



Annual Report 2018

Creating Space for Conflict Transformation

ABOUT THE BERGHOF FOUNDATION

The Berghof Foundation is an independent, non-governmental organisation dedicated to supporting actors from all sectors of society, including politics, the public sector, academia and civil society, in their efforts to prevent political and social violence, overcome violence as a means for change, and maintain peaceful relations. For close to fifty years, we have brought people together to create space for the transformation of conflicts towards sustainable peace.

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Note from the Executive Directors

Armed conflicts are spreading around the world, often fuelled by exclusion and lack of trust. The number of conflict-affected areas increased by eleven per cent in 2018. The need for the Berghof Foundation's work to support people who are interested in preventing and overcoming personal and structural violence is stronger than ever.

All too often, conflicts only attract attention when they turn violent. Once a peace agreement is signed, they tend to disappear again from the public sphere. However, while violence and efforts to end it deserve our full attention, violence is often just the most extreme and vicious manifestation of an underlying conflict rooted in structural inequalities and grievances. These are a critical impediment to social development, jeopardising efforts to end extreme poverty and hunger and ensure inclusive participation for all.

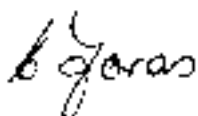
At the Berghof Foundation, rather than merely looking at the eruption of violence, we put the structural causes of conflicts and the people affected by them at the centre of our work. With our portfolio of projects, we contribute to the aim of ending violent conflict, to sustaining peace in the aftermath of violence, and to preventing violence from breaking out in the first place. To do so, we are active at all stages and at all levels of conflicts and create spaces to peacefully transform them:

We support parties in conflict transformation processes by providing capacity building, and through mutual learning and cooperation enhance their knowledge and skills in dealing with conflicts constructively.

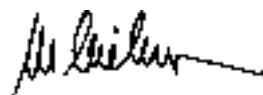
We build trust space with hard-to-reach actors, and – if a conflict has turned violent – provide inclusive and multipartial mediation and dialogue spaces to establish conditions conducive to a sustainable peace. Following a conflict settlement, we support ways to deal with the violent past and pursue paths to reconciliation. Along the way, we generate new knowledge that supports our mission and undertake research together with local experts on specific conflict contexts to ensure our interventions are adapted to local needs for best possible outcomes.

The following pages will present you with an insight into the broad spectrum of our work. You will read about some of our highlights and major achievements in 2018, from Germany and North Macedonia, to Lebanon and Yemen, from Somalia and South Sudan, to Colombia and the Philippines.

Our work would not have been possible without the support of our key donors, dedicated partners and committed staff. Their tremendous efforts are invaluable for the results we can achieve around the world. Together, we help people around the world take steps towards sustainable peace.



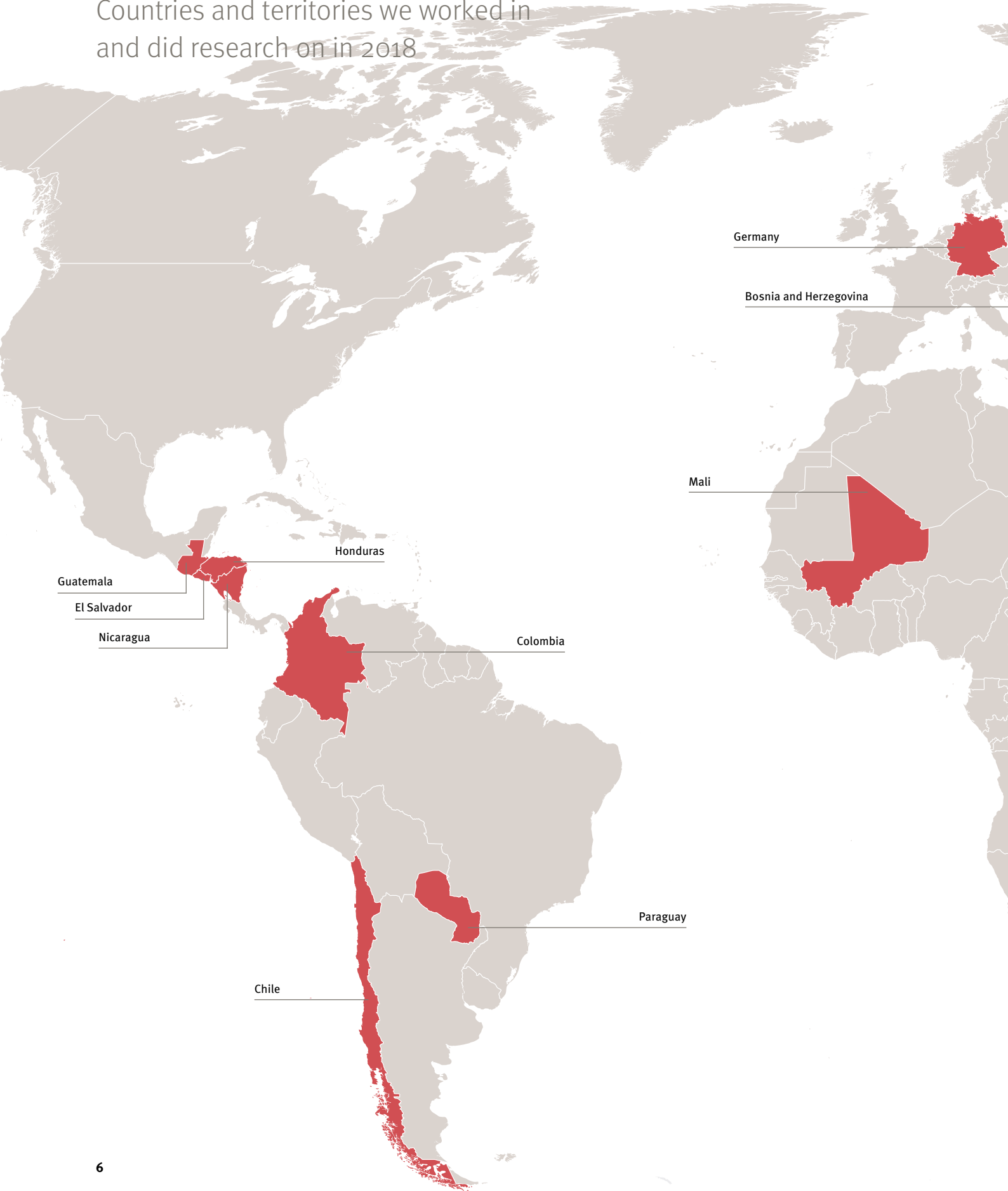
Andrea Joras
Executive Director



Hans-Joachim Gießmann
Executive Director

Where we work

Countries and territories we worked in and did research on in 2018







Our conflict transformation approach

Eight contributions to building sustainable peace

- 1 Knowledge creation
- 2 Mandate to support actors
- 3 Trusted space with hard-to-reach actors
- 4 Capacity development
- 5 Violence reduction
- 6 Mediation and dialogue space
- 7 Conflict settlement
- 8 Reconciliation

1 Knowledge creation



Prof. Cheryl Saunders from the University of Melbourne at the international roundtable on the nexus of peacemaking and constitution building in New York.
© Julian Klauke

The nexus between building constitutions and sustaining peace

How do peacemaking processes interact with constitution making? Constitutional matters such as multi-level government, federalism, power sharing, dispute resolution and electoral systems are often addressed in mediation and negotiation processes. Although the interplay between peace processes and the establishment of a new social contract has long been apparent, many central questions regarding this nexus still need to be examined in a systematic way.

The Berghof Foundation deepened the knowledge base about the interaction between the two fields by investigating three country case studies (Burundi, Guatemala and Macedonia) and three thematic areas, analysing the existing literature and facilitating dialogue between experts and practitioners from both disciplines. To ensure this knowledge can be accessed widely and to encourage scholars and practitioners in both areas to engage with each other to achieve better outcomes towards sustainable peace, we are developing a practical, hands-on Guiding Note together with the United Nations Mediation Support Unit.

Publications

To view all our publications and research papers, please visit www.berghof-foundation.org/publications

On the de-escalation of Salafi-jihadi armed groups and the options for dialogue

Islamic State, Al-Qaeda and their affiliates represent 25 out of 45 armed groups that are active in state-based armed conflicts. These groups are characterised by their radical religious ideology rooted in Salafi-based Islamism. Together they were responsible for more than half of all deaths caused by organised violence in 2015, according to figures from the Uppsala Conflict Data Program.

So far, military efforts have not been able to defeat Salafi-jihadi insurgencies, nor have approaches aimed at preventing violent extremism or rehabilitating former jihadists proven effective. It is clear that other approaches are needed in order to transform these groups. Yet there is an acute lack of research on the options for engaging violent extremist groups in dialogue or negotiation.

The Berghof Foundation aims to advance knowledge on the factors contributing to Salafi-jihadi armed groups becoming less violent by uncovering original empirical data. In 2018, we undertook in-depth research on three contemporary Salafi-jihadi armed groups in Mali, Somalia and Syria, and examined factors that influence their (de)escalation trajectories, with a particular emphasis on the role of third-party engagement.

We mapped and analysed past attempts at humanitarian or political dialogue with these actors to identify factors that may support or hinder potential future engagements. We also explored the entry points for dialogue engagement and the role of third parties, such as local bridge-builders or international mediators, but also that of other non-state armed groups.

Through this research, our goal is to identify new options for conflict transformation, challenging central assumptions around Salafi-jihadi armed groups, and to provide guidance for practitioners and policy-makers.



Rohan Edrisinha of the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs at the international roundtable on the nexus of peacemaking and constitution building in New York.
© Julian Klauke

2 Mandate to support actors

Encouraging insider peacebuilders to resolve local conflicts in Somalia

Somalia has suffered from ongoing violent conflict for close to three decades, leaving 12 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. So far, the many international attempts at brokering peace have failed.

The Berghof Foundation supported community representatives in the federal member state of Hirshabelle in central Somalia in their efforts to build peace by creating a network of insider peacebuilders who have the skills and experience to encourage dialogue and reconciliation in their communities.

These trained peacebuilders jointly facilitated a series of Shirarka in Hirshabelle State in 2018. Shirarka are six-day traditional Somali assemblies that bring together individuals from various clans and sub-clans. They involve representatives from all segments of society, including women, young people, professionals, elders, poets and religious leaders. These assemblies provide an inclusive space for all to express their views on conflict with the goal of motivating people to work together towards transforming the violent conflicts that affect them as well as preventing new conflicts from occurring.

We aim to strengthen people's capacity to solve their own conflicts and help them realise that they themselves have the ability to shape the outcomes on the ground and become peacemakers.

For example, one of the members of the peacebuilders network, Abdikarim Omar Maalim, a local journalist, resolved a conflict between two football teams that had become violent. Not only did he mediate between the teams in order to resolve their issues peacefully, but he approached the local business community to fund the reconstruction of the football field. The inauguration game attracted hundreds of spectators, including Vice President Ali Abdullahi Guudlawe, showing how significant this initiative was.



Participants at a Shir, a traditional Somali assembly, in Balad, Hirshabelle State, Somalia. © Abdikarim Omar Maalim

When asked why he did this, Abdikarim said: “When I returned from our training in Djibouti, I asked myself, why don't I try and do something about this conflict. The training really motivated me and gave me the required skills. I would have never even thought about it before the training.”

Based on the information and experience gained during the project, the Berghof Foundation communicates the perspectives of the communities in Hirshabelle State to the local, state and federal authorities in Somalia as well as to the international community through events and reports. We also provide advice and recommendations on reconciliation and conflict transformation in Somalia.

»The Shir has an effect on me, because the discussions are on contentious issues, the problems we have and on things which caused the destruction of our country. If I understand, it would mean that the rest of the community will understand it as well, because I have friends, family and parents. If I go back and share with them the debates which I benefited from, such as on the root causes of conflicts and how to resolve them, all of this has effects on me and will have effects on the people who are connected to me.

Participant at the Jowhar Shir

Supporting Sunni and Shia actors to bridge divides in Lebanon

Lebanon's society is made up of a unique cultural, political and religious mix: Shia Muslims, Sunni Muslims, Christians, Druze and refugees from neighbouring countries. Although it is a country with a rich experience in political, inter-community and inter-religious dialogue, spaces for informal exchange between Sunni and Shia representatives are limited and sectarian tendencies are on the rise.

The Berghof Foundation created spaces to bridge these divides, to address mutual concerns and fears, and to develop ways to ease tensions and thus prevent the sectarian rift from deepening further. In 2018, we worked with an eminent group of persons representing a broad spectrum of perspectives within the Sunni and Shia communities. As a mechanism to depolarise Sunni-Shia relations, they convened discussion roundtables for the major protagonists in this field from across Lebanon and the region. An ensuing recommendation was for the development of a Code of Conduct with several practical steps for pacifying the sectarian relationship, which would be adopted by major media, political and educational institutions.



The Dialogue and Mediation Group presenting their work on conceptual foundations of dialogue and mediation in Islam at a meeting of Sunni and Shia practitioners. © Ali Annan
This picture was updated in August 2019 to better reflect the activities described in the text.

In addition, we worked with ten schools and education experts to develop a booklet on “Common Values” to be introduced in Sunni and Shia schools reaching thousands of students. We also formed a working group of religious scholars and mediation experts and practitioners who coupled research with grassroots events to strengthen the conceptual foundations of dialogue and mediation in Islam.

In addition, we brought together a large group of social media activists who have a sizable social media footprint of more than 10,000 followers each (together more than 400,000) as well as a strong religious knowledge background. They took upon themselves the task of reducing sectarian polarisation and breaking stereotypes by developing alternative messages and discourse through a dialogue framework that respects diversity and inclusion.

Publication highlight

The Basics of Dialogue Facilitation.

Available at bit.ly/3o8GGEc

3 Trusted space with hard-to-reach actors

Fostering meaningful peace negotiations in Afghanistan

Afghanistan has endured a long period of war and instability. Four decades into the conflict and 19 years after the United States led a campaign to overthrow the Taliban, the security situation remains fragile. According to figures from the United Nations Mission to Afghanistan, more than 3,800 civilians were killed in 2018, eleven per cent more than in 2017. Almost 7,200 civilians were injured, two per cent more than in the previous year.

Military solutions cannot end the conflict and the international community cannot impose peace from the outside. The peace process needs to be Afghan-led and Afghan-owned.

The Berghof Foundation supports Afghan-driven efforts to resolve the protracted conflict and restore sustainable peace. In 2018, as in the preceding years, we provided hands-on support to our Afghan partners by creating capacity for dialogue, peace negotiations, strategic communication and ultimately sustainable peace in the country. We assisted our partners with research-based expertise, focusing on conflict analysis and negotiations, and we supported them in working through fundamental issues related to peace process design.

»History tells us that most conflicts can be resolved. And I believe the conflict in Afghanistan is one that can be resolved by dialogue and talks. All Afghans agree that peace is an urgent necessity. The Berghof Foundation is a valued partner in the Afghan people's quest to peace. Their commitment, passion and unwavering support to Afghanistan help us drive the peace process forward. I strongly feel that the environment in Afghanistan is changing towards peace. We see the voices raised for peace from all corners of the country.

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 Mohammad Karim Khalili, Chairman of the Afghan High Peace Council



Panel discussion with Mohammad Karim Khalili, Chairman of the Afghan High Peace Council, at the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Berlin.
 © Annett Rößling



Interview as part of the film and research training for female ex-combatants in Cotabato City, Mindanao, Philippines.

© Evelyn Pauls



Photography training in Banda Aceh, Indonesia.

© Juan Camilo Cruz Orrego

Supporting female combatants' transition to post-war democratic leaders

In many peace processes, non-state armed groups are able to reach political power through post-war power-sharing or electoral processes. Yet the groups' female members, who often make up as much as 30 per cent of the membership, are frequently sidelined by their male peers and miss out on opportunities to translate the agency they gained during the conflict into contributions to conflict transformation and democratic state-building. As a result, they return to the domestic sphere, instead of taking on post-war leadership roles.

In 2018, the Berghof Foundation worked with five local researchers from demobilised armed groups in Aceh (Indonesia), Mindanao (Philippines) and Nepal, who recorded video interviews with their peers to document their (post-) war experiences and lessons learnt. The videos will be analysed to learn about the various challenges and opportunities female members of non-state armed groups face when going through peace processes and shared with other former female combatants from different contexts to build their capacities.

Publication highlight

Militias – A Curse or a Cure? A study of factors constraining militia behaviour in Northeast Afghanistan. Available at bit.ly/2JaAqWK

4 Capacity development

Supporting Syrian refugees in Jordan

Eight years of war in Syria have led to more than 5.6 million people fleeing the country. Twelve per cent of them – over 660,000 people – currently live in Jordan. The Azraq and Zaatari refugee camps alone, where the Berghof Foundation was active in 2018, are home to over 115,000 refugees.

Among other things, we supported dozens of Syrian volunteers employed on a cash-for-work basis by various international organisations in these refugee camps in their extremely challenging work in the fields of education, child protection and psychosocial support. With our partner Relief International Jordan, we co-organised training courses for them, combining methods from peace education, theatre, mindfulness and self-care. This proved to be a viable approach to support the volunteers and has strengthened their resilience and ability to convey the core values of non-violence, tolerance, mutual respect and participation. These training events seem, for now, to be unique among the various international support programmes for Syrian refugees active in the camps.

»I felt no inner peace. Everything that I've lost in Syria [...] made things darker for me. Like a revolution started in me. But after the training we attended here, [...] the enlightening thoughts that came from you, the thoughts that you shared and followed up with us in our discussions, the activities and the exercises, and we used to walk and think: it all got organised inside me.

Female participant at the training course in Zaatari



Workshop participants at Azraq refugee camp, Jordan.
© Dagmar Nolden



Workshop participants at Azraq refugee camp, Jordan. © Dagmar Nolden



Giving women, youth and civil society in South Sudan a voice in peace talks

South Sudan has been affected by various states of political conflict for more than half a century. The country gained independence in 2011, yet that did not bring conflict to an end. Civil war broke out in 2013, resulting in the displacement of some four million people. A power-sharing agreement was eventually signed between the warring parties in August 2018 in a bid to bring the five-year civil war to an end. However, it has so far failed to halt the fighting.

In 2018, the Berghof Foundation worked with under-represented constituencies, such as young people and civil society, to give them a voice in the peace talks. We were also able to facilitate a partnership with a women's coalition in South Sudan. We supported them in preparing a unified position towards the upcoming peace talks, where they defined green and red lines. The women formulated their demand for 50 per cent participation of women at all levels in the new transitional government and were able to successfully pressure the parties to commit in writing to 35 per cent. It is an important first step that the women can now use to leverage their position of female inclusion and women's demands.

Publication highlight

Strengthening Resilience. Building peace from within. Available at bit.ly/2JagF1J

5 Violence reduction

Strengthening community safety in Yemen

As the war has shaken national institutions in Yemen, local government structures have taken on a new centrality in the country. The well-being of Yemen's citizens depends to a large extent on the effectiveness, efficiency, and responsiveness of local institutions. Strengthening local authorities, service provision and community safety is an important humanitarian imperative to ease the impact of the war on Yemeni citizens.

Yet challenges loom large. The police and judiciary struggle to perform effectively and lack the resources to strengthen the rule of law. The safety of citizens remains volatile and fragile across Yemen.

The Berghof Foundation, together with our long-standing Yemeni partner, the Political Development Forum, launched a new initiative in 2018 to strengthen community safety and contribute to the stabilisation of the country through improved inclusive local security approaches. This initiative, which is implemented with support from the European Union, aims to enhance dialogue on, and understanding of, community safety in Yemen.

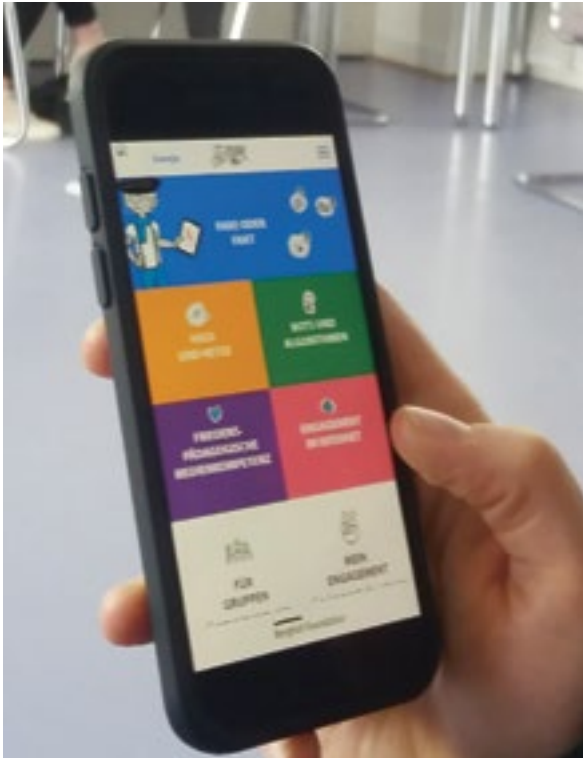
We aim to strengthen and build the capacities of key local security providers and selected community representatives to understand, assess and plan a variety of inclusive community safety strategies.

As a first step towards reducing violence, we analysed the security and justice situation in four cities: Sana'a, Dhamar, Aden and Al-Mukalla. In coordination with representatives of the police, public

prosecution authorities, judiciary and civil society, we mapped key challenges and training needs and provided recommendations for enhancing community safety.

Local workshops in Sana'a and Aden provided a good opportunity to establish common ground and a shared understanding about the relevance of inclusive local security approaches. These discussions laid the framework for the development of training manuals, educational materials, and awareness and advocacy plans and will lead to a number of pilot projects on community safety in the four cities.

In order to feel safe, communities need knowledge of, and access to, the legal system, a sense of fair conduct, and a police force which they can trust and which serves the law rather than politics. As the image of the police and of local law enforcement service providers is key, a vital aspect for any effort to increase the effectiveness of the police and the legal system is to enhance the transparency and accountability of these service providers, taking the needs and concerns of local communities into account. This will create trust within the communities towards the police and legal system and help achieve the urgently needed reduction in violence.



The Streitkultur 3.0 app helps young people identify and counter disinformation and hate speech online.
© Carolin Sokele

Countering hate speech and violence online

Digital communication, especially on social media, has a strong impact on the way people around the world perceive and deal with conflicts. While the internet has the potential to be a space for dialogue and exchange, it has become increasingly difficult to differentiate between opinions and information or rumours and facts online. Hate speech and discrimination are widespread. This allows conspiracy theorists and extremists to make use of these media to heighten fears and even radicalise young people.

To counter this, the Berghof Foundation promotes digital literacy and ethics. We support young people so they are able to identify and counter disinformation and hate speech online. In 2018, we held workshops with our youth council and developed various learning materials, including an app.

Together with the students, we develop strategies showing how they can counter hate speech and online discrimination. By providing them with the skills they need to respond to hate on the internet, we help to reduce violence and promote a facts-based, open and democratic culture in online discussions.

Publication highlight

Community Perspectives on Preventing Violent Extremism. Lessons learned from the Western Balkans. Available at bit.ly/2XnX3Lp

6 Mediation and dialogue space

Supporting the implementation of Colombia's peace agreement

Five decades of armed conflict have left their mark on Colombia's society with over 220,000 victims and six million internally displaced people. There were many moments of hope in recent years: in 2016, the historic peace agreement was signed between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). In 2017, FARC became a political party following its demobilisation and disarmament. However, structural factors underlying the conflict still need to be addressed. Politically motivated violence and killings continue in Colombia, with many victims among peace and human rights activists.

To support actors in the implementation of the peace agreement and prevent new forms of violence from flaring up, there is a need for broad participation and spaces for dialogue between different actors at all levels. Within the Como-Berghof consortium, part of the German international cooperation programme ProPaz, our local team advises departments and municipalities in Colombia (Meta and Norte de Santander) on how to best integrate peacebuilding and violence prevention measures in their processes.

We also supported the participatory design and subsequent implementation of such measures in the departmental and municipal development plans. This allowed for more voices to be heard and needs to be taken into account. We worked with a group of facilitators for the Territorial Renovation Agency, which is tasked with the participatory elaboration of territorial plans for rural development in selected areas, including multi-actor consultation events with 220,000 people attending across Colombia.



Training for Forum Theatre in Ocaña, Norte de Santander department, Colombia. © Marcela Quintero

In 2018, we supported the regional administration of Norte de Santander in running a laboratory for rural communities to test what measures and systemic approaches are helpful for the prevention of violence. More than 2,000 people took part in the pilot project "Prevenir Primero" (Prevention First) in collaboration with twelve government bodies and civil society organisations, jointly identifying risk factors and testing practical methods. The experiences and lessons learnt were summarised in a published report. Another publication documents how Forum Theatre, a form of popular community-based education that uses theatre as a tool for social change, was explored as a tool for systemic violence prevention. The manual with video clips illustrates the practical experience, so that those interested can become multipliers themselves and use interactive theatre methods in conflict transformation and political education.

In addition, we trained more than 100 government officials as local peace promoters. They have then replicated their skills locally in several locations in Norte de Santander and contributed to peace-oriented government action.



Curingas training at Forum Theatre workshop, Norte de Santander department, Colombia. © Rubén Montañez Agudelo

Publication highlight

The Youth Space of Dialogue and Mediation.
An exploration. Available at bit.ly/2Ds1642

Creating space for children and young people to exchange on conflict

Current political events and wars leave children struggling with many questions about conflict, violence and peace. Our German-language online portal for children www.frieden-fragen.de attempts to answer these questions and provides additional background information. In recognition of this work, our team won the Kinder-Online-Preis 2018 awarded by the MDR Broadcasting Board.

To facilitate dialogue on these important topics in schools as well, we provide teaching materials and training for educators and youth workers in Germany at www.friedensbildung-bw.de. Together with the State Agency for Civic Education and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of Baden-Württemberg, we run this service centre to support teachers in addressing children's questions in their classrooms, engaging with them in an open dialogue and incorporating peace education methodology into their work.

7 Conflict settlement

Agreement to resume the peace process on Darfur

Protracted violent conflict has plagued Sudan for decades and caused a major humanitarian crisis. Two rounds of civil war have claimed the lives of 1.5 million people, and a continuing conflict in Darfur has killed more than 200,000 and driven two million people from their homes.

The root causes of conflict are numerous and complex and require a National Dialogue process for them to be acknowledged and addressed by the various sides. The Berghof Foundation therefore provided supportive facilitation within as well as between the opposition and the government.

After a number of rounds of informal talks, supported by the Berghof Foundation over two years, to prepare the ground, an agreement to establish a ceasefire and to hold formal peace negotiations on Darfur was finally reached between Darfur rebels and the Sudanese Government. The Pre-Negotiation Agreement for the Resumption of the Peace Process was signed at the German Foreign Office on 6 December 2018. It marks a crucial step in the efforts towards peace in Sudan.

Resolution of Macedonia's long-running name dispute

At a time of political crisis and deadlock in Macedonia, the Berghof Foundation created informal high-level dialogue platforms to increase mutual understanding and find opportunities for building consensus between the main political parties. We established space for civil society and for local and international experts and officials to join the discussion in a sustained way in order to mitigate existing tensions and overcome the political impasse between the various Macedonian parties. As part of the work, a formal Civil Society Reference Group was established, which supported the political talks.

The Berghof Foundation's contribution to the successful dialogue process in 2017 and 2018 was greatly appreciated by all Macedonian partners, including the government. We were successful in building confidence among Macedonian actors and provided space for an exchange of views on key reform priorities as well as on Macedonia's long-running name dispute with Greece, which had prevented its neighbour from joining both the European Union and NATO for many years.

In June 2018, the Greek and Macedonian Prime Ministers signed the historic Prespa agreement. The Republic of North Macedonia, or North Macedonia for short, replaces the existing title of Macedonia. The country has now signed a protocol on accession to NATO and the European Union has approved the start of accession talks, which are expected to commence in 2019, provided that certain conditions are met.

Publication highlight

Peace Process Support in Times of Crises. The National Dialogue support programme in Yemen 2014-16. Available at bit.ly/2KXID2C

Mediating local conflicts to unblock service delivery and development projects in Yemen

Yemen is in the midst of a drawn-out civil war and is considered the gravest humanitarian crisis in the world today. An estimated 80 per cent of the population – 24 million people – require some form of humanitarian assistance or protection. Even far from the front lines, local conflicts and local expressions of the larger conflict impinge on people's lives.

In addition to our dialogue and mediation work at the national level to support the peace process, the Berghof Foundation and our longstanding Yemeni partner, the Political Development Forum, have been working to support more inclusive local politics and strengthen local governance in Yemen since 2017. This work has succeeded in building broad consensus on the importance of including guarantees for more inclusive and decentralised local governance in a peace process, has created space for local discussions and inclusive consultations in the two Yemeni governorates of Dhamar and Hadhramawt, and has supported practical peace initiatives from local civil society.

As part of this work, a committee of political party representatives, local officials and members of local civil society in Dhamar was set up and has become increasingly engaged in conflict mediation at the local level. In 2018, with support from the Berghof Foundation and the Political Development Forum, the committee resolved four active local conflicts that were blocking the implementation of projects in the health, water and education sectors, some of which had been festering for more than 15 years. The committee also mediated a prisoner exchange between rival national forces and mobilised funding to complete the development projects. The first project to be completed was a health centre in Al-Abisiya district of Dhamar.

The conflict in Al-Abisiya had started out over who would staff the pharmacy associated with the new local health centre and had led to fighting between



Children being treated for malnutrition at re-opened Al-Abisiya health centre, Yemen. © Hamed al-Faqih

two local families, making it impossible for the local health centre to open and leaving the population unable to access desperately needed health care services. The committee successfully mediated the conflict and secured the resources needed to equip and open the health centre from the local chamber of commerce and an international donor. The centre now provides free health care to around 6,000 people from the region. In the first three months after its re-opening, over 1,200 patients made use of the health centre. It ensured 23 safe births and treated more than 600 cases of malnutrition.

The committee's mediation successes in Al-Abisiya and other districts of Dhamar have encouraged further districts to petition the committee for mediation support.

»The Berghof Foundation is one of the world's few organisations to entertain high-level channels of communication with all parties to the conflict in Yemen.

German Federal Foreign Office

8 Reconciliation



Young people coming together at the Step Forward workshop in Sukhum/i. © Yana Bzhania

Supporting reconciliation in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict

The Berghof Foundation has worked with people from Abkhazia, Georgia and South-Ossetia since 2012, focusing on their personal memories and identity. This approach aims to overcome victim-hero narratives, start dialogue about the shared history and allow for an acknowledgement of grievances caused by violence and injustice on all sides of the conflict.

Together with our local partners, we organised workshops, so-called Biographical Salons, where participants exchanged biographical stories and thereby their take on the conflicts' history. Listening to differ-

ent voices, sharing experiences and voicing grievances made the workshop participants appreciate the other side's losses. This is a first step towards forgiveness.

These Biographical Salons have become regular events and were broadcast by Abkhaz television so the new narratives and mutual understanding created during the events could reach a broader audience in the region.

Publication highlight

Changing the Past in our Heads.
A facilitator's guide to listening workshops.
Available at bit.ly/2xqD3xd

Helping the young generation make a difference in Georgia and Abkhazia

In the Georgian-Abkhaz rapprochement process, the Georgians living in Abkhazia play a key role. They did not participate in the 1992-1993 Georgian-Abkhaz war and have a unique understanding of the conflict.

Together with our local team, the Berghof Foundation aims to change the opposing perspectives on history through an intra-Abkhaz dialogue among the young generation. In 2018, we brought together young people from the Georgian-Abkhaz community with young Abkhaz to form "tandem teams" to encourage mutual understanding and bridge the divide between these communities.

We assisted these teams to start their own local initiatives on history and the culture of remembrance, and helped them implement public events all over Abkhazia. Abkhaz media regularly reported about their projects. The youth initiatives' work has reached a broad audience in the region and has become an important part of the reconciliation process.



Young people coming together at the Step Forward workshop in Sukhum/i. © Yana Bzhania

»Coming here I was expecting a regular project, in which I participated a lot, [...] but here I saw what I wanted to see and do - this is an interaction that can change a lot in our society, even among youth.

Vakhtang Ubiriya, participant at youth workshop in Gal/i

Strategic planning workshop for future projects of the "tandem teams" in Sukhum/i.
© Yana Bzhania





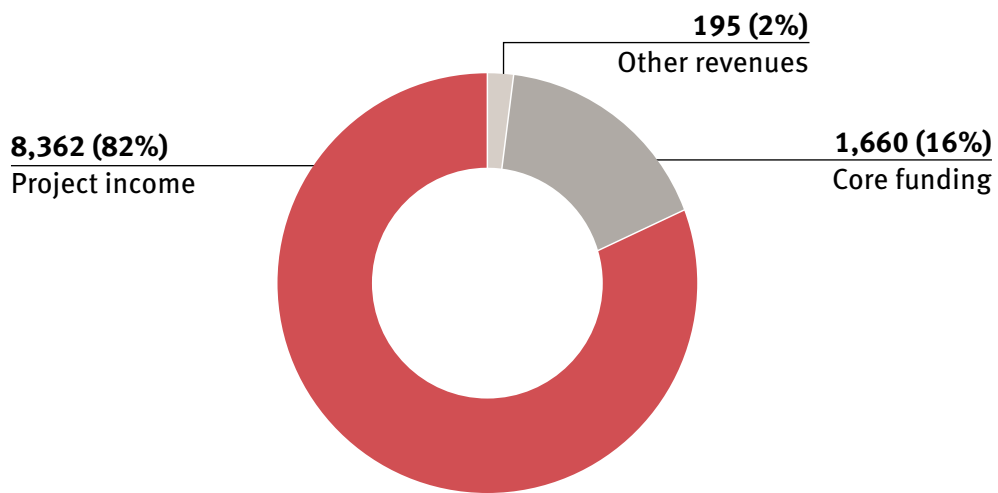
Facts & figures

Our financials

Operating revenues 2018

€ thousands

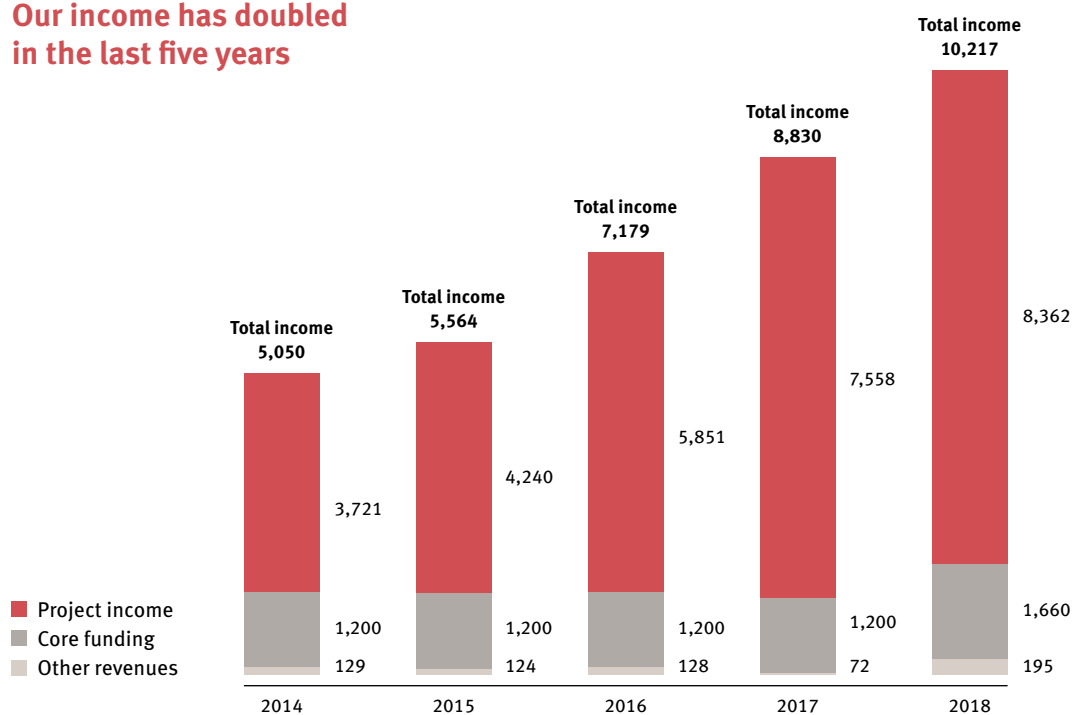
Total: 10,217



Our growth 2014 – 2018

€ thousands

Our income has doubled in the last five years



Balance

Assets		€ thousands	2018
Non-current assets	Intangible assets (patents, copyright and software)		112
	Fixed assets		448
	Total non-current assets		560
Current assets	Inventory		3
	Debtors		456
	Other receivables and prepaid expenses*		203
	Bank and cash in hand*		2,457
	Total current assets		3,119
Total assets			3,679
Net assets and liabilities			
Net assets	Basic capital		25
	Other equity capital		558
	Total net assets		583
Current liabilities	Bank indebtedness		48
	Accounts payable		565
	Accrued liabilities		619
	Project advances from funders		1,142
	Other liabilities		722
	Total current liabilities		3,096
Total net assets and liabilities			3,679

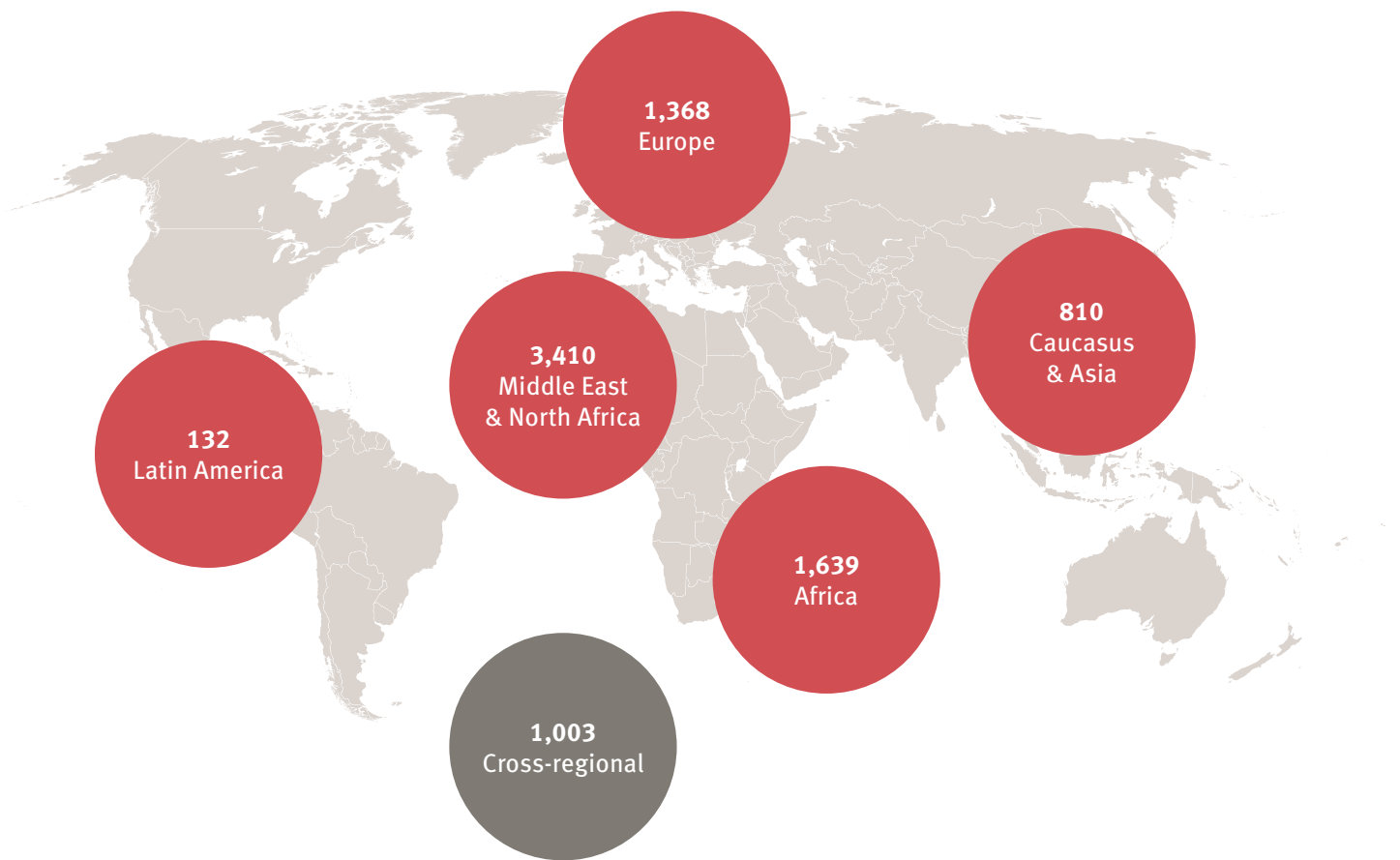
Income statement

	€ thousands	2018
Operating revenues		
Institutional funding		1,660
Project income		8,362
Other revenues		195
Total operating revenues		10,217
Operating expenses		
Salaries and social costs		3,898
Professional fees and local project costs		2,929
Travel, representation and seminars		1,505
Other project costs		509
Office costs		974
Depreciation		146
Total operating expenses		9,961
Operating surplus		256
Net surplus		
Net surplus before corporate tax		256
Corporate tax		20
Net surplus for the financial year		236

Project income by region

€ thousands

Total: 8,362



Auditors' Report

We have issued an unqualified audit opinion for the financial statement as of December 31, 2018 (balance sheet, income statement and notes) of the Berghof Foundation Operations GmbH, Berlin, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in Germany. The figures of the annual report 2018 have been derived from these financial statements and present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position as of December 31, 2018, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year.

Ebner Stolz GmbH & Co. KG
 Wirtschaftsprüfer Steuerberater
 Zweigniederlassung Berlin

Berlin, June 2019

Karina Frille, Wirtschaftsprüferin, Steuerberaterin (German public auditor, tax accountant)
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We are grateful to our donors and partners around the world for their support, which makes our work possible.

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100,000 - 500,000 €

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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.

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