



# Peace Incentive Fund

2021-2022

**PEACE  
IN OUR CITIES**



**KROC SCHOOL**  
Institute for Peace and Justice



8  
cities



5

violence  
priorities

\$135,000  
total funds distributed

9

awards



6

countries



ga in dialoog over  
ONLINEVEELIJD

len 450 euro!

# PARTNERS

- 1 City of Mechelen  
Belgium
- 2 City of Cali  
Colombia
- 3 Fundacion Alvarallice  
Cali, Colombia
- 4 City of Palmira  
Colombia
- 5 Life & Peace Institute  
Nairobi, Kenya
- 6 City of Escobedo  
Mexico
- 7 City of Guadalajara  
Mexico
- 8 Peace Initiative Network  
Kano, Nigeria
- 9 Center for SDGs  
Hargeisa, Somalia



# Origins of the Fund

When COVID-19 struck in 2020, it upended all aspects of life, including individual and collective safety and security. COVID-19 exacerbated pre-existing stressors, constrained response capacities and shifted the incentive structures that motivate violence.

In response, members of the Peace in Our Cities network came together around a collective and urgent priority: to **advance public health** while simultaneously **reinforcing public safety**.

Network members stressed that their biggest challenges were twofold—a lack of knowledge on best practices, and a lack of resources to implement those best practices.

In response, we took action. Supported by the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, the Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice initiated **action-oriented research** in **six priority areas** identified by network members.

The **resulting research**, published in April 2021, compiled evidence-based, practical tools to combat violence on a city level during the pandemic. Immediately thereafter, the **Peace Incentive Fund (PIF)** was launched to address the resource gap challenge.

Through funding from the Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, Peace in Our Cities members were invited to apply for small grants to advance city-based adaptations based on the research. Linking research to action in the midst of a crisis not only reinforced capacity, but also an ethos of grounding action with evidence.

By sharing work across the network, the PIF also provided cities an **opportunity for peer dialogue and support**; hugely important for strained staff seeking to innovate and serve during exceptionally difficult circumstances.

Results from the PIF partners are proof that even a small investment can lead to substantial changes in the lives of those most vulnerable to violence and public safety vulnerabilities.



# 1

violence against women

# 2

violence in informal settlements

# 3

violence associated with organized criminal groups

# 4

social media's influence on violence

# 5

fostering relationships between communities and law enforcement

## Areas of Intervention

The Peace Incentive Fund projects span five different areas of intervention, with several investments targeting multiple intersecting violence prevention challenges.

The partners themselves highlight the fluid nature of urban violence, and reflect a core understanding of the Peace in Our Cities mission:

**Reductions in violence levels are possible through integrated approaches that involve a cross-section of actors hyper-focused on the goal of saving lives and increasing peace and safety.**

Small grants will not solve the problem of urban violence. However, the grants represent an opportunity for city leaders to test out evidence-based interventions, providing themselves with a playbook for future work on violence prevention. Adding investments to a larger portfolio of work with intention for future scaling up has proven hugely successful.

## Breaking Down Barriers Guadalajara, Mexico

In the City of Guadalajara, Mexico, the PIF funds enabled the project implementer to bring police, teenagers and adults together in a neutral space to undergo a series of cultural activities. Through a set of evaluation interviews with participants, the implementers discovered that the project has directly improved the relationship between the police and participants in the neighborhood of Santa Cecilia. A second phase of the project has already been proposed by the incoming Mayor in Guadalajara.



## Building Trust in Informal Settlements Nairobi, Kenya

In three informal settlements of Nairobi, Kenya, the Life & Peace Institute is working alongside the county commissioner to understand the root causes of urban violence. Through dialogues with youth and women in the settlements, the implementers mapped the way that factors including mistrust between police and youth, socio-economic inequality, and exclusion lead to increased violence. The project worked over several months to build trust between police and youth through dialogues, sports, and other activities.

In both Guadalajara, Mexico and Nairobi, Kenya, PIF partners are rebuilding historically-fraught and divisive relationships between law enforcement and community members. For many marginalized communities, law enforcement is not viewed as a protective force, but rather an abusive one.

The tensions between community members and law enforcement were heightened during the COVID-19 pandemic, reinforcing negative relationships and undermining public safety. Enhanced trust and strengthened relationships between community members and law enforcement are a critical piece to the puzzle of violence prevention. With PIF seed funding, partners are set up to continue this essential work going forward.

# Better Together:

## Collaboration between city government and local organizations

A core tenet of Peace in Our Cities, and therefore the PIF, is active and engaging collaboration between city government and local organizations. This is because both government and community involvement is a requirement of long-term violence prevention.

The PIF has allowed for trust-building and partnership development in cities where new relationships have been formed, and pre-existing relationships have been strengthened.

### Peace Initiative Network Kano, Nigeria

In Kano, Nigeria, the PIF supported the first ever co-created violence prevention effort by the Peace Initiative Network (PIN) and the Kano Emirate Council. It provided program participants with a sense of community ownership and partner, bringing together city officials, community and religious leaders, women's groups, and youth. PIN now has an established relationship with the Emirate, which will be critical to future prevention efforts.

### Refugios Temporales Escobedo, Mexico

The Urban Development team in Escobedo, Mexico were able to establish relationships with developers within the city. With the preliminary investment from the PIF to provide renovated homes to women escaping domestic violence, private developers have signed a formal agreement with the city government to support the refuges for an additional year.

### Global Initiative - TOC Palmira, Colombia

In Palmira, Colombia, an existing prevention program - PAZOS - was strengthened through the establishment of a connection with a new international partner, the Global Initiative on Transnational Organized Crime and their resilience dialogue framework. The framework is also being adopted within the City's Social Integration Department.

# FUTURE AMBITIONS

The Peace Incentive Fund provided seed funding for small-scale investments. Several cities are taking it further.



## **Mechelen, Belgium**

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The PIF-supported research in Mechelen is being analyzed and funneled into a Phase 2 project that will further examine the risks of online violence, and support future investments into prevention strategies.



## **Guadalajara, Mexico**

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After the success of the PIF-supported project, the new city administration in Guadalajara has made continuation of the efforts a top priority. The city has committed to remodeling the physical space in Santa Cecilia in order to support future activities.



## **Kano, Nigeria**

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A network of community peace leaders, *Nagarta Tushen Nasara* has formed of elders and youth leaders. The network will continue to sustain the PIF activities after formal funding ends.



## **Nairobi, Kenya**

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The *Pamoja Mtaani* initiative is one of few working in the informal settlement of Kayole. After positive responses from residents, the implementers hope to continue working in the settlement to build trust between the community and law enforcement.

**If you are interested in investing in the future of the Peace Incentive Fund, please contact us.**



# About Peace in Our Cities

The Peace in Our Cities network was launched on International Day of Peace in September 2019 with an urgent demand to reverse trends of urban violence around the world.

With 22 cities and over 30 organizing partners engaged in the network to date, Peace in Our Cities represents over 25 million people globally.

Peace in Our Cities is co-facilitated by three organizations:

- Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice at the University of San Diego
- Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies at NYU's Center on International Cooperation
- Stanley Center for Peace and Security

We are grateful to our co-founding partner +Peace.



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