Investing and Partnering with Youth for Peace (IPYP)

Inception Report 2023



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The views expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the referenced organisations.

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Investing and Partnering with Youth for Peace Overview

The Global Coalition for Youth, Peace, and Security Financing Taskforce[1] started a multi-stakeholder working group with a steering committee comprising governments, multilateral bodies, private sector actors, and civil society.

Secretariat

Steering Committee

Also represented on the steering committee are representatives of the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations in New York and of the European External Action Service.

Views expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the entities on the steering committee or in the Secretariat.

Background

According to the latest available estimates, 408 million young people live in areas affected by armed conflict or organised violence leaving nearly one young person in four affected.[2] Young people, particularly those living in countries facing fragility, conflict, and violence (FCV) will continue to endure the brunt of multiple, growing, and interconnected crises including conflict, climate-induced food insecurity, pandemics, and poverty.

Despite rising needs, resources have not kept pace even as official development assistance (ODA) to fragile and conflict-affected contexts has increased in the last few years.[3] The share of ODA that focuses on peacebuilding is declining, from 19.6% in 2009 to 12% in 2020.[4] While there is a growing commitment to the importance of investing in young people, including through United Nations Security Council and General Assembly Resolutions,[5] funding has fallen short. This is shown in surveys and funder dialogues which suggest that existing resources are dramatically below the demand and need.[6]

> Whilst we are data poor at the global level, we know that quantity and quality of funding for youth-led peacebuilding is a problem. The aid architecture is not set up to support young people's peacebuilding work as it remains largely inaccessible and inflexible to their methods of operation and priorities.

At the time of writing, it is estimated that there is a US$ 2.5 trillion Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) funding gap.[7] Institutions focused on SDG implementation are expanding research and investment into new and alternative forms of financing.[8] Examples include seeking opportunities with the private philanthropic sector, securing impact investments and developing viable public-private partnerships (PPPs).

However, this interest is failing to gain traction in the peacebuilding sector. For example, as blended finance has grown in attention and size, very little blended funds are allocated to SDG 16 that focusses on peace, justice, and strong institutions.[9] Few international finance institutions (IFIs) and development finance institutions (DFIs) adopt conflict-sensitive and peace positive investment criteria and there is no established 'peace finance' asset class.[10]

The private sector plays a significant role in shaping economic and social realities in conflict affected contexts.[11] Although the private sector can have a positive impact on peace, it is important to recognise this sector frequently contributes to or exacerbates conflicts if their practices are not conflict sensitive.[12]

Examples of this include patronage politics and corruption, which can thus increase state fragility, as well as 'inattentiveness to the informal sector, inter-group inequality, ethnic exclusion, elite enrichment, the abuse of the state security apparatus for economic gain, or impunity of companies for the negative social and environmental impacts of their operations'.[13] There are documented links between private sector action and conflict in Burundi, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Guinea, Mozambique, and Nigeria. Even explicit efforts by private sector actors to create a 'peace dividend' often fail to reach that goal.[14]

Negative impacts of the private sector on young people in peacebuilding contexts range from the exploitation of children and youth in the labour force, exacerbating inequalities which often disproportionately affect marginalised young people as well as land and natural resource degradation. Therefore, efforts to engage the private sector in youth and peacebuilding work must both appeal to the private sector as a potential positive force and address the adverse effects of the private sector through their core activities.

Aims and approach

The Global Coalition for Youth, Peace, and Security Financing Taskforce[15] launched a multi-stakeholder working group to explore the role of the private sector in supporting the youth, peace and security (YPS) agenda. A steering committee for this group was formed in December 2022 and is composed of governments, multilateral bodies, private sector actors, and civil society. The group has the vision to foster a more coordinated ecosystem of actors to help direct private sector funding and financing to address the needs of young people in peacebuilding contexts.

This inception report sets the foundation for 'Investing and Partnering for Youth and Peace'. The purpose of this group is to:

1. identify, research and recommend potential options for additional resource mobilisation and partnerships with the private sector to advance the role of young people in peacebuilding; and
2. mobilise resources and partnerships and help strengthen knowledge management and advocacy through coordination. This includes the identification and mobilisation of resources for existing initiatives and efforts.

Several key considerations grounded this work:

1. **New partnerships are often hampered by organisational readiness challenges.** These include difficult to articulate peace impact metrics, different language and operating structures, and a considerable reluctance from the private sector to engage in peacebuilding work as it is seen as risky and 'politicised'. Furthermore, coordination efforts are complex and costly, with few platforms or networks bringing together the system of actors. An innovation portfolio of opportunities has been developed (see section C) that allows for learning across multiple dimensions of challenges faced by young people. Over time, learning from this portfolio will seek to inform new organisational regimes such as policies and approaches to partnering with young peacebuilders.

2. **As this work develops the authors caution against homogenising youth as a population** and to recognise the varying and added barriers for marginalised young people including young women, young people with disabilities as well as rural and indigenous youth. For example, young women are at the forefront of peacebuilding efforts, but face added structural and institutional barriers, cultural biases, and gender-based violence which limit their ability to engage and pose significant threats to their wellbeing.[16] At the same time, it is young women who respond with intersectional approaches, organising around intersecting identities and are at the forefront of responses to crises, and embedded within communities which traditional aid actors often struggle to reach.[17] As this work proceeds it is critical that it approaches young peacebuilders with that same intersectional lens of analysis.

3. The group warns against pitting the Youth, Peace and Security agenda against other agendas, particularly in the context of recent ODA restrictions, which may result in heightened competition for scarce resources. Instead, we emphasise the **integration of young people into broader peacebuilding, prevention, and development initiatives, while ensuring strong youth co-leadership.**

4. **The need for peacebuilding is universal. It is not only relevant in fragile, conflicted affected and vulnerable settings.** However, there are different and added barriers faced by young people in conflict affected situations, already frequently among the most marginalised young people. The working group is paying special attention to these contexts.

5. **The opportunities identified are by no means a panacea to the challenges outlined, nor a replacement for ODA.** In the short-term, partnerships with the private sector are unlikely to reach the most disadvantaged communities, given the incentive structures that private capital currently operates on.[18]

6. This report proposes several principles to guide the development of opportunities (see page 20) that seek to address the structural challenges faced by young peacebuilders. **Each initiative should be carefully constructed to be conflict-sensitive and peace positive and with the meaningful participation of young peacebuilders.**[19] For partnerships to be just and equitable, it is not the quantum of capital that requires deep consideration but its distribution that determines long term impact on peace.
7. Unlocking partnerships and investment for youth and peace not only requires willing coalition building with the private sector but **strengthened capabilities within public bodies to direct resources towards inclusive development.**
8. Finally, the private sector, together with actors engaging with them from other sectors, **should also learn from the shifting the power and aid localisation movements.** According to the 2023 Global Humanitarian Assistance Report, only 1.2% of humanitarian funding goes directly to local and national organisations. This is a decline from 2.9% in 2017.[20] While we lack similar data within the peacebuilding sector it likely follows a similar trend. In parallel processes 'shift the power', localisation and decolonisation of aid movements call for the transformation of how the aid system operates including through shifting of decision-making power to local actors. There are several frameworks and other resources to guide this work which can and should inform the ongoing work of IPYP.[21] In particular, meaningful participation of young people throughout the design cycle of any initiative is paramount.

Recognising the breadth of these challenges, this report seeks to lay the foundation for potential positive collaborations between private actors, IFIs/DFIs, governments, multilateral entities, civil society and young peacebuilders.

Scope of the research

Written with a global focus, this report is limited in exploring unique country and sub-regional specificities, but where possible, case studies are documented to illuminate the discussion.

Through a desk review, key informant interviews, a roundtable with young peacebuilders, and country-level case studies the authors sought to answer three core questions:

- What are the motivations for the private sector to invest in young people's role in peacebuilding?
- What are the challenges and opportunities faced by young peacebuilders?
- How can various actors in the private sector seek to address those challenges, and build on the opportunities for collaboration?

The intersection of private sector investment and partnerships with youth and peace is a nascent, complex, and wide-ranging field. This report does not present the limit of opportunities, but rather insights and recommendations for various stakeholder groups to develop through the next phase. It will also include further details of what collaboration could look like and how it can be sustained. The work therefore seeks to provide a baseline for future engagement in this field and to mobilise investment.

We propose an 'innovation portfolio'[22] approach that aligns with the vision of this group and spreads innovation risk and learning across multiple initiatives. In the medium term the opportunities in the innovation portfolio will seek to influence wider systems change for example to policies and practices for engaging meaningfully with young peacebuilders.

The report was developed in close coordination with the steering committee. The authors are grateful to the working group steering committee for their guidance and support and any errors are that of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the members of the group.

Report structure

This report is structured as follows:

- **Section A** provides an overview of the business case for peace.
- **Section B** explores the added value of partnerships between young peacebuilders and the private sector.
- **Section C** outlines potential opportunities to explore across four distinct workstreams and cross cutting initiatives, all housed in an innovation portfolio.
- **Section D** sums up strategic considerations related to network and market building, organisational readiness, and risk management and concludes with recommendations.

Section A: The Case for the Private Sector to Engage in Peacebuilding

Any investment or partnership with the private sector is reliant on a strong business case to motivate and justify the partnership. This case must connect the private sector's interests and respond to young people's core needs in peacebuilding contexts.

The following section outlines motivations to build the business case for youth and peace including listing the principles which can inform more tailored strategies for engagement as specific partnerships are further developed.

The interests of the private sector to invest in peace

An increasing evidence base explores the rationale for why it is in the private sector's interest to invest in peacebuilding. When peaceful outcomes are achieved the opportunity for private sector profit increases. Reports from the World Bank indicate that investment returns are 8% higher in highly peaceful countries than in countries with low levels of peace, and the gross domestic product (GDP) growth is three times higher.[23]

Growing literature shows the attempts that many are taking to quantify the benefits of investments in peacebuilding at a programme level. The Pathways for Peace report identified a business case for prevention and a cost-benefit analysis of an effective system for preventing violent conflict.[24] The effects of prevention for each scenario are described in terms of economic damages, loss of life avoided (prevented damage), and cost savings in post-conflict reconstruction and peacekeeping (saved costs). In the neutral scenario, for each US$1 invested in prevention, about US$16 is saved down the road in total economic value.[25]

Additionally, Interpeace found that developing a new asset class of Peace Bonds with embedded peace-enhancing mechanisms (PEMs) that align investment to peacebuilding could lower discount rates and improve the net present value (NPV) of a project.[26]

Background

Benefits of stable peace to the private sector[27]

- Strengthened institutions and anti-corruption policies, political stability, resilience to upheaval and shocks.
- Free flow of information.
- Economic participation of marginalised groups.
- Price stability.
- Better educated workforce.
- Stable access to infrastructure and protection of physical assets.

Demonstrating this additionality for private actors is key to unlocking partnerships. Building this case will also require early engagement to develop partnerships with the private sector and other relevant stakeholders including civil society to expand the evidence base.

Motivations for the private sector to partner with young peacebuilders

Developed through a literature review and roundtables with young peacebuilders, the following section outlines salient arguments for partnerships with young peacebuilders.

Young people have credibility, access, and knowledge within communities that traditional peacebuilding and development organisations and the private sector struggle to engage

Youth-led actors have been documented as key partners in aid distribution,[28] mediation, dialogue, and research due to their access and credibility within communities that traditional actors find difficult to reach.[29] As companies and investors increasingly face stronger due diligence requirements, young peacebuilders can strengthen the reliability, accountability and due diligence procedures of private sector investors and businesses.[30]

Young people can play an important role in ensuring that projects are implemented with contextualised conflict-sensitive and peace responsive strategies. For example, mediation of assets and community dialogue limit project risks through strengthening community buy-in (see case study).

Case study

Mediation of assets: Sheba Youth Foundation, Taiz, Yemen

The Sheba Youth Foundation, a local youth-led organisation, organised a women-led local mediation campaign to regain control of the city's water supply, mediating access between the community and local armed groups. Their unique access to the community enabled them to overcome opposition from radical groups and achieve a successful outcome. Mediation of assets as well as community dialogues could limit risks of disruption of projects and help to strengthen community buy-in.[31]

Young people are powerful mobilisers through innovative methodologies

Young people can rapidly and effectively mobilise in support of democratic institutions and non-violence. Young people use new media, arts, and other non-traditional forms of mobilisation to quickly mobilise and to reach informal spaces that traditional development and peacebuilding actors struggle to mobilise.

There are cases of youth-led mobilisations which have helped block anti-democratic laws, coups, or eruptions of violence.[32] Through this work young people strengthen the predictability of the legal frameworks, foster political stability, and reduce the likelihood of violence. These are all important to private sector interests. Lack of political and legal stability and the threat of violence impacts both individual private sector projects and broader price stability and relevant infrastructure.

Finally, trust in information amongst young people is declining due to restrictions on free expression and the proliferation of misinformation and, as a result, threatening social cohesion at exactly the time it is needed most. This includes a lack of trust in news information, social media, and public institutions.[33] Higher levels of trust are also related to increased economic growth.[34]

Partnerships with young people to build trust in information sources are paramount. Young people are often at the forefront of digital civic engagement and are thus necessary partners in this work.[35] The pathways by which that trust is built are manifold and contextual, requiring investments in peacebuilding which are flexible enough to be adapted to locally defined priorities and methods of trust-building.

Young people approach peacebuilding transversely and across sectors

Youth-led groups have been at the forefront of addressing the nexus between peace and climate adaptation.[36] In contrast to siloed approaches found in the aid sector, this approach addresses root causes and systems producing conflict. Not only are these approaches more effective, but they are also necessary to make the most effective use of diminishing resources. For the private sector, these approaches offer an opportunity to expand the impact of their work. For example,

impact investors can make effective links with investments in green finance to peacebuilding outcomes.

Young people are frequently the demographic majorities in conflict affected countries

Given their demographic size, it is important to engage youth as a workforce and a customer base. Many businesses will be owned and run by young people who are a demographic majority. Recent evidence shows that young people are more likely to purchase from companies with sustainable practices, and to prioritise working for companies supporting SDG implementation even at the expense of a higher salary.[37] Generation Z controls US$ 3 Trillion in purchasing power. Currently 68% of young consumers expect brands to contribute to society, while 61% are willing to pay more for ethically or sustainably produced products, and 49% want brands to have social change initiatives with which they can engage.[38]

Under-investment in youth and peace presents an opportunity to make an impact

While this field is relatively data-blind, existing evidence indicates a vast gap between demand, need and available resourcing. For example, most youth-led civil society organisations (CSOs) operate on less than US$ 5,000 annually.[39]
At the same time, evidence indicates that youth-led civil society does a lot with a relatively little amount of investment. A substantial philanthropic impact can be achieved through youth and peace investment opportunities.[40]

Theses impacts are backed by a growing evidence base, including research on the Social Return on investment (SROI) of a selection of YPS projects in Kenya. SROI measures in dollar terms the social, economic, and environmental value of a project with participatory methods to determine value. In Kenya for example, for every US$ 1 invested, there is a US$ 5 to US$ 10 total return on investment including to the State, to the community, to the youth and to the private sector where those activities take place. While early in its development, these advancements in measuring the SROI of peacebuilding programmes with young people can demonstrate value for money.[41]

Policy frameworks

Global

- Five-year Strategic Action Plan for Youth Inclusive Peace Processes.
- UN General Assembly Resolution on Financing for Peacebuilding reaffirmed the need to address financing gaps for youth-led initiatives to ensure effective participation of youth in peacebuilding efforts.
- The Secretary General's New Agenda for Peace recommends financing and institutionalising the Youth Peace and Security Agenda.

Regional

- African Union Continental Framework for Youth, Peace and Security.
- EU, ASEAN, OSCE and League of Arab States have YPS strategies in development.
- Various regional economic communities and mechanisms have youth policies in place including ECOWAS, IGAD, EAC, COMESA, UMA.

National

- Existing National Action Plans on Youth, Peace and Security: DRC, Nigeria, Finland, Philippines.
- National Action Plans in Progress: Jordan, South Sudan, Cameroon, Kenya and many more.

The importance of investing in young people's role in peacebuilding has been recognised in several policy frameworks

These policy frameworks provide momentum for stakeholders to build on the increasing recognition to invest in young people's role in peacebuilding.

At the same time, it is critical not to provide siloed support to young peacebuilders, or to consider their needs as independent from that of other marginalised communities. The integration of youth perspectives into broader humanitarian, peacebuilding and development work is key to building intersectional approaches which are responsive to the needs of the whole of society. This report, therefore, recommends an approach of integrating strong youth co-leadership into programming or projects which adopt an intersectional lens of analysis.

In sum, these six broad categories set a foundation for conversations with private actors to motivate their participation in partnering with young peacebuilders. We recommend as part of the cross-cutting initiatives outlined in Section C, further development of the business case.

Section B: The Value of Private Sector Partnerships to Young Peacebuilders

While it is important to make the business case to the private sector, it is equally important to have a firm strategic grasp on what the value of private sector partnerships can be to young peacebuilders. Within the broader literature on the role of the private sector in peacebuilding contexts, there have been several distinct roles identified which the private sector could play.

These include building space for dialogue, including the creation of new or reform of existing institutions, creating platforms for marginalised groups to be heard,[42] utilising the influence of its social and economic capital with people with direct influence over peacebuilding and conflict, creating mechanisms to address grievances for marginalised populations,[43] and provision of resources through corporate social responsibility, innovative financing, and socially responsible investment.[44]

At a minimum, any such engagement should follow the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development-Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) principles, summarised here. Going further, policies, principles, and guidance to build meaningful partnerships with young peacebuilders that are contextually adapted are required to avoid harm and build peace.[45]

Background on private sector roles in peacebuilding

OECD-DAC 2007 principles for good international engagement in fragile states and situations

The Basics

1. Take context as a starting point.
2. Do no harm.

The Role of State Building and Peacebuilding

3. Focus on state building as the central objective.
4. Prioritise prevention.
5. Recognise the links between political security and development objectives.
6. Promote non-discrimination as a basis for inclusive and stable societies.

The Practicalities

7. Align with local priorities in different ways in different contexts.
8. Agree on practical coordination mechanisms between international actors.
9. Act fast but stay engaged long enough to give success a chance.
10. Avoid pockets of exclusion.

The following summary sets out the broad intersections between young peacebuilders' interests and private sector actors' range of capabilities. While this does not attempt to describe the limit of possibilities, it offers a guide to further explore the prioritisation of opportunities detailed in Section C of the report.

Challenges:

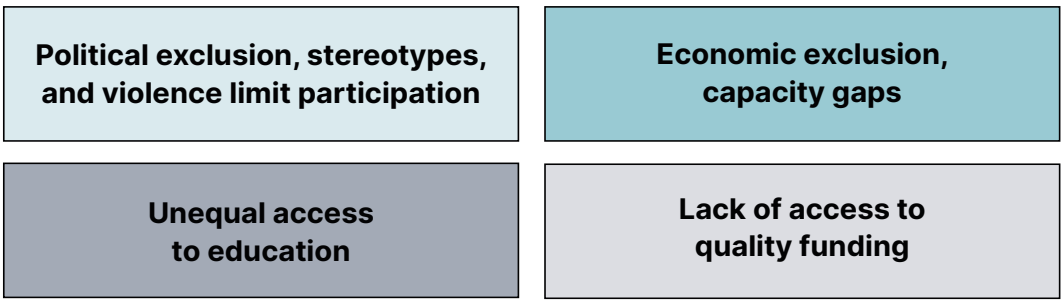


Figure 1: Challenges faced by young peacebuilders for which there is a role for private sector actors.

The intersection between young peacebuilders' interests and private sector actors

Challenge: Political exclusion, stereotypes, and violence limit participation

Description

- Young people are excluded from political participation and participation in peacebuilding work. For example, the global percentage of members of parliaments under the age of 30 is 2.6%.[46]
- Young people engaging in politics and peacebuilding work face both stereotypes which limit their agency and are targeted by harassment and violence from both state and non-state actors. These restrictions are amplified for marginalised young people including young women.
- Psycho-social needs of young people are rarely addressed or supported.

Opportunity for private sector partnership

- Using its political influence to protect civic space for young people.
- Funding and including young peacebuilders to participate in events and high-level meetings.
- Tech-sector partnerships to support young people responding to hate speech and harassment online.
- Investment in capacity-building programming to support young people's opportunity to engage.

Challenge: Economic exclusion, capacity gaps

Description

- Young people face a global unemployment rate of around 23%[47] while 23% of young people currently employed in the world earn less than US$ 1.25 a day. While this is frequently cited as a key priority for young people in peacebuilding contexts, the link between programs targeting unemployment and inequality and peacebuilding work is not sufficiently developed in the literature.
- While young peacebuilders frequently request capacity and skills development, these programs are often developed without consultation of young people or tailoring to their needs.

Opportunity for private sector partnership

- Conflict-sensitive/peace responsive livelihoods programming/decent jobs and sustainable labour market linkages.
- Peace positive investment in youth-led enterprises.
- Reform of business practice to adhere to human rights standards and youth and conflict sensitive and peace positive principles.

Challenge: Unequal access to education

Description

- 'Recent quantitative studies show, across five decades, a consistent statistical relationship between higher levels of inequality in educational attainment between ethnic and religious groups, and the likelihood that a country will experience violent conflict'.[48]
- By contrast, education services can be designed such that they respond to grievances and address exclusion and inequality across ethnic, religious, caste lines etc. In addition, evidence indicates that a curriculum can be developed to teach socioemotional skills which promote tolerance, respect, and more peaceful societies. The evidence base is limited but promising.[49]

Opportunity for private sector partnership

- Investment in education programming and capacity building of young people.

Challenge: Lack of access to quality funding

Description

- There is no consistent tracking of investment in YPS. Most youth-led organisations operate with limited funding (under US$ 5,000), mostly from local donations. Eligibility requirements preclude many youth organisations without registration or bank accounts. This result is severe competition between youth organisations and between youth organisations, governments, and other civil society.
- Funder priorities are decided without consultation of young people and frequently at a global level.
- Short-term, project-based, and output-oriented interventions are expected, and often there is no opportunity to adapt to changing circumstances.
- Most organisations receive funding with a 6-month or lower time frame and without renewal. Lack of sustainable funding results in youth organisations disappearing or completely redefining priorities to seek additional funding.[50]
- Expectations to show impact or results is unrealistic for organisations given short-term grants. MEL frameworks restrict young people's work and definition of impact into rigid and pre-defined understandings of how change occurs.

Opportunity for private sector partnership

- The private sector can mobilise higher quantities of money and with more flexibility to be responsive to the needs, priorities, and methods of operation of youth-led civil society.
- The private sector can also engage young people to ensure that its mobilisation of return-seeking investments is both peace and youth responsive, including through partnerships with youth civil society.

Section C: Building an Innovation Portfolio to Respond to the Needs of Young Peacebuilders

Building an innovation portfolio that responds to the challenges and opportunities of partnering with young peacebuilders is the first step in driving transformative change. Young peacebuilders face multi-faceted, complex challenges entrenched in existing structures. Eventually, learning from the portfolio should influence wider organisational and ecosystem change that can be transformative in nature, for example in changes to policies, industry practice and cultures.

The work of IPYP is in this way multi-level and requires coordination and network building to influence change (see Section D for further discussion). Given the range of challenges identified, the breadth of partnerships considered for this study span private philanthropy, investment by private impact investors and IFIs/DFIs and partnerships that go beyond funding and financing.

Four workstreams were developed to distinguish and investigate the different roles of stakeholders and match possible solutions with the opportunities and challenges laid out above (Figure 2).

		Target	Examples
Workstream 1	Mobilisation of new and effective grants	Private philanthropy: individuals, foundations, corporates	Donations, crowdfunding, levies, endowment funds
Workstream 2	Mobilising youth peace finance	Impact investors, DFIs, CSOs with impact investment and organisations leading structuring of solutions eg PBSO, UNICEF, Interpeace	Loans, blended funds, peace bonds, infrastructure
Workstream 3	Youth peace positive investment criteria		Peace positive investment criteria
Workstream 4	Partnerships for Peace	Corporates and business networks	Conflict resolution, trainee-ships, employee matching

Figure 2: Workstreams considered for partnership opportunities

Typically, the development timeline of an opportunity takes 1-3 years between the initial research and implementation depending on the complexity of the innovation (Figure 3). As opportunities are developed, development spending increases, thus a phased approach is advised where decisions can be made at each phase and based on clear milestones. Where feasible, concepts should be tested, with feedback gained through outreach with a range of stakeholders used to iterate its development.

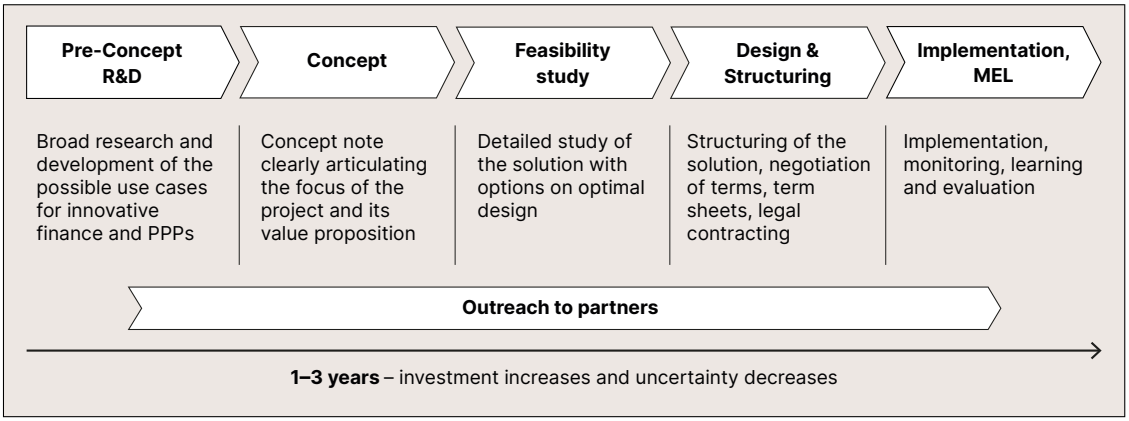


Figure 3: Development pathway for opportunities

As the field of IPYP develops, the protection of institutional mandates must be balanced against the need for coordination between entities and long-term approaches that build towards transformative change rather than the output of individual projects. It is helpful at this stage to guide the development through design principles that support prioritisation of each innovation:

Design principles for the IPYP innovation portfolio

- Active and meaningful role of young peacebuilders throughout the design cycle.
- Clearly articulated problem to be solved that cannot be solved better through traditional means.
- Clear business case/motivation for the private sector to play a role.
- Contribution to evidence and knowledge base on the impact of youth peacebuilding.
- Potential for transformational change, not one-off transactions based on a co-created monitoring system that measures impact at a project and ecosystem level.

Beyond these principles, there is an emergent body of work on frameworks and principles around locally led peacebuilding which apply to YPS. For example, the Search for Common Ground (SFCG) peace impact framework which is centred

around the lived experience of communities affected by conflict, RFF's ten radical actions that focus on locally led social change and Peace and Security Funders Group principles on local peacebuilding.[51]

The Global Fund for Children has established a mapping of these frameworks to reimagine philanthropy and global development.[52] These frameworks apply across various workstreams and embody work across power sharing and local ownership, flexible funding, quality partnerships, organisational culture, and risk sharing to name a few. It is beyond this research paper to consolidate these frameworks, but it is recommended that actors seek to streamline and synergise this work.

During the research and development of the portfolio, several opportunities were prioritised and further developed as 'pre-concepts'[53] and cross cutting initiatives were added to capture the breadth of work ahead in the IPYP portfolio.[54]

IPYP innovation portfolio

1. Mobilising new and effective grants	• Developing a micro levy or cause marketing campaign. • Developing a crowdfunding channel for donations.
2. Mobilising youth peace finance	• Structuring an impact bond linking employment or education to peace outcomes in one or multiple countries eg Mano River Union. • Exploring youth peace finance investments in Mozambique with the African Development Bank and Interpeace.
3. Youth peace positive investment criteria	• Strengthening the youth peace finance dimension of the Peace Finance Investment Framework (PFIF) with Interpeace.
4. Partnerships for peace	• Landscape research and gap analysis of the PPPs in the peace tech sector.
Cross-cutting	• Partnership with the radical flexibility fund (RFF) to explore the bottom-up generation of youth investment opportunities. • Research and develop further the business case for peace. • Explore the development of an organisational readiness toolkit for peacebuilding and YPS.

Workstream 1: Mobilisation of new and effective grants

Global philanthropy continues to play a leading role in addressing global challenges, with an estimated US$ 42.5 billion donated between 2016-19.[55] However, this tends to be concentrated in sectors such as global health and education and little data is available on contributions to peacebuilding, let alone youth-led peacebuilding.

Trends in global philanthropy suggest increased interest in climate change and biodiversity with an increasing focus on socio-economic challenges faced by girls and women and previously overlooked minorities.[56]

Overall philanthropic giving grew by 3% in 2022 with climate funding growing by 14%.[57] Accessing philanthropic funds in a crowded market where peacebuilding has little attention will therefore need a well-crafted business case and engagement strategy. Finally, it is worth noting that philanthropists are increasingly playing a role in using their resources to de-risk investments through tools like impact loans, impact bonds, and blended finance (these tools are explored further in Workstream 2).[58]

Value proposition

Address access, flexibility and sustainability of funding faced by young peacebuilders, and build on opportunities to work with young peacebuilders as credible partners with knowledge and access within mariginalised communities.

As with all workstreams, the range of opportunities are wide-ranging. Philanthropic giving span different channels, eg individual giving, foundations, corporates. The funding mechanisms include crowdfunding, levies, cause marketing, endowment funds, challenge funds, donor advised funds (DAFs), and outcome funds. How funds are transferred can also be explored for example with the advancements in distributed ledger technology (blockchain), cryptocurrency and mobile money. Whilst there is growing interest in these different technologies, they have not been explored further as part of this initial research.

This research found many existing participatory funds that are already addressing challenges faced by young peacebuilders in accessing quality funding eg, YPS Fund, Frida Young Feminist Fund and Purposeful.[59]

To avoid additional transaction costs, we recommend new grants are channelled through existing funds which adhere to design principles created in partnership with young peacebuilders, and if not already institutionalised open specific windows to address the needs of young peacebuilders. There is a large amount of research

identifying principles of quality funding for young people.[60] This work should build from that research and contribute to its evidence base.

Furthermore, one of the largest obstacles to increasing investment in YPS is the lack of data on existing efforts. Closing this data gap is crucial to the effective targeting of new funds. Two pre-concepts were developed to illustrate the potential for micro levies and crowdfunding to increase flexible funding for young peacebuilders namely voluntary levies and crowdfunding.

Background

Micro Levies and cause marketing

These are contributions by a private sector actor(s), typically but not always as a percentage charge on goods or services sold. These 'micro' contributions are then granted to a charity. Cause marketing is synonymous with levies. This is where a private sector actor(s) closely associates a brand with its products for the dual purpose of marketing its products and raising awareness or funding for a social cause.

Although micro levies can be voluntary or compulsory (tax), the pre-concept focused on **voluntary levies.** It should not be ruled out that with sufficient political capital compulsory taxation could be introduced.[61]

As consumer movements increase pressure on corporations to disclose and align business practices with sustainable impact (See Section A), the potential to build a strategy for micro levies and cause marketing remains promising.

Furthermore, various organisations have successfully built, and grown movements around causes eg 1% for the planet. Importantly, if scaled effectively, levies can offer the potential for more flexible and predictable funding for young peacebuilders and can simultaneously raise the profile of the positive impact of youth-led peacebuilding.

Many schemes include voluntary principles and standards which corporate partners can adopt, thus offering an opportunity to link corporate practice with positive peace impacts. Caution is required to avoid peace washing and careful selection of corporate partners is needed through due diligence by the lead developer.

Crowdfunding can offer the opportunity to empower young people to launch their own campaigns and open channels to new donors – typically individuals – and through tax efficient methods such as donor advised funds (DAFs). However, digital divides may be a barrier to access for young peacebuilders and crowdfunding offers limited predictability of funding due to dependency on campaign success.

With very few crowdfunding platforms dedicated to peacebuilding and high capital set-up costs, it is recommended that a partnership with an existing platform be developed to explore this opportunity further.

Background

Crowdfunding

Crowdfunding typically takes place on a website platform and allows individuals, businesses, or investors to provide funding to projects and programmes pitched on the platform. The pre-concept focused on donation-based platforms that can allow young peacebuilders to build more agency over their fundraising campaigns and reach a wider audience.

Workstream 2: Mobilising youth peace finance

The role of private investment and DFIs in filling the gap to achieve the SDGs has been well documented, yet mobilisation of private capital remains stubbornly low – 'Only 6% of private finance mobilised by ODA is invested in LDCs, a percentage that has remained constant over the past three years'.[62]

Many barriers inhibit investment in FCV countries as outlined in section B. As the impact of climate change accelerates, the impact on peace and stability is profound.[63] According to a recent International Monetary Fund study, 'Estimations indicate that in a high emissions scenario…by 2060 conflict deaths as a share of the population for a median FCS could increase by 8.5 percent, and up to 14 percent in countries facing an extreme increase in temperature'. At the same time conflict threatens climate adaptation efforts.[64] Yet the confluence of climate and peace financing is limited.

Value proposition

Address economic exclusion, access to education and capacity building and offer investors the opportunity to partner with credibility and access to marginalised communities in mediating equitable access to resources.

This workstream focuses on a range of financing solutions where investors require their monies back with some return on investment. Investors can be wide ranging and include for example impact investors, IFIs/DFIs and CSOs with impact investing funds. How those investments are structured can take a variety of forms.

Examples include peace bonds, micro and small to medium-sized enterprise (MSME) funds, various forms of equity, infrastructure investments and project finance, microfinance, and impact bonds. Investments can include various forms of de-risking mechanisms for example – credit guarantees, grants, and technical assistance – and when combined with commercial finance are typically referred to as blended finance.

Case study

The Kibera Peace Sanctuary

To safeguard Burundi's vital mountain rainforest and its people, the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), in collaboration with local actors and the Government of Burundi and private sector partners, are pioneering an innovative blended financing approach at the nexus of peace, conservation and sustainable development. Early wins demonstrate that financing a new path towards nature-based solutions is needed to support the transition from conflict to lasting peace and resilience.[65]

It is important to note that it is not the amount of capital that determines peacefulness, but how and to/with whom it is deployed, developed, and circulated. For example, a water infrastructure project in and of itself does not contribute to peace (and can have negative impacts) unless the communities benefiting from the water project are included in its design, implementation and equitable distribution and ownership. Furthermore, finance flows can be considered to have a direct or indirect impact on peace. An example of how direct business investment and incubation can support peace is illustrated in the Jungle of Peace project in Colombia (see case study)[66]. Most investments in FCV countries are likely to have an indirect impact on peace unless intentionally structured to target the root causes of the conflict.

Case study

Jungle of Peace project in Colombia

The Jungle of Peace project in Colombia, brings together over 100 ex-FARC combatants across two cooperatives. The bean-to-bar business has been incubated by the Peace Dividend Initiative (PDI) since 2020 and is harnessing livelihood and economic dividends for peace and development.[67]

Interpeace's Finance for Peace (F4P) is working to establish an asset class of 'peace finance' with a comprehensive peace financing investing framework (PFIF). The PFIF seeks to link peace outcomes to investment strategies which can serve to advance the evidence base around the impact of finance and peacebuilding. An essential component in any deployment of peace finance is to prove additionality – the business case for investors. For example, the Interpeace peace bonds feasibility study demonstrates that bond proceeds with verifiable peace impacts, can improve the net present value (NPV) of the project by US$6m.[68]

Background

Peace Bonds

A new type of bond instrument where the proceeds are exclusively applied to finance new or existing projects that realise verifiable peace impacts, orientated by a robust set of new principles and standards.

Whilst we are a long way from realising a market for 'peace finance', as actors develop this further, we recommend further research and practice be developed on youth peace finance.

Through this research, limited evidence was gathered on the demand for direct investment by young peacebuilders beyond informal and microfinance needs (see quote on a case study from the Missing Peace Report below). Young peacebuilders and youth led CSOs are not typically 'investment ready' since they are small and informal (see section B) and lack collateral for investment.

Case study

Addressing economic inequality: VSLAs in Uganda

'In Uganda, young people organised to form Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) to generate a community-based fund that provides capital for locally led income-generating activities. VSLAs brought together reformed warriors and other youth in the community; this avoided fuelling resentment or being seen to reward reformed warriors for previously violent behaviour. The steady economic base and strengthened community relationships provided by VSLAs supported engagements in local peacebuilding activities by reformed warriors and other young people (Uganda CFR).'[69]

In addition to the above opportunities, a pre-concept was developed for an **impact bond** (IB) to address access to education and economic exclusion. An IB can contribute to building the evidence base and improving outcomes for more peace-responsive employment and education programming. IBs can bring together new partners to improve outcomes in livelihoods and education and enables programme implementors flexibility to achieve outcomes. However, they can be costly and complex to structure.

Background

Impact Bonds

Impact Bonds are a form of results-based finance, used to drive improved outcomes around differing thematic areas. Investors provide upfront capital to a service provider(s) to deliver a programme based on pre-agreed outcomes specified by a commissioner (the outcome payer). Investors are repaid by commissioners if outcomes are achieved. An impact bond is not a traditional bond structure as the capital is not repaid by the project (or lender) but rather outcome.

The focus should be on improving outcomes, and other results-based finance should be explored in conjunction with this structure.[70] IBs are not best suited to outcomes that are difficult to measure robustly but can offer space to enhance participatory design methods by including young peacebuilders throughout the design process.

While no IBs have been officially linked to SDG16, 27% have been launched in employment and training and two outcome funds have been deployed in countries affected by conflict (Sierra Leone and Colombia).

Workstream 3: Youth peace positive investment criteria

Building on workstream two, this workstream explores further the criteria, which is typically voluntary, that investors could adopt to verify financing flows as having a 'peace impact'. Investors can have a positive impact on peace for communities by implementing and strengthening do no harm and conflict-sensitive approaches and by adopting a more intentional framework to contribute to positive peace outcomes.[71]

While Bloomberg predicts ESG assets to hit US$ 53 trillion by 2025, which accounts for one third of global assets under management (AUM),[72] there is also a need for caution as the industry suffers from increasing calls to improve transparency amid greenwashing claims.[73]

There is no globally recognised benchmark for the 'peace impact' of investments and a lack of requirements for investors to map the impacts of their investments in FCV countries.[74] Furthermore, many IFIs/DFIs do not yet widely adopt conflict sensitivity assessments and, if used, they tend to be state-centric with misleading formal assessments.[75] For example, they exclude informal factors such as citizen exclusion, power dynamics and uncertainty. In the few instances where IFIs/DFIs were found to incorporate conflict-sensitive practises these were applied post-investment decision and as a result investments from IFIs/DFIs could feed into conflict dynamics.[76] Data transparency remains a critical issue to address to understand the levels and types of investments in FCV countries.

This study examined several efforts underway to fill this void and to systematically avoid the risk of 'peace washing'. Demonstrating the additionality of peace impacts is central to building a business case to motivate investors to adopt voluntary frameworks. As the feasibility of peace bonds demonstrated, the inclusion of PEMs can enhance project returns, but the evidence and pipeline remain limited. In reviewing the existing frameworks[77] there is so far a limited understanding of what a 'youth lens' in peace investments would entail or detailed guidance on how to engage young peacebuilders in the development and implementation of such criteria.[78]

Value proposition

Opportunity to partner with young peacebuilders/networks as (i) an active participant in the design of taxonomies, guidance, principles, and frameworks (global) and (ii) through the cycle of implementing and verification of peace positive investments (country level) for example as a peace enhancing mechanism (PEM) partner.

As the PFIF feasibility study outlined, there is often a superficial focus on local needs of inclusion and beneficiary voices are typically collected after investment decisions have been made. Detailed guidance for how investors and local actors can engage in a participatory process with young peacebuilders is absent. Local actors are often marginalised which limits connection with investors, and with limited formal processes, any grievances are hard to capture. A lack of engagement with community actors can result in project failure and despite increasing calls for participatory design, no investment frameworks have yet moved to implementation.[79]

Growing regulation is creating pressure for investors and companies to improve compliance across their business operations. While the EU regulation, and other national legislation, on human rights and environmental due diligence is a positive development there remains a 'lack of provisions regarding conflict and responsible business conduct in conflict-affected and high-risk areas'.[80] At the time of writing there has been some movement on this with regards to the provision of a conflict sensitivity principle into the EU's Corporate Sustainability Due Diligences Directive.

Learning from best practices in other fields,[81] from leading academics in MEL, or from participatory grant-making in peacebuilding could help inform the basis of guidance in this area. Knowing that investors in FCV countries oftentimes lack contextual understanding, partnerships with young peacebuilders can serve to fill this gap and work to distribute the benefits of investments more equitably alongside lowering the risk for communities and investors. As actors work to harmonise a framework, we recommend the role of young peacebuilders be more intentionally integrated and guidance on engagement be developed.

Specifically, the PFIF offers the most comprehensive frame of the local community and CSO involvement throughout the investment cycle and we would recommend further work explore the inclusion of a youth lens within the peace standards and guidance.

Interrogating the question of 'who defines' peace indicators and criteria is worth further consideration. Oftentimes, criteria are developed top-down and while the frameworks reviewed for this research recommend engagement with civil society, there is no evidence of civil society engaged in the framework development. We recommend that developers of investment criteria include more radical participatory approaches including for example young peacebuilders as designers.[82] The Everyday Peace Indicators[83] and Search for Common Ground's Peace Impact Framework[84] are good examples of the development of indicators but this practice is not widespread.

Case study

Everyday peace indicators (EPI)

EPI work with communities to generate their own indictors of complex ideas and concepts related to peace. This bottom-up process of developing indictors involves partnering with people in communities experiencing or emerging from conflict. The EPI approach has been developed in Colombia, Sri Lanka and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Workstream 4: Partnerships for peace

Going beyond the role of funding and financing, opportunities to build partnerships that leverage business networks, expertise, and resources of the private sector are numerous. Networks such as the UN OCHA and UNDP led Connecting Business Initiative (CBi) which engages the private sector in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery[85] is a sound example of leveraging business capacities in humanitarian situations. The Humanitarian Investing Initiative (HRI) is a good example of a network forming around the role of innovative finance and partnerships across the humanitarian and development sectors but does not expressly include peacebuilding. Network building and connecting peacebuilding with existing networks can offer a route to build valuable partnerships and pipeline in workstreams 2 and 3.

Within a PPP, the role of the private sector can be varied. A review of case studies in peacebuilding documented a spectrum of activities from direct engagement in negotiation or peacebuilding, protection of civilians and PPPs promoting peacebuilding through sustainable development, with the motivation for engagement typically anchored in economic interests.[86] Documenting the breadth of PPPs in the youth peacebuilding field was beyond the reach of this report and further evidence gathering will help to strategise opportunities for collaboration or gaps for new initiatives. The Generation 17 partnership is a good example of collaboration in this space.

Value proposition

Opportunity to work with young people as innovators who work across silos as current and future workforce. Partnerships can seek to address economic exclusion and bring capacity building through livelihood programmes.

A growing intersection of innovation and conflict studies has resulted in an emergent field of research called ‘peace innovation’ which explores the role of pro-peace innovations but also lays out the harm of potential new approaches.[87] For example, social media which has been used to advance democracy movements such as the Arab Spring, has also been used by states to track activists through digital footprints.[88] Partnerships with academia could be explored to further understand the nexus of youth and peace innovation studies.

Partnerships that seek to improve access and availability of technology have gained a lot of attention, sometimes coined ‘peace tech’.[89] Conflict sensitive and context-specific partnerships are once again needed to avoid harm. Technology can amplify existing inequalities and projects are most successful when they build on existing development efforts as opposed to fixing or substituting for missing institutional

elements.[90] Furthermore, technology is shaped and is social, not just technical. Access to the internet is lowest in the highest areas of extreme poverty, with the most used language on the internet being English. Google for example recognises only one African language.[91] Implicit bias can be built into tech and questions should be raised around who has control over the design and use of data.

The Council for Technology and Social Cohesion identified several opportunities for partnerships including: facilitating engagement in civic life, supporting and helping scale tech platforms to bridge group divides, designing technology platforms to build social cohesion rather than amplify polarisation, building capacity for peacebuilding practitioners to use tech platforms for communication and mobilisation, investing in the measurement of techs impact on social cohesion and facilitating initiatives which build trust in information and between society and institutions.[92]

Case study

UNDP and Samsung Generation 17 partnership

UNDP formed a partnership with Samsung Mobile aimed at empowering young changemakers to achieve the SDGs. Young leaders can apply to join the network and gain access to Samsung technology, knowledge, and global platforms to scale the visibility of their work.[93]

It is recommended that this working group commissions follow-up research, in partnership with existing initiatives engaging in this work, to map how the tech sector engages with youth and peacebuilding and identifies a roadmap for strengthening tech sector partnerships with young peacebuilders.

Cross-cutting initiatives

Included within the innovation portfolio are three cross-cutting initiatives that transverse the workstreams. Firstly, the partnership with the RFF, whilst discussed in workstream 3, may result in opportunities such as mobilising effective grants or new PPPs.

Section A of this report delineated broad motivations for the private sector to engage in peacebuilding and each opportunity in the portfolio will have its specific business case. However, further work on this narrative building is needed for sustained engagement with the private sector. Finally, as outlined in the next section, an organisational readiness playbook for engaging in IPYP can help organisations to understand their organisational barriers to implementing and support this agenda.

Case study

Radical Flexibility Fund

Radical Flexibility Fund empowers local organisations and increases their sustainability and impact by creating pathways for funders to invest in quality partnerships and new resourcing mechanisms. For example, RFF has recently led the structuring of a new investment mechanism to support organisations serving migrant communities in Colombia's Caribbean coast.

One of the first investment vehicles that is co-created, led and administered by local stakeholders, the design of this new mechanism allows local organisations and social enterprises in Barranquilla, Colombia to directly access capital in new ways, including flexible, results-based financing; catalytic grants and loans; and technical assistance to create resourcing strategies that are sustainable. The RFF's process for designing this vehicle also provides a constructive and non-extractive role for an intermediary funding organisation. Through the design of new funding pathways, RFF is shifting power to locally led social change and peacebuilding work and creating an evidence base for more effective and sustainable resourcing models.

Section D: Wider Considerations and Recommendations

Coordination, networking, and knowledge sharing

As illuminated in previous sections, this study found multiple efforts underway to address challenges faced by young peacebuilders. For example, well-established participatory intermediary funds are addressing challenges of agency, grant sizes and accessibility. Several actors are furthering the development of peace-positive investment criteria and partnerships are flourishing at the nexus of peacebuilding and innovation. Whilst a comprehensive systems mapping was beyond the resources available for this study, further data gathering of existing efforts can support coordination efforts and better identify gaps for investment.

As a principle, the working group will work in a coordinated approach and facilitate partnerships with existing actors and initiatives that are underway. Furthermore, as a nascent field, we recommend network coordination, learning in the open and sharing knowledge through for example blogs, published reports and feasibility studies, engaging young peacebuilders in the research and development of new opportunities, and engaging in context-specific and global dialogues. Working at these different levels from the innovation portfolio to organisations and networks can support transformative change and requires coordination funding, yet it is precisely this work which is under-resourced.

Organisational readiness

Structuring partnerships that support impactful and transformative change is complex with numerous and varied barriers facing organisations. For example, a corporate actor may not be familiar with terminology such as peacebuilding, triple-nexus or YPS as much as a CSO may not understand corporate marketing strategies. These barriers can extend to legal restrictions for example, foundations in the United States are legally bound to fund organisations that are registered and with annual income over a certain threshold. Not all organisational barriers are therefore equal in challenge. As partnerships are developed, these barriers can result in one-off actions or projects that can inhibit well intentioned collaboration.

Conversely, partnerships also offer a route to overcome some of these challenges, for example, several philanthropies have overcome registration requirements through investing through financial intermediaries.

Organisations can undertake an organisational readiness self-assessment although no toolkit is available in the field of peacebuilding. The Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD) Organisational Readiness Playbook is one tool which organisations can explore for this purpose.[94] We recommend the working group explore the development of an organisational readiness toolkit for the peacebuilding and YPS field.

This toolkit could focus on (i) institutional mandates to engage in innovative finance and public private partnerships, (ii) organisational support to engage in this work including through collaborative and non-competitive means, (iii) systems or procedures including budgeting, contracting, and risk modelling, (iv) resources allocated to invest in this work, (v) and implementation support and networking.

Risk analysis

As initiatives are developed in the portfolio, they should be accompanied by a thorough risk analysis. For this study, the below table documents several risks that were identified and possible mitigating actions to take forward.

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Pitting YPS against other agendas in fundraising proposals to the private sector.	Low	New instruments incorporate an intersectional lens of analysis into their operation. Consider joint development of funding and partnership instruments with other communities.
No anchor partners are found to take new solutions forward or fund ongoing coordination efforts.	Medium	Phased approach to solution development and funding for Research and Development secured at the level of the Working Group to move forward.
Substituting private sector funding and financing for ODA.	Low	Balanced narrative and framing of private sector solutions.
Reputational impact from association with private sector actors violating international and domestic standards.	High	Adopt exclusion criteria and due diligence process in the selection of private partners.[95] Continual monitoring of private sector partners.
Solutions developed do not address the challenges of young peacebuilders or cause harm.	Medium	Adopt the latest best practices on participatory design for example including young peacebuilders as designers and facilitators.
Peace washing – misleading claims of private actors having a positive impact on peace.	High	Due diligence processes embedded within each solution.

Recommendations

In conclusion, this study puts forward several recommendations to advance partnerships between the private sector and young peacebuilders.

General

1. Improve data on funding flows as recommended by the Second Report of the UN Secretary General on Youth, Peace and Security[96] and improve the evidence base of impact of young people in peacebuilding contexts through participatory design of MEL frameworks.
2. Invest in network coordination, open learning through sharing knowledge products, events and fostering engagement between the YPS community and private actors.
3. Explore the need for an organisational readiness toolkit for the peacebuilding and YPS field.
4. Further advance and sharpen the business case for peace.
5. Take appropriate risks in experimenting and developing an innovation portfolio, guided by the design principles outlined.
6. Invest in the capacity of young people to engage with the different funding and partnership opportunities developed to ensure meaningful participation.
7. Include young peacebuilders in peace processes and decision-making meetings

Public sector (governments, government aid agencies)

1. Strengthen public sector capabilities and capacities that build equitable and inclusive private sector partnerships which meaningfully engage and support young peacebuilders.
2. Invest in research and development of new solutions, through flexible funding, and connect to existing programmes.
3. Fund coordination work to ensure coherence across sectors.
4. Set the direction through shareholder mandates in IFIs/DFIs for the adoption of conflict-sensitive and peace-positive investment processes.
5. Ensure adequate resources to operationalise the National Action Plans on Youth, Peace and Security including through collaboration with private sector actors.
6. Strengthen legislation on due-diligence requirements for corporate entities and investors including through language on the impact of business practice on young people and conflict.

The United Nations System

1. Enhance coordination and collaboration with youth-led organisations on financing national priorities with key stakeholders including the private sector.
2. Explore how UN funding channels for youth-led civil society can catalyse private sector investment and integrate private sector co-financing.
3. Support through seed funding, coalition building and advocacy, the raising of funding from the corporate sector through new innovative means such as taxes, levies or crowdfunding.
4. Utilise the convening and coordination bodies within the UN System—including the Peacebuilding Commission and the UN YPS Secretariat—and multi-stakeholder platforms—including IPYP and the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security—to engage the private sector in change to policy dialogue and coordination on advancing the YPS Agenda.

International Finance Institutions/ Development Finance Institutions

1. Further invest in and adopt global standards on conflict sensitivity and peace-positive investment criteria that include young peacebuilders and explore a youth investing lens.
2. Explore financing that channels investments to the challenges raised by young people in the peacebuilding context eg youth unemployment and education.
3. Improve transparency on reporting investments in FCV contexts and the adoption of CSA and peace impact of investments.

Private sector (investors, corporates)

1. Advocate for civic space for young people to engage in peacebuilding work.
2. Include young people and their priorities in all social impact work including through financing their work and through their core business practices.
3. Adopt conflict-sensitive and peace-positive investment criteria and due diligence processes and advance the field of ‘youth peace finance’.

Civil Society (both youth-led and youth serving)

1. Youth serving CSOs should invest in organisational readiness to engage the private sector.
2. Global, regional, and national youth peacebuilding networks could consider involving private sector actors as members, partners or advisors. This can help to establish a direct connection between youth-led peacebuilding initiatives and private sector actors, providing opportunities for collaboration and mutual support.

Appendix

1. Definitions

Glossary of key terms

Blended finance	The use of catalytic capital from public or philanthropic sources to increase private sector investment in developing countries to realise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Blended finance is a structuring approach, not an investment approach.
Bond	A loan made by an investor to a borrower (typically corporate or governmental). A bond could be thought of as an I.O.U between the lender (investor) and borrower that includes the details of the loan and its payments. Bonds are used by companies, municipalities, states, and sovereign governments to finance projects and operations. (Investopedia). During the term of the bond interest is paid (variable or fixed) and at maturity the borrow repays the investor the principle plus any remaining interest.
Cause marketing	Voluntary contribution by individuals at point-of-sale where a percentage of sales price is designated to fund a cause. They could also be product purchase donations eg Toms shoes.
Conflict sensitivity	Conflict sensitivity is a term that evolved out of the aid sector, referring to the practice of understanding how aid interacts with conflict in a particular context, to mitigate unintended negative effects, and to influence conflict positively wherever possible, through humanitarian, development and/or peacebuilding interventions. It is now seen as a minimum standard for all actors operating in conflict-affected settings.
Crowdfunding	The practice of funding a project or venture by raising money from many people who each contribute a relatively small amount, typically via the internet. Campaigns are typically launched through specialised websites and social media is leveraged to raise awareness.

Development Finance Institutes	National and international development finance institutions (DFIs) are specialised development banks or subsidiaries set up to support private sector development in developing countries. They are usually majority-owned by national governments and source their capital from national or international development funds or benefit from government guarantees. This ensures their creditworthiness, which enables them to raise large amounts of money on international capital markets and provide financing on very competitive terms.
Do no harm (DNH)	DNH is both a principle and framework that has been used extensively in aid work to help ensure external actors engaging in humanitarian, developing and or fragile and conflict affected places consider and mitigate the potential negative effects of their aid. In relation to peace, DNH can be defined as any approach that does not have any short-, medium- or long-term unintended consequences and does not exacerbate conflict dynamics.[97]
Donor Advised Fund	A tax efficient vehicle used by individuals to support charitable giving.
Endowment Fund	Pooled financial vehicle whose initial capital is from a donation and that capital is invested to create a source of perpetual funding for a dedicated program or organisation.
Financing	Monies that are given and are expected to be repaid with some return on the investment eg interest.
Funding	Monies that are given and are not expected to be repaid.
Impact Bond	Impact bonds (IBs) are outcomes-based contracts. They use private funding from investors to cover the upfront capital required for a provider to set up and deliver a service. The service is designed to achieve measurable outcomes specified by the commissioner. The investor is repaid only if these outcomes are achieved (Government outcomes lab).

Impact investor	A broad categorisation of investors that refer to sustainable or impact-driven owners of capital who are seeking competitive or will tolerate below-market return on their investments in 'return' of a positive social impact.
Innovative finance for peacebuilding	A set of funding and financing tools that mobilise additional peacebuilding resources and/or enhance the effectiveness or efficiency of existing peacebuilding resources. Any source beyond overseas development aid (ODA).
Levies and taxes	Voluntary micro levies are a small percentage applied to a transaction that raises funds for certain causes. Taxes imposed by a government on a specific economic activity whose proceeds are earmarked for a cause.
Peace Bond	A new type of bond instrument where the proceeds are exclusively applied to finance new or existing projects that realise verifiable peace impacts, orientated by a robust set of new principles and standards. (Interpeace).
Peacebuilding	The peacebuilding field lacks a common understanding or definition of what constitutes peacebuilding. The UN Sustaining Peace Resolutions, however, recognise that peacebuilding begins before the onset of conflict and requires a holistic preventative approach addressing root causes of conflict. The United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (UNPBSO) identified six priority areas which reflect this expansive approach to peacebuilding. The six priorities listed are political processes, safety and security, rule of law and human rights, core government functions, basic services, and economic revitalisation. In this categorisation, UNPBSO argues that the first four priority areas always contribute to peacebuilding while the last two programs may contribute to peacebuilding so long as there is a sufficient conflict analysis that informs the programming.

Peace positive	Peace-positive is a phrase that is informally but widely used in the development and peace literature to refer to actions that have positive impacts on peace dynamics whether they relate to negative peace and or forms of social or political peace.
Private sector	Non state-owned organisations that can be classified by size (micro, small, medium, large), location (local, national or multi-national), industry sector (agriculture, manufacturing, retail, education, financial services), purpose/type (for profit, not for profit, foundations).
Public-private partnership	A mutually beneficial partnership between two or more actors in the private and public sectors that has a peace positive impact. The partnership can be in the form of skills and expertise exchange, involve the exchange of resources and can be formalised by way of a written agreement.
Youth	The definition of young people varies from context to context and institution to institution, reflecting varied cultural and political dynamics. For this working group, youth are defined as those in the second and third decade of their lives, which means those between 14-35 years old. However, the Working Group recognises that different institutions it partners with may utilise different definitions and will respond and adapt to those definitions.
Youth-led peacebuilding organisation	For this working group, youth-led organisations are those in which all organisational leadership positions are led by members under the age of 35. Their structure, decision-making processes, budgets and legal registration very significantly.

2. Abbreviations

AfDB	African development bank
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DFI	Development Finance Institution
DHF	Dag Hammarskjold Foundation
DNH	Do no harm
ESG	Environmental, Social and Governance
FCV	Fragility, conflict, and violence
IFI	International Finance Institution
IPYP	Investing and partnering for youth and peace
MEL	Monitoring, evaluation, and learning
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
MSME	Micro, small, and medium enterprises
NGO	Nongovernmental organisation
NPV	Net present value
ODA	Overseas development aid
PBF	Peacebuilding Fund
PBSO	Peacebuilding support office
PFIF	Peace finance investing framework
PPP	Public-private partnership
RFF	Radical Flexibility Fund
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SROI	Social return on investment
YPS	Youth, Peace, and Security

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