



2024 Annual Report

PEACENEXUS FOUNDATION

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FOREWORD A MESSAGE FROM PEACENEXUS' CHAIR



Looking back at the last year, it is easy to feel overwhelmed by the speed at which international law, norms and institutions for collective collaboration have been undermined. Escalating geopolitical tensions are now compounded by fracturing alliances, leaving everyone feeling less secure. Dramatic cuts in foreign aid affect international and local organisations alike, including many of PeaceNexus' partners, and are likely to result in increased vulnerability and instability globally.

Despite these trends, I am not hopeless. Indeed, through my engagement with PeaceNexus in 2024, I saw adaptive responses to international and local political shifts that defied expectations. For example, when visiting Central Asia, I found that geopolitical shifts are resulting in improved regional cooperation. And despite government efforts to increase control over civil society, I also witnessed dynamic and open dialogue between civil society, governments, and business groups working on environmental protection, green growth, women's empowerment and social cohesion.

Indeed, it is clear to me that robust civil society is critical for social cohesion and stability within and across societies. I see this in the role played by PeaceNexus' partners. In the Sahel and Coastal West Africa, their collaboration across communities and organisations prevents an escalation of conflict every day. In Myanmar, civil society organisations continue to deliver essential services, strengthen local governance, and prepare for future transition to democratic rule. In the Western Balkans, our partners bravely promote inter-community collaboration despite an increasingly hostile ethno-nationalist context. Yet these efforts to build social trust and resilience are often invisible to outsiders and rarely recognised internationally.

It is therefore particularly gratifying that five of our partners have been nominated for the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize. Four are part of the Collective of Civil Society Organisations for Elections (COSCE) that helped defend the constitution and secure a peaceful transfer of power in Senegal in 2024. The fifth, the Kosovo Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims (KRCT), has been nominated for their support of torture and sexual violence survivors. At a time when democracy and human rights are increasingly under threat, their achievements are an inspiring reminder of the power of an engaged and organised civil society.

While acknowledging the leadership and achievements of our partners, I recognize that this year will be extraordinarily difficult for many, requiring courageous organisational adaptations. In solidarity, we remain committed to supporting them to navigate these uncertain times.

I hope you enjoy the reading.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JSG' followed by a stylized flourish.

*Thomas Greninger
Ambassador, Executive Director of the
Geneva Centre for Security Policy*

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Expenditure and Mission Investing

Total Expenditure	36
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ORGANISATIONAL NEWS

2024 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

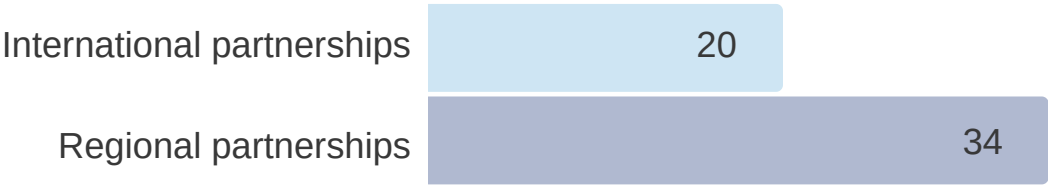
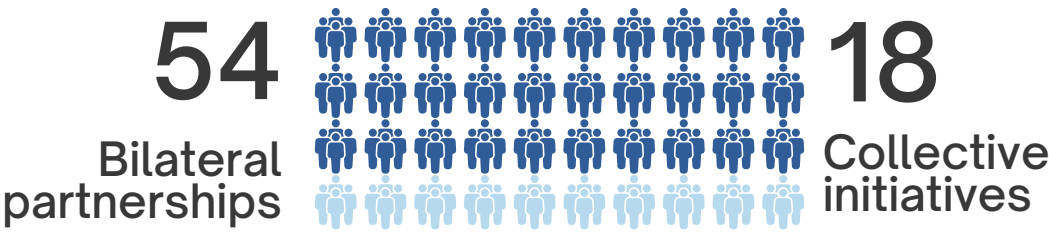
We support civil society, governmental institutions and businesses with a high impact in fragile and conflict-affected contexts to improve their practices, so their actions do not fuel violence and contribute to peaceful change where possible.

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.



2024 IN REVIEW:
OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



22 staff and 147 consultants



4.1 million CHF total expenditure

2024 IN REVIEW: CIVIL SOCIETY COLLABORATION - RESILIENCE IN UNCERTAINTY

Every year we report on how our civil society partners bravely respond to shocks in their context. This year is no different and most of our support was to enable individual partners adapt to worsening context trends. We are also increasingly supporting collective efforts. Indeed, in 2024, there were some outstanding examples of how some of these civil society collaborative efforts served to strengthen social cohesion, including in times of crisis.

The first example is a triumph in defence of democracy in Senegal. In early 2024, with political opponents in jail and efforts to delay the election underway, many feared widespread unrest and violence. And yet it did not happen. The civil society coalition for the elections (COSCE) played a decisive role in achieving a peaceful transition of power. We are proud that some of our partners are part of this coalition and contributed to mobilising a country-wide peaceful protest and participating in political dialogue with a common position around constitutional integrity. This is a powerful example of how established networks with principled leaders were able to collectively transcend the political fray and exert stabilising influence in a moment of national crisis.

A second example of civil society collaboration is between organisations working in fragile contexts to protect people and the environment. There is now a growing community of practice that comes together to share learning and promote more integrated responses to protecting nature in vulnerable and conflict-affected places. In 2024 this was evident in events such as the Environmental Peacebuilding conference in the Hague and the COP Biodiversity summit in Cali that had a 'peace with nature' theme. Both events showcased how nature protection, natural resource management and social cohesion are inter-connected and paved the way for more programming innovation and collaboration.

Across other contexts where the role of civil society is restricted by governments or rising insecurity, in 2024 actors increasingly came together to nourish personal resilience, share experience and advice, and foster connections and collaboration. In West Africa, three national and a regional 'Conflict Sensitivity Hub' serve this purpose and grew in membership and engagement.

Similarly, in Myanmar, we increased support for representatives from different groups to learn and strategise together to improve local governance and restorative justice. And in Central Asia, civil society actors chose to analyse the context together and built coalitions that include business, government, religious and civil society actors to address priority environmental and social issues.

These emergent civil society collaborations clearly respond to a need for collective sense-making and mutual support in times of uncertainty and insecurity. We will continue to support collaborative initiatives in all our programmes as a resilient social ecosystem needs both strong organisations and mechanisms for learning and collaboration between them.

2024 IN REVIEW: OUR PEOPLE

Our
headquarters in
Prangins,
Switzerland



Catriona Gourlay
Executive Director



Mads Frilander
Deputy Director



Magali Khéloui
Finance and
Administration Director



**Carole Frampton de
Tschanner**
Organisational
Development Lead



Héloïse Heyer
Conflict Sensitivity Lead



Kristen Petillon
Business Engagement
Lead



Kristyna Jostova
Finance Assistant



Daniela Bosnjak
Programme Officer



Anina Uhlig
Senior Programme
Officer



Nuno Lopez
Facility Manager



Maya Kasterine
Programme Support Officer



Hesta Groenewald
International Associate



Luc Lafrenière
International Associate



Frauke de Weijer
International Associate

2024 IN REVIEW:
OUR PEOPLE

Southeast Asia
Team



Carol Sivpey Te
Programme Manager



Sai Won Latt
Programme Officer



Kyaw Nyein Thun
Regional Associate



Eaint Thiri Thu
Regional Associate



Isla Glaister
Regional Associate

West Africa
Team



Aliou Kebe
Programme Manager



Aline Brachet
Regional Associate



Magali Nare
Regional Associate



Ousmane Dantata
Regional Associate

Central Asia
Team



Chinara Esengul
Programme Manager



Nazgul Aksarieva
Senior Programme
Officer



Kanatbek Abdiev
Programme Officer

2024 IN REVIEW:
OUR PEOPLE

Central Asia
Team



Akylai Shaidullaeva
Finance and
Administration Officer



Aliia Imanalieva
Trainee



Zaure Sydykova
Regional Associate

Western
Balkans Team



Deborah Reymond
Programme Manager



Vladica Jovanovic
Programme Advisor



Besart Lumi
Programme Advisor



Ajša Hadžibegović
Regional Associate

2024 IN REVIEW: OUR BOARD

Our board in 2024



Thomas Greminger
Chair



Dieter von Blarer
Board Member



Molly McUsic
Board Member



Funmi Olonisakin
Board Member



**Juan Carlos Sainz
Borgo**
Board Member



Tim Radjy
Board Member



Evelyne Tauchnitz
Board Member



Hansjorg Wyss
Board Member

Our founder



Anne Gloor
Founder



OUR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME

In 2024 we supported a total of 20 international partnerships and 9 collective initiatives. All our international partners have a strong impact in a number of fragile states. We see these partnerships as critical to improving international support for local peacebuilding efforts.

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We support the organisational strengthening of actors with peacebuilding at the core of their mandate. We facilitate collective initiatives that foster learning among change champions and influence donors to adopt new practices that enable locally-led peacebuilding.

OUR PARTNERS IN 2024

International NGO partners

- The United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (UNPBSO)
- Peace Direct
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)
- International Alert
- The coalition of local peacebuilders

Donor partners

- The Robert Bosch Foundation (5 partners)
- The Somaha Foundation (2 partners)

Collective initiatives

- Integrating gender in peacebuilding peer group
 - Board-level peer-learning group
 - Philea's OD donors Community of Practice
 - Peacebuilding donors influencing initiatives
-

2024 EXPENSES

0.42 mil CHF

THE CONTEXT

2024 saw a continuation of previous years' trends: an increase in social and political polarisation, including violent conflicts in multiple contexts, and a decline of funding for peacebuilding. As these trends further accelerate, international peacebuilding organisations are forced to rethink their funding models, along with their role and partnerships with local actors. Our organisational development support helps international NGOs manage these shifts. In 2024 we further expanded this support to five local NGOs and two international NGOs through our donor collaborations. In this way other funders are able to provide their partners with support to manage current adaptation challenges.

PEACE DIRECT

Peace Direct is known for championing the empowerment and visibility of local peacebuilders, supporting 25 partners across 14 countries. Its approach is based on flexible funding, trusting local actors to know their needs and contexts best. Peace Direct collaborates closely with local partners to build the knowledge base in support of locally-led peacebuilding and takes a strong stance on the need to decolonise the sector. Peace Direct partnered with PeaceNexus to develop a Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework that would operationalise its commitment to diversity, inclusion, equity, co-production, multidimensional accountability and decolonisation. The objective was to move away from a compliance-based approach towards a learning one to help local peacebuilders, intermediary organisations and funders to better understand and learn about the impact of peace interventions.

The Decolonial MEL Framework and its underlying principles were co-developed with local partners. In October, six partners of Peace Direct's Local Action Fund came together to discuss what they learned so far. In parallel, a Reference Group of people across the peacebuilding sector reviewed the draft framework. While the framework is still evolving, this co-creation process has already shown how central learning is to decolonial and locally-led peacebuilding.



I would like to thank PeaceNexus again for its flexible support and the understanding that this is a change process which is iterative and sometimes unpredictable, and can take quite a bit of time. This has been crucial; other organisations trying to do this with strict project-based funding have failed.

Ruby Quantson-Davis, Learning and Impact Manager, Peace Direct



Results

Thanks to this work, Peace Direct's staff and partners have strengthened their MEL capacities and are gathering a wider range of context-specific data. For instance, one partner working in a sensitive context began disaggregating data by gender, despite this not being a donor requirement. They also introduced staff journals as a tool to better track the nuances of daily interactions with local peace activists. Their sub-grantees value this shift, now viewing them as a learning partner rather than a detached donor. The partner also advocates these improved practices to donors and collaborates with other organisations to drive systemic change.



Still from Peace Direct's video on Decolonial MEL, 2024

GENDER INTEGRATION PEER LEARNING GROUP

PeaceNexus has co-hosted a peer-learning group, made up of gender champions within peacebuilding organisations, since 2021. They meet quarterly to share experience on how to advance gender-responsive peacebuilding. Some of their experience was captured in a [report](#) that highlight how organisational structures and processes need to be adapted to appropriately support gender-responsive programming.

In October 2023, PeaceNexus provided a small grant to four member organisations to accelerate their internal change efforts. In 2024 each grantee followed an organisational change roadmap to address learning questions such as how we integrate our commitment to gender transformation within contexts with restrictive gender norms and discriminatory laws; how we prioritise gender across the organisation when there are multiple competing priorities; and how we equip our staff with the right tools.



Visual from CI and CMI report, 'Integrating Gender in the DNA of peacebuilding'

LOOKING AHEAD

Peacebuilding and philanthropic donors are mobilising to support their partners to survive the seismic changes triggered by the new US administration and broader funding cuts. It will be essential with more limited public funding, that philanthropic donors provide quality funding, that enable organisational resilience rather than depleting it with inflexible [projectised grants](#) that prioritise control over agency. Our active involvement with the Philanthropy Europe Association, together with our collaborations with other foundations will be central to our efforts to improve the quality of foundation support to the sector. We will also launch a new call to help selected international NGOs re-organise and adapt in the new funding landscape.

CONFLICT SENSITIVITY

We support humanitarian, development and environmental organisations to better address conflict and contribute to social cohesion through their work. As part of their change processes, our international partners are also reforming the way they fund and accompany local actors in conflict.

OUR PARTNERS IN 2024

Humanitarian and development partners

- Oxfam International
- International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

Environmental partners

- African Wildlife Foundation (AWF)
- Conservation International (CI)
- Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)
- Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN)
- International Snow Leopard Trust
- World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

Donor partners

- The Somaha Foundation (2 partners, 2 collective initiatives)

Collective Initiatives

- Global Conflict Sensitivity Community Hub
 - Environment, Climate, Conflict and Peace (ECCP) Community of Practice
-

2024 EXPENSES

0.45 mil CHF

THE CONTEXT

In 2024, the combined effects of armed conflict and climate change drove unprecedented humanitarian needs worldwide, compounding vulnerabilities and pushing the number of affected populations to new highs. Our humanitarian and environmental partners faced increasingly restrictive operational environments, yet they remained steadfast in pursuing their mission to deliver life-saving assistance, foster resilience and protect nature and people. In this context, adopting conflict-sensitive approaches has become even more critical to enable strategic and operational adaptations. Our partners have worked hard to pioneer new ways to ensure their work is anchored in a strong understanding of local context dynamics, anticipate and mitigate conflict risks, and strengthen their capacity to contribute to social cohesion and peace even in the most challenging environments.

WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE (WWF)

WWF is one of the largest nature conservation organisations in the world, working in more than 100 countries. To achieve its conservation aims, WWF and its partners work in contexts that are rich in biodiversity and also affected by conflict: 60% of the places where WWF works and eight out of ten of the most biodiverse countries in the world are also on the Fragile States Index. The organisation has invested significantly in developing and rolling out an environmental and social safeguards system that includes strong commitments to human and indigenous rights and conflict-sensitivity. Starting as a learning partnership between WWF offices in Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Germany and Myanmar, over the past two years the momentum has grown for network-wide efforts to build capacities for conflict-sensitive conservation in fragile and conflict-affected situations globally.



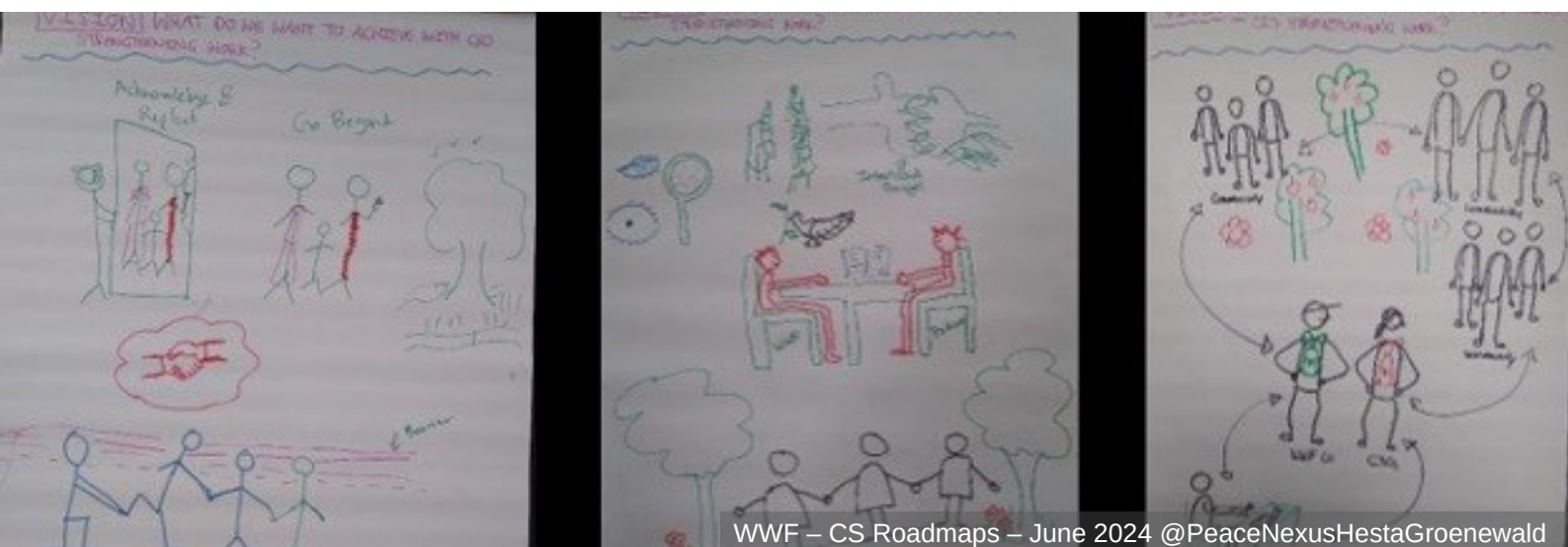
'The partnership with PeaceNexus has been transformational. Based on a shared vision, local empowerment and peer-to-peer collaboration, we are building on the learnings to ensure the WWF Network is able to deliver conflict-sensitive, peace-positive conservation in the most biodiverse and fragile places on the planet.'

Alison Harley, Country Director, WWF-Myanmar, Co-chair of the WWF Fragile and Conflict Affected-States Working Group



Results

Each of the four WWF offices have taken forward their work on conflict-sensitive conservation in ways that are appropriate for their contexts. In the DRC, WWF staff conducted conflict scan analysis to inform their community engagement work; in Colombia, conflict and environmental peace issues have been integrated into the core of their commitment to Inclusive Conservation, serving as a primary pillar of the office's overarching strategy; the Germany office has deepened conflict sensitivity in monitoring and evaluation guidance and knowledge management; and in Myanmar, teams focused on conflict-sensitive conservation training, embedding this into their programmes. A network-wide senior level working group has successfully developed a WWF Operating Framework for working in fragile- and conflict-affected situations.



WWF – CS Roadmaps – June 2024 @PeaceNexusHestaGroenewald

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE, CONFLICT AND PEACE COMMUNITY (ECCP)

The ECCP community was created in early 2020 by the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform as part of its community management workstream. Over the years, the community has grown from about 40 Geneva-based participants to nearly 1,000 participants, from 300 organisations around the world. In 2024, the community significantly stepped up its work. It transitioned institutionally to become co-hosted by the Environmental Peacebuilding Association (EnPax) and the Centre on Conflict, Development, and Peacebuilding (CCDP) at the Geneva Graduate Institute. Members contributed their time, expertise and funding to the community, reflecting shared ownership and commitment to its long-term vision. Monthly, community-wide meetings created a platform for networking and relationship building. Regular updates helped members circulate and receive information on recent publications, events, and resources; while working groups on specific topics helped structure collaborative action among members. Standout achievements include the ECCP's strategic engagement in the Biodiversity COP 16, helping members contribute to shaping the ground-breaking theme of "Peace with Nature". In parallel, the community helped a diverse range of organisations prepare their inputs for COP29 to ensure that future policies and programmes on climate action are conflict sensitive.

“Over the past 5 years, with the strategic and financial accompaniment of the PeaceNexus Foundation, the ECCP Community of Practice has grown from a Geneva-based pilot project to a thriving global crossroads of learning and action. PeaceNexus' approach and investment in a people-centred, long-term view has created space for the community to focus on the needs and interests of its members, as opposed to traditional reporting models with pre-set outcomes. The foundation provides structure and support alongside flexibility and responsiveness. That's where the magic happens!

Annika Erickson-Pearsson, ECCP Community Coordinator”



ECCP Members in Nairobi hosted by Polycom, February 2024

LOOKING AHEAD

In 2025, beyond strengthening individual partnerships, we will deepen our investment in collective initiatives—working together with other funders, such as the Somaha Foundation—to increase the peace contribution of humanitarian, development, and environmental action. In the face of seismic shifts in international cooperation, we will continue to anchor our work in the principles of solidarity and collective action, standing firm in our commitment to strengthen the resilience and effectiveness of actors working for people and nature in conflict-affected contexts.

BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT

We work with companies, government and civil society organisations to reduce disputes around operations. 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.

OUR PARTNERS IN 2024

Company and investor partners

- Novartis
- Triodos
- Investisseurs & Partenaires

Collective initiatives

- International Alert
- Sustainable Finance Geneva
- Investor Alliance for Human Rights

Dispute resolution

- International Finance Corporation Compliance Advisor Ombudsman
 - Dialogue case on exit of Telenor from Myanmar
-

2024 EXPENSES

0.2 mil CHF

THE CONTEXT

In the face of geopolitical and economic turbulence, 2024 brought both progress and pushback on regulatory and investor efforts to promote responsible business practice. For the first time, the EU's Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive required companies to capture data on their environmental and societal impact that will be subject to assurance and standardisation, addressing long-standing challenges with sustainability disclosure. In contrast, however, backlash in the US to Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) reporting and investment strategies introduced uncertainty and new green- and social-hushing trends.

In the face of these headwinds, companies increasingly exposed to geopolitical and conflict risks have been seeking to mitigate them through conflict-sensitive practices, and a committed segment of companies and investors - particularly those advancing the green transition - continue to invest in improving sustainable business practices and standards.

INVESTOR ALLIANCE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

With global conflict on the rise, responsible stewardship is more crucial than ever. To support investors seeking to better understand their portfolio exposure in conflict-affected and high-risk settings (CAHRA), PeaceNexus partnered with the Investor Alliance for Human Rights (IAHR) and Heartland Initiative to support investors engaging companies operating in high-risk markets.

The project, bringing together 80+ global asset owners and managers, piloted a process for investors to assess and engage portfolio companies on how they identify, prioritise, and manage risks linked to business operations and value chain relationships. The project occurred in three phases; after developing a set of Investor Principles, the project partners and investors then analysed companies' conflict risks and conducted collective engagements with each company. This process strengthened investors' capacity to conduct heightened human rights due diligence (hHRDD) and identify material risks to more effectively engage portfolio companies on the need for a systematic approach to CAHRA-related risks.

The project will culminate in sharing tailored bilateral recommendations to the companies, as well as the release of a public report in 2025 detailing best practices and guidance for effective stewardship on CAHRA-related issues.

“

PeaceNexus' grant provided the seed money that enabled the IAHR and Heartland Initiative to proactively work with investors to address their portfolio exposure to CAHRA-risks. Given the limited guidance on how to manage CAHRA-risks, we were able to undertake sustained dialogues with companies in the tech and renewable energy sectors to identify good practices in policies, processes, and governance, as well as build the capacity of investors to engage with other companies on their CAHRA exposure.

*Rebecca deWinter Schmitt, Associate Director,
Investor Alliance for Human Rights*

”



Roundtable Event at Building Bridges 2024

ACCELERATING THE ENERGY TRANSITION IN FRAGILE MARKETS

Renewable energy projects can play a transformative role in fragile and conflict affected settings (FCAS) by building local skills, generating tax revenue for basic services, and reducing the likelihood of conflict by addressing underlying socio-economic grievances. However, despite their opportunities, these markets face significant barriers to investment. Together with International Alert, we sought to explore the practical challenges facing renewable energy investors in FCAS by conducting a series of consultations on the capabilities, partnerships and processes needed to realise financial returns and peace-positive impacts.

Our initiative brought together investors and policy actors from the green energy and peacebuilding sectors to share real-world experience and challenges from their work. Investors shared that investing in fragile and conflict-affected states is complex, requiring deep country-specific knowledge and innovative approaches. Barriers to investment include gaps in risk mitigation, financing, and local capacity, with the primary challenge being moving beyond one-off ventures towards scalable approaches. As described in the final report, recommendations highlight the importance of strengthening risk mitigation tools, building capacity among local developers and addressing data deficiencies, with the next phase of the initiative focusing on collaborative action to address identified barriers and promote successful investment models.



LOOKING AHEAD

Looking to 2025, we will continue to focus on supporting investors and companies that are committed to investing in fragile contexts and interested in strengthening their risk mitigation and social impact. We will focus on sectors such as renewable energy and agriculture that have high peace-positive potential. Whether through our direct partnerships, collective collaborations or knowledge products, we will continue to equip stakeholders with the tools to implement sustainable, resilient business practices. Collaboration will remain central to our approach, as we partner with investors, financial service providers, and foundations to build momentum and drive systemic change in conflict-sensitive investment practices. Recognising that many companies need to build capacities to meet new reporting requirements, in addition to strengthening processes, we will support them in both strategising and communicating their social impact.



OUR REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

We believe that those closest to and most affected by conflict are best positioned to lead its transformation. In 2024, our regional teams supported 34 partners and 9 collective initiatives with high potential to address the root causes of conflict and foster social cohesion within their communities.



CENTRAL ASIA

In Central Asia we support governments, civil society, and businesses to reduce polarisation, strengthen resilience, and advance regional cooperation to address social divisions and environmental challenges.

OUR PARTNERS IN 2024

- Center for Civic and Digital Education under Kyrgyz Central Elections Commission, Kyrgyz Republic
- Children's Rights Defense League (CRDL), Kyrgyz Republic
- Kangaroo DeCarbon, Uzbekistan
- Ministry of Culture, Information and Youth Policy, Kyrgyz Republic
- Ministry of Education and Science, Kyrgyz Republic
- Ministry of Transport, Research Center Ma'no, Uzbekistan
- Progressive Women's Public Association 'Mutakalim', Kyrgyz Republic
- Institute of Applied Ethnopolitical Research, Kazakhstan
- The Institute for Peace and Development (IPD), Kyrgyz Republic

Collective initiatives:

- The 'Book Club': Civil society learning platform
- Peacebuilding Hub

2024 EXPENSES

0.48 CHF

THE CONTEXT

In 2024, geopolitical shifts, including the impact of the war in Ukraine and Afghanistan's government policies, influenced migration and trade patterns across Central Asia, while mounting environmental challenges, such as water scarcity and climate change, underscored the urgent need for collaborative action. In this context, constructive discussions to clarify borders enabled broader efforts to strengthen regional cooperation. At the same time, political and legal shifts reshaped Central Asia's civil society. Stricter regulations on civil society in Kyrgyzstan reduced civic engagement and activism. Nevertheless, dialogue between civil society, business and government on issues related to improving social cohesion and addressing environmental challenges remained strong.

**PROGRESSIVE
PUBLIC
ASSOCIATION
OF WOMEN
“MUTAKALIM”**

Our partnership with the Mutakalim Women's Progressive Public Association dates back to 2017. Mutakalim has successfully completed three phases of conflict-sensitive organisational development, that have served to strengthen its role as a voice for Muslim women and a bridge between religious and secular communities in Kyrgyzstan.

“

We were truly impressed by PeaceNexus' work. From the very beginning, we felt supported at every stage, which greatly facilitated the process and inspired us to work productively. Management was always ready to assist, especially on improving conflict-sensitivity aspects of our efforts to promote civic identity among Muslim religious leaders, allowing us to move forward with confidence, minimize risks, and achieve our goals on time. We deeply appreciate the professionalism and attention to detail that the PeaceNexus team demonstrated at all levels of our partnership.

Zhamal Frontbek kyzy, Executive Director of the PPAW “Mutakalim”

”

Recognising its potential to promote interfaith dialogue and conflict prevention, Mutakalim has increasingly focused on incorporating conflict sensitivity into its work. In 2024, with our support, Mutakalim produced a manual for religious leaders to promote Kyrgyz Jarany – an inclusive concept of civic identity - to religious communities, focusing primarily on Muslim communities. This included developing a Friday hutba (prayer) on the importance of civic identity, organising trainings on civic identity for imams across the country and training 12 Muslim religious leaders to continue Kyrgyz Jarany trainings in all regions.

In 2025, the initiative will expand to include other religious denominations, such as Orthodox and Catholic Christians and Bahá'í faith groups. This expansion is a crucial step in fostering interfaith dialogue by supporting the efforts of religious leaders to promote an inclusive vision of civic identity in their communities.



Round table on “Promotion of Kyrgyz Jarany Ideas in Religious Communities: Experience and Practice”, December 2024

'BOOK CLUB' CIVIL SOCIETY WORKSHOP ON PEACEBUILDING AND REGIONAL COHESION

The 'Book Club' is a collective civil society reflection and learning platform. It was initially convened by PeaceNexus in 2019 to provide a space for joint analysis and learning across sectors and the region. In June 2024, a three-day workshop gathered a diverse group of bloggers, influencers and social entrepreneurs to explore peacebuilding, sustainable development and social cohesion in Central Asia. The methodology was mixed, including an artistic session where participants creatively expressed their vision of a peaceful and united Central Asia.

The discussions highlighted the region's interconnectedness, emphasising the need for collaboration in addressing shared challenges such as economic integration, cultural exchange, and social stability. Key outcomes included a deeper understanding of regional cooperation, the roles of civil society and religion in identity formation, and the complexities of balancing national and regional peace and development priorities. There was widespread support for the ongoing shift toward grassroots-driven peacebuilding efforts and agreement that sustainable regional cohesion must be built from within through local agency, inclusive dialogue, networking and collaborative problem-solving.



Book Club Workshop in Issyk-Kul on “Sustainable Development in Central Asia and Social Cohesion”, June 2024

“

The Book Club became for me not just an educational program, but a real space of opportunities and a strong community. It was a place where like-minded people from Central Asia gathered, where we discussed important topics, shared experiences and found new points of growth.

Gulmira Parmysheva, the President of the Association of social entrepreneurs of Kazakhstan, Book Club participant from Kazakhstan

”

LOOKING AHEAD

In the coming year, we will continue to work on building the capacities of government structures, business associations and civil society organisations that work to address social and environmental challenges. Our support will focus on strengthening their ability to contribute to social cohesion, environmental peacebuilding and regional cooperation. Given the increasingly restricted space for civil society in Kyrgyzstan, we will also need to adapt how we support civil society and government dialogue to ensure it remains safe and constructive. Building on active engagement of environmental organisations in regional collective learning platforms, we will increase our efforts to support conflict sensitivity in conservation and environmental organisations. We will also initiate a collective learning group for environmental actors to outline key challenges and avenues for joint action.



WEST AFRICA

In West Africa, we work with national, and regional organisations to enhance their role in contributing to social cohesion and dialogue between diverse communities, the government, and the private sector. We also support collective action to counter violent escalation and promote inclusive governance and development.

OUR PARTNERS IN 2024

- Association des Communes du Borgou (ADECOB), Benin
- University of Parakou, Benin
- Chambre des Mines, Burkina Faso
- Oxfam, Burkina Faso
- Action pour la Gestion Intégrée des Ressources (AGIR), Niger
- Comité de Dialogue Intra et Inter Religieux, Niger
- Haute Autorité à la Consolidation de la Paix, Niger
- Oxfam, Niger
- Conseil national de concertation et de coopération des ruraux (CNCR), Senegal
- L'Observatoire de Suivi des Indicateurs de Développement Économique en Afrique, Senegal
- Eau Vive Internationale, regional network
- Réseau Billital Maroobé, regional network

Collective initiatives:

- West Africa Conflict Sensitivity Hub (53 organisations)
- Burkina Faso Conflict Sensitivity Hub (30 organisations)
- Niger Conflict Sensitivity Hub (20 organisations/members)
- Francophone Africa Consultants Network (Cercle de Gaynaako) (25 members)

2024 EXPENSES

0.52 mil CHF

THE CONTEXT

In 2024, the region faced unprecedented fragmentation and insecurity. Tensions between the Alliance of Sahelian States and the Economic Community of West African States disrupted long-standing regional trade, mobility, and border stability. The predominantly security-driven approach to curbing jihadist expansion has proven ineffective in halting the spread of violence, while government restrictions have made tracking fatalities increasingly difficult.

However, sporadic cross-border attacks have also spurred greater collaboration and a shift toward preventive strategies, including efforts to strengthen social cohesion through cultural and traditional practices. Meanwhile, compounded security and food crises, along with extreme weather in late 2024, escalated humanitarian needs across the Sahel.

Partnership Highlight

COUNTERING HATE SPEECH THROUGH INTER- RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

The Committee for Inter-religious Dialogue (CDIR) is a Nigerien intra- and interfaith organisation. Supported by PeaceNexus since 2022, CDIR has mobilised religious leaders to promote social cohesion amid rising tensions with neighboring countries. Our support has strengthened their network and enhanced the coordination role of the national secretariat. We also helped establish local committees integrated within communities nationwide. This robust setup enabled CDIR to address escalating tensions between Niger and Benin following the 2023 coup. Collaborating with religious leaders in Benin, CDIR conducted consultations with authorities to ease tensions and renew dialogue, aiming to gradually reopen borders.

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We started the partnership with PeaceNexus just at the right time - its support has been invaluable and strengthened the backbone of CDIR. The Conflict Sensitivity approach has become a breviary for inter- and intra-religious dialogue in Niger and in our relations with others.

*Cheikh Barham Aboubacar Kiota National Coordinator
Intra and Inter Dialogue Committee Religious of Niger (CDIR-Niger)*

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In response to increasing polarisation and social media hate speech, CDIR began monitoring and countering radical discourse. In Agadez, CDIR mobilised local and national authorities to respond to a Muslim cleric spreading hate against a state official from another faith. This resulted in the preacher's disbarment and prosecution and marks the first time the government has imposed sanctions for hate speech.



Cheikh Kiota in the company of the Bishop of the Evangelists: Kimso Boureima; Mgr Laurent Lompo, Archbishop of Niamey; Father Mauro Armanino.

THE COLLECTIVE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS FOR ELECTIONS (COSCE)

The Collective of Civil Society Organizations for Elections (COSCE) played a critical role in ensuring peaceful elections in Senegal in 2024, marking the country's third democratic transition. In recognition of its work on peace and justice, COSCE was nominated for the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize - a historic first for Senegal. The nomination recognised COSCE's role in monitoring elections for the last 25 years and, particularly, its powerful collective action to defend the constitution in 2024.

On January 28, 2025, during its 25th-anniversary celebration of electoral transparency, citizen participation and social cohesion, COSCE thanked PeaceNexus for its continued support. Over the past 8 years, PeaceNexus has supported four COSCE members, including NGOs 3D, RADDHOH, CNCR and OSIDEA. While our support was focused on their individual strengthening, each organisation chose to invest in and collaborate through COSCE, as a strategic priority for Senegal's social cohesion and stability.

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Warmest thanks to PeaceNexus for its intelligent and constant support, which has helped position our respective organisations and COSCE as the torch and sentinel of democracy in Senegal and a reference for other CSOs on the continent.

Moundiaaye Cissé Executive Secretary NGO 3D, COSCE Coordinator

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LOOKING AHEAD

We will continue to support our partners to consolidate their role in mitigating grievances that fuel violence and managing natural resources in an inclusive way. In all cases our partners are well positioned to build trust between communities and facilitate collaboration between local authorities, civil society and other stakeholders.

To complement these individual partner strengthening efforts, we will continue to promote collective initiatives to foster learning among partners and engage a wider range of stakeholders. In 2025, we will host a regional event in Benin, bringing together partners, foundations and actors across the humanitarian, development, peacebuilding, and environmental sectors to facilitate cross-regional learning and collaboration. Looking further ahead, the completion of two long-term partnerships will allow us to select new partners. An open call in 2025 will enable environmental actors from West and Central Africa to apply for our support for the first time.



SOUTHEAST ASIA

In Southeast Asia we are focused on Myanmar, where we partner with civil society organisations and pro-democratic actors to develop federal democratic governance and transitional justice efforts.

OUR PARTNERS IN 2024

In 2024 we partnered with one international partner and 5 local civil society organisations and political entities. Our local partners play important pro-democracy roles, including through their direct involvement in the establishment of new local governance structures or in convening political dialogues. We also supported 4 local collective initiatives and one event to inform and influence international actors. Due to security risks, we do not name some of our local Myanmar partners publicly.

2024 EXPENSES **0.38 mil CHF**

THE CONTEXT

The conflict in Myanmar intensified in 2024, with ethnic resistance organisations (EROs) making significant territorial gains and expanding control over strategic towns and border crossings. Local governance structures in these areas are developing their functions and credibility, with local political actors continuing to coordinate on developing federalism from the ground up.

The military-controlled State Administration Council (SAC) announced plans to hold elections in 2025. However, the credibility of the planned elections has been called into question with the military losing significant territory, and the lack of international recognition of the SAC as a legitimate governing authority. The SAC's compulsory conscription law, enacted to bolster critically low force numbers, backfired and triggered renewed resistance and chaos, with thousands of young people attempting to flee the country and increasing humanitarian needs.

SALWEEN INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY

Salween Institute for Public Policy (SI) is a think tank that provides technical support, training, and policy briefings to ethnic armed groups, political parties, and civil society organisations. It is trusted by its partners and plays an important role in the pro-democracy movement.

We began our support in 2023, with the co-designed goals of improving SI's operations in line with its participatory values. To date, we have facilitated a process to support the team to review and revise SI's strategy, standard operating procedures, human resource and financial needs and practices, and to improve internal communication.

By the end of 2024, staff reported having an improved and more systematic internal human resource and financial system, with weekly team meetings and improved skills in facilitating effective meetings. The team members also reported improved communication, cohesion, and alignment within and across the team, overcoming the residual stressors and shocks of Covid and the Coup.

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This is the best OD process for our organization. SI is involved in every step of the OD processes and enable us to develop our own values, policies and strategies to better support our own communities.

Ying Lao, Executive Director of Salween Institute for Public Policy

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Southeast Asia team meeting with stakeholders in the region

UN MEMBER STATES CALL FOR GREATER WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN MYANMAR

In 2024, we continued to collaborate with the Myanmar Human Rights Project at the Schell Center for International Human Rights at Yale Law School, which is directed by the Schell Center's Senior Fellow Tom Andrews, who serves as the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar. In 2024, the Special Rapporteur released a report on the gendered impacts of the coup and the role of women and LGBTQI+ groups in documenting human rights violations and advocating for the rights of these communities.

Ahead of the UN General Assembly session in October 2024, the Global Justice Center and the Special Rapporteur co-organised an event to provide women human rights defenders with a platform to share their perspectives on Myanmar's urgent human rights and humanitarian crisis and their needs from the international community, including accountability for sexual and gender-based violence and the heightened risks for Rohingya women and girls. Following the Special Rapporteur's gender report and women's groups collective advocacy efforts, about half of UN member states included concern for violence against women human rights defenders, the importance of empowering women in political participation, and the need for direct funding to groups on the ground in their General Assembly statements.



LOOKING AHEAD

Our first programme goal is to support pro-democracy groups to build alignment through inclusive dialogue on transitional justice and federalism. We will continue to do this by providing organisational development support to civil society and political actors that play an important role in convening or informing in these discussions. We will also support dialogue initiatives by enabling physical meetings between different political actors, including marginalised voices, to foster trust and work towards alignment.

Our second goal is to influence international actors to support local processes in a conflict-sensitive way. We support partners to share their analysis of context developments and advise international actors on conflict-sensitive and meaningful aid to emerging local governance structures.



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 to societies taking more steps to deal with the past responsively and inclusively.

OUR PARTNERS IN 2024

- Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN)
- Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN)
- TRIAL International - Bosnia and Herzegovina Programme
- War Childhood Museum, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Post-Conflict Research Center (PCRC), Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Suncroket Center for Community Development, Croatia
- Youth Initiative for Human Rights Croatia (YIHR), Croatia
- Aktiv, Kosovo
- Community Building Mitrovica (CBM), Kosovo
- Kosova Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims (KRCT), Kosovo
- Prishtina Institute for Political Studies (PIPS), Kosovo
- Heartefact, Serbia

Collective initiative:

- Partner peer-learning event

2024 EXPENSES 0.47 mil CHF

THE CONTEXT

In 2024, tensions persisted between Serbia and Kosovo. Within Kosovo, ethnic distance and political polarisation increased, particularly in the north of the country. In Serbia, attacks to restrict the civic space and silence progressive voices continued. The collapse of a train station's roof in Novi Sad that killed 15 people, triggered mass demonstrations against the government and corruption. Across the region, the risks of conflict escalation have increased after the US election and inter-ethnic relations are now particularly fragile.

PRISHTINA INSTITUTE FOR POLITICAL STUDIES (PIPS)

The Prishtina Institute for Political Studies (PIPS) is an independent non-governmental organisation established in 2003, under the auspices and support of the Council of Europe. Its mission focuses on promoting democratic values, fostering political dialogue, and shaping public policies. Through its School of Political Studies, PIPS' flagship programme, the organisation focuses on quality political education and building leadership capacities of young professionals from diverse backgrounds. Beyond the School, PIPS also engages in different political dialogue and research activities in the broader field of democratisation and European integration.

PeaceNexus has been supporting PIPS in developing a new organisational strategy which charts out its increasing ambitions in contributing to social cohesion and interparty political dialogue. PIPS will, in particular, adapt its curriculum to the evolving political and social context. It will also further develop its engagement with its alumni network, as an avenue for collaboration across ethnic and political lines.

“

PIPS' experience with PeaceNexus has been a refreshing, insightful and intensive journey — challenging us in all the right ways. Their support has truly been helpful for us, offering a partner-like experience where they are always there when needed. Working with them is putting us on track to enhance our organizational capacity in ways we deeply appreciate.

Leonora Kryeziu, Executive Director, Prishtina Institute for Political Studies PIPS

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School of politics, 2024

IMPROVING ACCESS TO EMERGENCY SUPPORT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

Given the shrinking civic space in the region, the work and well-being of progressive actors remains critically important. It is rapidly getting more challenging with increased security risks, legal threats and a challenging funding landscape. In order to inform our response and make adaptations to how we support our partners, in 2024 we commissioned research to address the following questions: what emergency sources of support are available? How do other funders approach these questions? How should our response be coordinated with others?

The resulting report maps the most common types of emergency support, including financial (grants), legal, mental health, digital and security (including cybersecurity) support. It also provides insights into the approaches of private donors and funders toward emergency support, summarising the key findings and identifying trends and gaps, and formulates actionable recommendations for private donors and funders to improve access to emergency support. In 2024, funders met to discuss the report and agreed plans to follow-up on many of its recommendations.



LOOKING AHEAD

Civil society has never been more important for progress on social cohesion within countries and across the region, but it is now under threat due to the changing political and funding landscape. We plan on adapting and ramping up our support to our partners, including by exploring collective action with other funders. Specifically, we will build on our research on emergency sources of support by keeping the information live and updated and exploring the creation of a regional pooled fund for emergency civil society support. We will also launch an open call and select new partners at the end of 2025 and plan on opening our support to environmental organisations that foster collaborative action across social divides.



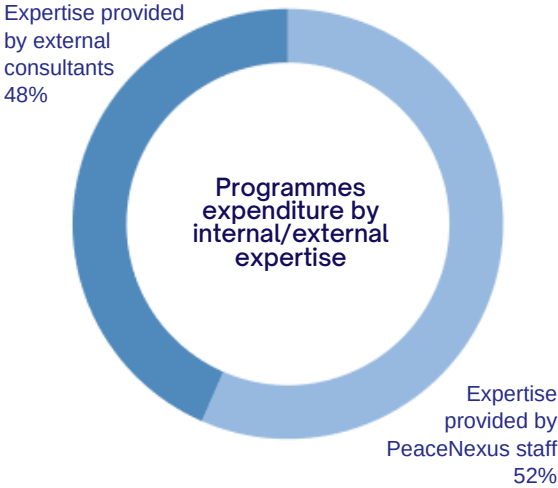
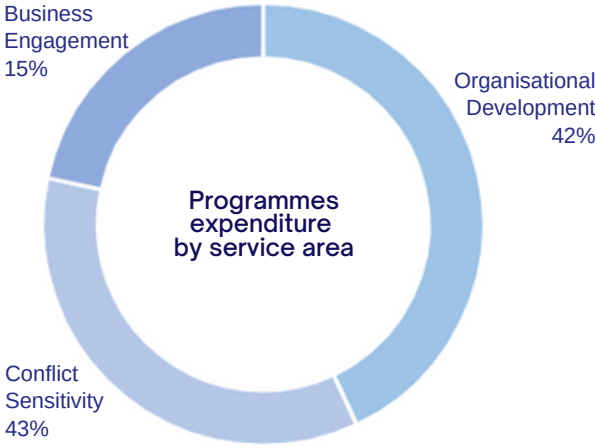
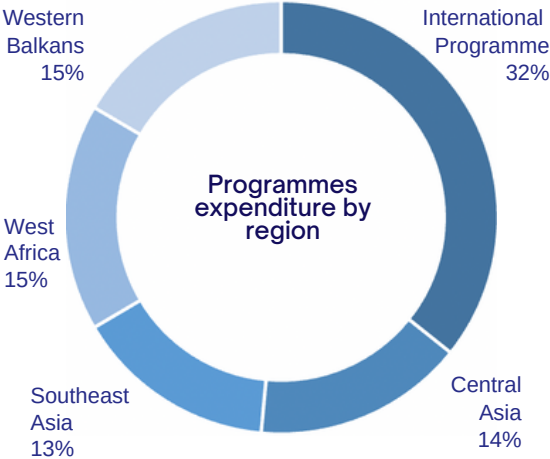
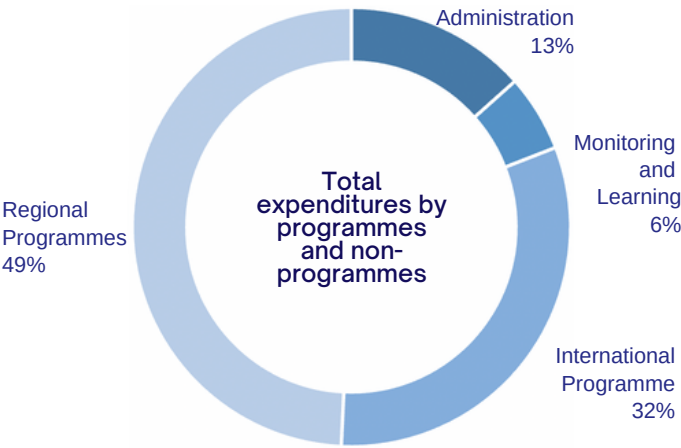
EXPENDITURE AND MISSION INVESTING

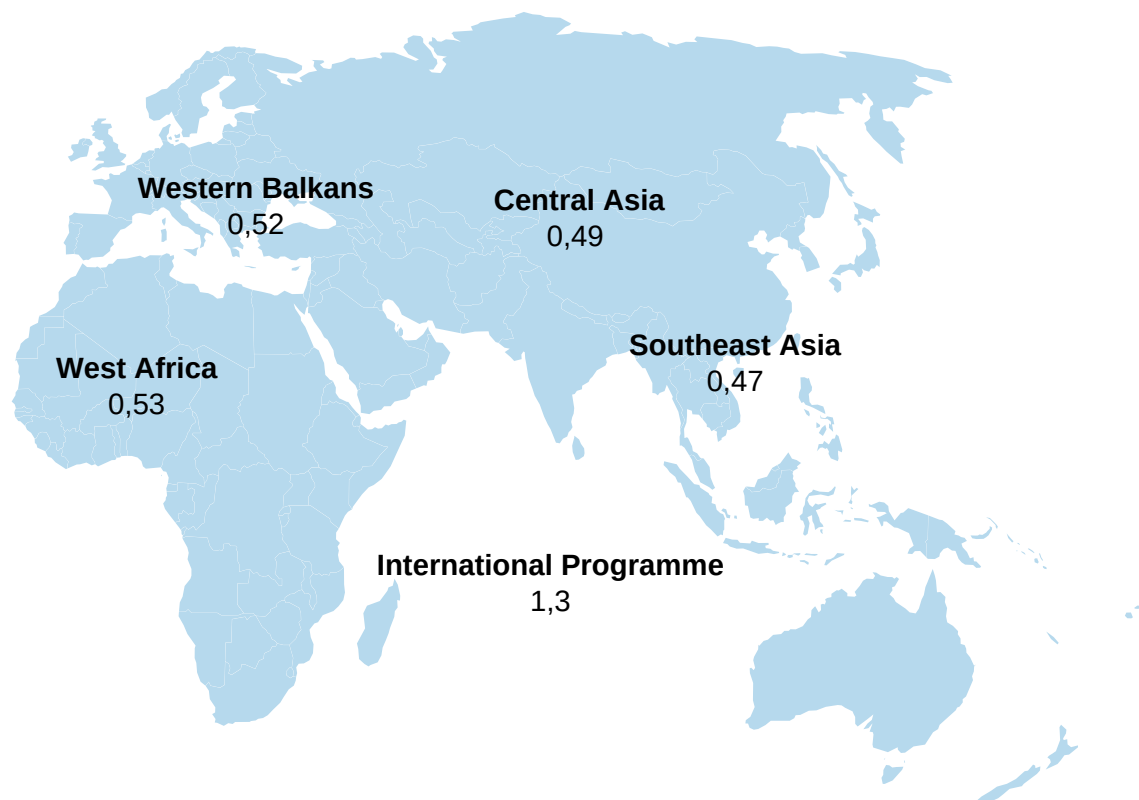
TOTAL EXPENDITURE:
2024 IN REVIEW



4.1 mil CHF total
expenditure*

* Figure does not account for bank re-evaluation





Expenditure by regions in million CHF

MISSION INVESTING

Our investments reflecting our commitment to ethical and responsible investment. We closely monitor all our investments and hold our asset managers accountable for implementing our investment guidelines and maintaining strong stewardship practices. We firmly believe that investing responsibly can create impact while generating sustainable returns, including in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

In 2024 we adopted a new policy on mission-aligned impact investments that increases their proportion to 15% of total assets. For an investment to be considered mission-aligned, it must meet at least two of the following four criteria:

- Operating in one or more of our focus regions - Western Balkans, West Africa, Central Asia or Southeast Asia;
- Contributing to peace and social cohesion, with its impact reflected in company reporting;
- It is in a priority sector outlined in our 2024-2026 strategy such as renewable energy, water, agri-business, extractives;
- The investee company or fund is willing to improve its conflict sensitivity performance and collaborate with us on this.

Our impact investments are selected by the PeaceNexus Board, structured as equity or loans and should not exceed four years.

Proposals for investments in line with the above criteria, can be submitted to the Business Engagement team at info@peacenexus.org

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