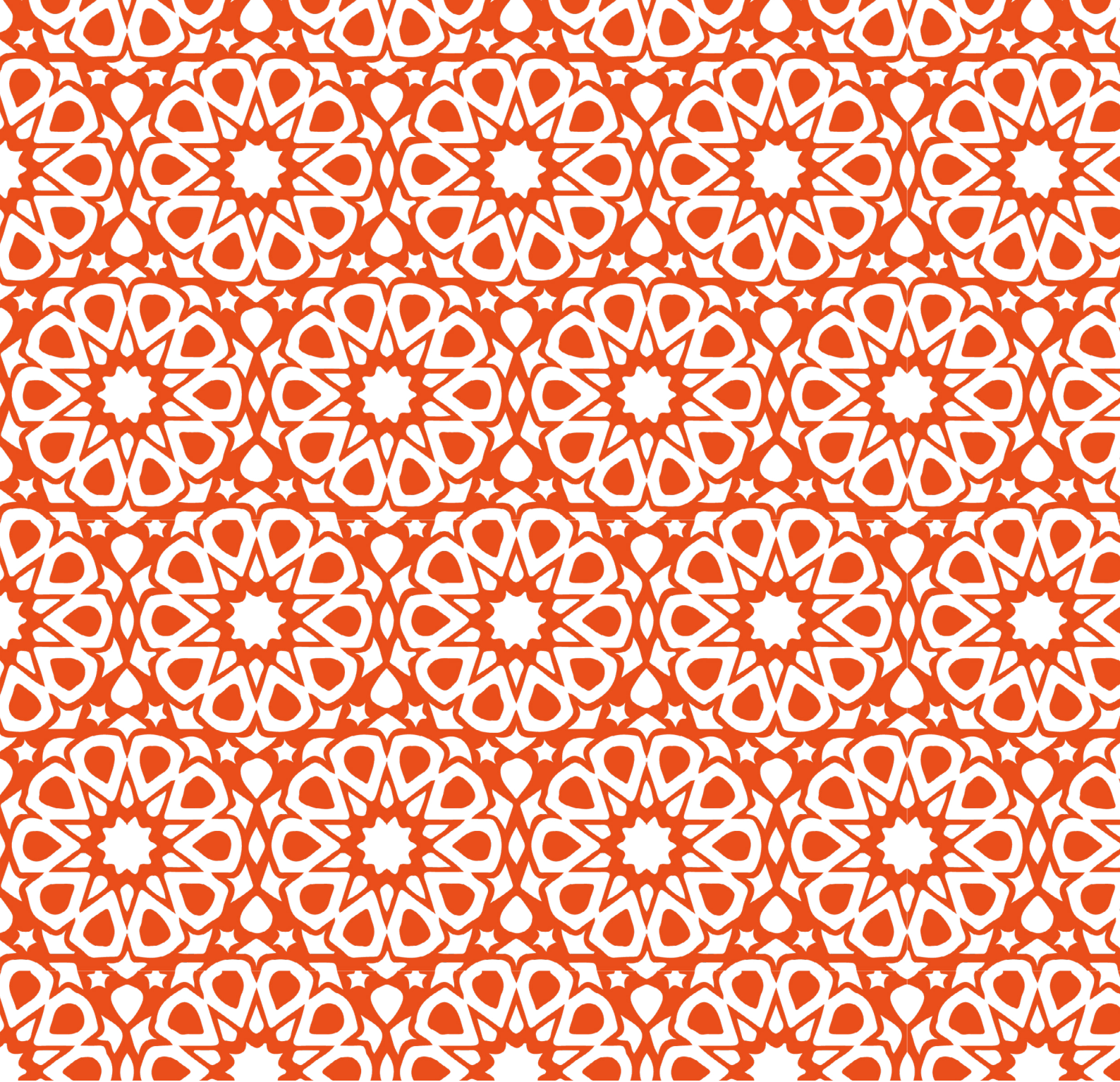




CPI ANNUAL REPORT 2025



CORDOBA PEACE INSTITUTE

— GENEVA —

معهد قرطبة للسلام

CORDOBA PEACE INSTITUTE - GENEVA (CPI)

CPI-Geneva is an independent non-profit organisation, working on violence prevention and peace promotion. CPI aims to enhance theoretical and practical conflict transformation resources and has extensive experience in West Asian and African contexts. CPI promotes a methodology adapted to and accepted by local communities, conflict parties and peace actors. Since 2002, it has developed unique access and networks in the countries where it works. CPI's outlook is inspired by the Andalusian city of Cordoba: a renowned medieval centre of inter-faith dialogue, and by Geneva: a modern centre of international dialogue and exchange between peoples. CPI has Special Consultative Status with the United Nations.

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FOREWORD

In a context marked by protracted conflicts, increasing polarization, and growing pressure on social cohesion across many regions of the world, the need for inclusive and locally grounded approaches to conflict transformation remains as urgent as ever. Throughout 2025, Cordoba Peace Institute – Geneva (CPI) continued to work alongside religious leaders, local communities, civil society actors, and policymakers to promote dialogue, strengthen internal peace resources, and support peaceful pathways for addressing conflict. Building on more than two decades of experience, CPI remained committed to fostering sustainable peace through approaches that combine local ownership, religious literacy, mediation, and conflict transformation.

In 2025, CPI advanced the second year of its Strategic Plan 2024–2027, working to transform relationships between parties to conflict and reduce violence by addressing its direct, structural, and cultural causes. The Institute’s approach continued to draw on complementary pillars including knowledge

sharing, capacity building, mediation support, diapraxis, and a robust Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) framework adapted to conflict-affected and Muslim-majority contexts.

Under Strategic Objective 1, focused on harnessing internal peace resources within Muslim-majority societies, CPI launched a UNDP-funded project in Somalia to strengthen the capacity of Somali Islamic scholars in conflict transformation and social cohesion from an Islamic perspective.

Strategic Objective 2, centred on networking and knowledge sharing, was advanced through the “Engaging Across Religious Differences” research project, co-funded by the Templeton Religion Trust and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). CPI organised policy briefings in Belgium, Mauritania and Mozambique, contributing to policy discussions on the role of religious actors and Islamic scholars in conflict transformation processes.

Strategic Objective 3 remained the core focus of CPI’s field engagement. The Swiss-funded Fiqhi Pathways project continued supporting dialogue and violence reduction efforts across Africa, the MENA region, and Afghanistan, with co-funding from the Finnish MOFA ; while the EU-funded Building Bridges initiative strengthened the capacities of Muslim and Christian leaders, teachers, youth, and women across Nigeria’s Middle Belt. The Path to Peace project further supported reconciliation between communities and former combatants in North-East Nigeria and contributed to reflections on reintegration approaches.

Furthermore, CPI participated in major international events and experts’ forums in Doha, Baku, Krakow, Mogadishu and Zurich, and contributed to the 2025 Religion and Mediation Course organised in Basel by the Swiss FDFA and the Center for Security Studies (CSS-ETH Zurich) on armed contestations over governance in Afghanistan, Mali, and Syria. The Institute also published five Cordoba Research Papers and two editions of its trilingual Cordoba Update newsletter,

continuing its commitment to bridging research, policy, and practice.

Overall, 2025 saw CPI consolidate a methodology that blends traditional Islamic knowledge with contemporary peacebuilding tools, deepen partnerships across Africa, the MENA region, and Europe, and translate research into practical engagement with armed groups, religious leaders, and communities affected by conflict.

Looking ahead, CPI will continue to strengthen its work at the intersection of religion, mediation, and peacebuilding. Building on partnerships developed across Africa, the Middle East, and Europe, the Institute will further invest in local capacity development, knowledge generation, and dialogue processes that contribute to sustainable peace and social cohesion in conflict-affected contexts.

CPI – Direction

2025 AT A GLANCE



COUNTRIES OF INTERVENTION 2025



CPI'S METHODOLOGY FOR IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGIC PLAN IN 2025

To advance the strategic objectives set out in its Strategic Plan 2024–2027, CPI drew on a range of essential tools and frameworks across the projects implemented in 2025. The Institute's overarching aim was to transform the relationships between parties to conflict and to minimise the use of violence by encouraging them to address its direct, structural, and cultural causes. A set of complementary tools formed the methodology underpinning this work.

Collective Shared Knowledge

CPI convened and contributed to several high-level policy briefings held in Switzerland, Belgium, Mauritania, and Mozambique. These gatherings ensured that the resulting analyses, conclusions, and recommendations were shaped and endorsed by a diverse panel of actors and stakeholders from a wide range of backgrounds.

Capacity-Building

Through its Cordoba Academy online-learning platform, CPI empowered parties to conflict and strengthened their ability to analyse conflicts and master non-violent approaches to resolving them. A notable example was the UNDP-sponsored project in Somalia for the Network of Islamic Scholars.

Safe Mediation Spaces

The Fiqhi Pathways project, implemented in East and West Africa in collaboration with CPI's local partners, provided safe mediation spaces in which the participants could have an exchange in a protected and respectful atmosphere. CPI's facilitation role included identifying the key issues to be addressed. CPI and its local partners conducted extensive desk and field research in the early stages of

each project and ensured consistent follow-up throughout. This sustained conflict analysis allowed the Institute to build the knowledge and networks needed to safeguard the credibility and acceptability of its processes.

Diapraxis

The Path to Peace and Building Bridges projects in Nigeria demonstrated how dialogue can serve as a means of reaching practical solutions to shared problems, solutions that are then jointly implemented by the conflict parties themselves, an approach known as diapraxis. Experience showed that developing shared actions in an inclusive manner is particularly effective in building trust between diverse actors. It also underscored the importance of cultivating confidence with all parties, especially with credible local interlocutors. The progress achieved by these projects was made possible by an atmosphere of common trust and shared purpose, which CPI carefully nurtured by ensuring that its partners were fully convinced of the genuineness of its intentions.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL)

CPI's MEAL framework is designed to ensure high-quality programme implementation while tracking results, drawing lessons from experience, and maintaining accountability to stakeholders. It relies on SMART indicators tailored to conflict-affected and Muslim-majority contexts, capturing both short-term outcomes and long-term impacts on social cohesion and conflict transformation.

The framework included baseline studies and needs assessments – conducted in the West Africa and Horn of Africa projects – to map initial conditions and set realistic targets, followed



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by endline surveys to evaluate impact. This work was carried out in close collaboration with local communities and stakeholders in Nigeria and Somalia, ensuring relevance, accountability, and local ownership.

A central focus was the measurement of behavioural change – such as shifts in attitudes, increased participation in peacebuilding, or disengagement from extremism – which is inherently complex and long-term. To strengthen this dimension, CPI has adopted structured behaviour-change models, including the Theory of Planned Behaviour and Social Learning Theory, to better define, track, and assess such changes. These processes are also automated through the Cordoba Academy e-learning platform.

Internal Capacity and Cross-Cutting Themes

CPI's external work is reinforced by a sustained internal capacity-building effort that strengthens staff skills in conflict resolution, mediation, dialogue, and peacebuilding. The Institute places particular emphasis

on integrating Islamic jurisprudence into peacebuilding so that its work aligns with the social dynamics of Muslim-majority contexts, while also fostering an understanding of diverse worldviews to encourage empathy and more inclusive conflict resolution. Its approach prioritises positive reconciliation and restorative justice, seeking to address the root causes of conflict, repair relationships, and promote sustainable peace rather than purely punitive responses.

CPI also integrates cross-cutting themes such as artificial intelligence, data protection, and cybersecurity, recognising both the risks and the opportunities that digital technologies present for peacebuilding. Taken together, this strategy combines traditional knowledge with innovative tools to equip staff to manage complex conflicts and to promote dialogue, trust, and long-term peace.

2025 PROGRESS TOWARD STRATEGIC PLAN 2024–2027 OBJECTIVES

Strategic Objective 1: Harnessing internal peace resources within Muslim-majority societies

Projects contributing to this objective:

Somalia: Peacebuilding Course for Network of Islamic Scholars in Somalia
Funded by UNDP Somalia

Existing networks of Islamic scholars can become powerful peacebuilding assets when equipped with practical conflict transformation tools and opportunities for peer learning. Strengthening these networks may offer a sustainable pathway for addressing local conflicts and supporting social cohesion across Somalia.

CPI developed and distributed tailored training materials, including modules, manuals, and online courses, that are tailored to the unique contexts of different communities considering the specificity of local languages. These materials are designed to enhance the capacity of local peace actors by providing them with methodology, skills, and tools rooted in both global peacebuilding principles, local and Muslim conflict transformation practices.

In September 2025, a project was launched by CPI with the support of the UNDP Somalia and in collaboration with the Somali Federal Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs to build the capacity of a group of 40 Somali Islamic scholars in the field of conflict transformation and social cohesion from an Islamic perspective. The initiative forms part of broader efforts to strengthen the Network of Islamic Scholars in Somalia as a credible peacebuilding actor capable of contributing to local conflict resolution, social cohesion, and good governance processes.

A one-week introductory training session

was organised online from 15 to 19 December 2025 bringing together scholars from different regions of Somalia. The project also supported the development of an e-learning platform designed to facilitate continuous learning and exchange among participants beyond the training period.

Initial feedback from participants indicated that several scholars had already begun using concepts and materials from the course in local conflict resolution efforts, particularly in addressing inter-clan tensions and community disputes. Beyond strengthening individual capacities, the project contributed to reinforcing a network of religious leaders committed to promoting peaceful conflict transformation approaches within their communities. Building on CPI's previous work in Somalia since 2023, the initiative further highlighted the important role that trusted religious actors can play in addressing drivers of violence and strengthening community resilience.

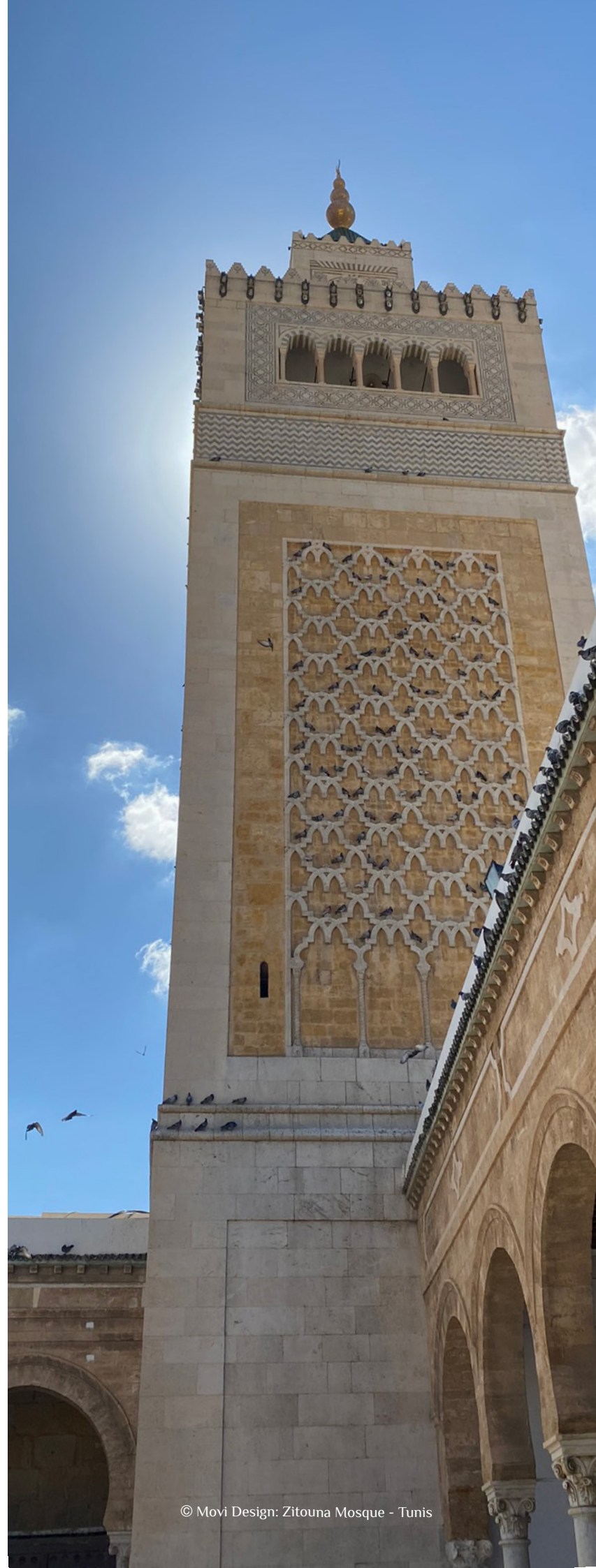
Strategic Objective 2: Building and sustaining an active community of conflict transformation practitioners

Projects contributing to this objective:

“Engaging Across Religious Differences: Crafting Conflict Solutions”

Funded by Templeton Religion Trust (TRT) and Swiss FDFA

Understanding how Islamic jurists influence governance, legitimacy, and decision-making within armed groups can reveal opportunities for engagement and dialogue that are often overlooked by conventional security-focused approaches. The research confirmed that meaningful entry points for conflict transformation frequently emerge from a deeper understanding of how armed groups govern, establish authority, and interact with local populations.



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In June 2025, CPI, in partnership with the Center for Security Studies (CSS) at ETH Zurich, concluded a two-year research project entitled “Engaging Across Religious Difference: Evidence-Based Research on Islamic Jurists Shaping the Actions of Armed Groups and their Ability to Craft Practical Solutions to Conflict”. The project investigated how Islamic jurists influence the behaviour of armed groups through their interpretations of scripture and assessed the dialogue approaches most likely to enable these actors to contribute to conflict resolution. Through a comparative study of five Sunni and Shia armed groups in Iraq, Mali, Mozambique, Somalia, and Yemen, the research examined their role in shaping governance practices, regulating the conduct of hostilities, and supporting negotiation processes. Adopting a conflict resolution perspective on the internal decision-making of these groups and on constructive ways of engagement, this project sought to offer policy makers an evidence-based framework for deciding whether, when, and how to engage with armed groups.

The research found that policymakers and peace practitioners should look at six criteria: 1/ Decision-making: Does the group have a coherent decision-making structure where legal scholars sit in specific bodies? 2/ Local governance: How advanced is the local governance of the group? 3/ Accountability: To what extent is there support among the community for the political project of the group and the principles underpinning its governance policies? Do they care about their reputation in the local context? Do they react to demands from the street? 4/ Conflict management: What kind of conflicts are the groups managing based on Islamic legal interpretation, e.g., through zakat collection and redistribution, regulating access of herders and farmers to land, or setting up court systems addressing clan conflicts? 5/ Commitment to agreements: Has the group made and honored local agreements with the community? 6/ **Political dialogue**: Has the group demonstrated willingness/stated conditions for entering political dialogue?

The research findings can be summarized as follows:

- Demands by armed groups such as the application of sharia or the establishment of an Islamic state refer to context-specific grievances and aspirations.
- Islamic legal scholars provide armed groups with frameworks for political and military actions and negotiate norms of governance in contexts of legal pluralism.
- Dialogical and collaborative research highlights the dynamic debates among Islamic legal scholars within groups, but also with the wider public.
- This kind of context-sensitive knowledge allows third parties to assess whether, when, and how to engage with such groups to develop political solutions to armed conflict.

These findings feed directly into CPI's operational Fiqhi Pathways exchange projects supported by the Swiss FDFA and the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This groundbreaking research has contributed to the field by shifting the conversation in policy circles and academia from the theological references of such groups to methods of effective engagement – from a theological problem to be argued to a technical one to be solved. Following policy briefings in Brussels, Mauritania and Mozambique, the CSS published a policy paper in its Policy Perspectives series in December 2025 entitled *Islamic Jurists in Conflict: Negotiating Governance*. Policy Perspectives Vol. 13/6. CSS/ETH Zurich, December 2025, contributing to the wider dissemination of the research findings among policy and academic audiences.

Beyond the dissemination of the research



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findings, the project contributed to deepening the understanding among diplomats, policymakers, researchers, and practitioners of the internal dynamics of religiously motivated armed groups and the role played by Islamic jurists in shaping governance, legitimacy, and decision-making processes in the studied cases (Iraq, Mali, Mozambique, Somalia, and Yemen). The research provided practical analytical frameworks for assessing potential entry points for engagement and dialogue, encouraging a shift away from viewing armed groups solely through a security focused lense.

Strategic Objective 3: Promoting inclusivity, social cohesion and peaceful interaction.

Projects contributing to this objective:

Process Support for Violence Reduction and Dialogue Engagement with Religiously Motivated Armed Groups (Fiqhi Pathways)

Funded by the Swiss FDFA and the Finnish MOFA

Long-term engagement with credible religious scholars can create trusted spaces for discussing sensitive jurisprudential questions that influence conflict dynamics. The project demonstrated that exploring issues such as governance, legitimacy, the conduct of hostilities, and the protection of civilians through Islamic legal frameworks can help open pathways for dialogue and encourage alternative perspectives that are both locally credible and compatible with international humanitarian norms.

The 'Fiqhi Pathways' project aims to engage credible ulema with armed groups on issues relating to the conduct of hostilities in accordance with IHL and Islamic law, good governance and the preference for



dialogue. Building on more than five years of engagement, the initiative provides a trusted platform for exchanges among influential scholars from different regions and schools of thought, including actors who are often difficult to engage through conventional peacebuilding approaches, but whose perspectives can shape attitudes and behaviours within conflict environments.

Phase III of the project, which ended in August 2025, covered the Sahel, the Lake Chad Basin, the Swahili Coast of East Africa and Afghanistan. A new phase was launched thereafter focusing on Africa, and the MENA & Afghanistan.

In West Africa, CPI with its partner in Mauritania, the NGO Qāirawan Research and Support for Peace, organised a workshop, in January 2025, in Nouakchott which convened 12 scholars from Mauritania, Mali, and Burkina Faso. The meeting offered a

space for exchange and to hear the different Fiqhi perspectives to assess and analyse the situation in Mali and the ways out of the conflict. Furthermore, CPI conducted a field mission in Ivory Coast and Benin, from 9 to 23 June 2025 in order to improve understanding of the situation in this West African region and to explore relevant themes and entry points for future engagement.

In East Africa, CPI and its local partner in Tanzania, Friends of Peace, convened, in February 2025, twenty scholars and Imams from Tanzania, Sahel and MENA who exchanged on social cohesion mechanisms as exemplified by the Medina Charter; and discussed avenues for dialogue and cooperation among the diverse schools of Islamic actors and institutions in Tanga. A follow-up exchange took place in Zanzibar in June 2025, further strengthening relationships and regional knowledge sharing.

In February 2025, CPI hosted a consultative

meeting in Geneva on the post-Assad transition in Syria, bringing together Syrian civil society representatives, religious actors, academics, and international experts to discuss opportunities for inclusive dialogue and peaceful political transition. Building on CPI's longstanding engagement with Syrian stakeholders since 2011, the consultation sought to identify practical avenues for supporting reconciliation, inclusion, and institution-building. A subsequent field mission to Syria in September 2025 enabled CPI to engage directly with a wide range of actors and deepen its understanding of the evolving political and social landscape.

Beyond these exchanges, the project continued to support intellectual reflection on some of the most sensitive religious and jurisprudential questions that fuel contemporary conflicts. Through a series of publications and scholarly discussions, participating scholars explored themes

including excommunication (takfir), jihad, governance, and the protection of civilians and non-combatants during armed conflict. These exchanges encouraged participants to revisit established interpretations and engage with alternative readings that are more consistent with both Islamic legal traditions and international humanitarian norms.

While direct attribution of changes in religious opinions or formal fatwas remains difficult, participants consistently reported that the exchanges exposed them to new perspectives and analytical frameworks that they considered relevant to their own engagement with conflict-affected communities and religious audiences. The project also reinforced trusted relationships among scholars from different regions, creating opportunities for continued dialogue on issues relating to violence reduction, governance, and peaceful conflict transformation.

Building Bridges: Prevent & mitigate interreligious violence and promote peaceful co-existence in the Middle Belt of Nigeria

Funded by the EU, and implemented by CPI's local partners the Development Initiative of West Africa (DIWA) and the Dar Al-Andalus Centre (DAAC) in Nigeria

The project highlighted that sustainable interfaith engagement is most effective when it combines three successive steps: strengthening confidence within one's own faith community, creating safe opportunities for encounter with the "other", and fostering practical cooperation around shared challenges. At the same time, addressing misinformation and inflammatory online narratives emerged as a critical complement to community-level engagement, as perceptions and tensions are increasingly shaped in both physical and digital spaces.

Launched in January 2025, the "Building Bridges" project laid the foundations for strengthening social cohesion and interreligious cooperation across Benue, Nasarawa, and Plateau States in Nigeria. Through stakeholder consultations, Training of Trainers (ToTs), community-based trainings, interfaith educational activities, and digital engagement initiatives, the project reached more than 1,500 religious leaders, teachers, students, women leaders, youth representatives, and pastoralist community members.

Particular attention was given to engaging actors who are often underrepresented in formal peacebuilding initiatives, including women religious leaders, pastoralist representatives, and individuals initially skeptical of interfaith engagement. Early

evidence gathered throughout the year indicated encouraging behavioural and relational changes among participants. Religious leaders reported greater willingness to engage with counterparts from other faith communities, increased confidence in addressing sensitive issues through dialogue, and a reduction in exclusionary rhetoric. Several participants established informal mentoring networks and social media groups to continue exchanges and support local mediation efforts beyond the training period.

Participants also reported applying newly acquired skills to address local disputes, interfaith tensions, and community-level conflicts. In several locations, religious leaders, teachers, and community actors voluntarily replicated training messages through mosques, churches, schools, radio programs, and community forums, extending the project's reach beyond its direct beneficiaries.



The project further highlighted the value of combining intra-faith reflection, interfaith engagement, and practical collaboration. Through the Diapraxis initiative, participants worked together on shared community challenges, helping to build trust, challenge stereotypes, and strengthen cooperation across religious divides.

Recognizing the growing influence of digital spaces on social cohesion, the project

also integrated training on misinformation, disinformation, and responsible online engagement. Participants strengthened their ability to identify divisive narratives, verify information, and promote constructive messaging within their communities and digital networks. The educational component produced encouraging results among students and teachers. For many participants, visits to places of worship belonging to another faith tradition represented a first direct encounter with the practices of the other community, often transforming initial apprehension into curiosity, mutual respect, and a stronger commitment to inclusive learning environments.



Path to Peace

Funded by the FDFA and implemented by DIWA and DAAC, in Nigeria with CPI providing technical expertise

Efforts for reintegrating former members of armed groups are more likely to succeed when they are locally owned, culturally grounded, and supported by religious frameworks that communities perceive as legitimate, including Islamic principles related to reconciliation, restorative justice, social cohesion, and peaceful coexistence.

Throughout 2025, the Path to Peace project continued supporting efforts to foster reconciliation between conflict-affected

communities and former combatants in North-East Nigeria. Through a series of training sessions, imams, pastors, women leaders, and youth representatives strengthened their capacities to promote constructive alternative narratives, facilitate dialogue, and support community-based approaches to peacebuilding and social cohesion.

As a technical advisor to the project, CPI continued to support DAAC in the implementation of activities aimed at rebuilding trust between communities and individuals affected by conflict and violence. Particular attention was given to strengthening local capacities for dialogue and reconciliation, recognizing the important role played by religious and community leaders in supporting reintegration processes.

In addition, CPI supported the implementation of an evaluation designed to identify gaps and challenges within existing reintegration programs for former members of armed groups. The assessment provided valuable insights into areas requiring further investment and helped inform recommendations for strengthening reintegration approaches over the short, medium, and long term. CPI also contributed technical guidance to the design of the next phase of the project, ensuring that lessons learned and emerging needs were reflected in future programming.

The project reinforced the importance of locally led reconciliation efforts that combine community engagement, trust-building, and the active involvement of religious and traditional leaders. These approaches remain essential for supporting sustainable reintegration processes and reducing the risk of renewed tensions in conflict-affected communities.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING, POLICY ENGAGEMENT AND INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

Throughout 2025, CPI contributed its expertise to a range of international conferences, policy forums, academic exchanges, and capacity-building initiatives. These engagements provided opportunities to share lessons learned from the Institute's work, contribute to discussions on religion and peacebuilding, strengthen partnerships, and promote greater understanding of the role of religious actors in conflict transformation processes.

Policy and Peacebuilding Dialogue

CPI participated in a **strategic planning meeting** hosted by the Center for Security Studies (CSS), ETH Zurich, to review progress and discuss future directions for the UNDP Somalia project *Islaamku Waa Nabad: A Peacebuilding Approach to Address Violent Extremism in Somalia*. The discussions focused on strengthening locally grounded approaches to peacebuilding and preventing violent extremism and violence.

In Doha, Qatar, CPI participated in the **Second International Conference on "From Religious Freedom to Religious Responsibility"**, organised by the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue. The conference explored the role of faith actors in promoting peace and social responsibility in increasingly polarized environments.

CPI contributed to the **2025 Religion and Mediation Course in Basel**, organised by the Culture and Religion in Mediation Program at the CSS/ETH Zurich and the Swiss FDFA, in collaboration with the Network for Religious

and Traditional Peacemakers (NRTP) and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. Drawing on its experience in mediation and dialogue engagement, CPI contributed to discussions on armed contestations over governance in Afghanistan, Mali, and Syria.

Research and Knowledge Exchange

CPI participated in the **Cross-Cultural Religious Literacy Summit in Krakow, Poland**, co-organised by Templeton Religion Trust, Love Your Neighbor Community, and The Review of Faith & International Affairs. The summit provided a platform to exchange perspectives on the role of religious literacy in addressing contemporary social and political challenges.

In Baku, Azerbaijan, CPI contributed to the **Third International Conference on Combating Islamophobia**, themed **"Islamophobia in Focus: Unveiling Bias, Shattering Stigmas"**. The event brought together researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to discuss the impact of anti-Muslim discrimination and identify strategies for promoting inclusive societies.

Capacity Building and Local Partnerships

Building on its commitment to strengthening local peacebuilding capacities, CPI collaborated **with the CSS/ETH Zurich to deliver a peacebuilding workshop for the Somali Higher Institute for Strategic and Security Studies (HISS) in Mogadishu**. The initiative supported the development of local expertise in conflict analysis, peacebuilding, and conflict transformation.



Knowledge Dissemination

In addition to these engagements, CPI continued to share its expertise through public outreach initiatives. As part of the Cross-Cultural Religious Literacy initiative, CPI Director Abbas Aroua participated in [an interview on the role of religious literacy in conflict transformation and peacebuilding, contributing to wider discussions on faith-based approaches to peace](#).

These engagements enabled CPI to connect field-based experience with academic research, diplomacy, and policymaking. They strengthened relationships with researchers, diplomats, religious leaders, and peacebuilding practitioners while contributing to international discussions on mediation, social cohesion, religious engagement, and conflict transformation.

PUBLICATIONS

– Ozair Khan and Ahmed-Waleed Kakar. [The Afghan Taliban Constitution Drafting: Between theory and practice, new beginnings and calculated continuity.](#) Cordoba Research Papers. Cordoba Peace Institute – Geneva. February 2025.

– Reine Radwan. [Gender-Sensitive Conflict Analysis: Middle Belt of Nigeria.](#) Cordoba Research Papers. Cordoba Peace Institute – Geneva. April 2025.

– Abbas Sharifa. [Diplomacy of the Prophet Muhammad in the Treaty of Hdaybiya \(627 AD / 6 Hijri\).](#) Cordoba Research Papers. Cordoba Peace Institute – Geneva. April 2025.

– Abbas Aroua. [The Role of Advisers in Mediating Worldview Conflicts.](#) Cordoba Research Papers. Cordoba Peace Institute – Geneva. October 2025.

– Enver Jusufovic. [Religious and Community Dynamics of Islam in Côte d'Ivoire and Benin.](#) Cordoba Peace Institute – Geneva. December 2025.

NEWSLETTERS

CPI published a regular newsletter that featured reports of CPI's activities, articles, interviews and case studies highlighting innovative practices, lessons learned, and research findings in the realm of conflict transformation. Two editions of the Cordoba Update newsletter, were published in [January](#) and [June 2025](#) in Arabic, English and French and in formats suited for different regions and communities.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Governance

The Board of Trustees is the governing body of CPI. It has the responsibility to ensure compliance with the mission of CPI and that the assets of CPI are fully engaged in achieving its goal in line with international professional standards.

The Advisory Committee provides technical expertise and guidance and ensures that the programs and projects of CPI comply with its strategic objectives, core values, methodology and approach, and guiding principles.

The Executive Management (the Director and the General Manager) has the mandate to direct and manage CPI according to the directives of the Board of Trustees and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee. An External Auditor is appointed by the Board of Trustees to review and approve the accounts of CPI. The audited accounts are reported every year with CPI's annual report to the Swiss Federal Supervisory Authority.



Financial Overview

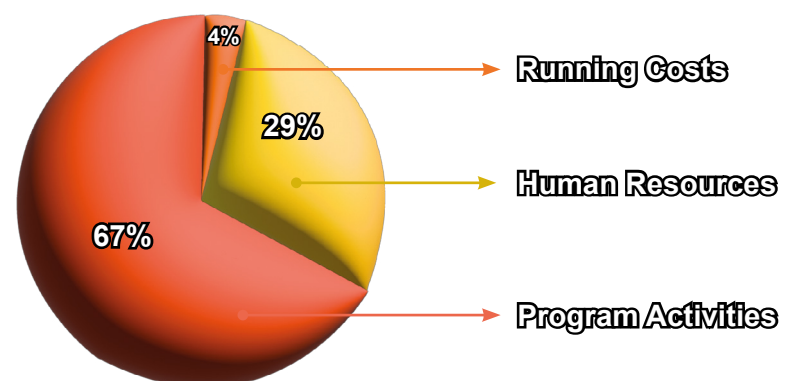
In 2025, CPI managed a total income of CHF 1,428,122, enabling the implementation of peacebuilding, dialogue, research, mediation, and capacity-building initiatives across Africa, West Asia, and Europe. Financial management remained guided by principles of accountability, transparency, and responsible stewardship of donor resources.

Income

Public and Private Funds	CHF 1,428,122
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Expenditure - Pie chart

Category	Amount (CHF)	Share of Expenditure
Program Activities	CHF 905,122	67%
Human Resources	CHF 392,985	29%
Running Costs	CHF 44,670	4%



Programme activities represented approximately two-thirds of CPI's expenditure in 2025, reflecting the Institute's continued focus on delivering field-based peacebuilding initiatives, dialogue processes, research, and capacity-building programmes. Human resource costs supported the specialised expertise required to design, implement, and monitor complex conflict transformation interventions, while operational costs remained limited, representing approximately 4% of total expenditure.

CPI remains committed to maintaining a lean operational structure while investing in the technical expertise, local partnerships, and programme delivery capacities necessary to support sustainable peacebuilding efforts in complex environments.

Funding Partners

CPI's work in 2025 was made possible through the support of a range of institutional and philanthropic partners, including:

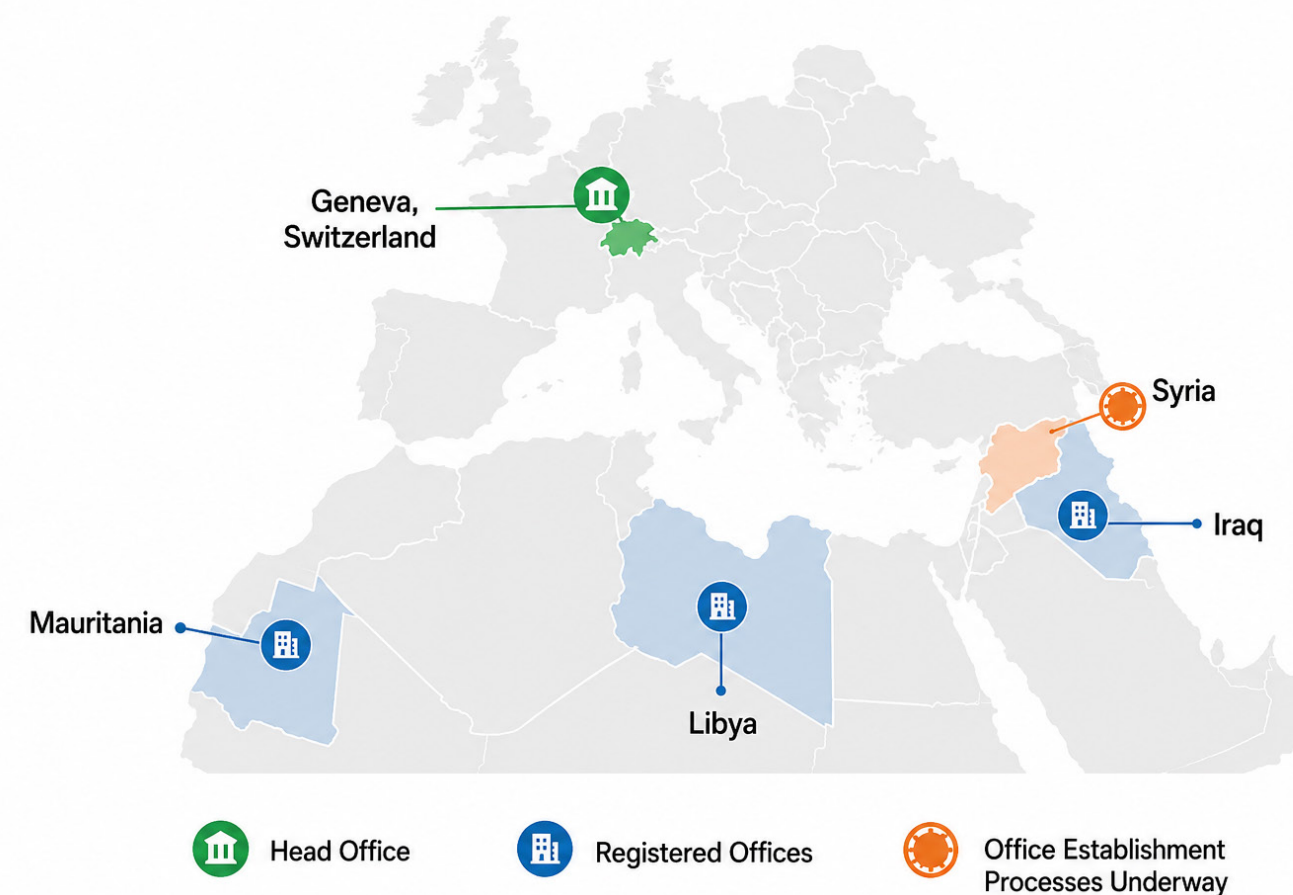
- Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
- European Union
- Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
- United Nations Development Programme Somalia
- Templeton Religion Trust



These partnerships enabled CPI to continue developing locally grounded approaches to conflict transformation, mediation, social cohesion, and peacebuilding across multiple regions.

Institutional Presence

CPI operates through its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, and maintains registered offices and long-standing partnerships in several countries where it supports peacebuilding and conflict transformation initiatives.





Cordoba Peace Institute – Geneva (CPI) is a Swiss independent, non-profit organisation, established in 2002, working on the prevention of violence and extremism, conflict transformation, peacebuilding, and the strengthening of social cohesion.



CPI operates under the supervision of the Swiss Federal Department of Home Affairs and is considered a public interest organization in the State of Geneva. It has special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council.



The first president of CPI was former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella who held this position for a decade until he passed away in 2012.



The motivation behind establishing CPI was setting up an institution to reflect and act, through research and dialogues, on conflicts in the Arab region with a keen focus on ideological polarisation, sectarianism, the role of the army in politics, and democratic transition. The work of CPI was then extended to different parts of Africa because of the repercussions of the 2011 uprisings on the Sub-Saharan Sahel, West Africa, and East Africa regions.



CPI is inspired by the Andalusian city of Cordoba, a renowned historical centre of interfaith dialogue, and Geneva, a modern centre of humanitarian action and international dialogue and mediation.



CPI has gained the trust of educational institutions in both Europe and the United States. These institutions rely on CPI to provide internships for their students, allowing them to fulfill academic credit requirements. Through CPI's practical fieldwork, the interns acquire valuable knowledge and experience in conflict transformation. CPI receives interns from the Geneva Graduate Institute, University of Geneva, Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, Sorbonne University, and Pepperdine University in the U.S.



CPI's work is based on the three pillars of mediation, action research, and capacity building in modern theoretical and practical conflict transformation best practices coupled with sound local traditional wisdom for social cohesion.



CPI receives no core funding, but has carried out a multiplicity of projects over the last two decades thanks to funding by donors who consider CPI a trusted partner and acknowledge the effectiveness of its work, mainly the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, the German Federal Foreign Office, the European Union, and the Templeton Religion Trust, Finnish MoFa and UNDP.



CPI mediates track I, II, and III conflicts with political, ideological, religious, ethnic, or sectarian dimensions, and has developed over the years an effective methodology for dealing with worldview conflicts.



CPI has developed a broad network of local partners in the contexts where it operates (research centres, peace organisations, political actors, community and religious leaders, women and youth groups), including conflict parties and influential actors normally difficult to reach.



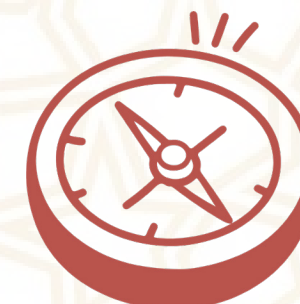
To continue its mission sustainably following its first two decades of existence, CPI is seeking solid partnerships with institutions which believe in its mission.



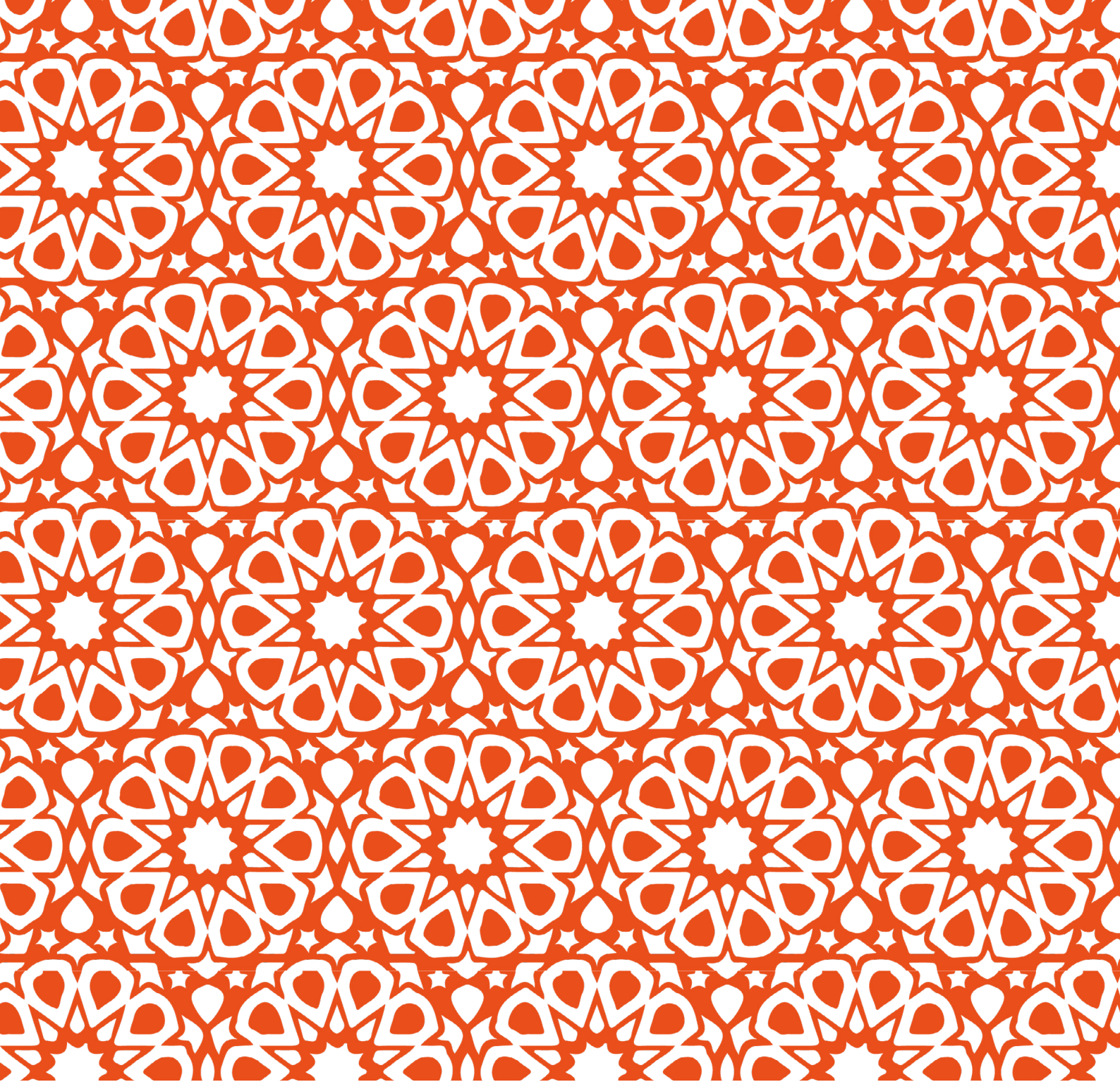
In over 20 years, CPI has been running programs and projects in 20+ countries, in West Asia, North Africa, the Sahel Region, West Africa, Lake Chad, Horn of Africa, East Africa, and recently in Afghanistan.



CPI promotes a methodology that is adapted to and accepted by local communities, conflict parties and peace actors, and uses internal peace resources within the societies in which it works.



CPI applies the following guiding principles in the implementation of its projects: (1) non-violence, (2) inclusiveness, (3) conflict sensitivity, (4) gender sensitivity, (5) cultural sensitivity, (6) promotion of locally owned and demand-driven processes, (7) do-no-harm.



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