

Moving Forward: Strengthening Peacebuilding Impact on the Ground

Considerations for Global Policy

On 13 December 2024, Salissou Mamane Elh. Koudoubé, Président of LAC-LAC Niger, encouraged the continuation of discussions aimed at developing a more realistic understanding of the expected results and impact of peacebuilding, how best to measure them, and for what purpose.



While my role is to conclude, I do not want to conclude but rather encourage this conversation to be only the beginning.

We must improve our efforts at making the case for peacebuilding and conflict prevention. This is not a new challenge. In 2017, the entire rationale for the Pathways for Peace report was to make the case for prevention. Yet, it somehow wasn't enough to convince donors and policymakers. It took the world to falter once again, and in profound ways, for prevention to return to the global policy agenda. This is really the problem that we need to address.

As peacebuilders, we know that peace does not come from a project that aims to empower young people. We know that peace stems from institutional structures designed to promote and sustain peace in an inclusive manner, from the work of the networks that on a daily basis broaden and strengthen peace constituencies on the ground, and from long-term efforts to build resilience that ensures that risks do not result in violence.

Today, we discussed the ways to demonstrate that peacebuilding works and that it is impactful. There has been a lot of evidence that prevention and peacebuilding work. The launch of the Impact Hub certainly presents an opportunity to consolidate this evidence and develop new insights. **What is crucial is to ensure that the evidence is collected in an inclusive and comprehensive manner that helps us understand what works and what does not.** This

includes showcasing local impact stories emerging from networks and youth-led organisations to name a few.

The lingering question, however, is “what is impact?” To answer this, **we must ask local actors “What does peace mean to you?” and work to sustain their aspirations.** The meaning of peace evolves depending on circumstances. This is why flexible and adaptive peacebuilding is critical. This requires significant trust in the unknown from the donors to enable flexible funding that can be rapidly adjusted. While this represents a shift from traditional approaches, we must acknowledge that the old ways are no longer working.

To conclude, our inquiry into what works to make peacebuilding impactful leads us to consider what is required from a policy perspective:

- Committing to infrastructures for peace through the support for peace infrastructures, like peace policies, early warning systems, and supporting local communities.
- Encouraging national governments to take ownership of national prevention and peacebuilding efforts. Because if they do not, then this conversation is really about nothing.
- Ensuring that donors, development partners, and national governments start their strategic thinking with the question: What does peace mean to you at the local level?

I thank you.