



Kofi Annan
FOUNDATION

Road to Peace

Road to Peace

2017 Annual Report





Kofi Annan

Founder and Chair of
the Kofi Annan Foundation

FOREWORD

Road to Peace

How we work for peace and how you can support us

This year we mark the tenth anniversary of the Kofi Annan Foundation, which I founded after I stepped down as Secretary General of the United Nations. Through the Foundation I have continued to work for peace, development and human rights, the principles and causes that I championed during my tenure as Secretary General. From my mediation work in Kenya after the violent elections in late 2007, to my engagement in Syria, to the formation of the Global Commission on Elections and Democracy, and the West African Commission on Drugs, and most recently our work on elections in Mexico and Malaysia as well as in Myanmar's violence-stricken Rakhine State, I have found that the road to peace is long and often uncertain.

The good news is that most of the global crises that we face today can be resolved. We possess all the information and expertise to overcome them. Unfortunately, we often lack the leadership and political will to implement what experience and research have taught us. Short-termism – dictated by the next election cycle, the current business quarter or mere convenience – gets in the way.

This anniversary report shares with you our efforts over the last year to galvanise action for peace and outlines the road ahead. There is much to do and, in the words of the poet Robert Frost, “miles to go before I sleep”.

Kofi Annan

Founder and Chair, Kofi Annan Foundation

Overview

What if world peace were not an illusion but an achievable objective? What if the barriers to peace had been identified and citizens, governments and corporations could join forces to break them down? We have identified five major barriers on the road to peace and are calling on your support to help us break them down:

Unfair elections: Almost all countries in the world carry out elections and yet we seem to be experiencing a global retreat from democracy. If people feel they cannot safely and openly choose who governs them, violence often follows. Unless the integrity of elections is safeguarded, democracy will be hollowed out.

Failing peace processes: Too many peace processes collapse and plunge societies that are already traumatised into new cycles of violence. Managing these processes requires sensitivity, persistence and patience, but it can be done.

Violent extremism: If we recognise that much more unites us than divides us, we can join forces to tackle the greatest challenges of our times. Unfortunately, extremism, the politics of identity and ultra-nationalism sow division and produce more hate and conflict. Violent extremism affects young people disproportionately, but they are also the key to preventing and combatting it.

FOREWORD

Alan Doss

President of the
Kofi Annan Foundation



Hunger: A hungry person is not a free person. Climate change and trade barriers are major causes of hunger, which in return hinders development, triggers migration and prevents entire societies from achieving their potential. Over 800 million people suffer from hunger worldwide and dozens of millions will die from it this year. If we don't end hunger, we can never hope to live in peace.

Drugs: Drugs have killed many people, but bad government policies have killed many more. We need to treat drug users as patients requiring help, rather than as criminals deserving imprisonment. We need to find pragmatic ways of regulating illegal drugs. If we take these steps we can defeat the cartels that are causing violence and death, and undermining governments. That means ending the so-called war on drugs and embracing pragmatic, evidence-based policies that work.

In our anniversary year we are reaching out to you to join us on the road to peace. Your donation will go directly to our programmes, which this report outlines in detail.

Thank you,

Alan Doss

President, Kofi Annan Foundation



Our Activities in 2017

North and South America

UNITED STATES

[Extremely Together](#) Young Leaders advocated for youth-led CVE at UNGA side events in New York. Mr. Annan briefed members of the UN Security Council on the final report of the [Advisory Commission on Rakhine State](#) and advised as to how multilateral efforts could support the implementation of its recommendations.

MEXICO

The Foundation's [Electoral Integrity Initiative](#), in association with six partners from Mexico and the region, hosted a conference on [Electoral Integrity in Latin America](#).

COLOMBIA

[Extremely Together](#) Young Leaders inspired others to join the [Extremely Together](#) movement at the [One Young World Summit](#) in Bogota. The Foundation brought together experts, policy-makers and practitioners in a high-level symposium on [reconciliation](#) convened by Mr. Annan in Bogota.

GUATEMALA

A case study of the country's reconciliation experience was conducted as part of the Foundation's [Transitions to Peace](#) programme.



Europe

UNITED KINGDOM

[Extremely Together](#)'s Fatima Zaman works to research and advise on counter-extremism policy. Together with Bjørn Ihler from Norway, she led a series of 'Extremely Together roadshows' in UK schools in order to train young people in CVE.

The [Electoral Integrity Initiative](#) launched its fourth policy brief, entitled Elections and Peacebuilding at Chatham House in London.

NORTHERN IRELAND

A case study of the country's reconciliation experience was conducted as part of the Foundation's [Transitions to Peace](#) programme.

NORWAY

[Extremely Together](#)'s Bjørn Ihler seeks creative ways to counter extreme right wing narratives.

THE NETHERLANDS

The Foundation co-organised a meeting with the [International Potato Center](#) to promote orange-fleshed sweet potato as a crop to combat malnutrition. Mr. Annan delivered the keynote speech on food security, water and energy at the [Making Waves Conference](#).

ITALY

Mr. Annan joined over 250 stakeholders at the [Global Nutrition Summit](#) in Milan to accelerate the global response to end malnutrition.

GREECE

Kofi Annan opened the [Athens Democracy Forum](#) with a keynote address promoting the priorities and messages of the Foundation's [Electoral Integrity Initiative](#).

SWITZERLAND

Bjørn Ihler from Norway and Fatima Zaman from the UK were invited as keynote speakers at the [Caux Forum](#) in Switzerland.

GERMANY

[Extremely Together](#)'s Mimoun Berrissoun works to engage with young people affected by extremism. Hassan Ndugwa from Uganda joined Mimoun in Cologne in order to raise young people's awareness of the threat of violent extremism through a series of inspirational talks and a football tournament under the theme "Kick it against Hate". [Extremely Together](#)'s Countering Violent Extremism guide and accompanying year-long outreach campaign won the 2017 Digital Communication Award in Berlin.

BELGIUM

The [Extremely Together](#) toolkit and online platform were launched in Brussels in March 2017 at a conference, hosted by the [European Commission](#), on the role of youth in countering violent extremism.

FRANCE

Mr. Annan participated in the [One Planet Summit](#) in Paris and met with the French President, Emmanuel Macron, to discuss climate action.

Africa

WEST AFRICAN REGION

With our partners, we are promoting evidence-based drug policy reform in West Africa. We are advocating for the transformation of African agriculture and food systems in order to improve food and nutrition security. We are mobilising leadership for climate change mitigation and adaptation both globally and in Africa.

NIGERIA

Extremely Together's Jonah Obajeun advocates for education-based solutions to prevent radicalisation and extremism.

SOMALIA

Extremely Together young leader Ilwad Elman works to deradicalise members of Al Shabaab and promote gender equality in Africa.

UGANDA

Extremely Together's Ndugwa Hassan works to train teachers, Imams and young people in countering violent extremism.

MOROCCO

Exploratory visit and mapping of existing CVE initiatives ahead of the organisation of a series of training sessions on CVE targeting young Moroccans.

CAMEROON

The Foundation organised a “[dialogue participatif](#)” between electoral stakeholders, the main political parties, the election commission and the diplomatic community to agree on the key challenges ahead of the 2018 elections.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

A case study of the country's reconciliation experience was conducted as part of the Foundation's [Transitions to Peace](#) programme.

SOUTH AFRICA

A case study of the country's reconciliation experience was conducted as part of the Foundation's [Transitions to Peace](#) programme.

LIBYA

Extremely Together young leader Hajer Sharief works to engage women and young people in peace building.

Middle East and Asia

PAKISTAN

[Extremely Together](#)'s Syed Ali Abbas Zaidi focuses on the role of civil society to counter extremism.

THE PHILIPPINES

[Extremely Together](#)'s Arizza Nocum strives to promote education and interfaith dialogue to prevent extremism.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Syrian refugee and [Extremely Together](#) young leader Zaid Al Rayes aims to create economic opportunities for vulnerable youth to show alternatives to violent extremism.

MALAYSIA

The Foundation convened electoral stakeholders from 10 countries in Asia for a conference entitled [Democracy in Southeast Asia](#), facilitating an exchange of views on improving electoral integrity in the region.

THAILAND

A delegation of the [Advisory Commission](#) travelled to Bangkok to discuss regional implications of the situation in [Rakhine State](#) with Thai officials.

BANGLADESH

Members of the [Advisory Commission on Rakhine State](#) travelled to Cox's Bazaar to meet with and consult local officials and communities displaced from Myanmar.

MYANMAR

The [Advisory Commission on Rakhine State](#) completed its mandate and produced a series of recommendations to achieve lasting peace in Rakhine State.

Supporting Democracy and Elections with Integrity



Through its [Electoral Integrity Initiative](#), the Kofi Annan Foundation advises countries on how to strengthen the integrity and legitimacy of their electoral processes and avoid election-related violence, so that elected officials can govern peaceably in a climate of trust.

A threat to peace:

- In 2016, almost 30 percent of elections for head of government experienced some degree of violence. With populist and nationalist forces making significant gains in democratic states, 2016 was the 11th consecutive year of decline in global freedom.
- Latin America and South East Asia face several key elections that are feared may lead to a backsliding of democracy.
- The advent of new technologies and social media pose new challenges for elections and democracy.



What we did in 2017:

- The Kofi Annan Foundation presented a report on elections and peacebuilding, enabling countries undertaking peace processes to learn from the experiences of other countries that conducted elections as part of a peace process.
- In Cameroon, which faces crucial elections in 2018, the Foundation facilitated a dialogue between political leaders, civil society, international partners and the opposition.
- The Foundation convened conferences in Malaysia and Mexico with political actors, policy experts, civil society representatives and other partners to identify the electoral challenges facing South East Asia and Latin America. Both regions have experienced tremendous economic and social changes in recent decades, creating new challenges to electoral integrity.



- Throughout the year, Kofi Annan spoke at high-level events on the threats to democracy, underlining the action needed to counter these dangers.

What we are doing now:

- In 2018 we will convene leaders from the political and technology arenas to examine the perils and prospects for electoral integrity and democracy in the digital age. This consultation will take the form of a new high-level commission. The commission will build on the work done by the Global Commission on Elections, Democracy and Security, which in 2012 presented a roadmap for safeguarding electoral integrity worldwide.



50%

of post-war
countries lapse back into
conflict in the first
decade after the end
of fighting



Transitions to Peace

A threat to peace:

- 1 in 4 people live in countries affected by conflict or very high levels of criminal violence.
- The past two years have seen the highest number of global battle deaths for 25 years, record levels of terrorism and the highest number of refugees and displaced people since World War II.

What we did in 2017:

- We convened 45 experts and practitioners from around the world to elaborate on state-of-the-art practices of reconciliation. The consultation was held in Colombia, a country now embarking on the journey of reconciliation itself.
- We shared insights on peace processes with African Union special envoys and mediators to learn from the best practices of truth commissions around the world.
- We conducted four case studies on experiences, successes and failures of reconciliation in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guatemala, Northern Ireland and South Africa. These will help other countries steer their own peace processes.

What we are doing now:

- With its partner Interpeace, the Foundation is working with countries to strengthen their reconciliation processes so that peace is sustained and relapse into violence is averted.



Promoting Youth Leadership



A Kofi Annan Foundation Initiative

Violent extremism is a serious threat to our societies and to young people in particular. Extremely Together is our youth leadership initiative. It unites 10 Young Leaders, all active in countering violent extremism in their communities and beyond.

A threat to peace:

- Almost one third of those arrested for terrorist offences in the European Union in 2016 were 25 or younger. Youth aged 15 to 18 make up 20 percent of all suicide bombers.
- Youth have an essential role to play against extremism. They can spot early signs of radicalisation and create safe dialogue spaces for their peers to express their frustrations and feelings of marginalisation.
- Young people are rarely involved in policy-making or programming aimed at countering violent extremism.

1/3

of **terror**
offences in the EU
were committed by
young people
under the age
of **25**



What we did in 2017:

- Extremely Together published the world's first guide for young people and by young people on countering violent extremism, reaching millions online. The live stream of the guide's launch alone reached over 400,000 people. You can read the guide at: www.extremelytogether-theguide.org.
- We help give young people a seat at the decision-making table. Ilwad Elman from Somalia spoke at the opening session of the MiSK-UNDP Youth Forum, alongside Achim Steiner, the head of UNDP. Hajer Sharief from Libya was a keynote speaker at the Ministerial Meeting on Youth, Peace and Security alongside the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres. Arizza Nocum from the Philippines was the "respondent" in a panel of former heads of state organized by the Club de Madrid on security and development.
- Extremely Together received the 2017 Digital Communication Award, which honours industry-leading online public relations and communications projects, campaigns and innovations across Europe. Six Extremely Together Young Leaders received achievement awards in 2017 for their work to counter violent extremism.

What we are doing now:

- In addition to reaching out to young people online, we are working with young people in France, Morocco, Nigeria, Somalia, Uganda and the United Kingdom, to develop practical ways of countering violent extremism.
- The Foundation also seeks different ways to promote youth leadership beyond the Extremely Together initiative. Mr. Annan regularly emphasizes the importance of youth leadership in his speeches and media interviews. In 2017, he awarded the "Advancing Development Goals Contest" prize to the winners of an international competition for graduate students who develop pragmatic solutions to an international development problem.

Combatting Hunger

A threat to peace:

- Africa remains the region with the highest level of undernourishment: 20 percent of Africans do not have enough food to feed themselves and their families.
- Malnourishment stunts the growth of many young Africans.
- By threatening food production, climate change could increase hunger and malnutrition by up to 20 percent by 2050.

What we did in 2017:

- To help farmers build profitable businesses, the Foundation advocated for better policies and increased investment in African food systems and smallholder agriculture.
- The Foundation encouraged financial and policy commitments on nutrition. To prevent stunted growth, we promoted the orange flesh sweet potato as an affordable source of Vitamin A.
- In collaboration with the World Bank, the Foundation advocated for climate action. We pushed for more investment in climate-smart agriculture across Africa to help farmers adapt to the impacts of climate change.



What we are doing now:

- The Foundation advocates at the highest political and corporate levels for fairer, more productive and nutritious food systems so that Africa can feed itself.
- Together with the African Development Bank, we study the state of the food market in Africa to identify policy options and strategies that will boost intra-African food trade and market integration.
- The Foundation will continue to advocate for greater action and ambition to tackle climate change and help the poorest in the world to adapt to its impacts.
- We advocate for action combatting the effects of snakebite, which kills between four and six times more people than dengue fever, and disables many more, especially in the Global South.



Out of
18

West African
countries **none**
currently have fully
adequate **drug**
legislation



Changing Drug Policy



A threat to peace:

- In West Africa, the drug trade undermines development and fosters corruption.
- Africa's drug laws are outdated and have not equipped the continent with effective responses to drug problems.

What we did in 2017:

- To inform the design and implementation of more humane and effective evidence-based drug policies and laws across West Africa, the Foundation commissioned the International Drug Policy Consortium to map and analyse existing drug laws.
- On behalf of the Foundation, the Global Commission on Drug Policy organised an expert workshop on a model drug law for West Africa.

What we are doing now:

- Through the Global Commission on Drug Policy, we will propose a tailor-made Model Drug Law for West African states, equipping policy makers with a template to better address the threats of drug trafficking and consumption.



78%

of Rakhine
inhabitants
live in
poverty



Mediation and Crisis Resolution



ADVISORY COMMISSION ON RAKHINE STATE

The Advisory Commission on Rakhine State (September 2016 – September 2017) was established as a joint initiative between the Government of Myanmar and the Kofi Annan Foundation. Its mandate was to propose concrete measures for improving the welfare of all people in Myanmar's eastern Rakhine State, home of a Buddhist majority and a Muslim minority including those self-identifying as Rohingya. The Advisory Commission was composed of six local and three international experts, and was chaired by Kofi Annan.

The BBC described its establishment as a “glimmer of hope” after recurring cycles of violence and decades of chronic underdevelopment in Rakhine State.

A threat to peace:

- Violence, social and ethnic tensions are endemic in Rakhine State.
- 10 percent of the world's stateless people live in Myanmar. The Muslims in Rakhine constitute the biggest stateless community in the world.
- All communities in Rakhine suffer from poverty, poor social services and a scarcity of livelihood opportunities. The state's poverty rate is 78 percent, double the national rate.

What we did in 2017:

- The Commission published its final report "Towards a Peaceful, Fair and Prosperous Future for the People of Rakhine" in August 2017 after having released an interim report in March 2017.
- In its work, the Commission considered humanitarian and developmental issues, access to basic services, legal questions including citizenship and the assurance of basic rights and security for all people in all communities.
- The report is widely considered as the only viable roadmap to stability and development in Rakhine State, which in 2017 (and beyond) experienced very high levels of violence with hundreds of thousands displaced. Read the advisory commission's final report at: www.RakhineCommission.org

- The report and its recommendations were endorsed by the Government of Myanmar, which has since established a body responsible for the implementation of the Advisory Commission's recommendations.

What we are doing now:

- The Foundation has produced a report on the lessons it learned in Rakhine State to help guide efforts to prevent and resolve conflict in the region and elsewhere. The Foundation's formal role has ended, but it continues to share the experiences and recommendations of the Rakhine Commission with other actors working for peace and development in Rakhine State.
- The Foundation receives regular requests to mediate and/or resolve crises around the world and considers them individually. Some of these interventions may require a sustained intervention, as in Myanmar. Others may consist of a limited number of conversations.

The Foundation Board

KOFI ANNAN

Ghana

Founder and Chair, Nobel Peace Laureate and Former Secretary General of the United Nations.

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France

Director of the United Nations Studies Programme at Columbia University's School of International Public Affairs.

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Guinea-Bissau

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Former Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York (2002-2004); former Permanent Observer of Switzerland to the United Nations (1997-2002).

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Senior Advisor on Food Security

ORLA VANDEPOORTALE

Administrative Assistant



Funders

We are a not-for-profit organisation and depend on grants and philanthropic gifts. The Foundation is grateful to all the individuals, organisations and governments whose financial support in 2017 made its work possible. We thank our funding partners for their commitment to creating fairer, more peaceful and prosperous communities.

Donor-Partners



Private Donors



Partners

The Foundation depends heavily on its professional relationships and partnerships for much of its effectiveness. Its achievements in 2017 would not have been possible without the technical support provided by the following partners:

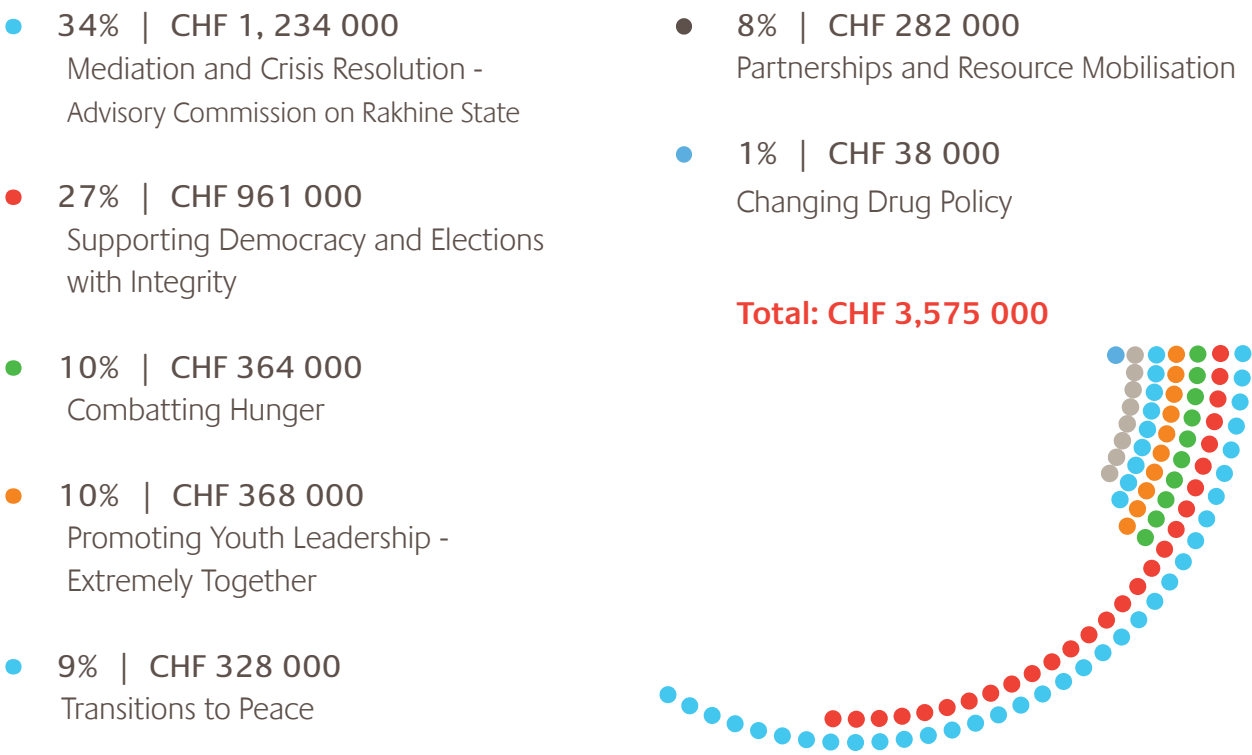


The Foundation collaborates with other organisations to share costs and benefit from economies of scale. It operates on a modest overall annual budget; for the fiscal year 2017, its annual expenditure was CHF 3.575 million.

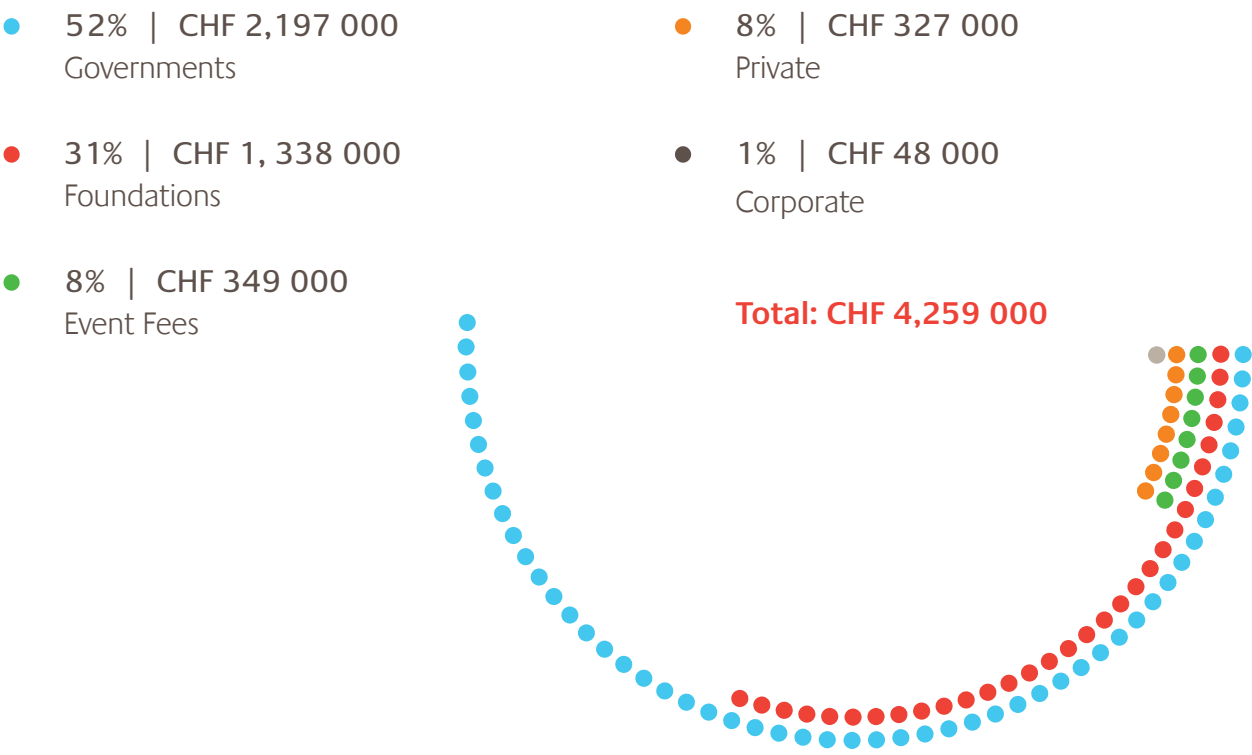


Financial Year Ended 31 December 2017

2017 Finances



2017 Source of Funds



The Foundation provides transparent and detailed financial and narrative reports on its activities. Grants are received on the understanding that the Foundation’s reputation and the integrity and confidentiality of its work will not be put at risk.

Funding our work with your philanthropic gifts and grants

The Kofi Annan Foundation is an **independent, not-for-profit organisation** under Swiss law which is funded by a mix of public and private donors. None of our income is guaranteed and without financial contributions from individuals, foundations, governments and other institutions, we cannot carry out our work.

We **actively seek support from individuals and organisations** who share our values and aims and who wish to help finance our work.

Do you want to **establish a long-term relationship** with the Kofi Annan Foundation?

Do you have a committed **interest in a specific issue** that the Foundation addresses?

Do you want to **support a specific activity** of the Foundation?

Do you **seek ways to back urgent responses** to unforeseen threats to peace and security?

Please get in touch:

Kofi Annan Foundation

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