



Interpeace
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION
FOR PEACEBUILDING

Grounded Peace

Annual Report 2024



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Message from the Chairperson and the President & CEO

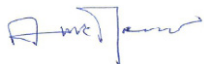
As we reflect on the past year, we find ourselves facing an unprecedented convergence of challenges – armed conflicts that threaten communities, a climate crisis that endangers our shared future and the deepening fragmentation of societies across the world. These crises test our resolve, but they also reaffirm the urgent need for peacebuilding, dialogue and collective action.

At Interpeace, we remain steadfast in our mission to foster understanding, bridge divides and cultivate sustainable solutions. Through our work, we have witnessed firsthand the power of communities coming together – whether in conflict zones striving for reconciliation, climate-affected regions adapting with resilience or divided societies finding paths to solidarity. This Annual Report highlights our progress, the voices of those impacted and the road ahead. In 2024, we achieved great impacts in advancing our 2021-2025 Strategy “A Resilient Peace”, with efforts focused on three specific aims: Rethinking Peace, Enhancing Resilience for Peace and Embedding and Institutionalising Peace.

In these uncertain times, peace is not just the absence of conflict; it is the presence of justice, cooperation and shared responsibility. We extend our deepest gratitude to all who walk this path with us – partners, supporters and courageous individuals who believe in the possibility of a better world.

Together, we carry forward the commitment to building peace, restoring hope and shaping a future that belongs to all.

With resolve and appreciation,



Amre Moussa
Chairperson



Itonde A. Kakoma
President & CEO



Introduction

In 2024, the world faced its most severe challenges to peace and security since the Second World War. For the tenth consecutive year, global peacefulness declined as violent conflicts intensified and spread. More than 120 armed conflicts currently affect countries around the world.¹ The wars in Ukraine and Gaza have either persisted or escalated, while violence continues unabated in regions such as Sudan and across the Sahel, where state fragility and non-state armed groups exacerbate instability. These conflicts, many of which are overlooked, have intensified in vulnerable states across Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, becoming increasingly decentralised and complex, driving human suffering beyond the reach of international headlines.

Humanitarian needs have reached record highs. In early 2024, the global number of forcibly displaced people surpassed 120 million, highlighting the effects of protracted conflicts, climate-induced disasters, and unstable governance structures.² Meanwhile, extreme weather events driven by climate change are intensifying vulnerabilities in fragile settings and worsening displacement, food insecurity, and competition for resources.

Multilateral institutions—vital for international peace and security—are undergoing unprecedented strain. The erosion of international norms, escalating geopolitical competition, and the ongoing deadlock within key bodies such as the UN Security Council have constrained collaborative responses. Simultaneously, authoritarian backsliding and the shrinking of civic space are hindering inclusive conflict resolution and democratic governance across numerous regions. Furthermore, emerging technologies are reshaping the nature of violence, as cyber and digital threats exacerbate disinformation and misinformation.

In this volatile landscape, Interpeace's mission has only become more relevant. Thirty years after its founding, Interpeace continues to distinguish itself as a uniquely positioned peacebuilding actor. Its focus on locally led conflict transformation, resilience building, and systemic change is closely aligned with the growing recognition that sustainable peace cannot be externally imposed but must emerge from within societies.

Interpeace's commitment to local ownership, institutional partnerships, and innovation makes it a key player in assisting communities, states, and international actors in navigating increasingly complex peace and conflict dynamics. As the international system struggles to address escalating crises, Interpeace's efforts complement global peacebuilding initiatives—supporting conflict-affected societies in designing, implementing, and maintaining their own pathways to peace.

In 2024, Interpeace achieved remarkable impacts in advancing its 2021–2025 A Resilient Peace strategy during this crucial penultimate year, with efforts focused on three key aims.

Rethinking Peace

Interpeace has advanced its thought leadership and innovation in building, assessing, and financing peace. Five country programmes have implemented large-scale mixed-methods research to address key factors influencing peace and resilience. These included, for example, psychosocial research in Rwanda and conflict mapping in Guinea-Bissau. Additionally, the

Finance for Peace initiative served as a cornerstone of this strategic aim, culminating in the launch of the Peace Finance Impact Framework. On 27 November 2024, Finance for Peace was established as an independent institution headquartered in London to lead global efforts in setting standards for peace finance.³

Enhancing Resilience for Peace

Interpeace worked with 70,863 people across 12 countries in Africa and the Middle East, reinforcing local capacities for conflict resolution and community cohesion. Through 163 local peace infrastructures, 558 conflicts were addressed and diffused. This ap-

proach reflects Interpeace's longstanding conviction that sustainable peace requires community-driven, locally anchored mechanisms based on societies' capacities to overcome and transform conflict.

Embedding and Institutionalising Peace

Interpeace expanded partnerships with state institutions across nine country programmes, embedding peacebuilding practices within public policies and governance frameworks. In Rwanda, collaborations with the Ministry of National Unity & Civic Engagement (MINUBUMWE) and the Ministry of Health enhanced psychosocial support systems and civic education. In Somalia, Interpeace and its partners facilitated the development of national peace policies and reconciliation frameworks. Similar efforts with stakeholders in Kenya, Mali, and Yemen emphasised integrating peace outcomes into security and governance systems.

Moreover, in 2024, Interpeace and its partners intensified its efforts, particularly across five thematic areas:

- Locally Led Conflict Transformation: Empowering local actors in 12 countries to address over 558 conflicts through 163 local peace infrastructures.
- Collaborative Security: Enhancing trust between communities and security actors through 122 joint activities with security actors.

- Youth, Peace and Security: Engaging more than 18,000 young people in peacebuilding efforts.
- Economic Peacebuilding: Supporting 182 income-generating peacebuilding activities and expanding the Finance for Peace initiative.
- Peace Advocacy: Influencing seven policy processes to promote peace responsiveness across the development, humanitarian, and climate sectors.

The organisation is profoundly grateful for the dedication of its staff and partners, who tirelessly work to promote peace in increasingly complex and fragile contexts. Today, Interpeace is called upon to further strengthen its support for the communities it serves, deepen its cooperation with the international community, and intensify its efforts to advocate for peacebuilding as a crucial response to deeply entrenched violent conflicts. In this challenging and unpredictable period for peace and stability, Interpeace remains focused on enhancing the capacity of communities to manage conflict peacefully and inclusively, contributing to the global aim of fostering resilient and sustainable peace.

Read about Interpeace's Country-Based Programmes and Policy/Thematic work through the links below.

[Country-based programmes](#)
[Policy/Thematic work](#)

1. Grounded Peace

Interpeace's Mission Amid Global Uncertainty and Crisis

The world is at a pivotal moment in global peace and conflict dynamics. The past decade has seen a continuous deterioration in peacefulness, culminating in a peak of armed violence not witnessed since the Second World War. Over 100 active conflicts⁴ span the globe, with devastating consequences in regions such as Ukraine, Gaza, Yemen, Sudan, the Sahel, Haiti, and Colombia, not to mention those territories afflicted by widespread criminal violence that can equal the death toll of more traditional conflicts. These crises are symptomatic of a broader trend: conflicts are becoming more protracted, decentralised, and multifaceted, often driven by state fragility, non-state armed actors, and transnational dynamics.

Simultaneously, the humanitarian fallout has reached record-breaking levels. With over 120 million forcibly displaced individuals worldwide⁵, the compounded effects of violence, climate change, and governance failures are clearly visible. Climate-induced disasters exacerbate these conditions, deepening food insecurity, displacement, and competition for dwindling resources. At the same time, a breakdown in multilateral cooperation and an erosion of international norms have undermined the global community's capacity to respond. The UN Security Council remains paralysed, and the rise of authoritarianism has sharply contracted civic space and suppressed democratic governance. In this challenging environment, traditional peacebuilding paradigms are struggling to remain relevant.

However, it is precisely in this volatile and fragmented context that Interpeace's mission is more critical than ever. Founded thirty years ago during the tumultuous post-Cold War period, Interpeace emerged as a response to the limitations of externally imposed peacebuilding models. Then known as the War-torn Societies Project, it recognised early on that peace must be built from within societies, not imposed from outside. Today, Interpeace's work is guided by that foundational belief. With a mandate centred on local ownership, inclusive processes, and durable transformation, Interpeace has positioned itself as a key actor in addressing contemporary peace and conflict dynamics.



Kenya © Interpeace



Mali © Interpeace

6 global trends reshaping peacebuilding

The organisation's relevance is underscored by a set of global trends that are fundamentally reshaping peacebuilding. First, the dramatic rise in armed conflict is paralleled by a concerning decline in international development assistance. Military expenditures are increasing, often at the expense of funding for human security and peace initiatives. This zero-sum framing—development or defence—is a false and dangerous dichotomy that tends to overlook the root causes of instability. Prioritising military spending at the expense of human security not only undermines long-term peace efforts but also weakens societies' ability to prevent conflict in the first place. Interpeace challenges this paradigm by advocating for an integrated approach that treats inclusive governance, social cohesion, and economic opportunity as essential components of public safety.

Secondly, the crisis of the multilateral system has undermined the legitimacy of global peace and security institutions. Diplomacy is increasingly overshadowed by force or transaction-based logics, and decision-making is at a stalemate. The system suffers from a trust deficit, which no resolution or rhetoric can repair on its own. Interpeace responds by grounding its work in local legitimacy, practical cooperation, and long-standing partnerships. It demonstrates how trust can be restored through consistent, inclusive engagement from grassroots to decision-making levels, contributing to a more resilient peace infrastructure from the ground up. A concrete example of this approach is the CSO–UN Dialogue Initiative on Peacebuilding, co-chaired by Interpeace and the UN DPPA/PBSO in 2024. The initiative fostered more complementary and integrated peacebuilding efforts by convening UN agencies and civil society actors to amplify voices often excluded from traditional multilateral frameworks. The initiative informed global processes such as the UN Pact for the Future and the Peacebuilding Architecture Review (PBAR). Interpeace used this platform to help institutionalise civil society engagement with the UN and build a robust community of practice across peacebuilding actors.

Third, fundamental rights are under siege in many parts of the world. Authoritarian and isolationist trends are silencing dissent and reducing freedoms. In this context, Interpeace's support for civil society and inclusive governance is more vital than ever. By fostering and implementing mechanisms to safeguard civic and political space, Interpeace's programmes help preserve the conditions under which peaceful dialogue and democratic decision-making can be protected.

Interpeace views inclusive governance not only as a matter of representation, but as a process that must yield more responsive outcomes. In Mali, for instance, 85% of participants in Interpeace’s 2024 peacebuilding activities reported feeling more included in decision-making, while 65% noted that their needs, priorities, and grievances were better addressed by community structures. This reflects a recurring challenge: inclusive processes are necessary but not sufficient. Trust erodes when inclusion is merely performative. It is therefore imperative not only to foster participation and include new voices but also to ensure that inclusion translates into tangible change.

At the institutional level, peace must be embedded in state structures to be sustainable. In Somalia, Interpeace established formal partnerships with the Ministry of Interior in Somaliland and the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Internal Reconciliation in Somalia, which resulted in developing and implementing the National Peace Policy (NPP) and National Reconciliation Framework (NRF). Strategic partnerships were also expanded between Interpeace local partners, the Puntland Ministry of Interior, and the Puntland Electoral Commission, focusing on governance and electoral support to enhance local governance and citizen engagement.

The fourth challenge is the role of new technologies in disinformation, which undermines the very fabric of societal trust and understanding. The viral spread of harmful, misleading content fuels polarisation, delegitimises institutions, and destabilises fragile societies. In response, Interpeace promotes evidence-based dialogue and transparent information-sharing. Its peacebuilding methods rely on verified knowledge and collective truth-seeking, providing a counterweight to narratives that sow division. In 2024, this commitment was reflected in a significant investment in robust measurement tools and innovative methodologies, integrated into purpose-built programme designs. Interpeace’s country programmes conducted large-scale, mixed-methods data collection efforts to inform their interventions and strengthen their credibility among communities and partners. These included studies on the impact of the security crisis on mental health, social cohesion, and livelihoods in Burkina Faso; public perceptions of the National Youth Policy framework and a comprehensive conflict mapping in Guinea-Bissau; and an in-depth exploration of intergenerational legacies and trauma transmission among post-genocide youth in Rwanda.



Guinea – Bissau © Voz di Paz

Climate change, the fifth key trend, magnifies existing vulnerabilities. Fragile states are not only home to many of the world’s poorest and most conflict-affected populations but also sit on the frontline of climate-related threats. Interpeace argues for preventive action and integrated peace–climate responses. Peace is not built by peacebuilders alone; therefore, they must collaborate with humanitarian, environmental, and development actors to strengthen local resilience and mitigate climate-driven conflict triggers.

In line with this perspective, Interpeace actively promotes Peace Responsiveness, an approach

that goes beyond conflict sensitivity by engaging NGOs, multilateral organisations, and supranational bodies to ensure that initiatives across all sectors not only avoid exacerbating tensions but also actively contribute to peace outcomes within their respective mandates. In 2024, this vision translated into strategic contributions to the climate–peace agenda from a climate resilience perspective. In 2024, Interpeace contributed to the “Peace@COP29”



Burkina Faso © Interpeace

policy paper⁶ and partnered with the Malian Ministry of Environment and Sanitation, CGIAR, and other organisations to publish a joint report on climate, peace, and security. At the country level, Interpeace also contributed to the Malian national climate security strategy, thanks to its collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Sanitation.

Sixth, rising socio-economic inequality is both a driver and a consequence of conflict. Disparities in income, services, and opportunity—often along ethnic, gender, or geographic lines—are deepening across societies. These inequities fuel grievances, erode social cohesion, and create fertile ground for violence. In response, Interpeace supports holistic strategies that integrate peacebuilding with livelihood development. By enhancing and diversifying economic opportunities, fostering cooperation-based activity, strengthening local problem-solving, and expanding access to social protection, Interpeace addresses both the symptoms and structural causes of inequality. Its interventions are grounded in inclusive, participatory methodologies that reflect the priorities of affected communities. This approach not only builds resilience and reduces grievances but also fosters trust and economic agency, laying the foundation for a virtuous cycle in which peace supports livelihoods, and livelihoods reinforce peace.

In Burkina Faso, where violent extremism and recruitment into non-state armed groups are major drivers of conflict, 33% of participants in Interpeace’s initiatives reported in 2024 that their households’ basic needs were now being consistently met each month—an improvement they attributed directly to their involvement in income-generating activities. These results illustrate how integrated livelihood support can serve as both a stabilising force, enabling individuals not only to escape immediate precarity but also to contribute more actively to rebuilding social cohesion.

Principled Peacebuilding in Practice

Underlying all these intersecting challenges is a deepening global crisis of trust between governments and citizens, within and among communities, and across generations. This crisis poses a fundamental threat to social cohesion. Interpeace does not view trust as a soft value, but rather as essential infrastructure for peace. Its work centres on rebuilding trust through inclusion, transparency, and locally led processes that empower people to shape their futures.

In addressing these converging threats, Interpeace offers a model that is both distinctive and effective. Its methodology ensures that dialogue leads to action and that action yields real transformation in power relations and social systems. Peacebuilding, in this view, is not limited to discussion or facilitation—it is about creating the conditions for communities, civil society, and institutions to promote lasting change.

Interpeace's approach is not only strategic but also deeply principled. At its core lies an unwavering commitment to inclusion, ensuring that all voices, especially those historically marginalised, play a role in shaping peace. Its emphasis on equality reinforces the belief that peace is inseparable from the protection of fundamental human rights. Upholding strong accountability standards ensures that legitimacy and justice are not afterthoughts but rather a foundation. Placing integrity at the centre of the work fosters community trust through transparency and consistency, while its impartiality keeps the focus on people's needs rather than power interests. These are not abstract ideals, but values embedded in every dialogue facilitated, every partnership forged, and every peace process supported. In an era marked by the erosion of norms and shrinking civic space, a people-centred peace-building model is not merely relevant—it is indispensable.



Rwanda © Interpeace

Additionally, Interpeace prioritises broad-based partnerships. By collaborating with stakeholders across academia, civil society, the international community, and the private sector, it enhances both the reach and sustainability of its impact. This alliance-based approach highlights the reality that peacebuilding is a collective effort. Interpeace's adaptive methodology evolves in response to emerging challenges, ensuring its continued relevance and effectiveness.

At a time when the effectiveness of peacebuilding is under scrutiny and the number of comprehensive peace agreements continues to decline, Interpeace offers a compelling counter-narrative: peace is possible. Its mission—to accompany societies in building peace grounded in dignity, inclusion, and resilience—has never been more relevant. As the world faces overlapping crises and growing instability, Interpeace stands with conflict-affected communities, demonstrating that sustainable peace can be achieved when built from the ground up, rooted in local ownership, and led by those who live the consequences of conflict and violence every day. Peace is not merely an aspiration—it is an imperative.

Yet, the greatest risk peacebuilding faces today is not reduced funding or its relevance being questioned, but disengagement. The current reckoning in the field should not lead to retreat, but to renewed clarity, adaptability, and commitment. In other words, this moment is not a signal to step back—it is a challenge to step forward with greater purpose, sharper tools, and deeper humility. If we give in to cynicism, we abandon those who cannot afford to give up. In that sense, Interpeace's mission remains as vital as ever. However, the responsibility to build peace transcends any single organisation; it is a shared responsibility. This is not the time to scale back ambition or investment in peace. It is the time to strengthen it.



Geneva © Olivier Chamard

2. Measuring the Impact of Interpeace's Strategy 2021-2025

2024 in numbers

In 2024, as we entered the penultimate year of our five-year strategy, our vision rang as true as 30 years ago: a world where enduring peace is woven through cohesive communities, inclusive societies, and responsive institutions. Our approach has proven more critical than ever in an increasingly uncertain global context.

Our practice strikes a dynamic balance between evidence-backed, time-tested methods rooted in local ownership and collaboration and a bold push for fresh ideas that challenge conventional silos. This blend of experience and innovation empowers communities to resolve conflicts non-violently and adapt to emerging challenges. Over the past year, our practical work, policy initiatives, and strategic partnerships have strengthened local capacities, driving sustainable peace and transformation.

As “One Interpeace”, our diverse network of partners and dedicated colleagues have continued to

inspire collective progress. Together, we deepened collaboration, embraced diversity, and kept laying the groundwork for lasting peace at every level of society.

8 themes addressed by Interpeace programmes

Youth Peace and Security	(14%)
Women, Peace and Security	(9%)
Inclusive Governance	(23%)
Collaborative Security	(12%)
Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	(16%)
Livelihoods and Economic Peacebuilding	(9%)
Justice	(5%)
Natural Resource Management	(12%)

Number of local infrastructures for peace supported	163
Number of conflicts addressed through local infrastructures for peace	558
Number of peacebuilding activities involving security actors	122
Number of peacebuilding activities on governance and justice with state actors	118
Number of peacebuilding activities held with the aim of supporting income generation	182



New York © Interpeace

2.1 Strategic Aim 1: Rethink Peace

2024 in numbers

Number of country programmes that implemented innovative methods of data collection	5
Number of Civil Society Organisations engaged through the CSO-UN dialogues	120
Number of investments aligned with the new Peace Finance Standards and Peace Finance Impact Framework	4

Founded as a research project, Interpeace has always had thought leadership in peacebuilding embedded in its DNA. For 30 years, Interpeace has driven conceptual innovation to strengthen its fieldwork

and advance peacebuilding. As part of its 2021–2025 strategy, Interpeace continued Rethinking Peace by providing innovative approaches to assessing, building, and funding peace.

Evidence-based practice and advocacy

In 2024, this translated into investing in more robust measurement methods and better integrating comprehensive, innovative tools within a built-for-purpose design. Of Interpeace’s 12 country programmes, five conducted large-scale, mixed-methods data collection efforts. These ranged from assessing the impact of the security crisis on mental health, social cohesion, and livelihoods in Burkina Faso to analysing the perceptions of the National Youth Policy framework and its implementation. Other initiatives included large-scale conflict mapping in Guinea-Bissau to study intergenerational legacies, the transmission

processes, and their effects among post-genocide youth in Rwanda.

In Kigali, two major reports on mental health were presented during a high-level National Policy Dialogue on Mental Health and a stakeholder engagement workshop brought together government institutions (including the Ministry of Health and its affiliated institutions, the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, the National Police, and the Rwanda Investigation Bureau), development partners (including the embassies of France, Sweden, the



New York © UN Peacebuilding

Netherlands, the European Union, and USAID), as well as representatives of international and local NGOs, academia, and mental health professionals. Attendees highlighted the urgent need to enhance Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) integration into the national public health system to address the persistent trauma stemming from the genocide and its aftermath, as well as to promote intergenerational dialogue to foster reconciliation and resilience. The National Dialogue on Mental Health resulted in the Ministry of Health's firm commitment to officially adopt group-based trauma healing approaches, such as resilience-oriented therapy developed by Interpeace and its partners, and scale them up in health centres and hospitals across the country.

In Guinea-Bissau, a large scale perception study, designed with the National Youth Institute, focused on relevance and effectiveness of the National Youth Policy. Results were used to produce an analysis discussed with members of the country's leading youth associations and networks in a workshop, which resulted in a series of recommendations. The recommendations include aligning national youth policy priorities with those of youth organisations, reinforcing the inclusion of youth entrepreneurs and the empowerment of girls, and fostering engagement between policymakers and young people through policy dialogues, training, and awareness-raising campaigns. Further dissemination of the report and these recommendations are being discussed with the National Youth Institute.

At the international level, Interpeace continues to advance its Youth, Peace and Security work. Since the publication of the *Missing Peace* report in 2018, Interpeace has remained engaged in co-creating peace with young people across the globe. Interpeace is an active member of the Global Coalition on YPS, works closely with youth-led peacebuilding networks such as the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY), and is a supportive partner to the Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs. 2024 saw the publication of several reports, such as the [UNDP report for the 2024 Pact for the Future](#), to which Interpeace contributed, as well as three policy briefs written by youth and published on [Interpeace's Outside the Box youth platform](#)—one on Sudan, one on Chile, and one evaluating youth representation to the UN.

This work culminated in December 2024 at the CSO-UN Dialogue, where Interpeace organised an annual meeting that brought together more than 120 CSOs, numerous UN entities—including the UN Youth Office—and several Member States, including YPS champion countries such as Finland and Jordan. The results of the CSO-UN Dialogue will feed into the UN Peacebuilding Architecture Review (2025), which is expected to focus on YPS, reinforcing the role that local civil society and young people play in UN policymaking.

Finance for Peace incubation

Interpeace also heavily focused on Finance for Peace, its trailblazing initiative collaborating with the finance industry and private sector to align investment incentives with peace dividends, fostering sustainable investments that support social cohesion, public goods, and return on investment.

Published in June, the [Peace Finance Impact Framework](#) serves as a guide for investors to achieve peace impact and additionality. It has quickly seen uptake, with the African Development Bank (AfDB), United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), and private impact investing companies all adopting the peace finance standards to issue investments that align with both the peace bond standard and peace equity standard—key constitutive parts of the Peace Finance Impact Framework.

Throughout the year, the Peace Finance Standards continued to be widely disseminated to key actors, such as AfDB, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) donors, and the World Bank, at events including COP28 and COP29, the World Bank Fragility Forum, the UN General Assembly. By the year's end, four large-scale investments were aligned with the Framework across themes such as climate-sensitive resource management investing, infrastructure development, and the humanitarian-development-peace-building nexus.

Interpeace and its partners have also conducted joint research to continue building the evidence base for peace finance in different contexts. This has included a report on [Fostering Peace-Positive Private Sector Development and Investment in Mozambique](#) together with AfDB and on [Entry-Points for Peace-Positive Investments in Northern Kenya's Frontier Markets](#).



London © Interpeace

Finally, on 27 November 2024, Finance for Peace was officially launched as an independent, standard-setting organisation based in London, UK. The launch event in the City of London, the UK's financial hub, brought together a full house of impact investing and finance experts alongside peacebuilding and development counterparts to mark this new chapter for Peace Finance. With its independent structure and new brand identity, Finance for Peace is establishing itself as a pioneering institution in London, at the heart of one of the world's financial capitals. As development assistance declines and multilateral support wanes, private sector financing is becoming increasingly vital to addressing the massive gaps in development and peacebuilding needs in conflict-affected and fragile settings.



Rwanda © Interpeace

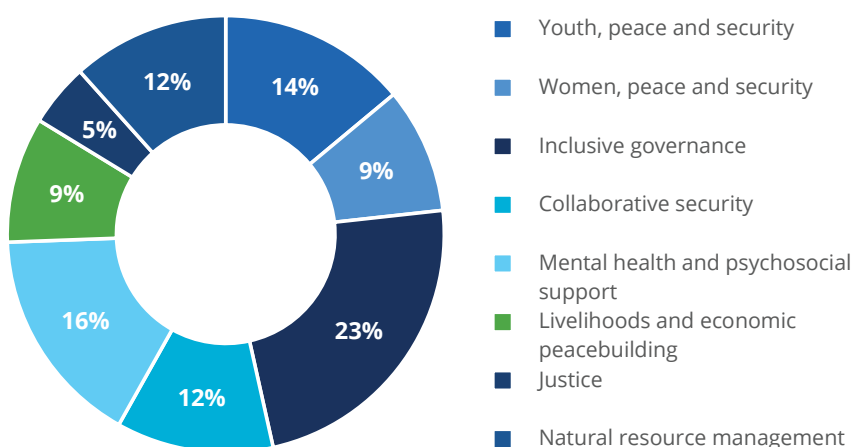
2.2 Strategic Aim 2: Enhance Resilience for Peace

2024 in numbers

Number of country programmes in Africa and Middle East in which resilience for peace was enhanced	12
Total number of people engaged	70 863
Number of women engaged	24 516 (34%)
Number of young people engaged	18 238 (25%)

Interpeace works with conflict-affected communities to strengthen their resilience in the face of conflict. This has been the core of Interpeace's mandate for the past 30 years, and as such, Enhancing Resilience for Peace is the second pillar of Interpeace's 2021–2025 strategy.

Interpeace works to build resilience among individuals, communities, and institutions. Behaviours, relationships, and systems must evolve in synch in order for societies to live more peaceful lives and work towards more peaceful futures.



Individual resilience and change agency

Interpeace works with individuals to enhance the well-being, agency, and empowerment of people in conflict- or post-conflict settings, especially among underserved groups such as women and youth.

Access to livelihoods is essential for meeting daily needs. Limited access to livelihood opportunities is a proven driver of conflict, leaving communities more vulnerable to divisive narratives, more prone to accepting bribes or protection from dangerous actors, more tempted by violence to make ends meet, and less able to participate in governance and the social activities needed to strengthen the social fabric. In **Burkina Faso**, where violent extremism and recruitment into non-state armed groups are the primary drivers of conflict, 33% of participants in Interpeace projects reported that the basic needs of their household were now covered consistently from month to month—thanks to their involvement in livelihood creation and training activities lead by the Interpeace programming.

In terms of mental well-being, **Rwanda** is one of the most engaged countries in MHPSS. In 2024, 80% of the country's programme participants reported improved well-being, illustrated by a better ability to handle everyday challenges, cope with unpleasant,



Burkina Faso © Interpeace

painful emotions, and remain focused and think clearly. The impact of these improved abilities cannot be overstated in a context where the traumatic events of the conflict have caused long-term damage to the psyche of the population, fragilising their resilience to tensions and difficulties within and beyond the scope of peace and conflict, thus hampering the recovery of the entire country.

Individual resilience has also improved in the realm of governance and decision-making in societies where power is often concentrated away from the hands of local communities. In countries such as **Guinea-Bissau**, Interpeace and its partners work to strengthen community agency, especially for those who are traditionally afforded the fewest opportunities. In 2024, 90% of participants in the Guinea-Bissau Strengthening the Social Fabric and Fostering Youth Meaningful Participation in Decision-Making project reported satisfaction with their increased influence over decisions on issues that matter to them. This figure was 84% among participating women and 90% among participating youth.

Community cohesion and inclusion



Mali © Interpeace

At the community level, Interpeace programmes support the rekindling of relationships—forming formal and informal advocacy or conflict-resolution groups, as well as inter-group collaboration for joint economic ventures and social endeavours.

Inclusive governance means communities should feel included in community structures, which leads to outcomes that better meet their needs. In **Mali**, for example, 85% of participants in activities in 2024 reported feeling more included in decision-making, and 65% shared that community structures better address their needs, priorities, and grievances. This demonstrates a common observation across countries of intervention: an inclusive process is needed but not sufficient to ensure inclusive outcomes. Too often, inclusion can be performative, or the voices of new participants can be stifled within the deci-

sion-making process. By tracking both, Interpeace is committing to working not only to amplify new voices but also to meet their needs.

Ultimately, the aim of working towards inclusion and inclusivity, especially in contexts where conflict dynamics are intercommunal or interreligious, is to increase populations' feelings of belonging and trust in the surrounding communities. Such was the case in **Rwanda** in 2024, where 89% of respondents reported feeling they belonged where they lived. Moreover, significant markers of trust between groups increased over the period. For example, 77% of respondents

shared they would now consider leaving their child under the supervision of the families of survivors or perpetrators (up from 62.6%), and 87% reported they now would invite members of ex-prisoners or survivors' families into their homes (up from 79.1%).

In the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**, most project participants now perceive communities as more cohesive, even though they reported that politicians tried to sow their divisions for their own gain. This perception was particularly strong in Mai-Ndombe (73.7%), Central-Kasai (64.2%) and Kasai (61.2%), a considerable jump from 2023.

Responsive and trustworthy institutions

Finally, at the institutional level, Interpeace programmes focus on creating the conditions for renewed trust between people and their representatives and institutions, including authorities, the justice system, and the police. Interpeace seeks to enhance the inclusivity of processes, as well as their policy outcomes.

For example, 65% of respondents in **Mali** shared that institutions consulted communities when making decisions, and 45% said that authorities better address their needs, priorities, and grievances. As with the inclusivity of local-level community governance, inclusivity within state institutions must be considered beyond participation in decision-making. The ultimate goal is inclusive decisions and policy outcomes, but structural barriers remain, warranting a comprehensive approach.

In 2024, **Somalia** faced significant challenges in police-community relations, as limited collaboration on security issues undermined public trust in law enforcement. In response, Interpeace and its partners launched initiatives aimed at fostering community engagement and strengthening accountability within the police force. In a series of public discussion forums, citizens voiced their concerns, leading to increased transparency and a growing demand for police accountability. According to the police department's communications director, these efforts resulted in a measurable improvement in the public perception of the police, reflected in local surveys. Beyond public

dialogue, the programme facilitated closer cooperation between local peace committees and state institutions to enhance security coordination. One key outcome was a formal working relationship between the Adadda Peace Committee and the Puntland and Khatumo State governments. As part of this collaboration, both entities committed to forming a joint security force to address local security threats and foster long-term stability. This initiative underscores the importance of community-led approaches in rebuilding trust and ensuring more effective, inclusive policing in Somalia.



Somalia © Interpeace

2.3 Strategic Aim 3: Embed and Institutionalise Peace

2024 in numbers

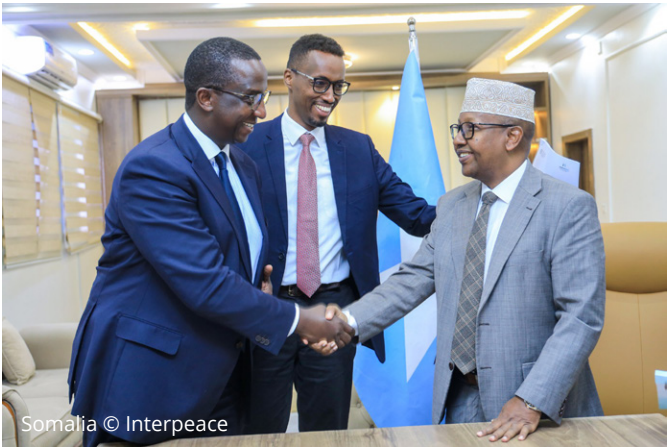
Number of country programmes that have concluded new partnerships with regional and national authorities	9
Number of peacebuilding activities that engaged state security actors	122
Number of peacebuilding activities that engaged governance and justice actors	122

Anchoring peace at the state level

To be successful, scaled, and sustainable, peace outcomes need to be owned at the state level rather than carried out by external actors. Interpeace believes the integration of peace outcomes also needs to be anchored in the states, ministries, and institutions where conflict takes place, creating the conditions for sustainable, endogenous peace. In 2024, Interpeace made great strides in this area by fostering project- and programme-level alliances with regional and national authorities in nine of its country programmes, engaging state security actors across 122 activities and governance and justice actors in 118 activities.

A key example of this multi-stakeholder collaboration at the state level is **Rwanda's** programme, where formal collaboration agreements have been signed with a wide range of state institutions, each serving a specific purpose. One such agreement with the Ministry of National Unity & Civic Engagement (MINUBUMWE) focuses on collaboration around the joint study on Exploring Psychosocial Factors and Effects of Adolescent Pregnancies in Rwanda in the post-conflict context. The study calls for a comprehensive, multi-sectoral response from the health, education, legal, social service, and economic sectors. Interpeace also supported MINUBUMWE in reviewing the National Civic and Peace Education Curriculum and collaborated in organising the International Day of Peace celebration on 21 September 2024. This work contributes to anchoring change in state institutions, ensuring the sustainability of actions beyond specific project timelines.

To this end, Interpeace and its partners also work with the Ministry of Health through the Rwanda Biomedical Centre as part of the Thematic Working Group that developed and led the Randomized Controlled Trial of the Resilience-Oriented Therapy (ROT) Protocol. Currently, in the framework of its institutionalisation, the ROT is implemented in 32 health centres and seven hospitals across the country.



Finally, Interpeace and its partners collaborated with the Rwanda Correctional Service (RCS) to train its staff on the Prisoner Psychosocial Rehabilitation & Reintegration Curriculum and establish the Technical & Vocational Skills Training programme in four prisons. Interpeace and its partners provided the training equipment and materials, while RCS contributed the trainers.

In **Somalia**, four formal collaboration agreements have been established, marking significant progress in advancing national peace outcomes in Somalia. Key partnerships with the Ministry of Interior in Somaliland and the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Internal Reconciliation in Somalia have played a crucial role in developing and implementing the National Peace Policy (NPP) and the National Reconciliation Framework (NRF), respectively. These efforts have strengthened institutional capacity for peacebuilding and reconciliation while ensuring Interpeace's initiatives are embedded within governmental frameworks for broader impact and long-term sustainability.

Partnerships were also expanded between Interpeace local partners, the Puntland Ministry of Interior, and the Puntland Electoral Commission, focusing on governance and electoral support to enhance local governance and citizen engagement. Ties were also

strengthened with Somaliland's Mediation Committee, House of Elders, and House of Representatives by facilitating discussions on peace agreement enforcement and providing mediation training, aiming to support sustained peace through government-backed mediation efforts.

Interpeace and its partners also contributed to the **Malian** national climate security strategy, thanks to its collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Sanitation. Furthermore, in **Yemen**, Interpeace and its partners worked with the National Steering Commit-

tee to formulate an institutional Framework for Peace. Finally, in **Kenya**, Interpeace and its partners collaborated with the Ministry of Interior, working alongside the Kenya Defense Forces to share early warning information and respond to conflict-related issues, among other initiatives. In **Ethiopia**, Interpeace and its partners conducted a baseline screening to identify vulnerabilities among schoolgirls across five schools in the Benishangul-Gumuz Regional States. This has enabled targeted Multi-Family Healing Spaces (MFHS) interventions in support of girl's empowerment and access to university education.

Peace responsiveness within the international system

Interpeace firmly believes peace needs to be pursued beyond the peacebuilding field, in line with the triple nexus promoted by UN Secretary-General António Guterres in 2016, which seeks to break down the barriers between the humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding (HDP) spaces. Beyond conflict sensitivity, Interpeace actively engages with NGOs, international organisations, and supranational entities to ensure initiatives do not cause harm in the context of fragile peace and conflict dynamics while also promoting peace outcomes in their respective remits.

In **Kenya**, for example, the country programme worked with the African Union (AU), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and East African Community (EAC) to strengthen their early warning and early response (EWER) systems. The in-country programme provided research insights and training that demonstrated that existing EWER systems predominantly focused on political crises while overlooking other critical conflict drivers. The engagement underscored the need for more comprehensive, proactive approaches to conflict prevention.

At the international level, a total of six government agencies—including those in Belgium and Switzerland—along with regional institutions such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and UN partners such as the UN Population Fund

(UNFPA) and UN Peacebuilding Fund (UNPBF), which requested Interpeace's support in facilitation, training, policy formulation, and programme design.

Interpeace also published and contributed to reports tackling various aspects of peace responsiveness across different sectors of the HDP nexus, including with the International Labour Organization (ILO), Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), and Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). However, most of the 2024 Peace Responsiveness conceptual framing centred around climate resilience. The team contributed to the "Peace@COP29" policy paper⁷ and webinar, as well as organised a consultation with the Environment, Climate, Conflict, and Peace Community of Practice members and the presidency team of COP29. Interpeace also wrote sections of the "Good practice principles for achieving climate action in fragile and conflict-affected environments" report⁸ and published a joint report on Climate, Peace and Security with the Malian Ministry of Environment and Sanitation, Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), and a large group of organisations.

This has helped integrate peace and conflict dynamics into the policy and programmatic actions of UN agencies, development banks, and government agencies, enabling them to contribute more deliberately and effectively to peace.

3. Key achievements in 2024 across five thematic focus areas

In the 30 years since its creation, Interpeace has honed its areas of expertise, including collaborative security, MHPSS, natural resource management, the inclusion of women and youth, and the integration of economic dimensions within peacebuilding interventions.

In 2024, five areas of programming showcased particularly relevant successes across all 12 countries of intervention, as well as on the international scale:

1. Locally led conflict transformation
2. Collaborative security
3. Youth integration into peace and security
4. Economic peacebuilding
5. Peace advocacy

To illustrate these key areas of work and how they are operationalised across Interpeace's country offices, all five areas of work and their associated achievements are described below.

3.1 Focus Area: Locally Led Conflict Transformation

2024 in numbers

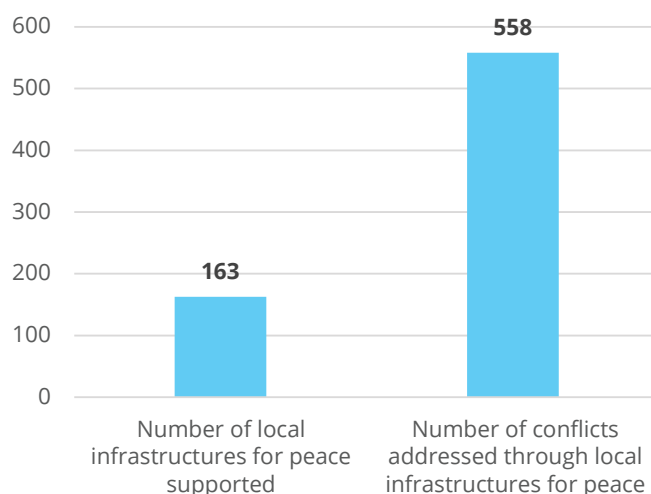
Number of countries with peacebuilding programmes	12
Number of peace infrastructures for peace supported	163
Number of conflicts addressed through peace infrastructures	558

Overview

In 2024, there were more than 120 armed conflicts worldwide.⁹ Violent conflicts have increased in number and complexity, as well as become more decentralised and dynamic. Peace-making and mediation have long relied on short-term, externally driven interventions to address conflicts. This approach has increasingly been proven insufficient—if not ineffective—as a standalone response to conflict.

Since its inception, Interpeace has posited that peace cannot be imposed from the outside but must be built from within. As part of Interpeace's approach to fostering and ensuring local ownership, it has worked with individuals and groups to support their efforts to transform violent conflicts at the local, national, and even cross-border levels. Interpeace and its partners have applied localised peacebuilding practices in

Local conflict resolution



numerous locations and proven that where local stakeholders are in charge, peace processes have endured longer and generated more significant impact even when the broader context remains fragile.

Interpeace's locally led conflict transformation practice encompasses various constellations of actors who perform functions such as conflict analysis, conflict monitoring and mapping, first responder mediation during times of violence and crisis, violence prevention through community engagement, and

advocacy for structural responses to violence. These constellations include local infrastructures for peace, such as Regional Spaces for Dialogue in Guinea-Bissau, Permanent Dialogue Groups in Burundi, the Great Lakes Region, and the DRC, and Collaboration Frameworks in Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso. They also include groups of trained inside mediators in Burundi, Rwanda and the DRC, as well as trained elders and other change agents in Kenya, Libya, and Somalia



Guinea-Bissau © Voz di Paz



Case study

Intergenerational dialogue in Burundi

Interpeace is leveraging intergenerational dialogue to promote healing, understanding, and community-building in Burundi. The Dukire Twubake (“To Heal, To Build”) programme is designed to address the impact of past trauma, gender, and age on individuals and communities, with a particular focus on peacebuilding, development, and decision-making. The programme exemplifies efforts to encourage open communication and foster mutual respect within communities. From 2023 to 2024, the Centre d’alerte et de prévention des conflits (CENAP) and Interpeace facilitated a series of intergenerational dialogues across Burundi. These dialogues brought together individuals from different generations, allowing adults who had experienced the country’s conflicts to share stories of “doing the right thing” in the face of adversity.

Before engaging in these dialogues, participants underwent a preparatory phase involving socio-therapy sessions. This process allowed them to address negative emotions, find healing, and challenge harmful stereotypes about other ethnic groups, paving the way for open and constructive intergenerational dialogues. These intergenerational dialogues fostered reconciliation and provided a therapeutic outlet for participants.

Christian, a Dukire Twubake beneficiary, explained,

They allow us to unburden ourselves because it is by talking about this difficult past and sometimes by trivialising it that we can finally live our present easily”.

The Dukire Twubake programme recognises the transformative power of storytelling and listening to promote healing and understanding. It encourages open communication, self-reflection, and the exploration of alternative paths forward, fostering a sense of community and collaboration. Using psychosocial recovery methods and capacity and confidence-building tools, the programme aims to empower women, youth, and communities affected by trauma.

3.2 Focus Area: Collaborative Security

2024 in numbers

Peacebuilding activities held with security actors	122
In Rwanda	40
In the Democratic Republic of Congo	32
In Kenya	17
In Somalia	17

Overview

Trust in the military and police is essential for effective security, yet in many conflict-affected areas, public confidence is frequently undermined by corruption, human rights abuses, and lack of accountability—issues more acute in police forces, which generally enjoy less trust than the military. In Africa, despite the military’s relative trust advantage, Afrobarometer surveys show that 40%–50% of respondents in 14 countries, including Côte d’Ivoire and Nigeria, report little or no trust in the military. This distrust is often linked to political interference and coups, which erode the institution’s professionalism and credibility.

Efforts to rebuild trust through reform and community engagement face obstacles such as persistent conflict, corruption, and external interference. The growing presence of non-state armed groups, organized crime, and terrorism calls for a more holistic security approach that goes beyond traditional military and police responses.

There is increasing recognition that security forces must work closely with communities and civilians

to build more responsive and sustainable solutions. Engaging local actors helps address the social, political, and economic drivers of conflict, allowing for tailored interventions. Research by the UN and others shows that collaboration with civil society and local leaders improves security outcomes, strengthens social cohesion, and supports long-term peace.

Since its origins as the War-Torn Societies Project, Interpeace has worked to build trust and accountability in security institutions by prioritizing community collaboration. It supports peacebuilding-based security sector reform (SSR) in countries such as Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Rwanda, and Somalia, and has partnered with security ministries in Guatemala, Kenya, and Mali. In Burkina Faso and Ethiopia, Interpeace has helped strengthen ties between communities and local security forces. It also works with informal actors, engaging violent groups such as gangs in Côte d’Ivoire, El Salvador, and Guatemala, armed groups in South Kivu and Ituri in the DRC, and pastoralist militias North Rift, Kenya.

Case study

Building trust between communities and the police in Ethiopia

Before Interpeace and its partners developed a trust-building programme between communities and the police in four woredas (district-level administrative units) of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, crime rates were high, particularly for property crimes like vandalism and theft. Violent crimes, including assault and armed robbery, remained at moderate levels. A partnership between the Ethiopian Police University (EPU) and Interpeace introduced a community security approach that improved trust between the police and the community, notably reducing crime rates and increasing public safety.



Zenebe,¹⁰ a married father of four children and a resident of one of the woredas, witnessed the transformative impact of the trust-building dialogues organised by Interpeace. These dialogues provide platforms for community representatives and police officers to discuss local peace, develop problem-solving strategies, and implement capacity-building initiatives. In particular, the scanning, analysis, response, and assessment (SARA) problem-solving approach facilitated joint efforts in identifying and addressing community concerns, supported by the Community GIS Tool (CGIST), which helps map and analyse data for informed decision-making on safety and crime prevention.

Reflecting on the past, Zenebe recalls the historical marginalisation of community members in police operations, leading to a disconnect between community priorities and police actions, breeding mistrust and suspicion. The trust-building programme marked a shift towards collaboration, aiming to involve residents in shaping police services.

Zenebe recalls how the programme introduced new practices, such as engaging community groups in decision-making processes, fostering inclusivity, and taking proactive measures to enhance community safety. Initiatives like the “shay-buna” (coffee-tea drinking session) forums, where residents held weekly discussions over a cup of tea or coffee, have strengthened social bonds and facilitated dispute resolution and resource mobilisation.

Following the programme’s implementation, Zenebe and other community members feel empowered to influence security policing in their woreda. The initiative is an eye-opening experience for residents and the local police department, instilling a sense of unity and optimism about security. 81% of the community members reported a sense of hope about the future of security. 97% witnessed increased dialogue and trust between the police and citizens and increased collaborative security management, significantly improving safety in the woredas.

3.3 Focus Area: Youth, Peace and Security

2024 in numbers

Total number of young people engaged	18 238 (Over 25% of total project participants)
In the Great Lakes regional programme	100%
In Ethiopia	75%
In Mali	66%
In Burkina Faso	50%

Overview

Interpeace has been at the forefront of youth peacebuilding for nearly three decades, working across Africa, Latin America, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. Over a decade ago, Interpeace developed a multi-country strategy based on horizontal learning sessions with multiple country programmes, recognising the importance of youth-centred approaches to building peace. Recognising the transformative potential of youth, Interpeace has focused on strengthening the resilience and leadership capacities of young people in conflict-affected areas, exploring the dimensions of this work in its interdisciplinary literature review for the Framework for Assessing Resilience. Interpeace was an active participant in drafting the Amman Declaration, which preceded the passage of UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security. The 2018 Independent Progress Report on Youth, Peace and Security¹¹ applied Interpeace’s principles and approach to inclusive consultative research. Interpeace also contributed three country context studies (Northern Triangle, Palestine, and Côte d’Ivoire) to the report. Additionally, it has been a significant contributor and actor in integrating YPS within the broader UN system, particularly in the development and eventual passage of UNSCR 2535 and the establishment of the UN Youth Office in 2024.

Interpeace distinguishes between merely working with young people and developing self-conscious, youth-centred approaches. We work with young men and women from diverse backgrounds with different lived experiences. This includes youth who are

leaders in parliament, members of political parties, affiliated with gangs, artists, in formal and informal education settings, and warriors in pastoralist communities. Interpeace and its partners provide training, technical assistance, and accompaniment through peace education, socio-emotional skill-building, leadership training, mediation and peacebuilding skill development, technical and vocational skill-building, and more. This involves actively investing in young people’s voices, agency, and leadership to drive positive change in their societies. Through initiatives like the YPS-focused policy briefs and youth leadership seminars, Interpeace has amplified youth voices and facilitated their meaningful participation in peacebuilding efforts. These efforts have highlighted the importance of investing in youth as agents of change and have demonstrated the profound impact of youth-led peacebuilding on achieving sustainable peace.



Rwanda © Interpeace

Case study

Cross-border youth initiative for peace in the Great Lakes

The Cross-Border Dialogue for Peace and Youth Empowerment in the Great Lakes programme promotes youth leadership in peacebuilding processes at the local, regional, and national levels by strengthening their capacity through training and mentorship, supporting youth peacebuilding initiatives, and creating opportunities to engage decision-makers and play a catalytic role in reform processes on issues related to cross-border peacebuilding. Interpeace and its partners have implemented the initiative through Pole Institute, Never Again Rwanda (NAR), the Centre of Alert and Prevention of Conflicts (CENAP), Action for Peace and Concord (APC), the Refugee Law Project (RLP), and Vision Jeunesse Nouvelle (VJN).

Ishimwe Shalom fled from the DRC and sought refuge in Uganda in February 2018. Despite facing challenging circumstances as a refugee, Ishimwe has become a beacon of hope and inspiration for young people. Participating in the Great Lakes Cross-border Youth Dialogue for Peace Programme under RLP, Ishimwe is a Young Peace Fellow, passionate about empowering young, forced migrants. He is currently the Chairperson of Rendezvous Youth Group (RYG), a refugee youth-led organisation that supports forced migrants and vulnerable youth.

Ishimwe explains how participating in this programme has impacted him and his peacebuilding initiative:

“The Youth Lab project has been a great opportunity. First of all, because it brings together like-minded young people who are passionate about peacebuilding and are doing something about it. Secondly, the trainings that we get, contribute to one of the issues that we face, which is limited skills. So, when we are trained, we get more skills and energy, and this helps us do what we are doing even better. And lastly, the mentorship that we receive from different people who are more experienced who share their knowledge and experience with us. It’s a way of taking our hands so that we can go further and do better, based on what they faced in the past”.

The initiative's main achievements include:

- 30 young innovators and 120 peace fellows trained and mentored to become actors for peace in their respective countries and communities
- Five innovative peacebuilding initiatives developed by young people, technically and financially supported by the programme
- 19 intergenerational and intercultural dialogues and seven political dialogues organised, facilitating a safe space for young people and elders to discuss and promote a culture of dialogue to overcome prejudice and stereotypes
- Two cross-border peace festivals in Burundi and Rwanda, reaching 821 participants

- A Great Lakes Youth Peace Summit held in Burundi in March 2023, providing a space for young people to exchange views with each other, elders, and policymakers on the challenges facing the new generation, as well as the opportunities to fully play their crucial role in the peace and development process

This has resulted in the following outcomes:

- **Regional relations:** 60% of respondents (63% males, 57% females) felt positively about cross-border relations
- **Trust between communities:** 55% of respondents (57% males, 53% females) indicated they trust people from neighbouring communities
- **Inter-community collaboration:** 48% reported having engaged in initiatives aimed at strengthening cohesion
- **Inter-generational relations:** 53% (55% males, 51% females) reported good intergenerational relationships



Rwanda © Interpeace



3.4 Focus Area: Economic Peacebuilding

2024 in numbers

Number of peacebuilding activities held which also generated economic income	182
In Burkina Faso	120
In Rwanda	34
In Burundi	18
In Kenya	10

Most of these activities are youth-led (especially in Burundi and Rwanda) or female-led (in Somalia).

Overview

Economic stability and growth are widely recognized as essential to sustainable peace. This principle guides the UN-World Bank *Pathways to Peace* report and the Sustaining Peace Agenda. In conflict-affected settings, inequality, marginalization, and lack of opportunities often fuel tensions—a pattern Interpeace has observed in Burundi, Côte d’Ivoire, and Kenya. Inclusive economic development can address root causes, create jobs, and raise living standards, reducing the risk of renewed conflict.

Interpeace’s five-year strategy, *A Resilient Peace*, introduced the concept of economic peacebuilding, deepening the organisation’s focus on prevention through three pathways: livelihoods for peace, peace finance, and trade for peace.

The *Livelihoods for Peace* report (April 2024) outlines four priorities: expanding livelihood opportunities, strengthening regulation, promoting cooperative ventures, and improving access to social protection. In Rwanda, Interpeace’s programming contributed to a 40% drop in extreme poverty. In Burundi, cooperatives have bridged divides between politically and socially fragmented youth. In Somalia, economic revitalisation in Galkayo has supported peace gains.

The Puntland Development and Research Centre (PDRC) found that improved security is enabling economic activity despite clan tensions. In Kenya, the *Skilling for Peace* initiative aims to align TVET policy with the needs of conflict-affected communities. On border zones between Burkina Faso, Mali, and Côte d’Ivoire, Interpeace supports infrastructure that fosters equitable development and long-term peace.

Since 2022, Interpeace has led the *Finance for Peace* initiative, helping to build a global peace finance ecosystem. Building on earlier work with the private sector, it has developed peace finance standards and certifications and established a growing industry network. The initiative includes collaboration with the African Development Bank in countries like Côte d’Ivoire, Kenya, Mozambique, and Somalia.

Interpeace has also partnered with the World Trade Organization to explore the peacebuilding potential of trade. This work has informed quiet diplomacy efforts in Somalia to ensure trade and economic policies are integrated into the National Reconciliation Framework, offering a foundation for more durable peace and development.

Case study

Identifying opportunities for peace finance in northern Kenya

The northern region of Kenya has experienced protracted conflicts, underdevelopment and political marginalisation for decades. Recurrent cycles of ethnic conflicts, natural resource-based disputes, election-related and politically inspired violence, international terrorism, cross-border conflicts, (commercialised) cattle rustling, human rights violations by security actors, small arms and light weapons proliferation, and competition for resources have stymied the region's growth potential. How development actors and public and private investors engage with these conflict dynamics is crucial. Conflict-insensitive investments can increase disparities, fuel grievances, and lead to more violence, ultimately reducing the investment's sustainability and bankability.

In October 2024, Interpeace's peacebuilding team in Kenya, in partnership with the Finance for Peace initiative, launched a [pre-feasibility study](#) aimed at providing the first step analysis required to map a potential pipeline of investment approaches that can positively impact peace and conflict dynamics in the north of Kenya and contribute to sustainable development. The study focuses on the counties of Elgeyo Marakwet, Mandera, and Marsabit, where there is a legacy of conflict dynamics that intersect with development needs. The report includes: 1) A summary of key conflict dynamics in northern Kenya and their impact on development, which need to be considered by prospective Peace Finance approaches; 2) An analysis of how conflict dynamics have impacted investments in northern Kenya; and 3) A mapping of an early phase set of options for peace-positive investment opportunities in northern Kenya. Recommendations from the report include:

- Alliances should be formed to take further steps towards designing a peace-responsive investment portfolio
- International partners and the government need to support the integration of peacebuilding into investment to help unlock capital markets for greater investment in infrastructure financing
- Investors should consider the application of the Peace Finance Impact Framework and investment guidance to mainstream peace into investment in northern Kenya
- All actors, including peacebuilding, civil society, investors and government, need to collect better data for informed decision-making
- Investors should continue to seek the alignment of their investment approaches with county and national-level development priorities

The study finds significant opportunities for peace-positive investment across several sectors in all three counties. For example, livestock production and agriculture in Mandera and Marsabit present notable peace-positive investment potential. Modernised farming

and meat exports are highly bankable and can be entry points to reduce resource-based conflicts over livestock and cattle while strengthening intercommunal relations. Integrating peacebuilding into agriculture approaches is especially critical, as arable land supports high-value crops and beekeeping, fostering social cohesion and reducing reliance on conflict-prone livestock trade. Elgeyo-Marakwet County presents significant opportunities in agricultural value chains for crops such as sorghum, pyrethrum, potatoes, mangoes, green grams, cotton, coffee, and tea. Investments in agrifood processing can add value to agricultural products, reduce post-harvest losses, and boost farmers' incomes, helping the economy move up the value chain.

The data from this study is primarily based on interviews and focus group discussions with key stakeholders in the three locations. These included private-sector representatives, community leaders, government officials, NGO representatives, senior officials from the Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC) and the North Rift Economic Bloc, local professionals, political leaders, think tank experts, and members of professional associations from the three counties. This report is designed to be a first step in a more systematic approach by Interpeace to working with partners to stimulate a more intentional, peace-positive, and risk-attuned approach to investment in Kenya.

During the report's launch in Nairobi, Kenya's Government pledged to promote peace-positive investment. Principal Secretary of the State Department for Devolution Ms Terry Mbaika stated:

"It is clear that peacebuilding considerations need to be better integrated into development finance and mainstreamed into investment approaches. The Government is committed to integrating peace initiatives into its development agenda. We do this by ensuring that every step towards economic growth is accompanied by conscious efforts to maintain and enhance stability".

Ms Mbaika called for the alignment of investment opportunities with peacebuilding efforts to create mutual benefits for both investors and local communities.



Kenya © Interpeace

3.5 Focus Area: Peace Advocacy

2024 in numbers

Number of times verbal or written input to policy processes, policy fora or events was provided	7
Collaborations with international NGOs	10
Collaborations with UN offices	6 (UNPBF, ILO, UNHCR, WHO, FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF)
Countries with partnerships with State Ministries	4 (Kenya, Mali, Rwanda, and Somalia)

Overview

Global decision-making often takes place in international forums where key governments, policymakers, and other international actors shape policies affecting peacebuilders. However, these spaces can be profoundly disconnected from the realities of individuals, communities, and states affected by conflict. To make policies more relevant, meaningful, and effective for those living in conflict or seeking to build peace, decision-making processes—and who participates in them—must change.

Interpeace’s global policy engagement is both proactive and reactive, seeking to innovate new approaches and concepts alongside responding to formal policy processes or convenings of national, regional, and international policymakers.

Interpeace’s thematic policy work, whether on YPS, peace responsiveness and the HDP nexus, peace finance, or rethinking stability, aims to amplify the impact of bottom-up peacebuilding efforts reflected in the organisation’s working values and understanding of good peacebuilding practices. It revolves around: 1) mainstreaming grassroots experiences to ensure that international funding, strategies, and interventions address the root causes of conflict effectively; 2) ensuring that peacebuilding approaches are embedded into, intersect with, complement, or are sequenced with development, climate, humanitarianism, and wider security and diplomatic objectives; and 3) embedding peacebuilding principles into global policies that recognise local capacities and aim at prevention.



Geneva © Antoine Tardy for Interpeace

Case study

Institutionalising civil society engagement through the CSO-UN Dialogue

The CSO-UN Dialogue Initiative on Peacebuilding, co-chaired by Interpeace and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA)/PBSO in 2024, supports efforts to build a more complementary and integrated ecosystem of peacebuilding actors and approaches by fostering the participation of UN entities and agencies and civil society actors. The platform amplifies voices and leadership beyond the traditional structures of multilateral institutions. Interpeace mobilised and utilised this forum to consolidate a community of practice among civil society and other peacebuilding actors while institutionalising UN engagement with civil society.

In 2024, the two main dialogues took place in Nairobi in June and New York in December, influencing the UN Pact for the Future and the Peacebuilding Architecture Review (PBAR), respectively. A survey conducted by PBSO after the New York dialogue revealed:



- 98% of participants thought the dialogue will advance their organisation's engagement with the UN
- 68% of participants found the UN processes and entry points for civil society to engage with the UN covered in the event useful and relevant; 32% found them partially relevant
- 77% of participants were able to meet and speak with the UN system and Member State representatives informally
- 69% of participants found the peacebuilding lessons in regions outside their own covered in the event useful and relevant; 27% found them partially useful and relevant
- 98% of participants thought the dialogue was helpful for their organisation's future work
- 100% of participants would come again next year

This positive reception is underscored by one of the participants of the CSO-UN dialogues, Khaled, who highlighted that the initiative

"Allows us to amplify the unique experiences and expertise our members have as local peacebuilders. It helps ensure that policies are informed by local realities to make a positive and tangible impact on the ground and foster collaboration and joint action between members at all levels".

The initiative seeks to build an active network and sustain a lasting momentum for continuous engagement throughout the year. It aims to become an institutionalised forum for civil society-UN Member State exchange and collaboration on peacebuilding. The CSO-UN Dialogue is a growing platform, currently planning its third iteration.

4. Interpeace Organisational Objectives

2024 Highlights

In pursuing Interpeace's strategic objectives, all staff strive to embody the spirit of "One Interpeace". This entails being inclusive, embracing and celebrating diversity, remaining united, and supporting one another. Interpeace is committed to enhancing coherence among its programmatic, policy, and

operational efforts; diversifying and consolidating its resource base; raising its profile and influence in the constantly evolving global communications and media landscape; and upholding the highest standards of accountability and governance—ensuring that these standards are reflected in our partnerships.

Human Resources

In 2024, Interpeace initiated a significant change management process to tackle internal and external challenges. This process was shaped by staff input gathered from the General Management Team Retreat, Leadership Group Meeting, Mid-Term Review of the Strategy, and staff surveys, and was further reinforced by feedback from donors and partners who highlighted the importance of sharpening focus and reaffirming Interpeace's core identity.

Key factors drove this evolution:

- The appointment of a new president signified a crucial moment for organisational transformation

- Shifts in the global landscape, including weakening multilateralism, changing conflict dynamics, and growing inequalities
- Financial realities, such as declining unrestricted funding and structural budget deficits

In response, Interpeace implemented staff reductions and a team reorganisation in 2024. These changes laid the foundation for a more agile and decentralised structure, which will be fully implemented in 2025. The organisation is prioritising stronger HR processes, clarified accountability frameworks, and greater delegation of authority to the country level.

Communications

In 2024, Interpeace strengthened its ability to influence diverse audiences and engage non-traditional networks through agile, targeted communications. The organisation reached 1.17 billion people through traditional media, with 720 mentions in key markets such as France, India, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia and the United States.

Social media reach stood at 44.5 million, with 4,680 mentions, while Interpeace's leadership, notably President Itonde Kakoma, garnered 10 million in media reach and 7 million across social platforms.

A special campaign was launched to commemorate Interpeace's thirtieth anniversary, featuring interviews with 21 peacebuilders—including staff,



Peace Talks © Antoine Tardy for Interpeace

partners, and alums—from countries such as Guatemala, Mali, Rwanda, Somalia, and Timor-Leste. These reflections were showcased on a dedicated microsite and promoted using the hashtag #Interpeace30yrs (1.65M reach, 237 mentions).



Geneva © Antoine Tardy for Interpeace

The Geneva Peace Talks, held at the Palais des Nations, gathered over 500 participants and amplified Interpeace's message on the theme "The Future

of Peace", reaching 4.12 million people through #GVAPeaceTalks.

EU & Strategic Partnerships Engagement

In 2024, Interpeace made significant strides in its strategic engagement with the EU and other strategic partners. The organisation increased its engagement with the EU at its headquarters and within country delegations. President Itonde Kakoma led a series of high-level meetings with the European Commission, the European External Action Service (EEAS), and Member States.

Interpeace co-hosted two policy events with the EU: a panel on Insider Mediation within the EU's Community of Practice on Peace Mediation and a conference on the same subject in Nairobi, both of

which contributed to the increased evidence base on Insider Mediation and informed EU policymaking.

Interpeace has enhanced political dialogue with Denmark, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Slovenia, and Sweden at the Member State level. The organisation's leadership role was underscored at significant peacebuilding and policy events, including the Bled Strategic Forum, the Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development, and the Berlin Moot. Emerging partnerships with additional governments and foundations were also nurtured, setting the stage for continued diversification and growth in 2025.

Endnotes

- 1 <https://www.icrc.org/en/article/icrc-2024-upholding-humanity-conflict>
- 2 <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/06/1150981>
- 3 <https://financeforpeace.org/news/finance-for-peace-launched-in-london/>
- 4 International Committee of the Red Cross. "ICRC in 2024: Upholding Humanity in Conflict." International Committee of the Red Cross, February 5, 2024. <https://www.icrc.org/en/article/icrc-2024-upholding-humanity-conflict>.
- 5 UNHCR UK. "Five Key Takeaways from UNHCR's 2024 Mid-Year Trends Report." UNHCR UK, October 2024. <https://www.unrefugees.org.uk/learn-more/news/news/five-key-takeaways-from-unhcrs-2024-mid-year-trends-report/>.
- 6 List of authors: Oxfam, International Alert, Interpeace, Conflict and Environment Observatory, Search for Common Ground, Institute for Climate and Peace, Alliance for Peace Building
- 7 List of authors: Oxfam, International Alert, Interpeace, Conflict and Environment Observatory, Search for Common Ground, Institute for Climate and Peace, Alliance for Peace Building.
- 8 List of authors: International Alert, Saferworld, Interpeace, Peace Nexus, Search for Common Ground, Oxford Policy Management, Alliance for Peacebuilding.
- 9 <https://www.icrc.org/en/article/icrc-2024-upholding-humanity-conflict>
- 10 Name has been changed to ensure security.
- 11 [The 2018 Independent Progress Report on Youth, Peace and Security](#)

Financial Statements

Income

The income for 2024 amounted to \$19 million compared to \$31.8 million in 2023. The decline in income was anticipated and aligned with the budget: it was attributable principally to the scheduled conclusion of 14 peacebuilding programme contracts during the year together with significant changes in the government donor environment for peacebuilding, and was reflected in the annual budget for 2024 approved by the Governing Board.

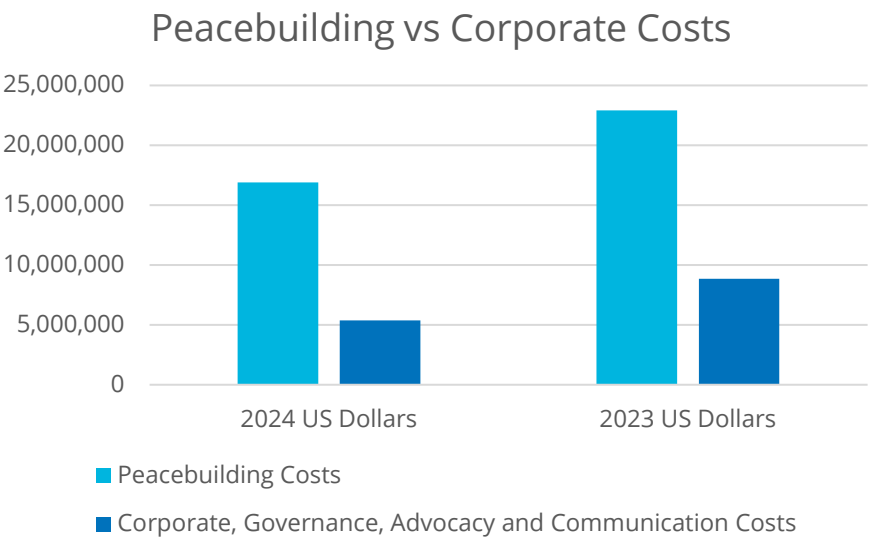
Expenditure

2024 was a year of transition, during which an organisational review and restructuring took place in order to achieve both short term and longer term savings and efficiencies. These circumstances were anticipated and were reflected in the annual budget approved by the Governing Board, including an exceptional draw-down of the Unrestricted Reserve, which is available for this purpose.

Expenditure Summary

For the year ended 31 December 2024
In US Dollars

Expenditure Description	2024		2023	
	US Dollars		US Dollars	
Peacebuilding Costs	16,718,146	76%	23,383,684	73%
Corporate, Governance, Advocacy and Communication Costs	5,366,210	24%	8,840,322	27%



There is a deliberate effort to increase the proportion of expenditure on the core peacebuilding budget compared to costs associated with corporate governance, advocacy, and communication, as demonstrated by the comparative figures for 2023 and 2024.



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Report of the Independent Auditor to Interpeace, Geneva

Report on the Audit of the Summary Consolidated Financial Statements

Opinion

The summary consolidated financial statements of Interpeace and its subsidiaries, which comprise the Consolidated Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024, the Consolidated Statement of Operations, the Consolidated Statement of Changes in capital, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows, and related notes, are derived from the audited consolidated financial statements for Interpeace and its subsidiaries for the year ended 31 December 2024.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary consolidated financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited consolidated financial statements, on the basis described in note 1.

Summary consolidated financial statements

The summary consolidated financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Swiss GAAP FER accounting standards. 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 our independent auditor's report thereon.

The summary consolidated financial statements and the audited consolidated financial statements do not take into account the impact of events that occurred after the date of our independent auditor's on the audited consolidated financial statements.

The audited consolidated financial statements and our report thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited consolidated financial statements in our independent auditor's report to the Interpeace and its subsidiaries dated 26 September 2025.

Governing Board's responsibility for the summary consolidated financial statements

The Governing Board is responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements on the basis described in note 1.



Interpeace, Geneva
Report of Independent Auditor to the
Governing Board on the Summary
Financial Statements

Independent Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary consolidated financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited consolidated financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Swiss auditing standards NAS 810 "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements".

KPMG SA

Elodie Elloy
Licensed Audit Expert

Arthur Duterme
Licensed Audit Expert

Geneva, 26 September 2025

Enclosure:

-Summary consolidated financial statements (Consolidated Balance Sheet, Consolidated Statement of Operations, Consolidated Statement of Changes in Capital, Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and notes)

Interpeace
Consolidated Balance Sheet

As at 31 December
In US Dollars

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
		Restated
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1 553 683	5 443 944
Other Accounts Receivable	101 969	84 814
Prepayments	666 415	606 752
Donor Income Receivable	4 451 044	3 914 829
Advances to Partners	470 775	642 795
Rental and Other Deposits	1 880	1 880
Total Current Assets	<u>7 245 766</u>	<u>10 695 014</u>
Non Current Assets		
Rental and Other Deposits LT	46 580	143 405
Property, Plant and Equipment	64 293	49 141
Total Non Current Assets	<u>110 873</u>	<u>192 546</u>
Total Assets	<u>7 356 639</u>	<u>10 887 560</u>
Liabilities and Reserves		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	735 036	940 077
Accrued Expenses	740 292	675 797
Income to be Repaid to Donors	29 959	415 399
Amounts due to Partners	745 271	480 708
Total Current Liabilities	2 250 558	2 511 981
Non Current Liabilities		
Provisions	70 743	93 143
Total Non Current Liabilities	<u>70 743</u>	<u>93 143</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>2 321 301</u>	<u>2 605 124</u>
Fund Capital		
Fund Capital	3 847 236	3 816 691
Organisation Capital		
Tied Capital	6 401	9 901
Free Capital	1 181 701	4 455 844
Total Organisation Capital	<u>1 188 102</u>	<u>4 465 745</u>
Total Liabilities and Reserves	<u>7 356 639</u>	<u>10 887 560</u>

Interpeace Consolidated Statement of Operations

From 1 January to 31 December
In US Dollars

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u> Restated
Income		
United Nations & UN Agencies	324 105	1 672 742
Governments	16 907 844	24 238 774
Trusts and Foundations	881 373	953 434
Private Sector	59 049	58 654
NGOs	890 647	393 746
Private Donations	0	11 182
Other	56 263	135 788
Total Income	<u>19 119 281</u>	<u>27 464 320</u>
Expenses		
Personnel	(13 732 146)	(15 387 622)
Travel	(2 703 277)	(5 381 066)
Property and equipment purchased for Partners	(222 552)	(374 232)
Depreciation	(25 054)	(40 128)
Office functioning costs	(1 956 403)	(2 860 556)
Workshops and meetings	(1 623 839)	(3 088 948)
Reporting and outreach	(322 963)	(645 117)
Professional services	(1 355 926)	(4 032 535)
Grants	(30 200)	(241 927)
UN Management Fees	(18 002)	(24 772)
Reimbursement to Donors	(93 994)	(147 103)
Total Operating Expenses (net)	<u>(22 084 356)</u>	<u>(32 224 006)</u>
Operating result	<u>(2 965 075)</u>	<u>(4 759 686)</u>
Finance Costs/Gains	(254 269)	192 404
Result before change in fund capital	<u>(3 219 344)</u>	<u>(4 567 282)</u>
Change in fund capital	58 298	(4 604 779)
Annual result	<u>(3 277 643)</u>	<u>37 497</u>

Interpeace
Consolidated Statement of changes in capital
As at 31 December 2024
In US Dollars

Organisation capital

		Opening balance	Allocations	Internal transfers	Appropriation	Total change	Refunds	Closing Balance
Interpeace Inc	Tied capital	9 901	0	(3 499)	0	(3 499)	0	6 401
Interpeace	Free capital	4 455 844	(3 277 642)	3 499	0	(3 274 143)	0	1 181 701
		<u>4 465 745</u>	<u>(3 277 642)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(3 277 642)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1 188 102</u>

Interpeace
Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 31 December
In US Dollars

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u> Restated
Cash flow from operating activities		
Net income for the year	(3 277 642)	37 497
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	25 054	40 128
Net finance costs / (income)	254 271	(192 404)
Change in Fund Capital and Refunds	30 545	(5 125 872)
Other non-cash items	(83 130)	(78 993)
	(3 050 902)	(5 319 644)
Changes in working capital:		
Change in deposits	96 825	13 126
Change in advances to partners	172 019	151 529
Change in donor income receivable	(536 215)	(3 034 482)
Change in accounts receivable and prepayments	(76 818)	(110 307)
Change in provisions and employee benefits	(22 400)	6 415
Change in deferred income	0	(1 771 024)
Change in amount due to partners	264 562	(42 840)
Change in income to be repaid to donors	(385 440)	(93 509)
Change in accounts payable and accrued expenses	(140 546)	(59 122)
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(3 678 915)</u>	<u>(10 259 858)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Interest received	717	36 606
Acquisition of property plant and equipment	(40 206)	(22 782)
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(39 489)</u>	<u>13 824</u>
Cash flows from financing activities		
Interest paid	1 956	0
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>1 956</u>	<u>0</u>
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(3 716 448)	(10 246 034)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	5 443 944	15 455 186
Effect of exchange rate fluctuations on cash held	(173 814)	234 792
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	<u>1 553 683</u>	<u>5 443 944</u>

Basis of Preparation

The summary consolidated financial statements are derived from the audited consolidated financial statements for Interpeace for the year ended 31 December 2024, prepared in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER Accounting Standards. The summary consolidated financial statements above are prepared using the basis of the audited consolidated financial statements and the same measurement basis, but do not contain all disclosures in the notes as required by Swiss GAAP FER Accounting Standards



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