



Berghof Foundation

Annual Report 2015

Creating Space for Conflict Transformation

Introduction

Dear employees and partners of the Berghof Foundation,

“Creating space for conflict transformation” – this has been the theme of the Berghof Foundation’s work since 1971. The year of its formation was marked by the Vietnam War, but it was also the year Willy Brandt was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Similarly, 2015 was shaped by a number of crises, ranging from Syria to Libya, Iraq and Ukraine. The number of conflicts seems to be steadily on the rise. Millions of people are fleeing war and displacement. Entire states are in the process of dissolution. The world seems to be on fire. We are at a turning point that calls for our best efforts as well as our entire knowledge and energy in order to render international cooperation and understanding possible once again. The Berghof Foundation makes an important contribution towards conflict management and transformation in areas affected by crisis around the world. I am proud of the achievements you have realised through your innovative approach. Each and every one of you contributes remarkably to making our world more peaceful. With all my heart, I wish the Berghof Foundation perseverance and success for the future and your upcoming projects.



Dr. h.c. Edelgard Bulmahn



Dr. h.c.
Edelgard Bulmahn
Vice-President of the
German parliament

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Editorial

Dear readers, dear partners and friends of the Berghof Foundation,

Supporting dialogue and mediation in Yemen and Sudan, engaging with volunteers in refugee work in Baden-Württemberg/Germany and exploring the peacebuilding potential of insider mediators as well as inclusive approaches to the settlement of armed conflicts are only a few areas of our work in 2015.

On the global level, last year was a challenging one for international peace and security. We observed the increasingly brutal warfare in Syria, while the country served as a main breeding ground for the so-called Islamic State, continued low-intensity warfare in Afghanistan and Libya, simmering hostilities in Ukraine and the spread of unconventional violence across the globe, resulting from deepened social tensions and partly spurred by organised crime.

International efforts to curb the spread of violence and foster peace at the local, national or regional level have not been able to counter this worrisome trend. State-run tools and approaches to contain social violence have proven widely insufficient, were often inadequate and seem to no longer be respected. As a result, there is an increasing need for more inclusive approaches to mitigate and reduce the effects of radicalisation and various forms of violence.

The Berghof Foundation has taken up this challenge.

In 2015, working towards our mission of creating space for conflict transformation, we helped conflict actors in 22 countries in their efforts to transform violence into peace. Many of these countries also suffer from protracted violence. In these contexts, conflict transformation is not an easy task and requires courage and vision. During this past year, the Berghof Foundation was active in more than a dozen countries with deteriorating indices of peace according to the renowned 2015 Global Peace Index. Our dedicated staff worked with local partners in ten of the lowest-ranked countries of the world, often with hard-to-reach actors and sometimes under volatile security conditions on site. Our approach was informed by our values of inclusion, participation and reflection. In our experience, this approach can make a remarkable and sustainable difference, but it also requires perseverance, empathy and patience.

We remain convinced that it is the parties to a violent conflict who, prior to all, must transform and restore their relations among themselves. Our work can support these efforts only if and when this is accepted. Conflict transformation results from combining the skills, resources and influence of many actors involved. Our capabilities in peace support, peace education and conflict transformation research are designed to serve this purpose in the best possible way.



Our 2015 annual report lays out some of the activities implemented by our organisation and highlights key achievements of our work over the past year. In this, it illustrates the manifold approaches that we employ as we support our partners in their efforts to transform violent conflicts and engage in cooperation towards peace.

The Berghof Foundation is grateful to our reliable partners who have helped us generate the resources necessary for our work. We are pleased to notice that more and more governments consider the use of mediation and joint learning techniques as complementary to more traditional diplomatic efforts. This remarkably augments our potential role as a supportive link between different actors.

This has been the third year in a row that the Berghof Foundation has expanded in numbers of staff and turnover thanks to our growing number of projects. Our sincere gratitude and appreciation for their excellent work go out to our dedicated staff members in Germany and abroad. We also wish to thank the Zundel family, our partners and donors across the globe and, not least, the members of our Board of Trustees for their continued support.

Hans J. Giessmann

Sandra Pfahler

Highlights 2015



Peacebuilding from and for the Departmental and Municipal Level in Colombia

The multi-actor platform (photo above) established in the context of the regional peacebuilding pilot project implemented by the Antioquia government has since developed into an independent entity that continues to discuss and shape Antioquia's peacebuilding strategy. In 2016, it changed its name to *Redcompaz*.



International Berghof Summer School for Young Peacemakers

The International Berghof Summer School for Young Peacemakers took place at the Georg Zundel House for the second time. Tübingen's mayor Boris Palmer visited the summer school and acknowledged the participants' work and the importance of the summer school for the city of Tübingen. The programme included a range of activities, such as a field trip to the Lindau Peace Museum and an interactive theater workshop.



New Project in Lebanon

In August 2015, we established a project office in Beirut. Our cooperation project with Dar al-Fatwa was officially launched in October on the premises of Dar al-Fatwa. In December 2015, we supported Dar al-Fatwa in convening a conference on the role of religious media to strengthen moderation and tolerance in the region. The *Beirut Declaration for Enlightened Religious Media* was signed by the Muftis of Lebanon, Egypt and Jordan.



Mediation Roundtable Series

The Berghof Mediation Roundtable series was initiated in 2015. It offers policymakers, decision makers and experts the opportunity to exchange views on current challenges and new trends in the field of peace mediation in an informal manner, allowing them to address specific topics and develop policy recommendations. Three roundtables were held together with the German parliament in 2015.



Biographical Salon Abkhazia

On 13 July 2015, the Berghof Foundation's Caucasus programme inaugurated the "Biographical Salon" in Sukhum/i. Since its inception, the Salon has developed into a lively meeting space, dedicated to the memory of history and the living histories of the Abkhaz people. During each salon event, a witness to the Georgian-Abkhaz war relates their memories. The audience participates in the discussion, asking questions and sharing their memories and views. The Berghof Foundation is proud to be the only international organisation without a humanitarian mandate to entertain a meeting space in Sukhum/i supported by its local partners.



Peace Education Project in South Thailand

From 2013 until the beginning of 2016, we supported a peace education project initiated by a group of young Malay-Muslim peace activists. Its goal was to reach out to community leaders and youth in the region and provide them with transformative skills and knowledge. Key contributions were aimed at organisational development, curriculum design and the formation of networks to increase their connectivity with other actors in the region.



Conference in Jakarta

In the context of our research project on inclusive political settlements, we organised a regional conference in Jakarta with a keynote speech by the chief of the Indonesian presidential office. We presented key lessons learned from conflict transformation in Banda Aceh and Nepal, and discussed practical options for inclusive peacemaking with high-level policymakers involved in the conflicts in Afghanistan and West Papua.

Consultancies

European External Action Service: Conflict Prevention and Mediation Support

In 2015, we continued our strategic partnership with the European External Action Service (EEAS) in conflict prevention and mediation support. As part of a consortium with four other leading European organisations in this field (ESSEC IRENE, mediateUR, swisspeace and CIPAX), we sent experts to nine assignments, including workshops on conflict analysis and trainings with high-ranking EU and international officials in Lebanon. Furthermore, we added a crucial paper on the challenges and options for the EU in engaging with non-state armed groups to our *Mediation Support Fact Sheet* series.

OECD (DAC): Improving Donor Support to Inclusive Politics in Fragile Societies

The OECD-Development Assistance Committee (DAC) commissioned us to conduct a study assessing the implementation of the first goal of the *New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States*, which mandates donor countries to “foster inclusive political settlements and conflict resolution”. Our task was to analyse how development organisations, Western embassies, local governments and civil society representatives assess foreign donors’ ability to comprehend the complexity of fragile- and conflict-affected societies, and to effectively support inclusive and legitimate state- and peacebuilding. We presented our results, including insights from field work in Somalia and Timor Leste, and recommendations to the International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF) in Paris.

International Organisations, Governments, Parliaments and Other Actors: Advice to Practitioners and Decision Makers

The number of requests to our staff to share our expertise with stakeholders in peacebuilding and conflict transformation has further increased in 2015. Amongst others, we produced a paper on non-conventional violent actors for training at the UN System Staff College and provided policy advice to the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on non-conventional violence. We also testified at

the German and French parliaments as well as the World Bank, supported GIZ in a number of projects and advised the Civil Peace Service (ZIF) on its strategy process. Furthermore, we organised a seminar on how to engage non-state armed groups in security transitions for conflict stakeholders from Mindanao in collaboration with Misereor.

Programmes

Agents of Change for Inclusive Conflict Transformation

This programme builds on our long-standing experience in carrying out participatory research with civil society actors and resistance/liberation movements in war-affected and post-war regions. One of its central goals is to conduct and support (self-)analysis of both armed and unarmed agents of change in contemporary socio-political conflicts and to offer capacity-building support to such actors during their peaceful transitions to democratic politics and security governance. We also aim to provide policy advice on effective intervention options for enhancing inclusive peace- and state-building processes to international and state agencies. We strive to fulfil these goals with externally-funded projects as well as ongoing consultancies, scholarly activities and on-demand bilateral support.

Inclusive Political Settlements

This two-year research project was conducted in collaboration with six local research partners in Colombia, El Salvador, South Sudan, South Africa, Banda Aceh and Nepal. It examined the conditions for participatory political transitions and inclusive state-building outcomes following protracted armed conflicts. The comparative analysis of the cases mentioned allowed us to (1) identify key criteria for inclusive decision-making in post-war societies, as well as possible negotiation strategies to overcome the participation vs. effectiveness dilemma in political negotiations; (2) demonstrate which factors might promote or impede inclusive post-war governance; and (3) critically examine the interaction between inclusivity, (in)stability and relapse into violence. In 2015, we published ten case study reports (in English, Spanish and Nepali) on the project's website, and convened four policy-oriented dissemination events in Kathmandu, Jakarta, Banda Aceh and Washington, DC.

“Thanks to the research of the Berghof Foundation, we learned that all rebellions in the world are rooted in state mismanagement. Your findings and recommendations should become a reference to guide our conflict transformation process, and must be taken on board by our government.”

Former Nepali Maoist combatant, now leader of a consumer's association



Taloqan City, the capital of Takhar Province and one of the urban research locations

Forms of Informal Governance in Afghanistan

This two-year research project started in April 2014. Using a mixed-method approach, it investigates variations in the forms and frequency of corruption and their impact on governance output. It aims to examine which regional and local factors lead to corruption appearing less predatory, more benign and ultimately more acceptable to the affected population. Initial findings uncover the crucial role of informal local institutions, in particular the forms of patronage and the quality of the system of grassroots representative development councils (*CDC shuras*). The project thus contributes to ongoing academic debates questioning OECD-based models of fighting corruption and establishing good governance in weak states. In 2015, field research was conducted in nine districts and three cities in Northeast Afghanistan in collaboration with the Afghan Human Rights Research and Advocacy Organisation (AHRRAO). Initial research findings were shared with practitioners in the fall of 2015.

Enhancing EU Capabilities for Whole-of-Society Peacebuilding

Despite the expansion of its institutional peacebuilding capacity since the 2009 *Lisbon Treaty*, the EU is still grappling with sharpening and coordinating its intervention toolkit in fragile and conflict-affected contexts in order to contribute meaningfully and effectively to global peace and stability.

This three-year research project carried out by a 14-partner consortium was initiated in June 2015 under the EU Horizon 2020 funding framework. Through a whole-of-society approach, it aims to examine and offer expert advice on how the EU can improve its institutional and partnership capacity to support inclusive peacebuilding in conflict-affected third-countries. Field research is carried out by local partners in Mali, Yemen, Georgia and Ukraine.

In 2015, our team produced two scoping studies assessing the state of the art in research on multi-track diplomacy and governance reform support, as well as evaluating the EU's current efforts in these areas in the four case study countries.

Expanding the Berghof Foundation's Research Agenda in Nonviolent Resistance

Two new research projects, which started in 2015, are focusing on challenges related to nonviolent resistance. The interactions between a nonviolent Pashtun movement and its offshoot political party with the Pakistani Army and the Pakistani Taliban movement is explored in one project, while the other analyses the phenomenon and effects of radical flanks within nonviolent campaigns (for details see Grantmaking → Georg Zundel Scholarships).



Paramount Chief John D. Walker, Kpaai Chieftain, Bong County, Liberia

Peaceful Coexistence between "Traditional" and "Non-traditional" Conflict Resolution Mechanisms

Funded by the German Foundation for Peace Research (DSF), this 18-month research project started in January 2015. It analyses the forms and patterns of coexistence between "traditional" (indigenous, local, community-based) and "non-traditional" (imported, liberal, state-based, "Western") approaches to conflict resolution and their effects on conflict settlement processes and outcomes. In 2015, the Berghof Foundation team and their local research partners based at Banaras Hindu University in Varanasi, India, successfully conducted 100 qualitative interviews and focus group discussions with community members, experts and various actors active in conflict resolution processes, as well as participant observation and archival research in three countries: Colombia (La Guajira Department), India (Meghalaya State) and Liberia (Bong County and Monrovia).



Matteo Dressler

Programme Assistant, Agents of Change for Inclusive Conflict Transformation (Berlin, Germany)

What are you currently working on?

I am currently co-writing two papers on the capabilities of the European Union in civilian peacebuilding, in particular on its abilities in the fields of mediation and governance reform. The papers are part of a large EU-funded project, with partners from all around the world. Additionally, I prepare a lot of background briefings on a variety of topics for my Programme Director.

What do you like most about your job at the Berghof Foundation?

I like having the opportunity to work on projects that generate research results with the potential to influence both policy and practice (e.g. on questions of how peace processes are designed). On a more personal level, I enjoy that my work at the Berghof Foundation allows me to use the research skills I have acquired throughout my university education.

What is the most challenging aspect of your work?

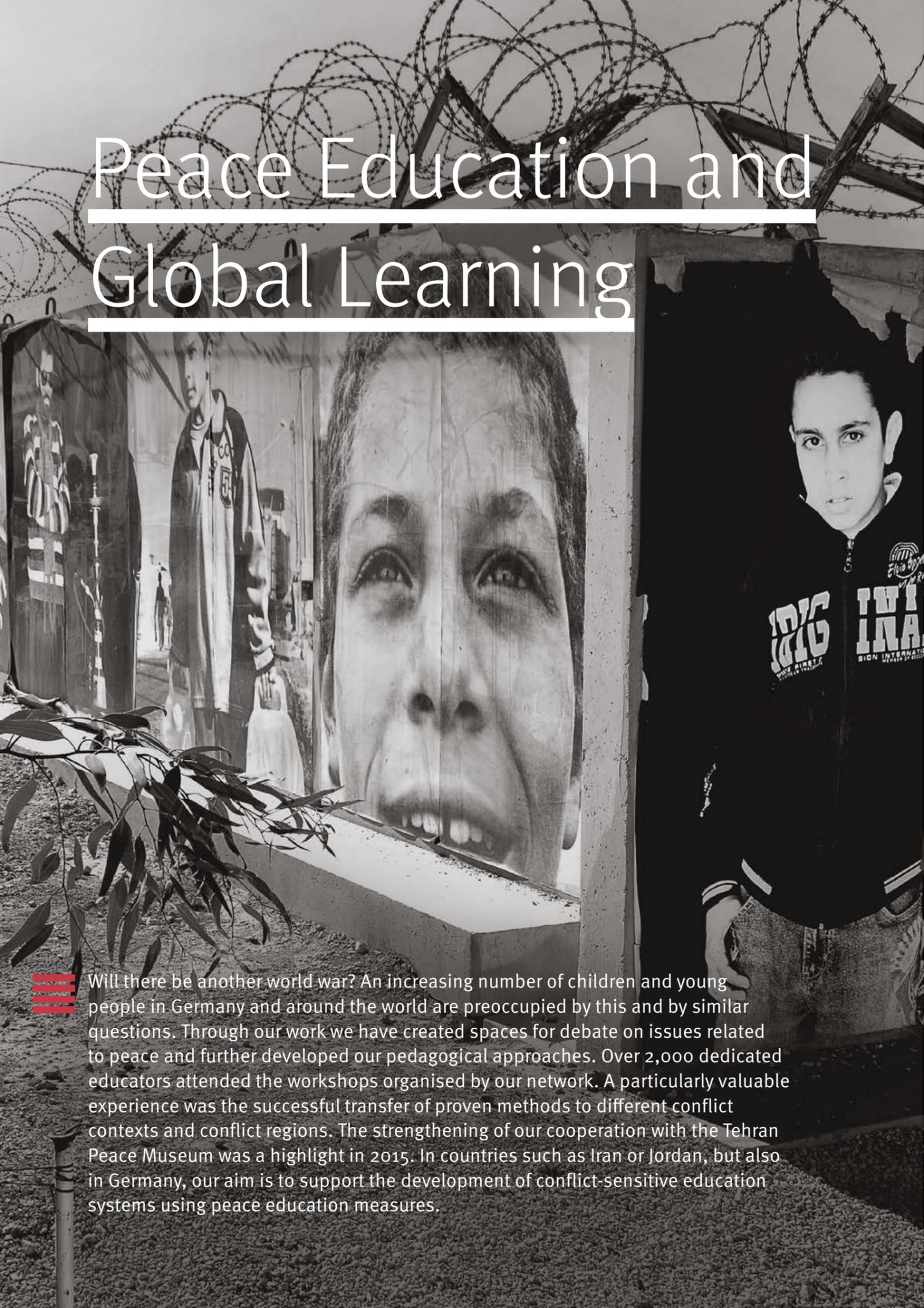
What is the most rewarding?

As a researcher, particularly at a junior level, it is sometimes hard to see the impact of the research I am contributing to. Therefore, it is really rewarding when it does become visible, for example, when the help of our research is requested by parties to peace processes, or when some of our work is presented to policy circles.

Intervention of a *palabrero* (speaker) in La Guajira, Colombia



Peace Education and Global Learning



Will there be another world war? An increasing number of children and young people in Germany and around the world are preoccupied by this and by similar questions. Through our work we have created spaces for debate on issues related to peace and further developed our pedagogical approaches. Over 2,000 dedicated educators attended the workshops organised by our network. A particularly valuable experience was the successful transfer of proven methods to different conflict contexts and conflict regions. The strengthening of our cooperation with the Tehran Peace Museum was a highlight in 2015. In countries such as Iran or Jordan, but also in Germany, our aim is to support the development of conflict-sensitive education systems using peace education measures.

Civic and Nonviolent Education in Jordan

The project “Civic and Nonviolent Education in Jordan” aims at strengthening the values of tolerance, participation and nonviolence within the Jordanian education system. Hence, the project focuses on conducting qualification courses, developing curricula and learning materials for schools and campuses, as well as networking with and between relevant Jordanian stakeholders and educational institutions. Given the great challenges of integrating Syrian refugees, the educational training of professionals in refugee work has become an increasingly important part of the project.

1,366	participants
43	qualified trainers for nonviolent education
39	workshops and conferences on nonviolent education
10	video clips for educational work

Peace Counts on Tour

In 2015, Peace Counts trainer teams organised their first independent training of trainers in Northeast India and the Caucasus under the supervision of Berghof Foundation staff. With the first joint Peace Counts training in Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian-Abkhaz-Georgian coaching team opened up a new area for our educational work in the Caucasus region. This unprecedented team composition showed that dialogue and cooperation are possible even under tense conditions. The local training teams reached around 1,000 people in the three target regions Iran, Caucasus and Northeast India with their work in peace education. They contributed to inspiring students and teachers, community and church leaders, ex-combatants, war widows, parents of fallen soldiers and internal refugees to strive towards peaceful and nonviolent coexistence. In addition, employees of the Berghof Foundation have developed and elaborated a Peace Counts e-learning concept. The concept was discussed during a meeting with education experts from Northeast India in Tübingen. The experts also gave valuable advice on its contextual implementation.



Planning discussion at the Tehran Peace Museum

998	participants
36	workshops
3	publications
3	exhibitions with accompanying peace education programme



Participants at one of the Berghof Foundation's workshops in Amman, Jordan

Online Platform frieden-fragen.de

The homepage frieden-fragen.de offers children and young people the opportunity to learn about and engage with issues related to war, peace, conflict and violence. They get to ask their own questions, which are then answered by a team of experienced educators. The platform celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2015. Just in time for this occasion, frieden-fragen.de was relaunched and went online with a completely new layout. The website offers explanations of the dynamics behind violence and war and points out possible ways to peace without trivialisation or pretence. For example, frieden-fragen.de does not display terrifying images. At the same time, the team attempts to point out opportunities for positive developments in each answer. Under the category “making peace”, children and young people can find information on the efforts of people around the world committed to making peace and find inspiration for their own peace actions.

Service Centre for Peace Education

The Service Centre strengthens peace education at schools in Baden-Württemberg and is based on a joint declaration between the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, 17 peace organisations, the German Trade Union for Education and Science and the Berghof Foundation. In this agreement, the Ministry commits itself to create framework conditions for the structural integration of peace education in Baden-Württemberg. As a result of intensive and constructive discussions between three actors, the Ministry, the Baden-Württemberg State Agency for Civic Education and the Berghof Foundation have signed an agreement on the establishment of the Service Centre in April 2015. The Berghof Foundation is co-responsible for the Service Centre together with the State Agency for Civic Education and the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. The Service Centre supports teachers in the preparation of lessons and projects, offers training activities and develops learning media on the topics of war and peace, conflict and violence. Furthermore, the Service Centre promotes the systematic integration of these topics into education plans as well as the networking between schools and other educational institutions in the field of peacebuilding.

Berghof International Summer School for Young Peacemakers

The International Berghof Summer School for Young Peacemakers is held annually with the goal of providing space for committed young individuals to exchange information on their efforts for peace and nonviolence and to learn together. During the 2015 summer school at the Georg Zundel House of the Berghof Foundation in Tübingen, participants deepened their knowledge with scientific lectures and practical exercises related to (non)violence. In addition, they became acquainted with interactive methods of peace education, which they can apply in their own work. Another important aim of the summer school is to offer participants the opportunity to test and pass on their new skills in their countries of origin, making them multipliers of peace work and part of an international network of young peacemakers who support and inspire each other.



Dagmar Nolden

Project Manager, Conflict-Sensitive Refugee Work, Peace Education and Global Learning (Tübingen, Germany)

What are you currently working on?

We have been working on our project “Conflict-sensitive Refugee Work”, funded by the Baden-Württemberg Foundation, since November 2015. Currently, I am organising a roundtable discussion as the opening event for the project. I am in close contact with our local partner, the Tübingen Centre for Asylum Seekers, as well as several refugee organisations and refugee support groups. Furthermore, the final report and reporting on our project activities for our project Peace Counts on Tour 2015 in the Caucasus, Iran and Northeast India are due.

How did you end up at the Berghof Foundation?

While writing my master's thesis, I met a friend for coffee. He told me that an open position as project assistant for the project Peace Counts was planned to be announced at the Berghof Foundation in Tübingen. I had become familiar with Peace Counts during my undergraduate studies and was intrigued by the possibilities of its approach.

What are your plans for the future? Where do you see future challenges in your line of work?

For the programme Peace Education and Global Learning, refugee assistance will be one of the programme's key topics in 2016. Besides the question, how peace education approaches can support volunteers, professionals assisting refugees and refugees themselves, we will work on a concept of how refugee work can be perceived and implemented as peace work. This topic is interconnected with the majority of our projects: conflict-sensitive refugee assistance, nonviolent education in Jordan, global learning and our Summer School for Young Peacebuilders.

Dialogue, Mediation and Peace Support Structures

The Dialogue, Mediation and Peace Support Structures programme offers process-related, conceptual and technical support to peace negotiations and peace mediation in geographically and typologically diverse conflict contexts. Our work contributes to the design of creative, context-specific and conflict-sensitive dialogue and mediation processes. We put great emphasis on refining the concept and practice of insider mediation and national dialogues and strive to strengthen peace mediation as a foreign policy tool in Germany and beyond.

Certificate (CAS) Training Course in National Dialogues and Peace Mediation

Responding to increased interest in national dialogues, the Berghof Foundation, together with swisspeace, developed a 10-day training course, which was held in Basel, Switzerland for the first time in March 2015. Conflict parties and practitioners were trained in understanding, designing and supporting national dialogues. They also received training in dialogue and mediation skills and reflected on lessons that can be drawn from previous national dialogue processes. The training sessions included expert inputs, case studies, simulation exercises and reflection. After this successful pilot training, the continuation of the course on an annual basis is planned.

Tradition- and Faith-oriented Insider Mediators

In recent times there has been a greater recognition of the crucial role (and potential) of traditional and religious peacemakers as primary or complementary mediators in the field of peace mediation. We traveled to Myanmar/Burma, Southern Thailand, Lebanon, Colombia, Kenya and Mali to improve our understanding of these actors and to further clarify our concept of “tradition- and faith-oriented insider mediators” (TFIMS). In identifying TFIMS’ mediation support needs, we learned about the constraints they are subject to, including external challenges, such as a lack of resources and conflict-insensitive interventions by international actors, as well as their own limitations, such as reliance on non-transformative approaches or knowledge gaps. The study is available for download at the Berghof Foundation website.

Governance and Insider Peacebuilders in Societies in Transition from War to Peace (in South and Southeast Asia)

Studying South and Southeast Asian societies’ transitions from bloody civil wars towards a peaceful future was at the centre of this research project. With case studies in Myanmar/Burma, Banda Aceh, Sri Lanka and Nepal, we reflected on the characteristics and impact of alternative forms of governance, as well as on insider peacebuilders and how they pursue accountability and challenge impunity, war crimes, and sexual and gender-based violence. The novelty of our approach lay in adopting an action-research methodology and in nurturing a research-praxis nexus in the insider peacebuilding process in Banda Aceh, which further provided useful impetus to our engagement with insiders in Southern Thailand and Mindanao. The research papers will be published online and some key papers will be included in an edited book on the topic.

Initiative Mediation Support Germany

In 2015, the Berghof Foundation was the coordinating organisation of the Initiative Mediation Support Germany (IMSD), a consortium of five German organisations active in the peace mediation field initiated in 2013. We supported the German Federal Foreign Office’s (GFFO) annual ambassadors’ conference by fostering conversations on engaging in peace mediation in several countries. Together with the GFFO, the IMSD co-organised the Mediation Expert Meeting on “Identifying mediation entry points” in Berlin. This meeting brought together key staff from the GFFO with experts from multilateral organisations, other states and leading NGOs. We also developed a number of fact sheets on peace mediation and mediation support, for use within the GFFO and particularly in German embassies abroad.

Study on Insider Mediators in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Area

In comparison to third parties, insider mediators are in a favourable position to support protracted mediation processes, as their geographical, cultural and normative proximity to conflict parties provide a wealth of knowledge and understanding that lend them an acute sensitivity to both the conflict context as well as the conflict parties. Although international actors are increasingly paying attention to insider mediators, mediation support to these actors remains on an ad-hoc basis, partly due to a lack of understanding of their needs, the challenges they face and the potential they harbour. In order to improve our understanding of how insider mediators work and how they can be supported, we are conducting a study on insider mediators in the OSCE area in cooperation with the OSCE. The study is funded by the German OSCE chairmanship. The research focuses on insider mediators' contributions in Kyrgyzstan, Kosovo and Ukraine, and aims at developing recommendations on how international organisations, especially the OSCE, can best engage, equip and possibly empower these actors. The study will be available by the end of 2016.

National Dialogue Handbook – A Guide for Practitioners

Although national dialogue processes have taken place across the world, they are still a rather understudied phenomenon. In 2015, upon request from national actors, practitioners and bi- and multilateral donors, the Berghof Foundation set out a new project centred on the development of a unique practice-oriented resource guide for comprehensively designing and implementing national dialogue processes. Combined with the Berghof Foundation's longstanding experience in this area, the project seeks to improve national dialogue practice by enhancing the capacities and contributions of conflict stakeholders and third parties for their successful implementation.



Dr. Dhamir Mannai, HE Moussa Mara, Dr. Elshafie Khidir, Dr. Oliver Wils (from right to left)

Berghof Mediation Roundtable Series

The Berghof Mediation Roundtables, introduced as a new format in 2015, offer decision makers and experts an informal platform to discuss topical challenges and innovations in the field of mediation and mediation support and to develop policy recommendations. The roundtables are attended by parliamentarians, staff members of relevant ministries, especially the German Federal Foreign Office, as well as renowned experts. We held three roundtables in 2015 on the following topics: “Implications of terrorist listing on peace processes and third-party support” (February), “Challenges and opportunities for peacebuilding in the context of the national dialogue in Sudan” (March), and “Concepts and approaches of different mediation actors” (September). The Berghof Mediation Roundtable series will be continued.



HE Taher Masri, Dr. Dhamir Mannai, HE Ousmane Sy, and Prof. Dr. Munira Fakhro (from left to right)

Negotiation Support for Resistance and Liberation Movements

Our continued capacity-building and process support to resistance and liberation movements (RLMs) in peace processes has contributed to improving the conditions for political solutions to violent conflict by enhancing the negotiation capacities of these largely overlooked conflict actors. The topic of our 7th Annual Meeting negotiation training was “Broadening and deepening participation in peace negotiations”. The participants were given the opportunity to learn from other international experiences regarding various formats to enhance public participation in peace negotiations and to reflect on the core elements of inclusivity in peace negotiations. Practical tools on public participation and inclusive peace negotiations were developed together with the participants to serve as a method for designing inclusive negotiations.

Training Programme: Supporting Peace Negotiation and Mediation Processes at Track 1

The professionalisation of mediation opened the doors for political, civilian, police and military personnel working in crisis zones to receive training on how to conduct, guide or support mediation and national dialogue processes. Together with the Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF), we have developed a five-day training programme specifically catering to the needs of high-level participants. This programme offers them the opportunity to understand multiple schools and approaches to mediation in an international context and to gain skills for actively engaging in peace processes. The first course “Exploring options for negotiated settlements” was conducted in October 2015, and the next one, “Working towards comprehensive peace agreements” is scheduled for October 2016.

Democratic Dialogues for Conflict Transformation in Turkey

After two years of ceasefire and fragile advances in the so-called resolution process, the Turkish-Kurdish conflict escalated once again in the summer of 2015. Targeting influential actors from the socio-economic and political spheres at track 1.5, we have sought to strengthen efforts aiming at conflict de-escalation by enhancing the role of the business sector in conflict transformation, providing space for sustained dialogue, engaging with youth as drivers of constructive political change and supporting a group of influential insiders who can help build bridges across the conflict divide. In 2015, we laid the groundwork for all streams of work and will continue to deepen the engagement and over the next two years we will continue to deepen engagement with our Istanbul-based partner organisation Center for Public Policy and Democracy Studies (PODEM).

Mir Mubashir

Project Manager, Dialogue, Mediation and Peace Support Structures (Berlin, Germany)



What do you like most about your job at the Berghof Foundation?

I cherish the opportunity to work in the vicinity of amazing colleagues with a vibrant mix of experience, approach and span of work and to be connected to a resourceful network of organisations doing meaningful work in conflict transformation. I feel nurtured in a space where creativity is encouraged and I relish being able to meet and work with fascinating peacebuilders around the world.

How did you end up at the Berghof Foundation?

It's a crazy "dream come true" story! I was slowly transitioning from a very mundane IT-field of work to development cooperation at the GIZ in Bangladesh. The serendipitous encounter with "conflict transformation" and Berghof's name in a training led to a paradigm shift inside me. I made quick decisions, took actions towards a radical career (and life) change and enrolled in a master's in Peace and Conflict Studies in Hamburg, during which I snatched the opportunity to choose Berghof for my residency. We lived quite happily ever after.

In your opinion: What makes the Berghof Foundation special?

Its very committed, passionate and professional members and its research-praxis nexus (the constant feeding in from both realms to the larger whole) enrich the quality, usability, availability and sustainability of the work Berghof does. As a result, Berghof and its work are also deemed special by a wide range of actors all around the world, from grassroots changemakers to international diplomats.



Talking with a group of elders (informal leaders) in Kara-Suu District, Kyrgyzstan



South and East Asia

The state of conflict in South and East Asia was shaped by different developments in 2015. While the main conflicting parties in the Philippines and Myanmar were engaged in peace processes, both countries have seen regional relapses into violence as well as various hiccups and crises in the negotiation efforts. The Thai military government re-opened peace talks with a newly established umbrella organisation of the Southern Malay-Muslim resistance movement.

Conflict Transformation in the Deep South of Thailand: The Platform of Insider Peacebuilders

The Insider Peacebuilders Platform (IPP) has been bringing together Thai-Buddhists, Thai-Chinese, Malay-Muslims and people from different political convictions with a common interest in the peaceful settlement of the conflict in the Pa(t)ani region since 2011. In 2015, the focus of their joint engagement lay in supporting the peace talks between the government and the newly established *MARA Patani* umbrella organisation of the resistance movement.

To provide knowledge and skills for the track 1 talks as well as to empower civil society organisations, the IPP has created a Peace Resource

Collaborative with offices in Pa(t)ani and Bangkok. Key contentious issues were identified to help generate options for compromises and to furnish ideas for confidence-building measures.



Insider Peacebuilder Platform workshop in Pat(t)ani, Thailand

Middle East and North Africa



Destructive cycles of exclusion, violence and war have created deep insecurity in the MENA region, exacerbating pressure on the social fabric and fragile political institutions. Extremist groups are exploiting internal divisions to gain ground. Yet there are numerous voices calling for dialogue, inclusive institutions and locally-led approaches to address root causes of radicalisation. Against this background, our projects aimed to support actors and institutions in their efforts to develop constructive means of overcoming political and societal divisions with inclusive dialogue processes.

Sudan: Supporting National Dialogue

Progress in the national dialogue process announced by Sudan's president in January 2014 has been fitful. In close cooperation with the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) and in coordination with other international partners, the Berghof Foundation continues to provide support to the *African Union High Level Implementation Panel* (AUHIP) in addressing outstanding issues that prevent the Sudanese opposition parties from joining the national dialogue. To this end, we co-hosted two sets of informal negotiations between the government of Sudan and the opposition together with AUHIP and the GFFO. The first round took place in Addis Ababa. The second round of talks between the Sudan People's Liberation Movement North and the government of Sudan is prepared to take place in Berlin, Germany in January 2016.

Lebanon: Supporting Sunni Institutions to Strengthen Moderation and Tolerance

Since May 2015, we have been cooperating with the Lebanese Dar al-Fatwa under the patronage of the Mufti of the Republic, Sheikh Abd al-Latif Darian, in a dialogue and strategy-building project. The project seeks to support key Sunni actors in their efforts to promote religious pluralism and tolerance as well as to enhance dialogue. The joint activities aim at strengthening the ability of the Sunni community to address root causes of violent extremism and contribute to stability, religious tolerance and moderation in Lebanon through the institutions of Dar al-Fatwa and its partners. Together with Dar al-Fatwa, we identified joint priorities for the strategy-building and internal dialogue efforts, including activities in the areas of religious media, religious education, social services, religious counselling and capacity-building focusing on the internal structures of Dar al-Fatwa. The joint pilot project was officially launched in October 2015 on Dar al-Fatwa's premises in Beirut.

- 5 new projects (in Jordan, Lebanon and Yemen)
- 4 new staff members joined to support our work in Jordan, Lebanon and Yemen
- 39 workshops, roundtable discussions and symposiums



Panel at the conference on religious media in Beirut, Lebanon

Jordan: Strengthening the Culture of Tolerance

Given the alarming rise of homegrown extremism within Jordanian society, the Berghof Foundation aims to promote inter- and intra-religious tolerance and pluralism in the country in collaboration with the *Jordanian Society for Democratic Empowerment*. We launched the project “Strengthening the Culture of Tolerance: Counteracting Extremist Ideas among Young People” in August 2015. Our activities seek to contribute to creating spaces both for a constructive dialogue on the multi-dimensional root causes of radicalisation of young Jordanians as well as the development of approaches that can promote tolerance. These exchanges take place on an expert level through an interdisciplinary advisory group and on the grassroots level involving youth from various governorates (Ma’an, Zarqa, Balqa and Ajloun). The exchange at the local level offers an open space within which young people can share their ideas, views and concerns, as well as their perspectives on needs, efforts and ideas to strengthen tolerance in Jordan.

Yemen: Contributing to Efforts for a Political Solution in Yemen

Since the war broke out in March 2015, our activities in Yemen have focused on sustaining inclusive dialogue among Yemeni parties and supporting the UN-led peace process. We organised regular meetings between Yemeni parties in Sana’a and started convening inclusive consultation meetings outside the country. Both formats seek to enhance consensus-building among the parties and develop options to support the political process and the track 1 negotiations. We further provided expert advice on interim security arrangements and de-escalation mechanisms. In various governorates, we supported multi-stakeholder forums to sustain their dialogue activities and to develop options to reduce tensions at the local level. In Taiz, we assisted efforts for confidence-building and prisoner exchange.

Syria: Supporting Diaspora Humanitarian Actors

Building on our previous engagement with Syrian civil society and humanitarian initiatives in Germany, the Berghof Foundation has participated in the *Diaspora Emergency Action and Coordination initiative (DEMAC)* in cooperation with the Danish Refugee Council and AFFORD in 2015. Responding to growing global needs in humanitarian action, DEMAC supports diaspora-based humanitarians to improve their emergency response and coordination with the international humanitarian system. Our engagement sought to contribute to enhancing humanitarian response capacities of Syrian relief providers in face of the limited physical presence of international aid agencies in Syria. Based on the momentum created by the World Humanitarian Summit and the growing interest in alternative ways of delivering humanitarian assistance, we explored intervention methods and organisational capacities of diaspora humanitarians and provided space for enhancing mutual understanding between diaspora and international humanitarian actors.

Somalia: Building Federalism with Local Government Dialogue

This project aims to strengthen peace and stability in Somalia by contributing to the establishment of sustainable and locally-supported federal governance structures. While the state- and peacebuilding process in Somalia has been conducted mainly as a top-down approach, this project focuses on government structures at the local and regional levels. The project brings together residents of the Middle Shabelle region to a series of *Shirarka*, a typical week-long Somali dialogue format, to converse on federalism, local governance and conflict resolution. The forum allows Somalis to exchange views, have their voices heard and to develop ideas for local governance within the federal system. The project seeks to strengthen Somali knowledge and capacities with regard to federal systems, to facilitate inclusive dialogue about local governance within a Somali federal structure, and to develop substantial models from the bottom-up that could inspire the federalisation process in other regions.



Lara Azaam

Project Manager, Middle East and North Africa (Beirut, Lebanon)

What are you currently working on?

Currently, I am organising two events together with my colleagues. The first is a roundtable on the root causes of radicalisation in Lebanon for the project’s advisory board members. The second is a two-day conference titled “The role of religious media in promoting tolerance and moderation”, bringing together the Muftis of Egypt and Jordan and hosting panels to discuss the challenges and opportunities for the purpose of developing a religious media strategy.

What do you like most about your job at the Berghof Foundation?

My job with the Berghof Foundation gave me access to the “backstage” of a religious institution and the inner workings of the complex dynamics between the institution and the political scene in Lebanon. That being said, what I like most about my job is that I have evolved from a bystander of the deteriorating religious/religious-political situation in Lebanon (and a complainer just like all Lebanese) to a do-er, a mediator and facilitator of change, even if on a small scale, allowing me to put my thoughts and ideas into practice.

In your opinion: What makes the Berghof Foundation special?

In my opinion, three major aspects of the organisation make it special: its impartiality, professionalism and staff. Its impartiality serves to silence the conspiracy theories, the professionalism it displays in general conduct grants it reliability and respect, and the diverse background of the staff is a reflection of the credibility of the Berghof Foundation’s vision, mission and projects in the region. Not only that, the opportunity to learn from others and grow in knowledge within the institution is remarkable. ■■■



Assessment mission in Middle Shabelle, Somalia

Caucasus

1 Peace Counts exhibition in Sukhum/i War Museum

990 participants

7 Biographical Salon events in Sukhum/i

52 regional workshops



In 2015, we continued our efforts in uniting and supporting stakeholders in war memorialisation in the Caucasus region. Our work concentrated on the local level. Our goal was to create space for analysing memories of violent pasts and giving room to the emotions linked to them, while focusing on concrete events and fates. By empowering local stakeholders in war memorialisation to exchange and reflect their views, we actively support the occurrence and dissemination of peace-supporting narratives that work as a stepping stone towards reconciliation. We have also managed to increase the visibility of our activities thanks to our recent cooperation with high-ranking partners in the Georgian and Abkhaz media.

Indirect Dialogue on History and Memory Trialogue

Throughout 2015, our teams of insider mediators built up a system of local workshops that deal with memories of history. During the initial phase the participants listened to and discussed interview episodes from their own community. They then became acquainted with the memories and feelings from the “other side” of the conflict divide during the second workshop phase. These formats were moderated by our teams of insider mediators, whom we had previously qualified to create constructive spaces for learning, discussion and reflection.

In 2015, we continued our Georgian-Abkhaz-South Ossetian Trialogue on history and memory. In a trustful atmosphere the participants and insider mediators listened to and discussed interviews from the regions. These discussions provided important insights into the escalation of conflict and the implosion of the social fabric during conflict.

Peace Counts

Within the framework of Peace Counts, we have widened our outreach to include Armenia for the first time. Mixed Georgian-Abkhaz trainer teams have schooled Armenian Peace Counts trainers, empowering youth to discuss and engage in non-violent action.



Dr. Oliver Wolleh
Programme Director, Caucasus
(Berlin, Germany)

Is there something you have achieved so far during your time at the Berghof Foundation that you are particularly proud of?

I am particularly proud when we are able to overcome exclusion and restrictions to enhance people’s scope of action. To me, these are processes of liberation and emancipation, and it makes me proud to see an increase in people’s degree of freedom. In the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict we are increasingly engaged in a very public and transparent process. This hasn’t always been the case. Confidentiality certainly is important in many situations, but it makes me very proud that we are able to build conditions that make public reconciliation processes possible.

What is the most challenging aspect of your work? What is the most rewarding?

In my opinion, one of the most important challenges is to design sustainable processes within our work. This does not only imply “ownership” for many people, it

also implies that local actors, at least partially, need to be independent from foreign funding. Within our work we need to create “products” that are considered valuable, allowing actors on the local as well as governmental level to invest time and money. This would be a great achievement. Recently, a Georgian Ministry used our methods and training materials for the first time to independently conduct a workshop in Georgia. To me, this was an important step towards sustainability.

What are your plans for the future? Where do you see future challenges in your line of work?

We established media formats on both sides of the conflict that are broadcast by mass media channels. In Abkhazia, this is the Biographical Salon on tv and in Georgia it is the radio show “Intersections”. I’m glad we could overcome the “Chatham House Rules” and are able to initiate transparent processes that have an impact on a wide range of people. But in terms of working with the media, there is still a lot of uncharted territory waiting to be discovered.

Latin America

During the first decade of the new century, Latin America saw a political shift from right-wing to more progressive governments. Different forms of violence continue to plague the region and the advances made by leftist governments with regards to reducing inequality are at risk of being reversed. In Colombia, a breakthrough in the negotiations between the government and the FARC in September 2015 has raised hopes for a peace agreement in 2016. We have been supporting a regional peacebuilding approach in Colombia that centres on the need to build peace both from and for the different territories. We do so by bringing departmental and municipal governments together with civil society perspectives, complementing peacemaking efforts with peacebuilding.

Preparémonos para la Paz – Accompanying a Regional Peacebuilding Programme

In the Colombian department of Antioquia, we helped to implement a pilot project that aimed at reconstructing the social fabric and democratic culture within two communities in a highly conflict-affected region. The involvement of key governmental and civil society actors in the process and a publication capturing lessons learned ensured the sustainability of our efforts.

Advice to German Development Programme CERCAPAZ (GIZ), Colombia

In March 2015, the final lessons learned publications of CERCAPAZ for international development agencies were published and disseminated in several events in Germany. We had accompanied the GIZ-programme in consortium with Como Consult since 2011.

“We have shown that territorial peace can be built here in Antioquia, even when the armed conflict is ongoing. We hope that the next governments will build on these experiences in the important implementation phase of what will be agreed in the peace negotiations in Havana.”

Iván Marulanda, peace adviser to Antioquia’s governor
(2012 – 2015) Sergio Fajardo



Iván Marulanda and community representatives in Villa Hermosa, Antioquia, Colombia

SerMacarena (GIZ)

We co-designed and facilitated the systematisation of GIZ’s SerMacarena project in the department of Meta, Colombia. SerMacarena aimed to provide actors active in territorial peacebuilding with lessons and a step-by-step guide for implementing the model. The publication is available online.



Team photo of the ProPaz components

Start of a Territorial Peacebuilding Component for ProPaz (GIZ)

Since September 2015, the Berghof Foundation, in cooperation with Como Consult, has been implementing the regional peacebuilding component in Colombia for the GIZ programme ProPaz. Our local colleagues are working in the Norte de Santander and Meta departments and with national institutions to support better peacebuilding from and for the regions. This is a core element for tackling the manifold challenges facing the implementation of a peace agreement during persisting violence stemming from illegal actors and organised crime.



Barbara Unger

Programme Director, Latin America (Berlin, Germany)

Is there something you have achieved so far during your time at the Berghof Foundation that you are particularly proud of?

With my colleagues both in Berlin and Colombia, we are very excited to present lessons from subnational peacebuilding to the Colombian actors as an input for the implementation phase of the current peace negotiations. Seeing how the diverse challenges facing cooperation between different actors were overcome sends a powerful message of transformation.

What are your plans for the future? Where do you see future challenges in your line of work?

In the Latin America programme, we are delighted to plan working in Central America again, but are also quite aware of the challenges this poses. I came back to Guatemala, a country I had worked in with Peace Brigades International during the years of civil war, to hear from street vendors that the early 1990s (when the war was still being fought) had been a better time for them, while now, in a nominally peaceful time, everything was insecure and corrupt.



Southeast Europe

Southeast Europe faces a variety of challenges in building sustainable peace. The societies in the region of former Yugoslavia are still struggling with the legacies from the wars of the 1990s and large-scale ethnopolitical violence. Dealing with the past is an ongoing challenge. At the same time, controversial interpretations of history are fuelling political polarisation and divide. Initiatives for reconciliation are still rare and not very actively promoted at the political level. Civil society actors have made important efforts in documentation, supporting the courts and fact-finding missions and in trust- and relationship-building. Our programme has helped assess initiatives for transitional justice and reconciliation.

Dealing with the Past and Reconciliation in the Balkans

An edited volume on transitional justice and reconciliation in the Western Balkans was published in 2015. It assesses transitional justice initiatives in the region of the former Yugoslavia. Researchers from the region and international experts present analyses based on case studies from Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. A number of contributions comment on progress and limitations of criminal prosecutions and emphasise the need for restorative approaches. Other chapters discuss prospects for reconciliation in a region that is still facing a variety of frozen conflicts, selective forms of remembrance and diverging notions of victimhood. A related Berghof Policy Brief offers policy recommendations based on research findings from

the Western Balkans. It argues that retributive approaches need to be combined with more victim-centred restorative policies and institutional reforms that support trust-building and the rule of law from the very beginning.

Edited Volume

“Transitional Justice and Reconciliation – Lessons from the Balkans”

Four additional articles on transitional justice, reconciliation, peacebuilding and conflict prevention published in scientific volumes and journals

Facts and Figures

Grantmaking

With a budget donated by the Zundel family, the Berghof Foundation supported a small number of innovative projects that aimed to complement our activities. Our Board of Trustees awarded grants for two distinct programmes: the Grant for Innovation in Conflict Transformation for state-of-the-art projects in our field, and the Georg Zundel Scholarship for PhD students. The selection was based on the principles of strategic complementarity, potential for innovation and opportunities for partnership.

Grant for Innovation in Conflict Transformation

In 2015, we commenced our support for four projects in the field “National dialogues in conflict transformation”:

- Afghan Women’s Roadmap for Peace Entering the Transformation Decade
(€ 45,000, EQUALITY for Peace and Democracy, Afghanistan)
Project duration: January – July 2015
- Innovative Conflict Transformation in Vukovar and Knin
(€ 36,000, Documenta – Center for Dealing with the Past, Croatia)
Project duration: January 2015 – February 2016
- Enhancing the Resilience of Conflict Transformation Dialogues in Syria
(€ 50,000, Conflict Dynamics International, USA)
Project duration: February – December 2015
- Engaging Estranged Communities in Post-National Dialogue Buy-In and Participation
(€ 50,000, International Center for Religion and Diplomacy, USA)
Project duration: June 2015 – May 2016

In November 2015, our Board of Trustees awarded three Grants for Innovation in Conflict Transformation on the topic “Engaging actors with radical religious narratives in conflict transformation” for projects commencing in 2016.

Georg Zundel Scholarship

Monika Onken and Malaiz Daud commenced their PhD projects at the Free University Berlin supported by the Georg Zundel Scholarship in 2015. Monika’s thesis is titled “The paradox of violence accompanying non-violent movements” and attempts to answer under which conditions radical flanks raise the likelihood for nonviolent campaigns to be successful. Malaiz researches the characteristics of Pashtun resistance movements and their interplay with oppressive powers and violent enterprises in his thesis on “Violence and non-violence: The dynamic landscape of Pashtun resistance”.

Berghof Grantees Conference

The third Berghof Grantees Conference took place at the Berghof Center in Berlin on 19 November 2015. Representatives of the four grantee organisations working on the topic “National dialogues in conflict transformation” presented their work, preliminary results and lessons learned on how dialogue processes offer a distinct approach and means of settlement after war or political crisis. There was also room for lively debate between the Berghof Foundation staff and guests, as well as for exploring opportunities for future collaboration.

Organisation and Team

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Prof. Dr. Dr. Hans-Joachim Giessmann
Sandra Pfahler

Thematic Programmes

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Dr. Véronique Dudouet, Programme Director
Matteo Dressler, Programme Assistant
Basir Feda, Project Officer
Janel B. Galvanek, Project Manager
Karin Göldner, Programme Assistant
Dr. Kristóf Gosztonyi, Project Manager
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Dialogue, Mediation and Peace Support Structures

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Nina Bernarding, Project Assistant
Marike Blunck, Project Manager
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Vivianne Guérin, Programme Assistant
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Katrin Planta, Project Manager
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Peace Education and Global Learning

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Hazem Elgafari, Student Assistant
Anne Kruck, Senior Project Manager
Dagmar Nolden, Project Manager
Julia Oschinski, Project Assistant
Nadine Ritzl, Project Manager
Stefanie Rücker, Student Assistant

Regional Programmes

Caucasus

Dr. Oliver Wolleh, Programme Director
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Latin America

Barbara Unger, Programme Director
Antonia Montanus, Project Assistant

Middle East and North Africa

Dr. Oliver Wils, Programme Director
Lara Azzam, Project Manager Lebanon
Malika Bouziane, Senior Project Manager
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Nadine Francis, Project Assistant
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Kamal Kamal, Project Assistant Jordan
Barbara Kemper, Senior Project Manager
Feras Kheirallah, Project Manager
Erik Mohns, Project Manager
Mohammed Moneim, Project Assistant Lebanon
Theo Murphy, Senior Coordinator
Sonja Neuweiler, Senior Project Manager

South and East Asia

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Southeast Europe

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Astrid Fischer, Project Manager Website, Publications
Dr. Nicole Rieber, Assistant Library, IT, Organisation
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The European Peace Liaison Office is a European association of non-governmental organisations engaged in peacebuilding, crisis prevention and conflict resolution. As a platform for collaboration within a community of like-minded partners, it also lobbies for a more prominent role of peaceful tools and strategies in the policies of the European Union.

German Association for Peace and Conflict Studies (AFK)

AFK forms a network of scholars from a variety of disciplines and represents the professional association of peace researchers in Germany. Its membership includes experts from university departments, public or private institutes, students, junior and senior researchers as well as professors and leaders of research institutions.

German Platform for Peaceful Conflict Management

The platform is a German network of associates, aiming to promote peaceful conflict management. It is designed as an open network.

Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE)/ Working Group on Education and Fragility

INEE is a network of practitioners from international NGOs, UN and government agencies who work to promote education opportunities in crisis or conflict areas. It supports its members inter alia with information-sharing and management, providing tools for practice and policy, as well as advocacy work.

Mediation Support Initiative Germany (IMSD)

The Mediation Support Initiative Germany consists of a consortium of five non-governmental organisations that aim to further the knowledge and application of mediation and mediation support in public discourse and Germany's (foreign) policy, as well as integrating mediation as an efficient and sustainable instrument of civilian crisis prevention.

Mediation Support Network (MSN)

The Mediation Support Network's mission is to promote and improve mediation practice, processes and standards to address political tensions and armed conflict.

Peace and Dialogue Platform

The Peace and Dialogue Platform, led by the Common Space Initiative, is an online resource centre for providing up-to-date information on national dialogue processes as well as insights into conceptual developments and selected case studies.

Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers

The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers brings together actors to provide global support for grassroots to international peacebuilding efforts. The aim of the network is to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of peace-focused efforts through collaboratively supporting and strengthening the positive role of religious and traditional actors in peace and peacebuilding processes.

Friends of Berghof Peace Education/ Institute for Peace Education

The main task of the Friends of Berghof Peace Education/ Institut für Friedenspädagogik in Tübingen is to support the Peace Education and Global Learning Programme of the Berghof Foundation with ideas and initiatives, such as the Berghof Summer School for International Peacebuilders or the publication of peace education learning materials for schools. Peace education within the Berghof Foundation focuses on the conception and implementation of projects for violence prevention, the implementation of peace education measures in conflict areas, and the organisation of events and meetings on the topic.

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Editorial team

Prof. Dr. Hans Joachim Giessmann

Sandra Pfahler

Annett Rößling

Christine Seifert

Proofreading

Maren Sass

Concept and Design

wenkerottke

Print

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Berghof Foundation
Altensteinstraße 48a
14195 Berlin
Germany
www.berghof-foundation.org
info@berghof-foundation.org