



# Security, reconstruction and peace

## Peacebuilding and conflict transformation

### The challenge

In many countries of the world, social, economic or political inequality, perceived injustice and polarising narratives have led to domestic crises and violent conflicts. These crises and conflicts inflict immense human suffering, worsen poverty, trigger displacement and expulsion and weaken the state, civil society and the economy. More than 1.5 billion people live in countries affected by fragility, conflicts and violence.

Conflicts such as those affecting Syria and Burundi can rapidly reverse years of development progress and block future economic, social and environmental development. For that reason, it is important to prevent conflicts from escalating into violence, address their structural causes and support their transformation through policies for peace.

### Our approach

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH applies innovative strategies and methods that build its partners' capacities to address the causes of conflicts, fragility and violence, to manage conflicts non-violently, e. g. through peace processes, and to create an enabling environment for peaceful and inclusive development. In this context, GIZ supports prevention, stabilisation and transformation in post-conflict settings and the establishment of stabilising structures for civil conflict management.

GIZ follows the German Government's 2017 *Guidelines on Preventing Crises, Resolving Conflicts, Building Peace* and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the United Nations in 2015. Peace is one of the five core principles identified in the Agenda and is addressed as one of its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Peaceful societies are fundamental to the Agenda's implementation.

By offering strategies tailored to the individual setting, GIZ ensures that its projects and programmes are implemented in a conflict-sensitive manner and do not unintentionally escalate conflicts.

### Our services

**Peace processes:** GIZ assists partner governments and other institutions and groups involved in these processes to prepare, adopt and implement peace agreements, as in Mali, for example.

### Dialogue, mediation and civil conflict transformation:

GIZ supports dialogue processes between conflict parties and between governmental and civil society groups, which in many cases are conflict parties themselves. It also builds local stakeholders' conflict transformation and mediation capacities. Conflict advisors support peace engagement by governmental and non-governmental organisations in the partner countries and help them to develop the necessary institutional capacities.

**Transitional justice and dealing with the past:** When a society is emerging from conflict, it not only has to build the future: it must also learn how to deal with the legacy of past violence. GIZ supports the development of institutions tasked with investigating human rights abuses and assisting victims and survivors to gain access to justice. It also provides capacity building for organisations that offer psychosocial counselling to ex-combatants, for example, or support their reintegration into society. Here, it is also important to promote structural reforms that facilitate more equitable distribution of and access to resources for the public at large.



**Preventing violence:** Together with governmental and non-governmental partners, GIZ develops practical strategies to prevent and reduce all forms of violence – from domestic violence to armed conflicts over resource distribution – at local and regional level.

**Peace education:** GIZ assists its partners to develop peace education strategies and supports their delivery in formal and non-formal educational settings.

**Conflict-sensitive journalism:** GIZ supports the development of journalists' knowledge and skills as a means of ensuring that the media play a constructive role in mediating conflicts by identifying their causes and facilitating their transformation.

**Environmental and resource conflicts, resource governance:** GIZ assists competing users of natural resources to negotiate inclusive and transparent resource management structures in a non-violent manner.

**Context and conflict sensitivity:** GIZ informs its partners about methods that will enable them to work conflict-sensitively in fragile contexts while safeguarding the safety and security of staff and property. The primary goal is to avoid unintended negative impacts on the conflict.

GIZ is a recognised peacebuilding stakeholder with a good network of contacts. Besides, it is also an implementing organisation for the Civil Peace Service (CPS), which deploys peacebuilding and conflict management experts to partner countries.

## An example of GIZ's work

In Colombia, decades of clientelism, corruption, drug cultivation and trafficking and quasi-civil war clashes have weakened state and society. In 2016, the government signed a peace agreement with FARC, the largest guerrilla organisation.

PROPAZ, a peacebuilding programme funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the European Union (EU), addresses the structural causes of the conflict, with a particular focus on building the capacities of local governments and civil society partners in conflict-affected regions to implement the peace agreement. GIZ pursues an inclusive and holistic approach:

- » it promotes inclusive dialogue processes to support the planning, implementation and embedding of local peacebuilding and violence prevention initiatives;
- » it assists public authorities to draw up joint guidelines on the integration of key aspects of peace into local and regional development plans;
- » it advises the Centre for Historical Memory on the best ways to progress work on dealing with past violence and creating a culture of peace;
- » it promotes cooperation between the public prosecutor's office, the courts, the Ministry of Justice and newly established institutions responsible for investigating human rights abuses under criminal law;
- » it offers advice to the government and victim groups in order to increase efficiency and sensitivity in relation to victim Reparation and land restitution, for example;
- » it builds administrative and civil society capacities for local and regional peacebuilding.

Published by:  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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Eschborn 2020