



## Peacebuilding Community of Practice

### Compendium of Good Practice and Innovative Peacebuilding Approaches at the Local Level

The Pact for the Future adopted by UN Member States in September 2024 emphasises the need for bolstering peacebuilding and prevention. A frequent recommendation is to adopt **“localised” approaches**, i.e. to work more closely with actors, organisations and constituencies at the local level to anchor peacebuilding in local communities, build resilience and increase the chances of sustainable impact.

The Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF) has engaged the Berlin based Peacebuilding Community of Practice (CoP)<sup>1</sup> for the compilation of **good practices and concrete examples** of local-level programmes and initiatives that contribute to strengthening or developing peace infrastructures and promote local engagement for sustainable peacebuilding.

In an important year for the UN Peacebuilding Architecture – with the ongoing Peacebuilding Architecture Review (PBAR) – this collection will support Germany’s efforts to further peacebuilding, including in its role as Peacebuilding Commission Chair.

With a broad range of activities and contributions ranging from Armenia to Germany to Thailand and Zimbabwe, the compendium crafts convincing narratives and forms a resource base for **evidence-based advocacy**. The various approaches to engage communities, including through the use of existing social spaces, technology and performance art, illustrate a wide range of possibilities that aim at giving people agency over building lasting peace – in their communities and beyond.

For ease of navigation, ZIF categorized the contributions under the following seven main headings: **Prevention** (pp. 1-5), **Dialogue** (pp. 6-10), **Community Engagement** (pp. 11-15), **Transitional Justice /Dealing with the Past** (pp. 16-18), **Education** (pp. 19-20), **Women** (pp. 21-23), and **Youth** (pp. 24-29). It is important to note that some activities fall under more than one category but have only been assigned to one.

ZIF would like to express its sincere appreciation for the members of the Berlin Peacebuilding CoP as well as their local partner organizations for their contributions.<sup>2</sup> We hope that the projects and activities in the compendium will serve as inspiration and encouragement for their peacebuilding engagements as well.

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<sup>1</sup> ZIF proposed the establishment of a Berlin based peacebuilding Community of Practice in a meeting with the UN Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Elisabeth Spehar and peacebuilding practitioners in December 2024. In March 2025, ZIF convened the CoP’s second meeting, as part of which the compilation of best practices on innovative local-level peacebuilding programs from the participating organizations’ wide networks was decided upon.

<sup>2</sup> Further thanks goes to Selma Cafferty for her extensive translating and editing work for the compendium.

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## Prevention

### Togo: Conflict prevention and illicit trade control through strategies to investigate the root causes of terrorism and violent extremism for lasting political stability

Youth Awake; ifa – Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen/Förderprogramm zivik

#### Key Actors:

- Young people (18-35 years old)
- Regional and local authorities (prefects, mayors, gendarmes, local chiefs, local development committees, village development committees, NGOs)
- Women's association, civil society organization (CSO)

**Objective and Impact:** The aim of the project was to involve young people in Togo in measures to counter violent extremism and illegal trafficking and to strengthen social cohesion. Based on data collection in affected communities, the results were discussed in workshops. Together with young people, ministries and NGOs, an action plan with concrete prevention measures was developed.

**Innovative Factors:** The innovative, participatory approach combines prevention with artistic expression and focuses on cultural dialogue, media art and local anchoring. The strong involvement of the communities creates both legitimacy and impact. The success factors were the high relevance for the communities, the active participation of young people and the collaboration with local partners. Media art such as film screenings broadened the outreach. Training and data collection ensured quality. Improved dialogue and strengthened local structures have had a lasting impact - despite the sometimes-difficult conditions. The project addressed the links between youth, organised crime and extremism. It gives young people from remote regions a voice and strengthens their role as peace actors - regardless of their origin or affiliation.

**Option for Scalability:** The holistic project approach is transferable: It strengthens cooperation between young people, authorities and civil society, raises awareness through creative methods and promotes ownership through participatory risk analyses and action plans. The involvement of local communities is central to a sustainable impact and is also adaptable to other contexts.

## Burkina Faso: TERRE CEINTE – a cultural and artistic project in the service of the fight against the rise of violent extremism

*Les Résidences Panafricaines d'Écriture, de Création et de Recherche Théâtrales (Les Récréâtrales), Burkina Faso; ifa – Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen/Förderprogramm zivik*

### **Key Actors:**

- Young people from different ethnic backgrounds
- Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)
- Receiving communities
- Artists

**Objective and Impact:** Artistic and creative programmes in peripheral regions are intended to prevent and raise awareness of violent extremism. Young people from internally displaced communities and the host population develop creative forms of expression together in order to process traumatic experiences and make them visible. Performances and other forms of artistic expression promote dialogue between social groups (ethnic, cross-generational and cross-gender, urban-rural) and strengthen empathy, cohesion and resilience. This reduces tensions, counteracts radicalisation and contributes to peaceful coexistence.

### **Innovative Factors:**

- Collaboration over a longer period of time to strengthen self-confidence and 'voice'
- Psychological counselling/support for the participants
- Embedding in local structures and involving neighbouring communities and people (exchange on artistic products and performances)

The project focuses on decentralising cultural work as a means of combating terrorism, particularly in the neglected regions of Central-North and Central-East. Performing and visual arts are used specifically as instruments for prevention, healing and strengthening long-term resilience. TERRE CEINTE promotes an understanding of the causes of violent extremism and turns art into a gentle but powerful response to religious fanaticism.

**Option for Scalability:** The methods and artistic products are transferable, can be used in any context and are effective across languages. Artistic approaches can be flexibly adapted to local conditions and enable cooperation with educational institutions, media, theatres, museums and other stakeholders.

## Germany: Social space-orientated violence prevention

*ikm – Institut für konstruktive Konfliktartragung und Mediation; Sponsor: Sozialbehörde Hamburg*

**Objective and Impact:** The aim is to achieve sustainable violence prevention among children and young people in social spaces. We believe that this can only succeed if as many stakeholders as possible who work with children and young people in the social environment join forces.

**Innovative Factors:** We promote dialogue between professionals in the social space and bring together (non-)religious and cultural communities in particular. To this end, we draw on a broad network, moderate expert discussions, conferences and further training and offer diversity-sensitive counselling and mediation in the event of conflicts - especially in the case of conflicts of values.

One example: In October 2023, a digital series of events entitled 'Action impulses for working with young people' was launched in cooperation with several organisations. The aim was to provide professionals with low-threshold impulses for dealing with the effects of the Middle East conflict in Hamburg. This series was expanded thematically, as numerous international and national crises (e.g. Middle East conflict, Ukraine war, election results, migration debate in Germany) have a strong impact on young people. Many are emotionally burdened, have personal ties or experience stigmatisation. There is often a lack of protected spaces in which young people can speak openly.

Professionals are faced with the challenge of engaging with young people on an individual basis, facilitating dialogue, tolerating diversity and at the same time standing up against discrimination. This can be overwhelming and leave them dumbfounded. The series of events offers practical ideas to empower professionals. It takes place digitally via Zoom and is accessible free of charge.

**Option for Scalability:** Yes, building resilient relationships with stakeholders in the social space, analysing needs and implementing suitable formats. The basis for this is a strong knowledge of mediation and diversity.

## Thailand: Early Warning Early Response (EWER) in Southern Border Provinces

*Duayjai Association for Humanitarian Affairs*

**Key Actors:** The Duayjai Association for Humanitarian Affairs is a grassroots organization promoting human rights and peace in Thailand's southern border provinces. Consisting of five female staff members and four volunteers, Duayjai has been implementing the Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) initiative since 2022 to enhance civilian protection and reduce conflict-related violence.

**Objective and Impact:** The project focuses on monitoring human rights violations and reducing violence in six selected communities. Using the LINE messaging app, residents report early signs of tension or military presence in real time. From 2022 to March 2025, 1,404 violent incidents affecting 1,381 individuals were recorded via community networks, media, and Duayjai's own documentation. By involving locals in threat detection and incident reporting, the initiative shifts communities from passive victims to proactive peacebuilders. Regular updates are published via [duayjaigroup.org](http://duayjaigroup.org) and Duayjai's Facebook page to ensure transparency and accessibility for the wider public.

The primary objective of Duayjai is to diminish violent incidents impacting civilians. The fundamental concept is clear: "When communities are capable of identifying threats at an early stage, they enhance their ability to safeguard themselves and avert escalation." This inclusive strategy empowers local individuals, shifting their role from passive victims to engaged contributors in peacebuilding efforts.

Furthermore, the initiative empowers communities to comprehend and actively oversee ceasefire agreements—previously managed by external entities—while linking grassroots experiences to larger peace initiatives, ensuring that local perspectives are represented at the national level. Collectively, these actions redistribute power to the populace, transforming communities from passive observers into dynamic agents of peace. Through consistent updates, incident reporting, and monitoring activities disseminated via LINE, communities are acquiring the skills to recognize early signs of violence and respond with appropriate, non-violent measures.

**Innovative Factors:** EWER adapts early warning systems—typically used for natural disasters—to address human-induced violence. Community members are trained to recognize and safely report risks, monitor ceasefire agreements, and understand their rights under Thai and international law. The LINE-based system accelerates response times and strengthens local capacity for nonviolent conflict mitigation. The model links grassroots data with national peace efforts, amplifying local voices. Technical support is provided by partners such as Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP) and Deep South Watch Thailand.

**Option for Scalability:** EWER has proven effective not only for ceasefire monitoring but also for tracking other types of violence—whether political, gender-based, or rooted in local conflicts. As such, Duayjai's work provides a blueprint that could be adapted to other conflict-affected regions in Southeast Asia and beyond. Duayjai's integration of digital tools, community empowerment, and rights-based training makes the EWER model scalable to other conflict-affected regions in Southeast Asia and beyond. For successful replication, further capacity building in data management and the development of strong local networks will be essential to support violence prevention and long-term peacebuilding.

## Iraq: Salam Bus Projekt (Peace Bus)

*Pro Peace (formerly forumZFD) Iraq*

**Key Actors:** The project is initiated and implemented by ProPeace Iraq with local partners, community representatives, but also NGOs and universities. The project is funded by the BMZ as part of the Civil Peace Service (CPS) programme. ProPeace is an international NGO based in Cologne that promotes non-violent conflict resolution.

**Objective and Impact:** Since October 2023, three peace buses have been used in Iraq in Sinjar, Tel Afar, Ayadiya, Dohuk and Erbil as a means of implementing mobile peacebuilding measures to reach women and young people, even in remote regions and to bring them together with people from other population groups.<sup>3</sup> The buses stop at suitable, safe locations to carry out peacebuilding activities in and around the bus.

Recognizing the crucial role that young people and women in particular play in shaping their communities, the intervention focuses on empowering these target groups as agents of positive change. As part of the activities, participants are made aware of their peacemaking role, discuss confidence-building measures and learn the basics of non-violent communication and conflict resolution mechanisms to contribute to a more inclusive and resilient community fabric and counteract social division and radicalisation.

With the support of local authorities, cultural, traditional and sporting activities are also organised to get to know better the history, religion and traditions of other population groups.

**Innovative Factors:** In view of the 'training fatigue' that is widespread in the areas of peacebuilding, humanitarian aid and development, the Salam Bus is an innovative, new and exciting way to involve participants in a more honest and authentic way. Or as one participant put it: 'The Salam Bus is not just about learning and exchanging ideas, it is the beginning of a social movement to build a future based on understanding, tolerance and peaceful coexistence.'

**Option for Scalability:** More than 6000 people have been reached since October 2023. Thanks to the simplicity, openness and scalability of the concept, the approach of the Salam Bus project can easily be applied in other contexts.

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<sup>3</sup> Salam Bus project video: <https://www.propeace.de/en/iraq-peace-wheels>

## Dialogue

### Yemen: Consultative Committees

*Berghof Foundation; Political Development Forum (PDF) Yemen*

**Key Actors:** Since 2017, the Berghof Foundation and the Political Development Forum (PDF) Yemen, with funding from the German Federal Foreign Office, have worked to strengthen local governance in Yemen.<sup>4</sup> The project works on four governorates, where key stakeholders include local authorities, civil society, and communities.

**Objective and Impact:** The initiative supports mediation, consultation, and stabilisation efforts to ensure local concerns are integrated into national and international policymaking and peace negotiations. In each governorate, the project supports the establishment of inclusive Consultative Committees that advise on development and peacebuilding priorities. These committees also act as the steering committees for small project grants, implemented by district authorities with support of a GIZ sister project. The committees have enhanced coordination within local authorities, provided avenues to share community concerns with local authorities, and mediated numerous local conflicts.<sup>5</sup> The small grants have helped anchor local service delivery and activate the planning and co-ordinating functions of local authorities.

**Innovative Factors:** Designed to complement existing local governance structures, the committees include representatives from local authorities, tribal structures, and civil society to facilitate discussion and information exchange. They were created in close consultation with governors, combining political inclusiveness and geographic diversity with the needed trust and buy-in to effectively advise authorities, coordinate, and amplify local concerns.

The project links dialogue to action, allowing participants to address concrete problems and identify and implement locally owned solutions. It combines governorate-level dialogue, national policy advocacy, local mediation aspects, and service delivery, offering an integrated multi-level approach of peace and development. In highly fragile and capital-starved environments like Yemen, project small grants of as little as €2,000 - 5,000 can make an important contribution to local initiatives and serve as an anchor to raise funds from communities, local businesses, and international donors, while activating the role of local authorities as planners and coordinators.

**Option for Scalability:** The project has expanded from an initial focus on two governorates in a pilot phase to four and could be scaled further. Several Berghof and GIZ cooperations in other contexts, as well as larger scale programmes in Yemen, like UNDP's SIERY programme, have borrowed key elements of the approach.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> <https://berghof-foundation.org/work/projects/yemen-strengthening-inclusive-local-governance>

<sup>5</sup> <https://berghof-foundation.org/impact/solving-local-conflicts-to-unblock-development-an-example-from-yemen>

<sup>6</sup> <https://berghof-foundation.org/news/seven-lessons-for-inclusive-local-governance-and-peacebuilding-in-yemen>

## Germany: Talking to one another- safe spaces for dialogue in schools

*ikm – Institut für konstruktive Konfliktartragung und Mediation; Sponsors: BürgerStiftung Hamburg; Peter Möhrle Stiftung*

**Objective and Impact:** Since October 2023, 'Talking to one another' (miteinander reden) has been offering workshops for school classes to talk about controversial topics, crises and emotions in so-called braver spaces – safely, with awareness of prejudice and accompanied by trained moderators. Three workshop formats have been developed:

1. On controversial topics: Strengthening dialogue skills, tolerance of ambiguity, empathy and conflict competence. Participating young people learn to recognise red lines in discussions, understand other perspectives and communicate respectfully - even when there are differences of opinion.
2. About the Middle East conflict with a focus on personal experience: What do images and news trigger in young people? How does the conflict affect their everyday lives in Hamburg? It is not about political analysis but about dealing with one's own feelings.
3. Interreligious dialogue: students enter into dialogue with speakers from different religious traditions. Together they explore differences and similarities, share personal experiences and talk openly about religious conflicts.

**Innovative Factors:** The project is a reaction to the increased need for dialogue following the events on 07 October 2023 and combines the experience gained from previous projects such as the interfaith duo format and the ProViel project, which trained young moderators for conflict-related topics. A diverse pool of speakers (Muslim, Jewish, Christian, black, white, non-religious, etc.) brings not only expertise in conflict moderation, but also their own life experiences that are close to those of the participating youths. Regular training and dialogue within the implementing team strengthens mutual trust - a prerequisite for dealing with difficult topics together in the classroom.

**Option for Scalability:** Yes – provided there are stable relationships with various communities. Trust between the organiser, project management and speakers is crucial.

## Bolivia: Dialogue School – personal change as the basis for social peace

Civil Peace Service (CPS)/GIZ

The dialogue school initiated by CPS/GIZ Bolivia is an innovative, scalable approach to peacebuilding that has been successfully implemented in Bolivia and other countries for over 12 years. At its centre is the conviction that sustainable social change begins with individual reflection and a change in attitude.

**Key Actors:** Over 500 key actors have been trained and over 60 facilitators are implementing the methodology in Latin America and Africa. In Bolivia, partner organisations such as *Acción Cultural Loyola* (ACLO) and *Investigación Social Asesoramiento Legal Potosí* (ISALP) have developed their own variations. The dialogue school has been involved in concrete local conflict resolution, e.g. at the municipal administration level, public construction projects or in the environmental governance of the Chiquitano dry forest.

**Objective and Impact:** In two one-week modules, the dialogue school creates safe spaces for self-reflection, group dynamics and building trusting relationships. Participants examine their own values, assumptions and behavioural patterns, develop constructive forms of communication and learn to take responsibility for peace-building actions. The methodology is based on a decolonial approach and can be adapted to different cultural contexts.

**Option for Scalability:** Since the covid pandemic, there has also been a virtual version, which is implemented using interactive elements (including GIFs, and gamification platforms such as [Edu-caplay.com](http://Edu-caplay.com)) and synchronous online sessions. New moderators are trained via a digital Training of Trainers (ToT) format. This significantly increases the range and scalability and enables long-term transfer.

The project has created a learning community with over 100 active members and is an example of successful South-South cooperation – between Bolivia, Cameroon and Honduras – in peace work.

## South Sudan: Facilitation of Intercommunal Dialogue

*RECONCILE International; Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES); Brot für die Welt*

**Key Actors:** The initiative is led by RECONCILE International, a South Sudanese peacebuilding organization, which works in close collaboration with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) and Brot für die Welt. As part of the initiative, the three organizations work with local communities in South Sudan's Equatoria region. Key stakeholders include traditional leaders, women, youth, religious authorities, and local government representatives.

**Objective and Impact:** The central objective is to foster reconciliation and peaceful coexistence between previously hostile communities through inclusive intercommunal dialogue forums. These forums aim to address root causes of conflict, including cattle raiding, land disputes, revenge killings, and territorial disagreements.

Emerging impacts include the formation of local peace committees, improved inter-community relations, the release of hostages and enhanced freedom of movement – and therefore the pre-emption of further violence and clashes. Participants also demonstrate greater awareness of the Revitalized Peace Agreement of 2018 and a growing sense of local ownership in its implementation.

**Innovative Factors:** Several key factors influenced the outcome of the initiative. First and foremost is the inclusive approach, which actively involved women, youth, and other marginalized voices, ensuring that a wide range of perspectives were heard and respected. Equally important is the strong trust placed in religious and traditional leaders, who played a central role as credible and respected facilitators of the dialogue process. The integration of trauma healing and psychosocial support also proved vital, as it addressed the deep emotional wounds left by years of conflict and violence. Furthermore, the dialogues were guided by clearly defined rules of engagement – such as avoiding blame and encouraging active listening – which created a safe and constructive environment for participants.

The initiative's innovation lies in its holistic and culturally embedded approach to reconciliation. It combines trauma healing, local ownership, and faith-based facilitation with political education around national peace processes. Sensitive social issues – such as sexual violence, underage marriage, and culturally legitimized violence – are openly discussed, which is uncommon in many local contexts.

**Option for Scalability:** The initiative could be scalable/applicable to other contexts, as the approach is highly adaptable to other post-conflict or fragile settings, especially where traditional structures and religious actors hold influence. Its focus on inclusive dialogue, healing, and community-led peace mechanisms provides a replicable model for reconciliation and social cohesion in contexts marked by intercommunal violence or civil war legacies.

## Various Countries: Weathering Risk Peace Pillar - Integrating climate and environmental security into peace programming

*adelphi research, Berghof Foundation, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD) and European Institute of Peace (EIP); supported by the German Federal Foreign Office*

**Key Actors:** National, district and local-level authorities, traditional and religious leadership, communities, civil society, women, youth

**Objective and Impact:** Climate and environmental change can fuel conflict by affecting livelihoods, governance and socio-economic stability. The Weathering Risk Peace Pillar<sup>7</sup> integrates these challenges into peace programming in **Iraq, Yemen, Somalia, Nigeria and the Bay of Bengal**. By incorporating climate and environmental considerations into consultations, dialogues and mediation, this approach supports more effective conflict prevention, mitigation and transformation. The initiative shares evidence-based recommendations, monitors and evaluates impacts and disseminates lessons learned and best practices to practitioners and policy makers.

**Innovative Factors:** The Peace Pillar is pioneering the integration of climate and environmental security into peace programming by developing a growing evidence base, underpinned by monitoring, evaluation and learning methodologies that adapt traditional approaches to the unique challenges of the climate-environment-peace-security nexus. Through outcome evaluations and collaborative learning, the initiative ensures lessons learned are continuously synthesized and shared to enable more effective, scalable and sustainable peacebuilding interventions.

### Lessons Learned

- **Environmental entry points create space where traditional security approaches cannot:** Climate and environmental security issues, like water scarcity or degraded land, can transcend political and identity-based divisions and unite divided communities and offer entry points for cooperation.
- **Resilience is a capacity, not a deliverable:** Resilience is a dynamic capacity to adapt and respond to change, not a fixed outcome. It grows through investments in relationships and systems, like inclusive resource management, that help communities navigate change peacefully.
- **Solutions must be grounded in local realities—by design, not by chance:** Effective climate security interventions are built on the lived experiences, and priorities of affected local communities. Sustained, inclusive engagement helps prevent misdiagnosing problems or reinforcing tensions.
- **Integrated programming is more effective:** Integrated climate-environment-peace programming yields greater impact, cost-efficiency, and long-term resilience, as it generates new capabilities that siloed programming can't replicate.
- **Dialogue and climate action must reinforce each other:** Pairing trust-building dialogue with tangible joint action fosters stronger collaboration and faster progress.

**Options for Scalability:** The Peace Pillar offers practical insights for designing smarter and integrated interventions that respond to today's interconnected crises. Drawing on recent project evaluations, it offers scalable lessons and guidance to embed climate and peace linkages into future programming.

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<sup>7</sup> More information about the Weathering Risk Peace Pillar and the five projects can be found at: <https://weatheringrisk.org/en/peacepillar>

## Community Engagement

### Lebanon: Reshaping Masculinity & Preventing Conflict: Empowering Community Role Models

*Fighters for Peace (FFP), Lebanon; Parter: LABAN – Live Lactic Culture; ifa – Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen/Förderprogramm zivik*

#### Key Actors:

- Ex-combatants (mostly male, partly female) with different religious, political and social backgrounds
- Youths (boys/girls), young adults
- Community actors, core groups in communities

**Objective and Impact:** The aim of the project was to reveal the connection between patriarchal images of masculinity and structural violence. Ex-combatants reflected on their own experiences and entered into dialogue with young people as multipliers to convey alternative, non-violent images of masculinity. This contributed to peace and social change in Lebanon.

**Innovative Factors:** The topic was new and appealed to the target groups on a personal and social level. Ex-combatants came across as credible and inspiring. Despite security risks and war, all activities (over 20 activities and events in different regions of Lebanon) - with the exception of a theatre play - were implemented and the goals were achieved or exceeded. The composition of FFP is unique: former combatants from different camps join forces to work for peace. Their transformation makes them role models for young people. Another new aspect was the focus on the connection between masculinity and systemic violence - something that has hardly been addressed in Lebanon to date.

**Option for Scalability:** The project results show that the foundations for understanding have been laid. An extension to political, religious and security-related actors as well as cooperation with educational institutions could further increase the impact and scope.

## Germany: Augsburg Peace Transfer Centre

**Key Actors:** Augsburg University, municipal administration, numerous civil society organisations involved in peace work in the city of Augsburg

**Objective and Impact:** Strengthening scientifically based peace and conflict work to increase conflict competence and prevent the escalation of socio-political conflict constellations

In Augsburg, the city of peace, there are many individual initiatives that make important contributions to preventing the escalation of socio-political conflicts and promoting peace. Their importance has increased even further as a result of the political developments of recent years and can hardly be underestimated in a large Bavarian city where almost half of the population has a migration background.

The University of Augsburg is home to the only chair for peace and conflict studies in the whole of Bavaria, which regularly provides its academic expertise for corresponding local contributions and consultations in the City of Peace. To strengthen Augsburg's peace infrastructure, the University of Augsburg has set up the Augsburg Peace Transfer Centre (*Transferzentrum Frieden Augsburg - TFA*)<sup>8</sup> together with the City of Augsburg (the city council and several departments and offices of the city administration) on the initiative of the University's chair for peace and conflict studies.<sup>9</sup> The TFA connects state and non-state actors in peace work and conflict resolution and provides the necessary transfer of peace and conflict research expertise to the local fields of practice in the City of Peace Augsburg to ensure peaceful coexistence in urban society.

The TFA expands and substantiates the range of practice-oriented peace and conflict work in Augsburg. Through the various formats and forms of cooperation of the transfer, effects are achieved at different levels, both on the level of urban society (broad and public educational offer) and in specific fields of activity, for which educational and qualification offers are implemented in cooperation with relevant facilities and institutions (e.g. for educators in day-care centres). The Augsburg Peace Transfer Centre also offers scientific support for municipal projects to guide and strengthen local peace and conflict work projects with scientific expertise.

### Innovative Factors:

- The scientific perspective of participatory conflict research and the broad interest of the democratic parties in the city council of the City of Peace, Augsburg, to ensure peaceful conflict management and coexistence in urban society
- Science-practice co-operation for peace at the local level on the basis of a methodology of participatory conflict research

**Option for Scalability:** Yes, because this transfer concept does not require the scientific partner of a transfer centre to be based in the same municipality in which a Peace Transfer Centre is established.

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<sup>8</sup> [www.uni-augsburg.de/philsoz/transferzentrumfrieden](http://www.uni-augsburg.de/philsoz/transferzentrumfrieden)

<sup>9</sup> [www.uni-augsburg.de/friedensforschung](http://www.uni-augsburg.de/friedensforschung)

## Somalia: Insider Network for Peace

*IPN; Berghof Foundation; Sponsors: German Federal Foreign Office, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Royal Danish Embassy to Somalia / Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark*

**Key Actors:** The Berghof Foundation supports an Insider Peacebuilders Network (IPN) in the federal states of Hirshabelle (since 2017) and Galmudug (since 2020) to consolidate the role of key community actors in violence prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding.<sup>10</sup> With over 100 members, the IPN comprises traditional elders, religious leaders, women, youth, poets, educators, people with disabilities and representatives from marginalized clans. This work has been supported by the German Federal Foreign Office, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Royal Danish Embassy to Somalia / Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

**Objective and Impact:** Through inclusive dialogue and mediation, the IPN addresses inter-clan and community conflicts around historical grievances, as well as around access to land, pasture and water, which is increasingly exacerbated by climate change and environmental degradation. The IPN works closely with their communities, the elder-based traditional dispute resolution system, and district and state administrations towards more sustainable pathways for resolving conflict.

### **Innovative Factors:**

- Local ownership: The initiative is rooted in local traditions and led by highly committed and active community members, ensuring cultural acceptance and legitimacy.
- Capacity development: IPN members have received training in dialogue facilitation, mediation, conflict resolution, trauma healing, and the nexus of climate change, environment degradation and conflict.
- Inclusive participation and collaboration: By consolidating the peacebuilding resources of diverse societal groups, including women and youth, and promoting peer-learning the IPN ensures that multiple perspectives are considered in conflict resolution processes.

The members of the IPN carry out a wide range of initiatives to deescalate tensions, prevent violence and engage with their communities to sustain a culture of peace. These include women's workshops on peace, youth football tournaments or the production of a television drama. IPN members have been very active in enabling spaces for community members to discuss the role that climate change and environmental degradation plays in exacerbating conflicts in their communities, creating community awareness and encouraging conversation.

**Option for Scalability:** The IPN model emphasises local ownership, inclusivity, and collaboration. By empowering local actors and integrating traditional practices with creative interventions, the project can provide valuable lessons for similar initiatives that aim to address conflict dynamics in other contexts.

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<sup>10</sup> <https://berghof-foundation.org/work/projects/supporting-community-peacebuilders-to-promote-reconciliation-in-hirshabelle-and-galmudug-states-somalia>

## Zimbabwe: Insider Mediators Network

*Berghof Foundation, Institute for Peace, Leadership and Governance (IPLG), Africa University; Sponsor: European Union*

**Key Actors:** The Insider Mediators Network in Zimbabwe was a collaborative initiative facilitated by the Berghof Foundation in partnership with the Institute for Peace, Leadership and Governance (IPLG), Africa University as part of a larger consortium funded by the European Union. The network comprised community leaders, traditional and religious authorities, civil society representatives, and government actors with deep-rooted connections within their communities.

**Objective and Impact:** The network aimed to enhance local and national peace efforts by strengthening the capacities of community actors to mediate and resolve conflicts. Through training and peer learning, members facilitated inclusive dialogues that built social cohesion and community resilience.

Notable impacts include halting arbitrary land evictions through mediation between displaced households and institutions,<sup>11</sup> and resolving infrastructure-related disputes via multi-stakeholder dialogues among farmers, authorities, and service providers.<sup>12</sup> These locally led efforts fostered community-driven governance and sustainable conflict transformation.

### **Innovative Factors:**

- Local legitimacy: The insider mediators' deep understanding of local contexts and their established trust within communities enabled effective facilitation of dialogues.
- Capacity development: Training provided by the Berghof Foundation equipped mediators with skills in conflict analysis, negotiation, and dialogue facilitation
- Inclusive approach: Engaging diverse stakeholders, including marginalized groups, ensured that multiple perspectives were considered, leading to more comprehensive and accepted solutions. Additionally, the inclusion of civil society and government representatives in the network allowed for the connection of local initiatives with national processes, and vice-versa.

The Insider Mediators Network introduced a novel approach by institutionalizing local mediation capacities within communities. Unlike traditional top-down conflict resolution methods, this model empowered local actors to take the lead in addressing disputes. The integration of traditional practices with formal mediation techniques enhanced the effectiveness of local conflict transformation. Linking a diverse group of local actors (youth, traditional leaders, elders, etc.) facilitated a more holistic approach to conflict transformation within the Zimbabwean context, and peer-exchange unlocked access to joint learning spaces.

The use of small-scale grants to undertake peacebuilding and conflict transformation initiatives were central to the success of the programme. Moreover, the insider mediator's involvement with the network, supported cross-community and cross-regional initiatives through pooling of financial and technical resources.

**Option for Scalability:** The Zimbabwean experience shows strong potential for replication in other conflict-prone regions. Grounded in local ownership, cultural relevance, and inclusivity, the Insider Mediators model offers a scalable, adaptable framework for grassroots peacebuilding, particularly in resource-constrained environments.

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<sup>11</sup> <https://berghof-foundation.org/impact/insider-mediator-zimbabwe-eviction>

<sup>12</sup> <https://berghof-foundation.org/impact/insider-mediator-zimbabwe-water>

## Kenya: Supporting local peace committees in Baringo, Samburu and Laikipia

*Anglican Development Services–Central Rift (ADS-CR), Brot für die Welt, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe*

The three counties of Baringo, Samburu and Laikipia, have been affected by violent inter-communal conflicts exacerbated by scarcity of crucial resources resulting from periodic drought. Anglican Development Services–Central Rift (ADS-CR), together with Brot für die Welt and Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, both organizations that are part of Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung, collaborated in a triple nexus project (2021-2024) to address food security, water supply, and conflict.<sup>13</sup>

**Key Actors:** ADS-CR, 12 Community Disaster Risk Management Committees (CDRMCs), 6 Peace Committees (PCs), County Governments' security department, National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), Kenya Meteorological Department, Local churches and community elders, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe and Brot für die Welt.

**Objective and Impact:** Local communities manage the recurring inter-communal conflict, respond to disasters, and mitigate the effects of climate change. The project supported peace committees<sup>14</sup> by providing them with micro-grants and trainings, and by facilitating mutual learning and coordinated efforts with other groups working on early warning.

### **Innovative Factors:**

- Coordination with other NGOs and government agencies facilitated the dissemination of early warning information and ensured complementarity.
- Inclusive representation (women, youth, people with disabilities, elderly) in peace and disaster committees acting as early warning agents, which created an avenue to diffuse tensions before escalation.
- Integration of churches and WhatsApp groups to disseminate early warning messages and promote peace.
- Community ownership of peace interventions and scaling of trauma healing through local Training of Trainers (ToTs), offering culturally sensitive support.
- The use of PCs, CDRMCs, and a community-led response approach, supported by micro-grants (averaging Euro 590 per committee), enabled flexible, locally generated and driven responses that were well-coordinated with stakeholders.
- Joint efforts of peace committees, CDRMCs, and community-led actions significantly strengthened community resilience by fostering local ownership of conflict resolution, improving preparedness and response to crises, and enhancing social cohesion.

**Option for Scalability:** Yes, it's scalable in contexts with community structure.

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<sup>13</sup> The project was funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and own funds.

<sup>14</sup> Local Peace Committees (PCs) are local inclusive structure in conflict-affected areas, to encourage and facilitate joint and inclusive peacemaking and peacebuilding processes within its own context. Established under Kenya's National Cohesion and Integration Act (2008), the PCs are meant to promote joint peacemaking and peacebuilding in conflict-affected areas.

## Transitional Justice / Dealing with the Past

### Guatemala: Strengthening AMDE and remembrance work

*Civil Peace Service (CPS)/GIZ, Verdad y Vida, AMDE - Asociación Civil Memoria Dignificación y Esperanza*

Together with the NGO Verdad y Vida, the Civil Peace Service (CPS) in Guatemala supported the revival of AMDE - an organisation of survivors and relatives of victims of the internal armed conflict. Following a decline in political visibility, particularly among women and young people, AMDE was strengthened through workshops, remembrance work and creative approaches such as community theatre.

**Key actors:** AMDE, Verdad y Vida and local and national bodies such as COMUDE and COPADEH. The initiative promoted political participation, strengthened leadership skills and facilitated human rights work.

**Visible impact:** AMDE successfully introduced a proposal to create a memorial for the murdered priest Walter Voordeckers to the municipal council. In addition, AMDE rejoined the National Platform of Victims' Relatives and is now part of the Coordination Council - and thus actively involved in national reappraisal processes.

**Innovative Factors:** The use of theatre to make repressed stories visible and promote intergenerational dialogue was particularly innovative. Young participants reported how the project brought them into contact with the history of their families for the first time.

This example confirms the impact assumptions of the CPS: strengthening local organisations in the long term increases their ability to help shape the process of coming to terms with the past and preventing violence.

**Options for Scalability:** The approach can also be transferred to other post-war contexts.

## Guatemala: Digitalisation of Memory: The Archive of Grupo de Apoyo Mutuo

Civil Peace Service (CPS)/GIZ, Grupe de Apoyo Mutuo (GAM)

**Key Actors:** Between 1960 and 1996, the internal armed conflict in Guatemala resulted in almost 200,000 deaths and 45,000 disappearances. In the midst of this suffering, relatives of the disappeared founded the civil society organisation *Grupo de Apoyo Mutuo* (GAM). Since its foundation, GAM has documented more than 3,700 cases of enforced disappearances through witness statements, legal documents, letters, press articles and photos - a living memory of Guatemala. To preserve this unique archive and make it accessible, the Civil Peace Service (CPS) is supporting the complex digitisation process.

**Objective and Impact:** The archive not only serves to preserve history but is also an important tool for legal reappraisal and educational work. It is used by public prosecutors, human rights institutions, researchers and teachers - and makes the victims visible as individual humans. Key challenges include the preservation of old documents, political attempts at censorship, security risks associated with sensitive data and ethical aspects such as protection against re-traumatisation. A psychosocial approach and clear consent procedures are indispensable for this.

**Innovative Factors:** What is innovative is the approach of seeing archives as tools of resistance. In a political environment that promotes forgetting and prevents remembrance, GAM strengthens the right to remember and counteracts disinformation. The CPS sees this as a transferable model for other post-war societies in which justice and historical awareness are reliant on secure archives.

## Niger: Conflict Transformation: Dialogue, Rights and Infrastructure

*Civil Peace Service (CPS) and Frexus Programm/GIZ*

In the Dosso region of Southern Niger, there are regular violent clashes between arable farmers (Zarma) and pastoralists (Fulani) over scarce resources such as land and water. Climate change, a growing power imbalance, unclear rights and a lack of enforcement by state institutions are further aggravating the situation.

**Key Actors:** A cooperation project between the Civil Peace Service (CPS) and the Frexus programme combined social dialogue with technical measures. Following a detailed, participatory conflict analysis, the CPS initiated a dialogue process with all relevant stakeholder groups. At the same time, Frexus realised concrete measures to promote climate resilience.

**Objectives and Impact:** The central result was the collaborative construction of a well, the use of which was clearly regulated by farmers and pastoralists. The jointly developed agreements created trust and led to a sustainable balancing of interests.

**Innovative Factors:** The project proves that integrated approaches - which combine technical, social and political components - are particularly effective. The active role of local partners, such as the pastoralist organisation FNEN Daddo, was crucial for implementation.

**Options for Scalability:** The method is transferable provided time is set aside for conflict analyses and local structures are strengthened.

## Education

### Bolivia: Knowledge for Change - Dealing with environmental conflicts academically at Universidad Núr

*Civil Peace Service (CPS)/GIZ; Universidad Núr*

Bolivia is rich in natural resources - but this is precisely what leads to environmental and resource conflicts in many regions, particularly with and within indigenous communities. Climate change, large-scale deforestation and unclear land rights are exacerbating these tensions.

**Key Actors:** The CPS supports the development of study programmes through international and local experts, networking and professional support. This creates bridges between research, teaching and local conflict practice.

**Objective and Impact:** The private Universidad Núr in Santa Cruz de la Sierra - a partner of the CPS since 2018 - is meeting the above challenges with an innovative, academic approach: since 2020, it has been offering the postgraduate degree programme 'Transformación de Conflictos Socioambientales'. The aim is to train specialists who can analyse environmental conflicts in a well-founded manner and deal with them constructively - with a strong practical focus and the inclusion of indigenous voices.

One milestone was the forum 'Bolivia and its socio-ecological challenges' with 300 participants, followed by specialist publications and a participatory photography project with indigenous young people in the Chiquitano forest.

**Option for Scalability:** The close cooperation strengthens academic structures, increases the visibility of local perspectives and promotes peace education approaches that can also be transferred to other contexts.

## Ghana: Ghana Elections 2024 Voters' Compass

*Pen Plus Bytes (Ghana); Partner: VoteSwiper e.V. (Germany); ifa – Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen/ Förderprogramm zivik*

**Key Actors:** Voters, Political Parties, Media

**Objective and Impact:** The aim was to provide voters with reliable information on the 2024 elections, strengthen political education and contribute to greater transparency. The centrepiece was the digital 'Voters' Compass', which used the VoteSwiper tool to provide interactive guidance on party positions. Despite delays due to the late publication of election programmes, the platform was put online in time, ahead of the election. Over 9,000 users interacted with it, 92.9% found it helpful and 53.6% stated that it influenced their voting decision.

**Innovative Factors:** The success factors were the close media partnership, strategic integration of political parties and the user-friendly, inclusive design of the platform. The experience of VoteSwiper and Pen Plus Bytes, particularly in the area of digital governance, was crucial. Challenges included late party programmes, social media restrictions and initial reluctance from political actors, but these were largely overcome through active project management. The platform combined digital, interactive user guidance with in-depth content. Unlike traditional educational programmes, it offered a dynamic, non-partisan approach. In addition, radio broadcasts and political dialogues were held in local languages to reach broader target groups.

**Option for Scalability:** The 'Voters' Compass' contributed to greater political education and promoted issue-orientated voting. The media used the platform data for substantive analyses, which counteracted disinformation. The concept is transferable to other countries. Early involvement of parties, diverse outreach strategies and strong local partnerships are key success factors for scaling.

## Women

### Ukraine, Russia, Europe: Platform Women's Initiatives for Sustainable Peace, Dialogue and Democracy

*Partners from Ukraine, Russian Federation and Germany; Sponsor: Federal Foreign Office*

**Key Actors:** Representatives of non-governmental organisations, journalists, academics from think tanks and universities, human rights defenders, lawyers, psychologists, mediators, experts from the education sector, grassroots activists.

**Objectives:** More than 100 women from different parts of Ukraine, Russia and other European countries are working within the Women's Initiatives for Sustainable Peace, Dialogue and Democracy platform in the context of the war against Ukraine on specific local and cross-border projects that strengthen their ability to act and solve specific war-related problems. WIPD is a unique format for women to work together in a trustworthy and sustainable network across the frontline. It serves information exchange, dialogue and joint situation analysis. Its members develop specific local and cross-border projects on the consequences of war and the problems of various local, vulnerable population groups. The platform empowers women from all parts of Ukraine (including the occupied territories) and female Russian human rights activists as actors to broaden their political participation in the context of the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine.

#### **Impact:**

- Analysis of interests and needs in the context of current political developments; exchange of reliable information, discussion of critical issues as part of a moderated dialogue; development of actionable strategies, expertise and recommendations.
- Over 20 local projects were implemented between 2023 and 2025 in the frontline areas of Ukraine, in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, in the Russian Federation and across borders. New actors are always integrated into the work of the practice on a topic-specific basis. The women use jointly developed strategies to increase their room for manoeuvre in the context of war.
- Based on the results of the local projects, research and analyses are carried out on the specific situation in the occupied territories, the situation of Ukrainian civilian detainees on the territory of the Russian Federation, the legal and actual situation of Ukrainian children in the Russian Federation and the situation of civil society near the front line in the controlled, de-occupied and uncontrolled parts of Ukraine.
- The findings will be disseminated to influential experts and policy makers involved in the current political process to end the war - e.g. the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office Ukraine; the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Russian Federation.

The success of the platform and its continuation after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 is due to the many years of continuous trust and relationship building (2016 - 2025), the targeted fostering of ownership and the methodological approach (dialogue and diapraxis).

**Options for Scalability:** The work of the platform is very specifically focussed on the needs in the context of the war on Ukraine. However, general findings on the approach of empowerment in the context of war, on the methodology and structure can be fed into other processes as lessons learnt. Regular evaluations of the project form a good basis for this and can be made available.

## Nepal, Indonesia, Philippines, Burundi, Uganda, Colombia: From Female Combatants to Filmmakers

*Berghof Foundation, Demolition Films S.A.S., Makipura (Colombia), Foundation for Women Affected by Conflicts (FOWAC, Uganda); Sponsor: GIZ*

**Key Actors:** The project 'From Female Combatants to Filmmakers' was funded by the GIZ and implemented by the Berghof Foundation in cooperation with women-led ex-combatant organisations in Nepal, Indonesia, the Philippines, Burundi, Uganda, and Colombia.<sup>15</sup> The projects involved a diverse set of participants, such as women of various ethnic groups or former combatants with disabilities. Researchers were selected from within the groups and trained by local and international experts, enabling a trusting environment for storytelling.

**Objective and Impact:** The project aimed to create spaces for female ex-combatants to reflect on and share their wartime and post-war experiences, contributing to community healing and reconciliation. It sought to inform peace dialogue processes and advocate for the inclusion of women's perspectives in post-war reconstruction. The thematic focus of the projects, be it on political participation, trauma or intergenerational dialogue, was defined by the groups themselves. Key outputs included several short documentary films, storytelling booklets, reports and peer reviewed journals, reaching a wide range of audience and enhancing the inclusion of local knowledge in international policymaking.<sup>16</sup> These materials were used to stimulate intergenerational dialogue and highlight the agency and insights of women ex-combatants.<sup>17</sup> Furthermore, the material contributed to differentiating gender roles beyond stereotypical expectations.

**Innovative Factors:** The choice of participatory visual research and dialogue formats allowed women to speak from personal experience and shape their own priorities within the project. Filmmaking training and resources provided to participants enabled local ownership, longevity and accessibility. Project leaders adapted to internal divisions within communities by working with separate groups when necessary. Insecurity in some areas posed challenges to the visibility of some outputs due to the need to protect participants. The project's innovative approach lies in using a methodology rooted in participatory action research combined with visual storytelling. The choice of film as a medium enabled a collaborative and accessible way of conducting research. The women were able to articulate their own narratives and challenge dominant post-war gender roles. This way, the project managed to centre the voices of a group often excluded from official peace processes and reframed them not as victims, but as experts and agents of change.

**Option for Scalability:** A more complex and gender-responsive understanding of how women participate in conflict and how this shapes their experiences after war can enable more effective and sustainable solutions for peace. The project's model is adaptable to other post-conflict settings in which women ex-combatants face exclusion. Its flexibility and locally driven design make it suitable for achieving a more granular understanding of conflict parties, including how gender dynamics and community divisions shape post-war realities.

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<sup>15</sup> <https://berghof-foundation.org/work/projects/from-female-combatants-to-filmmakers-expanding-women-agency-in-war-and-peace>

<sup>16</sup> <https://berghof-foundation.org/news/i-have-to-speak-release>

<sup>17</sup> <https://berghof-foundation.org/news/peace-and-no-end-to-discrimination>

## Tunisia: Feminist Leaders Network & Feminist School for Democratic Stabilisation in Kairouan

*Collective Leadership Institute gGmbH (CLI), Tunisia; ifa - Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen Förderprogramm zivik*

### Key Actors

- Members of the Feminist Leaders Action Group
- Representatives of the Public Administration of Kairouans (social, cultural and family issues)
- Citizens and Civil Society Organisations interested in gender equality

**Objective and Impact:** The aim is to bring together young feminist activists from two youth organisations in a local action and support network. Through the 'Feminist School', they exchange views on gender-specific discrimination and develop cooperation structures with state actors. The aim is to strengthen young people's confidence in political processes and counteract democratic resignation. Initial results can be seen in the active participation of all stakeholders and the establishment of two local initiatives: a body positivity campaign in schools and an awareness day on the law against violence against women ('Law58 Initiative').

**Innovative Factors:** The project is still in the implementation phase. Initial successes can be seen in the high level of motivation of all those involved and the plans that have been developed for its continuation. The quality of the curriculum for the Feminist School and the response to its launch are considered key indicators. The intergenerational co-design with local authorities also promotes sustainability. The project pursues three parallel processes: the development of a feminist action network, the development of a local feminist curriculum and the initiation of specific gender-related projects in cooperation with government agencies. It offers young women spaces for co-determination and establishes a sustainable structure for education, action and support - beyond the duration of the project.

**Option for Scalability:** By using CLI methodologies (Dialogic Change Model and Collective Leadership Compass), complex change processes can be strategically managed. These approaches promote commitment and responsibility in partnership and are therefore transferable to other contexts and regions.

## Youth

### Germany: Democracy Talks

*ikm – Institut für konstruktive Konfliktaustragung und Mediation; Cooperation Partners: Viel Theater Um Uns, Netzwerk Muslimischer Akademiker, Selbstsichersein 2.0, CVJM an der Alster; Sponsors: Bundesprogramm „Demokratie leben!, BMFSFJ, Bezirk Hamburg-Mitte*

**Objective and Impact:** “Democracy Talks” is a free series of events organized and moderated entirely by young people. The series offers young people an opportunity to make their voices heard. It was created in 2020 during the COVID pandemic as a measure to create spaces for exchange and encounters despite the infection protection measures. Around 3-4 talks with experts on various topics relating to anti-black racism, anti-Muslim racism, anti-Semitism and intersectionality take place each year. Topics range from diversity in the media and commemorative culture to fatphobia and women's rights movements in Iran. Sometimes online, sometimes in person in Hamburg, sometimes as a reading, sometimes as a talk format, sometimes as a performance action, but always free of charge. The project is coordinated by a young person from the Mümmelmannsberg Youth Forum. The individual events are moderated by a pool of young adult moderators from three participating youth forums. In recent years, the project has created a real opportunity for young people to participate in issues that reflect the reality of their lives, while at the same time being confronted with other realities and opinions and thus practising tolerance of ambiguity.

One concrete example is the Democracy Talk in February 2025: as part of the ‘Zeichen setzen - wählen gehen’ campaign, the ikm organised a Democracy Talk on the topic of ‘Is voting haram?’ in cooperation with *Zeichensetzen Wilhelmsburg*, the *Wilhelmsburg Youth Forum*, *Viel Theater um uns*, the *Netzwerk Muslimischer Akademiker* and the *Bürgerhaus Wilhelmsburg*. The topic was suggested by young people from the *Wilhelmsburg Youth Forum*. They explained that there are always uncertainties about whether voting is permissible or forbidden in Islam. In some cases, there are also deliberate attempts to discourage young Muslims from voting. The young people suggested the speaker and helped to organise the event. It took place on 10 February 2025 with the Islamic scholar Dr Ali Özgür Özil. He spoke about the religious and ethical aspects of voting and then moderated a discussion in which young people were able to contribute their concerns and questions. There was also a constructive exchange about how to respond to the attempt to label voting as forbidden in Islam. Around 40 people took part, mainly young Muslim people from Wilhelmsburg, but also from Mümmelmannsberg, as well as around 10 social workers.

**Innovative Factors:** At the time it was created, the implementation of interactive talk events in the digital space was still highly innovative and ensured that young people had a space to communicate their ideas during the COVID crisis. The key to success is the genuine participation of young people: A young person from Mümmelmannsberg has taken over the project management. The topics and speakers are chosen by young people from the youth forums in Wilhelmsburg, St.Georg-Hamm-Borgfelde and Mümmelmannsberg, or by the cooperation partners. The project management organises the events. The events are moderated by young moderators from the three youth forums. The budget (€2000 per talk) is also administered by the project management. The project management is only supported by employees of the project sponsor in the organisation of project funding, applications and reports.

**Option for Scalability:** Yes, definitely. It requires a stable basis of youth work and trusting relationships between the organiser and the young people carrying out the project and vice versa.

## Germany: Youth Forums in St. Georg-Hamm-Borgfelde, Mümmelmannsberg and Wilhelmsburg

*Ikm – Institut für konstruktive Konfliktaustragung und Mediation; Sponsors: Bundesprogramm „Demokratie leben!, BMFSFJ, Bezirk Hamburg-Mitte*

**Objective and Impact:** Supporting local young people, promoting participation, enabling empowerment. In St. Georg-Hamm-Borgfelde, three young moderators and about 15 young people are working under the motto 'It's up to your generation' to show that diversity is strength, and joint action across backgrounds and religions is possible. The moderation team promotes the potential of all young people and is open to new ideas. In Wilhelmsburg, the 'Peer Leader Forum' offers young people a platform for networking, exchanging ideas and realising their own ideas. Here they discuss questions such as: What does our neighbourhood need? What is going well? What can we do ourselves? In this way, young people experience genuine participation and actively help to shape Wilhelmsburg. In Mümmelmannsberg, the youth forum of 'Mümmel leben!' gives young people a voice. They contribute their ideas for better community life - be it through new projects or the further development of existing programmes.

### Example projects:

- Integration conference re-imagined as 'steppingstone' conference
- Construction of an exercise facility in Mümmel
- Annual intercultural breaking of the fast
- Readings, panel discussions, flea markets, sports and leisure activities
- Moderation of committee meetings
- Excursions and trips

**Innovative Factors:** Each youth forum has an annual budget of €10,000. Young people who take on responsibility (moderation, project management) receive lump-sum allowances for their engagement. They decide independently on material costs, projects or further training - accompanied by the Democracy Centre (Fachstelle Demokratie). This combination of genuine responsibility and professional support is a key success factor.

**Option for Scalability:** Yes - mandatory nationwide as part of every 'Partnership for Democracy'. Implementation is flexible and can be adapted to local needs.

## Germany: Trainings and Workshops in School Classes

*ikm – Institut für konstruktive Konfliktstragung und Mediation; partially sponsored by: „Gemeinsam Wachsen“ by Zeit Stiftung Bucerius*

**Objective and Impact:** Young people with different backgrounds, biographies and needs come together in schools. This diversity harbours opportunities but can also lead to tensions. Our training programmes support schools in promoting respectful coexistence and strengthening social and civic skills. Our customised workshops and training sessions last 1-3 mornings and offer space for self-awareness, reflection and community building. Playful methods and targeted exercises strengthen cohesion and diversity sensitivity in the classroom, promote mindful interaction, teach constructive conflict resolution strategies and train civil courage. Acute conflicts are dealt with using mediation methods. In the meantime, teachers can observe the classroom dynamics without having to intervene themselves - this promotes long-term understanding and the ability to act.

**Innovative Factors:** The training formats are flexible and are developed according to demand - even short-term adjustments are possible. Our diverse pool of trainers brings expertise and personal perspectives from different walks of life to the table. All instructors are trained in group leadership, conflict management and diversity sensitivity. New instructors undergo an intensive training and shadowing phase before leading training sessions independently.

**Option for Scalability:** The concept is scalable: Content can be adapted to different social contexts. The thematic focuses such as conflict, discrimination or group dynamics are relevant to many places.

## Germany: Realities of Racism (Lebensrealität Rassismus)

*ikm – Institut für konstruktive Konfliktartragung und Mediation; partially sponsored by: Bundesprogramm „Demokratie leben!“, Bezirk Hamburg-Mitte, „Gemeinsam Wachsen“ der Zeit Stiftung Bucerius*

**Objective and Impact:** The aim of the workshop is to raise awareness and develop action strategies for affected and non-affected people. We do this by:

- Sensitising people to the realities of life with racism with the help of methods and inputs
- Familiarising participants with the terms 'discrimination' and 'racism'
- Giving an insight into the realities of life with racism
- Developing options for joint action and offering practical advice

The workshop is designed for school classes from year 9 and youth groups of a similar age.

**Innovative Factors:** The workshop 'Realities of Racism' is a follow-up project to the short film 'Stell' dich nicht an, stell' uns ein!' which exposed racist hiring practices.<sup>18</sup> The film was produced by young people and young adults and is the result of the Hamburg-Mitte 2020 democracy conference. It looks at the reality of racism in the context of education and work. Based on this film, education counselors Alissa Ouro-Gbele and Wondibel Opoku have designed a workshop for school classes and youth groups.

**Option for Scalability:** The approach behind the project is scalable: to give Bi\_POC<sup>19</sup> young people the space and resources to work on their own topics, to deal with them creatively and to develop their own workshop format.

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<sup>18</sup> Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/656082037?share=copy>

<sup>19</sup> Black, indigenous People and People of Colour

## Armenia, Azerbaijan and Germany: Empowering young people for peace building

OWEN - Mobile Akademie für Geschlechterdemokratie und Friedensförderung e.V., Vanadzor, Armenia; Sponsors: ; ifa - Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen/Förderprogramm zivik (2020-2024) and the German Federal Foreign Office (Programme ÖPR on Eastern Partnerships and Russia) 2024-2025

**Objective:** Young media makers, education activists and other civil society representatives from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Germany scrutinise conflict-promoting media narratives in their respective societies and introduce peace-promoting perspectives into media discourses and their own educational work.

Following the violent escalation of the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh in 2020, OWEN is working with partners from Armenia and Azerbaijan to strengthen young actors in peace education. The approach is a reflection and localisation of peacebuilding in the current context. Key actors deal with aspects of human security, the needs of displaced persons, the increasing polarisation of societies and populist media influences on conflict dynamics. As part of the 'Conflict Narratives: Collect - Discuss - Transform' project, young people are trained to critically analyse and deconstruct populist and propagandistic narratives. They develop their own strategies for utilising and disseminating peace-promoting narratives. Internationally, a cross-border dialogue takes place on the findings from the local processes.

### Impact:

- Young people are strengthened through the promotion of leadership skills, civic engagement and their ability to actively influence media and social dynamics
- Young people have expanded their critical analysis and critical thinking skills
- The toolbox created in the project for analysing narratives was applied in the specific country contexts
- A cross-border dialogue on the findings from the local processes enables trust-building between democracy-oriented actors from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Germany

**Option for Scalability:** The context-specific analysis tool 'Conflict Narratives - Tool Box for Narrative Analysis' developed in the project can be helpful for other contexts, especially in the context of hybrid warfare by Russia. In addition, the findings on the possibilities of local peacebuilding against the backdrop of changing global and regional conflict dynamics can be of great interest for further efforts in the field of civil conflict transformation.

## Togo: Interreligious Dialogue Training for Youth: A Pathway to Social Cohesion

WANEP-Togo; GIGA, Germany

How can we maintain peace when it comes under pressure? In light of the ongoing attacks of Islamist armed actors in the north of Togo, WANEP-Togo designed and implemented an interreligious dialogue training for youth (18-35 years old) of the three main religions in Togo, Christianity, Islam and African Traditional Religions. WANEP-Togo is the Togolese branch of the West African Network for Peacebuilding, a civil society organization aiming to promote peace and strengthen social cohesion. Great emphasis lies on the contribution of women and young people.

**Objective and Impact:** In early 2025, WANEP-Togo, partnering with the German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), organized two-day workshops in ten localities across Togo. The initiative “Strengthening the Capacities of Youth from Different Religious Denominations on Interreligious Dialogue and Social Cohesion” trained 313 young people with the goal of fostering youth’ (willingness for) contact with religious others and activate youth as promoters of interreligious peace in their communities, thereby contributing to maintaining interreligious peace.

**Innovative Factors:** Using an interactive participatory training approach, participants deepened their understanding of different religions, overcame prejudices, and developed strategies to promote interreligious peace. Preliminary analysis of data of the GIGA’s impact evaluation and qualitative insights point to positive impacts of the training. Participants advocated for interreligious peace after the training through community outreach and school activities, for instance, in Tchamba, Tabligbo, Notsè, Badou, and Niamtougou. The first analysis of survey data shows increased acknowledgement of shared religious values, higher trust and stronger pro-peace activism norms. The project also intensified collaboration between WANEP-Togo, local authorities, and youth, thereby, expanding the reach of their efforts for peace. Key success factors were qualified local facilitators to guide discussions and the support from local authorities. Challenges included the creation of lasting connections between participants, despite help through social media, and the inclusion of diverse youth, particularly women, younger cohorts and people with disabilities.

In Togo, interfaith dialogue initiatives traditionally focus on religious leaders, leaving youth largely excluded. This initiative uniquely engaged young people, recognizing them as both vulnerable to radicalization and vital multipliers of interreligious peace, particularly among peers and online. By connecting across religious divides, participants deepened their understanding of different faiths and built networks to promote cultural exchange and tolerance.

**Option for Scalability:** Considering security measures of local authorities, the initiative is scalable and applicable to other more conflict-affected settings like northern Togo, excluded from this round of implementation due to associated research activities. Considering cross-cutting cost factors, this training can be estimated at Euros 95 per individual. The project demonstrated its impact on contact willingness and trust across religious groups, transforming relationships marked by intolerance into peaceful ones. In conflict-affected areas where uncertainty and misinformation (often spread via social media) fuel mistrust and violence, such initiatives can counter these dynamics.

## Annex 1: Further project briefs

### Philippines: Localised Approaches in the Civil Peace Service (CPS)/GIZ

*Civil Peace Service (CPS)/GIZ Agency: Pro Peace (formerly forumZFD)*

#### **Manghuhusoy Project, Caraga**

ProPeace's localised peacebuilding project, the Manghuhusoy Project fuses traditional mediation (husay) with NVCT (nonviolent conflict transformation) conflict analysis. It trains youth as documenters, elevates women mediators, empowers and accompanies traditional leaders as they practice their traditional conflict resolution practices. Close partnerships, space and time for reflection, and peer coaching has built trust over time. Providing traditional leaders with NVCT training which has been co-designed with the leaders, to ensure that the curriculum remains rooted and relevant to their cultural experiences and needs, has resulted in a deeper and more useful understanding of the complex conflicts which affect the lives of indigenous people in Agusan Del Sur. Additionally, ensuring the inclusion of women during activities has also resulted in two women being chosen to represent their communities as an Indigenous People Mandatory Representative which sits within the local legislative branch of government. Local ownership has increased the capacities to address latent conflicts.

#### **Nonviolent Conflict Transformation, Davao**

Our Nonviolent Conflict Transformation (NVCT) project in the Davao region is grounded in a nuanced understanding of the context it is working in throughout its planning, monitoring, and evaluation stages. Partner engagement is considered integral to these processes. Prior to implementation, we conduct baseline studies, facilitate partner-led conflict analyses, and validate findings with communities to assess needs and dynamics. These inform the co-designing of activities with our partners, to ensure that our collaborative efforts are relevant, culturally appropriate, and conflict sensitive. Our engagement uses language and formats accessible to them. Our approach, guided by the Do no Harm principle, seeks not to replace – but rather complement – traditional conflict resolution practices in Islamized Indigenous Peoples communities in the region.

## Remembrance Work in the CPS/GIZ

*Civil Peace Service (CPS)/GIZ Agencies: AGIAMONDO, Brot für die Welt, GIZ, KURVE Wustrow, forumZFD (now Pro Peace), Weltfriedensdienst; PBI*

What does dealing with the past have to do with peace?

Interpersonal and social relationships in (post-)conflict situations are often characterised by mistrust and fear. A differentiated and sensitive examination of the violent past is a prerequisite for trust and political structures to grow again. It enables a society to learn from the past and jointly negotiate a new, future-orientated social contract. Such processes of change are complex. In addition to professional expertise, they require a great deal of time.

Priorities of the Civil Peace Service

The CPS works with around 130 partner organisations worldwide in the field of dealing with the past. The variety of projects is enormous. It depends on the respective context and the needs derived from it. Nevertheless, dealing with the past in the CPS can be divided into four closely interlinked fields of work.

**Establishment of the truth and documentation:** Investigating the truth and documenting war crimes and human rights violations are important elements of dealing with the past. The CPS partner organisations and experts support affected people in coming to terms with what they have experienced, documenting it and making it visible to other parts of society. In addition to establishing the truth, this also involves the official recognition of what has happened, both on an individual and societal level, e.g. through legal and societal processes of coming to terms with the past. The forms of documentation vary greatly from project to project. These include, for example, official witness statements, reports, creative formats such as digital 'storytelling', theatre work or exhibitions in which those affected tell their stories. In Burundi, Nepal and Colombia, survivors and relatives of victims of violence and human rights violations are supported in giving testimonies to truth commissions and thus making an important contribution to coming to terms with the past.

**Reconciliation processes:** In many (post-) conflict regions, there are few spaces where people from (formerly) hostile population groups can come into contact with each other. To restore trust between different conflict parties, CPS partner organisations and experts promote reconciliation processes at all levels of society. In numerous projects, they create spaces for encounters in order to reflect on the past and look to the future together. An important means of reconciliation is, for example, local dialogue formats in which members of different conflict parties are encouraged and supported in sharing their personal stories and listening to those of their counterparts.

**Remembrance work:** The CPS is committed to an inclusive and conflict-sensitive culture of remembrance. To this end, exhibitions, museums, film projects, interactive apps and publications are developed, and conferences and discussion events are organised. The aim is to engage in a constructive dialogue about the past and the common future. Working with educational institutions is an important part of this. Together with teachers, the partner organisations and the CPS develop new teaching modules, curricula, materials and projects that enable learners to engage constructively with the past.

**Networks and support for civil society:** The CPS supports the establishment of networks between local organisations that are active in the field of dealing with the past. The networks allow them to exchange ideas, learn from each other and organise joint projects and campaigns. The results of years of networking are particularly evident in the Western Balkans region. Here, the CPS works across national borders to network actors from civil society, academia, journalism and the arts. In this way, the CPS and its partner organisations are sending a clear signal against the ongoing social

division in the region and promoting an inclusive approach to dealing with the past that includes as many perspectives as possible. New collaborations and initiatives are constantly emerging through networking. The online platform [dwp-balkan.org](http://dwp-balkan.org) provides an overview of the participating organisations, news and publications.

## Peace Education in the CPS/GIZ

*Civil Peace Service (CPS)/GIZ Agencies: AGIAMONDO, Brot für die Welt, Eirene, GIZ, KURVE Wustrow, forumZFD (now Pro Peace), PBI, Weltfriedensdienst*

What does peace education have to do with peace?

Educational institutions are important places in a society where society's approach to conflict is evident - and where it is reproduced. For many children and young people growing up in (post-) conflict regions, violence and stories about the violent past are part of everyday life. Textbooks and curricula often reinforce existing images of the enemy, fuel prejudices and offer one-sided perspectives on what happened. Conflicts still have an impact on the education system in many places today. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, for example, pupils are still being taught separately according to ethnic origin decades after the end of the war. As a result, the prejudices and mistrust of the 'others' created by the violent conflict are passed on to the next generation. Peace education has a preventative effect and aims to make educational institutions a place of reflection and reconciliation and to support children and young people both inside and outside of formal educational institutions. They learn to understand different perspectives, resolve conflicts without violence and take their future into their own hands.

Priorities of the Civil Peace Service

In the field of peace education, CPS works in many countries with formal educational institutions such as schools, universities and ministries of education. In 2019 alone, the CPS and its partner organisations worked with more than 900 educational institutions worldwide and trained over 10,000 teachers in peace education methods. There are also a large number of projects in the informal education sector. Well over one million children, young people and adults benefit from peace education programmes every year.

**Formal education:** In the formal education system, CPS partner organisations work together with 'pilot schools' in many places, where committed teachers are trained in peace education methods. The teachers and school administrators jointly consider how peace education can be introduced into everyday school life and develop teaching materials and manuals adapted to the context. Implementation ranges from the development and introduction of individual modules to the integration of peace education content into the entire curriculum. In North Macedonia, the CPS partner organisation LOJA has succeeded in anchoring peace education content in teacher training throughout the country. Another focus is on the introduction of school mediation and the teaching of practical methods of conflict resolution, for example in peace clubs in the DR Congo. In the peace clubs, young people reflect on their own attitudes to violence, break down prejudices and learn methods of non-violent conflict management. The members of the peace clubs actively utilise their skills in their schools, communities and families, thereby supporting local conflict resolution.

**Informal education:** It is not always possible to work within the formal education system. In authoritarian or fragile states, cooperation between state educational institutions and civil society is often challenging. In addition, not all people have access to the formal education system, e.g. street children, refugees, minorities or adults. In order to reach these groups, partner organisations and CPS experts develop extracurricular projects, work with youth facilities, in adult education and set up peace clubs outside the formal education system, e.g. in refugee camps. In these projects, children, teenagers and young adults from different ethnic, social or cultural groups come into contact with each other, analyse conflicts in their environment together and work towards non-violent conflict resolution in a variety of ways. Through their involvement, young people draw attention to grievances and find creative ways to deal with social conflicts and steer their future in new and non-violent directions. In Guinea-Bissau and Burundi, the CPS works with party youth organisations that often

contributed to the escalation of violence during election campaigns. Their members were trained in conflict management methods and developed codes of conduct for non-violence for their parties. Today, they are committed to the prevention of violence and de-escalation in election campaigns.

## Psychosocial Support in the CPS/GIZ

Civil Peace Service (CPS)/GIZ Agencies: AGIAMONDO, Brot für die Welt, GIZ, forumZFD (now Pro Peace), KURVE Wustrow, Weltfriedensdienst; PBI

What does psychosocial support have to do with peace?

People living in conflict zones are regularly confronted with violence. These experiences mean deep cuts and ruptures in their lives. They not only leave their mark on the outside, but also have long-term psychological consequences, such as trauma. Such burdens make everyday life, interpersonal relationships and participation in social life more difficult for the people affected. Psychosocial support (PSB) stands for professional support and counselling for people who have experienced violence. Despite or precisely because of their experiences, they often work together with others for peace, coming to terms with the past, justice and reconciliation in their country. PSB supports people in talking about their experience of violence, learning to deal with what they have experienced, exchanging ideas with other victims and actively helping to shape social change and reappraisal processes.

Priorities of the Civil Peace Service

The CPS works with around 75 partner organisations worldwide on the topic of psychosocial support. In order to expand existing capacities in this area, over 450 people and 50 institutions received training or further training in psychosocial support in 2019 alone. As a result, several thousand people can be reached each year in the various projects. The work of the CPS in the field of psychosocial counselling focuses on the following areas of activities:

**Psychosocial support for people who have experienced violence:** The CPS and its partner organisations support survivors of violence worldwide in dealing with their experiences. This includes, for example, survivors of war crimes, relatives of victims, former combatants, survivors of sexualised and gender-based violence as well as persecuted human rights defenders. The services range from individual support, telephone hotlines and online services to self-help groups. In Guatemala, CPS partner organisations support indigenous women. Many of the women have experienced sexualised violence and massive human rights violations. They are supported in their process of dealing with what they have experienced, claiming their rights and taking an active role in dealing with local conflicts. Psychosocial support processes are often linked to the documentation of human rights violations and war crimes, legal counselling for victims and legal processes for dealing with the past.

**Training and further education in the areas of psychosocial support, mental health and trauma work:** In many countries and regions, there is a lack of trained personnel and structures in which psychosocial support can take place. One focus of the CPS is therefore training and further education. In customised training courses, local helpers acquire the knowledge and skills they need to support their fellow human beings. In addition, existing institutions are supported in launching new psychosocial counselling services.

**Educational work and awareness-raising:** Another area of work of the CPS is education and awareness-raising in the areas of mental health, dealing with experiences of violence and trauma. Partner organisations and CPS experts talk to local people and create media and social media campaigns that address the consequences of violence, symptoms of trauma and other mental illnesses. The aim is to prevent the stigmatisation of those affected, to make topics discussable and to draw attention to offers of help. During the lockdowns in connection with the covid pandemic in Nepal, CPS partner organisations provided information via radio, television and social media about the possible psychological consequences of the exceptional situation experienced. Despite the physical distance, affected people were offered ad hoc psychosocial support in webinars and via telephone hotlines.

**Psychosocial support and self-care for employees of partner organisations and the CPS:** The employees of the CPS and partner organisations deal with the consequences of violence on a daily basis and work directly with those affected. They have often experienced violence themselves. Many CPS organisations therefore provide their staff and partner organisations with training and offers for self-care and psychosocial support. This helps them to deal with what they have experienced, prevent (secondary) traumatisation and promote a sensitive approach to trauma.

## Further Civil Peace Service (CPS)/GIZ project examples<sup>20</sup>

### Bolivia – Prevent, process

SEPAMOS works in Bolivia with over 1,000 pupils, parents and teachers on violence prevention. From life hacks to training in conflict resolution. Everyone learns to assert their right to freedom from violence. CPS's partner organisation also supports children and young people affected by violence in coming to terms with it. The employees offer psychosocial support and therapy and accompany them to court to bring their suffering to justice. SEPAMOS thus fills a gap because state provision is inadequate.

### Bosnia and Herzegovina – A handshake instead of a bazooka

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the CPS partner Centre for Nonviolent Action (CAN) is working to bring people from different population groups together, for example by visiting memorial sites and former torture prisons. There were five such encounters in 2024 alone. Thanks to CNA, former combatants and survivors are also reaching out to each other, sending a strong signal of reconciliation. In dialogue with young people, they describe their war experiences and promote understanding so that the horrors of the past are never repeated.

### DR Congo – Empowerment against violence

The CPS partner organisation YWCA-DRC was founded in 2001 by eight women to improve the living conditions of women and girls in the DR Congo. Today, the Young Women's Christian Association DR Congo has 104 members who are active throughout the country. They offer girls and women further training, psychosocial and legal advice as well as trauma therapy, e.g. with music and theatre work. They also regularly provide information at schools and on the radio about gender-based violence and ways of countering it.

### Kenya – Protecting the water of life

The Ewaso-Ng'iro River is a source of livelihood for over four million people. But the situation is getting tougher, and conflicts are increasing. In Kenya, the consequences of climate change, a growing population, the intensification of agriculture, infrastructure projects and environmental pollution are converging. The CPS partner organisations Impact and RPPL bring together local communities and authorities to work towards sustainable use and peaceful coexistence through dialogue. The annual camel caravan brings the issue to the public's attention

### Colombia – Class-Action Lawsuits for Justice

The CPS partners CAJAR and Ruta Pacífca are working in Colombia to come to terms with the country's violent past. For example, they help victims to take collective actions to court. This increases the prospect of success and justice. The partners primarily support women who have suffered violence and relatives of murdered young adults. The military has killed young people in return for a bonus on the pretext that they were members of an armed group. The partners have succeeded in having this crime officially recognised by the 'Special Court for Peace'.

### Liberia and Sierra Leone – Conflict management with ministerial dignity

In Liberia and Sierra Leone, the CPS partners are working to resolve land and resource conflicts without resorting to violence. They support local communities and government agencies in finding constructive solutions to specific conflicts. In Ceeckloh, for example, a contract was concluded with the mining company STT in this way. It regulates how the population is compensated for the damage

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<sup>20</sup> An extensive list can be found at: [www.ziviler-friedensdienst.org/projekte](http://www.ziviler-friedensdienst.org/projekte)

caused by the mine. The partners have also initiated a number of reforms at a political level. In Sierra Leone, a Ministry of Environment and Climate Change has even been established.

### **Middle East – Standing together against violence**

URI MENA is a regional network that motivates people in 14 countries in the Middle East and North Africa to bridge religious and cultural differences and work together for the benefit of their communities. The network consists of around 90 independent member groups that are active in areas such as youth development, conflict transformation, reconciliation and environmental sustainability. The members organise regional conferences and training workshops, carry out voluntary community work and organise intercultural exchanges.

### **Southeast Asia – Studying is key**

The Mindanao archipelago in the south of the Philippines has long been characterised by poverty and violence. Although a peace treaty was agreed in 2014, the violence continues. In an attempt to provide a resolution, the Institute for Peace and Development in Mindanao and the CPS have developed an online master's degree programme in Peace and Conflict Studies, which was offered for the first time in 2023. The programme combines academic knowledge with tried-and-tested methods of civil conflict transformation. The CPS is working with universities in Cambodia and Timor-Leste in the same way.

### **Timor-Leste – Strength to break through violence**

CPS partner Casa de Produção Audiovisual (CPA) produces audiovisual media to promote the peace process in Timor-Leste. Independent only since 2002, the country can look back on a long, violent past. CPA provides important impetus for coming to terms with this past. Their film 'Jakarta 2', for example, is an award-winning examination of the occupation by Indonesia. There is no question that the media professionals also use social media for their peace mission. Here they pick up on the past but also issues of the present. With the FFJT youth film festival, they encourage young people to pick up a camera themselves.

## Annex 2: Contributing organisations

*in alphabetical order*

Adelphi

AGIAMONDO

Anglican Development Services–Central Rift (ADS-CR), Kenya

Asociación Civil Memoria Dignificación y Esperanza (AMDE), Guatemala

Berghof Foundation

Brot für die Welt

CAJAR, Colombia

Casa de Produção Audiovisual (CPA), Timor-Leste

Centre for Nonviolent Action (CAN), Bosnia and Herzegovina

Civil Peace Service (CPS)

Collective Leadership Institute gGmbH (CLI), Tunisia

CVJM an der Alster

Demolition Films S.A.S.

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (DKH)

Duayjai Association for Humanitarian Affairs, Thailand

Eirene

Fighters for Peace (FFP), Lebanon

Foundation for Women Affected by Conflicts (FOWAC), Uganda

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)

German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA)

Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Grupe de Apoyo Mutuo (GAM), Guatemala

ifa – Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen/Förderprogramm zivik

ikm – Institut für konstruktive Konfliktaustragung und Mediation e.V.

IMPACT, Keyna

Insider Peacebuilders Network, Somalia

Institute for Peace and Development, Philippines

Institute for Peace, Leadership and Governance (IPLG), Africa University, Zimbabwe

KURVE Wustrow

LABAN – Live Lactic Culture, Lebanon

Les Résidences Panafricaines d'Ecriture, de Création et de Recherche Théâtrales (Les Récréâtrales), Burkina Faso

Makipura, Colombia

Netzwerk Muslimischer Akademiker

Peace Brigades International (PBI)

Peace Dialogue, Armenia

Pen Plus Bytes, Ghana

Platform Women's Initiatives for Sustainable Peace, Dialogue and Democracy (WIPD)  
Plattform Zivile Konfliktbearbeitung  
Political Development Forum (PDF), Yemen  
ProPeace (until March 2025 forumZFD)  
RECONCILE International, South Sudan  
Regional Pastoralist Peace Link (RPPL), Kenya  
Ruta Pacífca, Colombia  
Selbstsichersein 2.0  
SEPAMOS, Bolivia  
Transferzentrum Frieden Augsburg  
United Religions Initiative (URI) MENA  
Universidad Núr, Bolivia  
Verdad y Vida, Guatemala  
Viel Theater Um Uns  
VoteSwiper e.V.  
WANEP-Togo  
Weltfriedensdienst  
Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA-DRC), DR Congo  
Youth Awake, Togo