Local knowledge. Global impact.

Impact report 2018
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“Countless times in 2018, local peacebuilders have shown amazing bravery, strength and Ubuntu.”

Ubuntu means “I am because we are.” At the start of our Peace Exchange in Lebanon, a collaborative learning workshop, (see page 40) one of our longstanding Congolese partners said that it sums up his motivation for peacebuilding; the humanity, connection and the bond which all of us wish to develop. When I look back on what we achieved in 2018, it perfectly captures our approach to putting the people building peace at the centre of all we do; not just focussing on preventing conflict and violence – but building compassion, understanding and Ubuntu into everything we do.

Working with inspiring individuals and communities at the centre of peacebuilding efforts from Somalia to Syria, in 2018 we supported almost 24,000 people to turn away from violence and build peace from the ground up. Effective prevention of conflict requires longer term early action that focuses on strengthening local capacities and supporting existing peacebuilders. While funding is one important element, we know that true partnerships are also based on support, accompaniment and solidarity.

For example, in Mali, we worked with our local partner to support 20 peace initiatives across the country (page 16). From citizen reconciliation assemblies between ethnic communities to local radio debates, the work reached 3,648 people. In DR Congo, we supported 680 ex-combatants now trying to build livelihoods to work towards mining gold in an ethical and environmentally friendly way and strengthen their prospects for peace (page 13). We gained international media coverage for Peace Direct and our partners (page 39) and raised the profile of local peacebuilding in CAR, Burundi and Colombia at policy and decision-making levels (page 38).

In 2018, we had the privilege of supporting 70 inspiring local organisations in 11 countries, and learning from them every day. Throughout the year, we reflected with our partners together on how to improve learning and collaboration; ensuring we provide support to grassroots peacebuilding work in the long term, enabling our partners to operate autonomously, and ultimately having a bigger peacebuilding impact.

Thanks to your support, we’re supporting local peacebuilders to be the first responders to outbreaks of violence, mediators of community disputes, and constructors of peaceful and resilient communities. Countless times in 2018, local peacebuilders have shown amazing bravery, strength and Ubuntu. On this page, I have highlighted just a few of the ways we are making a difference. Our impact report shines a light on many more of the local people building peace, even in the toughest of circumstances. By helping make our work and our mission to stop wars one person at a time a reality, the year ahead promises to be just as impactful.

Dylan Mathews
Chief Executive

Welcome from our CEO
The year in numbers

We believe that by working at the grassroots level, we can find solutions to violence and pathways to peace that last.

These figures highlight some of our key successes in 2018.

We worked with **over 70** inspiring local organisations in 11 countries.

In Somalia, **107** young people turned away from violence and gained new vocational skills to start their own businesses.

In Mali, **618** people participated in peacebuilding activities enabled by Peace Direct grants.

‘Peace Rallies’ in Nigeria brought together **500** students to promote peace in their communities ahead of the 2019 elections.

In DR Congo, approximately **2,230** cases were resolved in local Peace Courts.

**200** women in the Philippines were trained in conflict resolution and women’s rights.
In Pakistan, 435 young people joined dialogues in universities and colleges to discuss non-violence and peacebuilding.

In Burundi, 794 people benefitted from the violence response activities led by our local partner.

In DR Congo, 50 former child soldiers were supported to reintegrate into their communities.

9 research reports were published, sharing key findings and perspectives of local peacebuilders on key policy issues.

90 traditional leaders in Zimbabwe were trained in preventing violence around political events, ensuring that no incidents of violence or intimidation were reported during the July elections in Hurungwe.

1,700 local peacebuilding organisations were featured on Peace Insight, highlighting grassroots peacebuilding efforts worldwide.
Where we work

Led by local people, we tackle the causes of violence at the root, and rebuild lives after war has torn communities apart. We are dedicated to making peace a practical option for as many people as possible, by supporting local organisations building peace in the way that works best in their communities.

From empowering young people from diverse backgrounds to find common ground through sports, to bridging ethnic divides through agricultural cooperatives, our local partners are finding innovative and sustainable ways to build resilient communities and create alternatives to violence. Peace looks different in different contexts, and by supporting local peacebuilders around the world doing courageous and important work, we are helping build peace one person at a time.

Together, the local knowledge and expertise of our partners on how to resolve the conflicts that affect their communities has a global impact. Here is a snapshot of the work we helped our partners to achieve in 2018.

**Sudan**
Through the local Peace Committees led by our local partners in southern Sudan, violence is prevented and disputes are resolved quickly before they escalate.

**Mali**
Our local partner supports peace initiatives across the country, distributing grants for peacebuilding projects and helping local groups find innovative ways to create safer communities.

**Nigeria**
In Kano and Jos we support work to bring divided groups together through sports, and help young people find alternatives to violence through training and peace clubs.

**DRC**
We support five local organisations in eastern Congo helping communities affected by war to become more resilient to violence, reintegrate child soldiers, and rebuild communities.
Syria
Peace Committees in the Idlib region help resolve conflict between communities non-violently, and provide training on conflict resolution and negotiation to community members.

Pakistan
Working with our partners we support young people at risk of radicalisation, and increase women’s inclusion in political, social and peacebuilding processes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Burundi
Across the country, the network of citizen reporters we partner with report on and respond to incidents of violence in their communities to prevent them escalating.

Somalia
We support work in Kismayo to help vulnerable young people build sustainable livelihoods, so that they have better alternatives than joining militias.

Zimbabwe
In Hurungwe and Murewa, we support our partners to build community resilience and empower communities to resist the use of violence to resolve differences.

Sri Lanka
Using creative approaches like photography, we support work in the north of Sri Lanka to promote community dialogue to heal the scars left by war.

The Philippines
Our partners bring divided communities back together in Mindanao, support those displaced by conflict, and help ex-combatants reintegrate into their communities.

Syria
Peace Committees in the Idlib region help resolve conflict between communities non-violently, and provide training on conflict resolution and negotiation to community members.

Pakistan
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Sri Lanka
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Our strategy

Since we began, we have supported local peacebuilding efforts in over 25 countries around the world, providing vital assistance to ensure grassroots action to stop violent conflict can continue, and grow.

Our strategy aims to deliver more impact for conflict affected communities, through the power of local action. We will continue to support the vital activities of our local peacebuilding partners, saving lives, providing paths out of violence and building better futures – stopping wars and building peace, one person at a time. 50% of wars restart within ten years of a peace treaty being signed. Our ambitious five-year strategy (2016–2020) stems from our commitment and passion to provide local people risking their lives on the front line of conflict with the resources they need to carry out their work, and to amplify their voices and their actions.

We will do this by supporting local peacebuilding organisations and extending our portfolio of local partnerships. Our existing and new partners will be strengthened to enable them to play a more central role in peacebuilding efforts, and we will encourage learning and sharing with a dynamic network of partners and other civil society actors.

We will focus on supporting people affected by armed violence in countries emerging from conflict. For those at risk of radicalisation and extremism, we will ensure they are helped to reintegrate into their communities and to contribute to reconciliation and long-term peace.

We will increase our advocacy activities, continuing to be a champion for local peacebuilders globally. We will seek allies across different sectors to ensure increased support and a greater participation in decision making, policy and practice for local peacebuilders.

We will support early warning and rapid response activities, so that localised violence is stopped before it escalates, and local organisations are better able to tackle the root causes of extremism and find non-violent solutions.

We will continue our commitment to being at the forefront of learning and reflection on what works in the field of local peacebuilding, as well as what support the local peacebuilding sector needs from outsiders. We will ensure comprehensive evaluations for every programme and will take the time to continuously reflect and analyse existing practices and assumptions, as well as piloting new ideas and initiatives with our partners.

We will invest in fundraising to build strong relationships with supporters, and to diversify and grow our income. Through our marketing and communications activities, we will reinforce our position among key audiences as a leader in locally led peacebuilding, and in mapping, convening and supporting local peacebuilders.
Our strategy 2016–2020

**Primary goals**

- Amplifying the voices of local peacebuilders
- Tackling the root causes of violence
- Supporting people in countries emerging from conflict to rebuild their communities
- Deepening our learning and building an evidence base
- Strengthening our existing partners and expanding our reach
- Early warning, early response and violence monitoring

**Supporting goals**

- **Fundraising and communications**
  
  We will invest in fundraising and communications to build strong relationships with supporters and diversify and grow our income so we can achieve more with our partners.

- **Systems, staffing and structure**
  
  We will invest in people, training and learning to ensure staff are motivated, processes are efficient and a high quality of work is maintained across the organisation.
Burundi
Sounding the alarm to prevent violence

The security situation remains fragile in Burundi, and the crackdown on the political opposition and civil society continued in 2018.

According to Human Rights Watch, Burundi’s security services and members of the Imbonerakure, the ruling party’s youth league, carried out widespread human rights abuses throughout 2018, including summary executions, rapes, abductions, beatings, and intimidation of suspected political opponents.

Widespread food insecurity and the country’s geopolitical isolation make conditions extremely challenging and dangerous for peacebuilders. However, violence prevention and peacebuilding continues in communities across the country in spite of an increasingly restrictive environment.

In 2018 we continued to support a network of ‘citizen reporters’ who report on and respond to incidents of violence and human rights abuses in their communities, to prevent violence escalating.

Impact

In 2018 130 citizen reporters were able to respond effectively to violence thanks to the targeted training they received on reporting, monitoring and response, giving local peacebuilders the resources and support to respond to violence before it took root. 2,632 incidents of violence, human rights abuses, detentions and hate speech were reported by the network across 18 provinces of the country, which were shared with the international community. This helped inform the international community of the violence across the country and the need to maintain an ongoing focus on resolving the conflict, as well as giving local activists insight into how to respond to violence in their communities. The citizen reporters carried out 90 activities to respond to violent events or arbitrary detentions. Of that number, 30 of the violent events have already been resolved effectively, meaning that individuals have been released, rescued or allowed safe passage. Through their reports, the network has also been able to advocate to local authorities on several occasions, helping secure the release of people detained and protecting those at risk of violence.
A view from the ground

"My name is Bukeyezena*, I am 52 years old and I work as the contact person for violence monitoring in one of the localities of Makamba. Thanks to the training I received from the network, I look forward to my contribution to conflict resolution in my community. In the event of an incident, I alert the authorities and other high-level contacts that may be able to have an influence over the outcome for the victim. A member of a village in Makamba province was arrested and put in the prison in April 2018 by a Judicial Police Officer. He was arrested by the Imbonerakure because of his political affiliation with the opposition party. Following my intervention, he was released the next day. I pleaded on his behalf by explaining the irregularities of his arrest. It is thanks to the training and technical advice from the network around how to adapt and respond to the reality on the ground that I was able to do this."

*Name changed for security reasons

In 2018 the estimated number of people who benefitted from the response activities conducted by the network was

794

2,632 incidents were reported by the network across 18 provinces of the country
**DR Congo**

Seven ways we’re building peace in DRC

The lead up to the December elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo was marred by violence and voter intimidation, in a country already devastated by two decades of conflict.

In eastern DRC, numerous armed groups and militias attacked civilians, killing and wounding many and destabilising an already fragile situation. In 2018, 2.4 million people were displaced from their homes, and over 130,000 refugees fled to neighbouring countries. With a lack of formal justice mechanisms, widespread poverty, and the additional strain on communities caused by the Ebola outbreak in North Kivu, local conflicts often spiral out of control.

In 2018, we continued to support local partners to rebuild trust, understanding and community life throughout areas affected by conflict. From supporting the reintegration of child soldiers, to setting up violence response committees, together we supported families and community-led initiatives, and strengthened livelihoods through agricultural training.

We worked with our partners Centre Résolution Conflits (CRC), Fondation Chirezi (FOCHI) and the Beni Peace Forum (BPF) across several locations in the conflict-affected regions of Ituri (01), North Kivu (02) and South Kivu (03). Here are seven ways we helped those affected by war to rebuild their communities and become more resilient to violence and instability during 2018.

**Bridging ethnic divides**

Our partners in DRC continued to mobilise and develop their communities, and this work has had a transformational effect of bridging ethnic divides, creating stability and changing attitudes.

In 2018, CRC brought together 795 community members to develop community self-help initiatives, including the creation of a pharmacy, radio debates, community funds and training in livelihoods and agriculture. The community organised radio debates on topics such as leadership, peace and dispelling false information. As well as increasing income, security and stability for their communities, the initiatives have improved attitudes towards younger members of the community who are vulnerable to violence. Before the project, villagers reported fear and frustration with the youth, however after the project, 75% of those interviewed had only positive youth behaviour to report. Through their work last year, 393 vulnerable young men are now fully reintegrated into their communities and take an active part in community development activities.

Through their collective economic activities including agricultural cooperatives and revolving loan funds, FOCHI was successful in bringing members of different tribes together to work towards shared goals. More unified communities also increased the capacity for community-led conflict management. Through collaborative work, positive changes in attitude towards people from different ethnic groups or tribes were recorded, helping communities become more unified and stable. When asked about the changes to their lives and communities, 100% of those interviewed reported that attitudes and relations between members of different tribes had improved since participating in the project.
Reintegrating child soldiers

CRC identified and supported the reintegration of another 50 child soldiers in 2018. But removing them from this environment is just the start of the journey in ensuring lasting peace.

Keeping children in education during or after conflict is a life-saving priority, which CRC is committed to, ensuring the young people could return to school or receive vocational training in hairdressing, livestock rearing or other trades. Many ex-combatants face difficulties in finding work or generating income independently, making this work all the more critical.

Since their rescue, 45 members of the group have so far gained employment or started to generate their own income, finding independence and contributing to their communities’ development, and avoiding a return to conflict.

CRC continued their important work to increase understanding on the issue of child soldiers, setting up a network of local civil society organisations working in the field of child protection. The ‘civil society network for child protection’ (RECOPE) brings together 66 influential figures and local leaders and provides training on children’s rights and the importance of reintegration for creating safer communities. In 2018, 2,207 people participated in the network’s training. By coordinating with other stakeholders including UNICEF and MONUSCO, CRC is becoming an important figure for child protection in the region and within communities.

Mining ‘Peace Gold’

Gold mining in eastern Congo degrades the environment and compromises the health of hundreds of thousands. Our award-winning Peace Gold project, developed and implemented with CRC, supports those affected by war in DRC to produce ethical and environmentally friendly gold. This year, 680 ex-combatants and people affected by war received training in environmental protection and gold production, non-violent conflict resolution, and financial management.

The mining cooperatives organised eight community sessions on conflict resolution and reintegration and set up two conflict resolution committees to resolve conflicts happening around the mines. After just one year of activity, eight violent incidents were dealt with peacefully by the committees. As a result of the training, 2,738 trees have been planted and eight sanitation facilities installed at the mines. As well as engaging the community, the improved quality of water and sanitation facilities in a region affected by widespread poverty and disease will likely have a wider impact on improving the health of the local population.
Establishing Peace Courts

Faced with a lack of access to the state justice system for local people, FOCHI continued to build on the success of their local ‘Peace Courts’ model. The 76 courts, including 38 mixed courts and 38 all-female courts, strengthen the ability of communities to resolve local-level conflicts over land, identity, and disputes between herders and farmers; providing an accessible and trusted mechanism for fair, free and non-violent conflict management. Instead of using punitive methods, the Peace Courts use reconciliation and mediation, which reduces recourses to violence by encouraging dialogue over punishment. In total, approximately 2,230 cases were heard and resolved in the Peace Courts in 2018.

During the year, FOCHI created a ‘Super Peace Court’, increasing the scale of their work and bringing together influential representatives from across civil society, local communities, the police, local government and the justice sector. Operating across different communities, eleven mediators were trained to solve disputes in the Super Court, gaining skills in conflict analysis, mediation and advocacy.

In 2018 the Super Court solved two important conflicts over succession of power and claims to land within local communities; clashes that had been ongoing for a number of years and already caused community destruction and violence. In resolving these cases, the Super Courts put an end to large-scale disputes that could have further escalated across a large region. Given the scale of these conflicts and the number of villages in the affected areas, FOCHI estimates that they have positively impacted the lives of 21,000 people in South Kivu.

Rapid response to violence

In 2018, we continued our support to the BPF, a network of 25 local organisations based in Beni, one of the places most affected by conflict in eastern Congo.

In Beni, suspicion and rumours around the movement of armed groups and imminent attacks are widespread. This can lead to panic and mistrust, and further violence or retaliation. BPF trained 30 people on reporting incidents of violence and human rights abuses and violations. They went on to establish local protection committees in 2018, forming an early warning system across the region. By supporting communities to quickly collect accurate information on escalating tensions they are able to pass it on to local decision-makers and their communities.

During the year, they also reported 477 instances of armed theft, ambush, attacks on villages or sexual violence, and shared 51 weekly reports on incidents of violence with local and national authorities and the UN, in order to be prepared and respond to violence effectively.

In 2018, BPF was increasingly asked for comment and to participate in debates on the security situation in Beni, a real indicator that they have established themselves as a crucial and respected peacebuilding actor in the region.
Responding to Ebola

In 2018 we supported CRC in an emergency project to peacefully manage conflicts which arose as a result of an outbreak of Ebola. Tensions mounted between local communities wishing to maintain their traditions of paying respect to the dead or ill, and health care providers trying to contain the spread of the disease.

CRC identified 24 groups including youth, women and church associations in 12 villages across North Kivu at high risk of contamination, with high levels of violence or beyond the reach of health care. 1,310 community members attended awareness-raising sessions on improving attitudes toward Ebola response teams active in the region, and on dispelling beliefs around witchcraft being the source of the disease. The sessions enabled those who took part to increase awareness through their own networks, and CRC actively spread the word through radio broadcasts, educational commercials and awareness-raising songs to reach all ages. This work directly reached over 1,000 people, and with more than 400 radio shows broadcast, our partners estimate that the awareness and outreach activities reached thousands more.

CRC observed an important behaviour change towards the response teams since the project was implemented, especially among young people who had previously been hostile but now accompany them in their work. The frequency of violent incidents towards medical teams is now 15% lower since the project began. This means they can now move more freely to carry out their life-saving work in the region and access areas that were previously deemed too hostile and dangerous to access. In addition, the level of mistrust and suspicion associated with Ebola has lowered thanks to CRC’s work.

Growing an ecosystem of peacebuilders

We continued our support to the ‘Local Peacebuilding Support Offices’, which we established in order to strengthen the network of peacebuilding organisations in Eastern DRC, growing their capacity in conflict resolution and reintegration efforts; establishing more trusted, sustainable and resilient communities. With small teams in both North and South Kivu, the Support Office model is centred on collaboration and partnership, so that they can play a more active role in stabilisation and long-term peacebuilding efforts across the region.

In 2018, the Support Office collected information on 273 local organisations and the scope of their work. Based on this insight the Support Office set up eight different working groups across the region and provided training on topics including conflict analysis, gender and DDR (disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration).

Through creating an active network of peacebuilding actors with common goals, and identifying opportunities to collaborate and share knowledge on important issues, the Support Office is strengthening a growing ecosystem of peacebuilders who work together effectively to make their communities safer.
Mali
Connecting a network of peacebuilders

For years, weak governance, competition over land and water, and influence of Islamist militants have caused persistent conflicts between herding and farming communities, and different ethnic groups. Distrust in difference in Mali has fuelled conflict, which has further exacerbated tensions, and hundreds of lives were lost in 2018 alone. We have been working with WANEP-Mali, whose work strengthens coordination between, and therefore the effectiveness of, 60 grassroots civil society organisations across the country.

Impact

In 2018 we brought together representatives from over 20 peacebuilding organisations across Mali for a series of practitioner-led workshops or ‘Peace Exchanges’, to discuss the drivers of violent conflict, the strategies to avert tensions, and the opportunities and challenges in building peace.

In July we published a report, ‘Mali on the Brink’, that presented the findings of that collaboration. The report shared local perspectives on the drivers of violent conflict in Mali, and the local capacities that exist to build peace. You can explore the report on the Peace Direct website.

We worked with WANEP-Mali to support 40 local organisations collaborating on a range of peacebuilding projects across the country, including training 353 people in designing, managing and implementing their peacebuilding projects.

The projects included conflict management training for women and for herders and farmers, bringing local citizens from different ethnic communities together for ‘reconciliation assemblies’, local radio debates, and a ‘women and girls for peace’ project. In 2018, 339 women and 279 men participated in activities supported through small grants provided by WANEP-Mali, and 3,648 people benefitted from these projects.

With access to the resources they need, grassroots actors are finding innovative ways to make their communities safer and empower their communities to participate in peace and reconciliation processes. Participants in the projects described how they would have previously chosen to solve problems through violence, but since the peacebuilding activities convened by WANEP-Mali they now understand the importance of dialogue to solve conflict.
“There has been a lot of change in the last year, the community dialogue session brought together all sections of the community including women leaders, youth, traditional and religious leaders... The changes achieved are very important because we are now strengthened in terms of conflict analysis and we are actually able to prevent conflict. The two parties at the centre of the conflict have contact with each other within the Kouro Barrage area.”

- Balè Poudiougou, a project participant from a local peacebuilding organisation.
Nigeria: Building brighter futures

Nigeria is facing a complex conflict and humanitarian crisis, which has so far taken the lives of 20,000 and displaced 2.6 million people in the north of the country.

Conflict in Nigeria escalated in 2018, with the Boko Haram insurgency continuing to recruit members and carry out abductions, suicide bombings, and attacks on civilians in the north east. Political tensions heightened towards the end of the year, ahead of general elections, whilst decades-long violence between herders and farmers in the Middle Belt intensified. These problems are compounded by a high unemployment rate, making many young people easy targets for recruitment into gangs and armed groups.

Impact

In Kano and Jos, which have witnessed clashes between Christians and Muslims since 2001, we supported the Peace Initiative Network (PIN) to facilitate community cohesion, bridge ethno-religious divides and help young people find work. This directly impacted the lives of 2,066 young people in just one year.

PIN’s sports clubs have also brought together different ethnic and faith groups for talks on peacebuilding, leadership skills and community cohesion, and have helped young people find a way to address anger non-violently. As one participant said, “Through controlling our temper we can control peace. This leads to inner peace, and also outside. In our home and our community.” Over the year, 190 young people participated in weekly training and monthly tournaments.

Meanwhile, 160 students and 10 teachers in five schools attended monthly ‘Peace Clubs’ in Kano and Jos to discuss peace initiatives and the building of coalitions for peacebuilding and violence prevention. The young participants have gone on to promote peace to their peers and communities, and over the year mobilised 500 students to take part in ‘Peace Rallies’, where students marched around major streets and strategic locations in Kano and Jos to raise awareness among communities on the need for peaceful coexistence among communities ahead of the 2019 elections.

“’A lot of changes have taken place in my life. With the tailoring tools given to me I can create my own employment without waiting for anyone. Many young ladies in my community are now following in my footsteps. This is making many people less dependent on formal employment, reducing conflict caused by joblessness in society.”’

Aisha, vocational training participant (pictured right)

255 young people received practical skills training, in trades ranging from mechanics to tailoring.

“**A lot of changes have taken place in my life. With the tailoring tools given to me I can create my own employment without waiting for anyone. Many young ladies in my community are now following in my footsteps. This is making many people less dependent on formal employment, reducing conflict caused by joblessness in society.”**

Aisha, vocational training participant (pictured right)
Pakistan
Standing up to violence, standing for elections

In Pakistan, attacks in schools, universities and polling stations continued to disrupt education and democracy. The 2018 parliamentary elections were marred by violence: armed groups attempted to disrupt the elections, and suicide attacks and strikes killed hundreds of people. Although women and people from religious minorities have had the right to vote since the foundation of the state, being able to vote is a different story, with intimidation still occurring across the country and people being prevented from voting.

In the conservative tribal province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, we continued to work with Aware Girls, supporting young people at risk of radicalisation, and on increasing the inclusion of women in political, social and peacebuilding processes.

Impact

Aware Girls supported 28 people in their ‘Youth Peace Network’ (YPN) to provide training on peacebuilding and countering violence and violent ideologies in their communities. As a result of the training, the 28 members developed action plans for engaging the community in their peacebuilding work and went on to implement four study circles, two inter-faith dialogues, two peace education sessions in local schools in Swabi, and a music academy, reaching over 150 young people.

In addition, Aware Girls organised five dialogues in universities and colleges in Swabi, bringing students together to discuss non-violence in academic institutions, reaching a further 435 young people.

Aware Girls had impressive results in changing young people’s attitudes towards dealing with conflict. When Aware Girls spoke to participants before and after the project, it was clear that the work had a real and positive influence on their attitudes towards violence and perceptions of peacebuilding.
The work we support in Pakistan is opening doors to greater understanding of the options for turning away from violent ideologies.

In 2018, the ‘Young Women’s Network for Good Governance’ was set up by 23 Aware Girls graduates to promote women’s participation in political and public life. During the year the Network engaged the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to advocate for accessible polling stations, female polling staff, awareness around women’s voting rights, and increasing their electoral participation.

“A view from the ground”

“My name is Faima*. I am 24 years old and I am a nursing student. I come from Sherpao village in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. As a young woman, I am passionate about my community’s issues. I have seen too few women represented in community decision-making and development. However, I didn’t have the confidence and skills to become active in the civic and political life of my community.

After I participated in training with Aware Girls my confidence grew. I gained new skills and decided to join a political party with the aim of working for the welfare of women. My parents weren’t going to let me do this, however after much persuasion they agreed. I joined a political party and started using my new skills in peer education and community mobilisation to reach out to other women.

On the day of the 2018 general election, I realised that women were not going to polling stations. I had to do something about this, so I booked four vehicles and started going to every home to ask women to come out to vote with me. I continued this for hours and kept on taking women out to vote. I didn’t count the exact number of women; however, I must have mobilised and enabled hundreds of women to go to the polls to vote on Election Day.”

(Name changed and photos representative to protect Faima’s identity)
Philippines
Sowing the seeds of peace

After militants barricaded themselves into Marawi City on the Philippine island of Mindanao in 2017, the city experienced a five-month siege. The city still lies in ruins, over 200,000 people remain displaced, and the pace of rebuilding communities is slow.

In 2018 we worked with Kapamagogopa Incorporated (KI) to bring divided communities back together, support those displaced by conflict, and help ex-combatants reintegrate into their communities.

In 2018, KI supported 200 women, including some ex-combatants, empowering them to take part in the official peace process. They provided regular training on civic responsibility, women’s rights, and conflict resolution and actively supported women’s participation in peace processes. As a result of their training, 81% of participants interviewed say they now understand the importance of being involved in peacebuilding activities and now actively participate in meetings. Project participants said the work had allowed their communities to address the root causes of divisions, and to stop former fighters returning to fight.

This knowledge has translated into action, with KI helping female peacebuilders to conduct local peacebuilding initiatives in their communities by supporting the creation of their women-led civil society organisations. In 2018 four new women’s organisations were registered, and five peacebuilding community project proposals were submitted by the end of the year to local authorities and donors. Empowered female peacebuilders are spreading their knowledge of non-violent alternatives to conflict within their communities across Mindanao, and demonstrating how women can help stop the root causes of conflict through education, awareness and opportunities for themselves and their communities.

Impact

Operating so closely to where fighting disrupted the lives of thousands, KI’s work is vital in addressing the root causes of recruitment to violence, by supporting the communities where violence flared up in 2017 to resolve future tensions.
A view from the ground

"My entire family became combatants - my parents and my brothers. I was 11 years old then. In 2005, I was one of the military trainees. I know how difficult it is for a combatant, it is always a matter of life and death. The activities that I attended with KI confirmed that other than war there are other ways to resolve conflict, that there is a peaceful way that would not result in killings and destruction of property. Today I would strongly say no if someone were to recruit me to become a fighter again."
– A former fighter in the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. She is now a mother of three children, training other participants from Butig village.
Somalia
Creating a generation of peace promoters

Somalia, one of the poorest countries in the world, has been in a state of civil war and chronic insecurity since 1991. Decades of poverty, armed violence, and political instability have caused hundreds of thousands to flee, and young people who remain face severely limited economic opportunities.

This year, ongoing drought and famine led to mass displacement and emergency levels of food insecurity. US airstrikes in Somalia have surged, and peacekeeping forces have withdrawn, enabling Al-Shabaab to increase their control and step up attacks in the capital, Mogadishu. However, despite the threats of armed violence, climate change, corruption and lack of justice, the election of a new president with cross-clan support and a young, reform-minded parliament present a genuine opportunity for political and security reforms to combat Al-Shabaab and stabilise the country. At this pivotal moment locally-led peacebuilding is very important in securing a better future for Somalia.

Impact

In 2018 we supported Social life and Agricultural Development Organisation (SADO) to help vulnerable young people to build sustainable livelihoods, so that they have better alternatives than joining militias. They started a new youth livelihoods and peacebuilding programme to empower young people and women in Kismayo economically and politically, and to build community resilience to violence.

107 young people completed 620 hours of learning in vocational skills such as computer literacy and electronic repairing, and in basic business management. Upon graduation each trainee received a grant of $500 to start their own business. In follow-up interviews, trainees reported that the skills they acquired propelled them to secure employment, with a number of others now having established their own businesses thanks to their training and financial support.

Civic education training also taught 120 young people about their rights and responsibilities as citizens, and the benefits of peace across clan and ethnic lines, further helping to promote social cohesion within communities.

SADO conducted training in leadership, peacebuilding, conflict analysis and political advocacy to build the capacities of the women and youth-led civil society organisations, ensuring a significant reach of their work and expertise. 40 participants committed to training their peers, and follow-up revealed that 98% of trainees left with a better understanding of the issues discussed than they had before.

Meanwhile, to support female enterprise, SADO trained 14 women in the Hiddayo Women Fishing Cooperative in business management and gave them a small grant of $3,450 to kick start their business. This has provided them with a sustainable business plan that will enable them to enter the fishing market and generate a sustainable income.
107 young people turned away from violence and took up vocational skills

“Peace starts from the grassroots, from the home and the community. If there is no peace in Kismayo, there is no peace in Jubaland, or in the entire Somalia. If there is no peace, there is no life.”

Isse Abdullahi, SADO
Sri Lanka

Local peacebuilders have the best chance at creating lasting peace

Efforts to provide justice for victims of conflict have stalled in Sri Lanka, despite the government pledging to establish justice mechanisms from its three-decades-long civil war ending in 2009. An increase of attacks against Muslims by Sinhala Buddhist militants in 2018 raised fears of a new round of communal violence, and put religious minorities at risk. A state of emergency was declared in March for ten days to rein in the spread of the violence and to ease social tensions. To heal divisions and to create opportunities for reconciliation, addressing the root causes of mistrust, hostility and fear is crucial.

In 2018, we continued to support the Centre for Peacebuilding and Reconciliation (CPBR) to promote community dialogue and exchange, using photography as a tool.

Impact

Through photography, young women explored reconciliation and healing between different ethnic and faith groups in Sri Lanka. 42 young women from different communities and backgrounds participated in this project in 2018, and CPBR conducted weekly workshops and field trips around the country. The work focuses on convening communities from all different faiths to restore trust and build the foundations of long-term peace.

In many communities that are still deeply divided, the project brought people from all communities together to discuss common themes, to build connections and understanding, and to ultimately stand together for peace in their country. Through the project, young Tamil women from the northern, eastern and central provinces came together to visit a Buddhist Sinhala community for the first time. Overcoming differences, women came together from groups whose only previous interactions had been those of conflict, clashes, and prejudice, to do something they never would have thought possible - talk about the effects of war and build understanding and tolerance with people they had previously opposed.

A view from the ground

"[As a Tamil woman] I never ever thought I could come to a part of the country where Sinhalese Buddhists live... If someone asked me to come to this area six months ago, I would feel anger and fear. I am from Kilinochchi, one of the areas in the north most affected by conflict. But today, I am living, walking and taking photos in the middle of a village, and sleeping next to the temple. They [the Sinhalese Buddhists] are also like us. We are all suffering, wounds are deep, but as women, we can be the bridge makers of the broken communities. Cameras and our photos can be the cement and bricks that build the bridge". – Debora, Kilinochchi.
Since its independence in 1956, Sudan has experienced waves of intermittent civil war and unrest. North-south conflict cost the lives of 1.5 million people, with South Sudan finally gaining independence in 2011. Yet conflict and instability are far from over. Southern provinces remain in conflict with one another and with the Sudanese government, causing 7.1 million people in 2018 to be in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

Clashes over grazing land resources can feed into wider violent conflicts, which have resulted in large numbers of casualties and displaced hundreds of thousands of people over the years. In the southern states of South Kordofan and Blue Nile, where violence often escalates between clans, tribes and communities, we continued to support the work of Collaborative for Peace Sudan (CIPS) with local Peace Committees, which respond quickly to local disputes and outbreaks of violence, helping to resolve them in the early stages.

Impact

Over the year, five ‘rapid response’ interventions were implemented by the Peace Committees. These actions impacted an estimated 1,455 people by de-escalating conflict between herdsmen and farmers and curbing the spread of hate speech against South Sudanese refugees in South Kordofan.

Peace Committees in three villages were reactivated, expanding the reach of the network across the regions. Through peer training, all members learned skills in conflict prevention and conflict resolution, communication, and early response systems for monitoring violence.

Requests for the committees’ mediation in conflicts between communities demonstrates an appetite to build peace.
Case study:
In March 2018, a conflict broke out between the Tulushi Nuba and Diri and Eeyainat clans of the Misseriya tribe, due to the theft of cattle. The situation was particularly volatile given the history of conflict between the clans, which the previous year led to four people being killed in a similar conflict.

The Tulushi villagers tracked down the footprints of the perpetrators, and fuelled by their mistrust and animosity towards the clan, they confronted the supposed perpetrators without evidence, causing the Diri and Eeyainat clans, who felt belittled by the accusation, to retaliate. Upon hearing the news, the Lagawah Peace Committee, facilitated by CfPS, organised a meeting with the tribes planning to launch the attack in order to de-escalate the situation. During the meeting and subsequent investigation by the Peace Committee, it was found that the accused clans had nothing to do with the cattle looting; the stolen cattle only crossed through their village.

A police report was filed and the perpetrators were identified and arrested. The Peace Committee then facilitated a public meeting between the two tribes, and a recommendation was made requiring all to thoroughly investigate before making accusations in any event of theft, looting or vandalism.

By establishing mechanisms for preventing violence from escalating and helping to build trust between rival tribes, the Peace Committees’ work in 2018 stopped violence at its roots and helped to build sustainable peace in Sudan.
Syria
Hope amid despair: The heroes of Syria’s civil society

The Syrian conflict has claimed the lives of more than 500,000 people and displaced half of the country’s population, according to The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. After seven years of fighting, the country is still far from reaching a peace agreement.

Fighting continued throughout 2018, and indiscriminate airstrikes, chemical attacks, mass detention and torture by government forces have resulted in a high toll of civilian casualties and widespread destruction. Meanwhile ISIS and Al-Qaeda affiliates in Syria continued to perpetrate abuses, ranging from executions and kidnappings to interference in aid delivery.

Civilians have paid the devastatingly high price for the Syrian conflict. Yet the commitment and bravery of civil society organisations working on the ground to counter violence and promote peace is remarkable. Our work and research in 2018 highlighted and supported the efforts of civilian peacebuilders.

The three committees worked together and collaborated with volunteer Sheikhs, with 36 community members from across the regions joining the committees and receiving training in advocacy, conflict resolution and negotiation. Almost half of the members are themselves part of other civil society organisations, and the connections forged through the committee have strengthened a network of civil society in northern Syria.

Through their work, community members now actively reach out to the committees when urgent issues arise, and by coordinating across the regions they are able to react quickly.

Impact

In 2018 we supported Zoom In in Syria to establish three Peace Committees in the municipalities of Idlib, Maara al-Nu’man and Jabal al-Sumaq, to help resolve disputes within and between communities non-violently.
Raising the voices of Syrian people building peace: Our ‘Idlib Lives’ report

In collaboration with The Syria Campaign and partners across north-west Syria, we created an interactive report, Idlib Lives, sharing examples of how even in the most brutal of conflicts, people are building peace. The online report was read by 2,273 people and profiled in The Guardian newspaper. You can explore it at: www.idliblives.org/

Case study:

In May 2018, the three Peace Committees collaborated to successfully resolve an issue of a killing in the town of Marshurin, which due to the existence of long-standing tensions in the area could easily have escalated into a wider-scale conflict. After the issue was dealt with, the committees continued their work in this town to heal divides and ensure there are fewer incidents of violence in the future.

3 new Peace Committees established in northern Syria
Zimbabwe Dialogue for development

Since its independence in 1980, Zimbabwe has experienced low intensity conflict marked by periods of escalation and political violence. Conflict today remains rooted in disputes over national power, economic hardship and pre-colonial disputes which have not been resolved.

2018 was an eventful year in Zimbabwe, and the general elections in July marked the first since the 2017 departure of President Mugabe. Following the announcement of the result, violent demonstrations in Harare saw seven people killed. Sustained political tension was exacerbated by the opposition party’s challenge to the election result.

Impact

In 2018 we worked with Envision Zimbabwe Women’s Trust to build community resilience and empower communities to resist the use of violence to resolve differences. They launched a new project to promote peace around the elections, by helping traditional leaders to prevent violence and encourage their community members to vote peacefully, free from fear and intimidation.

90 traditional leaders participated in a workshop, which covered topics such as leadership, women’s rights, gender and violence prevention during election periods. Focus group discussions showed that traditional leaders were encouraging their people to vote peacefully and not to perpetrate violence. Most notably, there were no reports of violence and intimidation tactics during the elections in Hurungwe, yet surrounding neighbourhoods where Envision is not working reported significant levels of violence and intimidation.

“As leaders we have choices to make and I made my choice not to force people to go and vote under my watch so I can pass information to the politicians. We are the custodians of our land and should be able to tell politicians what to do and not them tell us what to do in our own land.”
“I am a village head, and I had experience in intimidating people during previous elections in support of certain political parties. We used to be asked to gather our people during voting and record names of those who voted, and then vote together with people from your village. However this time I did not gather my village to vote at the same time and record their names. I chose not to push people around. As leaders we have choices to make and I made my choice not to force people to go and vote under my watch so I can pass information to the politicians. We have to take back our power from politicians and not allow them to use us. We are the custodians of our land and should be able to tell politicians what to do and not them tell us what to do in our own land.” – Workshop participant
Local voices on a global level

Through research and advocacy with our partners, as well as greater engagement with the media, Peace Direct is helping change the policies and practice of the international community to be more supportive of local peacebuilders.

Our research: Local peacebuilding resources

In 2018, we published nine research reports, sharing key findings and perspectives of local peacebuilders on important policy issues. These reports were distributed to hundreds of decision-makers at the UN and in the US, UK and EU, and other donor governments.

Our ‘Local Voices for Peace’ series saw another successful year in 2018, with three reports published during the year to present grassroots perspectives on peace and conflict. As a result of online consultations on our Peace Insight platform, and in-country practitioner-led exchanges, our reports shared the perspectives of those working at the local level to understand the drivers of conflict and to strengthen prospects for peace, in Mali and north-west Syria, and on the topic of atrocity prevention. The reports were distributed among policy makers, researchers and practitioners in the US and Europe, and were used for in-country advocacy and influencing in Mali.

In addition, the growing profile and recognition of the ‘Local Voices for Peace’ series enabled us to convene peacebuilder visits to the US around the topics and context addressed in the publications, and to ensure that the insights and local perspectives generated in the reports inform important decision-making in Burundi and CAR.

With the Life and Peace Institute and the Somali Women Solidarity Organization, we conducted ground-breaking research into women and conflict in Somalia. The resulting report shed light on the important roles played by women in sustaining, but also in resolving, conflict and how to empower them as peacebuilders.

In addition, we published three research reports on financial sustainability for civil society, and two reports on sustainable aid transitions, part of the USAID ‘Local Works’ initiative. These reports were distributed to over 2,000 practitioners, policymakers and supporters of our work.

In 2018 we also produced three learning summaries of our work with partners in eastern DR Congo and Somalia; four-page digests that provide an overview of the key challenges, successes and impact of our work, and what we learned with our partners during a particular project. These are shared with the sector to encourage an appetite for open discussion of failure, as well as providing recommendations to the sector, practitioners and donors doing similar work.

All of our reports and learning summaries are available to read in full at www.peacedirect.org/publications
A global network of local experts

Through Peace Insight (www.peaceinsight.org), our flagship mapping platform, we have mapped over 1,700 peacebuilding initiatives and local organisations around the world since 2007, highlighting the in-depth knowledge of over forty conflicts and the organisations working on the ground to resolve them. In 2018 alone, the site attracted 377,915 visits and 623,658 online views.

In 2018, recognising that conflict is increasingly prevalent in the Global North, we launched peace mapping of the US, and have already added over 150 groups working on peace across the country, so that we are the first to notice patterns and trends. We also launched ‘Peace Dispatch’, a new resource providing analysis from local peacebuilding experts on incidents of violence in their region, and examples of peacebuilding work from Colombia to Kashmir.

Peace Insight brings greater attention to the invaluable work of local peacebuilders around the globe. The insight and knowledge they can offer to other peacebuilders, decision makers and the international community on the conflicts affecting their communities firsthand, and the peacebuilding strategies that really work. In 2018 our expert in Lebanon profiled a local peacebuilding organisation in Turkey working with Syrian refugees in an article on Peace Insight. The recommendations provided in the article were then used for vital fundraising efforts and informed advocacy efforts in the US, generating funds and visibility for the local organisation.

Local Works

Among the most prevalent barriers for civil society peacebuilding organisations is ensuring they have the resources and influence to be sustainable and resilient. A lack of resources, empowerment and funds can make it impossible for peacebuilders to travel to communities affected by violence and ensure sustainable impact. As part of the 'Local Works' initiative from USAID, we researched how civil society organisations can increase their autonomy and sustainability, and how the policies and funding of the international community can better support local peacebuilders.

‘Stopping As Success’ (SAS), our collaborative learning project with CDA Learning and Search for Common Ground, looks into responsible INGO exits and transitions. In 2018 we looked at case studies in nine locations to study different types of transitions and partnerships, launched a dedicated website - www.stoppingassuccess.org - and published two research reports on aid exits and transitions.
The ‘Facilitating Financial Sustainability’ (FFS) project, in collaboration with LINC Local and Foundation Center, explores how funders, policy makers and civil society can increase local financial sustainability. In 2018 we launched an ‘Action Learning Group’ (ALG) in DR Congo, and co-launched one in Uganda. The ALGs bring together local peacebuilding organisations, local government, local businesses and representatives from international donors to identify key challenges for civil society sustainability, and to provide insights into how funders, policy makers and civil society can increase financial sustainability.

The research has informed our programmatic work, enabling us to explore alternative funding models that give local actors more autonomy and agency, and build cohesion between civil society organisations. We presented our research to other peacebuilding organisations, and raised the profile of responsible locally-led development at conferences in Washington, D.C. and New York City.

**Engaging policy makers**

In 2018 we brought local peacebuilding organisations from Burundi, CAR, Colombia, Somalia, Nepal, India, South Sudan, Syria and the US to New York and Washington, D.C., to speak directly with decision-makers at the UN and in US government. We facilitated more than a dozen high-level meetings with government and multilateral leaders, as well as roundtable discussions and speaking events. We supported follow up to help nurture ongoing relationships and information-sharing to influence policy change at national and international levels, and to ensure local peacebuilders have their voices heard among key stakeholders.

Here is some of what we have heard about the impact of our advocacy efforts:

- **A meeting we convened between representatives from our Somali peacebuilding partner and the US Department of State resulted in our partners connecting directly with a US government human rights officer being deployed to Mogadishu, and staff in the US Embassy.** The report we co-produced on women’s roles in conflict and peacebuilding was distributed amongst the staff.

- **During a roundtable discussion focused on atrocity prevention, local peacebuilders had the opportunity to share their perspectives and recommendations directly with 57 key US government decision makers, funders, and other NGOs.** The discussion with government decision makers resulted in the White House releasing a statement informed by our partner on Burundi just after the visit, and the insights provided by local peacebuilders provided specific inputs at a key moment for decision-making on Burundi and CAR.

- **We worked with peer organisations to educate Congress on preventing violent conflict and supporting locally-led peacebuilding, including supporting the passage of the Elie Weisel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act and introduction of the Global Fragility and Violence Reduction Act. In November, Senior US Representative Bridget Moix also testified before Congress in a hearing on atrocity prevention, advocating greater support to local peacebuilders and the many roles they play in helping to avert large scale violence.**

- **In 2018 we established our first dedicated advocacy role in the UK.** This is allowing us to develop important relationships and networks in the UK to ensure local perspectives are heard and the expertise of people living in conflict zones can help inform policy-makers.
Our outreach: Making local voices heard

In 2018 we gained strategic international media coverage in a number of online and print publications, and on national and international radio shows. Our 2018 media highlights include:

• We secured a piece in the Guardian and the Observer newspapers on the women of Idlib, Syria, focusing on the ‘Idlib Lives’ report that we developed with The Syria Campaign. It was shared online and in print.

• Following the launch of our report on peacebuilding in Mali, ‘Mali on the Brink’, we secured an interview with our CEO Dylan Mathews on Radio France Internationale, which estimates at having 30 million listeners around the world. He spoke on the current situation in Mali, on the importance of local peacebuilders, and on the findings from our report.

• We secured two appearances on Voice of Islam Radio. For International Day of Neutrality, our US Senior Representative and Head of Advocacy, Bridget Moix, discussed the importance of inclusive peacebuilding, and our Head of International Programmes, Charlotte Melly, was interviewed on our work to support local peacebuilders in September.

• In December our CEO was interviewed by Nigerian newspaper This Day Live, on the need to promote peace ahead of the 2019 general elections in Nigeria.

• We raised the profile of peacebuilding among new audiences in 2018, with first time features in more diverse media outlets. Steph Korey, CEO of our partner Away, was featured in a Q & A on Causeartist, a social impact lifestyle magazine, on the partnership between Away and Peace Direct, and its mission to make “peacebuilding” a term that people care about. Causeartist also ran an OpEd from our CEO around our approach to peacebuilding and how to support local efforts for ‘Giving Tuesday’, an international day of charitable giving in December.
Lebanon Peace Exchange

In July, members of the Peace Direct team gathered together with representatives from many of our local peacebuilding partners at a Peace Exchange held in Beirut, Lebanon.

This was a wonderful opportunity for peacebuilders working in different locations and conditions around the world to share their experiences and expertise. It was a time for reflection, but also for thinking to what lies ahead for us all and where we need to strengthen our approaches. It was also a time for learning, and we encouraged partners to share honest feedback about our relationships and where we can improve.

“When I came here I knew Peace Direct but now we are a family of many. Peace Direct are good people, you really care. We are not even a partner, we are one family, which is so different to other organisations.”
Isse Abdullahi, Social Life and Agricultural Development Organisation, Somalia

“I feel inspired by you all. Thank you for your passion and experience. It has inspired me to continue.”
Mark Boot, Kapamagogopa Incorporated, the Philippines
War Stories, Peace Stories Symposium

In April, we partnered with Spectrum Media and the War Stories Peace Stories team to facilitate a major symposium on the role of the media in covering conflict and peace. Local peacebuilders from CAR, Pakistan and Sudan had a platform from which to tell their stories of tackling violent conflict and building peace and resilience in their communities.

The event demonstrated that local reporters can report internationally on local conflicts and related issues. It attracted a large number of reporters among the audience of 350 people, who are now much better-placed to report on local conflicts, and it proved successful in helping Peace Direct to strengthen its links with the media.

Tomorrow’s Peacebuilders awards

PeaceCon 2018, one of the largest conferences for the peacebuilding community, attracted over 500 peacebuilding practitioners, policymakers, and academics from around the world. It was also the venue for the awards ceremony for ’Tomorrow’s Peacebuilders’ awards, which provides international recognition for organisations trying new or different approaches to peacebuilding. Representatives from the nine shortlisted finalists - from 300 applications - shared their stories with the conference and received a standing ovation for their remarkable work. For many of them, this was the first widespread recognition they have received. They also visited the UN and met with decision-makers there during the trip. The three final winners received a $10,000 cash prize to support their work.

The 2018 winners:

Women-led Peacebuilding | Proceso de Comunidades Negras (PCN), Colombia

PCN supports Afro-Colombian women and girls, strengthening their participation in community life and in peacebuilding, to - among other things - reduce violence and human rights violations.

Youth-led Peacebuilding | Young-adult Empowerment Initiative (YEI), South Sudan/ Uganda

YEI works with South Sudanese refugees and their host communities in Uganda, empowering young people through training, sport and community dialogues, bringing together people from diverse backgrounds and providing an opportunity to build lasting relationships through shared activities.

Non-violent Action | Movilizatorio, Colombia

Movilizatorio enables citizens to participate in Colombia’s peace process, one example of which is through an online community with over 68,000 members working to launch mass mobilisation campaigns for peace and social change.

Saba Ismail, of Peace Direct partner organisation Aware Girls, speaks at War Stories, Peace Stories in New York.
Finances

Our income was £3,968,901, an increase of £873,594 (28%) from 2017. This was due to growth in institutional grants and increased corporate income. We are delighted that donors, individuals and institutions continued to support us in 2018. While financial conditions remain tough for small charities, we are proud to have a strong funding base for our work, testament to the power of local peacebuilders to transform communities from the inside out. The charts on this page give an overview of the main sources of our income and how money was spent.

### Income 2018

<table>
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<th>Income</th>
<th>£</th>
<th>$</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants from Trusts and Foundations</td>
<td>£1,008,487</td>
<td>$1,324,305</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual donations</td>
<td>£401,049</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institutional income</td>
<td>£1,357,927</td>
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<td>Contract income</td>
<td>£836,075</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporate income</td>
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<td>$475,841</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donated services</td>
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<td>$3,939</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>£3,968,901</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,211,802</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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July 2019 exchange rate: 1.31316
Expenditure 2018
£3,437,701 $4,514,251

<table>
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<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>£</th>
<th>$</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supporting communities affected by conflict</td>
<td>£935,371</td>
<td>$1,228,292</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early response and community-level conflict resolution</td>
<td>£284,004</td>
<td>$372,943</td>
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<tr>
<td>Providing alternatives to violence and division and tackling root causes</td>
<td>£300,865</td>
<td>$395,084</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting local peacebuilders</td>
<td>£830,682</td>
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<td>Advocacy</td>
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<td>Research</td>
<td>£623,784</td>
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<td>Cost of raising funds</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>£3,437,701</td>
<td>$4,514,252</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

PEACE DIRECT – IMPACT REPORT 2018
Acknowledgment and thanks

The work we achieved in 2018 would not have been possible without the commitment and support of a wide range of donors, partners and supporters who believe in our mission to build a world free from violent conflict.

As always, we owe a debt of gratitude to our peacebuilding partners, who are working on the frontlines of conflict, at great personal risk, to stop violence and build peace. We continue to be inspired by their bravery and are honoured to be working with them.

We are grateful for the continued financial support of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the European Union and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs in Belgium, Canada and Germany for our work in Sudan, Burundi, Mali, Somalia and DR Congo, as well as to our peace mapping work. USAID has also continued to support two research projects through their ‘Local Works’ initiative.

We are also grateful to the trusts, foundations and other bodies that have sustained our work, including the People’s Postcode Lottery, the Big Lottery Fund, Blandford Lake Trust, Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust, the Network for Social Change, Commonwealth Foundation, Folke Bernadotte Academy, GHR Foundation, Humanity United, Ploughshares Fund, Fresh Leaf Foundation, Robert Bosch Stiftung, and the United States Institute of Peace, and many other trusts and foundations. We are grateful for their support.

We would like to thank our corporate partner, Away, who not only provided us with unrestricted funding to help us grow but also have committed to helping promote and market Peace Direct, and to build capacity among our team. We look forward to continuing to work with them in 2019 and beyond.

We are grateful to the hundreds of individual who continue to support Peace Direct with unrestricted gifts. As well as strengthening our capacity, their generosity is so important to us in order to help us respond quickly and flexibly to the needs of our local partners. We also keep in our thoughts those who remembered our work with a gift in their will.

We extend our gratitude to Rob Pope, whose record-breaking marathon running activities across the US and in the UK have inspired support and raised over £42,000 to date for Peace Direct and conservation charity WWF. To all the people who use their talents and enthusiasm to raise funds and spread our message, we thank you.

Last but not least, we would like to thank the staff and Board of Peace Direct, in the UK and in the US, who have dedicated significant time and effort to making sure that the organisation has long-lasting and positive impact for those living in war zones.

We continue to seek new members of our family – supporters, donors and allies. Please get in touch if you would like to help us stop wars, one person at a time.

Photo credits:
About Peace Direct

Peace Direct works with local people to stop violence and build sustainable peace. We believe that local people should lead all peacebuilding efforts, and this report highlights the impact of our local peacebuilding efforts in 2018. People around the world are taking action every day to build better futures in their communities and to create peace, starting from the grassroots. Our Impact Report 2018 shares their stories.