



ACTION  
TO PREVENT  
POLITICAL  
VIOLENCE





MISSION

**TO HELP PREVENT THE DEVASTATION  
OF VIOLENT CONFLICT IN FRAGILE STATES.**

GOALS

**TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION  
IN RESPONSE TO EARLY WARNING INFORMATION.**

**MOVE QUICKLY AND FLEXIBLY  
IN RESPONSE TO NEEDS IN AREAS AT RISK.**

**SHARE AND DISSEMINATE OUR  
EXPERIENCE AND LESSONS  
WITH POLICY MAKERS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, REGIONAL AND  
INTERNATIONAL BODIES, ACADEMICS AND PRACTITIONERS.**

# AROUND THE WORLD, MORE THAN 2,000 PEOPLE DIE EVERY DAY AS A RESULT OF VIOLENT CONFLICT.

Another 2.9 billion people face the risk of violent political conflict. Living in precarious situations, people teeter on the verge of a political violence that threatens their very ability to work, to get an education, to farm, to get clean water and health care, or even to live. As a result they sometimes feel as though violence – even against a friend, neighbor or family member – is their only choice for survival.

## IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THIS WAY.

In 2003 the founders of BEFORE and other experts came together to determine the best way to reduce the human suffering caused by violent conflict. Their conclusion was simple but radical – stop wars before they start.

War is a complex problem, but we are learning ways to prevent them. BEFORE applies these lessons to prevent political violence through a unique combination of tactics:

- private & public funding
- quick response to early warning information
- close and continuous analysis
- alignment of international resources with local needs
- support to local leadership
- diverse expertise and international partnerships
- programmatic flexibility.

By utilizing these elements BEFORE catalyzes action that effectively prevents violence.

BEFORE asks those whose lives are directly affected to set the agenda and help develop strategies to address the roots of violent conflict.

## BECOME A PART OF OUR WORK TO PREVENT THE NEXT CRISIS.

Average cost of  
conflict prevention  
is less than 2% of  
the cost of war.

YOUR PARTNERSHIP AND SUPPORT WILL LEAD TO A MORE PEACEFUL WORLD.

# WE CAN PREVENT POLITICAL VIOLENCE

Social scientists now know much about the causes of conflict and war. They know that if too little is done to settle emerging disputes peacefully, a conflict can escalate into unstable peace, violence, a crisis and even a war. The bitter consequences are lost lives, squandered opportunities for development, and displaced and separated families.

In the last 15 years, 92% of wars ended not on the battlefield, but at the negotiation table.

Or, the complex web of discrete problems leading to violent conflict can be untangled and addressed. Research shows there are common risks to stability and peace — and as a result we are increasingly able to identify geographic areas and socio-political problems most susceptible to the outbreak of war. Conflicts become wars through a succession of devastating but potentially preventable events.

Violent conflicts destroy relationships of trust — a crucial building block for stable peace. BEFORE works with local leaders to rebuild communication and confidence. We know the time to act is before the outbreak of war, before hope for a better future becomes too distant. Before it's too late.



# PREVENTIVE ACTION: THE DETAILS

Thanks to international, regional and local partners, preventing political violence is a reality. BEFORE's approach to preventive action includes these important elements:

- **LINK EARLY WARNING SIGNS WITH RESPONSE & EFFECTIVE ACTION**  
There are identifiable factors that indicate if a conflict is likely to cause the outbreak of violence. BEFORE monitors early warning information from a wide range of sources to identify countries at risk. BEFORE then determines whether targeted peacebuilding can prevent political violence in the country in question.
- **ANALYZE & ASSESS THE CONFLICT CONSTANTLY**  
BEFORE sends a team of local and international experts to talk with all stakeholders—from the woman on the street to the executive leadership of the country—to assess needs and possibilities for action. BEFORE then works with local individuals and groups to establish a plan of action for defusing potential violence, including continuous assessment to ensure that the plan addresses any changing conflict dynamics.

## BEFORE WORKS WITH LOCAL PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS TO ADDRESS THE MOST PRESSING FACTORS OF VIOLENCE.

- **QUICK & FLEXIBLE ENGAGEMENT**  
As conflict dynamics change, an array of technical expertise may be needed to prevent violence from occurring. BEFORE draws upon a diverse pool of experts to assist local stakeholders at appropriate and opportune times in addressing their priorities.
- **ENGAGE IN CATALYTIC ACTION**  
BEFORE's key role is to foster the engagement and collaboration of local, regional, and international actors from the highest levels of leadership to those at the grassroots. As an impartial actor, BEFORE is able to build trust and foster productive relationships at all levels. BEFORE acts as a catalyst for peaceful social change, creating a renewed sense of hope for stability, peace, justice and development.

Last year, 92% of weak states were either engaged in, or emerging from violent conflict.

PEOPLE ALREADY POSSESS A DEEP DESIRE FOR STABILITY AND SECURITY.

BEFORE MAKES A LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO FOSTERING THE PEACEFUL ENVIRONMENTS IN WHICH HOPE CAN EMERGE.



Preventing political violence doesn't have to remain only with your senator or president. Because stopping a war doesn't take an act of Congress or the will of the global community. It only requires you – helping before another war starts.

Join us in changing the way we think about and prevent political violence. BEFORE allows everyday people to help find stability and peace in countries of turmoil. With your help, we can stop a war before it starts.

# PREVENTING WAR TOGETHER

YOU CAN HELP END THE DEVASTATION OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND WAR:

- Spread the word about our work
- Stay current on situations around the world
- Visit our website [www.BEFOREproject.org](http://www.BEFOREproject.org)
- **Make a donation to BEFORE today.**

YOUR HELP WILL ENABLE PEOPLE TO BUILD THE STABLE SOCIETY THEY NEED TO HAVE ACCESS TO EDUCATION, FOOD, HEALTH CARE, JUSTICE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.







BEFORE is a partnership project of the Alliance for Peacebuilding and swisspeace. With nearly thirty years of combined research and global action, swisspeace and the Alliance for Peacebuilding are working together to make the world a more secure place.



**Alliance for Peacebuilding**

1320 19th Street NW  
Suite 410  
Washington, DC 20036  
Tel: +1.202.822.2047



Sonnenbergstrasse 17  
Postfach  
CH-3000 Bern 7  
Tel: +41 (0)31.330.1212

[WWW.BEFOREPROJECT.ORG](http://WWW.BEFOREPROJECT.ORG)  
[info@beforeproject.org](mailto:info@beforeproject.org)