

# Impact Report

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# What is your organization trying to achieve?

Interpeace is an international organization for peacebuilding, that supports locally led peacebuilding initiatives in Latin America, Africa, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. Interpeace's vision is to contribute to a more peaceful and inclusive world. The organization has a two-fold mandate: 1) To strengthen the capacities of societies to manage conflict in non-violent, non-coercive ways by assisting national actors in their efforts to develop social and political cohesion; and 2) To assist the international community (and in particular the United Nations) to play a more effective role in supporting peacebuilding efforts around the world.

The purpose of Insamlingsstiftelsen Interpeace Sweden (hereinafter "Interpeace Sweden") is to support Interpeace in the fulfilment of its mission. To do so, Interpeace Sweden makes contributions to Interpeace from the funds raised by Interpeace Sweden. Interpeace Sweden also uses funds so raised for engaging in such information, education, knowledge sharing and advocacy work which support Interpeace in the fulfilment of its mission.

# In what organizational context does your organization operate?

## Interpeace

Interpeace is a non-profit association registered in Geneva, Switzerland. Interpeace was originally established by the United Nations in 1994 to develop innovative solutions to peace. Since the year 2000, it operates as an independent organization, and has become a reference organization for the international community, with regards to supporting peace processes.

On 15 January 2018, Interpeace was officially recognized as an international entity by the Swiss Federal Council. This acknowledgement reaffirms the important role played by the organization in peace processes.

The headquarters of Interpeace are located in Geneva, and its regional offices in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire; Brussels, Belgium; Guatemala City, Guatemala; Nairobi, Kenya; New-York, United States and Stockholm, Sweden.

Interpeace currently supports locally led peacebuilding initiatives in approximately 20 countries in Latin America, Africa, Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

## Interpeace Sweden

Interpeace Sweden is a Foundation registered in Sweden. The purpose of Interpeace Sweden is to support Interpeace in the fulfilment of its mission. It does this through fundraising, awareness-raising, information and knowledge sharing, and advocacy work.

# What strategies do you have to achieve your purpose?

To achieve its purpose, Interpeace Sweden engages in the following activities:

- **Fundraising:** Identify and mobilize resources to fund the mission and activities of Interpeace and its partners.
- **Awareness raising:** Promote the approach, mission, values, activities and work of Interpeace and its partners, and the need for peace and peacebuilding across the world.
- **Information and knowledge-sharing:** Advance a better understanding of the challenges faced by societies in crisis, in conflict, or emerging from war, and encourage the use of Interpeace's tools and methodology to overcome challenges.
- **Advocacy work:** Promote and support appropriate policies and actions that help develop political and social cohesion.

The following provides an explanation of Interpeace's work and principles:

## What is peacebuilding?

We understand peacebuilding as a process of strengthening a society's capacity to manage conflict in non-violent ways. Conflict is natural in society and can lead to positive change. However, it can also descend into violence.

Peacebuilding needs to enhance trust between individuals and between groups in society. It also needs to restore the legitimacy of state institutions. Peacebuilding is about bringing together the different actors that are engaged in the rebuilding of a country. People from inside and outside a conflict-affected country need to work together to understand their different views, define priorities. This will enable a better alignment of national policy-making, external assistance, and local priorities.

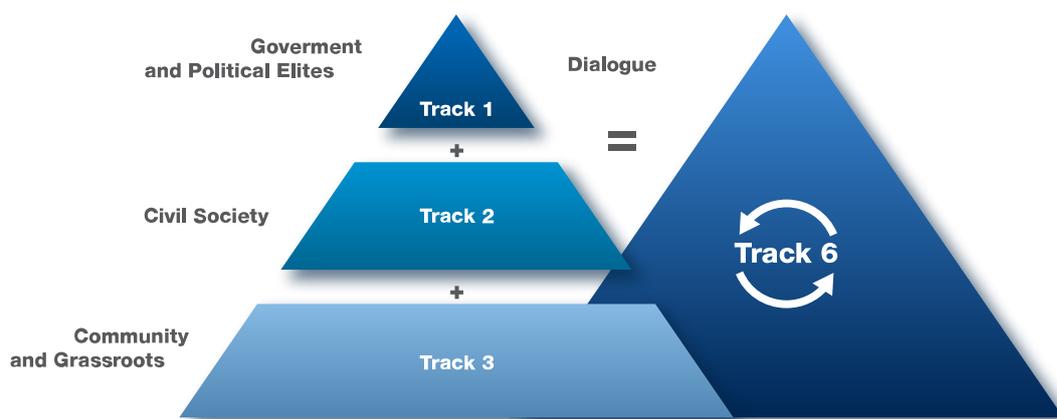
## Our Track 6 Approach

We strongly believe that peacebuilding is about deep, long-term transformations. This requires an integrated approach engaging a diverse range of actors. In many countries the government, civil society and local communities often act separately to address problems they face. Our integrated Track 6 approach helps to ensure that high-level policies reflect local realities and benefit from local knowledge. This contributes to the policies' legitimacy and sustainability.

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

In the peacebuilding field, initiatives that involve government officials and other high-level decision-makers are referred to as Track 1. Initiatives that work with influential actors from civil society are referred to as Track 2. Those that engage the local population at the community and grassroots level are called Track 3.

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



## Peacebuilding principles

We put people at the centre of building lasting peace. While every situation is different, the following principles guide our approach:

### Local ownership: Putting local people at the heart of building peace

Peace cannot be imported from the outside. We believe that peace must be built from within societies. Together with our local partners, we create spaces for dialogue that allow for the active participation of local people to identify peacebuilding challenges and to develop their own solutions. By ensuring local ownership, we pave the way for the sustainability of peacebuilding efforts.

We ensure that priorities are determined locally and not imposed from the outside. Local ownership ensures that local concerns are at the center of peacebuilding. If people participate in defining the problem, they have a sense of responsibility and ownership of the solutions.

Local ownership ensures the sustainability of peacebuilding efforts.

## **Building trust: Trust is the keystone of peace**

Trust is the glue that holds relationships, societies, and economies together. Violent conflict results in the breakdown of trust and that is why rebuilding it is a core element of our approach. By working with all sectors and levels of society to develop a common vision for the future, we contribute to increased mutual understanding and the rebuilding of trust.

Conflict tears apart the fabric of societies. Mistrust colours all relationships, including between people and their leaders. In such contexts, even small problems can escalate into wide-scale violence.

By providing safe spaces for dialogue, Interpeace helps societies re-establish trust through the collaborative identification of obstacles to lasting peace and the development of solutions to common problems.

## **Reaching out to all groups: Building peace involves everyone**

Exclusion or marginalization of key groups of society sows the seeds for renewed violence, deepening resentment and giving them the opportunity to undermine the process. Our peacebuilding programmes are designed to include participants from across society – even those who are typically overlooked or seen as difficult to engage with. This inclusive approach ensures that a broad base of social groups share a sense of ownership and responsibility for reconciliation and the rebuilding of their society.

Inclusion engages all parties in a process of change and begins to build bridges of understanding. This, in time, enables the society collectively to move towards moderation and compromise.

## **Long-term commitment: Building sustainable peace takes time**

Building lasting peace is a long-term commitment. Transforming the way a society deals with conflict is a complicated process that cannot be achieved instantly. Our peacebuilding efforts take this into account and are designed as long-term initiatives.

Building lasting peace takes time. The road to peace is bumpy, long, unpredictable and anything but straight. Support of local efforts must be patient and consistent.

External engagement must be predictable and ensure long-term financial commitments. Otherwise sustaining peacebuilding processes becomes impossible.

The Interpeace approach puts a focus on building trust. This approach to rebuilding society and institutions takes time and long-term commitment.

## **Process matters: The process determines the result**

We put as much effort into what needs to be done to enable a society to build peace as in how the process is approached. There is a need not only to focus on the end goal of building peace, but also on making sure that the process leading to it is managed in a way that allows for inclusion, constructive dialogue and consensus-building – rather than confrontation and power games. This is the only way to build sustainable peace.

Strengthening the foundations of a society that is divided is not business as usual. Mistrust tends to be deeply engrained. Major issues tend to be politically sensitive and urgent. Because of this urgency, the tendency is to propose technical solutions rather than to seek holistic solutions to complex problems. How the process is managed and how the engagement of all sides is carried out will determine, in large part, the success of an initiative.

## **What capacity and expertise do you have to achieve your purpose?**

Interpeace Sweden is supervised by a Board of Directors composed of well-connected and influential individuals in the public and private sectors. Since 2014, Interpeace has managed a small Stockholm-based team that has expertise in Interpeace's approach and methodology. Interpeace Sweden operates in close collaboration with staff at Interpeace Headquarters.

Interpeace is globally recognized for its proven methodology in facilitating action-oriented dialogue, helping resolve conflict and building peace. Interpeace's international and local staff and partners bring decades of leadership and experience in results-oriented programme management, design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation.

Interpeace actively collaborates with other organizations, public authorities and institutions to identify synergies, jointly implement activities and share lessons learned. As a strategic partner of the United Nations, Interpeace also actively disseminates the results of its work with representatives of the international community.

Globally, Interpeace has 69 staff and 288 members of partner organizations.

# How do you know if your organisation is making progress?

In recent years, Interpeace has placed greater emphasis on enhancing its Project and Programme Management to ensure that the objectives of its programmes are achieved, and results are demonstrable. This effort is founded on the recognition that in the peacebuilding field, where programmes seek to contribute to transformative change in behaviours, trust, attitudes and perceptions, outcomes are often intangible and hence difficult to measure.

To articulate what an intervention seeks to accomplish, Interpeace's programmes define Theories of Change (ToC) that define the causal relationships between the intervention, its objectives, and underlying assumptions. These enable Interpeace's programme teams to check and regularly test the assumptions behind the different programme components and connections between each other.

To monitor progress and demonstrate results, Interpeace employs robust Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) plans that leverage quantitative and qualitative approaches and tools. M&E plans define key performance indicators and tracking tools to measure the effectiveness of programme efforts and interventions, determine progress towards outcomes and mission, and inform programme strategy on a rolling basis. Tracking tools used by Interpeace include regular activity reports, pre- and post-assessment surveys, monitoring reports, among others.

The management structure put in place for all Interpeace programmes ensures dedicated day-to-day management, continuous availability of in-house expertise and experience, and strategic oversight by senior management.

## What have you achieved thus far?

In 2017, Insamlingsstiftelsen Interpeace Sweden collected a total of SEK 10 763 965.

Examples of Interpeace's achievements during the 2017-2018 period are as follows:

### Colombia

Interpeace has worked in Colombia to contribute to the country's post-conflict recovery by supporting the transformation of the National Police. In 2017, Interpeace and its partner Alianza Para la Paz, facilitated a consultative dialogue process that resulted in the development of the Peacebuilding Model of the National Police of Colombia, a key institution in the country's ongoing peacebuilding process. The Model identifies the responsibilities of the Police in the implementation of the Peace Agreement. The implementation plan of the Peacebuilding Model is based on a territorial peace approach, meaning that it is a result of a broad consultation process at all levels of

the institution and on the ground in the territories of the country. This ensures the appropriation of the Model among the actors in each of Colombia's territories.

## Great Lakes Region

Beginning in 2013, Interpeace has been implementing the Cross-Border Dialogue for Peace in the Great Lakes programme. Together with six partner organizations from the region, the programme seeks to build trust and cooperation between key actors with ability to influence peace and stability at the local and national levels, as well as across the borders of Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo. This year saw the launch of the second four-year phase of the programme, building on past achievements and lessons learned. The new phase will see the implementation of research processes focusing on resilience and reconciliation with the objective of providing innovative findings to inform policies and practices at national and regional levels. Furthermore, the programme will see the continuation of cross-border youth groups, set up by participating youth at their own initiative. The groups will continue to enable more contact and cohesion between young people on each side of the border.

## Guinea-Bissau

The programme in Guinea-Bissau focuses on empowering citizens to play a greater role in good governance and peacebuilding, with a specific focus on women. In 2017, Interpeace and its local partner Voz di Paz, focused on strengthening women's capacities to identify and implement solutions to enhance their role in governance and peaceful conflict resolution. The programme provided a unique dialogue platform for 700 Bissau-Guineans throughout the country, to voice their concerns and openly discuss deeply-rooted social and political conditions that hamper the promotion of women in governance in the country. In addition, the programme continued awareness-raising efforts on radios at the community and national levels which are a critical element of Voz di Paz's strategy to contribute to breaking taboos around women's participation in Guinea-Bissau.

## Libya

Interpeace's engagement in Libya seeks to sustain a "bottom-up" peacebuilding strategy that focuses on enhancing local resilience to conflict and strengthening community cohesion. Starting in 2014, the programme has mapped out communities that have maintained a relative degree of stability amid wider national turbulence. The programme aims to build on their experiences to sustain peace and stability and gradually expand the geographic zones of stability across the country. In 2017, the programme entered its second phase, seeking to consolidate lessons learned, strengthen local resilience capacities through dialogue, and begin expanding the pockets of stability across the country.

## Mali

Interpeace and its Malian partner IMRAP have continued their efforts to strengthen the relationship and trust between Defence and Security Forces (DSF) and communities, with an emphasis on women's engagement since 2017. Thanks to the trust developed with DSF at all levels, from top ranks to foot soldiers/police agents, as well as with concerned communities, security and defence authorities in Mali have adhered to and lent their support to Interpeace and IMRAP's initiatives. Their explicit demands have enabled Interpeace and IMRAP to scale up the creation of spaces for dialogue between local populations and the DSF regarding their respective roles and responsibilities and support the subsequent implementation of joint initiatives. The systematic use of inclusive and participatory dialogue as a tool to address challenges and opportunities for peace and social cohesion has strengthened Malians' capacities to manage their conflicts in a non-violent, constructive way and continues to increase social cohesion.

## Sweden

Interpeace's work in Sweden has centred on empowering marginalized communities in and around major cities, such as Stockholm. In 2017, Interpeace launched the project "Hear me out! - A platform for young voices". Over the course of one year, Interpeace in collaboration with City of Stockholm (Kista library) provided training workshops for youth on effective communication and facilitated dialogue platforms between youth, the police, local authorities and influencers. Following the workshops, participants reported improved communication skills in areas such as rhetoric, argumentation, public speaking and listening skills; increased confidence and self-esteem; improved understanding of decision-making processes; and enhanced trust and mutual understanding between youth, the police, and local authorities. The results of the project are highly encouraging in a context where youth often feel mistrust towards state authorities and are excluded from constructive decision-making processes.

Read more about Interpeace's peacebuilding work in our latest [Annual Report 2017](#).



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