

PEACE **IMPACT**

FRAMEWORK

PEACE MATTERS. LET'S PROVE IT.

The Peace Impact Framework

WE NEED A BETTER WAY TO TALK ABOUT PEACE

From poverty reduction to health, education, economic growth, gender equality, climate action and more, peace is essential for all interventions working towards healthy, safe, and just societies. **Peace matters for us all.** We need to build evidence and identify the investments in peace that have the best outcomes for people and practitioners affected by conflict.

Imagine if we could track what really matters for peace, and drive our conversation and our investment toward that. A new framework makes this possible by identifying essential elements of peace and how to measure it, based on the work and input from people in more than 180 organizations in 45 countries worldwide - from local community organizers to government representatives to academics. From their insights, **five themes emerged** as vital for peace, and there are **three essential pillars to understand and measure** it. The Peace Impact Framework creates a structure to track the vital signs of peace in any society.

HOW DO YOU GET STARTED?

- 1. Align to the themes:** Identify what you measure by choosing the themes where your work is most relevant.
- 2. Choose your pillars:** Identify how you measure. What matches the ways you are able to speak to results?
- 3. Name other themes** of your work that are not focused only on peace, but may also deepen our understanding of healthy societies.
- 4. Share data, research and evaluations** on ConnexUs, or use the digital PIF to help you create a report.
- 5. Join ConnexUs** to learn more and contribute to the communities of practice and the evidence.

WHAT WE MEASURE



VIOLENCE



POLARIZATION



AGENCY

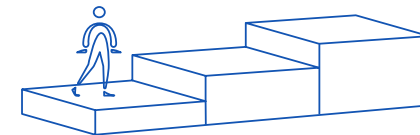


LEGITIMACY



INVESTMENTS

HOW WE MEASURE



LIVED EXPERIENCE: locally-developed indicators for accountability

ALIGNED MEASURES: global language & indicators for long-term tracking

EXPERT OBSERVATIONS: capturing unexpected changes & outcomes for adaptation

5 Essential Themes for Peace

VIOLENCE

Violence refers to people’s personal and direct experience with violence—whether they are dying or being attacked, whether they feel safe as they walk home, etc. We might also look at **SAFETY**, as its opposite.

AGENCY

Agency is about the connection people have to their societies and whether they believe they have the power to positively change them. Those who are unable to do so may look elsewhere to find power and purpose - and this is one key recruiting tool for many violent groups. We might also look at **POWERLESSNESS**, as its opposite.

POLARIZATION

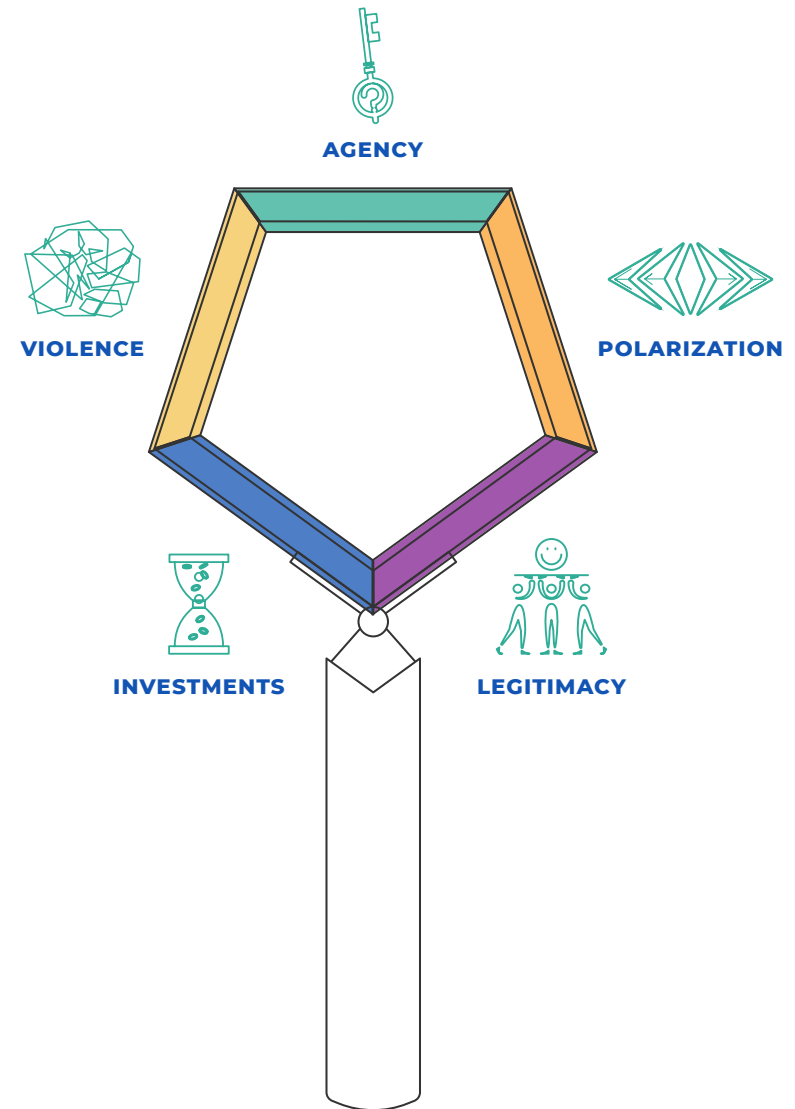
Polarization concerns how much people trust each other to share a social contract—to share the same rules and the same opportunities, and rely on each other. When people lose that trust, they often fear other groups pose a threat to their humanity and their dignity. We might also look at **SOLIDARITY**, as its opposite.

LEGITIMACY

Legitimacy is about how institutions maintain trust from the people they are meant to serve—whether they are accountable to them, and whether or not they represent them. These can be government institutions like security and justice, but they might also be institutions in media, traditional or cultural structures, or within religions. We might also look at **CORRUPTION** as its opposite.

INVESTMENTS

Investments tell us whether a society has the resources to support peace or conflict longterm. More commonly, we look at what investments indicate violence—like the import and export of weapons. However, knowing the market demand for a free an open media, or the value of time and resources that young people are investing in their communities can indicate whether peace will endure or devolve over time and help us understand the return on these types of investments.

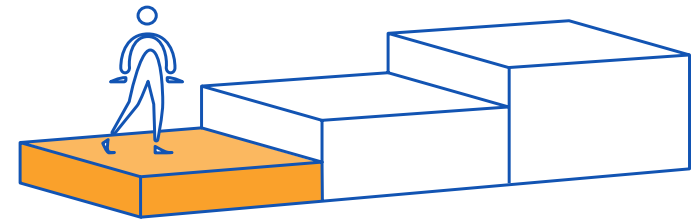


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Pillar 1: Lived Experience

WHOSE LIVED EXPERIENCE AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

People living in conflict know what safety, security, peace and stability mean to them and how violence impacts them. Research on peace needs to reflect humility—there should always be space for people we serve to set a vision for success with us when it comes to peace, and help us to question our own assumptions. Lived experiences are essential for understanding conflict and peace, and bring greater accountability and rigor to our work. One way practitioners are achieving this is through the **Grounded Accountability Model**, a research approach that engages diverse community members to define these concepts as they see them.



5 STEPS TO GET IT DONE:

1. **Identify** the different people you plan to serve in your work
2. **Access** tools and resources available on ConnexUs and adapt them to help you discuss with these groups about what peace looks like to them.
3. **Create** specific indicators based on their input, and narrow down to those they find most relevant and discuss why.
4. **Look** for patterns using the five themes, or add a new theme that emerges. Use learning and indicators to plan with communities, advocate for their priorities, and adapt programs.
5. **Share** findings, discuss best practices, and share your own experience back with communities and on ConnexUs.

WHAT MAKES THIS DATA POWERFUL?

- Drives accountability to those experiencing violent conflict
- Encourages humility, accountability, and challenges assumptions
- Recognizes the unique dynamics of conflicts in context

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU GET STARTED: Ideas for how to use Pillar 1 in your work

Community of Practice on the Grounded Accountability Model (GAM): Practitioners leading efforts to use GAM share resources and projects on this page, including resources and information on what GAM is, why it matters, and how other practitioners have used GAM in recent programs. Learn more at <https://cnxus.org/gam/> and join the CoP at <https://cnxus.org/event/grounded-accountability-model-community-of-practice/>.

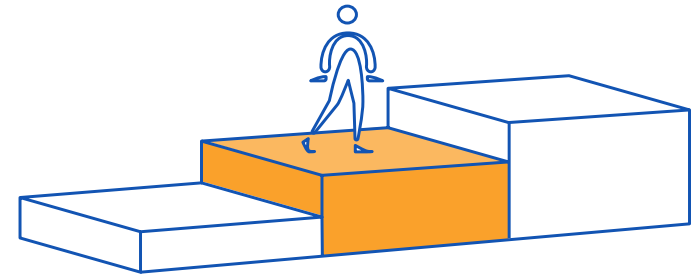
Most Significant Change (MSC): This methodology generates personal accounts of change and analyzes them to determine which are the most significant to drive learning and discussions of impact. An introduction to MSC and guides for its use are available here: betterevaluation.org/plan/approach/most_significant_change

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Pillar 2: Aligned Measures

WHAT ARE ALIGNED MEASURES?

Through a consultative process with organizations in more than 90 countries worldwide, as well as a review of academic literature on peace and conflict, certain themes and indicators for measuring peace kept surfacing. Ten indicators were chosen as a simple and actionable set to track and measure peace, almost like vital signs. If we commit to systematically tracking these, we can tell a collective story about peace, and bring our results together to create understanding. Visit <https://cnxus.org/> to see trends and how others are tracking these indicators.



5 STEPS TO GET IT DONE:

1. **Choose** the scope of your work—take a look at which communities you serve.
2. **Choose** indicators that you want to measure, and the themes they fall under.
3. **Integrate** comparable indicators under the five themes by using the tools and resources available on ConnexUs.
4. **Adapt** your indicators to fit your context and work using the guides.
5. **Share** findings, discuss best practices, and share your own experience back with communities and on ConnexUs.

WHAT MAKES THIS DATA POWERFUL?

- Offers a common language to compare results
- Tracks the same data to see change over time
- Allows for evidence-based decision making and priority setting

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU GET STARTED: Ideas for how to use Pillar 2 in your work

Indicator Sheets: These provide an in-depth overview of each indicator, why it's important, how to disaggregate for your context, and how data can be collected.

Sample Survey: Here is a link to a sample survey for collecting data on your indicators.

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning plan template: This plan captures your overall vision for how you track your impact.

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Themes & Indicators

VIOLENCE	PERSONAL AGENCY	POLARIZATION	INSTITUTIONAL LEGITIMACY	INVESTMENTS
% of the population that feels safe walking alone around the area they live (SDG 16.1.4).	% of the population that believes they can make a positive difference in the area they live (Mercy Corps, Eirene Peacebuilding Database).	% of people who believe they are perceived as less than human in their society because of their group membership (Dehumanization Index, Beyond Conflict).	% of the population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive (SDG 16.7.2).	\$ value of time and resources invested into identified priorities to support peace. (Social Return on Investment research).
Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population (SDG 16.1.2).	% of the population that takes action to influence the things they care about.	% of population that is willing to use violence to advance their group interests (SCORE Index, World Values Survey).	% of the population that are satisfied with services they seek from authorities.	Imports and exports of arms (SIPRI).

NOTE ON DISAGGREGATION:

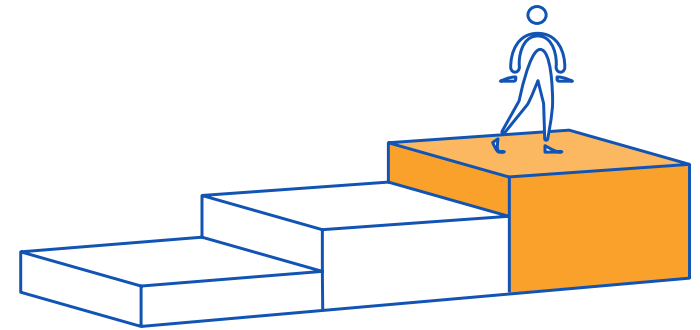
Since different people and groups are affected by violence in distinct ways and have differing priorities for safety and stability, disaggregation is essential to truly understanding peace and conflict. **At a minimum, we recommend disaggregating by age, sex, key demographic groups across dividing lines**, and the **types of violence, investment or services** being tracked.

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Pillar 3: Expert Observations

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY EXPERT OBSERVATIONS?

Practitioners working and living in conflict observe and analyze their contexts and their results everyday, just from doing their work. Many shifts in conflicts are incremental and unexpected. These types of change do not make it into the typical indicators and measures used by our field. However, systematic observations by practitioners, whose expertise gives them a unique lens, helps capture conflict dynamics and our contributions to change in ways that other approaches may not.



5 STEPS TO GET IT DONE:

1. **Identify** key practitioners working with you directly or within the space where you are trying to effect change.
2. **Convene** to discuss concrete events, decisions, or actions that are shifting the conflict- both positive and negative.
3. **Map** these outcomes across the five themes (or additional themes that emerge) and identify which are most strongly linked to work being done (vs. outcomes that happened independently).
4. **Adapt** work to maximize positive outcomes and minimize negative outcomes.
5. **Trace** incremental change to demonstrate how it builds over time, track the growing value of these outcomes, and share results on ConnexUs other can learn.

WHAT MAKES THIS DATA POWERFUL?

- Leverages expertise and concrete observations of practitioners
- Enables real-time adaptation and solution-finding, especially where contexts evolve rapidly
- Captures unexpected peace and conflict outcomes

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU GET STARTED: Ideas for how to use Pillar 3 in your work

Outcome Reflection Log: This tool helps capture observations and analysis to track outcome level learning and adaptation needs in programming, operations, or management.

Outcome Harvesting: This approach identifies evidence of outcomes and impact then works backwards to determine whether and how an intervention has contributed to these changes. betterevaluation.org/en/plan/approach/outcome_harvesting

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Bringing Data Together for Global Impact

A CLEARER PICTURE OF PEACE

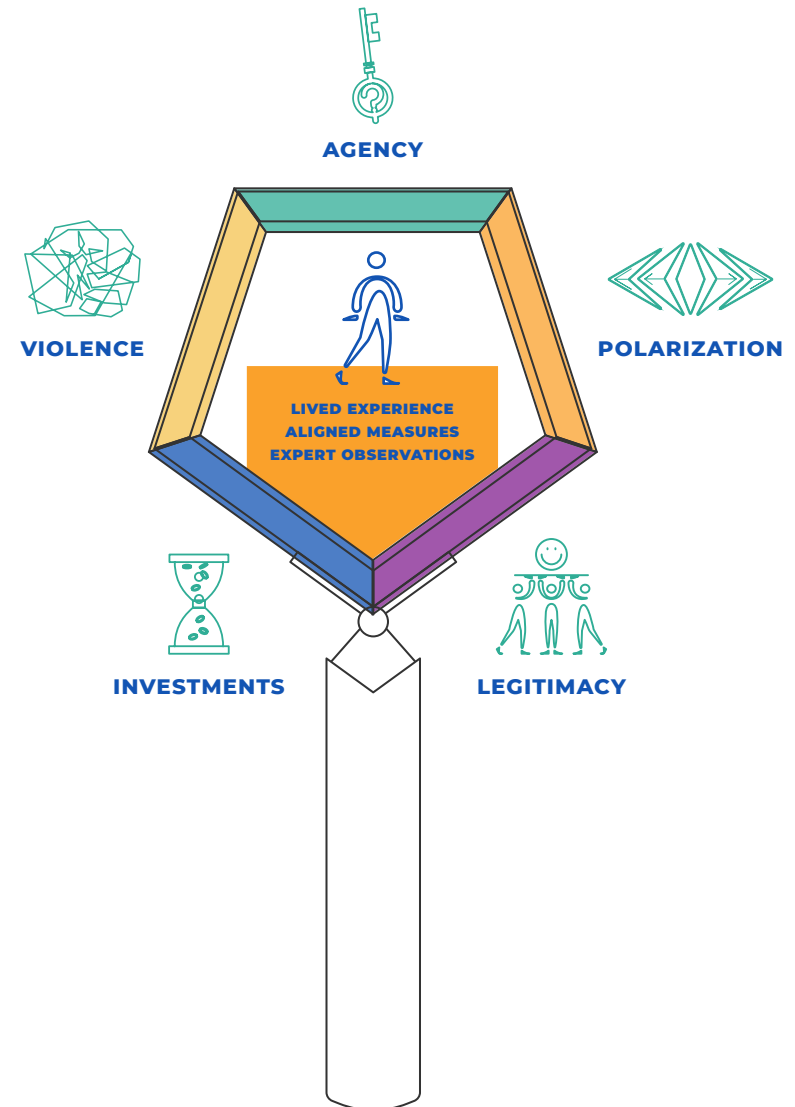
Each of us may focus on different themes or pillars within the framework, depending on our capacity and scope. By aligning to the five key themes over time, we can better communicate what matters for peace and share contributions across the field. The three pillars build evidence that help us question assumptions that need to continue to evolve as the world does around us. Together, we can set new standards and advocate for what is most essential for transforming conflict.

WHO IS USING THE PEACE IMPACT FRAMEWORK?

Funders, government donors, and local organizations in Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, and South America have already invested in the framework. The Peace Impact Framework tools and data live on the ConnexUs platform, allowing a global community of practitioners to share data and reduce the duplication of our efforts. Over 250,000 unique users from around the world can access the Peace Impact Framework tools and contribute their findings on ConnexUs.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE FIELD

To contribute to the Peace Impact Framework and learn about the organizations and initiatives involved, visit <https://cnxus.org/global-impact-framework/>. A preliminary report in 2023 will document peace impact across the field on peace and conflict. Join the ConnexUs community to share evidence on your community and work!



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