

Executive Summary

Alert 2020! Report on conflicts, human rights and peacebuilding is an annual report analyzing the state of the world in terms of conflict and peacebuilding based on three main axes: armed conflict, tensions, gender and peace and security. The analysis of the most relevant events in 2019 and the nature, causes, dynamics, actors and consequences of the main scenarios of armed conflict and social and political tension around the world allows for a regional comparative vision and also allows identifying global trends and elements of risk and preventive warnings for the future. Furthermore, the report also identifies peacebuilding opportunities or opportunities to scale down, prevent or resolve conflicts. In both cases, one of the main objectives in this report is to make available all of the information, analyses and identification of warning factors and peace opportunities for decision-makers, those intervening for the peaceful resolution to conflicts, or those giving a greater political, media or academic visibility to the many situations of political and social violence in the world.

As for the methodology, the contents of this report mainly draw on a qualitative analysis of studies and information made available by many sources –the United Nations, international organizations, research centres, communication media or NGOs, among others– as well as on field research in conflict-affected countries.

Some of the most relevant conclusions and information in the *Alert 2020!* report are listed below:

- 34 armed conflicts were reported in 2019, 32 of them remained active at the end of the year. Most of the conflicts occurred in Africa (16), followed by Asia (nine), the Middle East (six), Europe (two) and America (one). The total number of armed conflicts has remained fairly stable and without significant fluctuations in the last five years.
- In 2019 the situation in Algeria and Kasai region in the DRC were no longer considered an armed conflict because of significant reductions of violence. On the other hand, a new case –Mozambique (north)—was analyzed as an armed conflict because of the drastic increase of hostilities in the province of Cabo Delgado between the armed jihadist organisation Ahlu Sunnah Wa-Jamo (ASWJ) and the security forces.
- Regarding the intensity of violence, 38% of the conflicts were low (13 cases), 32% high (11 cases) and another 30% medium (10 cases).
- The 11 most serious cases in 2019 were Cameroon (Ambazonia/North West and South West), Libya, Mali, the Lake Chad Region (Boko Haram), the Western Sahel Region, Somalia, South Sudan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Yemen (Houthis).
- The number of fatalities in some conflicts greatly exceeded 1,000 in one year, such as Afghanistan –with 24,000 deaths in the first ten months of 2019–; Yemen (Houthis) –around 23,000 deaths–; Syria –ranging from 11,200 to 15,000 deaths–;

Western Sahel Region –4,000 deaths, the fatality rate quintupled compared to 2016–; or Somalia –around 4,000 deaths.

- 36% of armed conflicts experienced an escalation of violence: Burundi, Cameroon (Ambazonia/ North West and South West), Libya, Mali, Mozambique (North), the Lake Chad Region (Boko Haram), the Western Sahel Region, the DRC (east), Colombia, Afghanistan, India (Jammu and Kashmir) and Turkey (southeast).
- 32% of the conflicts experienced a decline in hostilities and levels of violence over the previous year, while another 32% of the cases did not face significant changes.
- Beyond the multi-cause nature of armed conflict, 73% of conflicts (25 of the 34 cases) were mainly driven by opposition to domestic or international policies of the respective governments or to the political, social or ideological system of the State. Also, claims based on identity or calls for self-government were one of the main causes in 59% of cases (20 conflicts).
- 82% of armed conflicts were internationalised internal conflicts, in which some of the parties were foreign, the armed actors of the conflict had bases or launched attacks from abroad and/or the conflict spread to neighbouring countries.
- 12% of the armed conflicts (four cases) were internal, meaning that they were between armed actors of the same country, operating exclusively in and from its borders. Only two cases were considered international: the conflict in the Western Sahel region and the conflict between Israel and Palestine.
- OCHA warned that many more people than expected were in need of humanitarian assistance in 2019 due to conflicts and extreme weather events. According to its prospective data as of December 2019, almost 168 million people will need humanitarian assistance and protection in 2020, the highest number in decades.
- Yemen remained the worst humanitarian crisis in the world in 2019, with 24 million of its citizens in need of assistance, representing 80% of its population.
- The UN Secretary-General's annual report on children and armed conflicts, covering the year 2018, identified an alarming increase in serious violations of the human rights of children by state agents and international forces compared to the previous year, while those attributed to non-state actors remained stable.
- In Afghanistan, for example, there were 3,062 verified cases of children killed and mutilated in 2018. The death toll (927) was the highest ever reported in the country.
- The 2019 UN Secretary-General's report on conflict-related sexual violence contained verifiable information for 19 countries, involving more than 50 actors. Most of the perpetrators of sexual violence in these cases were non-state actors, but sexual violence had also been verifiably perpetrated by the national armed forces, police or other security actors in Myanmar, Syria, the DRC, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan.

- According to UNHCR, at the end of 2018 there were 70.8 million people forcibly displaced around the world. Of that total, 41.3 million were internally displaced persons, 25.9 million were refugees (20.4 million under the UN mandate and another 5.5 million under the mandate of the UNRWA) and 3.5 million were asylum seekers.
- Of the total forcibly displaced people, 13.6 million were newly displaced: 10.8 million new internally displaced persons and 2.8 million new refugees and asylum-seekers.
- 57% of the refugee population came from three countries, Syria (6.7 million), Afghanistan (2.7 million) and South Sudan (2.3 million), followed by Myanmar (1.1 million) and Somalia (900,000).
- There were 41.3 million internally displaced people at the end of 2018. 6.1 million of them were in Syria, followed by Colombia (5.8 million), the DRC (3.1 million), Somalia (2.6 million), Afghanistan (2.6 million), Yemen (2.3 million), Nigeria (2.2 million), Ethiopia (2.1 million), Sudan (2.1 million) and Iraq (2 million).
- There were 94 socio-political crises around the world in 2019. The largest number of them were concentrated in Africa (36 cases), followed by Asia (23), the Middle East and Latin America (12 cases in each region) and Europe (11).
- With regard to the intensity of the socio-political crises, during 2019 half of them were of low intensity (49%), one third were of medium intensity (34%) and only 18% of the cases had high levels of intensity (17 cases).
- More than half of the crises in the world were internal in nature (51 crises, or 54%), more than one fourth were internationalised (25 crises, or almost 27%), and around one fifth were international (18 cases or almost 19%).
- Regarding the causes of the crises, 71% of them were mainly caused had to do with opposition to internal or international policies implemented by the respective governments and 40% of the crises included demands for self-government and/or identity. Disputes over the control of territory and/or resources were particularly relevant in around one third of the crises (31%), although this is a factor that fuels many situations of tension to varying degrees.
- 83 per cent of the armed conflicts for which data on gender equality exist took place in contexts with medium, high or very high levels of gender discrimination.
- The UN Security Council recognised the links between forced displacement and sexual violence in conflict. According to the UNHCR, women and girls represent around half the population of internationally displaced persons.
- With regard to the national action plans regarding Resolution 1325, during 2019 four countries adopted new plans: Bangladesh, Namibia, Lebanon and Armenia. Therefore, a total of 83 countries had a plan in place by the end of 2019, representing 43 per cent of UN member countries.
- The UN Security Council passed a new resolution on sexual violence in armed conflict amidst controversy over the exclusion of the sexual and reproductive rights of the survivors of such violence
- *Alert 2020!* report identifies four opportunities for peace in Afghanistan, southern Thailand, Sudan and South Sudan and former Yugoslavia.
- The report highlights four warning scenarios in Ethiopia, Yemen, Mozambique and the specific risks of the LGBTI population in the context of forced displacement.

Structure

The report has five chapters. The first two look at conflicts globally –causes, types, dynamics, evolution and actors in situations of armed conflict or tension. The third chapter looks at the gender impacts in conflicts and tensions, as well as the initiatives being carried out within the United Nations and other local and international organizations and movements with regards to peacebuilding from a gender perspective. Chapter four identifies peace opportunities, scenarios where there is a context that is favourable to resolution of conflicts or to progress towards or consolidate peace initiatives. The final chapter studies risk scenarios in the future. Besides these five chapters, the report also includes a foldable map identifying the scenarios of armed conflict and socio-political crises.

Armed conflicts

The first chapter (Armed conflicts)¹ describes the evolution, type, causes and dynamics in active conflicts during the year; global and regional trends in armed conflicts in 2019 are analyzed, as well as the impacts of such conflicts on the civilian population.

During 2019, 34 armed conflicts were recorded, a figure that follows the trend observed in previous years (34 cases in 2018, 33 cases in 2016 and 2017, 35 conflicts in 2015, 36 in 2014, 35 in 2013). Of the 34 armed conflicts in 2019, 32 were still active by the end of the year, given that the situation in Algeria was no longer considered an armed conflict because there has been a drop in hostilities between the security forces and

1. In this report, an armed conflict is understood as any confrontation between regular or irregular armed groups with objectives that are perceived as incompatible, in which the continuous and organised use of violence: a) causes a minimum of 100 fatalities in a year and/or has a serious impact on the territory (destruction of infrastructure or of natural resources) and on human safety (e.g., injured or displaced people, sexual violence, food insecurity, impact on mental health and on the social fabric or the disruption of basic services); and b) aims to achieve objectives different from those of common crime normally related to:
 - demands for self-determination and self-government or identity-related aspirations;
 - opposition to the political, economic, social or ideological system of a state or the internal or international policy of a government, which in both triggers a struggle to seize or undermine power;
 - the control of resources or land.

Armed conflicts in 2019*

AFRICA (16)	ASIA (9)	MIDDLE EAST (6)
<i>Algeria (AQIM) -1992-</i> <i>Burundi -2015-</i> <i>Cameroon (Ambazonia/North West and South West) -2018-</i> <i>CAR -2006-</i> <i>DRC (east) -1998-</i> <i>DRC (east-ADF) -2014-</i> <i>DRC (Kasai) -2017-</i> <i>Lake Chad Region (Boko Haram) - 2011-</i> <i>Libya -2011-</i> <i>Mali (north) -2012-</i> <i>Mozambique (north) -2019-</i> <i>Somalia -1988-</i> <i>South Sudan -2009-</i> <i>Sudan (Darfur) -2003-</i> <i>Sudan (South Kordofan & Blue Nile) -2011-</i> <i>Western Sahel Region -2018-</i>	<i>Afghanistan -2001-</i> <i>India (CPI-M) -1967-</i> <i>India (Jammu & Kashmir) -1989-</i> <i>Myanmar -1948-</i> <i>Pakistan (Balochistan) -2005-</i> <i>Pakistan -2001-</i> <i>Philippines (NPA) -1969-</i> <i>Philippines (Mindanao) -1991-</i> <i>Thailand (south) -2004-</i>	<i>Egypt (Sinai) -2014-</i> <i>Iraq -2003-</i> <i>Israel-Palestine -2000-</i> <i>Syria -2011-</i> <i>Yemen (Houthis) -2004-</i> <i>Yemen (AQPA) -2011-</i>
		EUROPE (2)
		<i>Turkey (south-east) -1984-</i> <i>Ukraine -2014-</i>
		AMERICAS (1)
		<i>Colombia -1964-</i>

*Between hyphens is the date on which the conflict started. In Italics are the conflicts that ended during 2019

jihadi armed groups (mainly AQIM) in recent years. The other conflict considered to have ended in 2019 was the Kasai region in the DRC, pitting the state security forces against various militias and each in turn against the civilian population. Large-scale surrenders in 2019, mainly from the Kamwina Nsapu group, led to the end of the conflict. Compared to 2018, a new armed conflict was reported. In Mozambique (north), in the province of Cabo Delgado, an armed jihadist organisation Ahlu Sunnah Wa-Jamo (ASWJ) fought against the security forces amidst the marginalisation and grievances of the Muslim minority in the country, as well as extreme poverty in the province.

Regarding to the geographical distribution of armed conflicts around the world, the data from 2019 provide a picture similar to that of previous years. The vast majority of the conflicts were concentrated in Africa (16) and Asia (nine), followed by the Middle East (six), Europe (two) and the Americas (one). Twelve per cent (12%) of the armed conflicts (four) were internal, meaning that they were between armed actors of the same country, operating exclusively in and from its borders: the DRC (Kasai), the Philippines (NPA), India (CPI-M) and Thailand (south). Six per cent (6%) were considered international: the conflict in the Western Sahel region and the conflict between Israel and Palestine. The remaining 82% were internationalised internal conflicts, in which some of the parties were foreign, the armed actors of the conflict had bases or launched attacks from abroad and/or the conflict spread to neighbouring countries.

Regarding armed conflict causes, the vast majority of the conflicts had among its main causes opposition to the domestic or international policies of the respective

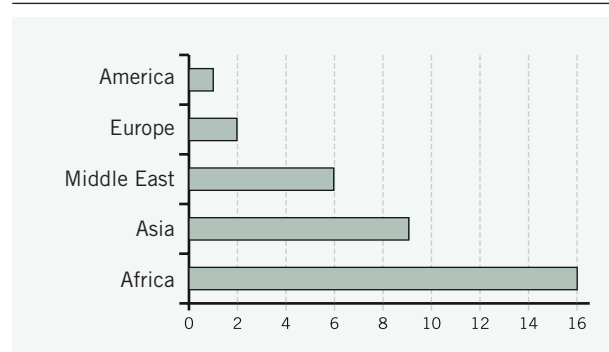
governments or to the political, economic, social or ideological system of a certain state, which resulted in struggles to gain power or weaken the government's power. At least one of these factors was present in 73% of the conflicts in 2019 (25 of the 34 cases), in line

with the previous year (71% of the conflicts in 2018). 19 of these 25 cases featured armed actors that aspired to change the system, mostly organisations with a jihadist agenda trying to impose their particular interpretation of Islamic law. These groups included the self-styled Islamic State (ISIS) and its affiliates and related organisations in different continents, which were present

in Algeria, Libya, Lake Chad Region, Western Sahel Region, Somalia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Philippines, Turkey, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Yemen and other countries; the various branches of al-Qaeda operating in North Africa and the Middle East, including AQIM (Algeria, Sahel and Lybia) and AQAP (Yemen); the Taliban militias active in Afghanistan and Pakistan and al-Shabaab in Somalia, among others. Another prominent

During 2019, 34 armed conflicts were recorded, 32 of which were still active by the end of the year

Regional distribution of the number of armed conflicts in 2019



major cause included disputes about identity-related demands and self-government, present in 59% of the conflicts (20). Finally, struggles over the control of resources and territory were a main cause of almost one third of the conflicts (11), though it was indirectly present in many others, perpetuating the violence through wartime economies.

With regards to the evolution of armed conflicts in 2019, the hostilities and levels of violence subsided in around one third of the conflicts compared to the previous year (11 cases). There were no significant changes in another 32% of the conflicts (11), while the violence escalated in 36% of the cases. The conflicts that witnessed rising levels of violence in 2019 took place in Burundi, Cameroon (Ambazonia/North West and South West), Libya, Mali, Mozambique (North), the Lake Chad Region (Boko Haram), the Western Sahel Region, the DRC (east), Colombia, Afghanistan, India (Jammu and Kashmir) and Turkey (southeast).

With regards to intensity, the violence was low in 38% of the conflicts (13), medium in 30% (10) and high in 32% (11). The 11 most serious cases in 2019 were: Cameroon (Ambazonia/North West and South West), Libya, Mali,

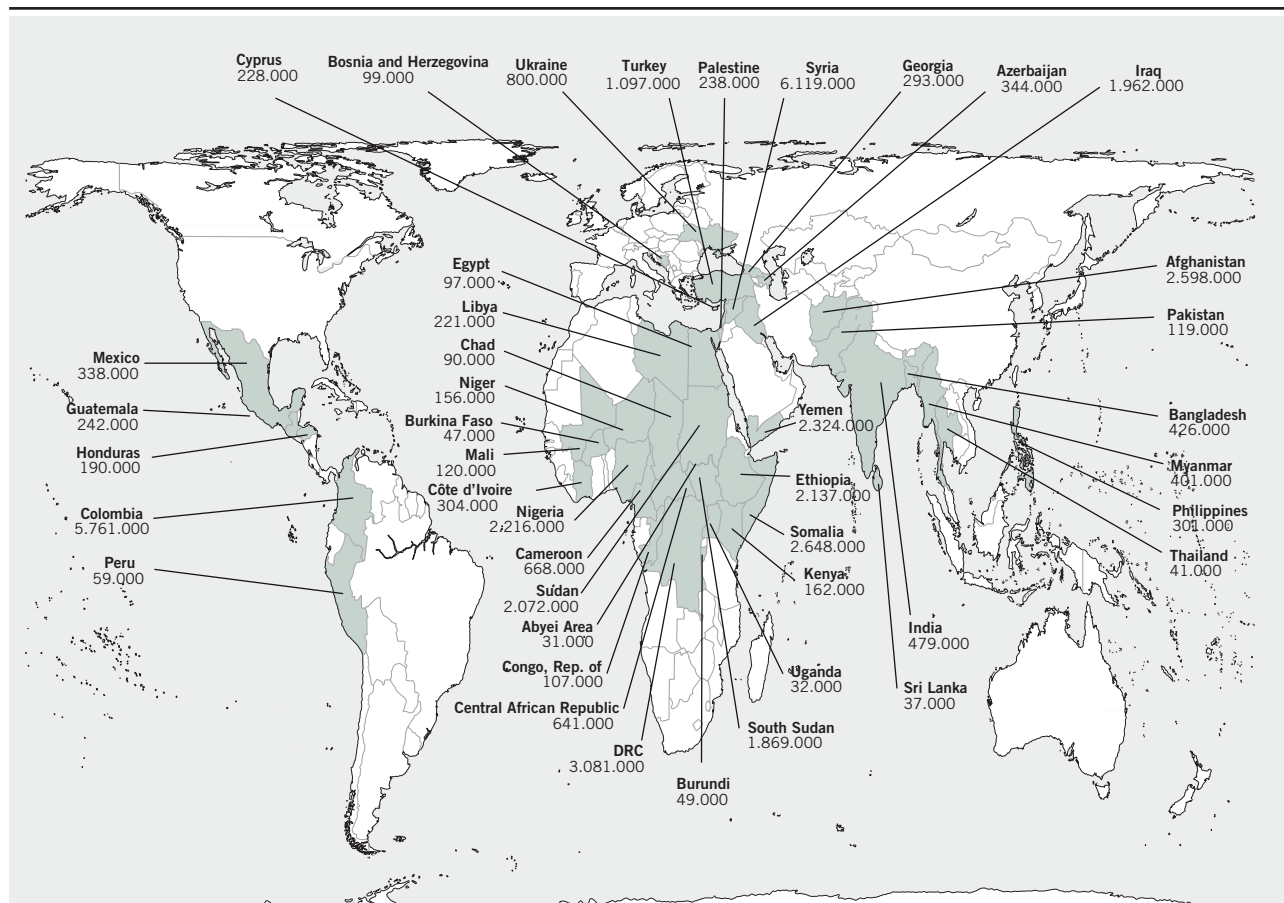
The 11 most serious conflicts in 2019 were Cameroon (Ambazonia/North West and South West), Libya, Mali, the Lake Chad Region (Boko Haram), the Western Sahel Region, Somalia, South Sudan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Yemen (Houthis)

the Lake Chad Region (Boko Haram), the Western Sahel Region, Somalia, South Sudan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Yemen (Houthis). The number of fatalities in some conflicts greatly exceeded 1,000 in one year, such as Afghanistan –with 24,000 deaths in the first ten months of 2019–; Yemen (Houthis) –around 23,000 deaths–; Syria –ranging from 11,200 to 15,000–; Western Sahel Region –4,000 deaths, the fatality rate quintupled compared to 2016–; or Somalia –around 4,000 deaths.

As in previous years, the armed conflicts in 2019 had serious impacts on the civilian population and the territories in which they occurred. In the year marking the 20th anniversary of the UN Security Council's first open debate on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, as well as the 70th anniversary of the four Geneva Conventions, the UN Secretary-General's report on the protection of civilians stressed

that the situation was tragically similar to that of 20 years ago and that civilians continued to constitute the vast majority of casualties in conflict situations. They also continued to face short and long-term impacts due to forced displacement, the use of hunger as a strategy of war, the denial of access to humanitarian aid, attacks on medical and humanitarian personnel,

Number of internally displaced people at the end of 2018



Source: IDMC, *GRID 2019: Global Report on Internal Displacement*, May 2019.

attacks and damage to medical facilities and other civil infrastructure, the use of sexual and gender violence and other forms of abuse.

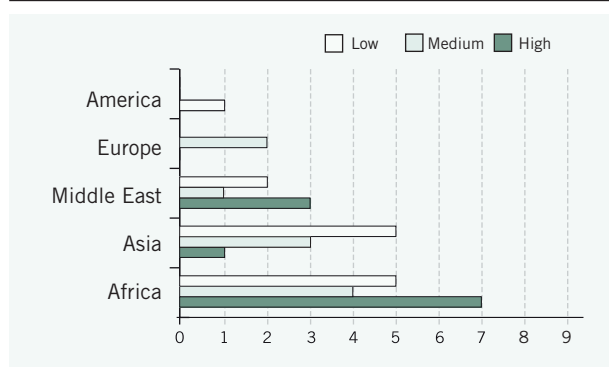
Armed conflicts continued to cause and/or exacerbate humanitarian crises. OCHA warned that many more people than expected were in need of humanitarian assistance in 2019 due to conflicts and extreme weather events. According to its prospective data as of December 2019, almost 168 million people will need humanitarian assistance and protection in 2020, the highest number in decades. Yemen remained the worst humanitarian crisis in the world in 2019, with 24 million of its citizens in need of assistance, representing 80% of its population, according to OCHA.

Furthermore, armed conflicts continued to have specific impacts on certain specific population groups, such as children. The UN Secretary-General's annual report on children and armed conflicts, published in 2019 and covering the year 2018, identified an alarming increase in serious violations of the human rights of children by state agents and international forces compared to the previous year, while those attributed to non-state actors remained stable. The report also verified an unprecedented threshold for the death and mutilation of children in 2018 since the UN established a monitoring and reporting mechanism for children and conflicts after UN Resolution 1612 (2005). In Afghanistan, there were 3,062 verified cases of children killed and mutilated in 2018. The report also corroborated other human rights violations against children, such as the forced recruitment and use of children (Somalia was the country with the highest number of cases, 2,300, followed by Nigeria, with 1,947), attacks on schools and hospitals, sexual violence against children and kidnappings (in which Somalia also stood out, with 2,493 verified cases).

The 2019 UN Secretary-General's report on conflict-related sexual violence, which covered the year 2018, contained verifiable information for 19 countries, involving more than 50 actors. Most of the perpetrators of sexual violence in these cases were non-state actors, but sexual violence had also been verifiably perpetrated by the national armed forces, police or other security actors in Myanmar, Syria, the DRC, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan. Furthermore, one fifth of refugee or displaced women suffered sexual violence.

Armed conflict continued to cause forced population displacement. According to figures from the UNHCR

Intensity of the armed conflicts by region



annual report published in mid-2019, at the end of 2018 there were 70.8 million people forcibly displaced around the world. Of that total, 41.3 million were internally displaced persons, 25.9 million were refugees (20.4 million under the UN mandate and another 5.5 million under the mandate of the United Nations Agency for the Refugee Population of Palestine in the Middle East, UNRWA) and 3.5 million were asylum seekers. Of the total forcibly displaced people, 13.6 million were newly displaced, broken down by 10.8 million new internally displaced persons and 2.8

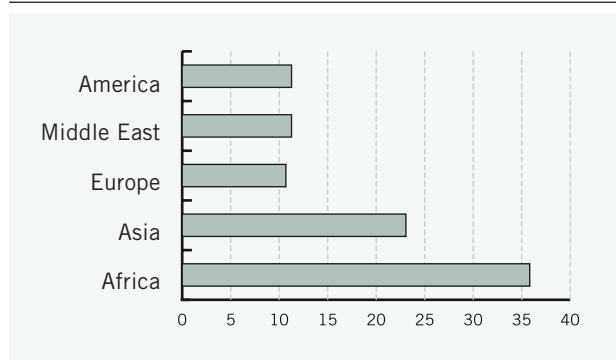
million new refugees and asylum-seekers. Fifty-seven per cent (57%) of the refugee population came from three countries, Syria (6.7 million), Afghanistan (2.7 million) and South Sudan (2.3 million), followed by Myanmar (1.1 million) and Somalia (900,000). In absolute terms, the main host countries were Turkey (3.7 million, compared to 3.5 million in 2017), Pakistan (1.4 million, as in the previous year), Uganda (1.2 million, which fell from 1.4 million in 2017), Sudan (1.1 million, compared to just over 900,000 the previous year) and Germany (1.1 million, up from 970,400 in 2017). Likewise, in its global report published in 2019, the International Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) indicated that the 41.3 million internally displaced people at the end of 2018 represented an increase of 1.4 million compared to 2017. This figure was headed by Syria (6.1 million), followed by Colombia (5.8 million), the DRC (3.1 million), Somalia (2.6 million), Afghanistan (2.6 million), Yemen (2.3 million), Nigeria (2.2 million), Ethiopia (2.1 million), Sudan (2.1 million) and Iraq (2 million).

Socio-political crises

The second chapter (**Socio-political crises**)² looks at the most relevant events regarding social and political tensions recorded during the year and compares global

2. A socio-political crisis is defined as that in which the pursuit of certain objectives or the failure to satisfy certain demands made by different actors leads to high levels of political, social or military mobilisation and/or the use of violence with a level of intensity that does not reach that of an armed conflict and that may include clashes, repression, coups d'état and bombings or attacks of other kinds, and whose escalation may degenerate into an armed conflict under certain circumstances. Socio-political crises are normally related to: a) demands for self-determination and self-government, or identity issues; b) opposition to the political, economic, social or ideological system of a state, or the internal or international policies of a government, which in both cases produces a struggle to take or erode power; or c) control of resources or territory.

Regional distribution of the number of socio-political crises in 2019



and regional trends. There were 94 socio-political crises around the world in 2019. The largest number of them were concentrated in Africa (36 cases), followed by Asia (23), the Middle East and Latin America (12 cases in each region) and Europe (11).

While socio-political crises may be caused by many factors, analysing the scope of the crises in 2019 allows us to identify trends as regards their causes or motivations. In keeping with data observed in previous years, at global level 71 per cent of the crises were mainly linked to opposition to domestic or international policies implemented by a given government (Government) (which led to a struggle to seize or erode power), or to opposition to the political, social or ideological system of the respective state system (System). At the same time, 40 per cent of the socio-political crises worldwide had as one of their main causes demands for self-government and/or identity. Note that around a third of the socio-political crises (31 per cent) involved disputes over control of territory and/or resources as a particularly important element, although this is a factor that fuels many crises to varying degrees.

In line with previous years, more than half of the crises in the world were internal in nature (51 crises, or 54%), more than one fourth were internationalised (25 crises, or almost 27%), and around one fifth were international (18 cases or almost 19 per cent). With regard to the evolution of the socio-political crises, in 37 per cent of the conflicts (35 cases) there was no significant change, while in 41 cases (44 per cent) there was a deterioration with respect to 2018, and in only 19 per cent of the settings was there some improvement in the crisis (18 cases). With regard to the intensity of the socio-political crises, during 2019 half of them were of low intensity (49 per cent, a percentage similar to the 51 per cent recorded in 2018), one third were of medium intensity

(34 per cent, equivalent to last year's figure) and only 18 per cent of the cases had high levels of intensity (17 cases).

Gender, peace and security

Chapter three (**Gender, peace and security**)³ studies the gender-based impacts in conflicts and tensions, as well as the different initiatives launched by the United Nations and other local and international organizations and movements with regards to peacebuilding from a gender perspective. This perspective brings to light the differential impacts that armed conflicts have on women and men, but also to what extent and how one and other participate in peacebuilding and what are the contributions made by women in this process. The chapter is structured into three main parts: the first

looks at the global situation with regards to gender inequalities by taking a look at the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI); the second part studies the gender dimension in terms of the impact of armed conflicts and social-political crises; and the last part is on peacebuilding from a gender perspective. At the start of the chapter there is a map showing the countries with severe

gender inequalities based on the Social Institutions and Gender Index. The chapter monitors the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, which was established following the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security in the year 2000.

According to the SIGI, levels of discrimination against women were high or very high in 29 countries, mainly concentrated in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. The analysis obtained by comparing the data from this indicator with that of the countries that are affected by situations of armed conflict reveals that 14 of the 34 armed conflicts that took place throughout 2019 occurred in countries where serious gender inequalities exist, with high or very high levels of discrimination; 6 in countries with medium levels of discrimination; and that 10 armed conflicts took place in countries for which there are no available data in this regard –Algeria, Burundi, Egypt, Israel, Libya, Niger, Palestine, Syria, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan. Thus, 58 per cent of the armed conflicts for which gender equality data is available took place in contexts with high or very high levels of discrimination. This figure rises to 83 per cent if countries with medium levels of discrimination are included. Similarly, in four other countries where there were one or more armed conflicts, levels of discrimination were lower, in some

3. As an analytical category, gender makes it clear that inequalities between men and women are the product of social norms rather than a result of nature, and sets out to underline this social and cultural construction to distinguish it from the biological differences of the sexes. The gender perspective aims to highlight the social construction of sexual difference and the sexual division of work and power. It also attempts to show that the differences between men and women are a social construction resulting from unequal power relations that have historically been established in the patriarchal system. The goal of gender as an analytical category is to demonstrate the historical and situated nature of sexual differences.

Countries in armed conflict and/or socio-political crisis with medium, high or very high levels of gender discrimination

	Medium levels of discrimination	High levels of discrimination	Very high levels of discrimination	Sin datos
Armed conflict⁴	Burkina Faso DRC (3) India (2) Thailand	RCA Chad Mali Myanmar Nigeria	Afghanistan Cameroon Iraq Pakistan (2) Philippines (2) Yemen (2)	Argelia Burundi Egypt Israel Libya Níger Palestine Somalia Sudan (2) South Sudan Syria
Socio-political crises	Chile DRC (4) Haiti India (5) Kenya Senegal Thailand Tajikistan Zimbabwe	Chad Côte d'Ivoire Indonesia Malawi Madagascar Nigeria (2) Philippines Sri Lanka Togo Tunisia Uganda (2)	Bangladesh Guinea Iran (4) Iraq (2) Lebanon (2) Morocco Pakistan (2)	Angola Argelia Bahrein China (5) Congo, Rep. Egypt Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Gambia Guinea Bissau Israel (2) Kosovo Palestine Saudi Arabia Somalia South Sudan Sudan (2) Syria Taiwan Uzbekistan Venezuela

* The number of armed conflicts or socio-political crises in the country appears between parentheses.

Table created based on levels of gender discrimination found in the SIGI (OECD), as indicated in the latest available report (2019), and on Escola de Cultura de Pau's classifications for armed conflicts and socio-political crises (see chapter 1, Armed conflicts, and chapter 2, Socio-political crises). The SIGI establishes five levels of classification based on the degree of discrimination: very high, high, medium, low and very low.

cases with low levels (Mozambique, Ukraine and Turkey) or very low levels (Colombia) of discrimination, according to the SIGI. As regards socio-political crises, at least 42 of the 94 active cases of socio-political crisis during 2018 took place in countries where there are severe gender inequalities (medium, high or very high levels according to the SIGI), representing 57 per cent of the cases of socio-political crisis for which data were available. 21 socio-political crises took place in countries for which no data are available (Angola, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Burundi, China, Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Gambia, Gaza and the West Bank, Guinea Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Israel, Syria, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Taiwan, Uzbekistan and Venezuela).

As in previous years, during 2019 sexual violence was present in a large number of active armed conflicts. Its use, which in some cases was part of the deliberate war strategies of the armed actors, was documented in different reports, as well as by local and international media. In April, the UN Security Council held an open discussion on sexual violence in armed conflicts. The Secretary-General presented his annual monitoring and evaluation report on the

issue. The Secretary-General's report covered the year 2018 and analysed the situation in 19 countries, 13 of which experienced armed conflict: Afghanistan, the CAR, Colombia, the DRC, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan (Darfur), Syria and Yemen, as well as the conflict in the Lake Chad region, which includes Nigeria. The report also identified governmental and non-governmental actors responsible for the use of sexual violence in conflicts.

The ACLED research centre also published a toll on the impact of sexual violence in conflict, noting that between the beginning of 2018 and June 2019, 400 incidents of sexual violence in conflict zones had been recorded globally, of which 140 took place in 2019. Sexual violence accounted for more than a quarter of the political violence targeted specifically against women. According to ACLED, women and girls represented 95 per cent of the victims of sexual violence in conflict zones. As regards conflict zones, during 2018 the most affected countries were: DRC, South Sudan, Burundi, India and Sudan; and during the first months of 2019: DRC, India, South Sudan, Burundi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

83 per cent of the armed conflicts for which data on gender equality exist took place in contexts with medium, high or very high levels of gender discrimination

Throughout the year there were different initiatives to respond to sexual violence in the context of armed conflicts. In relation to the UN response to sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel serving under his command, the strategy promoted by UN Secretary-General António Guterres continued to be implemented, although allegations continued to be received. According to the Secretary-General's 2019 report, progress has been made in reinforcing the victim-centred approach, with new tools to prevent the recruitment of personnel with a history of sexual exploitation or abuse; increased collaboration with civil society and external experts, including the launch in 2019 of a Civil Society Advisory Board, which has a mandate to make proposals to intensify the fight against sexual exploitation and abuse. However, many obstacles remained, such as difficulties for Member States to follow up on complaints from non-United Nations forces. In his report, the Secretary-General identified the progress made and the commitments in the peacekeeping and humanitarian sectors, while urging greater efforts in development programmes.

In addition to sexual violence, armed conflicts and crises had other serious gender impacts. Impunity for human rights violations continued to be a recurring theme. The report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights, published in July 2019, examined the continued impunity for human rights violations committed against human rights defenders, including female human rights defenders and defenders of the rights of the LGBTI population. It examined the main obstacles, compiled a list of best practices and proposed guidelines and recommendations. At the intersectional level, the report highlights the specific risks of violence faced by individuals, groups or movements depending on the type of rights they defend and also the economic or political interests they challenge. In relation to violence against the LGBTI population at global level, the United Nations Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, Victor Madrigal-Borloz, made an appeal in July to States and other actors involved in the protection of LGBTI asylum seekers and refugees to recognise their particularly vulnerable status and special requirements, and identified access to asylum as a basic element of protection against the disproportionate levels of arbitrary detention, police abuse, violence and extrajudicial killings by state and non-state actors to which the LGBTI population is subject in the countries from which they are forced to flee. They also face rights violations in the form of forced sterilisations, so-called "conversion therapies" and restrictions on freedom of expression, assembly and association. The independent expert therefore urged the States to ensure that well-

founded fears of persecution on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and/or sexual characteristics are accepted as grounds for the recognition of refugee status. According to their data, only 37 States granted asylum on such grounds

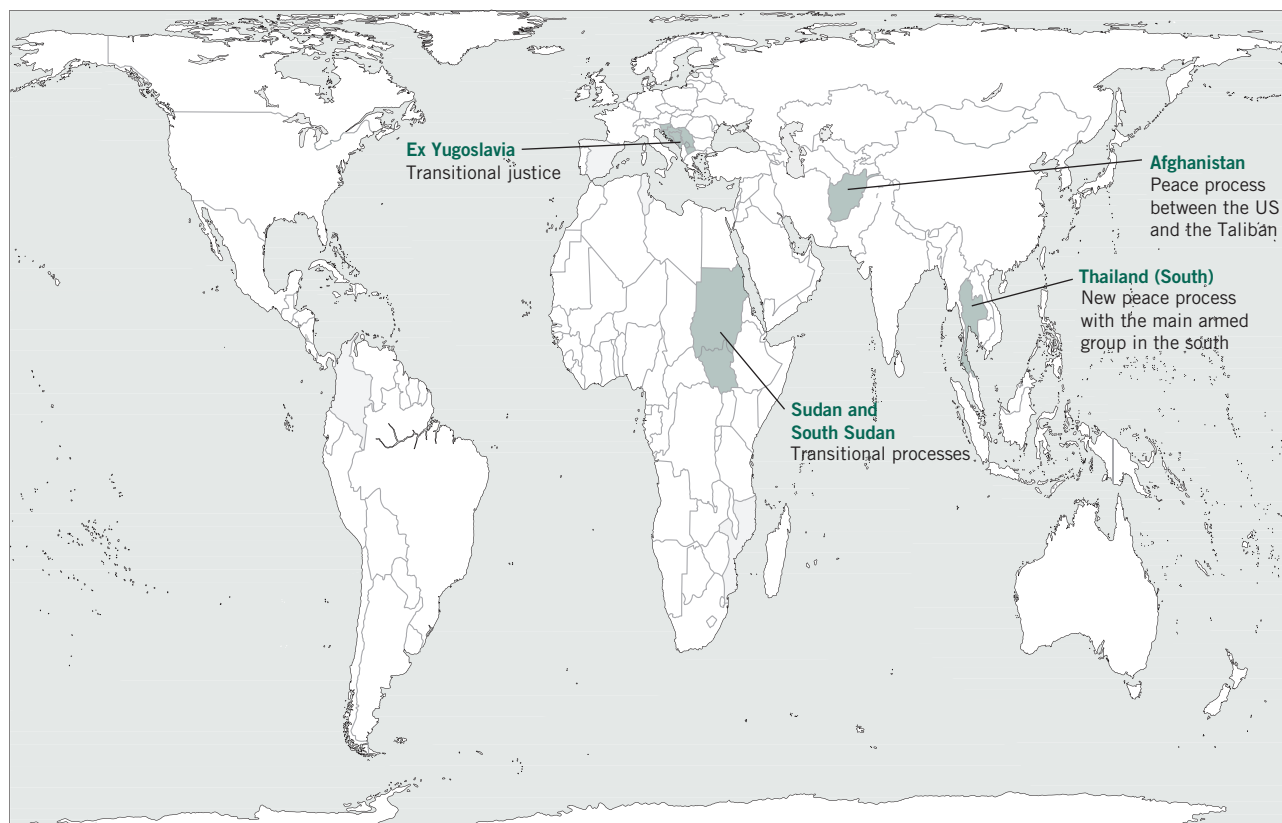
In relation to resolution 1325 and the international agenda for women, peace and security, there were two monographic debates on the Security Council. The first one, in April, dealt with sexual violence and armed conflicts. The Secretary General presented his annual report on this matter. Civil society once again highlighted the importance of understanding sexual violence in armed conflicts within a broader framework of gender violence perpetrated by both military and civilian actors in a context of profound international inequalities between men and women, aggravated by the arms race and militarism. In October, the annual debate on women, peace and security was held at the UN Security Council to coincide with the presentation of the UN Secretary-General's assessment report

on the implementation of the agenda relating to this matter. The Secretary-General's report collected the results of the independent assessment promoted by UN Women regarding the fulfilment of the commitments acquired in 2015 by the United Nations during the high-level review of the women, peace and security agenda; of the peacekeeping operations; and of the structure for peace consolidation. The independent assessment of the implementation of the commitments to the women, peace and security agenda noted that 50 per cent had been achieved or were on track to be achieved, 40 per cent were being implemented unevenly and 10

per cent had suffered setbacks or had made no progress at all. It should be noted that among the commitments and recommendations established in 2015 that have not moved forward in recent years is that of including the gender perspective in peace agreements

With regard to the national action plans regarding Resolution 1325, during 2019 four countries adopted new plans: Bangladesh, Namibia, Lebanon and Armenia. Therefore, a total of 83 countries had a plan in place by the end of 2019, representing 43 per cent of UN member countries. According to the analysis of these plans carried out by the international organisation WILPF, of the 83 existing plans, only 34 per cent of them had a specific budget allocated to the implementation of the plan and only 30 per cent of the plans in force included references to the issue of disarmament. During 2019, nine countries committed to developing their first national action plan with an eye on the 2020 review: Uruguay, Cyprus, Malta, Egypt, Ethiopia, Bulgaria, Latvia, Sri Lanka and South Africa.

In 2019, only 34 per cent of the national action plans relating to Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security had a specific budget devoted to the issue and only 30 per cent contained references to the issue of disarmament



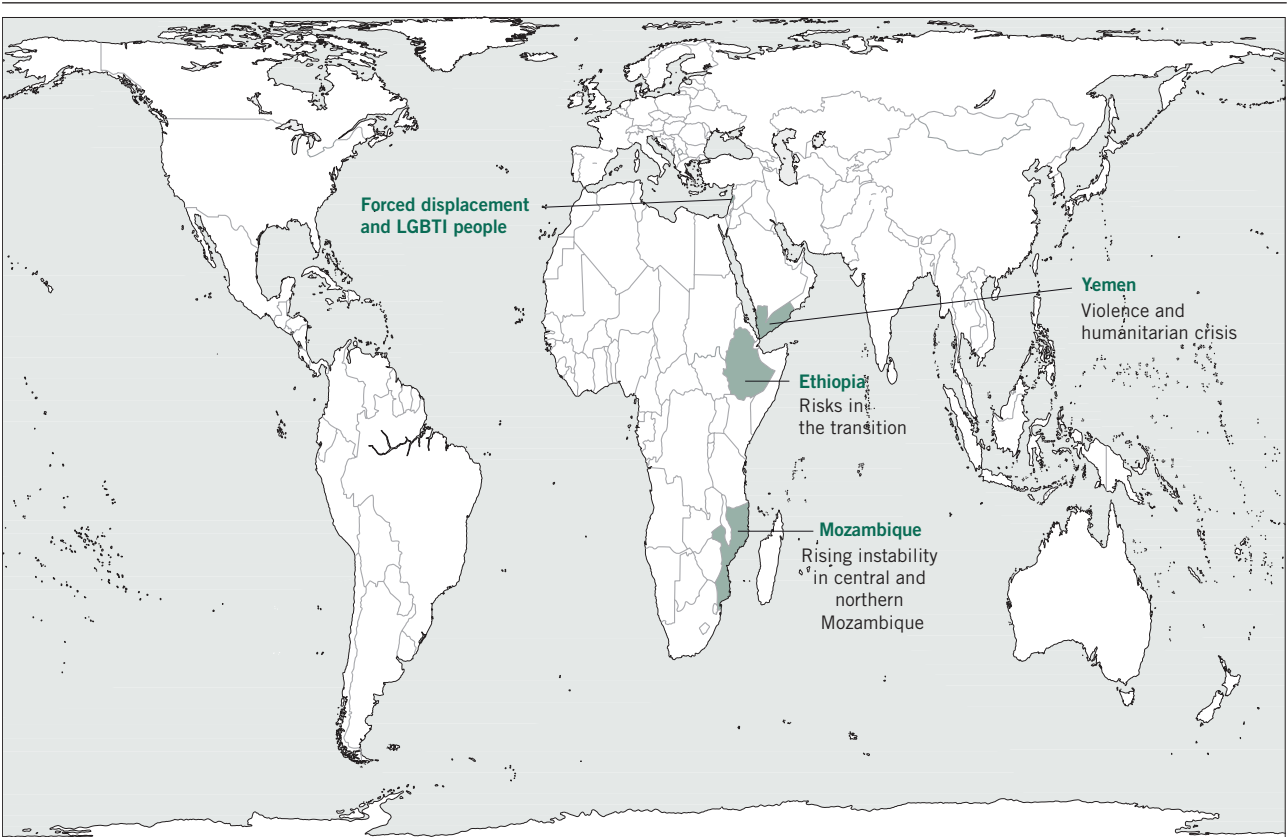
Peace Opportunities and Risk Scenarios for 2020

Chapter four of the report (Peace Opportunities for 2020) identifies and analyzes four scenarios that are favourable for positive steps to be taken in terms of peacebuilding in 2020. The opportunities identified in 2019 refer to different regions and topics:

- Taliban-US negotiations, an opportunity for peace in Afghanistan?
- Prospects for transition in Sudan and South Sudan
- The new negotiating process between the Thai government and the BRN, the main armed group in the south of the country
- Civil society's drive for transitional justice in the former Yugoslavia in the face of political deadlock: towards a regional registry of victims

Chapter five of the report (Risk Scenarios for 2020), identifies and analyzes four scenarios of armed conflict and tension that, given their condition, may worsen and become sources of more severe instability and violence in 2020.

- Challenges and risks in the Ethiopian transition facing a turbulent 2020
- Rising violence in Mozambique and the risks for the new peace agreement
- Yemen in the abyss: five years of escalating violence and fragile peace initiatives
- Forced displacement in the global context: specific risks for the LGBTI population



Conflict overview 2019

Continent	Armed conflict			Socio-political crises			TOTAL
	High	Medium	Low	High	Medium	Low	
Africa	Cameroon (Ambazonia/ North West and South West) <i>Lake Chad Region (Boko Haram)</i> <i>Libya</i> <i>Mali</i> <i>Somalia</i> <i>South Sudan</i> <i>West Sahel Region</i>	Mozambique (north) <i>CAR</i> <i>DR Congo (east)</i> <i>DR Congo (east-ADF)</i>	Algeria* <i>Burundi</i> <i>DR Congo (Kasai)*</i> <i>Sudan (Darfur)</i> <i>Sudan (South Kordofan and Blue Nile)</i>	Chad <i>Ethiopia</i> <i>Ethiopia (Oromia)</i> <i>Kenya</i> <i>Nigeria</i> <i>Sudan</i>	Algeria <i>Eritrea</i> <i>Guinea</i> <i>Mozambique</i> <i>Nigeria (Delta Niger)</i> <i>DR Congo</i> <i>Rwanda</i> <i>Rwanda – Burundi</i> <i>Rwanda – Uganda</i> <i>Somalia (Somaliland-Puntland)</i>	Angola (Cabinda) <i>Benin</i> <i>Central Africa (LRA)</i> <i>Congo</i> <i>Côte d'Ivoire</i> <i>DR Congo – Rwanda</i> <i>DR Congo – Uganda</i> <i>Equatorial Guinea</i> <i>Eritrea – Ethiopia</i> <i>Gambia</i> <i>Guinea-Bissau</i> <i>Madagascar</i> <i>Malawi</i> <i>Morocco – Western Sahara</i> <i>Senegal (Casamance)</i> <i>Sudan – South Sudan</i> <i>Togo</i> <i>Tunisia</i> <i>Uganda</i> <i>Zimbabwe</i>	
SUBTOTAL	7	4	5	6	10	20	52
America			<i>Colombia</i>	<i>Haiti</i> <i>Mexico</i> <i>Venezuela</i>	<i>Bolivia</i> <i>Chile</i> <i>Colombia</i> <i>Ecuador</i> <i>El Salvador</i> <i>Honduras</i> <i>Nicaragua</i>	<i>Guatemala</i> <i>Peru</i>	
SUBTOTAL			1	3	7	2	13
Asia and Pacific	<i>Afghanistan</i>	<i>India (Jammu and Kashmir)</i> <i>Pakistan</i> <i>Philippines (Mindanao)</i>	<i>India (CPI-M)</i> <i>Myanmar</i> <i>Pakistan (Balochistan)</i> <i>Philippines (NPA)</i> <i>Thailand (south)</i>	<i>India – Pakistan</i> <i>Indonesia (West Papua)</i> <i>Sri Lanka</i>	<i>Bangladesh</i> <i>China (Hong Kong)</i> <i>India</i> <i>India (Assam)</i> <i>Korea, DPR – USA,</i> <i>Japan, Rep. of Korea</i> <i>Pakistan</i> <i>Tajikistan</i>	<i>China (Tibet)</i> <i>China – Japan</i> <i>China – Taiwan</i> <i>China (Xinjiang)</i> <i>India (Manipur)</i> <i>India (Nagaland)</i> <i>Kazakhstan</i> <i>Kyrgyzstan</i> <i>Korea, DPR – Rep. of Korea</i> <i>Lao, DPR</i> <i>South China Sea</i> <i>Thailand</i> <i>Uzbekistan</i>	
SUBTOTAL	1	3	5	3	7	13	32
Europe		<i>Turkey (southeast)</i> <i>Ukraine (east)</i>			<i>Armenia – Azerbaijan (Nagorno-Karabakh)</i> <i>Serbia – Kosovo</i> <i>Turkey</i>	<i>Belarus</i> <i>Bosnia and Herzegovina</i> <i>Cyprus</i> <i>Georgia (Abkhazia)</i> <i>Georgia (South Ossetia)</i> <i>Moldova, Rep. of (Transnistria)</i> <i>Russia (North Caucasus)</i> <i>Spain (Catalonia)</i>	
SUBTOTAL		2			3	8	13
Middle East	<i>Iraq</i> <i>Syria</i> <i>Yemen (Houthis)</i>	<i>Egypt (Sinai)</i>	<i>Israel – Palestine</i> <i>Yemen (AQAP)</i>	<i>Egypt</i> <i>Iran</i> <i>Iran – USA, Israel</i> <i>Iraq</i> <i>Israel – Syria – Lebanon</i>	<i>Iran (northeast)</i> <i>Iran (Sistan Baluchistan)</i> <i>Lebanon</i>	<i>Bahrain</i> <i>Iraq (Kurdistan)</i> <i>Palestine</i> <i>Saudi Arabia</i>	
SUBTOTAL	3	1	2	5	3	4	18
TOTAL	11	10	13	17	30	47	128

Armed conflicts and socio-political crises with ongoing peace negotiations, whether exploratory or formal, are identified in italics. With asterisk, armed conflicts ended during 2019. For more information on negotiations and peace processes, see Escola de Cultura de Pau, *Peace Talks in Focus 2020. Report on trends and scenarios*, Barcelona: Icaria, 2020.