

**Local Business, Local Peace:
the Peacebuilding Potential of the
Domestic Private Sector**

**Peace entrepreneurship –
an overview of cases***

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Peace entrepreneurship – an overview of cases

AFGHANISTAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A high level conference encourages business to engage in dialogue with the government in order to strengthen its role in the country's reconstruction ■ Business gets involved in the Afghan New Beginnings Program, a Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) programme, providing training and employment to ex-combatants ■ Local businessmen participate in a <i>shura</i>, or council, that seeks to tackle corruption in the local administration ■ Members of the Afghan diaspora return to invest in the country's economy ■ US NGO Business Council for Peace supports women entrepreneurs in creating sustainable businesses
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>Nova Banka Bijeljina</i>, the leading bank in SME finance, lobbies authorities to achieve cross-entity harmonisation of banking regulations, creating a unified banking market and facilitating investment across different entities ■ <i>Organic Medici</i>, a business growing and processing organic herbs, works with farmers across ethnic and entity divides to source products, and employs minority returnees ■ Croatian company <i>Kras</i> reinvests in <i>Mira Prijedor</i> biscuit factory in Republica Srpska, assisting its recovery from war-time losses ■ Informal markets such as Arizona in Brcko district provide spaces for inter-ethnic economic cooperation at the same time as securing livelihoods ■ International NGO CHF's Municipal and Economic Development Initiative supports multi-ethnic business associations which form into the Regional Enterprise Network, contributing to economic policy-making at both local and national levels ■ Tuzla-based NGO <i>lpak</i> enters into a partnership with local furniture company Score, which offers places to young refugee graduates of <i>lpak's</i> carpentry training
BURUNDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The country-wide women's network <i>Dushirehamwe</i> combines conflict transformation with economic co-operation and livelihood generation initiatives ■ Burundi Enterprise Network is formed to lobby and engage with the government to improve the business climate and create a more equitable and peaceful economy
COLOMBIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Business plays a high-profile role in the Pastrana administration's peace process with the armed group FARC ■ The energy company <i>Interconexión Eléctrica S.A.</i> creates the <i>Programa de Desarrollo para la Paz</i>, an initiative that tackles the root causes of conflict at the community level ■ <i>Compañía Envasadora del Atlántico</i>, in collaboration with the UNDP, helps organise farmer associations that produce passion fruit for its export business, providing them with livelihood alternatives to coca plantation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>Allianzas Red</i> works to involve the private sector in reintegration initiatives that offer training and employment opportunities to IDPs ■ The national Federation of Chambers of Commerce initiative <i>Empresas por la Paz</i> combines conflict resolution training at the micro-level with business start-up support to participants
CYPRUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Greek and Turkish Cypriot businesspeople participate in a cross-island dialogue initiative to develop strategies for economic co-operation and a peaceful settlement of the conflict
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Local businesses in eastern Congo employ ex-combatants and co-operate with MONUC to strengthen stability at the community level and engage in policy dialogue at the national level
EL SALVADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The business community actively participates in the peace process and negotiations, shaping the final agreement ■ Business leaders are involved in the citizens' initiative Patriotic Movement Against Crime, advocating for and carrying out a weapons collection scheme
GUATEMALA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ASAZGUA, the national sugar producers' association, set up the FUNDAZUCAR, which engages in social investments to benefit sugar workers and communities, also providing development planning assistance to local governments ■ Garment factory Koramsa opens a separate production line to offer training and work placements to youths at risk of joining criminal gangs in surrounding communities
ISRAEL/PALESTINE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Israeli fruit and vegetable export company Agrexco partners with five Gaza-based growers' associations to export their crops to EU markets, and sets up a separate brand to promote Palestinian produce ■ Logistics zones at border crossings between Israel and Palestine are set up to overcome access problems and facilitate continued cross-border flow of merchandise and economic co-operation between businesses ■ Pre-<i>intifada</i> plans for cooperation in the IT sector resurface in the aftermath of Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza strip and hold the potential for future joint ventures ■ Tourism is harnessed to promote greater cooperation between Palestinian and Israeli tour operators to maximise mutual benefit from tourism to the region ■ The Alternative Tourism Group promotes 'justice tourism' to ensure Palestinian communities benefit from tourism to the region, at the same time educating visitors about the political and conflict context ■ The Peres Center for Peace and the Center for Jewish-Arab Economic Development foster business linkages through various initiatives reaching out to Israeli and Arab business communities
KOSOVO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The international NGO Mercy Corps promotes 'dialogue-rich development' in an initiative to foster both reconciliation and business linkages that were lost during the conflict between Albanian and Serb Kosovars

NEPAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce initiates negotiations to avert a Maoist threat to shut down industries, and to address some of their political and labour-related demands ■ 14 apex business organisations set up the National Business Initiative to support both the political peace process and just socio-economic development to address some of the root causes of the conflict ■ The Three Sisters' Trekking Agency trains and employs socially disadvantaged women, addressing both gender and socio-economic issues pertinent to the conflict
NIGERIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Marketplaces in Nigeria offer space for inter-ethnic economic interaction, fostering peaceful relationships and leading to co-operation on community-level security
NORTHERN IRELAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) engages in advocacy and support to the peace process, emphasising the benefits of a 'peace dividend' ■ Together with other business associations, CBI establishes the Group of Seven, which urges a settlement to the conflict through public campaigns and media statements at critical junctures during the peace process, as well as direct engagement with all parties to the conflict
PHILIPPINES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Philippines Business for Social Progress (PBSP) facilitates public-private dialogue on governance issues relating to regional cross-border trade in Tawi-Tawi in order to protect local livelihoods ■ PBSP's initiative Young Muslim Professionals for Business and Peace offers Muslim entrepreneurs from the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) internships in Manila-based companies to facilitate skills transfer and religious tolerance in the workplace ■ Paglas Corporation and La Frutera Inc. invest in marginalised areas of the ARMM to establish a banana plantation that offers jobs to Muslims and Christians alike, including ex-combatants, promoting reconciliation and religious tolerance in the workplace
SIERRA LEONE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Sierra Leonean branch of African diaspora mobile phone company Celtel partners with international NGO Search for Common Ground to launch a new mobile phone network in former rebel strongholds in the north, combining the launch with a radio-broadcast debate on the importance of national reconciliation and the role of communications ■ The Sierra Leonean Market Women's Association provides micro-finance schemes and training to market women to strengthen their livelihoods and contribution to the post-war economy
SOMALIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Telecommunications company Nationlink partners with UNICEF and a local NGO to provide vocational training and employment to demobilised child soldiers ■ Facilitators of the peace process involve businesspeople in a high level conference to secure their buy-in and commitment to a peace agreement and reconstruction of the country ■ Businesses support the Mogadishu Security and Stabilisation Initiative that seeks to address security concerns in the capital, including roadblocks

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Businesspeople supply investment and goods for the running of local social services such as hospitals, and themselves provide essential public services such as electricity
SOUTH AFRICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Consultative Business Movement (CBM) combines efforts with others to consult with the different parties to the conflict to facilitate an inclusive peace process; it subsequently gets invited to provide secretariat and administrative functions for the Convention for a Democratic South Africa process that brings about a new constitution ■ After the first elections, CBM and the Urban Foundation form the National Business Initiative in order to channel business support and work in partnership with government to tackle systemic problems hampering social and economic development ■ Business leaders set up Business Against Crime, a non-profit organisation to partner with the government to tackle threats to security ■ A separate Business Trust is set up to deal with the problem of unemployment, in particular focusing on job creation in the tourism industry
SOUTH CAUCASUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Abkhaz Union of Women Entrepreneurs assists Georgian micro-businesses from economically marginalised Gal/i district through start-up funds and training ■ International NGO Conciliation Resources facilitates a dialogue initiative between Georgian and Abkhaz businesspeople to build trust and identify shared issues of concern in the current conflict context ■ Georgian and South Ossetian farmers exchange land located in the conflict zone between the two to protect mutual property from attack ■ Recently closed Ergneti and Sadakhlo markets were important centres for generating livelihoods as well as confidence and trust through cross-border trade between Georgians and South Ossetians, and Azeris and Armenians, respectively ■ The Caucasus Business and Development Network seeks to facilitate regional business linkages by promoting information exchange ■ The Turkish-Armenian Business Development Council is formed by Armenian and Turkish businesspeople to foster business linkages as well as providing a forum to advocate for rapprochement at the political level
SRI LANKA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Colombo-based big business forms the Sri Lanka First campaign, which mobilises citizen support for a peace settlement in the run up to elections in 2001, helping to bring to power a pro-peace government and leading to the signature of a ceasefire agreement in 2002 ■ The Business for Peace Alliance, a working group of business members from regional chambers of commerce from across the island, promotes trust-building and joint initiatives between Tamil, Sinhalese and Muslim businesspeople, as well as policy advocacy vis-à-vis the capital