Peace Research Report: The Case for Direct Peacebuilding

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Introduction:

The **purpose of this research** was to **analyze peacebuilding organizations** and **determine** which ones carry out **direct peacebuilding activities**.

Organizations that are involved in **direct peacebuilding** collaborate with **armed groups** and/or **conflicted parties**, directly or ambiguously, to **attain peace**.

Organizations that worked with **armed groups and/or conflicted parties directly** often involved these groups in **peace negotiations**.

On the other hand, **organizations** that worked with **armed groups and/or conflicted parties ambiguously** often used **third parties** such as elders, community leaders, and/or government officials to interact with them.

Organizations that **did not interact with conflicted parties** were **excluded** from the list.

Data and Results:

The **peacebuilding organizations** on the list that dealt **directly** with **conflicted parties** included:

1. **African Union:**
   - "The African Union led a National Dialogue in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) alongside the European Union (EU), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), the UN Special Envoy, and the International Organization of la Francophonie (IOF)" (SADC).
   - "As a result, the historic signing of an agreement was reached between the presidential majority, opposition political parties, and civil society in the DRC in 2016" (SADC).
   - "The agreement paved way for a smooth transition leading to provincial, parliamentary, and presidential elections by April 2018" (SADC).
   - "The signed agreement allowed for the creation of a transitional coalition government whereby Former President Kabila continued as the President, while the opposition that participated in the political dialogue assumed the position of the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo" (SADC).
2. **Center for Humanitarian Dialogue:**
   - "In the Sahel region, the Center for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD) consults governments on engaging jihadist movements in peace talks" (HD).

- "The HD supports more than 2,000 agropastoral mediators across the G5 Sahel states of Chad, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Mauritania who have settled hundreds of micro-conflicts between farmers and pastoralists" (HD).
- "The Senegal Government and the southern factions of Casamance's separatist movement MFDC agreed on the roadmap of a weapons handover and pledged to work on a return to peace – the biggest breakthrough in an eight-year process facilitated by the HD" (HD).
- "Across Francophone Africa, the HD has mediated dozens of local peace agreements by consulting extensively with women, youth, community leaders and religious groups" (HD).
- "The accords have allowed the return of tens of thousands of displaced people and the reopening of schools and clinics" (HD).
- "The HD backs initiatives for negotiations in Cameroon by focusing on conflict management and de-escalating violence" (HD).

3. **Communities in Transition:**
   - "Communities in Transition (CIT) conducts mediations between armed groups and civilians in the Central African Republic" (CIT).
   - "These mediations take place to stabilize the city, under rebel control, so that internally displaced people can return home and economic activities can resume" (CIT).

4. **Conciliation Resources:**
   - "Conciliation Resources worked with the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF), an armed group that was fighting for independence in the Somali Regional State of Ethiopia called Ogaden, and the Ethiopian Government, which led to a peace deal between the two entities in 2018" (Conciliation Resources).

5. **Crisis Management Initiative:**
   - "The Crisis Management Initiative (CMI) initiated the Aceh peace process between the Government of Indonesia and the Free Aceh Movement in the Aceh province of Indonesia" (CMI).
   - "As a result, an agreement was signed in 2005, ending decades of conflict since the establishment of the Republic of Indonesia in 1945" (CMI).
   - "The agreement gave the province of Aceh autonomous status within Indonesia" (CMI).
   - "CMI and Former President of Finland Ahtisaari continued to monitor the development of the Aceh peace process until June 2012" (CMI).

6. **Dialogue Advisory Group:**
   - "Since 2010, the Dialogue Advisory Group (DAG) has initiated dialogues with representatives from the Congolese government and armed groups as well as international actors to reduce violence" (DAG).

- "The DAG supports national and international efforts to disarm, demobilize and reintegrate key armed groups and contribute to sustainable solutions to armed conflict in the Great Lakes region" (DAG).

7. **European Union:**
   - "The European Union (EU) supported the African Union-led National Dialogue in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) alongside the African Union, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), the UN Special Envoy, and the International Organization of la Francophonie (IOF)" (SADC).
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8. **Intergovernmental Authority on Development:**
   - "The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) led a mediation process between the Government of the Republic of South Sudan (GRSS) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM/A)" (IGAD).
   - "As a result, the two parties signed agreements on Cessation of Hostilities and Question of Detainees in Addis Ababa in January 2014" (IGAD).

9. **International Conference on the Great Lakes Region:**
   - "The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) supported the African Union-led National Dialogue in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) alongside the African Union, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the European Union (EU), the UN Special Envoy, and the International Organization of la Francophonie (IOF)" (SADC).
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10. **International Organization of la Francophonie:**

- "The International Organization of la Francophonie (IOF) supported the African Union-led National Dialogue in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) alongside the African Union, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the European Union (EU), the UN Special Envoy, and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)" (SADC).
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11. Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade:
- "Ireland supported the peace process in Colombia, which led to the Colombian Government's signing of the peace accord with the FARC rebel group in 2016, ending over 50 years of conflict in the country" (DFA).
- "Former Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Eamon Gilmore was appointed as EU Special Envoy for the Colombian Peace Process in 2015. His role being to spearhead the EU's work to support the implementation of the agreement. Throughout 2016, Gilmore engaged with the Colombian government and opposition, FARC delegations, Colombian civil society, and the international community on the negotiation of the accords" (DFA).

12. Karuna Center for Peacebuilding:
- "Ever since the movement for autonomy in Senegal's Casamance region turned into a war of independence over 30 years ago, the rebels turned to their ancestors for spiritual protection and took vows with traditional priestesses of the sacred forest to not return to their villages until accomplishing independence" (Karuna).
- "In 2014, the Karuna Center raised money to involve 200 traditional priestesses for a 3-day ceremony to formally undo the spiritual protections and vows that the rebel fighters from the villages had taken when they joined the fight for independence, and to instead pray for successful peace negotiations and reconciliations" (Karuna).
- "The priestesses asked them to find forgiveness and reconciliation with one another—despite the pain the war had brought" (Karuna).
- "In December 2016, the effort was expanded to bring together leaders from 21 villages in the region of Blouf (in the Casamance) to formally 'call the rebels home' to their communities" (Karuna).
- "Their actions included rituals, traditional song and dance, and community meetings to discuss the peace process" (Karuna).

- "The rebels' spiritual obligations to fight for independence were formally removed by the regional priestess of the sacred forest, assisted by women from villages throughout the area" (Karuna).
- "As a result of these efforts, rebel fighters laid down their weapons and reintegrated into village life" (Karuna).

13. **Nonviolent Peace Force:**
- "In 2014, the Filipino Government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) signed a historic peace agreement, marking an 'end' to decades-long conflict" (Nonviolent Peace Force)
- "The teams within the peace process were composed of former MILF combatants, government soldiers, and policemen, which aimed to implement peacekeeping strategies in Mindanao. The Nonviolent Peace Force was involved in the formal peace process, which included training these teams on unarmed civilian protection methods" (Nonviolent Peace Force).

14. **Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs:**
- "Norway has been involved in peace and reconciliation efforts in Colombia for several decades. This work has included efforts to promote dialogue between a series of governments and the Colombian guerrilla groups FARC-EP and ELN" (Regjeringen.no).
- "Norway and Cuba were official facilitators of the peace process between the Colombian Government and the FARC-EP. The peace talks were launched in Oslo in October 2012 following a lengthy dialogue between the parties on a framework for the process. The parties conducted negotiations in Havana based on a framework agreement that resulted in a peace agreement in November 2016" (Regjeringen.no).
- "After the peace agreement was ratified, FARC-EP laid down their arms and became a political party with representation in the Colombian Congress" (Regjeringen.no).

15. **Organization of Islamic Cooperation:**
- "The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) had been observing the bilateral negotiations between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Government of the Philippines" (OIC).
- "Eventually, the Secretary General of the OIC, Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, traveled to Manila on October 13, 2012, to participate in the signing ceremony of a Framework Agreement between the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)" (OIC).

16. **Southern African Development Community:**
- "The Southern African Development Community (SADC) supported the African Union-led National Dialogue in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) alongside the African Union, the European Union (EU), the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), the UN Special Envoy, and the International Organization of la Francophonie (IOF)" (SADC).

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17. The Carter Center:
- "In 2011, as the war in Darfur continued, a second conflict broke out in South Kordofan and Blue Nile, two states in the southeastern part of Sudan" (Carter Center).
- "The war in the 'Two Areas,' as the two states are known, pits the government against the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army-North (SPLM/A-N), a movement largely composed of former SPLM/A fighters from border regions that remained part of Sudan following South Sudan's secession" (Carter Center).
- "The Carter Center convened meetings of government officials, opposition leaders, and civil society members to discuss paths to peace and conducted various behind-the-scenes efforts to try to help bring an end to conflict" (Carter Center).

18. United Nations:
- "The UN Special Envoy supported the African Union-led National Dialogue in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) alongside the African Union, the European Union (EU), the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and the International Organization of la Francophonie (IOF)" (SADC).
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Based on the data, the **number of peacebuilding organizations** on the list that deal **directly** with **conflicted parties** is **18.**

The **peacebuilding organizations** on the list that dealt **ambiguously** with **conflicted parties** included:

1. **Center for Research and Dialogue:**
   - "The violent fighting between the Sa'ad and Saleman communities in south-central Somalia in 2004-5 caused the death of over 300 persons, the loss of valuable properties, and fractured the brotherly relationship between the two communities" (Interpeace).
   - "In mid-2004, a group of elders, businesspeople, politicians, and intellectuals from the Sa'ad and Saleman sub-clans met at the Sahafi Hotel in Mogadishu to begin the first formal peace initiative to end the conflicts between their communities in Mudug and Galgadud regions. Following a series of consultations, an agreement was reached and signed by 21 respected representatives" (Interpeace).
   - "An agreement was reached to collaborate on a unified approach comprising three phases to be implemented by different groups, as outlined below. Interpeace and its partners, the Center for Research and Dialogue (CRD) and the Puntland Development and Research Center (PDRC), were requested to support the second phase, the reconciliation process" (Interpeace).
   - "The peace process had immediate beneficial effects for the communities in Mudug and Galgadud regions and beyond, by ending the violent conflict and allowing free movement of people and goods through the area from north and south Somalia" (Interpeace).
2. **Concordis International:**
   - "Concordis International focuses on building bridges between Abyei's communities in the disputed area of Abyei between Sudan and South Sudan. A key aspect of their approach has been the appointment of Misseriya and Dinka community liaison officers, to start the long process of building trust and opening channels for communication" (Concordis).
   - "In February 2016, Concordis co-facilitated a joint meeting between the Dinka Ngok and Misseriya groups, having prepared the ground with 10 mini dialogues with key leaders from the communities. The joint meeting of over 700 delegates agreed to form a 20-member Joint Community Peace Committee (JCPC)" (Concordis).
   - "As a result, the JCPC has been meeting regularly at the Amiet Market, mediating intercommunity conflict as it arises, addressing its root causes and negotiating peace agreements between the communities" (Concordis).
3. **European Institute of Peace:**
   - "In 2016, Afghan governmental officials began discussing a potential peace deal with the political party and insurgent group Hizb-e Islami" (EPLO).
   - "The agreement with Hizb-e Islami, under the leadership of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, was successful. Hizb-e Islami agreed to break ties with terror organizations and to respect the Afghan constitution, including equal rights for men and women, in return

for immunity, amnesty, full political rights, the release of prisoners, and the integration of its fighters into the national defense and security forces" (EPLO).
- "To give the agreement its best possible chance, in 2017, the European Union provided funding for the Afghanistan Peace Support Initiative (APSI), comprised of the European Institute of Peace and Swiss Peace together with Afghan national partners" (EPLO).

4. **Global Peace Foundation:**
   - "The people of Kajuru LGA in Nigeria had suffered guerilla attacks and kidnappings" (Global Peace).
   - "In response to these attacks, the Global Peace Foundation (GPF) Nigeria organized a dialogue meeting composed of 40 women and young leaders of diverse ethnicities and religious identities to explore peaceful coexistence to the area" (Global Peace).
   - "The peacebuilding dialogue meeting was held on June 16, 2020, with the support of the US Embassy" (Global Peace).
   - "Several participants echoed the belief that people participating in the attacks were likely their neighbors attacking them based on their different beliefs or ethnicities rather than "outsiders." The tensions between the Fulanis (a primary nomadic Muslim group) and the natives resulted in the attacks according to some of the participants. Furthermore, to create peace in the area, it was voiced that the people of the community needed to put aside their differences in religion and ethnicity and sincerely embrace each other based on shared values across their faith traditions" (Global Peace).
   - "The participants were concerned about the recent armed kidnappings and expressed their frustrations towards the government and community leaders' lack of willingness to act to resolve the conflict. One participant emphasized that peace won't come until they replaced their deceased chief, who was assassinated the previous year. The participant explained that a chief was needed to control the community and direct them toward peace" (Global Peace).
   - "The dialogue resulted in motivating the people of the community to actively work for peace and moved them to strengthen their Civilian Joint Task Force (JTF) to protect the diverse people from different tribes and to fight the crime that threatens to take over the area" (Global Peace).

5. **Institute for Integrated Transitions:**
   - "In 2012, the Institute for Integrated Transitions (IFIT) organized an influential amicus brief, successfully intervening before the Constitutional Court on the question of the future political participation of FARC combatants" (IFIT).
   - "Later, through its executive director, IFIT played a unique first-hand role inside the peace talks, working in Havana as the international expert advisor to the Colombian government delegation during the 18 months of the negotiation of victims' issues with the FARC rebel group, which culminated in a transitional justice accord in December 2015" (IFIT).

- "As the peace talks ended, IFIT went a step further. To ensure that the firsthand knowledge acquired during the negotiations would remain organized and available during the implementation phase, IFIT created the Brain Trust for the Colombian Transition: a unique platform of 16 expert advisors who played key roles during the Havana talks" (IFIT).

6. **International Alert:**
   - "International Alert's Tusameheane Tujenge Nchi (participatory governance for peace in Kenya) project aims to address these intra and inter-ethnic conflicts between the communities in Migori, Nairobi and Wajir counties. The project does this by implementing a programme of participatory governance at the county levels, creating space for dialogue so that communities can work together to reduce some of the incentives for conflict between them and contribute to the wider peacebuilding processes" (International Alert).
   - "Over the past few years, the theft of stock has been escalating and increasing tensions among communities. In response to this, with support from the project, Deputy County Commissioner (DCC) of Kuria East and the area's Sub County Peace Committee convened a meeting along the border at Mpesa between the Kuria and the Maasai to address the issue" (International Alert).
   - "However, infrastructure is also a major challenge in the region. A river separating the Kuria and Massai and with no easy way to cross it has hindered peace talks between each side. To resolve this conflict and restore peace between the two groups, the Kuria entourage, led by the DCC and project team, crossed the river Migori to the Maasai side on foot" (International Alert).
   - "Present during the meeting were two Members of the County Assembly (MCAs), Transmara West and Kuria East DCCs, chiefs, community leaders, the police, elders, and the community. All those in attendance were able to voice their grievances, talk through the issues and collectively decide how to peacefully resolve them. Among the resolutions that were agreed upon, one was the immediate and unconditional return of stolen cattle. As a result, four out of the eight cattle that was stolen were returned to their rightful owners" (International Alert).
   - "Through the series of dialogue forums that have taken place due to the project we, the security situation had improved, with the reduction of conflicts between the two communities and stock being stolen. The communities that could not see eye to eye are now going about their activities like stock keeping and farming peacefully and are also trading with one another" (International Alert).

7. **International Crisis Group:**
   - "When the International Crisis Group began work in Colombia in 2002, the conflict between the government and FARC guerrillas was entering its fifth decade" (Crisis Group).
   - "The Crisis Group seized the moment to lay out possible negotiation paths. A high-level government contact was among Colombian and U.S. officials who praised

our early report laying out this new agenda – President Santos's Conflict Resolution Opportunity – saying that Bogotá used some of the organization's recommendations in initial informal talks with the FARC" (Crisis Group).
- "The Crisis Group kicked into action, advocating a renegotiation of the agreement with the government and FARC, the opposition, international actors, and identifying ways to mobilize popular support for it. The two sides were already deeply committed to making peace work, leading to a new deal signed in late November and approved by the Colombian congress shortly thereafter" (Crisis Group).

8. **Interpeace:**
   - "The violent fighting between the Sa'ad and Saleman communities in south-central Somalia in 2004-5 caused the death of over 300 persons, the loss of valuable properties, and fractured the brotherly relationship between the two communities" (Interpeace).
   - "In mid-2004, a group of elders, businesspeople, politicians, and intellectuals from the Sa'ad and Saleman sub-clans met at the Sahafi Hotel in Mogadishu to begin the first formal peace initiative to end the conflicts between their communities in Mudug and Galgadud regions. Following a series of consultations, an agreement was reached and signed by 21 respected representatives" (Interpeace).
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   - "The peace process had immediate beneficial effects for the communities in Mudug and Galgadud regions and beyond, by ending the violent conflict and allowing free movement of people and goods through the area from north and south Somalia" (Interpeace).

9. **KAICIID:**
   - "Against the backdrop of prolonged unrest throughout the Central African Republic (CAR), the remote town of Obo was plunged into turmoil in the summer of 2021 after a skirmish between rebels and UN peacekeepers" (KAICIID).
   - "In the wake of the death and destruction, tensions soared as residents vented their fury towards the Blue Helmets, prompting the deployment of an interreligious peace mission backed by KAICIID to mediate and reduce tensions" (KAICIID).
   - "What happened next underscored the crucial role that CAR's faith leaders and inter-religious initiatives can play in solving conflict and building peace in the war-wracked country" (KAICIID).
   - "An emergency mission was planned, using an interreligious group called the Plateforme des Confessions Religieuses de Centrafrique (PCRC), supported financially by KAICIID, as well as through trainings, activities, and support on field missions. Bringing together Catholic, Protestant and Muslim religious leaders, the platform

supports peacebuilding in CAR through interreligious dialogue and campaigns against hate speech" (KAICIID).

- "One by one, they began speaking with the main actors involved — the army, the local population, UN peacekeepers, the regional governor and civil society groups. Inclusivity would be a cornerstone of the talks. They listened to the grievances and began brainstorming ways to de-escalate the crisis, all while maintaining contact with key political decision-makers in the capital, Bangui" (KAICIID).
- "With tensions so high, the PCRC decided against opening the talks solely with language of reconciliation. Instead, they created a safe space in which people could first vent their frustrations. Following these self-contained talks, a large public meeting was held during which each party had the opportunity to speak in an open forum. This led to a breakthrough and further conflict was averted" (KAICIID).
- "Following the success of this mission, the PCRC has decided to set up a new branch in Obo where it can continue its peacebuilding efforts and provide an early warning system, monitoring fresh tensions and nipping them in the bud" (KAICIID).

10. **Life and Peace Institute:**
- "Galgadud state in Somalia has a reputation as a flashpoint for inter-clan conflict, and it has been the scene of some of the longest running clan disputes" (EPLO).
- "For communities from the Marehan and Dir clans in the town of Herale, it reached the point where nearly every family had lost something or someone" (EPLO).
- "Disputes between Marehan and Dir clans over pastoral land, borders and water had contributed to years of violence, leading to mutual fear and suspicion between the two communities. This meant the smallest of individual slights was often interpreted as a group transgression requiring revenge. The formation of clan militias expanded the conflict into attacks on settlements, which ensured more and more families were drawn into the cycle of animosity" (EPLO).
- "In 2003, the road through Herale became impassable because of inter-clan violence. It remained closed for 14 years" (EPLO).
- "In 2012, the Life and Peace Institute and the Zamzam Foundation decided to explore the possibilities of bringing the communities back together through dialogue with clan elders and community groups, in particular women, young men and women, and more marginalized clans" (EPLO).
- "In line with tradition, the two clans had to consult internally through a series of dialogues where leaders and sub-clans came together first to agree and take ownership of the wrongs they had committed, which is an important step in the process to accept responsibility before facing the other side" (EPLO).
- "By 2015, Dir and Marehan elders were sitting together under an Acacia, the tree of peace, in Inagibilee to discuss their conflict. The dialogue continued for several weeks, each side taking turns to raise and discuss their concerns" (EPLO).
- "After four inter-clan dialogues between Marehan and Dir over the course of four years, a milestone was reached. In October 2017, the two clans signed a peace

agreement and the road through Herale reopened. It was one of the largest ever dialogue meetings under the project, with 223 clan members from the two sides" (EPLO).
- "Now, vehicles from Balanbale pass through Herale everyday" (EPLO).

11. Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe:
- "Ten years after signing a successful Peace Agreement in June 1997, Tajikistan has changed remarkably. In the mid-1990s, the country was amid civil war and on the brink of economic, social, and humanitarian collapse. Today, the Government of Tajikistan has achieved a level of stability" (OSCE).
- "The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has contributed to this transformation. Tajikistan became a participating State of the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) in 1992. Since the CSCE Mission to Tajikistan was established in early 1994, the Organization has been co-operating closely with the Government in building a lasting peace and promoting stability" (OSCE).
- "The General Agreement on Peace and National Reconciliation in Tajikistan was signed by representatives of the Tajik Government and the United Tajik Opposition in Moscow on 27 June 1997. The Agreement put an end to the 1992-97 civil war in the country" (OSCE).

12. Organization of American States:
- "One of the greatest interstate crises that this Hemisphere has witnessed was the conflict between Ecuador and Colombia in March 2008 when Colombian armed forces and police officers entered Ecuadoran territory to launch an attack against members of the illegally armed group FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) who were hiding in a camp located on the Ecuadoran border" (OAS).
- "As a result, diplomatic relations between both countries were broken, and the OAS had to intervene to diffuse the rising tension" (OAS).
- "The OAS supported the efforts of both countries to restore trust and forward-looking relations through the Mission of Good Offices in Colombia and Ecuador, which had as its main purpose the follow-up and verification of commitments assumed, and agreements reached by the two countries for cooperation on border issues and other matters of common interest, for the strengthening of border mechanisms for dialogue and cooperation, and for the study of a possible bilateral early-warning system" (OAS).
- "The Mission concluded when diplomatic relations between both countries were fully restored in 2010" (OAS).

13. Pact Inc.:
- "For many years, the Marehan and Murule clans in East Africa's Mandera Triangle have lived in conflict. They share social and natural resources across the borders separating Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya – often the cause of disagreements" (Pact).

- "The Murule community blames the Marehan community for aiding Al Shabaab, a terror group that operates in villages along the Somali side of the border, ruining lives through fear, radicalization, and violence" (Pact).
- "On the other hand, the Marehan community accuses the Murule clan of pitting Kenyan security agents against their families residing in Mandera" (Pact).
- "In 2018, Pact Inc.'s Regional Approaches for Sustainable Conflict Management project (RASMI) began working with traditional clan leaders to stem the conflict and build social cohesion between the Marehan and Murule clans" (Pact).
- "With RASMI's support, the Murule and Marehan communities held trust-building dialogues to foster understanding and agreement. The traditional leaders helped galvanize those in their clans by presenting at the dialogues, agreeing to mobilize their communities, dissuading them from participating in retaliatory attacks and opting for negotiation rather than violence to manage conflict" (Pact).
- "Since the dialogues, the communities have shown their ability to successfully de-escalate conflict. The progress in how the two communities now maintain relationships, even during violent incidents, speaks to the dialogues' effectiveness in building trust" (Pact).
- "Earlier in 2019, two Murule men who worked as brokers at a livestock market in Elwak, Somalia, were killed there by Marehan gunmen. The killings did not spark inter-clan violence, and Marehan elders even participated in the men's burials. The Marehan community took responsibility for the killings, immediately sent messages of condolences to the victims' families and organized dialogues with the Murule clan to discuss the killings and reparations. And the Marehan quickly apprehended the killers, preempting any opportunities for revenge attacks" (Pact).
- "In March 2019, a Murule elder who had served as a Kenya Police Reservist was killed along the Kenya-Somalia border. The violence was accurately blamed on Al Shabaab rather than the Marehan community. Marehan elders reached out to the Murule clan with condolences and encouraged them to disseminate accurate information to nearby villages to avoid revenge attacks" (Pact).

14. **Plateforme des Confessions Religieuses de Centrafrique:**
- "Against the backdrop of prolonged unrest throughout the Central African Republic (CAR), the remote town of Obo was plunged into turmoil in the summer of 2021 after a skirmish between rebels and UN peacekeepers" (KAICIID).
- "In the wake of the death and destruction, tensions soared as residents vented their fury towards the Blue Helmets, prompting the deployment of an interreligious peace mission backed by KAICIID to mediate and reduce tensions" (KAICIID).
- "What happened next underscored the crucial role that CAR's faith leaders and inter-religious initiatives can play in solving conflict and building peace in the war-wracked country" (KAICIID).
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- "One by one, they began speaking with the main actors involved — the army, the local population, UN peacekeepers, the regional governor and civil society groups. Inclusivity would be a cornerstone of the talks. They listened to the grievances and began brainstorming ways to de-escalate the crisis, all while maintaining contact with key political decision-makers in the capital, Bangui" (KAICIID).
- "With tensions so high, the PCRC decided against opening the talks solely with language of reconciliation. Instead, they created a safe space in which people could first vent their frustrations. Following these self-contained talks, a large public meeting was held during which each party had the opportunity to speak in an open forum. This led to a breakthrough and further conflict was averted" (KAICIID).
- "Following the success of this mission, the PCRC has decided to set up a new branch in Obo where it can continue its peacebuilding efforts and provide an early warning system, monitoring fresh tensions and nipping them in the bud" (KAICIID).

15. **Puntland Development and Research Center:**
    - "The violent fighting between the Sa'ad and Saleman communities in south-central Somalia in 2004-5 caused the death of over 300 persons, the loss of valuable properties, and fractured the brotherly relationship between the two communities" (Interpeace).
    - "In mid-2004, a group of elders, businesspeople, politicians, and intellectuals from the Sa'ad and Saleman sub-clans met at the Sahafi Hotel in Mogadishu to begin the first formal peace initiative to end the conflicts between their communities in Mudug and Galgadud regions. Following a series of consultations, an agreement was reached and signed by 21 respected representatives" (Interpeace).
    - "An agreement was reached to collaborate on a unified approach comprising three phases to be implemented by different groups, as outlined below. Interpeace and its partners, the Center for Research and Dialogue (CRD) and the Puntland Development and Research Center (PDRC), were requested to support the second phase, the reconciliation process" (Interpeace).
    - "The peace process had immediate beneficial effects for the communities in Mudug and Galgadud regions and beyond, by ending the violent conflict and allowing free movement of people and goods through the area from north and south Somalia" (Interpeace).

16. **Purdue Peace Project:**
    - "The Lambussie and Nandom districts in the Upper West Region of Ghana had experienced inter-ethnic tensions. These two disputing communities are the Sisaalas and Dagaras" (PPP).

- "Such tensions had given way to disputes over land boundaries and land ownership between individuals of the two communities and ethnic groups" (PPP).
- "The Nandom Youth for Peace and Development (NYPAD), a local peace committee that emerged through the support and encouragement of the PPP, convened two actor meetings: one in Lambussie with Sisaalas, and another in Nandom with Dagaras" (PPP).
- "More than 150 people from the two communities were involved in the meetings, including chiefs, elders, land custodians, queen mothers, women, assembly members, and youth. The focus of the day-long meetings was to identify the causes of conflict between the two districts as well as strategies to resolve these conflicts and ensure sustained peace" (PPP).
- "As a result of the two actor meetings, community members agreed to respect each other and engage in peaceful relations. To date, community members have attended each other's local festivals (in Lambussie and Nandom) and participated in and supported friendly football matches between the youth of the two districts. Reports from monitoring visits in May 2016 indicate that these efforts have contributed to increased and improved relations between the ethnic groups and specifically between leaders and the youth of the two districts" (PPP).

17. Somali Peace Line:
- "The Somali Peace line organized a four-days training workshop on peace building for the implementing committee of the Joint Action Plan between Walamoy and Mohamed Muse clans in Mogadishu on 21-24th September 2016" (Tubta).
- "After years of armed conflict, the two clans have reached agreement" (Tubta).

18. Swiss Peace:
- "In 2016, Afghan governmental officials began discussing a potential peace deal with the political party and insurgent group Hizb-e Islami" (EPLO).
- "The agreement with Hizb-e Islami, under the leadership of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, was successful. Hizb-e Islami agreed to break ties with terror organizations and to respect the Afghan constitution, including equal rights for men and women, in return for immunity, amnesty, full political rights, the release of prisoners, and the integration of its fighters into the national defense and security forces" (EPLO).
- "In order to give the agreement its best possible chance, in 2017, the European Union provided funding for the Afghanistan Peace Support Initiative (APSI), comprised of the European Institute of Peace and Swiss Peace together with Afghan national partners" (EPLO).

19. Zamzam Foundation:
- "Galgadud state in Somalia has a reputation as a flashpoint for inter-clan conflict, and it has been the scene of some of the longest running clan disputes" (EPLO).
- "For communities from the Marehan and Dir clans in the town of Herale, it reached the point where nearly every family had lost something or someone" (EPLO).

- "Disputes between Marehan and Dir clans over pastoral land, borders and water had contributed to years of violence, leading to mutual fear and suspicion between the two communities. This meant the smallest of individual slights was often interpreted as a group transgression requiring revenge. The formation of clan militias expanded the conflict into attacks on settlements, which ensured more and more families were drawn into the cycle of animosity" (EPLO).
- "In 2003, the road through Herale became impassable because of inter-clan violence. It remained closed for 14 years" (EPLO).
- "In 2012, the Life and Peace Institute and the Zamzam Foundation decided to explore the possibilities of bringing the communities back together through dialogue with clan elders and community groups, in particular women, young men and women, and more marginalized clans" (EPLO).
- "In line with tradition, the two clans had to consult internally through a series of dialogues where leaders and sub-clans came together first to agree and take ownership of the wrongs they had committed, which is an important step in the process to accept responsibility before facing the other side" (EPLO).
- "By 2015, Dir and Marehan elders were sitting together under an Acacia, the tree of peace, in Inagibilee to discuss their conflict. The dialogue continued for several weeks, each side taking turns to raise and discuss their concerns" (EPLO).
- "After four inter-clan dialogues between Marehan and Dir over the course of four years, a milestone was reached. In October 2017, the two clans signed a peace agreement and the road through Herale reopened. It was one of the largest ever dialogue meetings under the project, with 223 clan members from the two sides" (EPLO).
- "Now, vehicles from Balanbale pass through Herale everyday" (EPLO).

Based on the data, the **number of peacebuilding organizations** on the list that dealt **ambiguously** with **conflicted parties** is **19.**

Research Methodology:

The **first step** in the research compilation was **obtaining the list of all peacebuilding organizations** written in the book Peace and Conflict Since 1991: War, Intervention, and Peacebuilding Organizations.

The **second step** was **analyzing the organizations' websites** and noting whether there were **direct or ambiguous interactions with armed groups** and/or **conflicted parties** to accomplish peace. This information was often found under a summary of accomplishments or past projects on the website.

The **third step** was to find and **analyze other peacebuilding organizations outside of the list** from the book. These other organizations were often **partners and collaborators** of the ones on the original list, so their names were obtained from the websites of the original organizations.

The **total number of organizations** that were **reviewed** were **252**.

The **organizations** that **interacted with armed groups and conflicted parties directly** to resolve conflict by involving them in peace negotiations, were **categorized under "direct."** This category **totaled to 18.**

On the other hand, **organizations** that **used third parties, such as elders, community leaders, and/or government officials** to interact with the armed groups and conflicted parties themselves, were **categorized under "ambiguous."** This category **totaled to 19.**

Organizations that **did not interact with conflicted parties**, directly nor indirectly, were **excluded from the list**. These organizations were focused on cultivating peace through roundabout methods or addressing the root causes of conflict, by placing resources into publishing articles, or humanitarian matters such as women and youth empowerment, education, economic stability, development, environmental protection, etc. This category **totaled to 215,** which demonstrates that the **vast majority were in this category.**

Conclusion and Lessons Learned:

Some peace organizations interacted with armed groups and conflicted parties directly to resolve conflict. These groups were often those in opposition to the ruling government and were involved in civil strife. These peace organizations directly involved these opposition groups in negotiations to resolve tension and violence.

Other peace organizations interacted with third parties so that these third parties, whether elders, community leaders, or government officials, could either interact with the armed groups themselves or with nation-states and/or tribes and clans that were in conflict. In other words, these warring tribes/clans, armed groups, and nation-states were engaged in peace resolutions through a third party.

Regardless of the specific details of these strategies, it was clear that involving oppositional groups in peace negotiations was an effective strategy for stopping violence. Therefore, peace organizations should try to directly work with and include conflicting parties in peace talks to facilitate change.

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