

# Our shared responsibility

## Annual Report 2019





# **Our shared responsibility**

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# Message from the Chairperson and the President

## Peace: Our Shared Responsibility

Interpeace reached a historic milestone in 2019, as it celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Throughout this journey, we have understood that fostering trust and promoting social inclusion are the twin engines to creating more resilient and peaceful societies. These founding principles are as true and guiding today as they were in 1994.

We are committed to designing and delivering outcomes that tangibly improve the quality of life of individuals and fulfil their hopes for a better future. Recognising that sustainable peace is a shared responsibility, we also strive to ensure that the international community effectively translates peacebuilding principles into practice.

In that vein, Interpeace intensified its engagements with international organizations in 2019 to integrate peace outcomes into their programming. Interpeace has continued its long-standing partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization and recently partnered with UNICEF and the World Health Organization to strengthen ways in which our work together can contribute to peace. Final preparations were made in 2019 for Interpeace to launch a Peace Responsiveness Facility to scale up our engagement with humanitarian, development and stabilization organizations.

As this report outlines, at the country level we contributed to work on reducing violence in the run up to elections in Burundi and conducted informal mediation between armed groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



In Rwanda, our work addresses the healing of intergenerational trauma and given that it was the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the genocide against the Tutsi, the Governing Board held its meeting in Kigali and visited a range of projects both in the city and countryside. Expanding mental health services and launching societal healing programmes will be key priorities on the road ahead and, at such a critical moment in the country's history, Interpeace is dedicated to assisting Rwandans overcome the legacy of the past. It is through such programmes that Interpeace acts on its vision of a shared responsibility to peacebuilding.

As the year ended, Interpeace announced the upcoming launch of its Principles for Inclusive Peace initiative at the 2019 Paris Peace Forum, which seeks to address systemic flaws in the ways that peace processes are currently designed, implemented and assessed. In the broader global public health context which we have been facing, societies, communities



and individuals have been forced to adapt to new ways of life as a result of COVID-19. Our values continue to drive us as we face social and economic uncertainty and volatility. We will continue to confront exclusion, inequality and human rights violations in our work on the prevention of conflict. Peace is our shared responsibility.

We greatly appreciate the courage and dedication of our staff and colleagues around the world, and the continued support and confidence in Interpeace from our trusted partners and donors. We go further when we work together and for that, we are deeply grateful.

*Monica McWilliams*

**Monica McWilliams**  
Chairperson

*Scott M. Weber*

**Scott M. Weber**  
President of Interpeace

# About Interpeace

## About us

Interpeace is an international organization that prevents violence and builds lasting peace. We have more than 25 years of experience working in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Europe and Latin America.

Violent conflict tears apart societies and colours all relationships. Interpeace builds trust as the glue that brings societies together.

To ensure sustainable solutions

to conflict, the views and needs of those who are most affected should be taken fully into account. Interpeace works to have solutions designed and led locally, from the grassroots communities to the most senior decision-making levels.

In the heat of conflict, it can be difficult for people to see what connects them to others, rather than what drives them apart. Our approach seeks to help different

parts of society come together to identify and harness their common strengths for sustainable peace.

Everyone's contribution to peace matters, especially the international community together. Interpeace therefore also supports others by offering fresh thinking and expert advice about peacebuilding.

## Our Track 6 Approach

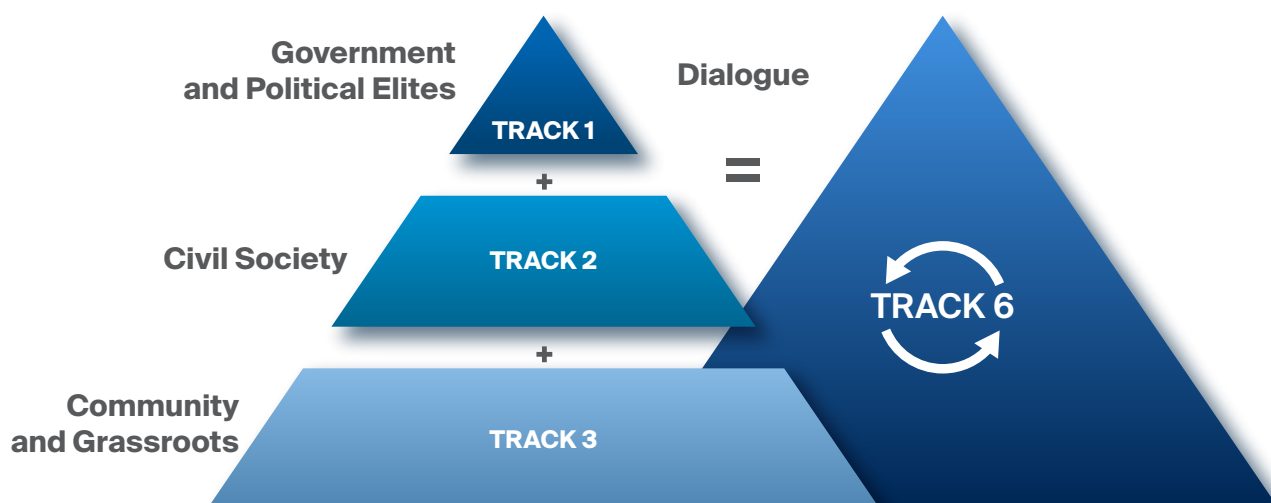
In many countries the government, civil society and local communities often act separately to address problems they face. Our integrated Track 6 approach helps to ensure that high-level policies reflect local realities and benefit from local knowledge. This contributes to the policies' legitimacy and sustainability.

We help establish processes of change that connect local communities, civil society, governments and the international community – an approach we call Track 6.

In the peacebuilding field, initiatives that involve government officials and other high-level decision-makers are referred to as Track 1.

Initiatives that work with influential actors from civil society are referred to as Track 2. Those that engage the local population at the community and grassroots level are called Track 3.

Interpeace works across all levels of society, connecting the three tracks:  $1+2+3=6$ .





# Our Peacebuilding Principles

## 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 build trust.





## Reaching out to all groups

### Building peace involves everyone

Excluding or marginalising 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 recognises 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. We recognise that the integrity of the process will in large part determine an initiative's success.



JUDE FUHNWI/INTERPEACE

# Working Together to Build Peace: *A Peace Responsive Approach to* Global Challenges

Today, more than 80 per cent of humanitarian and development work is carried out in contexts of violent conflict. International actors are increasingly acknowledging that their interventions are less sustainable and effective when these do not consider peace and conflict dynamics in areas where their activities are carried out. The need to prioritize conflict prevention is reflected in the various United Nations (UN) reform agendas, including Sustaining Peace; the Humanitarian, Development and Peace nexus; and Sustainable Development Goal 16. While broadly accepted in theory, many organizations and the system as a whole face challenges and barriers in translating these policies into practice, both at programmatic and institutional levels.

Interpeace aims to bridge this gap between policy and practice. “Based on its field peacebuilding experience, Interpeace’s role is also to engage with the international community – especially the UN – to improve how we collectively support peace. One of the biggest current challenges and opportunities in this regard is to transform the way in which international assistance is provided, across the humanitarian, development, and stabilization fields, so that it contributes to locally led sustainable peace – in other words, so that it is peace responsive”, says Scott Weber, President of Interpeace.

Peace Responsiveness is about ensuring that organizations operating in conflict-affected contexts design and develop peace outcomes in their technical programming, thus advancing ‘Sustaining Peace’ and enhancing the effectiveness of humanitarian and development interventions.

## Is Peace Responsiveness as a way to operationalize Sustaining Peace

Peace responsiveness can be regarded as an approach to implement the sustaining peace agenda. A more peace responsive international system will be better able to achieve impact in two interrelated dimensions:

- more effective and sustainable humanitarian and development outcomes
- more effective contributions towards locally led peace

Peace responsiveness goes beyond conflict sensitivity through its explicit focus on the proactive and deliberate contributions to sustaining peace by humanitarian and development actors. Peace responsive programming explicitly addresses conflict drivers or strengthens peace drivers. A peace responsive approach therefore contributes to transforming conflict dynamics in a manner that leads to increased inclusion and resilience to conflict and violence, and is based on participatory, locally-led processes of change.



Peace responsiveness also calls for changing the way in which organizations and systems work to leverage the impact of different areas – development, humanitarian, peacebuilding, stabilization – while intentionally and collectively generating sustaining peace outcomes.

“Making ‘sustaining peace’ a reality through applying a peace responsive approach will not only need an increase in

substantive knowledge, capacity and tools to enable high-quality programming, but a significant shift in organizational forms, practices and in the mechanics through which the international system operates, to create the environment and conditions required for all of us to collectively and effectively support locally led peace.” Says Martina Zapf, who manages Interpeace’s Peace Responsiveness Facility.

## Peace Responsiveness in Practice

“Peacebuilding should not be seen only as a sector of its own, but also as an approach. Peacebuilding is essentially how you do everything else, so that you contribute to sustainable peace while addressing other needs. Often, the way of working and how interventions are designed and implemented are as important – if not more – than what is actually being done. It is about how you support building good governance in a way people perceive it as legitimate. It is how you support rule of law and justice in a way that people perceive

it as just and fair. It is how you support development in a way that is equitable”, says Scott Weber, President of Interpeace, on the need for Peace Responsiveness in wider humanitarian, development and stabilization efforts.

A good illustration of a Peace Responsiveness approach can be found in Interpeace’s partnership with the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), especially in Somalia where its intervention has contributed to building peace while





addressing immediate humanitarian needs. The European Union-funded FAO project which sought the rehabilitation of disused irrigation canals, is an example of a Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus initiative.

The project included carrying out a conflict analysis in the three regions of lower Jubba, lower Shabelle and middle Shabelle where FAO Somalia is implementing three projects to rehabilitate irrigation canals. The three regions have significant agricultural potential and are considered to be Somalia's breadbasket. Yet, there are many drivers of conflict in these regions that limit the agricultural potential. These localities face insecurity due to the presence and influence of Al-Shabaab, recurrent drought and flooding that result in displacements, lack functioning irrigation infrastructure, and have limited access that impede farmers' production relating to supply chains and market potential.

Meanwhile, political challenges on operations of the federal structure have caused frequent disputes between the Federal Member State (FMS) and the

Federal Government of Somalia (FGS), which result in a lack of trust and social cohesion at the local levels. Under these circumstances, a technical development project, aimed at bringing in new resources and boost local livelihoods, can become a potential source of conflict rather than an important lever for social development if conflict and peace dynamics are not taken into consideration.

"In Somalia, especially the location of the three projects, the challenges of the federal structure are not always fully understood, and FAO and other organizations often find themselves implementing projects in areas where the federal government has a presence but lacks sufficient capacities due to limited resources to assist with enforcement of rules and regulations", says Jesse Kariuki, Interpeace Somalia Programme Officer involved in conducting the conflict analysis.

To conduct the conflict and peace analysis, Interpeace assembled teams comprised of consultants and seconded government officials from each of the regions. This approach sought to build bridges, foster

trust, and increase the capacity of local government to carry out peace mapping by looking at sources of community resilience as well as fragilities and fault lines. The project engaged with 150 community members – 50 in each location – and validated survey findings with an additional 25 local residents.

“A Peace Responsiveness approach looks not only at sources of conflict, but also at what brings communities together”, Kariuki says. “By the end of the analysis we saw a real recognition of the value of the project from local farmers, the federal government, and the seconded officials”.

The process was a “learning moment” for all involved says Kariuki. While FAO Somalia sought clear guidance on “what” to do based on the findings and recommendations of the conflict analysis, taking a Peace Responsive approach is often about “how” a project is undertaken; the technical requirements may be clear, but the non-technical aspects of ensuring buy-in and ideally a contribution towards improving relationships between different groups and authorities is more complicated.

Ultimately, the consultative and transparent nature of the analysis was highly appreciated by FAO, as well as local partners. The analysis was successfully completed and delivered to FAO Somalia at the end of 2019, with recommendations integrated into overall project planning.

Another example where the community and authorities came together as a result of a Peace Responsiveness approach can be found in the Democratic Republic of the

Congo (DRC). The Interpeace programme experience in the Beni and Butembo Territories of North Kivu in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) illustrates how interventions using a Peace Responsive lens can make a critical difference in a humanitarian emergency setting.

Following conflicts between health workers and local communities, Interpeace joined the World Health Organization (WHO) in a project aiming to build trust between Ebola response workers and community members. Interpeace’s participatory action research helped reveal underlying causes for community mistrust, hampering efforts to address the deadly outbreak of the virus. This successful intervention gained the interest of the national government, which sought to work more closely with Interpeace on the Ebola response.

Another Interpeace joint venture that contributes to the “sustaining peace” agenda is the one it has forged with UNICEF. The two organizations are working together in several countries to improve the protection and development of children and peace, including in Côte d’Ivoire and Guinea Bissau. Through this partnership, Interpeace has helped the UN children’s organization to conduct a global review of the agency’s approaches to peacebuilding, social cohesion, violence prevention, and conflict sensitivity.

Interpeace will also provide hands-on support to UNICEF’s country and programme teams on conflict analysis; programme design and implementation; capacity development; and action-oriented and field-tested guidance for peace responsive technical interventions.

## A Facility to Scale Up Peace Responsiveness

After developing the peace responsiveness approach over the past few years, Interpeace is preparing to launch a Peace Responsiveness Facility (PRF) dedicated to enhancing the operationalization and institutionalization of peace responsiveness in the humanitarian, development, and stabilization fields. The PRF aims to scale up Interpeace’s engagement with international organizations to strengthen

ways in which they support locally-led change and effectively contribute to building sustainable peace and societal resilience to conflict and violence.

The PRF will adopt a practice-oriented approach to close the gap between policy and practice and institutionalize peace responsive ways of working by integrating them into existing systems, practice and

mindsets. It will proactively work on building the capacity and knowledge base at the individual, organizational, programmatic, and systemic levels in a mutually reinforcing way. Additionally, it will address the challenges and barriers that are present in the *modi operandi* and incentives structures of the international system.

The PRF aims to engage with a broad range of actors within the different fields of practice, all of which have a role to play in building sustaining peace. The initial priority sectors the PRF will be engaging on include but are not limited to: Food security and livelihoods, education, health and stabilization. Over the years, Interpeace has increased its engagement with international organizations and has built partnerships with specialized agencies including the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), and is also collaborating with the International Labor Organization (ILO), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and the World Food Programme (WFP).

The PRF will also facilitate greater cross-organizational learning and evidence-building to identify what works and search for ways to address challenges to integrate peace-contributing outcomes in humanitarian, development, and stabilization interventions.

The fruit of such relationships can be seen in the work that FAO and Interpeace have

been conducting jointly since 2017. FAO's Strategic Programme Leader – Resilience Director, Dominique Burgeon explains such partnership was born “to better address and prevent conflict, particularly in those contexts most affected by food crises”, and added that such support is “helping agencies like FAO play a more effective role in supporting efforts that contribute to sustaining peace. Support like this will be essential for the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus approach to be made a programmatic reality”, said Burgeon.

“Together we have developed and tested tools enabling more systematic and intentional conflict-sensitive programming, strengthening internal capacities and processes, helping FAO better understand how we can contribute to local peace impacts.”

International community champions such as Canada have committed funds to invest in the transformation the PRF is seeking to bring about. “As the current chair of the UN Peacebuilding Commission, I am proud of Canada's ongoing commitment to promote integrated responses to conflict. We are therefore delighted to support the Peace Responsiveness Facility, building on the important work Interpeace has done to support all pillars of the UN system in analyzing and responding to risks of conflict”, said Marc-André Blanchard, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to UN New York.



# 2019 Highlights

# 2019 Highlights

In 2019, Interpeace adopted a Change Framework, based on the organization's mandate to strengthen the capacity of societies to manage conflict in non-violent ways, and to assist the international community to be more effective in peacebuilding. Through this Framework, which takes a more cohesive and evidence-based approach, aligned to UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, Interpeace seeks to achieve three "Impact Goals":

1

**Reduced Violence and Enhanced Safety and Security**

2

**More Resilient and Inclusive Societies**

3

**Greater Incentives for Sustainable Peace**



## Reduced Violence and Enhanced Safety and Security

To achieve this impact goal, Interpeace, a) engages with groups and individuals to seek non-violent and common solutions, b) works to enhance a community's capacity to manage security inclusively and non-violently, and c) advocates for security and justice institutions to prevent violence and foster trust.

Interpeace contributed to reduced violence in **Burundi** by seeking to effect positive behavioural change prior to elections, typically a highly volatile time; and to enhanced safety and human security in **Kenya** by supporting a ceasefire that resulted in peaceful resettlement of displaced persons.

Interpeace's promotion of peaceful dialogue frameworks for youth wings of political parties in Burundi resulted in a de-escalation of electoral clashes. Leaders of competing political parties' youth leagues called on their members to stop violent retaliation and exercise restraint after initial violent clashes. This behavioural change is significant in a pre-electoral context where some political parties demonstrate strength through violence.

In November 2019, at least 19 people were killed in **Kenya** and an unknown number injured in inter-clan clashes in Banissa Sub-county, Mandera County. Interpeace facilitated dialogue led to the signing of a peace agreement. Among the key resolutions was the creation of a Ceasefire Monitoring Committee. Interpeace's Kenya programme, through the Deputy County Commissioner's office, formed this Committee and trained its members, an effort that resulted in the resettlement of 1,970 displaced households.



## More Resilient and Inclusive Societies

Violence is rooted in exclusion, and trust is the bedrock of peaceful societies. To reach its second impact goal, Interpeace draws on its 25 years of experience, focused on enhancing trust between individuals and groups, communities and authorities, while addressing the sources of marginalisation and exclusion.

In **Guinea Bissau**, radicalisation, growing lack of trust in local institutions, and the absence of space for institutional dialogue are obstacles to a more cohesive and peaceful society. In 2019, Interpeace and its local partner, Voz di Paz, supported the conceptualisation and development of a participatory “justice barometer”, which identifies the root causes of conflict and improve justice sectoral governance. More than 4,000 people from across the country contributed to identifying key questions and indicators for the barometer, and in collecting and analysing data. The barometer has contributed to an informed discussion between citizens and authorities on governance of justice, with the potential to guide justice sector reform.

In **Mali**, over 120 women, including from armed movements, became active peace agents after agreeing to map high-risk conflict areas where they were then able to mediate and solve conflicts. In one such instance, their involvement assisted in the reconciliation between two women leaders from Ansongo who had been in conflict for several years. This is a significant achievement in the context of northern Mali where women play a crucial role in promoting peace in their communities, among their families, and between combatants.

Twenty-five years after the Genocide against the Tutsi in **Rwanda**, trauma is still present among the population. In 2019, Interpeace and its local partner, Never Again Rwanda, published the report “Healing trauma and building trust and tolerance in Rwanda”. The report’s findings attracted the attention of national decision-makers and led to collective efforts to design a national healing programme.



## Greater Incentives for Sustainable Peace

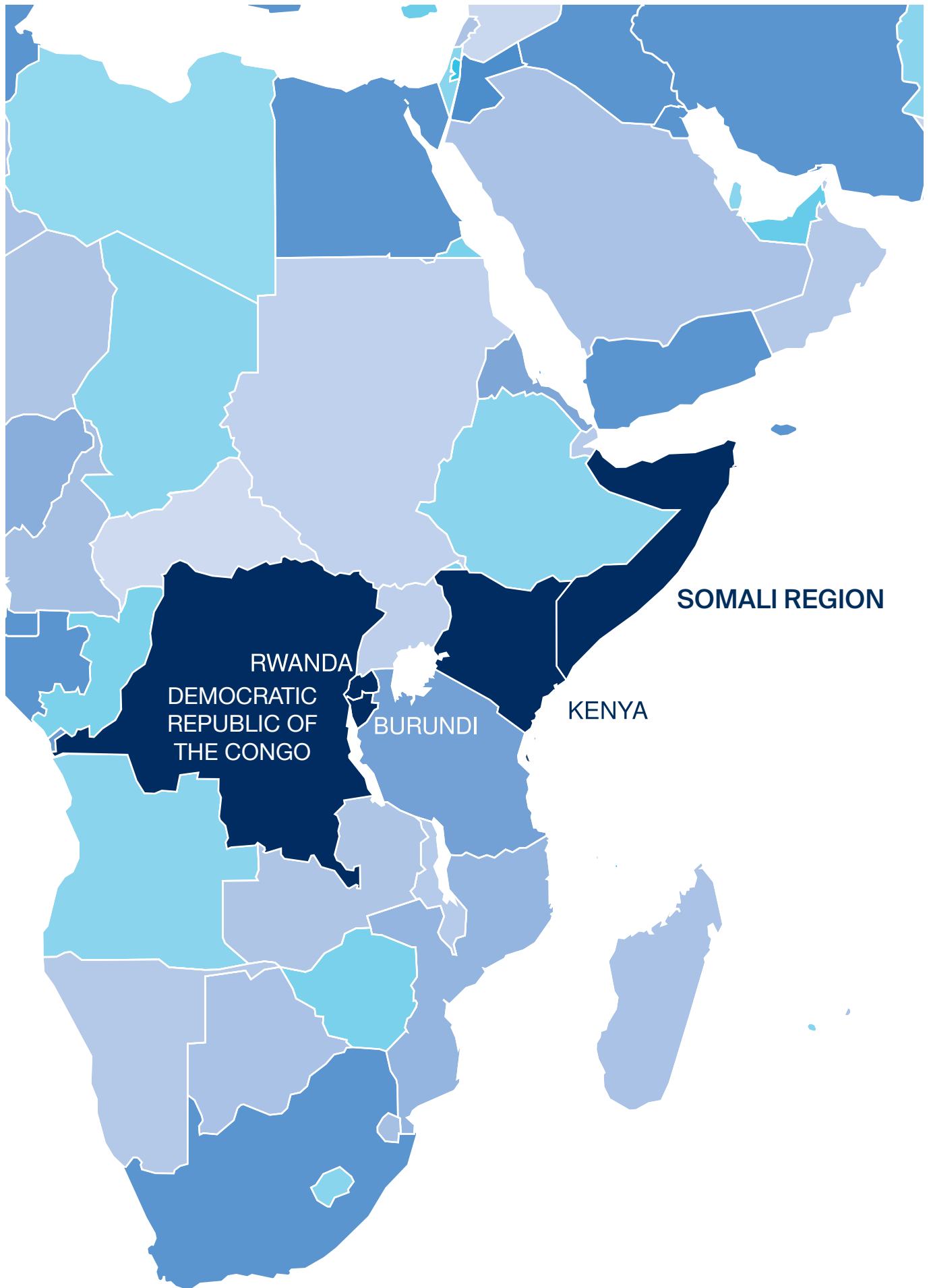
Everyone has a role to play in building peace. To reach its third impact goal, Interpeace focuses on improving international strategies for peace and promoting the adoption of peacebuilding principles.

In line with its mandate, Interpeace assists international actors to become more “peace responsive”. This entails the delivery of their activities in ways that simultaneously address underlying conflict and peace dynamics. Through its Peacebuilding Advisory Team (IPAT) of international experts, Interpeace worked with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to analyse the ways by which FAO’s food security interventions can contribute to enhancing peace. This analysis was then submitted as a joint input to the 2020 United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture Review. IPAT also began work on a similar review of UNICEF’s conflict prevention and peacebuilding work, and provided policy advice to the World Health Organization to develop its institutional policy on health and peace.

In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, informal mediation between parties in Uvira, Fizi, and Itombwe has contributed to reduced levels of conflict and strengthened the role of the national authority responsible for peacebuilding – the National Mechanism for Monitoring the Addis Ababa Peace Agreement. Interpeace’s work has also led to endorsement at the highest political levels including from President Félix Tshisekedi, of proposals to develop a national strategy for reconciliation. These steps are providing greater incentives for sustainable peace in the country as well as in the wider Great Lakes region.

Interpeace’s newly launched programme in **Burkina Faso** extends the organization’s footprint in the Sahel region beyond its current work in Mali and Niger. The programme is implementing a process through which the national population can openly express their understanding of the current threats to peace and security and the drivers of conflict and resilience factors in the country. The feedback will be used to inform evidence-based strategies and decision-making on peacebuilding engagement and programming in the country and region. Through the programme, Interpeace seeks to catalyse efforts by international and national actors to achieve sustainable peace.

# 2019 Achievements





# Eastern, Central and Horn of Africa

# Kenya

The Government of Kenya has continued to encourage national discussions to address systematic exclusion rooted in a “winner-takes-it-all” election practice. After a closely contested presidential election in 2017, President Uhuru Kenyatta and his rival Raila Odinga reconciled publicly through a symbolic handshake, with the government introducing the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) shortly thereafter. The BBI ended months of protests by opposition supporters contesting the election results.

In 2019, the annual Mandera County Community Summit reunited political rivals from the 2017 elections. The summit was attended by over 4,000 people from Mandera County, cross-border communities from Ethiopia and Somalia, and leaders from Somalia, Kenya, and Ethiopia. The meeting addressed violent cross-border conflict, often rooted in clan-based politics, and mechanisms to end these clashes. Currently, there is relative peace between the various communities and hopes are high this can be sustained through wide participation by all local clans in negotiating political posts. It is further hoped that the dynamics created in 2019 will positively impact upcoming national elections in 2022.

In partnership with the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC), the Interpeace programme seeks to help advance peace, security and development in fragile counties in Kenya by strengthening local resilience capacities to manage conflict through non-violent means, thus transforming grassroots communities into agents of peace.

## Addressing cross-border and other emerging conflicts

In November 2019, at least 19 people were killed, and several others injured in retaliatory inter-clan clashes in Banissa Sub-county in Mandera. NCIC and Interpeace facilitated dialogues which resulted in the signing of a peace agreement.

One important output of this process was creation of the Ceasefire Monitoring Committee. The Interpeace programme, in conjunction with the Deputy County Commissioner’s office,

formed the committee and provided training on ceasefire management, mapped out conflict-affected areas to expedite the safe return of displaced persons, and initiated discussions towards the establishment of grassroots dialogue spaces. The programme also provided mobile phones for accessible communication, early warning, and early response, and together with the Ceasefire Monitoring Committee, resettled 1,970 displaced households.

In two counties affected by recent conflict –Wajir and North Rift– a Participatory Action Research project was conducted to identify key impediments to peace. In Wajir County, 30 conflict hotspots were mapped to collect the views of the local communities.

## North Rift and Wajir community consensus on challenges to peace



# Rwanda

According to the Ministry of Justice, between 20,000 and 30,000 perpetrators of the Genocide against the Tutsi are set to be released in 2020, with the potential for exacerbating existing traumas and triggering new trauma among individuals who show no current signs of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

In 2019, Rwanda commemorated 25 years since the 1994 genocide against the Tutsis. In respect of the commemoration, a two-day national Trauma symposium was organized in May 2019 in Kigali by the Rwanda Psychological Society. The symposium sought to provide a platform to reflect on the 25-year journey of trauma healing among practitioners from grass-roots initiatives, national practitioners, researchers, and decision-makers.

Interpeace's Rwanda programme aims to contribute to the consolidation of a peaceful and inclusive Rwandan society enabled to overcome the wounds of the past. The programme promotes peaceful management of conflicts by empowering citizens to influence policies responsive to their priorities. This vision is implemented through two axes: healing and participatory governance.

In 2019 there was an increased recognition of the urgency to expand mental health services and more specifically, societal healing platforms at the national level. Building on the results of the report, "Healing trauma and building trust and tolerance in Rwanda" published in April 2019, the programme attracted the attention of national decision-makers and quickly led to government supported efforts to design a national programme.

## Government led efforts to rebuild trust and heal trauma

## Healing intergenerational trauma

Research conducted by Never Again Rwanda and Interpeace has demonstrated the importance of addressing the impact of intergenerational transmission of trauma on youth. Since the programme began, it has been challenging to engage with youth in schools owing to their intensive academic schedule. The programme has therefore focused on out-of-school youth as an alternate pathway to reaching young constituents. Engagement has centered on healing, while critical thinking capacity was also promoted through discussions with community leaders and decision-makers at the local and national levels.



## Supporting citizen voices

Significant progress was seen in collaboration between government and civil society and in generating political will to promote the accountability of leaders at all levels. The programme focused on increasing local leaders' capacities in transmitting community priorities, and translating these into programmes and policies. In early 2019, the programme published research on “The Role of Civil Society in Enhancing Citizen Participation in Governance and Development Processes in Post-Genocide Rwanda”. Decision-makers endorsed the research recommendations and agreed on the importance of increasing the work of CSOs in governance and advocacy.



# Burundi

Preparations for the 2020 elections dominated the political environment in 2019, with political parties and candidates jockeying for position and influence. In May, a new electoral code was adopted in the absence of a representative opposition. Planning for the elections was undertaken in 2019 without external assistance and attempts by the international community to involve external electoral observers have been impossible. Nevertheless, the National Independent Commission on Human Rights (CNIDH) set up a new team of commissioners at the end of February 2019, which was approved by the National Assembly, with a mandate to investigate violations of human rights within the country.

Burundi's international isolation has exacerbated poverty, led to a drastic decrease in foreign exchange and in investments overall. Additionally, sporadic drought and flooding across the country has adversely impacted the agricultural sector, the mainstay of the local economy, with crop failure further limiting food supplies and means for bartering and exchange.

Interpeace's Burundi programme aims at building a peaceful future for the country by strengthening the resilience capacities for peace among youth and communities and promoting inclusive decision-making.





## Communal mediation to prevent violent conflict

In March 2019, a municipal mediation commission was established in Rumonge province. This initiative was particularly timely in a pre-electoral climate where conflicts threatened to become more pronounced and escalate into violence. However, beyond the electoral period, such a mechanism will help to resolve disputes before they escalate to violence. The commission received several requests for support from the population, indicating an increased trust in the new municipal administration.

The idea for creating this commission was born from the Permanent Dialogue Group (GDP)

of Rumonge. Established in 2011 by the Centre d'Alerte et de Prévention des conflits (CENAP) and Interpeace, the GDP is composed of community leaders, religious leaders, returnees and residents, members of political parties and a member of the administration. The purpose of the GDP is to promote peaceful means for conflict resolution in a municipality that is at risk of violence, given a history of ethnic clashes in 1972 and 1993. Following increased trust with the local population, the commission has received official endorsement from the local administration.

## Youth leaders from opposite political parties employ peaceful dialogue to reduce violence

The Burundi programme promotes change through peaceful dialogue frameworks for youth from political parties. The Head of Imbonerakure, the youth league of the CNDD-FDD in Ngozi, and the Head of the Inyankamugayo, the CNL youth league, were instrumental in preventing further violent conflict in 2019, by calling on their members to exercise restraint after initial clashes. Through phone dialogue the two youth leaders reaffirmed their commitment to serving as role models for the prevention of violent

conflict. The shift in the behavior of these youth leaders is particularly significant given the pre-electoral context where political parties have demonstrated their strength through violence.

Welcomed by the Governor and the Provincial Commissioner of Police, this positive engagement is especially relevant as the province is the birth home of the President and the Leader of the opposition party, where both political parties actively compete.

## Greater collaboration between key peacebuilding actors

Interpeace has continued to increase its collaboration in Burundi, working with national peacebuilding actors, such as CENAP, the Burundi Leadership Training Program and Initiative et Changement - ICB. The increased partnerships is a key opportunity to build upon synergies of various activities in the provinces and at the national level.

# Democratic Republic of the Congo

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In January 2019, President Tshisekedi took office in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as the country was overwhelmed by the second largest Ebola outbreak in human history, exacerbated by the volatile security situation in the region.

Since October 2019, the military has been fighting non-state armed group, the Ugandan Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) in Beni where the group has killed more than 400 civilians. The conflict as well as the Ebola threat, forced many to flee precipitating humanitarian challenges including food shortages.

In Ituri, an inclusive approach by local leadership to the Ebola outbreak response, helped to reduce community resistance to interventions. The initiative followed a series of attacks targeting Ebola response team members in the area.

In the Kasai region, violence linked to armed fighting decreased, following the 2016/2017 inter-communal conflict that led to more than 3,000 casualties. Despite this improvement, relations between parties, customary leaders and State representatives remains challenging and the situation threatens to reignite if mediation and dialogue efforts are not intensified.

In South Kivu intermittent clashes persisted, driven by manipulation of communities, the active presence of local and foreign armed groups, and conflict over land, mining, and power brokering. The situation in Uvira and in the territories of Fizi, and Mwenga remained problematic as well in 2019 with ongoing violence.

- In the Kasai region, Interpeace's DRC programme aims to foster dialogue, facilitate mediation and reconciliation, and build trust between communities, authorities and security forces.
- In Beni, Interpeace fosters dialogue to assist local populations and state authorities to establish positive relationships, build trust, and foster collaboration between communities, authorities, and other stakeholders.
- In Ituri, Interpeace works to improve security in areas at risk of Ebola in order to support international and national responses to the virus and prevent its spread.

## Building trust and decreasing tensions: inclusive dialogue, mediation, and reconciliation

Interpeace began work in 2019 in the provinces of Kasai and Kasai Central, in partnership with Work and Human Rights (TDH), the Diocesan Commission for Justice and Peace (CDJP) and Action for Peace and Concorde (APC). The project, *Encouraging dialogue, facilitating mediation and reconciliation and building trust between communities, authorities and security forces in Kasai and Central Kasai*, impacted more than 2,300 people, with seven Permanent Dialogue Groups (GDP) established.

In the Kamako area, the project assisted in mediating a multi-party land dispute. The parties have since begun to dialogue, with a customary tribunal participating and facilitating peace awareness efforts. The dialogue has helped to demonstrate how customary leaders can be actively engaged in peaceful conflict resolution actions.

In November 2019, an Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Interpeace and the National Mechanism for Monitoring the Addis Ababa Peace Agreement (MNS). The MoU outlines collaborative efforts to build peace and strengthen reconstruct social cohesion in the DRC. Interpeace is providing technical assistance to the DRC Government on matters such as informal mediation between parties in conflict; elaboration of national peace, reconciliation, and social cohesion policy; and capacity building for local organizations working on peace and reconciliation.

## Technical assistance, social cohesion and peacebuilding at the national level

## Shifting from violence in Beni

Dialogue Groups were launched in Bulongo, Bingo, Kabasha, Mavivi and Kamango, providing a platform for people to discuss peacebuilding challenges. Men, women and young people are beginning to see and to use dialogue as a non-violent conflict resolution mechanism. They identify challenges to peace, and propose lasting solutions, while also reflecting on their capacity to resolve these conflicts. As part of these efforts, communities have established “social tension monitoring commissions”, through the Permanent Dialogue Groups, to prevent violence in their villages.

Interpeace worked successfully with national authorities. The organization assisted government efforts to promote an Ebola response approach addressing community resistance to immunization activities in North-Kivu. Through integration of a peacebuilding component into Ebola emergency actions, Interpeace demonstrated the added value of a “peace responsive” approach.

Based on the lessons from this experience, Interpeace developed a proposal for a similar peacebuilding approach to early warning and rapid Ebola response efforts in Ituri Province.

## Improving security and enhancing ebola response efforts

# Somali Region

The Somali Region has seen renewed optimism and forward motion on critical state-building processes, following the federal political transition of 2016/17. Government institutions have made progress despite an inability to reach consensus, between the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and Federal Member States (FMS). Dialogue is now focused on formation and establishment of local governments.

Peace and reconciliation remain a priority for Somalis, from the grassroots to the federal level. In this context, the FGS, through the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs, and Reconciliation (MOIFAR), has continued to increase its role in reconciliation.

As Somalia prepares for the federal political transition in 2020/21, several barriers continue to limit the prospects of holding “one person one vote” elections. Barriers include the current political environment, which has not allowed stakeholders to make necessary decisions and collectively address critical issues such as constituency, insecurity, voter registration, and limited resources.

A central challenge experienced in 2019, has been how to situate peace and reconciliation processes in the context of state-building while employing state-building as a platform for strengthening trust, social cohesion, and sustainable peace.

Interpeace’s Somali Programme, titled Talo Wadaag, or “Social Contract”, focuses on building the social contract between decision-makers and their constituents at the local, regional, and national levels. This is important to promoting inclusive and participatory governance as it ensures broad-based consultations and buy-in to policy development and implementation.

## Citizen support for inter-communal reconciliation processes

The current Somali programme prioritizes support for reconciliation processes in Galkacyo and Ceel Afweyn. In Galkayo, organizational structures for a 60-member Galkacyo Peace Committee were established in 2019 with assistance from Interpeace and its partner, the Puntland Development Research Center (PDRC). These structures aided the Committee’s ability to reduce armed confrontations and boost the peace process by fostering social cohesion and reinforcing community bonds.



The programme facilitated the establishment of a women's peace committees in Galkayo and Ceel Afweyn, engaging women in those communities in the formal mediation process steered by traditionally elders'-led Peace Committees.

## Increased participation by women

## Local governance structures and enhanced public participation

In Puntland, the programme assisted the transitional political arrangement that paved the way for peaceful parliamentary and presidential elections in January 2019. Key programme contributions included managing the political space around the transition processes. This effort helped minimize the risks of violence, political instability, and security relapses in the region, through technical support and facilitation of forums between Presidential candidates, traditional elder decision-makers, and the Conflict Resolutions and Ratification Committee (CRRC).

# Great Lakes Region

Early 2019 elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) were marked by fears of post-electoral violence in a context of disputed results and criticized political alliances between elected President Tshisekedi and outgoing President Kabila. However, the months following the election did not see a spread of violence in the few observed hot pockets, which gave hope for a relatively peaceful transition of power.

In the Eastern Great Lakes Region, the Ebola outbreak was still not under control, threatening to spread to neighboring countries when a case was detected in Goma, DRC, on the border with Rwanda, leading to a dramatic increase in border control measures by the latter.

Tensions between Rwanda and Burundi remained acute, with no progress towards resolution during the reporting period. Rwanda and Uganda however moved forward efforts to address political tensions. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in Luanda, Angola in August 2019 between President Kagame and President Museveni. An ad-hoc commission to implement the MoU was also created, and four summits have been held to devise solutions to the conflict. The Government of Uganda handed over 22 Rwandan prisoners and the Rwandan Government terminated sentences of 17 Ugandans held in Rwanda.

Interpeace's Great Lakes Regional programme aims to ensure peace, stability and social cohesion by strengthening resilience capacities for peace and reconciliation, inclusive and responsive governance and regional cooperation.

## Representatives from All Sectors Discuss Resilience for Reconciliation

The findings of the extensive research carried out by the programme with over 8000 people on 'resilience for reconciliation' were consolidated with the holding of a regional forum, which was held in September 2019 in Kinshasa, DRC. The forum attracted high-level officials from all three countries, and served as an advocacy platform for the Interpeace Programme. The 200 participants included representatives of regional organizations, Members of Parliament, senators, senior officials from various ministries, opinion leaders and religious leadership,

civil society organizations, women's and youth representatives, as well as academics and community members. Results from the research have sparked interest among donors and authorities as well as other international organizations and civil society organizations engaged in peacebuilding. Recommendations emerging from the forum have served as a planning basis for Interpeace work in the region in 2020 and beyond.



## Collaboration with regional actors

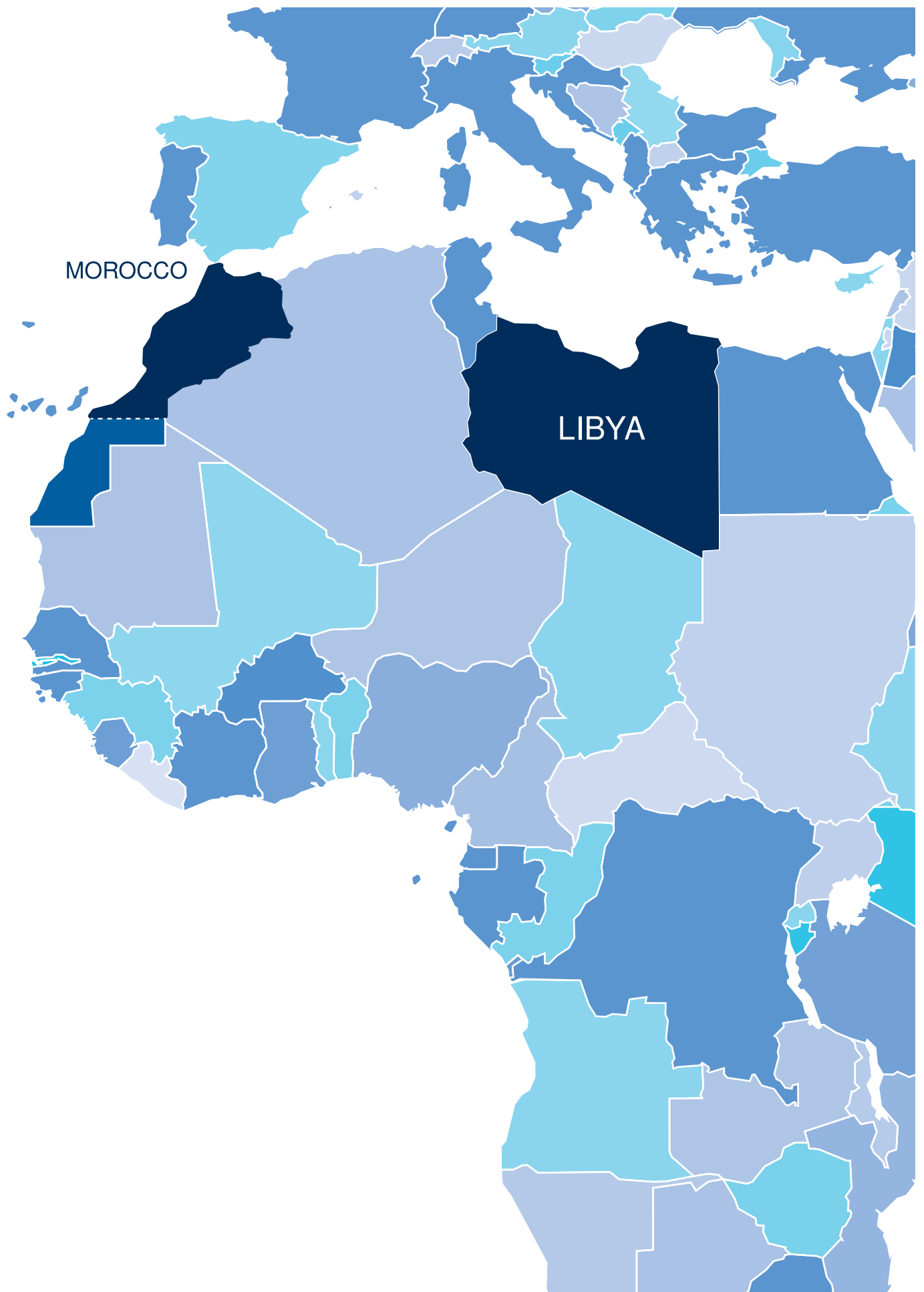
In response to the increasing need for effective coordination of peacebuilding efforts, Interpeace has strengthened its engagement with other peacebuilding actors active in the region. These include a platform of local authorities of the Great Lakes countries and other international non-governmental organizations. The platform regularly engages members of Interpeace dialogue groups in their initiative, and has expressed a willingness to strengthen this collaboration. The platform is

committed to using its influence to conduct high-level advocacy in favour of peace.

Interpeace is collaborating with various organizations like La Benevolencija, Foundation Hirondelle, the Danish Refugee Council and others, to reach larger audiences and create a movement of peacebuilders in the country. The organization brings its media expertise, specifically regarding countering hate speech, to this collaboration.



CENAP



# Middle East and North Africa

# Libya

During the final months of 2019, the war in Libya transformed into an active and more conventional conflict between key conflict actors, exacerbated by the active movement and patronage of international actors, either directly or through proxies. Khalifa Haftar's self-styled Libyan National Army (LNA) has focused on building a conventional army in the eastern part of the country through the training of recruits. At the same time, as Haftar's geographic zone of control expanded, new tribal militias joined and were reinforced with mercenary militia units.

In parallel with these reinforcements, technical assistance, training, and financial support along with non-lethal equipment flowed to the LNA initially from Egypt, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia. In turn, additional technical support was forthcoming as Haftar forces expanded control to the so-called Oil Crescent region.

In June 2019, President Erdogan from Turkey was quoted as telling journalists that Turkey was providing active military support to the internationally recognized Libyan government. In a July 5, 2019 meeting in Istanbul, Erdogan personally assured GNA Prime Minister, Faiez Serraj, of Turkey's continued support.

As efforts to revive the UNSMIL Conference looked unpromising, the Special Representative of the Secretary General declared his intention to convene an international conference bringing together key international actors on Libya - what was to become the Berlin Conference. Participation by the various stakeholders to the Libyan conflict was seen as key to ensuring follow-up and proper implementation of Conference outcomes. However significant challenges remain as Libyan actors are still at odds with each other about a potential solution for the country's conflict.

Interpeace's programme in Libya seeks to strengthen intra and inter-communal social cohesion by reinforcing internal capacities for conflict management, fostering constructive exchange between central authorities and local communities, and contributing to the emergence of cohesive communities.

## Establishing a pool of change agents and facilitating intra-community consultations

The Interpeace programme established a pool of change agents in 2019 consisting of 127 men and women from eighteen communities in Libya's three regions. The agents are tasked with bringing together their communities to explore common solutions to some of the most pressing problems. The goal is to build gradually the dialogue spaces created around the change agents to complement and connect with any top-down dialogue process that eventually emerges from current attempts.

Over 12 intra-community consultations were supported during the year, between formal and informal authorities involving participation by 240 community members, on how to best address delivery of basic services. Change agents also facilitated several discussions on justice and security with representatives from the local municipality, local police, the Ministry of Interior, and informal community leaders.





# Morocco

In 2019, the same ingredients that ignited the first spark in the wave of Arab Spring protests in 2011 – marginalisation, inequality, exclusion, lack of employment opportunities, and political grievances – remained at the heart of the protest movement in Morocco.

In this context, civil society organizations (CSOs) have a key role to play in conveying the aspirations of the population and translating these into viable policies. In practice, however, mistrust and lack of consultation between CSOs and the authorities hamper the capacity of Moroccan society to unblock social dialogue and identify consensual solutions to the problems identified by the population. This is partly due to a lack of experience in advocacy and policy dialogue among Moroccan CSOs, which in turn has hampered a unified call for innovative and concrete solutions to the country's challenges

Interpeace's programme in Morocco aims to help civil society engage constructively with authorities as a way of establishing peaceful relationships. These relationships are a key tool for working together to solve problems and address growing discontentment among the population.

## Building Local Capacity

From June to November 2019, Interpeace organised and facilitated five training workshops aimed at: 1) developing conflict transformation skills, and 2) integrating them into participants' daily practice.

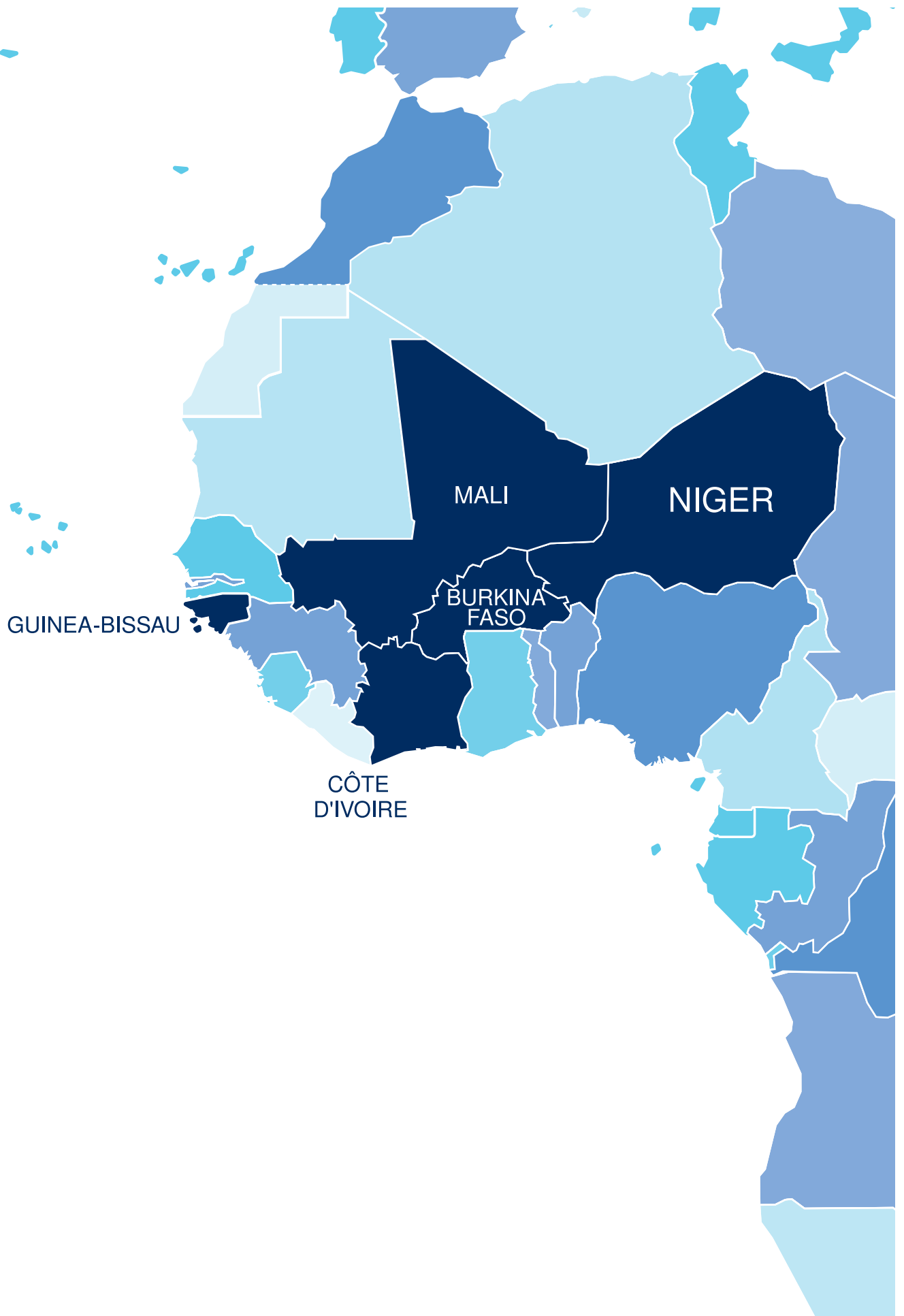
Participants reported an increased use of the conflict transformation approach to inform their personal, professional and community environments. One association developed a conflict analysis of the education sector using the tools acquired during the workshop. Another association did the same for a conflict on local migration issues and a third planned to use the prism of conflict transformation to better grasp the structural dimensions of violence against women.

Participants also noted taking a more active citizen role overall and gaining confidence to act within their local community.

## Multiplier effect of conflict transformation workshops

In the project's final evaluation, 83 per cent of the participants stated that they had already shared a tool and/or knowledge acquired during the workshops with other associations or individuals. Three of the 21 associations went so far as to organise an introductory workshop on conflict transformation for the members of their respective associations and/or partners.





# West Africa and Sahel Region

# Mali

The security situation in Mali remains a critical priority for Malian authorities, international partners, and local communities. Northern Mali suffers from frequent and irregular attacks by often unidentified armed groups linked to so-called “extremist groups”, and general insecurity and banditry in both urban and rural areas. Regions in central Mali also suffer from increased insecurity, partly linked to the activities of armed extremist groups, and increasingly to so-called “inter-community violence”.

During much of 2019 a cycle of indiscriminate, apparently ethnically-motivated violence occurred, with massacres carried out against entire villages, further inciting violent reactions.

Government policy shifts contributed to the instability, as well as the slow implementation of the 2015 Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation. Despite the presence of national and international forces, illicit trade continued to fuel cycles of violence and instability across the country. The Malian army retreated from certain isolated posts after a surge of terrorist attacks on military camps that killed dozens of members of the armed forces.

Interpeace’s Mali/Sahel programme is currently carried out with local partner, IMRAP. The programme aims at reinforcing trust, social cohesion, and social capacity/agency to deal with conflict in a non-violent and constructive way. Interpeace seeks to achieve these goals through facilitated participatory dialogue, owned and institutionalised from the lowest to highest levels of society and government.

## Meaningful engagement of women

In 2019, over 120 women in northern Mali, including women from armed movements, became active peace agents and contributed to mapping high-risk conflict areas, helping to mediate and solve conflicts. Their involvement made it possible to reconcile two women leaders from Ansongo who had been in conflict for several years. This is a significant achievement in a context where women have a crucial role to play to promote peace in their communities and among their families and other combatants.





## Fostering trust through sustainable dialogue

The Mécanisme Opérationnel de Coordination – MOC (Operational Coordination Mechanism) – is one of the pillars of the peace agreement signed in 2015, bringing together different parties to the conflict. In Gao and Timbuktu, Interpeace and IMRAP have continued facilitating dialogue spaces to foster trust and social cohesion between communities and the MOC. In 2019 Interpeace held a roundtable involving MINUSMA, EUCAP, and various embassies to discuss how the MOC can be an entry point for peacebuilding and stabilisation.

A systemic map of resilience and conflict factors was created at the end of 2019 through an intensive participatory process engaging community members in southern Mali.

The process involves participants in analysing data from over 280 individual “life stories” collected within their communities to draw out common themes and causal relationships with conflict. These are then aggregated into an overarching systemic map of community dynamics relating to resilience and conflict.

## Helping to shape resilient communities

# Guinea-Bissau

Legislative and presidential elections in 2019 marked the successful completion of the first popularly mandated government in Guinea-Bissau's history, and a significant step forward in the consolidation of democracy in the country. Nevertheless, the results of the presidential election were impugned by the losing party, leading to a revision process required by the Supreme Court, and a subsequent political deadlock.

Additional factors at play in 2019 included: a growing polarisation of society linked to weakened national identity and fueled by ethno-religious divisions and socio-economic inequalities; a self-identified frail culture of dialogue in spite of the historical social cohesion; and a lack of institutional solutions. Growing levels of corruption and widespread disfunction of institutions added to the lack of citizen confidence in the political class. The political instability and overarching fragility undermined implementation of development policies, especially in health, education, and justice.

Interpeace's programme in Guinea-Bissau, implemented with local partner Voz di Paz (VdP), promotes citizen engagement for good governance and peacebuilding, with a focus on the most excluded groups of society. The programme aims at strengthening the role of women in conflict resolution and promoting more inclusive traditional justice. The programme also focuses on "justice governance" by creating new mechanisms and building capacities for an active citizenry empowered to monitor, evaluate, and advocate for adequate public policies in the justice sector.







## Participatory Barometer to identify root causes of conflict and improve the justice sector governance.

Interpeace and Voz di Paz provided support in the conception and development of a “Participatory Barometer” in Guinea-Bissau. The Barometer has contributed to generating an informed discussion around the governance of justice while also having the potential to guide the sector’s reform. More than 4,000 people from all over the country were involved throughout the process of developing the tool. This was unprecedented, representing the first quantitative research in the justice sector, and the first quantitative participatory process for Interpeace in the country. Interpeace and VdP have set up a steering committee including high-level justice actors, and initiated a reflection group with international donors, to catalyse the impact of this work.

## Broadening inclusion of women in decision-making and conflict prevention.

In 2019 Interpeace and Voz di Paz carried out a study on traditional justice, with a focus on women and children, conflict prevention and resolution, and decision-making. A total of 128 participants (61 women and 67 men) were involved in the research and validation process. Sensitisation activities were also undertaken to disseminate key messages and recommendations at the local level. To catalyse the study’s impact, Interpeace and VdP held public projections of a film accompanying the study report.

The study provides an important contribution to strengthening understanding of gender perspectives on traditional justice mechanisms and underpins development of Interpeace’s work on justice governance in Guinea Bissau.

# Côte d'Ivoire

The pre-electoral political climate in Côte d'Ivoire has been greatly shaped by the conditional release of former President Laurent Gbagbo by the International Criminal Court, and the international arrest warrant by Ivorian authorities against former Prime Minister and National Assembly President, and 2020 Presidential candidate, Guillaume Soro.

The period also saw a ban on opposition demonstrations, an increase in arbitrary arrests, and harassment and attacks on political dissidents.

Social cohesion in the country remains fragile. In some rural areas, access to land continues to be a major source of tension. In urban areas, the lack of socio-economic opportunities, organized crime, and poor governance continues to contribute a youth-gang phenomenon. Gang violence weakens the education system, which is largely perceived as failing to educate or guide the youth population.

The number of out-of-school children in the country totals 1.6 million with more than 300,000 of these attending Koranic schools, not recognised by the Ivorian Government. In response the Ministry of Education (MoE) has developed the National Integration Strategy (SNIESIE by its French acronym) to integrate Koranic schools formally into the public system.

In 2019, Interpeace and partner Indigo Côte d'Ivoire (Indigo CI) sought to consolidate and expand collaborative interventions to advance social cohesion, with a strong emphasis on conflict management around land and youth violence.

## National Integration Strategy Development and Implementation

In July, Interpeace and Indigo CI were invited by the Ministry of Education to present a joint study conducted on Koranic schools and Talibes children in 2018. Since 2018, Interpeace and Indigo CI have supported development and implementation of the SNIESIE through provision of evidence-based recommendations and participation in the Strategy design process.

## Consolidating collaboration and trust

In the District des Montagnes Region, the lack of trust between communities and the local authorities has been identified as a major obstacle to social cohesion. In February 2019, Interpeace and Indigo CI organised an inter-regional workshop gathering members of all local peace committees and local authorities. The exchange sought to reinforce trust among the participants and help identify new ways of fostering social cohesion. The results of that workshop were shared with relevant stakeholders at regional and national levels to promote the replication – if not institutionalisation – of those practices.

In February 2019, Interpeace developed technical and political recommendations for the international community concerning the prevention of political violence. Related to this, the Delegation of the European Union and the French Embassy in Côte d'Ivoire organised two roundtables with Interpeace to facilitate open dialogue on the need for concerted violence prevention interventions in the short-term, and the ongoing need for peacebuilding work in the country.

## Preventing political violence



INDIGO CÔTE D'IVOIRE



# Niger

In 2019, Niger continued to experience widespread insecurity, apparent overall in the Sahel region. The country's instability is related to three main factors: 1) activities by Boko Haram supporters and splinter groups in part belonging to the Islamic State; 2) illegal trafficking and displaced combatants on the northeast border with Libya (the Salvador Pass); and 3) suffering from spill-over disputes in the West of the country in the region of Gao on the Malian border.

The Government's efforts to respond to these threats have been primarily of a military nature and have not managed to address effectively the problem of insecurity, which significantly impacts the country's population and economic and social development opportunities.

One of the country's major challenges is the limited access to education. The Republic of Niger reports an adult literacy rate of 15.5 per cent, while more than 50 per cent of children aged between 7 and 16 are out-of-school. According to UNICEF, less than 60 per cent of primary school students enter secondary school. Fewer than eight per cent of the children enrolled in school have acquired adequate literacy and numeracy skills by the end of primary school, indicating a severe lack of quality education opportunities.

Interpeace's programme in Niger focuses on the topics of youth and education. Regarding youth, the primary goal of the programme is helping to implement the roadmap established by the Government of Niger through a multi-stakeholder process during the National Youth Forum in 2018. In the field of education, Interpeace assisted the Government and UNICEF in the realisation of a participatory, locally-owned and inclusive consultation on education in all regions of the country.

## Participatory Dialogue and Engagement

In 2019, Interpeace implemented a range of workshops aimed at building stakeholder capacity and facilitating inclusive and inter-generational dialogue. Participants identified existing dialogue spaces, and learned how to dynamise them or - where needed - to create new spaces. Each workshop was attended by at least 20 Government representatives from relevant Ministries, youth representatives, local authorities, representatives of local civil society organizations from the four targeted districts, and at least one traditional leader per workshop. The workshops have been instrumental in strengthening capacities for collaborative action and engagement with authorities in effective decision making - this has been particularly impactful in the case of young people and civil society representatives.

## Interpeace's methodology is being applied by the Niger Government to identify the population's needs regarding the education system

Interpeace provided important methodological support to the Niger Government in 2019 – and specifically to the CAPEG (Cellule d'analyse et des politiques publiques et d'évaluation de l'action gouvernementale) – in order to carry out participatory research on education and conduct a systemic analysis of the results. Two debriefing and capacity building workshops were carried out during the year to ensure the inclusive and participatory character of national consultations, with an emphasis on youth, as the primary target group.



# Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso has witnessed a dramatic increase in violence in the last five years. This violence is spreading widely throughout the territory and is transforming in character. The number of victims spiraled from 80 in 2016 to 1,800 in 2019. This dramatic growth in violence represents a marked shift in the Burkinabe profile as a conflict-free zone and a model of stability and social cohesion, in a region confronted with multiple civil wars and ethnic violence.

This situation reveals a fragile military response but also a weak presence of the State in certain areas, which resulted in the proliferation of armed groups. In January 2019, several people from the Fulani community were killed in Yirgou in the Centre-Nord region, revealing the fractures existing between communities which can turn violent.

The emergence of the nationally constituted self-defense group “Kogl weogo” and the possible recruitment of civilian volunteers in the fight against armed groups greatly risks further exacerbating ethnic conflicts and tensions between different communities.

Initiated in the second half of 2019, Interpeace’s Burkina Faso programme seeks to implement a process where the local population can openly express how they understand current threats to peace and security in their country. Through input on how they are addressing these challenges, participants provide stakeholders at large with important tools for a thorough analysis of the drivers of conflict and resilience factors. The analysis is key to informing evidence-based strategies and decision-making on peacebuilding engagement and programming in the country and region.

## Commencement of Interpeace Peacebuilding Activities

A new Interpeace team was established in Ouagadougou to start our operations in the country.

The Interpeace team has established a strong relationship with relevant governmental authorities (Social Cohesion, Civic Promotion) with the aim of developing a national strategy for social cohesion through peace responsive solutions.

In addition, Interpeace launched a new collaboration with the PATRIP Foundation (Regional integration and cross-border cooperation in fragile border areas of Afghanistan and West Africa) and the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to conduct the *Youth Advocates for Peace* project, and an innovative cross-border project which will aim at fostering peace responsive development.

# Other Programmes

# Integrating Peacebuilding Innovation in Health and Social Programmes

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Interpeace's Programme Development and Innovation Unit (PDU) was established in 2019 to identify and advance opportunities for country-based peacebuilding and to consider new and innovative ways in which Interpeace's mandate can be advanced.

In this context, the PDU led exploratory missions in 2019 to expand Interpeace's work in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda, as well as launching a new country programme in Burkina Faso.

## Innovation

In 2019, the PDU focused on two areas of innovation, the first was development of a "peace and health" approach in response to the Ebola crisis in the Eastern Region of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Interpeace research highlighted the impact that conflict and manipulation were having on the capacity of Ebola response teams to deal with the crisis effectively. Interpeace identified a need to integrate its peacebuilding work into the work of the response teams, with an emphasis on dialogue and trust-building. This analysis led to the establishment of an Ebola-focused peacebuilding programme in the Ituri Province of DRC, funded by the European Union EU).

Secondly, the PDU focused on the development of increased Peace Education in Interpeace's peacebuilding approach. The PDU, together with the Quaker Council for European Affairs, engaged EU institutions in Brussels in order to raise awareness on the importance of adopting this approach.

The PDU is continuing to explore how Peace Education can be realised in practical ways within existing and future peacebuilding efforts, either informally or more formally as part of programmatic work. In 2019, Interpeace applied for a GIZ tender for developing Peace Education programming in the Great Lakes region.



# Influencing International Policy and Practice

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The Policy, Learning and Interpeace Advisory Team (IPAT) Unit contributes to the implementation of the second facet of Interpeace's mandate, which is to assist the international community (and in particular the United Nations) to play a more effective role in supporting peacebuilding efforts around the world. The Unit is also responsible for fostering a learning culture through developing evidence-based design, monitoring and evaluation, and contributing to the global knowledge base on effective peacebuilding practice.

The Unit also manages the Interpeace Advisory Team which comprises a network of associates strategically aligned with Interpeace peacebuilding principles and institutional objectives.

In 2019, Interpeace supported the Peace through Health initiative for the World Health Organization (WHO), which seeks to mainstream approaches leveraging health interventions to realise peace dividends.

Interpeace also initiated a cross-organizational dialogue and learning process between five agencies –the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the WHO. To further scale-up this work, Interpeace is launching a Peace Responsiveness Facility (PRF) in 2020 to facilitate the design of joint programming between Interpeace and other international organizations and UN entities.

IPAT led the ongoing partnership with the FAO in 2019 to support the operationalisation of its, sustaining peace, framework. In 2019 IPAT analysed and articulated the typical pathways through which FAO's food security interventions may also enhance peace. This analysis was submitted as a joint input to the 2020 Peacebuilding Architecture Review while the institutional partnership was put into practice in Somalia where Interpeace carried out a conflict analysis together with the FAO.

IPAT also led work in 2019 on an evaluative review of UNICEF's conflict prevention and peacebuilding work. Interpeace has signed a long-term agreement to build UNICEF country team capacity on peacebuilding and related programming.

**Peace Responsiveness Initiative: operationalizing peacebuilding approaches in development and humanitarian work**





## Development and Launch of Principles for Inclusive Peace

In November 2019, Interpeace soft launched its Principles for Inclusive Peace initiative, at the Paris Peace Forum. The launch commenced an anticipated two-year global process of bottom-up and top-down research, consultation, and advocacy to review and develop commonly agreed, guiding non-binding international norms for future peace processes. The process will be led by an international Commission of eminent political leaders, scholars, heads of civil society and practitioners. The initiative was selected from over 700 projects at the Peace Forum, as one of ten scale-up projects to begin in 2020.



## Thought Leadership

### Operationalising youth peace and security

The Unit raised the profile of the Youth Peace and Security (YPS) agenda of the United Nations in New York and contributed to major policy review processes such as the 2020 UN Secretary-General's Report to the Security Council on the YPS. Through building the capacity of youth-led policy advocacy in New York and in other policy fora, Interpeace contributed to moving the international community's approach away from securitised approaches to Countering and Preventing Violent Extremism that have expanded in the last ten years. This policy engagement also led to programme development on youth-related peacebuilding work in West Africa.

### Advancing discourse on the stabilization and peacebuilding nexus, bridging traditional divides between military and security actors and development and peace communities

While the Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus is a major thematic focus for the international community, a more significant operational and conceptual gap remains between military and security actors on one hand and other international actors on the other hand, in fragile and conflict affected settings. There is also a trend at present towards increased stabilisation oriented and kinetic mandates for UN Peacekeeping Missions. In response, Interpeace has partnered with the Atlantic Council, to commence a series of dialogues between senior US and EU military leaders, and peacebuilding actors, to go beyond traditional civil-military discourse and bridge the operational gap that exists in the field.

### Action research and targeted donor advocacy on the Humanitarian-Peace Nexus

Interpeace carried out high level action research to map the incentives that govern behaviour in the Humanitarian sector and produced a policy brief identifying entry points for change. Senior members of leading humanitarian organizations as well as other partners in Geneva co-developed the research which queries common understandings of the barriers to change for the humanitarian and peacebuilding nexus.

### Research and development on measuring resilience and enhancing humanitarian action

Interpeace, working with external partners at the University of Cyprus, developed a framework for a "resilience barometer", and signed a letter of cooperation with the International Federation of the Red Cross to implement the barometer in partnership with ten national societies of the IFRC in Africa.



## Growth and Consolidation of the Interpeace Advisory Team (IPAT)

The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of The Effective Advising course was successfully undertaken at the global level, while a regional level course (focusing on the MENA region) was undertaken for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time. Both courses were highly rated by participants. A six-month follow-up evaluation of the 2018 courses, conducted in 2019, clearly demonstrated how participants apply key concepts from the course in their day-to-day work.

In 2019 the Interpeace suite of Effective Advising Courses was expanded to include a specific sectoral edition targeting advisers operating in the SSR/SSG field. Course training was delivered in partnership with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces. The rationale for this course was to influence the security and stabilization field through peacebuilding approaches and principles. The Senior Peacebuilding Leadership course was held for the 11<sup>th</sup> time during the year.

# Partnerships



# Partnerships

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Building on its 25 years of supporting peace processes worldwide, Interpeace recognizes the importance of building strong partnerships with national as well as international actors, enabling to engage in political dialogues, align strategies and join forces to achieve common objectives.

## Our strategic partners

Interpeace is particularly grateful to its governmental Strategic Partners –the **Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Nations**– for their continued overall political and financial support. Their commitment has been critical in achieving our results in 2019.

## Global Partners

Interpeace is delighted to have longstanding partnerships with the following Governments who provide generous financial programmatic support allowing the organization to pursue sustainable peace in the field as well to advance innovative policy influence for more effective peacebuilding strategies.

Canada

European Union

Germany

Ireland

United Kingdom

Norway

Denmark

## Institutional partnerships

**FAO** Interpeace and FAO signed their second letter of agreement in 2019, building on the successful partnership since 2017, encompassing continued support to the mainstreaming and institutionalization of context analysis, conflict sensitivity and contributions to peace in programme design processes. Furthermore, Interpeace has conducted a conflict analysis with FAO in three regions in South-Central Somalia and is now working with FAO to use the analysis to inform adaptations to FAO interventions so that they become more conflict sensitive and seize opportunities to foster community relationships and social cohesion.

**UNICEF** In 2019, Interpeace conducted an evaluative review of UNICEF's programming on the prevention of violent conflict and peacebuilding. This qualitative review aimed at identifying cross-sectoral programming having had a catalytic violence prevention and peacebuilding results across social, political, economic, environmental and cultural spheres. UNICEF and Interpeace will strengthen their partnership through a long term agreement to inform future programming in fragile contexts.

**IFRC** The IFRC and Interpeace, have partnered with the objective to cooperate on a range of initiatives at the intersection of the humanitarian-peacebuilding nexus, as well as through the One Billion Coalition for Resilience (IBC) Initiative. Both organizations are working together in the development of participatory and action-oriented programme to understand best practices on how humanitarian actors can enable local communities to build resilience.

**WHO** In the Democratic Republic of Congo, Interpeace and WHO partnered to help build trust between members of the communities and the health response team amidst an intense Ebola outbreak. In addition, In 2019 Interpeace advised WHO on the development of their Health and Peace White Paper and the resulting Health and Peace Initiative.

**ECES** Interpeace and the European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES) have established a partnership to reinforce support to electoral commissions in Somalia and Somaliland on their democratisation processes.



## Fondation Hironnelle

Interpeace's partnership with Fondation Hironnelle aims at enhancing the way people in vulnerable contexts generate and receive information, promoting peaceful and inclusive societies. In 2019, Interpeace and Fondation Hironnelle started implementing a project designed to contribute towards developing mutual understanding and trust among young people in Burkina Faso.

In the heat of rising conflicts in the DRC, Interpeace has partnered with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and Fondation Hironnelle to restore trust among the Kasai communities and reconcile them with DRC authorities.

## IGAD

Since 2017, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has partnered with Interpeace to work together on peace initiatives in Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa.

## PBSO

The partnership between Interpeace and the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) reflects current shared priorities to build more just, inclusive, resilient, and peaceful societies. Interpeace and PBSO work together towards achieving the Sustaining Peace Agenda.

## Ensuring local ownership through long-term partnerships

Together with our local partners, we create spaces for dialogue that allow for the active participation of local people to identify peacebuilding challenges and to develop their own solutions.

Since 2012, Interpeace and local partner **Indigo Côte d'Ivoire (CI)** have been engaged in Côte d'Ivoire to foster social cohesion and prevent violence.

In Mali, Interpeace and its partner, the **Institut Malien de Recherche Action pour la Paix (IMRAP)**, have been working together since 2013 to reinforce trust, social cohesion, and social capacity/agency to deal with conflict in a non-violent and constructive way.

In 2007, Interpeace set up a peacebuilding programme in Guinea-Bissau in partnership with **Voz di Paz**, aimed at promoting citizen engagement for good governance and peacebuilding.

The Cross-Border for Peace in the Great Lakes Region programme was launched in 2011 by Interpeace and its partners to address key challenges to peace and reconciliation. The programme is currently in its second phase and is implemented by Interpeace and the following partners: **Réseau d'Innovation Organisationnelle (RIO)**; **Action Pour la Paix et la Concorde (APC)** in South Kivu; **Pole Institute** and **Centre d'Etudes Juridiques Appliquées (CEJA)** in North Kivu; **Centre d'Alerte et de Prévention des Conflits (CENAP)** in Burundi and **Never Again Rwanda (NAR)** in Rwanda.

Interpeace's partner in Kenya, the **National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC)**, is a national institution established to promote national reconciliation and healing. Through this partnership Interpeace implements a peacebuilding programme to contribute advancing peace, security, and development in fragile Counties in Kenya.

In Burundi, over the course of 11 years, Interpeace and its partner, the **Conflict Alert and Prevention Centre (CENAP)**, have implemented a long-term peacebuilding strategy in Burundi aimed at strengthening the resilience capacities for peace among youth and promote inclusive decision making.

In Rwanda, the “Societal Healing and Participatory Governance” programme, has been implemented since 2015 by Interpeace and local partner **Never Again Rwanda (NAR)**, providing safe spaces for dialogue and healing and advocating for increased citizens’ participation.

Through its long-term partners, **Peace and Development Research Center (PDRC)** in Puntland and **Academy of Peace and Development (APD)** in Somaliland, Interpeace has been successfully supporting peacebuilding and democratization processes across the Somali region for the last 20 years.

In July 2018, Interpeace entered a consortium named Ensemble pour Beni (“Together for Beni”) with four other organizations, to work together in the Beni Territory of North Kivu province. Beni has experienced deadly violent conflicts perpetrated by different local and foreigner armed groups. Beni is also one of the epicenters of the 2018 Ebola outbreak in the DRC, and the intermittent violence has hampered efforts to contain the disease. The consortium brings together the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**, **Search for Common Ground**, **World Vision**, the **Christian Bilingual University of Congo (UCBC)**, and Interpeace, with the support of the **United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO)**.

In 2019, Interpeace began working in the provinces of Kasai and Kasai Central in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), in partnership with **Work and Human Rights (TDH)**, the **Diocesan Commission for Justice and Peace (CDJP)** and **Action for Peace and Concorde (APC)**. Our project seeks to foster dialogue, facilitate mediation and reconciliation, and focuses on building trust between communities, authorities and security forces.

## Our Policy Partners

Atlantic Council  
GCSP  
Graduate Institute  
Geneva

## Other donors & partners

Humanity United  
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Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway  
Robert Bosch Foundation  
Salesforce



# 2019 Income, Expenditure and Audit

# Letter from the Auditors



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## **Report of the Independent Auditor on the Summary Consolidated Financial Statements of Interpeace, Geneva**

### **Opinion**

The summary consolidated financial statements of 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 Interpeace for the year ended December 31, 2019.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary consolidated financial statements derived from the audited consolidated financial statements of Interpeace for the year ended December 31, 2019 are consistent, in all material respects, with those consolidated financial statements, in accordance with the basis of preparation described in note 2.

### **Emphasis of Matter**

We draw attention to the note "Subsequent Events" of the audited consolidated financial statements describing the impact of COVID-19 on Interpeace. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

### **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 31, 2020.

### **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 31, 2020

### **Appendices:**

- Summary consolidated financial statements



BERNE DELESMONT FRIBOURG GENEVE LAUSANNE NEUCHÂTEL SION ZÜRICH



# Financial Statements

Calendar Year 2019 (In US Dollars)

## Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income

	2019	2018
	US\$	US\$
<b>Income</b>		
United Nations	1 737 677	1 448 087
Governments	15 331 384	11 531 553
Trusts & Foundations, NGO and Other	962 803	309 379
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>18 031 864</b>	<b>13 289 019</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Personnel (incl. consultants)	10 710 928	9 880 354
Travel and Related Expenses	2 944 156	2 222 398
Equipment Purchases	496 419	97 200
Depreciation (including on right-of-use assets)	619 419	45 180
Office, Communications, Vehicle and Finance	1 283 833	1 825 320
Workshops, Reporting, Professional Services and Grants	1 940 803	1 977 304
UN Management Fees	46 787	92 555
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>18 042 345</b>	<b>16 140 311</b>
<b>Finance (costs) / gains</b>	<b>(69 972)</b>	<b>(12 773)</b>
<b>Other Comprehensive (loss) / income</b>	<b>(353 193)</b>	<b>28 120</b>
<b>Net (loss) / income</b>	<b>(433 646)</b>	<b>(2 835 945)</b>
Carryforward from Previous Year	2 061 132	4 897 077
<b>Closing Balance 31st December</b>	<b>1 627 486</b>	<b>2 061 132</b>

## Balance Sheet

(as at 31 December)

	2019	2018
	US\$	US\$
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Non Current Assets</b>		
Property, Plant and Equipment	89 574	120 727
Right-of-Use Assets	1 427 024	1 988 533
Deposits	134 630	121 082
Donor Income Receivable	10 208 022	13 035 705
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Deposits	2 824	5 520
Advances to UN	209 744	24 910
Advances to Partners	625 839	491 252
Donor Income Receivable	15 596 072	11 643 738
Other Receivables and Prepayments	314 813	223 724
Cash and Cash Equivalents	10 207 543	10 470 577
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>38 816 085</b>	<b>38 125 768</b>
<b>Liabilities and Reserves</b>		
<b>Non Current Liabilities</b>		
Provisions	43 638	39 563
Employee Benefits	971 710	585 642
Deferred Income	10 208 022	13 035 705
Lease Liability	832 043	1 394 389
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Deferred Income	23 750 614	19 033 788
Lease Liability	646 343	594 144
Amounts due to Partners	25 365	6 314
Income to be Repaid to Donors	74 799	616 305
Payables and Accruals	636 065	758 786
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>37 188 599</b>	<b>36 064 636</b>
Unrestricted Reserves	1 627 486	2 061 132
<b>Total Liabilities and Reserves</b>	<b>38 816 085</b>	<b>38 125 768</b>

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).



## Cash Flow

	2019	2018
<b>Unrestricted net (loss) / income for the year</b>	<b>(80 453)</b>	<b>(2 864 065)</b>
<b>Cash flow from operating activities</b>		
Adjustments for		
Depreciation, including on right-of-use assets	619 419	45 180
Net finance costs / (income)	(14 125)	12 773
	<b>524 841</b>	<b>(2 806 112)</b>
Change in deposits	(10 852)	(10 439)
Change in advances to UN	(184 834)	214 770
Change in advances to partners	(125 447)	9 405
Change in donor income receivable	(820 174)	998 171
Change in accounts receivable and prepayments	(100 229)	(14 849)
Change in provisions and employee benefits	56 388	(144 235)
Change in deferred income	1 584 666	5 531 950
Change in amount due to partners	19 051	(29 268)
Change in Income to be repaid to donors	(541 506)	235 480
Change in accounts payable and accrued expenses	(130 133)	62 776
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	<b>271 771</b>	<b>4 047 649</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Interest received	21 100	154
Acquisition of property plant and equipment	(13 567)	(19 690)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>7 533</b>	<b>(19 536)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
Payment on principal portion of lease liability	(523 337)	0
Interest paid	(237)	(1 208)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>	<b>(523 574)</b>	<b>(1 208)</b>
<b>Net Increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>( 244 270)</b>	<b>4 026 905</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	10 470 577	6 510 806
Effect of exchange rate fluctuations on cash held	(18 764)	(67 134)
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December</b>	<b>10 207 543</b>	<b>10 470 577</b>

## Changes in Reserves

	2019				2018
	Interpeace Headquarters Unrestricted Reserves	Interpeace Inc. Unrestricted Fund	Interpeace Sweden Unrestricted Fund	Total Unrestricted Reserves	
Opening Balance	2 036 612	23 400	1 120	2 061 132	4 897 077
Unrestricted net (loss) / income for the year	(80 453)	0	0	(80 453)	(2 864 065)
Items that will never be reclassified to profit or loss					
Remeasurements of defined benefit liability	(333 755)	0	0	(333 755)	41 209
Items that are or may be reclassified to profit or loss					
Foreign currency translation differences	(19 438)	0	0	(19 438)	(13 089)
Total other comprehensive (loss) / income	(353 193)	0	0	(353 193)	28 120
Total comprehensive (loss) / income for the year	(433 646)	0	0	(433 646)	(2 835 945)
Closing Balance	1 602 966	23 400	1 120	1 627 486	2 061 132



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