

Committed to Peace



Facilitating peace work in times of unrest

2023 Annual Report

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Dear Readers,

The effects of the war against Ukraine continued to be felt in 2023, not only in terms of peace policy. The year then ended with an escalation of violence in the Middle East on a scale that was, to most, barely conceivable. Indeed, the escalation had far-reaching consequences in our globalised world: Existing conflicts intensified in both the neighbouring countries and worldwide. This was also and above all the case in the countries and regions in which we are active.

What can we even still achieve with our peace work? This pressing question preoccupied us and our partners worldwide. Particularly our partners in the Middle East faced (and continue to face) immense challenges that extend far into the private sphere. It was all the more impressive to see how they adapted their commitment to the new reality and sent a compelling message for peace despite the escalation of violence and even in the face of resistance that was at times immense.

Peace work works – even, and perhaps especially, in difficult times! We are also grateful to be able to announce a new record level of donations in 2023. In view of the plans continually being announced by German and international policymakers to cut civil crisis prevention budgets, these are encouraging signs. They also show that we are pursuing the right path with our new strategy, towards a more independent organisation that can also have an impact beyond the government-funded Civil Peace Service.

This year, our annual report is more comprehensive than in previous years: To provide you with a good overview of our commitment to peace, we have dedicated a whole page to each of our programme countries and fields of activity, with examples of smaller and larger successes in our peace work.

We wish you an interesting read!



A white handwritten signature of Alexander Mauz on a dark blue background.

Alexander Mauz
Chair of the Executive Board



A white handwritten signature of Sonja Wiekenberg-Mlalandle on a dark blue background.

Sonja Wiekenberg-Mlalandle
Board Member for Finance & Administration, HR, IT



forumZFD

Report of the Executive Board

Setting a new course

© Ute Grabovskiy Photothek



forumZFD's expert in Ukraine, Ada Hakobyan (left), discusses the current situation in Ukraine and the country's long-term reconstruction with Federal Minister Svenja Schulze and the Ukrainian Ambassador to Germany, Oleksiy Makeyev. This photo was taken in August 2023 during an open day at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs.

Our endeavours to set a new course shaped the 2023 financial year here at forumZFD. The rapid growth that our organisation has experienced, particularly over the past decade, is almost entirely due to the ever-increasing funding for the Civil Peace Service that the German government has provided.

These funds are now at risk of being cut permanently, however. Especially since the war against Ukraine began and there has subsequently been a move towards even greater prioritisation of a military-oriented security policy. While the need for peacebuilding and crisis prevention is growing worldwide, the framework conditions for the involvement of civil society are deteriorating.

If we want to meet these needs, which go far beyond the Civil Peace Service, and to ensure our long-term financial stability and ability to act, we must change our approach – both within our projects and in terms of how we fund our work.

Financial situation

We were able to close the 2023 financial year with a profit. This allowed us to entirely clear the loss carried forward and to build up free reserves again. The association's total income increased from €12.3 million to €13.6 million. For more information on the profit/loss statement, see [page 21](#).

'Changing Course' – our new strategy for 2023 to 2027

In 2023, we began rolling out our new strategy for forumZFD. With our 'Changing Course' approach, we have set a clear common direction for our peace policy in turbulent times: We wish to become more independent and even more capable of acting and to focus more on the impact of our work. Our three strategic goals outlined on the right here reflect this new focus. They provide a common strategic direction for the various areas in which we work – our programmes in Germany and abroad, training, policy and advocacy, and public outreach.

Regrettably, the framework conditions for civil society peace initiatives are deteriorating in many countries. We wish to counteract this and to use our new strategy to do more to protect our partners and enable them greater scope for action. In light of the move towards military rearmament and military-oriented security policy, we want to double down on our efforts to convince politicians, the media and society of the benefits of civil peace work.

The strategy also sets aims for organisational development to enable us to achieve our three strategic goals. The new financial strategy will make us more independent and enhance our ability to act. Significantly more non-institutional funding (donations) and a diversification of institutional donations constitute core elements.

Our strategic goals

1 Boost our impact

Work with our partners to have a greater impact on conflict transformation and social change processes.

2 Enhance the scope for action

Greatly expand the scope for action of peace organisations and our partners.

3 Advocate conflict transformation

Encourage influential stakeholders from the political, media and social spheres to use non-violent conflict transformation as their reference and act accordingly.

Report of the Supervisory Board

Accompanying the change of course

In the 2023 financial year, the Supervisory Board that was newly elected at the end of 2022 began its work. Areas of responsibility were allocated (see the overview on the right here) and regular monthly meetings scheduled with the association's Executive Board. One important step for the Supervisory Board was implementation of the new structure for the Executive Board: The number of members was reduced over the course of the year from three to two. The second management level was also redefined and new responsibilities were allocated. Reallocation of the responsibilities for both the Executive Board members and the second management level closely follows the proposals made in 2022 by the restructuring committee. At the same time, we bid farewell to Oliver Knabe as a long-standing member of the Executive Board. In August, the Supervisory Board reappointed Sonja Wiekenberg-Mlalandle to the Executive Board following her parental leave. It also marked the start of the job share with Jens von Bargen.

In February, the Supervisory Board unanimously approved the new 'Changing Course' strategy. forumZFD seeks with this to respond to the challenges to peace work in times of a growing escalation of violence and ongoing threat of cuts to public funding. The Executive Board has been responsible for implementing the strategy ever since. The Supervisory Board regularly reviewed the state of implementation and acted in an advisory capacity in a similar manner to during the strategy's development.

The association's public image was another important concern for the Supervisory Board. Members of the Supervisory Board represented the association and its work at various events, such as the annual congress of the German Protestant church that took place in Nuremberg, various peace runs and the symposium on conflict transformation for municipalities in Germany (*Interkommunale Fachtagung*). Compelling conversations and stimulating discussions took place during these events with people for whom peace remains an important concern, even in these difficult times.

The financial results for 2023 were more positive than in the previous year. The Supervisory Board approved the 2023 annual accounts during its meeting in August 2024.

Following personal discussions, the Supervisory Board also admitted five new members to the association.

Supervisory Board (as at August 2024)



Esther Yungung Lisa Rüden, Hamburg

Chair of the Supervisory Board

Area(s) of responsibility:
HR, anti-racism



Benedikt Brammer, Berlin

Deputy Chair

Area(s) of responsibility:
Strategy, HR



Kiflemariam Gebrewold, Freiburg

Board Member

Area(s) of responsibility:
Policy



Ursula Gille-Boussahia, Osnabrück

Board Member (since April 2024)

Area(s) of responsibility:
Finances, Forum Civil Peace Service Foundation



Raana B. Gräsle, Berlin

Board Member

Area(s) of responsibility:
Strategy



Miriam Mona Mukalazi, Cologne

Board Member

Area(s) of responsibility:
Anti-racism, strategy



Helga Tempel, Hamburg

Honorary Chair

Facilitating peace work in times of unrest

Why forumZFD needs donations

A more peaceful world is possible! We at forumZFD firmly believe this. The events of 2023 once again showed clearly that, especially now, we want and need to empower those setting impressive examples for dialogue and reconciliation in the midst of violent conflicts. In addition to the public funding we receive, particularly donations help us to respond to the ever-growing need for civil peace work.

In June 2024, an interview with the sociologist Hartmut Rosa was published online on the Tagesschau news portal. In it, he states that: "With his talk of a 'turning point', Olaf Scholz made clear that we should give up hope of a more peaceful and just world order and that war is the future. This did something to the population." He continues: "We need a vision of how things can be better in the future, how we can work towards the dream or goal of a more peaceful world, however difficult it may be."

We have just this vision of a more peaceful world here at forumZFD. And we are working with our partners to achieve it: With our peace projects, we reinforce the commitment of civil society groups in war and crisis regions so that they can successfully campaign for social change and a peaceful future. Through our educational work in German schools, we share our vision with children and young people and inspire them to become active for peace themselves. And we hold German and European politicians accountable with our campaigns: civil peacebuilding must be strengthened. The turning point must involve a turn *towards* peace!

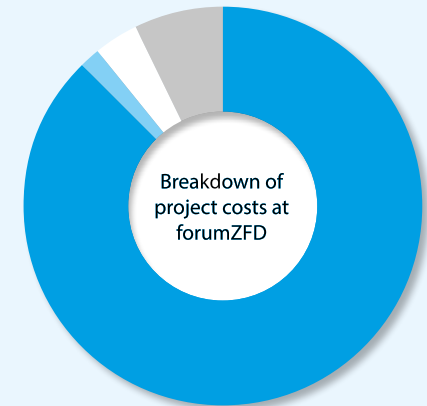


Signatures were also collected for the 'Friedenswende jetzt!' appeal during the annual congress of the German Protestant church held in Nuremberg in June 2023. Read more about the campaign on [page 10](#).



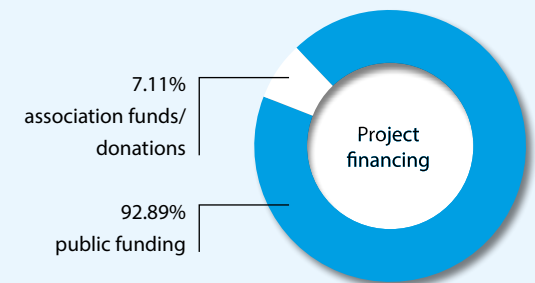
We are dependent on donations to be able to continue this work and even intensify it further in light of the current global challenges. The public funding we receive is limited and continually at risk of being cut. And our political work is only possible with independent funding, meaning donations!

We would like to thank everyone who supported our work in 2023: our individual members and member organisations, the people who donate and confer endowments, our institutional grant providers and our political and civil society dialogue partners. Last but not least, we would like to thank our partner organisations as well as our employees at our head office in Cologne and around the globe. You are all indispensable.



Breakdown of project costs at forumZFD
(Sample calculation with project costs of €100,000)

87.65%	€87,650	Project support/supervision
1.65%	€1,650	Awareness-raising/educational work
89.30%		
3.72%	€3,720	Fundraising, advertising, and public outreach
6.97%	€6,970	Administration



Presentation of our programmes by country



forumZFD

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Learning about peace in times of war



We also responded to current world events and trends in international peace work at our Academy for Conflict Transformation. We have been exploring topics such as post-colonialism and racism in great depth for many years now. Course participants are increasingly international and the circle of teachers has become more diverse, too. In light of the escalation in violence in many countries, we have expanded our portfolio to include a course on trauma sensitivity, for example, during which peace experts learn how to explore individual and collective trauma.

Effective and reflective

// *The portfolio effectively helps participants to improve their knowledge and skills. They are introduced to new tools, concepts and more intangible aspects such as listening skills with the aim of adjusting their approaches accordingly. [...] By also including conceptual discussions and sessions on anti-racism and decolonisation [...], the Academy offers course participants the opportunity to contribute to the emerging discussions and practice of decolonising aid and knowledge in peace and development work.* //

Conclusion reached by the external consultants based on the online questionnaires sent to all alumni and focus group interviews with alumni, teaching staff, employees and other stakeholders



Highlights of our training in 2023

☀️ **Thanks to scholarships awarded by the State Chancellery of North Rhine-Westphalia, peace experts from four continents and twelve different countries were able to contribute their practical experience to the full-time course and further their expertise in peace and conflict work.**

☀️ A number of adjustments were made to the content of the full-time course based on the experience gained in the previous year: **A module on communication and facilitation was introduced with the aim of strengthening participants' role as multipliers and thus achieving a greater impact with the training.**

☀️ **The newly conceived online course on deepening peace practices was launched in September** with 11 international participants. It aims to help experienced experts for humanitarian aid, development cooperation and peacebuilding to design and implement more effective programmes for peace work and conflict sensitivity.

☀️ The part-time course included a module on **diversity, identity and awareness of privilege** for the first time. In doing so, we met a need arising from a major trend towards decolonising peace work.

Our training at a glance

30 training courses and seminars offered at the academy in 2023

More than **360** participants in courses offered by the academy

Tailored seminars with more than **50** participants for **5** institutions

Project funding: €1,085,815

Funding sources and commissioning parties:

- Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- State Chancellery of North Rhine-Westphalia
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
- University of Magdeburg
- Dienste in Übersee gGmbH
- Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg
- IFA

[Learn more online](#)

How can peace actually be achieved?



How can I discuss conflicts with a class? Who is still committed to peace and non-violent conflict transformation? What can we do? A great many questions like these reached us again in 2023. With our diverse peace education offers for children, young people and adults, we responded to the needs of schools and the profound longing among people for an exchange, inspiration, impetus and stories that give hope.

Highlights of our educational work in 2023

We developed three new concepts for our educational workshops in schools on how peace involves more than an absence of war. Depending on the focus, children in years 3 to 10 learn how global inequality, climate change and a lack of gender equality can lead to conflicts, flight and migration.

With our online course on learning about peace in times of war, we created an opportunity for an exchange between teachers following the escalation of violence in the Middle East. We spoke with them about how peace education programmes can be used to address conflicts that arise in German classrooms. We organised the event together with a speaker with Arabic roots and a speaker with Jewish roots.

For hope and humanity: In December, two members of our partner organisation 'Combatants for Peace' shared their personal stories during an event in Cologne. Palestinian Osama Illiwat and Israeli Rotem Levin continue to campaign for peace in the region despite the ongoing violence. The around 280 guests in the packed hall were still listening attentively and intently to all that they had to say after two hours.

'Faces of Peace'

We created the 'Faces of Peace' multimedia exhibition together with the theatre educator Dana Khamis. The exhibition introduces ten peace activists who have experienced war in their home countries; many of them even had to flee. Both their commitment and that of the many others, who contribute in ways both large and small, often remains unseen. The exhibition honours their efforts and invites people to reflect, inspiring them to become active themselves. The exhibition was dispatched to schools, local peace groups, church communities and municipalities throughout Germany from the start of 2024.

"I laughed and cried during the discussions," says Dana Khamis. The theatre educator from Cologne conducted the interviews with the participants. She grew up in Jordan herself. "All of the stories really got to me. I'm just glad that these people exist. They show that there are many ways to make a stand for peace. You don't have to pursue a career in politics to achieve something."



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Our activities (together with partners)

- **Peace days and peace runs with schools:** Berlin, Bonn, Hamburg, Hausach (Black Forest), Hildesheim, Jülich, Cologne-Nippes, Münster, Stuttgart, Wuppertal
- **Adult education (lectures, exhibitions):** Among others, in Cologne-Ehrenfeld, Oldenburg, Nuremberg

Project funding: €218,021

Funding sources:

- ENGAGEMENT GLOBAL with funding from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
- Stiftung Umwelt und Entwicklung
- Brot für die Welt – Protestant aid agency

[Learn more online \(in German\)](#)

Peace doesn't come for free!



In 2023, political decisions relevant to our peace work continued to be made or prepared in the shadow of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. Hence it was important for us at forumZFD to emphasise the tremendous importance of civil peacebuilding in political discussions and campaigns and avert the massive budget cuts that had been planned.

Highlights of our peace work in 2023

☀ One year after the “turning point” proclaimed by the German federal chancellor Olaf Scholz, we called on him to instigate a **turn to peace – to military disarmament rather than rearmament. Greater cooperation within the international community. Strengthening Germany’s civil peace capabilities.** Individuals and organisations had around three months to sign our appeal.

By the end of the year, 36 members of parliament had signed the declaration committing to greater investments in peacebuilding. They included the president of the German Bundestag, Bärbel Bas, and the head of the SPD parliamentary group, Rolf Mützenich.

The declaration is part of the campaign to strengthen Germany’s civil peace capabilities that is supported by 65 peace organisations. Effects can already be discerned: The Bundestag largely reversed the cuts planned for 2023, providing €1 billion more in funding each for the Federal Foreign Office and the Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Protest in Berlin

☀ On 6 September, we were able to hand over 5,011 signatures from our appeal for a turn to peace together with an urgent plea to the German federal chancellor, Olaf Scholz. Thanks to countless donations, we were also able to publish our plea in an advert in DIE ZEIT weekly newspaper in April.



© Hendrik Haßel



© Hendrik Haßel

The signatures were handed over outside the German Bundestag following a protest organised by the alliance calling for a strengthening of Germany’s peace capabilities. A one euro coin of ten metres in diameter proclaimed: Peace doesn’t come for free!

Our peace policy activities at a glance

65 organisations have joined the campaign alliance to strengthen Germany’s peace capabilities (‘Deutschlands Friedensfähigkeiten stärken’).

36 members of the German Bundestag have signed the declaration advocating greater investments in peacebuilding.

forumZFD was actively involved in several peacebuilding networks and associations: Plattform Zivile Konfliktbearbeitung, European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO), Civil Peace Service consortium

Funds used for lobby work and campaigns: €46,430.48

[Learn more online \(in German\)](#)

More offers for more needs



Conflicts and social upheaval are also on the rise in Germany. Interest in conflict counselling and support is growing in towns, cities and municipalities as a consequence. In addition to ongoing issues such as migration, climate change and racism, the impact of international conflicts on local communities in Germany was particularly tangible in 2023. The escalation of violence in the Middle East in October 2023 exacerbated existing conflict lines and conflict situations in the country.

Thanks to an increase in funding, among others from the European Union, we were able to respond to the increase in demand by deploying further staff and adding new services.

Highlights of our peace work in 2023

We prepared conflict counselling procedures for several municipalities and subsequently launching these in 2024. The aim is to improve the handling of high and ever-changing social heterogeneity. This is how integration and participation should be achieved. We conducted low-threshold counselling sessions with other municipalities.

In September, we organised an **intermunicipal symposium on the topics of conflict, power and democracy and their effects on communities** with 50 representatives from local administration, the police, civil society and academia. The focus was on topics such as power asymmetries and discrimination as well as opportunities for participation.

In November, we hosted an **online discussion for municipalities on how to deal with the effects of the Middle East conflict here in Germany.** Forty community leaders had the opportunity to exchange ideas and gain inspiration for their own conflict transformation activities during the event. A discussion paper was moreover drafted.

Reference publication on local conflict counselling

At the start of 2023, we presented our publication on local conflict counselling to the public ('Kommunale Konfliktberatung. Grundsätze und Praxis'). It was produced together with our partner, the K3B competence centre for local conflict counselling of the VFB Salzwedel e. V. association. The publication is considered a reference work. The renowned professor, Friedrich Glasl, wrote the foreword.



// Today's world needs many bridge builders and local conflict counselling is a learning centre for this. //

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Friedrich Glasl

Our work at a glance

Project regions (German federal states):

- North Rhine-Westphalia
- Baden-Württemberg
- Lower Saxony
- Berlin
- Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

Employees: 11

Project funding: €731,340

Funding sources:

- European Union (Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund)
- Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Equality of Lower Saxony
- Ministry for Children, Youth, Family, Equality, Refugees and Integration of North Rhine-Westphalia

[Learn more online \(in German\)](#)




Military incursions by Turkey into northern Iraq (and therefore into one of forumZFD's project regions) remained a regular occurrence in 2023. Additional tension arose from conflicts between the Iraqi army and local militias of Kurdish-Yazidi fighters. A number of authorities had to suspend their work partially or even entirely at times as a consequence. Some of our peace experts had to spend several weeks outside the country due to delays in the issue or renewal of their visas.

We have been building up our programme in northern Iraq since 2021. The people are above all suffering the consequences of the dictatorship under Saddam Hussein, the US-led international occupation and the IS reign of terror. Our peace work aims to heal the broken social relationships and create a basis for a lasting, peaceful coexistence. There is a special focus on the participation of young people and women as well as the reintegration of formerly displaced persons and refugees back into their communities.

Highlights of our peace work in 2023

-  More than 550 young people and women were trained in peacebuilding and are now helping to establish a culture of empathy and cooperative problem-solving in their own communities.
-  21 high-ranking representatives from former IS strongholds were trained in conflict sensitivity and dialogue initiation at a peace centre set up specifically for this purpose.
-  Around 50 to 60 percent of the participants in the project are girls or women.

On the road with the peace bus

-  The 'Salam Bus' has been touring the regions of Iraq particularly affected by the violence wreaked by the IS since October 2023. A variety of trips are offered during the tours – at times to impressive locations in the local area, at others to sites of violence. Workshops are offered on board the bus on topics such as peace, violence prevention, gender roles and environmental protection. Particularly girls and women are empowered as peacemakers. More than 1,000 young people and adults have already taken advantage of our offers.



// The women ask when the next bus will arrive. The response to the project has been fantastic! We're managing to reach a lot of people. //

Raife Janke, forumZFD Country Director in Iraq

Our peace work at a glance

Location: Erbil, Sinuni

Partners and projects:

7 partners with projects in the areas of:

- Participation of women and young people in decision-making
- Non-violent conflict transformation and dialogue initiation by local representatives
- Strengthening the safety measures of the partner organisations

Project funding: €1,433,149

Funding sources:

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

[Learn more online](#)


Making binational voices for peace heard





Our partners have faced increasing restrictions on their work since the most right-wing government in Israel's history was sworn in in December 2022. The situation worsened from October 2023 when the violence escalated following the Hamas attack on Israel and the breakout of war in Gaza. Some were even threatened by right-wing members of city councils, right-wing activists or the general public with the aim of silencing binational voices and halting peace efforts.

Our partners managed to adapt their peace work to the new conditions and needs in important areas. It was particularly crucial to create safe spaces for civil society participation and encounters between Israelis and Palestinians. Another central aspect of their peace work involved spreading messages of peace in [Germany](#). forumZFD was able to provide significant support here.


Highlights of our peace work in 2023

 12 young Palestinian media professionals found refuge and a new direction for their work within the peace journalism programme (especially after 7 October).

 During workshops, 106 Palestinian women from Nablus, Hebron and Bethlehem received support and learned how to better cope with the war situation, which is particularly threatening for them.

 470 visitors found a peaceful community and a space for binational exchanges during a bilingual, interfaith poetry event.

Young Palestinians combat hatred through writing

 forumZFD has been cooperating with Dooz media platform for around three years now to train aspiring media professionals. "Dooz" means as much as "straightforward" or "sincere". During peace journalism courses, they learn to recognise the underlying causes of conflicts and report on these with sensitivity. In summer 2023, several young female journalists visited Germany.



“ I learned so much from the people in Germany. And I think they also learned a great deal about life in Palestine. They asked a great many questions and I did my best to help them better understand the life of a young journalist in Palestine. ”

Comment from a trainee following her visit to Germany in summer 2023

Our peace work at a glance

Location: Jerusalem

Partners and projects:

31 partners with projects in the areas of:

- Strengthening peace policy voices through capacity building
- Creating safe spaces for civil society involvement*
- Stress and trauma management*
- Disseminating inclusive narratives, art and culture for diversity and pluralism**
- Networking for women**
- Political work with party youth groups**

* Activities increased since 7 October

** Activities restricted since 7 October

Employees: 12 (international: 7 | local: 5)

Project funding: €1,366,027.00

Funding sources:

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

[Learn more online](#)

Peace work for more justice and new ways of life



A powerful intelligence service monitors the activities of civil society organisations in Jordan. The repression increased further over the course of 2023. Conflicts could therefore often only be addressed indirectly or with limited public visibility. For forumZFD as a German organisation, these challenges intensified further from 7 October. Perceiving the German stance on the Middle East conflict as one sided, our Jordanian partners scrutinised the cooperation with us particularly closely.

Despite all of the difficulties, we were still able to address far-reaching social conflicts and advance important developments – in particular, the widening gap between rich and poor and the tremendous inequality between men and women.

Highlights of our peace work in 2023

Our partner Wahj Al Shams now forms the hub of a whole network of organisations that use theatre to address conflicts. Wahj Al Shams has been building a respectful, diverse and inclusive arts community for almost 10 years now. It offers vulnerable young people in particular a place where they are welcome. The project's success in facilitating their social reintegration sparked the interest of other organisations. We actively supported those responsible at Wahj Al Shams in their networking activities.



In 2023, we once again campaigned for women's rights and against gender-based violence as part of the international campaign **16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Women and Girls**. Seminars were held and there was a high-profile panel discussion attended by members of embassies, the Jordanian government and civil society organisations.

We empowered our partners through countless training courses, for example on **conflict sensitivity, the representation of interests and participation opportunities**, and gave project participants the opportunity to actively get involved.

Partnership on an equal footing

In 2023, we gained three new partners. forumZFD has been organising training courses on environmental and climate protection and the fair distribution of resources in the desert state of Jordan together with them since 2024. The training participants then implement environmental protection campaigns in their local communities, which also address conflicts within society (environmental peacebuilding).

One partner summarises what makes the cooperation with forumZFD so special:

// The project with forumZFD is the first we've designed entirely from the perspective of those we want to reach with our work. The cooperation has also encouraged us to make the peacebuilding dimension a permanent focus of our organisation's work. //

Our peace work at a glance

Location: Amman

Partners and projects:

7 partners* in the areas of:

- Conflict transformation through theatre and music
- New: environmental peacebuilding
- New: social cohesion between the local population and the people living in the refugee camp in Jerash

* The collaboration with three partners ended during the year

Employees: 10 (international: 4 | local: 6)

Project funding: €981,096

Funding sources:

- Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- European Union

[Learn more online](#)

Building trust and hope



In 2023, Cambodia continued to suffer the consequences of the lack of reflection on its recent history and the reign of terror of the Khmer Rouge (1975–1979) in particular. Open, tolerant dialogues between the various social groups are rare. Tension and unaddressed trauma often lead to violence. We continued to focus on breaking down stereotypes and historical perceptions of the enemy within Cambodian society in our peace work.

Highlights of our peace work in 2023

☀️ We also facilitated encounters between young people of different religions and from different minority groups in 2023. They were given the opportunity to **improve their communication skills and learn to trust one another** during training courses, educational visits and theatre performances – with the ultimate aim of passing this positive development on to their own communities through **their own peace initiatives**.

☀️ In 2023, the Buddhist University of Battambang (SBUBB) used the peace education materials we developed jointly with them and the Cambodian Citizens of Hope (CCH) for the first time. These materials address issues such as (gender) discrimination, stereotypes and methods of conflict transformation. **Teachers reflected openly and critically on their traditional teaching methods and their at times authoritarian behaviour towards their students.**

☀️ **The Human Library collects stories from Cambodia's older generation. It reaches the younger generation through books and visits and strives in this way to close the huge gap left by the failure to address the past.** Trust and a sense of community continued to flourish between the participants thanks to the many participatory activities. These above all allowed the older generation to open up more and share their stories.

Partnership on an equal footing

☀️ Piseth joined the monastic order eight years ago, at the age of 10. It was only when he began teaching hundreds of students at the university that he encountered gender issues and conflicts. In 2023, Piseth participated in a workshop on gender stereotypes. He learned about different gender identities and how important gender equality is. He also met Sreynin Sen, a young woman who found confirmation in the workshop that she was not just imagining the challenges she faced every day as a woman. Observe, but don't judge. Replace anger with understanding. That is what Sreynin learned. Piseth and Sreynin completed further training. They are now passing on their knowledge of violence prevention and peacebuilding to others. Originally from small villages and a country whose inhabitants can barely afford to travel, they now even have opportunities to network with peace activists from other countries.



© Savann Oeurm

Our peace work at a glance

Location: Battambang, Phnom Penh

Partners and projects:

4 partners with projects in the areas of:

- Dealing with the past
- Educational initiatives for peace and intercultural/religious/generational exchanges
- Training in methods of civil conflict transformation, conflict sensitivity and peacemaking in a post-conflict society

Employees: 12 (international: 4 | local: 8)

Project funding: €759,549.00

Funding sources:

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

[Learn more online](#)

Peace work in a power vacuum



An escalation of the small-scale war between Hezbollah and the Israeli army was already imminent at the end of 2023. At the time this annual report was prepared (August 2024), this threat had become even more acute. The executive power vacuum in Lebanon continued in 2023, as there was neither a president nor a fully mandated government. Many ministries, public school teachers and other state institutions are permanently on strike. The deep-rooted political and social tensions and the severe economic crisis that has been ongoing for years intensified.

forumZFD's employees in the country were evacuated after 7 October and many of our activities and those of our partners had to be cancelled. In addition to safety concerns, the mental state of many potential participants made it impossible to hold events. Highlights could nonetheless be achieved in our joint work, which focused on dialogue, integration and education.

Highlights of our peace work in 2023

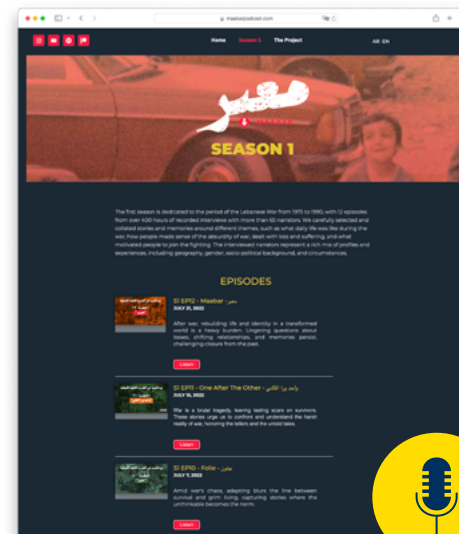
Former fighters of the Lebanese Forces, a Christian-based political party and former militia, used our peace education handbooks to critically analyse their accounts of the civil war for the first time. Some of them subsequently reported that conversations with family and friends had changed.

Around 60 children played football in mixed teams as part of the Sports for Peace initiative – refugees and locals, boys and girls. They were not the only ones to break down prejudices and develop their social skills. Their trainers also experienced a change process. As role models and confidants, they no longer excluded children displaying disruptive behaviour, but rather focused on including them.

A beacon of remembrance work – the 'Maabar' podcast

The stories of contemporary witnesses are a particularly valuable tool in Lebanon where the civil war still isn't being addressed and isn't mentioned in school textbooks either. They help people come to terms with the past and thus lay the foundations for a peaceful future.

The podcast 'Maabar', which means as much as "crossing", tells precisely these stories. A total of 12 episodes were already broadcast in 2022. In May 2023, a live recording was even made for the first time during a festival before an audience of more than 5,000 people. In addition to the podcast, a handbook on the events of the past has been created and serves as a valuable tool, among others for teachers.



Our peace work at a glance

Location: Beirut

Partners and projects:

25 partners with projects in the areas of:

- Dealing with the past: working through old conflicts
- Educational work: empowering the young generation
- Mobilising society: integrating refugees
- Supporting media for social change

Employees: 15 (international: 6 | local: 9)

Project funding: €1,708,223

Funding sources:

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

[Learn more online](#)

The transition to a new tomorrow



In 2023, the drawn-out peace process between the central government and the Islamic Moro Liberation Front continued in Bangsamoro, a Muslim-dominated region in Mindanao. At the same time, the situation in other regions of the island deteriorated: Escalating clan crime in Pikit, killings on the streets during the local elections in Cotabato and an ongoing conflict between the central government and communist-oriented forces in Caraga presented challenges to our peace work. In the case of Cotabato, some of our peace experts even had to leave the region temporarily.

Highlights of our peace work in 2023

☀️ In 2023, we continued to help our partner organisations to strengthen grassroots movements and train traditional leaders in civil conflict transformation. The aim was to combine these new capabilities with their traditional mechanisms. **The project proved a success: They were able to address their concerns, which included issues such as land grabbing and the consequences of climate change, more effectively with government authorities. In addition, young people and women, who have hardly been allowed to play a role in conflict resolution in some communities to date, were involved extensively.**

☀️ From our base in Cotabato, we help our partner organisation, the Kutawato Multimedia Network (KuMuNet), to incorporate the perspectives of local people into implementation of the peace process through radio programmes and community dialogues. The peace radio broadcast 56 episodes in 2023.

An international peace conference

☀️ The conference on transitional justice in the Bangsamoro formed one special highlight of our peace work in 2023. In early February, around 200 members of local and international organisations from academia and government agencies explored the question of how a just and sustainable peace can be achieved in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region. Voices that had previously gone unheard were heard – especially those of minorities. Capabilities were pooled and representatives from the embassies of Germany, Norway, Switzerland and Ireland pledged their support for the ongoing peace process. Allowing the recommendations of the Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission to be implemented further.



In the conference room, Transitional justice addresses four fields of action: the right to information, the right to justice, the right to compensation and the right to protection against recurrence.

“ Transitional justice is like crossing a bridge from a dark, violent past to a brighter, peaceful future. ”

Rufa Cagoco-Guiam, professor and speaker at the conference

Our peace work at a glance

Location: Butuan, Cotabato, Davao

Partners and projects:

- 30 partners with projects in the areas of:
- Educational and media work: understanding conflicts, overcoming prejudices through modified curricula and conflict-sensitive journalism
 - Combining traditional conflict transformation methods with new approaches
 - Making peace actors heard through networking and dialogue

Employees: 20 (international: 5 | local: 15)

Project funding: €1,057,063.00

Funding sources:

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

[Learn more online](#)

Challenging peace work in times of war



In 2023, Russia's war of aggression continued to shape the everyday lives of many people and had a significant impact on our peace work. The launch of a mobilisation campaign and the tense safety situation in many places made peace work more difficult: There was a lack of personnel as experienced peace activists increasingly left Ukraine or were called up for military service. At the same time, new services and approaches had to be developed to reach the people who were increasingly withdrawing out of fear for their lives.

Despite the extremely difficult conditions, we and our partners managed to continue to adapt our peace work to the urgent needs of the people despite the escalating violence. We were also able to work together to establish an important basis for a peaceful future in Ukraine.

Highlights of our peace work in 2023

The 'Dream & Do' theatre project, which had already proved a success in Odessa, was extended to Mykolaiv. The city in southern Ukraine is less than an hour from the front line. Playback theatre, which is a form of improvisation, helps people in crisis situations to process traumatic experiences and build their inner strength. 2,000 people have already found new confidence.

Following a pilot phase lasting several years, the Ministry of Education officially recognised the 'Peaceful School' model and recommends its rollout across the country. The 'Peaceful School' model focuses on addressing the increasing violence, bullying and conflicts that arise from a highly hierarchical education system. Around 10,000 pupils and teachers have already completed the programme, which forumZFD runs in cooperation with the GIZ.

Contracts were signed with the Ministry of Culture and the state tourism agency for the establishment of official memorial sites. The associated project 'Past, Future, Art' is already working on a collective culture of remembrance of the war. [The importance of memorials for peace: an example from Bosnia-Herzegovina](#) (in German)

Healing through art

Anton is a soldier who returned home from the front line in early 2023 severely traumatised. He was unable to get into a regular daily routine for months. When he came to 'Dream & Do' for the first time, his voice was loud and his behaviour aggressive. He was able to incorporate both into his theatre performances and to gradually tell his story. We recently some wonderful news from Anton: He has found a job and fallen in love again. With the support of the caring 'Dream & Do' community, he was able

to leave the war behind him for the first time and make a new life for himself again. His rehabilitation continues to this day.



Andrey Utenkov from the 'Dream & Do' programme studied clinical psychology and worked as a therapist before joining the playback theatre.

Our peace work at a glance

Location: Kyiv, Odessa

Partners and projects:

- 10 partners with projects in the areas of:
- Trauma work and psychosocial support
 - Supporting communities in the field and online
 - Educational initiatives for peace
 - Dealing with the past and documenting the present for a peaceful future

Employees: 7 (international: 3 | local: 4)

Project funding: €1,229,239.00

Funding sources:

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

[Learn more online](#)


Cooperation across borders





Even decades after the end of the Balkan wars, the tension in the region can still be felt in many places today. Exchanges of fire occurred on countless occasions over the course of the year in the border region between Serbia and Kosovo. In the Serb-dominated Republika Srpska in Bosnia-Herzegovina, (planned) legislative changes have restricted the scope for the involvement of civil society even further. There have been considerable setbacks in the freedom of the press and freedom of opinion throughout the project region.

Together with our partners, we continued to pursue projects that discredit prevailing ethno-nationalist discourses, overcome prejudice and encourage a culture of non-violence. We seek to overcome ethnic segregation in society and in the education system through our work. Together with our partners, we are leading by example by working together across national borders and conflict lines.

Highlights of our peace work in 2023


 **The travelling exhibition ‘Peace with a Woman’s Face’ was shown at the parliament assembly of Bosnia-Herzegovina to mark International Women’s Day on 8 March.** The exhibition aims to deconstruct the widespread view of war as something heroic by telling the personal stories of 20 women.

 **In Bosnia-Herzegovina, denying the genocide is a criminal offence. A handbook was created in 2023 to help people report violations of this ban via the appropriate channels.** It aims to prevent complaints from being rejected on the grounds that they were “not submitted in the correct form”.

 **Fifty-five young activists from six Western Balkan countries (pictured below) developed ideas for a peaceful and respectful coexistence during a summer camp in North Macedonia.** They took these ideas back to their home countries with them.



“One of the most important organisations”

 Our ‘Dealing with the Past’ programme in Bosnia-Herzegovina underwent an external evaluation in 2023.

The two evaluators found that *“forumZFD’s thematic and methodological creativity makes it one of the most relevant DWP actors whose work goes beyond the mere establishment of facts and the judicial processing of war crimes”.*

They also praised forumZFD as *“one of the most important organisations in Bosnia-Herzegovina dedicated to researching, documenting, publishing and advocating a responsible culture of remembrance”.*

We hear similar feedback from other programme countries, especially Kosovo.

Our peace work at a glance

Location:

- Bosnia-Herzegovina: Sarajevo
- Kosovo: Pristina
- North Macedonia: Skopje
- Serbia: Belgrade

Partners and projects:

A total of 48 partners in four countries with projects in the areas of:

- Dealing with the past: working through old conflicts
- Formal and informal peace education

Employees: 29 (international: 10 | local: 19)

Project funding: €2,082,339

Funding sources:

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

[Learn more online](#)

Facts and figures 2023



forumZFD

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Forum Ziviler Friedensdienst e. V. | Income and expenditure

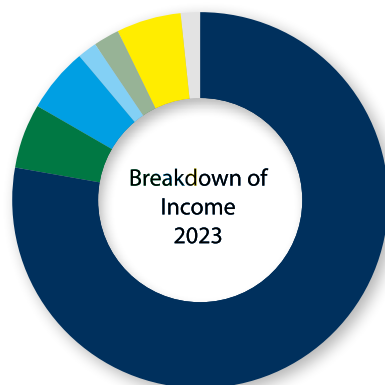
1 January to 31 December 2023

	2023 (€)	2022 (€)
Income		
Institutional grants		
● BMZ projects overseas	10,592,327	9,466,794
● BMZ qualification	790,826	805,761
● Conflict counselling in Germany	731,340	759,787
● Third-party/other funding	247,484	204,671
● Income from qualification measures	289,884	276,734
● Donations, membership fees	749,728	688,365
● Interest and other revenue	218,408	95,820
Total income	13,619,997	12,297,932

	2023 (€)	2022 (€)
Expenditure		
Project funding and support		
● Projects overseas	9,884,245	8,853,874
● Qualification measures	934,471	913,464
● Conflict counselling in Germany	676,778	732,491
● Third-party/other funding	270,124	232,424
● Campaigns as per the statutes, educational/awareness-raising work	222,099	217,902
● Fundraising, advertising, public outreach	499,810	572,471
● General administration	935,789	948,531
Total expenditure	13,423,316	12,471,157

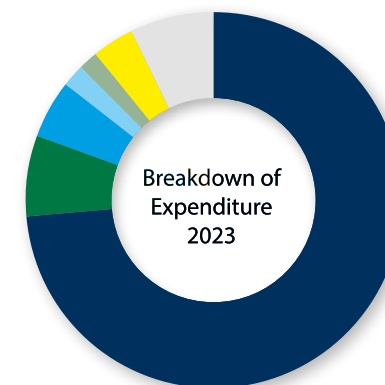
Breakdown of income in 2023 (%)

- 77.78% BMZ projects overseas
- 5.80% BMZ qualification
- 5.37% Conflict counselling in Germany
- 1.82% Third-party/other funding
- 2.13% Income from qualification measures
- 5.50% Donations, membership fees
- 1.60% Interest and other revenue



Breakdown of expenditure in 2023 (%)

- 73.63% BMZ projects overseas
- 6.96% BMZ training and courses
- 5.04% Conflict counselling in Germany
- 2.01% Third-party/other funding
- 1.65% Campaigns, educational/awareness-raising work
- 3.72% Fundraising, advertising, public outreach
- 6.97% General administration



Forum Ziviler Friedensdienst e. V. | Profit/loss statement

1 January to 31 December 2023

	2023 (€)	2022 (€)
Income		
Core budget	968,135.14	784,184.65
BMZ projects overseas	10,592,326.55	9,466,793.56
BMZ qualification	914,600.32	935,747.66
Other qualification projects	166,110.53	146,747.85
Conflict counselling in Germany	731,340.03	759,786.94
Third-party/other funding	247,484.35	204,670.88
Total income	13,619,996.92	12,297,931.54
Expenditure		
Core budget	-771,453.64	-957,464.93
BMZ projects overseas	-10,592,326.55	-9,466,793.56
BMZ qualification	-914,600.32	-935,747.66
Other qualification projects	-166,110.53	-146,692.85
Conflict counselling in Germany	-731,340.03	-759,786.94
Third party-funded/other projects	-247,484.35	-204,670.88
Total expenditure	-13,423,315.42	-12,471,156.82
Transfers to/withdrawals from reserves	-155,000.00	175,000.00
Balance sheet profit/loss	41,681.50	1,774.72

The association recorded net profit totalling €41,681.50 during the reporting period. The loss of -€31,789.64 carried forward from 2023 could be completely cleared as a consequence and a profit of €9,891.86 instead carried forward for 2024. The free reserve increased by €180,000 in 2023 to a total of €210,000 and project-specific reserves of €25,000 were used.

The association's income from grants and donations increased from €12.3 million in the previous year to €13.6 million. This represents a further increase of around 10.8 percent compared to 2022. This was largely due to additional funding from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) as part of the Civil Peace Service (ZFD) programme as well as to the special initiative to tackle the root causes of displacement also implemented by the BMZ. forumZFD has campaigned for more funding for the Civil Peace Service for many years now in collaboration with members of the Civil Peace Service consortium.

Thanks to the increase in institutional funding and the corresponding implementation of project activities, forumZFD received around €132,000 more in administrative cost subsidies than in the previous year. It was moreover pleasing that the income from donations, including funding grants, was once again more than €65,000 above the previous year's level and contributed to the financing of important projects. The main reason for this was the increase in donations from the peace runs.

On the expenditure side, spending from the "core budget" (i.e. not covered by the institutional support for our project work) decreased by around 35 percent compared to the previous year. This is mainly due to a one-off effect: Funds set aside for a possible reimbursement of project funds by grant providers could be recognised as income relating to other accounting periods at the end of the project. The personnel costs remained stable at around €1.4 million in 2023. The total amount paid for the annual salaries of the Executive Board members, which comprised three members in the first half of the year and two in the second, totalled €213,000 (excluding the employer's social security contributions).

Fortunately, the proportion of advertising and administrative costs fell again slightly compared to the previous year to around 10.7 percent. They remain at the lower end of the scale of what organisations such as the German Central Institute for Social Issues (DZI) consider appropriate.

Forum Ziviler Friedensdienst GmbH, which acquired Peace House on Am Kölner Brett in 2012 and has operated the property ever since, is wholly owned by the association. The limited company ended the 2023 financial year with net profit totalling €14,527.86 ([see the financial report on page 25](#)).

Forum Ziviler Friedensdienst e. V. | Balance sheet

As at 31 December 2023

	2023 (€)	2022 (€)
Assets		
A Fixed assets		
I Intangible assets		
1 Intangible assets under development	0.00	26,989.20
2 Concessions, industrial property rights	74,356.00	0.00
II Tangible assets: other equipment, furniture and fixtures	39,567.00	56,311.00
III Financial assets: shares in affiliated companies	25,000.00	25,000.00
B Current assets		
I Accounts receivable and other assets		
1 Accounts receivable from deliveries and services	21,992.55	17,143.50
2 Accounts receivable from affiliated companies	1,155.62	1,430.38
3 Other assets	1,041,121.75	66,278.48
II Cash, assets at credit institutions:	2,334,542.64	3,286,165.46
C Accruals and deferrals	3,756.87	8,284.98
Total assets	3,541,492.43	3,487,603.00

Explanations of the balance sheet for forumZFD e. V. – as at 31.12.2023

Accounting and valuation methods

The tangible assets are included in the balance sheet with their acquisition or production costs minus the scheduled depreciation. Depreciation is only calculated on a linear basis *pro rata temporis*. Low-value assets with acquisition costs of up to €800 net are depreciated proportionately over their lifetime.

Receivables are shown at nominal values; adjustments have been made to the extent necessary. Liabilities are included in the balance sheet at their settlement value.

The reserves are developed in line with the statutory requirements. The provisions cover all foreseeable risks and have been determined on the basis of a reasonable commercial estimate.

ASSETS

A Fixed assets

- I Intangible assets: Software acquired for project accounting (FundsPro) and accounting (SAP Business One) is reported here, depreciated as scheduled.
- II Tangible assets: Above all the office furnishings and business equipment are meant here, taking the scheduled depreciation into account.
- III Financial assets: An investment was made in a share in the Forum Ziviler Friedensdienst limited company (GmbH).

B Current assets

- I Accounts receivable and other assets: Accounts receivable are mainly from our branch offices and projects. They are contributions, which have already been forwarded but not yet deducted. An according sum appears on the liabilities side under "Liabilities from projects".
- II Assets at credit institutions: The balance decreased by €951,622.82 to €2,334,542.64.
- C Accruals and deferrals on the assets side include the payments for spending in the coming year already made during this period.

Forum Ziviler Friedensdienst e. V. | Balance sheet

As at 31 December 2023

	2023 (€)	2022 (€)
Liabilities		
A Association equity		
I Profit/loss carried forward	-31,789.64	-33,564.36
II Free reserves	210,000.00	55,000.00
III Profit/loss on the balance sheet	41,681.50	1,774.72
B Provisions	255,960.00	145,360.00
C Liabilities		
1 Liabilities from deliveries and services	60,344.19	167,506.98
2 Liabilities from projects	2,757,198.62	2,976,359.14
3 Liabilities to members	107,607.93	105,569.68
4 Other liabilities	111,745.83	69,596.84
D Accruals and deferrals	28,744.00	0.00
Total liabilities	3,541,492.43	3,487,603.00

Audit opinion

The Bonn-based auditing and tax advising company kks reVision GmbH conducted an external audit of forumZFD's accounts.

In its report dated 22 August 2024 on the audit of the 2023 financial year, it stated:

"We conducted our audit of the annual financial statements in accordance with § 317 of the German Commercial Code (Handelsgesetzbuch, HGB) and generally-accepted German standards for the audit of financial statements promulgated by the Institute of Public Auditors in Germany (Institut der Wirtschaftsprüfer, IdW). (...)

In our opinion, based on the findings of our audit, the annual financial statement complies in all respects with the German trade law requirements and gives a true and fair account of the net assets and financial position of the limited company's

LIABILITIES

A Association equity

- I Profit/loss carried forward: Every year, the profit/loss carried forward is adjusted by the profit/loss from the previous year. Thanks to the net profit from the previous year, the loss carried forward could be reduced by €1,774.72 to -€31,789.64.
- II Free reserves: The free reserves were formed in accordance with § 62 para. 1 no. 3 of the German Fiscal Code (Abgabenordnung, AO) to the level permissible. In 2023, project-specific reserves of €25,000 were used and the free reserves increased by €180,000 to €210,000.
- III Profit/loss carried forward: The profit/loss corresponds with the outcome of the profit/loss statement.

B Provisions

€59,960 can be attributed to holiday reserves and €16,000 to advances paid but not yet invoiced. €5,000 have been set aside to cover the costs of the annual accounts and €6,000 for archiving costs. €89,000 was allocated to the provision for claims from audits in 2023, increasing the total provision to €169,000.

C Liabilities

- 1 Liabilities from deliveries and services: Include the invoices open with different suppliers, which were settled within the payment target at the start of 2024.
- 2 Liabilities from projects: Project funding already forwarded but not yet used is included here.
- 3 Liabilities to members: The loans from our supporters with and without subordination agreements are presented here. The loans decreased by €2,038.25 compared to the previous year to €107,607.93.
- 4 Other liabilities: This includes liabilities to the tax office (income tax for December and VAT for salaried workers abroad in accordance with §13b of the German Value Added Tax Act, UStG) as well social security contributions.

D Accruals and deferrals: On the liabilities side, these include the fees paid for courses/events offered by the Academy for Conflict Transformation due to take place in the following year for which forumZFD already received payment during this period.

operations as at 31 December 2023 and the earnings situation from 1 January 2023 until 31 December 2023 in accordance with the German principles of proper accounting. Pursuant to § 322 (3) sentence 1 of the German Commercial Code (Handelsgesetzbuch, HGB), we declare that our audit has not led to any reservations with regard to the regularity of the annual financial statement."



Forum Ziviler Friedensdienst GmbH | Profit/loss statement

1 January to 31 December 2023

An essential component: Peace House on Am Kölner Brett

The Forum Ziviler Friedensdienst limited company (GmbH) operates Peace House. Most of the staff employed at forumZFD's head office are based at this property on Am Kölner Brett. forumZFD e. V. set up the Forum Ziviler Friedensdienst limited company (GmbH) in 2011 to establish a permanent base for the head office by purchasing real estate. The long-planned idea of acquiring a property to use as an office building and thus ensure the association's financial security by creating equity was thereby addressed and successfully achieved.

A report prepared by an independent expert ascertained a market value of €1.24 million for the property, which had been purchased and converted for around €950,000. As the sole shareholder of the limited company, the association thus has considerable hidden reserves at its disposal. This helps to safeguard the association's work.

It was only possible to secure real estate as loans totalling €450,000 could be obtained from forumZFD e. V.'s backers to purchase an office building. All remaining private loans were repaid by 2021. The only remaining lender is now the Forum Civil Peace Service Foundation. To date, it has been able to invest a large portion of its growing foundation capital in the Peace House at Am Kölner Brett ([cf. foundation report, p. 27–28](#)).

The limited company ended 2023 with net profit of €14,527.86. The liabilities to the Forum Civil Peace Service Foundation totalled €757,000. Conclusion of a comprehensive agreement on remote work with our employees, combined with the flexible use of office space, enabled us to reduce the external office space again and thus save costs.

	2023 (€)	2022 (€)
Income		
1 Income	61.384.38	62,019.62
2 Other miscellaneous operating income	0.00	0.00
Total income	61,384.38	62,019.62
Expenditure		
3 Depreciation on tangible assets	-14,166.00	-14,166.00
4 Other operating expenses		
a Room costs	-5,189.67	-4,856.29
b Insurance, contributions and fees	-1,320.51	-1,290.46
c Repairs and maintenance	-1,293.53	-15,754.01
d Miscellaneous operating expenses	-2,176.81	-1,919.24
5 Interest and similar expenses	-22,710.00	-22,710.00
Total expenditure	-46,856.52	-60,696.00
Annual net profit	14,527.86	1,323.62



Forum Ziviler Friedensdienst GmbH | Balance sheet

As at 31 December 2023

	2023 (€)	2022 (€)
Assets		
A Fixed assets		
I Tangible assets		
1 Properties, rights equivalent to real estate property and buildings, incl. buildings on third-party land	717,897.08	731,743.08
2 Technical equipment and machinery	2,641.00	2,961.00
B Current assets		
I Accounts receivable from deliveries and services	0.00	10.00
II Cash, assets at credit institutions and in cheques	87,210.79	62,741.69
Total assets	807,748.87	797,455.77
Liabilities		
A Equity		
I Subscribed capital	25,000.00	25,000.00
II Profit/loss carried forward	8,765.39	11,441.77
III Annual net profit/loss	14,527.86	1,323.62
B Provisions		
1 Other provisions	1,300.00	1,260.00
C Liabilities		
1 Liabilities to affiliated companies	1,155.62	1,430.38
2 Other liabilities	757,000.00	757,000.00
Total liabilities	807,748.87	797,455.77

Explanations of the balance sheet for Forum Ziviler Friedensdienst GmbH as at 31 December 2023

Accounting and valuation methods

The balance sheet has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the German Commercial Code (Handelsgesetzbuch, HGB).

The tangible assets are included in the balance sheet at their acquisition or production costs minus the cumulative depreciation. Depreciation is only calculated on a linear basis.

Without exception, all receivables and other assets have a remaining term of up to one year and are shown with nominal values. Liquid assets are shown at their nominal value. Liabilities are included at their settlement value.

The other provisions cover all foreseeable risks and have been determined on the basis of a reasonable commercial estimate.

ASSETS

A Fixed assets

I Tangible assets show the property and office building acquired and depreciated on schedule in addition to a water softening system that was acquired in 2020.

B Current assets

I There are no accounts receivable or other assets.
II Cash, Federal Bank assets, assets at credit institutions and in cheques.

LIABILITIES

A Equity

I Subscribed capital: The company share capital totalled €25,000. Forum Ziviler Friedensdienst e. V. is the sole shareholder of the limited company.
II Profit carried forward: Thanks to the net profit of €1,323.62 in the previous year and the profit distribution to the shareholder Forum Ziviler Friedensdienst e. V. totalling €4,000, the profit carried forward decreased to €8,765.39.
III Annual net loss/profit: The annual net profit of €14,527.86 was added to the profit carried forward and carried forward to the new account.

B Provisions: The provisions totalling €1,300 relate to the costs associated with preparation of the annual accounts.

C Liabilities

1 Liabilities to affiliated companies: This includes the overpayment by forumZFD e. V. for incidental rental costs, which was reimbursed at the start of 2024.
2 Other liabilities are the loans from the Forum Civil Peace Service Foundation. The loan periods run for between one and three years.

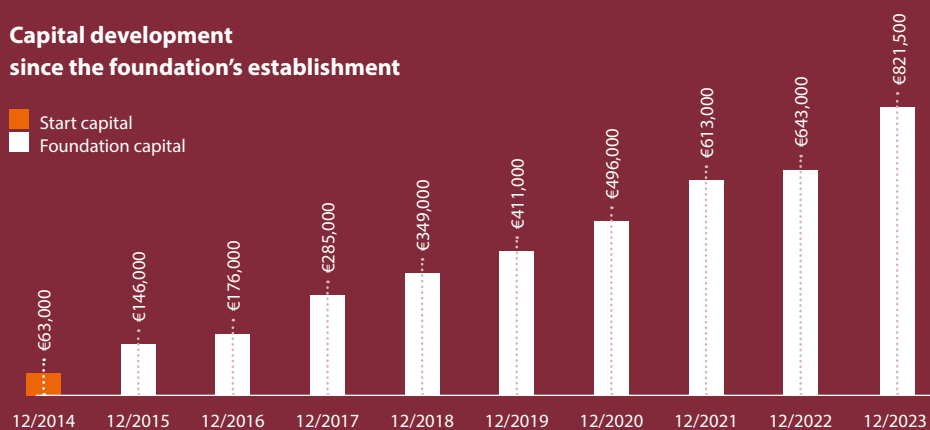
Forum Civil Peace Service Foundation | Profit/loss statement

1 January to 31 December 2023

	2023 (€)	2022 (€)
Income		
Operating income	2,075.00	2,610.00
Other interest and similar revenue	24,220.00	22,930.00
Total income	26,295.00	25,540.00
Expenditure		
Advertising costs	-7,745.35	-7,632.35
Other costs	-7,527.92	-320.13
Other expenses	-11,000.00	-18,000.00
Total expenditure	-26,273.27	-25,952.48
Annual net profit	21.73	-412.48

Capital development since the foundation's establishment

Start capital
Foundation capital



Report of the foundation board

Creating space for peace

In 2023, the Forum Civil Peace Service Foundation was once again able to make an important contribution to supporting Forum Ziviler Friedensdienst e. V. financially. A total of €11,000 were made available from the foundation's income. The foundation has thus supported forumZFD with around €110,000 since its establishment in December 2014 and fulfilled the purpose set out in its statutes.

Particularly pleasing is that the subscribed capital totalled €821,117 at the end of 2023 – an increase of almost 28 percent compared to the previous year! In addition, interest-free loans totalling €386,000 were available to the foundation. On the expenditure side, costs of €7,745 were incurred for administrative expenses, the 'Peace House 2.0' project and advertising measures. In 2023, the Supervisory Board's work was once again entirely voluntary and performed without payment.

The 'Peace House 2.0' project

In 2023, the foundation's board continued their endeavours to secure a plot of land very close to forumZFD's office in Cologne-Ehrenfeld. This project was planned together with three other organisations from the public welfare sector and the Cologne-based architecture firm Luczak. The application was submitted to the city of Cologne on 20 June. We assumed responsibility for the financial administration of the working group (ARGE Alpener Straße GbR).

Unfortunately, we received a disappointing response in March 2024: Although our application made it into the final round, two competing designs were deemed better.

The foundation remains committed to its vision of creating a visible, inviting place where people can engage in dialogues and bring about change for a more peaceful world. While searching for another external property is not out of the question, the current Peace House also offers possibilities for expansion. All options meeting the needs of forumZFD's growing workforce will be considered carefully.

For more information on how you can invest in peace as well as on other opportunities to support the foundation, see www.stiftung-forumZFD.de (in German).

In case of questions about the foundation, please contact:



Hanna Hilger,
Officer for Major Donations,
Endowments, Legacies

+49 221 912732-48
hilger@forumZFD.de

Forum Civil Peace Service Foundation | balance sheet

As at 31 December 2023

	2023 (€)	2022 (€)
Assets		
A Current assets		
I Other loans		
1 Loans	757,000.00	757,000.00
2 Oikocredit	150,000.00	227,000.00
II Cash, Federal Bank assets, assets at credit institutions and in cheques.	315,486.99	49,078.53
III Accounts receivable and other assets	146.15	173.24
Total assets	1,222,633.14	1,033,251.77
Liabilities		
A Equity		
1 Subscribed capital	821,116.97	642,616.97
2 Profit carried forward	958.33	1,370.81
3 Annual net profit	21.73	-412.48
D Liabilities		
Other liabilities	400,536.11	389,676.47
Total liabilities	1,222,633.14	1,033,251.77

Explanations of the balance sheet for the Forum Civil Peace Service Foundation as at 31 December 2023

Accounting and valuation methods

The balance sheet has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the German Commercial Code (Handelsgesetzbuch, HGB). Without exception, all receivables and other assets have a remaining term of up to one year and are shown with nominal values.

Liquid assets are shown at their nominal value. Liabilities are included at their settlement value.

ASSETS

A Current assets

- I Other loans include the loan to forumZFD's limited company (GmbH) totalling €757,000 and an investment of €150,000 in a liquidity reserve at the Oikocredit cooperative bank.
- II Cash, Federal Bank assets, assets at credit institutions and in cheques.

LIABILITIES

A Equity

- I Subscribed capital: The foundation capital amounts to €821,116.97 (€758,116.97 in endowments and €63,000 in foundation contributions). New endowments totalling €178,500 were received in 2023.
- II Profit carried forward: Thanks to the annual net loss in the previous year, the profit carried forward of €1,370.81 decreased by €412.48 to €985.33.
- III Annual result: The annual net profit of €21.73 was added to the profit carried forward totalling €985.33 and carried forward to the new account.

- B Other liabilities:** Mainly the loans are taken into account here. The loan periods run for between one and five years.

Forum Civil Peace Service Foundation Board



Heinz Wagner
Chair



Margrit Röhm
Deputy Chair



Neithard Petry
Treasurer



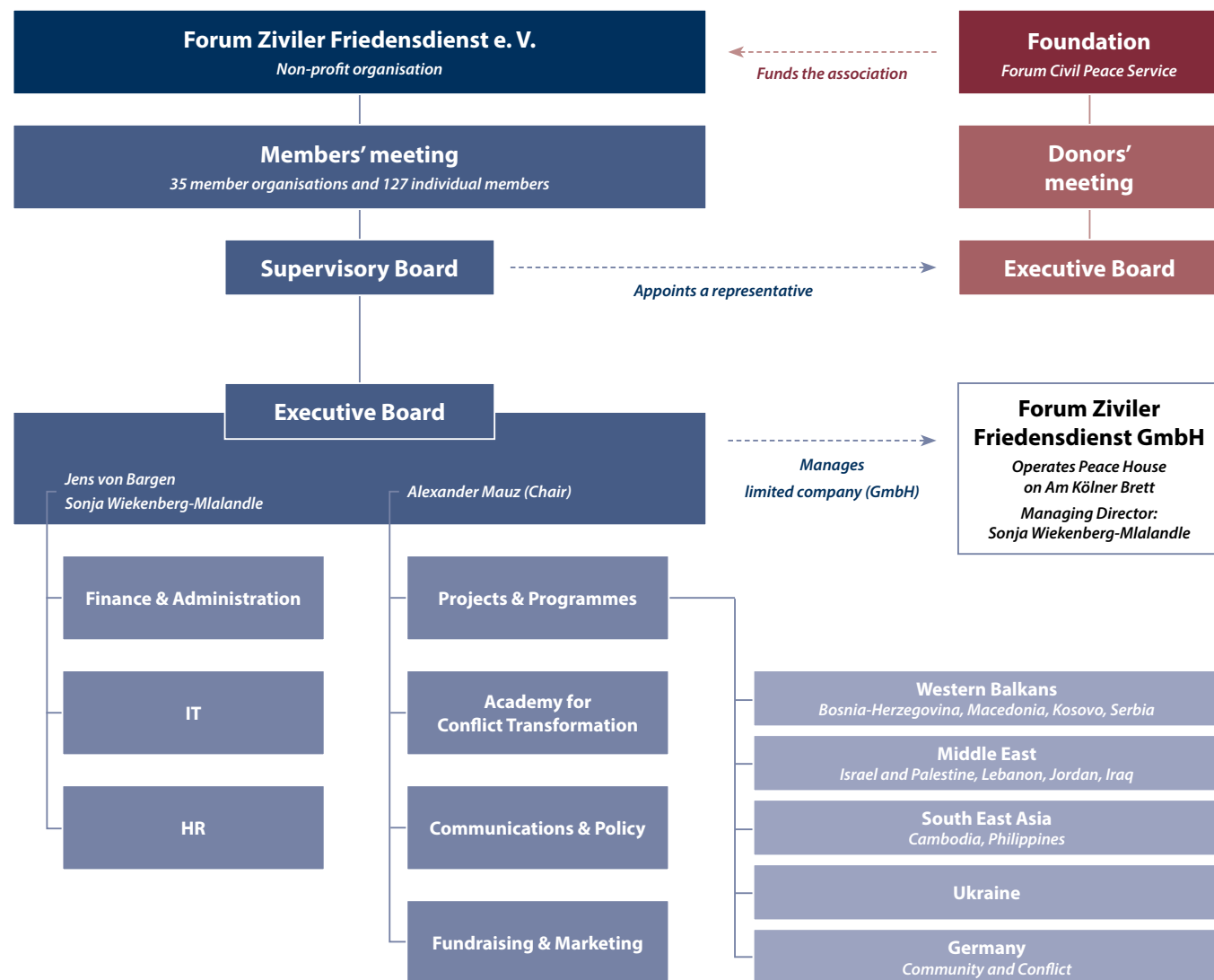
Tilman Evers
Board Member



Ursula Gille-Boussahia
Board Member

forumZFD's organisational structure

As at 31 December 2023



forumZFD member organisations

Antikriegshaus Sievershausen • Bund für Soziale Verteidigung (BSV) • Bündnis 90 / Die Grünen KV Mettmann • Bündnis 90 / Die Grünen Ortsverband Ratingen • Deutsche Evangelische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Erwachsenenbildung (DEAE) • Deutsche Friedensgesellschaft – Vereinigte Kriegsdienstgegner • Dietrich-Bonhoeffer-Verein e.V. • Eine Welt Zentrum Herne • Evangelische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kriegsdienstverweigerung und Frieden • Evangelische Landeskirche in Baden – Arbeitsstelle Frieden • Förderverein Willy-Brandt-Zentrum e.V. • Frauennetzwerk für Frieden e.V. • Friedensinitiative Nottuln • Gustav-Heinemann-Friedensgesellschaft • Internationale Ärzte für die Verhütung des Atomkrieges (IPPNW) • Kirchenkreis Hattingen-Witten • Kirchenkreis Münster • Komitee für Grundrechte und Demokratie e.V. • Leserinitiative Publik e.V. • Netzwerk Friedenssteuer e.V. • Ohne Rüstung Leben e.V. • OWEN – Mobile Akademie für Geschlechterdemokratie und Friedensförderung e.V. • Ökumenisches Zentrum Berlin • pax christi Diözesanverband Deutschland • pax christi Diözesanverband Aachen • pax christi Diözesanverband Essen • pax christi Diözesanverband Freiburg • pax christi Köln • pax christi Diözesanverband Limburg • pax christi Diözesanverband Mainz • pax christi Diözesanverband München • pax christi Diözesanverband Münster • pax christi Diözesanverband Paderborn • pax christi Rottenburg-Stuttgart • Theologische Hochschule Friedensau

Transparency

forumZFD is a signatory of the Transparent Civil Society initiative, which aims at greater transparency, quality and control of non-profit organisations. With its signature, forumZFD commits to enabling the general public online access to ten crucial items of information. These include the association statutes and the names of key decision-makers, along with information on the sources and uses of funding and personnel structures. For full details, see www.forumZFD.de (in German).



2023 in overview

Examples of our peace work



forumZFD

forumZFD
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50825 Cologne

Telephone: +49 221 912732-0
Fax: +49 221 912732-99
Email: kontakt@forumZFD.de
Website: www.forumZFD.de/en

Financing:

Almost **€ 13.6 million** spent on peace work.

Around **€800,000** collected from donations, membership fees, items purchased in our peace shop and other income.

More than **1,000** individuals and organisations supported our work with regular financial contributions.

Programmes and projects:

Educational work: More than **3,545** schoolchildren participated in our 130 workshops for a peaceful coexistence.

Germany: **38** towns, cities, municipalities and rural districts implemented our 'Community and Conflict' programme.

Jordan: More than **840** vulnerable young people were given the chance to start a new life with the support of an art community.

Lebanon: 140 organisations applied for the **7** places on our peace education training.

Philippines: **43** leaders of an indigenous community were prepared to defend their rights against government authorities and support gender equality in their community.

Ukraine: **823** internally displaced persons and particularly vulnerable people learned how to deal with extreme stress situations and also help others in such situations.

Team:

A total of **56** people worked for forumZFD in Germany and **118** were deployed overseas.

Legal information: Forum Ziviler Friedensdienst e. V.
Editorial team: Sonja Wiekenberg-Mlalandle (liable for content as per the German Press Law), Petra Gramer, Victoria Weden
Design: Sonja Kleffner, www.sonja-kleffner.de
Editing: Veronika Roman, www.lektorat.koeln
English translation: Denise Dewey-Muno, www.translate-en.de

Cover photo: Hendrik Haßel
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Map illustrations: © Vemaps.com

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