

**UN GLOBAL COMPACT  
COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)**

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**Period covered by this Communication on Engagement**

From: June 2018 To: November 2020

6 November 2020

To our stakeholders,

I am pleased to confirm that Conciliation Resources reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

Since joining the UN Global Compact in 2018, Conciliation Resources has supported the Global Compact and advanced its Ten Principles through our programmatic activities, outreach, advocacy and organisational management. These actions include:

- Engaged companies, states, civil society and non-governmental organisations in Global Compact-related issues. Through our programmes and advocacy, Conciliation Resources has contributed to the advancement of gender equality, good governance, and the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights. *(Human Rights)*
- Increased our supply chain due diligence and spot checks. *(Human Rights)*
- Joined projects promoting corporate sustainability. In particular, Conciliation Resources has played a prominent role in the Trisector Working Group, which brings together representatives from UK government departments, the banking sector, and non-profit organisations to help manage risk while continuing to support the critical work of NGOs and civil society organisations providing humanitarian assistance or supporting peace efforts in volatile contexts. *(Human Rights, Anti-Corruption)*
- Participated in events aligned with the Global Compact and SDGs. *(Human Rights)*
- Entered into a Voluntary Recognition Agreement with Community Union. *(Labour)*
- Formed an anti-racism working group and procured a consultant expert on anti-racism. *(Labour)*
- Enacted an organisational Environmental Sustainability Policy, identifying concrete steps to reduce our environmental impact. *(Environment)*
- Improved analysis and peacebuilding approaches both at a community, national and international level to the conflict effects of Climate Change in the Pacific. *(Environment, Human Rights)*
- Conducted anti-corruption training with organisational partners. *(Anti-Corruption)*

Please accept this Communications of Engagement as evidence of our commitment to public accountability and transparency. The Annual Review attached herewith further details some of our main activities and measurement of our outcomes.

Your faithfully,

Jonathan Cohen  
Executive Director  
Conciliation Resources



# 25 YEARS OF BUILDING PEACE

Annual Review

2019

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# ABOUT CONCILIATION RESOURCES

Conflict is difficult, complex and political. 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.

We connect the views of people on the ground with political processes, and share experience and expertise so others can find creative responses to conflict.

We make peace possible.

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## 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.

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# WELCOME



I am proud to share Conciliation Resources' 2019 Annual Review, which marks our 25th year. We started out with two second hand computers and a vision to support people working to bring peace to their war-torn societies. We have grown into an organisation of over 60 skilled and committed staff, with a network of more than 80 partners, that is integrated into a global community of peer organisations – people who every day make building better peace a reality. This report provides a glimpse into the creative and practical steps Conciliation Resources has taken to bring people closer towards peace this past year.

I write these words as we all witness the spread of a global pandemic – a virus that knows no boundaries, and which will impact our lives unequally. This serves to remind us that conflict too respects no boundaries and is experienced in dramatically different ways. Violence might not be a virus, but it is deeply ingrained in the fabric of all our societies, with different abilities to respond.

As we strive to bring about change in communities wracked by the threat or presence of violent conflict, what's the intention behind our peacebuilding efforts, and even more importantly what's the experience of our practice? As an organisation of diverse, passionate and oftentimes by necessity, stubborn peacebuilders, I see extraordinary work undertaken. What do we learn when we succeed and even more so when we don't get things right? Our partners challenge us in our shared analysis and jointly developed strategies. Our teams interrogate the design of our peacebuilding initiatives, as well as the way the organisation is run. Our trustees and donors hold us to account. Increasingly with our donors we form a partnership that is so much more than a financial transaction.

A quarter of a century ago peacebuilding was very much in its infancy. Today the demand for peacebuilding, and the solidarity that underpins it, is greater than ever. Our work remains grounded in political reality with a belief that change is possible. We have stories and evidence to demonstrate this. Our shared endeavour is inspired by qualities of patience and impatience; creativity and resourcefulness and a spirit of challenge and enquiry. In particular, we are mindful of our commitment to listening, and an appreciation of our collaboration and connectedness.

It is with humility and gratitude to so many that I present this report on behalf of our team.

**Jonathan Cohen**  
Executive Director



# 25 YEARS OF BUILDING PEACE

## 1994 CONCILIATION RESOURCES BEGINS



Conciliation Resources was established by Andy Carl and David Lord, initially working in Fiji and Sierra Leone. The staunch conviction of our founders was that people living in areas of violent conflict should be involved in its resolution. Twenty-five years later, this principle still forms the basis of our approach.

## 1996 A RESOURCE FOR PEACE IS BORN

We produced our first Accord publication, looking at the Liberian peace process, to analyse and share practical lessons from peacebuilding. Since then, more than 30 Accord publications, including on pioneering themes, have informed the development of peacebuilding and conflict policy.

## 1997 TRANSFORMING CONFLICT IN WAR-TORN SIERRA LEONE

In 1997 we started our work providing support for community mediation with the Bo Peace and Reconciliation Movement in Sierra Leone. This resulted in trained 'peace monitors' resolving hundreds of community disputes, as well as increased community cohesion.



## 1998 EDUCATING CITIZENS IN FIJI

Alongside our Fijian partner, Citizens' Constitutional Forum, we produced a cartoon-illustrated booklet explaining the country's new constitution and electoral system. The booklet was distributed to schools across the country and significantly increased awareness of the changes.

## 2000 PROGRESS THROUGH GEORGIAN-ABKHAZ DIALOGUE



We organised the first of many informal dialogue meetings, bringing together high-level Georgian and Abkhaz officials, politicians and members of civil society to discuss key issues connected to the conflict. Over the past 20 years, these meetings have fed ideas into the formal peace talks.

## 2004 ALTERNATIVE NARRATIVES ON CONFLICT IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

Launched in 2004, our innovative radio diaries project challenged stereotypes and gave a human face to conflict, with over 1,500 diaries broadcast across the South Caucasus. It led to other initiatives such as bringing together more than 30 young Armenians from Nagorny Karabakh with Azerbaijanis to make short films about the conflict that divides them.

## 2005 GROUND-BREAKING RESEARCH ON TALKING TO ARMED GROUPS

Collating the voices of armed groups, governments and mediators, our 16th Accord *Choosing to engage: armed groups and peace processes*, contributed new thinking to this hotly debated topic. It highlighted the importance of communicating with armed groups for peace.

## 2008 TRADING FOR PEACE IN KASHMIR

We supported the opening up of the Line of Control in Kashmir for limited trade in 2008, by facilitating the consolidation of the Jammu and Kashmir Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry. This initiative has built confidence and developed relationships across the conflict divide.

**2009  
REGIONAL RESPONSE TO CONFLICT  
IN EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA**

In 2008 the infamous Lord’s Resistance Army spread from Uganda into the border areas of Sudan, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo. We established a Regional Civil Society Task Force, bringing together people affected by the conflict to share vital information and coordinate solutions.

**2011  
A NEW COMMITMENT TO PEACE IN  
THE BASQUE COUNTRY**

At an international conference we co-sponsored, participants including Kofi Annan, issued a declaration calling on ETA to formally end armed confrontation in the Basque Country. That same month, ETA announced it would end armed activity after four decades of violence.

**2013  
HELPING ABDUCTEES  
RETURN HOME**



Our work has helped hundreds of vulnerable people abducted by the Lord’s Resistance Army to return to their families. In 2013 we helped the Ugandan Government introduce an Amnesty Act which allowed some former members of the armed group to return home safely.

**2014  
PHILIPPINES PEACE AGREEMENT**

In March 2014, the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front signed a Comprehensive Peace Agreement after 16 years of negotiations. We had supported the peace talks since 2009 as a member of the International Contact Group.

**2016  
RESPONDING TO  
EBOLA-DRIVEN CONFLICT**

In the already tense border regions of West Africa, the Ebola epidemic sparked fresh waves of violence. Our work with 18 District Platforms for Dialogue across the Mano River Region created spaces for communities to discuss their grievances and resolve community-level conflicts.

**2017  
YOUTH BUILDING PEACE**



In 2017 we worked with over 3,500 young people in 8 different contexts. Training young people in many places, we empowered them to have a voice on the conflicts that impact them and helped them to manage violence in their communities. We also fed ideas into the United Nations’s Global Progress Report on Youth, Peace and Security.

**2018  
SECURING A PEACE DEAL  
IN ETHIOPIA**

In October 2018, the Ogaden National Liberation Front and the Government of Ethiopia signed a peace agreement. We were there at the signing, as we had been for the previous seven years, supporting negotiations between these two parties and helping draft the final peace deal.

**2019  
CONNECTING PEACEBUILDERS**

We strengthened collaboration by linking peacebuilders across the world through initiatives such as Smart Peace and Women Mediators across the Commonwealth, combining our skills and expertise so that together we can make peace possible.

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# OUR GOALS

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## 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.**

Identifying and finding ways to address the underlying factors causing violence is a vital aspect of our work. Equally important is bringing different groups together to build trust and understanding. Throughout 2019, we continued to look for creative ways of transforming existing practices, structures and relationships to move societies towards peace.

As part of our work on the Georgian-Abkhaz and Nagorny Karabakh conflicts, we continued to organise dialogue meetings. These connected civil society, experts and officials to explore areas of common interest, discuss creative ideas and find concrete ways forward. While in Jammu and Kashmir, despite huge contextual challenges, we kept discussion and collaboration between different groups alive.

Playing a more formal role, in the Horn of Africa, we brought together the Somali Regional Government and the Ogaden National Liberation Front leadership, [contributing to the creation of a Joint Committee](#) – one of the pillars of the 2018 peace deal. In Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, we provided core facilitation support to the Post-referendum Ministerial Planning Taskforce in partnership with the United Nations – engaging both the national Papua New Guinea and Autonomous Bougainville Governments. This helped ensure a smooth and peaceful referendum on the political status of Bougainville, and laid out the framework for intergovernmental dialogue post referendum.

We also continued supporting community dialogue and mediation processes. In both the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Central African Republic (CAR), we made positive strides towards strengthening relationships between authorities and communities, in particular involving young people. By enabling communities to take part in local government planning workshops, our work

led to more transparent and participatory governance processes in Mindanao, the Philippines. In Nigeria, we facilitated the signing of three formal peace agreements between herding and farming communities.

In both the Caucasus and Colombia, our work to deal with legacies of conflict intensified. Diaspora Women, a group of Colombian women supported by Conciliation Resources since their inception, gained charitable status. They are now working with the official Commission for the Clarification of Truth, Coexistence, and Non-Repetition in Colombia ensuring the perspectives of Colombian diaspora are included in the ongoing peace process. In the Caucasus, we continued work on the Karabakh Conflict Archive. We also made material from the Memory Project archives on the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict public for the first time through an [innovative exhibition held in Tbilisi](#).

## 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.**

There is an increasing understanding that peace processes that are more inclusive have a better chance of success. In 2019, through both our research and our programmatic work, we built a picture of how best to support the inclusion of diverse, under-represented or marginalised groups in peace processes.

We published a [ground-breaking Accord](#), with 21 articles exploring different aspects of inclusion, and looking at examples from Colombia, Syria and Afghanistan among others. This publication offers research and practice-based insights to help us better understand what we mean when we talk about inclusion in peace processes, and what we need to consider in the ways we pursue it. We also continued to support practitioners in governments, multilateral institutions and NGOs to integrate gender-sensitivity into their conflict analysis.

In many of the regions in which we work, young people are some of those most affected by conflict, yet are all too often excluded from responses to the violence. They need safe spaces to discuss the challenges they face and the ideas they have – both within their communities and with those in power. In Georgia and northeast Nigeria,

we have helped create networks of young people who are generating innovative ideas to improve their communities' understanding of conflicts and ways to address them. In CAR and Kashmir, we provided young people with skills in adaptive leadership, peacebuilding and conflict analysis to help them become leaders of change. In the Horn of Africa, we brought together Somali and diaspora youth, and in DRC, the Philippines and Colombia, we connected young people with authorities, building channels for communication and collaboration. Learning from our experience, we collated and shared lessons with NGO partners working with youth in conflict-affected contexts.

We are continuing to promote and support the meaningful inclusion of women in building peace – from their involvement in grassroots peacebuilding to formal peace processes. Through Women Mediators across the Commonwealth, we brought together women mediators from 20 different countries, enabling them to share their experiences of mediation and advocate for change at a global level. In Kashmir, Nigeria, and Kenya, we helped to create important safe dialogue spaces for women to share their experiences, difficulties and needs across regional, religious and generational divides.

In Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, we helped feed the views and opinions of veterans of the conflict into official processes. And in Nigeria, Ethiopia and DRC, we researched and developed innovative ways to support the reintegration of former-combatants into their communities – an essential component for creating and sustaining peace.

### 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.**

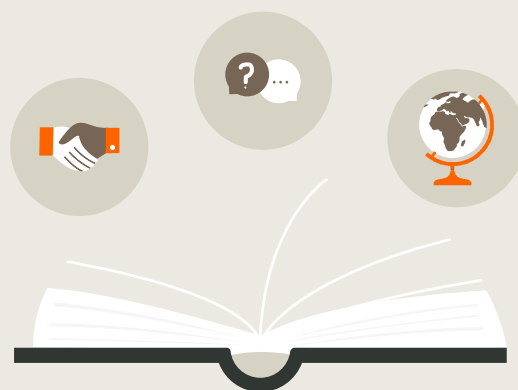
Few countries' foreign policies see peacebuilding as the 'go-to' means to prevent or end violent conflict. International peace support policies often prioritise the formal peace negotiating table over other essential peace initiatives led by people within society. Our programme and policy teams work side by side to generate research and evidence on why building better peace should be a priority and how this can be done.

In 2019, through coalitions such as the Peace Research Partnership and the Political Settlements Research Programme, we generated vital research on issues such as why inclusion matters for peace, how to do better gender-sensitive conflict analysis, and the importance of dialogue in the early stages of peace processes. We shared this learning with national and international governments, supporting government bodies in the UK, Sweden, Germany and the EU to integrate our tools and approaches to gender-sensitive conflict analysis into their policies and programming.

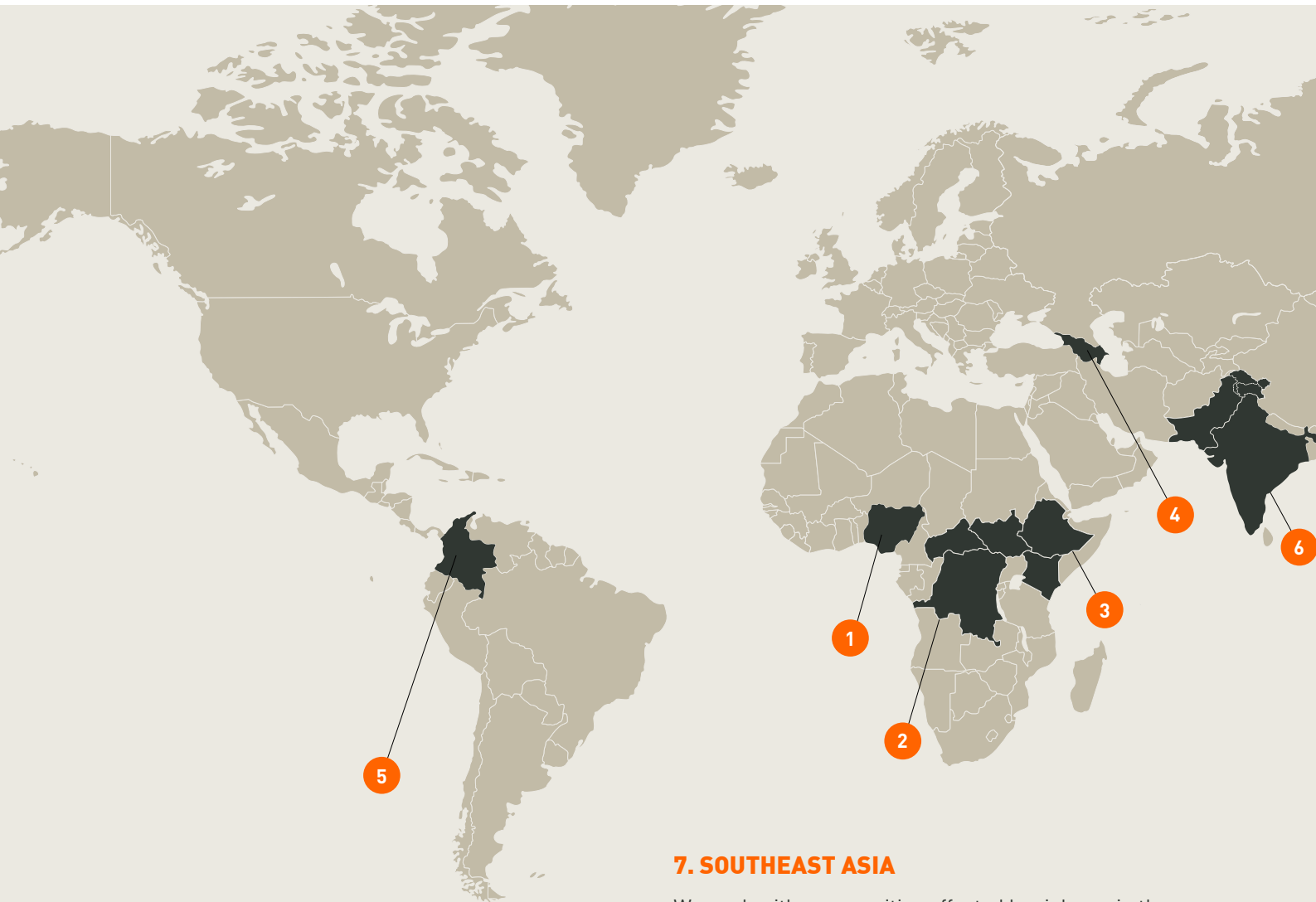
In many regions, including in the Caucasus, Horn of Africa, northeast Nigeria and the Philippines, we helped inform approaches of local governments, officials and other decision-makers. We also influenced international policy and responses in relation to many of the conflicts we work on. The Women Mediators across the Commonwealth network, which we support, successfully raised the profile of women mediators in international circles and contributed to the establishment of a Global Alliance of Regional Women Mediator Networks.

We continued to play a key role in global networks, such as +Peace and the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office. Working alongside peacebuilding organisations from around the world, we helped develop a clear narrative around the important role peacebuilding plays in ending violent conflict and why this should be supported.

Leading a working group with the UK government, banks and NGOs, we explored solutions to the [impact of UK counter-terrorism legislation on the work of peacebuilders](#) and humanitarian organisations. Specifically, we looked at the problem of getting funds to areas where sanctions apply or proscribed groups operate. 2019 saw the group gain traction, with increasing interest from banks, new links to broader initiatives and increased international advocacy.







## GLOBAL INITIATIVES

Violence does not respect boundaries, and does not arise in a vacuum. Some of our work spans multiple regions to explore and share common strategies for resolving conflict peacefully. We support a new network of Women Mediators across the Commonwealth to increase the participation of women in peace processes and mediation at local, national, and international levels. We also lead a global consortium, Smart Peace, to improve how to build peace in fragile and conflict-affected states.

## INTERNATIONAL POLICIES AND PRACTICE

Too often the international response to armed conflict is short-term and reactive, focused on military or security responses rather than peacebuilding approaches. This can make it harder to find a political solution and prevent future conflict. Generating research and evidence, including through our Accord publication series, we improve how decision-makers and peacebuilders around the world are addressing conflict. We work to ensure that multilateral and government policies are helpful in creating conditions for peace – within the regions where we work, as well as in the UK, EU and at the United Nations.

## 7. SOUTHEAST ASIA

We work with communities affected by violence in the Philippines to promote a peaceful transition away from conflict. Decades of armed conflict across the Philippines and particularly in the region of Mindanao, have left impoverished communities living with intense political tensions. A 2014 peace agreement in Mindanao has brought some respite, but implementation is slow and local clan conflicts persist. We are working with communities in Mindanao to support the implementation of the peace agreement by facilitating joint spaces for community and local governments to resolve conflicts and human security issues, and to ensure the voices of women and indigenous people are listened to.

## 8. PACIFIC

We have been working alongside our partners in the Pacific region for over 20 years. Land and resource disputes, climate change, state governance, and the legacy of colonial and post-colonial conflicts are all common challenges for the diverse territories and countries across the Pacific region. In the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, we're working with community leadership groups and the Autonomous Bougainville Government to address legacies of conflict, support a peaceful referendum process and assist the implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement. While in Fiji, we're working with our partners to address the drivers of political and social divisions.



# WHERE WE WORK

## 1. WEST AFRICA

In West Africa we develop community-led initiatives which put those most affected by conflict at the heart of efforts to build peace. In northeast Nigeria, escalating inter-communal tension has destabilised and divided communities, the Boko Haram insurgency has displaced over 2.3 million people, and in Plateau State conflict over land and resources has led to widespread violence between farmer and herder communities. We work with those most affected by conflict, supporting them to develop the skills and confidence required to jointly find creative ways to resolve their conflict and find alternative ways to coexist peacefully.

## 2. EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

In East and Central Africa, we focus on peacebuilding in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the intercommunal conflict in the Central African Republic, and the political crisis in South Sudan. A lack of strong governance, particularly in border areas, has allowed armed groups to take control of large areas. This, coupled with the marginalisation of communities and mistrust between the population and governments, is perpetuating violence across the region. We work alongside communities living with conflict, to help them find paths away from violence.

## 3. HORN OF AFRICA

We support local, national and cross-border peacebuilding in the Horn of Africa including better coordination and collaboration between peacebuilders and institutions. Clan linkages across the state borders of Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia mean that conflicts in the Horn of Africa simply can't be resolved in isolation. As well as historic ethnic violence and marginalisation, new challenges are emerging such as natural resource conflict and terrorism. We work with communities, governments and conflict parties, as well as women's groups and members of the diaspora to strengthen peacebuilding initiatives.

## 4. CAUCASUS

In the South Caucasus, we work on the Georgian-Abkhaz and Nagorny Karabakh conflicts to create an environment in which progress towards peace is possible. After the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, insecurity and the widespread availability of weapons transformed disputes over status and territory into full-scale wars in Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Nagorny Karabakh. We work with a wide range of partners to identify and address the drivers of conflict, undertaking initiatives to open up new spaces for dialogue.

## 5. LATIN AMERICA

We are supporting Colombia's transition from war to peace after more than 50 years of armed conflict. A peace agreement was signed in 2016 but that was not the end of conflict nor the peace process. Years of violence and mistrust have left scars. The challenge now is to rebuild relationships and ensure the peace agreement is understood, accepted and implemented across Colombian society. We are working with people who are often kept out of the conversation – including indigenous women and women living abroad – to ensure their voices are heard.

## 6. SOUTH ASIA

We support local initiatives of people living on either side of the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir to promote opportunities for building peace and trust in the region. Violent conflict has afflicted Jammu and Kashmir and claimed tens of thousands of lives since the partition of India and Pakistan in 1947. Territories of Jammu and Kashmir controlled by each state remain divided, separating families and severing villages. Kashmiri participation in the policies which will decide their future – along with sustained India-Pakistan dialogue – is essential to reduce violence and build sustainable peace in the region.

# 2019 IN NUMBERS

PROVIDED PEACEBUILDING  
TRAINING TO

**30**

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES  
IN THE PHILIPPINES



**11,511**  
NUMBER OF  
YOUNG  
PEOPLE  
REACHED



WORKED  
WITH

**53**

WOMEN'S  
GROUPS

ENABLED

**115**

EX-COMBATANTS AND  
COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN  
BOUGAINVILLE TO SHARE  
THEIR PERSPECTIVES WITH  
THE GOVERNMENT



**92**

NUMBER OF PROGRAMME  
AND POLICY PARTNERS  
WE WORKED WITH

HOSTED A NETWORK  
OF  
**46**  
WOMEN  
MEDIATORS FROM  
**20**  
COUNTRIES

**87**

LOCAL  
PEACE  
STRUCTURES  
SUPPORTED

CONTRIBUTED  
TO

**17**

SEPARATE  
PEACE  
PROCESSES



**459**

COMMUNITY  
DIALOGUES  
CONDUCTED  
WITH

**20,121**

PARTICIPANTS  
IN NIGERIA

**3**

DIALOGUE PROCESSES LED ON THE  
IMPACT OF COUNTER-TERRORISM  
LEGISLATION ON PEACEBUILDING

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# OUR IMPACT AND ACHIEVEMENTS



- 12-13** CAUCASUS
- 14-15** EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA
- 16-17** HORN OF AFRICA
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# CAUCASUS

Reaching a political settlement for both the Nagorny Karabakh and Georgian-Abkhaz conflicts confronts numerous obstacles. With our partners, we aim to address the challenges in this region by working to create an environment where progress towards peace is possible. Historical grievances and the legacies of past violence continue to fuel ongoing conflict. To address this, in 2019 we progressed our work on dealing with the past in both contexts. Supporting partners to create archives of documents and gather testimonies and other materials across the divides, we helped preserve memory, enable different people's voices to be heard, and provide a basis for multifaceted understandings of the conflicts. We also continued to focus on supporting dialogue initiatives as a way of bringing people affected by the conflicts together, to discuss the issues affecting them, find practical areas of collaboration, and present creative ideas and analysis to policymakers.

**“THE MEMORY PROJECT HAS BEEN HIGHLY RISKY, BRAVE, PIONEERING. IT DEALS WITH UNCOMFORTABLE MATERIAL WITH SOUND AND INCLUSIVE CROSS-DIVIDE METHODOLOGY. THE PROJECT HAS PROVED RESILIENT IN THE FACE OF CONSIDERABLE CHALLENGES. THE PROCESS AND SUBSTANCE HAS CORE CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION POSSIBILITY AND GOES TO THE HEART OF DEALING WITH THE PAST.”**

**Martha Freeman**

**Former Head of Regional Office of the European Union Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia**

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Widened involvement in dialogue on the Nagorny Karabakh conflict**

Since 2010 we have been convening the Karabakh Contact Group to create a space for Armenians and Azerbaijanis to share analysis and explore new approaches to the Nagorny Karabakh conflict. In 2019, we convened a meeting to discuss the implications and possibilities arising from reported agreement by the Armenian and Azerbaijani foreign ministers on the necessity of ‘preparing their populations for peace’. Through the Karabakh Contact Group, we engaged a diverse range of people who were new to the process, in addition to a small number of core participants. The meeting generated some innovative thinking presented in a briefing, [\*Preparing populations for peace\*](#), that highlighted participants’ views on the risks and opportunities of the current moment for Armenian-Azerbaijani peacebuilding.

- **Sustained a platform for exchange in the Georgian-Abkhaz context**

For over twenty years we have been facilitating dialogue among Georgians and Abkhaz, bringing together officials, experts and civil society from either side of the conflict divide. Despite a lack of tangible progress in official talks, the [\*\*Limehouse Discussion Platform\*\*](#) is successfully building trust and making progress in areas of common interest. In 2019, as a result of these discussions, collaboration on water resource management in the Ingur/i river basin continued, increasing capacity to monitor ecological risks. An environmental campaign group also emerged around the need to protect palm trees, saving quantities of forest in Abkhazia. Taking pragmatic steps like these not only improves the lives of people directly affected by conflict, it also demonstrates to the societies that dialogue can bring concrete results.

- **Supported a younger generation of peacebuilders**

Our Georgian and Abkhaz partners have continued working resolutely on youth outreach. This has built on the findings of unique research carried out in 2017, which fed ideas into the Global Progress Report on United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security and provided access to [\*\*youth perspectives on both sides of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict divide\*\*](#). In 2019, 22 young people from diverse backgrounds in Georgia were selected to come together to discuss ways they can support peace. Participants have now created a network of young people across different regions, and are generating and implementing initiatives to enhance their own and their communities’ understanding of conflict and ways to address it.

# GROUND-BREAKING EXHIBITION PROMPTS REFLECTION ON THE GEORGIAN-ABKHAZ CONFLICT

Five years ago, Georgian and Abkhaz teams, with support from Conciliation Resources and swisspeace, began collecting eye-witness accounts and original print, photo and video content related to the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict in two parallel archives. Several thousand items have now been catalogued. In October 2019, some of this material was made available to the public for the first time in the exhibition, *The Corridors of Conflict: Abkhazia 1989 – 1995*, held in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Displaying a range of materials, including some from Abkhaz as well as Georgian viewpoints, the exhibition helped improve people's understanding, by providing first-hand access to information about events during this crucial period in history. The exhibition was surprisingly well-received, with much positive feedback from visitors. Making this material available re-focused the Georgian public's attention on what happened in the early 1990s and the ongoing conflict. It showed that the conflict is complex, with multiple different perspectives on all sides, and that establishing the facts is challenging. As a visitor to the exhibition stated: "Information is needed to solve the problem and this exhibition is interesting because there is so much information...it helps us in dialogue and dialogue has no alternative."

The exhibition told stories from the period leading up to, during and after armed conflict. During the exhibition a number of focus groups and visits were arranged, including with students, educators and people who lived in Abkhazia, but were displaced during the war. As one of the visitors, herself an internally displaced person, commented: "History revived in front of me, the materials I saw – photos, video and audio materials – reminded me of everything, how the process was when the war began."

Not only is it possible to work constructively on the legacies of the recent violent past before a conflict settlement has been reached, but it is crucial. As one of the exhibition organisers, Marina Elbakidze explains: "It is important today, and it is important for our future too. To overcome this trauma, and to prevent another conflict in the future. And also to solve problems which exist today because of the conflict and because of the war."

The exhibition encouraged older Georgians to reflect on how the war happened. At the same time, it helped younger Georgians, who have very little understanding of what

happened, to learn about their past. A young Georgian visitor said: "This exhibition has deepened my empathy and my desire to be more involved in resolving this conflict." While another reflected: "It's really hard looking at all these facts and documents, because it's about my country...I feel heartbroken as some people are still going through all this hardship, especially people in Abkhazia...I really hope in the future us Georgians and Abkhaz come together and come to an agreement that will satisfy both parties. I am hoping for a better future."





# EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Central African Republic (CAR) we work with young people, women, civil society groups and the military to help improve relationships so that these groups can tackle the conflicts they face together. In 2019, the government of CAR signed a peace deal with the leaders of 14 armed groups. It was the eighth peace agreement in seven years. However, unlike its predecessors, this deal is making some headway, albeit with difficulties. The agreement was reached after extensive preparations for talks and greater international support compared with past agreements. In CAR in addition to providing psychosocial support and conflict resolution training, we worked to help young people, some formerly associated with armed groups, to develop the skills needed to start their own business or find meaningful employment. While in DRC we continued to improve relationships between communities and the national army, where the deep-rooted mistrust between civilians and security forces is one of the key factors that drives conflict.

**“I WAS ONE OF THE ANTI-BALAKA. I HAD A MACHETE AND I OFTEN FOUGHT WITH OTHER KIDS. I UNDERSTAND NOW THAT IT’S NOT GOOD. I AM CALMER AND ASK FOR THINGS WITH RESPECT.”**

**Young woman from Bossangoa sub-prefecture  
Central African Republic**

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Inspired young people in CAR to build peace in their communities**

Alongside War Child and our partners Femme Homme Action Plus and Association pour Action Humanitaire en Centrafrique, we’re working with over 600 young people living in two regions of CAR heavily affected by displacement and insecurity – Ouham and Ouham-Pendé. In 2019, we trained 40 young people in peacebuilding skills, who in turn have trained nearly 200 more and are now putting these skills into practice. In Bossangoa, when a machete was brandished during a football game, a young peacebuilder who had been trained, helped prevent the violence from escalating. In two additional communes around Bossangoa, a group of young people are now working to resolve conflicts around access to water points.

- **Built important relationships between young people and local authorities**

In both DRC and CAR young people are often seen by authorities and communities as unimportant, ignorant or troublemakers. To tackle this, we have built channels for communication and collaboration between these different groups. In 2019, our work resulted in positive changes in the relationships between local authorities and young people – vital for ensuring sustainable peace. In DRC there was previously little or no interaction between youth and local leaders in the provinces where we work. Now, increased contact and dialogue between youth, local leaders, authorities and military commanders, has enabled young people to share information and their analysis of conflict, security and governance issues. In CAR, local authorities are slowly realising the potential of their young people. A local mayor told us, “I never thought that young people would be able to analyse conflicts. Normally only the authorities know how to do it.”

- **Improved youth advocacy skills in DRC**

Through workshops and learning events, we provided young men and women with the vital skills to undertake conflict prevention work in their own communities. Nine of these young people from northeastern DRC travelled to Kinshasa and Entebbe to present their views on how to best reintegrate returnees from the Lord’s Resistance Army back into their communities. They presented to officials from the governments of DRC and Uganda, United Nations missions in the region, the African Union, and regional militaries. The young people were able to share their experiences and ideas with confidence and had the skills to articulate policy and practice changes required to transform conflicts in their communities.



# YOUNG PEOPLE UNITE REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES IN DRC: BENJAMIN'S STORY

Benjamin lives in northeastern DRC, an area that hosts tens of thousands of South Sudanese refugees. He has witnessed first-hand violent tensions between refugees and members of his community. Since 2017, he has been working to create understanding between the refugees and host communities, with the support of our partner Commission Diocésaine de Justice, Paix et Réconciliation.

Northeastern DRC is now home to over 100,000 South Sudanese refugees who have fled violence in their homeland. This movement of people puts a strain on resources and relationships, and has led to tensions between the refugees and communities in this part of DRC.

Benjamin is a youth representative of a Local Peace Committee (LPC) in Ingbokolo, DRC. LPCs are informal and voluntary community-led committees which are usually mobilised during periods of instability and conflict.

With tensions escalating, Benjamin and the LPC in Ingbokolo decided to travel to the nearby villages where South Sudanese refugees were living. The LPC members organised mediations between religious leaders, local chiefs, representatives of the refugees, youth representatives and elders. They also brought Congolese and South Sudanese communities together in football matches to promote social cohesion. As a result of this work, tensions have eased, as Benjamin explains: "There are now changes in the relationships between the Congolese and South Sudanese. They now stay together and eat together. They even do business together or marry between themselves. South Sudanese children are also studying together with Congolese children."

Conciliation Resources' work with the LPC has not only changed the way both communities live together but has promoted non-violent solutions to conflicts which arise. Since the start of the refugee influx in 2016, land conflicts – including those about border demarcations – have frequently sparked violence between refugees and the Congolese populations. Our work has led to a noticeable reduction in such conflicts. Benjamin comments: "Now the conflict parties know that when they have a problem, they can use dialogue to resolve the cause of the problems."



Despite the impact of the tensions and violence on young people like Benjamin, they are too often seen as agitators of conflict or as helpless victims. Their potential in resolving conflicts has remained largely underutilised and they are excluded in local decision-making and wider political processes. Conciliation Resources is currently supporting over thirty LPCs across northeast DRC, and promoting young people's involvement in LPCs and in conflict prevention. This is changing perceptions of the young people amongst communities.

As the number of refugees in northeastern DRC continues to increase, the hard work of Benjamin and the LPCs remains critical in strengthening relationships between refugees and host communities, and preventing further escalations of conflict.

**“THERE ARE NOW CHANGES IN THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE CONGOLESE AND SOUTH SUDANESE. THEY NOW STAY TOGETHER AND EAT TOGETHER.”**

**Benjamin, Youth Representative**





# HORN OF AFRICA

In 2018 a peace deal was signed between the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) and the Government of Ethiopia, ending over 25 years of armed conflict in the Somali Regional State (of Ethiopia). We supported the process for six years, providing training and technical support to both the ONLF and the Kenyan facilitation team. In 2019, we focused on assisting the implementation of this peace deal, and the region's transition to peace. Since the agreement was signed, ONLF leaders have returned to Ethiopia, demobilised their fighters, and registered as a political party, which will stand in the next regional and national elections. There's an urgent need to ensure that those impacted by the conflict see the benefits of the peace deal. We're working with the regional government, ONLF and victims' groups to help document the needs and priorities of victims, and support the reintegration of former combatants. We also accompanied women peacebuilders from local peace committees in Garissa county where terrorism, resource extraction and devolution are intensifying existing local conflicts and raising new challenges for the region's traditional forms of peacebuilding centred around male elders.

**“EITHER YOU TRUST PEOPLE OR YOU DON'T. WHAT WE BELIEVE IS THAT WHEN YOU TRUST PEOPLE THEY GIVE YOU TRUST BACK. WE TRUST CONCILIATION RESOURCES WITH OUR LIVES, OUR FUTURES.”**

**Abdirahman Mahdi**

**Chairman of the Ogaden National Liberation Front**

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Helped progress the peace agreement**

In early 2019, we organised a retreat for representatives of the Somali Regional State government and the ONLF to develop confidence between the two parties. Shortly afterwards, regional President Mustafe Omer officially launched the Joint Committee of the Somali Regional Government and the ONLF. The creation of the committee is one of the four pillars of the 2018 peace deal, and aims to provide a mechanism for taking forward key issues in the talks and addressing the root causes of the armed conflict. As the region moves to a new phase in the peace and transition process, the Joint Committee also serves as a common platform for the two main political groups in the region to build confidence and consensus on the political tasks required for the transition.

- **Supported the rehabilitation and reintegration of conflict victims**

Despite the peace deal and the reforms that have already taken place, there are still huge challenges ahead for the Somali Regional State. In particular, there is a need to deal with the legacies of the conflict, and provide rehabilitation and reintegration support for victims and former combatants. We provided support to the mobilisation of victims and survivors, and created connections between those representing victims and government officials, ONLF and influential elders. This ensured that the issue of victim support and welfare remains at the heart of the political transition and reconciliation processes in the Somali Regional State. In addition, we worked with victims' groups, the regional government and the ONLF to document the stories, needs and priorities of 206 ex-prisoners. The ex-prisoners started discussions on the formation of a network that speaks for and advocates on behalf of victims and survivors in the Somali region.

- **Established a new network of women peacebuilders in northern Kenya**

In 2019, we continued to support women-led peacebuilding by providing training and networking opportunities for women members of local peace committees in Garissa County. This led to the creation of Garissa Women for Peace, a community-based organisation designed to sustain the leadership of women in peacebuilding in Garissa County. We also facilitated meetings between Garissa Women for Peace and the county and regional governments. This organisation will be important in providing support to members to undertake peacebuilding initiatives and advocacy effectively.

# SUPPORTING THE TRANSITION TO PEACE IN ETHIOPIA: HOSSAN MOALIM'S STORY



**Hassan Moalim fled Ethiopia in 1995 and lived in exile for 24 years. Now, as a leading member of the ONLF he's returned home to support the group's transition to peace.**

The ONLF was formed in 1984 with the aim of self-determination for Somalis in the Somali Regional State (or Ogaden region) of Ethiopia. Initially a political movement, the ONLF turned to armed insurgency in 1994 when its leaders were removed from power, arrested or killed after the group demanded a vote for secession. Hassan was one of thousands of ONLF members forced to leave the region.

After 20 years of armed insurgency, peace negotiations between the ONLF and the Government of Ethiopia began in 2012, facilitated by a team from Kenya. During the six years of negotiations, Conciliation Resources provided technical support to the Kenyan team, and to the ONLF. Hassan was a member of the ONLF's negotiation team: "If we wanted to talk about security issues, Conciliation Resources would bring us experts on security, if we wanted to discuss human rights they would bring us relevant experts. If we wanted to understand the constitution, they would bring lawyers. They taught us how to negotiate."

This expert advice helped the ONLF and the Government of Ethiopia overcome some of the key stumbling blocks in the peace negotiations, and comparative learning trips also enabled the ONLF and Kenyan team to learn from other peace processes around the world. As Hassan explains:

"We met with people affected by the war in Northern Ireland, we visited the Basque region and learnt about how they established a party to pursue a peaceful process, the challenges they faced and how they overcame these. We studied peace processes in different countries such as South Sudan, Nepal and the Philippines...I think without Conciliation Resources we wouldn't be where we are now. We know how to negotiate, to look at things in different dimensions and how to overcome challenges."

Following the signing of the peace deal between the ONLF and the Government of Ethiopia in October 2018, ONLF leaders living in exile were at last able to return to the region. Hassan elaborates: "Returning back was a very emotional time – I had not seen my family for 24 years. It was a real mixture of both happiness and sadness. This war reached everywhere in the Somali region and it was really very sad to hear people's stories. People were traumatised, they had been suppressed, subjugated or imprisoned – they had a lot of questions about what we were going to do after the peace deal."

Over the past year, Conciliation Resources has been supporting the ONLF to transition from an armed group to a political party, building confidence between the ONLF and the Somali Regional State government, and helping to initiate vital processes that deal with disarmament, victim support and the legacies of the conflict.

The ONLF now looks to participate in the country's next elections. Hassan is playing a key role in the ONLF's transition to a political party as head of the Addis office overseeing federal and foreign relations with the federal government, National Electoral Board of Ethiopia, embassies and international organisations: "It's not easy to transition from an armed group to a political party and we are doing our best to overcome the challenges we are facing. I hope the future of the ONLF will be bright, and we can gain our rights through peaceful means."





# LATIN AMERICA

After the peace agreement signed in 2016 that ended 50 years of violent conflict in Colombia, former combatants have laid down their weapons and created a political party, and new laws are in place to support the transition to peace. But Colombia still needs a more inclusive and cohesive peace process. In 2019, we continued working with people who are often kept out of the conversation – including indigenous women, young women, and members of the Colombian diaspora – to ensure their voices are heard.



**“WE WANTED TO GIVE YOUNG WOMEN A VOICE BECAUSE IT IS NORMALLY ONLY OLDER WOMEN WHO ARE GIVEN OPPORTUNITIES TO SPEAK ABOUT ISSUES OF SECURITY AND PEACEBUILDING. YOUNGER GENERATIONS ARE NOT GIVEN THE SPACE THEY NEED.”**

**Wayra Guerra**  
CIASE

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Ensured youth inclusion in peacebuilding in Colombia**

As Colombia moves towards peace, we have been working with our partner Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Económica (CIASE) to ensure that the views and opinions of different sectors of society are included, particularly those of young women. The current trend in international policy to focus on the prevention of extremist violence, often leads to young people being portrayed as a threat to be managed. CIASE is working with young women who have a great determination to act for peace, and have a strong vision and ideas of how to achieve this. In 2019, we supported a seminar in Bogota on what it means to be a young female peacebuilder in Colombia right now. This brought together former combatants, environmentalists, feminist activists, and a police officer who contributed to the disarmament and demobilisation process of the FARC. They were able to share the different ways in which they are supporting peace in their country, and discussed some of the barriers they have faced in order to work towards solutions.

- **Supported the Colombian Truth Commission’s work with Diaspora Woman**

In 2019, our partner Diaspora Woman successfully gained registration as an independent charitable organisation in the UK. 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. They are now working with the official Commission for the Clarification of Truth, Coexistence and Non-Repetition in Colombia to ensure members of the Colombian diaspora are included in the process. The Commission was set up to explore the grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law during the armed conflict, and will provide recommendations for policies which acknowledge and address the rights of the victims. Working alongside other civil society organisations, Diaspora Woman has contributed to the documentation of testimonies of Colombians living throughout Europe who have been affected by the conflict.



# PACIFIC

In the Pacific we work specifically in Fiji and Bougainville, Papua New Guinea. The 2001 Bougainville Peace Agreement ended almost a decade of violent conflict, and established the Autonomous Region of Bougainville in Papua New Guinea. As part of the implementation of the agreement, [a referendum on the region's political status took place in 2019](#). Conciliation Resources worked with community leaders, civil society, ex-combatants and the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) to help support planning for a peaceful vote and post-referendum period. In recognition of our trusted role in Bougainville, we were invited by the United Nations and the Papua New Guinea and Bougainville Governments, to co-facilitate a ministerial-level dialogue between the two governments. Almost 98% of people voted for independence, with less than 2% voting to remain part of Papua New Guinea with 'greater autonomy'. This vote marks a key moment in the Bougainville peace process, but does not mark the end of the process. In Fiji, we continued to provide support to our civil society partners who are tackling persistent political and social divisions which pose an ongoing risk to peace and stability.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Supported intergovernmental dialogue and post referendum planning**

The technical and facilitation support we provided to the Post-referendum Ministerial Planning Taskforce, in partnership with the United Nations, enabled the management of conflict risks around the referendum period, and strengthened post-referendum planning. Throughout 2019, we engaged with the Papua New Guinea Government and ABG in an ongoing dialogue and post-referendum planning process – confirmation of the mutual determination of both governments to prepare for future difficulties. This Taskforce developed detailed plans which included a framework for an intergovernmental consultation process to start in 2020 – the next stage in implementing the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

- **Strengthened the ability of peacebuilders to respond to conflict in Bougainville**

Beyond the national level political process, Bougainvilleans over many years have been responding to complex post-conflict challenges. These include protracted divisions, community trauma and missing family members. A Bougainville Peacebuilding Forum we organised with our partner, the Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation brought together 145 community peacebuilders and government representatives. Forum participants shared information about peacebuilding work carried out in different regions, discussed strategies for managing the risks of violence around the referendum and held dialogues on the continued challenges to sustainable peace, such as the need for ex-combatant rehabilitation and community reconciliation. The Forum enabled government representatives and community peacebuilders to respond to emerging tensions, prevent violence and maintain cohesion throughout Bougainville.

- **Ensured the voices of Bougainville's veterans were heard**

Almost all men in Bougainville were combatants in some way during the decade-long Bougainville conflict. For many, being a combatant gave them a sense of belonging. Since the end of the crisis, many now feel excluded, isolated and unrepresented. ABG requested the support of Conciliation Resources to collaborate on a listening research project focusing on the veterans. This was part of a wider consultative process to inform decision-making around veteran rehabilitation, reintegration, weapons disposal and unity building processes. In 2019 we published [The Voices of Central Bougainville's Unheard Veterans](#) which presents the views, messages and themes emerging from these conversations. This contributed to more inclusive decision-making and better informed, more sustainable peacebuilding processes, by providing an opportunity for veterans and community members to share with the ABG, and senior veteran leaders, their opinions and concerns relating to these issues and the future more broadly.

**“WE HAVE SCARS BECAUSE OF THE WAR. WE FOUGHT. WE NEED COUNSELLING BECAUSE WE ARE TRAUMATISED. WE MUST PUT AN END TO OUR PROBLEMS AND RECONCILE.”**

**Veteran from Kieta, Bougainville**



# SOUTH ASIA

In South Asia we have been promoting the inclusion of Kashmiri voices in the India-Pakistan peace process and strengthening cross-divide civil society platforms and processes for over a decade. We work to increase collaboration across the Line of Control – the dividing line in Kashmir – and build opportunities for Kashmiris, including women and young people, to participate in economic and public life. These initiatives include cross-divide collaboration on trade, disaster management, education, journalism, economic development, tourism and filmmaking. 2019 was a very challenging year for building peace in this region. There was nearly an outbreak of war between India and Pakistan in February, rising tensions around the Indian elections in May and the Indian government revoking the special status of Indian-administered Kashmir, triggering a lock-down of the region in August. Against this backdrop, through discrete high-level engagement with policymakers and influencers, we continued to provide a space for dialogue, advocacy and inclusion of Kashmiri voices, even when many were expecting the eruption of violent conflict.

**“2019 WAS ANOTHER DRAMATICALLY CHALLENGING YEAR FOR KASHMIR, IN WHICH ALL PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT WERE PUSHED INTO MORE DIVISIVE POSITIONS. AT SUCH A PIVOTAL TIME IN THE HISTORY OF THE REGION, THE NEED FOR A MODERATING PRESENCE OF A WIDE COMMUNITY PRESSING A MESSAGE OF PEACE FEELS MORE VITAL THAN EVER”**

**Tahir Aziz**

**South Asia Programme Director**

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Helped preserve relationships and share information across divides**

At a time of dangerous escalation between India and Pakistan, and extreme stresses within Jammu and Kashmir, we helped to subdue tensions and counter polarised narratives. Along with partners, we were called upon to provide analysis to policymakers in India and Pakistan, as well as prominent media outlets and academics. We focused on maintaining a unifying message of peace within a storm of antagonistic and divisive rhetoric. Our partners on both sides advocated for the resumption of cross-Line of Control trade and confidence-building initiatives. Our partner the Centre for Peace, Development and Reforms also played a key role in informing the analysis and decision-making of Pakistani leaders based on their extensive engagement with Kashmiris and deep understanding of the conflict dynamics.

- **Inspired young people to become peacebuilding leaders**

Building on long-term engagement with young leaders in the region, we accompanied 22 young people from either side of the Line of Control to take part in a training on adaptive leadership. The tools they learned strengthened their abilities and confidence to affect change in their communities in an ever-evolving environment. The long-term ambition for this work is to empower young people to articulate a vision for the future and lead practical peacebuilding initiatives, while strengthening connections between the voices of youth and policy-level dialogue.

- **Provided important opportunities for dialogue amongst women**

We work with women’s groups across Jammu and Kashmir to help address key conflict related issues affecting their lives. Women are often excluded from processes of political change. In 2019, alongside our partners we focused on providing safe dialogue spaces for women across regional, religious and generational divides. Across Jammu, Ladakh and the Kashmir Valley, safe dialogue spaces (Samanbals) connected over 400 women. In Pakistan-administered Kashmir, Women’s Peace Circles were established in nine districts reaching out to 233 women. These provided a unique opportunity for different groups of women to come together and explore complex problems and potential solutions in a context where spaces which encourage women’s agency are limited.





# SOUTHEAST ASIA

Our work in the Philippines focuses on communities affected by violence to promote a peaceful transition away from conflict. On 21 January 2019, a referendum took place in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), to decide the future status of the predominantly Muslim region of Western Mindanao. The vote was the result of a 2014 peace deal between the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. The plan to create a self-administered area was backed by 85% of voters, paving the way for a three-year transition towards elections. In 2019, we supported communities and local governments to work together to ensure a peaceful post-referendum period. We also continued to work with **12 Community Safety Working Groups** across Mindanao. These working groups have meant communities, civil society leaders, and local and regional governments are better able to identify and address areas of conflict. These spaces were able to raise awareness around the transition period, and engage with the ministries and institutions of the new transitional government. We specifically started working with young people living in Mindanao, ensuring they had ways to be included in local peacebuilding initiatives.

**“I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE MY KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS. IT IS A HUGE HELP TO MY WORK AS A COMMUNITY SAFETY WORKING GROUP AND BARANGAY COUNCIL MEMBER.”**

**Antonio Tulag**  
Barangay Kagawad, Itaw



## ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Educated communities on new government structures**

The ratification of the Bangsamoro Organic Law as a result of the referendum represented an important milestone for the peace process. However, it also highlighted a need for awareness-raising among Bangsamoro communities regarding the BARMM transition processes. By including the topic of the transition period in the existing community dialogue process, we played a fundamental role in increasing the ability of local communities, especially indigenous peoples, to engage with local authorities within the new structure and have a greater understanding of the changes and transition that lies ahead.

- **Promoted community inclusion in local government planning processes**

We worked with the BARMM Ministry of the Interior for Local Government, organising joint planning sessions, which represented a crucial first step towards greater representation of community priorities in local government decision-making. A workshop that Conciliation Resources and partners co-organised with the Ministry strengthened the abilities of local organisations to effectively partner with Barangay (village) authorities in decision-making processes. This event, which was on Barangay development planning, annual investment and budgeting, included representatives from Barangays across the municipalities of Parang and Pagalungan, North Upi and South Upi, alongside local government. It successfully empowered members of all barangays to continue to promote open, inclusive and participatory governance.

- **Empowered youth to take an active role in addressing peace and security issues within their communities**

We trained 10 young people living in Mindanao in participatory video monitoring, developing their skills in technical filming and editing, as well as in peacebuilding and community security. As a result of this training, the young people developed a greater understanding of their ability to positively impact conflict in their communities, and gained the confidence to speak to officials. Their films have been well received, and have been used as an advocacy tool to talk to religious and community leaders about key community issues. The youth also presented their films to the General Assembly of the Barangay and local leaders. This has opened up space for much more direct youth presence and engagement in local governance, with a request for volunteers to document the next General Assembly of the Barangay. In addition, this work resulted in a policy paper on the proper disposal of waste – an area of community tension – being drafted, and has prompted dialogue with barangay officials to develop an action plan.



# WEST AFRICA

Our work in West Africa is currently focused on Nigeria – in particular the northeast and Plateau State. We work with those most affected by conflict, supporting them to develop the skills and confidence required to jointly find alternatives to violence. In northeast Nigeria, we strengthen the involvement of youth and women in building peace. In 2019, with our partners, we continued to train and mentor young people – expanding a network of community-based youth coalitions, known as Youth Peace Platforms, to seventeen ‘hotspot’ communities in Borno and Yobe states. We also created women-only storytelling spaces which have already given hundreds of women the opportunity to share their stories of conflict. We are working in ten communities in Plateau State, one of the areas most affected by displacement and violence in recent years as a result of conflict between farming and pastoralist herder communities. In 2019 we trained over 300 herders and farmers in conflict analysis and peacebuilding techniques.

**“THERE WAS NO ORGANISED COMMUNITY EFFORT TO BUILD PEACE BECAUSE WE DIDN’T TRUST EACH OTHER. HOWEVER, EVERYONE WAS TIRED, SO THE TIME WAS RIPE FOR US TO TALK ABOUT SOLUTIONS. WE JUST NEEDED TO BE SUPPORTED AND WE COULD BUILD THE BRIDGES BETWEEN US.”**

**A farmer from Plateau State**

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Supported the signing of peace agreements between farmers and herders**

In Plateau State, we worked with groups of herders and farmers, helping them to gain practical skills to identify and analyse key causes of conflict in their communities and develop strategies for mediation. This year we supported locally-led dialogue processes that led to the signing of three formal peace agreements between different communities. We worked with our partners to organise regular ‘peace markets’ to provide a space for farmer and pastoralist herder communities to come together and celebrate these peace agreements by selling and buying their products side-by-side. These markets had been closed for nearly a decade.

- **Increased youth engagement in peacebuilding and conflict mediation**

In northeast Nigeria, we enable young people to take the lead in promoting peace in their communities. We support 25 Youth Peace Platforms in seventeen communities across Borno and Yobe States. In 2019, we implemented a new small grants project that saw each group receive a small sum to invest in a community project of their choice, from renovating school buildings destroyed by the insurgency to opening barbershops. This has given the young people an opportunity to show their communities the positive impact they can have. In response, their communities are more open to interacting with them. We facilitated discussions between youth platform members and their communities, and between young people and others, including state and non-state security officials, helping to identify solutions to their respective problems.

- **Introduced new perspectives on community-owned peacebuilding**

Over 1,100 people – including women, young people and vigilantes – took part in focus groups in 24 communities across northeast Nigeria. Through these they shared their visions for a community-owned reintegration and reconciliation process for people associated with Boko Haram. Throughout the insurgency, the perspectives of local populations have often been overlooked and excluded. Existing community engagement has been limited to consultation with community elders and traditional leaders on the assumption that they represent the voice of their constituents. Our findings were brought to policymakers and provided vital insights into how responses to an armed insurgency can be made more inclusive of local people, and more responsive to their priorities and needs.

# NIGERIA'S WOMEN-ONLY STORYTELLING SPACES: HADIZA'S STORY



**Hadiza\* is from a small town in northeast Nigeria. When her husband died during the Boko Haram insurgency she was devastated. Since joining a women-only storytelling space she has gained the confidence to speak out about her experiences and advocate for changes in her community.**

In northeast Nigeria, the Boko Haram insurgency is now in its tenth year. Women from the conflict-affected communities form the majority of the vulnerable internally displaced people in the northeast, with many women now solely responsible for their families' protection and economic wellbeing.

Women have frequently been excluded and marginalised from political, social and economic spheres. Not only has this made some women more vulnerable to recruitment by Boko Haram, but it has largely excluded women from local efforts to tackle the insurgency and strengthen community security.

When Hadiza's husband died as a result of the Boko Haram insurgency, she was devastated, and left without a support system in a new town: "Because of the insurgency, my husband and children and I had to relocate from Bama to Maiduguri. Not long after we arrived, my husband was killed here. I was left a widow with seven children and no one to help me. I was completely devastated [and] had no hope of moving on with life."

Hadiza was alone and very vulnerable: "Nobody, not even my husband's relations assisted me. I moved in with my husband's brother but he told me he was going to sell his house and we had to leave. I was shocked as I had nowhere to go with my children and couldn't return home to Bama due to fear of Boko Haram."

Conciliation Resources works in northeast Nigeria with vulnerable and marginalised women like Hadiza, seeking to empower them with confidence, skills and opportunities to speak out about their experiences, concerns and needs.

Alongside our local partners in Borno and Yobe states, Hope Interactive and the University of Maiduguri Muslim Women's Association, we have created women-only spaces in 12 communities. These have already given hundreds of women the opportunity to share their stories of conflict. For many, it has been the first time they have told anyone outside of their closest family. It is a critical step in building their confidence to articulate their stories and challenge the stigma associated with many of the women's experiences.

When Hadiza first heard about the women-only storytelling spaces, she was uncertain about joining: "When I was asked to join the group, I was very reluctant. I thought it was for troublesome women! I quickly realised that in reality the group could help me to improve my life, be productive and not have to depend on others. The other women helped me to see hope in life. I gradually began to believe in myself, to realise that I have the capacity to move on and do something for me and my children."

The space for women to discuss common problems and identify strategies to resolve them does not usually exist within the traditional confines of women's social interactions here. However, through this work, women are able to come together to discuss their mutual needs and concerns and work together to advocate for solutions within their communities.

*\*Hadiza is not her real name*





# GLOBAL INITIATIVES

Our work on both Women Mediators across the Commonwealth (WMC) and Smart Peace cuts across geographical boundaries and provides us with experience from a range of conflict areas, thematic knowledge from different regions and a more holistic global picture. WMC now has nearly fifty members who have mediation experience ranging from mediating conflicts at the community level, to formally mediating conflict as part of official peace processes. This year, we focused on expanding and embedding WMC, bringing together members across multiple regions and establishing the foundations for a strong and successful network. We also collaborated with other women mediator networks to form a global alliance. Smart Peace began planning and implementing work in CAR, Nigeria and Myanmar, bringing together consortium expertise in conflict analysis, peacebuilding and behavioural insights to create new approaches to addressing conflict in fragile states.

**“WMC REACHES OUT TO WOMEN NOT ONLY AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL, BUT TO THE GRASSROOTS, WHICH IS USUALLY LACKING IN OTHER NETWORKS.”**

**Betty Bigombe**

**Special Envoy for Uganda,  
South Sudan Peace Process**

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Supported the launch of a global alliance**

The Global Alliance of Regional Women Mediator Networks was launched on 26 September during the Opening Week of the United Nations General Assembly. Conciliation Resources and WMC were a key part of establishing the alliance. The four founding networks: Mediterranean Women Mediators Network, Nordic Women Mediators, WMC and FemWise Africa have come together to strengthen cooperation and amplify their common goals. Over fifty women from these networks attended the launch, as well as senior government and United Nations officials. WMC member, Betty Bigombe, spoke on a panel and handed over a list of deployable women mediators to the Deputy Secretary General. This launch is a crucial step in publicly elevating the vital work women mediators are doing.

- **Publicly raised the profile of women mediators**

Alongside members of WMC we advocate to ensure women gain their rightful recognition as mediators, negotiators, and peacebuilders. To celebrate International Women's day, WMC members took part in an event at Buckingham Palace hosted by Her Royal Highness the Countess of Wessex. We also secured a number of pieces of media coverage throughout the year to highlight the work of women mediators. In November, we organised an expert panel event at the centre for Women, Peace and Security, London School of Economics, at which WMC members spoke about their experiences. This public event was attended by members of civil society, government and academics.

- **Led global consortium to improve how to build peace in conflict-affected states**

Conciliation Resources is leading the Smart Peace consortium to develop adaptive peace initiatives, working with local partners to prevent and resolve complex and protracted conflicts. In the first months of implementation, the consortium carried out community mapping, sensitisation activities and conflict analysis in all three countries. In CAR, partners jointly finalised a baseline report and Conciliation Resources progressed plans to use an innovative Sensemaker approach to collecting micro-narratives for monitoring, evaluation and programme adaptation. In Myanmar, research on the peace process and conflict dynamics was completed and activities to support peace were identified, despite the challenges facing the peace process. In northeast Nigeria, we made progress with embedding behavioural insights into community dialogues.

# WOMEN MEDIATORS CONNECT AND SHARE TO IMPROVE THEIR SKILLS

**As well as advocating for the increased recognition of women mediators, and their participation in peace processes regionally and internationally, WMC provides opportunities for members to learn from and support each other.**



A unique feature of the WMC is that it connects the grassroots with the national and international – enabling the women to share their diverse experiences. Through a series of training and network development workshops, but also crucially, peer-to-peer learning exchanges, the network brings together these experienced mediators for the valuable sharing of lessons and best practices, and to reflect on the work they are currently doing.

“I think the women mediators network has given us an opportunity to form meaningful relationships that can then become a solid basis for partnerships in the work that we do.” states Ameya Kilara, who took part in a peer-to-peer learning trip to London. In 2019, we enabled fourteen members of WMC to each take part in a peer-to-peer learning visit. Exchanges took place in Belfast, Abuja and London. The purpose was to allow members from different backgrounds to come together to share their thematic and technical mediation knowledge, and forge stronger connections with each other. The sessions were designed and facilitated by the members.

WMC member Alicia Kuin, took part in a peer-to-peer exchange to Belfast. The theme of the Belfast trip was trauma-informed healing and meditation, which the participants learnt is key to sustainable peace in their contexts. The women had in-depth discussions about the importance and use of trauma-informed mediation practices through a storytelling approach. The group gained a greater understanding of trauma-informed

mediation, as well as how to apply these skills in different settings. They discussed how to build social cohesion, understand socio-political sensitivity and the roles of power and identity in addressing conflict. “We were able to talk about our experiences as women, some of our successes, some of the challenges and how we can best support each other”, comments Alicia.

The WMC members also met with key people who had been involved in the Northern Ireland peace process including Avila Kilmurray, a former trustee of Conciliation Resources, who was one of the founders of the Northern Ireland Women’s Coalition and was a negotiator during the peace negotiations.

In Nigeria, the discussions were around community mobilisation and managing group dynamics, and members developed a broader understanding of mediation approaches and how these work in different settings. During this trip, they visited community women mediators, local leaders and younger mediators, as well as mediation institutions to learn about best practice. Lantana, who took part in the visit to Abuja said: “One of the main objectives apart from helping us to share our expertise and experiences, learn from one another and bond as a group – as women, as women mediators who are working in front lines – is to make sure we support each other.”

# INTERNATIONAL POLICIES AND PRACTICE



The number of people forced to leave their homes because of violent conflict and persecution is at a record high – over 70 million. In an increasingly polarised world, the need to find better ways to resolve conflict peacefully and effectively, is more urgent than ever. We need strategies for peace that are more creative, that can adapt to the inevitable ebbs and flows, and that include diverse perspectives. In 2019 our research and policy engagement through the Political Settlements Research Programme focused on generating learning about inclusion in peace processes – why it matters and how to support it. Through the Peace Research Partnership, we looked at how best to support peace and transition processes, including through partnerships between civil society organisations. In addition, we developed ways to consider gender in conflict analysis and peacebuilding, continuing our efforts to ensure gender-sensitivity in our programming through reviews of gender action plans across the organisation. We also began to look more closely at intergenerational conflicts and strategies for engaging diverse young people in peacebuilding, pooling experience with NGO partners and Sida.

**“YOUNG PEOPLE ARE CRITICAL TO THE DURABILITY OF ANY PEACE PROCESS. INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE DEMANDS THAT YOUNG PEOPLE ARE INVESTED IN THE PROCESS AS IT UNFOLDS. THIS IS CRITICAL TO THE LEGITIMACY OF THESE PROCESSES.”**

**Graeme Simpson**

Accord author and Director of Interpeace USA

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Led a Working Group on NGO operations in high-risk contexts**

We are playing a vital role in finding solutions to the impact of counter-terrorism legislation on the work of peacebuilders and humanitarians. In the UK, alongside government officials and banks we are leading a formal dialogue process focused on **'bank de-risking'**, whereby NGOs working in areas where sanctions apply or proscribed groups operate experience practical and legal problems in transferring funds for their work. The number of financial institutions participating in the group increased, and we made progress on the framework documents. With the Home Office we organised an annual meeting, attended by Jonathan Hall QC, Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation. Given the international dimensions, we also participated in international advocacy efforts, including at the United Nations.

- **Influenced international thinking on inclusion in peace processes**

There is a broad global consensus that inclusion matters for peace. We have been working to better understand and share what this means in practice. In 2019, we published our 28th Accord, ***Navigating inclusion in peace processes***. This explores who should be involved in a peace process, the challenges this creates and how these can be overcome. Contributors included experts on youth and gender, as well as on the peace processes in Colombia, Nepal, Afghanistan, Turkey and Syria. During 2019 the publication was viewed or downloaded over 8,000 times. The research and recommendations have been praised for being relevant to ongoing policy development by, amongst others, officials in the UK Government, the United Nations and the European Institute of Peace.

- **Promoted and developed practice in gender-sensitive conflict analysis**

We continued to develop our own and others' understanding of gender-sensitive conflict analysis, including through dissemination of a paper documenting good practice and offering lessons in this area. We provided support on gender and inclusion to the Swiss Federal Department for Foreign Affairs, and also helped government bodies in the UK, Sweden, Germany and the EU to integrate our tools and approaches into their policy priorities and programming. In the UK, we took part in the government's Women Peace and Security (WPS) Steering Group, highlighting the important role of women mediators. We fed into the government's WPS National Action Plan and contributed advice on more effective implementation through the Gender Action for Peace and Security network.

# STRENGTHENING THE ORGANISATION



In addition to our peacebuilding, research and advocacy activities, in 2019 we continued to strengthen Conciliation Resources as an organisation and collaborate with others to build peace.

## PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

Partnership is central to Conciliation Resources' work. In 2019, we deepened our understanding of effective peacebuilding partnerships. We came together with our civil society partners from Mindanao and the Georgian-Abkhaz context to showcase to donor representatives the effectiveness of partnerships between international NGOs and civil society in conflict contexts, and to discuss how donors could enhance their support to this work. We will continue to strengthen our partnership approach, with one of our Operational Plan 2020-25 goals dedicated to this.

This year we also formed an exciting new strategic relationship with Brussels-based mediation organisation mediatEUR. We brought the two organisations together, combining our objectives and operations. This enables Conciliation Resources to maximise opportunities for policy influence and funding within the EU, building on our previous experience and mediatEUR's track record. In addition, combining expertise in mediation support will further develop our work in this critical area. Two members of Conciliation Resources' staff joined the board of mediatEUR, with Conciliation Resources' Executive Director, Jonathan Cohen becoming Chair. 2020 will see Conciliation Resources consolidate this arrangement, embarking on a process of strategic thinking around structures and personnel, planning for the submission of joint funding applications and sharing resources.

We participated in and led a number of networks, enabling Conciliation Resources to play an important role in shaping the practice of and debate around peacebuilding. These included chairing the Steering



Committee of the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office, the Bond Counter-Terrorism and Sanctions Working Group, and a working group within the +Peace coalition; participating as Steering Committee member in Bond's Conflict Policy Group; and actively participating in diverse networks, including Gender Action for Peace and Security, Rethinking Security and Mediation Support Network.

Alongside UK-based +Peace members, we organised a successful Talking Peace Festival on International Day of Peace. This brought together music, exhibitions, debate and dance to raise awareness of how people in places of conflict are building peace. In addition, our staff shared their experience and expertise through both our own events, and speaking at others' events. These included our Executive Director presenting at the Imperial War Museum in his capacity as Associate for its Institute for the Public Understanding of War and Conflict; co-organising a conference on 'the Media in Deeply Divided Societies' with the Social Change Initiative in Belfast; and facilitating a roundtable discussion on Conflict Transformation in Eastern Ukraine at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office.



## FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNICATIONS

In early 2019, we merged the Fundraising and Communications teams in order to better amplify our messages and maximise income. Feeding into the Operational Plan and a new Fundraising Strategy, we created ambitions around both our external communications and securing income for the next five years. While we maintain our existing focus on government donors, we will look to generate funds from new sources. In September, we broadcast a [BBC Radio 4 Appeal](#) presented by award-winning Scottish and Sierra Leonean author, Aminatta Forna. This three-minute programme highlighted the work we do, in particular in Boko-Haram affected northeast Nigeria, and was successful in raising both funds and awareness of our work.

Digital and media channels are essential to successfully communicating Conciliation Resources' work. We not only increased our reach and engagement across social media platforms, but we launched a new website, reflecting bold new messaging and visual identity. This is enabling us to better communicate the work we do and impact it has. In addition, our work was featured in a number of media outlets, including The Daily Telegraph, The Irish News, Marie Claire, The Guardian, Thomson Reuters, BBC Radio Ulster, Positive News, Monocle Radio, Radio New Zealand Pacific and Al Jazeera.

## MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING

Continuing our focus on intuitive, flexible and participatory methods of monitoring and evaluation, this year we began incorporating adaptive management and participatory learning as a core element of project planning and design. We also made significant progress on our long-term plan to build Outcome Harvesting into our work, as a way of generating stronger contextualised knowledge that is regularly fed into our programmes. As part of our strategic planning process, we integrated our existing Results Framework into our new [Strategic Plan 2020-25](#), ensuring clarity and continuity in the evaluation of our work.

## OPERATIONS

In 2019 Conciliation Resources established its first Operational Plan, setting out clear and achievable strategies for how we will meet eight key operational goals in the next five years. We have committed to increased investment in staff and partnerships in order to provide even more effective peacebuilding support. This year, we continued to engage proactively with recent significant shifts in the regulatory environment, championing safeguarding and improving security measures with training and new procedures to keep people safe. Going into 2020, we are carefully planning more efficient financial systems and processes, to support the whole organisation.

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# OUR PEOPLE

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The success of Conciliation Resources would not be possible without the passion, expertise and dedication of our staff, volunteers and board members. In 2019, we were represented by a diverse staff body of over 60 members of staff based in Aru, Bangui, Brussels, Cotabato, Garissa, Jigjiga, London, Manila and Melbourne.

## 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 February 2019, four new trustees: Tayyiba Bajwa, George Graham, Jo Kemp and Dushy Pillai joined the Board, bringing valuable new insights and areas of expertise. The Board formed two new committees to provide focused governance support and oversight: the Safeguarding Committee and the Risk and Audit committee (RAC). Avila Kilmurray and Katy Hayward stepped down from the Board after serving for many years.

## 2019 BOARD MEMBERS:

Tayyiba Bajwa (RAC member), David Donoghue (Chair), Diana Good (Safeguarding trustee), George Graham (RAC member), Katy Hayward, Jo Kemp (Safeguarding trustee), Avila Kilmurray, Rosalind Marsden, Michelle Parlevliet, Andrew Peck (RAC member, Treasurer), Dushy Pilla (RAC Chair) and Marc van Bellinghen

**“CONCILIATION RESOURCES IS MAKING A PROFOUND DIFFERENCE ON THE GROUND IN SOME OF THE WORLD’S MOST CONFLICT-RAVAGED SETTINGS. MY COLLEAGUES AND I ON THE BOARD ARE PRIVILEGED TO PROVIDE SUPPORT, GUIDANCE AND OVERSIGHT FOR THIS VITAL WORK.”**

**David Donoghue**  
Chair of the Board of Trustees





# OUR PARTNERS



Building partnerships is essential to building peace. We work side by side with people affected by conflict, helping develop their skills to establish and take part in peace processes. We are also grateful for the generous support of all our funding partners, who make it possible for us to pursue peacebuilding carefully, strategically, and over the long term.

## CAUCASUS

- Asarkia
- Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development
- Center for Humanitarian Programmes
- Crisis Management Initiative
- Go Group Media
- Heinrich Böll Stiftung
- Institute for the Study of Nationalism and Conflict
- International Alert
- Internews Azerbaijan Public Association
- Kvinna till Kvinna
- LINKS
- Media Initiatives Center
- Memory Project core groups
- Peace Dialogue
- Peaceful Change Initiative
- Respublika Idei
- Sukhum Youth House
- swisspeace
- The Humanitarian Research Public Union
- Women's Fund for Development

## 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
- South Sudan Democratic Engagement, Monitoring and

- Observation Programme
- Totto Chan for Child Trauma
- War Child UK
- Women Action Sustainable Initiative

## HORN OF AFRICA

- Africa Peace Forum
- Association of Somali Region Victims and Survivors
- County Government of Garissa
- Ethiopia Civil Service University
- Garissa County Peace Women Movement
- Government of Kenya Facilitation Team to the Ogaden peace process
- Joint Committee of the Ogaden National Liberation Front and the Government of Ethiopia
- Kenya's National Steering Committee on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management
- Somali Regional State Government
- University of Garissa
- Womankind

## LATIN AMERICA

- ABColombia
- Coordinación Nacional de Mujeres Indígenas de Colombia
- Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Económica
- Diaspora Woman

## PACIFIC

- Autonomous Bougainville Government Department of Peace Agreement Implementation
- Papua New Guinea Government National Coordination Office for Bougainville Affairs
- Citizens' Constitutional Forum
- Dialogue Fiji
- Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation
- Prison Fellowship of Solomon Islands
- The Pacific Centre for Peacebuilding
- Transcend Oceania

## SOUTHEAST ASIA

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

## SOUTH ASIA

- Bureau of Research on Industry and Economic Fundamentals
- Centre of Peace, Development and Reforms
- Human Welfare Voluntary Organisation
- Kargil Development Project
- Kashmir Institute of International Relations
- PAIMAN Alumni Trust

## 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

## GLOBAL INITIATIVES

- Behavioural Insights Team
- Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue
- Chatham House, The Royal Institute of International Affairs
- Global Alliance of Regional Women Mediator Networks
- International Crisis Group
- The Asia Foundation
- The Center for Security Studies at ETH Zurich

## INTERNATIONAL POLICIES AND PRACTICE

- Alliance for Peacebuilding
- Bond
- Charity & Security Network
- European Institute of Peace
- European Peacebuilding Liaison Office
- Gender Action for Peace and Security
- International Alert
- International Crisis Group
- Mediation Support Network
- Peace Direct
- Political Settlements Research Programme
- Rethinking Security
- Saferworld
- School of Oriental and African Studies
- University of Edinburgh
- +Peace Coalition

# FUNDING PARTNERS

We are fortunate to have a number of long-standing donor partners. We would like to thank them for all their support to our work. In particular, we acknowledge the contributions of Sida, the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland, which all commit flexible, core funding.

## GOVERNMENT AND MULTILATERAL ORGANISATIONS

- Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK
- 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
- Sida
- Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
- UK Conflict, Stability and Security Fund
- UK Department for International Development
- UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- United Nations Peacebuilding Fund

## TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS

- Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (zivik Funding programme)
- Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust
- MISEREOR
- National Endowment for Democracy USA
- Peace Nexus Fund
- Ploughshares Fund
- The Sasakawa Peace Foundation



# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

In 2019, Conciliation Resources' income increased to £8.84 million, reflecting the recent 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 £8.82 million.

Conciliation Resources continues to plan, adapt and adjust to changing and emerging trends through our Fundraising Strategy which now incorporates a slight shift to diversification and new income streams. The trend continues to be for donor funds to be allocated to short term projects or large consortium instead of providing long term flexibility direct to organisations.

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.

## SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Income	2019	2018
Unrestricted Income	2,042,951	1,080,428
Restricted Income	6,797,733	4,909,743
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>8,840,684</b>	<b>5,990,171</b>
Expenditure	2019	2018
Fundraising	150,321	153,786
Charitable Activities	8,679,660	5,791,780
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>8,829,981</b>	<b>5,945,566</b>
Surplus/Deficit	10,703	44,605

## RESERVES

Conciliation Resources holds £1,795,074 of free reserves. Our reserves policy is to maintain a prudent working balance of £756,000 for future contractual liabilities and a further £356,000 for operational contingencies, with some of the later currently allocated to Coronavirus response. The organisation intends to invest around £700,000 of the remaining reserves in the 2025 Operational Plan through two planned deficits in 2020 and 2021 after small surpluses in 2018 and 2019. We are revisiting our Operational Plan prioritisation throughout 2020 as the impact of Coronavirus becomes clearer.

## 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](http://www.c-r.org) or they can be downloaded from the Charity Commission website: [www.charitycommission.gov.uk](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk)

Funds	2019	2018
Unrestricted Income	1,848,442	1,793,134
Restricted Income	-	-
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>1,848,442</b>	<b>1,793,134</b>
Balance Sheet	2019	2018
Fixed Assets	65,929	92,089
Current Assets	5,163,537	3,775,045
Liabilities	(3,381,024)	(2,029,395)
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>1,848,442</b>	<b>1,837,739</b>

# HOW WE SPENT YOUR MONEY IN 2018

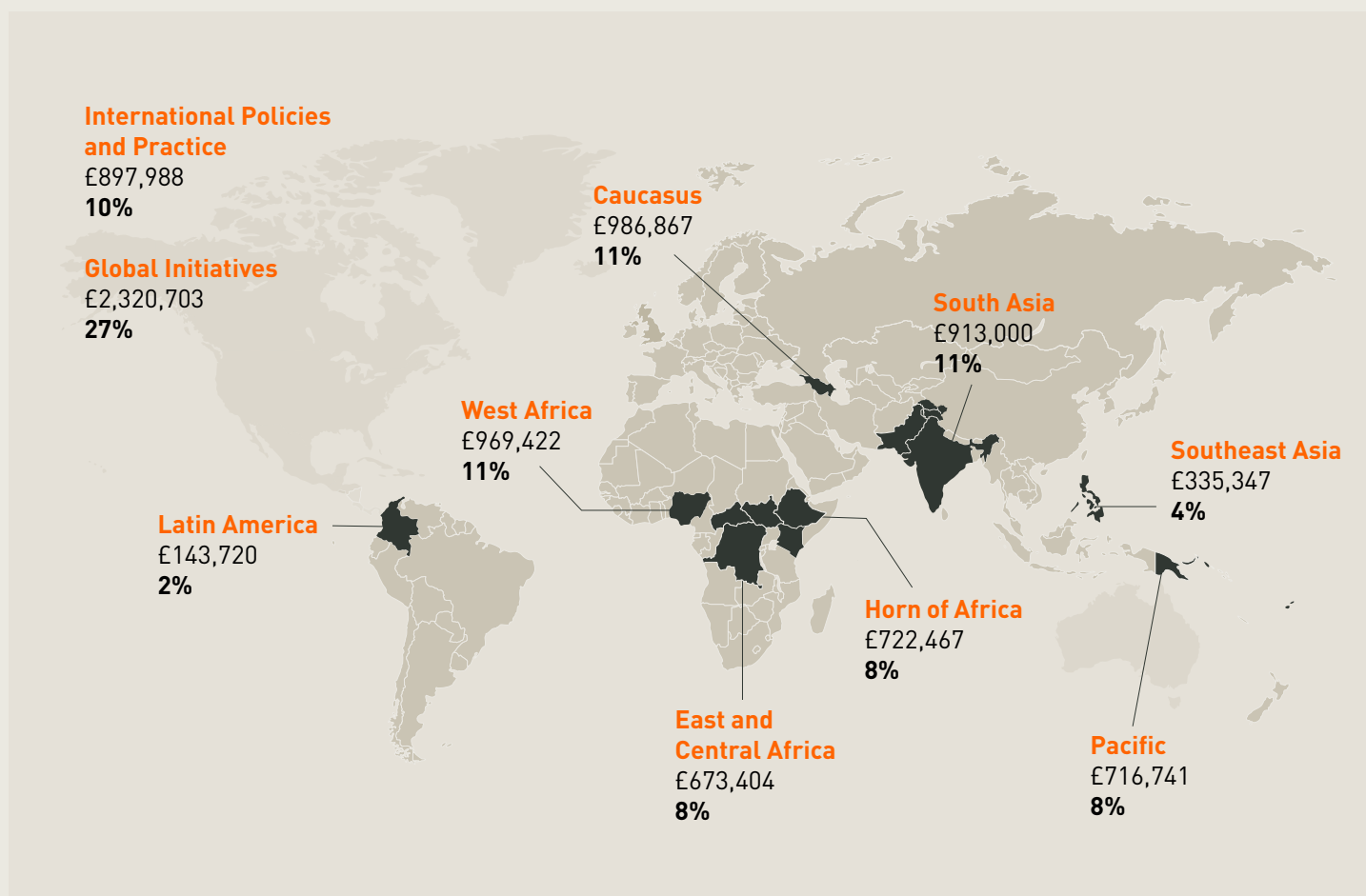


**Fundraising**  
2%  
**(£150,321)**

**Peacebuilding, Policy and Operations**  
98%  
**(£8,679,660)**

## PEACEBUILDING, POLICY AND OPERATIONS

Total **£8,679,660**



**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 last.

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[CRbuildpeace](#)

[ConciliationResources](#)

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Conciliation Resources is a charity registered in England and Wales (1055436)  
and a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (03196482)