PEACE BUILDING FRAMEWORK
The purpose of this peacebuilding framework is to guide Trócaire and partner staff to design and implement activities that support peacebuilding efforts.

Trócaire is committed to increasing our focus on peacebuilding because in many of the countries in which we work, violence and conflict limit the possibility of development gains and create and exacerbate humanitarian crises.

Peacebuilding means working with a range of partners to deescalate tension, enhance social cohesion and promote a conducive environment for peace and peaceful co-existence. It is a people-centred approach applied in conflict affected or post conflict affected states to address root causes of conflict and to contribute to long term transformative change. Peacebuilding means encouraging people to talk, repair relationships, and reform institutions. It aims not only to resolve conflicts, but to build resilient societies, institutions, policies, and relationships that are better able to sustain peace and justice. Strategic peacebuilders address issues of human rights, discrimination, resource rights, economic prosperity, and environmental sustainability as well as violence.

Trócaire’s entry point for peace work is nexus programming. Trócaire believes that humanitarian and development programmes are less effective if conflict is not addressed, whilst achieving and sustaining peace is reliant on providing for basic needs and giving people hope for the future. We use the nexus approach to improve coordination, collaboration and coherence between actors and activities across the three nexus pillars.

Trócaire will work with local partners to build and sustain peace. Generally, civil society actors, particularly women and youth, are primary agents of peacebuilding, playing key roles in conflict-affected societies and in situations of extreme instability. They are critical in building community confidence and trust, encouraging cooperation, creating incentives for collective action, and ensuring that efforts are adapted to local and national contexts. We will also work with community leaders, local authorities, and community structures from village to national levels.

Trócaire’s peacebuilding framework is guided by several key principles and approaches. These include: conflict sensitivity, rights-based approach, women’s voice and influence, inclusivity, and protection of the environment and reduction of climate-related conflict. Conflict sensitivity is the foundation on which peacebuilding activities are built. Without strong and tangible conflict sensitivity we cannot progress peacebuilding in a meaningful way. Conflict sensitivity requires regular conflict analysis to understand the context in which we operate and how our interventions interact with conflict dynamics in order to limit any unintended negative effects of our actions and make all efforts to ensure we do not harm the people and communities we work with.

Our strategies for peace programming are divided between three key approaches;

- Strategies that primarily seek to implement a conflict sensitive approach;
- Strategies that aim to enhance local capacities for peace working ‘in conflict’
- Strategies that constitute a peacebuilding intervention, working ‘on conflict’ aiming to address local drivers and/or deeper structural causes of conflict.

In line with our understanding of how change happens Trócaire will work with stakeholders at multiple levels to achieve peace: individuals; communities; civil society and institutions. Suggestions for strategies suitable for targeting these various stakeholders are detailed in this framework.
1. PURPOSE OF THE FRAMEWORK

This framework helps guide Trócaire and partner staff to design and implement activities that support peacebuilding efforts as the third pillar of the Triple Nexus approach (Development-Humanitarian-Peace). The guidance primarily focuses on programming in Fragile and Conflict Affected States, as well as post conflict affected states where structures and relationships to sustain peace are still weak. The application of this framework should follow Trócaire’s Rights-Based Approach by ensuring the consideration of human rights in all aspects of peacebuilding programme design and implementation. This helps us to focus on common development principles such as empowerment, accountability, participation, as well as equality and non-discrimination.

The document identifies and defines the key principles and concepts underpinning Trócaire’s peacebuilding programme work, identifies who we work with, and provides an overview of key intervention strategies at each level of the organisational theory of change—individual, family/household, community, civil society and institutional.

To illustrate the spectrum of Trócaire’s peace work, guidance and tips are provided to adopt a conflict sensitive approach, to enhance local capacities for peace and to conduct peacebuilding interventions within a programme, drawing on experiences from country programmes and local partners. This guidance is identified by icons (see box on right).

The primary audience for this framework is Trócaire and partner staff working on peacebuilding in both development and humanitarian settings. It will assist countries implementing programmes to contribute to the conditions for promoting peace and supporting local communities to live in a peaceful manner that helps to deliver maximum impact from humanitarian and development assistance.

Links to all the relevant tools and resources to support the implementation of the framework are included throughout the document.

GLOBAL CONTEXT FOR TRÓCAIRE’S PEACEBUILDING WORK

Trócaire is an International Development and Humanitarian NGO of the Catholic Church, headquartered in Ireland with offices in 15 locations in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Central America. We are a social justice organisation working in partnership with local organisations and communities to tackle the root causes of poverty, injustice, and violence and to create peaceful, stable communities and societies. Trócaire is committed to saving the lives and protecting the dignity of people affected by conflict and natural and man disasters around the world.

---

1. Trócaire Nexus Guidelines and Framework
2. Trócaire FCAS Portfolio countries include DRC, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan - South Kordofan, and Syria.
In many contexts where we work, **violence and conflict both create and exacerbate humanitarian crises.** Ongoing conflict in DRC, Ethiopia, Myanmar, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen have resulted in the death of millions of people and the forced displacement of millions of families in need of urgent humanitarian support. Globally, a record 103 million people were forced to flee their homes by June 2022 due to conflicts, violence, fear of persecution and human rights violations ([UNHCR Global Trend Report](https://www.unhcr.org/470061a26.html)). The majority of those risking their lives to embark on hazardous journeys to Europe are from conflict affected countries such as Syria, Sudan, Afghanistan, Somalia, and Libya. Violent conflict affects everyone. It weakens institutions and essential services, it erodes the coping capacity of communities to deal with shocks and stressors, it prevents children going to school and it makes it harder for people to access critical healthcare.

**Women, children, older persons, and youth** are particularly vulnerable to conflict and its effects. Conflict can create disabilities and has a disproportionate impact on **people with disabilities.** Instability and conflict exacerbate pre-existing patterns of discrimination against women and girls, exposing them to heightened risks of violations of their human rights, abandonment, and to higher levels of gender-based violence. This can include arbitrary killings, torture, sexual violence, trafficking and forced marriage. Young people in conflict affected contexts face enormous challenges in accessing education and job opportunities amidst political polarisation and ethnic patronage. This increases youth vulnerability to recruitment by armed groups or involvement in violent movements unless appropriate investments are made to harness the peacebuilding potential of youth.

**Hunger** is rising globally, driven in part by conflict and natural disasters. Seventy per cent of the 193 million people in ‘crisis’ or ‘emergency’ food insecurity in 2022 are in just 10 countries, seven of which are affected by conflict ([Global Report on Food Crises 2022](https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/item/653517/)). Whilst **climate change** does not directly cause violent conflict it is a key conflict driver which is set to increase in prominence. Climate Change contributes to diminishing natural resources, resource scarcity (e.g., water, land) and mass forced displacement, often stirring underlying tensions between groups or communities.

The global economic impact of violent conflict was a staggering USD 16.5 trillion in 2021, equivalent to 10.9% of global GDP, or USD 2,117 per person, as states increase military spending and conflict forces people out of employment ([Global Peace Index](https://www.globalpeaceindex.org/)). The **nature of modern conflict** is becoming more complex. There are fewer wars between states and an increasing number of protracted conflicts within countries that impact entire regions. Combatants are increasingly non-state actors, including local militias, guerrilla movements or terrorist organisations. Whilst criminality can feed into conflict, at the heart of many violent conflicts lies issues of inequality, injustice, and exclusion. Violence in pastoralist areas in East Africa (often cross border) has resulted in the loss of many lives and livestock, and damage to property driven by transnational organised crime, climate change, and marginalisation. Violence is at times fuelled by external powers in proxy wars, sustained by war economies including trafficking in minerals, people and/or illicit goods. Widespread communal and inter-communal violence also threaten the implementation of peace agreements, as is the case in South Sudan. Increasingly, the traditional international rules of war and humanitarian protection are being ignored. Confidence in the multilateral system to maintain these rules and norms is waning in a context of autocratic governance, increased political polarisation across the world, and restrictions on civil society space. Global economic crisis is likely to further fuel conflicts.

**Social media** has become an integral part of everyday life, particularly for youth, and is playing an increasingly influential role as a driver of conflict and how the identity, beliefs, and behaviour of parties to a conflict are perceived and understood. Political and compromised media actors have used social media to target critics and to spread disinformation, hate speech and to incite violence.
2. KEY CONCEPTS

PEACEBUILDING

Peacebuilding is the development of constructive personal, group, and political relationships across ethnic, religious, class, national, and racial boundaries. It aims to resolve injustice in nonviolent ways and to transform the structural conditions that generate violent conflict. Peacebuilding activities include conflict prevention, conflict management, conflict resolution and transformation, conflict mitigation, reconciliation, and post-conflict reconstruction.

Peacebuilding becomes strategic when it works over a long term and at all levels of society to establish and sustain relationships among people locally and globally. Strategic peacebuilding connects people and groups “on the ground” (community and religious groups, grassroots organisations, etc.) with policymakers and powerbrokers (governments, the United Nations, corporations, banks, etc.). It aims not only to resolve conflicts, but to build resilient societies, institutions, policies, and relationships that are better able to sustain peace and justice. In line with Trócaire’s approach to nexus programming, strategic peacebuilders address issues of human rights, discrimination, resource rights, economic prosperity, and environmental sustainability as well as violence.

FIGURE 1: PEACE WHEEL
Strategic Peacebuilding Paths, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies

---

Trócaire adopts the definition of ‘peacebuilding’ from the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame.
Strategic peacebuilding can stretch across generations. While it engages immediate crises, strategic peacebuilding recognises that peacemaking is a long-term commitment that requires the building of cross-group networks and alliances that will survive intermittent conflicts and create a platform for sustainable human development and security.

For peace to thrive and communities to progress, interconnected strands must work together: justice and rule of law, trauma and psychosocial support, relationship building and reconciliation, development and socioeconomic recovery, governance and strong institutional building and security and public order. (See the Peace Wheel diagram).

Investing in peacebuilding in conflict-affected and post conflict-affected states means working with partners and government to de-escalate tension, enhance social cohesion and promote a conducive environment for peace and peaceful co-existence. Alongside working within and between communities, this also requires the courage and skills to challenge potentially divisive institutional and state policies and practices.

**CONFLICT**

Trócaire understands that conflict can be intrapersonal, interpersonal, intergroup, intersociety, and international/global. However, our peacebuilding activities will focus on the intergroup, intersociety, and international levels:

**Intergroup/inter-ethnic conflicts** take place between formal and non-formal groups. Conflict is experienced in many countries between farming and pastoralist communities where resources are scarce. Conflict between different ethnic groups living within a country falls into this category, for example, the conflict between Nuer and Dinka tribes in South Sudan. Intergroup conflict often occurs along religious lines, for example, the conflict that pitches Protestants and Catholics against each other in Northern Ireland. Religion is rarely the main cause of intergroup conflict but is often used as an instrument for conflict.

**Intersociety conflicts**, or social conflicts, most often refer to conflicts of a larger scale with wider public impact, confrontations between the ruling political elite and opposition parties, or between government forces and militia/rebels. There are countries where urban-based youth are mobilised against the police or government. In other places, widespread gang violence results in high numbers of civilian casualties and creates social and economic instability.

**International/global conflicts** include conflicts between nation states, conflict at regional or global level over natural resources, conflicts in various international organisations over political issues, ethnic or religious conflicts, wars for self-determination and/or the creation of new nation states. Beyond the suffering and humanitarian crisis resulting from Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the entire global economy is experiencing the effects of price increases for food and energy, inflation, refugee flow, slower growth and increased geopolitical tensions.

**NEXUS APPROACH TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE PEACE**

Trócaire’s entry point for peace work is nexus programming\(^4\). **Nexus** refers to the interlinkages between humanitarian, development, and peace actions\(^5\). Wars are increasingly protracted and resource conflicts driven by climate change and dwindling natural resources are more intense and frequent, contributing to the cycle of vulnerability of the people and communities with whom Trócaire works. In conflict-affected and post conflict-affected states, underlying poverty and inequality often triggers and sustains conflict. Sustainable development and durable solutions to displacement are not possible without peace. Humanitarian assistance, development programming and peacebuilding interventions can all contribute to build long lasting peace and development.

\(^4\) Trócaire Nexus Guidelines and Framework – Insert link (not yet available)
\(^5\) OECD [DAC Recommendation on the Humanitarian, Development Peace Nexus](https://www.oecd.org/dac/dac-recommendations-on-humanitarian-development-peace-nexus/)

---

6 Trócaire - Peace Building Framework
Nexus focuses on a coherent approach to addressing people’s vulnerability before, during and after crises. It involves meeting immediate needs while ensuring longer-term investment that aims to address the systemic causes of crises and build more resilient and safer communities. Livelihood programming with crisis-affected communities is an example of a common entry-point for nexus work to promote peaceful co-existence.

Trócaire believes that humanitarian and development programmes are less effective if conflict is not addressed, whilst peace is challenging to sustain if basic needs are not met. We use the nexus approach to improve coordination, collaboration and coherence between actors and activities across the three nexus pillars. Collectively, humanitarian, development and peace-related activities are required to meet the immediate assistance and protection needs and rights of women and girls and other marginalised members of society experiencing recurring and/or protracted crisis and to provide a platform to advance progress against development indicators as articulated in the Sustainable Development Goals.

**INCLUSIVE PEACEBUILDING AND SUSTAINING PEACE**

Trócaire believes that engagement with local civil society actors is a central component of peacebuilding work and sustaining peace. Generally, civil society actors, particularly women and youth, are often the primary agents of peacebuilding, playing key roles in conflict-affected societies and in situations of extreme instability. They are critical in building community confidence and trust, encouraging cooperation, creating incentives for collective action, and ensuring that efforts are adapted to local and national contexts.

Trócaire’s peacebuilding framework is aligned with the international policy framework for sustainable peace which emphasises inclusivity as ‘key to advancing national peacebuilding processes’. These include: the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council twin “peacebuilding resolutions” on the Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture (A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282), which led to shifting the long-term focus of the UN from crisis response to peacebuilding and sustaining...
peace (see box below); the UN Community Engagement Guidelines on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace 2020, which support more effective engagement of civil society actors at the local level in peacebuilding and sustaining peace; and the World Bank Pathways for Peace Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict, which provides a series of conflict prevention recommendations for countries facing emerging risks of violent conflict.

From Crisis Response to Sustaining Peace

The concept of peacebuilding was first introduced at the United Nations by Boutros Boutros-Ghali’s Agenda for Peace in 1992 and was defined as “action to identify and support structures which will tend to strengthen and solidify peace in order to avoid a relapse into conflict.” Since then, the UN has shifted its long-term focus from crisis response to peacebuilding and sustaining peace, with a view to preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation, and recurrence of conflict, addressing root causes, assisting parties to conflict to end hostilities, ensuring national reconciliation, and moving towards recovery, reconstruction, and development. Building on this commitment, Trócaire, as an agency of the Catholic Church, will use its identity to harness the peacebuilding capacity of both church and secular civil society actors in the countries where we work to resolve injustice in a nonviolent way and to transform the cultural and structural conditions that generate violent conflict in the first place.

Trócaire’s peace work is further guided by the global Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda, launched on 31 October 2000 with the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and now comprising nine additional Resolutions (1820, 1888, 1889, 1960, 2106, 2122, 2422, 2467 and 2493) as well as existing human rights obligations, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). WPS reinforces the importance of women’s meaningful participation in national and local contexts and emphasises gender inequality as a root cause of conflict. WPS architecture is organised around 4 pillars: 1) Participation of women in all levels of decision making and peacebuilding at local, national and international level 2) Prevention of violence against women and girls, including by prosecuting those responsible for violations of international law; strengthening women’s rights under national law; and supporting local women’s peace initiatives and conflict resolution processes; 3) Protection of women and girls from all forms of violence and discrimination in conflict; and 4) Promotion of women voices and gender perspectives at all stages of peace processes.

Key Principles Underpinning Trócaire’s Peacebuilding Framework

Trócaire’s peacebuilding framework is guided by several key principles and approaches— conflict sensitivity, rights-based approach, community led approach to peacebuilding, women’s voice and influence, inclusivity, and protecting the environment and reducing climate-related conflict.

Conflict Sensitivity

Conflict sensitivity is the foundation on which peacebuilding activities are built. Without strong and tangible conflict sensitivity we cannot progress peacebuilding in any meaningful way. Conflict Sensitivity is part of a Do No Harm Approach whereby we commit to preventing or limiting unintended negative effects of our actions and making all efforts to ensure we do not harm the people and communities we work with.

Conflict sensitivity involves regularly conducting conflict analysis to understand the context in which we operate and how our interventions interact with conflict dynamics and on various

---

6 See Trócaire Conflict Analysis Guide for guidance on how to conduct a conflict analysis: Trócaire Conflict Analysis Guide
conflict-affected populations. We use this information to minimise negative consequences, maximise positive impact, reduce harm (Do No Harm), and contribute to sustainable peace. This requires monitoring unintended consequences, embracing continuous learning, and adapting our interventions as needed to evolving political, security and humanitarian contexts. The impact of external development assistance on the dynamics of poverty and conflict is often complex and potentially contradictory. Development assistance can contribute to stability when states use it in an equitable manner to address human security needs, the political economy of conflict, inequality, and discrimination. However, development assistance can also exacerbate conflict, for example, through lack of recognition of corruption or helping to perpetuate an unjust system.

Trócaire adopts a number of conflict sensitive principles. Firstly, we establish an inclusive and impartial response which reduces the risk that individuals or communities are blamed or targeted, or that existing tensions or negative gender stereotypes are reinforced. Secondly, we adapt interventions to the local context, reinforcing positive community traditions, cultures, and gender norms to ensure quality programming and acceptance of our activities. Finally, we engage both male and female community leaders when designing and delivering peacebuilding programmes. However, most importantly, we recognise our role as outsiders and we take the time to listen actively to local voices and seek local solutions.

Trócaire will routinely review whether our work is contributing to peace or exacerbating tensions by adopting a participatory approach to our learning.

Rights Based Approach

Trócaire is committed to embodying a rights-based approach in all its work. The international human rights framework comprises universal norms agreed to and recognised by states as essential elements and principles for building resilient, peaceful, inclusive, and just societies. As such, the promotion and protection of human rights provides a foundation for building and sustaining peace with full respect for national ownership. The application of a Rights Based Approach in peacebuilding entails consideration of the PANEL principles:

- Participation, ensuring that people have the information and the means to participate effectively in decisions that affect their lives
- Accountability, ensuring that Governments and other duty bearers are held to account, and that policies are responsive to people’s needs and rights.
- Non-discrimination, ensuring the sustainability and inclusiveness of peacebuilding processes by identifying those in vulnerable situations or being “left behind”;
- Empowerment, ensuring people understand their rights and are fully supported to claim them
- Legality, ensuring (where relevant) approaches are grounded in legal rights set out in domestic and international legal frameworks

Community led approach to peacebuilding

Trócaire will adopt a bottom-up approach to peacebuilding, listening to, and strengthening the capacity of the people we work with to peacefully resolve their differences and to address the root causes of problems which can generate conflict. We adopt this approach because we believe in the essential dignity of people. Furthermore, we understand it to be more sustainable than top-down approaches, achieving greater peace outcomes including social cohesion within and between communities, it fosters local ownership of peace processes, and it promotes durable peace. Where appropriate, programmes should link local peace initiatives with regional, national and international peace agendas and processes, with the aim of amplifying local voices, particularly women and youth, to identify root causes and solutions to address different types of conflict.
Women’s voice and Influence
Local women, women led organisations and women in civil society are essential actors for conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and sustainable peace. Trócaire believes that gender inequality is a fundamental driver of poverty, violence and exclusion and we therefore need to recognise the specific challenges and needs faced by marginalised women and adolescent girls on their journeys toward empowerment. All Trócaire programmes develop strategies and activities to support women and men to challenge unequal power relations and address the specific barriers women face in claiming and accessing their rights and participating in and influencing decisions that affect their lives⁹. Trócaire’s programming on peacebuilding promotes women’s participation and influence within key decision-making spaces relating to peace and ensures women’s rights and priorities are an intrinsic aspect of any peace settlement. Trócaire will work with women-led organisations to help them amplify their voices and to challenge the gender impacts of conflict.

Inclusivity
In line with our protection mainstreaming/ safe programming approach, Trócaire will promote inclusivity in our peacebuilding engagements and encourage our partners to leave no one behind. The participation of all, including socially-excluded groups and minorities, in peacebuilding is paramount to achieving sustainable peace within and between communities. The entry-point for ensuring our peace work is inclusive is through adopting a participative conflict sensitive approach to the design, delivery, and on-going monitoring of our interventions.

Protecting the environment and reducing climate-related conflict
Strengthening communities’ resilience and empowering them to protect the environment and to analyse and respond to conflict over natural resources is a prerequisite for sustainable development and peace. The effects of climate change directly and indirectly contribute to and exacerbate humanitarian crises, particularly within fragile security environments. Violent conflict can erupt over government policies which limit the seasonal migration of pastoralists, the misappropriation by governments of large tracts of lands for large-scale investors without due diligence or regard for indigenous rights, mining concessions, and the allocation of water concessions to businesses based outside the community⁸. Foreign interest in the natural resources of poorer countries also leads to proxy wars.

Climate shocks, such as droughts and floods, add another burden by negatively impacting livelihoods and food security, creating resource scarcities, and increasing resource competition between communities, particularly pastoralists and farmers. Addressing climate induced conflict is a key component of promoting lasting peace and development.

---

⁷ See Trócaire Trócaire’s Women’s Empowerment Framework
⁸ Trócaire programming on resource rights addresses many of these issues. See Trócaire Natural Resource Rights Framework for more details.
3. TRÓCAIRE’S PEACEBUILDING PATHWAYS TO CHANGE

Trócaire believes that country programmes supporting peacebuilding need to be designed to follow pathways to change at multiple levels:

**Individual Level:** If women, youth and influential leaders have increased knowledge and skills in conflict analysis and resolution, are supported to be positive peace enablers amongst conflict parties and have opportunities to address the underlying socio-economic and environmental factors that contribute to conflict, then they will be empowered to contribute to achieving social justice without resorting to violence and building peaceful communities.

**Family/Household Level:** If family and household members reflect on and take actions to peacefully address disputes within their personal relationships and with other families, then they will create an everyday peace environment, which will allow for the peaceful resolution of inter-familial feuds and will play an active role in providing models of good practice within their communities. As with the individual level, meaningful participation in peace efforts is contingent on immediate needs being met as a prerequisite.

**Community Level:** If communities are mobilised to develop structures and mechanisms to identify conflict issues and their underlying causes, to confidently challenge divisions between community members and groups, to monitor conflict and promote the peaceful settlement of disputes, and to support projects that are of mutual interest and build peaceful and trusting relationships around shared resources, then they will promote durable peace within their communities and seek to influence decisions that affect peace.

**Civil Society Level:** If women-centred organisations, church and secular civil society partners have the knowledge and skills to implement peace work and the capacity and opportunity to amplify their voices to advocate on issues of peace, inequality, conflict and gender-based violence, and women’s voice in peacebuilding, then they will be empowered to contribute towards local and national peacebuilding processes and hold conflict actors and decision-makers at all levels to account. A critical understanding of divisive narrative and messaging is also important at this level.

**Institutional Level:** If state and non-state, formal and non-formal actors at all levels of society, resolve to use their power, policies and resources to foster peace, justice and equality, facilitate peoples’ participation in the decisions that affect their lives, and can be held to account by rights holders, then an enabling environment for sustainable peace will be secured.

**Little ‘p’, Big ‘P’**

We can sometimes distinguish between ‘little p’ actions and ‘Big P’ actions. ‘Little p’ actions are focused on agency and the transformation of relationships, building capacities for peace and for conflict prevention and management within institutions and the broader society, which includes building trust and social cohesion. Contributing to peace through ‘little p’ processes often implies working with institutions at the local, subnational and national levels at the same time. ‘Big P’ actions are more directly aimed at a political solution or securitized response to violent conflict and may be supported by a UN Security Council mandate. They typically are at the national or regional level ([IASC November 2022](https://www.iasc.org/database)). Trócaire programmes will focus more on supporting ‘little p’ actions.
Trócaire has developed an organisational indicator\(^9\) to measure change within its peacebuilding interventions.

4.2.3.1: Proportion of men and women in target communities who feel that disagreements within their community are resolved satisfactorily

This indicator helps to assess the effectiveness of efforts to promote peaceful and inclusive conflict resolution mechanisms in a project area as perceived by different groups of men and women in that target area/community. It measures the proportion of men and women in target communities who have been involved with peacebuilding efforts supported by Trócaire who feel that disagreements within their community are resolved satisfactorily.

---

\(^9\) See Peacebuilding Indicator Guidance ICSP
4. KEY INTERVENTION STRATEGIES FOR PEACEBUILDING

Trócaire believes that programmes must be designed and delivered to support change processes at multiple levels: individual, community, civil society and institutional. While each level should be addressed in the planning stages of a programme, certain contexts may dictate that the bulk of the work may be focused at the individual or community level, with a lesser emphasis on the civil society and institutional levels, for example. In another context it could be the reverse, with the primary focus at civil society and institutional levels and less at the individual and community levels. Programmes may not be able to work at all levels always but at different times will adopt different strategies depending on context analysis and the stage of the programme’s development.

The following section of the document outlines key strategies at each level that can be adopted by programmes aiming to achieve a constructive resolution to conflict, to restore social cohesion and to rebuild trust between people and their institutions. Strategies that can be used at more than one level (e.g., Enhancing Local Capacities for Peace) appear in multiple levels (e.g. individual, community, institutional) of the framework.

A number of the strategies outlined below provide opportunities for integration into existing programme goals and interventions. It is not always about creating a new peacebuilding body of work, but can be equally if not more effective to integrate peace elements into existing work in other areas. For example, working through established groups to provide conflict management skills training such as Village Savings and Lending Associations (VSLAs) or Water Management Committees.

Strategies for peace programming are divided between three key approaches;

- those that primarily seek to implement a conflict sensitive approach;
- those that aim to enhance local capacities for peace working ‘in conflict’
- and those that constitute a peacebuilding intervention, working ‘on conflict’ aiming to address local drivers and/or deeper structural causes of conflict.

Trócaire understands that country programmes are at different stages in their peace work, and we expect the majority of programmes will initially focus on conflict sensitivity and building local capacities for peace.
**PREPARATORY PHASE STRATEGY**

**Conflict analysis and conflict sensitivity as foundational for all peace programming:** Conflict analysis is a central component of conflict sensitive practice, as it provides the foundation to inform conflict sensitive programming. This applies to all forms of intervention (development, humanitarian, peacebuilding) and to all levels (individual, community, civil society or institutional). Conflict analysis is the systematic study of the profile, causes, actors, and dynamics of conflict. It helps development, humanitarian, and peacebuilding organisations to gain a better understanding of the context in which they work and their role within that context. Trócaire has developed a Conflict Analysis Guide\(^\text{10}\) which provides practical advice and tools for programme staff and partners seeking to undertake conflict analysis and to use the findings to ensure programmes are designed, implemented, or adapted in a way that is as conflict sensitive as possible. In a spirit of inclusiveness and humility, Trócaire also recognises the key role for local communities in shaping priorities and programme interventions.

\(^\text{10}\) See Trócaire Conflict Analysis Guide for guidance on how to conduct a conflict analysis: [Trócaire Conflict Analysis Guide](#)
4.1 INDIVIDUAL LEVEL STRATEGIES

Strategies at the individual level are primarily focused on supporting women, youth, and influential leaders to understand the rights of communities to live in peace and build their knowledge and skills in conflict resolution and dialogue so they can play an active role in contributing to wider community level conflict management and peacebuilding processes. Planting the Seeds of Peace and Binding, Connecting and Bridging (BCB) are two key approaches proposed at this level.

4.1.1. Conflict Analysis, Trust Building and Conflict Resolution skills training with youth:
Planting the Seeds of Peace is an approach which seeks to transfer knowledge and skills on conflict analysis, trust building, reconciliation, and forgiveness to young people between 20-30 years of age living in urban and rural towns where Trócaire programmes are operating. Participating youth are supported to become future peace ambassadors who promote peaceful co-existence among communities and the use of nonviolent methods to address conflict. Activities include: capacity strengthening in conflict resolution skills; exchange and learning visits between youths pursuing peace; youth peace dialogues to de-escalate tensions; and sporting/music/cultural events that promote peace messages. Youth associations and other youth led civil society groups are potential actors to engage in this strategy. An example of this strategy is the work of Cafod and Trócaire with youth in cattle camps in South Sudan who are supported to develop and disseminate peace messages within their communities.

4.1.2. Livelihoods opportunities for youth and women in conflict-affected and post-conflict communities: Trócaire’s nexus approach involves interventions that target the underlying socio-economic factors that can contribute to conflict or prevent peace. Youth at risk of acting as 'peace spoilers' are supported with livelihoods and market opportunities, for example, contextually appropriate vocational training such as masonry, carpentry, baking, and tailoring. Women’s economic empowerment and access to resources is recognised as a prerequisite for building more peaceful and resilient communities. Programmes should provide women affected by conflict with the knowledge, skills and technology to increase and diversify their income. Activities can include: vocational training and support in areas of interest to women; supporting small-scale entrepreneurial work in the informal sector and formal sector; supporting capacity-building opportunities for women-led producer groups and cooperatives.

4.1.3. Building Social Cohesion — women, youth and community leaders: CRS implements the 3B peacebuilding methodology (Binding, Bonding and Bridging). It is an approach that helps groups, organizations and communities to consider disagreements and disputes, find common ground, collaborate for mutual benefit, and envision a harmonious future. The multi-level training programme involves three phases: Binding, Bonding (or connecting) and Bridging. Binding training is provided to members within each community to reflect on their personal attitudes and behaviours to explore and break down stereotypes and prejudices, build awareness of and respect for the “other” and recognise differences that can promote peace or exacerbate conflict. Participants design and deliver personal action plans to model positive behaviours within their family/household and community to deescalate conflict and promote peace. Examples of actions include replicating peace awareness training within their wider community or group. Bonding (sometimes called Connecting) training is provided to strengthen or rebuild relations within a community or group, preparing them for substantive engagement with the “other.” Bridging training targets the community or group leaders of rival groups with a safe space to broker positive relationships and to develop skills and undertake formal conflict resolution and mediation.

11. See Trócaire-CAFOD, South Sudan Peacebuilding Background Paper
12. See Trócaire Women’s Empowerment Integration Framework
The aim is to support members of conflicting groups within a community/village to come together to agree and define common peace **values and objectives** to establish positive relationships, to promote social cohesion, and to transform group dynamics from violence towards the peaceful settlement of disputes and conflict. Action plans are developed and implemented and often include ‘connector projects’ which aim to provide a shared benefit to both communities or groups (see Strategy 5.2.3.).

### 4.2. Community Level Strategies

Strategies at the community level build on those targeting the individual level. Interventions should seek to **build local capacities for peace** by engaging a range of community stakeholders (village elders, youth leaders, women leaders, church leaders, local authorities) to address conflict in a fair and transparent manner. Conducting a robust **conflict analysis** with and within target communities is a critical foundation and first step for engaging stakeholders.

**4.2.1. Nexus approach**\(^{14}\): Trócaire and partners implement development and/or humanitarian interventions within communities pursuing peace to address socio-economic challenges which can generate and sustain conflict. Nexus work also involves integrating the message of peace within existing development and humanitarian actions. Trócaire’s Durable Peace programme in Myanmar delivers a range of interventions including support for durable solutions, resilient livelihoods, social cohesion, and gender equality. Trócaire’s programme in DRC is an example of ‘double nexus’ (Development-Peace) work to promote women’s social and economic empowerment and women’s participation in peacebuilding.

**4.2.2. Connector Projects**: Connector projects serve as a tool to link peace interventions with development and humanitarian assistance and build social cohesion at community level. They are initiatives that provide opportunities and incentives for sustained interactions between diverse groups, particularly those divided by conflict or tensions, and are jointly designed, led and implemented by them for mutual benefit\(^{15}\). This strategy is particularly useful to support the building of social cohesion in contexts not yet ready to work explicitly on peacebuilding (e.g. Syria). An example of a connector project implemented by Trócaire is the SIDA funded peace farms initiative in DRC, targeting women in Djugu and Mambasa, where there is conflict between cattle herders and farmers. The peace farms provide a critical forum for the women to discuss inter-ethnic conflict and to promote peaceful communities, as well as promoting women’s farming, women’s economic empowerment, women’s property ownership and a reduction of gender-based violence (see Case Study A in Annex). Connector Projects can produce positive peace and social cohesion dividends to improved economic opportunities for disadvantaged populations, enhanced contact and interactions between different groups who come together in these joint ventures, and through the reduction of grievances linked to perceptions of distrust.

**4.2.3. Establishing and strengthening local mechanisms for managing conflict**: There may be local capacities for peace such as traditional/indigenous or grassroots conflict resolution mechanisms and it is important to identify and build on such local capacities. If these mechanisms do not exist, or have been significantly weakened, then Trócaire and partners can play a constructive role in establishing local community peace structures comprising a wide range of actors and reflective of community diversities. Whether already established structures or new Peace Committees, they can be supported and motivated with training on conflict prevention, conflict mediation and conflict resolution. Local peace structures can identify conflict issues, convene community peace consultations, devise mitigating measures, manage conflict early warning and early response mechanisms, and monitor

---

\(^{14}\) See Trócaire [Humanitarian - Development - Peace Nexus Guidelines and Framework](https://www.trocaire.org/docs/tr bona_2023_06_30.pdf)

the implementation of local peace resolutions and action plans. For example, in South Sudan, Trócaire is working with our local partners TOCH (The Organisation for Children Harmony) and POF (Peacebuilding Opportunities Fund) to support community-led peace dialogues, bringing armed youth from the cattle camps together with local chiefs with the aim of diffusing tensions, de-escalating conflict, and creating conditions for peaceful cattle migration to pasture and water points in Rumbek and Tonj (See Case Study C in Annex).

4.2.4. Building conflict early warning and response mechanisms: Research\textsuperscript{16} concludes that effective conflict early warning and early response mechanisms have: i) accurate, consistent and timely information, from a wide range of sources; ii) the ability to effectively monitor the changing conflict dynamics on multiple levels; iii) a good understanding of the local context and long-term trends; iv) participation and ownership by a range of actors, including women; v) involvement of local actors with good local knowledge leading to timely, sensitive and adequate responses to incidents, which built trust and confidence among actors involved at different levels; and vi) social cohesion at the community level and a will for peace on the part of the people involved. Trócaire programmes support community peace structures and women-centred groups to work with community leaders and (where appropriate) state actors when designing and implementing conflict early warning and response mechanisms. Developing a gender responsive EWRM means ensuring the equal participation of women and men in early warning processes and the inclusion of gender-sensitive indicators based on context specific research into gender and conflict dynamics or by ensuring the initial conflict analysis (see Strategy 5.2.1.) for the programme includes a strong gender dimension.

4.2.5. Engaging Women and Girls in Peacebuilding: Programmes should seek to support women and adolescent girls and their representative groups and movements to have voice and influence within community peace structures and processes. The aim is to ensure the gendered impacts of conflict (e.g. forced marriage, sexual violence as a weapon of conflict, etc) and gender sensitive solutions to addressing conflict are integrated into community peace agendas. It can entail: training and mentoring women to be able to participate in peace processes; establishing and strengthening community-level networks of women mediators to increase the participation and profile of women mediators in conflict resolution; working to create space for women to influence and lead peace work within their communities; and ensure women’s peace agendas are included in broader peace processes. It can also mean mainstreaming gender into national and local peacebuilding priorities; engaging with the development or updating of the country-based WPS National Action Plans; preventing and responding to violence against women and girls; engaging men in the promotion of gender equality; and building gender-responsive early warning mechanisms. Ultimately this approach seeks to advance gender equality as a means of achieving better, more equitable and sustainable peace and security outcomes for all. Where capacity and resources allow, this approach includes both prevention of and response to gender-based violence.

4.2.6. Digital Peace Dialogue: Social media is an important communication tool locally and globally. Digital Peace Dialogue is a peacebuilding approach which engages youth in urban centres with access to social media to disseminate peace messages. Social media can help spread peace, encourage dialogue among people from different ethnic backgrounds and nationalities. It can affect personal perceptions on ethnicity, change attitudes, and promote tolerance and mutual understanding. Youth are trained to act as online mediators and their teams use different social media applications to support on-going conflict analysis, to strengthen channels for engaging with conflict parties, to foster greater inclusivity and to strengthen public communications for peace strategies. Activities include creating and disseminating peace content with online peace members and sharing peace photos and messages with rival groups as part of peacebuilding engagements.

\textsuperscript{16} GSDRC, Conflict early warning and early response, 2015
4.3. CIVIL SOCIETY LEVEL STRATEGIES

Trócaire programmes work through a strong, diverse, and representative civil society. Strategies support civil society actors, particularly church agencies, women centred organisations and youth organisations, to deliver high-quality, contextually appropriate work. Programmes also identify opportunities to amplify civil society voices, particularly women and youth, in key decision-making spaces regarding conflict and within peacebuilding processes.

4.3.1. Strengthening the capacity of local civil society actors to implement peace work: Trócaire is a partnership organisation and our peace work is delivered through local church and secular civil society actors, women centred organisations and youth organisations. Our local partners have the knowledge and deep understanding of local and national contexts, conflict analysis and opportunities for peace. Our programming supports local partners to consolidate and develop their technical capacities on the conflict sensitive approach, enhancing local capacities for peace and implementing direct peacebuilding activities. Trócaire facilitates the exchange of best practice and learning on peace work between partners, across countries and within our organisation.

4.3.2. Supporting local CSOs to amplify their voices on peace, inequality and to promote women’s voice in peacebuilding: Conflict analysis conducted during the design of an intervention (see 5.1.1) will identify the strategic spaces at different levels (local, regional, national) where key decisions are made that can act to escalate conflict or to achieve peace. Programmes support civil society partners, particularly women and youth, to amplify their voice and influence in these spaces to advance grass-roots and gender sensitive peace agendas.

4.4. INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL STRATEGIES

At this level, strategies should be designed to push for an institutional environment — laws, policies, services, actions— that support the imperative to end violence, promote inclusive conflict resolution and achieve durable peace. Trócaire programmes primarily target district and regional level institutional actors but, in some instances, our programmes engage with national and international level actors and processes.

4.4.1. Strengthening relationships between institutional actors and communities: This work aims to improve the responsiveness of institutions to the needs of all segments of the society; to reduce tensions and increase trust between communities and their institutions including through addressing grievances over natural resources; or promoting adhesion to national reconciliation processes. Providing training on inclusive and accountable governance and facilitating spaces for engagement between institutions and local communities will help strengthen relationships with institutions.

Peace requires that communities develop confidence in the performance and legitimacy of institutions, especially arrangements for accountability, security, and justice. Establishing functioning, inclusive, and participatory institutions is important and supporting conflict sensitive provision of public services can provide a critical entry point for Trócaire’s peace work with institutional actors. For example, in Sierra Leone Trócaire is undertaking work with the police to promote constructive engagement with youth involved in protests and demonstrations.

4.4.2 Linking local peace initiatives with national, regional, and international peace processes: Programmes should explore strategic opportunities for the voices of local peacebuilders, particularly women and youth, to be meaningfully included in national and (where appropriate) international peace processes. The potential to leverage the use of digital space to amplify local voices to global levels in order to influence policies and
practice that support peace can be considered. Where the opportunity arises, we can influence decision makers through policy submissions, contributions to conferences, and sharing research and evaluations to make the case for peace by drawing on evidence from our programmes in conflict affected contexts.

**4.4.3. Advocacy:** Where appropriate, we will seek to address root causes of conflict through advocacy. Trócaire promotes a Citizen Monitoring and Advocacy (CMA) approach with partner organisations who seek to empower and mobilise communities affected by conflict to be effective advocates with duty-bearers to ensure security as a prelude to peace, to lobby institutions for negotiated solutions to conflict situations, to create strategic entry points for participation in peace initiatives led by authorities and to monitor peace agreements or put in place durable solutions. Specific peace advocacy events (if deemed appropriate) can include policy roundtables between civil society actors, communities and authorities or sharing programme research on best practice regarding community-based approaches to conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

When required, Trócaire can facilitate connections between different partner organisations, by supporting civil society coalitions, networks, and alliances and, where Trócaire has access to policy and decision-making spaces, by creating opportunities for partner voice and influence. There are times – depending on the context, programme objectives and partner expectations where Trócaire actively engages in advocacy in a programme country through research, developing policy positions informed by partner experience and through collaborative advocacy with partners in a variety of spaces such as INGO fora, Humanitarian Country Teams (HCT), Embassies, the UN, or the EU.

---

5. RESOURCES

Links to all resources to support the implementation of this framework can be found below.

Contact Majok Mon Mareec, Trócaire Conflict Sensitivity and Peace Building Advisor at majokmon.mareec@trocaire.org for more information on any of the issues relating to conflict sensitivity and peace building.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Web Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict</td>
<td>WB &amp; UN, 2018</td>
<td><a href="https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/4c36fca6-c7e0-5927-b171-468b0b236b59">https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/4c36fca6-c7e0-5927-b171-468b0b236b59</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Peace Building Pathways (Wheel)</td>
<td>Kroc Institute, Lederach &amp; Mansfield</td>
<td><a href="https://kroc.nd.edu/alumni/strategic-peacebuilding-pathways/">https://kroc.nd.edu/alumni/strategic-peacebuilding-pathways/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ties that Bind, Building Social Cohesion in Divided Communities</td>
<td>CRS, 2017</td>
<td>crs_ties_rev-08-03-2017_web.pdf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Web Link</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connector Projects Approach</td>
<td>CRS, 2021</td>
<td>21os-487852_crs_cnp_english_final_online.pdf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict Analysis Guide: - a key step to quality conflict sensitive programming</td>
<td>Trócaire, 2022</td>
<td>Trócaire Conflict Analysis Guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peacebuilding ICSP Indicator Guidance</td>
<td>Trócaire 2023</td>
<td><a href="https://trocaire.app.box.com/s/ro3zzoinpi8rb1d8zrgvfjigh7o4epxj">https://trocaire.app.box.com/s/ro3zzoinpi8rb1d8zrgvfjigh7o4epxj</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do No Harm Guidance Note</td>
<td>Trócaire, 2020</td>
<td>Do No Harm Approach</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conflict happens when parties have, or believe they have, incompatible goals and interests. Parties can be institutions or individuals (men or women). Conflict is a natural part of change in any society. It is not necessarily negative and may result in positive change. Conflict is negative when violence is used to manage (perceived) incompatible goals and interests. Conflict mostly emanates from factors related to identity or resources or the use/misuse of power.

Conflict Management is the practice of identifying and managing conflicts sensibly, fairly, and efficiently. It is the process of dealing with (perceived) incompatibilities or disagreements arising from, for example, diverging opinions, objectives, and needs.

Conflict mitigation includes all actions and processes that 1) are sensitive to conflict and do not increase tensions or sources of violence; and 2) aim to address causes of conflict and change the way that those involved act and perceive the issues. Humanitarian, recovery, and development activities are reviewed for their effect on the conflict context in which they take place and their contribution to longer-term peace and stability. Conflict mitigation approaches can be used for conflict prevention and interventions in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Conflict prevention is a diplomatic approach that refers to a variety of activities and strategies within peacebuilding fields that are deployed to pre-empt and subsequently neutralise potential triggers to widespread violent conflict.

Conflict resolution can be defined as the informal or formal process that two or more parties use to find a peaceful solution to their dispute.

Conflict Transformation is the art of turning animosity, hatred, and domination into a spirit of collaboration, creativity, partnership, and community.

Nexus refers to the interlinkages between humanitarian, development, and peace actions. This refers to the double or triple nexus. The double nexus refers to linkages between development and humanitarian actions.

Nexus approach refers to the strengthening of collaboration, coherence, and complementarity of development, humanitarian, and peace engagements. The approach seeks to harness the comparative advantages of each of the three nexus pillars (humanitarian, development, and peace) relative to their respective relevance within a specific context. The overall aim of a nexus approach is to reduce overall vulnerability and the number of unmet needs, strengthen risk management capacities and address root causes of conflict.

Peacebuilding is a people-centred approach applied in crisis-stricken contexts to address root causes of conflict and to contribute to long term transformative change. Peacebuilding is a long-term process of encouraging people to talk, repair relationships, and reform institutions. Transforming relationships is key to putting an end to violence.

Conflict sensitivity is a fundamental component of peacebuilding programming, which aims to minimise negative consequences, maximise positive impact, reduce harm, and contribute to sustainable peace. Trócaire recommends that country programmes conduct a conflict analysis to inform programming, encourage programme adaptation, and avoid doing harm.
Conflict analysis is a systematic study of conflict causes, actors, dynamic, and profile in conflict setting.

Development includes longer-term development programming that addresses the underlying and structural causes of poverty and inequality. Trócaire adopts a rights-based approach. We believe empowerment, participation and accountability are essential to the achievement of justice and human rights for the most excluded and to addresses structural issues that drive poverty and inequality and undermine rights and accountability.

Integrating peace programming aims to target the same community or region with multiple layers of humanitarian, development and peace programming planned from the start. This is currently being implemented in DRC and Ethiopia, Myanmar, and South Sudan programmes with the support of a resilience team targeting activities across the pillars in the same community.

Humanitarian includes emergency response (including emergency food aid, emergency relief and relief coordination); reconstruction, relief, and rehabilitation; and prevention and preparedness.

Conflict affected states are states with active conflict where we fund significant humanitarian needs.

Post conflict affected states are states that have emerged from an active conflict situation but require the building of lasting peace.
CASE STUDY A: PEACE FARMS- A CONNECTOR PROJECT IN DRC

Contributing to peaceful and gender equitable communities in Mambasa and Djugu Territories, Ituri Province, DRC through fostering women’s social and economic empowerment as well as their protection from SGBV.

Summary: Trócaire and partners CARS, FOMI and FECONDE have established 27 peace farms with vulnerable women and girls from the Lendu and Hema tribes in Djugu and Mambasa territories in Ituri province of the DRC. Women and girls learn new farming skills whilst discussing women’s rights, gender-based violence and the value of women’s voices in achieving peaceful communities.
For several centuries, the Hema and the Lendu, Ituri’s two main ethnic communities, have been fighting for access to land, mineral resources and local power. The Lendu are largely farmers, while the Hema are traditionally herders. Since December 2017, violence has escalated leaving thousands dead and half a million displaced. The violence is mostly perpetrated by militias but groups of youths have also got involved. The inter-communal tensions and recurrent attacks by armed groups have significantly impacted communities, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities including extreme poverty, food insecurity and forced displacement. Women and girls are particularly impacted by the violent conflict due to heightened levels of sexual and gender-based violence and disrupted access to land and other natural resources, crucial for income generation and food security. In the midst of all this, families must continue to strive for their living.

The peace farms are an example of a ‘connector project’. This piece of work is both at the level of community and civil society. Women and girls from both communities are brought together to collectively learn new farming skills, to interact and build positive relations with each other, and to discuss women rights, gender-based violence and the value of women’s voices in achieving peaceful communities, and the dangers of young people being recruited into militia groups. The peace farms provide women and girls with a glimpse of sustainable peace and its socio-economic benefits in conflict affected areas of DRC. They also provide a critical space to promote women’s participation in local peacebuilding in a context where women and girls are traditionally excluded from these spaces and processes. The peace farms have contributed to building social cohesion between the two communities, even in the face of conflict and ongoing displacement. As a result of this project, tensions between Lendu and Hema tribes have been deescalated and there are signs of women taking leadership roles, including initiating a community dialogue between conflicting communities to reach amicable solutions.

**Good Practice and Lessons:**

- Working with women-led organisations (FOMI, FECONDE) proved an effective entry point for engaging women and promoting women in leadership roles.

- Blending socio-economic empowerment with peacebuilding activities was widely accepted by both communities, supporting them to enhance their resilience and to address common problems of poverty and hunger.

- Given the material value placed on the peace farms (peace dividends) by both communities, the peace farms provide an alternative platform for women to participate in local peacebuilding efforts.
CASE STUDY B: INTER-CHURCH COMMITTEE AND PEACE DIALOGUES IN YIROL SOUTH SUDAN

Community Peace Dialogue in Yirol: Forget the past and open a new page

Summary: Trócaire and the Organisation for Children’s Harmony (TOCH) have been working alongside the Inter-Church Committee and women’s groups to build local capacities for peace in Yirol East County, South Sudan. A three-day peace dialogue in November 2019 between Kuanythii and Kuanydit clans resulted in the signing of peace resolutions to end the violent conflict, to agree reparations and to equitably and peacefully share grazing land and water catchments between the two communities.

South Sudan case study falls under peacebuilding intervention in fragile and conflict affected areas.

Context: In Yirol East County of South Sudan, the conflict between the Kuanythii and Kuanydit clans, primarily fueled by competition for scarce natural resources (land for grazing and water), has been a key source of communal violence since 2018. The conflict has involved violent confrontations and revenge killings, with the heavy loss of life across both communities.

Approach: The Inter Church Committee (ICC) a fellowship body under the South Sudan Council of Churches, together with Trócaire’s partner TOCH, initiated a community level peace dialogue between the Kuanythii and Kuanydit clans in November 2019. This work involved three levels of actors: community, civil society and institutional. The peace dialogue was co-organised and attended by the community elders, chiefs, church leaders of both communities and Payam administrators and State Government officials. The central theme for the intensive three-day dialogue was ‘Forgiveness and Reconciliation’.
The dialogue resulted in the signing of peace resolutions to end the conflict which included reparations/compensation for the killing of community members during the violent conflict. The resolutions also delivered durable peace solutions including an agreement on shared grazing land and water catchments. Since the signing of the resolutions, the two communities have been peacefully co-existing, inter-marriages between the two clans have been taking place and both communities have improved their socio-economic conditions as households can tend to their farms without the fear of violence.

**GOOD PRACTICE AND LESSONS:**

- Church actors are (often) viewed as impartial actors in conflicts. The Inter-Church Committee was accepted by both clans to lead the organisation and facilitation of the peace dialogue, ensuring both parties to the conflict trusted the process.

- In addition to targeting influential leaders in both communities, the ICC directly engaged victims of the conflict on both sides. The victim-centered approach, both in terms of their active participation in the peace dialogue and the inclusion of reparations in the resulting peace resolutions, proved effective in resolving the conflict in a sustainable manner.

- The process of preparing for and undertaking the peace dialogue built local capacity for conflict resolution. The knowledge and skills developed by leaders and victims in both communities during the process acts to enhance their resilience and ability to peacefully resolve future conflicts.
CASE STUDY C: YOUTH AND THE DINKA AGAAR ANNUAL CATTLE MIGRATION CONFERENCE IN RUMBEK

2nd Annual Dinka Agaar Internal Cattle Migration Conference: ‘Together Let us unite against violence’

Summary: Trócaire’s partner Peace Canal supported a youth-led peacebuilding initiative to tackle cattle migration-related conflict between three counties in Rumbek, South Sudan. The Dinka Aggar Cattle Migration Conference, the first of its kind, was held in December 2021 and is now an annual event and conflict mitigation measure.

Context: Rumbek Centre, Rumbek, and Rumbek North Counties in Lakes state had experienced persistent and unprecedented violence for over a decade. The conflict centred around a cycle of cattle raiding, revenge killing, and competition over grazing areas for livestock. Movement between the three counties was hindered by an intensified spate of revenge killings and an increase in roadside ambushes and theft by armed youths.

Approach: Trócaire in partnership with Peace Canal supported the Dinka Agaar Annual Cattle Migration Conference in December 2021. This work also combines three levels of engagements: community, civil society and institutional level actors. The conference brought together communities from the three counties of Rumbek Central, Rumbek East and North County with the overall aim of preventing conflict during the cattle migration period. More than two hundred people attended the three-day conference, including cattle camp youth, women, chiefs, traditional Spear Masters, state representatives and local authorities, UNMISS, and civil society organisations.
A total of 27 peace resolutions were signed by chiefs and authorities, ensuring safe passage during cattle migration to the lowland areas that offer water catchments and pastures. Since the conference, communities in Rumbek have enjoyed a peaceful cattle migration season, the equitable sharing of grazing lands and water catchments and an end to violent cattle raids and attacks. Local peace committees supported by Peace Canal proactively mitigate conflict through acting as an interlocutor for the peaceful return of livestock when theft occurs. The internal cattle migration committee (ICMMC) which was formed after the conference regulates the peaceful movement of cattle from lower to upper swamp areas. According to Peace Canal, the conference has impacted on peace conditions in Lakes state-Rumbek, saying that this approach proved to be a useful model of peacebuilding for communities in dispute over natural resources.

The cattle migration conference in South Sudan represents a peacebuilding intervention and a conflict sensitive approach.

GOOD PRACTICE AND LESSONS:

• The proactive engagement of youth as peace spoilers was crucial to achieving positive outcomes in the Rumbek conflict. Through the process of planning and participating in the Cattle Migration Conference youth are empowered to transform their role in conflict to become peace actors. It is important to identify the entry-points with youth before engaging them. In the case of Rumbek, the local chiefs in each community were crucial in influencing youth to stop violent behaviours and to engage in the peaceful migration of cattle.

• Building and strengthening community-based structures is crucial for sustaining peace. Both the local peace committees and the internal cattle migration committee continue to play a key role in conflict prevention, conflict mitigation and conflict resolution in Rumbek.

• Community leaders have taken ownership of peace initiative, and continue to promote the resolutions made by the community at the conference.