

Counteracting conflict risks

Civil Peace Service strengthens local and national potentials for peace

Project name	Systemic strengthening and linking of local and national potentials for peace in a post -conflict phase
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Kathmandu and all 7 provinces of Nepal
Partner Organisations	All People's Development Centre (APEC); Conflict Victim Committee Bardiya (CVC Bardiya); Human Rights Forum Nepal (HURF), Mandala Theatre- Nepal, Pro Public, The Story Kitchen (TSK), Youth Peace Council (YPC); Kopila Nepal, National Network for Disabled Conflict Victims (NNDCV)
Duration	2018 - 2021

The context

More than a decade after the end of the armed conflict and the signing of the 'Comprehensive Peace Agreement' and just a few years after adopting a new constitution in 2015, which paved the way for elections and federalism in 2017, Nepali society still holds significant risks of conflict. The transitional justice process is incomplete, and thousands of victims are awaiting justice. A lack of functional state structures for conflict transformation and an inefficient formal judicial system leaves a large part of the population behind. Inequalities and discriminative practices are persisting.

Our objectives

In order to counteract these risks, Civil Peace Service (CPS) of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH started the project 'systematic strengthening and linking of local and national potentials for peace in a post-conflict phase'.

CPS-GIZ aims to **create spaces for nonviolent conflict transformation on local level** and **to contribute to a constructive and holistic 'dealing with the past'**.

Our approaches

CPS-GIZ cooperates with local partners and non-governmental organisations working in the areas of conflict transformation and dealing with the past.

This support is provided by seconding national and international Peace Advisors. Peace Advisors are experienced experts, who bring in technical knowledge on non-violent conflict transformation and its various tools and methods, as well as other specialist fields.

Further, CPS-GIZ supports capacity building of their partners as well as their activities in accordance to its overriding goals.

Peace Advisors are usually placed in a partner organisation on a project basis. So called thematic teams though, consisting of one national and one international Peace Advisor, are located in the CPS-GIZ program office in Lalitpur and support various organisations in a certain field.

Our thematic teams

Dealing with the past

The thematic team takes a holistic approach to dealing with the past. It works with victims' groups, and other actors, to enhance their capacities to conduct meaningful memory work that fosters intra-personal and inter-personal healing. It supports local level truth-telling, acknowledgement and memorialisation processes so that the suffering of conflict victims is acknowledged, and spaces for dialogue and reflection are created to increase public awareness about the impacts of violence and the need to address the past.

The thematic team partners with The Story Kitchen and with local and national victims' groups, Conflict Victims Common Platform (CVCP), Conflict Victims' Committee (CVC) Bardiya and National Network of Disabled Conflict Victims (NNDCV).



L. to r.: Scene from Mandala Theatre Play: "Khabar Harayeko Chitthi (Letter without any message)". (© Mandala Theatre-Nepal)

Student watching the exhibition "14 Stories" (Photo by Bhakta G.C., © ZFD Nepal)

Dialogue

The thematic team supports the creation local peace structures for dialogue by cooperating closely with local peace actors following a thorough conflict analysis. The emphasis is on capacitating dialogue facilitators and on creating dialogue forums. Through a series of dialogue events, participants learn to listen to each other on a deeper level, engage in exploration of creative solutions, and envision a common and nonviolent future. Through this, the dialogue participants are able to form relationships that bridge divides. Additionally, Thematic Team Dialogue focuses on linking partners and other dialogue implementing organisations on local and national level through regional and national forums and dialogue networks.

Partners are All People's Development Centre (APEC) and Youth Peace Council (YPC) in the southern Terai.

Our partners

Pro Public (Kathmandu)

Forum for Protection of Public Interest (Pro Public) is dedicated to working on creating government accountability, promoting equality and inclusion and capacitating local community to resolve local disputes through mediation and dialogue.

The joint partnership with CPS aims to promote a harmonious and peaceful society in Nepal by helping to strengthen Pro Public's on-going mediation program and support the transitional justice process through Nonviolent Communication and Restorative Dialogue.

Information and contact: <http://propublic.org>

Mandala Theatre (Kathmandu)

Mandala Theatre Nepal is a group of theatre activists working to bring Nepali cultural expression through theatre and to bring issues of social justice, political consciousness, human rights and conflict transformation to the forefront through creative means.

In the partnership with CPS, Mandala has been organizing various programs that support conflict transformation, dealing with the past and social transformation in Nepal. The primary objectives to do so are not only to support the underserved communities but also to make artists aware about social issues.

Information and contact: <https://www.mandalatheatre.com/>

Human Rights Forum Nepal (Ilam)

Since more than 20 years Human Rights Forum Nepal (HURF) works on several fields of human rights in the eastern part of Nepal. Subject of the cooperation with CPS is the implementation of community mediation. Community members who are trained by HURF should mediate conflicts between members of the

community voluntarily and free for charge. This ensure access to justice especially for poor people in rural areas.

Information and contact: www.hurf.org.np

Kopila Nepal (Pokhara)

Kopila Nepal works for the psychosocial wellbeing, reintegration and rehabilitation of women, who have been affected by violence. Stories of conflict survivors and survivors of severe violence are told and published. Further advocacy processes should sensitize local governments so that they will take ownership to create local structures for psychosocial work that supports victims of violence, their families and communities.

Information and contact: <http://kopilanepl.org.np/>

Our achievements

Actors who support and implement dialogue work, are linked better on national and regional level and regularly exchange their lessons learnt.

Local political leaders have a better understanding of their roles in the new local judicial system. They use and support mediation and nonviolent communication in their communities.

Civilian conflict survivors who were made disabled during the armed conflict were able to share their stories in safe spaces and experience personal healing processes. Their stories, which were published and observed by more than 4000 people all over Nepal could contribute to the political visibility of people with disabilities.

The "International Theatre Festival for Social Transformation" in Nepal reached more than 10000 people with their 27 plays and several workshops. Theatre activists and audience were able to experience the importance to address socio-politically relevant issues through arts, while preserving their own culture in the plays.

Civil Peace Service – in German: Ziviler Friedensdienst (ZFD) – is the name of a world wide operating program funded by the German Government. It is aimed at preventing violence and promoting peace in crisis zones and conflict regions.

CPS is part of a consortium of nine German peace and development organisations, which runs CPS together with local partners. It supports people on the ground in their commitment for dialogue, human rights and peace on a long-term basis. CPS seconds experts to assist local partner organisations. Currently, more than 300 international Peace Advisors are active in 42 countries.

In Nepal the CPS consortium members Kurve Wustrow, Peace Brigades International, Brot für die Welt and GIZ are active. Together they have developed a common strategy formulated on the basis of a shared conflict analysis

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