



Peace in Our Cities - Incentive Fund 2020-2021

INTRODUCTION:

In September 2020, the Peace in Our Cities network launched the **Peace in Our Cities Incentive Fund**. The Incentive Fund is aimed at supporting PiOC members as they pursue evidence-driven violence prevention strategies in the context of COVID-19. The Fund is made possible thanks to the financial commitment of co-facilitating partner, Impact:Peace.

Throughout the spring of 2020, Impact:Peace consulted with PiOC members to understand their knowledge needs in light of the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic. Six specific areas of need were identified: (1) violence against women; (2) violence in informal settlements; (3) violence associated with organized crime/criminal groups; (4) how city interactions with national authorities impact violence dynamics and the ability to respond; (5) social media's influence on violence; and (6) how to foster healthy relationships between communities and law enforcement.

Following the member consultation, Impact:Peace initiated action-oriented [research](#) in each of the six identified priority areas, with financial support from the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. Impact:Peace subsequently launched the Incentive Fund to **advance** the adaptation of effective strategies uncovered in the research in PiOC member cities.

Each PIF recipient will present their work to other PiOC members during webinars to be held in the fall of 2021. These webinars will help to broaden the impact of the fund to expand learning across the entire network, to include all 20 cities and two-dozen organizational partners.

SELECTED PEACE INCENTIVE FUND PROJECTS:

- City of Cali, Colombia
 - *Violence priority area: violence associated with organized crime/criminal groups*
 - Financing from the Peace Incentive Fund will support a new project within the City of Cali and the Archdiocese of Cali to promote the prevention of high-impact crimes committed by members of organized criminal groups in the city. The project aims to build on previous work around urban violence in Colombia as it relates to the legacy of the peace process and structural violence.
- City of Palmira, Colombia
 - *Violence priority area: violence associated with organized crime/criminal groups*





- Financing from the Peace Incentive Fund will support the municipality's ongoing PAZOS Strategy, which aims to focus prevention actions towards young people at high risk of violence associated with organized criminal activity.
- City of Escobedo, Mexico
 - *Violence priority area: violence against women*
 - Financing from the Peace Incentive Fund will support the municipality's ongoing project that provides housing, counseling, and employment for women and children who are affected by any type of interpersonal or societal violence.
- City of Guadalajara, Mexico
 - *Violence priority area: violence against women; healthy relationships between communities and law enforcement*
 - Financing from the Peace Incentive Fund will support the City of Guadalajara in ongoing activities with the Santa Cecilia Cultural Center, which aims to promote a culture of non-violence against women by promoting equality within the neighborhood. The project is based on data collected from the city's Citizen Security Index, which classifies the Santa Cecilia neighborhood as "Priority" as a result of the social indicators of risk vulnerability to violence and crime.
- City of Mechelen, Belgium
 - *Violence priority area: social media's influence on violence*
 - Financing from the Peace Incentive Fund will support research by the City of Mechelen into how social media and peer-to-peer approaches can be used as a protective factor in regards to the prevention of urban violence and violent extremism. This builds on previous work done by the city in the virtual space, which will examine how youth engage with threats online, and how COVID-19 has impacted the digital space as it relates to violence.
- Fundación Alvaralice - Cali, Colombia
 - *Violence priority area: violence in informal settlements; violence associated with organized crime/criminal groups*
 - Financing from the Peace Incentive Fund will support Fundación Alvaralice, an established NGO working in Cali, to collect, organize and analyze previously-collected qualitative information to better understand the drivers of violence, and especially shifts in trends due to the pandemic, which will provide an evidence base to adjust existing



violence reduction strategies. The project will have an output of a report on drivers and trends in lethal violence in Cali, as well as recommendations for differential strategies based on the patterns of violence identified.

- Life & Peace Institute - Nairobi, Kenya
 - *Violence priority area: violence in informal settlements; healthy relationships between communities and law enforcement*
 - Financing from the Peace Incentive Fund will support Life & Peace Institute to foster improved engagement between youth, women and security actors in Nairobi's informal settlements. This project aims to increase collaboration and trust amongst community members and between community members and security actors towards a reduction of violent incidents in known violent 'hotspots' in Nairobi's informal settlements. The objectives of this project include, among others, creation of safe spaces for shared interaction amongst and between women and youth and development of locally owned strategies to address violence through an agreed social contract.
- Peace Initiative Network - Kano, Nigeria
 - *Violence priority area: violence associated with organized crime/criminal groups*
 - Financing from the Peace Incentive Fund will support the Peace Initiative Network in ongoing work to prevent youth and young people from entering organized criminal groups. The intervention will gather young people from diverse communities to engage with key high-level stakeholders—including government officials, community and religious leaders, security agencies, and women's groups—on peaceful alternatives and the prevention of hate speech.
- Somaliland Center for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG Center) - Hargeisa, Somaliland
 - *Violence priority area: healthy relationships between communities and law enforcement*
 - Financing from the Peace Incentive Fund will support previously ad hoc work by the Center for SDGs in Hargeisa City to formalize community dialogues around police-community relations, and will work with the Mayor's office to produce policy briefs with best practices for future work. The Center will organize 8 consultation meetings inside Hargeisa's sub-districts, bringing together community and city leaders, including the newly-elected Mayor, police commanders and sub-district administration, and community groups including youth, women, elders, and religious leaders.

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