



CONCILIATION
RESOURCES
MAKING PEACE
POSSIBLE

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



ABOUT CONCILIATION RESOURCES

Conflict is difficult, complex and political. There are no easy solutions for resolving conflict peacefully. So, the world urgently needs to find different ways to respond.

Conciliation Resources is an international organisation committed to stopping violent conflict and creating more peaceful societies. We work with people impacted by war and violence, bringing diverse voices together to make change that lasts.

Working across society, we connect community perspectives with political dialogue. Learning from peace processes around the world, we share experience and expertise to find creative solutions to violent conflict.

We make peace possible.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to transform the way the world resolves violent conflict so that people work together to build peaceful and inclusive societies.

OUR PURPOSE

Our purpose is to bring people together to find creative and sustainable paths to peace.

OUR VALUES

Collaboration

we work in partnership to tackle violence, exclusion, injustice and inequality.

Creativity

we are imaginative and resourceful in how we influence change.

Challenge

we are not afraid to face difficult conversations and defy convention.

Commitment

we are dedicated and resilient in the long journey to lasting peace.

Cover Image

People from the Somali Regional State gather at a conference © Conciliation Resources

WELCOME

DAVID DONOGHUE

Chair of the Board

The Irish poet, W. B. Yeats, observed in a famous line of verse that 'peace comes dropping slow'. The UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, delivers a similar message. 'Peace is never inevitable' he has remarked, rather, it is the result of difficult decisions, hard work and compromises. It is hard-won and can never be taken for granted, either in its delivery or in its maintenance.

Conciliation Resources has devoted itself to the slow, painstaking and often arduous work of building peace. Its purpose is to bring people together to find creative and sustainable paths to peace. It works at the grassroots level in many conflict contexts around the globe, helping to lay the foundations for peaceful and stable settlements – as well as supporting political level processes. It uses the tools of building trust, improving dialogue and communication, strengthening relationships and fostering negotiation skills among the protagonists. In conflict situations which are increasingly complex and multi-layered, Conciliation Resources is helping all those involved to understand more clearly the concerns of others and to recognise where bridges can be built to each other and a common way forward identified.

I am proud of the impact which the remarkable staff and partners of this organisation are having in many parts of the world. This year's report shows the difference which the organisation has been making, including in situations where conflict has been at its most entrenched. I salute the tireless efforts which Conciliation Resources is making to build a more peaceful world and to transform the future for countless men, women and children whose lives have been blighted by violent conflict.

JONATHAN COHEN

Executive Director

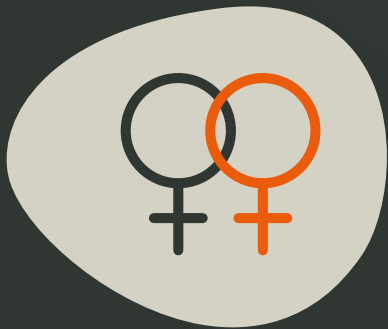
Peacebuilding presents the challenge of navigating waves of optimism and pessimism: moments of hope and despair. In 2018 Conciliation Resources experienced both. Our long-time partner Shujaat Bukhari was murdered as he went about his work as a journalist and newspaper publisher in Kashmir. Shujaat was an eloquent advocate and exponent of the necessity of dialogue in protracted conflicts. We and our partners grieve his loss and honour his memory. Conciliation Resources continues to strive for change inspired by his commitment and that of more than seventy partner organisations.

This annual report demonstrates how together we work against the grain of conflicts that persist and mutate. We have to seize moments when shifts in situations allow for progress. And in doing so we observe moments of great hope. In Ogaden, a Somali populated region in Ethiopia, such a shift occurred in 2018. After six years of nurturing talks we accompanied the conflict parties and Kenyan facilitators in a process that led to the signing of a peace agreement. Experience from elsewhere reminds us that this is the start of an equally long path, though hopefully a collaborative and transformational one.

I am privileged to lead a team that takes peacebuilding, and the long-term relationships at its heart, seriously. Asking hard questions, listening patiently, willing to be challenged and investing time in our work with partners and protagonists. The learning we derive from this shapes how we engage with the outside world and how we work as a team.

We value the support of our partners, donors and trustees to enable us to work with those who live amidst violence and to make the process of peace more tangible. Thank you!

2018 IN NUMBERS



WORKED WITH **31**
WOMEN'S GROUPS



PRODUCED **31 PUBLICATIONS**
AND FILMS, WHICH WERE
DOWNLOADED OR **WATCHED**
72,178 TIMES



SUPPORTED **112 LOCAL**
PEACE STRUCTURES ACROSS
8 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES



SUPPORTED THE SIGNING
OF **1 PEACE AGREEMENT**



ACCOMPANIED **50 JOURNALISTS** IN
THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF CONGO, JAMMU AND KASHMIR,
AND THE CAUCASUS



**REACHED 5,403 YOUNG
PEOPLE ACROSS 8 CONTEXTS**



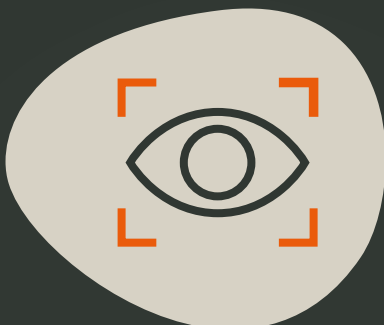
**ENGAGED WITH 15
ARMED GROUPS**



**HELD 170 YOUTH-LED
DIALOGUE EVENTS IN
NORTHEAST NIGERIA ON BOKO
HARAM AND THE CONFLICT**



**WORKED WITH
73 PARTNERS**



**FOCUSED ON 16
CONFLICT CONTEXTS**



**TRAINED 256 COMMUNITY
LEADERS IN PEACEBUILDING AND
COMMUNITY DIALOGUE
IN BOUGAINVILLE**

OUR GOALS

GOAL 1

CAUSES AND DRIVERS OF CONFLICT ARE PEACEFULLY TRANSFORMED

As a result of our support, relationships, governance practices and structures, and legacies of violence, which are obstacles to sustainable peace, are addressed.

One of the fundamental aspects of our work is identifying and addressing the various underlying factors which lead to violence. In 2018, we continued to focus on initiatives which build connections and trust. We brought people with different perspectives together to find common solutions to the conflicts they face, and we transformed relationships damaged by conflict.

In several regions, including in the Caucasus, South Asia and the Pacific, we connected civil society, officials and those working on conflict, through informal dialogue processes. This led to concrete progress on areas of mutual interest. For example, in relation to the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict, dialogue participants were able to agree common actions around the environment. While, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, we successfully built bridges between communities and the national army, repairing relations broken after years of violence and mistrust.

Significantly, after supporting the peace negotiations between the Government of Ethiopia and the Ogaden National Liberation Front throughout the six years of negotiations, a peace agreement was signed. At the same time our work with community-based peace structures in northeast Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic, northern Kenya and the Philippines, enabled communities to resolve disputes. These dialogue platforms provided space for community members to air their views and concerns, address conflict and advocate for peace – in their communities and with those holding power.

In both Mindanao, in the Philippines and in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, we worked to promote the peaceful conduct of referendums. In the Philippines, this included undertaking awareness-raising ahead of the January 2019 vote on the Bangsamoro Organic law; and in Bougainville, we supported continued conflict transformation and analysis in preparation for the referendum on political status later in 2019. In northeast Nigeria, youth peace platforms led community discussions to promote peace in the lead-up to the 2019 presidential and regional elections.

We also worked on history and memory in relation to conflict, particularly in the Caucasus and Colombia. We continued to gather personal testimonies, documents and photographs relating to the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict, and Armenian and Azerbaijani participants began a similar initiative. In Europe, Diaspora Woman – a group supported by Conciliation Resources involving Colombian women living in European cities – was asked to partner with and contribute testimonies to the newly formed Colombian Truth Commission.

GOAL 2**APPROACHES TO BUILDING
PEACE SUPPORT INCLUSION**

As a result of our engagement, expertise and resources, peacebuilding and conflict prevention practice is more inclusive.

In order for peace to be sustainable, it is vital to include people from a wide range of backgrounds, and with different perspectives and experiences, in finding solutions to conflict. In 2018, we supported the participation of numerous groups often excluded from processes to build peace – including women, youth, armed groups, displaced people and indigenous communities.

Working closely and collaboratively with partners from the communities affected by conflict, we were able to ensure that approaches to addressing violence responded to the realities on the ground. We increased our focus on involving young people in peacebuilding in many places, but in particular in the Democratic Republic of Congo, northeast Nigeria, Somali regional state (Ogaden) and Bougainville, Papua New Guinea.

In all contexts, we worked with women to support their active participation in building peace. This included the introduction of women-only listening spaces in Nigeria, training for displaced and refugee women in South Sudan, continued work with indigenous women in Colombia and further progress in relation to the rights of 'half-widows' in Kashmir. In addition, we launched an exciting new network – Women Mediators across the Commonwealth, bringing together women from across Commonwealth countries from varied backgrounds and with different experiences of mediation for mutual support and collaborative advocacy.

We continued to make progress in improving the sensitivity of our work to issues connected to gender and conflict. We also advised others, including the UN, EU, Germany, Sweden and the UK, on how to ensure a gendered dimension is integrated into peacebuilding approaches and conflict analysis. As part of our work on the topic of inclusion, we explored the experience of gender and sexual minorities, and masculinities in peacebuilding.

In a number of places, but particularly in relation to the Colombian and Ogaden conflicts, we worked directly with refugees and diaspora communities to ensure they were able to input their views into the peace processes. At the same time, technical support and guidance we provided to the Ogaden National Liberation Front, and members of other armed groups, helped them to make the transition from armed to political opposition.

GOAL 3**POLICY IS PRIORITISING CONFLICT
PREVENTION AND PEACEBUILDING**

As a result of our efforts, relevant policymakers at international, national and regional levels make investments in long-term, non-violent approaches to preventing armed conflict and building peace, and in those working for peace in conflict contexts.

The number and complexity of violent conflicts are increasing. We need more investment in, and political commitment to, long-term approaches to preventing conflict and building peace. Governments in particular, should pursue policies that prioritise peacebuilding, learn from past actions and take on board the views and experiences of people living in regions of conflict. In 2018, our research, communications and analysis, including through our Accord series, presented evidence of effective approaches to addressing conflict.

In total we produced 31 publications and films as well as numerous blog posts and articles, which highlighted learning, expert opinion and case studies to show how policymakers and others can improve their responses to conflict. In particular, we explored ways to make peacebuilding more inclusive and analysed our experience of working in partnership. Our reports documenting the views of youth in conflict regions fed into the Progress Study on UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth Peace and Security. In addition, we launched Accord editions on the steps needed to move towards peace in Afghanistan and how to address conflict in borderland regions.

We communicated with policymakers in the UK, EU and UN to feed insights and lessons from our work into their thinking and decision-making. Working directly with the UK government, banks and other NGOs, we continued to lead work on the impact counter-terrorism legislation has on the operations of NGOs in fragile countries. Through this, collectively we were successful in securing an exemption for humanitarian aid in new government counter-terrorism and border security legislation. In all regions, we connected communities impacted by war and violence with policymakers, politicians and other decision-makers. This helped to ensure policies and decisions relating to conflict are informed by the perspectives of people experiencing conflict.

We also began an exciting new four-year programme, Smart Peace, leading an innovative international consortium of NGOs, think-tanks and research organisations. Smart Peace explores how we can improve the way peacebuilding and in particular, dialogue, adapts to shifting political processes and opportunities – through joint conflict analysis, rigorous evaluation and learning. Lessons from this work will be used to help governments and others improve how they address conflict challenges.

Diaspora Woman initiative, which enables
Colombian women living in London to contribute
to addressing the legacies of the conflict, London
© Ingrid Guyon



OUR IMPACT AND ACHIEVEMENTS

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CAUCASUS

We focus on two distinct but interrelated conflicts in the South Caucasus – the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict and the conflict over Nagorny Karabakh, involving Armenia and Azerbaijan. In both contexts, prospects for political settlement are distant and there are many obstacles to reaching a more conducive context for negotiations, although in relation to the Nagorny Karabakh conflict, the rhetoric has recently shifted in a more positive direction. The region is volatile, facing rising nationalism, challenges to governance and increasing geopolitical tensions.

OUR WORK

We work with a wide range of local and international partner organisations to create an environment in which progress towards peace is possible. We bring people affected by the conflicts together to discuss the issues affecting them, share learning from other contexts, and present creative ideas and analysis to key people – in particular local and international policymakers. In both contexts, we provide alternative sources of information and analysis about the conflicts and peace processes by producing films, archives, articles and other publications. A focus this year was on deepening our work in 'dealing with the past', and creating opportunities for progress on practical initiatives which are of interest to people on both sides of the conflict divide, including education, and environmental management and protection.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Strengthened cooperation through a focus on the environment

Conciliation Resources has been facilitating dialogue among Georgians and Abkhaz for almost twenty years. The current format – the Limehouse Discussion Platform – has created many opportunities for progress on concrete areas of mutual interest. Taking forward tangible initiatives builds relationships between the different sides and helps demonstrate the benefits that dialogue can bring. Through a series of informal meetings involving people on both sides of the Georgian-Abkhaz divide, international civil society, officials and others, this year the dialogue strengthened cooperation on environmental issues. Practical joint projects were initiated in areas such as water resource management, mountain safety, and campaigning and media coverage of environmental issues. These initiatives helped develop confidence further and demonstrated the possibilities joint collaboration can bring.

Connected and supported teachers working across Abkhazia

We helped to establish an English Language Teacher's Network of over 100 teachers in Abkhazia. This network has developed the professional capabilities of the members through specialist training and the sharing of online resources. Importantly, it has also built bridges between teachers across all seven regions of Abkhazia, including Gal/i – home to a majority of ethnic Georgians. The network offers teachers many unique avenues for personal contact, exchange of information, and joint advocacy. It is also a tool to enhance English language education and opportunities for students across Abkhazia. Currently, youth in Abkhazia suffer from isolation and find it difficult to study abroad. The increased isolation of Abkhazia is seen by many as one of the obstacles to peace.



Inspired an inclusive archive of materials on the Nagorny Karabakh conflict

With Armenian and Azerbaijani partners, we launched an initiative to enable informed and meaningful historical discussion of the conflict, through the creation of a 'Karabakh Conflict Archive'. Armenian and Azerbaijani participants have developed skills and relationships, collated materials for use in outreach and planned ongoing collaboration in archiving and dealing with the past. Bringing together the participants from either side, and beginning this work with agreed objectives and parameters, is a significant achievement – the result of over a year of carefully facilitated dialogue and training. The archive will include memories from Armenians and Azerbaijanis directly affected by the conflict, from a range of different geographical locations, and is initially focused on two themes: missing persons, and the beginnings of the first clashes.

“WHAT I THINK IS AMAZING WITH [CONCILIATION RESOURCES] IS THAT THEY ARE INCREDIBLY PATIENT – THEY STAY WITH THE PROCESS AND THEY STAY WITH THE PEOPLE. KEEPING THIS DIALOGUE AND THIS SPACE AT DIFFERENT LEVELS OPEN AND FACILITATED SHOULDN'T BE UNDERESTIMATED.”

Elisabeth Baumgartner

EU Justice Facility, International Idea (formerly with swisspeace)

PARTNER PROFILE

Marina Elbakidze is Project Coordinator at the Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development. Since 1997 Marina has participated in a range of peacebuilding activities and has played a key role in Georgian-Abkhaz dialogue processes, including in close partnership with Conciliation Resources.

“The most important thing has always been that we are equal partners. All decisions are taken after in-depth discussions of the pros and cons. No decisions are taken without consultation. Working in the Georgian-Abkhaz context, it can be very hard to achieve results when you have no support from others. And I don't just mean financial support – I mean technical and intellectual support. The results of my work would not be possible without the partnership with Conciliation Resources. The most important thing for me has been learning from Conciliation Resources' experience of conflict and peacebuilding in other places around the world. There are obviously specific differences in the Georgian-Abkhaz context, but Conciliation Resources has shown us that we can learn from common themes in other places.

There is minimal contact across the Georgian-Abkhaz divide, and limited contact between Georgians and Abkhaz within Abkhazia. Conciliation Resources has shown us how useful it can be to increase contact and bring together people who do not usually meet. In the current dialogue format there is strong determination among participants to be constructive, rather than confrontational, in order to find solutions to specific problems – for instance in regard to issues around education or ecology, or dealing with the past. This is only possible because Conciliation Resources supports us: they create space for Georgian and Abkhaz participants to communicate directly. Otherwise we are not able to meet or visit one another.”

EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

In East and Central Africa, we focus on peacebuilding in eastern and northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the intercommunal conflict in the Central African Republic (CAR) and the political crisis in South Sudan. Marginalisation of communities, the social exclusion of large groups of the population, weak state authority and mistrust between the population and governments are perpetuating different forms of violence in all three countries. The lack of strong governance – particularly in border zones – has enabled armed groups to gain more control, and the subsequent displacement and return of populations has led to an increase in land disputes and social tensions.

OUR WORK

We work with civil society, especially often excluded groups such as women and young people, including those who have been associated with armed groups such as the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). We help them to learn how to resolve conflict and prevent violence in their communities. We inform government policies and positively transform relationships between civilians and officials, which are often strained and founded on mistrust. In 2018, our work centred on involving young people in DRC in peacebuilding activities, supporting those returning from the LRA to integrate back into their communities, and empowering grassroots women affected by the conflict in South Sudan. We also continue to ensure the sustainability of Local Peace Committees in CAR which we helped to establish in 2014.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Increased youth engagement in peacebuilding and conflict mediation in DRC

In DRC we support young people to take the lead in promoting peace in their communities. In 2018, young people resolved 24 conflicts across seven regions, for example in Nadogolo village between internally displaced people and host communities. Young people have also led advocacy work in the northeast of the country – we helped them to share their ideas with authorities in Bunia, the capital of Ituri province, which prompted a government Minister to visit them in Aru, listen to and then respond to their security concerns. In addition, thanks to our support, youth have played an influential role in the development of local security plans.

Supported displaced, refugee and grassroots women to prevent conflict in South Sudan

Training we provided to women severely impacted by conflict in South Sudan, has meant they are able to deal better with the effects of the violence they have suffered, as well as play a role in creating a more peaceful environment where they live. Alongside our partners we ran five workshops for over 80 women peacebuilders, including those living in areas controlled by armed groups in South Sudan, and refugees currently living in Uganda. The training covered skills such as conflict analysis and prevention, dialogue, advocacy, stress management and trauma healing. The women now have the skills and confidence, to start leading initiatives in their communities to heal trauma and build peace. Uganda alone is hosting more than one million South Sudanese refugees, the majority of them women and children. So far, displaced women have been excluded from efforts to build peace – both in South Sudan, and within the refugee camps where ethnic polarisation and stereotyping continue to cause conflicts.

Built trust between members of civil society and the national army in DRC

In DRC, where the deep-rooted mistrust between civilians and security forces is one of the key factors that leads to conflict, we improved relationships between civil society and the national army. The dialogue events we organised between members of the population and the military, provided rare opportunities for youth groups, women, community leaders, Congolese authorities and security forces to exchange ideas and build channels for communication and collaboration. As part of this work, we trained 22 civilians, soldiers and government officials in the production of radio programmes that promote peace, reconciliation and civil-military relations. In total they produced over 118 radio programmes which were broadcast in Dungu, Goma, Beni and Bunia, helping improve relationships and develop trust still further. An additional result of the broadcasting, is the formation of a 'listener club', which now meets twice a week for those present to hear the programmes and share their views on some significant topics, including torture, illicit roadblocks and sexual violence.

“IN MY COMMUNITY WE NOW FEEL PROTECTED BY THE MILITARY – EVERY TIME WE TALK TO THEM ABOUT SECURITY INCIDENTS THEY RESPOND QUICKLY. CIVIL-MILITARY DIALOGUE SESSIONS HELPED US TO UNDERSTAND THE NATIONAL ARMY BETTER. THIS HELPED TO BUILD AN ATMOSPHERE OF TRUST.”

**Civil-military community meeting participant
from Sambia DRC**



A community peacebuilding meeting,
Dungu, the Democratic Republic of Congo
© Conciliation Resources

CASE STUDY

STRENGTHENING MILITARY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

In November 2018, a soldier shot his wife during a family dispute in Dungu, a town of around 55,000 people in northeastern DRC. Following the incident, tensions quickly rose in the community.

What would have been a terrible event under normal circumstances, was made worse by the fact that the soldier was in the Congolese armed forces, the FARDC. Unfortunately, such instances – where actions by members of the armed forces lead to conflict – are not isolated. A recent fatal car accident involving a FARDC soldier had previously prompted popular demonstrations and the erection of barricades to prevent military personnel accessing the area.

“When a FARDC soldier commits a crime outside of service, this immediately reflects on the army as an institution”, explains a FARDC Major who is a member of the local civil-military committee, supported by Conciliation Resources and consisting of six civilian and six military representatives.

For the Major, it is essential that the community distinguishes between a FARDC soldier and the institution of the FARDC. “If a soldier kills his wife, he doesn’t do this because he is a FARDC soldier,” he clarified. This is the main message that the committee is keen to emphasise in its weekly radio programmes and awareness-raising activities throughout the province.

The Major and the rest of the committee face an uphill struggle. Mistrust between local populations and the FARDC is high in northeastern DRC, and this has undermined peace and security efforts. This mistrust is driven by ongoing human rights violations and a lack of guaranteed protection for the civilian population amidst persistent attacks by the Lord’s Resistance Army and banditry.

By reaching out to communities and FARDC commanders based in localities such as Dungu, the civil-military committee has created space for dialogue around the issues. “In these meetings, we allow both parties to vent their frustrations,” he explains. Importantly, concrete changes result from these discussions. For example, following complaints raised, the FARDC command forbade the common practice of forcibly recruiting civilians who had reported LRA activity as trackers and guides in subsequent military operations against the LRA. Such results have begun to restore faith in the response mechanisms employed by the authorities, especially when the military were able to communicate how they had used early warning information to apprehend armed actors.

Before Conciliation Resources’ work, most community groups preferred to share security information with the UN stabilisation mission MONUSCO, via non-governmental organisations, rather than with the military – even when local FARDC were far closer. The result was a disconnect between local early warning information provided by communities, and rapid response by security forces.

Breaking down barriers and developing relationships between the population and military in this province is a long-term process. But we are already seen some encouraging signs of improvement. When a FARDC commander recently ordered his soldiers to leave Dungu and re-join the military camp on the outskirts of the town, local women lobbied for the soldiers to remain in the city centre. This is a clear signal that the population is beginning to see the military as a source of protection rather than a threat.

HORN OF AFRICA

2018 saw the signing of a peace agreement between the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) and the Government of Ethiopia – a peace process Conciliation Resources has been supporting for the past six years. In the Horn of Africa, Somali clan linkages across the state borders of Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia mean that conflicts cannot be resolved in isolation. Northern Kenya has a long history of ethnic conflict, violence and marginalisation. Now different dynamics relating to devolution, terrorism and resource extraction are exacerbating these local tensions and raising new challenges for traditional peacebuilding structures.

OUR WORK

A key focus of our work in 2018 was continuing to provide technical support and advice to the peace talks with the ONLF, at the request of the Kenyan facilitation team. This included providing training in preparing for negotiations and the wider peace process, and sharing relevant experiences from peace processes elsewhere. We also continued to support Local Peace Committees (LPCs) in Garissa County, northern Kenya. In northern Kenya, LPCs work to mediate between different groups, and support peacebuilding initiatives which cross geographic boundaries. We trained LPC members – including women, youth, elders and religious leaders – so they can undertake peacebuilding initiatives to effectively manage existing and new conflicts. We also arranged learning visits to other peace committees in Kenya – and connected the LPCs to county, regional and national governments.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Improved relationships and prevented conflict across borders

As a result of a meeting organised by the Kenyan LPCs with similar groups across the border in Somalia, initiatives which developed relationships, reduced the likelihood of conflict, and had tangible economic benefits for both sides, were introduced. The meeting participants agreed to work with local state officials to reopen a border crossing – promoting good relations and trade between their communities.

The Lagdera peace committee also convened a meeting with their counterpart committee in Garbatulla (in neighbouring Isiolo county) to guarantee the safe return and peaceful relocation of Lagdera pastoralists from Garbatulla to Lagdera. These pastoralists had moved with their livestock to Garbatulla during the drought season and although had they wished to return to their ancestral lands, this was affected by ongoing violence between the two communities.

Supported ONLF's transition from armed opposition to political opposition

After the signing of the peace agreement, we arranged learning trips to Northern Ireland and the Basque Country – helping ONLF leaders prepare for the transition from armed opposition to political organisation. The ONLF leaders met with politicians, academics and members of civil society, including those who had taken part in peace negotiations. They also met with former members of armed groups. Both Northern Ireland and the Basque Country have experienced transformations to peace which have allowed former armed groups to form political parties, and gain political legitimacy. As a result of these visits, ONLF leaders are now better equipped to make this transition into politics. In December 2018, after 20 years abroad many of the ONLF leaders returned to the Somali region, and have since officially announced plans to form a political party and participate in the 2020 elections in Ethiopia.

Ensured youth diaspora are able to participate in the ongoing peace process

As part of our support to the ONLF-Ethiopian Government peace process, we arranged dialogue meetings with diaspora communities from the Somali Regional State, enabling them to feed their perspectives and priorities on peace into the formal negotiations. Since the signing of the peace deal, we have in particular, continued to support the inclusion of youth diaspora voices. We hosted an event attended by members of the Ogaden Youth and Student Union from across the UK, Norway, Denmark, Finland and Sweden, with members from within the Somali Regional State joining by phone. The event allowed the youth to exchange ideas on their role and contribution to peace and development in the Somali Regional State during the transition period and beyond. They agreed activities and initiatives to be implemented in 2019, and discussed approaches for connecting diaspora and local youth groups within the region. The diaspora youth were joined by Abdirahman Mahdi, Secretary General of the ONLF and the ONLF's chief peace negotiator. He shared his perspectives on the important role young people should play in the implementation of the peace deal.

"EVERYTHING STARTS WITH YOUNG PEOPLE, AND THERE IS NOW AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO COLLABORATE AND CREATE CHANGE."

Laila

Returned to Jijiga (Somali Regional State) 25 years after leaving for Europe at the age of three



Signing of the peace deal between the Ogaden National
Liberation Front and the Government of Ethiopia
© Conciliation Resources

CASE STUDY

ETHIOPIA'S NEW PEACE DEAL

In 2018, Conciliation Resources attended the signing of a significant peace deal, between the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) and the Government of Ethiopia – a process we have been supporting for the past six years.

The deal aspires to end over 20 years of insurgency and counter-insurgency in the Somali Regional State (SRS) and has paved the way for the ONLF to return to the region and pursue its political objectives through peaceful means. The ONLF had been fighting for self-determination for Somalis in the SRS since 1994 and the conflict has threatened the stability, security and development prospects of Ethiopia, but is often overlooked – both regionally and internationally.

“I have accompanied and supported every twist and turn in this peace process and am so proud to witness the signing of this peace deal. This marks the end of Ogaden insurgency – now the hard work of building sustainable peace begins.” states Aden Abdi, Horn of Africa Programme Director at Conciliation Resources.

The peace deal is the culmination of a series of negotiations between the two sides, which began in 2012 in Kenya facilitated by a team from the Government of Kenya. Conciliation Resources supported these talks, providing technical advice to the Kenyan team and the conflict parties throughout the six years of negotiations. This included providing training in preparing for negotiations and the wider peace process, and sharing relevant experiences from peace processes elsewhere. Conciliation Resources has also supported dialogue meetings with diaspora and refugee communities, to help them feed their ideas on peace in the region into the formal negotiations.

Although the signing of this peace deal is a significant step forward, it does not signify the end of the peace process. Now the hard work of implementation and making the transition to long-term peace begins. Conciliation Resources will continue to support the transition to peace in the region, including helping with reconciliation and dealing with the legacies of the conflict. It is important to take a holistic view – the ONLF insurgency is only one dimension of the instability affecting the Somali region. We will support politicians and others working for peace to develop and implement an overarching peace and reconciliation framework to address the multiple layers of conflict.

LATIN AMERICA

We work in Colombia, supporting the country's transition to peace following the signing of the 2016 peace agreement. Despite persistent political polarisation, during 2018 there were significant developments in the implementation of the agreement, including former combatants decommissioning their weapons and creating a political party. Formal talks with the National Liberation Army began in 2017, offering hope of a new peace deal, but were then suspended at the start of 2018. A concern is the increase in killings of social leaders, and uncertainty following the presidential elections in May 2018. Despite the progress made, Colombia still needs a more inclusive and cohesive peace process.

OUR WORK

Our work in Colombia challenges convention by enabling those who are often excluded from the official peace process to participate in the ongoing transition to peace. We specifically focus on women's empowerment and in 2018, continued to support a grassroots network of indigenous women, as well as Colombian women living in the diaspora. This year we helped Diaspora Woman (formerly known as the Truth, Memory and Reconciliation Commission of Colombian women in the diaspora) to connect with the official Colombian Truth Commission, and register as their own independent charitable organisation. Diaspora Woman was established by a group of women living in London to share their stories and memories of conflict and migration, and to claim a voice in Colombia's peace process.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Partnered with the Colombian truth commission

In 2018, the Colombian government created the Commission for the Clarification of Truth, Coexistence, and Non-Repetition in Colombia. Diaspora Woman's innovative work was acknowledged by the Commission, which asked Conciliation Resources and Diaspora Woman to partner with it in its initial efforts to scope the expectations of diaspora living in Europe. The Commission has been set up to explore the grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law throughout the armed conflict. After a six-month inception period, the Commission will have three years to identify, among other things, the impact of violence on society and the cause of the conflict, and to recommend policies which acknowledge and address the rights of the victims. Working alongside other civil society organisations across Europe, Diaspora Woman will contribute to the documentation of 1,000 testimonies of Colombians living throughout Europe who have been affected by the war. The decision of the Commission to engage with the diaspora is a positive if unusual development, previously only the Liberian Truth Commission has taken a similar interest in diaspora communities.

Enabled the views of indigenous women to be fed into international debate

The network of indigenous Colombian women we established and support alongside our Colombian partner, CIASE, was this year invited by the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders to participate in a debate on rural women's rights. At the Commission of the Status of Women meeting in New York, members of CONAMIC, as the network is called, were able to share the perspectives of indigenous women in Colombia. This strengthened the debate and ensured these experiences were heard by those working on these issues.

"THE EXPERIENCE OF DIASPORA WOMAN IS VERY VALUABLE FOR THE TRUTH COMMISSION... OUR TASK IS TO STRENGTHEN EXISTING INITIATIVES LIKE THIS ONE."

Carlos Beristáin

Member of the Commission for the Clarification of Truth, Coexistence, and Non-Repetition in Colombia



Meeting of Diaspora Woman in London
© Ingrid Guyon

PACIFIC

We work in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, and in the Republic of Fiji. The 2001 Bougainville Peace Agreement saw the end to almost a decade of violent conflict, and the establishment of an autonomous region. It also provided for a referendum on the region's political status, planned for October 2019. With potential political change ahead, there are numerous conflict challenges – many of which are legacies of past conflict. In 2018, Fiji held its second democratic elections since the last military coup of 2006. Despite progress, political and social divisions persist, posing an ongoing risk to Fiji's peace and stability.

OUR WORK

In Bougainville, we work to strengthen the peacebuilding skills of community leadership groups – including women, youth and faith-based groups, as well as ex-combatant leaders. Through training we provide individuals with the ability to analyse and manage conflict in their communities. We also work with the Department for Peace Agreement Implementation within the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG), to develop interventions that support veterans – from the rank and file to senior leadership – helping their transition into non-militarised community and leadership roles. Enabling collaboration and information-sharing between peacebuilders, we promote learning from contexts with relevant experiences such as South Sudan and Solomon Islands. In Fiji, our work with Fijian civil society contributes to the evolution of a sustainable and inclusive political system. We provide advice, and develop skills and knowledge, as well as facilitating dialogue between divided groups. We also enable and advocate for broader participation in processes focused on creating local and national policies.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Improved the peacebuilding abilities of leaders across Bougainville

In 2018, we supported our partner, the Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation, to deliver 11 peacebuilding training courses. These equipped a broad range of Bougainville's leaders with the skills and knowledge they need to effectively address current and future conflict issues. Throughout the year, these courses were attended by 570 community leaders from across Bougainville. Longer-term this work will help develop the peacebuilding skills and networks required for Bougainville to peacefully manage the referendum and potential political transition ahead. Alongside this, we enabled 12 emerging leaders working across Bougainville from a range of sectors, including civil society, government and ex-combatants, to participate in a peacebuilding and leadership programme which culminated in a learning exchange trip to Fiji. The group are now undertaking different peacebuilding activities which seek to address issues related to Bougainville's political future. They have also formed a network to continue connecting with each other to strengthen peacebuilding, share information and provide peer support.

Strengthened likelihood of peaceful referendum in Bougainville

Working alongside the ABG's Department for Peace Agreement Implementation, we facilitated joint-analysis and dialogue to explore potential conflict issues, and peacebuilding solutions, related to the upcoming referendum. This work fed into a number of ongoing initiatives across Bougainville, including reconciliation and disarmament processes – important steps towards attaining peace around the referendum. Analysis workshops included representatives from civil society groups, church groups, and five Autonomous Bougainville Government departments. The meetings discussed and shared conflict analysis and peacebuilding approaches on a range of current and probable future conflict issues, enhancing collaboration and peacebuilding effectiveness in the lead up to the referendum.

Introduced new perspectives on climate change and peacebuilding into the debate

Climate change is increasingly being understood as a threat to peace in the Pacific region, with environmental impacts causing reduced community resilience, increased conflict over resources, and the displacement of people from their ancestral homes. To date, there has been no direct link made between peacebuilding needs and conflict-related climate change impacts in the region. We have begun a coalition with existing Pacific partners, as well as a policy-research institute working in the Pacific, to develop approaches to identifying, preventing and mitigating the conflict impacts of climate change. We were invited by the Toda Institute of Peace to present these approaches at an International Workshop on Climate Change and Conflict in Oceania. We have also conducted research focusing on Solomon Islands exploring the relationship between displacement, migration, climate change and conflict. Through this we advocated the need to develop and incorporate peacebuilding approaches into existing and emerging climate change adaptation policy and practice.

CASE STUDY

BUILDING PEACE IN REMOTE BOUGAINVILLE COMMUNITIES

Working directly with communities across Bougainville, we are helping to prevent violence – particularly in more remote, isolated areas. Such areas have high levels of community division and a limited access to peacebuilding information.

In 2018, we developed the abilities of a range of community leaders – including youth, chiefs, women, religious leaders and ex-combatants – to respond to conflict in their communities. Training courses delivered by the Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation, with our support, were held across Bougainville. In particular, we focused on reaching areas which have significant post-conflict division such as Panguna and Konnou. These areas are experiencing multiple challenges – including divisions over mining, post-crisis trauma, crisis-related factionalism and the presence of weapons. Similarly, we engaged with 85 community members in Biros and Sovele, two locations in the Bana district of Bougainville, that have suffered sorcery-related violence and extended community divisions.

The workshops have improved the capacity of community leaders to respond to and prevent violent conflicts in their areas – through covering topics such as how to analyse conflict, how to facilitate dialogue, peacebuilding theory, trauma awareness and community awareness activities. This means that local leadership can now understand some of the causes of conflict, and identify the responses needed to address related grievances. One participant explains how the training has helped them:

“Everyone must help and work together to find solutions for the issue of land disputes here. Both adults and youth who are attending this workshop now have the knowledge of creating solutions for the problem and also have identified other parties who can help to achieve peace in our community.”

Following the training, discussions between different community leaders took place which looked at how to respond to conflict issues and contribute to peace and security in the long-term. In particular, they focused on the need to improve the involvement of women, youth and church leaders in consultations and decision-making processes.

On the final day of the workshops, some of the participants developed action plans, which included activities to raise awareness of peacebuilding approaches, advocacy campaigns and a non-violent protest to highlight issues around district conflicts with the local administration. One participant said:

“We can see the link in the land disputes with drugs and alcohol. We need to educate our communities because parents and youth are not well educated and the community is not taking ownership to settle these issues. This session has shown us this.”

SMART PEACE

The need to respond to fragility presents a pressing global challenge. The incidence of violent conflict around the world has spiked dramatically since 2010. Dialogue and mediation are proven to be effective in preventing and resolving conflicts – which are often complex, political and frequently-changing. But there is a gap in understanding of how these approaches can respond quickly to shifting political processes, and overcome obstacles that block progress. In 2018, we set up a specialist global consortium to deliver an innovative programme of conflict resolution which seeks to find ways to improve how to respond to conflicts.

“THE UK HAS PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN THE RESOLUTION OF SEVERAL CONFLICTS. I’M THEREFORE PLEASED THAT UK AID CONNECT WILL SUPPORT THE SMART PEACE PROJECT TO DEVELOP MORE EFFECTIVE WAYS OF FINDING PEACE.”

Alistair Burt

Minister of State for the Middle East and
Minister of State for International Development
at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

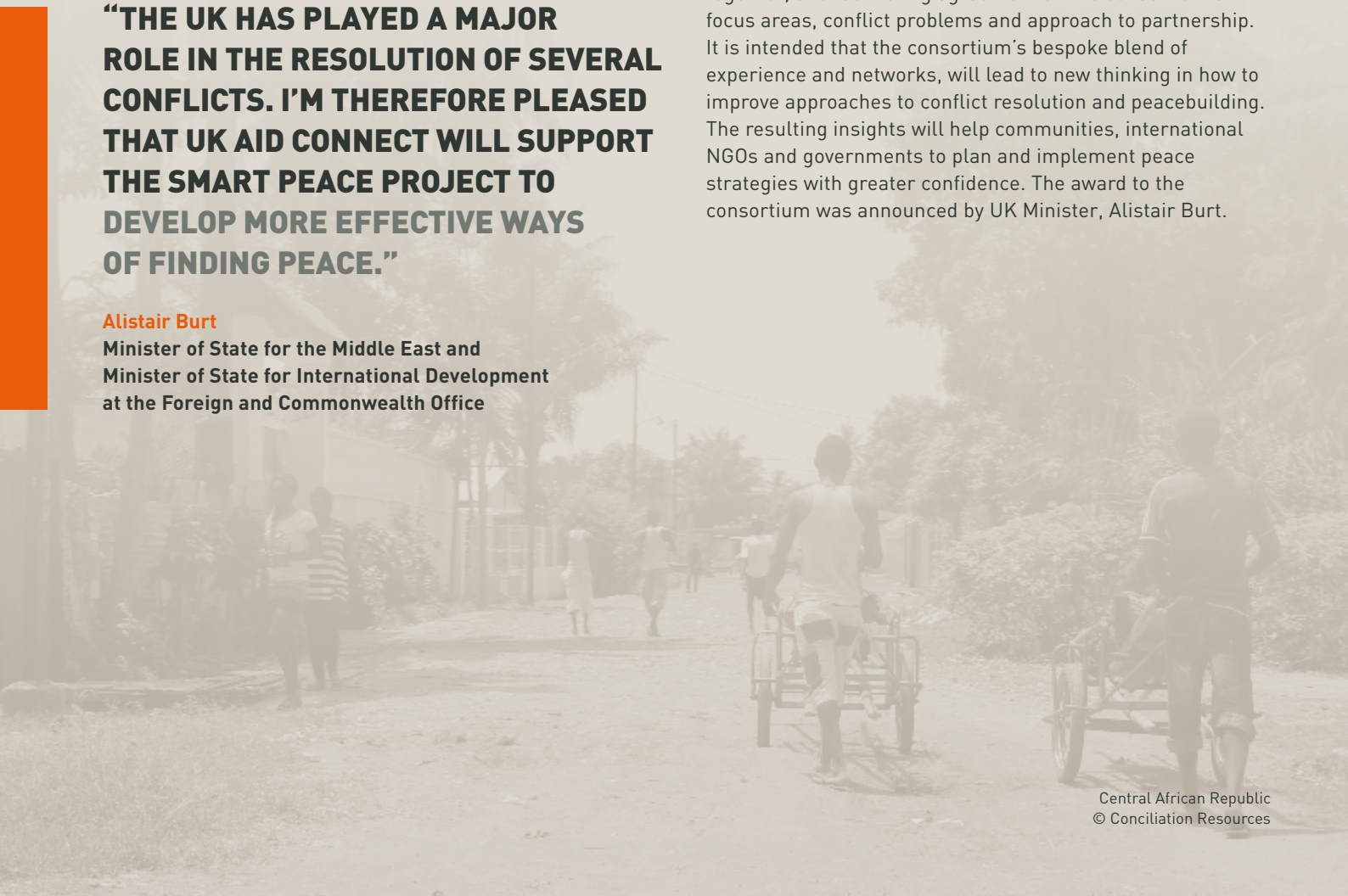
OUR WORK

Launched in September 2018, the new four-year Smart Peace programme combines the expertise of consortium members to address the challenges of building sustainable peace in some of the world’s most fragile states. The consortium is led by Conciliation Resources in partnership with The Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, The Asia Foundation, International Crisis Group, The Center for Security Studies at ETH Zurich, Behavioural Insights Team and Chatham House. Smart Peace will help to fill a gap in knowledge of how to better respond to conflicts by combining different areas of expertise. This work will involve new peacebuilding techniques, complex conflict analysis, and behavioural insights – using psychology and cognitive science approaches to understand and influence how people make choices. Focusing on the Central African Republic, Nigeria and Myanmar, Smart Peace will integrate precise analysis, with experimentation and rigorous evaluation to adapt and improve responses. This year, we established the consortium – building relationships between consortium members and planning the work ahead.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Established a peacebuilding consortium of diverse partners

We brought together seven expert but very different organisations which, each focus on aspects of peacebuilding, analysis, learning, policy and advocacy. Initial stages of the programme involved bringing participating organisations together, and facilitating agreement on the consortium’s focus areas, conflict problems and approach to partnership. It is intended that the consortium’s bespoke blend of experience and networks, will lead to new thinking in how to improve approaches to conflict resolution and peacebuilding. The resulting insights will help communities, international NGOs and governments to plan and implement peace strategies with greater confidence. The award to the consortium was announced by UK Minister, Alistair Burt.



SOUTH ASIA

In this region we primarily work on the conflict over the disputed area of Jammu and Kashmir. India and Pakistan, both nuclear states, have fought three wars over this region since partition in 1947. Tensions and unresolved grievances around this dispute continue to feed wider regional instability. Renewed tensions within Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in the Indian-administered Kashmir Valley, have been high since the summer of 2016. There have been frequent protests and demonstrations led by Kashmiri youth often resulting in violent and fatal clashes with the security forces.

OUR WORK

In South Asia, we work with civil society organisations and individuals, as well as officials within Jammu and Kashmir, helping them play a more dynamic and proactive role in peacebuilding. We believe that Kashmiri participation – along with sustained Pakistani and Indian dialogue – is essential to reduce violence and build sustainable peace in the region. At a community level, we focus particularly on involving those who are often excluded from discussions around building peace, such as women and youth. We also engage politically, organising informal dialogue processes among officials, civil society and others with a stake in the peace process, helping ensure that such processes are better informed by local perspectives. We support collaborative initiatives which involve people from either side of the Line of Control – the dividing line in Kashmir – which build confidence and relationships across the divides. Such initiatives focus on filmmaking, trade, tourism, disaster management, education, journalism and economic development. In 2018, we continued developing these confidence-building initiatives, as well as increasing the involvement of women, youth, officials and others in the broader India-Pakistan peace process.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Improved information exchange between journalists working on either side of the divide

Conciliation Resources has been supporting the first ever cross-Line of Control forum for journalists. Working with the Kashmir Institute of International Relations and Centre for Peace, Development and Reforms, the Joint Media Forum we established has brought together journalists across the Line of Control to improve connection and coordination. This year we strengthened this Forum, meaning that journalists from both sides of Kashmir can understand each other better and build strong relationships across the conflict divide. The Forum analyses the role the media on both sides of Kashmir plays in relation to conflict and peace, and means the journalists can get credible and reliable information about the issues and perceptions of the other side. In addition, it has provided a platform for the journalists to explore practical ways they can work together to address issues of mutual interest, such as peace journalism and reporting which is sensitive to issues which may exacerbate the conflict.

Supported cross-divide collaboration on language diversity and culture

In April 2018, we supported the 3rd Kashmir International Linguistic Conference on the theme of 'Linguistic Diversity and Cultural Preservation in South Asia' at the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The conference, which was attended by Vice Chancellors and academics from major Universities on both sides of Kashmir, celebrated and enabled the sharing of insights into the diversity of languages in their region, as well as exploring links with cultural heritage and social issues. It is rare for academics from either side of the divide to have space to explore issues of common interest, and this conference served to strengthen confidence and relationships between the different universities. The area of linguistics is one that the Vice Chancellors' Forum – an initiative supported by Conciliation Resources which brings together Vice Chancellors from either side of the Line of Control – had previously agreed to concentrate on in order to enable joint research.

Secured the property rights of Kashmir's 'half-widows'

Over the past three decades, an estimated 8,000 men have disappeared in the Jammu and Kashmir region as a result of the conflict. As these men are not yet declared dead, many of their wives – around 1,500 women – have been left as 'half-widows'. They are stuck in a state of limbo without emotional closure, and with limited financial support. Alongside our partner Ehsaas, we encouraged and supported religious leaders to produce a consensus statement recognising the property rights of half-widows. Throughout 2018, we then worked to inform half-widows of their rights. Previously, many half-widows faced homelessness as in-laws or other family members withheld property rights on religious grounds – stating that a wife cannot claim her husband's property until he is declared dead. Bringing together legal experts, civil society activists and influential Islamic scholars (Ulema), we were able to discuss this critical issue and get recognition and clarity for the half-widows.

“WE SEE THAT CONCILIATION RESOURCES DOES NOT HAVE A HIDDEN AGENDA BEHIND IT. CONCILIATION RESOURCES HAS ACHIEVED TRUST ON BOTH SIDES OF THE LINE OF CONTROL.”

Altaf Hussain Wani

Kashmir Institute of International Relations



Meeting of half-widows to discuss their rights
© Ezabir Ali

**“THE LINE OF CONTROL TRADE NOT ONLY
DRAMATICALLY IMPROVED MY LIVELIHOOD
BUT ALSO RECONNECTED ME WITH MY
FAMILY AND HOMELAND, WITHOUT
COMPROMISING MY POLITICAL VIEWS.”**



Truck carrying goods for trade
crossing the peace bridge at Chakoti
© Muhammad Arif Urfi

CASE STUDY

10 YEARS OF CROSS LINE OF CONTROL TRADE

Ten years ago, on 21 October 2008, the first truck drivers and traders met on the Chakothi-Uri Bridge in Kashmir. The governments of India and Pakistan had just opened up the Line of Control for limited trade as a measure aimed at building confidence between the different sides in Jammu and Kashmir. After six decades of violent conflict and the absence of any connection between the two sides, this marked a fundamental step for trust building and peacebuilding in the region.

Conciliation Resources has been involved with this initiative since the start, building connections among all those involved and facilitating the development of structures, such as the Jammu and Kashmir Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Such structures help create an environment which allows dialogue to evolve in the region, while bringing people closer together. Even at times of heightened tension between India and Pakistan, the trade has endured – demonstrating how valued it is.

Despite being a barter trade limited to specific routes across the Line of Control, the volume of goods traded and the influence of the trade continues to increase. As highlighted in a 2016 report we co-produced, for the period 2008-2015 commodities worth US \$699 million were estimated to have been traded. Cross-Line of Control trade has brought tangible economic benefits to the traders, the truck drivers but also to the wider communities living along the Line of Control.

Beyond these livelihood and business opportunities, it has increased cultural exchange and connected families divided by the conflict.

The villages where cross-Line of Control trade takes place, have seen a reduction in violence, renewed economic activity and lives transformed.

“More than actual GDP, what the trade process has brought to fruition is emotional GDP... I believe that this has immense potential to make borders irrelevant.” commented Y.V. Sharma, a former President of the Jammu and Kashmir Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

In particular, the trade has engaged a very specific community – a large number of former militants have become involved in the trade, and through this involvement, have been further reintegrated back into their societies. Trade has provided an unprecedented incentive and opportunity to the ex-combatants to start a new life. Majid Khan, a trader and ex-combatant from Muzaffarabad clarifies:

“The Line of Control trade not only dramatically improved my livelihood but also reconnected me with my family and homeland, without compromising my political views.”

Perhaps most importantly of all, the trade has shown that creative collaboration between the different sides is possible. It has been able to advance peacebuilding and dialogue where other efforts were failing. As an initiative that focuses on providing tangible economic benefits, it has provided a space for different local groups to reflect on the situation in a non-threatening way. After sustaining for the past decade, this cross-divide trade is paving the way for other collaborations across ethnic, religious and regional divides, which could ultimately help move the region towards peace.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

In Southeast Asia we work in the Philippines, which has suffered two major armed conflicts during the past four decades – in Mindanao involving the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), and a countrywide communist insurgency with the National Democratic Front (NDF). A 2014 peace agreement signed between the Government of the Philippines and the MILF envisioned the establishment of ‘the Bangsamoro’ self-governing region in Western Mindanao. In July 2018, President Duterte signed the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) and agreed to a referendum. Despite these successes, poverty and political tensions persist in this part of Mindanao – contributing to the prevalence of local conflicts known as “rido” or clan wars.

OUR WORK

Our work in the Philippines focuses on community-level conflicts and supporting the two peace processes – between the MILF and Government of the Philippines, and the NDF and Government of the Philippines. Having been part of the International Contact Group that supported the signing of the 2014 Comprehensive Agreement, our work now focuses on community safety and security. In 2018, we worked with communities in Central Mindanao to resolve conflicts, and strengthen relationships between the communities and local authorities. We also continued to provide informal advice and mediation support to the peace processes, and analysis on the NDF conflict to a network of professionals working on this region.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Resolved community conflicts across four locations

Through the establishment of Community Safety Working Groups in Mindanao, Conciliation Resources and local partners, supported villages to resolve community conflicts, and improve governance in collaboration with government authorities. In total, we set-up 12 Community Safety Working Groups (CSWGs) across four locations. These working groups have meant communities, civil society leaders, and local and regional government bodies are better able to identify and address areas of conflict. They have also created space for dialogue within communities and between communities and the authorities – leading to better understanding and therefore less conflict between the different groups. The CSWGs are made up of representatives from the communities in which they operate, including women, youth, indigenous groups and people with disabilities, giving more people a say in how their societies operate.

Ensured voters had accurate information ahead of the referendum

Together with our partners in Mindanao, we delivered an information campaign which contributed to providing voters with the knowledge they needed ahead of the referendum on the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL), in January 2019. It was important for all voters to have the correct information about how to take part in the referendum, and to understand the main aspects of the BOL and how this relates to them and their communities. This information also helped dispel various myths that had been circulating, and so ensured communities could vote in an informed manner.



Peacebuilding workshop in Mindanao
© Conciliation Resources

Developed the peacebuilding skills of officials

In 2018, with our Mindanao partners, we developed the peacebuilding skills and knowledge of 57 local government officials and members of the security sector. As well as core peacebuilding skills, the training also demonstrated how to include communities in local government decision-making. As a result, these officials are now working together more effectively with the CSWGs and other community initiatives. Participants in the training are now responding better to the needs and concerns of communities and addressing, as well as preventing, outbreaks of violence. The experience of working with the security sector in this way will also contribute to informing a community policing policy development process in the Bangsamoro.

“WE RAN ACTIVITIES SUCH AS INTERFAITH DIALOGUES WITH OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO ARE NON-MUSLIM SO THAT THEY CAN UNDERSTAND BETTER WHAT THE BOL IS, AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR THEM.”

Badrodin Mamendeg

**United Youth for Peace and Development coordinator,
North Cotabato, Mindanao**

PARTNER PROFILE

Pendi Aminodin is the Barangay (village) Chairperson in Barangay Cabuan, Parang, Mindanao. He is a member of one of the CSWGs.

Pendi's village is located in the mountains of Mindanao, and has a population of about 1,230. There are a number of governance and security challenges for his village. As well as a lack of financial development and support, there have been outbreaks of violence and a history of land conflicts in the area, as well as conflict due to political killings during the last village elections.

“As the Chairperson of our Barangay, I experience a lot of challenges related to socio-economic development, and peace and security. These include amongst other things, a lack of access to a potable source of water, and income generation – especially in this time where we are experiencing extreme drought. Compounding this is the unavailability of a source of funding for our local government.

I personally feel that the [Conciliation Resources'] training related to peacebuilding and participatory and inclusive governance, has helped me and my fellow government officials to know more about our functions as local officials and the different mandated bodies that we need to convene. More importantly, I also learned new skills related to conflict management and mediation techniques.

This project has promoted social cohesion amongst the village members. This is through the community dialogues that were conducted by the project and the formation of CSWGs. These dialogues attended by community members became platforms for them and us (local officials) to jointly identify issues and concerns, as well as solutions. For example, in the last community dialogue we had, we agreed with the help of the CSWGs that we will conduct a census for our village to update our demographic information. What is good about this, is that by having this information, we can already update our Barangay Development Plan, which is necessary for us to have as this is where we base our programmes, policies and budgeting.”

WEST AFRICA

Our work in West Africa is concentrated in the northeast and Plateau state of Nigeria, with a continued accompaniment of local partners in the border areas of Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The historic exclusion of youth from participation in political, social and economic spheres in northeast Nigeria has fuelled their disillusionment, meaning youth are vulnerable to radicalisation and recruitment into armed groups. As a result, government officials, security representatives and local communities all too often stigmatise youth as architects of violence. In addition, deep-seated cultural and societal barriers have minimised the ability of young women to participate in democratic decision-making processes.

OUR WORK

Our work in Nigeria focuses on strengthening the involvement of youth in building peace. By providing young people with the space and capacity to constructively express their needs and grievances, we lay foundations for improved trust and understanding between youth, the community and those in power. They are then able to work together to develop and implement nonviolent solutions to security challenges. In 2018, along with our partners, we continued to train, mentor and accompany young people – expanding a network of community-based youth coalitions, known as Youth Peace Platforms (YPPs), in eight local government areas and seventeen 'hotspot' communities in Borno and Yobe states. As well as face-to-face training, we used digital and mobile communications technology to enable remote learning, creating enetworks for the most marginalised young people. We facilitated discussions between YPP members and their communities, and between youth and others, including state and non-state security officials, helping to identify solutions to their respective problems. We also trained and mentored women in some of the most vulnerable communities.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Prevented violence before and during elections

In the lead-up to the 2019 presidential and regional elections, the YPPs organised and led community discussions around the risks of violence during the election period, enabling over 3,000 youth and 350 women to take part in non-violent election campaigns. They also organised workshops for other young people on resisting political violence, and advocacy events with politicians, community militias and security officials on the need for a peaceful election. To raise awareness of the campaign, they coordinated marches, launched a social media campaign, and hosted radio call-in shows focused on the role of women in promoting and supporting peaceful elections. This 'Ballots not Bullets' campaign, which was inspired by similar movements in Sierra Leone, helped to reduce intercommunal violence before, during and after elections. The long-term and consistent engagement of the communities through this campaign meant that the positive impact on people's attitudes and behaviour was much greater.

Prevented violence and helped with the reintegration and reconciliation of youth

In 2018, we trained and accompanied over 1,000 young people in northeast Nigeria – 400 of these youth were deemed to be 'at risk' of being mobilised by armed groups. Through engaging with the young people in this way, we significantly decreased the chances of them being drawn into violence in the future. In addition, along with partners and YPP members, we supported over 170 dialogue sessions led by youth in Borno and Yobe states. These sessions built trust and understanding to mitigate the escalation of violence, and lay the foundation for reintegration and reconciliation processes involving people associated with Boko Haram.



Young people taking part in the 'Ballots not bullets' campaign in northeast Nigeria
© Hope Interactive

Enabled women to heal their trauma and advocate for change

Through creating women-only storytelling and listening spaces, we have helped over 500 women in 13 communities in Borno and Yobe states to give their testimonies and support one-another. While many have suffered enormous trauma, the sessions continue to emphasise their resilience and have begun the process of healing the legacies of their past, as well as helping them imagine a better future. These listening spaces have also been used to empower the women to speak up and demand a change in the behaviour and attitudes of other community members, government, and security officials towards them. Many of the women have now become part of the community early warning mechanisms and are contributing to their own safety, as well as that of their communities. In addition, we trained 69 women from the University of Maiduguri Muslim Women Association to accompany and mentor other women in four 'hotspot' communities in two local government areas of Borno State. These women have in turn also trained and mentored over 300 women from the communities, giving them the confidence to demand change in security policies and practices.

“TRUST AND CONFIDENCE [OF LOCAL WOMEN] IS CRITICAL TO GIVING THEM VOICES. BUT TRUST IS NOT AUTOMATIC. TOGETHER, WE CAN CREATE A VOICE TO ENGAGE AND DEMAND CHANGE IN POLICIES, ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS WOMEN!”

Hajia

University of Maiduguri Muslim Women Association member

PARTNER PROFILE

Mohammed is a member of a Youth Peace Platform in Yobe state

Mohammed was the founder and leader of a violent armed gang in Yobe State, northeast Nigeria. The YPPs target the most vulnerable and excluded youth living in communities that have been under the control of Boko Haram, or that face repeated attacks. Mohammed and his gang were previously identified as among the most troublesome and at-risk group in their community. However, the trust that was established through the outreach sessions meant that when the YPP invited the gang to take part in their activities, every member attended:

“We were just a group of friends from the community who got together and took drugs as a way to forget about the violence. But over time, we turned to dealing drugs. The drugs made us violent, they changed our mindsets. We were feared in the community, everyone was scared of us. We were rejected by everyone; my parents didn't want me at the house. I felt hopeless and angry, it just made the gang more stubborn and violent. Eventually, politicians started using us to undertake violence for their own gains – they would buy us arms, ammunition, or our drugs.

I knew we were doing wrong. I tried so many times to stop selling drugs and getting in trouble with the police. But I always fell back into it.

The visit from the YPP to us expressed love. Nobody had ever come to speak to us like that before. They weren't saying we were bad people, but they expressed love for us. Their visit made us feel like we belonged in the community. Now that the other youth in the YPP support me and believe in me, for the first time, I feel like I have a bright future.

I have not sold drugs for six months and have taken up farming. I will never carry any weapon to destroy my own people and property again – that's a promise. We have changed the name of the gang to Nice Club and rather than sell drugs we try to help the community in some way – we do sanitation, help people on their farms and do other charity work. I want my life to be an example to others about how you can change, I want to tell people my story, tell them about my old life and how different it is from the present one I am enjoying.”

WOMEN MEDIATORS ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH

Women Mediators across the Commonwealth (WMC) is a new network, hosted by Conciliation Resources which brings together women from different backgrounds and with different experiences of mediating conflict. Despite the fact that women play an active role in mediating conflicts at all levels, their role is often not acknowledged or supported. The network advocates for the increased recognition of women mediators, and their participation in peace processes regionally and internationally. It also provides opportunities for the women to learn from and support each other. The network is part of a broader programme, with work also focusing on supporting women's participation in mediating community conflicts.

OUR WORK

Launched in July 2018, the network now has 37 members from diverse backgrounds and geographic locations. WMC members have mediation experience ranging from mediating conflict at the community level, to formally mediating conflicts as part of official peace processes. As well as beginning building the network, this initial stage has focused on clarifying the role the network can play, creating an identity for the network, and identifying the needs of the members. The network has also helped to raise the profile of individual mediators with specific thematic and geographic expertise who can be called upon for mediation work when required. For example, member Mossarat Qadeem took part in a UN General Assembly debate. Work also began to support grassroots women in Kenya in their conflict transformation activities.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Increased the visibility of women mediators at the United Nations

Together with other regional women mediator networks, in October, WMC organised the regional Women Mediators Networks meeting in New York. This took place in the margins of the United Nations Security Council Open Debate on resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. It was successful in positioning WMC as a collaborative player in this sphere. The event provided WMC with the chance to collaborate and forge relationships with other networks and individuals working on these issues. As well as having opportunities to speak to UN meeting delegates, WMC members contributed to drafting a letter to the UN Secretary General. This letter highlighted the need to recognise women mediators, and advocated for increased support for their inclusion in peace processes.

Developed the skills of grassroots women mediators in Kenya

Working with mediators at grassroots levels, we strengthened the peacebuilding skills of 21 women in Kenya. The women are all members of seven local peace committees in Garissa county in northeastern Kenya. This training helped to establish women-led peace and dialogue initiatives which the women have taken back to their peace committees.

MEMBER PROFILE

Visaka Dharmadasa is a member of WMC, and Chair of the Association of War Affected Women and Parents of Servicemen Missing in Action. Through her involvement in WMC she is connecting with, and learning from, women mediators across the world and taking part in joint promotion and advocacy initiatives with other members.

Coming from the troubled island of Sri Lanka, Dharmadasa is no stranger to violent conflict. On 27 September 1998 her 21-year-old son, a military officer, went missing when the armed group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) attacked his military base. Twenty years later, Dharmadasa still fights to know the truth about what happened. She has turned her own personal tragedy into motivation to work for justice and build peace.

“Out of my frustration at the lack of information about my son’s disappearance, I founded the Association of War Affected Women and Parents of Servicemen Missing in Action. I quickly realised the only way to stop what had happened to me happening to other mothers was to end the bloodshed.

I led a group of courageous women, all of whom had lost family, into the jungle to meet with members of the armed group. We were able to open up a channel of communication with the fighters and were ultimately credited for bringing the LTTE to the negotiating table. Our success came about because we had a strong base of mothers from both sides. A mother’s voice is very influential when she says ‘No more bloodshed’.

I continue to work to uncover the truth and gain information about the disappeared sons, brothers and husbands. Being a member of the WMC will allow me to take new inspiration from other women working for peace around the world.”

“I THINK THERE IS A TREMENDOUS NEED FOR WMC. THERE ARE MANY OF US DOING MEDIATION AND PEACEBUILDING IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD AND SOMETIMES FEELING ISOLATED OR DISCONNECTED.”

Sara Cook

Member of WMC from Northern Ireland



Members of WMC at a network meeting in Malaysia
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ACCORD, POLICY AND PRACTICE

After decades of decline, there has been a recent increase in violent conflict. In 2016, more countries experienced violent conflict than at any time in nearly 30 years and this trend continues. Effective response to conflict remains one of the biggest challenges of our time. There are no easy, quick or one-size-fits-all solutions – to be effective policies need to draw on the lessons from practical experience. We seek to influence international policy within the regions where we work, as well as in the UK, EU and at the UN. Generating evidence and lessons from our work, we inform decision-makers and peacebuilders around the world, to improve peacebuilding practice.

OUR WORK

We work alongside people affected by conflict – connecting them with policymakers, and basing our research and policy recommendations on their views and insights. Our Accord publication series takes an in-depth look at specific peacebuilding themes and conflicts, sharing lessons from peacebuilding to strengthen peace processes. This year we focused on how the needs and opinions of multiple groups, including civil society, youth, both women and men, indigenous communities and armed groups, can be heard and integrated into processes which build peace. And we worked on protecting the legal and political space for NGOs to support this kind of work to happen. Accord explored peacebuilding in borderland regions and Afghanistan, and we published our first paper on the inclusion of gender and sexual minorities in peacebuilding. We also continued to strengthen our skills and develop tools to better understand the gender-related factors which drive conflicts. Along with partner Saferworld, we created and applied a methodology to analyse conflicts in a way which takes account of gender, through workshops in Somalia and on the Nagorny Karabakh conflict. We worked with partners in the Philippines, Bougainville (Papua New Guinea), the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, the Central African Republic, and Jammu and Kashmir to deepen our shared understanding of gender, peace and violence in different conflict situations.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Secured an exemption for humanitarian aid in UK counter-terrorism legislation

The UK Counter Terrorism and Border Security Bill was introduced to parliament in 2018. This included a provision which gives the Home Secretary the power to designate a country, or region of a country, and make it an offence for UK nationals and residents to enter or remain in this area. On return to the UK, an individual such as a peacebuilder, aid worker or journalist could be investigated by the police. NGOs were concerned that this measure would hinder efforts to provide aid and support to people affected by conflict, and make banks more reluctant to provide financial services to NGOs operating in these areas. We played a leading role with Bond, a network of UK based NGOs working in international development, and individual NGOs, in pressing parliament to accept explicit exemptions for humanitarian, peacebuilding and development support. As a result of the persistent efforts we coordinated, an amendment creating an exemption for 'aid of a humanitarian nature' was adopted, and the Government provided explicit assurances that peacebuilding constitutes a 'reasonable excuse' for travel. Since 2012, Conciliation Resources has been chairing a Bond Working Group, which acts as a hub for UK-based NGOs working in high-risk contexts concerned by the negative impact of sanctions and counter-terrorism legislation. We are also jointly leading a formal dialogue with the government, banks and NGOs on these issues.

Influenced international thinking on possible paths for peace in Afghanistan

Our 27th issue of *Accord: Incremental Peace in Afghanistan*, highlights a need for a radical new approach to peace in the country – one that builds progressive steps towards peace and includes Afghan society as a whole. Contributors span a range of perspectives and insights and include Afghan and international men and women, from academia, the military, government, armed opposition and civil society. On launch, the publication was viewed and downloaded over 6,600 times. After targeted promotion of the research and policy recommendations, the European External Action Service (EEAS) Mediation Support Team used lessons from the publication to inform its peace support action plan for Afghanistan. We also briefed the UK Prime Minister's Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, and the US Special Envoy for Afghanistan Reconciliation on the findings.


“THE APPROACH PRESENTED IN THE LATEST ACCORD REPORT ON AFGHANISTAN IS EXTREMELY INTERESTING AND IT PROVIDES A USEFUL PERSPECTIVE... VERY HELPFUL IN DEFINING OUR VISION AND POLICY.”

Stefano Tomat

Head of PRISM at the EEAS

Increased the use of conflict analysis which includes consideration of gender

We have expanded the use of our innovative gender-sensitive conflict analysis training tools by both our programme teams, and by external organisations and governments. At their request, Germany, Sweden, the EU and the UK have been provided with support to integrate our tools and approaches into their policies and programming. UN Women are using our training tools to integrate gender into the work of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, including in 2018 in peacekeeping missions to Haiti, Liberia and Darfur. We also shared our learning at a number of international and national fora including the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office, the UN Expert Working Group in New York and the Mediation Support Network. We worked closely with Crisis Management Initiative in Finland to investigate the links between integrating gender-sensitivity into peacebuilding, and institutional structures and processes. This analysis will feed into learning on the effectiveness of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security during its 20th anniversary in 2020.



Froilyn Mendoza, one of Conciliation Resources' partners from the Philippines, discusses partnership practice with fellow peacebuilders

© Mike Bradford

STRENGTHENING THE ORGANISATION

In addition to our peacebuilding, research and advocacy activities, in 2018 we continued to strengthen Conciliation Resources as an organisation. This included improving how we monitor, evaluate and learn from our work; how we work with others; how we raise funds and communicate; and how we ensure our financial and other systems provide effective support.

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND ORGANISATIONAL LEARNING

In order to reinforce the goals and values of peacebuilding, we take an approach to monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) that encourages participation, and takes account of conflict sensitivities. In 2018, we trialled the use of new MEL approaches and created a more intuitive and flexible results framework to capture the richness and complexity of Conciliation Resources' work. We carried out nine evaluations of our programme work, including one cross-regional evaluation of our support to local peace groups in Nigeria, Liberia and Kenya. We then used these evaluations to strengthen cross-organisational learning.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

Analysing and evaluating our approach to partnership, in 2018 we published *Partnership in Peacebuilding*. We also explored how the partnership qualities we identified in the report have helped to achieve change, taking in-depth examples from Mindanao and the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict. In parallel, we consulted with a number of funding partners, to better understand how they perceive partnerships between international NGOs and civil society organisations in conflict contexts, and how they can best support their contributions to peace.

Recognising that peacebuilding is a shared endeavour, in 2018 we participated in a number of networks, which enabled Conciliation Resources to contribute to and shape, the way in which the peacebuilding field is developing. This included hosting the annual meeting of 20 members of the Mediation Support Network in London; playing a leading role in Bond's Conflict Policy Group; contributing to the Rethinking Security network, and our Executive Director, Jonathan Cohen, being appointed Chair of the Steering Committee of the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office.

In addition, Conciliation Resources' staff shared their expertise at a range of events during the course of the year, including at the United States Institute for Peace (Washington D.C), Stockholm Forum, FriEnt Peace Building Forum (Berlin), UNDP (Istanbul), Imperial War Museum (London) and Wilton Park (Abuja).

FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNICATIONS

In 2018, we made further progress on diversifying our funding – strengthening existing donor relationships, identifying new funding sources and seeking to establish a solid platform on which to build in the years to come. In order for us to keep making progress towards finding peaceful solutions to conflict, continued flexible funding for both on the ground programme work, as well as activities which strengthen our organisational abilities to deliver our goals, is crucial.

Our communications focused on promoting all aspects of our work and learning, including on key themes such as engaging armed groups, youth, and gender, peace and security. In addition, we were featured in a number of media outlets, including expert op-eds and stories in the Guardian, the New York Times, the Daily Mail (UK), Open Democracy, African Arguments and All Africa. As part of our work with +PEACE, a coalition which brings together leading peacebuilding organisations, we took part in a campaign to gain recognition for 'peacebuilding' and feature it in prominent English-language dictionaries. This effort led to three major dictionaries: Cambridge, HarperCollins, and MacMillan including the word 'peacebuilding'.

OPERATIONS

2018 saw increases of over 25% in our staff cohort and total budget. The year also saw significant shifts in the funding and regulatory environment. The Operations team responded to these changes and challenges at the structural, policy and process levels, by implementing improvements in governance, financial management, employee engagement and IT systems.

Increasing revelations of sexual abuse in the aid sector presented both a welcome exposé of abuse and a reminder of the duty of international organisations to both live our values and 'do no harm'. In 2018, Conciliation Resources actively engaged in the sector response and initiated an organisation wide re-assessment of our interactions, risks and competence in this area. Data protection, IT reliability and security were improved through system upgrades and training. At the same time, we streamlined our financial management team and processes to balance efficiency, value for money and the needs of partners.

OUR PEOPLE

Our achievements this year are thanks to the combined skills, experience and technical knowledge of our committed staff and board members, as well as partners. Reflecting our core values internally, we foster an internal culture of collaboration and respect. In 2018, we were represented by a diverse staff body of over 50 members of staff.

BOARD

Our Board meets four times a year to provide advice and exercise scrutiny of our work. The Board consists of professionals from a variety of backgrounds including peacebuilding, human rights, academia, diplomacy, law and communications. In May 2018, after five years in the role, The Rt Rev. Peter Price stepped down as the Chair of the Board of Trustees. A successful recruitment process followed, which saw the appointment of David Donoghue as Chair. David is a former senior Irish diplomat who served as Ireland's permanent representative to the United Nations from 2013-2017. Carey Cavanaugh, Michelle Davis and Catherine Fearon also stepped down from the Board after serving for many years.

2018 Board Members: Carey Cavanaugh, Michelle Davis, Catherine Fearon, Diana Good, Katy Hayward, Avila Kilmurray, Rosalind Marsden, Michelle Parlevliet, Peter Price/David Donoghue (Chair), Andrew Peck (Treasurer), Marc Van Bellingham.



OUR PARTNERS

Partnerships are at the heart of our work. We can only find peaceful solutions to violent conflict by working together patiently and persistently across conflict divides – including with the people at the hard edge of conflict.

In 2018 we worked with a range of programme and policy partners, both in specific contexts and internationally. In addition, we were supported by multiple funding partners. Without their commitment our work would not be possible.



Our partners at a dialogue event in the Democratic Republic of Congo
© Conciliation Resources

PROGRAMME AND POLICY PARTNERS

Caucasus

- Asarkia
- Center for Humanitarian Programmes
- Crisis Management Initiative
- Go Group Media
- Institute for the Study of Nationalism and Conflict
- International Alert
- Kvinna till Kvinna
- LINKS
- Media Initiatives Center
- Memory Project core groups
- Peace Dialogue
- Public Union for Humanitarian Research
- Respublika Idei
- Stepanakert Press Club
- Sukhum Youth House
- swisspeace
- Women's Fund for Development (formerly Avangard)

East and Central Africa

- Action et Initiatives de Développement pour la Protection de la Femme et de l'Enfant
- Association pour Action Humanitaire en Centrafrique
- Commission Diocésaine de Justice, Paix et Réconciliation
- Femme Homme Action Plus
- One Girl One Leader
- Réseau des Organisations de Femmes des Uélés
- Self-Help Women Development Association
- Solidarité et Assistance Intégrale aux Personnes Démunies
- South Sudan Democratic Engagement, Monitoring and Observation Programme
- Totto Chan for Child Trauma
- Women Action Sustainable Initiative

Horn of Africa

- Africa Peace Forum
- County Government of Garissa
- Ethiopia Civil Service University
- Government of Kenya Facilitation Team to the Ogaden peace process
- Local community peace committees in Garissa County
- National Steering Committee on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management
- Womankind

Latin America

- ABColombia
- Coordinación Nacional de Mujeres Indígenas de Colombia
- Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Económica
- Diaspora Woman (formerly known as TMRC)

Pacific

- Citizens' Constitutional Forum
- Dialogue Fiji
- Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation
- The Pacific Centre for Peacebuilding
- Transcend Oceania

Smart Peace

- Behavioural Insights Team
- Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue
- Chatham House
- International Crisis Group
- The Asia Foundation
- The Center for Security Studies at ETH Zurich

South Asia

- Bureau of Research on Industry and Economic Fundamentals
- Centre of Peace, Development and Reforms
- Human Welfare Voluntary Organisation
- Kargil Development Project
- Kashmir Development Foundation
- Kashmir Institute of International Relations
- PAIMAN Alumni Trust
- School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, University of Jammu

Southeast Asia

- Centre For Peace & Conflict Studies
- Teduray Lambangian Women's Organisation
- United Youth for Peace and Development

West Africa

- Borno Coalition for Democracy and Progress
- Centre for Peace Advancement in Nigeria
- Hope Interactive
- Kukah Centre
- Peace Action Training and Research Institute of Romania
- University of Maiduguri Muslim Women Association

Accord, policy and practice

- Alliance for Peacebuilding
- Bond
- Charity Finance Group
- European Peacebuilding Liaison Office
- Gender Action for Peace and Security
- Mediation Support Network
- Political Settlements Research Programme
- Rethinking Security
- Saferworld
- School of Oriental and African Studies

FUNDING PARTNERS

Government and multilateral organisations

- Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland
- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- European Commission
- European Union
- Federal Republic of Germany Foreign Office
- French Embassy in Bangui, Central African Republic
- Global Affairs Canada
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
- Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
- UK Conflict, Stability and Security Fund
- UK Department for International Development
- UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Trusts and foundations

- Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust
- Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (zivik Funding Programme)
- MISEREOR
- National Endowment for Democracy USA
- Peace Nexus Fund

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

In 2018, Conciliation Resources' income increased to £5.99 million, reflecting the addition of two new thematic programmes, and a small increase in the size of most of the geographic teams. This translated into an increased expenditure of £5.95 million. The summary statement of financial activities shows a surplus of £44,605 for the year, with £1,837,739 total funds available.

2018 saw continued uncertainty following the 2016 UK referendum on membership of the European Union. Continued criticism of the UK aid budget, and complex shifts towards populist politics in some European countries, have further contributed to the changing nature of peacebuilding funding. Increasingly, donor funds are projected over short-time frames instead of providing strategic flexibility over a longer period. Conciliation Resources continues to plan, adapt and adjust to these changing and emerging trends. The ability to recover organisational support costs at an appropriate level remains a challenge at a time when external requirements are becoming increasingly complex, costly and time-consuming to manage.

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Income	2018	2017
Unrestricted grants	1,080,428	1,217,489
Restricted grants	4,909,743	3,864,536
TOTAL INCOME	5,990,171	5,121,186
Expenditure	2018	2017
Fundraising	153,786	202,144
Charitable activities	5,791,780	5,350,144
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5,945,566	5,552,288
Surplus/deficit	44,605	(431,102)

Conciliation Resources is fortunate to have valued, long-standing relationships with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland. Their funding provides essential core support and flexibility.

SUPPORT COSTS

Costs incurred for the general management of Conciliation Resources, including the provision of direct and indirect executive oversight, financial management, office costs, communication costs, governance costs and cross-organisational support to programmes are allocated as 'charitable activity' expenditure. The costs of fundraising are met from unrestricted income.

RESERVES

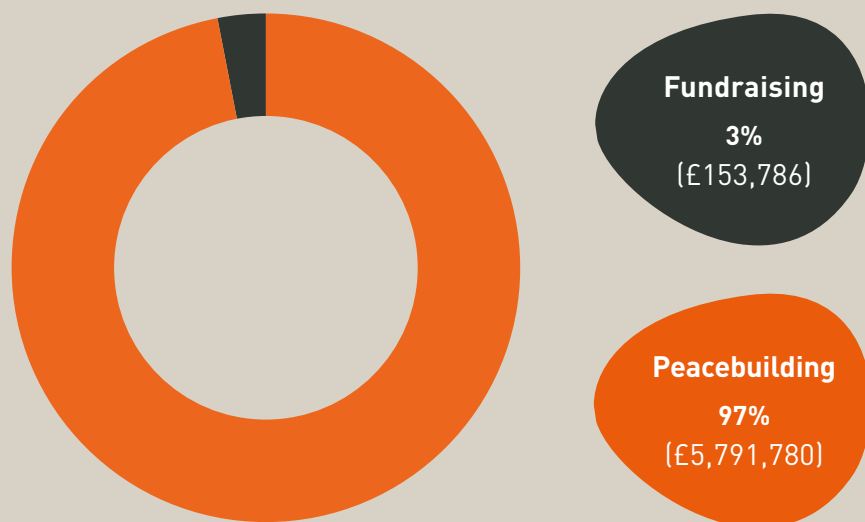
Conciliation Resources has a policy to maintain a balance of unrestricted reserves equalling six months core operating costs in line with general guidelines for UK charities. General reserves are unrestricted and include a designation of £200,000 for staff contingency. During 2018, Conciliation Resources met its target for unrestricted reserves.

BASIS OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION

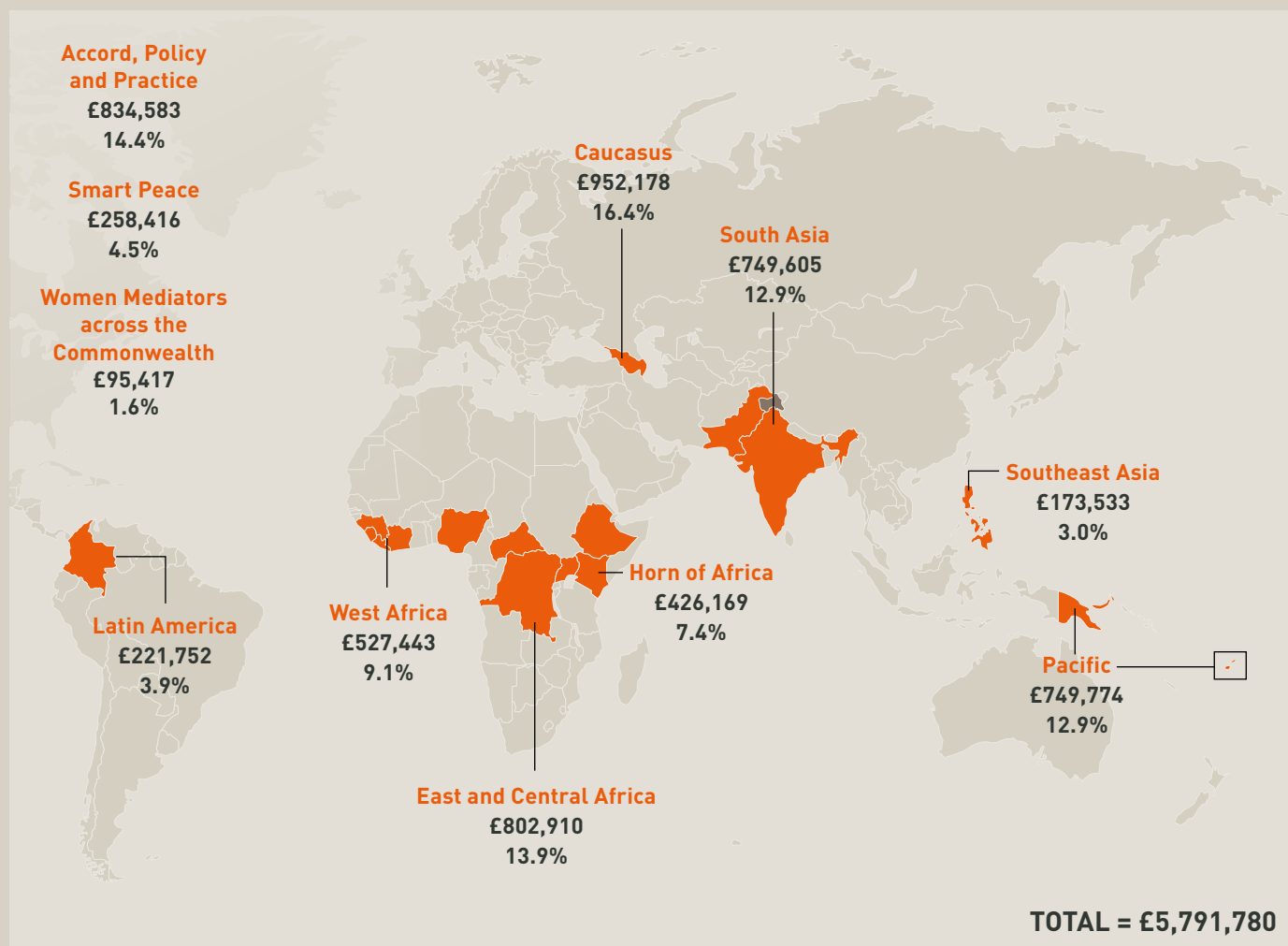
The accounts are audited by PKF Littlejohn LLP and are prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2005) issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales and the Financial Reporting Standard 102. We publish our audited accounts on our website: www.c-r.org or they can be downloaded from the Charity Commission website: www.charitycommission.gov.uk

Balance sheet	2018	2017
Fixed Assets	92,089	103,318
Current Assets	3,775,045	2,928,925
Liabilities	(1,937,399)	(1,148,383)
NET ASSETS	5,990,171	5,121,186
Funds	2018	2017
Unrestricted funds	1,837,739	1,793,134
Restricted funds	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS	1,837,739	1,793,134

HOW WE SPENT YOUR MONEY IN 2018



PEACEBUILDING ACTIVITIES



**CONCILIATION RESOURCES
IS AN INTERNATIONAL
ORGANISATION COMMITTED
TO STOPPING VIOLENT
CONFLICT AND CREATING
MORE PEACEFUL SOCIETIES.
WE MAKE PEACE POSSIBLE.**

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