



**international  
alert**

# **International Alert's Strategy 2019–2023**

**Breaking cycles of violence,  
building cycles of peace**



**“There comes a point where we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they’re falling in.”**

**Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Alert’s patron**

# Our vision and mission

**For over 30 years, International Alert has been working to build positive peace and reduce violence, working across conflict lines and with all parties to conflicts.**

**Experienced and respected, we have a proud track record of achieving change in fragile and conflict-affected countries and territories.**

Our **vision** is that people and their societies can resolve conflicts without violence, working together to build sustainable and inclusive peace.

Our **mission** is to break cycles of violence and to build sustainable peace by:

- working with people directly affected by violent conflict to find lasting solutions;
- shaping policies and practices to reduce and prevent violence, and to support sustainable peace; and
- collaborating with all those striving for peace to strengthen our collective voice and impact.

Connecting these three mission goals will be central to our success in reaching bold targets to reduce violence and proactively build peace over the next five years.

# Our work

## 1. With communities

**Goal: To strengthen communities' voices and their capacity to reduce violence, in particular by working with disadvantaged women and young people**

**We will:**

- link people across conflict divides to build trust and support dialogue and reconciliation;
- counter the spread of division and foster cultures of tolerance; and
- support diverse and marginalised community and civil society voices to actively contribute to peace processes to address the root causes of conflict.

## 2. With business

**Goal: To harness the private sector to support inclusive peace**

**We will:**

- promote conflict-sensitive and gender-sensitive practices in the private sector;
- encourage the peace-supporting management of natural resources in fragile and conflict-affected contexts through the actions and policies of the private sector and government;
- strengthen the capacity of local stakeholders to meaningfully engage with the private sector, so that investments and economic development are responsive to people's needs;



- leverage the private sector from the local to the global level to contribute proactively to peace;
- facilitate the transition of coping economies into the formal economy in a conflict-sensitive and gender-sensitive manner; and
- build everyday peace through informal economic actors, especially women traders, connecting them across divides and amplifying their voices.

# 3. With governments

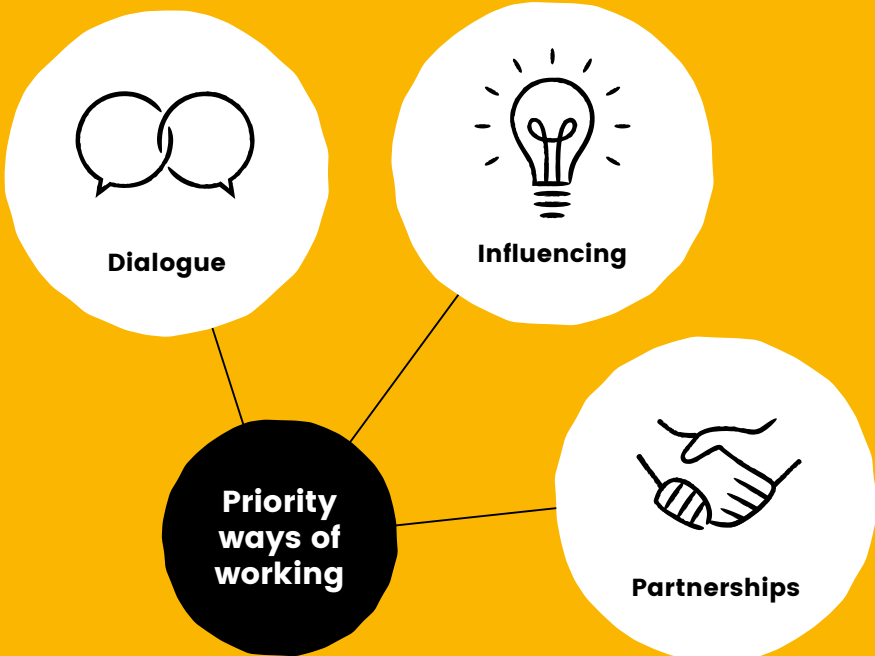
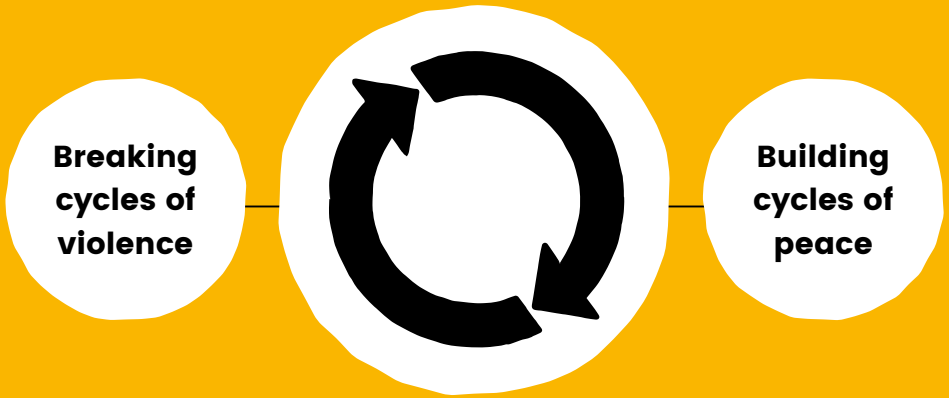
**Goal: To promote fairness, inclusion and justice in local and national governance systems, including security, to support peace and to address the root causes of conflict, including structural inequalities**

**We will:**

- support disadvantaged groups, including minorities, young people and women, to increase their active political participation and become leaders;
- strengthen the capacity of civil society organisations and community representatives to bridge conflict divides and engage with all parties;
- ensure political settlements promote inclusive governance that works for the marginalised;
- increase the accountability and effectiveness of security forces, including peacekeeping missions, through community engagement and improving their policies and practices;
- encourage security forces to be responsive, accountable and engaged with communities – for example, by facilitating dialogue between community representatives and security forces and, when appropriate, armed groups, or by ensuring that military forces in one country integrate our approaches to engaging communities into their training programmes;
- influence national policies on reconciliation by providing evidence of what works, especially for marginalised groups;
- contribute to the fair and inclusive distribution and management of services and natural resources, including influencing humanitarian and development organisations to increase the impact of their work on peace, also engaging with governments on their private sector policies to ensure fairness; and
- encourage the adoption of non-violent strategies by key national governments to prevent violent extremism.



# Our work





**Our goals**

Champion **gender- and conflict-sensitivity in ways that contribute to peace**, including in our own work

Strengthen **communities' voices and their capacity to reduce violence**, in particular by working with disadvantaged women and young people

Harness the **private sector** to support inclusive peace

Support **inclusive peace processes and wider peacebuilding initiatives**

Promote **fairness, inclusion and justice in local and national governance systems, including security**, to support peace and to address the root causes of conflict, including structural inequalities



## 4. With peace processes and initiatives

**Goal: To support inclusive peace processes and wider peacebuilding initiatives**

### **We will:**

- ensure a range of communities and diverse groups participate effectively in formal and informal peace processes, linking different levels and tracks;
- ensure that formal and informal peace processes take account of people's needs, including of the most vulnerable, supporting women and young people in particular;
- support effective conflict recovery, including reconciliation and transitional justice;
- engage with armed groups (where possible and appropriate) and support effective reintegration of ex-combatants;
- identify alternative entry points to support peace processes, such as trade, the role of the private sector and service delivery, especially when formal political processes are stalled; and
- advise on the design and architecture of peace processes.

## 5. With gender- and conflict-sensitivity

**Goal: To champion gender- and conflict-sensitivity in ways that contribute to peace, including in our own work**

### **We will:**

- mainstream gender- and conflict-sensitivity across all our work;
- document and disseminate best practices in conflict-sensitivity;
- develop, consolidate and disseminate our training material and guidance as the leading global organisation on conflict-sensitive approaches to working in fragile and conflict-affected contexts;
- promote conflict-sensitivity with external stakeholders at project, strategy and policy level, offering advice, training as well as long-term accompaniment or sustained support, and strengthening the role of conflict analysis in conflict-sensitive approaches;
- strengthen Alert's staff capacity in gender mainstreaming, gender analysis and gender-sensitivity in programming and M&E;
- train key stakeholders on comprehensive, gender-relational approaches to peacebuilding, including critically engaging with femininities, masculinities and diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, and work with women, men and people of other gender identities in preventing and redressing all forms of discrimination;
- promote the agency of previously marginalised groups and individuals, especially women, in promoting peace and security and in building more inclusive societies; and
- support more diverse voices to be actively involved in different levels of peace processes, leading to gender-responsive outcomes of the negotiations and dialogues.



# How we will achieve these goals

**Our work will continue to be underpinned by research, analysis and a framing of issues that identify the root causes of violence and long-term solutions to conflict.**

Over the next five years, we will prioritise three core ways of working:

## 1. Dialogue

We will enable people directly affected by conflict to build peace by promoting dialogue, connecting people across conflict lines.

## 2. Influencing

We will shape policies and practices to reduce violence and prevent conflict by better addressing root causes and influencing structural change in favour of peace.

## 3. Partnerships

We will collaborate with those striving for peace to strengthen our collective voice and impact by building and strengthening partnerships for peace.



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