
HD highlights over the years
→ page 04

Peacemaking in 2022 and into the future
→ page 06

Investing in peace
→ page 22



Annual Report 2022 mediation for peace

The Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD) works to prevent and resolve armed conflict through mediation and discreet diplomacy.

Impartial and independent, HD has been achieving peace since 1999 by finding common ground for agreement.

From international to local levels, we bring together governments, political actors, armed groups and communities – including women and youth – to help people create sustainable peace and a better future.



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Table of contents

HD highlights over the years	→ page 04
Peacemaking in 2022 and into the future	→ page 06
Peace prize honours for HD	→ page 08
Gender & inclusion	→ page 09
Thematic mediation	→ page 10
Interstate mediation	→ page 12
Multi-level and intrastate mediation	→ page 14
Local & community mediation	→ page 17
Oslo Forum & Mediator's Studio	→ page 19
The HD Board	→ page 20
Investing in peace	→ page 22

HD highlights over the years

The map illustrates just some of our work in more than 80% of conflicts around the world.

1 COLOMBIA

HD is working to strengthen the benefits of peace accords signed in 2016, including support for the Manigua de Paz (Jungle of Peace) sustainable bean-to-bar chocolate business run by former FARC guerrillas in the Meta and Tumaco areas.



4 SENEGAL

Since 2014, HD has managed negotiations between Senegal's government and the various factions of the **Mouvement des Forces Démocratiques de Casamance** to end Africa's longest insurgency. In 2022, the efforts led to agreement on the roadmap of a weapons handover and a pledge to return to peace.



2 NIGERIA

Building on major community accords in 2015 and 2016, HD is addressing conflicts in the Middle Belt of Africa's largest and most populous economy. HD's recent results include a **landmark social media peace accord** between communities in conflict and a **peace agreement based on sharing natural resources**.

3 SAHEL

In a region of widespread instability, HD supports a network of more than 2,000 agro-pastoral mediators in **Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Chad** who resolve hundreds of conflicts over the sharing of natural resources every year. HD also mediates many local agreements to reduce the impact of conflict on communities and foster reconciliation.

5 LIBYA

In one of the world's most complex conflicts, HD brokered dialogue among all Libyan national and local stakeholders in 2020. This led to a **ceasefire** and **UN-brokered political deal** with a new interim government, roadmap for elections and sizeable women's representation in the future cabinet.

6 TUNISIA

HD facilitated the **Charter of Honour for Elections**, an agreement among all major Tunisian political parties that allowed the 2014 vote to proceed peacefully.

7 SPAIN

For 15 years, HD discreetly and steadily helped to resolve decades of violence in Spain, starting with confidential support for talks and ending with the **Basque armed group ETA disbanding**. ETA's final declaration was made public in a ceremony at HD headquarters on 3 May 2018.

8 UKRAINE

Active in Ukraine since 2014, HD repositioned quickly after the Russian invasion in 2022 to help set up civilian corridors and discreet communication channels. HD played a key role in supporting the UN-led **Black Sea Initiative** with Russia, Ukraine and Türkiye that reopened vital food shipments to millions of people.



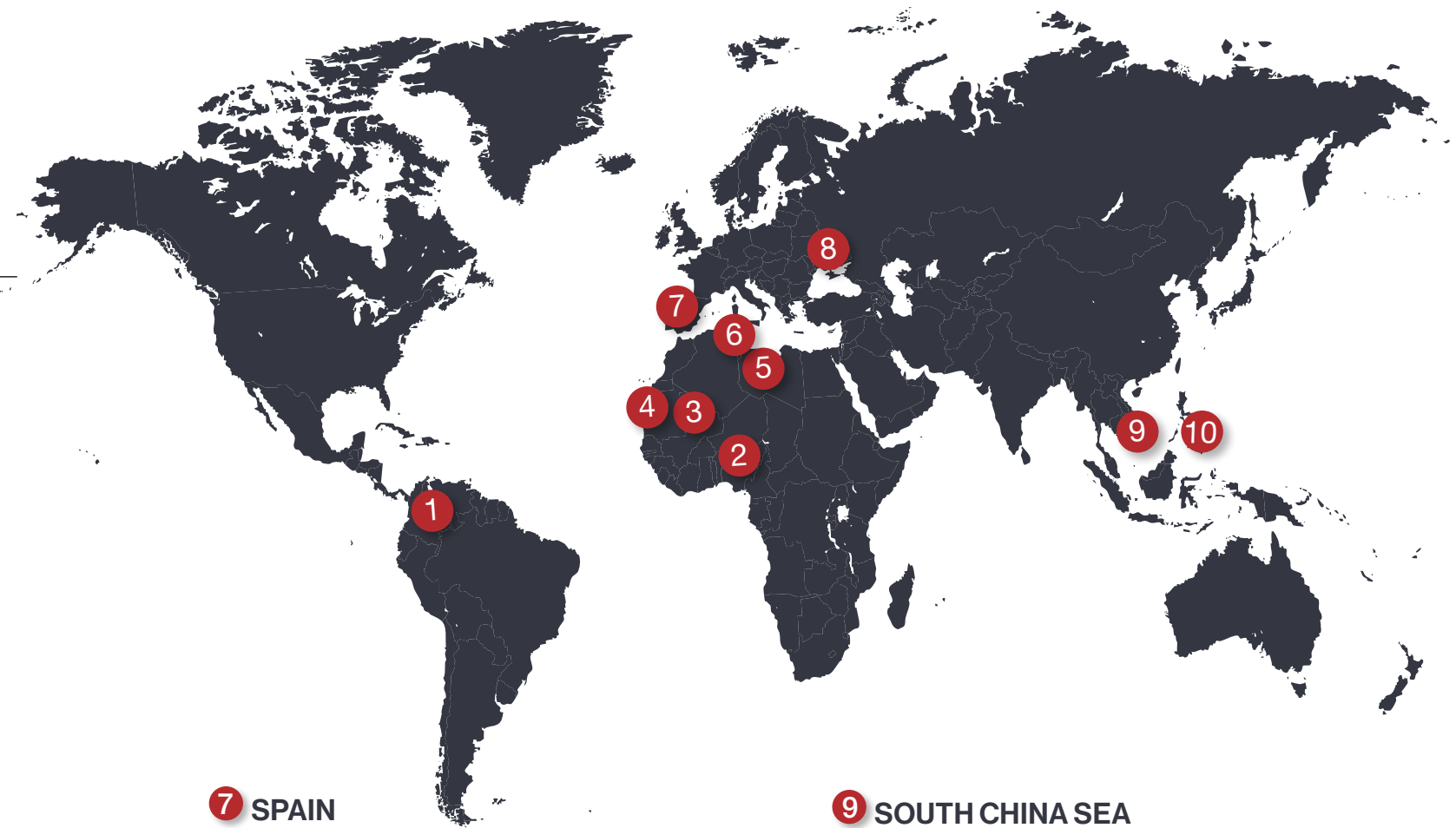
9 SOUTH CHINA SEA

In a region of tense geopolitics and territorial disputes, HD works to reduce the risks of violent escalation. HD has facilitated dialogue among **maritime law enforcement agencies**, resulting in operational principles to prevent incidents at sea between China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines.



10 PHILIPPINES

Since 2004, HD's help to end conflict in the southern Philippines includes support for **successful peace talks** in 2014 and the law setting up the **Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao**. HD also supports community dialogue, livelihood projects for women and training of mediators.



Peacemaking in 2022 and into the future

With a confluence of crises, HD mediated across a broad spectrum of conflicts in 2022 as we evolved to respond to more diverse and intertwined threats to peace.

In a year of widespread conflict, Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine returned Europe and the world to interstate war and exposed geopolitical chasms that normal diplomacy has struggled to bridge.

With economies still recovering from the pandemic, the war sent food and fuel prices soaring and inflamed conflict in countries already struggling with insurgencies, hunger and the impact of climate change.

In 2022, HD was running more than 60 peacemaking projects in Africa, the Middle East, Eurasia, Asia and Latin America where the conflict risks are greatest.

With creativity, connections and agility, our teams provided inspiration and close support for the **Black Sea Initiative** that reopened grain shipments from Ukraine and Russia for millions of people in need and helped to ease global food prices.

Active in Ukraine since 2014, HD also pivoted quickly when the fighting started to support civilian corridors and discreet communication channels.

In **Ethiopia**, HD's quiet diplomacy and cooperation with former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo contributed to the agreement led by the African Union that halted this century's worst conflict. Two years of war in the Tigray region killed hundreds of thousands of people and displaced millions.

These were perhaps the most visible of HD's many peacemaking results in 2022, which also included:

- Scores of local agreements curbing violence in the **Sahel** fuelled by climate change and competition for natural resources
- The roadmap of a weapons handover in **Senegal** between the government and the southern factions of Casamance's separatist movement MFDC
- A landmark analysis of shared fish stocks in the **South China Sea** by scientists from five regional

countries to promote cooperation and protect vital food sources

- **Dialogue platforms** for experts and officials on US-China maritime crisis management, China-Europe security issues and tensions in the Bay of Bengal
- **Social media codes of conduct** in Nigeria and Bosnia and Herzegovina to reduce toxic content and foster online civility
- A peace accord based on the **sharing of natural resources** in North Central Nigeria signed by 20+ clans from the Agatu community

HD was honoured to receive the **Carnegie Waterer Peace Prize** in 2022 for our track record of working discreetly beyond the boundaries of traditional diplomacy to bring parties together and end conflicts.

We also celebrated the return of the **Oslo Forum** as an in-person event after the pandemic twice postponed the premier peacemaking retreat.

Since 2003, HD and Norway's Ministry of Foreign Affairs have co-hosted the Oslo Forum to offer a discreet, informal setting for the mediation community to assess conflicts and work on sustainable solutions for peace.

HD's evolution

Over nearly 25 years, HD has grown from a small Swiss-based organisation into a trusted international body active in multi-level diplomacy and peacemaking.

Our results in 2022 and projects in progress reflect HD's expanding geographic and thematic portfolio as our operational landscape changes rapidly across international, interstate, national and local levels.

The proliferation and intensity of conflicts are creating a parallel surge in humanitarian needs for many millions of hungry, displaced and traumatised people.



HD's work on the Black Sea Initiative included support for inspections of ships carrying Ukrainian grain. © Turkish Defence Ministry

As the war in Ukraine and US-China tensions raise the risks of interstate conflict, the more antagonistic and multipolar global system is likely to bring more internationalised civil wars.

The weapons of war are also changing via social media, cyber capabilities and artificial intelligence.

The impact of climate change, with more intense competition for natural resources, will only increase the risk and longevity of armed conflict.

HD has adapted to changing conflict dynamics many times over the years but important constants remain.

Our founding values – humanity, impartiality and independence – are always the core principles of our mission and work.

HD's ability to engage equally with major powers, hard-to-reach conflict parties and many others between and beyond relies on trust. Since 1999, that trust has been built with our values, discretion and results.

In an increasingly complex world, the many challenges offer opportunities.

To promote inclusive and sustainable peace, our approach integrates the meaningful engagement and representation of women, youth and civil society groups in mediation processes.

We continue to invest in the strong partnerships and decentralised structure that have served us well in keeping HD present and agile across physical and ideological lines of conflict.

We are strengthening HD's sector-leading monitoring and evaluation systems and the overall organisation that sustains our innovation and value.

To address the multifaceted drivers of conflict, we continue to expand our work and expertise across the digital, environmental, humanitarian and criminal factors that inflame tensions and violence.

With our core values and proven results at heart, HD is evolving with even greater reach and agility to respond to new conflict realities, limit the human suffering caused by war and build pathways to peace.



Peace honours for HD

In November 2022, HD was deeply honoured to receive the Carnegie Wateler Peace Prize in recognition of our track record of resolving conflict through mediation and discreet diplomacy.

“The Peace Prize is really an inspiration to me and my colleagues,” David Harland, HD’s Executive Director, said in his acceptance speech at the Peace Palace in The Hague.

“We will think of it, and of the values and motivation behind it, when we next find ourselves in a dark place, which is often. It will be a light for us.”

Awarded since 1931 to a person or institution furthering the cause of international peace, the prize was initiated by Dutch banker Johan Wateler and entrusted to the Carnegie Foundation.

“In each case, and many more, the Centre has for more than 20 years operated behind the scenes – patiently, creatively, discreetly – to bring about results that simply could not have been produced by traditional diplomacy,” said Dr. Elisabeth Wesseling-Van Gent, Chair of the Carnegie Wateler Peace Prize Committee.

Harland, who has led HD since 2011, set out the moral hazards around maintaining impartiality and confidentiality in the pursuit of peace.

“The choices are never between good and bad. The choices are almost always between bad and worse, or even between bad and death,” Harland said in his speech.

“We try to be guided by those actually involved in war, or its victims, who seek an end to violence through negotiations.”



Gender & inclusion

Geopolitical divides and fragmented conflicts demand peacemaking efforts that reach across multiple levels of society.

With strong local networks and access to high-level dialogue, HD is identifying and creating strategic openings for diverse groups to contribute to sustainable peace.

HD’s project planning and implementation include elements to increase the meaningful engagement and representation of women, young people and marginalised communities in peace processes.

HD’s approach to inclusion thinks beyond the negotiation table. By piloting innovative tools, HD has created digital platforms and run large consultations – in Libya, the Philippines and elsewhere – to engage those often excluded from mediation and political processes.

In helping to develop a citizens’ charter on responsible social media conduct in Bosnia and Herzegovina, HD used the tools of sortition and deliberative democracy to ensure the participants reflected the country’s social and regional diversity.

In Asia, HD made progress on regional dialogue about the Korean Peninsula by engaging stakeholders from a gender and human security perspective, identifying openings beyond deadlocked nuclear issues.

In the Sahel region, we are training new women members of our agro-pastoral mediator networks. In

Mali alone, the inclusion of women and young people led to six agreements in 2022.

We also adopted gender-inclusive approaches in Syria, Yemen and Somalia.

Libya has been one of HD’s biggest milestones, showing that inclusion can happen on a national scale in one of the world’s most complex conflicts.

While supporting the United Nations at the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum in 2020, HD worked with the 75 Libyan negotiators to ensure that the new government would be more inclusive.

As a result, the interim government inaugurated in 2021 is the most inclusive in Libya’s modern history with five women in ministerial posts.

HD’s Gender & Inclusion team (GINC) supports colleagues in the field with technical advice, training, resources and seed funds.

GINC also shares knowledge and practical guidance with the mediation community to strengthen inclusion across peacemaking efforts.

As the meaningful participation of diverse communities brings greater creativity and broader buy-in, HD will continue to draw on our global reach and strong local networks to expand efforts to support inclusive and sustainable peace.

HD used random selection (sortition) for citizen assemblies in the southern Philippines to ensure the sessions were inclusive and reflected the aspirations of the diverse communities. © HD



Thematic mediation

In a more complex world, HD is expanding expertise and operations to address the digital, environmental, humanitarian and criminal factors of conflict.

Digital conflict

The frontlines of conflict are ever more digital, compounding global complexities and creating new threats to stability and peacemaking.

From hate speech to disinformation, the harmful role of social media is very real as the online weapons and tactics of malign actors grow in scope and sophistication.

To support our teams and the wider mediation community, HD has been developing tools, methods and experience in recent years to tackle social media's role as a driver of conflict and to exploit its potential to help make peace.

Drawing on lessons from HD's landmark social media peace accords in Indonesia, Kosovo and Nigeria, we hosted a citizens' assembly in Bosnia and Herzegovina in mid-2022.

The inclusive session produced a social media code of conduct in the run-up to general elections in October and established an independent body to monitor the online space during the election period.

HD's Digital Conflict team also worked with project teams in 10 countries on incorporating social media initiatives in their programming, including digital consultation workshops in Thailand and Ethiopia.

As HD expands and refines our social media work, we are broadening our partnerships and focusing on pairing agreements and codes of conduct with robust monitoring mechanisms to ensure signatories stick to their commitments.

HD also continues to build relationships and explore approaches with social media platforms on ways to manage online risks and protect peace processes.

These initiatives represented only one facet of HD's digital activities in 2022.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the resurgence of geopolitical conflicts have sharpened awareness of the



need for robust ways to deal with threats from cyber operations and artificial intelligence.

With a combination of partnerships, dialogue sessions and outreach initiatives, HD is working with various states on confidence-building measures, ways to manage cyber threats and steps to mitigate risks of using artificial intelligence in military systems.

Environmental peacemaking

Climate change and environmental degradation are fuelling conflict over scarce natural resources, displacing more people and increasing demands for humanitarian aid.

The situation will only get worse as rising temperatures, chronic drought and more violent storms force mass migration from increasingly affected areas.

Since 2020, HD has been piloting an environmental peacemaking initiative to address the climate-driven and environmental aspects of conflict at local, national, regional and international levels.

Initiatives launched in 2021 were expanded sharply in 2022. By the end of the year, at least 10 HD projects had an environmental dimension – ranging from the Sahel, Nigeria, Syria, Iraq and Lebanon to Ukraine, the Bay of Bengal and the South China Sea.

HD's work on environmental issues produced results from the local to the interstate level, including eight agreements on the sharing of natural resources in Nigeria, Mali and Niger.

In the volatile Sahel region, HD supports a network of more than 2,000 mediators in Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Chad who resolved 385 agro-pastoral conflicts in 2022 alone.

HD teams across the Middle East have been mitigating the effects of various local-level water crises and their effects on people's livelihoods and stability.

In Asia, the environment features in interstate and regional dialogue often provide a basis for building cooperation on other sensitive issues.

In the South China Sea, HD promotes shared fisheries management to prevent clashes between states in the region and avert a collapse in fish stocks that are vital sources of food and livelihoods.

HD's Environmental Peacemaking team in Geneva provides project design advice to country teams. In 2022, we launched a training programme on environmental peacemaking for staff in all regions.

On a wider scale, HD is working to broaden dialogue about how climate change drives conflict and to integrate environmental issues into mediation processes to produce outcomes that are positive for peace and the environment.

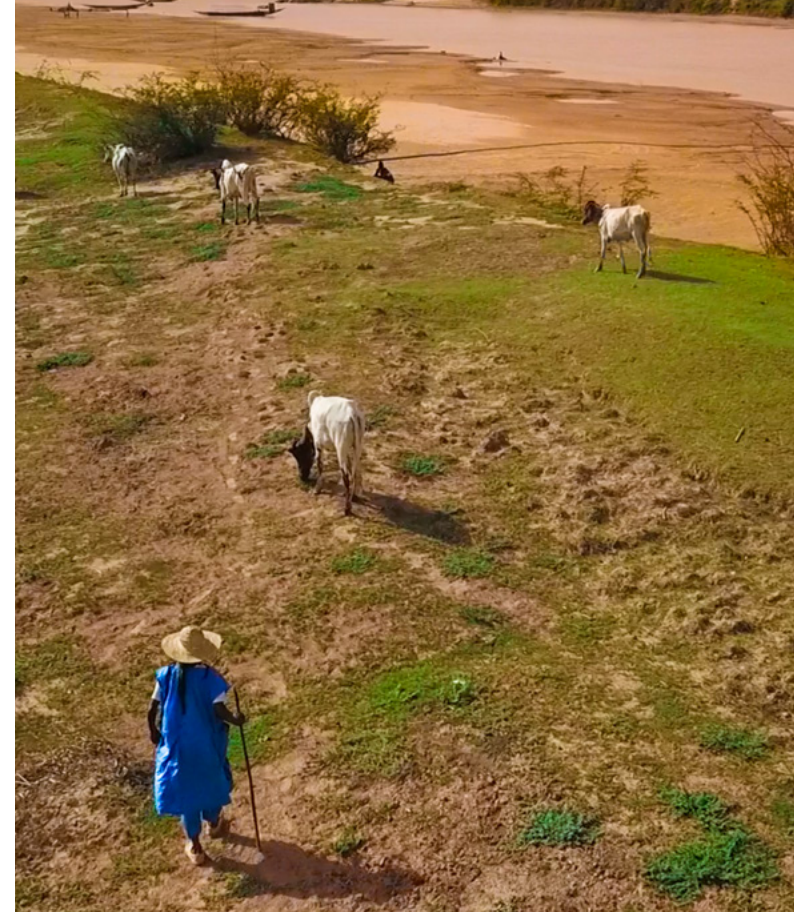
Humanitarian mediation

HD's impartiality, discreet profile and experience dealing with armed groups make us an essential partner for humanitarian organisations in high-risk regions.

In 2022, HD supported delivery of life-saving assistance and health-related activities in various countries.

When political dialogue is difficult or impossible, HD's Humanitarian Mediation Programme can enable conflict parties to address key issues ranging from the protection of civilians to the special needs of women and children, displaced people and minority groups.

Humanitarian mediation complements peace efforts by opening channels of communication and building confidence and trust.



Overall, HD works to improve the commitment to humanitarian protection principles by conflict parties and promote adequate safeguards in peace processes.

Organised crime

Criminal interests and activities are increasingly driving conflict and undermining efforts to achieve peace.

In many areas where HD is active, organised crime is entrenched in wartime economies or in illicit partnerships with armed groups and governments.

Mediation has not kept pace with this reality. In response, HD is focused on better understanding the criminal dynamics of conflict and designing operations that strengthen the prospects for peace and stability.

The Geneva-based team advises various HD regions, including helping to design projects in Nigeria, Colombia and elsewhere.

To share knowledge and foster wider collaboration, HD organised a workshop on "Strengthening Peacemaking to Deal with Criminal Agendas and Actors" and conducted a study of links between crime and conflict in countries around the periphery of Europe.

The expansion builds on previous HD initiatives in various contexts to address the influence of corruption and criminality, including work with the Libyan Anti-Corruption Task Force.

Interstate mediation

With geopolitics polarised and local conflicts becoming more internationalised, HD has stepped up engagement in interstate mediation to help bridge the divides with a variety of high-level initiatives.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine underscored decades of erosion in the security architecture that underpinned regional stability and highlighted its failure to keep up with the shifting balance of power.

HD's work in Ukraine since 2014 – combined with our multinational networks – positioned our teams to adapt quickly to help limit the humanitarian costs of the war.

HD developed and shared the idea of a corridor to allow the export of grain from Ukraine and Russia, which became the basis for the **Black Sea Initiative** led by the United Nations and Türkiye.

Working with various parties, HD supported the stages – from concept to launch to monitoring – of the deal that restarted shipments of tonnes of grain to global markets, helping to reduce the cost of food and alleviate hunger in developing countries.

Soon after the invasion in February 2022, an early HD initiative helped to create evacuation corridors allowing tens of thousands of civilians to leave frontline areas.

The outbreak of war in Ukraine halted cooperation on containing risks of ecological disaster but HD continued working with experts to document the environmental damage caused by the fighting.

As the war threatened to spill into **Moldova**, HD supported efforts to avert miscalculations that could fuel instability.

HD also engaged with Azerbaijan and Armenia to build momentum for negotiations to end conflict over the disputed territory of **Nagorno-Karabakh**.

In **Asia**, risks of interstate conflict have risen in recent years with the buildup of military forces around the

South China Sea and the Bay of Bengal, coupled with North Korea's missile programme and heightened tensions over the island of Taiwan.

Deteriorating relations between **China and the United States** have added to fears of armed confrontation, raising the value of HD's networks and dialogue platforms to explore common interests.

In August 2022, HD convened security experts, serving and former military officers, and policymakers from China and the United States for a dialogue and simulation exercise on maritime crisis management.

Despite a freeze in official contacts, meetings followed with the US and Chinese officials and experts. HD also hosted a series of sessions on international crises, including Ukraine and Afghanistan.

To help reduce risks from advanced weaponry, we hosted regular meetings of a working group with Chinese, US and international military experts to follow up on a draft Code of Conduct produced by HD and the group in 2021 on the use of **artificial intelligence** in military systems.

HD also initiated a **China-Europe dialogue** to fill a vacuum in communication on critical security issues. After the success of early discussions, a core group agreed on the scope of meetings in 2023 to develop recommendations on arms control, non-proliferation and missile technologies.

HD continued to work on lowering tensions over competing claims in the South China Sea.

Progress on a Code of Conduct for the region's maritime law enforcement agencies remained elusive in 2022, despite the first in-person talks since 2019. HD worked to support a multi-country workshop on the code expected in 2023.

To foster regional connections and the sustainability of shared resources that feed millions of people, HD is supporting collaboration by scientists from five countries who delivered a **landmark analysis of fish stocks** in the South China Sea.

More than 100 experts contributed to the first report, on Skipjack Tuna, by the working group from **China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam**. HD's efforts, started in 2018, continue as the scientists build a shared evidence base of various species.

PREVENTING A COLLAPSE IN SOUTH CHINA SEA FISH STOCKS

The South China Sea is geopolitically crucial and ecologically vulnerable. Millions of people rely on its fish for their livelihoods and nutrition.

A POTENTIAL CRISIS
Fish stocks have decreased by 70-95% in the South China Sea since the 1950s. Without careful management, stocks could suddenly collapse, damaging the economy, devastating the environment and destabilising societies.

NO ONE COUNTRY CAN MANAGE FISH STOCKS ALONE
Fish move across international boundaries, so their management requires international cooperation. Effective cooperation must be based on shared scientific consensus.

1st COMMON FISHERIES RESOURCE ANALYSIS
Government-affiliated scientists in the Regional Fisheries Science Working Group from the five participating countries have completed the 1st Common Fisheries Resource Analysis (CFRA). The 1st CFRA combines their expertise and analysis to build consensus on the status of Skipjack Tuna. They concluded that Skipjack Tuna is being fished at sustainable levels but risks demand ongoing regional monitoring.

IMPACT AND NEXT STEPS
The Regional Fisheries Science Working Group has demonstrated how countries can address common challenges in the South China Sea consistent with their obligations to cooperate under UNCLOS. Scientists will continue working together to build the evidence base required to sustainably manage the South China Sea's valuable resources.

China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam

The Regional Fisheries Science Working Group is a platform for scientists from the key coastal countries to build an evidence base for cooperative action.

Environmental peacemaking is similarly at the heart of HD's interstate engagement with **Bay of Bengal** states to address rising tensions around fishing and maritime law enforcement.

Other security challenges in the vital maritime areas include the smuggling of arms, drugs and people.

HD convened government officials, maritime experts and think-tanks from **India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand** for a three-day table-top exercise to strengthen regional contacts and trust.

Amid regional tensions in North Africa, HD convened talks with **Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Tunisia and Mauritania** that identified various de-escalation measures.

As **Lebanon and Israel** worked with the United States to reach a maritime border deal in October 2022, HD contributed by providing technical expertise and mediation support to Lebanon.



Multi-level & intrastate mediation

HD is expanding multi-level mediation as conflicts grow more fragmented and infused with regional and geopolitical competition. HD's expertise on the ground, regional teams and global network help us to respond quickly to shifting conflict dynamics.

In **Ethiopia**, two years of war between government forces and the Tigray People's Liberation Front came to a halt in November with a ceasefire agreement brokered by the African Union.

The accord, after a conflict that killed hundreds of thousands of people and displaced millions, opened the way to deliveries of urgently needed humanitarian aid.

The African Union's special envoy, former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, was brought forth initially by HD as a mediator and our teams provided support during the process.

HD also focused on violence in **Ethiopia's Oromia region** between the Oromia Liberation Army and the federal government that has displaced hundreds of thousands of civilians.

Working with the Inter-religious Council of Ethiopia, HD opened a multi-track dialogue process as a platform to harmonise positions on statehood issues.

In **Somalia**, HD turned to local and interstate mediation to strengthen ties between the federal government and member states and to pursue dialogue between Somalia and the self-declared state of Somaliland.

HD pursued another track of intrastate mediation on security issues and responses to devastating drought.

As **Mozambique** works to contain violent extremism in its northern provinces, HD organised workshops for local administrators and religious leaders on community dialogue. We consulted neighbouring Tanzania's Centre for International Policy and other experts on regional aspects of the violence and openings for joint action on conflict prevention.

Sudan grappled with mounting violence, stoked by popular frustration over the October 2021 military coup that stalled a transition to civilian rule, and by mounting economic hardship.

HD focused on building civil society capacity for negotiation and promoting inclusive dialogue on political

transition. HD held a number of townhall meetings in East Sudan on aspects of transition and a series of workshops on the participation of women and youth.

In the run-up to elections in **Zimbabwe** in August 2023, HD worked with local partners on building the capacity of the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission and developing a conflict early warning and response system.

HD is building foundations for peace and reconciliation in **Liberia** as poverty and unresolved issues left over from years of civil war fuel frustration and violence. In consultation with civil society groups, HD drafted a National Reconciliation Options Paper that offers an action plan for moving forward.

HD also trained members from nearly 40 civil society groups in Liberia, including women-led organisations, on developing community dialogue, resolving local conflicts and setting up early warning systems.

Moving closer to ending Africa's oldest insurgency, the government of **Senegal** and the southern factions of Casamance's separatist movement MFDC agreed on the roadmap of a weapons handover – the biggest breakthrough in an eight-year process facilitated by HD.

Since 2014, HD has worked with all parties to the conflict and influential actors to create an inclusive and legitimate negotiation platform between the government and the MFDC.

Escalating attacks on UN peacekeepers in **Mali** underscored the rise in insecurity since the coup in 2020. The withdrawal of French troops and the arrival of foreign mercenaries added to the instability.

HD supported the creation of new mediation networks of religious leaders. Local mediation initiatives delivered six agreements settling conflicts in northern and central regions.

In **Niger**, HD supported efforts to tackle the multi-dimensional crisis in the Diffa region resulting from attacks by Boko Haram jihadists, tensions over the



General César Atoute Badiate of the Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance signs an agreement with Senegal's government on a roadmap for disarmament after talks supported by HD and the government of Guinea Bissau. © Guinea Bissau Presidential Office

treatment of former jihadists who surrendered and intercommunal clashes over access to resources.

As part of a transitional justice programme, HD supported municipal peace committees monitoring reintegration of former jihadists.

In **Libya**, HD engaged with a wide range of national, regional and international actors and armed groups to try to revive a political process that can lead to durable peace after more than a decade of turmoil.

A ceasefire negotiated with HD's help in 2020 largely held in 2022 but UN-led talks failed to win agreement for elections that are needed to restore constitutional government and check Libya's political fragmentation.

HD convened a series of meetings for key Libyan leaders to support the ceasefire, search for agreement on the elections and help international mediation efforts.

Syria remained stuck in a conflict that has divided the country into three zones of influence.

HD maintained contact in all three areas while working with international actors, humanitarian organisations and opposition groups to support cross-border aid deliveries and identify strategies for de-escalation.

The Civil Society Platform that HD helped to set up in the northeastern town of Deir ez Zour successfully negotiated the release of women and children from detention and supported their return to the community.

Despite a year of political paralysis and turmoil in **Iraq**, HD engaged productively with key political and security actors on sectarian and tribal tensions and humanitarian needs, particularly in areas still in the shadows of the ISIS occupation.

In 2022, HD continued to monitor the safe return of thousands of Sunni families who went back to the Anbar, Diyala and Salaheddin governorates in 2021.

HD also used shuttle diplomacy between western countries and resistance factions to help reduce the risk of misunderstandings that could lead to conflict.

A UN-mediated truce in **Yemen** took effect in April 2022 and was renewed twice, sharply reducing large-scale fighting. Despite expiring in October 2022, the truce held informally as efforts continued to renew it.

Progress towards political talks remained elusive, leaving Yemen in a precarious and deteriorating "no war/ no peace" situation.



Former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo looks on as Marshal Birhanu Jula of the Ethiopian Army and General Tadesse Werede of the Tigray People's Liberation Front exchange documents on implementing the Ethiopia cessation of hostilities agreement. © EPA

Local & community mediation

Despite rising insecurity in **Nigeria**, HD kept up its record of initiatives to tackle an array of challenges.

With the commitment to end decades of intercommunal violence over water and land in North Central Nigeria, more than 20 clans from the Agatu community signed a peace agreement on the sharing of natural resources.

The accord, which also covers the safe return of many thousands of displaced people, recognises the need to involve women and youth in the process.

The result is part of a major conflict resolution initiative started by HD in Benue state in 2017 that involves 10 major ethnic groups to encourage dialogue and peaceful co-existence among farmers, herders and communities with diverse views and positions.

The goal is to replicate the Agatu pilot – HD's first resource-sharing agreement in Nigeria – in neighbouring areas and states.

To help curb violence by Islamic State affiliates in northeastern Nigeria, HD continued to support community-based mediation and education initiatives.

In five countries in the **Sahel region** – Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad and Mauritania – HD has a multi-level programme with farmers and herding communities to

mitigate violent conflicts fuelled by the impact of climate change and depletion of natural resources.

Since 2015, HD has established dozens of networks across the five countries that engage more than 2,000 community leaders as mediators who work with traditional and sustainable techniques.

In 2022, HD expanded the networks into new areas along **Mali's border with Mauritania** and provided training to build the capacity of mediators across the region.

The programme saw hundreds of micro-conflicts resolved in 2022, the return livestock to their owners and agreements on access and resource use in Mali's Niger River Valley.

As instability in the **tri-border area of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger** exposes villagers to violence by jihadist and other armed groups, HD continued local-level mediation to curb intercommunal conflicts.

Six humanitarian agreements facilitated by HD between communities – and indirectly involving armed groups – created a lull in conflict and enabled the free movement of people, the resumption of economic activities and the return of displaced people in some areas.

In response, HD continued to engage discreetly on multiple tracks to support conflict de-escalation efforts and to help advance Yemen's political process.

As part of our global efforts to limit hostile online behaviour and prevent conflict, HD facilitated a Citizens' Charter on responsible social media conduct in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** ahead of general elections in October 2022.

A group of 50 citizens – chosen by stratified random sampling to reflect the country's social and regional diversity – developed the call to action at a four-day Citizens' Forum.

The session was run under the guidance of HD's Balkans and Digital Conflict teams and a steering committee of academics, media experts and civil society groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Following up on initiatives in **Kosovo** in 2021 that led to the first social media code of conduct in the Balkans, HD worked with political parties, media outlets and civil society groups to curb hate speech and disinformation.

In the run-up to elections in **Thailand** in 2023, HD focused on preventing violence by drawing on dialogue and innovative digital initiatives.

The Friends of Thailand platform provided a safe space to bring together politicians, civil society organisations and diplomats on constructive approaches to the election campaign.

HD also worked with various groups to monitor harmful online speech and developed a code of conduct for social media use.

To strengthen peace in the **southern Philippines**, HD ran a series of citizen assemblies in Bangsamoro communities to help chart the course for post-COVID economic recovery.

It was the first time HD used random selection of participants (sortition) to ensure the sessions were inclusive and reflected the aspirations of the diverse communities.

HD and our local partners also worked to ensure parties remained committed to the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro peace accord signed in 2014.

HD promoted understanding of the need to widen community engagement with the peace process and supported vocational training for women entrepreneurs.

Egba and Ologba clan heads embrace after signing the Agatu Natural Resource Agreement in Nigeria. © HD





Young beneficiaries of the cocoa-to-chocolate livelihood project for communities in Colombia. © HD

HD also maintained support for communities engaged in previous local agreements to sustain their ability to prevent the resurgence of conflicts.

Political turmoil in Mali and Burkina Faso after coups in 2022 presented major challenges to stability in the region but HD's local initiatives helped to lower tensions and violence.

In **Burkina Faso**, these included confidence-building measures between communities on the northern border.

Mediation between two major communities in **Niger's Tillabéry region** produced commitments to end violence and led to meetings to work out arrangements for putting the commitments into practice.

As **Togo** faced jihadist attacks along its border with Burkina Faso, HD trained and deployed three networks of agro-pastoral mediators to manage disputes and

staged a range of inclusive awareness-raising events, working with women and youth on conflict prevention initiatives.

In **Colombia**, the country's first left-wing government took power in August 2022, promoting a "total peace" policy in a context dominated by violence from various armed actors.

Since 2020, HD's work has focused on helping former FARC guerrillas develop dialogue to promote co-existence within communities and address grievances from the 60-year conflict.

In 2022, HD supported a cocoa-to-chocolate livelihood project for former FARC fighters run by Peace Dividend Initiative to help create a conducive environment through joint economic benefits.

HD also explored environmental peacemaking and organised crime in the Sierra Nevada region.

The Oslo Forum

Co-hosted by HD and Norway's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the **Oslo Forum** is the premier retreat for the international mediation and peacemaking community to reflect on current practices, work on new approaches and advance negotiations.

The Forum returned in June 2022 after a two-year pandemic hiatus – with the theme "Spaces for dialogue in a polarised world" running through the event as seismic shifts redraw alliances and challenge international norms.

Under the Chatham House Rule, discussions were frank and far ranging among more than 120 senior mediators, diplomats and conflict experts from 50 countries.

Over two full days, they assessed the prospects for peacemaking in the face of fragmented geopolitics, the war in Ukraine, the global food and fuel crisis and a range of conflicts in Africa, the Middle East, Eurasia, Latin America and Asia.

"Negotiators must look at big screwdrivers rather than big hammers," one speaker said. "We have to be opportunistic to find openings for peace."

Born in 2003 from a modest meeting of mediators, the annual gathering has grown into the headline peacemaking retreat by offering an informal and discreet setting for discussions and connections.

Over the years, distinguished guests have included Jimmy Carter, Kofi Annan, Federica Mogherini, John Kerry, Mohammad Javad Zarif, Juan Manuel Santos, Fatou Bensouda, Retno Marsudi, Thabo Mbeki, Martti Ahtisaari and Catherine Ashton.

To share knowledge about peacemaking, the Oslo Forum team produces *The Mediator's Studio* podcast series and publishes a variety of insights on the practice of conflict mediation.

Recorded at the Oslo Forum, **The Mediator's Studio** returned for its fourth season in autumn 2022, taking listeners behind the scenes with exceptional stories and context from prominent peacemakers.

The podcast is hosted by Adam Cooper, director of HD's Digital Conflict programme.

Listen to *The Mediator's Studio* podcast here:



The HD Board

HD is supervised by an independent Board that sets the mission and general policy of the non-profit foundation and provides oversight of our programmes.

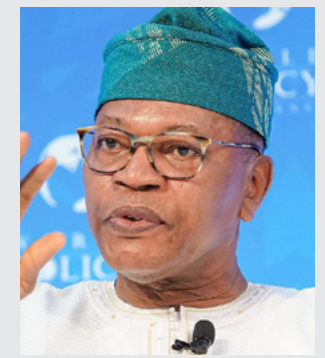
The Board meets at least twice a year. Members sit on a voluntary, unpaid and private basis.



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Board Member



Ameerah Haq
Board Member



Mohamed Ibn Chambas
Board Member



Ambassador Pierre Vimont
Chairman of the Board



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and Chair of the Operations
Committee



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Learn more about
the HD Board and its
members here:



Investing in peace

Income rose by 4.4% to 48 million Swiss francs in 2022 – the best year in HD's history.

In keeping with the **substantial investment** needed to make peace, HD's operational expenses rose by 5.1% from a year earlier.

This reflected the launch of new initiatives, the expansion of existing projects and the hiring of more staff and consultants in many of the world's most difficult conflict settings.

Due to the organisation's growth, HD adopted the Swiss GAAP FER accounting standards at the start of 2022. Please see the summary financial statements on the next page.

As a trusted actor in international diplomacy, HD is funded by various governments and private foundations who see the value of our impartiality, independence, innovation and results.

Continued support from existing donors – along with fresh funding from new donors, foundations and philanthropy – will be vital to the expansion and success of HD's mediation and peacemaking work in a fragmented world where traditional diplomacy is struggling to bridge the divides.

An international body with headquarters in Switzerland, HD is a non-profit organisation that receives strategic support and targeted project funding. Both are fundamental to our operations.

Strategic support helps to safeguard HD's independence, improve operational effectiveness and drive innovation. The flexible funding also allows HD to respond rapidly to emerging conflicts and new opportunities.

Targeted project funding, which makes up the majority of donor support, enables HD to run a global portfolio of projects in more than 80% of the most violent and complex conflicts – including diverse initiatives in Africa, the Middle East, Eurasia, Asia and Latin America.

To maintain integrity and accountability, HD updates donors regularly on project progress and files independently audited annual financial results.

HD is grateful to all those who have contributed to our work since 1999.

We are equally grateful to the City of Geneva for providing Villa Plantamour as HD's headquarters and an exceptional, discreet setting to lead our global peacemaking efforts.

HD welcomes interest in supporting our private diplomacy and mediation initiatives to resolve conflicts, reduce human suffering and secure lasting peace as the foundation for a better future.

<i>Balance Sheet</i> <i>(In thousands of CHF)</i>	2022	2021
Current assets	37 392	37 075
Non-current assets	7 039	3 989
Total assets	44 431	41 064
Current liabilities	31 184	28 497
Non-current liabilities	7 158	6 113
Foundation capital and funds	6 089	6 454
Total liabilities, capital and funds	44 431	41 064
<i>Income & Expenses</i> <i>(In thousands of CHF)</i>	2022	2021
Total income	48 028	46 006
Personnel expenses	22 200	20 404
Professional fees	11 030	10 415
Travel and transportation	11 819	11 121
General and office expenses	2 916	3 133
Depreciation	167	165
Total expenses	48 132	45 237
Net financial expenses	822	766
Cumulative translation adjustment	-	540
Year-end result	-926	542

Notes

- As of 1 January 2022, HD adopted the Swiss GAAP FER accounting standards as our organisation exceeded size criteria for the second consecutive year
- The framework used previously by HD – the Swiss Code of Obligations – would have produced a net surplus for the year of CHF 577,000
- Swiss GAAP FER implementation requires a one-time increase in HD's reserves of CHF 942,000, to be drawn from 2022 expenditures, thus increasing them by the same amount and giving the negative CHF 926,000 result
- The balance sheet is not impacted. The 2021 income statement has not been restated to Swiss GAAP FER

