

# PEACEBUILDERS

*Around the World*

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① | The noman's-land that divides the island of Cyprus also divides families. UN soldiers prepare for a family reunion

*Peacebuilders Around the World*

## Peacebuilders Around the World

The Peace Counts project documents successful peace projects around the world, introducing them to millions of people. This exhibit shows some of the best photographic features from 30 crisis zones. It will travel around India in the next two years.

War has become a media spectacle. It captivates us with images in which missiles explode, people threaten and kill each other. Peace is less conspicuous. Why, then, should journalists display an interest in peace?

Because there are fascinating ways of presenting peace, says the multi-media project Peace Counts. Telling the story of peace means distracting the viewer's gaze from mere scenes of war to the root causes and solutions of the conflicts.

In the last four years, photographers and journalists on assignment with Peace Counts visited peacebuilders in 30 current conflict regions: doctors, priests, businessmen, ex-fighters, development workers, teachers, and mediators. Bereft of attention from the mass media, each has developed unique methods of resolving bloody conflicts without recourse to violence.

The successful attainment of peace does not come only when the weapons have been laid down across an entire country. Peace can arise whenever bombed-out people have a roof over their heads

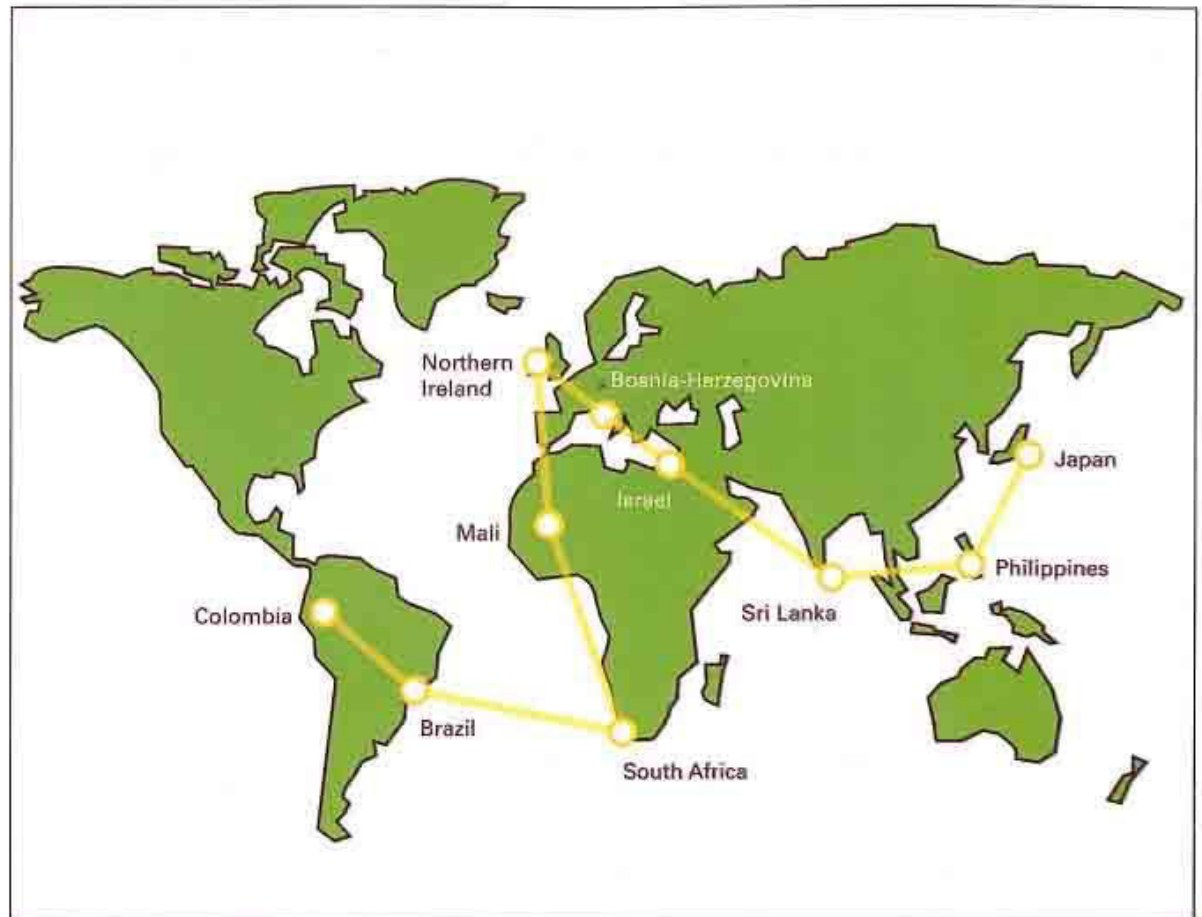
again; when orphans find families again; when enemies speak to each other; or when children in a single town or village can again attend school in safety.

Peace Counts wants to give a voice to those who attain such successes through their abundant energy, courage, and patience. The features about them have reached an audience of millions in Europe: through magazines, newspapers, radio, a book called *The Peacebuilders*, on the Internet at [www.peace-counts.org](http://www.peace-counts.org), in learning materials for schools, at conferences, and in this exhibit. The exhibit showcases the project's best features. The photographers Uli Reinhardt (*Zeitenspiegel*), Frieder Blickle (*Bilderberg*), and Paul Hahn (*Laif*) are among most renowned photographers in Germany. Their photos do not flinch from showing conflict, pain, and destruction. But more frequently, they depict moving scenes of hope and reconciliation, moments of communication and creativity.

With the support of the Delhi-based INSAF (Indian Social Action Forum), the exhibition "Peacebuilders around the world" is going to travel around several Indian states. To encourage dialogue with different groups working professionally on conflict resolution and peacebuilding, the Institute for Peace Education in Tübingen organizes workshops and documents the results.

The project is sponsored by the Culture Counts Foundation. It is recognized by UNESCO as a contributor to the International Decade for a Culture of Peace. The German NGO Bread for the World provides financial support. Financing comes also from the German Foreign Office and its zivik (IFA) project.

For further information, see [www.peace-counts.org](http://www.peace-counts.org) or [www.peace-education.net](http://www.peace-education.net)



*Bosnia-Herzegovina*  
A Bridge for Schizopolis



① Many children are emotionally troubled by the war. Outbreaks of anger, like in the case of this boy at an art course for children with war trauma, are normal

# A Bridge for Schizopolis

**The conflict:** Muslim Bosnians, Christian Croats

**The peacebuilders:** The Mladi Most Youth Center

**Their solution:** Shared activities in a divided city

Bosnia-Herzegovina

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Until recently, the city of Mostar in Bosnia was regarded as a successful example of peaceful coexistence between different cultures. The city was famous for its old bridge. But then came 2 years of war. The war destroyed the bridge - and it destroyed harmony between Croats, Serbs, and Bosnians. Now the city of only 100,000 people has 2 universities, 2 school systems, and 2 sanitary systems. The city is divided into east and west. The Mladi Most Youth Center welcomes young people from both sides. In shipping containers under a tent, they can dance, or record their own music in a sound studio. They learn photography and make films. Ethnic differences are not important. The name reflects the program's hopes: Mladi Most means "Young Bridge."

Photos: Uli Reinhardt  
[www.mladi-most.org](http://www.mladi-most.org)



② Serbs, Bosnians, Croats - Muslims and Christians - all are welcome in Mladi Most. Its young visitors choose to talk, play, or work

③ The war destroyed large parts of the city of Mostar. Most people rebuild their houses, but their souls are still wounded



④ The Pavarotti House, a donation by the famous Italian singer, also helps create peace. It offers Mladi Most a space for courses in dance and drama



⑤ A colorful show with a dark background. Dance groups from both parts of Mostar celebrate peace on the former front line



*Brazil*  
Viva Rio!



① Policeman Rubeval Franca with weapons seized by the police of Rio de Janeiro. Over 40,000 people die of gunshot wounds every year in Brazil - more than in any other country



# Viva Rio!

**The conflict:** Gang war in poor parts of Rio de Janeiro

**The peacebuilders:** The organization "Viva Rio"

**Their solution:** Sports, education, conflict resolution and an internet newspaper

Brazil

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Viva Rio was founded by researchers, businesses, journalists, and social workers - a network that can reach anyone in Rio, from drug dealers to the mayor. Drug dealers will do anything to sell their product - even use children. Viva Rio takes children off the streets. It gives school dropouts an education and helps them find work. When neighbors in the crowded favelas disagree, they call the Viva Rio "Office for Conflict Resolution" instead of the local mafia. There is less killing. An internet newspaper, Vivafavela, tells stories of peace and harmony - not only of death and sorrow.

Photos: Paul Hahn

[www.vivario.org](http://www.vivario.org)



② Since Viva Rio began offering children sports facilities like those in this ex-hotel, also poor children can play sports just like rich ones

③ For Edward, Viva Rio came too late. As a child, he was a cocaine dealer. At 18, the police shot him during a raid. Now he is paralyzed



④ Children rehearse a play that shows their problems, and how they can be overcome with mutual trust



⑤ In sporting competitions - like this race in the swimming pool in Cantagalo - speed and endurance alone decide who will win, not armed force and the law of the streets



*Colombia*  
Peace Through  
Soccer



① It takes practice to dribble like Maradona. Football gives 12,000 poor young people in Medellin a chance to succeed without gang violence or drugs.

# Peace Through Soccer

**The conflict:** Youth gangs create fear around the city  
**The peacebuilders:** Trainers like John Jairo  
**Their solution:** Involve young people in sports

Colombia

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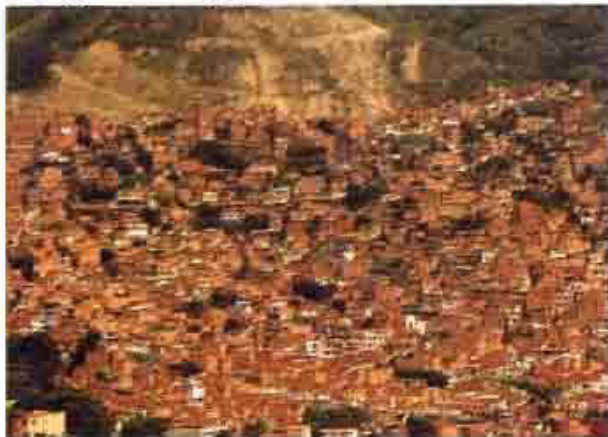
The arrival of the weekend heralds a time of fear for the citizens of Medellin, Colombia. On Friday nights, crime rate rises. The reason: Gangs of teenagers have too much time on their hands. The gangs terrorize their own neighborhoods even more than usual. But the violence has fallen since the creation of the organization "Soccer for Peace." A group of coaches trains young people in a league network - with 1,200 teams. Some coaches were once gang leaders, so they know how to talk to their players. They believe that football teaches respect and fair play - and they are right. Now 12,000 boys and girls play in tournaments instead of terrorizing the streets of Medellin.

Photos: Uli Reinhardt



2 Coach John Jairo from the poor neighborhood of Manrique explains the rules to players. In this league, fair play counts as much as scoring goals

1 Cheek by jowl, houses snake up a narrow alley in the disreputable neighborhood of Comuna 13. Police are afraid to enter the poor neighborhood. Before the football league, gangs were its only youth clubs



3 Like almost every boy in his neighborhood, Pedro Magellan is in a gang.



4 Pedro Magellan's room interior decorating scheme shows that his faith and Football for Peace are pushing his gang activities into the background



*India*  
Room for everyone



Little things: Students at City Montessori School in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, draped with gold fabric for a school play. Head scarves on Muslim girls are not an issue, onstage or off.

## Room for everyone

**The conflict:** Violence among Hindus, Muslims and Christians

**The Peacebuilders:** Jagdish Gandhi and his City Montessori School

**Their Solution:** Educate children in religious tolerance

India

13

City Montessori School in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, is listed in the Guinness World Records as the largest school on earth. Currently 30,000 students receive instruction in 20 different buildings. But for school principal Jagdish Gandhi, communicating an openminded worldview is more important than numbers. He puts it this way: "Travelers may come to Lucknow by bus, train, or plane, but their destination is the same." No one minds the jumble of images of Krishna, Buddha, and Jesus adorning some classroom walls. The children celebrate each other's religious holidays – together. The student body is 70 percent Hindu and a quarter Muslim, with the rest Christian, Sikh, or Jain. Extracurricular activities go beyond the usual schoolwork. Pupils at City Montessori invite fellow students from all over the world to speak on themes related to peace. Their model UN is structured as its delegations see fit. The free exchange favors learning: In nationwide comparisons, the school consistently gets high marks.

Photos: Paul Hahn

[www.cmseducation.org](http://www.cmseducation.org)



② One name, one vision: Jagdish Gandhi born Jagdish Agarwal adopted the surname of his murdered hero.

③ Practice makes perfect: Pupils at City Montessori School attend a model United Nations. Delegations represent countries including Syria and Pakistan.



④ Insight: The students are high achievers – thanks to open minds, whether in life or the laboratory.



⑤ All God's children: Pupils sit together at morning prayers in the courtyard. Their uniforms are alike, though their faiths are not.



*Israel*  
Talking Beats  
Fighting



In the School for Peace, young women from Palestine (left) and Israel (right) lock themselves in a room for 3 days and share their opinions - open and sometimes cruel

# Talking Beats Fighting

**The conflict:** Between Israelis and Palestinians

**The peacebuilders:** The School for Peace

**Their solution:** Conversations between the two camps

Israel

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The School for Peace is halfway between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. In workshops every week, groups of Palestinians and Israelis lock themselves in a room to argue for 3 days. As with real politics, the talks often fail to reach an agreement. But that is not the school's goal. Neither is it important to gain the other's sympathies. The popular hypothesis goes that getting to know to the other side on a personal level changes attitudes towards the whole conflict. The School for Peace, on the contrary, wants to reveal everybody's group-identity and role in the conflict by focusing on politically hot topics. In response to a poll conducted one year after the course's completion, participants say they changed their opinions only after they had seen the fur fly.

Photos: Frieder Blickle

[www.sfpeace.org](http://www.sfpeace.org)



2

Nava Sonnenschein fought in the Yom Kippur war. She lost many friends. Afterwards, she started the School for Peace. Her idea: "We are all members of a group and thus part of the conflict"

3

A two-way mirror lets supervisors and mediators-in-training watch discussions in the room. They learn how arguments start and how they turn ugly



4

On the 1st day, the discussion is still about hobbies, or their favorite singers. But soon the groups are trying to outcream each other. Each side attempts to portray its own position as morally superior



5

Even dramatic confrontations are often concluded with a ritual of peace. On their last evening at the Peace School, Palestinians perform a traditional dance



*Japan*  
Open Minds on  
the Open Sea



① | A student relaxes on the Peace Boat with a drumming course. For a few minutes, she can forget the stressful discussions



# Open Minds on the Open Sea

**The conflict:** Crisis zones around the world

**The peacebuilders:** The Peace Boat, based in Japan

**Their solution:** The ship unites people from crisis zones

Japan

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The Peace Boat cruises the world's oceans since 1983. The passenger ship from Japan is a floating university. Its 1,000 passengers sail regularly to crisis zones like Eritrea, Bosnia, Colombia, Israel, and Vietnam. Japanese and other passengers study each conflict's political and historical background. On land, they learn whether their ideas for solutions are realistic. The ship is a neutral place for people from enemy countries to talk. At home, they would not know each other. At sea, they talk about land mines, refugees, rebuilding, and reconciliation. The trip also includes sports, dancing, music, and meditation - a pleasant break from serious arguments and land visits that are sometimes emotionally difficult.

Photos: Uli Reinhardt

[www.peaceboat.org](http://www.peaceboat.org)



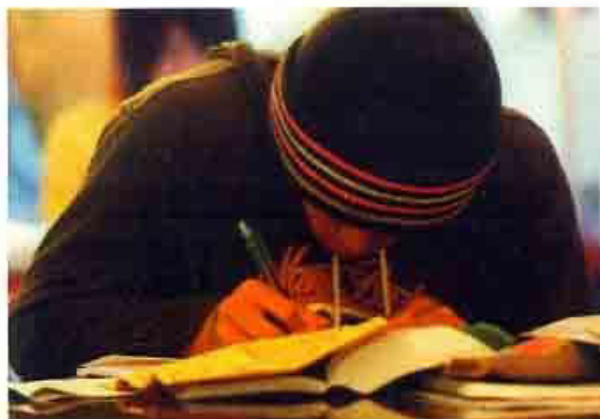
Peace Boat passengers explore local problems and think of creative solutions. They are more than tourists



On the sports deck, passengers practice Karate together, or relax with Tai Chi, football, and sword fighting. Most courses are organized by the passengers



Around the world in 90 days: The Global University students learn about war and conflict. Here a Japanese prepares for a seminar on the Balkans before visiting Bosnia



A survivor of the atomic bomb in Hiroshima in 1945 launches a paper airplane. She often travels on the Peace Boat to tell young people about nuclear war



*Macedonia*  
Elena mediates



① The horror still visible in her eyes, a woman finds refuge for herself and her children in a Suto Orizari shelter

## Elena mediates

**The Conflict:** Rift between Albanians and ethnical Macedonians

**The Peacebuilders:** Elena Gulmadova from the OSCE

**Their Solution:** Various cultures in one person

Macedonia

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Cultural dialogue needs translators - people who are at home in many different worlds. Elena Gulmadova, 33, is Tajik, a gynecologist, and a diplomat. Her father is Muslim, her mother Christian. She is neutrality personified. As an employee of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) she mediated in the postwar bitterness that prevailed between Albanians and ethnic Macedonians. With her help, houses could be rebuilt and refugees return home. Villagers conferred with police to find peaceful resolutions to ethnically motivated conflicts. It is through the involvement of people like Elena Gulmadova that the organization could contribute to a lasting peace in Macedonia.

Photographer: Uli Reinhardt



② In one person, Elena embodies two cultures: Her father prayed to Allah, her mother to Jesus

③ A war about symbols: Macedonian army grenades reduced the mosque in Matejce to rubble



④ Physician and diplomat Elena Gulmadova possesses an expert understanding of mediation between hostile camps. Her greatest gift: listening



⑤ With a handshake, an Albanian mayor thanks Elena Gulmadova for funding to rebuild a village school



*Mali*  
Ambassador in  
Indigo



① Tuaregs from different clans had been fighting over pasture land. They ate together, they talked, they found a solution - and now the agreement is sealed

# Ambassador in Indigo

**The conflict:** Nomadic Tuareg rebels against the government  
**The peacebuilders:** Mediator Yehia Ag Mohammed Ali, with foreign help  
**Their solution:** Development money comes only with peace

Mali

21

In the north of Mali, there is little rain. The people are poor. Desert peoples have been in conflict over water since the beginning of time. After two years of especially severe drought in the 1990s, civil war broke out. Corruption in the central government kept development aid from reaching the Tuareg in the dry north. With help from the German organization GTZ, the mediator Yehia Ag Mohammed Ali works to solve the problems with a simple principle: Only clans that stop fighting can receive money. Wherever there is peace, the money pays for new schools, hospitals, water wells, and irrigation. Mechanics learned to install and fix water pumps. The compulsion to cooperate and the economic stabilization hinder the outbreak of renewed violence.

Photos: Uli Reinhardt  
[www.mali-nord.de](http://www.mali-nord.de)



② Yehia Ag Mohammed Ali (right) is the son of a tribal elder. He knows all the conflicts between every group, and he knows how to solve them

③ Almost 70% of Mali is desert. In the north, every small river and every source of water is necessary for life and can become a reason to fight



④ Yehia Ag Mohammed Ali (middle) persuades members of two tribal groups that it is better to work a field together than to fight over it



⑤ Now the land is just dust and rocks. Next year, it will be rice. The project is financed with development money from the German organization GTZ



*Northern Ireland*  
From Prison to  
Youth Center



Joe Doherty (right) stands in front of the New Lodge Youth Center in Belfast. He has a problem: One boy constantly attacks other children. Now he wants to come inside

# From Prison to Youth Center

**The conflict:** Catholic IRA, Protestant paramilitaries, British government  
**The peacebuilders:** Ex-terrorists, Joe Doherty and Peter McGuire  
**Their solution:** Interest young people in non-violent politics

## Northern Ireland

There is a peace agreement between the British government and the IRA. But radical groups on both sides might continue the violence Joe Doherty and Peter McGuire grew up with: Joe joined the IRA at 17. He spent 22 years in prison for murder. On the other side, Peter McGuire joined pro-British paramilitaries. He spent 10 years in prison. His doubts began when his group asked him to kill another member. The two men were bitter enemies. Both were "heroes". Now they stop children in Northern Ireland from sharing the same fate. Joe and Peter talk critically with young people about the futility of underground resistance and their wasted lives in prison. They deliberate demystify the heroic stories that surround their lives.

Photos: Uli Reinhardt



2

Former enemies: Joe Doherty makes appointments with teenagers on the phone.



Peter McGuire in Londonderry with a mural of his best friend, killed by the IRA

3 The wounds are still open. Catholics protest in front of the Falls Road Police Station. They believe that the police tortured and killed a Catholic



4 With parties, computer courses, and field trips, Joe Doherty makes sure young people have chances that he never had



5 In the New Lodge Youth Center, children and teenagers circle around Joe Doherty. When dialogue starts, aggression stops



*Philippines*  
Islands of Peace  
in a War-Torn  
Land



①

In the eye of the hurricane: A coloured scarf around the head identifies an inspector from the ceasefire-watch - civilians who document attacks on people and buildings, no matter whether they happened in areas controlled by the army or like here, in Liguasan March, the rebels area of retreat



## Islands of Peace in a War-Torn Land

**The conflict:** Government army against Muslim separatists  
**The peacebuilders:** A coalition of farmers, elders, and religious  
**Their solution:** Peace Zones, respected by both sides

*Philippines*

The people of 40 towns and villages in the Philippines have taken their destiny into their own hands: They obtained guarantees from the army and the rebels that their villages will never again become battlefields. Near Pikit on the island of Mindanao in the southern Philippines Father Bert Layson organized Christian and Muslim village elders. He asked them to put an end to a cycle of violence that has lasted three decades, regardless of their religion. Together, both sides declare new Peace Zones with solemn ceremonies. His patrol team, 14 rice farmers, travels on ATVs between the villages. They use mobile phones to send text messages whenever they see problems. Experience shows: If the pressure from the village elders and the church remains strong, then both the army and the rebels will keep their promise.



② | Christian or Muslim - Father Layson believes that every human being is good at heart. But when bombs explode, his tolerance ends

Photos: Paul Hahn



③ | People who are young and poor are most likely to follow the call to join the armed struggle. Muslim separatists on the island of Mindanao have demanded an independent state for 30 years



④ | A school in the Peace Zone Nalapa'an. Children created pictures of their terrible memories. Now they burn them in the flames



⑤ | During the war, many rice fields were useless. In the Peace Zone of Nalapa'an, Muslims and Christians now work together again to grow rice

*South Africa*  
Gentle Words for  
Tough Guys



① Violence is a reality at Pullmore Prison in Cape Town. But the circle of hate can be broken with playful methods like dancing

## Gentle Words for Tough Guys

**The conflict:** Gang war in Cape Town prisons

**The peacebuilders:** Victoria Maloka, Centre for Conflict Resolution

**Their solution:** Training in non-violence for prisoners and guards

South Africa

27

Brutal status conflicts dominate the everyday life of prisoners in the crowded prisons of Cape Town. Every prisoner needs to maintain his rank - among his own gang and in opposition to rival groups. Victoria Maloka from the Centre for Conflict Resolution (CCR) leads role-playing exercises, teaching prisoners and guards to respect each other - for many of them, a new experience. Even muggers and murderers learn that there are other ways to resolve issues than with razor blades or their fists. Since Victoria began her work, the number of murders has fallen significantly. The success allows her to hope that the men may resolve on peaceful coexistence even after they leave the prison grounds. Consequently, she makes clear to them that if they don't follow her suggestions, they could land right back in Vorberg.

Photos: Uli Reinhardt

<http://ccrweb.ccr.uct.ac.za>



② Victoria Maloka can teach manners to tough guys without offending their pride. Peacemaking runs in the family: Her father was a village judge

③ A prisoner was stabbed with a knife by another inmate. An everyday event in prison



④ Victoria Maloka listens to see if the guards have learned their lesson: to listen to each other and respect others' opinions



⑤ One playful exercise uses a balloon to symbolize trust and understanding. The prisoners pass it around



*Sri Lanka*  
Reconstructing the  
North



① Ravindran cannot hear, but she feels the vibration in her teacher's throat. She is learning to speak. The school for the deaf employs 13 teachers

# Reconstructing the North

**The conflict:** Tamil Tigers against the central government  
**The peacebuilders:** Singham and his organization SEED  
**Their solution:** Economic development in the crisis zone

Sri Lanka

29

In northern Sri Lanka, Singham organizes the construction of entire villages. He runs a school for the deaf and takes care of street children. His project, SEED (Social, Economic, and Ecological Developers), also includes an organic farm in Vavuniya. War widows receive economic advice and microcredit that help generate income with start vegetable gardens or buy looms. A stable economy is the best guarantor of a stable peace. Singham's approach is regarded by aid organizations as exemplary: Before investing donated funds, he spent months living in an adobe hut in a refugee camp to find out how best to help uprooted people.

Photos: Paul Hahn / laif



②

25 years of civil war left profound scars on the civilian population. These traumatized women live in a shelter near Kilinochi

③

Singham left Sri Lanka at age 18. For 15 years, he lived in Berlin. He has a German passport, but he always planned to rebuild his country



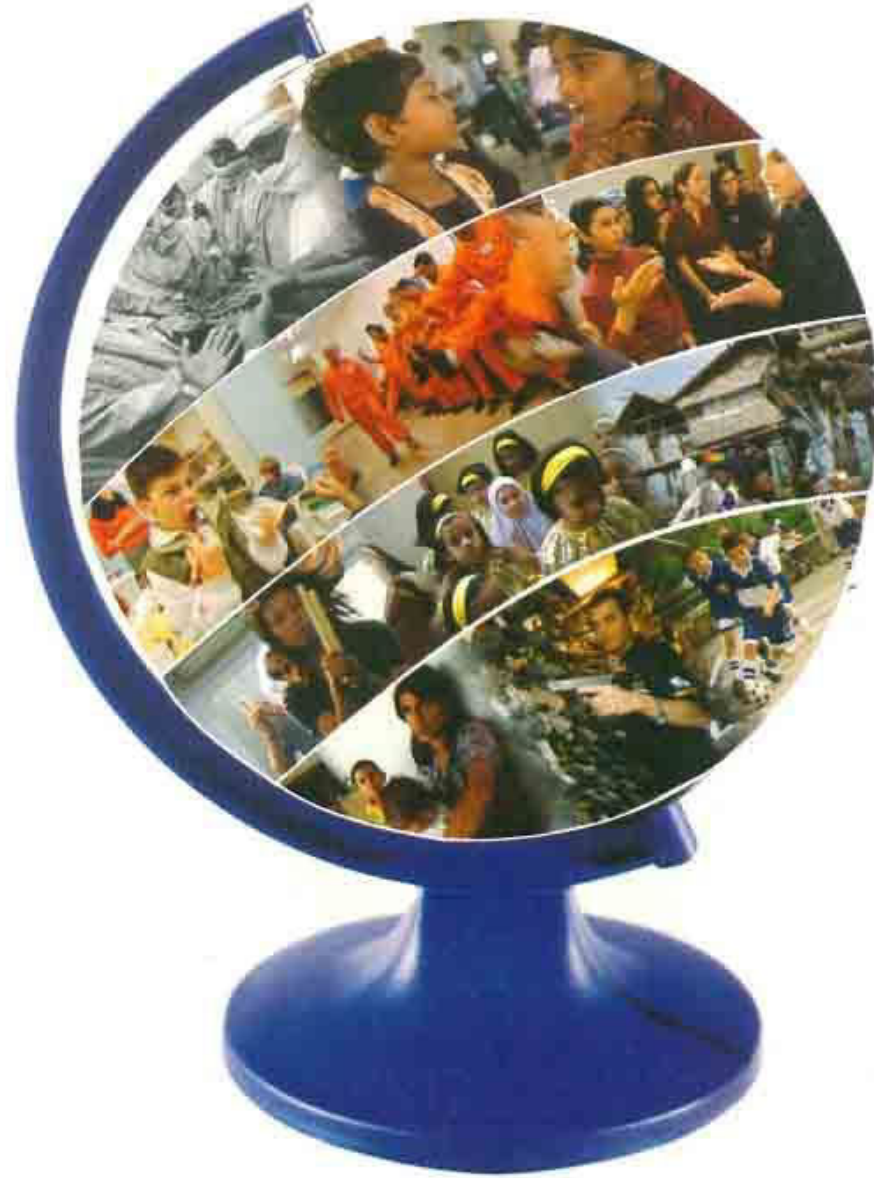
④

Tens of thousands homeless people live in refugee camps. SEED's most important project is to build homes - especially for families with no fathers, the poorest of the poor

⑤

Here in Vavuniya, Singham pursues his vision of an organic farm as a safe place for people and animals in a region dominated by civil war







Auswärtiges Amt



**Brot**  
**für die Welt**



ifa



Institut für Auslands-  
beziehungen e. V.



Institut für Friedenspädagogik  
Tübingen e.V.



Peace Counts *project*