

Youth at the center of peacebuilding

Annual Report 2017





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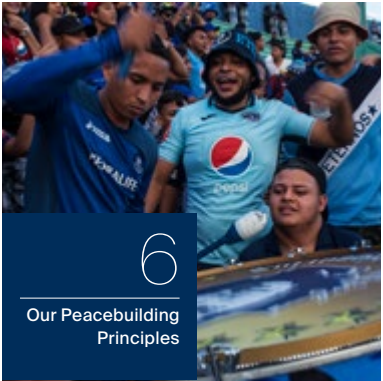
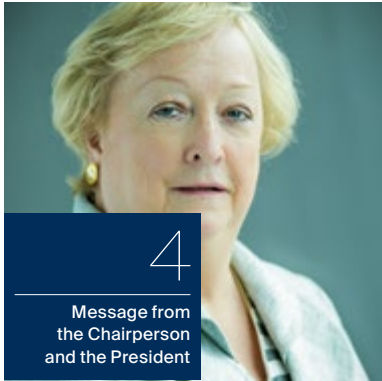
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Message from the Chairperson and the President



Every day, the pulse of the 24-hour news cycle seems to beat more quickly and with greater urgency. At any given moment, somewhere around the world a story is breaking about diplomatic tensions, trade disputes, populism, migration flows, disruptive technologies or the impacts of climate change. More often than not, these stories are also set against a backdrop of violent conflict. The challenges are complex and interconnected, and there are no easy answers. The future feels uncertain.

But uncertainty has a flipside. Opportunity. The clear deficiencies of our global governance systems should inspire us to craft new and creative models of organization, governance and collaboration to build a more peaceful world. At Interpeace we recognize that we too must evolve as an organization to meet the demands of a fast-changing and increasingly unpredictable world.

To enhance our own effectiveness, this year we undertook a full institutional



review of our systems and structures. Building on our many strengths, the process challenged us to examine how to create the agility and flexibility in our work that the prevention of violent conflict requires. This is a cornerstone of our new orientation and we are very excited about the possibilities this will open up.

Our new International Organization status, granted in January, 2018 by the Swiss Federal Council of Ministers, is also raising expectations on Interpeace to contribute its expertise to a greater number of contexts around the world. This is a major milestone and will add weight to the messages we deliver on the ground and in international debates and fora.

One of the most important messages we have concerns inclusion. For future solutions to be credible and legitimate, we will need to draw on the ideas and experience of all parts of society. In particular, that means looking to young people. As this report's centrepiece article highlights, while young

people's potential for driving positive change is substantial, the world's recognition of their potential is not.

Only an infinitesimal minority of the world's youth contribute to violence. And yet the common stigma of 'youth as a threat' blinds many to the creativity and positive resilience expressed by the vast majority of young people who live in countries affected by conflict. Nor should we dismiss that minority: our research, be it in Burundi or Mali, Honduras or Palestine, tells us resoundingly that young people's violence is primarily rooted in exclusion and the struggle to find a place in society.

In a world of mounting challenges, inclusion is a thread we can grasp that runs through them all. If we are to seize the opportunities presented in uncertain times, we must seize them together. In that spirit, we would like to sincerely thank our strategic partners, who are essential in underpinning our ongoing efforts around the world, and above all, our dedicated colleagues on the frontlines of peacebuilding. Their work offers hope that tomorrow's world can be a more peaceful one.

Monica McWilliams

Monica McWilliams
Chairperson

Scott M. Weber

Scott M. Weber
President

About Interpeace

About us

Interpeace is an international organization for peacebuilding, that supports locally led peacebuilding initiatives in more than 20 countries in Latin America, Africa, Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

Interpeace tailors its approach to each society and ensures that the work is locally driven. Together with local partners and local teams, Interpeace

jointly develops peacebuilding programmes and helps establish processes of change that connect local communities, civil society, government and the international community.

As a strategic partner of the United Nations, Interpeace is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland and has three regional offices in West Africa (in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire); in

Latin America (in Guatemala City, Guatemala); and in Eastern and Central Africa, (in Nairobi, Kenya). Interpeace also has representation offices in New York, Brussels, and Stockholm.

What is Peacebuilding?

Conflict is natural in society and can lead to positive change. However, it can also descend into violence. Interpeace understands peacebuilding as a process of strengthening a society's capacity to manage conflict in non-violent ways.

Peacebuilding needs to enhance trust between individuals and between groups in a society, as well as restore the legitimacy of state institutions.

Peacebuilding is also about bringing together the different actors that are engaged in the rebuilding of a country. People from inside and outside a conflict-affected country need to work together to understand their different views, define priorities, and ultimately enable a better alignment of national policy-making, external assistance, and local priorities.

Interpeace strongly believes that peacebuilding is about deep, long-term transformations that require an integrated approach engaging a diverse range of actors.

Our Finances and Support

Interpeace is a non-profit organization. Our peacebuilding work is funded by generous contributions from governments, multilateral organizations, foundations, the private sector, and individuals.

Our 2017 expenditure of US\$14.8 million reflects the growing demand for our work and that our expertise is valued by governments, civil

society, United Nations agencies and other international organizations.

Our 2017 financial reports were, for the eight year running, in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards, the highest financial reporting standard.

Our Peacebuilding Principles



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Local ownership

Putting local people at the heart of building peace

In order for peace to be sustainable, local people need to be at the center of defining their challenges and solutions. When people take part in defining the problem, they gain a sense of responsibility and ownership of the solutions. Together with our local partners, Interpeace ensures that priorities are determined locally and not imposed from the outside. We help to create spaces for dialogue and problem solving that pave the way for lasting peace.

Building trust

Trust is the keystone of peace

Trust is the foundation of society. Violent conflict tears the fabric of society and destroys the trust that binds relationships and gives institutions legitimacy. Interpeace works at all levels of society to develop a common vision for the future, helping to increase mutual understanding and rebuild trust.



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Reaching out to all groups

Building peace involves everyone

Excluding or marginalizing certain groups in society can deepen their resentment and sow the seeds of renewed violence. Interpeace's inclusive approach engages all parties in a process of change, enabling them to move collectively towards moderation and compromise.

Long-term commitment

Building lasting peace takes time

The road to peace is rarely straight and nearly always long. Interpeace recognizes that success in local peacebuilding work hinges on support that is patient and consistent.

Process matters

The process determines the result

The urgent need to resolve a conflict can prompt a quick fix instead of the kind of holistic response that can truly strengthen the foundations of a divided society. At Interpeace, we recognize that the integrity of the process will in large part determine an initiative's success.



Our Future is Now:
Youth, Peace and
Security

Our Future is Now: Youth, Peace and Security

Going beyond negative stigmas to transform youth’s agency

Today’s youth generation is the largest the world has ever seen: there are 1.8 billion people between the ages of 10 and 24¹. This period in a person’s life is critical to their physical, intellectual and emotional development, largely defining their social and economic prospects for the future. Ceaseless energy describes this coming of age, where youth become pro-active members of society, and in many cases assume the role of providers and caregivers. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), one third of youth around the world live in countries that have suffered a violent conflict, and 75 million of them are currently unemployed.

In many conflict-affected regions of the world, youth are blamed for the high rates of violence, which fails to recognize that these forms of violence are symptoms of a greater problem. Illegal economies, organized crime, gang activity and other forms of violence, are caused by an array of deeply entrenched social and structural factors, including: poverty, inequality and institutional fragility, with youth representing the largest population of victims. The World Health Organization (WHO) indicates that over 200,000 youth are killed between the ages of 10-29: 43% of the total number of homicides committed globally each year.

In Central America, youth-related violence has been dealt with using repressive mechanisms, from massive incarceration to extrajudicial killings. This again fails to identify the social and economic causes of conflict.

In West Africa, civilians may lose faith in the authorities’ capacity to protect them against youth-related violence, and in desperation, organize community-based forms of self-defense that inevitably prolong violence.

As a result, in many countries around the world, youth have been stigmatized, marginalized and treated as the main protagonists of criminal violence – stereotypes which only serve to perpetuate vicious cycles of violence. Although youth account for most people involved in extremist violence, only a small percentage of the youth population as a whole is actually involved in violence². At the same time, youth are also paradoxically viewed as vulnerable and helpless. Recent policies and research have disputed these negative narratives however, acknowledging young people’s agency and positive roles in society, emphasizing how their involvement in decision-making processes is crucial for the development of sustainable and legitimate solutions for diverse social challenges.

Young people’s resilience can manifest in positive or negative ways. In contexts where youth suffer from exclusion and social, economic and political inequalities, a minority may become involved in activities and groups that perpetrate violence: “It is true that young men are the primary perpetrators of many forms of violence, but these assumptions reinforce images of a universally violent masculinity, which has the erroneous effect of demonizing all young men”³. In reality, the vast majority of young people



It is vital that we stop fearing or underestimating young people and start acknowledging them as partners in the development of society.

are not involved or participate in any form of violence and actually contribute positively when faced with conflict, by addressing its underlying social causes and driving political change. Therefore, it is key to focus on young people’s capacities for positive resilience in the wake of conflict.

Throughout its 24-year history, Interpeace has sought to reach beyond limited models of “youth participation” and has put young people at the center of the design and implementation of programmes that address the factors of most consequence to them.

In Mali and Cote d’Ivoire, Interpeace and its local partners collaborated with hundreds of young people in a participatory research project, whose findings challenged preconceived ideas about the causes of youth violence. Rather than identifying greed or ideological factors, the research uncovered a struggle for young people’s need to find their place in society, and to be recognized and valued in their communities.

In El Salvador, Interpeace supported young women and men in peacefully transforming urban/gang violence, boosting their resilience to violent pathways by opening alternative routes to social belonging and success, including the development of technical/ entrepreneurship skills.

In the Great Lakes Region, Interpeace and its local partners maintain cross-border youth dialogue groups to open up channels of connection between young Rwandans, Burundians and Congolese. With the inclusion of politically-affiliated young people, these groups have helped young women and men counter negative stereotyping, manipulation and fear, and fostered their engagement in democratic leadership simulation exercises in preparation for their future participation in political life.

It is vital that we stop fearing or underestimating young people and start acknowledging them as partners in the development of society. As a peacebuilding organization, Interpeace is proud to work with youth groups around the world to try to better understand their needs and aspirations, what drives some young people to violence, and what strategies can be developed to harness their capacities for driving positive change in their communities.

1 According to the United Nations Population Fund – UNFPA.
2 Lead author: Simpson, Graeme. “The missing peace: independent progress study on youth and peace and security” mandated by the United Nations Security Council. March 2018. Page 6.
3 Lead author: Simpson, Graeme. “The missing peace: independent progress study on youth and peace and security” mandated by the United Nations Security Council. March 2018. Page 5.

A shift in attitude and action towards young people's role in peace and security

UN Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) was the first resolution to acknowledge the critical role young women and men play in the sustainability and promotion of international peace and security. As a response to Resolution 2250, in August 2016, UN Secretary-General appointed Graeme Simpson, Director of Interpeace USA, to develop a progress study on youth's positive contribution to peace processes and conflict resolution. This progress study offers important recommendations for giving youth a greater voice in decision-making at local, national, regional and international levels, and how Member States can set up appropriate mechanisms to enable young people's meaningful participation in peace processes.

With the support of Interpeace and an Advisory Group of Experts, including 21 scholars, practitioners and young leaders, Graeme Simpson led an 18-month participatory research process that included focus group discussions, regional and national consultations with a total of 4,230 young people, and further research in 27 countries, such as mapping exercises and surveys. Graeme Simpson developed a participatory research process aligned with Interpeace's peacebuilding principles, with an emphasis on giving a voice to young people themselves: "Our methodology was deliberately organized to provide access and voice to many young people who would not ordinarily have had the chance to participate in this sort of policy process. Through consultations, country studies, focus group discussions and online contributions, they shared their hopes and aspirations for a peaceful world and described their incredible initiatives, commitments and dedication to peace and security."

Interpeace also contributed to the Progress Study by conducting case studies in Central America (Northern Triangle), Côte d'Ivoire, Palestine, and Sweden. Together with its local partners, Interpeace carried out participatory and inclusive consultations with a broad range of young people across religious, ethnic, socio-economic and geographical divides, to raise awareness of Resolution 2250 (2015) and explore the possibilities for collective action on peace and security.

The Progress Study, entitled "The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security", was published in March 2018 and presented at an Open Debate of the UN Security Council on 23 April 2018, the day before the High-level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace organized by the President of the General Assembly. It provides Member States with concrete recommendations to give youth a greater voice in decision-making and enhance their meaningful participation in peace processes at local, national, regional and international levels. Chief among its recommendations is the need to stop addressing young

people as "problems to be solved", but rather as partners to work with towards achieving sustainable peace. The pervasiveness of stereotypes and policy myths about youth not only obstructs young people's ability to contribute to peace and security but may actually act as a driver for the minority of young people who do engage in violence.



Graeme Simpson, Director of Interpeace USA and Lead Author of *Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, at the Open Debate of the UN Security Council in April 2018.

"Our methodology was deliberately organized to provide access and voice to many young people who would not ordinarily have had the chance to participate in this sort of policy process. Through consultations, country studies, focus group discussions and online contributions, they shared their hopes and aspirations for a peaceful world and described their incredible initiatives, commitments and dedication to peace and security."

Graeme Simpson, Director of Interpeace USA and Lead Author of YPS Progress Study

Identifying the root causes of youth-related violence

There is growing interest in young people's engagement in new forms of violence, which is generally being analyzed through lenses of radicalization and violent extremism. As the international community seeks to eradicate this phenomenon, it is crucial to understand its structural and root causes.

Over the past few years, new forms of violence have started to emerge in Côte d'Ivoire and Mali. In Abidjan, young men between the ages of 8 and 25 join organized youth groups, commonly referred to as "microbes" (germs). These boys are accused of violent robberies, and in some rare cases of homicide. In Mali, the reactivation of diverse armed groups, who claim to be inspired by a jihadist ideology, has increased the levels of violence in the region. To address this crisis, Interpeace and its local partners IMRAP and Indigo Côte d'Ivoire conducted a participatory research to understand how and why young people choose these trajectories. Over the course of seven months, with the support of UNICEF, researchers engaged with 741 people from a range of communities in Côte d'Ivoire and Mali.

The report "Beyond Ideology & Greed: Trajectories of Young People towards New Forms of Violence in Côte d'Ivoire and Mali," was launched at the end of 2016, with research findings that urge people to challenge their preconceived ideas about the root causes of this social phenomenon. It is widely believed that unemployment and religious ideologies are pivotal factors that contribute to radicalization and violent extremism in West Africa, but the research findings show that these elements are, in fact, secondary. Research showed that the most important factor of youth's involvement in new forms of violence is their need to find their place in society, to be recognized and valued in their communities. Therefore, young people engage in violent activities because these youth groups offer a structure in which they can "be someone". Moreover, the research identified a phenomenon of "professionalization of violence," which describes how youth acquire social acceptance and value through positive recognition of the violence they perpetrate.

Following the report's release, follow-up questions emerged about how gender factors determine young people's choices to engage with violent groups. To answer them, a complementary research process was conducted in 2017 to deepen the understanding developed in the previous research on the impact of gender roles and social pressure⁴. Among the most important research findings, we found that: A). Society's expectations of young people, whatever their gender, increasingly relate to their economic contribution.

In addition, the less privileged they are, the more pressure they are under to contribute. B). Though women take on a more important economic role, this does not ensure their "emancipation". It has however contributed to a crisis of masculinity, in which men feel the need to redefine themselves. C). Overly strict forms of authority and social control can push certain young people, both boys and girls, towards marginalization, and therefore lead some to carry out violent acts. And D). It is necessary to develop new success models for young boys and girls who have trouble identifying with social models set by traditional and community spheres, by their elders or by school.

It is widely believed that unemployment and religious ideologies are pivotal factors that contribute to radicalization and violent extremism in West Africa, but the research findings show that these elements are, in fact, secondary.



⁴ The report is entitled "I walk with the boys"- Trajectories of young people towards violence: mirror of the gender dynamics of their society? A local analysis of gender roles and social pressures in Côte d'Ivoire and Mali.

Implementing structures that provide positive sources of identity and recognition

A person's identity is defined by their immediate relationships: with family members, friends, co-workers and their community. "Being someone" is determined by the recognition of their peers, and in turn, recognizing one's identity determines a person's place in the world.

In the life of a young adult, the perception of their place in society strongly influences their actions and lifestyle and finding that place is of critical importance. In conflict-affected regions like West Africa and Central America, where violence may be the most available route to that sense of belonging, providing alternative, non-violent social structures that can enable youth to build an identity and gain recognition in other ways is essential.

Central and South America have the highest homicide rates in the world; and gang activity and juvenile delinquency are two of the main factors that cause these high murder rates. Interpeace has been working in Latin America since 2007, leading participatory processes to develop comprehensive public policy proposals, to prevent youth-related violence, and implementing peacebuilding initiatives with at-risk youth. At the beginning of 2016, Interpeace began developing the programme "Comprehensive initiatives to prevent violence in El Salvador." The project worked with at-risk youth between the ages of 18 and 29, with the objective of helping them build capacities for entrepreneurial activities, and included three specific steps: firstly, to provide young adults with the necessary tools and methods to peacefully transform conflict; secondly, training these young adults in the field of entrepreneurship; and finally, overseeing the establishment of productive associations and providing seed capital, specifically for materials and equipment to enable them to establish their new enterprises.

Interpeace is aware that this project could not stop historical inequality and poverty rates in El Salvador. Providing vulnerable youth with resources to build their own businesses, can help improve their living conditions, but this is not the ultimate goal. As indicated by years of accumulated knowledge in the region, vulnerable youth need positive social structures that can provide them with a sense of identity and belonging. In this sense, engaging in new trades and starting their own enterprise, is providing vulnerable



The most important activity in helping provide job opportunities for youth is not the job creation itself, but rather the close accompaniment that ensures that having a job translates into gaining social recognition.

youth with non-violent social structures that enforce social cohesion, social recognition and the possibility for social mobility. Therefore, the most important activity in helping provide job opportunities for youth is not the job creation itself, but rather the close accompaniment that ensures that having a job translates into gaining social recognition.

Vulnerable youth become narrators of their own story

In a context of marginalization and exclusion, youth groups (gangs, *barras* or any other form of youth grouping) represent a mechanism of cohesion, identity and solidarity that is strengthened and radicalized due, on the one hand, to the excessive violence exercised by other forms of association and social integration (school and family) and on the other, to the repressive actions of State agents (police). This is the case for Honduras, one of the poorest countries in Latin America and, at the same time, one of the most violent in the world according to the number of homicides registered annually.

The permanent weakness of the Honduran public institutions is the result of a historical indifference from its economic and political elites to develop a State that guarantees favorable social development, democracy and economic growth. All Honduran society is immersed in these problems and must coexist with it, but undoubtedly, the young people are amongst the main victims.

Barras in Honduras are groups made up of young followers of local football teams that have transitioned from a natural rivalry between their teams to violent confrontations in the streets. The violence amongst these *barras* has evolved from fighting in the stadium to open armed confrontations in their communities. *Barras* are mostly made up of young people from poor and marginalized neighborhoods and communities where lack of basic public services, such as education, health and recreation, combine with high levels of unemployment and migration. These are social environments where violence is a structural part of social relationships, either at an intrafamilial and individual level, or as a strategy for income generation through illicit activities. This context is worsened by the effects of drug, arms and human trafficking.

With the support of the Berghof Foundation in 2014, Interpeace implemented the project: "Sports clubs for peace", which helped build a positive perception of the *barras* as potentially valuable actors in building peace in Honduras. To reach this objective, Interpeace provided training on conflict transformation, peace culture and mediation with young members of the *barras*, giving them the skills to promote non-violence and peace in the country.



The project helped reduce the media's criminalization of vulnerable youth and allowed for the consolidation of bonds of trust between journalists from the main Honduran media, the *barras* and the police.

In 2016, in partnership with Free Press Unlimited, Interpeace implemented the project: "Journalism, Youth and Sports for Peace". In Honduras, media devotes much of their time and space to the dissemination of negative messages about the *barras*, which generates stigmatization towards the followers of the football teams: belonging to *barras*, in these contexts, is synonymous with criminality and violence. This produces higher levels of exclusion which, in turn, contributes to cycles of violence.

As a way to counteract this reality, the project aimed to reduce the negative effects of stigmatization and criminalization suffered by the young members of the *barras*, in particular those derived from the information spread by the media and government institutions. The objective was to enable participants to positively influence the Honduran society and help change their general perception of *barras* to reduce stigmatization.

The project provided training and technical support to the young members of the *barras*, so they could develop their own digital media, where they were producers and protagonists of new narratives that had a positive impact on the media, opinion leaders, politicians, civil society and the private sector. This helped establish channels of communication between the different levels of society to better understand the phenomenon of violence, its causes and contribute to the transformation of the perceptions that the public has about marginalized youth. As a result, the project helped reduce the media's criminalization of vulnerable youth and allowed for the consolidation of bonds of trust between journalists from the main Honduran media, the *barras* and the police. Additionally, with the mediation of Interpeace, the leaders of the main *barras* have put in place coordination mechanisms for violence prevention in sporting events, in which the police and the managers of the football teams have been involved.



Youth take the driving seat to build a viable and peaceful future

In East and Central Africa, youth have been acknowledged as key partners in our peacebuilding strategies for the past two decades. By providing spaces for inclusive dialogue between diverse actors in the region, Interpeace and its partner organizations have been able to strengthen people's resilience for peace and reconciliation, and to consolidate youth as central actors in the pursuit of sustainable and lasting peace.

Interpeace and its local partner CENAP, have been working together since 2007 in Burundi. The name of the current programme – Gira iyo uva nivo uia – means “May you have roots; may you have a future”, which is a traditional Burundian blessing bestowed upon children and young people and symbolizes the programme's dual emphasis on reconciling the past and building a future. In 2017, CENAP and Interpeace consulted 4034 young people (aged 15-29) to discuss their perspectives and visions for a peaceful, economically dynamic Burundi with a competent education system and respect for the rule of law. In the current crisis, young people – who constitute 65% of the population – have few opportunities to participate constructively in politics or find employment. With limited options, young people can get frustrated and fall into radical narratives. The aim of the research was therefore to include these young people in shaping the future of their country and preparing them to serve as a basis for change. Additionally, the programme coordinates dialogue groups to help citizens prevent and manage conflict non-violently and has provided special training in non-violent communication. The groups continue to work in six different communes across the country.

In Rwanda, with local partner, Never Again Rwanda, youth and young adults have been empowered to peacefully express their emotions and learn to tolerate differences. In 2017, the programme ran ten youth groups that critically discussed issues of trust, identity and stereotyping and the history of the 1994 genocide. Through these, members of the groups developed an awareness of how these issues still affect relationships and can be a potential source of future violence

and began to take actions independently to build trust – including implementing peacebuilding activities in their communities and schools, as part of community exchanges, through arts and by supporting genocide survivors. “Thanks to this space, I tried to change my parents and our neighbor. There was animosity between them. Our neighbor couldn't allow her children to cross through our place, and she once killed our hen that had crossed to her area, claiming that my parents are witches. I used my critical thinking, listening, and conflict transformation skills to mediate them. They are now at peace”. FGD Male Participant, Inyange

In the Rwanda-DRC border region, the creation of a youth peace group successfully advocated for reopening communications between authorities. The group met with the authorities on both sides of the border to discuss how youth could easily cross the border to participate in sports and cultural activities. Through the advocacy of the group, the head of migration in Kamanyola and the executive secretary of Bugarama met for the first time in a meeting. In 2016 this had been impossible due to stereotypes, mistrust and hatred that characterized the border communities of Rwanda and South Kivu. This reestablishment of communication between the authorities will allow more contact and cohesion between the young people in each side of the border and will facilitate the possibility of reconciling these communities.

“Thanks to this space, I tried to change my parents and our neighbor. There was animosity between them. Our neighbor couldn't allow her children to cross through our place, and she once killed our hen that had crossed to her area, claiming that my parents are witches. I used my critical thinking, listening, and conflict transformation skills to mediate them. They are now at peace”.

FGD Male Participant, Inyange

Youth take an active role in decision making processes

Sweden is considered one of the world's most developed and peaceful countries. However, some regions of the country currently suffer from an array of challenges derived from xenophobia, discrimination, racism, criminal activity, polarization and economic inequality. Young people living in segregated urban environments, usually with a large resident immigrant population, are faced with issues of high unemployment, over-crowded living spaces, gang violence and violent crime.

Following a period of social unrest and protests in 2012 and 2013, in 2014 Interpeace began a participatory research project to analyze the main issues facing the area. Exclusion and marginalization were two of the main factors highlighted by the people interviewed, especially the lack of young people's participation in their community's development and employment opportunities. While Sweden has taken great steps towards building an inclusive society, critical challenges remain especially with regard to increased discrimination and marginalization of immigrant populations from Swedish society.

To help tackle this, in 2017 the Sweden programme launched a new initiative to strengthen the capacities of vulnerable



youth to participate in democratic processes. The objective was to strengthen the knowledge and skills of marginalized youth in Stockholm to actively and constructively participate in local decision-making spheres. The project entitled “Hear me out! – A platform for young voices”, involved a series of workshops for youth, focusing on democratic participation and engagement, effective communication and facilitated dialogue between youth, the police, local authorities and influencers. Following the first capacity building workshops and dialogue session between youth and decision-makers and authorities, 75% of youth reported being more comfortable in presenting their ideas and opinions and 44% of youth reported increased trust in engaging with the police. These results are highly encouraging in a context where youth often feel mistrust towards state authorities and excluded from constructive decision-making processes.

Exclusion and marginalization were two of the main factors highlighted by the people interviewed, especially the lack of young people's participation in their community's development and employment opportunities.





Vulnerable youth as peacebuilders

Because the exclusion and marginalization of groups in society, sow the seeds for renewed violence, our peacebuilding programmes are designed to include participants from across society, engaging groups that are typically overlooked. This inclusive approach ensures that all social groups share a sense of ownership and responsibility for reconciliation and rebuilding their society.

Young people have long been mischaracterized and neglected – particularly in environments where violence represents the most accessible means of gaining social recognition – and it is essential that we empower them to participate in defining their own problems and finding their own long-term, sustainable solutions within wider society.

This is the reason why youth are at the center of our peacebuilding initiatives around the world.

“The key to youth finding a productive and satisfying place in society is empowering and engaging young people in the political process as well as in economic and social life. Our future depends on young people feeling they have one.” Scott M. Weber, President of Interpeace.

“The key to youth finding a productive and satisfying place in society is empowering and engaging young people in the political process as well as in economic and social life. Our future depends on young people feeling they have one.”

Scott M. Weber, President of Interpeace.





Highlights 2017

East & Central Africa



East & Central Africa

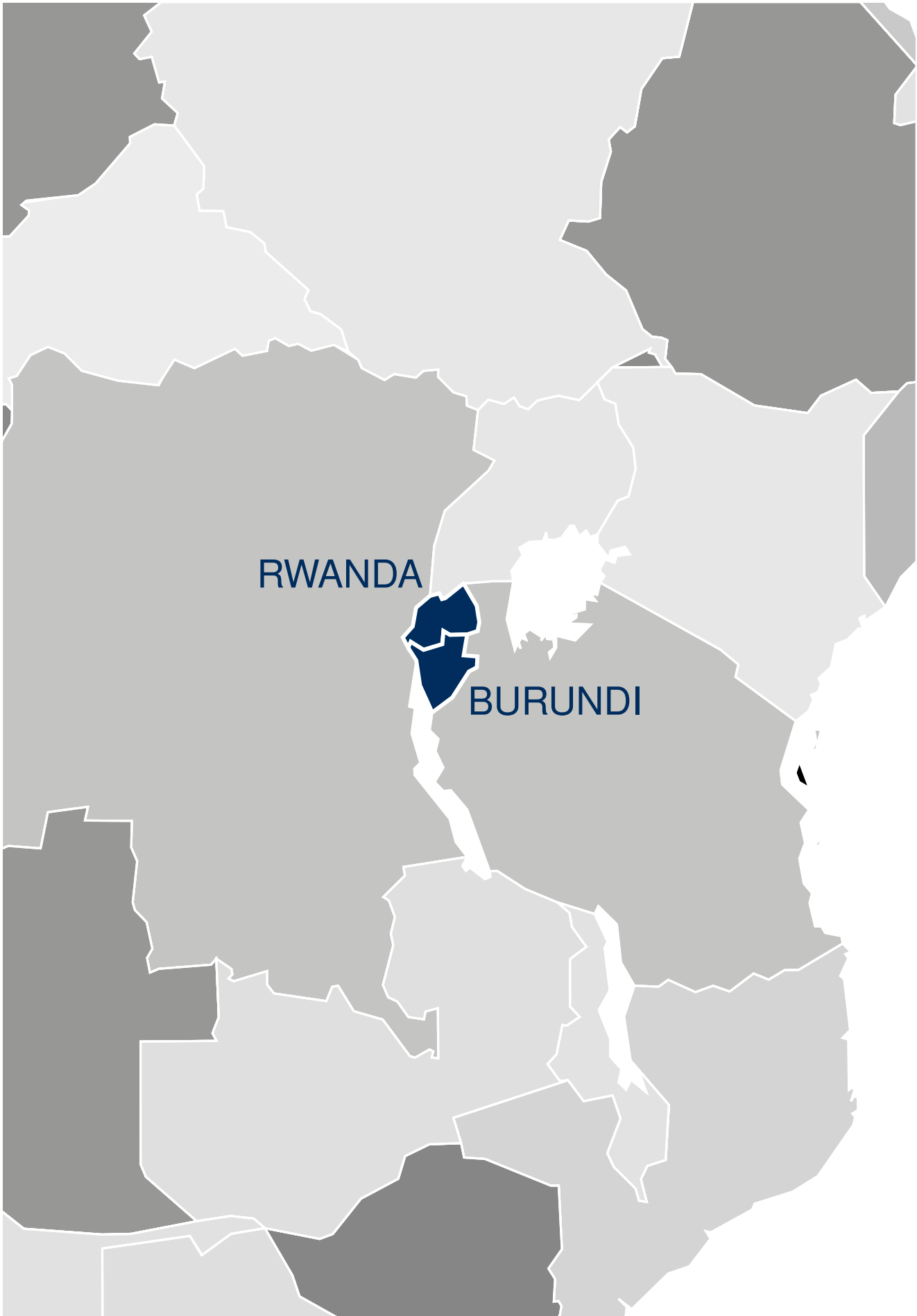
Burundi

Burundi continues to face a multifaceted crisis that emerged during the 2015 electoral period which was marked by violence and demonstrations around contesting opinions on the constitutionality of a third presidential mandate. In May 2018, Burundians voted on a referendum that lifted presidential terms limits and put in place mechanisms to review the conditions of the Arusha Peace Agreement, which has served as the primary point of reference for governance in Burundi since 2000. President Pierre Nkurunziza has announced that he would not seek another term. Interpeace and its local partner, the Centre for Conflict Alert and Prevention (CENAP) undertook research aimed at creating a vision to unite Burundians of all ages and backgrounds in building a country founded on shared values and strong democratic principles. In 2017, CENAP and Interpeace consulted 4,034 young people (aged 15-29) to discuss their perspectives and visions for a peaceful, economically dynamic Burundi, with a competent education system and respect for the rule of law. Consulting youth in Burundi was particularly important because young people constitute 65% of the population. Moreover, operating dialogue groups has helped citizens prevent and manage conflict non-violently. The groups have continued to work in six different communes across the country and have now positioned themselves as key partners for local authorities.



Rwanda

On August 4, incumbent President Paul Kagame won the 2017 general election, a result that was widely expected after the constitution had been altered by referendum to enable Mr. Kagame's candidacy for a further term in office. In 2017, Rwanda also adopted a "seven-year government programme" and a "national strategy of transformation." These strategies stress the development of human capital and citizen participation in governance. In 2017, Interpeace and local partner Never Again Rwanda (NAR) ran ten youth groups that critically discussed issues of trust, identity and stereotyping and the history of the 1994 genocide. Through these, members of the groups developed an awareness of how these issues still affect relationships and can be a potential source of future violence and began to take actions independently to build trust – including implementing peacebuilding activities in their communities and schools, as part of community exchanges, through arts and by supporting genocide survivors. The two organizations also convened 375 individuals through 13 citizen forums in 10 districts to discuss and prioritize issues affecting communities at a local level, to develop and implement solutions as well as to provide recommendations to and hold accountable local leaders.



Great Lakes Region

2017 was an eventful year for the Great Lakes region, marked by continued attempts by the incumbent leaders to remain in power. Constitutional changes took place in some countries that facilitated current or future elections, giving the incumbent presidents and ruling parties the possibility to stay in power. This prevailing situation of internal uncertainty, combined with diplomatic tension, has had implications for the Great Lakes programme. The “cross border dialogue for Peace in the Great Lakes” initiative seeks to build trust and cooperation between key actors who can influence a more peaceful future, at the local and national levels, as well as across the borders of Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo. This year saw the launch of the second four-year phase of the programme, building on achievements of the first phase for a stronger impact in the region. Qualitative and quantitative research processes on “resilience for reconciliation” have started, which will lead to innovative findings that will inform policies and practices in the three countries and on a regional level. Youth entrepreneurship combined with peace education as well as trauma healing for reconciliation are other themes which the programme will focus on. The cross-border dialogue groups that gather community representatives have successfully played a role of keeping the communications between authorities across the border open, in formal or informal ways. This allows a cross-border dialogue to anticipate and mitigate possible peacebuilding challenges, for example linked to border crossings for women traders or refugee movements. Youth have taken particular action and by their own initiative set up cross-border youth groups, which enables more contact and cohesion between the young people in each side of the border and facilitates the possibility of reconciling these communities.



Kenya

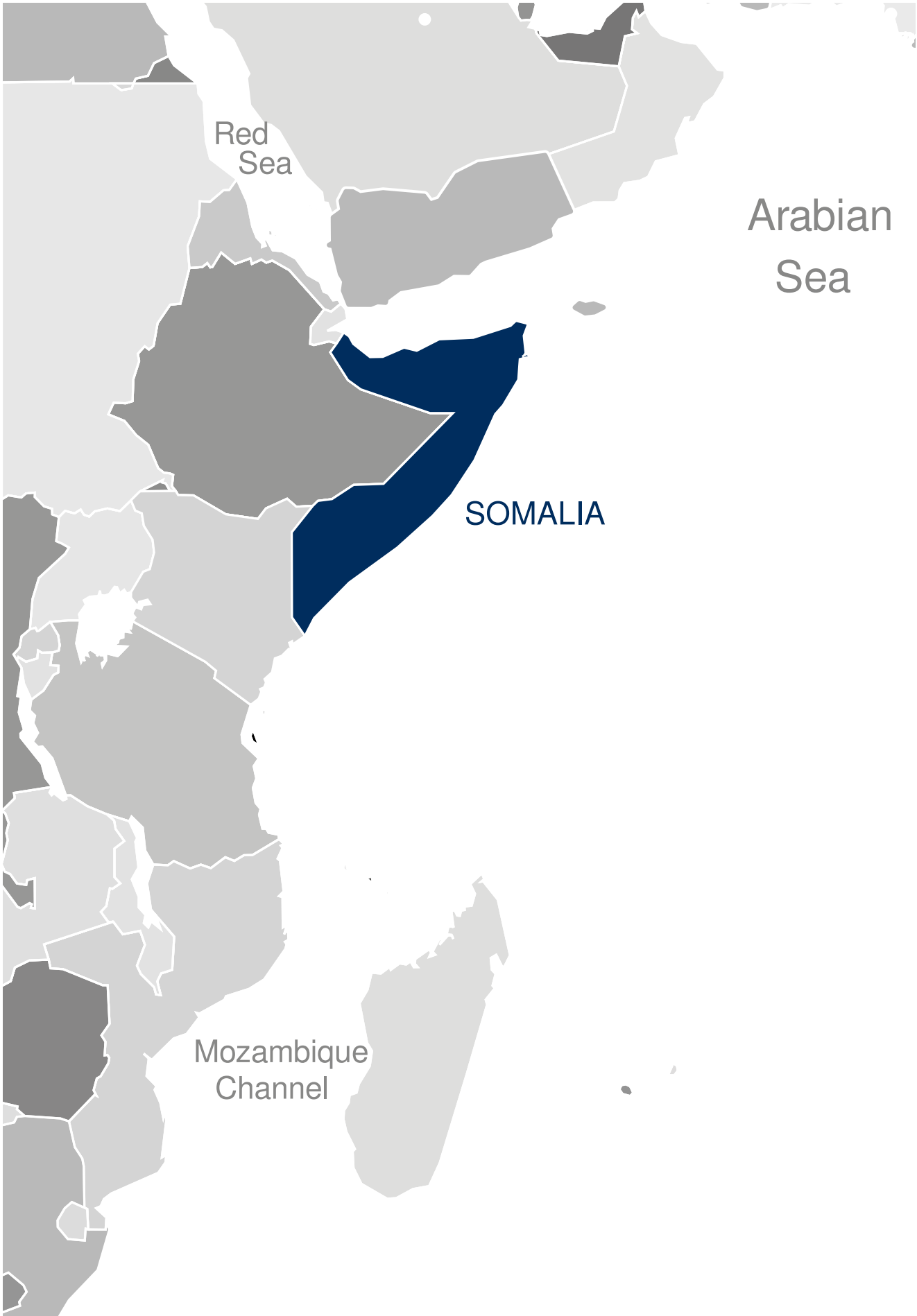
The end of 2017 marks the conclusion of the two-year pilot phase of the Mandera Peacebuilding Programme, which was a consultative research process that sought to explore the key impediments to peace in Mandera County as a basis for a roadmap for a community led and driven peacebuilding process. In 2017 the programme, implemented jointly by Interpeace and the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) of Kenya, focused on the priorities identified by local stakeholders during the consultative phase in 2016. The programme prioritized a focus on two out of the five key priorities identified, namely (1) the lack of effective local conflict social reconciliation processes; and (2) low trust levels between the local population and the security agencies. Using the Participatory Action Research (PAR) approach, the programme successfully consulted of 1,217 people across 12 of Mandera County’s 30 civic wards. The results were restituted at a stakeholders’ forum bringing together 250 participants from Mandera

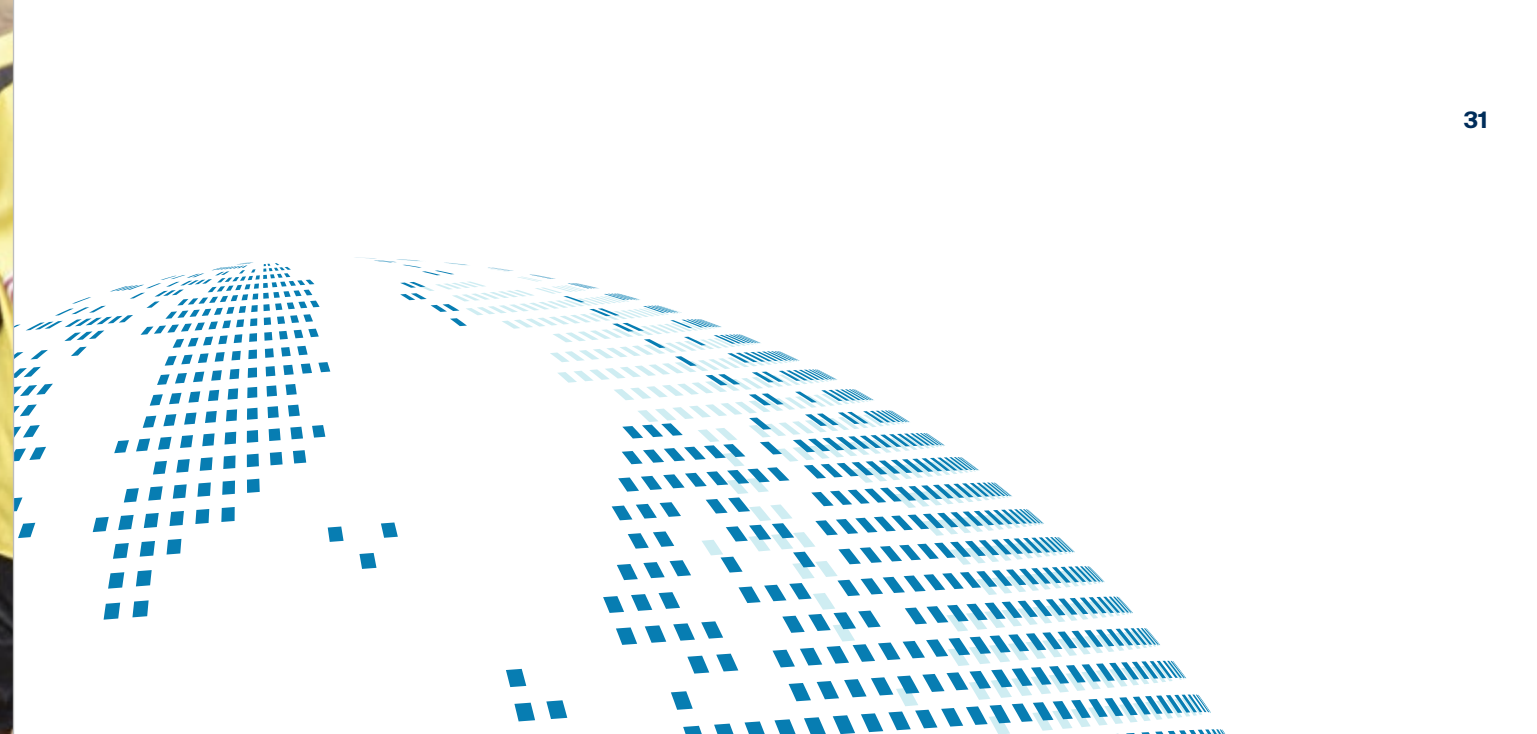
and Nairobi, as well as representatives from the bordering regions of Somalia and Ethiopia. A steering committee consisting of local stakeholders and other relevant actors was also created in 2017 to strengthen the implementation phase of the programme. Over the course of 2017, the programme realized a sense of consensus on the key impediments to peace in Mandera, broad community buy-in and ownership of the process, as well as the amplification of minority and marginalized voices. The formation of a steering committee has boosted the appropriation of the programme’s peacebuilding objectives, helping to reduce the vertical space between local communities and their decision makers, and enhancing the coordination of programme initiatives aimed at achieving lasting peace in Mandera.



The Somali Region

The relative success of the 2016-2017 federal election process, followed by the London Conference in May 2017, led to increased optimism around future peace and statebuilding gains in the Somali region. In Somaliland, the three-year Democratization IV programme culminated in the successful completion of the biometric voter registration process, with the production of a trusted, credible Final Voter List, which ultimately contributed to a successful presidential election on 13 November 2017. The increased credibility and trust in the process, due to the safeguards put in place by the registration, made an important contribution to decreasing the post-election tension and limiting demonstrations. In Galmudug and Puntland, the programme launched an important peacebuilding process in the historically divided city of Galkacyo. The longstanding tension and recurrent violence in Galkacyo is widely viewed as representative of the wider Somali conflict, drawing in issues of clan rivalry, competition for resources, and now Federal-State relations. As federalism becomes more established, this type of conflict is likely to emerge or be exacerbated in other parts of the region where borders are becoming more formalized. Interpeace’s engagement in the Galkacyo conflict has therefore created a very strategic position for future peacebuilding efforts, building on a strategy of experience sharing and convergence. Building on previous programmatic achievements and peacebuilding gains in the Somali region, Interpeace launched a new four-year programme to enhance citizen-centred peacebuilding and democratization, with a focus on youth and women. The programme strengthens participation and inclusion in key governance, democratization and peace and reconciliation processes across local, regional and state borders, to contribute to locally-owned, sustainable peace.





West Africa





West Africa

Côte d'Ivoire

Abidjan continues to witness aggression by youth gangs, known as “microbes” aged 8-25 years old. Despite the security forces’ repressive reactions, the city’s population has deepened its mistrust in the state authorities’ effectiveness and willingness to truly tackle the phenomenon. Through its research and policy work, Interpeace and Indigo Côte d’Ivoire managed to generate a deeper understanding of the “microbes” phenomenon at all levels (community, State institutions, academic, media). By critically questioning the response focusing on security and economic integration, our policy work has contributed to a nascent and increasing consideration of the social – family and community – dimension by the authorities and the communities, allowing for the emergence of new synergies for action. The results of our approach have also resulted in Interpeace-Indigo being perceived and solicited as major and credible analysts as well as “doers” on the phenomenon, capable of concrete action for change.

Additionally, we have influenced the design and implementation of development projects by JICA (Japanese International Cooperation Agency). At their request, Interpeace and Indigo-Côte d’Ivoire have conducted participatory research on the social, economic, political context in the conflict prone communes of Abobo and Yopougon (Abidjan). The aim is to help enhance the ability of their infrastructure projects to reinforce/rebuild social cohesion.

In Western Côte d’Ivoire, violent tensions on the community level have occurred in 2017. Interpeace and Indigo Côte d’Ivoire have conducted a participatory research process in that region to analyze the dynamics that fragilize and at the same time maintain social cohesion in the region. The research findings highlight that the dominating focus on land tenure issues as the cause of conflicts in the region overshadows the more important issues of tensions such as the perception of economic inequality and the crisis of legitimacy affecting local chieftaincies. Building on the existing positive forces for peace, Interpeace and Indigo Côte d’Ivoire have begun to strengthen functional local peace infrastructures, among others, by fostering their collaboration with local and regional State authorities to more effectively contribute to social cohesion.

In Northern and Central Côte d’Ivoire, the phenomenon of Koranic schools and their students starts to raise several questions for Ivorian State authorities and international donors regarding child protection and access to education. Given the current lack of research on the topic in Côte d’Ivoire, Interpeace and Indigo Côte d’Ivoire were invited by the Ministry of Education to conduct a participatory research study that aims to deepen knowledge about Koranic schools and their students, in order to develop more adequate policy responses to the phenomenon.





Mali

Through continuous efforts on strengthening the relationship and trust between Defense and Security Forces (DSF) and communities, with an emphasis on women’s engagement since 2017, Interpeace and its Malian partner IMRAP have acquired a truly unique position in Mali. Thanks to the trust developed with DSF at all levels, from top ranks to foot soldiers/police agents, as well as with concerned communities, security and defence authorities in Mali have adhered to and lent their support to Interpeace and IMRAP’s initiatives. Their explicit demands have enabled Interpeace and IMRAP to scale up the creation of spaces for dialogue between local populations and the DSF regarding their respective roles and responsibilities and support the subsequent implementation of joint initiatives.

The systematic use of inclusive and participatory dialogue as a tool to address challenges and opportunities for peace and social cohesion has strengthened Malians’ capacities to manage their conflicts in a non-violent, constructive way and continues to increase social cohesion.

Interpeace in Mali is also becoming an important promoter of conflict sensitive programming. In a context of a growing pressure on international actors in Mali to show positive tangible results, the ability of designing and implementing projects within a volatile conflict-affected environment is becoming key. With the support of Interpeace’s West Africa Office (WAO), Interpeace’s International Peacebuilding Advisory Team (IPAT) trained MINUSMA (*Mission multidimensionnelle intégrée des Nations unies pour la stabilisation au Mali*) civil staff to adapt their programming to be more conflict sensitive. In addition, Interpeace’s participatory analysis on conflicts and resilience in Mopti (the first of a series of regional conflict and resilience analysis) has been regarded as setting a good practice on how to analyse very localized issues in order to better inform and adapt programming.



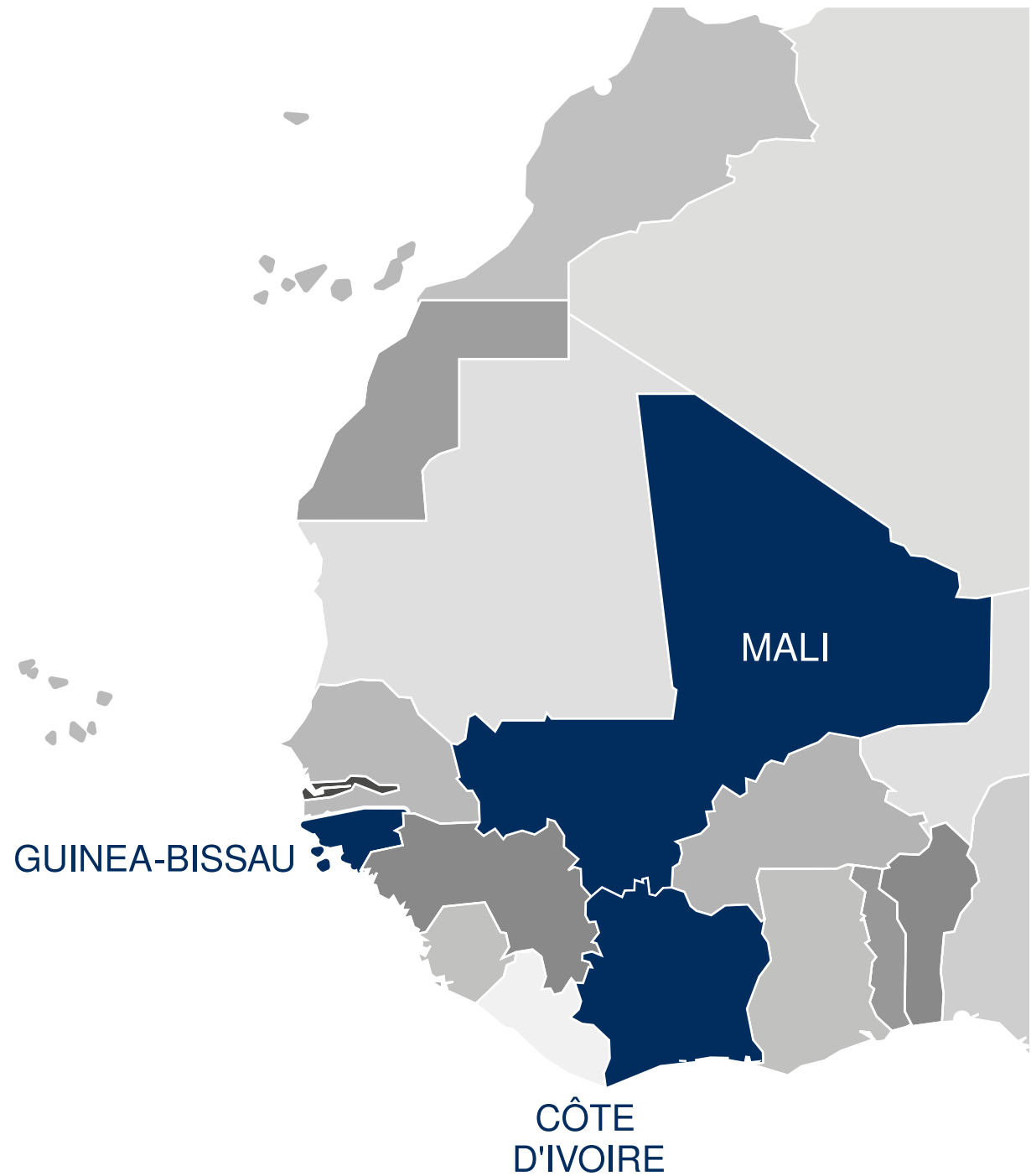
Guinea-Bissau

The programme in Guinea-Bissau seeks to stimulate citizenship engagement for good governance and peacebuilding, with a specific focus on marginalized groups, notably women. In 2017, Interpeace and its local partner Voz di Paz, sought to strengthen women's capacities to identify and implement solutions to enhance their role in governance and peaceful conflict resolution. Interpeace and Voz di Paz provided a unique platform for 700 Bissau-Guineans throughout the country, to voice their concerns and jointly reflect on deeply-rooted social dynamics that hamper the promotion of women in governance. With its unique participatory and inclusive approach, the work of Interpeace and Voz di Paz is pioneer in the field of women's empowerment and is greatly contributing to building a comprehensive understanding on the role of women in governance. In addition, continuous awareness-raising efforts on radios at the national and community levels have been a constituting part of Voz di Paz's strategy to contribute to breaking taboos around women's participation in Guinea-Bissau through repeated messaging. A total of 1,916 radio spots and programs were broadcast on radio, the main public communication channel in Guinea-Bissau, to amplify the messages that came out of the national consultation on the role of women in decision-making, but most importantly to trigger debates and foster dialogue among society.



Regional initiatives

In Mali and Côte d'Ivoire, Interpeace and its partners, IMRAP and Indigo Côte d'Ivoire, continued to contribute to a better understanding of trajectories towards new forms of violence – including violent extremism – among youth. A research process was conducted to deepen the understanding developed in the 2016 study through a specific focus on the impact of gender roles and social pressures on the pathways of youths towards violence. The research findings show that, although women take on a more important economic role, this does not ensure their “emancipation”. It does, however, bring on a crisis of masculinity, which translates into a need for men to redefine themselves. The findings add that, in order to reduce the risk of youth resorting to violence, it is necessary to develop new success models for young boys and girls who have trouble identifying with longstanding social models often set by tradition and their communities.





Latin America





Latin America

Honduras

The Honduran media was highly influenced by the government during election year, rendering them little more than electoral platforms. At the same time, the pressure to produce stories made the media focus on youth groups in situations of social vulnerability, such as members of football fan clubs (*barras*). Through the “Journalism, Youth and Sports for Peace” programme, Interpeace aimed to reduce the negative effects of stigmatization and criminalization suffered by the young members of *barras*, in particular those derived from the information spread by the media and government institutions. In 2017, the project reduced the media’s criminalization of vulnerable youth, by strengthening the capacities of the members of *barras* to generate alternative narratives that influence media. It also allowed the consolidation of bonds of trust between journalists from the main Honduran media, the *barras* and the police. With the mediation of Interpeace, the leaders of the two-main rival *barras*, put in place coordination mechanisms for violence prevention in sporting events, in which the police and the managers of the football teams participated in.



El Salvador

The Salvadorian economy has been paralyzed during the last decade, reducing employment and public resources. Youth are at risk of involvement in violence and/or illegal economies. To address social violence from a peacebuilding perspective, Interpeace developed a Comprehensive Model of Violence Prevention. This approach entailed building trust through dialogue among key actors, directly and indirectly involved in violence: youth at risk, communities and municipal authorities. The model was based in 10 municipalities, located in 7 regions of the country. Workshops served as entry points to interrupt self-reinforcing cycles of violence and delinquency, based on: a) training sessions addressing non-violent conflict transformation and; b) training sessions on technical capacities for entrepreneurship. These benefited 272 youth at risk, between the ages of 14 and 31. As a result, youth of 10 municipalities now manage entrepreneurship projects with the support of local authorities. Seed capital supported the creation of 16 entrepreneurship initiatives which were designed, implemented and sustained by youth associations.



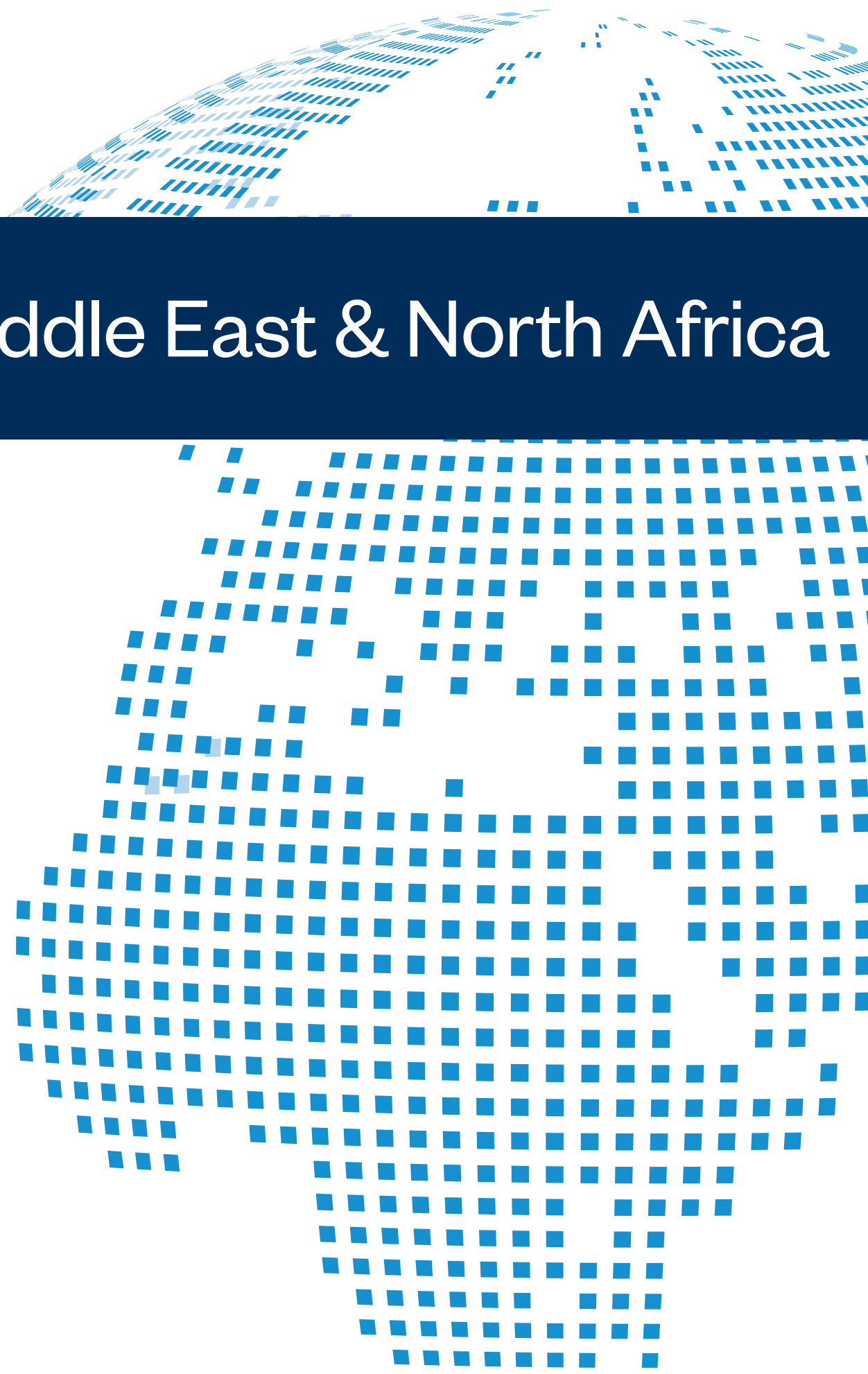
Colombia

Interpeace and its partner Alianza Para la Paz, facilitated a participatory process that resulted in the development of the Peacebuilding Model of the National Police of Colombia, a key institution in the current peacebuilding process. This Model identifies the responsibilities of the Police in the implementation of the Peace Agreements. The implementation plan of the Peacebuilding Model is designed with a territorial peace approach, based on a broad consultation process at all levels of the institution and territories of the country, which ensures the appropriation of the model among the actors of each territory. Additionally, with the mediation and support of Interpeace and Alianza Para la Paz, a joint work proposal was prepared, based on the consensus between ARN and FARC to prevent violence and stigmatization against former guerrilla combatants through collective actions at the community level.





Middle East & North Africa





Middle East & North Africa

Palestine

Using participatory processes, Interpeace’s partner organization, Mustakbalna, has developed the foundation of a common Palestinian vision in the form of a ‘National Social Contract’, which captures overarching Palestinian interests, as well as outlining strategies for enhancing the freedom and development of the Palestinian state. The civil peace accord that was signed in Jenin in 2016 has continued to serve as a reference document for the resolution of internal disputes and violence in the governorate, and provided a complementary role to the judicial system, thus contributing to enhancing stability within the community. The reduction of violence has boosted the local economy and the accord has improved the relationship between the Governor and the people of Jenin, while coordination among the various institutions has also improved. Moreover, women and girls have reported feeling safer and more secure when moving around, attending school or university, and socializing. In October 2017, the programme organized a Civil Peace Conference, to review progress on the implementation of the accord and explore how momentum for civil peace in Jenin could be further strengthened.



Israel

Since 2004, B4D has facilitated dialogue with key sectors of the society that have traditionally been excluded from the peace process despite their potential influence. In 2017, the programme focused on engaging with the new leadership of the Peace Camp and religious Zionists. Its objective was to foster a renewed and alternative peace discourse. Given the lack of understanding of the nuances of the religious Zionists’ positions, about different aspects of peace with the Palestinians, the programme conducted initial consultations to identify key stakeholders and learn more about this constituencies concerns and priorities. The plan had been to use the outputs of these consultations to engage the Peace Camp and the international community, whose understanding of this constituency is limited. While the consultations yielded valuable initial findings that could have been used as a basis for developing the envisaged engagements, this could not be pursued further due to the closure of the programme on October 20, 2017.



Libya

Interpeace’s ongoing engagement in Libya seeks to sustain a bottom-up peacebuilding strategy that focuses on enhancing local resilience and strengthening community cohesion. By mapping out communities that have maintained a relative degree of stability since 2014 the programme aims to build on their experiences to sustain peace and stability and gradually expand the geographic zones of stability across the country as the programme grows. In 2015 and 2016, Interpeace’s peace mapping study was widely recognized as enriching views on resilience capacities at the local level. It also shed light on factors that positively contribute towards this resilience, thereby indicating useful entry points for sustainable peace initiatives. In 2017, the programme entered its second phase, which consolidated lessons learned in communities already covered, strengthened local capacity for resilience through dialogue, and expanded into neighboring communities with the goal of gradually building pockets of stability across the country. These pockets of stability will directly contribute to and enforce any national or international level dialogue initiatives, since they will rely on local communities for their success. Since its inception target communities have gradually adopted the programme’s dialogue platforms, centered around capacitated change agents within each community, to address a multitude of challenges they continue to face. Challenges include internal divisions between mainstream Sunni practitioners and Salafi members of the community, lack of communication and collaboration between elected municipal councils and local civil society, local labor strikes affecting key sectors such as education, closure of crucial local youth centers, and a variety of other topics with a potential detrimental effect on local community cohesion.



IT TAKES
COURAGE TO
GOVERN FOR THE
FUTURE



Europe

Cyprus

Since the beginning of its engagement in Cyprus in 2009, Interpeace has focused on connecting Track 1 level negotiations with civil society and the wider population. In 2017, participatory surveys were conducted in both communities on key issues of the negotiations, including issues related to the property and governance dossiers and confidence-building measures. Moreover, Interpeace’s long-standing partner SeeD developed and presented a New Security Architecture aimed at helping to unblock one of the most intricate parts of the peace negotiations, the security and guarantees dossier. This was very well received and has influenced the positions of negotiating parties and the United Nations. It contributed to steering the negotiations on the security dossier towards a gradual and comprehensive security response, focused on long-term resilience. Additionally, the programme has provided support to the Cyprus Dialogue Forum. The Forum is a permanent dialogue platform bringing together policy makers and civil society of the two communities. It represents a “safety net” for the negotiations by providing all actors involved in the process with a permanent space to broaden the Track 1 level talks.



Sweden

Interpeace’s previous work in Sweden has identified a need to work with marginalized groups and particularly youth to increase their capacities, skills, and confidence to engage in local decision-making processes. In 2017, Interpeace launched the project “*Hear me out!* – A platform for young voices”. Over the course of one year, Interpeace in collaboration with City of Stockholm (Kista library) provided training workshops for youth on effective communication and facilitated dialogue platforms between youth, the police, local authorities and influencers. Following the workshops, participants reported improved communication skills in areas such as rhetoric, argumentation, public speaking and listening skills; increased confidence and self-esteem; improved understanding of decision-making processes; and enhanced trust and mutual understanding between youth, the police, and local authorities. The results of the project are highly encouraging in a context where youth often feel mistrust towards state authorities and are excluded from constructive decision-making processes. As a result, the programme was able to strengthen the knowledge and skills of marginalized youth in Stockholm to actively and constructively participate in democratic processes.





Asia

Timor Leste

Since 2007, Interpeace and CEPAD – the Centre of Studies for Peace and Development – have been supporting peacebuilding in Timor-Leste through a joint programme. In line with Interpeace’s Track 6 approach, CEPAD engaged across the country’s social levels: from selected community members at the grassroots level to key stakeholders and decision-makers at the national level, raising awareness with a view to combatting corruption, collusion and nepotism (locally known as KKN). These efforts sought to encourage accountability and provide citizens with the tools and understanding to combat KKN. As a result, the Timorese population have become increasingly aware of the government’s mismanagement of public goods. National and international observers also recognize that CEPAD’s multi-level anti-corruption efforts - from public awareness-raising, to investigative journalism training, to engagement with key state anti-corruption institutions, has made a key contribution to this mentality shift. Through partnerships, the programme strengthened its capacity for country-wide impact. Building on its growing reputation, CEPAD signed Memorandums of Understanding with five key anti-corruption State Institutions, including the Anti-Corruption Commission (KAK) and the National Human Rights Institution (PDHJ).



Influencing International Policy and Practice

Interpeace has two mandates. The first is to strengthen the capacities of societies to manage conflict in non-violent, non-coercive ways. The second is to assist the international community to play a more effective role in supporting peacebuilding and violence prevention efforts around the world, offering insight and advice based on our research and programmatic experience to positively influence the way peacebuilding is understood and practiced by other actors.

To fulfil its second mandate, Interpeace mobilizes a broad set of complementary internal modalities. These include: the **Global Learning Team (GLT)**, which is a decentralized and global unit composed of learning officers based in all Interpeace offices; the **International Peacebuilding Advisory Team (IPAT)**, made up by a team of senior international experts that can be mobilized on demand to provide peacebuilding advice; the **Global Engagement Unit (GEU)**, which supports the positioning of the organization's messages through coordinated strategies of engagement; and **programme and regional teams**, who manage the political space at the national level and engage with political actors when appropriate to enhance a programme's impact.

In 2017, Interpeace pursued the following policy objectives:

- Advanced knowledge and know-how on resilience to violent conflict and implementation for programming. Following the success of its Frameworks for Resilience (FAR) programme, Interpeace has used these insights to inform international policy and practice: a). Influencing the EU's concept of resilience - the recently adopted EU *Joint Communication on Resilience* integrates several components promoted by Interpeace, including the need to strengthen conflict-affected societies' existing capacities for averting violence, and; b). Engaging in research and policy dialogue about how humanitarian responses can contribute to resilience.
- Promoting in-depth understanding of new forms of violence in the Sahel region. Research developed in Mali and Côte d'Ivoire has led to a number of specific recommendations for national and international actors, calling for changes in the formulation of responses and programming to address violence among youth.
- Contributing to the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda. The recognitions of Interpeace's work in this field was demonstrated through the appointment of Graeme Simpson, Director of Interpeace USA as the lead author of the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security. Interpeace also supported this process through case studies in Côte d'Ivoire, Palestine, Central America (Northern Triangle) and Sweden.
- Making international assistance conflict sensitive through the expertise of IPAT: a). Strengthening the conflict sensitivity policy of the Netherlands; b). Signing a partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to assist in designing and mainstreaming tools to enhance conflict sensitivity across FAO, and; c). Becoming the partner of choice of the Peace and Stabilization Operations Programme of Global Affairs Canada to support peacekeeping in Mali.
- Making the UN peacebuilding architecture more effective. Interpeace signed and MoU with the UN Peacebuilding Support Office to work on conflict prevention and peacebuilding programmes. The MoU led to two new engagements in support of the UN Peacebuilding fund in Guinea Bissau and Mali.



Peace Talks

The Peace Talks is an initiative that showcases the inspirational stories of people who are making extraordinary contributions to peace. Through city-specific events, people deliver a short talk, known as a "Peace Talk." Speakers come from different sectors and industries and share their personal stories, ideas and practical solutions to resolve conflict. The Peace Talks is a joint initiative between Interpeace, the United Nations Office at Geneva and the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform. In 2017, Peace Talks engaged 2,600 people and fostered a global positive discussion on solutions to conflict through the Stockholm and Geneva Peace Talks.

The Stockholm Peace Talks were organized under the theme "Better Together" and took place on March 21st at Stockholm City Hall. The Geneva Peace Talks organized under the theme "Building Bridges" were held on September 21st at the Palais des Nations. These events generated a global conversation on people's contributions to peace. 20 Speakers participated at this year's Peace Talks events, including: Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations and Staffan de Mistura, Special Envoy for Syria of the United Nations Secretary-General.

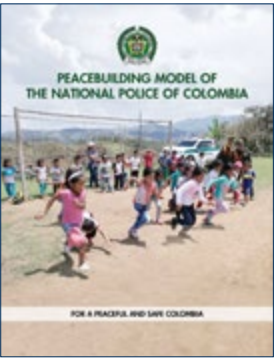




2017 Publications

2017 Publications

Our participatory action research, multi-stakeholder dialogues, qualitative and quantitative research processes, provide a foundation for the development of effective peacebuilding practices, which can in turn influence policies at a national and international level. This is a list of the resources published in the past year.



Colombia

Peacebuilding Model of the National Police of Colombia

The result of a broad and participatory consultation process at all levels of the police, where the responsibilities and the commitments of the institution were identified based on the Final Peace Agreement signed in Colombia. Through this systematization process, the guidelines that the Police should implement were established to ensure a compliance with their responsibilities towards the Final Peace Agreement and their contribution to building lasting peace.

 [Click here to read the full report in English](#)




Côte d'Ivoire

Exister par le gbonhi: Engagement des adolescents et jeunes dits 'microbes' dans la violence à Abobo

An in-depth analysis based on participatory action research on the phenomenon of youth and (pre)adolescents known as “microbes” in Abobo, Côte d'Ivoire, to support the development of effective and consistent responses.

 [Click here to read the full report in French](#)

 [Click here to read the Executive Summary in French](#)

 [Click here to read the Executive Summary in English](#)

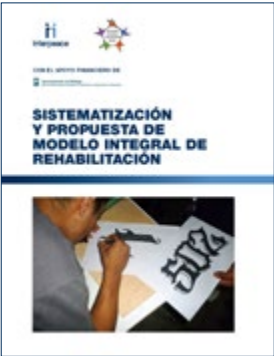


Great Lakes Region

Discussion paper for peace education in the Great Lakes Region

Work on peace education was developed in response to a call by the people of the region, who identified peace education as an important foundation for lasting peace. This emerged as a recommendation in a participatory research carried out by Interpeace and its six partner organizations in Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).


 [Click here to read the document in English](#)

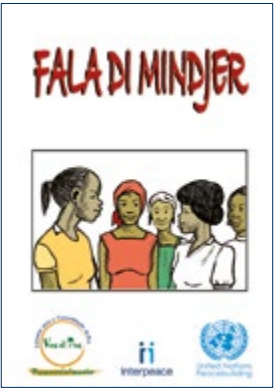


Guatemala

Systematization and proposal of a comprehensive rehabilitation model

The report illustrates the results collected during the project “Technical training for young people in prison” implemented at “El Boquerón”. It highlights the challenges of transforming the conditions of the Guatemalan prison system and demonstrates the potential of comprehensive rehabilitation initiatives.

 [Click here to read the document in Spanish](#)

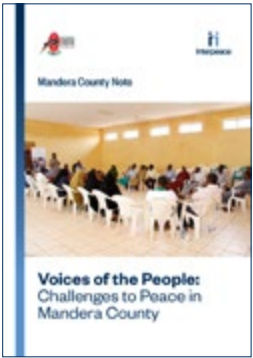


Guinea-Bissau

Fala di Mindjer

Interpeace is working to support the role of women's participation in decision-making in Guinea-Bissau. Our partner organization, Voz di Paz, has developed, together with local artists, a cartoon on the theme of the project, based on the consultations that were conducted across the country.

 [Click here to read the document in Portuguese Krioul](#)



Kenya

**Voices of the People:
Challenges to Peace in Mander County**

This report presents the findings of a year-long consultation process to establish the challenges to peace in Kenya’s Mander County, as perceived by the local communities of the County, including: grassroots communities, Nairobi-based elites, key informants, leadership at both the county and national levels, and communities living along the international borders with Somalia and Ethiopia.

 [Click here to read the full report in English](#)




Mali and Côte d’Ivoire

**Je Marche avec les Garçons
Trajectoires des jeunes vers la violence, miroir des dynamiques de genre à l’échelle de leur société**

An analysis of how social gender dynamics influence trajectories of young people towards new forms of violence. This was a complementary research process conducted to deepen the understanding developed in a previous project: “Beyond Ideology and Greed: Trajectories of young people towards new forms of violence in Mali and Côte d’Ivoire”.

 [Click here to read the full report in French](#)

 [Click here to read the Executive Summary in English](#)



Mali

Portraits Croisés Mopti – Analyse locale des dynamiques de conflit et de résilience dans la zone de Koro-Bankass

An in-depth local analysis of conflict dynamics and resilience in the Koro-Bankass area in the Mopti region of Mali. This analysis was intended to support national and international actors wishing to intervene in the area. It intends to enable them to do so in a more conflict-sensitive manner, and to adopt a local resilience approach.

 [Click here to read the full report in French](#)



Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste Strategic Review: Progress and Success in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goal 2

A Strategic Review to determine what needs to be done to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG2). The Strategic Review portrays the nutrition challenges in Timor-Leste and is a mechanism that can help the government set priorities in the actions and policies implemented in the country to achieve SDG2.

 [Click here to read the document in English](#)



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Support, Funding and Expenditure

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Letter from the Auditors



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Report of the Independent Auditor on the Summary Consolidated Financial Statements of International Peacebuilding Alliance (INTERPEACE), Geneva

Opinion
The summary consolidated financial statements of International Peacebuilding Alliance (INTERPEACE), which comprise the summary consolidated statement of comprehensive income, summary balance sheet, summary statement of cash flows, summary statement of changes in equity and explanatory notes, are derived from the audited consolidated financial statements of International Peacebuilding Alliance (INTERPEACE) for the year ended 31 December 2017.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary consolidated financial statements derived from the audited consolidated financial statements of International Peacebuilding Alliance (INTERPEACE) for the year ended 31 December 2017 are consistent, in all material respects, with those consolidated financial statements, in accordance with the basis of preparation described in note 2.

Summary Consolidated Financial Statement
The summary consolidated financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). Reading the summary consolidated financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited consolidated financial statements and the auditor's report thereon.

The Audited Consolidated Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon
We expressed an unqualified audit opinion on the audited consolidated financial statements in our report dated July 6, 2018.

Management's Responsibility for the Summary Consolidated Financial Statements
Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary consolidated financial statements in accordance with IFRS.

Auditor's Responsibility
Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary consolidated financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with (or are a fair summary of) the audited consolidated financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 810, "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements".



MAZARS SA
Franck Paucod
Licensed Audit Expert
(Auditor in charge)



Vincent Pichard
US Certified Public Accountant

Geneva, July 6, 2018

Appendices:

- Summary consolidated financial statements



EXPERT SUISSE
Certified Company

FRIBOURG

GENEVE

LAUSANNE

SION

ZURICH



Praxity
MEMBER OF
INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL

Financial Statements

Calendar Year 2017 (In US Dollars)

Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income		
	2017	2016
Income	US\$	US\$
United Nations	1 070 143	325 933
Governments	14 345 438	20 030 402
Trusts & Foundations, NGO and Other	1 907 040	1 106 153
Total Income	17 322 621	21 462 488
Expenses		
Personnel (incl. consultants)	10 026 493	11 541 268
Travel and Related Expenses	1 725 837	2 050 397
Equipment Purchases	91 991	191 831
Depreciation	59 618	65 618
Office, Communications, Vehicle and Finance	1 772 887	1 987 994
Workshops, Reporting and Professional Services	1 098 361	2 819 728
UN Management Fees	107 755	97 719
Total Expenses	14 882 942	18 754 555
Finance (costs) / gains	115 983	(130 170)
Other Comprehensive (loss) / income	38 748	86 750
Net (loss) / income	2 594 410	2 664 513
Carryforward from Previous Year	2 302 667	(361 846)
Closing Balance 31 st December	4 897 077	2 302 667

Balance Sheet (as at 31 December)		
Assets	2017	2016
Non Current Assets		
Property, Plant and Equipment	146 217	185 534
Deposits	109 147	100 139
Donor Income Receivable	8 980 126	9 769 610
Current Assets		
Deposits	7 016	7 841
Advances to UN	239 680	96 669
Advances to Partners	509 797	359 950
Donor Income Receivable	9 205 683	10 235 036
Other Receivables and Prepayments	199 735	331 896
Cash and Cash Equivalents	6 510 806	3 976 108
Total Assets	25 908 207	25 062 783
Liabilities and Reserves		
Non Current Liabilities		
Provisions	32 325	29 175
Employee Benefits	778 324	809 123
Deferred Income	8 980 126	9 769 610
Current Liabilities		
Deferred Income	10 065 612	10 270 973
Amounts due to Partners	35 582	52 460
Income to be Repaid to Donors	380 825	804 593
Payables and Accruals	738 336	1 024 182
Total Liabilities	21 011 130	22 760 116
Unrestricted Reserves	4 897 077	2 302 667
Total Liabilities and Reserves	25 908 207	25 062 783

Cash Flow	2017	2016
Unrestricted net (loss) / income for the year	2 555 662	2 577 763
Cash flow from operating activities		
Adjustments for		
Depreciation	59 618	65 618
Net finance costs / (income)	(115 983)	130 170
	2 499 297	2 773 551
Change in deposits	(8 183)	5 329
Change in advances to UN	(143 011)	38 703
Change in advances to partners	(149 847)	83 887
Change in donor income receivable	1 609 616	(739 738)
Change in accounts receivable and prepayments	132 161	22 931
Change in provisions and employee benefits	46 027	(302 355)
Change in deferred income	(785 624)	49 632
Change in amount due to partners	(16 878)	(65 901)
Change in Income to be repaid to donors	(423 768)	94 761
Change in accounts payable and accrued expenses	(397 518)	(1 395 724)
Net cash from operating activities	2 362 272	565 076
Cash flows from investing activities		
Interest received	8 659	4 055
Acquisition of property plant and equipment	(20 302)	(12 791)
Net cash used in investing activities	(11 643)	(8 736)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Interest paid	(5 861)	(4 264)
Net cash used in financing activities	(5861)	(4 264)
Net Increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	2 344 768	552 076
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	3 976 108	3 509 927
Effect of exchange rate fluctuations on cash held	189 930	(85 895)
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	6 510 806	3 976 108

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The consolidated summary financial statements are prepared using the same structured presentation and measurement basis but do not contain all disclosures required by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

Changes in Reserves	2017				2016
	Interpeace Headquarters Unrestricted Reserves	Interpeace Inc. Unrestricted Fund	Interpeace Sweden Unrestricted Fund	Total Unrestricted Reserves	
Opening Balance	2,266,965	34,533	1,169	2,302,667	(361,846)
Unrestricted net (loss) / income for the year	2,563,355	(7,693)	0	2,555,662	2,577,763
Items that will never be reclassified to profit or loss					
Remeasurements of defined benefit liability	73,676	0	0	73,676	67,755
Items that are or may be reclassified to profit or loss					
Foreign currency translation differences	(34,928)	0	0	(34,928)	18,995
Total other comprehensive (loss) / income	38,748	0	0	38,748	86,750
Total comprehensive (loss) / income for the year	2,602,103	(7,693)	0	2,594,410	2,664,513
Closing Balance	4,869,068	26,840	1,169	4,897,077	2,302,667

2017 EXPENSE SUMMARY	\$
Eastern and Central Africa	
Rwanda	1,505,572
Burundi	272,487
Great Lakes	2,221,328
Kenya	481,519
Somalia	2,089,955
Middle East and North Africa	
Israel	87,895
Palestine	280,488
Cyprus	719,996
Libya	312,170
West Africa	
Mali	889,757
Ivory Coast	574,956
Guinea Bissau	277,767
Niger	3,769
Regional	104,347
Asia	
Timor Leste	19,143
Latin America	
El Salvador	9,865
Guatemala	2,012
Honduras	87,964
Europe	
Sweden	182,287
Global	
International Peacebuilding Advisory Team (IPAT)	269,367
UN PBSO Secondment	220,494
Peace Talks	59,001
Reconciliation (KAF)	82,236
Youth, Peace and Security	112,689
Subtotal	10,867,064
Programme Support	1,966,833
Less Management Fees and Other	(622,818)
Total Programme	12,211,079
Communications and Fundraising	743,308
Management	1,928,555
Total Expenditure	14,882,942



Our Structures and People

Our Structures and People

Our Governing Board



Chair

Monica McWilliams

(Ireland)
Professor of Women's Studies at the University of Ulster; former Chief Commissioner of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission; Member of the Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly until 2003 and contributor to the peace negotiations leading to the Good Friday Agreement; co-founder of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition political party



Vice-Chair

Matthias Stiefel

(Switzerland)
Founder and former President of Interpeace



Honorary Treasurer

Martin Aked

(United Kingdom)
Former Partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers and former International Treasurer of Médecins Sans Frontières



Alan Doss

(United Kingdom)
Executive Director of the Kofi Annan Foundation; Visiting Fellow at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy; former Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; former Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in Liberia



Heidi Grau

(Switzerland)
Representative of the Host Government on the Governing Council; Head of the Human Security Division, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs; Former Head of the OSCE Chairmanship Task Force, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs; Former Deputy Permanent Representative at the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York



Andrew Gilmour

(United Kingdom)
Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on the Governing Council; Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights OHCHR; Former Director for Political, Peacekeeping, Humanitarian and Human Rights affairs in the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General; Former Representative of the Secretary-General in Belgrade; Former Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General both in South Sudan and Iraq



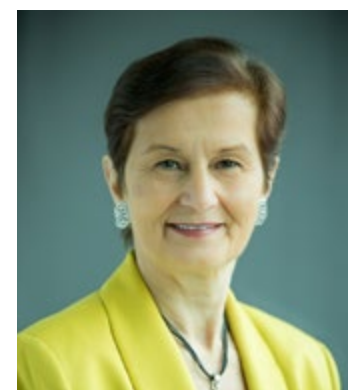
Cassam Uteem

(Mauritius)
President of the Republic of Mauritius (1992-2002); Former Special Envoy of UN Secretary General and Head of the UN Electoral Observer Mission in Burundi (MENUM); Member of the Africa Forum; President of ATD Fourth World



Youssef Mahmoud

(Tunisia)
Senior Adviser at the International Peace Institute; Former Secretary-General's Special Representative and Head of the UN Peacekeeping Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad; Former Executive Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the UN Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Burundi



Necla Tschirgi

(Turkey)
Professor of Practice, Human Security and Peacebuilding at the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies at the University of San Diego; former Senior Policy Advisor to the Peacebuilding Support Office at the United Nations; former Vice President of the International Peace Academy



Chair Emeritus

John A. Kufuor

(Ghana)
Former President of Ghana; former Chairperson of the African Union (AU); former Chairperson of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

Chair Emeritus and Special Adviser

Martti Ahtisaari

(Finland)
Recipient of the 2008 Nobel Peace Prize; former President of Finland; Chairman of the Interpeace Governing Council from 2001 to 2009

Our Advisory Council

The Interpeace Advisory Council is a high-level intergovernmental, statutory body of Interpeace, whose mandate is to provide the organization with strategic advice and guidance on peacebuilding policy and practice. It is also a testing ground for new ideas and methods.

Canada
H.E. Rosemary McCarney
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations and the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva

Netherlands
Mr. Jelte Van Wieren
Director of the Stabilisation and Humanitarian Aid Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

Sweden
H.E. Veronika Bard
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations in Geneva

Finland
H.E. Terhi Hakala
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations in Geneva

Singapore
H.E. Foo Kok Jwee
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Singapore to the United Nations Office and other international organisations at Geneva since September 2014



Our Strategic Management Team

The following list of senior management team members reflects the composition of the group during 2017. Changes to the senior management following the institutional review, including that of the President, will be updated on Interpeace’s website.

Interpeace’s Strategic Management Team is based around the world, in accordance with our decentralized structure.

Scott M. Weber
President

Renée Larivière
Deputy Director-General

Almudena Bartayrés Arcas
Chief Financial Officer and Director of Administration

Ana Glenda Tager
Regional Director for Latin America

Jean Paul Mugiraneza
Regional Director for Eastern and Central Africa

Anne Moltès
Regional Director for West Africa



Interpeace Representation Offices

Interpeace Europe

Interpeace Europe is a non-profit association based in Brussels. It represents the organization to the European Union and other European-based institutions. It also assists in positioning Interpeace in European policy debates and in obtaining political and financial support for its activities worldwide.

Interpeace Europe conducts important policy and advocacy activities on countries at risk, engaging with the European External Action Service and the European Commission.

The representative of Interpeace Europe is Nicolas Rougy.

Members of the Board of Interpeace Europe include:

Scott M. Weber, President;

Antje Herrberg, Co-Founder and CEO of mediatEUR;

Jan Vanheukelom, Senior Adviser at ECDPM.

Interpeace Europe is established as an AISBL according to Belgian Law.

Interpeace Sweden

Interpeace Sweden is a Swedish fundraising foundation that supports peacebuilding and the work of Interpeace worldwide. It was created in 2013 to generate awareness and funding in Sweden through outreach activities. In 2014, Interpeace Sweden worked with Interpeace’s programme development team on a pilot initiative in the Stockholm suburb of Tensta in addition to outreach and awareness activities.

A key highlight was the first-ever Stockholm Peace Talks were held on 29 January 2015, at the Swedish Parliament, which co-sponsored the event. The talks sought to highlight the many ways in which people can play a more active role in creating peace.

The members of the Board of Interpeace Sweden include: Tord Magnuson, Chair; Scott M. Weber, Vice Chair; Carin Götblad; Peter Elam Håkansson; Magnus Kindstrand; Krister Kumlin; Johan Lundberg and Sarah Noble

Interpeace Sweden has a 90 account and is registered with the Swedish Fundraising Council FRIL.

Interpeace USA

Interpeace Inc. (USA) is a US fundraising charity that supports peacebuilding work and represents the organization in the United States.

The Director of Interpeace USA is Graeme Simpson.

Interpeace Inc. (USA) is supported by the US Board of Governors:

Giles Conway-Gordon

Jeffrey Lewis

Howard McMorris II

Interpeace Inc. (USA) is registered with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) organization.

Partnerships

Burundi

Centre d’Alert et de Prévention des Conflits (CENAP)

Côte d’Ivoire

Initiative de Dialogue et Recherche Action pour la Paix (INDIGO)

Latin America

Alianza para la Paz

Cyprus

Centre for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development (SeeD)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Centre d’Etudes Juridiques Appliquées (CEJA)

Pole Institute

Action pour la Paix et la Concorde (APC)

Réseau d’Innovation Organisationelle (RIO)

Guinea-Bissau

Iniciativa para Consolidação de Paz (Voz di Paz)

Kenya

National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC)

Mali

Institut Malien de Recherche Action pour la Paix (IMRAP)

Rwanda

Never Again Rwanda

Somali Region

Academy for Peace and Development (APD)

Peace and Development Research Centre (PDRC)

Somaliland National Electoral Commission (NEC)

Timor-Leste

Centre of Studies for Peace and Development (CEPAD)

Contact us



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