



Peace is possible

Annual Report

2006 in review and activities in 2007

Interpeace gratefully acknowledges the inputs of its partners and staff in the production of this Annual Report. Particular thanks go to Sarah Noble for skillfully guiding this process.

Editor: Ed Girardet

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In partnership with



United Nations

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Message from the Chairman



MARTTI AHTISAARI, CHAIRMAN OF INTERPEACE

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From trauma to stability

When a society is traumatized by warfare and widespread violence, a delicate social balance is destroyed. A lack of mutual trust and cooperation makes post-conflict regions exceptionally susceptible to future hostilities. It is this trust that Interpeace seeks to re-establish in order to help local populations build lasting peace. This can only be accomplished if that fragile balance is repaired, inevitably a difficult and time-consuming process.

This is where Interpeace makes a difference. Its approach to local ownership is something that, in my long career as an international peace negotiator, I have not seen elsewhere. I initially joined the Interpeace Governing Council for one year, but seven years later I am proud to continue to be associated with this organization and the valuable work it does.

With growing international recognition and acceptance of peacebuilding as a vital tool in conflict prevention, 2006 saw significant validation of Interpeace. The year also witnessed crucial institutional growth, both for our local operations and within the organization itself. Interpeace achieved several notable benchmarks of success, including selection by President Bill Clinton as an innovative model for conflict prevention at the annual Clinton Global Initiative, and by the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) to become one of its few “eminent partners” in the promotion of democracy around the world.

While this acknowledgement of our methods and goals is certainly welcome and appreciated, it is important to remember that a great deal of work lies before us. The countries and regions in which our programmes operate remain high-tension areas. Our local partners require full support in their efforts to promote and maintain the stability that is our ultimate goal. It is my hope that this report highlights for you the important work that Interpeace does and that you will be encouraged to learn more about us and give us your support.



*Former President of Finland; Special Envoy of the
Secretary-General of the United Nations for
the future status process for Kosovo.
Chairman of Interpeace since 2000.*

Message from the Director-General



SCOTT M. WEBER, INTERPEACE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Creating hope

In so many parts of the world today, generation after generation perpetuates a deadly cycle of violence, handing down to their children societies torn apart by conflict. And yet it is remarkable how even the most bitter enemies in war most often share a common hope that their children may live in a peaceful society.

This universal wish is an important starting point in efforts to break the vicious cycle of conflict. It is an opportunity that must be seized and acted upon if one is to hope to create a peaceful future.

Interpeace helps fragile societies to look themselves in the mirror, identify their true problems and overcome them in a manner that builds sustainable peace. In essence, we help to transform despair and mistrust into hope and a brighter future for this and the next generation.

A few months ago I visited our Palestinian team and travelled with them throughout the West Bank. The journey was very challenging, having to navigate and negotiate our way through the many checkpoints that stifle day-to-day life for ordinary Palestinians.

One day, we visited a refugee camp for meetings with community leaders and civil society groups. To outsiders, the camp, set on the outskirts of a larger urban centre, is surreal. The city streets and lamp-posts are covered with colorful advertisements and billboards, but these aren't for cell phones, soft drinks or new cars. The walls are plastered with large posters of "martyrs" – young men and women alike – pictured brandishing weapons in their struggle to end the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

Poverty in the camp – just as it is throughout the Palestinian territories – is crushing. Jobs are extremely scarce. Hope is at best an occasional visitor there.

As we were leaving the camp, we had an unplanned encounter with a leader of an armed group, the strongman of the area. I quickly realized that we were the same age, and thoughts of fate, and how in another life the tables could be turned, filled my mind. Driving away, I was told that in his youth, he had been one of a prominent group of Palestinian teenagers who symbolized the hope of peace. Of that group, he is the only one still alive.

Today, his use of violence has earned him the status of a leader in the community and "role model" to many Palestinian children in the area. How is it that this former prodigy of peace, now leader of an armed group – who admitted to me that he didn't expect to live out the year – could become an inspiration for a new generation of young men in the camp? What is it that breaks down in societies to make this possible and, in many cases, commonplace?

War tears societies apart in every conceivable way. Infrastructure is devastated, entrenching poverty and setting countries back decades in their development. The

average civil war causes USD 50 Billion in damages to assets and business alone. The scale of human suffering and long-term trauma is, for its part, inestimable.

Trust in government or any other form of centralized authority often erodes to the point of rendering the country de facto structure-less; the existence of Ministry buildings often blinding one to the fact that those institutions carry little, if any, legitimacy in the eyes of the people.

Trust between people tends to give way to brutal survival instincts. Old social taboos, such as the condemnation of rape, the respect for elders and socially unacceptable levels of violence, go straight out the window. Without these mental, political, social and physical structures intact, humanity is capable of the most tremendous acts of violence. And as a culture of impunity gradually sets in, more violence usually ensues. And this is where the cycle begins. Societies without structures to channel and defuse tensions undergo further violence which deepens mistrust and makes putting those structures in place ever more difficult.

Conflict-affected societies around the world have a particularly hard time breaking out of this paradigm. Trying to rebuild state structures and the legitimacy of institutions of governance in a context where the main ethnic, religious or social groups fundamentally mistrust each other is tremendously challenging. And yet, for statebuilding to be successful, the society as a whole must come together to define what the role of a government should be and what form of governance is best adapted to their culture, history and their vision of a peaceful society. They must agree on just how much they are willing to forgive and what form of justice is appropriate and necessary for the society to be able to move forward.

Agreeing on where you want to go in a context where everything is political, everything is urgent, where resources are scarce and where mistrust is one of the only common denominators means that the entire process rests on setting limited, common priorities. Indeed, a vision emerges through the process of making choices. Almost as important as agreeing what should be done is the process of building consensus on what should not be done.

All too often and despite the best of intentions, the international community imposes its own models of government and justice on fractured societies, and in so doing sows the seeds of future conflict. Moreover, in many cases national governments were the primary predators of the conflict (Rwanda and Guatemala are but two examples). So to rebuild the State as it was would in fact mean recreating the power structures and dis-functionalities that led to the conflict in the first place. Understandably, these complex challenges seem daunting. So, where does one begin?

The key to building peace is not so much what is done but how it is done. The process of developing a blueprint for a new society cannot be carried out by experts from foreign capitals, no matter how bright they may be. It must be the focus of a broadly inclusive process that engages all groups in the fractured society. Whoever matters in the eyes of local people must be involved. If they have the potential to become spoilers, they also must be involved. By involving them, they can be diluted and be made to show their cards. Excluded, they can easily derail the peace. Our experience shows that those on the extremes of the political spectrum can, and must, be drawn into the peacebuilding process as it creates a dynamic that forces them to become more responsible.

And, crucially, the process must be locally-owned. Initiatives perceived to be owned by foreign bodies such as the UN or Western governments rarely hold. Our experience shows time and again that societies must truly own the process for agreements to be implemented and for results to be sustainable.

Lastly, peace is more about changing mind-sets than removing weapons from circulation. If a young man wants to procure a weapon, most often he will succeed. The point is to create an environment of physical, social and political security that will make him not want nor need to do so. He has to have sufficient trust in his authorities, his neighbors and in his future to make that crucial choice. Building trust is, in the end, the core of the challenge of building peace and is central to Interpeace's mission.

One of the common threads throughout all of Interpeace's programmes is the high degree of national ownership that we help to instill through the engagement of all sectors of society and the discrete and supportive role that we play behind the scenes. Achieving this is not easy. It requires patience, the careful cultivation of relationships of trust with all groups and a great deal of consultation and listening. As you will see from the pages that follow, our local partners have demonstrated true leadership on the forefront of peacebuilding in their societies. We honor their commitment and drive to keep everyone engaged and focused. It is their work that we try to highlight, although never quite doing it justice, in this Annual Report.

2006 was a very busy year of successes, challenges and growth. 2007 and 2008 are dedicated primarily to building on our successful initiatives in new countries and to consolidating our systems and capacities to maintain high standards of quality. None of this would have been possible without the outstanding dedication of our staff and partners, but also the support, wisdom and guidance of our Governing Council and Advisory Council of donors. To all of you we express our deepest gratitude and invite you to continue to share in our achievements and to help us through the difficulties.

We are creating hope in these societies and there is nothing more motivating.



Scott M. Weber
Interpeace Director-General

Highlights of 2006



In 2006 Interpeace and its partners made significant progress in helping to lay the foundations for sustainable peace. In addition, patient and thorough exploratory work has led to the establishment of new peacebuilding programmes. Highlights include:

- Interpeace and its **Somali** partners, the Academy for Peace and Development (APD), Puntland Development and Research Center (PDRC) and the Center for Research and Dialogue (CRD), have pulled together the results of the first phase of their work in the **Dialogue for Peace and Democratization programmes**. One of the spin-offs from this was a successful reconciliation process to end prolonged violent conflict in Mudug and Galgaduud in central Somalia, which had claimed hundreds of lives, exacerbated the humanitarian crisis, threatened the north-south trade corridor, and reportedly contributed to piracy of international vessels off the coast of the central regions. In addition the programme contributed to Democratization in Somaliland through extensive negotiations in collaboration with the National Electoral Commission (NEC), and key stakeholders towards agreement on codes of conduct by the political parties and the media, lists of candidates, and establishment of polling stations.
- The Institute of Research and Dialogue for Peace (IRDP), Interpeace's local partner in **Rwanda**, has wrapped up the first five years of its research and peacebuilding dialogue. It has received a strong mandate from national, social and political leaders to facilitate and monitor the implementation of recommendations and reforms. IRDP is acknowledged as an important civil society entity supporting reconciliation and democratization in Rwanda today and for the foreseeable future.
- In **Guinea-Bissau**, Interpeace was invited by the Representative of the UN Secretary-General to develop a peacebuilding programme. The joint Interpeace/INEP "Voices of Peace" programme is now a core component of the UN's peacebuilding strategy for Guinea-Bissau.
- In **Liberia** the Joint Programme Unit for UN/Interpeace Initiatives has developed a programme to fill the void of initiatives seeking to address the deep-rooted sources of instability in the country. The programme will be carried out in partnership with the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and eight Liberian local partners.
- The President of **Guatemala** has strongly endorsed, and has begun implementing, a consensus National Security System developed as a result of work facilitated by the Interpeace FOSS programme and its eight national partner organizations. The President acknowledges this area of work to be the #1 priority for Guatemala.
- The programme in **Palestine** made contributions to the development of the "National Accord Document/"Prisoner's Accord," that formed the basis for the Unity Government.
- The **Israeli** programme, together with the National Committee of the Heads of Arab Local Authorities in Israel and through its chairman, Mr. Shawki Khatib, facilitated the creation of an internal dialogue process involving the different sections of the Palestinian Arab community in Israel. The result was a Future Vision Document

on establishing a common agenda and strategy vis-à-vis the Israeli state. The programme also received the support of Yossi Beilin, a key figure in the Israeli peace movement, who considers that it brings a necessary but elusive element to any peace process: a link between the political process itself and the different groups in Israeli society.

- In **Burundi**, President Nkurunziza has given the green light to the initiation of an Interpeace programme in his country. A local partner, CENAP has been identified and the programme is now in its pilot phase.
- In **Aceh, Indonesia**, together with Interpeace's local partner, the Indonesian Peace Institute – IPI, the programme seeks to contribute to consolidating an enabling environment for the continued implementation of the Helsinki Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the government and the GAM movement, while bringing about social reconciliation and good governance in Aceh.
- In **Timor Leste**, the government has formally endorsed Interpeace's role in putting in place a national peacebuilding process to address the deep-rooted sources of instability. A partnership has been formed with the Peace and Democracy Foundation (PDF) to carry out a Programme of Research and Dialogue for Peace (PRDP).
- In **Cyprus**, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General and former Governing Council member of Interpeace invited the Joint Programme Unit for UN/Interpeace Initiatives to develop a peacebuilding programme. The programme, Cyprus 2010 will be implemented in partnership with the Cyprus Sociological Association and the Political Science Association-Cyprus.
- The Regional Office for Latin America has developed a programme to help bring together capacities to deal with the scourge of **youth gangs across Central America** together with 6 partner organizations in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

Several institutional highlights include:

- The organization managed the formal transition of its name from WSP International to **Interpeace – International Peacebuilding Alliance** in order to better reflect its focus and nature.
- Interpeace was awarded **Official Development Assistance (ODA)-eligibility status** from the OECD-DAC Statistical Committee in recognition of the contribution that its work makes to development.
- In September 2006, Interpeace and its Rwandan partner, the IRDP, were showcased by President Bill Clinton as an innovative model for conflict prevention at the annual **Clinton Global Initiative**.

- The UN Secretary-General nominated **Carolyn McAskie**, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support and former SRSG in Burundi, to represent him on the Interpeace Governing Council (replacing Michael Møller, current Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in Cyprus). Ms. McAskie's appointment to the Governing Council is a further acknowledgement of the importance of the partnership between the UN and Interpeace in operational peacebuilding.
- Interpeace was selected by the **UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF)** to become one of its few "eminent partners" in the promotion of Democracy around the world.
- Interpeace has entered into a partnership with **International IDEA** on the joint development of a handbook for practitioners on the process and substance of developing constitutions in post-conflict and conflict affected societies.

"Interpeace is an organization of great value to the United Nations and its peacebuilding efforts, bringing innovative thinking and successful new practices to a difficult and complex field. I recommend all our colleagues involved, even marginally, in peacebuilding to learn from their experience and to interact with them."

Michael Møller, former Director for Political, Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Affairs in the UN Secretary-General's Office and current Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General to Cyprus

Interpeace at a glance



THE INEP-COORDINATED TEAM OF RESEARCHERS DURING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL SPACES FOR DIALOGUE IN EMPADA, REGION QUINARA, GUINEA-BISSAU, MAY 2007.

© INEP/INTERPEACE

Interpeace is a Swiss-based international non-governmental organization, working in close partnership with the United Nations, that assists societies torn by war to overcome conflict and to build lasting peace. Established in May 2000 in order to expand on the pioneering peacebuilding work initiated under the pilot War-torn Societies Project (1994-1998), Interpeace seeks to facilitate the active involvement of local, national and international actors in ongoing collective dialogue and research that allows societies emerging from conflict to better respond to the challenges of social, economic and political rehabilitation. With headquarters in Geneva, Interpeace is building on 13 years of operational experience. Current peacebuilding programmes include: Guatemala, a programme to address youth gangs in Central America, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Rwanda, Burundi, the Somali programme, Cyprus, Israel, Palestine, Aceh, Indonesia, Timor-Leste and a programme on constitution building processes. Past programmes include: Eritrea, Mozambique and Macedonia. It has regional offices in Guatemala and Nairobi and representation offices in New York and Brussels.

Our mission

Interpeace is dedicated to building lasting peace by reinforcing the capacities of societies to overcome deep divisions and to address conflict in non-violent ways.

We are rooted in local realities, drawing strength from an alliance of national teams with a long-term commitment to building peace in their own societies.

We believe in the wisdom of listening, the power of participation and the strength of informed dialogue to build understanding and trust – the foundations of peacebuilding.

Our approach

Interpeace works in partnership with local teams to reinforce existing structures to manage conflict peacefully. We help societies address the most fundamental issues that make or break the peace, help them to solve these differences through constructive dialogue and create home grown solutions for a more peaceful future.

■ *Starting a peacebuilding project (Country Research and Analysis)*

Our work is demand driven. We receive requests to engage in conflicted societies from a range of sources – the government and/or civil society of the country concerned, from donor countries, UN agencies, international organizations and our Governing Council members. On the basis of consultations with these parties, priorities are set by the Interpeace Governing Council.



© STEPHAN ROVA

RWANDAN STUDENTS IN ONE OF IRDP'S SCHOOL DIALOGUE CLUB PROGRAMMES.

Before accepting to engage in a given country, we assess whether our approach would have a positive impact. Our analysis is based on in-depth consultations with local, national and international sources and through exploratory visits. We initiate projects when the key national players are willing to participate in the process, when the political and security situation permits, and if the necessary human and financial resources are available.

We work in close partnership with the United Nations, formalized in a Memorandum of Understanding and in our structure as a Joint Programme Unit for UN/Interpeace Initiatives. This enables us to act either as an independent non-governmental organization or as a UN initiative, depending on the prevailing conditions in the country under consideration.

■ *Creating the change agent for peace: Forming a local peacebuilding team*

To form a peacebuilding team we often partner with an existing NGO or research centre, or work closely with UN missions on the ground. Our teams are made up of researchers and facilitators under the leadership of a consensus figure. Consensus figures are known for their integrity, fairness, independence and command respect from all parties. Teams vary in size depending on the situation and are selected from a broad range of local professionals aiming to ensure a credible balance of the conflicting forces. A painstaking vetting process is undertaken to ensure that the national team is of high calibre and is seen as credible and trustworthy by all sides.



© SANDRA SEBASTIAN

PARTICIPANTS IN A SEMINAR ON YOUTH GANGS.

The selection and preparation of the peacebuilding team is one of the most important elements in the preparation of a project since the team's credibility and reputation is key to its success.

■ *Finding common solutions to common problems*

The local peacebuilding teams seek out and collect views on the most pressing issues that will make or break the peace from all sectors in society: the government, opposition, civil society, private sector and even the diaspora.

This interactive dialogue and “research” lays the foundation for a national self-portrait that documents the history of the conflict, details the current state of relations between people and defines the priority issues.

Our role is to facilitate this process, and to support the deliberations with objective, verifiable research conducted by our team made up of nationals of the country concerned and supported by Interpeace international staff. We help people understand the often complex challenges to peace, prioritize main issue areas, find agreement on the solutions, and assist with their implementation.

■ *Creating sustainable institutions*

Interpeace is committed to ensuring that local people and organizations carry on the work once the programme is complete. These institutions become a national resource to sustain peace and stability and to respond effectively to new challenges as they arise over the long run.

Interpeace around the world



Eastern Africa

1 Somali Programme – Somaliland, Puntland, and South-Central Somalia

Local partners: Academy for Peace and Development (APD) in Hargeisa, Somaliland; Puntland Development Research Center (PDRC) in Garowe, Puntland; Center for Research and Dialogue (CRD) in Mogadishu (South-Central Somalia)

Purpose: The Somali programme is engaging in a Somali-wide community-based reconciliation process known as the Dialogue for Peace, to address critical issues, build participatory forms of governance, and put a definitive end to conflict in Somalia. The programme also has a role in legislative change, mediation and civic education, all aimed at a positive transformation of this collapsed state.

Central Africa

2 Rwanda

Local partner: Institute of Research and Dialogue for Peace (IRDP), Kigali

Purpose: To continue to establish open dialogue and build trust within the Rwandan population, which is still marked by the aftermaths of the genocide.

3 Burundi

Local partner: CENAP

Purpose: The programme will provide Burundians with tools to collectively examine the challenges of reconciliation including ethnicity, justice and impunity, dealing with the past, land and property, and power-sharing.

West Africa

4 Guinea-Bissau

Local partner: National Institute of Studies and Research (INEP), Bissau

Purpose: To make a tangible contribution to the consolidation of peace and stability in Guinea-Bissau, as a key prerequisite for sustainable post-conflict development.

5 Liberia

Implemented by the Joint Programme Unit for UN/Interpeace Initiatives – UNOPS.

In partnership with the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).

Local partners: Kofi Annan International Centre for Conflict Transformation (KAICT), Liberia Democratic Institute (LDI), Foundation for International Dignity (FIND), Interreligious Council of Liberia (IRCL), Women NGO's Secretariat of Liberia, Peacebuilding Resource Center (PBRC), West Africa Network for Peace (WANEP), and Initiatives for Positive Change.

Purpose: To support the consolidation of peace in Liberia through the development of key elements for social cohesion: trust, shared understanding, channels of communication, and capacities for dialogue and research.

Latin America

6 Guatemala

Local partners: Asociación de Investigación y Estudios Sociales (ASIES), Asociación para el Estudio y Promoción de la Seguridad Democrática (SEDEM), Centro de Estudios de Guatemala (CEG), Fundación Myrna Mack (FMM), Incidencia Democrática (IDEM), Instituto de Enseñanza para el Desarrollo Sostenible (IEPADES), Instituto de Estudios Comparados en Ciencias Penales de Guatemala (ICCPG), Universidad Rafael Landívar (URL)

Purpose: The FOSS project has created a space for key actors to discuss and formulate policy recommendations for reforming the Guatemalan security sector. It is also acts as a link between the state and civil society.

7 Central America: Organized youth gangs

Local partners: Guatemala: Instituto de Estudios Comparados en Ciencias Penales de Guatemala – ICCPG; El Salvador: UCA / IUDOP, FESPAD y Centro de Atención Padre Palacios; Honduras: Unidos por la Vida y Organización JHA-JA.

Purpose: Interpeace will use its broad-based participatory approach to address the problem of the Maras, transnational youth gangs linked to organized crime across the region, aiming to identify and prioritize sectoral and national solutions to reduce conflict.



Asia

8 Aceh, Indonesia

Local partner: Indonesian Peace Institute (IPI)

Purpose: To contribute to consolidating an enabling environment for the continued implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) while bringing about social reconciliation and good governance in Aceh.

9 Timor-Leste

Local partner: Peace and Democracy Foundation (PDF)

Purpose: To engage in an inclusive long-term process of peaceful dialogue, reconciliation and effective problem-solving between key local and national stakeholders, and international assistance actors.

Middle East

10 Israel

Implemented by the Joint Programme Unit for UN/Interpeace Initiatives - UNOPS. In partnership with UNDP.

Local partners: The National Committee of the Heads of Arab Local Authorities in Israel; SHAS social movement.

Purpose: To work with groups traditionally excluded from the peace process, but who have a strong influence on Israeli society to develop a peaceful vision of the future and a plan to achieve this vision.

11 Occupied Palestinian Territories

Implemented by UN Office for Project Services-Switzerland Operations Centre. In partnership with UNDP.

Purpose: To promote dialogue within Palestinian society and across the whole spectrum of social actors, including those marginalized in previous processes, on a future vision of Palestine.

Europe

12 Cyprus

Implemented by the Joint Programme Unit for UN/Interpeace Initiatives - UNOPS

In partnership with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations in Cyprus.

Local partners: the Cyprus Sociologists Association and the Political Science Association-Cyprus

Purpose: To contribute to the development of a public atmosphere and social dynamic that promotes and sustains a constructive inter-communal engagement for the discussion of and solution to the Cyprus problem.

New York, USA

13 Interpeace Representation Office

Brussels, Belgium

14 Interpeace Liaison Office

Geneva, Switzerland

15 Interpeace Headquarters

Nairobi, Kenya

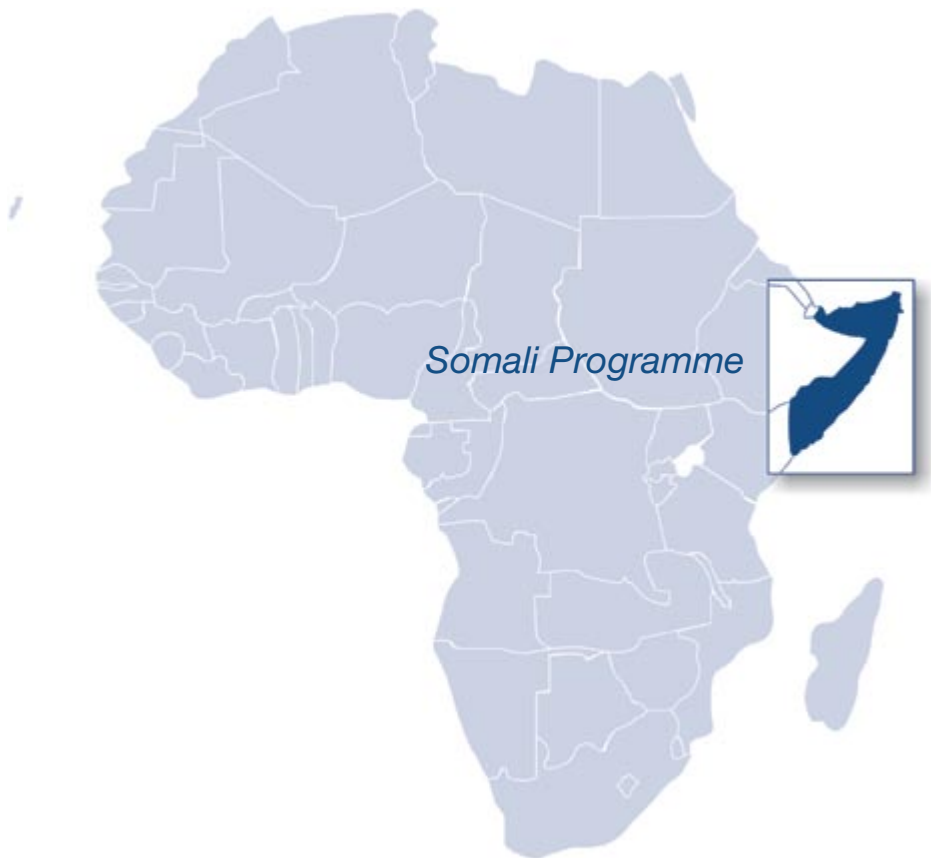
16 Regional Office for Eastern and Central Africa

Guatemala City, Guatemala

17 Regional Office for Latin America

Interpeace in

Eastern Africa



SOMALI PROGRAMME

Current situation

Operating in a region in constant state of change, Interpeace's Dialogue for Peace programme continued to play an important role in 2006 in alleviating the worsening turmoil, notably in Mogadishu and southern and central parts of the country. The main challenge was to identify effective opportunities for peacebuilding interventions as tensions grew between the Islamic Courts Union (ICU) and the Transitional Federal Government (TFG). Interpeace sought to capitalize on various critical developments as the greatest hope for the Somali people. The majority of Somalis are clearly tired of conflict and desperately wish for a return to peace and stability. Honest political brokering, collective Somali goodwill, and the momentum created by sustained efforts of various government infrastructures, civil society and the media, all suggested the possibility of developing favourable long-term conditions toward re-establishing a Somali state.

Crucial progress was made in consolidating peace in local and regional zones of stability, with the long-range objective of ensuring that such steps forward are preserved as much as possible, given current power struggles that have persisted into 2007. Targeted support for the stable institutions of Somaliland and Puntland,

Population: 10.7 million (UN, 2005)
Area: 637,657 sq km (246,201 sq miles)
Life expectancy: 45 years (men), 47 years (women)
GNI per capita: Not available for 2006
Main exports: Livestock, bananas, hides, fish



MILITIA LEADERS WITH THEIR GUNS PRIOR TO A SYMBOLIC HANDOVER OF WEAPONS DURING THE CONFLICT MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP, GALKAYO 2006.

both Somali regions well-positioned to consolidate their own peace, was another key aspect of the Dialogue for Peace's work. While the potential for sliding back into total conflict in the South loomed, Interpeace sustained its important engagement in peacebuilding initiatives in these two regions, focusing on state-building initiatives.

Interpeace activities

The Dialogue for Peace continues to be led and managed by the three Interpeace Somali partner institutions, namely:

- The Academy for Peace and Development (APD) in Somaliland
- The Puntland Development Research Center (PDRC) in Puntland
- The Center for Research and Dialogue (CRD) in Mogadishu

The Dialogue for Peace programme involves extensive consultations with all sectors of society – from national-level political and business leaders to local elders, youth, women's groups, and civil society organizations – led by local actors and facilitated by Somali research teams from the partner institutions. The discussions are documented and filmed, with local media helping to disseminate the findings. Initial consultations by each partner enabled the programme to identify respected leaders to guide the process. Priorities for dialogue include: democratization, decentralization of governance, and resource-based conflict (for APD); democratization, public fund management and consolidation of the Mudug Peace Agreement (for PDRC); security and stabilization and the roles of the business sector and civil society in peacebuilding (for CRD). Each partner also organizes regular fora for public discussion of topical issues of concern, as well as engaging as an informal liaison as a means of conflict prevention.

Towards the latter part of 2006, Interpeace's Dialogue for Peace programme began moving into its second phase. Interpeace, in collaboration with its local partners,



Local partners: Academy for Peace and Development (APD) in Hargeisa, Somaliland; Center for Research and Dialogue (CRD) in Mogadishu (South-Central Somalia); Puntland Development and Research Center (PDRC) in Garowe, Puntland.

Purpose: The Interpeace Somali programme is engaging in a Somali-wide community-based reconciliation process known as the "Dialogue for Peace," to address critical issues, build participatory forms of governance, and put a definitive end to conflict in Somalia. The programme also has a role in legislative change, mediation and civic education, all aimed at a positive transformation of this collapsed state.

2006 expenditure: 3,380,774 USD

2006 donors: Denmark, Development Alternatives Inc., European Commission, European Union, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, UNDP

Programme staff: Team members (70), programme support (16), support staff (61)

published 9 documents that highlight the research and impact of its first phase of this programme (see section on Publications). These publications are also supported by documentary video productions which capture their work in the region. Interpeace concluded the first phase by commissioning an external evaluation of their activities in order to gauge actual progress and impact. These findings are being incorporated into the second phase.

Impact

Impact is perhaps one of the most difficult aspects to measure, nevertheless, the progress made is widely recognized.

“There is a high degree of ownership by the communities of the work done by Interpeace and

the partners – and sustainability. How does Interpeace and the partners manage to generate this? This is something we are always looking for in our programmes and as donors we need to learn lessons here,” stated one donor representative at a meeting in Nairobi.

The APD, Interpeace’s partner based in Hargeisa, is focused primarily on Somaliland. It recently held its Annual General Meeting and elected a new board. Many of its members were re-elected, a validation of their crucial service to the organization. “The Academy is our memory and its doors are always open to us,” noted one interlocutor in the Dialogue for Peace evaluation. Acting Chairman, Dr. Adan Abokor, was officially elected Chairman of the Board. Interpeace’s partner has reaffirmed that it would seek to strengthen and create new opportunities for dialogue and peacebuilding in 2006 and 2007.

The CRD, which operates out of Mogadishu, South-Central Somalia, continued to support reconciliation efforts in the disputed Mudug region. Available evidence suggests that this initiative has had considerable impact despite the positioning of various militia groups representing Puntland, the TFG, ICU, local clans, and the more recent incursion of the Ethiopian military in late 2006.

The PDRC has been working with young people, not only to establish a stronger relationship with this vital sector of the population, but to stimulate greater public awareness of peacebuilding efforts in Puntland and other parts of the Somali region. PDRC also played an important role in the UN-World Bank Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) as the lead organization in cross-cutting peacebuilding, reconciliation and conflict prevention issues. In addition, the PDRC conducted a validation workshop, which gave the JNA an opportunity to share findings and receive critical feedback from local Somalis. With such initiatives, maintained one observer in the 2006 Dialogue for Peace evaluation, Interpeace and its partners should aim to become a “think tank with a human face.”

“There is a high degree of ownership by the communities of the work done by Interpeace and the partners – and sustainability. How does Interpeace and the partners manage to generate this? This is something we are always looking for in our programmes and as donors we need to learn lessons here.”

Donor representative, Nairobi

Finally, the PDRC continued to support CRD's efforts in the Mudug peace initiative by providing logistical and programme support from Peace House, its satellite office in Galkayo. "The current peace and stability that Adado district is enjoying today is a result of the skills militia leaders acquired from the Galkayo workshop," said a senior local elder speaking about a conflict management skills training workshop for militia held by the CRD in April 2006.

All three Interpeace partners have continued to develop and strengthen their capacity to manage the risks that constantly arise within the overall programme. Equally encouraging is that all three have demonstrated a firm collective commitment toward engaging beyond their regions of activity. They have respected regional sensitivities but have deliberately sought each other out to collaborate in their efforts to support the Dialogue for Peace, and beyond.

Somaliland, for example, is enjoying an unprecedented growth of construction, noted Mohammed Ibrahim of the APD. "New buildings are going up constantly which is a healthy sign but this also means that there is absolutely no urban planning which also needs to be done," he said. "However, for the moment, our main concern is to maintain stability and to ensure what exists is not destroyed." He added that crucial for Somaliland's own long-term sustainability was that the two other regional entities also remain stable. This, he said, is a strong incentive for working together with Interpeace's two other local partners.

From the Somali point of view, too, each partner is seen as representing local institutional leadership. This leadership, commented one observer in the 2006 Dialogue for Peace evaluation, "is one of the key reasons for their success. There is commitment and they enjoy widespread respect both locally and internationally." Another noted that the partners serve as a unique "public space and public resource."

One of the emerging strengths of the partners has been the creation of five low-cost and highly effective satellite offices (Galkayo, Burao, Beltweyne, Baidoa and Kismayo) to sustain key activities in locations outside their regional capitals. Each of the three main partner and satellite offices is strategically located to support local, regional and national peacebuilding and reconciliation initiatives.



A MEMBER OF THE WOMEN'S PRESSURE GROUP LOBBIES THE ELDERS FOR PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT IN CENTRAL REGIONS, ADDAADO, FEBRUARY 2007.

© CRD

Some highlights from Phase I of the Dialogue for Peace include:

- Public fund management in Puntland (PDRC) – Significant influence on the regional budgetary process, notably a parliamentary agreement to adopt the recommendations of the PDRC Public Fund Management Working Group. It also persuaded parliament to increase the budget provision to the social sector from 3% to 15% (in real terms, an increase from 100 to 300 salaried teachers) while reducing allocations for security and ‘political funds’.
- Democratization in Somaliland (APD) – Extensive negotiations in collaboration with the National Electoral Commission (NEC) and key stakeholders towards agreement on codes of conduct by the political parties and the media, lists of candidates, establishment of polling stations.
- Security and Stabilization in Mogadishu – The work undertaken over four years at multiple levels by the CRD with civic groups, business sector, media, political figures and opinion makers set the scene for a collaborative effort to oust faction leaders from Mogadishu in mid-2006. Local initiatives included technical support for civic groups working for successful demobilization of militia as well as conflict management training for militia leaders in the Medina district south of the city and Galkayo as part of the Mudug-Galgaduud reconciliation etc.

“The current peace and stability that Adado district is enjoying today is a result of the skills militia leaders acquired from the Galkayo workshop.”

Senior Somali elder

- Consolidation of the 1993 Mudug peace agreement (CRD and PDRC) – This resulted in a successful reconciliation process to end prolonged violent conflict in Mudug and Galgaduud in central Somalia, which had claimed hundreds of lives, exacerbated the humanitarian crisis, threatened the north-south trade corridor, and reportedly contributed to piracy of international vessels off the coast of the central regions.

Interpeace has now embarked on Phase II of the Dialogue for Peace. Its four main objectives, particularly given new events at the end of 2006 and early 2007 are to:

- Facilitate genuine dialogue through established neutral spaces
- Ensure strategic engagement through the dialogue process
- Transfer peacebuilding capacity to civil society and community leaders
- Catalyze material contributions to peacebuilding and state building.

This second phase will continue to be a field-driven exercise, guided and supported by the Interpeace Regional Office in Nairobi, Kenya. This office will oversee the regional process through a proven ‘mentoring’ approach which ensures both the transfer of skills to local partners and a strengthening of their institutions.



ELDERS ARE BRIEFED ON PROGRESS IN THE RECONCILIATION PROCESS BETWEEN PARTIES IN CONFLICT IN MUDUG AND GALGADUUD, CEEL HUUR, JUNE 2006.

The Dialogue for Peace support team, which is made up of donors and representatives of other like-minded and interested institutions, will provide both direction and support. The support group meetings also provide a unique opportunity for a large number of the international community to better coordinate their efforts, especially those related to Interpeace's work in the region. The combination of a strong network of local institutions, a well-established programme management office in Nairobi and an oversight donor support team give Interpeace a strategic advantage to engage in high-level, impact-driven peacebuilding initiatives in the Somali region. This capacity represents the culmination of over ten years of developing peacebuilding competences in the Somali context.

The next phase of peacebuilding will allow Interpeace to sustain the dialogue process while extending its reach. Much emphasis will be placed on utilizing Interpeace's participatory action research methodologies to carry out its ongoing Dialogue for Peace initiatives. The key types of activities include: peace process mapping; civil society peacebuilding support; action-oriented state and peacebuilding initiatives; conflict prevention and reconciliation; dissemination of information materials; and the second phase of the Somali Democratization Programme.

The overall vision of the Democratization Programme is to offer all Somalis the opportunity to participate through democratic processes in the governance and development of the Somali region. This would improve better understanding and commitment to the governance of their society. The first part of Interpeace's Somali Democratization Programme was developed and anchored in the now-completed first phase of the Dialogue for Peace. Interpeace was able to support infrastructure

upgrades in both the Somaliland House of Representatives and the Puntland Parliament. This included a new facility in Somaliland, fully furnished and IT-equipped. Both of these initiatives followed the successful implementation of the Somaliland Parliamentary elections in September 2005 and the evaluation workshops that followed.

By early 2007, for example, both Somaliland and Puntland had not only achieved a certain degree of security and functioning administrations, but also the establishment of political, institutional and constitutional frameworks that have set a precedent for the wider Somali region. This is most noticeable in Somaliland, where the population has supported three free and fair elections since December 2002. Here the Interpeace engagement has proven to be one of the most visible and concrete of all the Dialogue for Peace processes; paradoxically, because APD adopted such a low profile. Its efforts were primarily focused on facilitating processes and dialogue critical to the success of the 2005 elections.

APD also brought together a core team capable of providing full support to the National Election Commission. The roles of both Interpeace and APD were universally praised. “We took a risk funding WSP (Interpeace) to lead the international support for the Somaliland parliamentary elections and it turned out to be one the best investments we’ve made in the last five years,” noted Richard Hands, Somali Operations Manager of the European Commission in October 2006.

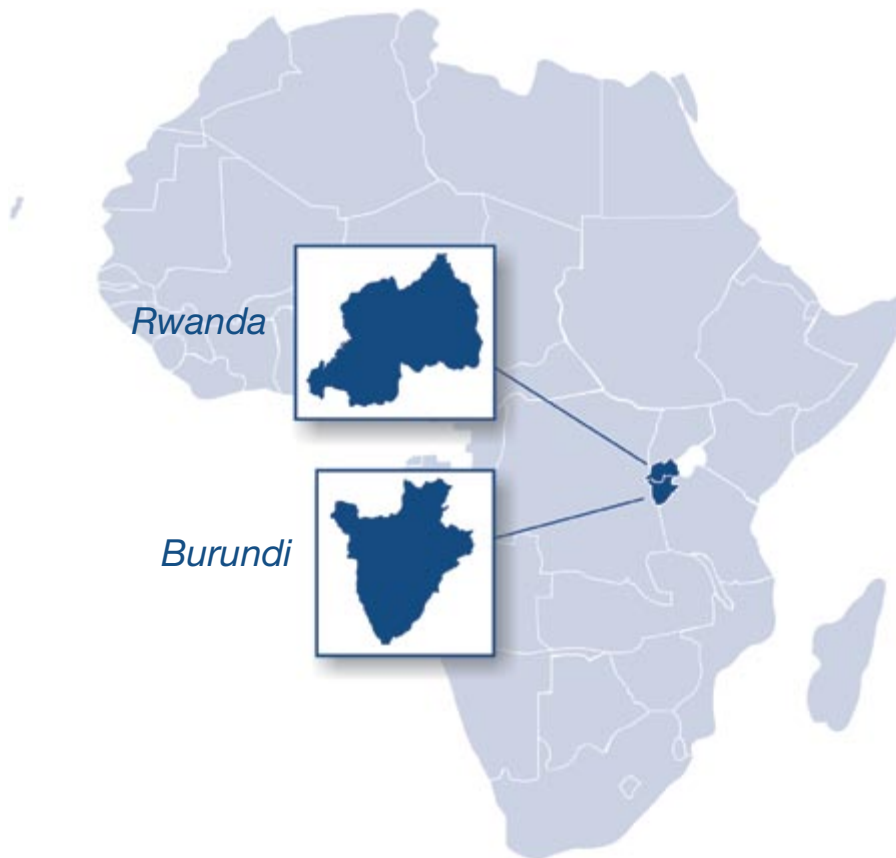
For its part, Puntland has made significant process in laying the foundation for more democratic processes. It appears ready to stay the course over the next several years, but will clearly require continued support.

However, the transition from acute conflict (aggravated by the arrival of the Islamic Courts movement in mid-2006 followed by their overthrow in Mogadishu nearly six-months later) to peace in the wider Somali region will require patience and sustained commitment. This long-term and often arduous process includes trust-building, dialogue on substantive issues as well as constitutional and institution-building by all local stakeholders and the international community.

For many Somalis, but also the international community, Interpeace offers a unique approach for integrating peacebuilding into post-conflict and nation-building efforts. Equally crucial is its insistence on working with local partners. Interpeace’s association and collaboration with its three widely respected institutions has already demonstrated its competence. It is this long-term approach that will help develop state institutions through initiatives broadly supported by dialogue at all levels.

Interpeace in

Central Africa



RWANDA

Current situation

Thirteen years later, Rwanda continues to recover slowly from the genocide. By the end of 2006, it was clear that for the people of this hilly and lushly verdant Great Lakes nation it might still take years – if not a lifetime – to heal psychologically. Reconciliation, strengthening the rule of law and understanding democracy are all critical issues if Rwandans are to embrace a new and sustainable future based on mutual trust, tolerance, and security.

As a country, Rwanda appears relatively stable and is looking forward by working on economic development. However, numerous problems remain which threaten sustained stability and the consolidation of long-lasting peace. The perception of safety varies among ordinary Rwandans. There are continuing signs of fragility and mistrust. Many Rwandans living abroad refuse to return for fear of being persecuted. The local gacaca courts have also revived fears among those who suffered and who are afraid of being killed by genocide perpetrators in an effort to eliminate witnesses. Others fear being accused of having participated in the genocide by jealous neighbours or by other villagers with whom they have had a quarrel.

Population: 8.6 million (UN, 2005)
Area: 26,338 sq km (10,169 sq miles)
Life expectancy: 42 years (men), 45 years (women) (UN)
GNI per capita: 230 USD (World Bank, 2006)
Main exports: Coffee, tea, hides, tin ore

So far, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) based in Tanzania has only tried 27 suspects, a frustratingly sluggish and expensive process that has prompted Rwanda to demand their transfer to face trial at home. An additional 18 suspects remain at large and are wanted by the same UN body. For its part, Rwanda has been using the traditional gacaca community courts to try 'ordinary' genocide suspects. However, those accused of orchestrating the slaughter have been appearing before the ICTR.

Interpeace activities

Over the past six years, Interpeace's local partner, the Institute of Research and Dialogue for Peace (IRDP), has been promoting a culture of dialogue aimed at helping Rwandans both at home and abroad to come to terms with the events of 1994, lay the foundations for economic development and explore ways to make post-genocide Rwanda more stable.

At the beginning of 2006, the IRDP completed its second phase of work. Between 2004 and 2006 the team facilitated dialogue and debate on five key themes that were identified by the population as priority issues to ensure lasting peace in Rwanda. These are: democracy and ethnicity; the genocide, its planning and execution; successive



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MATTHIAS STIEFEL, INTERPEACE FOUNDER AND VICE CHAIRMAN, MARTTI AHTISAARI, INTERPEACE CHAIRMAN, FORMER US PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON, PROFESSOR PIERRE RWANDINDO, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE IRDP, SCOTT WEBER, INTERPEACE DIRECTOR-GENERAL AT THE CLINTON GLOBAL INITIATIVE.

conflicts in Rwanda's history; economic development and poverty reduction; and justice and the rule of law.

Recommendations on each theme were identified and endorsed by a group of key stakeholders. The Institute will disseminate the recommendations to the public at large and is working with influential stakeholders and decision makers (in the form of a Steering Committee) to implement these solutions.

Key recommendations include: ensuring effective power sharing; guaranteeing immunity to outgoing heads of state as a means of encouraging them not to hang on to power; recognizing the rights of genocide survivors, including the right to reparations; setting up a genocide commission; advocating for matching priorities identified by the population with the national budget; and calling upon appropriate authorities to improve water management and irrigation.

"I know of no country that has been braver in coming to grips with its sad history or one that is making more progress more quickly. I am grateful to these people [Interpeace and the IRDP] for the contribution they will make."

Former US President Bill Clinton

As part of its activities, IRDP is also establishing uruvugiro – permanent platforms for debate-across the country (local, provincial and national level) as well as with the

diaspora. By offering a space for safe and neutral public meetings, IRDP has enabled Rwandans from all walks of life to overcome their reluctance to confront their past. The meetings encourage them to speak openly about the genocide, its impact on their lives and other critical issues that affect long-lasting peace. IRDP's approach has enhanced the credibility of such discussions by introducing objective data, which significantly helped dissipate rumors and persuade Rwandans to deal with realities rather than misperceptions.

The platforms also provide

Rwandans with a practical means of identifying their own solutions for dealing with endemic poverty, such as through the creation of non-agricultural jobs, irrigation, land management, and micro-credit schemes. Such open discussion serves as a key element for re-building the social fabric and has helped IRDP attain a nation-wide reputation for objectivity and transparency.

The dialogue platforms engage Rwandans from the grass-roots level to the urban elite. At the national and provincial level, IRDP has organized and facilitated open discussions on very important, but previously taboo issues including the role of political parties in democracy in Rwanda, revisionism, reparation for genocide victims, and the gap between population and economic growth. All of Rwanda's political parties have expressed their support for the IRDP initiative, which, they acknowledge, is critical for facilitating public debate. As one parliamentarian noted: "It is important to recognize that words can heal the wounds of the past and that a society that doesn't exorcise its problems is doomed to extinction."

To date uruvugiro is already making an impact by breaking taboos and helping important issues be put on the national agenda. For example, following the forums on the role of political parties, the issue was discussed within the Senate and within the Political Bureau of the ruling party. Following the debates in the forums on the issue of demography, the different ministries within the government decided to make it a national priority and two senators who participated in uruvugiro introduced a bill on birth control in the Senate thereafter. Furthermore, President Kagame openly stated his willingness to tackle the issue of the gap between population and economic development growth rates.

At the community level, the dialogue platforms are referred to as Dialogue Clubs. They already exist in five regions of Rwanda and are now spreading elsewhere. The clubs bring together Rwandans from very different backgrounds (Hutu, Tutsi, Twa, genocide survivors, families of prisoners accused of having participating in the



Local partner: Institute of Research and Dialogue for Peace (IRDP), Kigali

Purpose: To continue to establish open dialogue and build trust within the Rwandan population, which is still marked by the aftermaths of the genocide.

2006 expenditure: 786,131 USD

2006 donors: Belgium, Japan, Norway, as well as the European Commission and Switzerland (funding directly to IRDP)

Programme staff: Team members (9), programme support (6), support staff (7)



© STEPHAN ROYA

IRDP DIALOGUE CLUB MEET IN A SCHOOL IN KABAGARI IN RWANDA'S SOUTH PROVINCE.



© STEPHAN ROYA

YOUNG BOYS COLLECT GRASS TO FEED CATTLE AS PART OF A REVENUE GENERATING ACTIVITY OF THE KABAGARI DIALOGUE CLUB.

genocide, youth, elders, refugees coming back from exile, etc.). Meeting twice a month, villagers discuss the causes of conflict and the problems facing their communities.

All of the dialogue clubs have now started income-generating activities such as collective herds

and cultivation which the dialogue club members wanted to initiate in order to strengthen the reconciliation process. Important bonds now exist between the dialogue club members and show how suspicion and mistrust can be overcome. For example, in the club in Maraba, dialogue club members pooled their limited resources to help a sick member get to the provincial hospital (about 30 km away from Maraba). They also took turns with the family to regularly bring him food which was not provided by the hospital. During a meeting of all the dialogue clubs in July 2007, the Ministry of Agriculture hailed the initiative and expressed his willingness to have this experience extended to the whole country.

As part of its approach, IRDP openly films many of these dialogue events and then screens the productions to other stakeholders in both urban and rural areas. In a country where nearly two-thirds of the population is illiterate, video screenings are an important tool in disseminating the message of the dialogue clubs. It also helps establish the credibility of IRDP as a debate catalyst and neutral facilitator. Talking to ordinary people in towns and villages is also considered vital for disseminating such information. It was this sector of society that was most vulnerable to both the propaganda of the genocide regime and the ensuing violence.

Another exciting initiative is the creation of 50 dialogue forums in secondary schools to raise youth awareness of democratic principles and tolerance. This critical activity is considered vital for the promotion of a democratic culture and is the continuation of IRDP's involvement in the development of teaching materials on Rwandan history and governance. Since 1994, history has not been taught either in primary or secondary schools in the country, as existing textbooks were believed to promote division and ethnic discrimination. IRDP and Interpeace took the lead in designing the new educational material. Based on the positive response, IRDP and Interpeace plan to organize an annual competition to promote tolerance where students from across the country will submit poems, drawings, and plays. Partnerships with private firms will be sought to provide awards to the winners.

The IRDP will also build a Centre for Peace. The objective is to provide an established site, where opinions from the general public, the authorities and the diaspora can be shared and where Rwandans can have access to written and audiovisual documentation related to peace. Given the broad impact of the IRDP's work, the proposed permanent Centre for Peace will prove to be a critical asset. In February, 2006, President Kagame gave his backing to the Institute's recommendations, which clearly demonstrated the need for such a permanent institution. "IRDP is adding value to everything that is being done to rebuild Rwanda," the President said. Shortly afterwards, the government contributed a strategic piece of land in Kigali for the building of this Centre.

"IRDP is adding value to everything that is being done to rebuild Rwanda."

H.E. President Paul Kagame of Rwanda

Impact

More than 10% of Rwandans, approximately 900,000 people, already have been affected by IRDP's peacebuilding efforts. Such initiatives have contributed significantly toward helping resolve conflict in a society riddled with mistrust. Rwandans, who were not accustomed to expressing their views openly, have quickly grasped both the need and the power of dialogue as a means of healing a divided society.

The impact of IRDP's work was personally recognized by former US President Bill Clinton at the second Clinton Global Initiative as the IRDP and Interpeace made a commitment to the uruvugiro initiative. He praised the work of Interpeace and IRDP, remarking that "I know of no country that has been braver in coming to grips with its sad history or one that is making more progress more quickly. I am grateful to these people for the contribution they will make."

Interpeace estimates that by the end of 2008, over half the population, an estimated 4.5 million out of 8.6 million people, will be affected by the work of IRDP and Interpeace in Rwanda. This includes engaging with the government, civil society and the international community as part of its efforts to continue instilling the spirit of dialogue and debate in Rwandan society and supporting efforts to implement the recommendations brought forth for long-lasting peace in Rwanda.

BURUNDI

Current situation

Burundi ranks as one of the world's poorest nations. It is also emerging from a 12-year civil war which devastated the country. This has left a deep-seated feeling of mistrust and bitterness among many Burundians. As in its mirror Great Lake neighbour to the north, Rwanda, Burundians urgently need to come to terms with their past and to address post-conflict challenges, such as strengthening democracy, transitional justice and land issues.

Burundi's peaceful elections in 2005 provided a significant impetus for a new way forward. This was followed by the signing of a ceasefire in September 2006 between

the government and the last active rebel group, the FNL. While much of what was achieved in the way of peacebuilding was brought about by outside mediation and support, both events have contributed enormously toward restoring confidence among ordinary Burundians. They also decisively launched the rebuilding process.

Burundians now need to put their shattered country back on a

Population: 7.3 million (UN, 2005)
Area: 27,816 sq km (10,740 sq miles)
Life expectancy: 42 years (men),
44 years (women) (UN)
GNI per capita: 100 USD (World Bank,
2006)
Main exports: Coffee, tea, sugar,
cotton, hides



© CENAP

WAR ORPHANS ARE A VISIBLE CONSEQUENCE OF BURUNDI'S CIVIL WAR THAT CAUSED 300,000 DEATHS, 655,5000 INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS AND 420,000 REFUGEES.

strong economic footing. Many feel this will prove key to the success of long-term reconciliation. This means obtaining new and more diversified investment, particularly in rural areas where the majority of people live.

The country, too, faces the massive task of raising over half the population from beneath the poverty level. For the moment, the bulk of Burundi's foreign exchange earnings come from coffee and tea, but this will prove insufficient to promote any dramatic change. Equally critical to long-term reconciliation and peacebuilding, Burundians must deal with other enormous challenges such as national unity, land reform, security and democratization.

It is in this environment that Interpeace is seeking to help make a difference. The government appears willing to tackle many of the country's enormous challenges, but it lacks the financial resources and expertise to effectively develop and rule a country rebounding from a devastating civil war. At the same time, however, relations between the ruling CNDD-FDD party and the opposition as well as civil society and the media are often hostile. Political tensions that arose in August and September 2006 following a purported coup attempt and corruption allegations are one example of this mistrust. It is clear that in order for reconciliation to succeed, there has to be far more collaboration and openness. Interpeace is now seeking to develop a space for constructive dialogue between the different sectors of society in order to re-establish mutual trust. Only in this manner can Burundi's fragile peace be strengthened and consolidated.

Interpeace activities

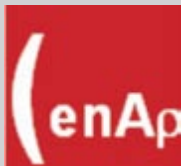
In 2006, Interpeace conducted an in-depth country assessment. It met with Burundians from all sectors of society in order to identify the local partner organization, CENAP, which will implement the programme on the ground. Burundian President Nkurunziza has given the green light to the initiation of an Interpeace programme in his country. Team members from the Interpeace-IRDP programme in Rwanda have played a role in the development of the new programme which demonstrates the positive role IRDP, with its experience, can play throughout the Great Lakes region.

The Interpeace/CENAP programme aims to develop a dialogue space similar to that of Rwanda that will help bridge the gap of mistrust among the government, political opponents, media, civil society and the international community. The programme seeks to develop a culture of dialogue and relations of trust within Burundian society and to achieve broad consensus around key peacebuilding challenges, their prioritization for being addressed and solutions that embrace the interest and commitment of the population. Interpeace is working also on strengthening CENAP's capacities to enable it to carry out the joint nation-wide programme.

Many dialogue initiatives already involve Burundian actors at different levels, but they are focused on a specific group of people, a specific pre-defined area of focus or a specific geographic area. None of the current or recent processes have been able to create a necessary and important bridge between the different layers of society nor engage the society as a whole in dialogue focused on the recovery process and

the consolidation of peace. This is what Interpeace, working closely with and through CENAP, its Burundi counterpart, will aim to do. The Interpeace – CENAP programme will build on existing initiatives and collaborate with different civil society organizations working on building trust.

The programme will commit special attention towards benefiting from and incorporating previous research and dialogue efforts, attempting to get the findings out of the development sector alone and into the public discourse. The media, who have already demonstrated the capacity to disseminate information to a large percentage of the population will also be called upon to play an important role in fostering the dialogue.



Local partner:
CENAP (Centre d'Alerte
et de Prévention des
Conflits)

Purpose: The overall goal of the programme is to reinforce Burundian capacities to strengthen and consolidate lasting peace. The programme will support the reconciliation process by engaging with all sectors of society on key issues including ethnicity, justice and impunity, dealing with the past, land and property, and power-sharing.

The development of the Burundi programme was supported by funding earmarked for Africa from Ireland, Finland and Norway. Additional funding was received from France.

Once the programme is formally launched, it will have four main areas of activity:

Mapping the threats to peace and stability – The Interpeace/CENAP peacebuilding team will conduct consultations with a representative sample of the Burundian population to identify critical issues. The team will present the results to a forum representing the diversity of Burundian society. It will then facilitate the forum's selection of key peacebuilding issues and how they should be addressed.

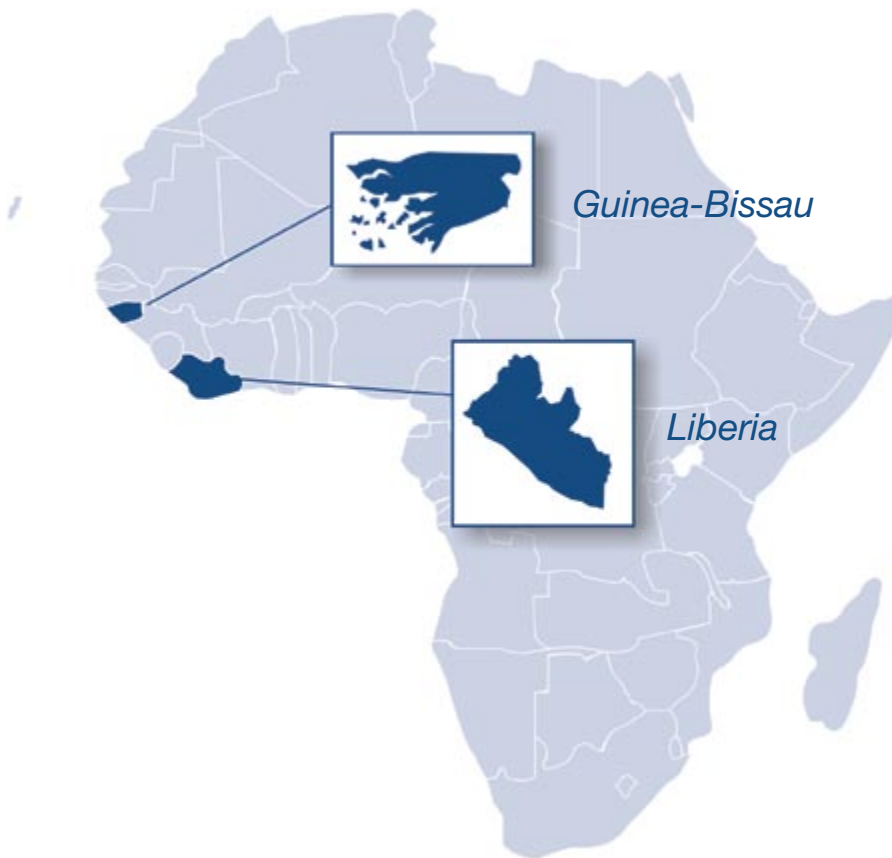
Research and dialogue on priority peacebuilding issues – The team will conduct in-depth research and debate on each of the selected priorities. It will produce video documentaries outlining the process and the different views expressed. The consensual recommendations will be presented to the forum representing Burundian society for validation.

Dissemination of research and findings – The team will develop a communications strategy using a variety of media (radio, written documents, and videos) to disseminate the findings to all segments of Burundian society.

Implementation of recommendations – The team will develop mechanisms adapted to the context and engage those concerned by the implementation of these recommendations.

Interpeace in

West Africa



GUINEA-BISSAU

Current situation

During 2006, the political and socio-economic situation in Guinea-Bissau remained particularly precarious, with tensions continuing between the military and political sectors. Fighting also persisted until the end of April between the army and the separatist Movement des Forces Democratiques de la Casamance (MFDC) in the northern border region with Senegal. This left some 20,000 civilians homeless and in need of humanitarian assistance. The turmoil severely hampered reconstruction efforts elsewhere in the country.

Population: 1.6 million (UN, 2005)
Area: 36,125 sq km (13,948 sq miles)
Life expectancy: 43 years (men), 46 years (women) (UN)
GNI per capita: 180 USD (World Bank, 2006)
Main exports: Cashew nuts, shrimp, peanuts, palm kernels, sawn timber

Once hailed as a potential model for development in Africa, Guinea-Bissau has suffered deplorably from a bitter civil war in the late 1990s in which thousands were killed and wounded. Many more were forced to flee their homes. According to the 2006 UNDP development report, Guinea-Bissau now ranks as one of the poorest countries (173 out of 177) in the world. Undermined by political instability and mismanagement, its economy is in shambles and relies largely on primary crops, notably cashew nuts, subsistence crops and foreign aid for survival.

Nevertheless, some positive progress did emerge in 2006 as a result of dialogue initiatives introduced by select political actors and civil society representatives. Interpeace's proposed peacebuilding programme remains very much apart of this approach, but funding delays obliged the project to commence with full activities only in 2007.

Interpeace activities

In 2006, Interpeace continued to pursue its peacebuilding strategy with INEP (Instituto Nacional de Estudos e Pesquisas), its local partner, with the aim of starting the first phase of activities of the Voz di Paz/Voice of Peace programme in early 2007. During this time the INEP team led national efforts to develop the Strategy for the Restructuring and Modernization of the Defence and Security Sector and continued to engage with national authorities and civil society representatives.

The Voz di Paz/Voice of Peace programme initiated at the invitation of the UN Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS), seeks to address recurrent political tensions blocking the country's national reconciliation process and economic renewal. Participants in recent meetings in Bissau expressed the hope that the programme will provide a public platform for dialogue and consultation between the country's main politicians, economic actors, civil society organizations, and traditional leaders, and thus contribute to reducing perceptions of investment risk and political instability over the long-term.

According to João Bernardo Honwana, then representative of the UN Secretary-General, the Interpeace-INEP programme constitutes a key element for implementing the UN Peacebuilding Strategy for Guinea-Bissau. This initiative, he maintained in May 2006, “will allow for the participation of a broad section of Bissau-Guinean society in the identification of structural causes of the conflict, the proximate triggers of crises and violence, as well as the appropriate actions to address those challenges. The activities of this project will pave the way, together with other initiatives, to a comprehensive and sustainable process of national reconciliation of Guinea-Bissau.” In the words of Faustino Fudut Imbali, former Prime Minister and currently Deputy Director of the Voz di Paz/Voice of Peace programme, “Our programme team aims to deliver results daily.”

Following the launch of the programme in March 2007, the Voz di Paz research team has begun to gather people’s opinions on what needs to be done to improve their lives. The team aims to prioritize and share these “voices from the field” with Guinea-Bissau’s political class, providing a forum where politicians can deepen

“The activities of this project will pave the way, together with other initiatives, to a comprehensive and sustainable process of national reconciliation of Guinea-Bissau.”

João Bernardo Honwana,
then Representative of the
UN Secretary-General and
Head of the UN Peacebuilding Support
Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS)



INSTITUTO NACIONAL
DE ESTUDOS E PESQUISA

Local partner: Instituto Nacional de Estudos e Pesquisas (INEP)

Purpose: The overall goal of the Interpeace-INEP Voz di Paz/Voice of Peace programme is to support the consolidation of the peace process and promote conflict-sensitive governance to address the root causes of instability in Guinea-Bissau.

The development of the Guinea-Bissau programme was supported by funding earmarked for Africa from Ireland, Finland and Norway.

their understanding of what society expects from them, and a foundation to work more closely with their constituents in defining both the problems and the solutions. The research team will also examine and act upon themes related to electoral law reform, security sector reform dialogue and implementation, and the national reconciliation process.

In addition to engaging sectors of society in dialogue and research, regular mass-media campaigns will be organised to confront political mistrust, particularly through radio.

Using participatory research, the team also proposes to encourage candid discussions amongst political actors. Fafali Flavien Koudawo, Rector of the University Colinas de Boé and Research Director of the programme, explains that, “All actors



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THE INEP-COORDINATED TEAM OF RESEARCHERS DURING A MEETING TO COLLECT PEOPLE'S VIEWS AS PART OF THE VOZ DI PAZ PROGRAMME IN GUINEA-BISSAU, MAY 2007.

know what the divisive issues are. They are all in a (tacit) consensus that those are the issues. Yet there is nobody there to discretely invite them to discuss (the issues) together. There is nobody to encourage them to address the root causes once and for all. What is needed also is knowledge that is trusted and presented in a way that can be assimilated by all. And finally, there is a need for a facilitator: a facilitator of consensus and somebody to “push” them to agreement”.

LIBERIA

Current situation

While Liberia's ruthless civil war may now be over, its infrastructure lies devastated, the population in disarray. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, a US-educated economist and former Minister of Finance who was inaugurated as Africa's first female President in January 2006, is now striving to resuscitate its shattered economy and to help bring about nation-wide reconciliation. This requires a full reform of Liberia's political institutions and the establishment of those foundations necessary for effective and sustainable development.

Population: 3.6 million
(UN, 2005)

Area: 99,067 sq km
(38,250 sq miles)

Life expectancy: 41 years
(men), 43 years (women) (UN)

GNI per capita: 130 USD
(World Bank, 2006)

Main exports: Diamonds, iron ore, rubber, timber, coffee, cocoa

Much, too, will depend on the ability of Liberians to overcome the legacy of mistrust not only among each other, but between ordinary people and the authorities. Only in this manner can the country hope to achieve real governance and long-lasting peace. Equally crucial

is the critical presence of a 15,000-strong international peacekeeping force for overall security, the most expensive such operation currently being run by the UN.

As the principal international presence in the country, the UN has already undertaken significant efforts to promote stability, supporting the national government in its efforts to revive the economy and establish rule of law. This has led to the April 2007 UN General Assembly vote to lift a ban on diamond exports, which had largely fuelled the 15-year-long civil war. A similar ban on timber exports – another significant instigator of conflict – was lifted in 2006.

Nevertheless, national reconciliation amongst the different ethnic and population groups remains one of the most critical issues. Around 250,000 people fled Liberia, mainly to other parts of West Africa, while thousands more escaped locally or to other parts of the country, where they were often forced to survive with extremely limited resources and unable to travel. Many Liberians no longer know their own land. Weapons abound, while only the capital city has partial grid-based electricity. Corruption, too, is widespread and only gradually are jobs being created. Furthermore, with the complete collapse of the educational system, schooling has been sporadic for many young people. As a result, illiteracy is far higher now than before the war.

The international community recognizes the good progress made by the country under the leadership of the President during her first year in office, but enormous challenges remain. The economy, as one World Bank official described it, is “terrible”, with unemployment standing at roughly 85%. Security, too, remains a key issue, with armed robbery and burglaries on the rise. Armed UN soldiers have stepped up their patrols and searches together with unarmed Liberian police, yet are unable to curb the upsurge in criminality. Although the government is recruiting a new police force and a 2,000-strong army, it has a long way to go before becoming an effective body, prompting the Minister of Justice to call on Liberians to “protect themselves”. Similarly, the judicial system has a great deal of work to do before it can operate effectively again, while the penal system needs to be fully reconstructed. The UN has partially lifted the weapons embargo allowing police to arm themselves in their combat against the criminal gangs.

While access to medical supplies is improving, there remains a severe shortage of doctors and nurses. Schools are packed and there is not enough room for all pupils, including young people who missed out on education during the war years. Numerous school buildings are damaged and in urgent need of repair. Both the educational and medical systems are considered priorities, but with Liberia’s current annual budget of only 129 million dollars, its expectations for rehabilitation must remain modest. As a result, Liberia is seeking foreign investment, including by companies formerly heavily involved in the country, to not only provide jobs but also medical and educational support as their investment for the future.

... national reconciliation amongst the different ethnic and population groups remains one of the most critical issues.



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RESEARCHER FROM INTERPEACE/IRDP RWANDA PEACEBUILDING TEAM IN MONROVIA TO ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LIBERIA PROGRAMME. THIS IS ONE EXAMPLE OF INTERPEACE'S NETWORK OF PEACEBUILDING PRACTITIONERS.



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MARKET IN MONROVIA, LIBERIA.

Interpeace activities

During 2006, the Joint Programme Unit for UN/Interpeace Initiatives conducted a series of consultations with key social and political actors in Liberia, and with the international community in the country, in the context of an invitation made by the UN peacekeeping force, UNMIL. The intention was to understand how Liberian society today defines its needs in terms of the consolidation of peace in their country. Through a participatory process involving representatives of the government and civil society, the JPU in partnership with UNMIL and Liberian local partners have developed an initiative for a national dialogue process that will contribute to the development of social cohesion and that complements current efforts spearheaded by the government and the UN system in Liberia.

Led by a team of carefully selected Liberian civil society organizations and using the Interpeace research-based dialogue strategy, the initiative intends to create a mid- to long-term process to enhance social cohesion by focusing on the deep root causes of conflict and on the identification of sustainable, locally-owned solutions to those challenges. In addition there is a need for broad-based and structured peacebuilding dialogue processes to help resolve immediate and more political reconciliation issues at the national level, with emphasis on the long-term.

The initiative received support from H.E. President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and the Minister of Internal Affairs, Minister Ambulai Johnson. President Johnson-Sirleaf stressed the benefit of Interpeace's long-term strategy and its focus on the deep challenges for consolidating peace. Her expectation is that the initiative significantly contributes to reconciliation and stability in Liberia.



Implemented by the Joint Programme Unit for UN/Interpeace Initiatives – UNOPS.

Purpose: To contribute to positive social and political cohesion in Liberia to enable improved governance and to prevent the resurgence of armed conflict.

In partnership with the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).

Local partners: Kofi Annan International Centre for Conflict Transformation (KAICT), Liberia Democratic Institute (LDI), Foundation for International Dignity (FIND), Interreligious Council of Liberia IRCL (IRCL), Women NGO's Secretariat of Liberia, Peacebuilding Resource Center (PBRC), West Africa Network for Peace (WANEP), and Initiatives for Positive Change

The development of the Liberia programme was supported by funding earmarked for Africa from Ireland, Finland and Norway.



Both Alan Doss, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative, and Zainab Bangura, UNMIL's Chief of Civilian Affairs, closely followed the development of this programme and lent strong support. Doss was particularly impressed with the participatory process Interpeace continues to follow with local civil society and governmental agencies involved in the design of the initiative. He noted that the proposed initiative would be a welcome compliment to the on-going UN efforts to assist nation-wide recovery and reconciliation.

Implementation of the first phase of the programme will commence in late 2007. However, Interpeace is aware that major challenges remain for developing a broad-based programme in Liberia, particularly if it is to reach out to the countryside, where the majority of people live, rather than just the capital Monrovia and other major towns.

President Johnson-Sirleaf stressed the benefit of Interpeace's long-term strategy and its focus on the deep challenges for consolidating peace. Her expectation is that the initiative significantly contributes to reconciliation and stability in Liberia.

Interpeace in

Latin America



GUATEMALA

Current situation

As with numerous other Latin American countries, Guatemala remains scarred by extreme inequalities and an economy that does not create many formal jobs. Remittances from Guatemalans living in the United States have become one of the principle sources of national income. Another is tourism, an industry whose continued growth is constantly threatened by the country's high rate of violent crime. Agricultural exports rank a distant third. There is significant poverty as well as racism and discrimination against the native Indigenous population.

Eleven years after the signing of the Peace Accords, that brought a formal end to 36 years of brutal civil war, Guatemala remains a fragile democracy. Similar to other Central American countries, it has seen a rise in violent crime, the growing threat of youth gangs (pandillas or maras) and international and well-organized drug trafficking and money laundering. The current homicide rate is higher than during the civil war. Security has become a primary concern for both the population and the political elite.

Population: 13 million (UN, 2005)

Area: 108,890 sq km (67,660 sq miles)

Life expectancy: 63.9 years (men), 71.3 years (women) (UNDP, 2006)

GNI per capita: 2,400 USD (World Bank, 2006)

Main exports: Coffee, bananas, sugar, crude oil, chemical products, clothing and textiles, vegetables



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CHILDREN RIDE BIKES PAST BUILDING GUARDED BY PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES.

In turn, rising insecurity is encouraging repressive measures with a return to autocratic habits and army involvement in what should be domestic police responsibility. These trends threaten basic democratic principles and institutions, including human rights and public confidence in the state and its institutions. Confronted by all these challenges, the ability of the Guatemalan state to formulate and implement policies remains weak.

FOSS Fortalecimiento de Organizaciones Sociales en Temas de Seguridad

Project name: Strengthening Civil Society Capacity in Security Issues (FOSS)

Purpose: The FOSS project has created a space for key actors to discuss and formulate policy recommendations for reforming the Guatemalan security sector. It also acts as a link between the state and civil society.

2006 expenditure: 209,680 USD

2006 donors: Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Programme staff: Team members (3), Programme support (1)

Interpeace activities

The purpose of Interpeace's programme, better known by its Spanish acronym FOSS is to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations specializing in security issues to work with the state to elaborate public policy and establish mechanisms for



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CHILDREN PLAY WITH GUNS.

citizen control and monitoring of the security sector. It does so by working closely with eight FOSS national partner organizations, Congress and the Advisory Council on Security, who serve as an institutionalized platform between civil society and the President's Office.

“Interpeace has been one of the most important actors in bringing a wide cross section of Guatemalan society together”

Representative from the
UK Ministry of Defense

Impact

FOSS has made considerable headway. Global specialists have already praised the Interpeace experience of civil society-state dialogue in Guatemala on security-related public policy. Its value was also explicitly recognized in MINUGUA's (UN Verification Mission in Guatemala) final report:

“Today it is evident that there are several civil society organizations committed and ever more specialized in security issues, that are active part of a ‘Defense Community’, an advanced concept not practiced even in more developed countries. (...) The establishment of the Security Advisory Council and the support it gets from the project on ‘Strengthening Civil Society Organizations (FOSS) that gathers around it the majority of civil society organizations with expertise in security issues, represents a clear example of how it is possible to obtain positive, consensus results, between state officials and civil society. It is to be hoped that there will be continuity in the effort to promote the strengthening and specialization of civil society, so that they can continue developing proposals and thus collaborate with the state authorities.”

The most crucial achievement has been the presentation to the President in February 2006 of a new blueprint for a National Security System, or Sistema Nacional de Seguridad. This represents the overall architecture for the institutional co-

ordination of the various state entities that deal in one way or another with security. The initiative seeks to address the inter-institutional overlaps and rivalries that exist, and which impede the implementation of more effective security policies. The President was particularly receptive to the new plan. The challenge now is to support the implementation of its recommendations which the FOSS project will focus on in 2007 and beyond.

“The establishment of the Security Advisory Council and the support it gets from the project on ‘Strengthening Civil Society Organizations (FOSS) that gathers around it the majority of civil society organizations with expertise in security issues, represents a clear example of how it is possible to obtain positive, consensus results, between state officials and civil society.”

Final report of the UN Verification
Mission in Guatemala

Throughout 2006, Interpeace's main challenge has been to find the most effective ways to influence legislation and policy in Congress. It has achieved this by creating a "liaison function" between civil society and Congress to feed into legislative debates dealing with democratic security. This has led to effective influence and impact on specific discussions or proposals, such as the legislative regulation of arms and ammunition, private security companies, and civilian intelligence services.

The third phase of programme which began in 2007 will continue along the same lines by strengthening internal coordination and thematic expertise among FOSS members. The fact that 2007 is an election year in Guatemala provides both a challenge and an opportunity for Interpeace and FOSS partners.

The value of the FOSS project and its role in developing a national security strategy was publicly recognized in August 2006 when Interpeace signed a much-publicized cooperation agreement with the British government.

YOUTH GANGS PROGRAMME IN CENTRAL AMERICA

(Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras)

Current situation

The rise of armed youth gangs, or Maras, over the past five years has become a principal concern in a number of countries, notably Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala. This phenomenon is proving a constant threat to the security and stability of local



GANG MEMBERS IN GUATEMALA.

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GUATEMALA

Population: 13 million (UN, 2005)

Area: 108,890 sq km (67,660 sq miles)

Life expectancy: 63.9 years (men), 71.3 years (women) (UNDP, 2006)

GNI per capita: 2,400 USD (World Bank, 2006)

Main exports: Coffee, bananas, sugar, crude oil, chemical products, clothing and textiles, vegetables

EL SALVADOR

Population: 6.9 million (World Bank, 2005)

Area: 21,040 sq km (13,074 sq miles)

Life expectancy: 68.0 years (men), 71 years (women) (UNDP, 2006)

GNI per capita: 2,450 USD (World Bank, 2006)

Main exports: Textiles and apparel, light manufacturing, coffee, medicines, sugar, and shrimp.

HONDURAS

Population: 7.2 million (UN, 2005)

Area: 112,090 sq km (69,649 sq miles)

Life expectancy: 66.1 years (men), 70.2 years (women) (UNDP, 2006)

GNI per capita: 1,120 USD (World Bank, 2006)

Main exports: Apparel, coffee, shrimp, bananas, palm oil, gold, zinc/lead concentrates, soap/detergents, melons, lobster, pineapple, lumber, sugar, and tobacco

populations, but has also shown evidence of repercussions in areas beyond those regions most immediately affected. Originally established among migrant communities in the United States, and then exported back to Central America, the proliferation and rising impact of the Maras on people's security has provoked repressive measures by the authorities. Official policies have asserted themselves in a largely reactive manner, with little attention to root causes and prevention. Taken too far, or left uncontrolled, such measures can undermine democratic principles and gains. This includes the growth in violations, notably the 'limpieza social', as part of a social cleansing through extra-judicial killings of socially disruptive groups and individuals.

Various governmental institutions and NGO actors are doing considerable research, policy and practical work on the issue of youth gangs. However, one drawback has

Various governmental institutions and NGO actors are doing considerable research, policy and practical work on the issue of youth gangs. However, one drawback has been the lack of any form of neutral space or platform for them to share their views and findings.

been the lack of any form of neutral space or platform for them to share their views and findings. In 2006, Interpeace completed the development of its strategy relating to this problem not just in Guatemala but other regional countries. Much of this is based on the experience Interpeace has already gained with previous programmes over the past ten years in Guatemala.



FORMER YOUTH GANG MEMBER IN HONDURAS SHOWS MODEL FOR LARGE MURAL TO PROMOTE PEACE.

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Local partners:

Guatemala: Instituto de Estudios Comparado en Ciencias Penales de Guatemala – ICCPG

El Salvador: UCA / IUDOP, FESPAD y Centro de Formación y Orientación Padre Rafael Palacios

Honduras: Unidos por la Vida y Organización JHA-JA.

Purpose: The overall goal of the programme is to protect and strengthen democratic governance in Central America in the face of the growing threat of youth gang-related violence, with specific emphasis on El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala.

Exploratory work to develop the youth gang programme was supported by unrestricted funding from Denmark, Ireland, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The overall concept is to provide the space needed for this wide range of actors to meet, exchange their analyses and experiences, and to develop more holistic and better-coordinated approaches to the youth gang phenomenon. There will also be a stronger emphasis on human rights considerations, which is currently missing. The idea is that these spaces and the dynamics achieved in them will continue after the end of the programme itself.

Interpeace activities

Working in partnership with local organizations, the programme will conduct a comprehensive analysis of the youth gang problem with all the actors involved. It will work at the municipal and national levels to promote the development of integrated and coherent policies to deal with the youth gang phenomenon that promote a more holistic approach to the phenomenon, policies that respect basic democratic principles and rights, and a greater synergy between the different actors involved.

It will also conduct regional activities to examine the trans-national aspects of the youth gang problem. This includes setting up a regional component aiming at



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YOUTH IN EL SALVADOR LEARN VALUABLE COMPUTER SKILLS AT THE FATHER TONO TRAINING CENTER.

coordinating the national policies on youth gangs in accordance with the framework of the Central America Integration System (Sistema de Integración Centroamericana-SICA).

The combination of integrated policy frameworks and a committed regional network of state and civil society representatives will constitute a solid basis for sustained collaborative action on the issue.

PERU

Current situation

There is a clear need for Peru to generate public security policies that will bring together citizens and the political authorities to respond jointly to security issues facing their society and institutions. Human rights violations during the years of military dictatorship and autocratic regimes have not been followed by much-needed doctrinal and institutional changes in the security sector. Criminal violence is on the rise, while there are different interpretations within the country regarding the threat of a resurgence of terrorism or guerrilla activity.

At the same time, such approaches need to be in line with democratic principles and respect human rights. There also needs to be an overriding awareness that the security of the population – as opposed to the authoritarian emphasis on

‘institutions’ – is the central issue and that ordinary people need to be key actors in the development of such policies. As a result, the Peruvian government has asked Interpeace to facilitate a process that would lead to large public or civil society participation in security sector reform discussions.

Interpeace activities

In 2006, Interpeace identified its main partners and formulated its strategy to strengthen the capacity of civil society to interact effectively with the state on security sector reform issues. The strategy sought to promote institutional changes toward the implementation of democratic security; provide increased transparency, and increased decentralization of state security and security debates. Interpeace received written endorsements from the Prime Minister of the newly formed government under President Garcia to support the project as well as the President of the National Commission.

However, in mid-2007, the Interpeace Governing Council made the decision to suspend exploratory work in Peru given that donor governments have indicated that they are scaling down their presence and funding for Peru in general. Interpeace regrets having to suspend exploratory work as there is a risk of further internal fractures.

Population: 28 million (UN, 2005)

Area: 1,285, 220 sq km
(496,226 sq miles)

Life expectancy: 67.8 years (men),
72.9 years (women) (UNDP - Human
Development Report 2006)

GNI per capita: 2,650 USD (World
Bank, 2005)

Main exports: Gold, copper, fishmeal,
petroleum, zinc, textiles, apparel,
asparagus and coffee

Exploratory missions to develop the
Peru programme were supported by
funding received for the Latin America
Office from the Open Society Institute
and Canada.

Interpeace in the

Middle East



The Interpeace approach to peacebuilding in the Middle East was developed from an in-depth evaluation of the role of the international community in supporting non-governmental peacebuilding efforts, specifically the people-to-people dialogues (P2P) in Palestine and Israel. This analysis suggested that: participants were drawn mainly from among those already convinced of the need to advance towards peace; the implicit assumption that peacebuilding could only be achieved by bringing the two parties together was not only false, but led to the exclusion of a huge stratum in both societies; and the agenda ignored the need for each side to define their own vision for peace in their societies.

This is why, in contrast to previous efforts, Interpeace and the UN in late 2003 took the initiative to address these issues by initiating two separate dialogue projects – one in Palestine and one in Israel – in order to contribute to building consensus across the whole spectrum of socio-political actors within each society, including previously marginalized groups, on what they want and what is their vision of the future.

Interpeace believes that it can contribute to supporting a just and comprehensive peace in the region by strengthening the capacities within each society to articulate a long-term vision to which they aspire; identify the obstacles that need to be overcome for that vision to be realized; and to posit actions that enable them to achieve that goal. Interpeace recognizes that there is a pressing need to give a voice to the opinions of each population, including sectors that have been traditionally marginalized from peace-making efforts. By bringing greater coherence within each society, Interpeace believes future peace processes will have a stronger basis and potential for legitimacy and success.

“...if so many people are intent on making peace, why hasn’t it happened by now? Or more fairly: do such “co-existence” projects [bringing Palestinians and Israelis together] actually change anything for the good? ... Schemes that focus on internal change probably have more impact than cross-cultural dialogue, albeit often controversially.”

The Economist, “Palestine’s Politics,” 30 August 2007

PALESTINE

Current situation

The political, economic and social situation in Palestine is in constant flux with dramatic changes over the past year. In 2006 the Palestinian political scene was dominated by the effects of the transition in power from Fatah to Hamas. Considered fair, open and transparent by most international observers, the elections gave Hamas nearly 45% of seats in the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) and a comfortable lead to form a new government. The vote completely altered Palestinian politics and traditional power patterns.

Attempts throughout 2006 to form a unity government, following the advent of Hamas to power, proved unsuccessful and resulted in an escalation of tension. The situation was made more difficult by the crippling effect of the suspension of foreign aid, upon which many Palestinians depend. Much of the international community refused to recognize a Hamas-led government, as long as it did not comply with

Population: 3.8 million (UN, 2006)
Area: 5,970 sq km (2,305 sq miles) West Bank and 365 sq km (141 sq miles) for Gaza
Life expectancy: 71 years (men), 74 years (women) (UN)
GNI per capita: 1,120 USD (World Bank, 2006)
Main exports: Olives, fruit, vegetables, limestone, citrus



Implemented by the UN
 Office for Project Services
 (UNOPS) Switzerland
 Operations Centre

In partnership with the UN Development Programme (UNDP)

Purpose: To promote dialogue within Palestinian society and across the whole spectrum of social actors including those marginalized in previous processes, on promoting stability and a future vision for Palestine.

2006 expenditure: 530,254 USD

2006 donors: UNDP, Sweden, Switzerland, Ford Foundation

Programme staff: Programme team (7), programme support (3)

conditions by the Quartet. For its part, Israel halted all payments of tax revenue, which constituted half the administration's budget, causing much hardship among ordinary people through loss of salaries.

As tensions between Hamas and Fatah grew, the internal security situation deteriorated with the outbreak of internal fighting at the end of 2006. Despite the agreement for a unity government following the Mecca talks in February 2007, factional violence re-emerged, most visibly in Gaza.

In June 2007, following an unprecedented level of internal fighting, Hamas assumed control of Gaza. In response, the President dissolved the unity government, declared a state of emergency and installed a caretaker government. With a new

caretaker government in place, the Quartet has lifted the aid embargo and the Israeli cabinet agreed to release frozen tax funds withheld since Hamas' January 2006 election victory. But most analysts assert that there can be no sustained peace without engaging Hamas which still controls Gaza.

It remains to be seen how the situation will unfold in the coming months. There is a widening political and social gap between Gaza (under the control of Hamas) and the West Bank (under the control of Fatah), and the effects of an increased isolation of Gaza could prove devastating. The current situation will undoubtedly have many repercussions on the Palestinian political map in general and intra-Palestinian dialogue in particular. The rift between political parties, generations, social strata and geographic situations are deep. The complexity of the situation on the ground has left many segments of the Palestinian population at a loss as to how they might play a role in affecting change. There is an evident lack of neutral space within Palestinian society to discuss different political initiatives.

Interpeace activities

For the past 3 years, the Interpeace-UNOPS project in Palestine – Mustakbalna (Our Future) – has been engaging strategic groups in Palestinian society, many previously excluded, to formulate a representative vision for the future. This work is guided by the fundamental principle that in order to contribute to stability within Palestine and to supporting a just peace, all parties must be included in the dialogue process if it is to be sustainable and legitimate. The project is using a two-phased strategy. The first part is helping facilitate the articulation of local stakeholder-identified needs and priorities. It will then move to address the larger national needs and priorities related to the future of Palestinian society and the establishment of long-term peace.

As part of its approach for the future, the project is first engaging Palestinians in discussion about their present situation as a means of building trust between different sectors of society and creating an environment where all sectors of Palestinian society can meet for constructive dialogue. The project is not promoting a predefined solution nor coming with a hidden agenda. Instead, it seeks to ask the right questions in order to engage Palestinians into thinking about their present and their future. This, in turn, will build a legitimate critical mass for focusing on the language of dialogue and compromise rather than violence.

In this way, the project is helping to diffuse tensions even while pursuing its long-term goal of defining a future vision. This process will help to reinforce intra-Palestinian dialogue, promote stability and positive change within Palestine, and ultimately support a just, comprehensive and permanent peace in the region.

The project is working with stakeholders in a cross sample of key geographic areas: cities, villages and refugee camps in different governorates in the West Bank

This work is guided by the fundamental principle that in order to contribute to stability within Palestine and to supporting a just peace, all parties must be included in the dialogue process if it is to be sustainable and legitimate.

and with thematic groups-political prisoners and the youth. These are Ramallah (Ramallah city, Budrus, Jelazoun); Jenin (Jenin city and Qalqeliah, Arrabeh, Jenin Refugee Camp); and Hebron (Hebron city, Beit Awwa, Al-Aroub).

During 2006, the project made significant strides to help communities articulate their immediate concerns and long-term aspirations. The project has firmly established itself in the 15 geographic areas in the West Bank at the governorate and local level. The working groups in these areas have dealt with the most pressing issues facing each community and have proven critical for creating an atmosphere conducive to dialogue and establishing the project's credibility.

The team is in the final stages of integrating the input of participants into 15 priority and needs assessment documents for the various areas of the West Bank. It will seek to link these needs to the proper follow-up authority. In the next phase, the project will consolidate needs at the governorate and national level and incorporate them into a vision paper.

Another key initiative of the Mustakbalna project has been its work with Palestinian political prisoners. Political prisoners are one of the most respected groups in Palestinian society. Since 1967, about 800,000 Palestinians have been detained by Israel and roughly 40 percent of male Palestinians have spent time in jail as a political prisoner. In addition, many senior Palestinian political leaders are incarcerated in Israeli prisons. While very respected in society, they are not structurally engaged within the Palestinian leadership despite their significant potential contribution and considerable influence.

During the early stages, the Mustakbalna project quickly identified political prisoners as critical 'stakeholders' to the future of Palestine and recommended that they be

closely involved in any global vision. Through its network of contacts, the project indirectly engaged a group of senior Palestinian leaders from all the factions represented inside the Negev prison with the view of producing a document outlining their needs and vision of the future. They discussed a wide range of issues including the characteristics of Palestinian society they envisaged and the priorities for rebuilding the social fabric of Palestinian society. The various discussions produced a vision paper in May 2005. Building on this work, the project coordinated with the head of the detainee's association in Palestine to help develop the idea of a national dialogue paper with the most senior political prisoners in response to the growing internal crisis among Palestinians themselves in 2006.



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TWO SMALL BOYS WALK IN FRONT OF THE SEPARATION WALL.

“PALESTINE
ABOVE ALL”
RALLY TO
PROMOTE
NATIONAL
UNITY.



© MUSTAKBALNA

The dialogue amongst five senior leaders representing different Palestinian factions – all held in the Israeli prison of Haderim, where numerous other high-profile inmates are also being incarcerated – resulted in an 18-point “National Reconciliation” proposal. This was released in June 2006 and became known as the “prisoners’ document”. The paper set out a basis for consensus and collaboration among the various Palestinian factions. It also outlined a vision for a settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Negotiations began in November 2006 regarding the formation of a unity government using the Prisoner’s Document as a basis for discussion.

The Mustakbalna project continued to promote debate on the document and in 2007 and beyond will seek to further engage political prisoners in a dialogue about their role in promoting stability in Palestinian society.

Parallel to this initiative, the Mustakbalna project played a crucial role in what was hailed as one of the most important conferences on national dialogue held in May 2006 in Jenin in the north of the West Bank. This involved representatives from all political factions, academia, religious leaders, NGOs, and the private sector. The conference produced a “blue print” for constructive national dialogue, which included examining the prospect of a coalition government but also social and economic problems. In particular, it explored how best to face the economic blockade Israel and other members of the international community had imposed.

A third initiative of the Mustakbalna project is its work with youth. Youth represent a majority of the population of the West Bank and Gaza. They also are one of the most important segments of the population that is motivated and committed to change. However, they are underrepresented politically and in general youth organizations in Palestine focus on specific sectoral areas. They have been often neglected in the past and need a forum where they feel their voices are being heard, in particular since they represent the future of Palestinian society. The project is providing the framework for youth to use a participatory methodology to focus on the cross cutting theme of what their role is in Palestinian society and what impact they can make on the political, economic, social and development arenas.

Following a priority setting exercise in late December 2006 the youth group based in Ramallah identified the need to address the issue of internal fighting. In response, the group launched a city wide non violence campaign in Ramallah called “Palestine above all” with the message being “no to internal fighting” which included the creation and distribution of a logo and grey ribbon that was politically neutral. The youth group



© STEVE SABELLA

PARTICIPANTS IN A MUSTAKBALNA WORKSHOP IN BUDRUS.

held a gathering in the centre of Ramallah city and distributed posters, stickers and ribbons. The project was able to provide the political space for the youth group to meet and facilitate their meetings. It was the youth group's initiative to start the campaign and it was they who ensured the funding for this activity rather than relying on project sources. The event received coverage from the Palestinian Satellite Channel, Al-Jazeera and Dubai TV. The campaign spread to other governorates including Hebron and Jenin. Throughout 2007, the project will work to confirm the position of the youth at the national level (in both West Bank and Gaza) regarding their role in the society and participation to the long term vision for Palestine.

For Interpeace, there is a marked lack of neutral dialogue space in Palestinian society. This becomes even more evident with the increased complexity of the political situation coupled with growing lawlessness on the ground. This has left the various political actors at a loss with how best to proceed. Developments throughout 2006 and early 2007 have only stressed the importance of a non-partisan and participatory approach. Interpeace will continue to seek to provide an open forum for these differing opinions as well as serve as a bridge between the international community and the various actors of the internal Palestinian scene. In 2007 and beyond the project will continue its activities in the West Bank and seek to expand its activities to Gaza.

ISRAEL

Current situation

The current situation in Israel is in constant flux, but continues to be shaped by three major events over the past two years. First, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's design and swift execution in August 2005 of the unilateral disengagement plan from the Gaza Strip. Second, Sharon's decision to split his own party – Likud, which was the leading party in the Knesset – and create a new party, Kadima with the explicit agenda of continuing the evacuation of Israeli settlers this time from the West Bank.

In spite of Sharon's sudden illness in January 2006, his successor, Ehud Olmert, maintained the former leader's agenda and achieved a remarkable success in the elections. However, the third event, the war between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon during July-August 2006, has taken a toll on the public's opinion of the Kadima party. It became clear that the policy of unilateral separation would not ensure the security of Israel. As a result, the political platform under which the government was elected has been unsuccessful, leaving a feeling of disorientation and lack of leadership among the Israeli public.

The Israeli Programme, Base 4 Discussion (B4D), implemented by the Joint Programme Unit for UN/Interpeace Initiatives is facilitating discussions within key Israeli political and social groups normally excluded from efforts to promote peace and coexistence. By enabling them to articulate their respective long-term visions, the project hopes to highlight the rational consideration of alternatives. Interpeace has identified five key sectors or "pillars" as part of this programme. At one end is the Israeli pro-settler population in the Occupied Territories and on the other, the Palestinian Arabs in Israel. Between these two poles, there are three groups: the traditional-religious group, the Peace camp, and the middle majority of "everymen" – the Core.

The purpose of the B4D programme is to expose each of these groups to a new language, notably that of a strategically-oriented and policy-based dialogue rather

than one of violence. It will help them have their voices heard regarding the future of their country. This is crucial as most believe they have not been sufficiently heard. Interpeace seeks to encourage each group to develop its own approach to peace by addressing the question: What is your geo-political vision for the upcoming 30 years?

Operating in an environment marked by sudden change has been a challenge for the team in Israel. But the team keeps a close eye on the political pulse and adjusts itself

Population: 6.9 million (UN, 2006)

Area: 20,770 sq km
(8,019 sq miles)

Life expectancy: 78 years (men),
82 years (women) (UN, 2005)

GNI per capita: 18,620 USD
(World Bank, 2006)

Main exports: Computer software,
military equipment, chemicals,
agricultural products and agricultural
technology.

accordingly. In 2006, Interpeace's adaptability was exemplified by the need to shift focus from the Settler-Peace Camp dialogue to that of the Palestinian Arabs in Israel. Following Israel's pullout from the West Bank, Interpeace realized that continued dialogue was proving impossible between the settlers and the peace activists. This was largely due to the combined effect of the post-engagement trauma, expectations surrounding the elections, the constitution of a new government, and the war in Lebanon.

Notwithstanding such difficulties, there have been opportunities. The Settler Community Project continued to benefit from the public impact of the Settler-Peace Camp Dialogue. Israeli television agreed to broadcast prime time – one year after the evacuation – a 52-minute documentary, called "Cracks" prepared by the project with material filmed during the process. Presentation of "Cracks" in the Tel Aviv Cinematheque coupled with repeated broadcasts on public television (35 times) have contributed to a significant increase in public awareness and credibility. The Cinematheque also held a public screening with debate attended by senior parliamentarians and the Israeli political elite. Continued meetings with the Settler leadership that emerged from the 2005 dialogue have begun to define the parameters of a dialogue with West Bank settlers. Settler leaders participated in an August 2006 workshop to review the lessons learned and to review overall strategy for 2007-2009 of the Programme. Overall, events in 2007 have opened new doors for negotiation.

The internal political crisis following the war in Lebanon also provoked a catalyst for internal dialogue within the Palestinian Arab community in Israel. It encouraged participants to develop a strategy aimed at avoiding further discrimination in the allocation of governmental emergency and reconstruction funds.

The Future Vision of the Palestinian Arabs in Israel

"During the merry days of Oslo no-one asked us how we see ourselves within the settlement. They spoke of us always as a 'bridge to peace'. Put that in inverted commas, please. What is a bridge to peace? What bridge? A bridge is made for walking



Implemented by the
Joint Programme Unit
for UN/Interpeace
Initiatives-UNOPS

In partnership with the UN Development Programme (UNDP)

Local partners: National Committee of the Heads of Arab Local Authorities in Israel; SHAS social movement

Purpose: To work with groups traditionally excluded from the peace process, but who have a strong influence on to the Israeli ability to develop a peaceful vision of the future and a plan to achieve this vision

2006 expenditure: 349,036 USD

2006 donors: Ford Foundation, New Israeli Fund (through the National Committee of the Heads of Arab Local Authorities), Sweden, Switzerland, UNDP

Programme staff: Programme team (5), programme support (3)

YOAV YARON,
SHARES GUSH
KATIF MEMORABILIA
THAT HE BROUGHT
WITH HIM TO HIS
FAMILY'S NEW
HOUSE IN NITZAN,
ISRAEL. YARON
AND HIS FAMILY
SETTLED HERE FIVE
WEEKS AFTER BEING
EVACUATED FROM
THE GUSH KATIF
SETTLEMENT IN THE
GAZA STRIP.



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across,” said Ghaida Rinawi-Zuabi, a Palestinian Arab in Israel, who was one of the key organizers of “The Future Vision of the Palestinian Arabs in Israel” document, in an interview with Haaretz newspaper.

Relations between the Jewish majority and Arab minority within Israel have provoked deep and often bitter controversy. Israel defines itself as a “Jewish and democratic state,” and yet Palestinian Arabs in Israel, who represent nearly one fifth of the population, continue to be systematically discriminated against despite their status as full Israeli citizens. These are Palestinians who remained in their residences or found themselves internally displaced within Israeli boundaries following the 1948 war. Israel has since imposed severe restrictions on these Palestinians, including a policy of discrimination in all realms of social, economic, and cultural life.

Over the past 15 years, the Palestinian Arabs in Israel have experienced certain improvements. After the first “Intifada” and during the Oslo peace process, Israel hoped the Palestinian community would act as a “bridge” between Jews and Palestinians living in the Occupied Territories. Following the failure of Oslo and other events, however, the Palestinian Arabs in Israel have returned to being a marginalized group viewed with mistrust by the Jewish majority. They are also considered by some as a demographic and security ticking bomb, detached from the Palestinian community in the West Bank and Gaza. Against this background, there remains a clear and increasingly dangerous chasm with the rest of Israeli society. This gap underpinned the eruption of violence in October 2006 that resulted in the killing of 13 Arab Israeli citizens by security forces.

A significant Jewish lobby has been pushing for the adoption of an Israeli constitution, which would secure the country’s legal and political systems. The main body behind this move is the Israeli Democracy Institute (IDI). Unfortunately, the drafting of this constitutional platform has not included legitimate representatives of Palestinian Arabs in Israel. This was primarily because many Palestinian Arabs disagree with the very nature of Israel as a Jewish state. They also demand a country where real democracy is practiced with equal benefits for all. As a result, the Palestinian community feels the urgent need to articulate its own vision of the future. Given this new

era, it must respond to the question of relations with the rest of the Palestinian people as well as with the Israeli state and the Jewish majority.

The Base 4 Discussion programme has been advocating a non-partisan approach to the overall conflict. The Palestinian Arab community agreed to take part in a dialogue that would facilitate consensus surrounding a common vision that would unite all sectors and incorporate shared roles.

The first stage began with a mapping and research process. This sought to identify different perspectives, such as the status of the Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel. In cooperation with the National Committee of the Heads of Arab Local Authorities in Israel, and through its chairman Mr. Shawki Khatib, –the programme in 2005 convened a group of 38 local leaders, both male and female comprised chiefly of academics and leaders, both spiritual and religious. They engaged in discussions designed to identify common positions and define a draft proposal for a Constitution for Israel that grants equal rights to all citizens. The group established a Steering Committee made up of senior members to provide public stature and legitimacy as well as to ensure that the issues explored were of real concern to their constituencies.

During 2006 the group met in a series of workshops to develop research and to explore central issues. The group has now identified common strategies regarding their situation. This was made public in December through the “Future Vision of Palestinian Arabs in Israel”, a document representing positions on the relationship with the state and Jewish society, formal and non-governmental organizational work, economic and developmental growth, land and housing, cultural and social structure, education and legal status of the Palestinian community in Israel.

This process allowed Palestinian Arabs in Israel to develop, for the first time, a unified platform for claiming their full rights as citizens. It also enabled key actors in Israeli society to realize the need for institutionalizing dialogue that can openly explore and debate issues such as the national Constitution. “Our main objective is to ignite

“Our main objective is to ignite the spark of the political debate on the future of the Palestinian Arabs in Israel.”

Shawki Khatib, Chairman,
National Committee of the Heads of
Arab Local Authorities, in a meeting
with the programme team



PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE
LAUNCH OF THE FUTURE VISION
DOCUMENT, DECEMBER 2006.

the spark of the political debate on the future of the Palestinian Arabs in Israel,” said Shawki Khatib. The publication of the Vision document has had a clear impact in the national political agenda: the issue of the relationship between the Palestinian Arab minority and the State and the Jewish majority has taken – and is still taking – a central place in political debate and in the media. Participants in

the Interpeace process have been regularly interviewed and have been invited to participate in key policy discussions with national political authorities.

For Interpeace, one of the principal objectives is to build bridges across divides within Israeli society. The aim of the Palestinian Arabs was to strengthen their bridges to their Jewish fellow citizens and to deepen their own integration within Israeli society. What they have now achieved is a significant first step toward establishing a common vision not only for Palestinian Arabs in Israel but for the rest of Israeli society.

In an interview with Yedioth Ahronoth's Weekend magazine Dr. Eli Rekhes, who researches the Arab population in Israel, said, "This is an essential watermark and turning point. This is a founding document, the influence of which will build up over the years. It has many disputed matters. It was prepared by a non political panel on behalf of a representative body, and therefore it is hard for parts of the Arab public to oppose it. It does not only reflect a political reality, it creates it".

The Traditional-Religious Community in Israel

The question of religion and state has always been a key concern in Israel. The tension between the secular laws of the land and the laws of God is clear given that 15% of the population only accepts political decisions on the basis of religious decrees passed by Rabbis. This minority, which is represented in the Knesset, encompasses not only the religious sector, but also a broader sweep of the general public that considers these political parties as their representatives in all matters social.

SHAS, the ultra-orthodox social movement, represents the principal party in this sector. Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, spiritual leader of SHAS, and a former Chief Rabbi of Israel, has developed two guiding principles for his religious rulings and decrees, notably that the sanctity of life is greater than the sanctity of land, and that all men are created in the image of God. Any future peace agreement will ultimately have to include SHAS and the influential minority it represents. This was certainly the case with the inauguration of the Oslo process in the Israeli parliament in 1995.

During 2006, the programme engaged with SHAS leaders, resulting in a strategy that emerged from a careful mapping process and consultations. This helped the team determine that a large part of the conflict is based on a mutual demonization. This stems largely from fears and beliefs laden with fundamental religious implications. By addressing these issues, Interpeace believes it can support the possibility of future dialogue, including eventual inter-faith discussions. Hence the importance of establishing a process that will enable the community to consider other perspectives, particularly when opposing sides return to the negotiation table.

Interpeace also identified the need to expose senior representatives and upcoming young leaders to the widest possible information pertaining to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Interpeace has helped establish two leadership groups, one incorporating 14 social activists (vice-mayors, school principals, NGO chairmen and others), the other six towns and community Rabbis. These two groups will explore different

For Interpeace, one of the principal objectives is to build bridges across divides within Israeli society.

aspects as part of an academic approach that will review examples of conflict from other world religions. This approach will incorporate learning about the use of different conflict-solving methods, consulting bibliographical and video sources, plus conducting tours of the separation barrier in the West Bank, as well as holding meetings with activists on both sides.

At the end of each session, both groups will create an additional forum to discuss their

respective subjects. The social activists, for example, will meet with a Rabbi to discuss the new knowledge from a religious point of view. The group of Rabbis will also meet with Muslim leaders to analyze issues from Jewish and Islamic perspectives. The eventual goal is to assist in the development of a leadership cadre capable of evaluating and communicating shared solutions.

The above process, which was led by a young social activist with a recognized leadership standing, has allowed the development of a strategy based on the values and principles of the community. This ensures that it responds to the community's needs and interests. This sub-project, which received the blessing of Rabbi Yosef, received additional legitimacy with the decision to involve MK Eli Yishai, Minister of Trade and Industry in the coalition government, and head of SHAS in the Knesset, in the coordination of the project. However, the actual implementation of this critical initiative has been hampered by lack of funding.

...this programme brings a necessary but elusive element to any peace process: a link between the political process itself and the different groups in Israeli society. This programme reaches out to population groups, such as the settler and religious orthodox communities in a manner that other initiatives cannot.

MK Yossi Beilin, Chairman of Meretz-Yachad party and key architect of peace initiatives including the Oslo Accords, in a meeting with the programme team

The “core” of the political spectrum

First started in 2005, this sub-project seeks to work with a majority that is not ideologically motivated that is the largest sector of the Israeli population, constituting its “core”, or everyman. It participates in politics primarily through electoral processes rather than political activism. This “silent majority” assumes a passive attitude with regard to key issues such as peace and security. Nevertheless, this core represents a crucial voting component, widely courted by every political party. Its ballot participation determines the nature of government, and therefore has a large influence on the geo-political options for the future. When asked, most Israelis can say who belongs to the core, but this is based primarily on a process of elimination. For the team, the challenge was to determine true core representatives, and how they might become part of the project. Equally critical, how can they be given the opportunity to be heard?



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RABBI OVADIA YOSEF SPEAKING AT SHAS PARTY SUPPORT DEMONSTRATION.

Initially, the programme thought that the center of the Likud party would serve as the most obvious core representative. However, following extensive research and consultations with experts during 2006, the team understood that this choice would not be appropriate. It realized that the lack of political stability that has characterized Israeli governments over the past few years has created a breach of faith between ordinary citizens and central leadership. Most of the populace prefers to place its trust in local leadership. These officials normally serve five years in office, but are often elected to second or third terms. The people perceive them as willing to deal with the real issues at hand and faithful in representing their constituencies. As a result, more and more of the decisions and responsibilities that effectively change the face of the entire nation have fallen to local authorities. Increasingly, too, they are the ones to deal with the direct welfare of their citizens.

Based on this insight, Interpeace decided that local authorities would represent the best channel for reaching this central population segment, and would therefore play a crucial role in the dialogue process. In 2007, the programme will seek to engage with the core of Israeli society.

The credibility that the B4D programme has been able to gain is reflected in the support offered by a key figure in the Israeli peace movement: Yossi Beilin. In a recent meeting with the programme team, Mr. Beilin said that he considered that the Base 4 Discussion programme brings a necessary but elusive element to any peace process: a link between the political process itself and the different groups in Israeli society. He stressed that the programme reaches out to population groups, such as the settler and religious orthodox communities in a manner that other initiatives cannot.

Interpeace in

Asia



ACEH, INDONESIA

Current situation

Following provincial elections in December 2006, Indonesia's Aceh province swore in Irwandi Yusuf as its first directly elected governor. The elections were part of the 2005 peace agreement (Memorandum of Understanding – MoU) between the Government of Indonesia and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM). This put an end to nearly 30 years of civil conflict in which over 15,000 people were killed. The successful implementation of the major provisions of the MoU is now considered to have brought about the stability needed to put the region back on the road to recovery. The joint Interpeace-Indonesian Peace Institute (IPI) peacebuilding programme is seeking to support the full implementation of the MoU as a key to lasting peace in Aceh.

Area of Province: 57,365 sq km
(22,149 sq miles)

Population of Province: 3.93 million
(UN, 2005)

Life expectancy: 65 years (men),
69 years (women) (UN)

GNI per capita: 1,280 USD
(World Bank, 2006)

Main exports: Oil and gas, plywood, textiles, rubber, palm oil



PARTICIPANTS AT AN INTERPEACE-IPI SEMINAR.

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Local partner:
Indonesian Peace
Institute (IPI)

Purpose: In partnership
with IPI, the peacebuild-
ing programme will focus

on: reconciliation in society, engaging
women and Acehnese diaspora in the
peace process, the follow-up of the overall
MoU implementation and strengthen-
ing the local capacity for research-based
problem solving that can identify and
overcome tensions.

The development of the Aceh programme
was supported by unrestricted funding
from Denmark, Ireland, Sweden, Switzer-
land, the United Kingdom and the United
States. Additional funding was received
from Canada and Switzerland.

Programme staff: Start up phase-
programme team (2), programme
support (7)

Under the 2005 MoU, the
GAM gave up their demand
for independence in exchange
for various provisions. These
included the right to free demo-
cratic elections with the posts of
governor and deputy governor
to be selected by the Acehnese
people themselves. The elections
in particular have contributed sig-
nificantly toward a further open-
ing of political space. EU-led
peace monitors, who had been
overseeing the 2005 peace deal,
formally ended their mission in
Aceh shortly after the elections.

While the Aceh Monitoring
Mission (AMM) had helped forge
the way ahead through building
dialogue between the parties,
significant issues remain. Thou-
sands of former GAM fighters,
who surrendered their guns as
part of the MoU, also need to
be reintegrated back into normal
life.

According to Irwandi Yusuf,
who took office in early February 2007, his government's first priority is to improve the
economy. This is still recovering from the devastation caused by the 2004 Tsunami
in which an estimated 170,000 Acehnese died. While Aceh is primarily agricultural,
natural resources such as crude palm oil, offshore petroleum and natural gas reserves
are believed to be considerable. The mining industry, too, has vast quantities of
minerals and deposits which have yet to be utilized because of the previous conflict
situation. The management of these natural resources could loom as an ongoing
issue in the years to come.

Interpeace activities

Interpeace's operational involvement in Aceh, which began in late 2006, now seeks
to develop spaces of dialogue, reconciliation and effective problem-solving between
key local and national stakeholders of peace. The activities will be carried out in
partnership with IPI and in close coordination with the provincial government, local
communities and civil society groups and other stakeholders. Interpeace will help
promote such stabilization initiatives with a specific focus on:

- Supporting MoU implementation activities, notably legislative, administrative,
public outreach, dispute settlement



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VERIFICATION OF WEAPONS AT DECOMMISSIONING CEREMONY



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SMALL GIRL ORPHANED BY TSUNAMI.

- Reconciliation in society
- Engagement of women in the peacebuilding process. This has been identified as a cross-cutting “entry point” for the sustainability of social cohesion and reconstruction
- Engagement of Acehnese groups, including diaspora communities, outside of Aceh
- Strengthening the communities’ capacities for conflict prevention and transformation
- Facilitating cooperative relations between local, provincial and national actors
- Contributing toward improving public trust in state institutions and deepening popular participation in policy debates on divisive issues
- Improving public understanding of potential threats to peace
- Developing lessons in peacebuilding support for broader use at national and international levels

Interpeace is aware that in order for the Aceh programme to succeed it will have to adapt constantly to a shifting situation on the ground. The locally-recruited team of facilitators and researchers will work with key stakeholders, notably government, former GAM and self-defence groups, but also with the Acehnese diaspora.

In addition, Interpeace seeks to support better governance and socio-economic development, with a focus on the participation of former GAM, youth and marginalized sectors of society. Related research and assessment will help contribute toward identifying options for the development of the province as well as a common vision for the future.

TIMOR-LESTE (EAST TIMOR)

Current situation

Timor-Leste is one of the world's youngest countries and among the poorest in Asia, with a turbulent past of occupation and domination. The transition to independence was extremely costly in human and economic terms. About 70 per cent of the country's infrastructure was destroyed and almost 75 per cent of the country's population of fewer than 1 million people was displaced. Timor-Leste gained independence in 2002 after two and a half years under the mandate of the United Nations.

Today this fragile nation continues to suffer periods of violent civil conflict that rock its stability and continue to jeopardize its future.

In the first half of 2006 simmering tensions within and between the military and the police brought long-standing rifts within Timorese society to the surface and resulted in violent confrontations in the capital Dili. Houses and property were looted and burned, already weak institutions of law and order broke down completely, and more than 30 people died (including 10 unarmed members of the national police). A state of emergency was declared and international forces were called in to restore some semblance of peace. The Prime Minister, Mari Alkatiri, was forced to resign and replaced by the Foreign Minister, Dr. Jose Ramos-Horta, and the UN Security Council renewed a mandate for the UN Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT).

Since then Timor-Leste has experienced continued sporadic violence. Although fragile peace has been established, around 100,000 internally displaced people are still in camps, either unwilling or unable to return home. Localized outbreaks of violence, house burnings and revenge killings still occur on a regular basis.

The Presidential and Parliamentary elections in the summer of 2007 resulted in more turbulent times as the supporters of Fretelin, the former ruling party, protested about the decision of the new President, H.E. Dr Jose Manuel Ramos Horta, to appoint as Prime Minister former President Xanana Gusmao, the leader of a coalition of minority parties. Violence erupted again as disagreements were being addressed though violence which put the stability of the tiny country under extreme pressure.

Timor-Leste suffers from poor infrastructure and drought-prone agriculture, high unemployment – nearly 50 percent – and extreme poverty, and is expected to require significant outside development assistance for years to come. Most of the poor live in rural areas yet only one fifth of goods and services reach these areas. Despite the enormous potential of revenue from its offshore oil and gas reserves in the Timor Sea bordering Australia, it remains one of the poorest countries in Asia. Revenue from the oil reserves is not expected to be-

Population: 1.1 million (UN, 2006)

Area: 14,870 sq km (5,741 sq miles)

Life expectancy: 57 years (women), 55 years (men) (UN, 2006)

GNI per capita: 750 USD (World Bank, 2006)

Main exports: Coffee, marble, potential for oil exports



TIMORESE VOTE IN ELECTION ON 30 JUNE 2007.

come available for up to six years. Even then, it will take time for this to have an impact.

Interpeace activities

Given Timor-Leste's continuing fragility, which was severely heightened by the recent violence, Interpeace in 2006 began developing a programme of action oriented dialogue – The Programme of Research and Dialogue for Peace (PRDP). The goal is to help break the cycle of violence and create a climate which enables the people of Timor-Leste to identify priority issues of concern, understand their origins and dynamics and address them effectively in a non-violent and sustainable manner.

Interpeace is working in partnership with the Peace and Democracy Foundation (PDF), founded by President Ramos-Horta after he won the Nobel Peace prize in 1996.

For Interpeace, the 2006 violence clearly demonstrated the schisms that exist in Timorese society but also highlight historical divisions. Although there have been numerous dialogue initiatives in recent years, both at a national and local level, these have tended to be short-term in nature and have failed to explore in-depth the key issues at hand. Two key components were missing. The first, to examine the root causes of violence; the second to build linkages across and between all levels of society so that the East Timorese people can become the architects of their own future. This is precisely what the Interpeace-PDF Programme of Research and Dialogue for Peace is concentrating on.

Initial activities included PDF support to the National Dialogue Programme, a Presidential Initiative in late 2006, and providing video documentation for a conference for Voices of the Poor conference organized by Bishop Gunnar Stalstedt, the Norwegian Special Envoy to Timor-Leste in Dili.

One of the main challenges in Timor-Leste is to translate dialogue into action so that the main stumbling blocks can be addressed. Recent dialogue initiatives have played an important role in identifying causes, consequences and responsibility for the crisis and providing a useful foundation for mapping priority issues. The challenge now will be to address Timor-Leste's "implementation gap" and ensure the findings are



Partner: Peace and Democracy Foundation (PDF)

Purpose: To help break the cycle of violence and create

a climate which enables the people of Timor-Leste to identify priority issues of concern, understand their origins and dynamics and address them effectively in a non-violent and sustainable manner.

The development of the Timor-Leste programme was supported from unrestricted funding from Denmark, Ireland, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. Additional funding was received from Norway



© STEVE TICKNER

GANG FIGHTING IN TIMOR-LESTE.



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EAST TIMORESE TEENAGERS CARRY RICE IN THE IDP CAMP IN JARDINE.

acknowledged and acted upon. Otherwise, as with previous dialogue and reconciliation initiatives, there will be no long lasting effect. A sustained, structured process that moves beyond a crisis response mode needs to be established that instills in the fabric of Timorese culture the capacity to recognize and understand issues fully, debate possible solutions and agree on actions to achieve them in a non-violent and sustainable manner. This will only be achieved through an inclusive process that involves people from all levels of society throughout Timor-Leste.

Similar to Interpeace's work in Rwanda, a specific area of support is PDF's longer-term strategy to develop community information centres with the longer term goal of linking these to a national peacebuilding centre. In turn, these centres, which will be locally designed and operated, will serve as multi-purpose platforms for conflict mediation and communication. They will also work closely to disseminate information through local media.

“Reflecting on the past, living in the present, and projecting the future of Timor-Leste with no violence can only be done by the Timorese people themselves, but in order to do so, external support will be crucial.”

Xanana Gusmão, then President of Timor-Leste, current Prime Minister

President Gusmao stressed the need for such an ongoing process in a message to the Interpeace Governing Council in November, 2006: “Through ongoing dialogue and reflection, in which we all need to be honest and recognise our part in what has happened, particularly our

mistakes, we will need to adopt an attitude of understanding and forgive others for what they have done.... Embodying these principles will require the participation of people from all levels of Timorese society and committed assistance from the international community. Reflecting on the past, living in the present, and projecting the future of Timor-Leste with no violence can only be done by the Timorese people themselves, but in order to do so, external support will be crucial.”

“Through ongoing dialogue and reflection, in which we all need to be honest and recognise our part in what has happened, particularly our mistakes, we will need to adopt an attitude of understanding and forgive others for what they have done.... Embodying these principles will require the participation of people from all levels of Timorese society and committed assistance from the international community.”

Xanana Gusmão, then President of Timor-Leste, current Prime Minister, in a message to the Interpeace Governing Council

“ConstitutionNet”

A handbook, website, virtual library and knowledge network to support constitution-builders globally

“... In my view the project would be extremely beneficial not only to my department [UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations] but to other actors involved in constitution-making around the world.”

Jean-Marie Guéhenno,
UN Under-Secretary-General
for Peacekeeping Operations

Constitutions are the fundamental building blocks of democracy. Constitution-building has become an essential part of the roadmaps to peace and democracy in conflict, post-conflict and transitional settings.

Recent and evolving comparative experience shows that in complex transitional settings, the **process** and the **substantive** dimensions of constitution-building are equally important in order to achieve a constitution that is democratic, truly owned by those concerned, sustainable and effective.

The international donor community is increasingly acknowledging the need to support constitution-building processes (CBPs). However, tools and systematized comparative knowledge on constitutional options are still lacking. Despite the critical role that a process of constitutional review or reform often plays to the resolution of a conflict, there is currently no practical web-based resource tools or guides for designing and/or supporting a CBP. International assistance to constitution-building has been ad-hoc and national actors and their advisors have not benefited from specific tools derived from a pool of lessons learned.

To address a major democracy-building and peacebuilding gap, Interpeace and International IDEA are working in partnership to produce a set of tools, including a handbook on constitution-building processes. The primary aim of this project is to help national actors in transitional and peacebuilding contexts make informed choices during a CBP. In addition, the project will assist international actors who support such processes, such as constitutional advisors, political negotiators and mediators, UN mission planners, specialized international NGOs and the donor community. Academics may also find it of interest.

The main outputs of the project will be:

- A handbook of options for CBPs (both processes for making constitutions and the choices for their substantive contents)
- A web based knowledge network to support constitution builders globally. It will contain the handbook and additional materials and tools in several languages
- A resource library (to be shared widely with key actors such as the UN, as well as practitioners)

Interpeace and IDEA will jointly create the website and introduction to the handbook. Interpeace will focus on the process dimension of making a constitution and IDEA will produce the section on substantive options. Interpeace has secured the assistance of a major international law firm to assist with the research and bibliography.



Partner: International IDEA

Purpose: The primary aim of the project is to support national peace-

building efforts by assisting national actors, their constitutional advisors and international organizations and donors to make informed decisions about the process of building a constitution and options for the content of a constitution

2006 expenditure: 41, 446 USD

2006 donors: Australia, Denmark, Switzerland, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP (in kind contribution)

On the horizon



CYPRUS

Current situation

The Cyprus conflict remains one of the long-lasting unresolved issues of the international community. It has cost both Greek and Turkish Cypriots hugely, in terms of lives, orphaned children, economic loss and psychological destruction. The conflict, understood as the tensions, contradictions and confrontations between the Greek and Turkish communities over political representation and authority in the political structures of the Cypriot independent state, began in the 1950s. Violence erupted with bloodshed at the end of that decade, again in December 1963, and culminated in 1974 with the interventions of Greece and later Turkey that led to the island's current de facto division. Dozens of UN Security Council resolutions and countless conflict-resolution efforts have addressed the Cyprus issue over the past four decades but have proved unable to resolve the problem.

Population: 854,700 (combined Turkish and Greek zones UN, 2007)
Area: 9,251 sq km (5,748 sq miles)
Life expectancy: 75 years (men), 79 years (women) (WHO, 2005)
GNI per capita: 22,230 USD (World Bank, 2005)
Main exports: Cement, pharmaceuticals, cigarettes, citrus fruits, clothing, potatoes, dairy

Although the two communities evolved separately from one another and have been deeply divided since 1963, the leaderships of the two communities have continued to negotiate – on and off – under UN auspices in an attempt to find a comprehensive solution: coexistence under political structures that are considered fair and legitimate by both groups. All proposals for a comprehensive solution to the Cyprus problem have called for some degree of cooperation, power-sharing and integration of the two communities. In fact, both leaderships have been able to agree since the late 1970s on a set of principles that have been ratified in successive rounds of contacts and that continue to be considered the basis for any solution. These include the establishment of a federal state based on the political equality of communities, bi-zonal arrangements regarding territorial issues, and bi-communal arrangements regarding politico-legal aspects.

The most recent and comprehensive proposal for a solution, a UN blueprint known as the Annan Plan, was put to separate and simultaneous referenda among Greek and Turkish Cypriots on 24 April 2004. The plan called for the reunification of the island, as the United Cyprus Republic, in a bi-zonal federal structure comprised of two constituent states, the Greek Cypriot State and the Turkish Cypriot State. The settlement plan was supported by 65% of the Turkish Cypriots, yet voted down by 76% of the Greek Cypriot community.

Since the referenda of 24 April 2004, the Cyprus problem has entered into a protracted stalemate. On 8 July 2006 a new initiative, known as the Gambari process, proposed the establishment of technical committees to deal with daily problems. This

included working groups to deal with substantive issues as a means of developing confidence-building measures between the two sides. So far, however the proposal has not been implemented. Although people have been crossing from one side to the other since 23 April 2003, the level of confidence and the gap remains wide.

Interpeace activities

Initiatives trying to foster bi-communal understanding between Greek and Turkish Cypriots are not new. Since the sixties, different international organizations have initiated or supported bi-communal contacts using different formats (seminars, events, conferences, workshops) and on different issues (conflict management and prevention, specific policy issues, youth, gender, etc). All these initiatives have had a common generic goal of fostering understanding and collaboration across communal barriers. These are seen as a way of promoting or otherwise supporting non-violent attitudes and solutions for a conflict that has divided this island and its communities. These efforts have had significant concrete results. One is the number of people on both sides who have changed their perceptions of the “other” and shown themselves willing to engage in bi-communal collaboration. All this has resulted in the development of important technical capacities with regard to conflict resolution. Many now believe in a future of peaceful co-existence on the island.



Implemented by the Joint Programme Unit for UN/ Interpeace Initiative - UNOPS

In partnership with the Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General

Local partners: Cyprus Sociological Association and the Political Science Association - Cyprus

Purpose: To contribute to the development of a public atmosphere and social dynamic that promotes and sustains a constructive inter-communal engagement for the discussion of and solution to the Cyprus problem.

The development of the Cyprus programme was supported from unrestricted funding and funding received from UNDP



At the same time, the impact of these efforts has proven limited. The Greek Cypriot rejection of the Annan Plan in 2004 coupled with remaining reservations within the Turkish community highlight that “transformed” individuals and groups have not been able to have a big influence on Cypriot society at large and the various political processes. They have failed to provoke the necessary changes in the social image of the “other” or the traditional positions towards the conflict. Unchanged social attitudes have led to the rejection of practical proposals for peaceful co-existence.

Following discussions with the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in Cyprus, the head of the Joint Programme Unit (JPU) for UN/Interpeace Initiatives undertook a week-long mission to the island. Meetings



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TURKISH CYPRIOT CITIZENS WAITING TO CROSS THE BUFFER ZONE DIVIDING BOTH COMMUNITIES ON THE FIRST DAY CROSSINGS WERE ALLOWED ON 23 APRIL 2003.

were held with key stakeholders to determine how Interpeace could contribute to UN initiatives in Cyprus.

Based on follow-up discussions, Interpeace will undertake, in partnership with the Office of the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the Cyprus Sociological Association and the Political Science Association- Cyprus, a two-phased dialogue process. This will include intra and inter communal dialogues linking civil society groups and governmental and political structures within and between each community. Its goal will be to contribute to the development of a public atmosphere and social dynamic that promotes and sustains a constructive inter-communal engagement for the discussion of and solution to the Cyprus problem. This is part of an effort to promote consensual visions for peace complementary to the UN efforts.

Reflective practice and publications



Many organizations use terms such as ‘knowledge management’ or ‘lessons learned’, but within Interpeace, we prefer to talk about ‘reflective practice’. Reflective practice represents a constant state of mind and a way of working – learning from collective experience and incorporating this learning into ongoing practical approaches. In addition, Interpeace recognizes that it can – and must – learn from others, and share this learning with others. Included among the highlights of work in 2006 are the following:

1. An independent evaluation of the Dialogue for Peace Programme in the Somali region confirmed the relevance and validity of the research and reconciliation efforts spearheaded by our Somali partners, the Puntland Development Research Center (PDRC), the Academy for Peace and Development (APD), and the Center for Research and Dialogue (CRD), and their reputation as honest peace brokers. It also identified points for attention.

2. Interpeace and its Somali partners launched 9 publications that capture the work of the Somali Dialogue for Peace, carried out over 30 months and concluded in 2006:

- Peacemaking at the Crossroads: Consolidation of the 1993 Mudug Peace Agreement (PDRC/ Interpeace publication)
- A Vote for Peace: How Somaliland Successfully Hosted its First Parliamentary Elections in 35 Years (APD/Interpeace publication)
- Dialogue not Guns: Promoting Security and Stabilisation among the Communities of South-Central Somalia (CRD/ Interpeace publication)
- Funding the Future: Laying the Foundations for the Equitable and Accountable Management of Public Funds in Somalia’s Puntland State (PDRC/ Interpeace publication)
- Local Solutions: Creating an Enabling Environment for Decentralisation in Somaliland (APD/Interpeace publication)
- A Force for Change: Promoting the Roles of Civil Society and the Private Sector in Peace-Building and Reconciliation in South-Central Somalia (CRD/ Interpeace publication)
- Roots for Good Governance: Establishing the Legal Foundations for Local Government in Puntland (PDRC/ Interpeace publication)
- From Plunder to Prosperity: Resolving Resource-Based Conflict in Somaliland (APD/Interpeace publication)
- Pioneers of Peace: Advancing the Involvement of Women in Peacebuilding in South-Central Somalia (CRD/ Interpeace publication)

3. An independent review of Interpeace’s contribution to programmes on security sector reform and democratic security in Guatemala, plus the implementation of the Guatemala Peace Accords and the verification mandate of the UN mission in



PARTICIPANT IN TRAINING SEMINAR IN LIBERIA.

© JOINT PROGRAMME UNIT FOR INTERPEACE/UN INITIATIVES

Guatemala (MINUGUA). This review highlighted how particular recommendations were translated into public policy; how the whole experience has significantly strengthened capacities in different sectors of the state and of civil society and how institutionalized channels were created for the interaction between both. The good working relationship with MINUGUA enabled the international verifiers to adjust their roles and interventions to the evolving discussions and dynamics among the Guatemalan actors.

3. Interpeace contributed substantively to the development of Democratic Dialogue-A Handbook for Practitioners, an initiative led by UNDP, International IDEA, CIDA and the Organization of American States.

4. Acknowledging the challenges of evaluating peacebuilding, Interpeace joined in peer-discussions on evaluating security sector reform and dialogue programmes. This was hosted by the Collaborative for Development Action (CDA) as part of its development of guidance for evaluation conflict prevention and peacebuilding on behalf of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

5. In conjunction with our partners, Interpeace produced six case studies on the nexus between cities and human security. This was part of a policy-oriented research

process initiated and coordinated by the Canadian Department for Foreign Affairs and International Trade in the run-up to the World Urban Forum conference in Vancouver in June 2006. This included Burao in Somaliland (with APD), Galkayo in the Mudug region of central Somalia (with PDRC), and Mogadishu (with CRD), as well as Bujumbura in Burundi (with CENAP), Bissau in Guinea-Bissau (with INEP) and Guatemala City (with several local collaborators). The case studies fully confirmed particular dimensions for human security in urban environments, and highlighted the role that local authorities can play if they are given enough resources and support.

Programme support

For Interpeace to have a sustainable impact in the fragile societies it seeks to assist, it has to have the capacity to be responsive to field level needs by supporting ongoing programmes and addressing emerging needs through the development of new programmes. Over the next five years, Interpeace will seek to further develop its capacity to effectively and efficiently build peace through a strong operation programme.

Flexible unrestricted funding is crucial for ensuring support to its peacebuilding programmes around the world. In 2006 Interpeace received unrestricted funding from the governments of Denmark, Ireland, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Unrestricted funding is used in a number of key areas including:

- To ensure quality programming through programme design and oversight, proper planning, and strong monitoring and evaluation activities on the ground.
- To ensure a regular refinement of the approach and methodology through cross-team learning and training. This active linking of peacebuilding teams from around the world creates an international community of national peacebuilding practitioners from fragile countries.
- To carry out careful exploratory and preparatory work in new countries in order to gauge the potential contribution that Interpeace may make and to build trust with the former (or in some cases current or possible future) conflicting parties to be able to engage them in a national peacebuilding process.
- To guide, monitor, coordinate and oversee all programmes at the field level and to account for impacts and the proper use of donor funds to our stakeholders. This includes establishing and maintaining the administrative and financial management systems (for example Results-based Management practices) to make programme management and reporting more efficient and cost-effective.
- To ensure financial viability through partnerships with stakeholders. Interpeace support to field teams is built on partnerships with governmental and private stakeholders who are motivated to act as a crucial link in the peacebuilding chain. The work of developing, maintaining and continuously strengthening those relationships is of vital importance to our financial viability. A portion of unrestricted funding also goes to developing the institutional mechanisms necessary for sound financial management practice, such as an institutional reserve fund.
- To support a central communication capacity crucial to bridging the gap between the realities on the ground in the countries in which we work and the governments, foundations and individuals motivated to lend their support.

Interpeace supports the development of its programmes, and their subsequent nurturing and management through its Geneva Headquarters and Regional Offices in Nairobi, for Eastern and Central Africa, and Guatemala, for Latin America. Liaison with the United Nations and the European Commission is further supported by Interpeace Representation Offices in New York and Brussels respectively.

Together with its partner teams, the Programme Development and Support Unit aims at contributing significantly to comprehensive support to peacebuilding and conflict prevention processes, improving the practice of peacebuilding programming and developing and applying lessons for wider use.

Where Regional Offices exist, the objective of the Unit is to support them in their programme development work. Where no Regional Office exists, such as in Timor-Leste, Guinea-Bissau, Aceh, Indonesia, the Unit takes the lead in developing quality peacebuilding programmes and contributes to strengthening programme development capacities within its partner organizations and develops and applies methodological lessons.

Reflective practice and learning

This covers the broad internal organizational challenges of strengthening the planning, periodic review and evaluation process; capturing learning and stimulating cross-team learning; ‘frontloading’ the rich organizational experience to new programme teams and new programme staff; and making the Interpeace experience also more accessible to peacebuilders elsewhere.

Staff and security

Staff of Interpeace and its partners, like all those working in volatile post conflict environment remain exposed to a variety of risks which can affect their safety and security. Since mid-2005 Interpeace has been making systematic organizational effort to increase its knowledge and competencies regarding safety and security management. An organizational policy was adopted in November 2005 and since then there has been a vast increase in awareness in general. Those colleagues who for years have been living and working in especially war-affected areas continue to refine their already substantial skill and good practices.

Joint Programme Unit (JPU) for UN/Interpeace Initiatives

The JPU was established in mid 2005, through a Management Services Agreement between Interpeace and UNDP, to complement initiatives that Interpeace and the UN Agencies agree to implement through UN operations. The overall objective of this unit is to provide support and guidance to such operations effectively and efficiently, and to contribute to strengthening the capacities for peacebuilding within the United Nations through the implementation of collaborative activities between its agencies and Interpeace. Such collaborative initiatives can be the result of a specific request of Interpeace for the implementation of activities that are part of its annual programme of work, or at the request of UN Agencies to assist in the implementation of its activities using Interpeace’s working principles and approach. In addition, the Unit facilitates the reciprocal institutional flow of information and lessons learned on issues like peacebuilding, conflict prevention and management and post-conflict assistance for the benefit of both organizations and of the international community. In doing so, it works closely with the New York Representation Office and with support from the unit for Reflective Practice and Learning.

The JPU is responsible for the development and support to the ongoing programme in Israel and the development of new joint projects with UN agencies in Liberia and Cyprus.

Administration Support Unit

The unit provides several key areas of support in the areas of finance including budgeting, reporting (internal management, donor, statutory), cash management, application of approved financial rules and procedures; human resources and IT services.

The unit also supports the development of new projects, each project requiring the implementation of an administration structure, a new accounting system and training on the application of Interpeace financial rules and procedures. In addition, as the organization continues to decentralize, the development of a strong internal audit function will take on greater importance – to review and support the implementation of good administration procedures and accounting systems, to ensure adherence to Interpeace rules and procedures.

Financial statements

International Peacebuilding Alliance - Interpeace Summarized Financial Performance - Calendar Year 2006 (US\$)

Income and Expenditure		
	2006	2005
Income		
United Nations	29 400	57 907
Governments	8 800 328	9 196 119
Trusts & Foundations, NGO and Other	636 923	193 853
Bank Interest and Exchange Gains	29 878	37 138
Income Received Directly to the UNDP TF / MSAs (1)	517 854	1 078 970
In-kind	120 700	121 757
Total Income	10 135 093	10 685 744
Expenses		
Personnel	3 496 707	2 504 157
Travel and Related Expenses	950 459	954 775
Equipment Purchases	504 029	245 733
Office Running Expenses	957 676	1 345 271
Operating	3 783 855	4 635 216
Financial Expenses	85 481	212 903
UN Management Fees	156 886	197 067
Total Expenses	9 935 093	10 095 122
Net Income / Expenses	200 000	590 622
Carryforward from Previous Year	312 525	(278 097)
Closing Balance December 31st (2)	512 525	312 525

Balance Sheet (as at 31 December)		
	2006	2005
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and bank	979 495	1 800 726
Project Income Receivable	1 823 173	329 553
Other Receivables and Prepayments	92 398	54 640
Advances to Partners	129 810	440 476
Unspent funds in UNDP Trust Fund / MSAs (1)	626 428	1 060 053
Deposits	35 627	32 929
Total Assets	3 686 931	3 718 377
Liabilities		
Payables and Accruals	558 304	654 744
Donor Income Received in Advance	1 546 694	2 418 301
Amount Due UNDP Trust Fund (1)	231 723	135 352
Short Term Credit Line	614 905	0
Provisions (short term)	222 780	197 455
Total Liabilities	3 174 406	3 405 852
Net Assets (2)	512 525	312 525

Notes

1. The UNDP - Trust Fund and Management Services Agreements (MSAs) constitute part of Interpeace's accounts.
2. The closing balance in 2006 includes an unrestricted reserve of 400 000; the remainder is the balance of the Interpeace Bridging Fund, established in 2002 as a restricted project. The closing balance in 2005 includes an unrestricted reserve of 200 000; the remainder is the Interpeace Bridging Fund.



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Report of the Auditors to the Governing Council of

International Peacebuilding Alliance (Interpeace)

As auditors, we have audited the accounting records and the financial statements (income and expenditure statement, balance sheet, notes and project summaries) of International Peacebuilding Alliance (Interpeace) as of and for the year ended 31 December 2006.

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Council. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We confirm that we meet the legal requirements concerning professional qualification and independence.

Our audit was conducted in accordance with auditing standards promulgated by the Swiss profession, which require that an audit be planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. We have examined on a test basis evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. We have also assessed the accounting principles used, significant estimates made and the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the accounting records and financial statements comply with Swiss law and International Peacebuilding Alliance (Interpeace)'s statutes.

We recommend that the financial statements submitted to you be approved.

KPMG Ltd

William D. Laneville
Auditor in Charge

Karina Vartanova

Geneva, 22 June 2007

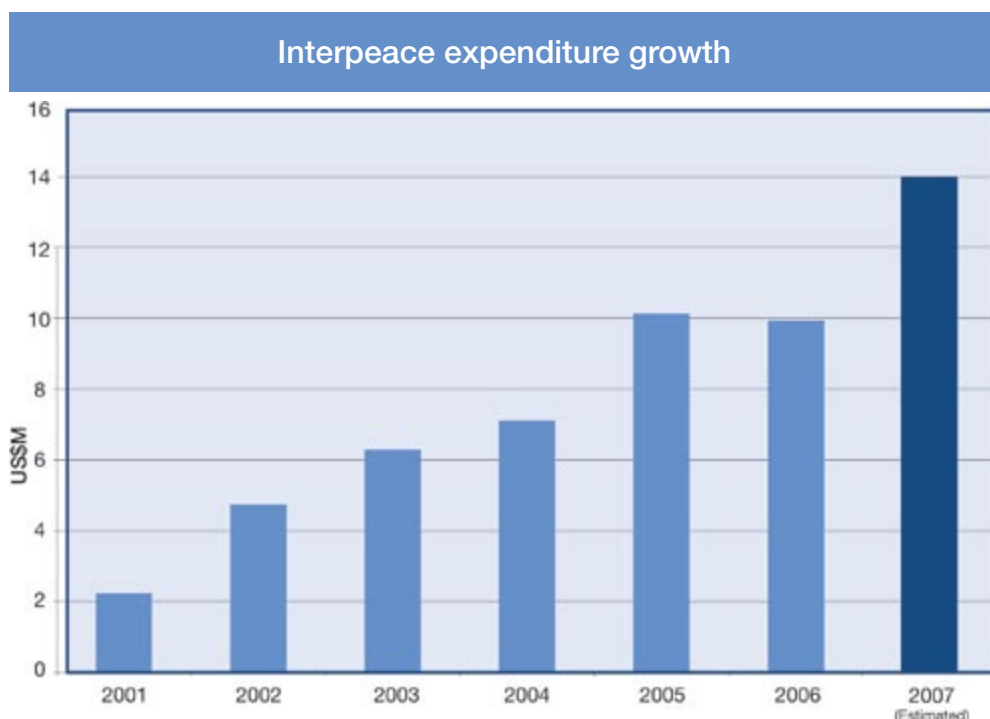
Enclosure:

- Financial statements (income and expenditure statement, balance sheet, notes and project summaries)

Funding

Growth

In 2006 Interpeace raised 10.1 million USD. It continued to expand its programmes and laid the groundwork for significant expansion in 2007 (estimated income of approximately 14 million USD).



Donors

Interpeace is very grateful and thanks the 16 governments and intergovernmental organizations and 4 foundations that supported Interpeace's programmes in 2006, whose names are listed below.

Governments and intergovernmental donors

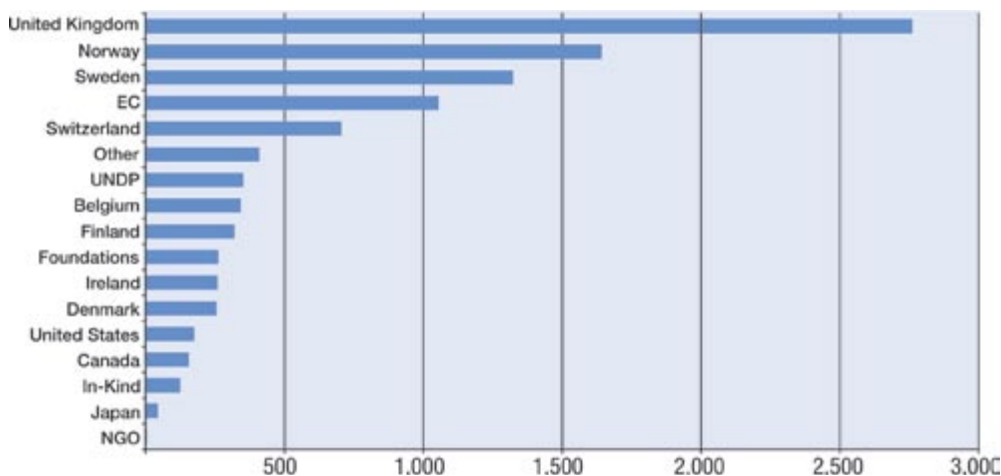
Australia	France	Sweden
Belgium	Ireland	Switzerland
Canada	Japan	UN Development Programme
Denmark	Netherlands	United Kingdom
European Commission	Norway	United States
Finland		

Foundations/Organizations

A private Swiss foundation	Ford Foundation
Development Alternatives Inc. (DAI)	Open Society Institute

Almost 97% of all income received originates from public sector agencies such as ministries of foreign affairs and development cooperation agencies. Of these funds, 36% were available on an unrestricted basis which enables flexibility and the development of new country programmes. Unrestricted funding should not be confused with overheads. Unrestricted funding provides the opportunity to make flexible and timely programmatic decisions based on Interpeace overall objectives. Overheads, a standard 14% on all programmatic budgets, go to covering specific administrative and financial management costs of the Administrative Services Unit in Geneva as well as to fund the worldwide annual audit of Interpeace's activities by KPMG. Overheads can also be utilized for institutional strengthening in these areas and, whenever possible, to contribute towards an institutional reserve fund.

Financial Support Received for the 2006 Programme (US\$'000)



Cash flow

At the end of 2006 Interpeace was required to borrow from a credit agreement it had with a private supporter. It is a no-interest line of credit generously extended, against firm donor pledges made to Interpeace, by a Swiss family. This borrowing, fully repaid in early 2007, was necessitated by delays in the cash receipts of contracted donor funding.

Diversification of funds

While Interpeace aims to expand the level of unrestricted funding, it is likely that this will drop as a percentage of overall income as the direct programme revenue grows. Because of this, Interpeace is also following a strategy of diversifying its funding base by seeking funding from private sources.

In an effort to diversify its funding sources and build a constituency of private support, Interpeace initiated a private fundraising drive initially in the US with the intended

expansion to Europe. The private fundraising initiative responds to the anticipated need to build over time a regular source of private non-restricted income that can complement traditional governmental and inter-governmental funding. This initiative will help ensure an additional stable financial basis for institutional core costs and further development of new programmes.

US Board of Governors

Interpeace's US Board of Governors has been established and is spearheading this effort. The Co-Chair is Martti Ahtisaari. The members of the Board of Governors as of November 2007 include Ambassador Peter Maurer, Ambassador Robin Chandler Duke, Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, Ambassador Frank Wisner, Giles Conway-Gordon, Jeffrey Lewis, Robin Johnson, Paul Knight, Howard McMorris II, and Maurice Tempelsman.

Support Interpeace

Interpeace depends on the firm support of the donor community and generous private benefactors to carry out its important work. We encourage you to support us in our peacebuilding activities around the world.

In the United States, Interpeace is a registered U.S. 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Donations to Interpeace can be made online on our website

www.interpeace.org

If you would like to discuss making a donation, please contact Sarah Noble, Interpeace Headquarters, 7-9 Chemin de Balexert, Geneva 1219-CH tel: +41 22 917 8593, email: noble@interpeace.org

Who's who

International Governing Council (as of September 2007)

Chairman

Martti Ahtisaari (Finland)

Former President of Finland; Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the future status process for Kosovo

Vice Chairmen

Mohamed Sahnoun (Algeria)

Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General for Africa; President Initiatives of Change International; former Deputy Secretary-General of the Organisation of African Unity

Matthias Stiefel (Switzerland)

Founder and former Executive Director of WSP International (now Interpeace)

Members

Zainab Bangura (Sierra Leone)

Chief Civilian Officer, UN Mission in Liberia

Georgina Dufoix (France)

Former Minister of Health and Social Services of France; former President of the French Red Cross

Thomas Greminger (Switzerland)

Representative of the Host Government on the Governing Council, Head of Political Division IV (Peace Policy), Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

João Bernardo Honwana (Mozambique)

Chief of Staff, United Nations Mission in Sudan

Former head of the UN Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea Bissau (UNOGBIS)

Carolyn McAskie (Canada)

Representative of the UN Secretary-General on the Governing Council, Assistant UN Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support

Jonathan Moore (United States)

Former US Ambassador to the UN in New York; former Director, Institute of Politics, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

Hisashi Owada (Japan)

Judge, International Court of Justice in the Hague; former Permanent Representative of Japan to the UN in New York

Jan Pronk (Netherlands)

Professor of Theory and Practice of International Development, Institute of Social Studies in The Hague; former Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sudan; former Minister for Development Cooperation of the Netherlands

Anthony Travis (United Kingdom), Honorary Treasurer

Partner, Cabinet Gainsbury and Consorts; former senior partner of Pricewaterhouse Coopers

Advisory Council (as of September 2007)

Members of our Advisory Council of government partners and UN agencies include:

Belgium
Canada
Denmark
Finland
France
Ireland
Japan (observer)
Netherlands
Norway
Portugal
Slovenia
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom
United States
UN Department of Political Affairs (UN DPA)
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA)
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
European Commission

Advisory Council Troika

The troika of former, current and future Chairs allows for continuity in decision-making.

Outgoing Chair: Denmark (2006/7)

Incoming Chair: Norway (2007/8)

Future Chair: TBC (2008/9)

Senior Management Team

Scott Weber Director-General

Jerry McCann Regional Director for Eastern and Central Africa

Ana Glenda Tager Regional Director for Latin America

David Whittlesey Acting Head of Programme Development and Support

Mike Pejic Chief Financial Officer and Head of Administrative Support

Bernardo Arévalo de León Director, Joint Programme Unit (Ex Officio)

Vacant Head of Communications and Resource Development



International Peacebuilding Alliance
Alliance internationale pour la consolidation de la paix
Alianza Internacional para la Consolidación de la Paz

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