

TAKING A STAND AGAINST WAR.

conciliation
resources

OUR WORK IN REVIEW

Our vision is a world where people affected by conflict and their leaders are able to work effectively with international support to prevent violence, resolve their armed conflicts and build more peaceful societies.

Conciliation Resources is an international non-governmental organization with over 15 years of experience working internationally to prevent and resolve violent conflict. Our practical and policy work is informed by people living in countries affected by or threatened by war.

Last year we supported partners in the Caucasus, Central African Republic, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Fiji, Guinea, India, Liberia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda. We also publish *Accord: an international review of peace initiatives* and seek to influence government peacemaking policies. Our funding is mainly through grants from governments, multilateral agencies, independent trusts and foundations.

Conciliation Resources is registered as a charity in the UK.
Charity Number 1055436.

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CHOOSING THE PEACEFUL PATH TO POLITICAL SETTLEMENTS

Conciliation Resources is privileged to work directly with courageous people around the world who are living in the midst of conflict. We look at those who take the big political decisions on war, and we see the gulf that separates them from the civilians who have to face the consequences. Time and again, we see the limitations of exclusively military strategies in resolving conflicts.

What else can be done to protect civilians and enable them to influence the decisions that have so much impact on their lives and livelihoods?

This question guides our work. Our challenge is to understand individual conflicts, so that we can explore options for their resolution. The local people with whom we work don't just lend us their perspective on the situation; they also supply the vision and courage needed to deal directly with profound conflict issues. In this review of our work during 2009, we introduce just a few of these exceptional organizations and individuals who are not afraid to seek real alternatives to violence.

Their stories spell out clearly that it really does matter



"THERE IS A FUTURE
BEYOND FIGHTING.
LET US NOT BE AFRAID
TO STOP FIGHTING."

General Ferrer of the Philippines,
talking to his officials in 2009

how we seek to bring wars to an end. In particular, justice and popular consent are imperative – otherwise peace settlements are likely to fail. Our work also shows that much more should be done to support ordinary people's initiatives. These efforts need to be aligned with those of local and national governments to build peace processes – based on consent – that lead to lasting political settlements and social reconciliation.

At the same time, we need to acknowledge the shortcomings of global responses to conflict, which all too often 'embed' international humanitarian efforts within a military approach. Collectively, we fail to adequately protect the vulnerable, uphold international standards and the rule of law and allocate enough resources to local peacebuilding efforts. And we continually fail to manage the conflicting interests of near neighbors or other intervening governments – including our own. As a result, people suffer, children forfeit their childhoods and families and communities are displaced and traumatized.

Our leaders repeatedly assure us war is a last resort, and that building a 'just peace' is the best way to promote good governance, trade and social development. So why does the quick and decisive military victory, the elusive 'one bullet' solution, still hold such a powerful allure? Where is the political interest in nonviolent conflict resolution? We have huge challenges ahead if we are to bridge the gap between rhetoric and reality.


Too often our political leaders say that the complex decisions involved in armed conflict situations make painful compromise inevitable. In the world of real politik, the argument runs, pragmatism will always trump idealism – imperfect decisions must be made.

From our perspective at Conciliation Resources, that argument looks like a failure of imagination. We try to influence both policymakers and those whom they represent, encouraging them to choose alternatives to military strategies that are premised on securing a 'victory'. At the same time, we help people in conflict situations to resolve their differences and agree ways to live together without resorting to force.

Our vision is of a new, international commitment to conflict transformation in which communities can safely express their views. This means calling on our elected leaders to support constructive, consultative processes to deal with conflict issues. Lasting resolutions require far more effort than just a politician's signature on a treaty: the peace processes that work are founded on a broad spectrum of initiatives in which citizens play a full part.

Around the world, ordinary people are leading the way in finding alternatives to the cycle of coups and violence: from community mediators like the Peace and Reconciliation Movement in Bo, Sierra Leone, to the network of displaced people in Georgia, to religious, traditional and civil leaders in the war-affected regions of Uganda, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic. Conciliation Resources, with your support, continues to find innovative ways to work with them in doing so.

Andy Carl
Executive Director, Conciliation Resources



“THIS IS HOW WE
STARTED SAVING
CHILDREN FROM
THE LRA.”

TRAUMA CENTRE DIRECTOR

Jim Long John, Juba, Southern Sudan

Southern Sudan has suffered from decades of conflict, including the brutal civil war between North and South and clashes between Southern tribes. Since the 1990s Sudan has experienced the presence of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), which has led to years of LRA violence and abductions of Southern Sudanese children. Jim Long John has worked with the Totto Chan Centre for Child Trauma since its inception in 1997, rehabilitating abductees of the LRA and child soldiers from the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). Conciliation Resources (CR) supports Jim and the Totto Chan Centre by, among other things, co-organizing workshops with government officials and enabling them to work with Ugandan colleagues.

“I started working with children abducted by the LRA when I was asked to open the Totto Chan Centre with UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Tetsuko Kuroyanagi. The LRA was already in Southern Sudan at the time. The abducted children saw so many harrowing things. Most of them escaped when they were sent to fetch water or firewood. One boy came to me, helped identify the LRA-abducted children in town, and brought them to Totto Chan. This is how we started saving children from the LRA. At first UNICEF told me it was a deadly job because of the Sudan Armed Forces resistance and violence, but we persisted secretly.

We help counsel the families who receive traumatized children. We talk to the community about the LRA, about what the children have been through. CR has helped a lot. They have been with us since 2007 when we did an assessment on the atrocities committed by the LRA and affected areas, and another report on cross-border trade between Southern Sudan and Uganda. It was this interaction that helped us understand each other.”



**"I HAVE BEEN FORCED
TO TAKE A STAND FOR
THE SAKE OF OUR
CHILDREN'S FUTURE."**

SCHOOL DIRECTOR AND ACTIVIST

Tamar Mearakishvili, Akhagori

In August 2008, after years of missed opportunities to secure a lasting peace, Georgian-South Ossetian tensions erupted into all-out war. Tamar Mearakishvili kept a school running against all the odds – a vital link for the children and community. Conciliation Resources supported Tamar enabling her to purchase computer equipment and arrange visits with the students to both sides of the conflict environment. The war lasted a matter of days, but people like Tamar will be picking up the pieces for decades.

"During the recent war, many people left Akhagori. The schools emptied, and after the war I found I was the only member of staff left at our school. I was determined to

keep it open but I didn't have wood to heat the school building, so I held lessons in my house. I realized that if we let the school shut even for a week it would be almost impossible to re-open it again.

Almost every family in Akhagori includes both Georgians and Ossetians. Children do not discriminate along ethnic lines – they have no such hang-ups, even since the war. But our community has been split along other lines, between those who left Akhagori and those who stayed. If we cannot stop the migration, Akhagori will become a ghost town. Although living conditions are tough, there are many reasons to stay and our school is one of them. Here our children can learn new skills, mix with their peers and broaden their horizons.

In a sense I am grateful for all these difficulties, as overcoming them makes you more confident and resilient. I never believed that I could be so bold, but I have been forced to take a stand for the sake of our children's future."



“THE NEW CONCEPT OF
SECURITY EMBRACES EVERY
ASPECT OF DEVELOPMENT,
INCLUDING COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT.”

SECURITY DIRECTOR AND PEACEKEEPER


Ismail S.T. Tarawali, Freetown, Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone formed the Office of National Security after its civil war in 2002 in an effort to provide a clear process to respond early to tensions in its cities, provinces and along its borders. Shared leadership from the military and police, as well as civilians such as Ismail Tarawali, have been key to its success. Early on in the process, the Office of National Security saw the benefits that could come from government and civil society collaboration, and Ismail and Kellie Conteh, National Security Coordinator, have been key in pushing forward the thinking on how to deal with border insecurity. Ismail has worked closely with Conciliation Resources on various security initiatives, providing vital connections and access, and taking part in high-level meetings.

“When I joined the office in 2002 I didn’t know anything about security. A number of us used to feel that security issues are the responsibility of the police and military. But the new concept of security embraces every aspect of development, including community involvement.

We learned these lessons as a result of the uncoordinated way we received security information during the war. There was no war council. There were so many informants, and most of the time the President was ill-informed, making it very difficult to make proper decisions. That’s why it’s important to have these structures in place to keep the peace and inform the government, but also ensure that the community is heard at the highest level.

Human nature being what it is, there will always be tension, as we have so many social and economic challenges in this country. But the good thing is that as a result of our success in diffusing tension in certain areas, communities have come to have confidence in our provincial security committees to address issues immediately.”

A photograph of three women in traditional Kashmiri attire, including shawls and headscarves, smiling and interacting outdoors. The woman on the left wears a vibrant pink and orange patterned shawl and sunglasses. The woman in the center wears a grey patterned headscarf. The woman on the right wears a white headscarf and a blue garment with gold embroidery. They are standing in front of a backdrop of green mountains under a blue sky with light clouds.

“THAT IS WHEN I
REALIZED THAT INSTEAD
OF WALLS, WE HAVE TO
BUILD BRIDGES.”

PSYCHOSOCIAL COUNSELOR


Ezabir Ali, Kashmir

The official talks process between India and Pakistan began in 2004, but it is currently stalled and has yet to settle the long-standing conflict in and around Jammu and Kashmir. As one of the people involved in the dynamic 'Athwaas Women's Initiative', Ezabir has sought to break through barriers of mistrust in Jammu and Kashmir. Subsequently, Ezabir helped Conciliation Resources (CR) instigate and facilitate a number of discussions for women in the region.

“Peace is a relative term in Kashmir. It could mean your son comes back home safely or just living a day fearlessly. In Kashmir, peace has been elusive ever since the armed resistance started in 1989. We did not realize how much the conflict was brewing until a university

friend, who studied English Literature with us, died in a protest. A section of Kashmiri Hindus had also started leaving the Muslim dominated region for safer areas. The divides had been created, on the lines of community, religion and a political ideology. That is when I realized that instead of walls, we have to build bridges.

I started my work as voluntary health worker and counselor in rural areas in 1991. Conflict had its own consequences, but mostly it led to the silent suffering of women. Many had lost the only earning member of their family. We organized them into self-help groups for sustained income generation. Financial independence was their first step towards a life of dignity and healing. With the help of CR, we brought women across community lines to a common platform. They shared their pain and voiced hopes for the future. It is our attempt to promote coexistence between communities, for it is important to focus on what the problem is, rather than who the problem is.”



"I ABSOLUTELY BELIEVE THAT
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
FOR ANY SOCIETY IS A
CRUCIAL THING."

JOURNALIST AND MENTOR

Nouneh Sarkissian, Armenia

In the early 1990s Armenians and Azerbaijanis fought a bitter war over the disputed region of Nagorny Karabakh. Since the war ended in 1994, ordinary people on both sides have had virtually no contact and a whole generation has grown up knowing almost nothing about each other. Internews Armenia is one of three partners on Conciliation Resources' (CR) 'Dialogue Through Film' initiative, which aims to give young people in Azerbaijan and Nagorny Karabakh a chance to talk directly to each other by helping them make short films about their lives. As well as learning about film-making, the 20 young people involved so far have also been learning crucial lessons about each other. CR supports Nouneh to train

and mentor the participants, to produce the films, and to facilitate at community screenings in Armenia.

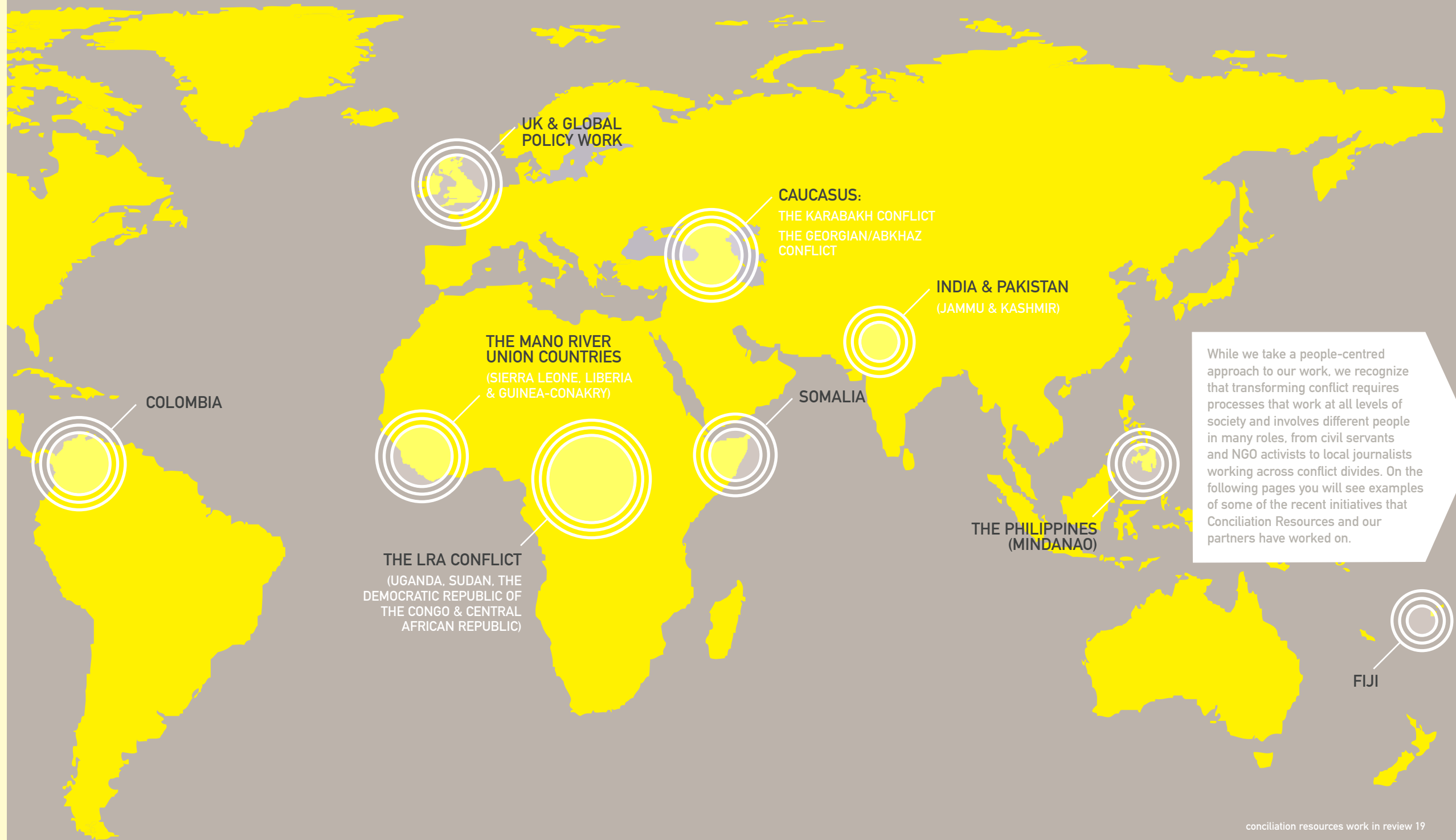
"I absolutely believe that freedom of information for any society is a crucial thing. In my particular situation, this is what I am trying to work for. Because this is the society where my daughter is growing up, and I want her and her friends to live in a free country.

I think this project is very important because it has so many layers. First of all it gives people the opportunity to talk with each other and engage across the divide. It also gives them the opportunity to do creative work and learn what the media is... and then they create the product, which becomes public. So they are actually able to distribute their views to a wider audience.

Together with CR we [at Internews] are trying to find some solutions. I really value this relationship and the attitude CR has on the ground – being next to us and working alongside us, not above."

WHERE WE WORK

Conciliation Resources works to help transform conflict in diverse regions of the world. Collaborative partnerships lie at the heart of how we work. We make long-term commitments and offer flexible support to our partners in the Caucasus, Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific to help them realize their potential to resolve differences in their own societies.



While we take a people-centred approach to our work, we recognize that transforming conflict requires processes that work at all levels of society and involves different people in many roles, from civil servants and NGO activists to local journalists working across conflict divides. On the following pages you will see examples of some of the recent initiatives that Conciliation Resources and our partners have worked on.

SUPPORTING PEOPLE TO DEVELOP EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS



Finding a non-violent approach East and Central Africa

Since the breakdown of the Juba peace process in December 2008, the war with the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) has spread from Uganda to Southern Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to the Central African Republic. Overcoming huge challenges of transportation and logistics, Conciliation Resources convened a Regional Task Force to bring together civil society leaders from the border areas of all four countries, to discuss common challenges and explore non-violent approaches for resolving the conflict. The group met with Southern Sudan's vice-president and made representations at foreign embassies in Kampala.

"This is a regional problem, and requires a regional approach," says Archbishop John Baptist Odama, Chairperson, Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative. "Governments are part of the conflict and seem resigned to a pursuing a military solution. The Regional Task Force is the start of a network of mutual support, reaching out to elected officials, the international community, ex-combatants and the LRA to re-energise the search for a peaceful end to the conflict."



Enabling displaced people to have a public voice South Caucasus

The Georgian-Abkhaz conflict in the early 1990s displaced more than 200,000 ethnic Georgians from their homes. Since then Conciliation Resources (CR) has worked to support these displaced people. A report called 'Out of the Margins', published in October 2009, documents CR's work. In particular, it explores the activities of the CR-supported network of local NGOs, which aims to give displaced people a voice and access to the decision-making processes that affect them.

The network meets quarterly and liaises with local and international bodies and external experts. As a result of the network we are seeing an increased acceptance among policy makers that the demands of the displaced people for better treatment while displaced do not negate their claims to return. "Displaced Georgians are telling us they feel a huge sense of empowerment, providing a great role model for other displaced peoples," says CR's Mira Sovakar. "Local authorities too have learned that involving citizens in decisions brings credibility and a sense of shared responsibility."



Building bridges through trade South Asia

Since October 2008, an agreement between India and Pakistan has allowed trade across the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir. Such trade stands to have benefits for communities on either side of the LoC, however high expectations for both economic and peace dividends have been slow in materializing.

Building on its joint analysis workshop held in Bangkok, for people from the region, Conciliation Resources (CR) commissioned a group of academics, journalists and economists to undertake a study exploring trade relationships, their potential impact on peace and security and their sustainability. The research involved a number of discussion forums and preliminary findings were presented at a workshop in Sri Lanka attended by traders, business people and leaders of the Chambers of Commerce.

"The process facilitated and supported by CR for identifying the problems faced by intra-Kashmir trade, has enabled local stakeholders to broaden their understanding of the complex issues confronting them and to jointly work for their resolution," said Zulfiqar Abbasi, President of the Jammu and Kashmir Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



Researching into cross-border security West Africa

Issues of security in the border areas of Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea played a part in the conflicts over a decade ago and remain a source of contention today. Recognizing this, Conciliation Resources (CR) devised a project to find out how people living in those areas currently feel about challenges to peace. We conducted 300 interviews to discover views on how restrictions on freedom of movement, corruption and general security affect people today and what obstacles they pose to building peace.

This research fed into a high-level meeting in Monrovia with representatives from Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire. Senior officials acknowledged the persistent infringements of rights despite efforts to reform their respective security sectors. To improve information dissemination and start a dialogue for change, CR supported the making of a powerful docu-drama showing how corruption and harassment blight the lives of a female trader, a policeman and an ex-combatant. "The screenings have been very powerful tools to stimulate debate," says CR's Marion Gorvie.

CHALLENGING STEREOTYPES AND INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS



Promoting peace through film South Caucasus

'Absence of Will' is the latest documentary by long-term Conciliation Resources (CR) partner and film director Mamuka Kuperadze. Co-funded through CR and the Heinrich Böll Foundation, the documentary tells the story of two young people exploring the history of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict by interviewing key protagonists. They are too young to remember the fighting, but their lives have been shaped by the legacy of the war that ended in 1993. CR worked closely with Mamuka on the film, providing support, advice and consultation on all aspects of the project.

Filming took place in 2008, when the two young people experienced war for themselves during the South Ossetia conflict. "This is a very difficult film for Georgian audiences, who are its primary target," comments Mamuka. "It poses difficult questions of policy and asks what could have been done differently." CR facilitated the screening of the film in Georgia, and also across Europe. The documentary has been well received and has "taken on a life of its own" since being posted on YouTube.



Fostering active citizenship South Pacific

Against the background of censorship and emergency regulations in Fiji, Conciliation Resources (CR) supports our longstanding partner organization the Citizens' Constitutional Forum (CCF) to work in rural areas, raising awareness of the rights and responsibilities of individuals and communities to help foster active citizenship. 50 one-day community workshops were organized in 2009 alone in three rural provinces.

The project incorporates measures to evaluate its influence, including surveying public awareness and monitoring levels of public debate, as well as organizing regular follow-up workshops. CR has been a partner of CCF since 1995, and played a crucial role in helping CCF design this initiative that forms part of a wider collaboration supported by UK Department for International Development's Governance and Transparency Fund. "Feedback so far shows a raised level of public understanding on human rights and people feel more confident in voicing concerns on accountability," comments CCF's Sereima Lutubula, Community and Field officer.



Sharing the benefits of cross-border trade East and Central Africa

With trade booming across the border between Northern Uganda and Southern Sudan, Conciliation Resources (CR) realized that economic actors could play a significant role in reconciliation, by extending the benefits of economic success to communities affected by the conflict in the region. CR conducted a study exploring how large numbers of unemployed people, ex-combatants and others with no means of earning a livelihood, could share in the economic recovery.

During and following the study, CR enabled representatives of trade unions, Chambers of Commerce, customs and police officers – from both countries – to come together to talk about common problems. CR presented the study at a conference in Kampala in June attended by government leaders, academics, the donor community and civil society activists, with follow-up dialogues in Kitgum, Uganda and Juba, Southern Sudan. "Seeing representatives of different trading associations making the link with each other and realising there was common ground was very powerful," states James Enest Onge Aremeo from the Government of South Sudan Liaison Office.



PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIALOGUE



Traditional justice ceremony, Mato oput, © Katrin Kohlbecher



© Conciliation Resources/Stephen Wilson

Prioritising justice East and Central Africa

Several challenges exist within the justice system in Uganda, including a disharmony between the informal and formal justice systems and a lack of accessibility for poor people. Working with partner Ker Kwaro Acholi, in 2009 Conciliation Resources (CR) brought together practitioners in the formal and informal justice systems in order to promote reconciliation through discussion of common issues. CR facilitated a meeting between the Principal Judge and the Acholi Paramount Chief to discuss how the two systems could work together.

Following this meeting, CR ran a series of workshops involving lawyers and practitioners from both groups. “Our role was to facilitate the process, ensuring that practitioners meet as well as to assist in the presentation of both points of view,” says CR’s Caesar Poblicks. “The idea is to promote reconciliation by building a rapport and finding synergies between the two systems, and this has established a good base going forward. The workshops also identified areas in need of improvement, such as documentation.”

Providing a platform to involve civil society South Asia

In March 2009, Conciliation Resources (CR) facilitated a Joint Analysis Workshop (JAW) in Bangkok in response to mounting demands from people from various regions of Jammu and Kashmir, to be involved in the peacebuilding processes. The workshop brought together 24 civil society activists, representing a cross-section of society including NGOs, lawyers, academics, business people and journalists, from both sides of the Line of Control.

“Participants told us it was rewarding and rare to have a platform to listen to each other, and to challenge stereotypes. Often such talks are conducted through the wider Indian/Pakistani prism but this workshop gave primacy to Kashmiris,” comments Jonathan Cohen, CR’s Director of Programmes. The workshop has been followed by 18 mini-workshops extending the reach to the wider communities on both sides. “The structural analysis of the Kashmir conflict has given me the hope that this issue is resolvable. Thanks to the JAW for introducing a new thinking pattern to me.” said Pawan Bali, a journalist from Jammu and Kashmir.

Building relationships South Pacific

Dialogue Fiji provides a forum for discussion for Fiji’s government, civil society, faith groups and others, in a country deeply divided along ethnic and political lines. Our local partner the Citizens’ Constitutional Forum (CCF), with support from Conciliation Resources (CR), was involved in setting up Dialogue Fiji. Originally designed to run alongside the President’s official all-party talks, the initiative has continued even when those efforts collapsed. Its aims are to build relationships and understanding at different levels of Fiji’s society through local, provincial and national workshops.

CR helped CCF to secure funds for the establishment of Dialogue Fiji, and advised on designing the initiative. This involved feeding in examples from other experiences where mechanisms for dialogue have been created, to promote public participation in processes aimed at reaching a national political settlement. “Dialogue Fiji is a declaration of ambition,” says Rev Akuila Yabaki “Its processes cannot be sustained by goodwill alone, but the framework we have established has engaged the different strands of Fiji’s civil society to create positive mutual understanding.”

Bringing together future leaders South Caucasus

People from either side of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict seldom meet. Stereotypes and myths have grown stronger, and separation and alienation reinforced, particularly since August 2008 and the violence over South Ossetia. For several years Conciliation Resources (CR) has been bringing together groups of young adults from across the divide to increase their understanding and build relationships. “It is not about changing political positions,” says CR’s Mira Sovakar. “It is about young people gradually understanding that those positions follow from concrete concerns, needs and fears, similar to their own. Only when we get to that level can things really start changing.”

In May 2009, CR organized a meeting for 16 young people in London, and in October a smaller group went on a study trip to learn lessons from the Northern Ireland experience. The meetings have been followed by TV and radio interviews and debates. A growing number of young people are participating in the dialogue process, sharing what they have learned with peers and their wider communities.

IMPROVING PEACEMAKING PRACTICE AND POLICIES



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© Conciliation Resources/Mark Bradbury

Facilitating shared learning East and Central Africa

In partnership with the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Conciliation Resources (CR) facilitated a workshop and international study tour on 'Conducting popular consultations' for state and civil society representatives from Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan states in Sudan. The workshop allowed an opportunity to contribute to the development of successful models for consultations in the two states. This was done through providing insight on autonomy negotiations and arrangements for leaders at the state and national level, and was followed by a study tour to Aceh in Indonesia, where similar consultations had been conducted.

The project involved representatives of both main political parties in Sudan and enabled them to draw lessons from the Aceh experience. "If done well, popular consultations provide the opportunity for the voices of the masses to be heard, to strengthen sustainability and governance, and to promote political reconciliation," says CR's Andy Carl, "Our role was to help lay the firm foundations for that process."

Sharing the experience of indigenous communities Southeast Asia

Indigenous peoples are disproportionately affected by armed conflict in terms of forced displacement, recruitment, rape, killings and destruction of livelihood and culture. Indigenous communities in Southern Colombia have developed a comprehensive strategy of non-violent resistance, challenging both rebels and government who fight in their territories. They have eventually become a reference for the peace movement, both inside Colombia and abroad.

Conciliation Resources (CR) invited Luz Mery Vanegas, one of the leaders of this movement, to share her experiences at a workshop in the Philippines jointly organized by CR and our local partner there, Sulong CARHRIHL, and attended by people from over 20 Filipino tribes. Luz Mery is also a member of the Colombian National Movement of Women Against War, and highlighted the specific role of indigenous women in building peace. "We all valued the unique opportunity of identifying common challenges – in the Philippines and also beyond – and identifying options for strengthening their coordination and response capacity," stated one participant.

Connecting Somali and international peacemaking East and Central Africa

Conciliation Resources' *Accord* publications look at peace processes in specific conflicts as well as common peacemaking themes. The latest in the series focuses on Somali peace processes and brings together Somali and international perspectives and experiences.

Nearly two decades of foreign interventions have failed to build peace or a viable state in Somalia. But Somali people have used their own resources and traditions of conflict resolution to re-establish security and governance in many communities. Somali-led initiatives have succeeded in developing durable political and administrative arrangements to manage conflict, and Somali entrepreneurship has helped to promote economic recovery.

With our project partner, Interpeace, the project involved local and international experts, from Somali elders, civil society and women's organizations, to senior diplomats, academics and observers. The project report – published in English and Somali – urges the international community to support local Somali peace processes as the most effective way to help Somalis escape protracted crisis. Its findings have been discussed widely in the region and internationally.



INFLUENCING GOVERNMENTS AND OTHER DECISION MAKERS



Contributing to official talks Southeast Asia

In December 2009, Conciliation Resources (CR) was invited to join, and participated in the creation of, the International Contact Group (ICG). The ICG is composed of four international NGOs and three Governments, and supports negotiations between the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. The ICG's mission is to act as a bridge between parties, local partners, business and local governments, to provide technical assistance, communication for peace advocacy and to monitor implementation.

CR has a unique role within the ICG, one that is complementary to the professional diplomats of the three governments and the three other NGOs involved. With our deep knowledge of civil society, we help expand the focus of participants to encompass all levels, from governments to grassroots. Through our local partners and broad network of experts we provide technical support including experiences from similar peace processes. We also bring the only woman on the ICG, a valued balancing perspective. Since the inception of the group we have actively participated in all formal meetings.

Scenarios for the future South Caucasus

Despite ongoing peace talks at government level in the Nagorny Karabakh conflict, Armenian and Azeri societies are excluded from the political process and unprepared for a possible agreement. To bridge this gap and stimulate public debate on the concrete steps that might be needed to bring peace, Conciliation Resources (CR) brought together six analysts – three Armenian and three Azeri – to produce papers outlining how the Karabakh conflict might look in the year 2014.

"We chose the short timeline to make the concepts real," says CR Programme Associate Tom de Waal. "The Madrid Principles have been on the table since 2004, but without public policy debate, the issues lacked clarity at societal level. These papers raise an array of interesting ideas to stimulate discussion. They also demonstrate consensus that there is no interest from either side in renewed violence." The papers have been disseminated widely in Armenia and Azerbaijan. The intention is to carry this work forward to continue to shape the debate.

Engaging armed groups North America

One of the key challenges faced by Conciliation Resources (CR) in our work to support mediation processes, is how armed groups can be involved in negotiations without clashing with the global counter-terrorism agenda. Based on our extensive experience, we have found that the proscription of armed groups can present an obstacle to engagement in mediation processes, as they are essential protagonists in building sustainable peace.

As part of the Mediation Support Network, CR helped to raise this issue in a meeting held in Washington, DC in October 2009, which brought together mediators, legislators and counter-terrorism professionals. We also published a policy brief in September arguing the value of developing constructive engagement with armed groups on the grounds of humanitarian protection, pragmatism and sustainability. "We are pushing boundaries," says CR's Executive Director, Andy Carl, "CR and our partners are uniquely placed to raise these issues and bring credibility to what is an important, if sensitive debate".

Placing peace at the heart of policy Europe

Conciliation Resources' policy team seeks to persuade UK and international governments to make the prevention of conflicts and the promotion of peace, core objectives in their poverty and security policies. We engaged with the UK's Department for International Development on their 'White Paper' on development, which was published in July 2009. A number of our recommendations were included in the final document, which recognizes that security and responding to conflict are core development concerns. In addition we actively engaged with the British Government on reflections on its National Security Strategy and on the process to develop a Conflict Strategy.

Throughout 2009 we worked to translate and disseminate our policy briefs to extend our influence and our engagement. We have brought together the different strands of our thematic work under one banner, calling on policy makers to more effectively support and enable peace processes as a priority in all conflict affected countries.

SUMMARIZED ACCOUNTS

Summarized statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2009 (UK £)

INCOME	2009	2008
Unrestricted grants	298,194	303,042
Grants for specific programmes and projects	2,577,197	2,260,894
Caucasus	974,416	862,040
Policy, Communications and Comparative Learning (including Accord)	480,202	492,086
East and Central Africa	632,819	390,748
West Africa	253,570	444,394
Programme Development	236,190	71,626
Other income	25,398	42,231
Accord sales	913	7,105
Consultancy fees	10,183	8,400
Interest received	3,032	16,401
Other income	11,270	10,325
Total income (A)	2,900,789	2,606,167
EXPENDITURE		
Programmes	2,423,932	2,017,686
Caucasus	1,047,092	728,708
Fiji	138,136	57,168
Policy, Communications and Comparative Learning (including Accord)	448,997	406,341
East and Central Africa	389,303	433,106
West Africa	400,404	392,363
Programme development	132,718	35,588
Kashmir	132,718	35,588
Unrestricted	172,405	97,318
Cost of generating voluntary income	123,174	70,015
Governance costs	49,231	27,303
Total expenditure (B)	2,729,055	2,150,592
Surplus/Deficit at 31 December (A-B)	171,734	455,575

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2009

UK (£)	2009	2008
Fixed assets	49,003	27,984
Current assets		
Cash at bank	809,695	402,119
Debtors	326,598	586,075
Rent deposit and prepayments	81,159	74,227
Total current assets	1,217,452	1,062,421
Liabilities		
Creditors and accruals	125,993	121,676
Total liabilities	125,993	121,676
Current assets less liabilities	1,091,459	940,745
NET ASSETS	1,140,462	968,729
FUNDS		
Unrestricted income funds	479,246	458,101
- General Funds	147,000	-
- Reserves six-months running costs	290,878	264,307
- Building dilapidations/repairs	10,000	-
- Staff Contingency	31,368	-
Restricted income funds	661,217	510,628
TOTAL FUNDS	1,140,463	968,729

These summarized accounts have been extracted from the full audited accounts of Conciliation Resources for the year ended 31 December 2009. Further information and copies of the full accounts are available from our website and the Charity Commission website (www.charity-commission.gov.uk). The audited accounts were approved by the Trustees on 14th June 2010 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 2009:

“We have examined the summarized accounts which have been extracted from the full audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2009. In our opinion the summarized accounts are consistent with the full audited accounts.” **7th June 2010**

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

M Bradbury, Chair

R Cooke, Treasurer

Notes on summarized accounts 2009

Organization

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

Basis of financial statements

These summaries are drawn from the full audited accounts prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2005) of the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

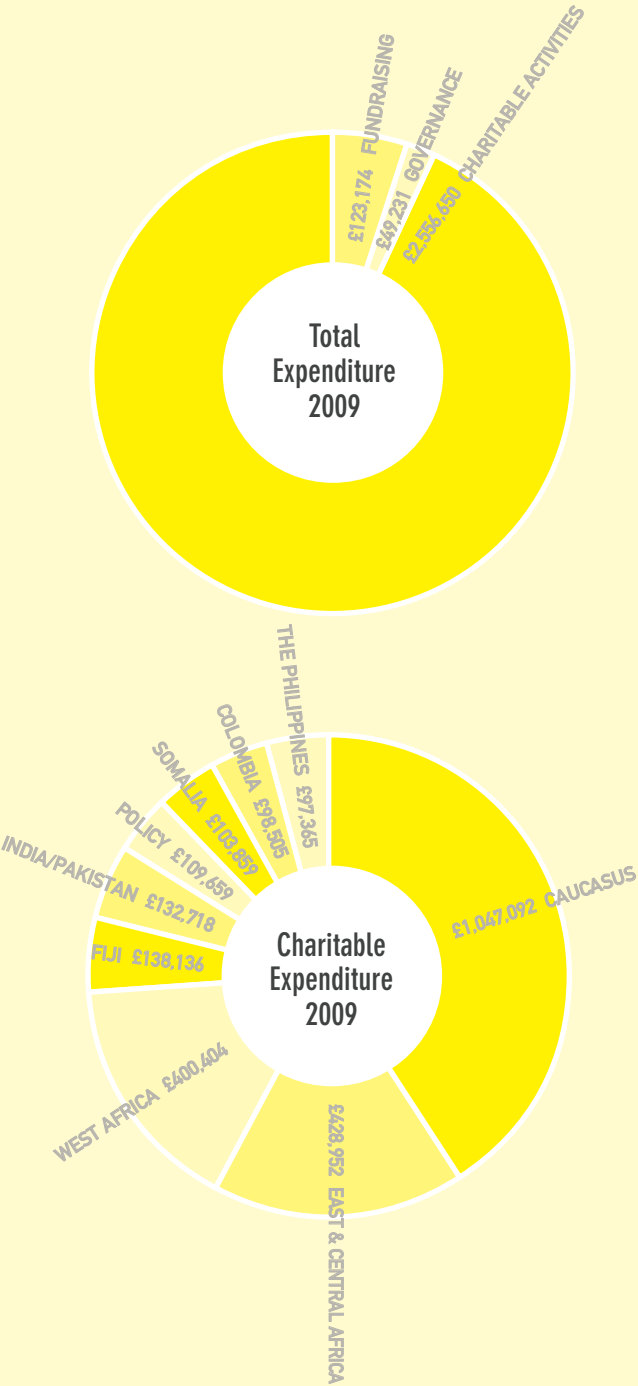
Support costs

Costs incurred for the general management of CR, including the provision of direct and indirect executive oversight, financial management and specific administrative support to projects and programmes are allocated to the respective programmes as ‘charitable activities’ expenditure. In addition, the costs of fundraising support and governance are met by unrestricted income. We remain dependent on unrestricted grants and other forms of untied income to meet these programme support costs.

Balance and Reserves

The total funds available during 2009 included both restricted and unrestricted balances brought forward from 2008, details of which are in the full audited accounts.

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



DONORS

The activities carried out in 2009 were made possible through the generosity of donors who gave grants for specific project activities or general organizational support.

We gratefully acknowledge support from:

- AW60 Charitable Trust
- Berghof Foundation
- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust, UK
- European Commission
- Eva Reckitt Trust Fund
- Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, UK
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belgium
- Rest Harrow Trust, UK
- Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
- Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
- UK Department for International Development
- UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office



BOARD, STAFF, ASSOCIATES 2009

Board

Barney Afako
Mark Bradbury (Chair)
George Carey (appointed June)
Andrew Carl
Bob Cooke (Treasurer)
Mischa Manderson-Mills (retired June)
Liz Philipson
Bea Stolte Van Empelen (retired June)
Chandra Lekha Sriram (appointed June)
Margo Picken (appointed June)
Vesna Terselic (retired June)
Teresa Whitfield

Programme associates

Tahir Aziz
Catherine Barnes
Teresa Cherfas
Elena Cook
Jenny Norton
Thomas de Waal
Diana Francis
Clem McCartney

Consultants

CR relies on various consultants to meet specific programme demands.

Staff

Vanessa Alexander Executive Assistant
Laurence Broers Caucasus Projects Manager
Andrew Carl Executive Director
Rachel Clogg Caucasus Programme Director
Jonathan Cohen Director of Programmes
Elizabeth Drew Research and Publications Officer (from March)
Elena Franklin Caucasus Programme Assistant (from September)
Sofia Goinhas West Africa Programme Director
Kristian Herbolzheimer Adviser on Peace Processes (from June)
Priscilla Hon Fundraising Coordinator
Melissa Jones Communications Officer
Celia McKeon Director of Policy, Communications and Comparative Learning (until February)
Rhona Miller Caucasus Projects Manager
David Orchant Caucasus Programme Assistant (until September)
Cynthia Petrigh Director of Policy and Comparative Learning (from February)
Adrian Platt Administrative Officer
Nyeko Caesar Poblacks East and Central Africa Projects Manager
Kushma Ram Operations Manager (until December)
Alexander Ramsbotham Accord Series Editor

Christopher Selbach Caucasus Programme Director (maternity cover - from June)
Sarah Smart Finance Officer (from February)
Mira Sovakar Caucasus Projects Manager
Kennedy Tumutegyereize East and Central Africa Programme Director
Juliet Williams Finance Manager

Interns/volunteers

Arvind Bhunjun (February - May)
Mary Dobbie (from September)
Julia Oliphant (August)
Julie Utting (August)

Staff in Sierra Leone

Patricia Bindi, Programme Assistant, Bo
Marion Gorvie, Programme Officer, Bo
Mr Hajiba, Security, Freetown
Mohamed Kombay, Office Assistant, Freetown
Abdulai Koroma, Driver, Freetown
Violet Lenger-Fofanah, Senior Finance and Administrative Officer, Freetown
Adam Platt, Project Coordinator (until December)
Boiima Taylor, Programme Assistant, Freetown (from June)
Mr Tucker, Security, Freetown
Silladee Turay, Project Officer (until November)
Muctarr Turay, Office Assistant, Bo

"WE HAVE TO FACE OUR CHALLENGES TODAY.
WE CAN HAVE PEACE AND BRING OURSELVES
UP. WE HAVE TO START WITH THE PEOPLE
AND THE COMMUNITIES."

Jim Long John, Director of Totto Chan Centre

"I NEVER BELIEVED I COULD BE SO BOLD, BUT
I HAVE BEEN FORCED TO TAKE A STAND FOR
THE SAKE OF OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE."

Tamar Mearakishvili, school director and activist

SUPPORT OUR WORK

Your donation will help us support peacebuilders like Jim and Tamar bring real change to their communities that have been devastated by conflict. Visit www.c-r.org/support to find out how you can help or call us on the number below.

conciliation
resources

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UK registered charity number 1055436.

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