup>2</sup> It does not simply include leaving a specific geographical area for another, but is also, and more importantly, the “physical transition of an individual or a group from one society to another”.<sup>3</sup> Therefore, it involves people who migrate and abandon a social setting. It thereby includes the cultural, economic and interpersonal dynamics that influence behaviour and relationships within the area.<sup>4</sup> Migration is a shift of both spatial and social locus.<sup>5</sup>

Displaced population can be shared in two specific categories, international migrants, when individuals cross an international border, or a neigh-

bouring country or further, or be displaced within the country, and therefore being ‘Internally Displaced Persons’ (IDPs). This categorisation is of particular relevance when it comes to international and national policy and regulation of migration IDPs.

### Voluntary Migration and the MPS Nexus

While a lot of studies focus mainly on forced migration, it is important to highlight that voluntary migration can also be a driver of conflict. This can, for instance, be because of xenophobia, embedded stereotypes and media discourses within the host communities and should also be considered when analysing the nexus.

Migration, depending upon a decision-making approach, can be either voluntary, caused by one individual's decision, or forced. Forced migration can be driven by a multitude of factors, from political causes (violence, persecution...), economic causes (resource competition, scarcity of employment ...) or physical causes, such as environmental factors driven by climate change.

### Conflict, a driver of migration: the case of Afghanistan

A wide number of geographical areas could be used as examples of conflict and violence leading to widespread displacement and migration, particularly among youth. Afghanistan is a great example of this phenomenon, as today, decades of conflict and insecurity have deteriorated the economic situation so much that families are compelled to encourage their young children to migrate.

In essence, the driving forces behind the current economic hardships, lack of education, increased psychological distress and depression, instability, and forced migration in Afghanistan can all be traced back to the conflict and violence. The youth, in particular, bear the brunt of these challenges, and their migration represents a search for hope to live in a country where there is no conflict and war.

1. ‘Fundamentals of Migration’, International Organisation for Migration

2. Zelinsky, *A Prologue to Population Geography*.

3. Eisenstadt, ‘Analysis of Patterns of Immigration and Absorption of Immigrants’.

4. ‘Social Setting’, Fiveable’.

5. Zelinsky, ‘The Hypothesis of the Mobility Transition’.



Individuals' decision to migrate, whether voluntary or forced, is shaped by several factors, including the geographical proximity, which often results in cheaper migration costs, common language, family and social networks and cultural affinities.<sup>6</sup> This is notably relevant for cross-border communities, or ethnic groups with affinities to others in the region; these ties are a strong source of social capital facilitating movement across borders, for both economic and asylum reasons.

### **Cross-border migration: Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire**

For example, for Liberians who fled to Côte d'Ivoire during the wars in Liberia, as well as for Ivorians fleeing the political unrest in Côte d'Ivoire to Liberia, ethnic ties, particularly in the border counties (Nimba, Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Maryland), were important sources of protection and shelter during and immediately after crises, and have helped in integration.

## **Migration, Peace and Security Nexus' Global Policies**

The important increase in the numbers of refugees, internally displaced persons, and other migrants, in the last decades, in relation to the complexity of the impacts migration has at the individual, national and international levels, has highlighted the necessity for the United Nations and Member States to 'recognise the need for alternative approaches to migration governance, including peacebuilding approaches'.<sup>7</sup>

Several instruments have been adopted to that end:

- **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**

Adopted on the 19th of December 2018 by the UN General Assembly, it is the first intergovernmental agreement to cover all dimensions of international migration, including humanitarian, developmental and human rights aspects.<sup>8</sup> Aligned with the 2030 Agenda, the Compact is a non-binding cooperative framework that upholds the sovereignty of States and their obligations under international law. The Compact has been designed to support international cooperation on the governance of international migration, to support states in their policy work, and to give them space and flexibility to pursue implementation based on their own migration realities and capacities.

In the Compact, the international community recognised migration as a possible source of prosperity, innovation and sustainable development. *'Realising this potential requires fair and equal partnerships that enable safe, orderly and regular migration that benefits countries of origin, destination countries and migrants alike'*.<sup>9</sup>

6. Study conducted by P4DP in collaboration with the International Center for Migration Policy Development'

7. Grossenbacher, 'Moving towards Peace: Migration in Peacebuilding Policy and Practice'.

8. 'Sustainable Development Goals', United Nations

9. BMZ, 'Centres for Migration and Development'.bmz

- **The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals**

From its introduction, the 2030 Agenda recognised the importance of migration in the context of development:

*We recognise the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development. We also recognise that international migration is a multi-dimensional reality of major relevance for the development of countries of origin, transit and destination, which requires coherent and comprehensive responses. We will cooperate internationally to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants regardless of migration status, of refugees and of displaced persons. Such cooperation should also strengthen the resilience of communities hosting refugees, particularly in developing countries. We underline the right of migrants to return to their country of citizenship, and recall that States must ensure that their returning nationals are duly received.”<sup>10</sup>*

Migration is specifically linked to Target 10.7 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies. However, migration is a cross-cutting issue in the 2030 Agenda and is related to other SDGs, in their targets as well as in their indicators. Its interconnection within the 2030 Agenda demonstrates its multi-dimensional nature and enables progress across different issues. Moreover, the SDG targets regarding migration are universal and are relevant to every migration context. SDGs can also be powerful tools to raise awareness on migration topics and their interconnection to development.

While no general agendas or policies focus on the general topic of migration in relation to peace and security, migration is included in a number of policy instruments of related domains. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 is one concrete example in which migration concerns are integrated into global policy.

- **The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030**

In recent years, the growing number of migrants affected by natural disasters has brought attention to the topic and to the need to better integrate migrants into Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) policies and practices. At the international level, the new Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 had for the first time explicitly included migrants as relevant stakeholders and recognises that “their participation and engagement are crucial for effectively building the resilience of communities and societies of origin and destination”.<sup>11</sup>

10. United Nations, ‘Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.’

11. United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, ‘Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030’.



## **Migration, Peace and Security Nexus' Global Policies - In Practice**

Originally, conflict prevention and migration were treated separately, with forced migration being treated mainly as a humanitarian concern, notably under the agency of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Over time, practitioners realised that displacement is not only a humanitarian concern but has direct implications for security and conflict dynamics. In several protracted refugee crises, migration has been shown to exacerbate local tensions or, on the contrary, contribute to peace when handled well. Therefore, peace, development and humanitarian efforts cannot be siloed. To prevent crises, programmes should link refugee support (e.g., housing, livelihoods) with mediation or community dialogue initiatives.

There is also a lack of coordination between different stakeholders in this area. Indeed, International bodies, NGOs and local authorities should coordinate their strategies, such as security policies (border controls, camps, etc. that do not undermine peacebuilding or basic human rights. Moreover, they must implement ongoing monitoring (early warning systems), which are vital to detect brewing conflicts related to displacement or resource scarcity.

Issues related to migration and peacebuilding should be addressed at all steps of the displacement: a) before (anticipating the displacement of a population, due to climate change, rise of tension in a region, etc), b) during, and c) after (with reintegration planning for returnees that address psychological support, local governance and conflict resolution).

## II. NAVIGATING THE NEXUS: HOW DOES MIGRATION INFLUENCE PEACE AND CONFLICT?

Migration can have both a positive and a negative impact on both the origin and the host communities. While migration is often seen as adding pressure to host populations, it can also reduce pressure. Many high-income countries with an ageing population and shrinking workforces (due to low birth rates and ageing population, for example) affect the economy, and would benefit greatly from immigration. Migrants often take up jobs that locals are mostly unwilling or unable to do, especially in health care, caregiving, agriculture, construction, and hospitality. Moreover, migrant labour is often demanded in the agricultural sector, particularly during the farming and harvesting period. With this additional labour force, services continue running without overburdening the local workforce. The contribution from migration can also support host countries' tax base by strengthening and increasing the working-age population, by boosting economic activity, and contributing to higher tax revenues through employment and consumption. For example, in addition to contributing to pension and social security systems, taxes generated from income and sales can increase. Reports show that in the 25 OECD countries, on average, during the 2006-2018 period, immigrants contributed more in taxes and contributions than governments spent on their social protection, health, and education.<sup>12</sup> Invariably, this not only eases fiscal pressure from an ageing native population who depend on these systems but also boosts host countries' revenue.

While migration can bring positive effects to the host community or the origin community, reducing pressure on population and unemployment rate, sudden movement of population carries its own security implications and can be a driver of conflicts and tensions.

### With the host communities

In host areas and communities, important migration flux can:

- Increasing and fostering xenophobia: often based on cultural identity and religious beliefs, but also embedded stereotypes.
- Spark conflicts over:
  - Land: both in an agricultural way, but also related to the shortage of housing.
  - Services: Rapid population shifts can strain infrastructure and compromise the efficiency of services. For example, access to education can be compromised as there can be a lack of places in schools, but also a shortage of professors for students, or health care systems that do not have enough beds in hospitals and a shortage of medical staff.
  - Social resources: important shifts of population can create competition for jobs with an important influx into the job market, which creates a disbalance between the demand and the offer.

In some host settings, tensions can be exacerbated by local authorities' lack of policies or resources to integrate newcomers effectively, leading to marginalisation or discrimination. But, in opposition, tensions can also be exacerbated by strict border controls or security policies, which can backfire and fuel resentment or illegal networks, thus amplifying instability.

These issues arise when migrants are perceived by the host community as a threat to their jobs, housing and social services, but also to their cultural identity, and their way of living. Those factors can lead to discrimination and systemic violence against migrants.

12. OECD, International Migration Outlook 2021.



### Within migrant networks:

Because of differences in origin, ethnicity or political affiliation, tensions can surface in diaspora settings, weakening peace within the network, but also risking potentially spilling over into new host contexts.

### Between migrants and host communities

- Differences in cultural norms, values and practices between migrants and host communities can sometimes lead to misunderstanding, tension and even conflict. One of the key issues reside resides in communication, especially through dialogue and the expression of respect. What might be perceived as respect and truthfulness from one community might be interpreted as rude or aggressive by another.

💡 In some African cultures, respect for the elderly is expressed by bowing when the person speaks; in contrast, in most European cultures, respectful dialogue requires direct eye contact with the interlocutor.

### In the origin community:

- Important migration flux can negatively impact the places of origin, which can experience economic consequences, with a deficit in labour force and quality, but also experience a negative social impact with the possible erosion of social cohesion.
- The influence from the diaspora can be a factor of conflict, and potentially contribute to the escalation of violence and insecurity in the origin community. Collier and Hoeffler (2001) draw a correlation between the risk of return to war after a peace settlement and the proportion of the population that had migrated. This is explained through the financial support to armed groups maintained by the diaspora who “preserved their own hatreds”, even after a peace agreement.<sup>13</sup>
  - The Irish Diaspora residing in the US has been particularly active in supporting the Irish Republican Army during the Civil War in Northern Ireland.<sup>14</sup>
  - In Somalia, the remittances from the diaspora enabled the armament of militant groups in their home countries.<sup>15</sup>

Because of these reasons, migration should be integrated into all relief responses and peacebuilding efforts. It is already explained that displaced populations, especially those experiencing forced displacement, are usually at the centre of the response, and focus on community dialogues and trauma relief. However, peacebuilding efforts should also extend to host and origin communities.

In most host areas, efforts to foster inclusive policies and reduce tensions can be as critical as conflict prevention in the regions of departure. Accordingly, it is essential to work with the host community to prevent the outbreak of conflict and tensions. In the origin areas, on the other hand, reconstruction and reconciliation are key to ensuring sustainable returns or safe conditions for those who remain.

13. Collier and Hoeffler, ‘Greed and Grievance in Civil War’.

14. Charlton, ‘Fund-Raising by a Group in U.S. Called Vital to I.R.A. Operations’.

15. Horst, ‘The Transnational Political Engagements of Refugees’.

### III. ADDRESSING THE NEXUS: INTEGRATING MIGRATION INTO PEACEBUILDING EFFORTS

#### Gender-Migration Approach to Peacebuilding

Women and men experience displacement differently, notably due to the significant risk of sexual and gender-based violence, but also due to unequal access to services, such as health care or education. Cultural identities and social settings are also to be considered when implementing a gender-migration approach to peacebuilding. Deep-rooted cultural norms and gender biases often impede the promotion of women's political, economic, and social rights. Women can face discrimination and resistance from their own community or the host community, making it challenging to achieve meaningful empowerment.


However, women can be, and are, when given the opportunity, powerful peacebuilders. They are too often left out of formal peace processes, and ensuring their inclusion is key to enhancing sustainable solutions.<sup>16</sup>

#### Youth-Migration Approach to Peacebuilding

Young people constitute a large share of the displaced population, with over 63% of refugees being under 24 years old, and 10 million out of 68.3 million Internally Displaced Persons being between 15 and 24 years old in 2023.<sup>18</sup> This is a significant overrepresentation of youth, considering that 15-24-year-olds represent 16% of the world's population.

Neglecting youth's needs, whether they are social, health-related or economic (education, job opportunities and psychological and physical support...), can lead to disenfranchisement or potential radicalisation.

Youth voices are vital in peacebuilding dialogues and solutions, and need to be included in policies and practices. While the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda of the United Nations advocates for the meaningful inclusion of youth in peace activities, no specific mention is made to the needs of young displaced people nor is there to the role they can play in peace efforts.

 The Afghan diaspora is a powerful bridge to bring the voices of young peacebuilders on the international scene and advocate for the rights of those who stayed in a restricted civic space.<sup>19</sup>

However, young displaced people can be powerful agents for peace, using their network to bring the voices from their home country to the international community and advocating for the rights of those who stayed.

#### Urbanisation-Migration approach to Peacebuilding

As previously mentioned, rapid migration inflows into urban hubs without adequate planning can lead to overcrowding, informal settlements, competition over limited services, and potentially fuel conflict. Urbanisation is a recurrent challenge relevant to all types of migration, either voluntary or forced, internal or international, rural-urban or urban-urban. In some cities, it can exacerbate housing shortages, job competition and higher unemployment rates, and strained public services.

Overcrowded cities can exacerbate tensions among inhabitants of the host communities and nourish the feeling of being threatened by the incoming displaced population and the disturbance of their usual social and economic order.

In this context, participatory governance, including consultation of both the host community and migrant communities in urban planning, is essential to reduce tensions and foster inclusive solutions.

16. CSPPS, 'Gender and Peacebuilding Nexus'.

18. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 'Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2023'.

19. To learn more about the engagement of the Afghan Diaspora, listen to the 'Displaced and Agents for Change, the role of young peacebuilders from the diaspora' episode of the Peace Corner Podcast, available [here](#).



## Climate-Migration Approach to Peacebuilding

Climate change and environmental disasters are important and exponential drivers of forced migration. Environmental stressors such as drought or floods are increasingly affected by climate change and directly impact forced migration. Often overlapping with other conflicts and leading to resource scarcity, both due to natural disasters and a large influx of people in host communities, can trigger and aggravate tensions.<sup>20</sup>

Therefore, peacebuilding efforts must integrate climate adaptation, conflict sensitivity, and migration management simultaneously.

A climate-migration approach needs to be taken into account at the start of peacebuilding efforts. Studying forced and illegal migration trends due to climate change (and possible upcoming environmental stressors), but also trends around the various seasons, can help anticipate the flux of migrants and orient the planning of peacebuilding activities. Integrating such an approach can prevent outbreaks of conflict due to migration in host communities, but also prepare the moving population and ensure their security, as well as their well-being (e.g. mental health support) within the host community.

However, this approach can be challenging to implement. Collecting and gathering data on migration related to climate change is difficult due to the unpredictability of natural disasters. Although, increased attention could be given to trends analysis and strategic foresight. Data on the possible impact of certain trends are available and should be thoroughly included. In comparison, migration as a response to changing environments can be studied and anticipated.<sup>21</sup>

### Anticipating migration in national policy, the Australian-Tuvalu Treaty:

Addressing the impact of climate change on migration and conflict is challenging due to the scarcity of financial resources. Civil society organisations need substantial funding and technical expertise to implement effective climate adaptation strategies. Moreover, the implementation of such policies and practices requires coordination and collaboration with various stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and local communities. Ensuring seamless cooperation among these entities can be difficult.

### Internal Displacement: The Case of Solomon Islands

In the Solomon Islands, communities on atolls have to relocate to bigger islands within the country because of the rise in sea level, making their original area unlivable. Despite the short moving distance and clan linkages, there is still considerable progress of negotiation and resource sharing to be worked through.

To read more about the Case of Solomon Islands: [There's no more land](#)

### Supporting the government in addressing climate change-induced mobility, the Global Programme Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change- BMZ

To support human mobility induced by climate change, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is supporting partner governments through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in the development of policy guidelines. The programme targets various parts of the world, including the West African region, the East African region and the Philippines.<sup>22</sup> In the Philippines, for example, the Programme assisted the national government agencies in incorporating climate-induced human mobility in its updated National Climate Change Action Plan.

20. CSPPS, 'Climate, Peace and Security Nexus'.

21. Barnett and Webber, 'Accommodating Migration to Promote Adaptation to Climate Change'.

22. BMZ, 'Human Mobility as a Result of Climate Change'.

23. Australia-Tuvalu Falepili Union Treaty, 2023

## Peacebuilding approaches to the erosion of social cohesion in the origin community

While the mainstream concern about migration and the erosion of social settings usually revolves around the host communities, migration also has an important impact on the origin communities.

In the origin community, migration may cause a deficit of the labour force and quality. It can disrupt family structures when the 'breadwinner' or entire families have left. Supporting social cohesion in origin settings can prevent additional or generational tensions from arising, but also help with the future social reintegration if and when return is possible.

Implementing a localised peacebuilding approach can also help address root factors such as unemployment and a fragile economy to improve the social environment and create local opportunities. Empowering people, especially the youth, socially, economically and politically helps them to envision a future in the original community and gives them the choice to stay and contribute positively to their community, instead of seeing migration as the only viable option.

### Migrants and Peacebuilders: the role of the diaspora in peacebuilding efforts within the origin community

Migrants are important actors in peacebuilding efforts within the origin community. Displaced populations often remain connected to their origin areas through remittances, advocacy and diaspora networks. This population can be leveraged for reconciliation and development.

Migrants are important actors in peacebuilding efforts and can be leveraged for reconciliation and development in their homeland. Diaspora actors can influence their homeland with remittances, both financially and socially. Financial remittances can stimulate the economy through investments, commercial exchange and other transactions, but also finance humanitarian assistance and development projects in fragile areas. On the other hand, social remittances can take place in the form of knowledge transfer between the diaspora and the local populations and help address both development and reconstruction issues within the origin community.<sup>24</sup> Displaced individuals are also active actors through political mobilisation, media production, advocacy work and mobilisation of protests.

Community-based intervention within the networks, such as peer-led dialogue or training in conflict resolution, is also an important tool for the diaspora to prevent tensions from escalating within the networks and within host settings. [see for example the Work of Positive Peace Ethiopia]

#### Diaspora

According to the IOM, "Diaspora are composed of migrants or descendants of migrants, whose identity and sense of belonging have been shaped by their migration experience and background".<sup>25</sup> Despite a lack of consensus on the definition and several changes of meaning over time, the term refers broadly to people living outside of what they consider their homeland and who continue to be concerned about issues related to it.<sup>26</sup>

#### Diaspora Engagement- The Ethiopian Diaspora

Over 2.7 million Ethiopians are living abroad. People gather within the diaspora as a platform for lobbying, they fund projects through remittances and carry trauma recovery initiatives.

24. Karabegović and Orjuela, 'Diasporas in Peace and Conflict'.

25. 'International Migration Law No. 34 - Glossary on Migration'.

26. Karabegović and Orjuela, 'Diasporas in Peace and Conflict'.

## **Peacebuilding approaches to the erosion of social cohesion in the host community**

Within the host communities, individuals can be reluctant to rights given to displaced populations, such as political participation, freedom of religious beliefs and cultural practices. Navigating those rights can be challenging in host settings, often leading to misunderstanding or discriminatory measures. The implementation of a dialogue-based approach can help reconcile different practices while respecting local laws and humanitarian standards.

One of the main threats to peaceful cohabitation within the host communities resides in the spread of xenophobia. Awareness of inclusivity and acceptance of others, as well as the deconstruction of stereotypes, is essential to prevent tensions in those settings.

One of the major drivers of aversion and tension in host communities, because of xenophobia, has been discourses shared through the media. The use of media to spread mis- and disinformation, as well as AI-generated content to diabolise and stigmatise displaced populations, has been significantly increasing in recent years. An important work needs to be done towards the host communities to counter these challenges, such as through education and awareness raising. For instance, using fact-checking on discourses shared by the media, keeping a critical mind and diversifying its sources of information are ways of doing so.

Peacebuilding activities must be integrated within host communities at all levels and at any moment. The exacerbation of xenophobia does not only concern communities welcoming a large influx of forcibly displaced populations, but also any communities welcoming migrants, whether voluntary or forced.

## **Peacebuilding-Migration approach to Humanitarianism**

Peacebuilding and development efforts must be included at every stage of the humanitarian response. Short-term planning efforts, such as emergency shelter or food distribution, need to be complemented by long-term planning, such as livelihoods, social integration, and legal frameworks, to prevent recurrent crises and tensions from arising within the affected population. Humanitarian intervention needs to implement a conflict sensitivity approach to all activity and consult the population, in this case displaced population, at every stage and to adapt their response to ensure that any interventions do not inadvertently create or worsen tensions.



## IV. HOW DOES CSPPS ENGAGE IN THE MIGRATION, PEACE AND SECURITY NEXUS

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As part of our drive for more peaceful, just and inclusive societies, migration is a focus area for CSPPS. At both the secretariat and member levels, we are committed to promoting and including the displaced population in peacebuilding efforts.

### ► AMPLIFYING

CSPPS strives to enhance civil society's capacity and amplify its voice and impact. By engaging in diverse initiatives, CSPPS empowers organisations with essential skills and resources, enabling them to contribute to policy development and advocacy. Among the peacebuilding organisations CSPPS collaborates with, several are committed to addressing migration-related concerns.

For instance, through collaborations with UNOY, CSPPS has spearheaded the [Peace Corner Podcast](#), which puts forward various challenges around peacebuilding. In the ninth Season, which focuses on the tenth anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, an episode was dedicated to the empowerment of young peacebuilding actors from the diaspora and refugee communities.

CSPPS frequently publishes and shares success stories to enhance the voice and impact of civil society actors working for more peaceful, just and inclusive societies, and recognises the importance of addressing a variety of issues. For instance, in its series 'Member Stories', CSPPS talked with their team in Afghanistan about their work in providing education to internally displaced children.

In collaboration with the [Global SDG16+ Coalition](#), CSPPS spearhead the [SDG16+ Voices Campaign](#) to highlight the work of civil society around SDG16+. The link to other SDGs, including climate, is often made to show the multifaceted work around SDG16 and emphasise the effects of climate change on social cohesion, stability and peace.

### ► LOBBY AND ADVOCACY

Lobbying and policy outreach are key elements of CSPPS' activities. Committed to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, CSPPS provides a space and platform - where possible and needed - to amplify the voice and agency of civil society working on SDG16+. Putting forward the concerns and demands of civil society in its diversity in lobby efforts is essential to achieve the 2030 Agenda.



Within the [International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding \(IDPS\)](#), CSPPS holds a key role in representing civil society. The dialogue serves as an opportunity for lobbying and advocacy activities within the policy space of peacebuilding and statebuilding between civil society, governments and donors. With this, CSPPS brings forward various concerns, including climate, peace and security - and others - to the g7+ group and INCAF in these political dialogues.

Since January 2024, CSPPS has been in partnership with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). This partnership is crucial for CSPPS to enhance its focus on the intersection of peacebuilding and climate, as BMZ is also dedicated to overcoming challenges related to climate change and help its partner countries in overcoming challenges related to peace. This partnership increases CSPPS opportunities for advocacy and lobbying efforts with the German government. The collaboration allows CSPPS to leverage their political influence and commitment to sustainable development to drive meaningful change. It furthermore allows CSPPS to raise its voice collectively and advocate for policies that support, safeguard, and protect the environment and civil society's efforts in climate advocacy.



CSPPS is part of the [Just Future Alliance](#), a programme funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which aims to strengthen the capacity of civil society to lobby and advocate for peace initiatives and to foster accountability. Migrants, especially Internally Displaced Persons, are one of the target groups benefiting from this programme. The Just Future Consortium seeks to promote the inclusion and integration of displaced persons across three outcome areas:

- Access to Justice
- People-centred Security
- Inclusive Political Decision Making



Through the programme, CSPPS is co-funding the '[Afghan Youth Representative to the UN](#)' led by its member, [Afghan for Progressive Thinking](#). Through this programme, the organisation provides leadership opportunities to one young Afghan, who resides outside of Afghanistan, empowering them to serve as a representative of young Afghan men or women, influencing policies at both

## **NETWORKING**

### **Engaging with Civil society actors**

As a global network of civil society actors that promotes peacebuilding and statebuilding, networking is one of the main activities of CSPPS. Our membership is made up of civil society organisations that are involved in peacebuilding and statebuilding activities, of which many include a migration approach to their activities and have direct engagement towards their inclusion within peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts.

### **Networking with Peacebuilding Stakeholders**

CSPPS actively collaborates with international organisations, governments and civil society groups to create a broad coalition that supports migration mainstreaming in peacebuilding. CSPPS's network thus offers strategic access to key networks and events where discussions are relevant to the Migration and Peacebuilding Nexus. Additionally, it provides grounded technical expertise and advocacy efforts across various policymaking spheres. Engaging in this network provides opportunities for peer-to-peer learning, capacity development and resource acquisition.



## V. EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK

CSPPS advocacy activities and efforts to amplify the voice and agency of civil society involve promoting and highlighting the work of its membership. In this section, we put forward the work of some of our members who drive progress in the migration and peacebuilding nexus. As explained throughout this paper, migration is a wide topic interlinked with a number of other issues within the peacebuilding field. Our members are working on different aspects of migration interlinked with other foci, but also their own context.

### ► Platform for Dialogue and Peace, Liberia

#### **Examining the link between European football and illegal migration**

P4DP launched an initiative aiming to explain the link between European football and illegal migration.



Through interviews held at various clubs in Monrovia, with youth from different communities, the organisation aimed to understand some of the potential factors that would cause young people to migrate to Europe or other continents.

The initial analysis of the data reveals that whilst many youth are involved with manual and casual labour jobs to sustain their families, a considerable number of youth feel that they are not better than their colleagues who are undertaking dangerous journeys to cross the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe.

“In Europe, you do not need to be too educated to play professional football, the game which is making lots of people rich”. Another youth said, “we are suffering here too much, no jobs, no education, and even no training for the youth, but only the big shorts are enjoying this country”. The narratives of these youth not only unveil the predicament that lots of young people are experiencing but also speak to the challenges they face.

This initiative was intended to highlight two things for policymakers: the high unemployment among the youth, which was and remains critical for durable peace and stability, and the dangerous option of embarking on a deadly journey like other youth for greener pastures in Europe and elsewhere.

P4DP encountered numerous challenges in their work. This project, in particular, had to end due to a lack of support. The important corruption in the country,<sup>27</sup> and the diversion of resources supposedly allocated to development, are significant challenges faced by civil society organisations in Liberia. P4DP is, however, still committed to the project and is actively looking for partners to revive it.

27. Liberia is ranked 135 out of 180 countries on the [Corruption Perceptions Index](#) with a score of 27 (100 being ‘Very clean’ and 0 ‘Highly corrupt’).

## ► Youth Without Borders Organization for Development (YWBOD), Yemen



منظمة شباب بلا حدود للتنمية  
Youth Without Borders Organization for Development

YWBOD is working on the implementation of various initiatives toward empowering youth, socially, economically and politically, which they believe to be inherently link to reducing the drivers of migration and displacement in Yemen. By empowering the youth, the organisation helps them envision and actively build a future for themselves within Yemen, thereby reducing the perceived necessity of migration as a coping mechanism against insecurity, lack of opportunities or hopelessness.

Their work is centred on creating local opportunities and fostering a sense of agency among the youth, enabling them to choose to stay and contribute positively to their communities. This approach aims to address the root causes that force young people into unsafe or involuntary migration pathways. Additionally, the organisation provides support to internally displaced youth to strengthen their resilience and integration into host communities.

### Some of their initiatives include:

- *The Youth Empowerment and Civic Engagement Programs:*

This program has helped train hundreds of young people in leadership, advocacy and social entrepreneurship across several governorates. These trainings have equipped youth with practical skills and encouraged their involvement in peacebuilding and local decision-making processes.

- *Livelihood and Skills Development Projects:*

Through vocational training programs and small grants schemes, the organisation has supported youth to start small businesses in sectors such as tailoring, technology, etc. These initiatives are designed to improve economic resilience and provide alternatives to migration.

- *Peacebuilding Awareness Campaigns:*

YWBOD have conducted community dialogues and media campaigns that promote coexistence, non-violence, and the constructive role youth can play in rebuilding their communities.

- *Support for IDPs and At-Risk Youth:*

In areas with high levels of displacement, YWBOD has implemented psychosocial support activities and provided youth with safe spaces and access to essential services, in collaboration with local actors.

- *Research and Policy Advocacy:*

In addition to their programmatic work, YWBOD has been actively engaged in producing high-quality research, policy briefs, and situational analyses on youth-related issues. These efforts have helped shape local and national discussions around youth, migration, peace, and development. Some highlights include:

- Authoring and contributing to a series of research papers addressing youth migration trends, drivers, and coping mechanisms in Yemen.
- Producing policy briefs that have been used in advocacy efforts targeting decision-makers at local, national, and international levels.
- Participating in national consultations and international forums where we present evidence-based insights that reflect the voices and aspirations of Yemeni youth.

These efforts have led to **increased recognition of youth perspectives in key policy spaces** and influenced the design of youth-focused interventions by both governmental and non-governmental actors. Their research has also helped inform donor strategies and contributed to more youth-inclusive peacebuilding frameworks.

## ► **RIKO (Council for International Conflict Resolution), Denmark**

RIKO (Rådet for International Konfliktløsning) is a Danish foreign policy think tank promoting non-military approaches to international conflict resolution. While RIKO works across a broad range of peace and foreign policy issues, one of its program areas focuses on the intersection of migration, conflict, and climate.

A key part of this work is the Rådskommentarer (Council Commentaries) series—analytical articles and reportage from public events. Relevant examples include:

- “Rapportage fra debatarrangementet: EU og migration” (Report from the Debate: The EU and Migration)
- “EU og klima” (The EU and Climate)
- “Klima, konflikt og etnicitet komplicerer migration i Etiopien” (Climate, Conflict and Ethnicity Complicate Migration in Ethiopia)

RIKO also publishes policy briefs and position papers addressing topics such as climate-induced migration, international cooperation, and Denmark’s global responsibilities.

Examples include:

- “Klimakrisen er en sikkerhedskrise” (The Climate Crisis is a Security Crisis)
- “Dansk udenrigspolitik og internationalt ansvar” (Danish Foreign Policy and International Responsibility)

To broaden public understanding, RIKO produces short documentaries and interactive web-based content. A recent example is: “Etiopiens konfliktfyldte klima” (Ethiopia’s Conflict-Ridden Climate) – a web documentary illustrating how climate change and political instability interact to shape migration patterns. This content is used in educational materials for Danish schools and high schools, supporting young people in engaging critically with issues around peace, migration, and global justice.

RIKO is a founding member of the Danish Network for Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding (NCPBP), contributing to the integration of conflict-sensitive and peace-oriented approaches within Danish and international development cooperation.

## ► **Positive Peace Ethiopia (PPE), Ethiopia**

Positive Peace Ethiopia (PPE) is actively working on fighting the misinformation and disinformation and the role it plays in dividing people and spreading hate discourse. In some contexts, misinformation can go beyond the digital challenge and become a weapon threatening peace. In this context, PPE has recently organised an online diaspora dialogue on ‘**Combating Mis/Disinformation and Hate Speech**’, emphasising countering xenophobic narratives and the role of media in fuelling tensions.<sup>28</sup>

28. To read more about the work of Positive Peace Ethiopia: [Piecing together the values of Peace | CSPPS](#)

## ► IIDA Women's Development Organization, Somalia

IIDA Women's Development Organization (IIDA) has been working on migration since 2000. IIDA was the first organisation in Somalia to start the discussions on the **causes and dangers of embarking on *Tahrib* in the beginning of 2000s.**

Since 2008, IIDA's Italian-based office has published a well-documented newsletter titled “Tahrib” aimed

at raising awareness and experiences of *Tahrib*. Over the years, Italy has been experiencing a huge influx of migrants arriving from North Africa. The challenges in risky and irregular migration and its impact on society have led IIDA to mainstream migration in its programmes by creating awareness-raising initiatives with regard to irregular migration. Since June 2008, IIDA-Italy has published four issues and a special issue of the newsletter.

*Tahrib* is an Arabic word, mainly associated with illegal activities such as smuggling and trafficking; however, in Somalia, the word is mostly used to refer to the migration of young Somalis leaving for Europe.<sup>29</sup>



WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

Over the years, IIDA's work has:

- **Enhanced Migration Governance:** The Structured Framework for Tracking Commitments (SFTC), Returnees' Re-integration Tracking and Monitoring Framework (RRTM), and the Integrated Digital Technology Platform on Migration Management (IDTPM) aim to improve transparency and accountability in migration governance across Somalia, Kenya, and Ethiopia.
- **Increased CSO Participation:** With the establishment of cross-border coalitions and capacity-building initiatives to empower civil society organisations (CSOs), especially youth-led CSOs, to actively participate in migration dialogues and advocate for migrant and refugee rights.
- **Improved Returnee Reintegration:** With the implementation of the holistic return and reintegration program in Somalia, including tailored support services and the Returnees' Re-integration Tracking and Monitoring Framework (RRTM), to facilitate the sustainable reintegration of returnees into their home communities.
- **Public Awareness and Engagement:** With public awareness campaigns, interactive media, and community engagement activities, the organisation aims to increase public understanding of migration issues and mobilise support for CSO advocacy efforts within the Khartoum Process.
- **Policy Development and Implementation:** The comprehensive assessment of commitments and the generation of policy recommendations will lead to the adoption and implementation of improved migration policies, enhancing the overall effectiveness of the Khartoum Process.

29. Ali, *Going on Tahriib*.



## ► Global Participe, Congo-Brazzaville

The Republic of Congo (Brazzaville) is prone to internal migration caused by internal political conflicts and climatic damage. To help resolve these problems, Global Participe carries out advocacy work to alleviate the plight of victims and organises training workshops for paralegals in victim communities to assert and defend their human and civil rights.



Together with community paralegals, Global Participe has set up a partnership framework with the civil registry services to assist displaced populations who have lost their identity documents, as well as children without birth certificates, in the process of re-establishing identity documents or birth certificates. In addition to the communities affected by internal armed conflicts and climate damage, there are also, and in fact the most numerous, communities victims of expropriation and land grabbing by multinational logging and mining companies. Global Participe is organising itself with a view to the peaceful resolution of conflicts or, on the contrary, to lodge a complaint for a legal settlement. These are the battles facing Global Participe in 2025!

## ► Afghans for Progressive Thinking, Afghanistan



Afghans for Progressive Thinking (APT)'s work connects to Migration, Peace, and Security in many important ways. By providing education for girls and young women, like mentorships and scholarships, APT gives hope and opportunities, reducing the

chances of forced migration, which, in the current situation of Afghanistan, is caused by a lack of options. Their advocacy programs help young people speak up for human rights and gender equality, which supports peacebuilding. These efforts bring attention to issues youth face, strengthen peacebuilding efforts at the ground level, raise awareness, and promote close collaboration among youth from different backgrounds.

Additionally, APT also provides youth with opportunities to write policy briefs, articles, stories, and other written pieces. This promotes peace and security by empowering youth to address challenges like human rights violations and gender inequality through their writing. By amplifying their voices, APT helps young people share their perspectives and propose solutions that can create safer and more inclusive communities. It also encourages youth to work together toward common goals, raise awareness, and influence decision-makers to take action.

APT's trauma healing program helps people cope with the mental health challenges caused by crises, creating stronger and more secure communities. Leadership training and the Afghan Youth Representative program teach young people how to take action and share their perspectives on global platforms.

By focusing on education, advocacy, healing, and leadership, APT empowers youth to build a better, more peaceful future and address the challenges that lead to instability and migration.

## VI. SDG16 + EXPLORING INTERLINKAGES

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Peacebuilding is intertwined with various themes, including migration, gender, climate change, health, food security, and poverty. This is highlighted by SDG16+, which acknowledges that to achieve SDG16 in all its facets, we must also focus on making progress on relevant adjacent Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and look at the interlinkages between the various goals. Investing in the migration and peacebuilding nexus will not be effective unless a holistic approach is also taken into account.

Some of these interlinkages are explored in this paper, highlighting the vulnerability of displaced women, the under-representation of displaced youth in peace processes, and the necessity of a climate and urbanisation approach to peacebuilding efforts.

In subsequent Briefing Papers, you will learn more about the interlinkages with other themes, such as digitalisation and health.

### ► ***Migration, Peacebuilding and Digitilisation***

Digitalisation is increasingly shaping the landscape of migration and peacebuilding, offering both opportunities and challenges. On one hand, digital tools and technologies facilitate easier communication, coordination and access to information for displaced populations and peacebuilding actors. This enables them to maintain connections with their community and access essential services, such as online education.

However, digitalisation also amplifies the spread of misinformation, hate speech and xenophobic narratives, which can fuel tensions and undermine peacebuilding efforts. Disparities in access to technology and the internet may also exacerbate inequalities among displaced populations.<sup>30</sup> To harness digitalisation potential for migration and peacebuilding efforts, stakeholders must prioritise inclusive access, digital literacy and address the challenges of online hate speech and misinformation.

### ► ***Migration, Peacebuilding and Health***

Displaced populations often face barriers to healthcare access, due to language barriers, legal access, discrimination and others, which exacerbate health disparities and undermine social cohesion. As previously stated, sudden movement of populations can strain services, such as healthcare infrastructures and capacities, which can reduce the quality and access to the service and create potential tensions.

Peacebuilding efforts need to promote inclusive health policies that address the specific needs of migrants, such as mental health support, infectious disease management and maternal healthcare.

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30. To learn more about the possible risk of increased inequality related to access to digital means read: [An online UN HLPF will not stop SDG 16+ from backsliding](#) (de Harder, Masoliver, van Sluijs)

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