

NOW IS OUR TIME

To Take Action for Peace

2019 Annual Report

Nonviolent  Peaceforce



NONVIOLENT PEACEFORCE

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend,

Because of you, 2019 was a year of growth for Nonviolent Peaceforce and promoting unarmed approaches to decrease violent conflict and create conditions for lasting peace. You and I are witness to the ineffectiveness of militarized and weaponized responses and *Now is Our Time* to show that there is a new way forward. The need for new approaches and innovation has become even more essential as we face the unprecedented challenge of a global pandemic in 2020.

Now is Our Time to lean into building peace—grassroots, community-led. Peace from the bottom up. And prevention from the bottom up. The efforts you've supported to build peace are the same efforts needed to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Our teams and community leaders became trusted messengers dispelling myths about the virus, ensuring adequate wash stations in displacement camps, and facilitating medical assistance when needed.

The stories you'll read in this annual report—the programs you made possible—are rooted in community, relationship, resilience, and nonviolence. Whether it's training youth to put down their weapons; speaking out at Congress or preparing women to speak out against violence, *Now is Our Time* to take action for peace.

We are so grateful to you for your unwavering support.



Tiffany Easthom
Executive Director, Nonviolent Peaceforce

Board of Directors and Senior Staff (As of January 2020)

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Head of Mission, Philippines

Tanya Walmsley
Head of Mission, Iraq

Thiago Wolfer*
Deputy Director, South Sudan

*Thiago was Deputy Director in 2019 and Head of Mission



Because of generous supporters like you, our peacekeepers protect civilians in some of the most dangerous places on this planet. Above is a photo of members from our Iraq team showing their appreciation. *Thank you!*



WHO IS NONVIOLENT PEACEFORCE?



Right now, civilians are displaced and dying from the violent conflicts that plague so many parts of the world. **Now is our time to take action for peace.**

Nonviolent Peaceforce prevents violence, protects civilians, promotes peace, and saves lives. With the support of private individuals and government institutions, we recruit, train and employ civilians to live and work in communities experiencing violent conflict.



Why nonviolence?

It takes unarmed civilians to break the cycle of violence and show other ways of handling conflict.

The methods and philosophy of unarmed civilian protection can help break these cycles of violence and contribute to the protection of civilians and prevention of violence.

Together we can...

- Save lives
- Foster relationships
- Keep communities in place
- Reduce violence
- Facilitate humanitarian work
- Support local communities



Now is our time... to establish best practices.

In 2019, Nonviolent Peaceforce convened unarmed civilian protection (UCP) practitioners, field partners, beneficiaries, and academics from or working in North America (Canada, the U.S. and the U.S./Mexico border), to reflect on their work.

While not as widespread as in some other regions, UCP has had unique developments and applications in North America, often in urban settings.

One of the most frequently asked questions when Nonviolent Peaceforce representatives speak to groups in the US is “When can you do this work in our area?” This question becomes more urgent as political divisions become harsher and are expressed more violently in the US. The lessons learned from the groups working in North America can be

documented and shared with community groups who are facing increasing violence.

Good practices identified during the Good Practices Workshop will benefit groups working in other parts of the world especially as they deal with urban violence, gang warfare, increasing refugees, indigenous oppression, and exploitive resource extraction. Now is the time to act on our collective knowledge.

Goals of the Good Practices Workshops

- Identify and validate UCP good practices
- Improve current fieldwork of UCP groups
- Document and widely share these practices that can be replicated and scaled-up
- Create a UCP community of practice



Since 2017, Nonviolent Peaceforce has held regional workshops in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. In 2019, we held our North American workshop, and we are looking forward to reporting on our 2020 Latin American and European workshops!

- 53 countries represented
- 109 organizations
- 147 total participants (85 women participants)





And ... 4,428 civilians in South Sudan were trained in unarmed protection and nonviolent ways to resolve conflict!



- **20,136 people supported at distribution sites for humanitarian aid**
- **21,282 people protected through patrols and presence**
- **13,167 individuals equipped with knowledge on gender-based violence**

Now is our time...

to support the next generation of peacebuilders in *South Sudan*.

November 12 came and went with no change, no steps toward lasting peace. This was the due date for major changes to be in place for a transitional government. Instead, a 100-day reprieve extended any decision-making to the middle of the dry season, peak fighting time.

Meanwhile, communities are learning to co-exist in peace. Especially youth, who are learning to resolve conflict without arms. There is still hope.

You helped form and support a Youth Protection Team in Rumbek. Youth gather once a week for training and to plan how they can reduce violence in their communities. They challenge and hold each other accountable. A month ago one of the young men skipped the training so he could

participate in cattle raiding in the neighboring cattle camp. He was killed that night.

The next week the Youth Protection team gathered. They talked about their friend's death. They challenged each other about revenge. They talked about never ending violence. They understood that revenge would bring more revenge. They decided not to retaliate.

Your impact is clear. Your support helps youth to build a future where peace is possible and there are options other than revenge.

Men choosing a different response contrary to historical and cultural practices amplifies hope. While official peace talks will proceed on multiple levels, these small, profound acts of courage and compassion carried out time and time again by youth and women and men weave the indelible threads of transformation to a country of peace.



Now is our time...

to support grassroots efforts for peace in Myanmar.

Civilian-led peace processes are more sustainable for a community's stability in the long-run. That's why at Nonviolent Peaceforce, we prioritize training locals to come up with their own solutions to conflict.

Ny* is one of our training participants in Myanmar. She is learning to protect herself and others and build community resilience to address violent conflict.

In 2019, armed conflict escalated in northern Shan, where Ny is from. There was gunfire exchanged between two armed groups and many people fled. But Ny stood her ground and helped rescue a civilian who was caught in the armed conflict. A family fled and left behind their elderly mother, who was hiding in the trenches. She had

vision problems and couldn't see well. The family approached Ny for help. Ny was able to intervene and talk with both armed groups involved in the fight.

Because Ny felt confident enough to get involved, this mother was rescued. Ny felt that she had built more trust with the community, especially since the mother was from a different ethnic group. This is non-partisanship at work.

In 2020, Ny wants to bring more awareness to civilian protection, especially among armed groups and the government. She also wants to support villagers affected by armed conflict by helping them come up with a response plan they can follow when conflict arises.

Your support equips civilians like Ny to take action against violent conflict.

*Pseudonym



"I want to see Myanmar as a peaceful country where people from all ethnicities and backgrounds live and work together in harmony." - Emerging Woman Leader





***Now is our time...
to join together in the
name of peace in Iraq.***

Displaced Iraqi civilians are desperately struggling to rebuild their lives in the midst of ongoing violence and displacement. Humanitarian aid groups have difficulty keeping up with the need and changes on the ground. It is in this context that Nonviolent Peaceforce organized a meeting of religious and community leaders to discuss the perception of safety and security in the displacement camps. The topics of people returning to their areas of origin and knowledge of the Al-Ayadiyah peace agreement were covered as well.

The Committee members are very concerned about the safety of their fellow Iraqis. They want to protect civilians, support laws that

were already in place and encourage displaced people to return home. They want peaceful co-existence in their schools, community, and religious centers. These are local leaders who seldom receive media attention, but are coming together to determine how to better protect civilians.

The Committee resolved to diversify their team by bringing in more women, a mix of Sunni and Shia religious figures and displaced Iraqis.

They plan to continue to support the peace agreement and take action for peace.

NP plans to continue supporting the Committee to include the voices and opinions of the people most affected by the conflict. Local community leadership will come up with their own solutions to build and maintain peace. Your support makes it possible for NP to stand with and support religious and community members.





Now is our time...

to put down guns in the Philippines.

Junaid was a combatant for an armed group in the Philippines for 17 years. He believed that waging war was his spiritual obligation.

But that's changed. Now, he wants to improve the lives of the people around him. He wants to help build his community up, instead of tearing it down.

With your support, NP has equipped ex-combatants like Junaid to play a role in improving their communities.

You've given ex-combatants a new focus in life—to build their communities up rather than be someone who's involved in violence.

Thank you for helping train veterans like Junaid to apply their life skills and knowledge to be a positive member in their

community. You are standing with him as he adjusts to a life based on nonviolence and hope for the future.

“With Nonviolent Peaceforce’s training, we learn how to identify and prioritize our community’s needs and how to access assistance and services for our community,”

Junaid said while mentioning that he and his colleagues needed more training to be strong community leaders.

Thank you for showing people that another life is possible, one of waging peace and not war.

1,474 civilians protected through patrols

3,551 people in the Philippines learned how to protect themselves and others nonviolently



Now is our time...
to advocate in Congress and at the United Nations.

Good news from Washington. Amid all of the racism, divisions, and dysfunction surging through DC, unarmed civilian protection (UCP) has advanced in the Appropriation Bills for State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs.

We have had growing success at gaining institutional support with funding coming from 11 national governments, 7 UN agencies as well as the EU. The UN General Assembly and Security Council have recommended UCP in resolutions.

Getting Congress and USAID to consider both UCP and local nonviolent peacekeeping is a BIG deal!

Thank you for your loyal support in writing and calling your members of congress and senators about supporting UCP.

You're helping develop a movement of nonviolence that is resounding worldwide.

Last year, the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of Australia, Senegal, and Uruguay along with Nonviolent Peaceforce hosted a retreat for representative of member states, the UN Secretariat and several NGOs to examine UCP methods and possible contributions to the UN's work on the protection of civilians.

There was general agreement that by applying unarmed approaches in peacekeeping and other settings, missions could be more effective and efficient in implementing their mandates and expanding the UN's ability to protect civilians.

Thank you for helping us make way for greater awareness and understanding of UCP.



- **40 Public Presentations**
- **70 UN Presentations**
- **1 U.S. Congress Testimony**
- **6,939 Supporters Mobilized to Call U.S. Congress**



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

| Assets | | Net Assets | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|---|------------|
| Cash | \$3,774,000 | Accumulated Deficit Brought Forward | (\$12,000) |
| Deferred Charges | \$206,000 | Exchange Differences on Deficit Brought Forward | (\$11,000) |
| Grants Receivable | \$9,486,000 | Deficit Brought Forward | (\$23,000) |
| Property and Equipment | \$13,000 | Net Income | \$7,000 |
| Security Deposit | \$18,000 | Foundation Injection to NPI | \$41,000 |
| Total Assets | \$13,497,000 | Accumulated Income (Deficit) Carried Forward | \$26,000 |
| Liabilities | | | |
| Accounts Payable | \$2,593,000 | | |
| Accrued Charges | \$183,000 | | |
| Deferred Income | \$10,694,000 | | |
| Total Liabilities | \$13,470,000 | | |
| Net Assets/(Liabilities) | \$26,000 | | |

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

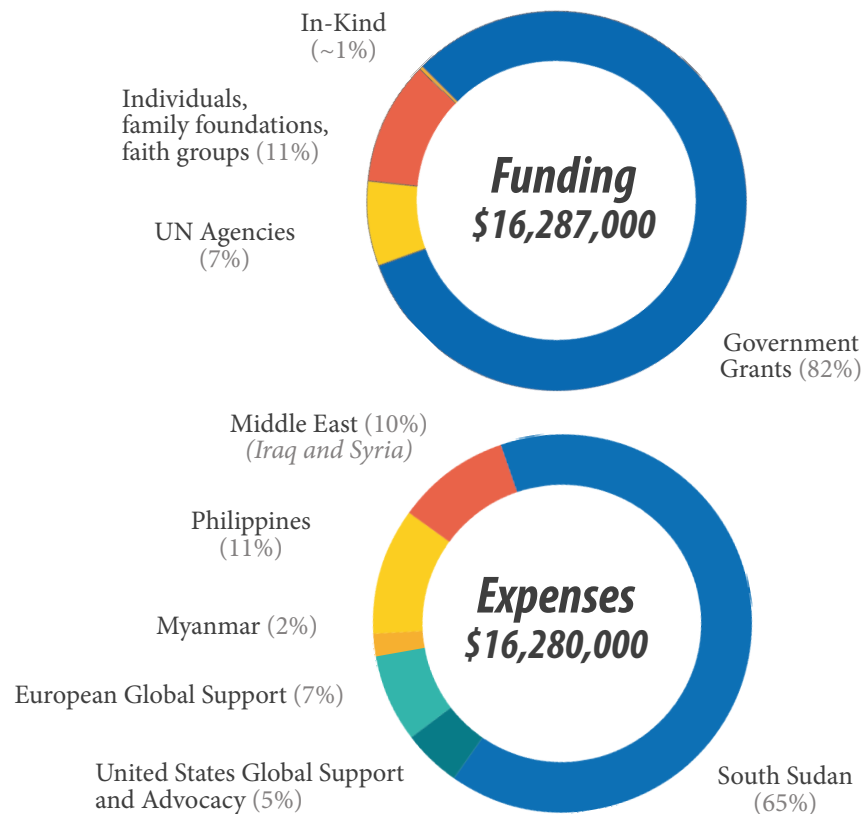
| Support and Revenue | | Expenses | |
|---|---------------------|--|---------------------|
| Support Government | \$13,351,000 | Mission Costs and Central Program Cost | \$14,686,000 |
| UN Agencies | \$1,208,000 | Central Overhead Cost | \$1,300,000 |
| Individual, Foundation and Faith Groups | \$1,725,000 | Fundraising | \$295,000 |
| In-Kind Donations | \$3,000 | | |
| Total Support and Revenue | \$16,287,000 | Total Expenses | \$16,280,000 |
| | | Net Income | \$7,000 |

FINANCIALS

Nonviolent Peaceforce international group is a nongovernmental organization comprised of four legal entities located in the USA, Belgium, France and the international headquarters in Switzerland:

- 501(c)3 in the U.S.
- Swiss Foundation
- AISBL in Brussels
- French Association de loi 1901

The financial statements in this report represent the combined revenue and expenses to provide a full picture and scope of our work. We conduct annual audits for each program site as well as the two governing bodies.



Breakdown of staff

355 total staff
December 31, 2019

337
live and work within conflict-affected communities

18
work in advocacy and administrative support

216 in South Sudan
46 in Philippines
9 in Myanmar
66 in Iraq

9 in European offices
9 in US office

53%
are international staff

47%
are nationals of the host countries

60%
are male

40%
are female or non-conforming

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Your donation helps protect civilians and transform the world's response to conflict.

The financial information covers a 12-month period (January 2019 - December 2019) for all activities implemented by Nonviolent Peaceforce. The yearly financial statements of NP legal entities are subject to audit. Audited financial statements are available at www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org/about/financials

Together, you provide safety and stability to people living in violent conflict. Go online to www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org/annualreports to view the list of the supporters of our mission.

How nonviolence has shaped us.



“What made you believe in the power of nonviolence?”

Hear what other supporters told us...

I was flabbergasted when I read strong data backed researches that proved that violence to keep violence in check, begets more violence, and how war against terrorism only creates more terrorists whereas nonviolence nipped the issue in the bud. It solved the issue comfortably by targeting the root of the problem. Nonviolence isn't a flimsy

idealistic notion. It is the most robust conflict resolution method known to mankind! - Pragma

It has seemed blatantly obvious to me forever, that there are no winners in war, if the winners are returning home damaged for life and “spreading” the effects of that trauma to their loved ones, generation after generation. There has got to be a better way to work through our disagreements. - Mary

I was taught nonviolence through my church, but it was in 7th grade that I internalized it through a situation in which a bully threatened to beat me up, and I stood up to him nonviolently and he didn't know what to do—I'd “broken the script” of violence and he was thrown off, and instead of physical violence, he ended up calling me names and leaving the scene. - Mark

A passion for history has proven to me that violence is never the answer. Reading about the war after war across continents and time has shown me that we are stuck in a vicious cycle in which millions of people have lost their lives for no reason. I want our generation to escape this cycle through education. I believe that instead of fighting, we need to educate people, particularly young people, about the importance of nonviolence. - Boroka

I witnessed the killing of people including women and children during post-election violence in 2007/2008 in Kenya. After former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan intervened and engaged the fighting groups through dialogue, peace prevailed up to today in my country of Kenya. That is why I strongly believe in non-violence when engaging controversial issues in our day to day lives. - Ken

Being around so much violence made me see that it has no power, but being nonviolent is the most powerful thing in the world to have. - Richard

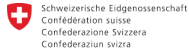
Together, we are building a community of nonviolence. Thank you!



Foreign & Commonwealth Office



Department for International Development



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra



Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



Kingdom of the Netherlands



South Sudan Humanitarian Fund



Ministry for Foreign



Affairs of Finland



Cover photo: Women's Protection Team in Juba, South Sudan



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Transforming the world's response to conflict

We protect civilians in violent conflicts through unarmed strategies. We build peace side by side with local communities. We advocate for the wider adoption of these approaches to safeguard human lives and dignity. We envision a worldwide culture of peace in which conflicts within and between communities and countries are managed through nonviolent means.

www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org

