



Annual Report 2019

Creating Space for Conflict Transformation

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ABOUT THE BERGHOF FOUNDATION

The Berghof Foundation is an independent, non-governmental and non-profit organisation supporting people in conflict in their efforts to achieve sustainable peace through conflict transformation and peacebuilding.

Even in the midst of destruction, social and political conflict can develop forces of positive change, when people engage with each other constructively and together seek inclusive and peaceful ways to address the grievances and issues that divide them.

We bring people in conflict together. We enable and support learning processes that inspire the development of new perspectives, relationships and behaviour, thus opening possibilities for addressing conflict and finding ways of living together peacefully.

We work with conflict parties, as well as governmental agencies and other likeminded partners. We rely on a broad range of tools, including mediation and dialogue facilitation as well as capacity building measures such as training and peace education. In addition, we conduct research to ground our work in a solid understanding both of the conflict contexts and conflict transformation methods.

Note from the executive director

The tumultuousness of the time in which we are living at present makes a review even of last year seem like a distant age – one of relative predictability, prosperity and stability. Not that it felt remotely like that at the time of course.

I was appointed Executive Director of Berghof in March, starting work in May. Having seen at first hand, during 30 years at the United Nations, the devastating effects of wars on lives and societies, I'm thrilled to be joining an organisation that's an acknowledged world leader in transforming conflict and sustaining peace, as it prepares for its sixth decade of activities. Working in three very different domains (peace support on the ground; global learning and peace education; and research) means that Berghof's activities combine a range of approaches that is unique in peacebuilding.

Given the situation in many parts of the world, which is likely to deteriorate still further during the coming period, it's clear that Berghof will need to continue and even intensify its efforts to help local actors and partners move away from violence. The global pandemic, which threatens to overwhelm health systems and undermine economic foundations, has added still further to the complexity of social grievances, human rights violations, climate change, environmental catastrophe, corrupt governance, and irresponsible global leadership. In light of this backdrop, it's next to impossible to imagine that current levels of conflict will diminish.

In this review of 2019, we want to present a concise picture of our work, using one example from each region to highlight the wide variety of approaches we take to try to transform conflict.

In Afghanistan, the dialogue we have been facilitating for many years sparked hope for peace when members of the government and of the Taliban movement met for the first time during the Intra-Afghan Conference for Peace. In Yemen, we worked at all levels to help keep the doors open for a political solution to end the war that continues to ravage the country. In Ethiopia, our engagements contributed to opening a wider conversation on the challenging transition towards multi-party democracy.

Our regional peacebuilding work in Colombia provided essential input for new development and citizen security plans. In Germany, we encouraged young people to recognise peace and non-violence as important values in their lives. Around the world, we documented the experiences of women in resistance and liberation movements, and provided training and support to enhance their inclusion in peace negotiations and political transitions.

Beyond these examples and as mentioned in previous annual reports, we also do impressive work in Lebanon with our Beirut office as well as in the Caucasus, Syria, Somalia, and elsewhere. In 2019, we worked in or did research on over 30 countries and territories in total.

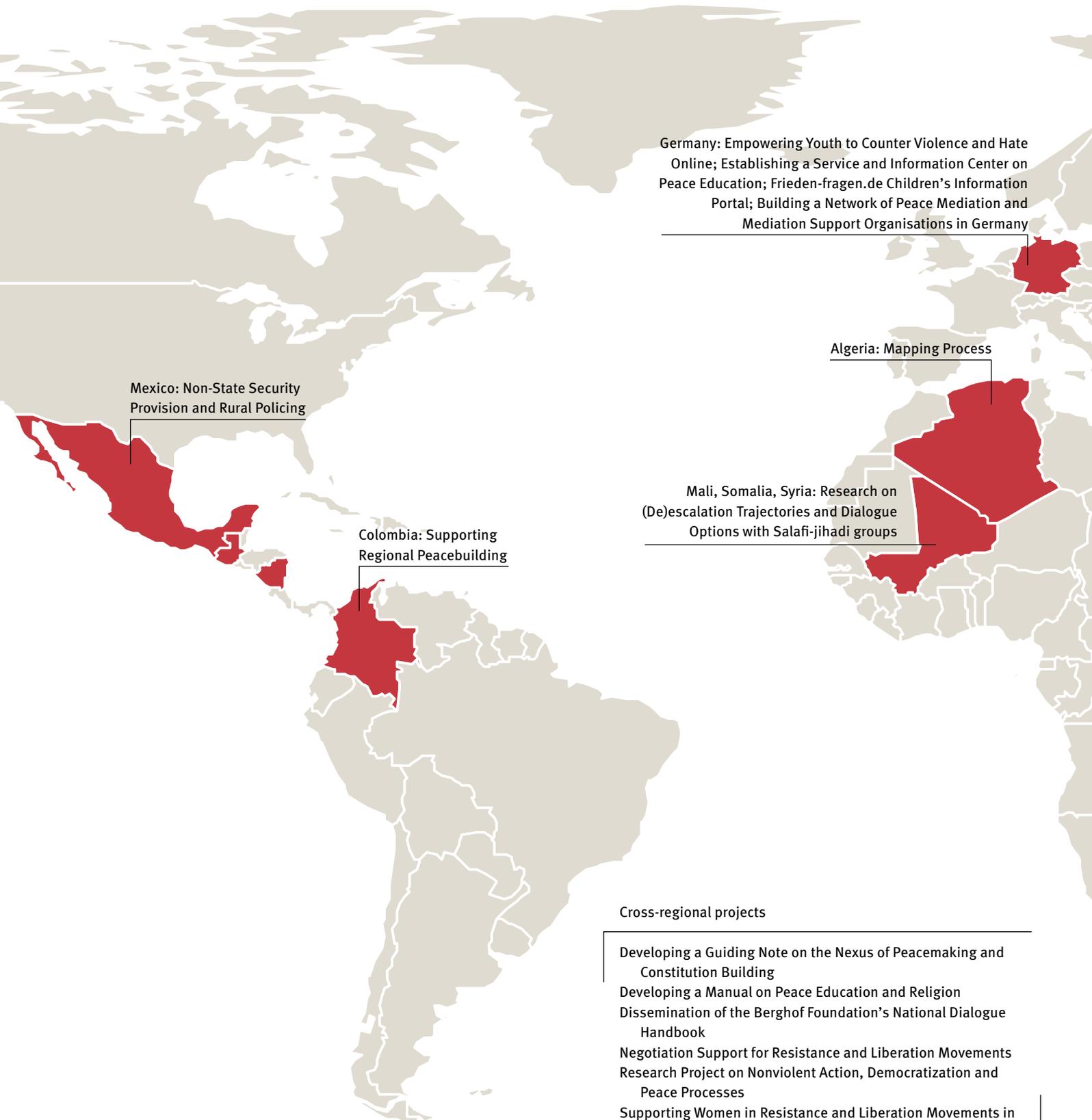
Our work would not have been possible without the support of our donors, local and international partners, and our dedicated and expert staff. As we look ahead to our 50th anniversary in 2021 and our new Strategic Plan (covering 2021-2023), we are recommitting ourselves to deepening our partnerships and collaboration with others who seek to promote peaceful alternatives to violent conflict.



Andrew Gilmour
Executive Director

Our work around the world

Countries and territories we worked in and did research on during 2019



Bosnia and Herzegovina: Memory and History for Social Conciliation

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia: Research on Fostering Resilience against Violent Extremism in the Western Balkans

Turkey: Supporting Democratic Dialogues for Conflict Transformation

Lebanon: Deepening Intra-Sunni Dialogue and Strategy Development to Address Radicalisation; Establishing Safety Nets against Sunni-Shia Polarisation

Syria: Independent Expert Group on Syria; Capacity Development for Local Dialogue Facilitation

Georgia and Abkhazia: History Dialogue as Basis for Normalisation

Azerbaijan and Karabakh: Memory and History as a Basis for Dialogue

Afghanistan: Fostering Inclusive Peace Negotiations

Afghanistan, Colombia, Mali, Myanmar: Research on Inclusivity in Peace Process Design

Jordan: Strengthening Nonviolent Education

Iran: Promoting Peace Education

Thailand: Supporting Insider Mediators in South Thailand

Yemen: Supporting Political Dialogue; Strengthening Inclusive Local Governance; Community Safety

Horn of Africa: Fostering Political Dialogue and Regional Cooperation

Somalia: Providing (Re)conciliation and Mediation Support; Supporting Stabilisation of Galmudug State

Ethiopia: Strengthening the Transition and Reform Process

South Sudan: Supporting a Sustainable Solution to the Conflict

Burundi, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines: Research on Female Combatants and Their Post-war Political Paths

Afghanistan

“Peace making is no longer just an amateur art form, it really has become a discipline. [...] and the German Berghof Foundation have done an enormous amount to turn this into a discipline.”

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani

Dialogue sparks hope for peace in Afghanistan

2019 was the sixth year in a row that the number of civilians killed or injured in Afghanistan rose above 10,000, according to the UN mission in the country.

But 2019 also saw a significant step towards peace in Afghanistan: In June we supported the German and Qatari governments in organising the Intra-Afghan Conference for Peace. For the very first time, representatives of the Afghan government and opposition leaders (attending in private capacity) as well as representatives from many sectors of Afghan society met with a delegation of the Taliban movement in Doha, Qatar.

Over the course of two days, more than 60 participants discussed what an Afghan-owned and led peace process could look like. By sharing grievances and at times very personal stories of loss and hardship, all sides could increase mutual understanding and begin building trust. The parties decided that the Berghof Foundation’s moderator was the only one allowed in the room with the participants during these closed-door sessions.

After intense debates, all parties issued a joint statement. It covers various topics, such as the assurance of fundamental rights for women and religious minorities, which chart a roadmap to peace and can serve as a starting point for formal intra-Afghan negotiations.

Informal formats like the dialogue event in Doha have the potential to be a powerful tool to support a formal, political process. Such formats can ensure inclusivity as representatives from across the political spectrum and Afghan society can participate. These informal dialogue settings also create space to address topics that cannot be part of high-level negotiations.

After 40 years of war and 20 years of U.S.-led military intervention, it is evident that the conflict in Afghanistan cannot be solved by military means or solutions from outside. Only an inclusive Afghan-owned and led process will be able to establish sustainable peace. Toward that end, we will continue to support our Afghan partners with hands-on advice and research-based expertise in working through fundamental issues related to a peace process.



Dr. Habiba Sarābi speaking at the Intra-Afghan Conference for Peace, Image: Berghof Foundation



Keeping doors open in Yemen

“[The support of the Berghof Foundation and PDF Yemen] made a thorny and complicated problem look so straightforward and simple and helped the opposing parties, including the cleaners themselves, agree on a solution.”

Fahmy Abdul-Hadi Omar bin Shabraq, Executive Director of the Cleaning and Improvement Fund, Hadhramaut Governorate

meetings in Berlin with leaders of the Yemeni parties, former and active ministers, and other experts to complement official negotiations and feed new ideas into the peace process. These talks covered a broad range of issues such as the general framework for the negotiations, financial and fiscal reforms that could defuse ongoing conflict over control of the Central Bank, and articulating shared demands of all Yemeni political parties for the future relations between the national and local authorities in Yemen.

We also supported consultative committees in two governorates, as issues of local governance will loom large during the peace process, and local conflicts – if left unchecked – may derail any future peace agreement. The consultative committees are providing the forum for more inclusive local deliberations and are mediating local conflict. They have enabled the delivery of basic services, including three health centres to resume work, a girls’ school to reopen, and garbage collection to resume in a governorate capital.

Another strand of work sought to demonstrate how a community safety–driven approach to policing can contribute to solving local problems as well as the conflict parties’ concerns over security provision after a peace agreement. Following the development of new training materials with Yemeni police and justice officials from all sides of the conflict, we will support the application of the new approach in five municipalities in the coming years.

We believe it is vital to work at all levels – the local, sub-national, national, and international – in order to help end wars and support transitions. This is why the Berghof Foundation has been working at multiple levels with Yemeni partners to support a political solution to the challenges facing the country since 2012.

As political space shrank and open conflict broke out in 2015, we supported inclusive Yemeni dialogues on the framework, substance, and mechanisms of a peace process. The need for dialogue and a negotiated solution has become all the more clear as the heavily internationalised civil war has plunged Yemen into the world’s worst humanitarian crisis.

In 2019, we continued our work to support the peace process. In close cooperation with the Office of the UN Special Envoy to Yemen, we held regular consultation meetings in Aden and Sanaa and held high-level



Consultative committee meeting with the governor of Hadramawt at Mukalla, Hadramawt, Image: Ahmed Basharahayel

Working towards an Ethiopian National Dialogue

“The fact that there is great need for National consensus in Ethiopia has become more clear than ever. [...] [W]ithout the support of the Berghof Foundation, it would not have been possible to achieve what we have been able to do so far.”

Ambassador Tekeda Alemu, Co-Chair of the Steering Committee for an Inclusive National Dialogue in Ethiopia, Former State Minister of Foreign Affairs and Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations

In response to more than three years of widespread anti-government protests that brought Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed to power in early 2018, Ethiopia has embarked on a hopeful but challenging transition towards multi-party democracy. Commenced in June that year, our work in Ethiopia promotes inclusive dialogue among key Ethiopian stakeholders to address major fault lines in the country and create consensus on a mechanism to manage the transition process.

While important steps have been taken to initiate national reforms, tensions can rise due to political fragmentation and ethnic polarisation. The stakes are high and there remains uncertainty in the process and technicalities of the transition – making it vital to bring all stakeholders together

and reconcile diverse visions for the country’s future.

Building on the kick-off dialogue conference on political reforms opened by Prime Minister Abiy, our engagement in 2019 focused on initiating a series of high-level dialogue conferences on critical issues related to Ethiopia’s transition.

Notably, in August, the Berghof Foundation – alongside our Ethiopian partners comprising the Steering Committee for Inclusive Dialogue in Ethiopia – organised a ‘Dialogue Conference on the Opportunities and Challenges of the Ethiopian Transition Process’ in Addis Ababa. The two-day event convened around 200 key Ethiopian stakeholders from across the political and civic spectrum to exchange views on the current dynamics, future risks and political mechanisms to manage the transition process. Opened by the Ethiopian President Sahle-Work Zewde and the former South African President Thabo Mbeki, participants presented various and sometimes highly contested positions.

Stimulated by first-hand experiences from other contexts which were presented during the event, discussions focused on how to transform dynamics and bridge competing visions. To this end, a clear call for a comprehensive and structured dialogue process to manage the transition process was issued. The notion of an Ethiopian National Dialogue gained momentum not only among participants but also with the wider public as the idea was incorporated into the political discourse by subsequent media coverage.

Our engagements contributed to opening a wider conversation on the Ethiopian transition process and sharpened the idea of a National Dialogue becoming the main political dialogue forum accompanying the transition process. Building on this enabling environment our collaboration with our partners supports the preparations for a broad-based, Ethiopian-owned and -driven National Dialogue process, as well as parallel side tracks linked to this national endeavor.



Dialogue Conference on Ethiopia’s Foreign and Security Policy at the African Union in October 2019, Image: Berghof Foundation

Engaging youth for peace in Germany

Fake news and disinformation, hate speech, populism and extremism – during 2019 our Peace Education and Global Learning team dealt with these challenges more intensively than ever before.

Against this background, the Berghof Foundation supported and accompanied youth in several projects in Germany so that young people could recognise peace and non-violence as important values in their lives. The projects are based on a participatory, inclusive approach. This means that they are not only developed for young people, but above all together with young people. The appreciation for the approach taken in these projects is growing.

In December, our project Streitkultur 3.0 (Culture of Conflict 3.0) received the "Wirkt-Siegel" seal of impact from the German non-profit PHINEO. The seal is awarded to non-profits and projects that demonstrate effective social commitment. The project works to sensitise young people to hatred, discrimination, disinformation and agitation on the web. Our team works with participants in the project to develop strategies, youth-focused approaches and learning materials that strengthen their media literacy and deal with hatred and disinformation online together.

The Service Center Peace Education strengthens peace education at schools in the German state of Baden-Wuerttemberg. The Berghof Foundation is responsible for this centre together with the State Agency for Civic Education and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports Baden-Wuerttemberg. It supports teachers in the preparation of lessons and projects, offers training activities, and develops learning materials on the topics of war and peace, conflict and violence. 2019 saw several schools in this populous state selected as model institutes for peace education for the first time.

In our online portal for children we answered kids' questions about conflict, violence and peace as well as reported on the dangers of climate change and the goals of the Fridays for Future movement.

By integrating these narratives on the web and institutionally, young people can confront their own biases and fears, and as a result, reflect on peaceful coexistence in schools, their own society, and the wider world.

Soccer game during a workshop at one of the model schools for peace education in Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany, Image: Berghof Foundation



“My worldview became a bit better through the workshop. It was like a light at the end of the tunnel.”

Student after a Peace Counts Workshop held at a school



Regional Peacebuilding in Colombia/ Paz Territorial Como-Berghof



Colombia

“These inputs are an essential tool for the design and implementation of public policies with respect to citizen security and co-existence.”

Diana Urbano Castro, Director of Justice, Security and Governance, National Planning Department of Colombia

The 2016 peace agreement between the government and the FARC guerrillas raised hopes of peace after Colombia’s half century of internal conflict, which caused more than 200,000 deaths and displaced millions. A core concept of the agreement is paz territorial (‘peace from and for the territories’), which recognises the need to mainstream peacebuilding measures at all levels of society and layers of government. This focus on a deep peace necessitated the development of mechanisms to ensure participation and inclusiveness, so that the agreement can be implemented and serve as a basis for sustainable peace.

The Berghof Foundation supports the creation of mechanisms that help Colombians to engage with and enable peace in their communities. One example comes from Ocaña, a town of some 80,000 people in the department of Norte de Santander.

As an entry point to the resource-rich Catatumbo region, Ocaña has faced continuing violence from illegal armed groups despite the peace agreement. Coupled with the lingering effects of the long war, this has had a detrimental effect on the community’s social cohesion.

Since 2018, the Berghof Foundation – in consortium with Como-Consult and within the GIZ programme ProPaz – has promoted a systemic approach to violence prevention in Ocaña. Working with the town and departmental governments as well as civil society actors (including neighbourhood residents, NGOs and universities), this pilot project has sought to enable local governments and civil society to work in tandem on the shared aim of preventing violence and crime.

The approach links different social settings and diverse actors, allowing participants to engage in a range of activities that inform and shape municipal and regional violence prevention practices. Beyond mere meetings, the activities open spaces for reflection and learning. For example, participatory theatre in Ocaña helped illustrate the dynamics of sexual violence, while communal sports underscored the value of cooperation and challenged prevailing gender stereotypes.

As municipal elections took place in 2019, the project contributed to the integration of violence prevention measures in candidates’ platforms while also sparking discussion on linking violence prevention with transitional justice and remembrance work. These topics in turn became part of the basis for Ocaña’s new development and citizen security plans.

Such activities do not just benefit the people of Ocaña. The insights gained from this project, along with numerous local participatory mechanisms our work has supported around the country, are also reflected upward to national authorities, helping Colombia to make paz territorial a reality.



Our work supports the development of locally appropriate and inclusive mechanisms to prevent violence, Image: Oficina de Prensa UFP50

Women's agency in war and peace

Although women sometimes comprise up to 30 per cent of the membership of armed resistance and liberation movements, their voices and aspirations are regularly sidelined during peace negotiations and post-war transitions. The important role played by female combatants through participation in the conflict is often difficult to translate into participation in peace processes and post-war political settings, where men routinely assume the leadership positions and presume women will find their place in the domestic sphere.

In 2019, the Berghof Foundation provided support to women in eight resistance and liberation movements to enhance their inclusion in peace processes, during peace negotiations and political transitions, and documented the experiences of five other groups after transition has been completed.

We worked with six local researchers, all of whom are themselves ex-combatants from demobilised armed groups in Aceh (Indonesia), Burundi, Mindanao (Philippines), and Nepal. The researchers collected and shared firsthand knowledge of the experiences of female combatants and their engagement in political transformation processes. Overall, they recorded 43 video interviews with their peers, identifying key lessons learned from their shared experiences.

The resulting short film and booklet, 'I Have To Speak' – Voices of Female Ex-Combatants, seek to amplify some of the hidden and forgotten voices in conflict and show that women and their experiences of armed conflict need to be taken seriously in order to build sustainable peace. They also aim to show other female ex-combatants that they are not alone in their sense of being marginalised during such war-to-peace transitions, and that they have reason to feel empowered by their strength and resilience.

The stories collected are those of friendship and camaraderie, of life and death, of perseverance and resistance, and of rebuilding lives after war and continuing the struggle in peaceful ways. Tripani Baijali, one of our Nepal researchers, urges "[the women's] political awareness, skill, and experiences should be transformed into useful human resources for the mainstream political scene by creating opportunities for them."

The interviews, film and stories are now used to train and build the capacities of women in resistance and liberation movements who are currently in the process of emerging from armed struggle.



Video training in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, Image: Berghof Foundation.

“Hopefully, this book can provide a lesson to our friends in other countries who are still in conflict so they can learn from the determination, enthusiasm and struggles we have documented.”

Salawati S.PD., teacher and action researcher, Banda Aceh, Indonesia

See the film and booklet at www.berghof-foundation.org/i-have-to-speak

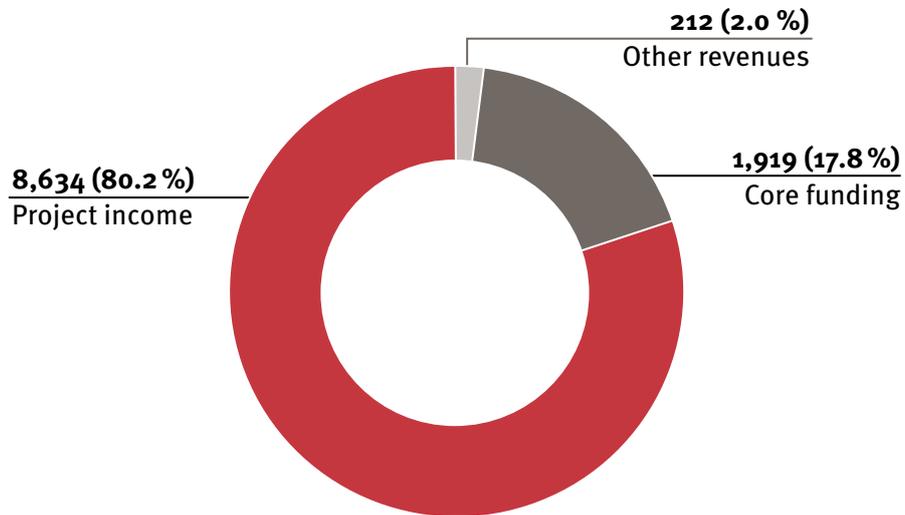
Financial Report

To fund its work, the Berghof Foundation relies on the financial support of numerous public and private donors. Our project funding has more than doubled in the past five years meaning we were able to implement more projects, work in more countries, reach significantly more people and achieve greater impact. To ensure the sustainability of our work through strategic investments, we are now looking to increase the proportion of core funding we currently receive.

Operating revenues 2019

€ thousands

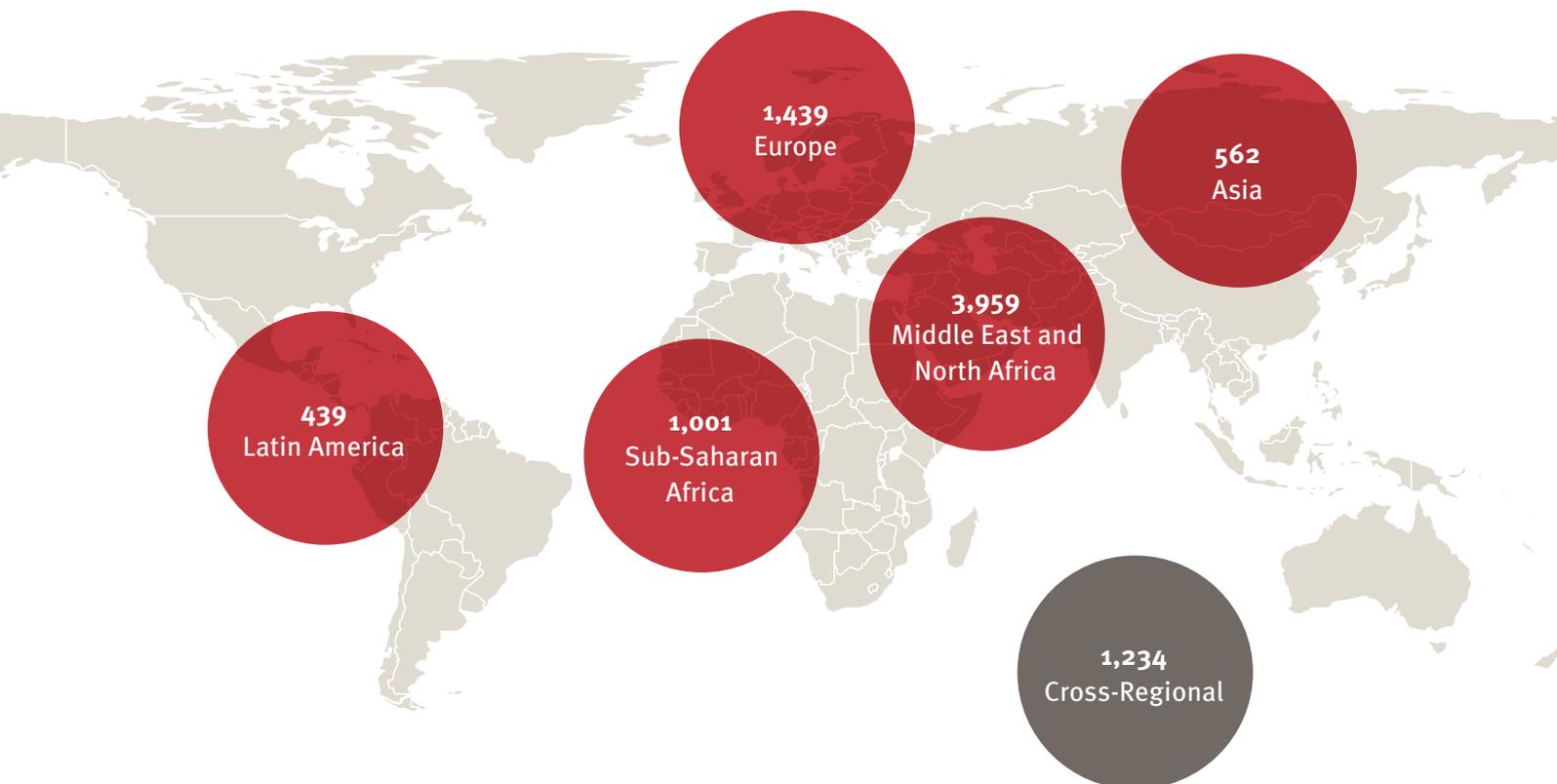
Total 10,765



Project income by region

€ thousands

Total 8,634



Balance

€ thousands

Assets		2018	2019
Non-current assets	Intangible assets (patents, copyright and software)	112	94
	Fixed assets	448	410
	Total non-current assets	560	504
Current assets	Inventory	3	9
	Debtors	456	1109
	Other receivables and prepaid expenses	203	304
	Bank and cash in hand	2,457	1,407
	Total current assets	3,119	2,829
Total assets		3,679	3,333
Net assets and liabilities			
Net assets	Basic capital	25	25
	Other equity capital	558	554
	Total net assets	583	579
Current liabilities	Bank indebtedness	48	36
	Accounts payable	565	585
	Accrued liabilities	619	423
	Project advances from funders	1,142	1,101
	Other liabilities	722	609
	Total current liabilities	3,096	2,754
Total net assets and liabilities		3,679	3,333

Income Statement

€ thousands

		2018	2019
Operating revenues	Institutional funding	1,660	1,919
	Project income	8,362	8,634
	Other revenues	195	212
	Total operating revenues	10,217	10,765
Operating expenses	Salaries and social costs	3,898	4,549
	Professional fees and local project costs	2,929	3,025
	Travel, representation and seminars	1,505	1,533
	Other project costs	509	484
	Office costs	974	902
	Depreciation	146	256
		Total operating expenses	9,961
	Operating surplus	256	16
Net surplus	Net surplus before corporate tax	256	16
	Corporate tax	20	20
Net loss/surplus	Net loss/surplus for the financial year	236	-4

Auditors' Statement

An unqualified audit opinion for the complete financial statements as of December 31, 2019 (balance sheet, income statement and notes) of the Berghof Foundation Operations gGmbH, Berlin, was issued by Ebner Stolz GmbH & Co. KG on 15 June 2020. The figures of the annual report 2019 have been derived from these financial statements.

Auditors responsible for the audit are:

Karina Frille, Wirtschaftsprüferin, Steuerberaterin (German public auditor, tax accountant)

Thorsten Sommerfeld, Wirtschaftsprüfer (German public auditor)

Ebner Stolz GmbH & Co. KG

Wirtschaftsprüfer Steuerberater

Zweigniederlassung Berlin

Berlin, August 2020

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- Ministry of Higher Education, Jordan
- Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports Baden-Wuerttemberg
- Mothers of Abkhazia for Peace and Social Justice
- Nepal Peacebuilding Initiative, Nepal
- Open Horizons Co. Ltd., Nairobi, Kenya
- Peace Boat, Japan
- Peace Counts Network, Germany
- Peace Development Center, Georgia
- Peace Information Center, Thammasat University, Thailand
- Peace Studies Institute, Prince of Songkla University, Thailand
- People's College, Thailand
- Political Development Forum, Yemen
- Pyidaungsu Institute for Peace and Dialogue, Myanmar
- ProPaz GIZ, Colombia

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United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (UNDPPA) - Mediation Support Unit	World Council of Churches, Switzerland
	World Without Violence, Sukhum(i)
	Zeitspiegel Reportagen, Germany

Memberships

European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO)

The European Peacebuilding 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 for peaceful tools and strategies in the policies of the European Union.

German Platform for Peaceful Conflict Management

The platform is a German network of associates which promotes 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, the UN and government agencies who work to promote education opportunities in crisis or conflict areas. It supports its members inter alia through information sharing and management, advocacy work and providing tools for practice and policy.

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 and to integrate 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.

The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers

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

Get involved

Support us

We want to contribute to a more peaceful world. With your help, we can.

Last year we worked on nearly 60 projects in regions marred by conflict and crisis. We are regularly asked to engage in mediation, conduct trainings, or support efforts to build and foster peace around the world.

So far, the Berghof Foundation and its partners have only been able to secure funding for some of these activities. We want to do much more to enable sustainable peace – and with your support, we can.

Help us ensure our impact is sustainable. We are looking for partners – individuals, the private sector, the public sector, media or academia – to support our work.

You can donate at berghof-foundation.org/donate or send your donations to the following bank account and contact us at supporters@berghof-foundation.org if you would like to contribute.

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Cover photo by Hamed al-Faqih

Every effort has been made to verify the accuracy of the information contained in this report. All information was believed to be correct as of August 2020. Nevertheless, the Berghof Foundation cannot accept responsibility for the consequences of its use for other purposes or in other contexts.

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Berghof Foundation Operations gGmbH

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