



Nonviolent Peaceforce

SIDE BY SIDE

Innovations to Protect and Lead

2017 Annual Report

NONVIOLENT PEACEFORCE

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Protecting civilians requires innovation. Old methods of using weapons to protect civilians are not adequate for the millions of people displaced and lives lost due to ongoing conflict.

Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP)'s innovative approaches work because they are developed side by side with local communities.

Your support provides the flexibility for NP to adapt to each conflict innovating solutions as unique as each place where we work. In Syria, you empowered youth to replace gunfire with

music. In camps for people fleeing violence in Iraq, you ensured 24 hour safety with night patrols. In South Sudan, women marched for hours to confront generals about rape being used as a weapon of war. And, in North Dakota and Myanmar, you made it possible to introduce Unarmed Civilian Protection (UCP) into community building. Thank you for making these innovations possible.



Tiffany Easthom
Executive Director, Nonviolent Peaceforce

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NP's work is sustainable because communities dealing with conflict build their capacity to solve their own problems: local citizens become the agents of peacemaking.



Several diplomats have started questioning the privileging of military responses after seeing the effectiveness of our civilian protectors.

ADVOCACY

A New Look at Conflict

by Mel Duncan, Director of Advocacy and Outreach



There are now ambassadors on the [United Nations] Security Council who are suggesting that they send unarmed peacekeepers rather than armed!



A Women's Peacekeeping Team meeting in South Sudan

As I left a meeting at the United Nations (UN), a representative of a large humanitarian organization followed me. Unarmed civilian protection had been included in a UN Security Council resolution for the first time in history. “I want you to know the impact of your advocacy,” she said as she pointed her finger in my face, “There are now ambassadors on the Security Council who are suggesting that they send unarmed peacekeepers rather than armed!” This was an accusation, not appreciation.

NP plays an innovative role at the UN. Each time we bring NP

peacekeepers to speak at the UN, we advance nonviolent approaches for protecting civilians. Sadly, the word “nonviolence” is seldom uttered at the UN. When it is, it is often followed with more talk of military strength.

But we’ve made progress. Unarmed civilian protection is seeping into reports, policies and resolutions. In 2017, the UN Department of Peacekeeping’s policies on the protection of children and the role of UN police both included unarmed civilian protection. More and more we are invited to brief or consult. Now we are

**112 speaking engagements,
2 UN related documents that recognize UCP
1 briefing on unarmed approaches**

hearing “we’re already doing that” in reference to unarmed civilian protection. So we’ve come a long way. In December, the Security Council held a two-hour briefing on unarmed approaches for the protection of civilians. Our staff described the methods they use to protect civilians and gave examples of how it worked. The final speaker was a representative of the Department of Peacekeeping. He stated, “I don’t disagree with anything that’s been said.” And he ended with examples of how the Department of Peacekeeping already does unarmed civilian protection. That’s progress and a result of your support!



NP provided protective presence just behind the front lines, reaching civilians fleeing the fighting first and facilitating access to lifesaving aid.



Internally displaced persons waiting to cross the Tigris River. Photo by Kainoa Little

IRAQ

Urban Protection Response

Your support assisted vulnerable internally displaced persons who had spent three years living under ISIS control. These men, women and children were malnourished, dehydrated and in need of immediate medical attention. They had fled from violent, war-torn Mosul. Men and boys were at particularly high risk for detention from the Iraqi authorities. The women were at an elevated risk for sexual exploitation and gender-based violence. NP's protective presence ensured these civilians quickly received food, water, and medical care; mitigated several instances of arbitrary detention; and deterred violence against women.

In the final months of the Mosul offensive, NP worked behind the front lines. Staff served in areas where the injured victims were being treated and at emergency assembly points

where the displaced gathered for screening and transport to camps. NP also found unaccompanied children and people with special needs who became separated from their families as they fled the fighting on their streets and in their homes. NP reunited 11 of these separated children or people with special needs with their families. This was all done while providing protective presence in West Mosul.



West Mosul, Iraq



NORTH DAKOTA

Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL)

Two unlikely people showed up to create dialogue and a safe space to advance peace during the DAPL conflict: one from Brazil and the other from Colombia. Bringing their experiences as peacekeepers in South Sudan and Sri Lanka, they led members of the Bismarck and Mandan communities through training and conversation on providing protection and pursuing reconciliation.

The training gave community members and faith leaders tools to use in the event of violence and provided the support they needed to discuss the conflict that had come to a head. Your support brought together concerned people who can now collaborate on further action.

**“This was my fondest hope—
that a group of faith leaders
would come together and find
ways to be in even stronger
solidarity with each other.”**

— Faith Group Training participant

SYRIA

Funeral Marching Bands

Gun shots used to be heard regularly in Salamia, Syria as a traditional way of celebrating. Shots were fired at weddings, anniversaries and war martyrs' funerals. The gunfire led to civilian deaths and affected those who were traumatized and suffering from PTSD. After participating in NP's training in Lebanon, a group of Syrian youth decided to take an innovative approach to reduce trauma and gunfire in their community.

As an alternative to gun shots, a marching band would honor the dead

at martyrs' funerals instead. Initially the youth were met with resistance. But after looking to NP for guidance and talking to several controlling families in the community, they were able to convince them one by one to agree to replacing the gunfire with a marching band.

Thanks in part to previous relationship building, the band was able to play and both the army and families gave orders to not shoot. Now other locations have been inspired to develop similar ideas to reduce gunfire.



Inspired by what they learned from NP, the youth became involved in improving the safety of their communities.



Syrian youth band in the streets of Salamia

140 students involved, 50 influential families engaged

Working as a team of nationals and internationals to get people to safety in Marawi



PHILIPPINES

1,561 People Rescued

“It’s like I’m looking at Syria and Aleppo,” one Filipino native said about the scenes of destruction he saw of his hometown Marawi. “I was raised here. It’s unrecognizable.”

In May 2017, militants swarmed the city of Marawi in the Philippines in attempt to take the city. Hundreds of thousands of civilians were displaced and dozens killed. Many people fled their homes without food, provisions or medical supplies. Suddenly, NP protection officers

in Lanao were on the frontlines of a large humanitarian crisis.

Two weeks into the conflict, civilians were evacuated. NP chose two of its native protection officers, Salic and Nohman, as volunteer rescuers. With such a small window of time and such a big job, it was important that

they both speak the local language.

Members of our field staff and their families were among those displaced. Yet they immediately responded to protect other besieged and displaced civilians. Team members worked around the

clock to get people to safety, rush the injured to medical care, and assist other organizations with the distribution of relief kits.

The fighting in Marawi lasted five months. Only a few parts of the city were not bombed. Xarifa, one of our Filipino national NP staff, feels a

tremendous amount of gratitude to NP donors for their support. Because of your support, lives were saved. No matter how remote and inaccessible an area, Xarifa says, NP goes where it is needed.

SOUTH SUDAN

Empowering Women

Rape and sexual assault are common weapons of war. In South Sudan, the atrocity against women has been particularly brutal. And women have had enough. They are speaking out and organizing.

You've had a part in giving women in South Sudan a voice. In the past five years, you've helped train 1,900 women who've formed 44 Women's Peacekeeping Teams. They are leading the way to bring peace to their communities and an end to rape and gender-based violence.

In just one example, a group of Women Peacekeeping Team members walked for three hours to meet with the general of an armed group. They knew it would be

Left photos by Fellipe Abreu



dangerous to start off as a big group. Thus, a few women began the trek and as they walked, groups of women found out what they were doing and joined the march. They numbered 150 by the time they reached the military camp. They said to the general, "We are tired! Tired of our children being killed! Tired of being raped!" The general listened and then told them his men would not engage in such activities. After the meeting he arranged transportation and gave them a bull as a token of respect.

Who knows if the general was sincere. Only time will tell but for now we know there has been an impact. And across the country, we are seeing many more women organizing across ethnic lines and advocating for their own safety and for an end to the war. These actions are remarkable in such a male-dominated society where gender-based violence is rampant.

526 women formed 15 new women's peacekeeping teams

MYANMAR

Hope for Communities

In just the first few months of 2017, our trained monitors helped local stakeholders negotiate a temporary ceasefire, evacuate and accompany 424 civilians to safe locations, and established a system to improve the response to future incidents by recognizing early warning signals. During coaching workshops, monitors attributed their interventions to the trainings provided by NP. As one of the township coordinators said, it was because of the skills and confidence built from the training that the monitors could intervene and respond to cases of violence in their communities.

These trainings are valuable—the strategies and tactics to reduce

violence and engage all actors is spread via our trained monitors who come from the different cities and regions across Myanmar. They are able to share the information they've learned with village and religious leaders in their communities as well as with families and friends who come to them for advice.

One monitor told us, “After sharing again and again, I got trust from villagers and they started to see a peaceful future. One day there was a village preparing to evacuate and I was able to share about civilian protection from the National Ceasefire Agreement and they were so relieved. I was so happy and got tears in my eyes when the village chairman said that this village was not worried like other villages because there was a lot of sharing before.”



Trainings are our foundation for educating communities on how to preserve their independence.



1,133 trained in ceasefire monitoring, 27% women, 36 trainings



 Our newest location, assessed in 2017

BANGLADESH

Program Assessment

In response to the Rohingya crisis, NP conducted an assessment in the final months of 2017 and has had a team on the ground in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh this year.

As the refugee crisis unfolds and overwhelming humanitarian needs emerge, the small NP team has been working with local partners to identify ways to improve the safety of people living in the camps and to prepare for the potential flooding and mudslides of the coming rainy season.

Over the last two months of 2017, our team built relationships with, and provided technical protection assistance to, local non-governmental organizations, Rohingya-based networks inside the megasite, and international non-governmental organizations responsible for site management,

protection and emergency preparedness. Our staff has been assisting the International Organization for Migration with safe relocations, both for new arrivals from Myanmar and for families currently located in highly dangerous, flood and landslide-

prone areas. With your help, we will continue in this effort, as there are upwards of 100,000 inhabitants of the megasite currently residing in these critical areas. We are also supporting a Rohingya-based network in building and executing clear

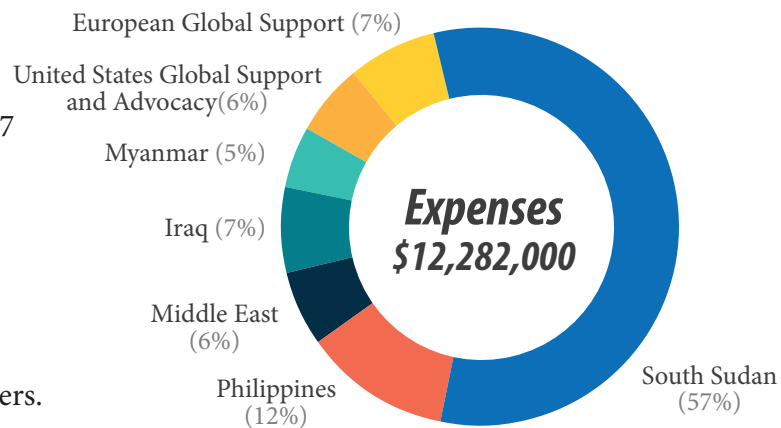
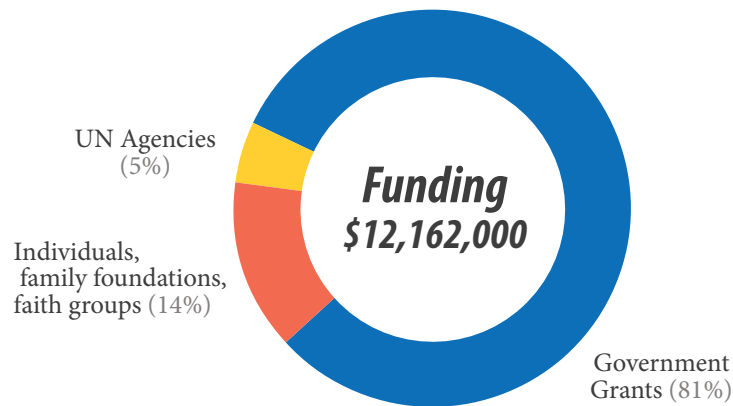
communication strategies, preparing and prepositioning life-saving necessities, and organizing safe movement plans in hopes of preventing family separation when communities are forced to move for their own safety.

We're starting to work in an area with more than 700,000 people

FINANCIALS

Income from individuals, family foundations and faith groups, is the cornerstone of Nonviolent Peaceforce's approach to income generation and we leverage these generous gifts by securing government and institutional grants. The significant amount of government funding raised each year testifies to the quality of our work and the impact that we have on the ground protecting civilians living in situations of violent conflict.

The 2017 financial statements for NP show an operating loss for the second year in a row. The 2017 loss is less than last year's due to significant improvement in managing expenditures. The Finance Committee of the Board of Directors has developed a Recovery Plan that will ensure our short-term and long-term financial health. We take our financial situation very seriously and are available to answer any questions from our supporters.



Breakdown of staff

279 total staff
December 31, 2017

268
live and work within conflict-affected communities

11
work in advocacy and administrative support

165 in South Sudan
50 in Philippines

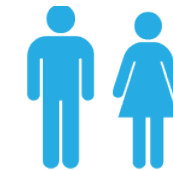
9 in Myanmar
4 in Lebanon

40 in Iraq

5 in European offices
6 in US office

36% are international staff

64% are nationals of the host countries



57% **43%**

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 2017 - December 2017) 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/funding

Together, you provide safety, dignity 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.



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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



Cover photo by Fellipe Abreu