



## **CDA Collaborative Learning**

### **2020 Annual Report for the Voluntary Principles Initiative**

#### ***COVID-19***

A good deal of work that CDA originally planned and expected to perform in the field during 2020 was postponed due to COVID-19 and associated travel restrictions. Postponed engagements include assessments of corporate operations in Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Myanmar.

#### ***Corporate Engagement***

##### *Human Rights Assessment*

Woodside Energy, a VPI member company, engaged CDA to perform a field level assessment of its operations in Myanmar. The company's implementation of the VPSHR, and its establishment of internal systems supporting the VPSHR, was included in the initial scope of the engagement. The engagement was agreed for April, 2020, and postponed twice due to COVID-19. The engagement was ultimately undertaken remotely on the basis of a reduced scope, whereupon it was interrupted by the *coup d'état* of February 1, 2020.

#### ***Publications***

With Markus Mayer, then of International Alert, Kathryn Nwajiaku of the Overseas Development Institute, and two members of the German Working Group on Peace and Development (a.k.a. FriEnt), CDA authored a publication on the private sector in fragile and conflict-affected states. The joint FriEnt/CDA/IA Publication reflects on a range of issues, including the implications of company implementation of voluntary and other standards, including the VPSHR, and the ways in which companies' implementation may bear upon outcomes on FCS.

#### ***Kenya Field Project***

CDA is finishing out its project alongside International Alert and the Center for International Private Enterprise in Kenya; the Tullow Kenya Business Venture is a key interlocutor of the project. Travel restrictions associated with COVID-19 have caused CDA and its partners to modify the scope of the engagement. On the basis of a series of remote interviews with stakeholders, including current and former staff of the Tullow Kenya Business Venture, CDA is developing several written learning products that examine the interaction between contextual

CDA Collaborative Learning Projects

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conflict drivers and company operational activities and the manner in which that interaction amplifies the risk of conflict and violence.

### ***Voluntary Principles Initiative***

Since late 2020, CDA has been an active participant in the internal VPI Conflict Working Group. In particular, CDA, together with the Secretariat, PAX, and Jonathan Drimmer, has been spearheading the development of a conflict analysis tool for companies, in response to the 2019-2022 VPI strategy and in response to a member survey administered by the Secretariat.

The tool is adapted from conflict analysis tools developed within the peacebuilding field, where CDA has one “foot”, so to speak. An initial draft of the tool was submitted to the CWG for feedback and comment in early 2021 and was favorably received. CDA expects the tool to be finished following one or two additional rounds of member feedback.

CDA continues to participate regularly in NGO pillar conference calls, and to assess and vote on applications for entry into the VPI.