

2021 Annual Report

PEACENEXUS FOUNDATION

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FOREWORD

A MESSAGE FROM PEACENEXUS' CHAIR



Resilience is the word I would use to describe our work in 2021. Defined as “the ability to adapt to difficult, challenging and/or fast evolving situations”, this term captures our approach to both programs and operations during this complex year.

Within our programs, we adapted strategic objectives for two regional programmes (Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan), faced growing insecurity in another (the Sahel) and evolved alongside COVID19 as it demanded new approaches and ways of working. While maintaining our overall direction, our work in Myanmar shifted to a greater emphasis on constitutional and political dialogue among a range of actors; in Central Asia, we are now focused on the intersection between environment and security concerns.

In our operations, we continued supporting partners through processes of organizational change, combining virtual approaches made necessary by COVID with our preferred in-person contact. Despite the difficulties of building (and maintaining) relationships of trust and confidence remotely, it has been a productive year. 14 partnerships were successfully concluded having reached their objectives. This report highlights some of their results. 18 new partnerships and collaborative initiatives were launched with a mix of on- and off-line events. These results were facilitated by increased staff presence at regional level and investments in the ability of partners to organise through digital spaces.

Above all, we salute the resilience and commitment of our partners in the face of economic, environmental and political shocks. Our international partners stayed the course in supporting local peacebuilding actors and initiatives. In turn, these local partners, beset by increasingly insecure and hostile working conditions, doubled down on their commitment to community action and peaceful change. We are inspired by their courage in the face of growing violence and oppression.

As this report is finalized, war is raging in Ukraine. This war is up-ending our geopolitical order and generating humanitarian crises far beyond Ukraine and its neighboring countries. The work of PeaceNexus – centered on local peacebuilding actors, conflict sensitivity and innovative approaches to change – has never been more important.

In mid-2022, a new Governing Board will take the reins of PeaceNexus. On behalf of the outgoing Board, I would like to thank PeaceNexus staff for their outstanding, tireless efforts to achieve our mission. We wish the incoming Board success in completing the implementation of our three year strategy, which extends through the end of 2023, and in realising the vision and mission of this extraordinary foundation.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen Cravero'.

Dr Kathleen Cravero

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Regional Programmes

Central Asia	22
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Expenditure and Mission Investing

Total expenditure	35
Mission aligned investing	36



ORGANISATIONAL NEWS

2021 IN REVIEW: OUR PURPOSE AND SERVICES

Our services

We multiply the peacebuilding impact of our partners through three areas of support: Organisational Development for peacebuilding champions, developing capacity for Conflict Sensitivity, and Business Engagement to develop inclusive 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

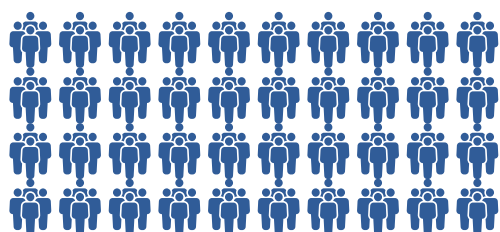
We support civil society, governmental institutions and businesses with a high impact in fragile and conflict-affected contexts to improve their practices, so their actions do not fuel violence and contribute to peaceful change where possible.

Business engagement

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.



2021 IN REVIEW: OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



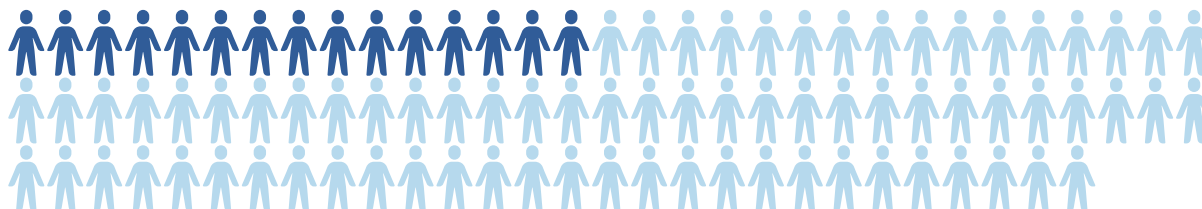
53
partners
strengthened

International Partnerships

19

Regional Partnerships

34



23 staff and 149 consultants



**3.3 million CHF total
expenditure**

2021 IN REVIEW: ADAPTING TO POLITICAL AND SECURITY SHOCKS IN OUR FOCUS REGIONS

In 2021 we began to work towards the goals set out in our 2021-2023 strategy. While the pandemic required remote work, we were able to conduct some in-person events to launch new partnerships or promote peer-learning. Five new international partnerships were launched remotely, but in the Western Balkans, the team was able to hold workshops with new partners in Kosovo, Serbia and Croatia. All programmes now have a portfolio of partners that are well placed to contribute to specific peacebuilding goals, and all partners are working with us towards agreed organisational changes to enhance their effectiveness.

Unfortunately, the pandemic was not even the biggest challenge for our work in 2021. Rather, political crises in Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan, and increased insecurity across the Sahel, required that we change some of our programme goals, and adopt new operational approaches to working in increasingly insecure contexts.

Before the coup in Myanmar, we were working with civil society and government partners to promote more conflict sensitive development. For example, we were supporting our civil society partners to monitor and engage with the private sector to reduce the negative impact of infrastructure projects linked to the Belt and Road Initiative. We were also launching a collaboration with the Ministry of Transport to conduct social and environmental impact assessments of a new rail project. After the coup on 1 February 2021, this work was no longer feasible. We immediately ended our collaboration with government partners.

Following the coup, we decided to remain engaged but adapt our programme goals. We initially provided emergency adaptation support to our civil society partners, and now support them to convene and participate in inclusive processes to develop constitutional and policy proposals related to natural resource management in a future democratic Myanmar. Given the security and pandemic challenges, we have closed our office in Yangon. Our staff are now based outside the country, where they provide remote support to civil society, business and legitimate democratic authorities.

A violent political crisis in Kyrgyzstan triggered by the Presidential elections, followed by an escalation of violent conflict across the Tajik-Kyrgyz border triggered by disputes over access to water, required strategic adaptation to our Central Asia programme in 2021. Previously, one of our goals was to reduce tensions around (mostly Chinese) mining and planned infrastructure projects. However, in the aftermath of the political crisis there was large scale divestment, including by China, and it was no longer appropriate to pursue this objective. Instead, we have pivoted to improving regional cooperation on two issues. We now work with governments and think tanks to develop regional connectivity plans, and with civil society actors across the region to address environmental threats to security. We maintain our office in Kyrgyzstan and plan to add staff capacity to manage partnerships in Uzbekistan.

In West Africa, violent attacks from militant groups escalated across the Sahel in 2021. This region now has the highest rates of deaths and displacement related to 'terrorist' group attacks in the world. Rising insecurity also fueled political instability triggering coups in Mali and Burkina Faso. Despite this worsening security situation, our programme goals remain valid. For example, we continue to support partners with strong presence in the most affected regions. Their work with remote and marginalized communities and state authorities strengthens social cohesion and helps to prevent recruitment by militants and the escalation of inter-communal violence triggered by attacks. In 2021, however, this required greater investment to improve our security policies and protocols and we began to offer security support to our partners.

2021 IN REVIEW: OUR PEOPLE

In 2021 our team grew by 5 members. Looking ahead, we will continue to invest in the capacity building of staff and consultants to ensure high-quality accompaniment and build a stronger community of local practitioners.

Our headquarters in Prangins, Switzerland



Catriona Gourlay
Executive Director



Peter Cross
Deputy Director



Magali Khéloui
Finance and
Administration Director



**Carole Frampton-de
Tschanner**
Organisational
Development Lead



Héloïse Heyer
Conflict Sensitivity Lead



Johannes Schreuder
Business Engagement
Lead



Kristyna Jostova
Finance Assistant



Daniela Bosnjak
Programme Advisor



Nuno Lopez
Facility Manager

Trainees



Alix Mottet
Prangins, Switzerland



Ulan Asekov
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

International Associate Consultants



Luc Lafrenière



Frauke de Weijer



Hesta Groenewald

2021 IN REVIEW: OUR PEOPLE

Southeast Asia Team



Carol Sivpey Te
Associate Consultant



Sai Won Latt
Programme Officer

Central Asia Team



Chinara Esengul
Programme Manager



Nazgul Aksarieva
Programme Officer



Kanatbek Abdiev
Programme Officer

West Africa Team



Aliou Kebe
Programme Manager



Boris Some
Programme Officer



Anina Uhlig
Programme Officer

Western Balkans Team



Deborah Reymond
Programme Manager



Mario Mažić
Programme Advisor



Besart Lumi
Programme Advisor



Vladica Jovanović
Programme Advisor

2021 IN REVIEW: OUR BOARD

Our board



Dr Kathleen Cravero
Chair



Hansjörg Wyss
Board Member



**Professor 'Funmi
Olonisakin**
Board Member



Denis Kadima
Board Member



Ivo Knoepfel
Board Member



Victor Angelo
Board Member



Dr Louisa Chan Boegli
Board Member



Molly McUsic
Board Member

Founder



Anne Gloor
Founder



OUR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME

In 2021 we supported a total of 19 international partnerships. All our international partners have a strong peacebuilding impact in a number of fragile states and are well positioned to influence international policy. We see these partnerships as critical to improving international support for local peacebuilding efforts.

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We accompany organisational change with partners that have peacebuilding at the core of their mandate. Our support to embed core capacities for improved operational impact and collaboration contributes to more relevant, inclusive and sustainable peacebuilding practices, and more effective interventions as a result.

OUR PARTNERS IN 2021

2021 was a transition year with the completion of five partnerships and the launching of four new ones following our 2020 Call for Proposals.

By the end of the year, our international Organisational Development portfolio was fully aligned with our strategy and consisted of the following organisations:

- The United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (UNPBSO)
 - The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
 - Conciliation Resources & Crisis Management Initiative (peer-learning dialogue)
 - Partners Network
 - Peace Direct
 - Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)
 - Build Up
 - International Alert
-

THE CONTEXT

The field is still adapting to a context changed by the pandemic and grappling with how to shift power structures to enable more locally-led peacebuilding. INGOs that traditionally acted as intermediaries between local actors and international donors are forced to re-examine how they have played this role. At this juncture, Organisational Development is proving key to aligning peacebuilding practices with the field's professed values.

A focus on inclusion and equitable partnerships at the programmatic level is now seen as necessary but not sufficient. What is expected is peacebuilding interventions designed with the communities they are meant to support, and managed through processes which empower local leadership. In 2021 many of our new partners committed to reviewing all aspects of their operations in view of this shift to a new paradigm of mutual accountability.

PARTNERS NETWORK

One of the longest-standing global civil society networks at the intersection of democracy and conflict transformation is Partners Network. Their request for support focused on re-thinking their governance and network structure. The diversity of its 20+ members' locations, organisational maturity, size and priorities led them to near paralysis, despite a strong shared identity and continued desire to collaborate.

Following extensive consultations, the Network Assembly in 2019 resulted in clear decisions and infused a new life into the Network ahead of its 30th anniversary. It refocused its purpose to mutually supportive learning and adopted a new governance structure that embedded regional representation and shared leadership. Additional support has since been provided to operationalize the structure, including the development of a knowledge-sharing platform and investment in online facilitation tools.

“

Again, thank you so much for your on-going support for the Partners Network – it's been an amazing journey with you and one that has paid off immensely. We are a totally different network than when you started to invest in us. I'll be forever grateful for your partnership and the impact will live on long past either of us throughout the Partners global family.

Julia Roig, former President & CEO PartnersGlobal

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Results

Partners Network now convenes around 30 events annually and has seen a dramatic increase in attendance, with all members engaging in the regional structure introduced in the governance model. Members have also joined forces on research projects, fundraising and advocacy, for instance successfully mobilising against a restrictive civil society law in Serbia. Finally, the change process has enabled the emergence of youth leaders: 10-12 “early professionals” from 8 countries have become a strong propositional force in the group previously limited to the Directors.



INTEGRATING GENDER IN THE DNA OF PEACEBUILDING

In 2021 we supported a peer-learning initiative to understand and address the challenges of integrating gender in peacebuilding. This was convened by two former partners, Conciliation Resources and CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Foundation. Under their leadership, thirteen organisations came together for a series of roundtables to explore the different dimensions of gender integration as experienced by those championing it internally.

The report captures their collective learnings and provides key insights into what successful gender integration requires: a commitment from the leadership embedded in the organisation's strategy and a alignment of internal practices so that efforts to integrate a gender lens at the programmatic level are not undermined by gender-blind structures. The group also developed a gender integration spectrum to help organisations assess and open up an internal dialogue on their ambitions and practices related to gender and peacebuilding.



LOOKING AHEAD

In 2021 we helped new partners reflect on their challenges, agree on a change roadmap, and embark on this journey. In 2022 they will be in a position to draw first lessons, and a peer-learning event is planned for this purpose. We plan to document their learning in Practice Papers, as we also review our results and accompaniment model through our programme review.

Finally, we will renew our efforts towards influencing our peers in the donor community in support of locally-led peacebuilding. And based on the success of its first year, we will continue to actively support the Organisational Development community of practice that we helped launch in 2021 in partnership with Philea, the umbrella organisation of +10 000 philanthropic foundations in Europe.

CONFLICT SENSITIVITY

We support civil society and government actors that are influential in conflict contexts to build organisational capacities to understand and address conflict as part of their core operations and scale up their contribution to peacebuilding.

OUR PARTNERS IN 2021

Our international CS portfolio focuses on a small number of influential partners and collective initiatives in two sectors:

Humanitarian and development partners:

- Oxfam
- Christian Aid Ireland
- International Organisation for Migration
- Conflict Sensitivity Community Hub

Environmental partners:

- Conservation International
 - Geneva Peacebuilding Platform as convener of a community of environmental, climate and peacebuilding actors
-

THE CONTEXT

In 2021 our international partners adapted to shifting global dynamics marked by the continuing pandemic, the climate crisis and radically worsening governance and security situations in countries such as Afghanistan, Myanmar and the Sahel. Our partners increased the level and flexibility of their support to local actors at the forefront of humanitarian assistance, recovery and peacebuilding efforts in complex conflict contexts. They also piloted new approaches on the ground and led influencing initiatives to start integrating conflict prevention in nature preservation and climate action.

Partnership Highlight

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

With 174 member states and offices in over 100 countries, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) promotes humane and orderly migration. To respond to the growing demand for engagement in some of the world's most challenging contexts, IOM committed to mainstreaming conflict sensitivity as a key approach across its operations. We have supported IOM to reach that objective since 2016.

IOM followed a two-pronged strategy. First, it developed institution-wide guidance and tools and, second, it piloted new practices at Country Mission and Regional Office level. The process began with the launch of an Operational Guide on Integrating Conflict Sensitivity, outlining how to implement the concept in and beyond crises contexts. IOM then designed tools on conflict analysis, beneficiary selection, and monitoring and evaluation of peacebuilding programming. These were developed and tested with a range of colleagues to ensure they are user-friendly and adapted to complex field settings.

At country level, IOM Iraq and Sudan Country Missions pioneered new practices such as Standard Operating Procedures for the conflict sensitivity onboarding of new staff. It also created a conflict sensitivity focal point system, to help mainstream the approach across all programming. The regional Cairo office also engaged on a Training of Trainers to reinforce the country level system.



“

“IOM’s commitment to addressing the causes of displacement and drivers of migration in crises brings the Organization into conflict-affected and fragile contexts. Building on the long-term PeaceNexus accompaniment, IOM has been able to more deeply streamline conflict sensitivity as a core principle throughout all programmes, units, and systems within IOM, as well as continue developing its institutional orientation on conflict sensitivity by increasing strategic planning and organizational capacity.”

AJ Morgen, Advisor on Peace and Security

”

Results

IOM has strengthened its programming across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus and grown its role within the UN system to play its full part in delivering the “Sustaining Peace” agenda. It is now the second biggest implementer of UN Peacebuilding Fund projects and is leading thinking and practice on issues of growing global concern, such as on how to tackle the intersection of climate change, migration, and conflict.

WHITE PAPER ON THE FUTURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PEACEBUILDING



Shar Tuiasoa, artwork for White Paper

We supported the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform to lead the collaborative development of a White Paper on the Future of Environmental Peacebuilding. It brought together 50 contributions from 150 authors, representing 30 countries and 84 institutions. The process was an opportunity to harness the collective experiences of practitioners, researchers, policymakers, donors and activists. It highlighted how climate action and the protection of nature are increasingly connected to preventing violent conflict and building peace across the world. It also showed the potential of integrated responses to effectively tackle environment and peace challenges. The Paper will inform important policy and community events in 2022, such as the Stockholm+50 UN Conference on the Human Environment.

“

The White Paper was catalytic in its process and substantial in its impact. It brought in different voices to provide a direction for this field through an innovative merging of scholarship, practice, policy and art. PeaceNexus was central to the development and launch of the White Paper, providing both funding and expert guidance. In doing so, it showed how a strategic combination of financial and technical support can bring together environmental, humanitarian, and peacebuilding actors to develop a common vision.

Carl Bruch, President, Environmental Peacebuilding Association

”

LOOKING AHEAD

In 2022 we will launch a new Call for proposals to expand our portfolio of environmental partners. We will continue our accompaniment to current multi-mandate partners and share our learning, notably from our closing partnership with Christian Aid Ireland. We will convene peer-learning between our partners from different sectors and increase our investment in collective initiatives such as the global Conflict Sensitivity Hub and the Environment, Climate, Conflict and Peace community.

BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT

We engage with companies to adapt their operations to contribute to social cohesion in fragile contexts and report on their contribution to peace, justice and strong institutions. We also work with companies, government and civil society organisations to reduce disputes around company operations.

OUR PARTNERS IN 2021

Our portfolio of international initiatives complements our regional work by engaging with corporate headquarters, investors and global business-community mediation entities and experts.

Initiatives supported in 2021 include:

- The CADMOS Peace Investment Fund
 - Nespresso (Nestlé), collaboration on conflict-sensitive coffee supply chains
 - Novartis, collaboration on conflict-sensitive business practices in fragile states
 - Dialogue case on reducing air pollution in Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - Dialogue case on eliminating forced labour in a cotton supply chain in Uzbekistan
-

THE CONTEXT

As the pandemic entered its second year, tensions around economic inequality, access to healthcare and social justice sharpened geopolitical divisions and challenged even the most stable societies. Since the start of the pandemic, democracy has deteriorated in over 80 countries and military coups shook many of our regions of work. This context of increased instability further complicated the ability of companies to operate responsibly in fragile states, with Myanmar proving to be one of the most challenging contexts we supported companies in navigating this year.

CADMOS PEACE INVESTMENT FUND

Launched in January 2018 by PeaceNexus and the Swiss asset managers de Pury Pictet Turrettini, the Fund is a global listed equity fund. The number of companies in the portfolio fluctuates between 30 and 40. PeaceNexus engages with these companies to encourage improved business practices in fragile states. In 2021 our engagement focused on issues of client due diligence, supply chain transparency and sustainability, and diversity and inclusion within operations in fragile states. We engaged with 29 companies, provided tailored recommendations on these issues for 21 companies, conducted conflict-sensitivity workshops with Novartis and advanced the partnership with Nespresso (see below).

NESPRESSO

We are collaborating with Nespresso to strengthen the impact of its coffee sourcing programme. Nespresso is committed to maximizing the positive impact of their Reviving Origins Programme on peace. This programme sources coffee from conflict affected areas, including, among others, Columbia, Zimbabwe, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

In 2020 and 2021, we joined forces with Nespresso to explore the nascent DRC programme's potential to contribute to social cohesion. An impact review concluded that Nespresso's premiums and the governance of the partnering coffee cooperatives helped to revive the coffee industry in South Kivu and increase social cohesion by offering opportunities to demobilized fighters, youth, women and people from different ethnic groups to work alongside each other. It encouraged Nespresso to closely monitor potential grievances in the communities and tensions over payments. Building on this work, we are working to further integrate conflict-sensitivity across Nespresso's global policies and procedures.

“

I greatly value our close collaboration with PeaceNexus. Their insights on conflict-sensitivity and corporate best practices were instrumental to further strengthen the Nespresso DRC Reviving Origin programme.

Charlotte Ruetz, Coffee Sustainability Project Manager, Nespresso

”



Minova, Democratic Republic of Congo ©Nespresso

SUPPORTING BUSINESSES TO RESPOND TO THE COUP IN MYANMAR

Since the military seized power in a coup in February 2021, companies operating in the country have faced difficult decisions on how to respond and responsibly navigate the business and human rights challenges. In response, PeaceNexus sought to provide Cadmos Peace Investment Fund (CADPIF) portfolio companies with relevant information from credible, local sources and with opportunities to exchange information about companies' response to the crisis. To facilitate a constructive dialogue around their shared challenges, PeaceNexus convened two closed-door round table meetings for CADPIF portfolio companies with a presence in Myanmar. Drawing upon their strong partner network in Myanmar, the meetings provided reliable updates on recent developments and a confidential space to discuss their concerns with experts and peers. The meetings encouraged responsible business conduct and advanced a collective company statement to the coup, facilitated by the Myanmar Center for Responsible Business. Six current and former portfolio companies signed on to this statement.

As companies continue to face increased pressure to adapt operations in areas of escalating insecurity and conflict, including in Myanmar and Russia following its invasion of Ukraine, PeaceNexus will continue to assist businesses to navigate challenging operational environments, and to act in ways that ensure respect for human rights and advance the interests of local communities.



LOOKING AHEAD

In 2022 we will continue to positively influence company behaviour as a shareholder and scale up our engagement, including through collaboration with other investors open to engagement on the peace theme. We will continue to engage Peace Investment Fund portfolio companies to increase their awareness of and reporting on their contribution to peace within existing impact frameworks as well as the new EU framework that defines companies contribution to peaceful and inclusive societies. In our regions, we will maintain our support to on-going dispute resolution case in Uzbekistan and are ready take on at least one new case, given the successful resolution of the Zenica case in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2021.



OUR REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

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. In 2021 our regional teams worked with 34 organisations that have a high potential to transform the drivers of conflict and strengthen social cohesion in their context.



CENTRAL ASIA

In Central Asia we work towards regional cooperation and to strengthen domestic peacebuilding initiatives that promote social cohesion and peaceful development.

OUR PARTNERS IN 2021

- United Nations Country Team, Kyrgyz Republic
- Academy of Public Administration under the President of Kyrgyz Republic
- Progressive Women's Public Association 'Mutakallim', Kyrgyz Republic
- Public Foundation 'Institute of Youth Development', Kyrgyz Republic
- Ministry of Culture, Information and Youth Policy, Kyrgyz Republic
- International Business Council, Kyrgyz Republic
- Public Foundation 'Echo', Kazakhstan
- Nationwide Movement Yuksalish, Uzbekistan
- Ministry of Transport, Research Center Ma'no, Uzbekistan
- Collective Learning Platform of Civil Society, Regional Initiative

THE CONTEXT

The Taliban's seizure of power in Afghanistan negatively affected the overall security of Central Asia by intensifying the threat of violent extremism. The armed conflict between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan over water infrastructure and disputed territories significantly harmed trust between the two countries. There have been efforts to restrict civil society space intensified in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, while Uzbekistan continues to open up and is committed to civil society growth and promoting regional cooperation.

TOWARDS INCLUSIVE NATION- BUILDING

The Office of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic (“the Office”) is in charge of strategic policy-making, as well as monitoring policy implementation by the executive government and non-governmental organisations. PeaceNexus has been working with the Office since 2018 to support the inclusive development of the Kyrgyz Jarany Civic Identity Concept.

“

Our partnership with PeaceNexus on the development of the civic identity concept Kyrgyz Jarany has been a productive one. The inclusive way of the concept's development has been perceived as a good practice. The vision that is embedded in the Concept lays the strategic direction for 2021-2026 in finding the right equilibrium in promoting diversity and unity of people in Kyrgyzstan.

Mr. Bazarbaev Kudaibergen, Head of the Department on Interaction with Civil Society Institutions, Religion and Interethnic Relations, Administration of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic

”

Results

The Kyrgyz Jarany Concept, approved by the president in November 2020, sets the strategic direction for government efforts to strengthen the unity and diversity of the Kyrgyz people through a shared and inclusive civic identity. The adoption of the concept, despite political upheaval and the COVID-19 crisis, was possible due to strong collaboration between key stakeholders, as well as the leadership of the Department for Monitoring Humanitarian Development and Interaction with Civil Society Institutions, run by the Office of the President.

In 2021 we supported the Academy of State Management under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic to design and pilot training on the Kyrgyz Jarany Concept for government and municipal officials to ensure its effective implementation.



Training for government and municipal officials, Academy of State Management, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

REGION-BUILDING THROUGH STRONGER TRANSPORT CONNECTIONS

In 2021 we partnered with the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the research center 'Ma'no' to explore the feasibility of new transport corridors in Central Asia and the effect of the Belt and Road Initiative. As Central Asia remains highly fragmented, strengthening connectivity is key to enabling greater collaboration across the region and has the potential to bring states and peoples together in pursuit of their shared interests.

We supported our partners to develop a concept for a regional transport centre, that will inform decision-making on major infrastructure investments in 2022 and beyond. The research was conducted in an inclusive process with equal participation by independent experts and officials from state transportation bodies from Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. This exceptionally inclusive process led to a shared assessment of the opportunities and risks associated with including Central Asian countries in a regional transport initiative centred in Uzbekistan.



Signing MoU with the Ministry of Transport of Uzbekistan, Tashkent.

LOOKING AHEAD

In 2022 we will select new NGO partners in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan that work to strengthen social cohesion and to increase collaboration between civil society and state institutions. We will support our partners to:

- Implement the new 'Kyrgyz Jarany' concept of citizenship in Kyrgyzstan, in a way that respects minority rights and diversity and strengthens state-civil society engagement.
- Engage with the government in Uzbekistan to develop policies that allow for more inclusive governance and a stronger role for civil society
- Counter divisive trends in public discourse.

In 2022 we will also maintain our partnerships to improve regional cooperation. We will support new and existing partners to:

- Develop a shared vision to strengthen regional connectivity
- Develop cross-border coalitions to address environmental threats to security.



WEST AFRICA

In West Africa we partner with national and regional actors to strengthen dialogue between different communities, the state and the private sector to reduce the escalation of violence and promote inclusive governance and development.

OUR PARTNERS IN 2021

- OCADES Caritas, Burkina Faso
- Oxfam, Burkina Faso
- Réseau Afrique Jeunesse, Burkina Faso
- SOS-Civisme, Niger
- Haute Autorité à la Consolidation de la Paix HACP, Niger
- ONG 3D, Senegal
- Conseil national de concertation et de coopération des ruraux, Senegal
- Réseau Billital Maroobé, Regional Network
- West Africa Conflict Sensitivity Hub, Regional Initiative

THE CONTEXT

2021 was marked by political unrest, with two military coups in the region (in Mali and Guinea). Armed conflict continued to intensify, especially in the tri-border area between Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali, leading to more than 4.2 million internally displaced people and over 4600 violent deaths.

Given the rising insecurity, the work of our partners has become more difficult. They still have access to conflict affected regions and some of them have shifted their focus entirely to humanitarian rather than development work. Others are increasingly working through community-based units or focusing their interventions in places where armed conflict is less intense.

AFRICAN YOUTH NETWORK

Réseau Afrique Jeunesse (RAJ) is among the leading NGOs in Burkina Faso, with expertise in the mining sector and a presence in all national mining sites. Its mission is to promote youth participation in Burkina Faso's social, political and economic life. Since 2018, PeaceNexus' support has focused on helping RAJ develop a strategic plan that strengthens its capacity as a convener, particularly in relation to conflicts arising in mining areas across Burkina Faso.

“

With PeaceNexus we have learned to approach and exchange with beneficiaries and other stakeholders to get to the real issues, discuss them together to generate results and not just juxtapose activities. PeaceNexus does not fund a project, but an approach. It is a partnership that makes you autonomous, responsible and sovereign. And we wish there were more partnerships of this kind in Africa.

DA HIEN Daniel, Coordinator African Youth Network (RAJ)

”

Results

In 2021 RAJ presented its new strategic plan to its current and potential partners. This plan helped secure new funding and reposition the organisation as a leading youth NGO in a fast-changing socio-economic and security context. In addition, PeaceNexus accompanied RAJ in reflecting on and adapting its role in mining areas and helped establish a dialogue group, which successfully intervened and contributed to finding joint solutions in six crisis situations in 2021. For example, in one commune, where violent protests erupted after the dismissal of 40 mine workers, their intervention helped calm the situation and restore dialogue. The concluding phase of our partnership focused on increasing visibility and sharing their experience with the wider public.



©Samuel Turpin | Media Active for Change

Collective Highlight

THE IMPACT OF INSECURITY ON PASTORALISTS

In 2021, PeaceNexus supported the Réseau Billital Network (RBM) to lead a study on the impact of insecurity on pastoralist communities in the Sahel and West Africa. Based on 2000 testimonies from pastoralists and key stakeholders, such as local authorities and farmers' associations, from 7 countries, the study provides unique insights into how the security and pastoral crises interrelate and suggests concrete ways to address their causes and effects.

Collaboration Highlight

The study findings were presented at a regional conference in Niamey that gathered over 100 pastoralists as well as local and international partners. This resulted in the "Niamey Call to Action", championed by the Nigerien President, to radically rethink the role of pastoralism in the region and to adapt government policies so that pastoralists are part of the solution to regional insecurity.

In June, RBM and the G5 Sahel Secretariat convened a high-level event where state representatives from across the region endorsed the study recommendations. On the ground, the study findings have informed the design of new large-scale regional programmes, notably by strengthening the inclusion of young pastoralists as key actors of change. Another key follow-up has been the launch of a dialogue initiative across pastoral areas to foster stronger understanding between different communities and state actors, including Defence and Security Forces.



LISTENING TO HERDERS IN THE
SAHEL AND WEST AFRICA:
WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF PASTORALISM
IN THE FACE OF INSECURITY?

Région Bilal Maroobé (RBM) and Partners | Principal Researcher: Mathieu Pullerit



“

RBM is grateful for the strategic, technical and financial support of PeaceNexus for this important study. Beyond that, PeaceNexus has enabled us to make significant changes at the institutional level with better integration of conflict sensitivity, which strengthens our message on social cohesion and peace.

*Blamah Diallo, Regional Technical
Coordinator - Billital Maroobé
Network*

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LOOKING AHEAD

In 2022 we will conduct several peer-learning events and reviews of long-term partnerships, to strengthen our services and assess our partners' contributions to strategic peacebuilding outcomes. These include:

- inter-community and inter-religious dialogue, especially in rural, high-risk areas in Burkina Faso and Niger
- civil society-government collaboration in responding to risks of violence in all our focus countries
- stronger policies and programmes of regional institutions that empower marginalised populations, including pastoral communities and youth.

We will also begin two new partnerships to improve natural resource management in Burkina Faso and Senegal. We will support these new and existing partners to play a convening role between the private sector, communities and government, in order to reduce tensions and violence around natural resource management.



SOUTHEAST ASIA

In Southeast Asia we are focused on Myanmar, where we partner with civil society, companies and pro-democratic actors to promote responsible business and an inclusive political settlement.

OUR PARTNERS IN 2021

The coup significantly changed the context in Myanmar and had a severe impact on civil society organisations, many of which have had to go underground and adapt their operations. In 2021 we supported 7 local NGO partners, including 2 new partners. With the exception of the Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business (MCRB), our partners have requested that we not mention them by name here, since doing so may place them at increased risk.

THE CONTEXT

On February 1st 2021, the Myanmar military regime attempted a coup d'etat after alleging fraud in the November 2020 national elections. The Tatmadaw swiftly annulled the election results, established the State Administration Council as the provisional government and attempted to seize control over institutions.

Nationwide opposition to the coup grew initially through peaceful protest and a civil disobedience movement that halted all government services. Myanmar's democratically elected parliamentarians formed the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) and later formed the National Unity Government, recognized by many groups in Myanmar as the legitimate government. The Tatmadaw violently responded to opposition through the disproportionate use of force against peaceful protestors. With over 1900 people killed, over 14 000 arbitrarily detained and several hundred subjected to torture, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights concluded that the military's abuses may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

FROM EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO STRATEGIC ADVOCACY

One of our civil society partners played a critical role in supporting the security of other civil society actors following the coup. They helped coordinate and provide safe houses, travel to secure areas, and facilitated fund transfers. They convened weekly information-sharing sessions for activists, political leaders, and other stakeholders that helped keep Myanmar civil society groups united and engaged with one another despite the physical distance and turbulent environment. To support their efforts, PeaceNexus provided flexible funding and additional advocacy to embassies after the arrest of individuals from our partner's civil society network.

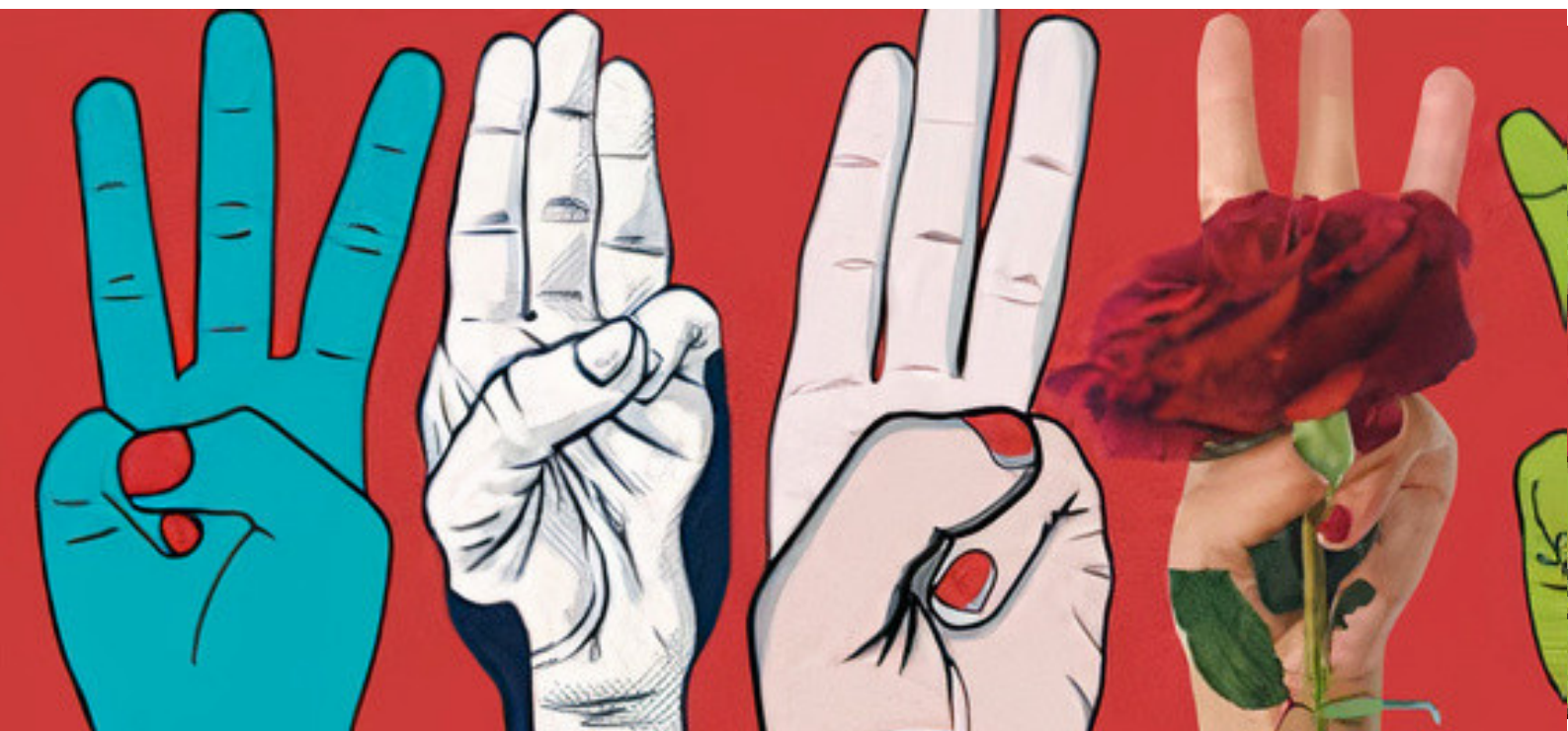
Our partner has also played a critical role in informing the international community's response to the coup. By drawing on their research and a coalition of 462 civil society groups from across Myanmar, they were able to provide critical perspectives on policy positions and sanctions, ensuring that responses were focused on maximising the impact for a return to democracy while identifying and moderating potential collateral impacts on Myanmar's people. They produced formal submissions to the EU, UK, US and Canada and engaged directly with policy-makers and legislators in these countries.

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PeaceNexus has been a strong partner as we adapt our work in the very difficult post-attempted coup environment. While we have had a lot of challenges because of our members being spread out across different locations and time zones, including some in hiding, PeaceNexus has continued to work with us as we try to build sustainability in our organisation and reach out to international partners.

Director of NGO partner that requested anonymity

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Our partner also engaged directly with international companies to address human rights risks. For instance, when Telenor Group announced its sale of Telenor Myanmar to a Lebanese company, M1 Group, in July 2021, our partner identified severe human rights risks related to the data of its users being shared with the regime. Arguing that Telenor had not properly carried out risk-based due diligence of its sale, our partner filed a complaint with the OECD Norwegian National Contact Point (NCP) alleging breach of the OECD Guidelines. This was accepted and mediation will take place in 2022. The case has received significant international press attention and raised awareness about the challenges of responsible disengagement from Myanmar. We supported our partner in providing technical advice and preparing for and engaging in the pre-mediation meetings.



LOOKING AHEAD

In 2022 we will continue to help our civil society partners play an influential role domestically to advocate for the interests of their communities in defence of democracy. We will also continue to support our partners to influence international responses that promote responsible economic engagement and investment.

In addition, we will support our partners to play a convening role to strengthen coalitions and reach agreements between civil society groups, ethnic groups and legitimate authorities, to help build the foundations of a new inclusive political settlement in Myanmar.



WESTERN BALKANS

In the Western Balkans we work towards reconciliation by contributing to the quality and intensity of collaboration across ethnic lines within and across states and by mobilising citizen support for transitional justice and democratic reforms.

OUR PARTNERS IN 2021

- Western Balkans Fund, based in Albania
- Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina, Serbia
- Nansen Dialogue Centre Mostar, Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Kosova Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims, Kosovo
- Community Building Mitrovica, Kosovo
- NGO Aktiv, Kosovo
- Youth Initiative for Human Rights, Croatia
- Heartefact Fund, Serbia

THE CONTEXT

In 2021 the Western Balkans context continued to be characterised by instability and interethnic tensions. The situation between Serbia and Kosovo remained tense and the prospect of an agreement remains distant, while in Bosnia & Herzegovina, secessionist threats from Republika Srpska became severe and pose a very tangible risk of renewed conflict. Regular elections and evidence of strong democratic competition in some countries of the region hide a more sobering reality in terms of democratisation: media freedom is under threat and accountability and rule of law remain weak, especially with regard to matters of transitional justice.

THE KOSOVA REHABILITATION CENTER FOR TORTURE VICTIMS

The Kosova Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims (KRCT) was created in 1999 to offer a helping hand to some of the most vulnerable victims of the 1998-1999 conflict. Since then, KRCT has provided direct psycho-social services to over 10 000 people, helping individuals and families recover from trauma and stigma. KRCT has also become a trailblazer in the fight against impunity: thanks to its legal assistance and advocacy, in 2021 it helped secure the first-ever conviction for wartime rape against Zoran Vukotić.

Recognizing the unique role played by KRCT in dealing with the past in the Western Balkans, PeaceNexus has been supporting KRCT's further organisational development since 2020. Our support has focused on helping KRCT chart its long-term strategic trajectory and revise its organisational structure.

Thanks to this ambitious new organisational strategy, KRCT is developing into a Reference Centre that will: provide holistic psycho-social support and legal aid assistance to a greater number of torture and sexual violence survivors; and provide targeted advocacy towards relevant institutions and the public, so that survivors are supported and perpetrators held to account. In 2022 PeaceNexus will help KRCT roll out its new organisational structure and develop a more robust M&E system.

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In 2020, over two decades from our establishment, we were facing a need to accommodate our growth and experience accumulated over the years in order to prepare for a future of higher impact in our mission of rehabilitation and torture prevention. PeaceNexus, through their support for our strategic and structural development, has made us bolder to scale up our work and impact nationally and internationally as a human rights organisation.

Feride Rushiti, Executive Director of KRCT

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Strategy development workshop, KRCT, 2021

THE YOUTH INITIATIVE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS CROATIA

The Youth Initiative for Human Rights Croatia was founded in 2008 with the mission to contribute to reconciliation within Croatia and the region, delivering justice for war crimes, and the strengthening of democracy. YIHR Croatia has ensured that thousands of young people from the region meet, learn about the region's past and engage in human rights activism. YIHR has also been a brave voice in consistently calling for the Croatian state and society to face their own share of responsibility for the events of the 1990s. This long-term advocacy has broken taboos: in 2021, the Zagreb authorities finally took steps to honour the memory of the Zec family, who were brutally killed in 1991 by Croatian forces.

PeaceNexus has been supporting YIHR's organisational development since 2020, to help YIHR sustain its much-needed reconciliation work. We are inspired by the strategy that YIHR has developed in 2021 with our support. YIHR will combine its focus on addressing the legacy of the past with a clear ambition to break ethnic and ideological bubbles and engage with youth most vulnerable to marginalisation and nationalistic narratives, including in local communities with few opportunities. We will continue supporting YIHR in 2022, including its regional ambitions.



When we applied for PeaceNexus support, I was skeptical. It was hard to believe that we would successfully develop an applicable, high-quality, and comprehensive strategy through external support. Two years later, the opposite was proven, and I am sincerely grateful for partnership between YIHR and PeaceNexus.

Branka Vierda, Program Director, YIHR Croatia



LOOKING AHEAD

In 2022, we will continue to support our partners to: improve inter-ethnic collaboration within states and at the regional level through:

- Scaling up their work and impact across divided communities, especially in Kosovo.
- Enabling even more people, especially youth, to benefit from regional cooperation and mobility as well as from human rights and intercultural education.

In 2022 we will also further support our partners to enable citizens to increasingly engage to promote transitional justice and democratic reforms, including by supporting the development of actionable policy for media freedom, minority rights and responsible dealing with the past. Through our support for peer learning, we will enable our partners to meet, deepen their connections with one another, and learn from shared experiences.

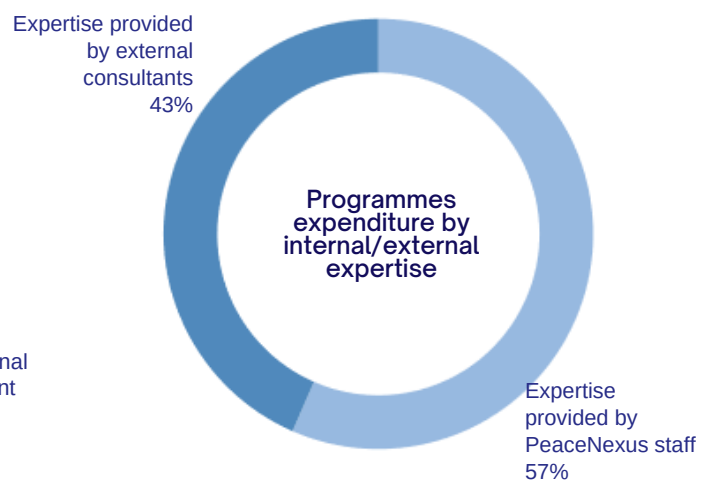
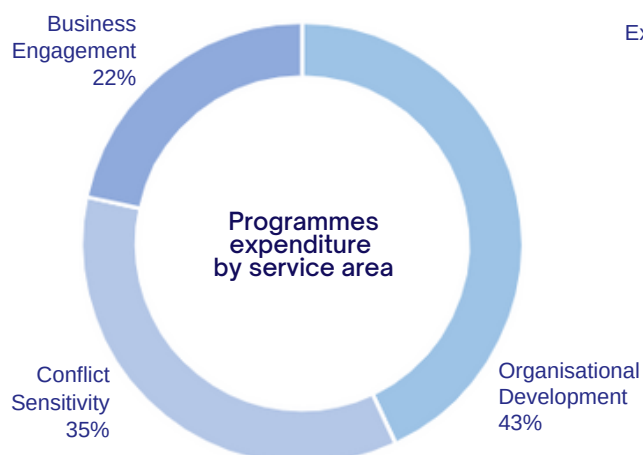
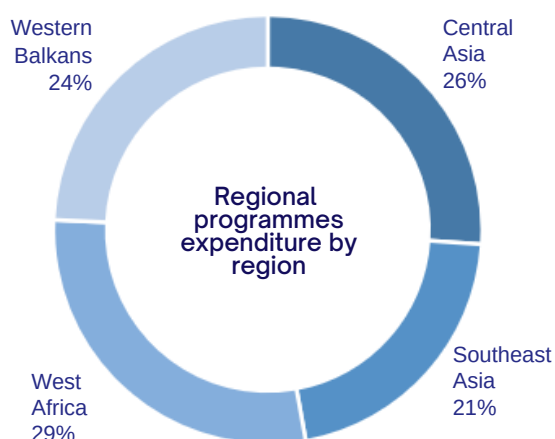
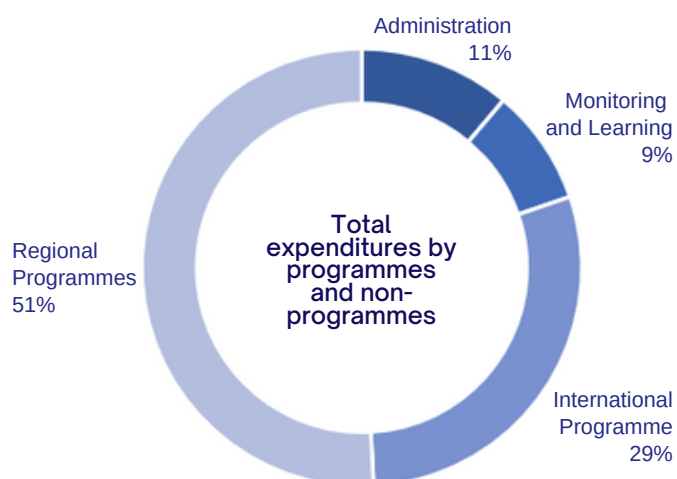


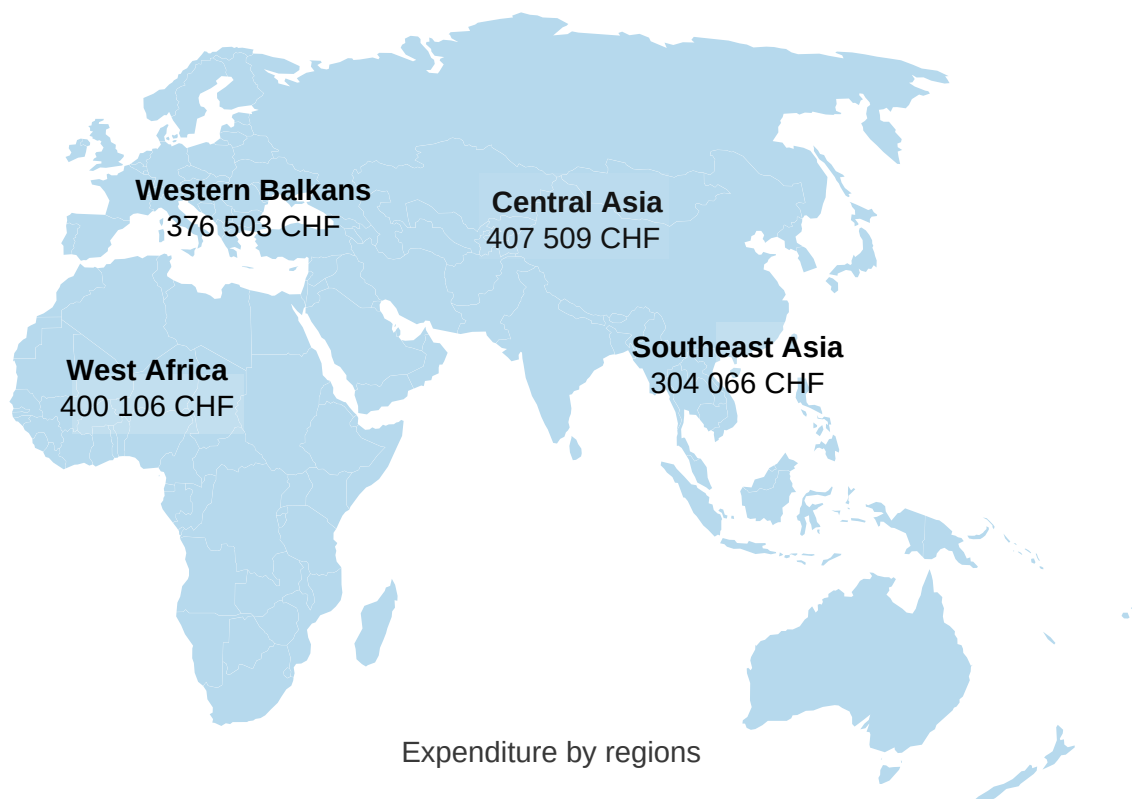
EXPENDITURE AND MISSION INVESTING

TOTAL EXPENDITURE: 2021 IN REVIEW



3 348 987 CHF
total expenditure





MISSION INVESTING

We aim not to invest in companies whose products and corporate behaviour conflict with our mission by applying criteria to our entire endowment that rules out sectors and companies with a poor environmental, social and governance track record. We also prioritise investment in companies, via the CADMOS Peace Investment Fund, that contribute to our mission because they have a positive impact in fragile states. Through research and engagement with companies in this Fund, we promote awareness about their impact in fragile states and provide assistance to strengthen it. For further information about our engagement activities with companies, see the Business Engagement section on page 18.

In addition to our direct engagement with companies, in 2021 we joined the collective Workforce Disclosure initiative (WDI) facilitated by ShareAction. Company reporting on their workforce, especially in fragile states, is typically insufficient for meaningful investor engagement. The WDI aims to improve corporate transparency and accountability on workforce issues, provides companies and investors with comprehensive and comparable data and helps increase the provision of good jobs worldwide. In 2021, 173 global companies took part in the initiative, demonstrating their commitment to transparency – a 23% increase compared to 2020.

In 2021 a new collective stewardship initiative was started by UN Principles for Responsible Investment to promote action by companies and investors to advance on human rights and social issues. We look forward to the formal launch of this initiative in 2022 and will become a strong supporter.

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