

Contacts

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About PDI-Kintha

PDI-Kintha was founded in 2013 in response to outbreaks of communal violence the year before and the more organized anti-Muslim violence that followed. Initial projects and activities sought to address the deepening religious and ethnic divisions that followed.

Early on, we focused much of our energy on building trust not only between communities affected by conflict, but also between community members and our staff. Through sports, music, and art activities we sought to transform attitudes driving conflict, raise awareness of issues underlying the conflict, and build skills to transform conflict.

We work with conflict-affected populations from central and northern areas of Rakhine State. However, following military clearance operations in August 2017 that lead to an exodus of over 600,000 people to Bangladesh and the subsequent barriers to access, we were forced to adjust the geographic focus area of some of our projects. We currently have 40 staff members implementing peace building, education, and social cohesion activities in Sittwe, Buthidaung, Kyauk Taw, and MraukOo townships (of central and northern areas of Rakhine State).

Our vision: To normalize collaboration between communities in conflict in Rakhine State and for all communities to benefit from access to fair opportunities.



Shared Experience in Dialogue

Strengthening Inter-Communal Cohesion in Rakhine (Myanmar)



Our mission: To educate a generation of youth peace builders in Rakhine State, to support diverse communities to collaborate with one another, and to promote the value of representation in decision making at all levels.

We offer:

- Short-term community building trainings
- Youth leadership and empowerment programs
- Intra- and inter-group dialogue (storytelling)

»Peace doesn't happen, if there is no peace between individuals« (Muslim participant)

»We must practice more empathy, we judge people by the cover, while we should understand the reasons behind their behaviour.« (Buddhist participant)

Using a unique storytelling methodology, the Peace and Development Initiative (PDI-Kintha) brings together people from separated communities to share experiences, listen to each other and get to know each other better. This helps building trust and supports social cohesion.

Partners

To develop and implement our storytelling, dialogue and conflict transformation activities, we have formed a partnership with Culture for Peace and inmedio peace consult from Berlin, Germany.

Culture for Peace is specialized in dialogue and conflict transformation through media and arts. Inmedio contributes expertise in mediation and dialogue.

The storytelling process is supported by ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen) with funds from German Federal Foreign Office.

Supported by:

» culture for peace

» inmedio berlin
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www.culture-for-peace.org
www.inmedio.de/peace

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ifa Institut für
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Methods

We combine classical dialogue, peace education and biographical storytelling.

Young and middle aged workshop participants are sitting in a circle. After working together for five days, today, they have listened to each other's life stories and stories of how one has been affected by conflict and violence. The feedback round is extraordinary – most of the comments contain direct acknowledgement, expressions of empathy and honest affection:

»He listened to me like a close brother« (Muslim woman about a Buddhist)

»I could hear that the violence of 2012 was extremely hard for her. She misses her former friends and neighbors from downtown Sittwe. I feel deep empathy with her« (Buddhist woman)



»We can work for peace, even during conflict. Let's now share our optimism with our communities« (Workshop participant)

What do we mean by stories?

The stories we work with, are about situations, people have encountered, decisions they have taken and circumstances that have helped or hindered them, also in relation to severe violence. In sharing stories, the conflict sides understand each other's fears, needs and hopes. Empathy can grow. Deeper layers of the conflict become visible and can be included in the conflict transformation process.



Dialogue Process

Process Goals

Trust building and cooperation across conflict divides;
Creation of a network of dedicated peace builders

Intra- and inter-group dialogue activities, fostering empathy and resilience to hate speech

Changing conflict-supporting narratives into peace narratives & supporting local peace multipliers



Process Features

Training:

Learning about Conflict Transformation and Dealing with the Past; identifying and transforming conflict-supporting narratives; strengthening active listening skills and facilitation techniques; formation of dialogue facilitation teams

Intra-community dialogue:

Public „storytelling and listening sessions“, facilitated by our trained facilitators, thereby teaching topics of mediation, conflict analysis and transformation. During these sessions, peace-supporting narratives are deliberately fostered and the discussions inspire critical self-reflection.

Inter-community dialogue:

Best-practice exchange among the dialogue facilitators and constant, cross-community, peer-group supervision feed experience from different communities into the process; public dialogue following Do-no-harm and conflict sensitivity; indirect dialogue via audio/video sharing

Public networking & multistakeholder events:

Ethnic boundaries and religious prejudice lose their power. People listen to each other, discovering other human beings with similar needs, wishes and fears.

