

ANNUAL REPORT

2019



STRENGTHENING ORGANISATIONS,
ENABLING COLLABORATION, BUILDING PEACE

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FOREWORD BY THE PEACENEXUS CHAIR



In 2019 Peace Nexus celebrated its 10th anniversary. We seized this opportunity to reflect on the achievements of our partners ([video link](#)), to highlight our work in different ways and to thank our founders for their vision and generosity. We realised then, and are even more cognizant now, that our mission is of greater relevance than ever. The more than 70 partners that we have supported over the past decade are stronger and more ready to face new and complex challenges, including pandemics, structural injustice and racial inequalities.

Despite our efforts – and the tireless work of our partners – violent conflict has escalated in two of our four focus regions. While we continue to believe, as Martin Luther King famously said, that “the arc of history is long, but it bends toward justice”, we cannot ignore the increasing social polarization, inequalities and competition over natural resources that grip so many of the countries in which we work. These trends are pushing us to think creatively, support innovation and expand partnerships that tackle these challenges head on.

The Annual Report documents some of these new ways of working. We are helping our international partners to recognize the importance of young people as peacebuilders, deepen sensitivity to the ways that environmental and humanitarian action affect conflict and facilitate business-community dialogue on issues ranging from forced labour to air pollution. In our regions, we are building partnerships to address ethnic tensions, promote the full participation of young people, strengthen state-civil society relationships, facilitate conflict sensitive business practices and demonstrate inclusive natural resources management. While each partnership has short-term objectives, we are aware that these are long-term goals, the achievement of which is neither easy nor guaranteed.

Across all our work peer learning, for our partners and for our own team, is a recurring theme. We are striving to increase the range of funders engaged in peacebuilding and to encourage greater collaboration in key areas of work. As we issue this report, COVID-19 is wreaking havoc across the globe, with its impact in much of the Global South yet unknown. It is already apparent, however, that this pandemic is deepening social cleavages and causing widespread social and economic disruption. PeaceNexus is determined to turn this disruption into opportunity – by supporting partners to share reliable information, protect independent media and build a better, safer, fairer post-COVID world. This is surely the most formidable challenge of the next ten years.

Kathleen Cravero

President of the Oak Foundation (until January 2019)

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DIRECTION

2019 ORGANISATIONAL NEWS

Consolidating our regional focus and presence

Following a period of rapid growth, in which we increased the number of organisations we supported from 43 in 2017 to 60 in 2018, in 2019 we focused on strengthening these partners and building our capacity to support them with advisory services provided by our staff and consultants. In addition to hiring three new staff in our regions, we convened our local and international consultants to share learning on how to provide services that lead to sustainable organisational change and capacity building. This accompaniment approach is central to how we work, and we therefore invest in sharing learning between staff and consultants on process design and facilitation.

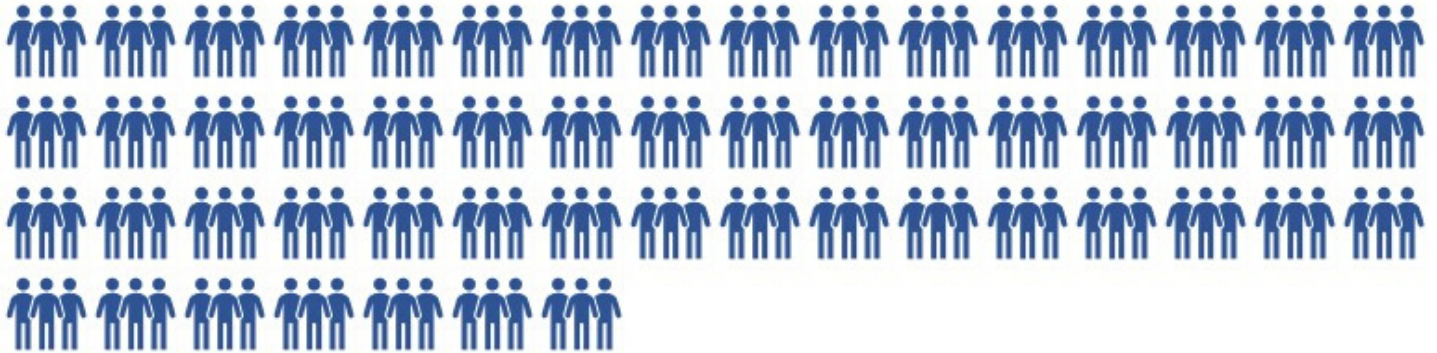


Strengthening our nexus role in enabling peer learning and collaboration

In response to demand from our partners, in 2019 we also invested in convening peer learning events designed to share learning about what has worked (and not worked) and create opportunities for networking and collaboration. For example, in 2019 we convened separate residential workshops for our International, West African, and Western Balkans partners to share their experience of adapting organisations and implementing strategies to address local conflict drivers. These events provided rare opportunities for frank exchange about management dilemmas and choices, served to strengthen informal networks between organisations, and have led to new operational partnerships between some of our partners.

Even with more partners and greater local presence, our ability to provide tailored organisational support can not match demand. To extend our reach, we also began to support platforms that bring together actors interested in sharing knowledge and experience in our three service areas. For example, in 2019 we brought together a range of humanitarian actors working in West Africa to share experience on responding to increased insecurity with a stronger focus on conflict-sensitive operations, and in Myanmar we arranged study-tours for Myanmar organisations and Chinese think tanks interested in understanding how to reduce conflict risk around Chinese investment projects. We see these collective initiatives as opportunities to scale our impact, and have plans to extend them to other areas in which we work next year.

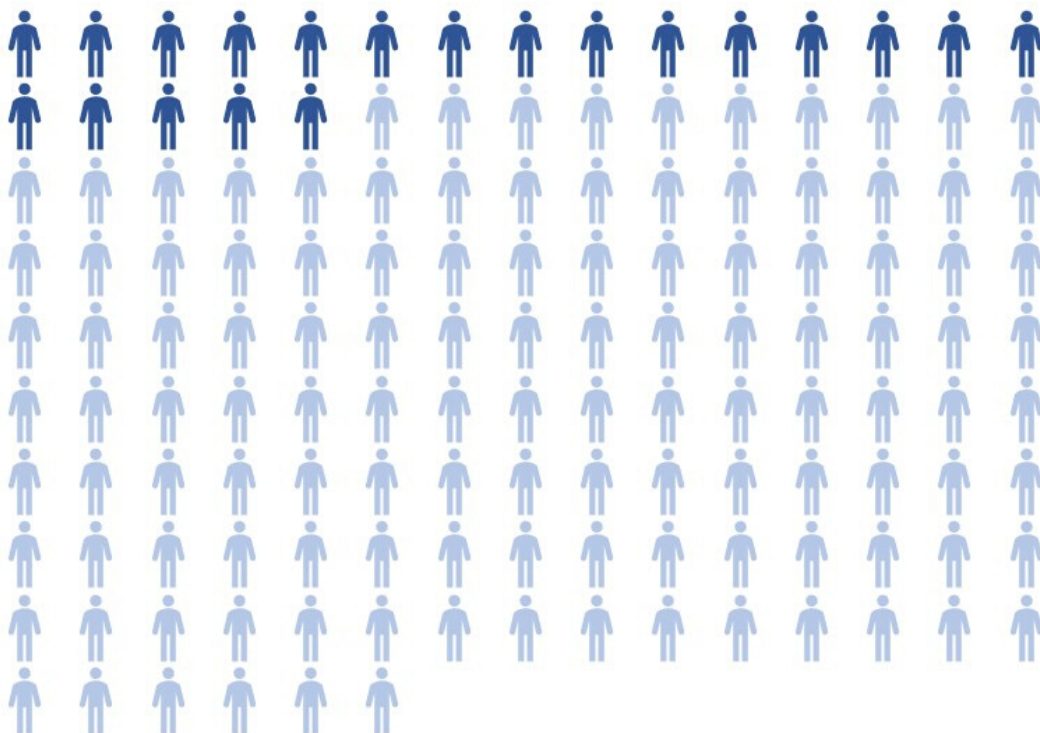
Resources for advisory services in 2019



55 partners strengthened

by

20 staff and 121 consultants



Total expenditure: CHF 3'9 million



PEACENEXUS CELEBRATED ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

PeaceNexus board members and staff invited 60 collaborators and friends to celebrate our 10th birthday on 28 June 2019, in Prangins, Switzerland.

The joyful occasion was opened by our Chair, Kathleen Cravero, and showed a PeaceNexus anniversary video featuring a selection of our regional partners, doing courageous and important work in Kyrgyzstan, Niger, and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The spirit of the occasion was one of appreciation. The Executive Director, Catriona Gourlay, commended the creative founding vision that tailored and targeted

advisory services can increase organisational and collective impact.

In response, the Founder, Anne Gloor (pictured above), told the story of the origins of the Foundation and thanked the numerous people that have contributed to our development with their talents and passion. A special thanks went to Hansjörg Wyss, co-founder of PeaceNexus, for enabling PeaceNexus to do our work.



OUR TEAM

In 2019, our team has further grown with three new staff in the regions to support our partners on the ground.

OUR HEADQUARTERS IN PRANGINS (SWITZERLAND)



Catriona Gourlay
Executive Director



Peter Cross
Regional Programmes
Manager



Magali Khéloui
Finance and Administration
Manager



Carole Frampton-de Tscharner
Organisational Development Lead



Héloïse Heyer
Conflict Sensitivity Lead



Johannes Schreuder
Inclusive Dialogue with Business Lead



Jasmin Gut
Programme Support Officer



Kristyna Jostova
Finance Assistant



Nuno Lopes
Facility manager

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATE CONSULTANTS



Luc Lafrenière
Associate Consultant



Frauke de Weijer
Associate Consultant



Hesta Groenewald
Associate Consultant



OUR REGIONAL TEAMS

SOUTHEAST ASIA



Sai Won Latt
Programme Officer



Shwe Sin Hlaing
Associate Consultant

WEST AFRICA



Aliou Demba Kebe
Programme Manager



Boris Some
Programme Officer



Anina Uhlig
Programme Officer

CENTRAL ASIA



Chinara Esengul
Programme Manager



Nazgul Aksarieva
Programme Officer



Zarina Isakova
Programme Officer



Indira Rakymova
Trainee

WESTERN BALKANS



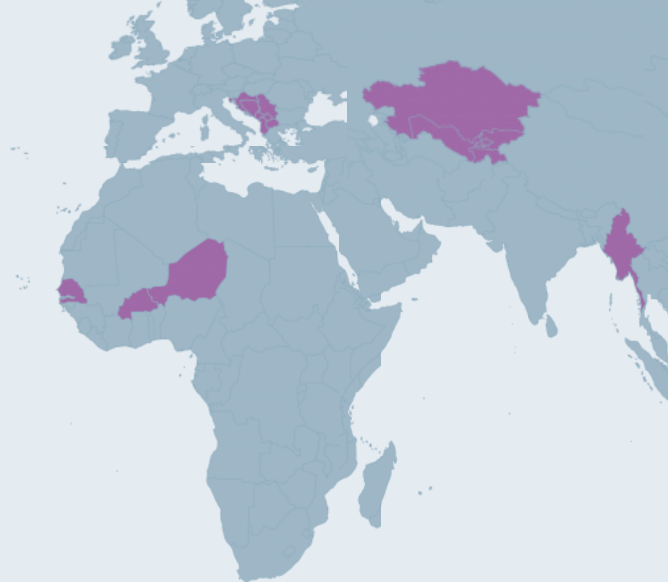
Deborah Reymond
Programme Manager



Mario Mažić
Programme Advisor



Randall Puljek-Shank
Programme Advisor



OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

In 2019, we supported a total of 16 international partnerships.

All our international partners have a strong peacebuilding impact in a number of fragile states and are well positioned to influence the policy of other international actors.

We see these partnerships as critical to improving international support for local peacebuilding efforts.

HOW WE SUPPORT OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

We multiply the peacebuilding impact of our partners through three areas of support: Organisational Development for peacebuilding champions, developing capacity for Conflict Sensitivity, and supporting Inclusive Dialogue with Business to develop solutions to local peacebuilding challenges.

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our Organisational Development service offer has the objective of enabling organisations that have peacebuilding at the core of their mission to become more effective and achieve higher impact, whether they are a multilateral, a governmental or a civil society actor.



CONFLICT SENSITIVITY

We support civil society, governmental institutions and businesses with a high impact in fragile and conflict-affected contexts to improve their practices, so their actions do not fuel violence and contribute to peaceful change where possible.

INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE WITH BUSINESS

We offer dialogue support to affected communities and civil society organisations, companies and local governments. By strengthening the quality of the dialogue process and the capacity of participants involved, we create the conditions for them to co-develop sustainable solutions.



ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In 2019 we provided organisational development (OD) support to 9 international organisations.

OUR INTERNATIONAL OD PARTNERS IN 2019

Peace Brigades International
Cord
United Network of Young Peacebuilders
Trial International
PartnersNetwork
Nonviolent Peaceforce International
Democracy Reporting International
United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office
Organisation for Security and co-Operation in Europe (OSCE)

COLLABORATION HIGHLIGHT

ALLIANCE ARTICLE ON PHILANTHROPIC FUNDING FOR PEACEBUILDING

We are aware of how critical flexible, private sources of funding are to our partners. And yet, less than 1% of philanthropic funding goes to peacebuilding. In 2019, we partnered with Candid and Centris to better understand the reasons behind this low figure through a survey. An unprecedented number of organisations – over 800– responded and the findings were presented in [Alliance Magazine's June edition](#), its first ever dedicated to peacebuilding.



They were also presented at the Geneva Peace Week and a full report will come out in 2020. The research confirms some concerns of donors in relation to funding peace work, such as the fear of being seen as political. It also confirms that funders of peacebuilding are strongly values-driven and have a mandate to work in places that have experienced violence. Better understanding what motivates funders to support – or not support – peace can help peacebuilding organisations advocate more effectively for their work. We aim to follow-up this initiative with efforts to promote peer-learning for philanthropists interested in conflict-sensitivity and peacebuilding.

PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHT

ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

2019 saw the launch of a new partnership with a multilateral actor, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) with the objective of mainstreaming youth perspectives and enabling greater youth participation in its programmes and operations. As a first step, PeaceNexus is supporting one of the OSCE's field operations, the OSCE Mission to Serbia, in its pioneering efforts to develop tools that enable youth mainstreaming in the organization.

The OSCE Mission to Serbia approached PeaceNexus in the Fall of 2018, and after consulting with the OSCE Secretary General, it was agreed that the Mission would pilot a comprehensive approach to youth mainstreaming, paving the way for replication by other OSCE structures. As a result of a participatory workshop and building on the lessons learned from gender-mainstreaming, a comprehensive roadmap was developed.

The Results

Remarkable progress has been made in the first six months. The Youth Contact Points Group is now established with clear Terms of Reference, making youth-mainstreaming a Mission-wide effort rather than the responsibility of only one individual. The existing youth-related work of the Mission has been presented in an attractive diary format and showcased at the 26th OSCE Ministerial Council in Bratislava. The Guidelines have been developed and will be finalized in 2020 after a final round of consultation. The accompanying training course is being tested to one day be made available to all OSCE staff – with some field operations already expressing an interest in hosting the training for their staff. PeaceNexus looks forward to continuing this collaboration, expanding it to other parts of the OSCE and adapting it to the specific needs of the various entities that make it up. Extensive consultation has revealed leadership on this issue across the Organization, and there is a strong foundation for further efforts to make young people central to the work of the OSCE.



© USOSCE/Colin Peters

“Enabling the meaningful participation of younger generations in security dialogue platforms is key for shaping sustainable responses to emerging challenges to peace and stability. PeaceNexus’s support to the OSCE Mission to Serbia in this field significantly contributes to OSCE’s efforts to build long-lasting peaceful and prosperous societies across our region.”

AMBASSADOR THOMAS GREMINGER, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OSCE

CONFLICT SENSITIVITY

In 2019 we supported 5 international organisations through our Conflict Sensitivity support.

OUR INTERNATIONAL CS PARTNERS IN 2019

ZOA
Christian Aid Ireland
International Organisation for Migration
Conservation International
Oxfam

COLLABORATION HIGHLIGHT

CONFLICT SENSITIVITY INTERNATIONAL PARTNER EVENT

PeaceNexus hosted its first International Conflict Sensitivity (CS) Partner Event in October 2019. The two-day workshop brought together staff from each of our international partners that are responsible for advising on conflict issues and integrating peacebuilding into development, humanitarian or conservation programmes. Participants shared their experience on how to strengthen programming and how to generate buy-in and strategic-level commitment for conflict-sensitivity within their organisations.



They also shared personal experiences of leading such processes and provided peer-support to each other around concrete challenges. The event showed that internal peacebuilding champions in large organisations often end up challenging core ways of working. Participants reported that being able to share their experience in this way, strengthened their motivation and helped provide new options for action based on concrete experiences.

PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHT

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

Environmental degradation and climate change increasingly interact with threats to peace and stability around the world. This is why in 2019, we selected Conservation International (CI) as our first-ever partnership with an environmentally focused organisation.

CI field staff regularly face conflict when pursuing their conservation work in fragile or violence-affected contexts. Our collaboration showed that CI was strongly positioned to draw on its existing tools, knowledge and programming practices to advance conflict-sensitive conservation and environmental peacebuilding as part of its new strategy. Our partnership is founded on three priority areas: The first relates to adapting internal policies and processes to support more proactive responses to conflict issues as part of CI's work. The second focuses on supporting a selection of pilot countries to test particular approaches to mitigate risks of violence and contribute to peace efforts as part of their conservation work. The last priority relates to influencing the broader conservation sector to support the implementation of, and resources for, conflict-sensitive conservation and environmental peacebuilding work.

The Results

During 2019, CI achieved important results in all three areas. CI teams in Peru, Kenya and Brazil mapped out conflict issues they face and strengthened their own capacities to resolve these. For instance, in Brazil, local staff and partners were trained and started to use conflict analysis and restorative peace circles. They shared experiences of how increasing violence affects their conservation work in the Amazon, and identified practical solutions. The CI Center for Communities and Conservation helped design a conflict-sensitive, human rights-focused initiative targeting park rangers in Peru, Cambodia and Kenya. CI's new stakeholder engagement guidance now includes a chapter on peace, while conflict issues are more frequently discussed in headquarters, regional and team meetings. CI has also been publicly recognised in the sector for pioneering practical approaches that bring together responses to conflict, peace and environmental challenges.



© Esteban Barrera, Conservation International

“Our close partnership with PeaceNexus experts has sparked rich, deep internal discussions about how CI staff can better identify, address and manage conflict in our conservation work, from headquarters to our field-based programs in Latin America and Africa. PeaceNexus support has spurred us to develop and test conflict-sensitive conservation tools and approaches with our field programs to fill a much-needed gap in the conservation sector.”

JANET EDMOND, SENIOR DIRECTOR FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS AT CI

INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE WITH BUSINESS

In 2019, we partnered with two international organisations within our Inclusive Dialogue with Business support.

OUR INTERNATIONAL IDB PARTNERS IN 2019

Office of the Compliance Advisor/Ombudsman (CAO)
United Nations Global Compact

COLLABORATION HIGHLIGHT

DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS AROUND FORCED LABOUR IN UZBEKISTAN

PeaceNexus and the Office of the Compliance Advisor/Ombudsman (CAO) have collaborated since 2014. Our support focused on strengthening specific CAO processes with complementary assistance to parties involved in CAO's dispute resolution work.

In 2019, CAO approached PeaceNexus on behalf of the Parties involved in a dispute around forced labor in the cotton supply chain in Uzbekistan.



©Pixabay

The parties involved – the company Indorama Kokand Textile, local Uzbek human rights monitors and an alleged victim of forced labor in the cotton fields (the “Complainants”) - asked PeaceNexus to advance the dialogue by supporting the development of a jointly agreed methodology to monitor the absence of forced labour, and build the capacity of the Complainants to conduct actual field monitoring. This work is essential to resolving the dispute and confirming that no forced labour is used in Indorama’s supply chain. In addition, with our support to this case, we will contribute to strengthening the visibility and impact of human rights activist in Uzbekistan.

COLLABORATION HIGHLIGHT

ZENICA DIALOGUE PROCESS

In the Bosnian city of Zenica, we support a dialogue process to address environmental concerns between different stakeholders.

The population of Zenica depends on steel manufacturing for jobs and heating for the city, yet is negatively affected by elevated levels of air pollution. The local civil society organisation EkoForum Zenica requested our support for a dialogue to improve the situation. At our first visit, all key stakeholders – the local authorities of Zenica, the civil society organisation EkoForum, the steel manufacturer ArcelorMittal Zenica, the Zenica University Institute responsible for air quality monitoring and the Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism - confirmed interest to revitalize a dialogue. With our help, the participants selected a team of facilitators to engage in a dialogue to increase trust, develop ways of collaboration and agree on mutually acceptable solutions. We acted as a convener of the dialogue process and provided technical support throughout the process.

The following changes have been achieved so far:

- Stakeholders agreed on ground rules, established a process to follow-up on agreed steps and established a process regarding public statements
- Most of the key measures of ArcelorMittal's Environmental permit have been implemented or are in process and Zenica's real-time display of air quality is functional
- Register of air polluters for Zenica-Doboj Canton was created, and is ready for further updates
- Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) was published by the Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism
- A mechanism was developed for continuing a substantive dialogue after our support
- Stakeholders issued a joint press statement on their planned collaboration



“ ArcelorMittal Zenica recognizes the common interest of business, non-governmental and governmental sectors, which is to improve the quality of the environment and ongoing environmental protection activities. The support by Peace Nexus enabled us to objectively and transparently exchange information in order to avoid disinformation, to look at important questions from different points of view and to try to harmonize our views and opinions about them, which was a particular challenge for all of the participants in the dialogue. ”

AZRA SIVRO, DIRECTOR SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENT AND QUALITY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT AT ARCELORMITTAL ZENICA

OUR REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

In 2019, we worked with a total of 39 organisations that have a high potential to transform the drivers of conflict in their context and strengthen social cohesion.

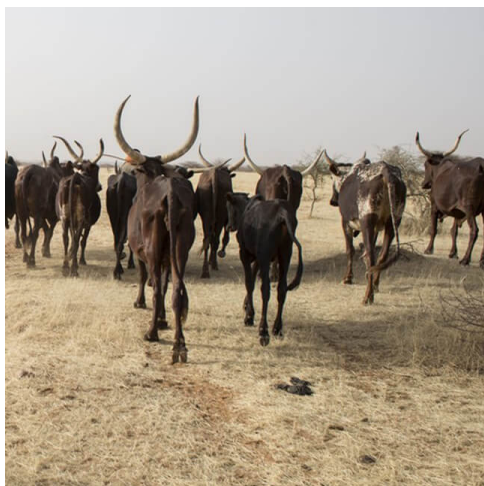
We believe that actors that are closest to and most affected by conflict are also best positioned to serve as the primary agents of conflict transformation.



WESTERN BALKANS



CENTRAL ASIA



WEST AFRICA



SOUTH EAST ASIA

CENTRAL ASIA

In Central Asia, we work towards regional cooperation and strengthen domestic peacebuilding initiatives that promote social cohesion, good governance and conflict sensitive business practice.

OUR PARTNERS IN CENTRAL ASIA IN 2019

United Nations in the Kyrgyz Republic
Foundation for Tolerance International
International Debate Education Association (IDEA) Central Asia
The Progressive Public Association of Women (PPAW) “Mutakalim”
Office of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic
State Agency for Local Self-Government and Inter-Ethnic Relations under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic
Institute for Youth Development
State Commission on Religious Affairs under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic
Public association “Echo” in Kazakhstan
Development Strategy Center in Uzbekistan

COLLABORATION HIGHLIGHT

EFFECTS OF THE BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE IN CENTRAL ASIA

In 2019 PeaceNexus supported the Development Strategy Centre (DSC) in Uzbekistan to conduct research on the effects of developing transport corridors in Central Asia as part of the Chinese Belt and Road initiative (BRI). Together with regional experts representing analytical centres in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, intra- and extra-regional connectivity was analysed from a national and regional perspective. The report assesses observed and expected economic and social effects and provides recommendations on how to strengthen connectivity and regional collaboration.

DSC further informed key decision makers - the Uzbek President office and government - on the findings and recommendations of the final report.

PeaceNexus supported this research with the aim of promoting regional cooperation among Central Asian think-tanks and strengthening their ability to consider social as well as economic implications of BRI. The research questions included: How can BRI projects have a positive impact on the region and play a stabilising peacebuilding role? What are the potential risks that emerge for Central Asia's social and economic development in view of new and planned infrastructure projects?

The research process enabled specialists from national think-tanks to evaluate major infrastructure proposals – identifying their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, dangers and potential to increase the connectivity within Central Asia - together for the first time.



PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHT

UNITED NATIONS IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

We support the United Nations Country Team in Kyrgyzstan to strengthen their peacebuilding impact.

We have been supporting the UN Country Team in the Kyrgyz Republic since 2013 on issues related to the 2010 inter-ethnic clashes in the Southern part of Kyrgyzstan. In 2018, the new UN Resident Coordinator, Ozonnia Ojielo, asked us to further support the UN Country Team on peacebuilding and conflict prevention, through conducting a new conflict and peace analysis.

The Results

The learning and adaptation strategy on Preventing Violent Extremism prompted changes in how programmes are implemented. For example, they have adapted the language they use around religion, radicalisation and extremism to avoid stigmatizing certain groups, and they have reallocated resources between communities in response to findings about the relative severity of the risk of radicalisation.

Moreover, our partner the UN Peacebuilding Support Office, recognises the importance of integrating learning and adaptation, especially in innovative programming where the evidence around the challenge and potential solutions is weak. The Kyrgyzstan programme therefore also serves as an opportunity to field-test new approaches to strengthening learning and adaptation within UN programmes more broadly.



“The United Nations in the Kyrgyz Republic would like to underscore its appreciation to the PeaceNexus Foundation for the invaluable support in the implementation of the Peacebuilding Priority Plan and in conducting the Conflict and Peace Analysis. PeaceNexus’ advice, technical accompaniment and facilitation of various aspects of our peacebuilding work helps us to strengthen our results through reflection, learning and adjusting to changing contexts. During our long-term collaboration, PeaceNexus has been able to repeatedly demonstrate its strong technical competence and commitment to high professionalism.”

OZONNIA OJIELO, RESIDENT COORDINATOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

SOUTH EAST ASIA

In Myanmar, we focus on promoting Inclusive Dialogue with Business, recognising the critical impact that Chinese investment and domestic business actors have on peaceful development in Myanmar.

OUR PARTNERS IN MYANMAR IN 2019

Paung Ku
CDA/RAFT Myanmar
Build Peace Fellowships
Shwe Taung Group
South and Southeast Asia International Logistics Research Institute
Myanmar Alliance for Transparency and Accountability
Bee House - Transboundary Investment Research Initiative
The Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation (CAITEC)

COLLABORATION HIGHLIGHT

MYANMAR-CHINA STUDY TOUR AROUND THE ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

In 2019 PeaceNexus brought together experts from Myanmar and China to exchange information on the Myanmar-China Economic Corridor, a major artery of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).



In collaboration with the South Asia and Southeast Asia International Logistic Research Institute (SSILR), PeaceNexus organised an exchange trip for Chinese experts to Myanmar, followed by a visit by Myanmar experts to China. The two countries' delegations visited a number of project areas to develop a first-hand understanding of the design, scale and progress of the infrastructure projects that will link Myanmar to the Chinese side of the border. The Myanmar experts expressed their concerns about the impact of Chinese investment projects on the conflict and peace process, because the majority of the projects are located in the conflict prone border areas between China and Myanmar. They also highlighted the risks associated with the lack of public information. The Chinese delegation in turn raised a number of challenges they are encountering in Myanmar, including their frustrations over unclear processes and lack of government responsiveness.

Both delegations expressed their gratitude for a constructive exchange and committed to participating in an ongoing exchange to increase awareness of potential risks and benefits, build trust and deepen collaboration.

PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHT

MYANMAR ALLIANCE FOR TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

We support the Myanmar Alliance for Transparency and Accountability (MATA) to create a platform between civil society, businesses and government to influence the national mining policy and regulatory framework for a fair and sustainable use of Myanmar's natural resources.

In 2019, PeaceNexus supported MATA in its efforts to develop a guidance on the regulatory framework for small and artisanal mining. PeaceNexus also helped MATA to produce guidance on the process of stakeholder consultations around the development of the policies for revenue sharing, drawing on lessons learned from other contexts.

The Results

MATA has collected lessons learned from other contexts and developed a strong framework and sound arguments in support of its policy recommendations. The members of the network have developed deeper knowledge on environmental, health, and social safeguards around mining as well as revenue sharing. This has enabled them to engage confidently with government, parliament and company stakeholders with respect to their policy suggestions and has increased their credibility with these stakeholders. MATA's informed policy recommendations and role in convening a multi-stakeholder platform laid the groundwork for the development and implementation of the new framework in 2020.

This provides the best opportunity yet for Myanmar to develop a mining policy framework for the Union and regional levels that can help to build consensus around resource sharing - one of the core struggles in the ongoing seven decade civil-war.



“MATA has learnt many things from the mining research which we did not know before. Our members are well equipped with theoretical and practical knowledge on the issue. Other stakeholders perceive us as experts and respectfully listen to our voices when it comes to issues related to mining. All stakeholders acknowledge that we are trying to bring systemic change not pointing fingers at individuals. The approach of accompanying and providing advice by PeaceNexus is most valuable support to us.”

YE LIN MYINT, NATIONAL COORDINATOR, MATA

WEST AFRICA

In West Africa, we contribute to inclusive development, good governance and peacebuilding through inclusive natural resources management, reducing youth marginalisation and strengthening state-civil society relations and dialogue with business.

OUR PARTNERS IN WEST AFRICA IN 2019

High Authority for Peace Consolidation Niger (HACP)
Association Burkinabé d'Action Communautaire (ABAC)
NGO 3D (Démocratie, Droits humains et développement)
Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme (RADDHO)
SOS Civisme Niger
Billital Maroobé Network
OCADES Caritas Burkina
National Council of Concertation and Rural Cooperation
African Youth Network

COLLABORATION HIGHLIGHTS

FIRST WEST AFRICA PARTNER EVENT

PeaceNexus organised its first peer-learning event for West Africa partners in Saly, Senegal in November 2019. Our partners from Senegal, Burkina Faso and Niger conducted collective snapshot analyses of their regional and national contexts. They exchanged on challenges and success factors related to their peacebuilding work and shared insights from their ongoing efforts related to organisational development, conflict sensitivity and inclusive dialogue with business. Beyond the learning dimension, the event offered an opportunity to connect and build further partnerships across countries. For the PeaceNexus West Africa team, the event provided valuable insights which we used to develop our regional strategy in alignment with partners' needs.



Participants of the West Africa Partner Event

REGIONAL CONFLICT SENSITIVITY TRAINING

To promote learning about conflict sensitivity across the region, PeaceNexus, in partnership with World Vision, Oxfam and Islamic Relief, hosted a week of training in Dakar, Senegal. This was the first regional initiative of the Conflict Sensitivity Community (CSC) Hub, and gathered staff and partners from 10 organisations and 6 countries.

PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHT

RÉSEAU BILLITAL MAROOBÉ

In 2019, we kick-started our partnership with the regional pastoralist network Réseau Billital Maroobé (RBM). We are supporting their organisational strengthening and capacity to scale up their role on conflict prevention and social cohesion in pastoral areas.

The RBM network comprises 75 pastoralist organisations from nine countries in West and Central Africa and represents an overall constituency of 750,000 pastoralists. Pastoral communities have been directly affected by escalating violence across the Sahel and West Africa.

The Results

In 2019, PeaceNexus supported RBM to pilot new approaches to understand conflict issues affecting its members and strengthen dialogue and peaceful conflict resolution capacities at different levels in the network. As youth in pastoral areas represents a large but often misrepresented constituency, the partnership zoomed on how to strengthen inter-generational dialogue and youth voices to help RBM build its vision for the future of pastoralism.

RBM succeeded in embedding conflict sensitivity and social cohesion approaches as part of 40% of their new programmes, both at local level in support of pastoralist organisations and at the regional dialogue and policy level. The network built new conflict-related indicators as part of its regional monitoring mechanism of trends and events affecting mobility in pastoral areas. This has helped the network and its members address conflicts and prevent violence in multiple instances, including at particular tense times when borders of coastal countries were being closed to pastoral movement. Future directions include leading an in-depth research across the region of how exactly pastoral communities are affected by the degraded security situation and how different actors, including RBM but also states and regional institutions, can best respond.



“ We value PeaceNexus’ innovative partnership approach. Their focus on organisational change and flexibility played a key part in how we scaled up our understanding of conflict and voice on peace over the past two years. It brought light to our members’ skills and experience related to conflict and helped strengthen RBM as a reference organisation on how pastoralism and social cohesion interconnect in the Sahel, Central and West Africa. We are committed to continue to build conflict prevention capacities as part of our members’ work locally but also to put social cohesion front and center in our regional dialogue and policy work on the future of pastoralism in the region. ”

Blamah Jalloh, Regional Coordinator RBM

WESTERN BALKANS

In the Western Balkans, we work with partners who counter the trends of ethnic fragmentation and polarisation, and mobilise support for inclusive development, reconciliation and regional exchange.

OUR PARTNERS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS IN 2019

South East European Youth Network
Centre for Research, Transparency and Accountability
Humanitarian Law Centre
Nansen Dialogue Centre
Mreža Mira
Metamorphosis
Regional Youth Cooperation Office
Western Balkans Fund
BiH Youth Initiative for Human Rights
Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina
Zenica Dialogue Case

COLLABORATION HIGHLIGHT

LEADERS OF WESTERN BALKANS PARTNERS DELVE INTO CHANGE MANAGEMENT

Sixteen leaders of PeaceNexus' Western Balkans partner organisations gathered in Zagreb in October 2019 for the third annual leadership event. The event was organised by PeaceNexus to foster reflective leadership and strengthen connections between our partner organisations. The event focused on the curve of change, managerial style and understanding resistance.



A highlight for many was the peer coaching where each participant had the chance to present an organisational challenge and receive feedback from the other leaders who were present. Several participants noted that such an exchange is rare and that it helped them realise that they are not alone in their challenges. PeaceNexus supports peer-learning events and individual coaching to foster strong leadership and networks for social change across the region.

PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHT

METAMORPHOSIS

We support the Metamorphosis Foundation to be a more effective voice for stronger civic engagement and democracy in North Macedonia.

PeaceNexus began working with Metamorphosis in May 2017. During the two initial phases of our partnership, we supported Metamorphosis in creating a strategic plan through a comprehensive participatory process, restructuring its media projects, and establishing a structure that fits the organisation's size and purpose.

Currently, we are in the third phase of our partnership and support Metamorphosis in following through with its organisational changes.

The Results

Metamorphosis was able to refocus on four programmes: Media for democracy, Social accountability, Education for innovation, and Human rights online. This helped to build internal alignment as well as to improve the clarity of Metamorphosis' external communications. At the same time, the organisation successfully created a new organisational structure that responds to its increased size and enables even further growth. Thanks to its new strategy, Metamorphosis was able to secure additional funding and expand its activities to six more municipalities. It has also introduced a monitoring and evaluation framework to assess programme quality and impact.



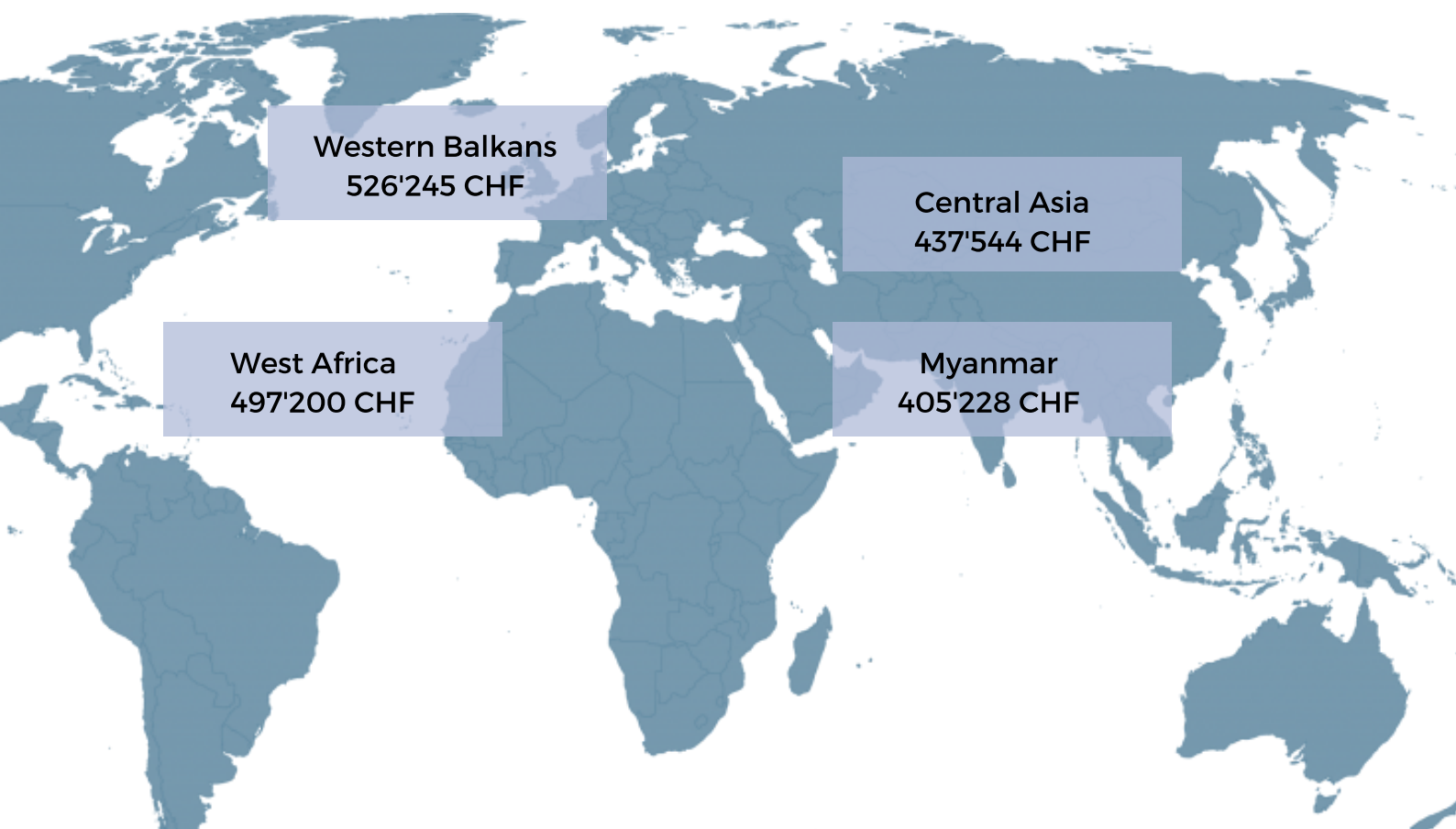
“After more than a decade of operation and growth in a dynamic environment, it was time for the Metamorphosis Foundation to stabilise and invest in a revised organisational structure and programme strategy. This process required formidable organisational changes unsurprisingly accompanied by discomfort for everyone in the organisation. PeaceNexus helped us let go of fear and led us through the change process. As a result, we have consolidated our project portfolio into a genuinely coherent and highly strategic programme and built a new more efficient organisational structure.”

BARDHYL JASHARI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR METAMORPHOSIS

EXPENDITURES

OVERALL SPENDING IN 2019

Total Expenditure: 3'905'434 CHF



MISSION-ALIGNED INVESTMENT HIGHLIGHT

PEACE INVESTMENT FUND

Multinational companies can have a major influence on peace and stability in fragile and conflict-affected countries. Through the Peace Investment Fund, PeaceNexus helps companies to strengthen their peacebuilding impact by taking on the role of an engaged, long-term shareholder, providing guidance and tailored advice.

Some key results of our engagement with companies

- 2 companies initiated a new a peacebuilding intervention (StandardChartered and Nestlé)
- 6 companies requested an in depth peacebuilding assessment (SAP, AXA, L'Oréal, Pepsi-Co, Standard Chartered and Total)
- 19 portfolio companies requested (multiple) follow-up meeting(s) focused on peacebuilding
- 24 portfolio companies expressed interest in Peacebuilding

COMPANY ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHT

BANKS PLAY A KEY ROLE IN BUILDING PEACE

ENGAGING WITH STANDARD CHARTERED TO STRENGTHEN THE CONFLICT SENSITIVITY OF THEIR FINANCIAL SERVICES IN FRAGILE STATES

In the 2019 engagement cycle, multiple engagement meetings took place with staff from Standard Chartered headquarters and with the representative office in Yangon, Myanmar.



Building on the trust established in these engagement meetings, Standard Chartered requested that the foundation conducts an in-depth Peacebuilding Assessment. This Assessment was shared with the bank in April 2019. It highlighted existing peacebuilding conducive policy and practices within Standard Chartered and made recommendations for further improvement. Topics that were addressed included: country specific diversity and inclusion policies, oversight on private security, community investment and client due diligence in conflict-affected countries.

PeaceNexus facilitated a half day workshop in their London headquarters in September 2019 with senior bank representatives from Europe, Asia and Africa. After an initial presentation of the Peacebuilding Assessment to the full team, dedicated discussions were held with the individuals responsible for specific peacebuilding relevant functions within the bank.

Following these discussions, Standard Chartered and PeaceNexus decided to focus their collaboration on further strengthening the conflict-sensitivity of their financial services in fragile states. They are currently planning for a second workshop in 2020 with the bank's teams focusing on Environmental and Social Risk, Enterprise Risk and Sustainable Finance.

By providing financial services in fragile states in a conflict-sensitive manner, banks play a key role in economic development, job creation and building peace.

The logo features three overlapping circles: a dark blue circle on the left, a purple circle in the center, and a light blue circle on the right. The text 'PeaceNexus' is written in white across the circles, with 'Foundation' in a smaller font below it.

PeaceNexus

Foundation

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