



conciliation
resources

annual review 2005

conciliation resources

Conciliation Resources works to prevent violence, promote justice and transform conflict into opportunities for development.

Our goals are to:

- **support people** working at local, national and international levels to develop effective solutions to social, economic and political problems related to violent conflicts
- **provide opportunities** for inclusive dialogue and improved relationships within communities and across conflict divides at all social and political levels
- **influence governments** and other decision makers to employ conflict transformation policies that promote alternatives to violence
- **improve peacemaking practice** and policies by promoting learning from peace processes around the world
- **challenge stereotypes** and increase public awareness of human rights, conflict and peace issues in divided societies

Who we are

Conciliation Resources (CR) is an international non-governmental organization registered in the UK as a charity (1055436). We work mainly in the Caucasus, Uganda and West Africa in partnership with local and international civil society organizations and governments. We also publish *Accord: an international review of peace initiatives* and are involved in projects in Colombia, Fiji and the Philippines. Our funding is through grants from governments, independent trusts and foundations.

CONTENTS

Introduction	3	Fiji and other work	15
Highlights from 2005: meeting our goals	4	West Africa	16
Accord programme	6	Organizational development and plans	19
The Caucasus	9	Summarized accounts	20
Uganda	12	CR board, staff and associates	23

Executive Director's Introduction



Those of you living or working in a conflict-affected society will know that the struggle for peace and human rights is, more often than not, led by dedicated civil society groups and individuals. These roles and responsibilities belong to governments and people alike. The transformation of conflict is about social change as well as reforming governance.

Though much of this work happens below the international media's radar, our Accord publication series has shown that national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have played a vital role in every peace process around the world.

From the expression of people power in Nepal to new inclusive development models in Colombia – citizens and parliamentarians are in the frontlines of conflict resolution and state-building processes.

Conciliation Resources (CR) is part of this important global trend of NGOs playing roles in conflict and peace processes never before envisaged for non-state actors. In Sierra Leone, our work with local mediators is now setting an example throughout the region on how community groups can take the lead to promote justice, deal with the past and pursue reconciliation in their own societies.

Our Accord team's work on the issue of engaging with armed groups in peace processes took us from Capitol Hill to Colombia and the Philippines in 2005, and continues to influence this controversial debate.

If you live in the Russian-speaking world you may have heard a broadcast of the 'radio diaries' project, where ordinary people talk about the challenges they face after war. This initiative of our Caucasus team is one example of working with the media to challenge stereotypes in divided societies.

In northern Uganda we have highlighted how effective peacebuilding work can be and helped influence policymakers on the importance of supporting non-military options.

CR could not take political risks or do such work without the support of our donors and the trust and cooperation of governments and our civil society partners.

We hope you will continue to join us in making a difference to the lives of people affected by armed conflict, helping both states and societies build peace.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Carl'.

Andy Carl

June 2006

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2005

Meeting our goals:



Supporting people working at local, national and international levels to develop effective solutions to social, economic and political problems related to violent conflicts.

- Work continued in Georgia and Abkhazia with teachers and young people to encourage debate and action on social and political issues. Youth groups met regularly, with our support, to explore their role in transforming the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict and building understanding between the two communities.
- Joint research with Quaker Peace & Social Witness on the motivation and decision-making process of middle-ranking commanders leaving the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and returning to a civilian life has provided a powerful new tool for local peacebuilding activists and helped us understand how effective the return process has been.



Providing opportunities for inclusive dialogue and improved relationships within communities and across conflict divides at all social and political levels.

- Ker Kwaro Acholi re-established relationships between traditional leaders and clan elders of northern Uganda and south Sudan through exchange visits and joint peacebuilding workshops. These relationships are essential for supporting any future LRA return process.
- Together with Bo Peace and Reconciliation Movement (BPRM) and Sulima Fishing Community Development Project (SFCDP) we organized exchange visits and conflict resolution workshops for local volunteer and women peace monitors and traditional leaders from chiefdoms in Sierra Leone's Bo and Pujehun districts. They shared experiences and approaches to resolving inter-chiefdom conflicts.
- Workshops were held in the UK, Germany and Austria as part of our Schlaining process of unofficial and confidential dialogue meetings for Georgian and Abkhaz officials, politicians and civic leaders, which allows joint analysis and open discussion of the conflict and peace process.



Influencing governments and other decision makers to employ conflict transformation policies that promote alternatives to violence.

- We promoted the importance of 'engaging armed groups in peace processes' on Capitol Hill, at the US State Department, for officials from the United Nations and UK government, at the International Summit on Democracy, Terrorism and Security, and at a public event at the Royal Court Theatre, London.
- Reverend Akuila Yabaki, executive director of our partner the Citizens' Constitutional Forum (CCF), gave a critical presentation to Fiji's Great Council of Chiefs on a controversial parliamentary 'reconciliation' bill. The bill was later deferred until 2006.
- Our advocacy work in Sierra Leone highlighted the need for conflict transformation and peacebuilding elements to be included in a national strategy for youth agencies by the Ministry of Youth and Sport's Capacity Building Unit.
- We worked with officials and policymakers in Georgia to instigate a more strategic approach to their role in the peace process. Two workshops in 2005 focused on the negotiations process and drew upon experiences of politicians from South Africa and Northern Ireland in devising strategy in violent conflicts.



Improving peacemaking practice and policies by promoting learning from peace processes around the world.

- We worked with partners in Colombia and the Philippines to promote learning from international experiences of armed groups' engagement in peace processes, and acted as resource persons for workshops that brought together different stakeholders in the conflicts.
- We published Accord issue 17, *The limits of leadership: elites and societies in the Nagorny Karabakh peace process*, in English and Russian and held a roundtable in the region on issues related to the conflict.
- We co-published and distributed relevant Accord issues in Spanish, Portuguese, Russian and three Filipino languages.



Challenging stereotypes and increase public awareness of human rights, conflict and peace issues in divided societies.

- Sierra Leonean partners BPRM and SFCDP successfully helped ex-combatants reintegrate into their communities and handle conflicts caused by their return and presence. They also made contact with ex-combatants elsewhere to help develop a climate for them to feel safe to return.
- We supported partners in organizing and filming public hearings commemorating the tenth anniversary of an LRA massacre at Atiak displaced people's camp in northern Uganda. This gave survivors a chance to tell their stories for the first time.
- The CCF sent teams of resource persons and facilitators to rural villages throughout Fiji to give presentations and discuss human rights, governance and social justice issues.
- Television discussion programmes about the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict produced by our partner Studio Re were aired on Georgian local and national television. Documentary films produced by Studio Re with independent journalists in Abkhazia were shown throughout the South Caucasus and in London.



ACCORD PROGRAMME

Informing and strengthening peace processes

For peace agreements to be durable, peace processes need to involve the people with most to win or lose from the outcomes. This includes not just governments and armed groups but ordinary people living in the affected societies.

This lesson from CR's work on documenting peace initiatives in its Accord publication series needs to be better applied and in 2005 we continued to challenge and provoke debate about how to improve peacemaking practice and policy.

Promoting engagement with armed groups

The year saw the climax of work on the hotly debated topic of engagement with armed groups. We launched our second thematic Accord issue, *Choosing to engage: armed groups and peace processes*, amid international policy contradictions. Despite the rhetoric of the 'war on terror' and increasing emphasis on military sanctions, there is growing realization of the need to talk with armed groups.

Our publication documents armed groups' experiences in peace processes around the world. With articles authored by government officials, armed groups and

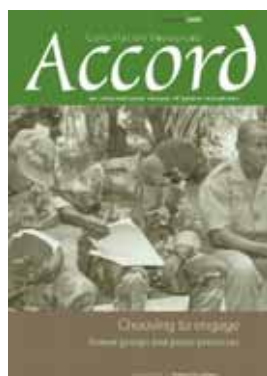
intermediaries, it highlights valuable lessons that could shape future practice and improve current policymaking.

We worked with the Stimson Centre and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs to share these findings at events for policymakers in Washington and New York. Working with Club de Madrid we also convened a panel at the International Summit on Democracy, Terrorism and Security in March, and co-organized an international conference in December with Wilton Park in the UK. In the aftermath of the July London bombings, we also co-organized a seminar on 'engaging with terror' with the Royal Court Theatre and Peace Direct.

Identifying the limits of leadership

Many years have passed since the Nagorny Karabakh peace process brought any benefits to the people most affected by the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over this territory in the South Caucasus. Published in English and Russian, *The limits of leadership: elites and societies in the Nagorny Karabakh peace process*, analyses the current impasse.

Photo: Commanders of the Patriotic Movement of Cote D'Ivoire take part in a meeting with the Economic Community of West African States contact group at Bouake in 2002. (Source: PA Photos / EPA)



We continued to challenge and provoke debate about how to improve peacemaking practice and policy.

Produced with CR's Caucasus programme, the publication reveals the limits of top-down approaches to peacemaking. Articles by Armenian and Azeri authors – individually and together – make it a challenging, unique resource.

The publication highlights the shortcomings of a peace process that has focused on securing agreements between narrow circles of political leaders and failed to involve Armenian and Azerbaijani societies. It questions the current strategy of minimal engagement with the leaders and people of Nagorno Karabakh and stresses the need for a multi-faceted approach to bring together wider constituencies and find mutually acceptable solutions.

Consolidating peace

Consolidating peace agreements is a long-term task. In Bougainville, Papua New Guinea we published a 'critical literacy kit' on the peace process with our partner the Bougainville Inter-Church Women's Forum. This resource for rural education programmes is being used to promote discussion and improve understanding about the recent peace process's outcomes.

The signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan also brings the challenge of putting it into practice while conflict continues in the east and west of the country. We are now working with Concordis International, a UK-based organization working in Sudan, to explore how an Accord project could contribute to this process in 2006.

Looking ahead

From 2006 the Accord programme will work within a newly-created Policy, Communications and Comparative Learning team. This will integrate existing work in these areas and increase CR's capacity for policy development and advocacy based on our practical peacebuilding work. We will publish a new Accord publication on Sudan and begin our third thematic project, on 'sanctions, conditionalities and incentives'. Work will continue on the comparative learning project in Colombia and the Philippines.

For more information about our work see our website: www.c-r.org



“Despite a huge range of peacebuilding activities taking place in Colombia, people have very little opportunity to learn from similar experiences elsewhere.”

Sharing lessons from peace processes

“Despite a huge range of peacebuilding activities taking place in Colombia, people have very little opportunity to learn from similar experiences elsewhere,” according to Camilo Gonzalez Posso from the Colombian Institute for the Study of Development and Peace (INDEPAZ).

“We need access to information and occasions when we can enrich our understanding together.”

CR believes everyone involved in peace processes can learn from the lessons drawn from successes and difficulties of other situations, and from reflecting upon their own experiences.

Our new comparative learning project allows such learning to be shared interactively. Working with our partners INDEPAZ and the Centre for Integrative and Development Studies of the University of the Philippines (UP-CIDS) we have taken the reflections and lessons learned from our Accord publications directly to people involved in both these countries' peace processes.

Initial activities in Colombia and the Philippines in 2005 focused on questions and dilemmas about engaging with armed groups in peace processes. Accord publications on this highly relevant topic were translated into Spanish and three Filipino languages (Tagalog, Ilocano and Cebuano).

Forums and discussions in both countries involved participants including government officials, foreign diplomats, armed groups and civil society representatives.

Such meetings were often important for those who came along to hear each other's views and learn about experiences from other parts of the world.

“Our meeting created an environment where a range of people involved in negotiations could interact with each other,” explained Filipino partner Professor Miriam Coronel Ferrer, convenor of the Programme on Peace and Democratization and Human Rights at UP-CIDS.

“They were able to consider the relevance of findings from Accord and offer extra insights gained through experience from the Philippines.”

The rich and different perspectives that emerged during these activities will be collected and published by CR in a reflections paper for practitioners and policymakers in 2006.

Photo: Mr Von Al Haq, representative of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front gives his views on the Accord publication at a 2005 workshop on engaging armed groups in peace processes in the Philippines.



“Hearing about the attitudes of people on the other side of the conflict forces me to think differently about what needs to change.”

An Abkhaz NGO activist

CAUCASUS PROGRAMME

Improving the prospects for peace

In what was an important year of elections throughout the South Caucasus, political leaders were particularly reluctant to take risks or make compromises. Yet civil society continued to play an important role in challenging them and pushing for social change.

The official peace processes aimed at resolving the conflicts over Abkhazia and Nagorny Karabakh remained deadlocked. Aggressive rhetoric prevailed and people living in the region, including more than a million displaced, felt vulnerable while facing the everyday challenges of economic hardship and social exclusion.

Influencing peacemaking strategies

Building on our experience in convening informal Georgian-Abkhaz political dialogue meetings, we encouraged both sides to adopt a more strategic approach to their role in the peace process.

We held workshops for officials and policymakers in Georgia, inviting international experts and politicians with experience of developing strategy in violent conflicts and political struggle. Discussion topics included the role of political leaders and international law in peace processes, how best to prepare for dialogue and how to persuade opponents and hardliners to come to the negotiating table.

Eight Georgian politicians and officials involved in developing policy on Abkhazia visited Northern Ireland to examine the peace process there. The aim was to help build a clearer, more coordinated strategy within Georgian official circles toward the conflict.

Encouraging debate

Work continued with internally displaced people (IDPs) in Georgia and with teachers and young people in Abkhazia on civic education, political participation, and changing attitudes.

Xenophobia, discrimination and intolerance were a particular focus. Together with the University of Birmingham, CR and our partners carried out various activities. These included an oral history project, youth discussion groups and practical research aimed at encouraging public debate. We aim to influence policy on inter-ethnic relations and multiculturalism in Georgia and Abkhazia.

Photo: Teachers from different regions of Abkhazia compile materials for a civic education textbook for use in the school curriculum.



Opportunities for learning

Our fourth annual summer university on international relations was held in Abkhazia. This intensive programme gives young professionals from the Caucasus an opportunity to develop their analytical and critical thinking, and debate international issues with tutors and fellow students from all over Europe.

Four officials from Georgia and Abkhazia travelled to London and Belfast for work experience with government departments and civic organizations to help develop their policymaking skills.

Shifting public opinion and understanding conflict

Our collaboration with international and national partners in the Consortium Initiative, focusing on the Nagorny Karabakh conflict entered its second year. Our media activities raise awareness about the conflict, challenge negative stereotypes and allow ordinary people to be heard.

The Karabakh page on BBC Russian.com provides analysis and information about the conflict and allows former colleagues, neighbours and friends separated by the conflict to get in touch. This popular web resource won the BBC Original Online Journalism award.

In partnership with Internews Azerbaijan and BBC World Service, we launched a monthly Azeri language radio series for people displaced by the conflict.

Demo, the independent newspaper we support in Nagorny Karabakh, increased its readership. So did *Panorama*, the newspaper produced with the Institute for War and Peace Reporting, edited in Tbilisi and Sukhum/i. The 'Your Abkhazia' page in the Georgian national paper *24 Hours* continued, and a monthly civil society journal produced by partners in Abkhazia entered its sixth year.

These and our many other radio and television initiatives in Georgia/Abkhazia provided access to impartial information and offered alternative visions for the future.

Looking ahead

In this dynamic period in the South Caucasus, our partners and activists will continue to work at different levels within their communities and across the conflict divides. CR will support them to pursue opportunities for peace and strategies for change.

For more information about our work see our website: www.c-r.org

"By approaching the conflict more strategically, we can help avoid repeating past mistakes."

Georgian politician, during a visit to Northern Ireland

Photo: Saadat Mamedova from Internews Azerbaijan interviews a local woman for our joint monthly radio series on internally displaced people, broadcast by the BBC World Service.



Informal political dialogue

"Reporting in the media and statements by officials all too often antagonize relations between us," says one Georgian politician. "So the opportunity to meet for face-to-face dialogue in the Schlaining process has been crucial."

The Schlaining process is a series of discussion workshops for Georgian and Abkhaz officials, politicians and civic leaders. Since it began in 2000 more than 80 participants have been involved in 16 meetings.

With constant tensions underscoring the fragility of the Georgian-Abkhaz peace process, Schlaining is one of few opportunities for such meetings. Its unofficial format is welcomed.

"Nowhere else can we meet informally to analyse our conflict jointly and to understand why we are so stuck, and what we have to do to move forward," says one participant.

In 2005, we organized workshops in the UK, Germany and Austria, working with the Berghof Center and the Austrian Study Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution.

**" Nowhere else can we meet
informally to analyse our
conflict jointly ..."**

Photo: Irakli Alasania, the Georgian President's Special Envoy on the Georgian-Abkhaz Negotiations and Garik Samanba, an Abkhaz MP, take advantage of a rare chance to talk in person at a Schlaining dialogue workshop.

Addressing community needs

"We didn't choose the time we live in, but we can choose how to improve our lives."

These are the words of a young person, displaced by the 1992–3 Georgian-Abkhaz war, after taking part in a local TV discussion about IDP rights and the unresolved conflict.

His words are central to our belief that durable peace needs the active participation of ordinary people.

In 2005 NGOs in Abkhazia worked for change in electoral legislation, voting practices, disability policy and minority rights, and provided legal aid and civic education to local people.

Young IDP activists from four Georgian regions met regularly to share experiences, gain the confidence to express opinions, and change their lives. By bucking the trend toward nihilism and despair, they have become examples to their community, and challenge the stereotype of IDPs in Georgia.

**" We didn't choose the time we live
in, but we can choose how to
improve our lives."**



UGANDA PROGRAMME

Facing the challenge of social healing

The situation in war-torn northern Uganda changed dramatically in 2005. New Year began with the end of a six-week ceasefire between the country's armed forces and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Other options for a negotiated settlement dissolved when a high-profile mediation effort by Betty Bigombe came to a standstill, and arrest warrants were issued by the International Criminal Court against the rebels' top five commanders.

Officially, the Ugandan government claimed the war was in its final phase and the LRA on the brink of collapse. Yet vast parts of Acholiland remained no-go areas for its people. More than one million still live in appalling conditions in makeshift camps, with up to 1000 war-related deaths per week across the region. Abductions of civilians by the LRA continue.

Against this increasingly challenging setting for peacebuilding work, CR and our partners made progress toward our goal of building an environment that can help end the war, deal with its effects, and reach a lasting settlement and just peace.

Understanding the conflict

Despite 20 years of war in northern Uganda and much work to end the violence and help community reconciliation, little information exists on why some LRA commanders leave the rebels and return to civilian life while others remain in the bush.

In 2005 CR and Quaker Peace & Social Witness (QPSW) closed this gap by doing a series of interviews with former LRA soldiers. This research gave new insights into their decision-making patterns and how civil society can influence these. It identified the crucial role of direct communication between the rebels, civil society representatives and local communities.

It also revealed the big incentive for LRA members of reintegration processes that offer them better futures. It showed how community peacebuilding that enables them to come home is proving more effective than high-profile initiatives trying to end the conflict. The real heroes are those unsung individuals who despite their great suffering are able to welcome back into their midst perpetrators of terrible acts, who are also abducted children.

A joint workshop in Uganda of researchers and local peace organizations shared these findings, which have also been built into our partners' programmes.

Photo: A group of Lord's Resistance Army returnees. CR is working with the religious and traditional leaders to support the return process across northern Uganda and southern Sudan.

Our research revealed how community peacebuilding that enables LRA soldiers to come home is proving more effective than high-profile initiatives trying to end the conflict.



Building relationships for peace

Two of our partners, the Justice and Peace Commission of Gulu Archdiocese (JPC) and the traditional leaders of Acholi (Ker Kwaro Acholi), strengthened their relationship-building work into neighbouring districts and across the border into southern Sudan to help deal with the regional aspect of violent conflicts in northern Uganda.

JPC set up a permanent presence in eastern Acholiland's more remote areas and led mediation efforts in conflicts between rural communities and migrating pastoralists. By bringing people together to work on ways to reduce violent incidents during the annual migration season, our partners greatly improved security in the region. This work also strengthened inter-community relations to tackle the causes of these conflicts.

KKA carried out a series of visits and joint workshops with traditional authorities and clan elders from southern Sudan. This improved understanding between war-affected communities on both sides of the border and began joint peacebuilding activities. It also opened up chances for further communication with the LRA and will ease the return of ex-combatants to their communities.

Looking ahead

In 2006 we will increase our programme capacity and consolidate partnerships in Uganda and the UK. We will expand our activities in southern Sudan to strengthen a regional approach for ending the conflict and addressing its root causes. Further research into the LRA and the conflict dynamics will also help answer questions arising from our daily work and inform our lobby work with policymakers.

For more information about our work see our website: www.c-r.org

Photo: A survivor of a massacre in 1995 at Atiak camp shares his story publicly for the first time at a 10-year commemoration ceremony supported by CR.



“It will take as long for us to get out of this conflict as it has taken for us to get into it.”

Lam Oryem Cosmas

“It will take as long for us to get out of this conflict as it has taken for us to get into it,” says Lam Cosmas, one of northern Uganda’s most active community peacebuilders.

Lam has long stressed the need for setting realistic expectations about any resolution process. “Peace is a long-term group effort,” was an oft-repeated mantra at the Acholi Religious Leaders’ Peace Initiatives (ARLPI), where he worked from 1997 until 2002.

Lam has always sought to make peacebuilding accountable to those people suffering because of the war and involve them in attempts for its resolution. Under his direction ARLPI grew rapidly and formed strong links in the internally displaced people’s camps through a network of peace committees. These groups disseminated peace messages and helped defuse local conflicts.

Lam recently returned from studies in the USA to work on these themes with our support. At his home place of Atiak, he organized a hearing in 2005 for survivors of a massacre by the LRA to talk publicly about their experiences for the first time in over a decade.

This groundbreaking event put the victims of atrocities – so often marginalized even by peacebuilding efforts – centre stage. “People really listened – it is not usual for Acholis to cry in public, but the crowd, they were really crying – they were moved.” It showed the need for local peacebuilders to work with such groups to achieve genuine local reconciliation.

Lam recently set up a liaison office in Kampala for our partner Justice and Peace Commission Gulu, taking these important messages to the national level. He leads reconciliation efforts between communities across northern and central Uganda, enabling different ethnic groups that have viewed each other with suspicion or fear for decades, to talk, acknowledge past atrocities, build mutual respect and coexist peacefully.

“People are really coming together and learning,” he explains. “The youth who have grown up hearing stories about other communities are listening to their counterparts and questioning their parents about the past. We hope they can really lead this process if we work with them.”

Photo: Lam Cosmas (right) talks with a Karimajong herdsman during work to build bridges between Acholi communities and pastoralists and reduce violence in the annual migration season.



FIJI AND OTHER WORK

Working with the Citizens' Constitutional Forum

In another year dominated by strained political and inter-communal relations, CR continued our partnership with the Citizens' Constitutional Forum (CCF).

Progress in Fiji on key issues of land and sugar was blocked, and evictions of tenant farmers by indigenous landowners persisted. In its leading role as defenders of civil liberties and human rights, CCF continued its public education work and support for the Constitution.

Working with Fiji's parliamentarians, the media, rural communities, women and young people, CCF's European Union-supported programme focused on indigenous and minority rights; democracy and the rule of law; housing and social exclusion; and resource and land rights.

CR played a part in two CCF strategic planning retreats and provided support for European visits by its Executive Director, Akuila Yabaki, and other members. We also supported relations with donor agencies.

Fiji's national election in mid-2006 has tested the Constitution once again. This means that CCF will continue to play an important role in promoting public accountability.

"Coups have set Fiji's development back by 20 years – no one wants the coup culture to continue", says Vijay Naidu, former CCF chairperson. "The way to stop it is to send the strongest message to the nation that violence is not an acceptable means of effecting political or constitutional change."

Extending our influence

CR takes part in peacebuilding networks around the world to help improve practice by sharing lessons learned from our work. These include the Coordinating Committee for Conflict Transformation Support (CCTS), the Peace and Security Liaison Group and other working groups in the UK. We are also an affiliate with the US-based Alliance for Peacebuilding, and the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict.

CR is also often invited to bid for governmental and intergovernmental projects. We see these as opportunities to influence government policy and usually involve our programme associates.

CR enjoys a fruitful relationship with the International Working Group on Sri Lanka (IWG), which is based in our London office. We also played a modest role in sharing experiences with visitors from different conflicts in 2005, most notably colleagues from Nepal.

"The way to stop the coup culture is to send the strongest possible message to the nation that violence is not an acceptable means of effecting political or constitutional change."

Photo: CCF member Ponipate Ravula is interviewed at a protest in 2005 against the Fiji government's reconciliation bill, which proposed to grant amnesty to the perpetrators of the 2000 military coup.



Our partners' public peace and reconciliation events increased their profile among local and national government, courts and the police.

WEST AFRICA PROGRAMME

Building lasting peace and justice

In 2005 Conciliation Resources focused on community peacebuilding, supporting young people in peace and reconstruction efforts, and strengthening civil society's involvement in regional stability. This work concentrated on Sierra Leone and several partner initiatives in Liberia and Guinea.

A sign of hope and stability for the region came in Liberia after years of brutal war where Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was elected the first woman head of state in Africa. Meanwhile United Nations forces prepared to withdraw from Sierra Leone nearly three years after war officially ended, amid concern about the army's ability to protect its citizens. In Guinea, public security and living standards worsened, increasing fears about its future.

Encouraging communities to build peace

In southern Sierra Leone, our partners the Sulima Fishing Community Development Project (SFCDP) and Bo Peace and Reconciliation Movement (BPRM) extended their peace monitoring work to neighbouring districts and communities.

BPRM and SFCDP's public peace and reconciliation events increased their profile among formal institutions such as local and national government, courts and the police,

who are increasingly involving the peace monitors in their work. BPRM was asked to join the Joint District Security Committee and SFCDP is involved in the Border Security Committee around the Mano River Union bridge.

Both groups have also included more women peace monitors in their work, giving women a voice in community decision-making and justice processes.

Making women's voices count

The importance of women's interests and ability to promote peace has also been a driving force behind our support to the Satta Kumba Amara Resource Centre in Kono, one of Sierra Leone's most war-affected regions. Building of this centre was completed in 2005 and it now provides a much-needed meeting place for women's groups and social activists.

Working with UNDP and Sierra Leone's Ministry of Youth and Sports we also piloted income-generating activities across the country for young women affected by violence during the war. These aimed to develop their lives beyond exploitation and dependency.

We supported two visits by the Mano River Women's Peace Network to build solidarity and conflict advocacy strategies among women from Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Photo: The Mano River Women's Peace Network during a CR-supported visit to Liberia in February 2005 to meet with Gyude Bryant, chairman of its Transitional Government.

In Freetown, we supported students to successfully campaign for fair and unusually violence-free national student elections.



Helping young people develop alternatives to violence

Our Youth in Progress project and drop-in-centre in Kenema, eastern Sierra Leone, continued to train young war-affected people on finding alternatives to violence.

After several years of mentoring and accompaniment, young men and women are now involved in business and agricultural micro-enterprise groups. They have shown encouraging levels of organization and leadership. Greater trust and respect from community leaders has led to better relations between these two generations historically prone to settling their differences through violence.

In Freetown, we supported students from Fourah Bay College Peace and Conflict Department's Society for Peace

and Conflict Resolution to successfully campaign for fair and unusually violence-free national student elections.

Improving safety and security

Together with International Alert, we supported the Mano River Union Peace Forum in strengthening cross-border links between civil society groups in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea.

The Forum worked on building sub-regional peace through media, youth and women-focused training workshops. Several management committee meetings developed stronger local leadership of the forum's strategy and activities.

CR also organized two meetings with the Forum to examine critical issues about the border dispute at Yenga in Guinea-Sierra Leone and determine strategies with key NGOs and parliamentarians to diffuse tensions and resolve the conflict.

Looking ahead

From 2006 to 2008 we will focus on our successful community peacebuilding and youth work, strengthening national and sub-regional groups' advocacy work and sharing good practice across West Africa. We will also support activists in border areas and countries struggling with the legacies of these inter-connected wars.

For more information about our work see our website: www.c-r.org

Photo: Young people in a roleplay exercise at a conflict transformation training workshop in December 2005 at CR's drop-in-centre in Kenema, southeastern Sierra Leone.



Building peace through volunteer peace monitors

Bo Peace and Reconciliation Movement (BPRM) is a coalition of nine civil society organizations working on peacebuilding, reconciliation and conflict prevention in southern Sierra Leone.

They do this through their trained community 'peace monitors', who mediate in local conflicts ranging from domestic violence, land cases, ex-combatant reintegration and longstanding inter-chiefdom disputes. In 2005, BPRM handled 187 conflicts in Bo and Pujehun districts. Of these, 141 were resolved and 31 partly-resolved.

Once they have resolved conflicts, BPRM do regular follow-up and make sure local communities are trained to keep an eye on the situation. This is done through Peace and Reconciliation Committees, made up of volunteer peace monitors whose work complements BPRM's 20 part-time paid peace monitors based in Bo town.

With 92 women and men volunteers, BPRM is now able to cover eight chiefdoms in Bo and Pujehun. These volunteers monitor the impact of resolved conflicts in their own communities and act as an early warning system for new or potential conflicts. They also help ensure tensions do not reach boiling point. This makes their role critical.

"The work of the volunteer peace monitors has been so valuable to us," explains Alex Nallo, BPRM's senior field officer. "Because of them we now have detailed information about the various conflicts in the district in the palm of our hands."

In 2005, two new committees were set up in Bagbe and Niawa Lenga chiefdoms. The volunteers played an important role in a recent border dispute between Niawa Lenga and another chiefdom where tensions were rising. BPRM says the volunteers managed to ensure that these communities, especially young people, have not used violence to try to settle this sensitive conflict.

"Our hope is that the volunteers' work will in the long term help their communities become more peaceful," explains BPRM's coordinator Hassan H. Feika. "And that this will also help strengthen our economic development, respect for human rights and cooperation."

The volunteers resolve conflicts in their own communities and act as an early warning system for new or potential conflicts.

Photo: Bagbe chiefdom section chiefs shake hands with their Paramount Chief after BPRM's peace monitors resolved a 15-year old conflict between them.

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANS

Charities are well known for having ambitions that test their capacities and CR is no exception in this. In 2005 we focused our energies on strengthening our internal support systems and developing our work in Sierra Leone and Uganda.

An internal review resulted in the decision to recruit staff to give more support and backup to our programme teams. We also brought together into one coordinated group our work on policy, communications, the Accord publication series and our new work on promoting comparative learning in Colombia and the Philippines.

CR now has a senior management team advising the Executive Director. This has enabled us to grapple with challenging programme issues as well as develop missing pieces of organizational policy.

Improving our governance

CR's board of trustees put in place a new policy that clearly defines the separate roles of executive management and corporate governance, with their responsibilities focused on the latter. We also welcomed three new board members with backgrounds in financial, business and NGO management.

The year ahead

In 2006 we will focus on our five strategic goals, upholding our organizational principles of partnership and promoting broader public participation in peacemaking. We will pursue these through our four main programme areas in the Caucasus, Uganda,

West Africa and the Accord publication series, with some involvement in other regions. We will also work on our strategic plan for the next five years.

Our experiences, particularly through the Accord publication series, have shown us it is possible to develop and effectively use strategies of influence. We are steadily moving from simply informing policymakers to an explicit goal of influencing global and national peace and security policies.

We will continue to work in close strategic partnerships with both governments and NGOs in the field, investing in our tools and strategies for more effective communications and networking.

We are steadily moving from simply informing policymakers to an explicit goal of influencing global and national peace and security policies.

SUMMARIZED ACCOUNTS

Summarized statement of financial activities for two years ended 31 December 2005 (UK £)

INCOME	2005	2004
Unrestricted grants	161,577	164,795
Grants for specific programmes and projects	1,164,887	1,771,372
Accord	389,100	247,946
Caucasus	340,147	1,076,387
Fiji	—	—
Uganda	246,535	179,508
West Africa	189,105	267,531
Other income	77,476	81,716
Consultancy fees	16,687	34,437
Other income	31,441	24,274
Accord sales	4,493	6,058
Interest received	24,855	16,947
Total income (A)	1,403,940	2,017,883
EXPENDITURE		
Programmes	1,538,052	1,366,131
Accord	329,151	223,668
Angola	—	800
Caucasus	728,886	701,571
Fiji	4,203	1,677
Media & Conflict in Africa	—	1,964
Uganda	245,852	186,422
West Africa	229,960	248,706
Other	—	1,323
Programme development	—	28,095
Media & Conflict in Africa	—	10,323
Uganda	—	17,772
Core	173,355	178,943
Project management and support	84,984	78,255
General management and administration	88,371	100,688
Total expenditure (B)	1,711,407	1,573,169
Income over expenditure (A-B)	-307,467	444,714
Balance brought forward from previous year	742,555	297,841
Funds at 31 December	435,088	742,555

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2005

UK (£)	2005	2004
Fixed assets	25,060	36,308
Current assets		
Cash at bank	282,552	855,993
Debtors	265,814	74,517
Rent deposit and prepayments	93,432	14,534
Total current assets	641,798	945,044
Liabilities		
Creditors and accruals	231,770	238,797
Total liabilities	231,770	238,797
Current assets less liabilities	410,028	706,247
NET ASSETS	435,088	742,555
FUNDS		
Unrestricted income funds	203,794	170,462
Restricted income funds	231,294	572,093
TOTAL FUNDS	435,088	742,555

These summarized accounts have been extracted from the full audited accounts of Conciliation Resources for the year ended 31 December 2005 and may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the charity's financial affairs.

For further information, copies of the full audited accounts are available from our website and the Charity Commission website. The full audited accounts were approved by the Trustees on 11 April 2006 and have been submitted to the Charity Commission and the Registrar of Companies.

Auditors' Report on the summarized accounts of Conciliation Resources for the year ended 31 December 2005:

"We have examined the summarized accounts which have been extracted from the full audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2005. In our opinion the summarized accounts are consistent with the full audited accounts." 11 April 2006

Ramon Lee - Partner

Ramon Lee & Partners
Registered Auditors, Chartered Accountants
Kemp House, 152-160 City Road, London EC1V 2DW

Trustees

M. Bradbury

M Bradbury, Chair

R Cooke

R Cooke, Treasurer

NOTES ON SUMMARIZED ACCOUNTS 2005

Organization

Conciliation Resources (CR) is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization registered as a company (number 03196482) and as a charity under UK law (number 1055436). Our headquarters are located in Islington, London. We also maintain support offices in Sierra Leone, registered as 'CR Sierra Leone' in Freetown, Bo and Kenema.

Basis of financial statements

These summaries are drawn from the full audited accounts prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2000) of the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Programme development

Expenditure from CR's unrestricted income for programme development is usually earmarked for responding to new opportunities arising from requests by local initiatives.

Core expenditure

Costs incurred for the general management of CR, including the provision of specific administrative

support to programmes, are referred to as 'core'. We make every effort to keep these as low as possible.

Programmes contribute between 5-10 per cent of their annual expenditure as overhead charges towards these expenses, but we remain dependent on unrestricted grants and other forms of untied income to meet our core expenses.

Balances and reserves

The total funds available during the year include any balances brought forward from the previous year, both restricted and unrestricted, details of which are in the full audited accounts.

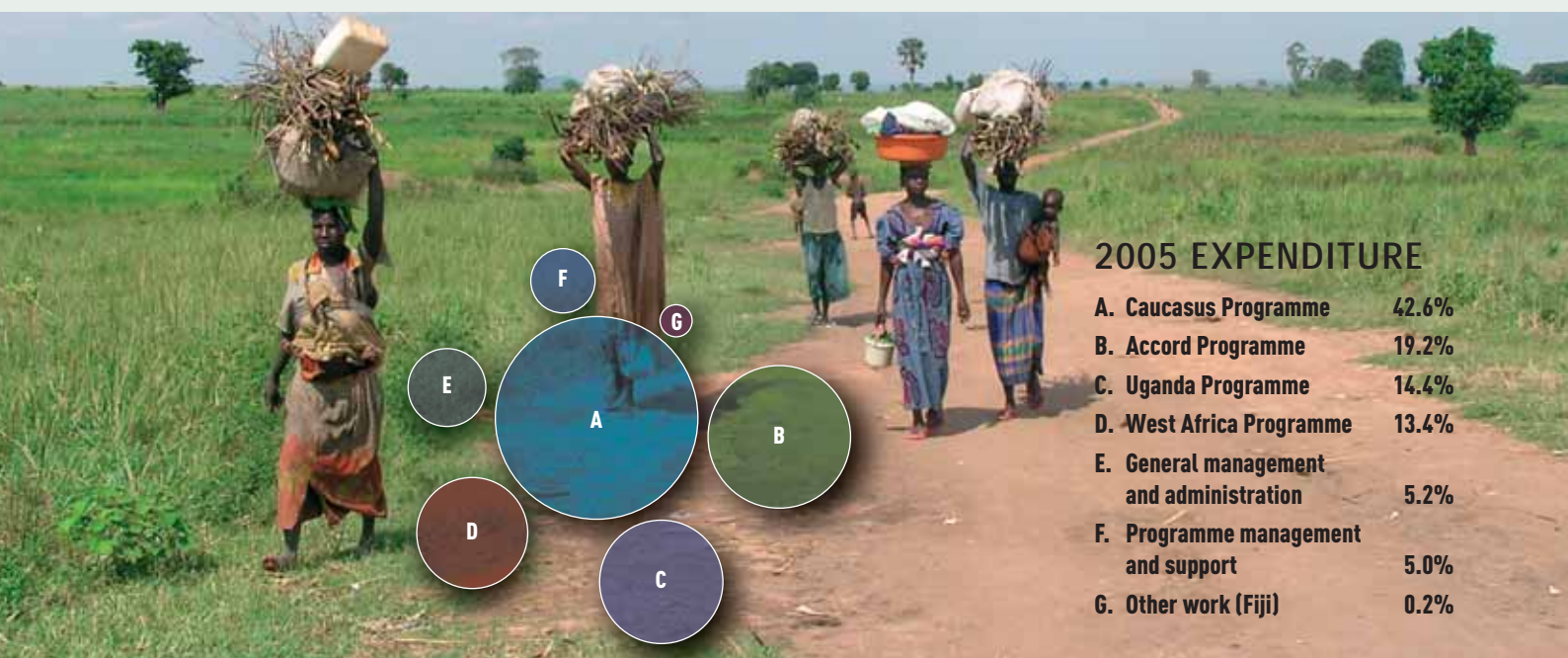
It is CR's policy to achieve a balance of reserves equalling six months of operating costs in line with general guidelines for UK charities.

Donors

The activities carried out by CR in 2005, as in previous years, were made possible through the generosity of donors who provided grants either for specific project activities or towards general organizational support.

We gratefully acknowledge support from:

- Christian Aid, UK
- Civil Society Challenge Fund (DFID), UK
- Comic Relief, UK
- Department for International Development (DFID), UK
- European Commission, Belgium
- Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland
- Ford Foundation, USA
- Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK
- Global Conflict Prevention Pool, UK
- International Development Agency, Switzerland
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway
- Misereor, Germany
- Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Mission to Georgia
- Project Zivik, Germany
- Rest Harrow Trust, UK
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sweden



2005 EXPENDITURE

A. Caucasus Programme	42.6%
B. Accord Programme	19.2%
C. Uganda Programme	14.4%
D. West Africa Programme	13.4%
E. General management and administration	5.2%
F. Programme management and support	5.0%
G. Other work (Fiji)	0.2%

CR BOARD, STAFF AND ASSOCIATES 2005

Board

Mark Bradbury
(Honorary Treasurer)*

Andrew Carl

Bob Cooke
(Treasurer from December)

Mark Hoffman
(Chair)

Nev Jefferies

Bruce Jones

Mischa Mills

Laurie Nathan

Norbert Ropers
(until March)

Bea Stolte

Vesna Terselic

Programme associates

Catherine Barnes

Elena Cook

Diana Francis

Ellie Keen

Clem McCartney

Guus Meijer

Jenny Norton

Liz Philipson

Consultants

CR relies on various consultants to meet specific programme demands.

Photos

All photos are by CR staff and local partners unless otherwise stated.

Design@gloryhall.com

*Chair from March 2006

Staff in London

Abigail Bulley

Guy Burton

Andrew Carl

Rachel Clogg

Jonathan Cohen

Mariama Conteh

Björn Eser

Aaron Griffiths

Michael Hammer

Bryn Higgs

Melissa Jones

Celia McKeon

Rhona Miller

Catherine Morgan

Nyeko Caesar Poblicks

Philip Sharp

Kushma Ram

Sarah Wheeler

Juliet Williams

Nathalie Wlodarczyk

Caucasus Programme Assistant (from Sept)

Accord Distribution and Marketing Coordinator (from Sept)

Director

Caucasus Programme Co-Manager

Caucasus Programme Co-Manager and staff adviser to the Board

Acting West Africa Programme Manager (until April)

Uganda Programme Development Officer (job-share)

Accord Programme Editor/Researcher

West Africa Programme Manager (from April)

Uganda Programme Development Officer (job-share)

Communications Officer

Accord Programme Manager/Series Editor

Caucasus Programme Officer

Finance/Administrative Assistant (until August)

Uganda Programme Officer (from October)

Finance/Administrative Assistant (from Sept)

Organizational Manager

Accord Communications Coordinator

Finance/Administrative Officer

Accord Distribution and Marketing Coordinator (until August)

CR-Sierra Leone staff

Patricia Bindi

Lovetta Buckle

Mariama Conteh

Marion Gorvie

Frances Graden

Sahr JohnBull

Boima Kpuagor

Violet Lenger-Fofanah

Mensa Moriba

Senessie Samai

Shirley Simbo

Programme Assistant, Bo

Programme Assistant, Freetown

West Africa Programme Coordinator (from May 2005)

Programme Officer, Southern Region

Programme Assistant, Kenema

Office Assistant, Freetown

Programme Officer, Eastern Region

Finance and Administrative Officer, Freetown

Office Assistant, Bo

Senior Youth Animator, Kenema

Programme Officer for Training and Capacity Building



conciliation resources

173 Upper Street London N1 1RG United Kingdom

Telephone: + 44 (0)20 7359 7728

Fax: + 44 (0)20 7359 4081

Email: cr@c-r.org

Website: <http://www.c-r.org>

UK charity registration number: 1055436