



Local action, growing peace

Impact Report 2019, Summary



These are just some of the highlights of our impact in 2019.

For the full report, visit www.peacedirect.org/impact

GREG FUNNELL





Welcome from our CEO

In 2019, the world marked 100 years since the Treaty of Versailles, 30 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall and 25 years since the Rwandan genocide. Looking to and learning from the past should guide us to combat intolerance and ignorance, and ensure we don't forget past injustices, or those whose lives have been devastated by them.

Reflections on the past should serve to remind us that the important work to end wars, tear down walls, and put a stop to violent conflict continues every day. This courageous work is done around the world by people and communities whose work often falls beneath the radar of televised celebrations and publicised commemorations.

In our 2019 Impact Report, I'm proud to share with you the milestones we celebrated as an organisation, made possible by remarkable peacebuilders around the world, and thanks to your continued support. Last year, our work benefitted over 28,000 people.

It was a year of highlights, and of challenges. Here, we share 10 examples of the impact we made, working with our partners to build peace, one person at a time.

We hope that with your continued support, we can look back together on the day we made peace a practical reality, for all.

You can read even more detail at www.peacedirect.org/impact

With thanks and hope,
Dylan Mathews



Peace: a gold standard

Democratic Republic of Congo

Gold mining in Eastern DRC degrades the environment and compromises the health of hundreds of thousands of people. Our partner Centre Résolution Conflits (CRC)'s work enables those affected by war in DRC to produce ethical and environmentally friendly gold in two cooperatives.

Both cooperatives are situated in the volatile territory of Djugu, which saw outbreaks of violence in the summer of 2019. In a major achievement and sign of peaceful cooperation, the villages located by the cooperatives managed to stay out of the violence taking place in neighbouring communities. and the rising tension in the region. In fact, in 2019, all minor conflicts that developed in the areas surrounding the mines were successfully resolved by the cooperatives' 'Peace Committees.'

Bringing communities together with a common aim: to produce ethical and environmentally friendly gold, has enabled former fighters to reintegrate into their

communities. Previously feared, ex-combatants now play an active role in community life, and CRC is working hard to reduce stigmatisation around former fighters, and to raise awareness on child protection in conflict. 1,831 cooperative members have received training in conflict resolution, of which one third were former fighters.

As a result of being part of the cooperatives and their training activities, over 950 children are now attending school once more, and families are seeing increased levels of income.

The cooperatives are now running with the largest number of members so far, using new and improved machines and increasing the rate of gold production. At the same time, they are managing their finances, budgets and savings to contribute to community development. In an area struggling with active and ongoing ethnic tensions, this project is making important strides in helping communities affected by violent conflict to heal themselves and build a future that they own.



Patience's story

"I live in eastern DRC in Ituri with my young son. I am a member of a cooperative. In 2002, when I was still a minor, I joined a militia, and after three months of training, I was a soldier. It was horrible in the bush with the militia, I had no consideration for others.

One Tuesday at around 10am, I started shooting at the enemy. It's a horrible story that I don't like to tell because of what I experienced, what I suffered, what I did. It was horrible in the bush with the militia, I had no consideration for others. I took an active part in several expeditions and finally I decided in mid-2006 to withdraw from the bush. I managed to find a demobilisation programme nearby. Women working in the mine were exposed to all kinds of violence. Some practised prostitution, others debauchery. The work of women in these mines is deplorable and unacceptable.

After finding the demobilisation programme for former fighters, I got married but still could not adapt to home life. I suffered from trauma, I felt alone, and my husband was scorned for marrying a militia woman. I got divorced to join the mine, but the men mistreated us, the women had no rights, we earned very little, and with difficulty.

One Sunday, while at church, a notice was shared on a local group, Centre Résolution Conflits, coming to the area to speak to people working in the mine. This focused on the rights of women and children. They also introduced the trauma program, which really touched me. Since joining their cooperative, I have been part of the trauma counselling programme, and things have improved more at home.

I've also been using different techniques to mine gold, and my profits have tripled! I have already bought two plots of land in my village. I teach my son at home and I am able to support my parents in their old age. I encourage my friends who work as independent gold miners to join the cooperative to benefit from the right support, and to increase their income. The CRC cooperative has made a big change in our community since the gold panners agreed to produce responsible gold without conflict, without mercury and meeting environmental standards.

Our sincere thanks to CRC for bringing this initiative to us, and to Peace Direct for their support."



“An empty mind is the devil’s playground”

Somalia – Mo’s story*

*Name changed for security purposes

In Somalia, high youth unemployment and weak state institutions enable the terrorist group Al-Shabaab to recruit vulnerable youth who have few opportunities. In 2019, our partner, Social Life and Agricultural Development Organisation (SADO), provided training to 204 young people, helping them to learn vocational skills and to understand their rights.

88% of respondents to follow-up interviews gained a job after graduating from SADO’s vocational training centre in 2019. This has helped greatly to reduce poverty and social exclusion among young people – key incentives for joining armed groups.

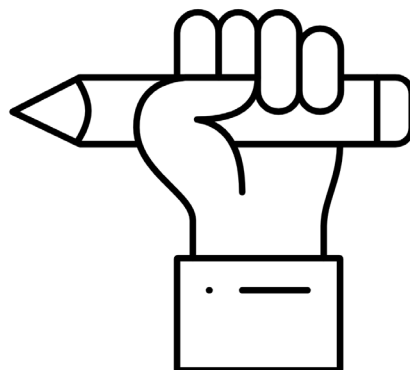
“Before I attended this training, I was jobless and spent most of my time playing football. It wasn’t a pleasant situation but that was what young people like me did. If your family doesn’t have a business and you are not skilled, what else

will you do? You often do things like to join clan militias or rob people because an empty mind is the devil’s playground. I always had in mind to do something to take care of myself and care for my elderly mother, but I had limited options and I didn’t want to go to try go to Europe and become a victim of human traffickers in Libya.

Luckily this SADO programme came to Kismayo and I was able to learn plumbing. When I graduated, SADO gave me money to purchase tools. There are many architects in Kismayo but not many plumbers, so this is a thriving business. I receive many calls daily about pipe installation.

Sincerely, this transformed my life. Sometimes I provide voluntary services to the society at the IDP [Internally Displaced People] camp and community centres to show my gratitude. I am now a senior plumber and a well-respected member of the society.”

In Somalia, **204 people** participated in vocational training programmes led by our partner.





Envisioning a better, more equal future

Zimbabwe

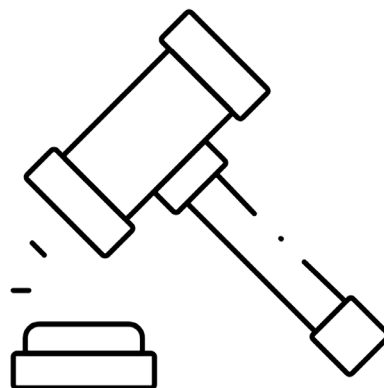
In Zimbabwe women are often excluded from decision-making and leadership positions in local governance. Our partner, Envision Zimbabwe Women's Trust, is working to change this. In 2019, their work to highlight the importance of female representation led to more women feeling confident to participate in local committees, and a change in male leaders' attitudes around women in leadership positions, resulting overall in more inclusive local decision-making.

In 2019, 53 women received training in conflict resolution and peacebuilding, many of whom went on to participate in violence prevention initiatives in their communities. This includes the Peace Committees set up by Envision, which by the end of the year had over 50% female representation. Feedback revealed that women who participated felt more confident in standing up for their rights during village meetings, and men also stepped up as champions of gender equality as a result of training.

Particularly notable were the changes in attitude of the 115 traditional leaders who participated in the training. After discussions on the benefits of female leadership, leaders agreed to open up their courts, which are part of the traditional, local justice systems, to women. This important shift saw women not only actively participating in court sessions, where previously they had played a passive, observer role, but also being handed positions of power as judges and jury members in courts that Envision works with.

One traditional leader said: "We always viewed our women as children and only limited to taking care of the family and their husbands, but now we have new knowledge on women empowerment and we understand that men and women were made equal and they have the same reasoning capacity. It is good for us to know this during our time so that we can encourage our communities to develop in this manner and catch up with the rest of the world in recognising the contributions of women in the society too".

In Zimbabwe, training on female leadership and conflict resolution led to **115 traditional leaders** opening up their local courts to women, and pledging to hand over positions of power.



Feminist heroes create a generation of women's rights champions

Pakistan

Many of our partners operate in increasingly hostile and repressive environments, yet continue to speak out with courage against the failures of the state to act against injustices.

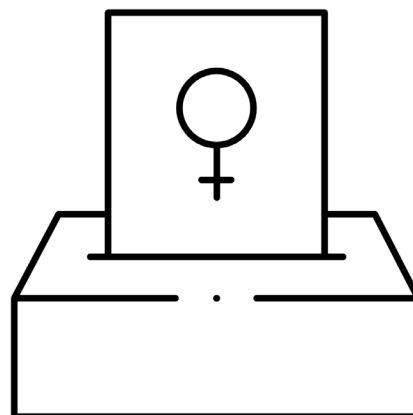
In Pakistan, Gulalai Ismail, co-founder of our partner organisation Aware Girls, came under direct attack from the government and was forced to go into hiding, eventually fleeing the country. But Aware Girls refused to back down, and continued their vital work to speak out against injustices and to champion women's rights and representation in politics.

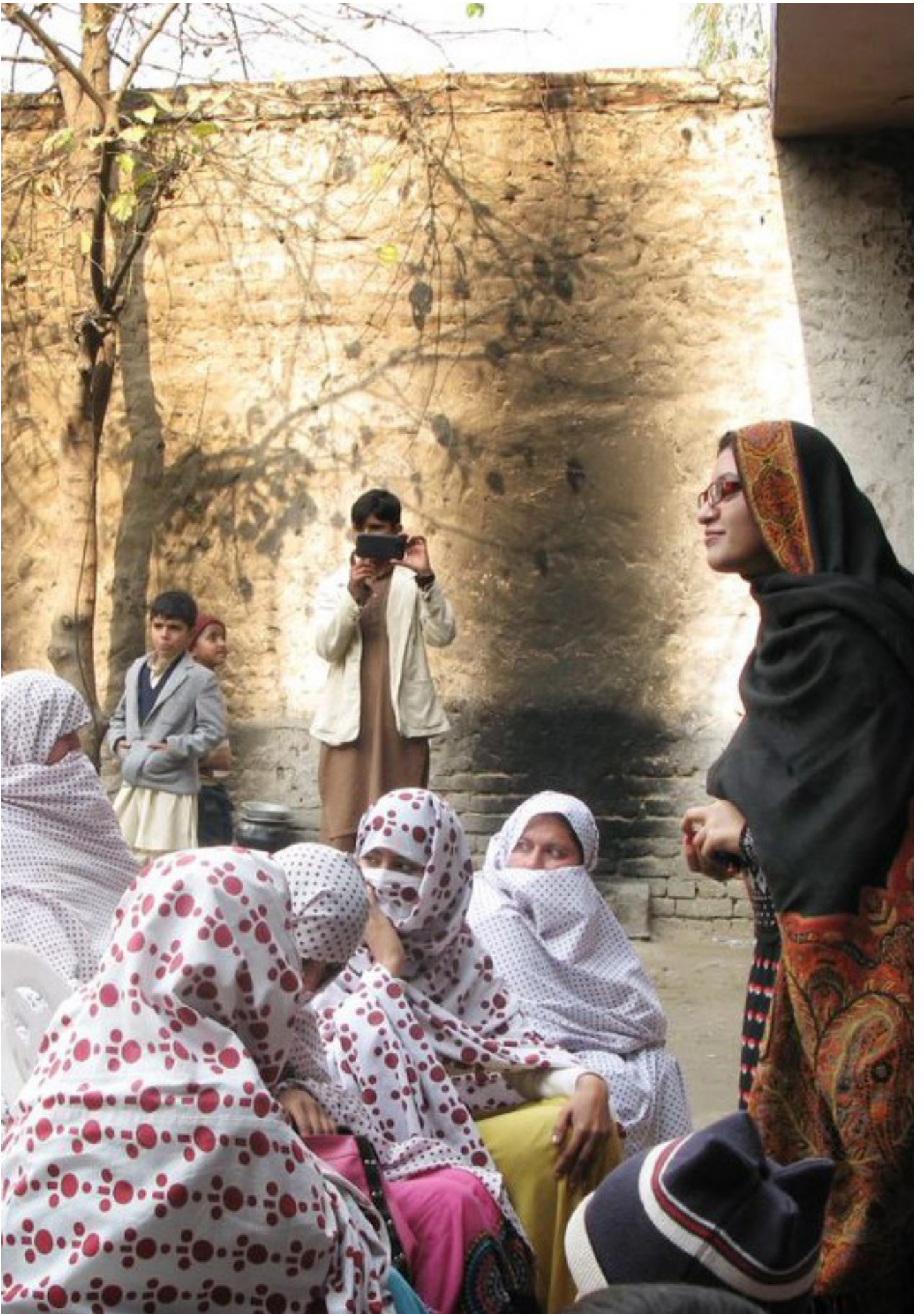
Throughout the year Aware Girls were able to champion women's participation in politics and elections, making impressive strides in their advocacy and community awareness

raising work. They identified officials working for the Electoral Commission of Pakistan (ECP) they could best work with for policy change in favour of female representation, and in response to sustained pressure from Aware Girls and other allied activists, the ECP deployed female staff in polling stations, and the Electoral Law was reinstated. Now, for an election to be considered valid, at least 10% of voters, and 5% of electoral seats must be women.

We worked with the Alliance for Peacebuilding to generate international support for Gulalai, who faced harassment and death threats in Pakistan over her human rights advocacy. She escaped to the United States, joining other family members, and we continue to support her advocacy work.

In Pakistan, one woman became the **first female to contest** and win a seat in provincial elections, thanks to our partner's advocacy work and women's empowerment trainings.







New in 2019

In 2019 we continued to strengthen our partnerships, consolidate our work, and provide support to local peacebuilders when it was urgently needed.

GREG FUNNELL



Funding Local Action

In 2019 we launched the Local Action Fund, our innovative new grant-making programme, providing swift and direct support to local organisations responding to early warning signs of violence.

Working with a large number of local organisations, we are able to support more community and youth-led organisations to collaborate and lead their own peacebuilding initiatives. In 2019 we started to work with partners who play the role of “hub organisations” – organisations which identify local groups and support them to collaborate – for the Local Action Fund in four countries.

The first grant given through the Fund was to a community association in Kano, Nigeria. This support enabled boreholes to be drilled as part of a project to address the water shortage – something that often leads to inter-communal violence and can quickly escalate. In the area where the project was implemented, they have already seen a reduction in incidences of violent conflict. In addition, a possible exacerbator of violent conflict has been removed – in this case, access to drinking water – so the long-term effects of this work will be felt for many years to come. Secondly, the project was successful in engaging young men and women in community peacebuilding through the work – supporting young people to act as a catalyst for peace in their communities.



MATTHEW K. FIRPO

MATTHEW K. FIRPO



Supporting Sri Lanka

We know that when crisis strikes, urgent and immediate support is invaluable to be able to respond to the immediate signs of violent conflict, and support communities in the immediate aftermath of crisis. In 2019, we strengthened our ability to support partners in crisis situations; dedicating specific funds for partners in emergency situations.

Following the Eastern Sunday attacks in Sri Lanka, and with thanks to the quick support from several individuals, trusts and foundations, we were able to send our partner the Centre for Peacebuilding and Reconciliation (CPBR) funds immediately to support their efforts in responding to the attacks. We raised over £30,000 in total.

This allowed CPBR to go out and continue their work and to collaborate with other groups trying to protect Muslim communities from further violence, and to protect those at risk of attack. Working on the ground, they are helping communities to heal from trauma, rebuilding the relationships damaged by violence and convening people from all different faiths to restore trust and build the foundations for long-term peace.

Building connections, striving for change

Geneva Peace Week

We co-hosted an event at Geneva Peace Week on what locally led peacebuilding is, why it matters and what impact it has. We were joined by local peacebuilders from DRC and Kenya, to stimulate a critical conversation which challenges practitioners, policymakers and donors to explore their assumptions and practices.

Pathways to Peace

The Pathways to Peace in Yemen art exhibit went on display in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives buildings. The Dayton International Peace Museum in Ohio also showed the paintings and photographs from Yemen, and hosted an evening reception and talk by Peace Direct's U.S. Executive Director Bridget Moix. Visitors to the museum learned about the importance of extending the Temporary Protected Status to Yemeni people in the U.S. Visitors also got a chance to write messages on postcards, which we then sent to the schoolchildren in Yemen who painted pictures for our exhibit.

#PeaceTalks

We partnered with Eaton Workshop in Washington, D.C., to host seven #peacetalks events featuring peace practitioners from places including Pakistan, Uganda and Washington, D.C. They shared their experiences and stories of hope, and made recommendations about how all people can be peacebuilders in their own homes and communities. More than 300 people attended these events, who now have a greater understanding of local peacebuilding and its importance.

Research reports that amplify local peacebuilders' voices

In 2019, we continued our work to amplify local peacebuilders' voices in policy spheres through our research. Our seven research reports published in 2019 shared insights and recommendations from local peacebuilders, on Inclusive Peace, Youth and Peacebuilding and peacebuilding in Somalia. In addition, we produced a report on the effectiveness of local peacebuilding, which was made into an interactive website.





Spreading the message of peace

To celebrate International Day of Peace in September, we asked people to answer one question: What does peace mean to you? We received hundreds of messages from our partners, friends and supporters wishing to share the meaning of peace in their lives.

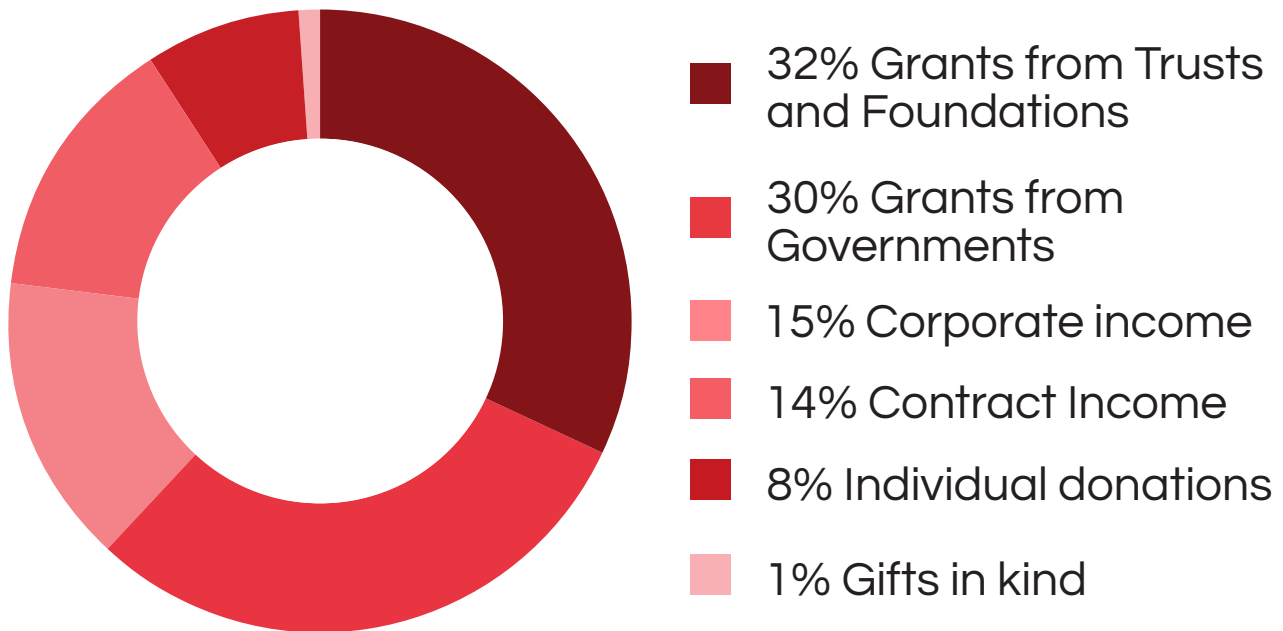
From around the world, we saw that peace is unique to everyone. In all the inspiring messages we saw a common thread – a spirit of hope.

To share the powerful messages from people building peace around the world, we worked with Global Street Art to create murals in Central London, featuring three of our partners from Nigeria, Sri Lanka and the Philippines.

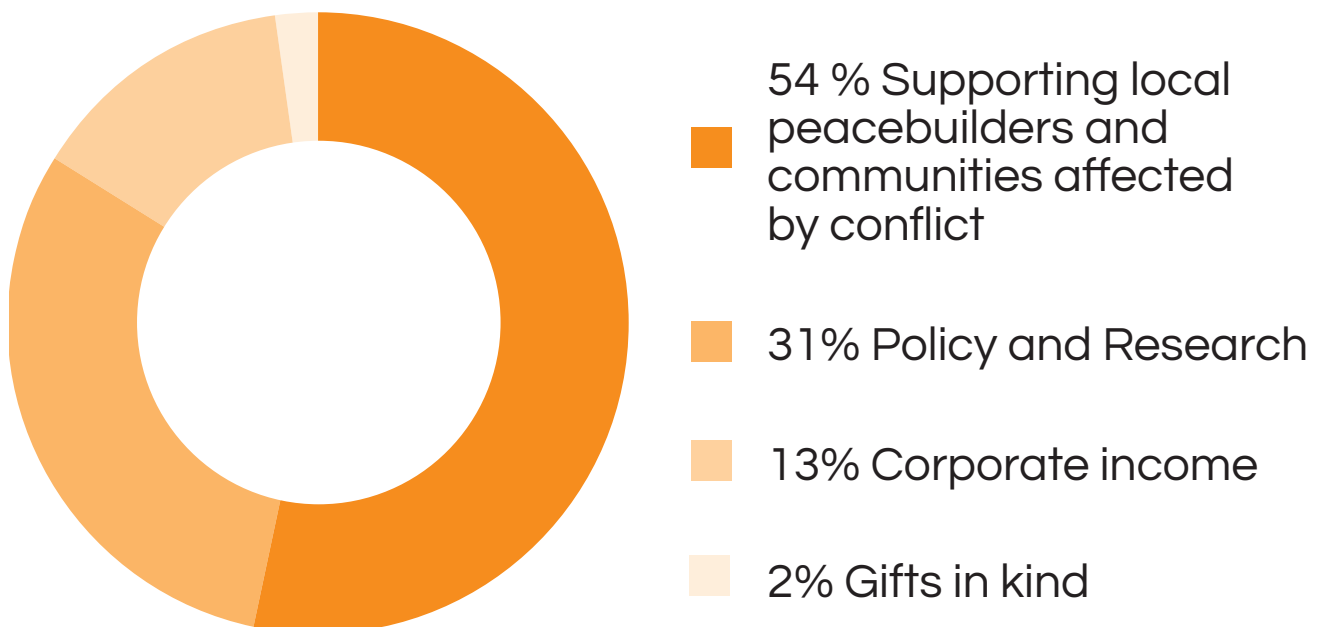
Located on a busy London street, the murals and our partners' words were seen by thousands of people over the course of the display, many of whom felt inspired and stopped to have conversations about what peace means to them.

FINANCIALS

INCOME IN 2019: £4,030,769 (\$5,129,345)



EXPENDITURE IN 2019: £3,994,744 (\$5,083,501)



The charts on this page present a consolidation of the main sources of our income and how money was spent across the organisation in 2019. For a full breakdown of our income and expenditure in 2019, please visit our website: www.peacedirect.org/impact/2019/finances



This report shares some of the highlights of our peacebuilding impact in 2019.

For more detail of the peacebuilding work we supported around the world, visit our interactive report:

www.peacedirect.org/impact

We would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to all those who supported our work in 2019, and believed in our mission to build a world free from violent conflict.

For more information about all our work, and to get in touch, visit www.peacedirect.org



Peace Direct works with local people to stop violence and build sustainable peace.
We believe that local people should lead all peacebuilding efforts.

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