BELIEVE IN NON-VIOLENCE AND THE POWER OF LOCAL ACTION
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For many people in Europe, 2015 was a year that was dominated by the ongoing refugee crisis, the biggest such crisis since World War Two. The images of thousands of people making the treacherous journey across the Mediterranean to reach Europe were beamed all over the world, as were the images of lifeless bodies washed up on the beaches of Greek islands. We did not know their names but we knew they came from places destroyed by war. Places such as Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq; names that are no longer known for their antiquity and rich cultures, but for their bloodshed.

From 2015, other images and words loomed large in our collective consciousness. Charlie Hebdo. Garissa. Attacks by Isis, Boko Haram, al-Shabaab and the Taliban. The blood stained Bataclan. Violence and bloodshed in Turkey, South Sudan, Central African Republic, DR Congo, Israel, Palestine, Mali, Nigeria, Pakistan, Iraq and Yemen. The narrative for 2015, then, was a narrative of war, of multiple wars in multiple places which seemed to have no beginning and no end.

If you nodded your head in agreement with the narrative above, I’d like to share with you a different perspective, crafted by some of the most remarkable people in the world. People living in war zones who believe that something can be done to stop the violence. They are joined by a growing family of passionate, determined people from all over the world who believe this too: donors, supporters, activists, students and many others. In 2015 we worked with these people to help local communities build peace in over ten war affected countries. This is their story, and ours too. A story of lives saved, violence prevented, communities healed and hands extended across divides.

We are immensely proud of our achievements in 2015. Despite the challenges of working in such difficult places, our partners achieved concrete results which prove that investment in local efforts to stop violence and build sustainable peace works. This is not a message that has made it into the plans and policies of all governments and donors, but we are determined to ensure that it is over the coming years.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy reading about some of our achievements this year. They include the scaling up of our support to local violence monitoring and rapid response activities in Burundi and Sudan, reaching out to more young people at risk of extremism in Somalia and Pakistan, and investing more resources to support people affected by conflict to reintegrate into their communities and build long term peace in DR Congo, Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka.

We passionately believe in non-violence and the power of local action. It is one of the values that underpins everything we do, which is why you see it on the front page of this Impact Report. Non-violence is never an easy option in the midst of violence. It requires the utmost bravery, which I hope comes through in the stories that you will read in the following pages.

I hope you are inspired by this Impact Report and will support our ongoing efforts to work with local people to stop violence and build sustainable peace around the world.

Dylan Mathews
Chief Executive
OUR YEAR:

3,604

violent incidents or human rights violations recorded by INAMA across Burundi, helping to draw the world’s attention to the escalating conflict.

60,000

villagers across 14 communities in South Kordofan, Sudan, who are safer as a result of the intervention of local Peace Committees in disputes that were at risk of escalating into violence.

186

police officers in Zimbabwe better able to resist using violence and intimidation when dealing with tensions in their communities, through training in non-violent conflict resolution techniques.

200

the number of ‘citizen reporters’ trained to monitor violence, hate speech and human rights abuses across Burundi, through the INAMA network.

4,517

people affected by conflict in Somalia and DR Congo who have learned new or improved livelihood practices, making them more resilient and less likely to be drawn into conflict in the future.
200
ex-combatants demobilised and reintegrated into their communities in DR Congo.

3,374
people in 5 conflict affected countries trained how to deal with conflicts non-violently, helping them and their communities build a safer and more peaceful future.

250
local peacebuilding organisations brought together by Peace Direct to learn and strategise together.

31
local conflicts resolved in Pakistan through the actions of young peace activists.

2,168
vulnerable young people in Somalia and Pakistan supported to turn away from radicalisation and extremism.

1,200
local peacebuilding organisations mapped on Insight on Conflict, proving that local peacebuilding capacity exists everywhere, even in the most war torn countries.

PEACE DIRECT

Peace Direct
**BURUNDI**

2015 saw Burundi plunge into crisis. The President announced that he would stand for a third term in the upcoming elections. Many people felt this violated the term limits set out in the Arusha Peace Accords that ended the long running conflict in Burundi. Mass protests led to a brutal crackdown by the government and violence followed. Within six months over 200,000 people had fled, over 500 had been killed and the country was on the verge of economic collapse. Reports emerged of mass graves, targeted assassinations and rape being used as a weapon of war.

Our work to support better local Early Warning, Early Response and violence monitoring mechanisms in countries at risk of violence and atrocities focused on Burundi and Sudan. This work grew significantly in 2015, particularly in response to the crisis that erupted in Burundi, which called for our local partner to rapidly scale up.
Amidst the violence, repression and chaos, our support to a network of local civil society organisations called INAMA continued. INAMA’s network of almost 200 Citizen Reporters was able to monitor violence, human rights abuses and other triggers of violence across nine of the worst affected provinces in the country. We analysed and disseminated this information to over 300 government, UN and INGO representatives around the world through daily and weekly flash reports, helping inform policy and analysis on the unfolding crisis.

Within Burundi, the violence monitoring work of the Citizen Reporters was used by INAMA to undertake targeted peacebuilding activities. These ranged from community level meetings to defuse tensions and dispel rumours, to engaging with government and security representatives to secure the release of people detained without charge.

In total, INAMA identified and reported on 3,604 incidents of violence, intimidation, human rights abuses or other triggers of violence in 2015, and undertook over 300 peacebuilding activities. An interim evaluation conducted in October noted that: “The situation would be worse if it were not for the approach of the INAMA network...This has helped reduce violence...Conflicting tensions have decreased or been eradicated in some communities.”

IN THEIR WORDS: TACKLING HATE SPEECH IN BUBANZA PROVINCE

In Bubanza we could see people from both sides using hateful and violent language. Government supporters were saying ‘We will wash you away’ – words we knew meant members of the opposition would be killed. The opposition were calling government supporters uncivilised savages. This language frightened people. The tension was tangible. Ten families from my community fled to other provinces or Rwanda. We decided to organise talks between both sides to calm the situation. It was not easy to convince young people affiliated to political parties to stop the use of this hostile language. But taking advantage of our neutrality and the trust these youths had in us as civil society members, we managed to get their attention. We explained to them that they must move beyond their political affiliations and the electoral hype. They must learn to coexist and cultivate tolerance and respect. Our initiative has paid off. After the talks, we saw a drop in the public calls for violence.

INAMA representative, Bubanza province

IN THEIR WORDS: FROM THOSE READING THE REPORTS

Just a note to say thanks for this information - it really is a brilliant resource, and I’m grateful for the risks you and the contributors take to provide it.

Australian Government Representative

This is the best reporting we receive from outside Bujumbura...It’s providing information we are not getting from anywhere else.... It’s solid reporting and from a group we know we can trust... Having it on a regular basis really helps us.

US Government Representative

I haven’t seen this kind of real time information from a local group in any other crisis context in my time. I know it must be a huge amount of work, so know that it’s really appreciated and used.

US Government Representative
SUDAN

2015 saw the conflict in South Kordofan enter its fifth consecutive year, resulting in massive internal displacement equivalent to around a third of the population of the state. According to the UN, approximately 100,000 people have fled to refugee camps in neighbouring South Sudan. This is a result of the continued bombing by the Sudanese Air Force of villages and locations under the control of the Sudan People’s Liberation Army-North (SPLA-N), where the overwhelming majority of casualties are civilians. In addition to the ongoing war between the Government of Sudan and the SPLA-N, simple disputes over water rights, farmland or cattle theft often spiral out of control leaving many dead and further weakening traditional community coping mechanisms. This is exacerbated by the proliferation of weapons in the region which, along with existing armed groups, destabilises communities, entrenches cycles of revenge and embeds a culture of violence.

ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT

Thanks to funding from the UK Government’s Conflict, Security and Stabilisation Fund (CSSF), we were able to scale up our work with our partner the Collaborative for Peace in Sudan (CfPS) in 2015. CfPS have been supporting a network of village Peace Committees operating across South and West Kordofan that can mobilise entire communities to watch for the triggers of violence, and defuse it. The Committees are formed of elected villagers, bringing together tribal elders, community leaders, women and young people.

Over the year 11 Peace Committees were supported to deal with violence at the root and a new Peace Committee was established in Abyei, one of the most contentious flashpoints in the ongoing tensions between Sudan and South Sudan. These Peace Committees undertook 14 rapid response interventions, most of which involved direct mediation between neighbouring tribes over land rights disputes. To strengthen the capacity of the Peace Committees, we provided training to CfPS in early warning methodologies and the Committees are now developing local action plans to consolidate peace in their communities, which we hope to be able to support in 2016.
IN THEIR WORDS: ADDRESSING THE ROOT CAUSES OF VIOLENCE

I heard that someone from the Misseryah group is coming to solve the problem.

“The Misseryah are trying to take our land by force and we should stop them soon.” These were the words of one man from the Kamdah tribe in a land dispute with someone from the Misseryah tribe, two of the numerous nomadic tribes living in Sudan.

A man from the Misseryah tribe had been shot and his family were seeking revenge. Each tribe started preparing themselves for revenge attacks and both sides were collecting weapons.

A member of the Lagawah Peace Committee met some young men from the Kamdah tribe who were on their way to a neighbouring village to fight the Misseryah. These youth had heard a rumour that the Misseryah were threatening to remove all other tribes from the area and were angry: “We will show them that we are the ones who will remove them. We don’t want more death in our tribe but it’s a matter of dignity, if we do not show them our power they will kill all the tribes,” said one of the youths.

The Peace Committee member responded, “Let us go to the tree there, I heard that someone from the Misseryah group is coming to solve the problem. If I am not able to help you solve this issue without blood or killing then you can easily continue the battle.”

Other Peace Committee members were contacted and they sat and listened. Both tribes had heard the rumour that they were to be killed by the other. The Misseryah told the Peace Committee members, “We have been told that the Kamdah tribe are trying to kill us all and we have to kill them all.” The Peace Committee listened to both sides of the story and the tribes allowed the Committee to host negotiations to solve the conflict. Trust was restored between them. More importantly, both tribes decided to verify information before participating in any future revenge activities. They agreed they would contact the Peace Committee in the case a future conflict arose. Later, the youth even promised not to take part in violence if a conflict arose.

CfPS Co-ordinator
In 2015 we scaled up our work tackling the multiple causes of violent extremism through our longstanding work in Pakistan, and new work in Somalia funded by the European Union.

PAKISTAN

In 2015, Pakistan continued to experience high levels of instability and violence in multiple parts of the country. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) in the north west of the country, the Pakistani Taliban still exert influence and conduct attacks against government and military targets. The most notorious of these took place in December 2014 when gunmen linked to the Taliban attacked the Army Public School in Peshawar, capital of KP, killing 141 people, including 132 school children. Meanwhile, violence against women remains endemic in Pakistan. The International Crisis Group noted that: “Discriminatory legislation and a dysfunctional criminal justice system have put women at grave risk. Targeted by violent extremists with an overt agenda of gender repression, women are especially threatened in the conflict zones in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province.”
During the year we continued our support to our partner Aware Girls and their two main areas of work: Strengthening the participation of women in political processes and tackling youth at risk of extremism. With support from the Commonwealth Foundation and the Ploughshares Foundation, both areas of work made good progress.

Aware Girls trained 65 young female activists to conduct peer education on women’s rights in Mardan and Swabi Districts in their work to support women in the political process. 472 women were reached through this approach in the first half of the year. A particular high point for Aware Girls was when two young female trained activists ran in local elections, and won their seats. This was a huge success because these young women started their political career after joining Aware Girls’ programmes.

In addition, 20 community meetings were held across Mardan and Swabi involving 513 men and women, in which community members discussed what prevented them from supporting female political participation. Citizens Committees were established in order to mobilise women to claim their rights, as well as to bridge the gap between communities, policy makers and political parties. These Citizen Committees were very active in the run up to the local elections and, according to the reports from these Committees, none of the political parties bowed to the pressure of the religious community on barring women from voting. This was in sharp contrast to the previous elections in the region.

In their work with youth at risk of extremism, 30 young people were trained and supported to establish the Swabi Youth Peace Network. In a five-day training workshop, Aware Girls covered topics of non-violent conflict resolution skills, peacebuilding skills, communications for peacebuilding and countering violent extremism. In the workshops young people also learned to understand non-violence, co-existence and the role of young people in developing their own narratives to counter violent extremism.

Once trained, those young peace activists delivered peer education to 569 young people, reached a further 789 youth through specific campaigns highlighting non-violence, and helped resolve 31 conflicts. Specific activities undertaken by the young activists included entering into dialogue with local madrassas in order to educate young people about peace and non-violence and to raise awareness about the negative role of militant groups.

**ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT**

**IN THEIR WORDS:**

**Before the training there was no one in my community to teach women about human rights. Now we know about discrimination so we can speak for ourselves. The training has helped me in my practical life to implement what I learnt.**

Young trainee

I never attend meetings of any NGO other than Aware Girls. This year 40-45% women participated in elections and the credit goes to Aware Girls’ work. I can clearly see the output of their work as it is very practical. If 10% of the demands from the [Citizens Committees] are successful, it will bring a huge change to the lives of women of Mardan District.

Local journalist

SAIL MUHAMMAD, YOUNG PEACE ACTIVIST

My name is Sail Muhammad and I am 19 years old. I saw that half of the children and youth in my village went to madrassas [Islamic religious schools] instead of regular schools. I knew that they were being exploited by Taliban and were being trained to become terrorists in the name of Jihad. Some of them had even gone to Waziristan to get training from militants. I wanted them to have a good education and do something constructive.
with their lives, but I did not know how to approach them as they were very conservative.

At the beginning of this year (2015), I found out about Aware Girl’s five-day training on peace. When I applied for it, they asked me why I was interested in the training. I told them that the people of my village were being converted into terrorists and I wanted to do something for them. I could not let them lose their lives to terrorism. Aware Girls enrolled me in the training and I was very happy to see that they were doing the same work that I wanted to do. They talked about peace, constitutional human rights and religious tolerance. By the time I had completed the training, I knew what to do to bring about peace.

I started talking to youth about peace and religious tolerance. Some understood my message while others ignored it. But with the passage of time, I had more youth coming to join me in the peace talks. With a small group of 15 young people, I created an organisation called ‘We Can Bring Peace’. We conducted a few sessions with the boys who had run away from their homes to be trained in Waziristan. These sessions were very dangerous for us because these boys could tell the Taliban at any point and my own life would have been at risk. As a result of my efforts, several boys reverted back to their normal lives and six of them joined my cause. I have now 50 youth members in this organisation. We are giving tuition to students and organising positive youth activities like cricket matches to keep them engaged.

I also launched a Gun Control Campaign for which we seek the help of Jirga [elders] and Police. Everyone in our group keeps an eye on youth and whoever notices a child with a gun, or any other weapon, informs the Jirga through a text message. The Jirga then find them and take the gun away. Consequently, on this Eid [festival] there was not a single case of random firing as there had been in previous years. A lot of people have stopped keeping guns.

It has been four to five months since I attended Aware Girls’ training on peace and I have been able to bring considerable change in my surroundings.

Sail Muhammad, 19

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SOMALIA

Political instability and violence in Somalia continue to pose serious challenges to stabilisation and state-building programmes. The al-Qaeda-linked militant group al-Shabaab, which still controls large swaths of the country’s hinterland and small towns, continued to perpetrate attacks throughout 2015. Violent conflicts between clan-based militias that compete for control of land, resources and power remain unresolved. While the capital, Mogadishu, has regained a semblance of a functioning city after decades of war, insecurity remains a huge challenge to long term peace.

Our work in Somalia centres on the port city of Kismayo, capital of the southern Jubaland region of the country which borders Kenya. Until 2012, Kismayo was the headquarters of al-Shabaab. While an interim Jubaland regional administration was installed in 2013, Kismayo is still very much prone to attacks by the militant group, which controls nearly all of the territory around the city. Though access to Kismayo remains open, there are strict limitations on movement and activities by al-Shabaab.
Thanks to a grant from the European Union, we launched our biggest project to date, spanning three years. This project provides livelihood opportunities for over 1,000 vulnerable young people, especially those at risk of joining al-Shabaab. The project, being implemented by our local partner Social-life and Agricultural Development Organisation (SADO), will also support local Peace Committees. This will strengthen a grassroots constituency for peace and provide targeted support for community led peacebuilding activities.

During 2015, we undertook a market analysis in order to ensure that all young people who join the project identify a suitable livelihood option. SADO also identified a venue to convert into a vocational training centre and the first cohort of 125 trainees were selected and enrolled in the training programme. Lastly, SADO provided training to the Kismayo Peace Committee to help them understand their role in addressing the current tensions and conflicts in Kismayo.

**ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT**

**IN THEIR WORDS: ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENT EXTREMISM**

I was born in Kismayo in 1997. I come from a poor family and my widowed mother sells charcoal to support us. I dropped out of primary education after completing class four because she wasn’t able to pay school fees. I had no hope for the future. People tried to persuade me to join al-Shabaab, but I didn’t want to. Then I heard about the skills training [offered by Peace Direct and SADO] and I was offered a place. I now have confidence and hope for the future. I expect to start earning $60 per month and will give my mother $40 to help with the household costs. If I wasn’t doing this I would be with other boys of my age who have joined al-Shabaab.

Farhan, 19, training course participant
Our work supporting people living in countries with a legacy of conflict took many different forms, from community based stabilisation, reintegration and development for people affected by conflict in DR Congo, to training local police in non-violent conflict resolution skills in Zimbabwe.

In Sri Lanka, the Philippines and Israel-Palestine, we supported our local partners to break down barriers between people who have long seen each other as enemies, whether Israeli or Palestinian, Sinhalese or Tamil, Muslim or Christian. Such work is painstaking but the effects for the people involved are far reaching.
DR CONGO, NORTH KIVU

In DR Congo, peace remains extremely fragile and tensions run high as the country gears up to elections in November 2016. While some rebel groups have been disarmed, reintegration efforts have so far failed and ex-combatants languish in Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) camps. Meanwhile other areas of the east are far from stable. One rebel group claimed almost 500 victims in 2015 alone. Similarly, the presence of another armed group has been named by the UN as “one of the most important hindrances to peace in Eastern DRC.” More broadly, international efforts to support community stabilisation through support to local civil society groups and activities has been slow, despite a widespread acknowledgement that such stabilisation is a necessary foundation for longer term peace.

IN THEIR WORDS:
BUILDING LIVELIHOODS

I am 27 years old, the wife of a former fighter. I want to thank CRC for teaching me various agricultural techniques. I gained many skills that I put into practice. Through these practices I increased the size of my fields and quickly improved the income of my household. I’ve just collected more than 200kg of rice which allows me to complete the purchase of sheets for the new home I just built. I am also trying to help my husband, who was a former fighter, to join the cooperative.

Female agricultural trainee

ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT

Our partner based in North Kivu, Centre Résolution Conflits (CRC), delivered some remarkable results during 2015. With our support, they assisted over 1,000 people affected by conflict despite the very challenging situation in the country. To support the reintegration of ex-combatants, as well as others affected by the conflict, CRC established 19 agricultural cooperatives in 2015. These had a total of 559 members who received training in marketing, business and conflict mediation. All 559 people created investment plans to ensure sustainable income growth.

180 women affected by conflict, including female ex-combatants, wives of ex-combatants and women who have experienced trauma at the hand of militia groups, were supported to establish solidarity groups and were also trained in business, marketing and conflict mediation by CRC. 150 women have so far received loans between $50 and $100, with some receiving three consecutive loans.

In addition to the activities above, CRC rescued and reintegrated 100 child soldiers over the year. This very difficult and sensitive work involves CRC staff travelling into areas controlled by militia groups and negotiating the release of children who have been abducted. While the release of 100 child soldiers is a remarkable achievement, CRC have informed us that there are still hundreds more child soldiers in the bush – a situation we are determined to tackle in 2016 and beyond.
I was displaced because of militia fighting and one year ago my husband, my three siblings and I moved to a new village. I built friendships in the village and one friend told me they had a women’s group that was being helped by CRC. I heard CRC could help women like me and I went to hear more about it.

Before the loan I had little money. We have a small plot of land by our house which we grow produce to sell. Some days I would make 2,000 Congolese Francs ($2) but other days nothing, depending on the crops and the market. My income was not consistent and my husband Mustafa does not have a job. He works on our land and sometimes for other farmers but I am the person who brings in the money.

In the last year I received three loans from CRC, the first was $150, the second and third $100. Now I also sell fish and own a small restaurant. Now I have the restaurant I make around 7,000 CF per day ($7). Because of this I have bought a mobile phone, new clothes for my children and the older two go to school, something I could not afford before. I have also been able to make improvements to my restaurant. In the future I want to first diversify my business; then buy land for my husband to work on, and then perhaps buy a motorbike to transport goods to Beni [neighbouring village] to get a higher price. Thank you!

Beatrice

REHABILITATING CHILD SOLDIERS – MY STORY

My past is the reason I came to work with CRC. I was thirteen when I was initiated into militia life. During the day I would attend the school in my village and when I was not at school, I was with the militia. I led a battalion within the militia of 800 men and children. I led them to do whatever my uncle and the other commanders asked.

Agricultural Coop
I was 15 when I left. My militia fought another militia and 30 men were killed. We fought them with guns, bows and arrows, wooden sticks and grenades. I was still young and knew my future was not in the bush. I also put myself in the shoes of the people I hurt and stole from as part of the militia and knew it was not right. Once I left I understood that I had a calling inside me to help other fighters come out of the bush.

At first my family were happy that I had left. But when they found out I would work to help other militia members leave they were worried. They thought the government and militias would target me and my family so they stopped talking to me. I was very sad. I considered it like a death and mourned the loss of contact with my family. However, they have since come around and are now encouraging of my work.

My role with CRC now is to deal with the militia leaders. The first thing I do is meet them in the bush and build confidence with them. Most of them know who I am and what my former position in the militia was which means we can get to areas even the UN and the government cannot. This is only possible because the militia leaders trust us. I develop friendships with these leaders so that I can negotiate for the release of child and adult combatants. Both child and adult negotiations are difficult. The challenge is that in the bush the child is on the frontline. Children are also often seen as ‘magic doctors’ who bring luck to the militia so they are considered very important. A negotiation can last just a week or a couple of months. Often when you return to a militia leader after a conversation he will say no, discount the previous negotiation and go back to the start. It takes time and patience but since I have been with CRC, we have rescued 5,700 ex-combatants, 1,500 were children.

I do not feel scared when I go the bush. I am passionate about building peace and these experiences strengthen me.

Blaise, 30, Project Manager for CRC
In South Kivu, we launched a new project with our local partner, FOCHI, to strengthen communities, help them resist violence through economic empowerment and provide more support to the local peacebuilding sector. In a region which has experienced very little development and suffers from an almost complete absence of formal justice mechanisms, supporting local approaches to conflict resolution and promoting peacebuilding through community development is critically important to building sustainable peace.

During 2015, we worked with FOCHI to provide ongoing support to 15 existing local peace courts, and established new courts in five communities. These courts draw upon local approaches to justice and together dealt with 139 conflicts, ranging from land conflicts to disputes between and within families. 109 of these conflicts were successfully resolved, a remarkable achievement in a region where access to justice is virtually non-existent.

To help strengthen the resilience of communities, FOCHI established 25 Village Saving and Loan Associations which helped improve the income of 580 households. In total $10,870 was disbursed to members alongside 304 loans.

In a new development, we partnered with SPARK microgrants, based in Uganda, who worked closely with FOCHI in ten target communities to support the development of locally designed community and income generating projects. With FOCHI’s support, 350 vulnerable and at-risk young people developed their own plans for income generation. Projects included establishing a local restaurant run by ex-combatants, purchasing and rearing goats and cattle for another group of ex-combatants, and establishing a welding workshop. Community development projects included establishing a motorcycle hire company in one village for people without access to transportation, purchasing 50 goats for another village, and supplying a community farm plot.

**IN THEIR WORDS:**
**COMMUNITY-LEVEL ACTION**

I was 20 when I joined the local militia group. I joined mainly because there were no job opportunities for me where I lived. But also my community was continually attacked by other tribes and I wanted to help protect it. Most of the time in the militia we robbed communities or drivers on the road, smoked or fought with rebel groups of different tribes. I realised that there was no benefit to me staying so when I was 25, I left. FOCHI’s project has allowed me and other ex-combatants to become involved in the community and has given me something to work for. I no longer consider re-joining the militia as I did before. With the money we make from the goat farm, the other ex-combatants and I would like to open a restaurant on the roadside. I would also like to continue to breed goats.

Reintegrated ex-combatant

With the credit that I take in our monthly Village Saving and Loans Association, my family began to eat two meals a day through revenue-generating activities.

Luvungi, 27, a mother

Before, women in my village had been rejected but through FOCHI we have been recognised. We thank FOCHI for empowering women, now we have a voice and are respected.

Female benefiting from the local peace courts

FOCHI is the first NGO to empower community members and achieve a tangible project in our village.

Local peace court member

In regards to the disbursement of the first grant of funds for the joint project, FOCHI is the first organisation to be involved with us, preparing the self-management of our community. I was very touched.

Local community member
In Israel-Palestine, we work in partnership with a youth organisation called Heartbeat. Heartbeat creates spaces and opportunities for young Palestinian and Israeli musicians to build critical awareness, respect and trust, while harnessing creative non-violent tools for self-expression and social change. We supported their ‘Amplifying Youth Voices’ programme, which focuses on two ensembles of young Arab and Jewish musicians (aged 14-22 years old) who come together for weekly music-based dialogue programmes in Haifa and Jerusalem.

During the year, both groups of musicians participated in retreats designed to help them learn more about the construction of Palestinian and Israeli identity, understand the role of gender dynamics in society, and challenge long held perceptions of the conflict. Visits were organised to East and West Jerusalem, with many Palestinians and Israelis visiting the other side of their city for the first time. Heartbeat musicians were invited to play to students at Tel Aviv University and other locations worldwide, including to German politicians at the Reichstag in Berlin. We also provided funding to support Heartbeat to establish a recording studio in Haifa and work continued on this over the year.

### ISRAEL-PALESTINE

2015 saw a surge in violence in Israel-Palestine, with some analysts fearing that it could spark a third intifada. Violence was characterised by seemingly random individual attacks by Palestinians, not linked to groups such as Hamas, against Israeli Defence force personnel or Israeli citizens. By the end of the year, this violence had resulted in the deaths of 200 Palestinians and 28 Israelis. Some commentators suggested that a social media campaign may have inspired many of the attacks. Others argued that the continued failure of peace talks, coupled with increasing restrictions on Palestinian movement and human rights, led to a growing anger within Palestinian society.

The result for most people, Israeli and Palestinian, was a growing demonisation of the other with people from both sides unable to see co-existence and a two state solution as a viable option.

### IN THEIR WORDS: BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER ACROSS DIVIDES

After our winter retreat, our facilitators checked in with each group of youth musicians to gather their reflections of their time together. It was also the first time that the musicians from our Jerusalem and Haifa chapters met. One of our youth musicians, Alaa, from an East Jerusalem neighbourhood said that he had participated in other peacebuilding programmes, but it was only after attending the Heartbeat retreat that he felt people really wanted to know who he was, and hear his story. Alaa said he had never made friends so quickly before. A few weeks later at another Heartbeat weekly meeting, he said in reflection,

“I’ve realised it’s not our fault. I am not guilty. It’s not their fault either. They are not guilty. But it is our responsibility to do something about it together.”

Participant in Heartbeat’s music dialogue retreat
PHILIPPINES

For decades, the Philippines has been victim to a bloody armed struggle between the government and Muslim separatists seeking an independent state in Mindanao. In early 2014, the Government of the Philippines and one of the main separatist groups, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, signed the Bangsamoro peace agreement, a milestone in the efforts to bring peace to the region. However, many obstacles to sustainable peace remain, including the presence and continued activities of other rebel groups in the region and deep-seated animosity between the majority Christian and minority Muslim communities across Mindanao.

ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT

In the Philippines, we work with the first and only Muslim volunteer programme: Kapamagogopa Incorporated (KI). Using trained Muslim volunteers, KI breaks down the mistrust and barriers between Muslim and Christian communities in Mindanao that have been divided by conflict for decades.

In 2015, KI organised their tenth annual cohort of Muslim volunteers for interfaith peacebuilding. They placed nine volunteers in five host organisations across Mindanao and the Visayas islands. By placing Muslim volunteers into Christian communities and with Christian organisations, KI have seen fundamental shifts in attitudes towards Muslims in those organisations and communities. This has thereby broken down entrenched stereotypes and prejudices which are a continuing impediment to long term peace.

In addition, volunteers provided much needed additional human resource capacity for their host organisations. This has helped them reach out to more communities and increase their impact. For example, volunteers helped facilitate community discussions on engaging the security sector in the ceasefire, helped build the capacity of women and former combatants through training workshops, and worked to strengthen a local youth organisation in Barangay.

IN THEIR WORDS: BREAKING DOWN PREJUDICE

A few years ago, US President Barack Obama used only one word as his campaign slogan, the powerful word “CHANGE”. In February as a KI volunteer, I was given a chance to meet the most powerful man in the Philippines, President Binigno Aquino. In his speech he talked about “Youth as the change agents” for the country. I was so excited to meet the President and the word CHANGE remained in my heart. I brought home with me the inspiration of change such as changing people’s negative perception of Muslims, changing the poverty situation of the Philippines, and changing peace throughout the country. As a young Muslim I only do so much in my own little way to bring about change in my homeland, but it starts with the change in me. I am so grateful for this opportunity to be a volunteer in a non-Muslim community. Looking back, I never thought that I would become a better person. Better in terms of the skills I have improved and better in terms of attitude. I have learned to deal with different people, regardless of religion, race, educational background, age or any other demographic background.

KI volunteer, Norhamidah “Nene” Musa
Nene was placed with an emergency medical support NGO that has an office in a police station of the Philippines National Police (PNP) in Cebu Island. Negative attitudes towards Muslims are prevalent in Christian dominated Cebu, but things deteriorated rapidly following a police operation in nearby Mindanao against two rebel groups resulting in the death of 44 of the elite SAF (Special Action Force) police officers. In Cebu there was a great deal of tension, with many calling for all-out war. Inside the police station, some members of the Special Action Force who had lost colleagues in the incident were denouncing all Muslims as illiterate and terrorists, saying they all had weapons. That’s when one SAF commander intervened. He told them that not all Muslims are terrorists and that they had one Muslim girl working in the police station. The officers were shocked. Nene approached them and explained her religion and culture to them. The officers listened and asked her to give them all an orientation on Islam. The same situation occurred with other members of the police. After the orientations were given, we noticed that one of the police officers was explaining Muslim culture to other staff and members of the public. Nene has now given many orientations to various groups within the police and to others and it is hoped that her efforts will contribute towards a larger change in the perception of Muslims in Mindanao.

Mariam Banda, KI

Placing Muslim volunteers in Christian families breaks down deep-seated animosity, crucial to building long term peace.
SRI LANKA

While the civil war in Sri Lanka ended in 2009, the country is still struggling with the legacy of 25 years of conflict during which violence, human rights abuses and displacement affected huge numbers of people. Ethnic and religious tensions, between and within communities, remain a persistent feature of post-conflict Sri Lanka, along with a myriad of other post-conflict grievances. Elections in 2015 saw a change of government and President, both of whom appear to want to resolve some of the country’s deep-seated problems. Even so, it is likely to be many years before the different ethnic groups and faiths are able to co-exist peacefully.

ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT

In Sri Lanka we work with our local partner, the Centre for Peacebuilding and Reconciliation (CPBR), to support communities affected by the conflict by promoting inter-faith and inter-communal co-existence, and supporting reconciliation processes regionally and nationally.

Our support to CPBR focused on their ‘Voice of Image’ project, which helps young people promote co-existence, peacebuilding and reconciliation among different ethnic and faith groups through photography. A key milestone in this initiative is the development of the ‘Exhibition for Dialogue’ model as a conflict transformation tool. This uses exhibition, dialogue and action as three interconnected elements for social change. 62 young people from four different communities were trained in photography techniques, while 49 community members were trained in community mobilisation, conflict transformation and conflict analysis. These young people also developed action plans to help foster co-existence in their communities.

Now the programme is being expanded in to other areas of the country with formation of new youth groups, especially in the Northern part of the country which many see as having experienced some of the worst violence.

IN THEIR WORDS: THE JOURNEY TO RECONCILIATION

I was born in 1990 and throughout my entire life I have experienced the difference between Sinhala and Tamil peoples. During my school years I thought ‘why cannot we all live together?’ Due to one reason or another problem we could not come together. But now I have Sinhala friends who I met through the Voice of Image project. What I hoped for and desired during my school times, I now have. It will be something really good for future generations as well. This is not some kind of a class or a course, or something that is confined to a certain time period and then ends. It is very important because it is a journey accompanied by dialogue.

A Voice of Image participant
ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe continues to suffer from a decimated economy, widespread human rights abuses and a political system that has polarised the country into those who support President Robert Mugabe’s Zanu-PF, and those who oppose his rule. Human Rights Watch noted that: “Police violate basic rights, such as freedom of expression and assembly... Activists and human rights defenders face police harassment. There has been no progress toward securing justice for human rights abuses and past political violence, including violence after the 2008 election.” Meanwhile traditional coping mechanisms have been eroded after years of repression and violence, leaving communities unable to deal with tensions and conflicts over resources, political power and identity.

ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT

In Zimbabwe, we work in partnership with local organisation Envision Women’s Trust. Envision mobilises women’s groups, interfaith groups and other community groups to take a holistic approach to building sustainable peace in Zimbabwe.

During 2015, our support to Envision focused on supporting and strengthening local Peace Committees which mediate in community disputes. The Peace Committees also operate as an Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) network. This has helped defuse tensions and resolve potential triggers of conflict, ranging from stock theft, sexual attacks against women and domestic violence. Envision have also continued their work brokering closer communication between local communities and the Zimbabwe National Police Force (ZNPF) while also providing training and support to the ZNPF in non-violent conflict resolution. Over the year, Envision delivered three Conflict Transformation Training Workshops in two different locations, at which 186 police officers were trained. Work also continued to develop an Early Warning Early Response network so that potential flashpoints for violence can be quickly identified and responded to. Police officers from the ZNPF joined these discussions for the first time.

The impact of this work includes improved relations between the police and local communities. For example, some communities now invite members of the police to community gatherings such as Village Heads meetings, which has improved the reporting of crimes and violence in the areas. 70% of police officers who participated in Envision’s conflict transformation training confirmed that they are now trying to handle conflict differently in their day-to-day policing.

IN THEIR WORDS: REDUCING COMMUNITY VIOLENCE

My court used to receive and handle a lot of cases of disputes from the villages and at times my court would get so overwhelmed with the numbers. My people would use violence to solve conflicts over land, water, grazing fields, witchcraft and sorcery. However, after the training that Envision Zimbabwe conducted for my

Village Heads and the community members, my court is now receiving very few cases per month. This marked reduction of cases of violence, I believe, is because my people have now been empowered to resist violence and to solve their conflicts in a more peaceful way.

Local Village Chief
We believe in the power of bringing together local peacebuilders to share experiences, learn from one another, strategise and amplify their collective voices to policymakers and donors. We know how much peacebuilders value this support and in 2015 we supported seven such gatherings which we call ‘Peace Exchanges’.

Each Peace Exchange is unique and brings together different peacebuilders who determine their own agenda and set their own priorities. What unites them is their belief in the effectiveness of local action to stop violence, their rootedness to local communities and their determination to build sustainable peace in their country.

**ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT**

Of the seven peace exchanges that took place in 2015, six took place in the Central African Republic (CAR). In a first for Peace Direct, the UN approached us to convene these meetings. This was in order to facilitate closer interaction between the UN and local civil society groups, to support joint analysis of conflicts, and to encourage greater collaboration between local actors.

The first Bangui Peace Exchange was held in May 2015. 26 local organisations attended this three day exchange and worked intensively to develop strategies to tackle violence and promote peacebuilding. Through collective analysis, the groups identified five key conflict issues and worked to devise collaborative peacebuilding plans in each area. Post-workshop evaluation indicated that the Peace Exchange...
significantly increased groups' perceptions of the opportunities for, and importance of, collaborative peacebuilding projects.

As a follow up to the Bangui Peace Exchange, we supported local groups to hold a series of local peace exchanges across the country. This allowed the groups to work together where they had developed synergies or identified the possibility of collaboration, whilst broadening the range of civil society actors participating in the exchanges. The five Peace Exchanges which took place across CAR between July-August 2015 were attended by over 250 participants representing all levels of CAR society. This ensured that different community interests, religious sensitivities, local authorities and community leaders were represented in the discussions. Participants included: Heads of Districts, religious leaders and representatives from Muslim, Catholic and Protestant communities, village chiefs, Malian and Fulani community leaders, anti-balaka representatives, journalists, local radio stations, and there was a strong representation from local women and youth groups. Following on from the workshops, we have been working with some of the participating organisations to develop projects to tackle some of the drivers of conflict in each region.

**IN THEIR WORDS:**

Koui is a city in which people of Christian, Muslim and animist beliefs live together in harmony. When heavily armed Séléka rebel soldiers posed a threat to peace in Koui, the Lamido [traditional leader] intervened peacefully to address the rebels. Through this intervention by the Lamido, Christians, Muslims and animists were able to continue living in peace.

However, on December 5 2013, a new threat emerged in Koui. The anti-balaka rebels came into open conflict with the Séléka rebels. Looting and killing took place in cities one after the other, and many people were forced to leave their homes, fearing for their lives. A heavily armed group of anti-balaka rebels marched to the city of Koui, with the aim of looting the livestock which grazed on the local farmland. Informed of this threat, the Christians and animists of Koui gathered together to remember how the Lamido protected them and their city when faced with the threat from Séléka rebels. Inspired by the Lamido’s wisdom, they established ‘protecting groups’ to keep the farmers and farmland safe, whilst one group was sent to meet the anti-balaka on the outskirts of Koui.

This group met the rebels and they said to them: “Since ancient times, Christian, animists and Muslims have lived in peace in this city. Now that you have arrived here, if you are hungry and you need to purchase beef, then take this money. But please do not destroy the property of the Christian or animists. Do not brutalise. Do not kill anyone here.” The anti-balaka were forced to turn back.

*Shared with us by a local peacebuilder in CAR*

The roots of traditional peace mechanisms in communities remain in place and they can be used again to achieve results.

*Local peacebuilder from the peace exchange*
In October we hosted a Peace Exchange in Kigali, Rwanda, bringing together all of Peace Direct’s partners from around the world to strategise and learn together. Such gatherings are a vital part of who we are. They help us to ensure we provide the right support to our partners, and that our partners feel connected and an integral part of our work.

The Peace Exchange was hosted and planned in coordination with Shalom Educating for Peace, a Rwandan organisation that has been working to support reconciliation in Rwanda since the Genocide of 1994. As part of the Exchange, we learned what local peacebuilding organisations are doing to build peace in a country still haunted by the events of 1994. Crucially, this involved a visit to the Genocide Memorial Museum in Kigali.

Reflecting on the visit to the memorial, one of our partners from Sri Lanka said, “These stories are still happening in other places. We each have a responsibility to stop them.” Her colleague added, “We are peacebuilders, a group of people who are not only moved by this experience, but who want to do something about it. It’s a reminder of what we do – and what we still need to do.”

Our Rwandan host commented, “The visit reminded me of our responsibility as human beings to work for ‘never ever again’. I come from a mixed parentage here in Rwanda. I feel it is my duty to reconcile my relatives on both sides. I am proud that I have been part of the reconciliation process.”

One of the most important outcomes of the meeting was that our local partners were able to feed into the development of our new strategic plan (2016-2020). Peace Direct staff and partners came away with a better understanding of each other’s work and a strong foundation for closer working in the coming years.

I liked the spirit of camaraderie that prevailed throughout the Exchange as people, donors and partners alike, treated one another as equals.

Partner, Zimbabwe

Thank you Peace Direct for creating and providing a platform for learning and exchange of ideas. Hopefully this will continue for the foreseeable future.

Partner, Zimbabwe

Thank you for letting me be the one of participants. This allowed me to learn more not only from the Peace exchange but also from the charisma of the people invited and how they are passionate about what they are doing in their community and countries.

Partner, DR Congo

Peace Direct did a wonderful job generating new knowledge within the Peace Exchange. It was a refreshing experience to reflect upon diversity and complexity of peace building strategies.

Partner, Sri Lanka

The victims of the 1994 genocide at the Genocide Memorial Museum served as a prominent reminder of the need to work for peace at our 2015 Peace Exchange in Kigali, Rwanda.
The work of local people who dedicate their lives to stopping violence and building peace is rarely publicised. As frontline activists, promoting their work to the wider world is something they cannot afford due to limited budgets. As a result their work is routinely overlooked by donors and policymakers. This leaves local organisations hugely underfunded and means good practice is not replicated by others.

This must change. In 2015 we scaled up our mapping work significantly, with a major expansion to our global resource ‘Insight on Conflict’ (www.insightonconflict.org) as well as mapping work funded by the EU, UK Government and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
For many years, Peace Direct has been committed to raising the profile of local efforts to build peace. This is not only because we believe that the aid system fails local actors and too little money flows to them, but also because there is increasing evidence that shows the effectiveness of local action to stop violence and build long term peace.

Our flagship website Insight on Conflict (www.insightonconflict.org) is one way that we do this, by mapping and profiling local peacebuilding organisations worldwide, as well as promoting the voices and analysis of local peacebuilders and experts on conflicts that often do not feature on the nightly news. We do this through a network of almost 40 local peacebuilding experts which we call ‘Local Correspondents’. With a unique inside perspective on the issues affecting their communities, featuring their voices allows us to continue to raise the profile of locally led approaches to peace.

2015 was a year of major expansion for Insight on Conflict. We added 12 new sections to the site, recruiting new experts to research each region. These include Yemen, Bangladesh, Georgia and Zimbabwe. With these new sections, we broadened our overall coverage to include in-depth, up to date profiles of over 400 new local peacebuilding organisations, taking our mapping to more than 1,200 peacebuilding organisations. We also added comprehensive listings of international organisations and NGOs active in peacebuilding in all the regions covered by Insight on Conflict. This makes the site a one-stop resource for journalists, academics and peacebuilders looking to understand the scope of conflict resolution work around the globe.

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Impact

Insight on Conflict reached its highest ever readership in 2015, with over 700,000 page views on the site, through which local groups were directly contacted more than 1,300 times. We were also able to support many local peacebuilding groups directly. For example:

- Our mapping of local peacebuilding groups in the Central African Republic (CAR) led to the first collaboration between Peace Direct and the UN Mission in CAR. This brought together local peacebuilding organisations from across the country to collaborate with each other and analyse the prospects for peace there.

- Our Local Correspondent for Sierra Leone conducted due diligence on a local peace group at the request of a UK funder, helping secure a grant of around £15,000 for the group.

- The United States Institute of Peace (USIP) used our mapping of peacebuilding organisations in Sri Lanka to identify potential partner organisations and then consulted with our Sri Lankan Local Correspondent in their final decision. A Senior Gender Equality Specialist from the Canadian Government also used our Sri Lankan listings for their programming.

- The Nexus Fund in the US consulted with our Local Correspondent for Nigeria as part of their development of mass atrocity prevention programming in the country.

- We provided a briefing to a UK DFID officer by our Yemeni Local Correspondent, Ahmed Al-Yemeni, on civil society activity in Yemen after the outbreak of conflict there.

- We provided contacts and suggestions for various media organisations on peacebuilding topics in different countries, including Al Jazeera, BBC, CNN, MNSBC, and the New York Times.
FEEDBACK ON INSIGHT ON CONFLICT FROM USERS INCLUDED:

We are very grateful to you for publishing a profile of IEEPP on Insight on Conflict. It really is a great piece of news for us, because as well as raising awareness of our organisation and the work we do, it will help put other social organisations working to build peace in Nicaragua in the spotlight.

Director, IEEPP (featured organisation)

The mapping and visualisation that ‘Insight on Conflict’ provides is crucial both to building broad awareness of locally-driven approaches, thus legitimating it as a strategy towards peacebuilding and directly connecting potential supporters with local actors.

International philanthropic organisation (anonymous)

Our profile looks outstanding and unique too.

MOVE Foundation, Bangladesh (featured organisation)

Your website proves to be a very useful source for us to locate relevant NGOs who work with local governments in conflict prevention.

Organiser of the Bogota Peace Prize
http://www.peaceprize.uclg.org

EU FUNDING FOR PEACE

- 298 projects mapped in total
- 274 individual country projects mapped
- 25 multi-country projects mapped

- During the year, we mapped over 300 peacebuilding projects across 80 countries.

The EU and its members are collectively the world’s biggest provider of overseas aid and one of the EU’s most important funding instruments for peacebuilding is the Instrument for Contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP). Between 2014 and 2020, IcSP has €2.3bn to spend on peace and stability work, and in an exciting new collaboration between Peace Direct and the EU, we embarked on a project to map and profile all IcSP funded projects worldwide. The project also provided support to Peace Direct to expand its coverage of local peacebuilding groups.

During the year, we mapped over 300 peacebuilding projects across 80 countries.

- 150 bespoke summaries of IcSP-funded projects provided unprecedented insight into the EU’s conflict response work
TOMORROW’S PEACEBUILDERS AWARDS

2015 was the third year for ‘Tomorrow’s Peacebuilders’, our annual awards for the best emerging peacebuilding organisations around the world. The awards are an important way of recognising the most outstanding peacebuilding work taking place worldwide and help raise awareness of work that goes largely unnoticed, yet should be celebrated.

2015 was our biggest year yet for the awards, with 251 entrants from 57 countries around the world. The winners of the Tomorrow’s Peacebuilders awards were announced at London’s Frontline Club, the home of international news journalism. Each winner received $10,000 to support their work with local communities.

Speaking about the awards, the winners said:

*This award stands for the united spirit in all of us in spreading the message of peace across the world. We’re here because we believe in this cause. This award will boost the organisation, the women, and the communities we work with.*

Emma Mogaka, Rural Women Peace Link

We need to go back and ask what is wrong in our society, ask what we did wrong that would make a young person risk losing their life, their hope, family, education and future. This is what we try to do; stop the violence and to answer it not with love but with a different track.

Ilan Shtayer, Combatants for Peace

The Tomorrow’s Peacebuilders awards appropriately reflect the endless hours the winning organisations have spent meeting various people - listening, strategising and implementing peace plans and actions to plant and sustain lasting seeds of peace in the hearts of their communities.

Jury member and peacebuilder from Burundi

Photography prize: Christa Kranich, Myanmar-Thailand border
**Youth and peacebuilding: Combatants for Peace, Israel-Palestine**

Combatants for Peace (CFP) was founded by Israeli and Palestinian fighters who had renounced violence. It runs guided tours for Israelis to see Palestinian areas, organises encounters between Israeli and Palestinian youth, and leads peace workshops in each community. Storytelling and commemoration days are key to its awareness work. CFP also undertakes humanitarian aid projects in Palestinian villages including laying water pipelines, planting gardens and playgrounds in villages, renovating schools and protecting workers’ rights.

**Women and peacebuilding: Rural Women Peace Link, Kenya**

Rural Women Peace Link (RWPL) is a grassroots network that stands up for women’s rights and works against gender based violence (GBV). It teaches on FGM in schools, provides trauma counselling for women, and trains police in handling GBV cases. RWPL also sets up local ‘women parliaments’, lobbies local government for women’s rights, and runs peacebuilding forums in Kenya’s most conflict-affected areas.

**Inter-religious peacebuilding: Genesis, Bosnia-Herzegovina**

Genesis helps children and teenagers in post-war Bosnia-Herzegovina to overcome ethnic segregation and the psychological legacy of war. It is the only organisation working on long-term projects in Bosnia’s segregated schools to bring children from different ethnic groups together, in projects and workshops that combat prejudice and promote tolerance. In primary schools it provides peace education classes, and puppet shows on the dangers of landmines and other unexploded ordinance. For teenagers it offers training in film-making to youths from all sides, creating a vehicle for collaboration and the exploration of identities.

Genesis was set up in 1997 to help children still living in refugee camps and featured in Michal Palin’s TV series ‘New Europe’.

**Technology and Peacebuilding**

A special prize was also given for Technology and Peacebuilding to Paiman, a Pakistani organisation that counters violent extremism in Pakistan. It won the technology prize for its use of radio and TV programmes to discuss extremism, and for its campaign using mobile phone texts to send peaceful messages drawn from the Quran and Hadiths. They were awarded a scholarship to the Build Peace 2016 conference in Zurich.
SHOWCASING THE POWER OF LOCAL PEACEBUILDING

We passionately believe that to end war, local people need to be in the driving seat of peace. We passionately believe that we must promote the voices and actions of local organisations who are working to build peace in their communities – stopping conflict at the root. It was this message that we showcased in a one night only stage show to an audience of 350 people at London’s Bush Hall on 8 February 2015 who also passionately believe in our work.

Peace Direct Patron and Oscar winner, Mark Rylance, was joined on stage by a cast of acclaimed actors - Gina McKee, Paterson Joseph, Meera Syal and Sophie Okonedo. They brought the voices of peace alive by reading testimonies from our partners around the world. Through powerful monologues, we witnessed the devastation of war through their eyes and heard the power of local peacebuilding speak through their voices.

The evening also featured video interviews from prominent peacebuilders in the field, as well as opinions from experts and practitioners of peace. Through all of these, one overwhelming message rang out: to achieve lasting peace we must work with the brave and committed individuals who are already building it on the ground – and we all have the power to support them.

At the end of an evening filled with passion, celebration and inspiration, the audience left invigorated with the desire to play their individual part in our mission. In the words of actor, Paterson Joseph: I believe that we can as individuals make a change for the better in this world. My participation is my small way of realising that change.
Our income for the year was £1,821,682 ($2,630,090) - our highest income to date. We are delighted that more donors, individuals and institutions supported us in 2015 than in previous years, and this reflects a growing recognition of the impact and reach of our work and the importance of local peacebuilding. The charts below show the main sources of our income and how we spent the money.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND THANKS

Our work would not have been possible without the commitment and support of a wide range of donors, including individuals, private Trusts and Foundations, and institutions. Organisations and institutions that supported us in 2015 included:

Alan and Babette Sainsbury Charitable Fund
Big Lottery Fund
Blandford Lake Trust
Brillig Trust
British Council
Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust
Chino Cienega Foundation
Commonwealth Foundation
European Union
Evan Cornish Foundation
Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK
The Funding Network (USA)
Humanity United
Kenneth Miller Trust
Livingstone Trust
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Germany
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Norway
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden
Network for Social Change
Northwick Trust
Niwano Peace Foundation
Ploughshares Fund
PRBB Foundation
Rockefeller Brothers Fund
Rockwool Foundation
Samuel Rubin Foundation
Sir James Reckitt Charity
Spears-Stutz Charitable Settlement
Stiftung Umverteilen!
Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation
Terra21 Foundation
Trusthouse Charitable Foundation
United States Institute of Peace
The Mrs Wingfield Charitable Trust

We are actively seeking new members of our family - supporters, donors and allies. Please get in touch if you’d like to work with us to help build a just world, free from violent conflict.