

ANNUAL REPORT 2005



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Cover image: Maoist party members hold a celebration to mark the 9th anniversary of the start of the Maoist revolution in Nepal. The Maoists' 'People's War', involving the armed revolutionary struggle of the population began in 1996 with the aim to overthrow Nepal's Hindu monarchy. Photographer © Tomas van Houtryve 2005

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THE CENTRE FOR HUMANITARIAN DIALOGUE

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Helping to resolve global conflict

The overall purpose of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD Centre) is to reduce human suffering in war, by preventing and resolving armed conflicts.

The HD Centre is active in a number of conflict-resolution projects around the world, for example in Darfur and in Myanmar, promoting and facilitating dialogue between warring parties.

In support of these projects, the HD Centre conducts research and analysis, encouraging dialogue and debate on challenging humanitarian issues, and bringing forward practical policy recommendations to improve international efforts for current and future peacemaking.

MISSION STATEMENT

Mediating and facilitating for peace

The Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue is an independent foundation based in Geneva working to prevent human suffering in war. We believe that this aim can best be achieved through a humanitarian approach that focuses on the prevention and resolution of armed conflict. To this end, we promote and facilitate dialogue between warring parties. We are neutral and impartial, supporting only those solutions that offer the best prospect for a just and lasting peace, consistent with international law.

Through our work, we aim to contribute to efforts to improve the global response to armed conflict. We believe that dialogue based on humanitarian principles can assist in achieving political settlements, and that the informal initiatives of a private foundation can usefully complement formal diplomacy. We pursue our objectives with a commitment to new approaches, learning and collaboration, and by working with others across borders, beliefs and professions.



LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Throughout 2005 the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue consolidated its role and gradually raised its profile as an impartial peacemaking organisation. There was mixed progress in our operational projects but we were able to draw on our varied operational engagement in peace-making processes to contribute to the broader community involved in bringing an end to armed conflict.

The HD Centre was involved in eight different conflicts around the world. Our work with Geneva Initiative parties has helped them develop their capacity to promote and seek funding for the Initiative. There were positive developments in Aceh building on the initial efforts of the HD Centre eventually leading to a Memorandum of Understanding between the two sides mediated by the Crisis Management Initiative, and in Darfur we worked closely with the African Union as the chief mediator in the process. We began what was for us a new project in Mindanao in the Philippines, while continuing to provide support to the dialogue process between the Government of the Philippines and the National Democratic Front. However, the situation in both Nepal and Myanmar became increasingly serious, and despite promising signals early in the year the conflict in Uganda continued.

By sharing this valuable, practical experience we hope to help improve the global response to armed conflict. In June 2005, the HD Centre, together with the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, co-hosted the third, and most successful in the series of Mediators' Retreats in Oslo. In November 2005, we held the first Asian Mediator's Retreat with the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore. Both events were well attended by eminent mediators who were also prepared to share their experience and learn from each other.

Work also progressed on the HD Centre's book on the experiences of mediators, entitled *Kings of Peace, Pawns of War: the Untold Story of Peacemaking*, to be launched in Spring 2006. It tells their stories, from their perspective of



places such as Sudan, Iraq, Afghanistan, Cyprus, Sri Lanka and, of our own experience in Aceh. In 2005 we produced a larger number of publications than ever before, not just on mediation experience but also our work on civilian protection, arms and security, justice and the rule of law.

The HD Centre also strengthened its presence in Southeast Asia by building on the presence of a Regional Representative in Singapore. Many of the HD Centre's operational projects are located in the region and have benefited from a more local presence. As well as improving support to projects it has allowed us to improve our access and expertise too.

Our experience in 2005 confirms that the international and local response to conflict continues to be inconsistent and largely ineffective. There is a pattern, as present today as at any time, whereby power puts off doing what it needs to do to settle its conflict. And then, sometimes, we are lucky to see the reverse, as in Indonesia finally, a successful conclusion to the Aceh conflict has emerged through courage and will. So it can be done.

Michael Aaronson

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

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Members of the Board

Overseeing policy and implementation

The HD Centre Board meets regularly, to supervise the general operation and administration of the organisation, in close cooperation with the Director. In particular, the Board agrees general policy and ensures its implementation. The Board works with the Director to develop projects and define programmes of activity. In addition, the Board seeks public and private support for the activities of the HD Centre.

In 2005, there were seven members of the HD Centre Board.



Michael Aaronson

Chairman of the Board of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue;
Director General, Save the Children UK, 1995–2005;
Overseas Director, Save the Children UK, 1988–1995;
HM Diplomatic Service, 1972–1988;
Visiting Fellow, Nuffield College Oxford, since 2004;

Governor, Westminster Foundation for Democracy, since 2001;
President, EC/NGO Liaison Committee, 1996–1998.



Ernst A Brugger

President, Brugger und Partner Ltd (BHP);
Member of the Executive Committee of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC);
Professor, University of Zurich.



Narcisa Escaler

Vice Chair of the Board of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue;
President, Asian Cultural Council;
Deputy Director General of the International Organisation for Migration (OIM) in Geneva, 1994–1999;
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in New York, 1992–1994;
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations Office and other international organisations in Geneva, 1989–1992.



Abdul G Koroma

Judge, Member of the International Court of Justice, since 1994;
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Sierra Leone to the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), 1988–1992;
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the United Nations, New York;
High Commissioner of Sierra Leone to Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, and Ambassador to the Republic of Korea (Seoul) and Cuba, 1981–1985;
Chairman of the Sixth Committee (Legal) of the General Assembly, 1977–1994;
Chairman of the International Law Commission, 1991.

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO



Thierry Lombard

Member, Audit and Finance Committee of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue; Senior Partner, Lombard Odier Darier Hentsch & Cie; Former Chairman, Geneva Financial Centre Foundation; Chairman and member of several humanitarian, charitable and business boards and foundations.



Gerhard Putman-Cramer

Chair, Audit and Finance Committee of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue; Chief, Emergency Services Branch, and Deputy Director (Natural Disaster Policy) UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, since 1996; Chief, Office of the Director, Department of Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Office at Geneva, 1995–1996; Chief, Middle East and Newly Independent

States (NIS) section and Chief a.i. Africa II, Department of Humanitarian Affairs, UN, New York, 1994–1995; extensive professional career with the UN and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), including positions in New York, Malaysia, Madagascar and Switzerland, 1975–1994.



Pierre de Senarclens

Professor of International Relations, University of Lausanne; Co-founder and former President of the World Organisation Against Torture; Former Director of the Division of Human Rights and Peace at UNESCO; Vice President of the Swiss Red Cross.



WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Principles of operation

Working to ethical standards

While our mission statement summarises the HD Centre's values, these principles form our framework of ethical operation, representing our own absolute standards for practice.

Humanitarian principles

At its core is respect for the dignity of the individual, particularly the individual's right to protection in situations of conflict. Therefore, the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence are crucial to our operations.

The value of dialogue

We believe in dialogue as an effective tool for conflict resolution. We are committed to keeping dialogue open, and will talk with anyone if we think it might help. However, we feel that this is necessarily conditional on certain minimum standards of good faith by parties to talks, such as non-violence at the talks.



Appropriate discretion and confidentiality

Representatives of the HD Centre are discreet and respect confidentiality where appropriate, especially to preserve safety. Otherwise, and for the purposes of analysis and learning, we are committed to transparency and information sharing.

Unique contribution

The HD Centre aims to add value by being unique: undertaking tasks and risks that others cannot, and avoiding duplicating or poaching the work of others.

Accountability

The HD Centre holds itself accountable to: all civilians affected by a conflict, other stakeholders, its Board and donors.

Practicality

The HD Centre prioritises practical solutions to decrease suffering and resolve conflict in the most sustainable manner.

High-quality research

Research and policy work carried out, coordinated or commissioned by the HD Centre reflects the highest research standards.

Strategic partnerships

The HD Centre maximises its capacity and contributes to peacemaking through building strategic, mutually reinforcing relationships with other organisations.

Continuous learning and improvement

The HD Centre seeks to continuously improve through learning from our own experiences and those of others, sharing that learning, and developing the capacity and diversity of our staff.



Approach to project selection

Making strategic choices

The HD Centre becomes involved in projects through a variety of routes. Some projects begin with internal concerns and monitoring, and some suggestions arise from external sources, for example as an invitation from a party to a conflict or from a mediator. Work in some areas follows on from the HD Centre's previous endeavours. The selection of projects is always a strategic decision, led by the core values encapsulated in our mission statement.

In selecting projects, we consider the practical issues of capacity and funding, logistics and communications, including the degree of confidentiality required. We also look for:

- a clear comparative advantage that the HD Centre can contribute
- an acceptable probability of making a positive impact
- existence of demonstrable international support at Track One level
- an acceptable level of assessed risk
- satisfactory evaluation of the activities of other actors, indicating a meaningful role for the HD Centre
- potential elements for learning for both internal use and external dissemination.

While each project need not have a clear humanitarian element, the whole project portfolio must demonstrably contribute to ending human suffering and armed violence.

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

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What do we actually do?

Mediating and facilitating in conflict resolution

I am grateful for this opportunity to talk about what mediators actually do every day. Following a brief outline of our rationale, I will describe a few elements of how we work. The Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue was founded six years ago by an influential group of humanitarians including United Nations and Red Cross people as a complement to Geneva's more famous humanitarian agencies that ameliorate the worst effects of war.

As a small private organization, our appeal to conflicted parties lies mostly in who we are not. We can be most useful as an unofficial mediator when parties refuse to have an official one. To fulfil our mission 'to improve the international response to armed conflict', we offer our services to parties to a conflict where we feel that we can make a difference. Sometimes, this involves official mediation in a peace process, and sometimes it's just convening a meeting and getting people to it.

We look hard at a conflict before deciding to get involved. At any time, several of us will be analysing the people, the problems and the opportunities in different conflicts where we might have a role. This process of assessment is, of course, mutual. As we look over each party so too do they look us over – and rightly so. We find that the decision to accept us is often favourably influenced by our practical humanitarian identity, lack of ideological baggage and Swiss location.

In terms of ethical analysis, we need to be sure that the parties are committed and have good intentions toward any process we start. We will decide not to go ahead if there is no real will on either side, or if one or both of the parties don't want us. If we do decide to begin a project, finding a space and a moment to get in is what matters most to us, not necessarily finding the best space or time. Starting somewhere is what counts.

Through our work, we aim to contribute to efforts to improve the global response to armed conflict. We believe that dialogue based on humanitarian principles can assist in achieving political settlements, and that the informal initiatives of a private foundation can usefully complement formal diplomacy.

The day-to-day business of a peace process is then mostly logistics. Where shall we meet? Who should be invited? Who will book all the flights and pay the bills? Arranging people's identity papers and visas is often a complex procedure with armed groups when talks are secret.

We evaluate our work regularly and retrospectively. In some ways, however, our daily concern for every detail, and constant checking with a team of diverse advisers, is our most immediate form of evaluation. This process is an informal kind of the 'real-time evaluation' now so popular in humanitarian operations. We are aware that talks mediated or facilitated by impartial third parties are only one small part of the way a peaceful society is made. But this is what we do.

This is a shortened version of a speech given by Martin Griffiths, Director of the HD Centre, Montreux, October 2005.



Singapore: A regional office has allowed greater local access and engagement.

First year in the Asia office

Strengthening regional connections

With projects underway in several parts of Asia, the HD Centre appointed a regional representative based in Singapore in December 2004. During 2005, the representative carried out assessments in the region, including Indonesia and the Philippines. The regional representative helped to set up meetings for visiting HD Centre staff, identified actors in conflicts and liaised with officials to smooth the way for mediation work.

Being on the ground helped the HD Centre to stay alert to changing political trends and the conflict situations. It also allowed the HD Centre to provide back-channel and

private diplomacy services that would otherwise be difficult to organise from Geneva. The representative kept Geneva informed on events in the region with frequent teleconferences and written briefings.

As well as facilitating contacts and logistics for mediation work, the regional representative also played a role in extending the HD Centre's policy programme to Asia. In November 2005, the HD Centre held the first Asian Mediator's Retreat in conjunction with the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore. The retreat attracted senior policy makers and mediators from Asian governments, as well as senior UN staff from New York. A second meeting is planned for November 2006.

Operational projects: introduction

The Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue facilitates high-level, low-key dialogue among the principal actors and stakeholders through operational projects to improve opportunities for peaceful conflict resolution, as well as to enhance our range of policy work on current and future peacemaking. For example, our work includes the sharing and dissemination of learning from mediation projects.

The HD Centre facilitates dialogue between parties to reach agreements that reduce the humanitarian consequences of the underlying conflict, increase humanitarian security and ultimately contribute to the conflict's peaceful resolution. The range of activities that the HD Centre undertakes to resolve conflicts includes:

- directly mediating between the leadership of the main parties and stakeholders
- providing negotiation and technical expertise to facilitate their effective participation in dialogue
- supporting the efforts of other third-party facilitators in existing peace processes.

The HD Centre is currently involved in eight conflict situations around the world. In addition, we are engaged in a number of mediation projects that are necessarily discreet. In 2005, we responded to the outbreak of conflict in Mindanao in the Philippines, and began a new mediation project there.

Project assessments

Gathering information to inform key decisions

The HD Centre maintains a watching brief on conflict situations around the world. When a formal assessment is undertaken, more detailed research and analysis is carried out on different aspects of the conflict. This may then lead to the next stage of visiting the affected region for further

investigation into the nature and causes of the conflict, the people involved and the prospects for dialogue. The findings from these missions are rigorously reviewed by the HD Centre, leading to the formal decision on whether or not to initiate a new project.

Following a fierce outbreak of violence in Mindanao's Sulu province in February 2005, the HD Centre launched an assessment of the conflict between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in Mindanao. For the analysis of the conflict the HD Centre visited Manila and Mindanao to meet with the main parties and examine the situation on the ground. A thorough review of the results of this assessment then led to the development of a new project. (See page 12 below for more details of the HD Centre's activities in Mindanao in 2005).

Project assessments are crucial in making a sound and well-informed decision on the future involvement of the HD Centre, and on the best strategies to adopt. Even when it is decided not to initiate a formal project, assessments have proved their value as opportunities to gather useful information and develop relationships for the future. This is one example of the importance of un-earmarked funding, enabling the HD Centre to respond rapidly to a fast-changing conflict situation and to maintain flexibility in the critical initial stages of its involvement in any identified conflict.



Aceh

Facilitating the end of conflict?

Since 2000, the HD Centre had worked to achieve and maintain ceasefires and talks between the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia (GoI). The

2004 elections in Indonesia proved to be a watershed, bringing in a reformist president and vice-president, as well as many new national and local parliamentarians who were more supportive of peace talks.

Following the tsunami at the end of 2004, representatives of the HD Centre travelled to Stockholm, Aceh and Jakarta to assist former staff and identify options for a ceasefire and a dialogue process. After this overwhelming disaster, their appeared to be a reinvigorated interest in peace. In Stockholm, the GAM leadership, with the help of the HD Centre, drafted a public statement reiterating its call for a ceasefire and conveying its interest in attending political talks. Meanwhile, in Aceh an HD Centre representative worked with senior government officials and GAM military commanders to move them towards dialogue.

In January both parties agreed to attend talks in Helsinki under the auspices of the Crisis Management Initiative (CMI). The HD Centre maintained contact with both parties during the CMI led mediation process.



Myanmar

Creating conditions for reconciliation and reform

For all those who seek to support Myanmar in its quest for peace and good governance, the challenge has been to find an effective inclusive process to bring together diverse actors and institutions to bring about sub-

stantive change. In 2005, the internal political climate seriously regressed. Many initiatives aimed at reconciliation and engagement were rebuffed or came to a virtual halt. Equally troubling is the worsening socio-economic situation, with new crises emerging that are of serious concern to the international community, such as: the dis-

The CHD's approach helped create the right conditions for the subsequent peace talks [in Aceh]. It offered itself as a non-threatening player from the beginning and then worked on preparing the psychological conditions for peace to be acceptable as a viable option.

—**Surin Pitsuwan**, Thailand's former foreign minister, who was involved in that reconciliation effort.

placement of civilians, the production of illicit narcotics, the spread of HIV / AIDS, child malnutrition, malaria and other health crises. These challenges could be addressed through reconciliation and reform processes that are backed by international aid and development.

As one of the few international organisations working close to the realities on the ground and engaged with the bigger issue of socio-political transition, the HD Centre monitored the situation carefully to assess the potential for change through dialogue. Following the deterioration in the reform environment in 2005, the HD Centre worked to refocus attention on a "tri-partite" resolution to the country's problems; i.e. by dialogue and compromise between the Myanmar armed forces, democracy groups and ethnic nationality parties. The HD Centre also provided support to the Special Rapporteur for Human Rights, Myanmar, and the International Labour Organisation in its efforts to eliminate the practice of forced labour in the country.

MEDIATION ACTIVITIES

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Darfur

Maintaining links for cooperation

Since 2003, the province of Darfur in Sudan has been the scene of intense hostilities between the Government of Sudan (GoS) and its allied militias and two main opposition groups, the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM). The violence has had severe humanitarian consequences: an estimated 3.4 million people have been affected by the conflict in Darfur, of whom some 1.8 million have been internally displaced. More than 200,000 people have fled to Chad, and some 300,000 have died.

In 2004, the HD Centre helped to facilitate a Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement for Darfur (signed in N'djamena, Chad in April), and so met its primary project objective. During 2005, the HD Centre worked with its international partners and with all parties to the conflict to ensure the

effective implementation of the N'djamena Agreement and to advance the peace process.

In particular, the HD Centre worked to develop relations with the African Union (AU), now the chief mediator to the conflict. The HD Centre also drew on its relationship of trust with the leaderships of the SLM/A and JEM to ensure the opposition groups' attendance and positive participation at various rounds of talks in Addis, Geneva and Abuja, and to provide them with advice and negotiation support in the context of the peace process, in collaboration with international partners.

However, the divisions and rivalries among and between the SLM/A and the JEM deepened significantly in 2005, and present a serious threat to the peace process. Discord and recriminations led to a postponement of the seventh round of Abuja talks, which, although reconvened, have made little progress.

The HD Centre continues to support the dialogue process on Darfur, and is working to strengthen the humanitarian cooperation between the armed Darfur opposition groups and the international humanitarian community.



▲ Andrew Marshall, the HD Centre's Deputy Director, building relations with armed groups in Darfur



MNLF, Philippines

Facilitating dialogue to regain peace

After 25 years of conflict, an historic agreement was signed in 1996 by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), which appeared finally to end decades of fighting in Mindanao in the southern Philippines. However, tensions have recently increased, and February 2005 saw an outbreak of some of the most serious fighting since the 1996 agreement, in Sulu in Mindanao, between one faction of MNLF forces and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).



▲ HD Centre Representative Officer Mr. Amardeep Rai (retired) with GRP-MNLF Peace Working Group Staff at the Group's inauguration.

In March 2005, the HD Centre travelled to Sulu to meet with commanders of both sides, and then with senior officials from both the GRP and the MNLF. Both parties agreed to an informal dialogue process mediated by the HD Centre. During the next six months, they held five rounds of talks on a range of security issues. During this process, it was agreed that a joint team should be established, based in Sulu, and which could represent the government, including the armed forces, the MNLF, local government and civil society. The group was to identify security concerns and provide recommendations to all parties concerned on mechanisms for addressing insecurity and further re-integration of MNLF fighters.

In September 2005, a joint team called the Peace Working Group (PWG) was established with an office in Jolo, Sulu. The Group is composed of ten representatives from the two parties, GRP and MNLF, and is facilitated by an international representative of the HD Centre. In November, the

Peace Working Group successfully negotiated a ceasefire between the AFP and the MNLF.

The fighting this year in Sulu threatened to unravel the achievements made through the 1996 agreement and could lead to insecurity in a very volatile region. Political problems in Manila, plus the proliferation of weapons, armed groups, poverty and governance problems in Mindanao, undermine the ability of the government to resolve the conflict. Nonetheless, there has been progress as both parties have continued to meet, as well as to identify and implement mechanisms for resolving the conflict. Most significantly, the establishment of the PWG has demonstrated progress to the two parties and the people of Mindanao. The HD Centre has obtained agreement from all the MNLF faction heads that they would be willing to attend talks with the GRP, and this process is expected to begin early in 2006.

NDF, Philippines

Working pragmatically on a national conflict

This year, the HD Centre continued to provide support to the Royal Norwegian Government in its role as a third-party facilitator in the dialogue process between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the National Democratic Front (NDF)/Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP). This dialogue began early in 2004, after a three-year hiatus in peace talks. Talks are presently stalled, and fighting continues, but the HD Centre is continuing to support efforts to restart the dialogue.

The communist insurgency in the Philippines has been ongoing for nearly four decades. Violent clashes between the New People's Army (NPA), the CPP's military wing, and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) have caused some 40,000 deaths to date. Both sides have been accused of committing serious abuses of human rights.



▲ David Gorman, the HD Centre's Mediation Advisor meeting with MNLF cadres in Sulu, the Philippines, to discuss their issues of concern.

With the help of the HD Centre, a Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) composed of delegates from both parties was established in June 2004. The public is encouraged to submit complaints about human-rights violations to the committee, which then passes them on to the respective leaderships of the two parties for investigation and subsequent action.

In November 2005, the HD Centre also conducted an assessment of the JMC on behalf of the RNG. This included an evaluation of the body, both reviewing its effectiveness in carrying out its mandate, and identifying any indirect benefits or shortcomings. In addition, the HD Centre provided a set of recommendations for improving the functioning of the JMC.

The peace process overall in the Philippines remains deadlocked, and has been adversely affected by political events in Manila and internationally. Fighting between the NPA and the AFP intensified, with increasing casualties on both sides. Nevertheless, the JMC continues to be a rare bright spot. The GRP and the NDF continue to cooperate

with each other to ensure the functioning of the JMC, and it continues to operate and regularly receive reports from the public.

Nepal

Finding opportunities to talk

There has been a brutal conflict in Nepal since 1996 between the Communist Party of Nepal–Maoist (CPN-M) and His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMG). More than 12,000 people have died in hostilities between the CPN-M and the Royal Nepal Army (RNA), with both sides having been accused of committing widespread human-rights abuses. The conflict has developed from an insurgency into civil war, the main political parties forming a third group struggling for power and influence.

Since 2000, the HD Centre has worked with the leadership of all parties to the conflict, including five administrations in Kathmandu and the CPN-M, to build confidence and help create sufficient middle ground to bring the parties to the negotiating table.

In February 2005, King Gyanendra declared a state of emergency, dismissed his Prime Minister and assumed full executive powers; official curbs on political freedom and other civil liberties were increased. Bowing to strong international pressure, King Gyanendra lifted the state of emergency at the end of April. However, opposition to the monarchy had strengthened and appears to have brought the CPN-M and the dissenting political parties closer together. In September 2005, CPN-M declared a unilateral ceasefire, which HMG refused to reciprocate. CPN-M and Nepal's political-party alliance then signed a memorandum of understanding in November, designed to promote a joint strategy to put an end to 'the autocratic monarchy' and restore a multi-party democracy.

During 2005, the HD Centre maintained its contacts with HMG and CPN-M and renewed its contacts with the

leaders of the main political parties in Nepal stressing in its bilateral meetings the need for a negotiated solution.



Uganda

Working to regain ceasefire

After making contact with the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), in 2004, the HD Centre made a series of visits to Uganda in a discreet attempt to find a way to bring the LRA and the Government of Uganda (GoU) into dialogue. Through an exchange of

letters, submitted via the HD Centre in the fall of 2004, the GoU and the LRA agreed to a ceasefire, subject only to modalities of length and scope. In November 2004, the GoU announced a unilateral ceasefire – the first in a decade.

Unfortunately, in early 2005 the ceasefire collapsed. The LRA continued to request that the HD Centre remain engaged in the efforts, now led by the GoU, to renew the ceasefire and re-establish fruitful contact between the two parties. Asked by the GoU to remain on standby, the HD Centre continued to suggest to the LRA that they respond to the overtures of the GoU.

In October 2005, the International Criminal Court issued warrants against the leader of the LRA, Joseph Kony, and his top lieutenants, making contact with the LRA particularly difficult.



Geneva Initiative

Promoting peace through negotiation in the Middle East

The Geneva Initiative (GI) is a detailed proposal for a comprehensive peace settlement between Israel and Palestine. The objective is to reach a final political settlement based on agreement between the parties, by mobi-

lising public support for peace and building confidence on both sides. At the request of the two parties and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), which supported the launch of the Initiative in 2003, the HD Centre supports the promotion of the Initiative and its message of peace through negotiation. The HD Centre and the DFA established the GI Committee (GIC) to oversee promotional activities and provide programme support to the parties, and to develop a fundraising programme and accounting activities.

In 2005, the GIC upgraded and refined the financial and reporting system established last year. Specific capacity building in the field of finances and budgeting was requested by and granted to the Palestinian party. The GIC continued to receive funds from public and private sources. The GI is currently distinguished in the region by consistently challenging partial and unilateral steps.

Policy work: introduction

The HD Centre carries out an expanding programme of policy research and analysis, to provide substantive advice and guidance for representatives of the organisation engaged in conflict resolution. An equally important objective is to identify policy recommendations for members of the wider conflict-resolution community, including both those directly engaged in peace processes and those who indirectly influence them, drawing on our own experience in peacemaking.

Our work is clustered around four themes:

- 1 **civilian protection**, including questions of civilian identity and monitoring, and aiming to improve the integration of humanitarian concerns in peacemaking
- 2 **arms and security issues**, including global small-arms-control policy and disarmament in peace processes
- 3 **conflict mediation**, aimed at improving the skills of those who convene warring parties, and the capacity of those parties to engage effectively in peace processes
- 4 **justice**, focused on improving the treatment of justice, rule of law, and human-rights questions in peace processes, and in the implementation of agreements.

Highlights of policy work this year include the publication of reports on reducing gun violence through small-arms control, on UN mediation and collective security, and on women in conflict mediation.

Civilian protection

Practical actions in peace processes

The purpose of the HD Centre's work in this area is to contribute to global efforts to improve civilian protection in situations of armed conflict, and to bring practical advice on civilian protection to bear in peace processes. This year, civilian protection has been an important thematic



▲ SLM/A fighters in Darfur attempt to implement the N'djamena Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement.

focus for the HD Centre, and we have achieved broad external recognition as a policy commentator in this field, through our publications, training and advisory services.

Work this year builds on previous HD Centre projects with the overall aim of contributing to better protection for civilians. Projects in recent years have included examining how to engage more effectively with (non-state) armed groups, and studies of ongoing humanitarian issues such as strengthening links between political and humanitarian actors in UN missions.

We have also regularly been asked to advise on issues of civilian protection within processes of conflict resolution. For example, in Aceh the HD Centre oversaw a ceasefire that included aspects of civilian protection. And in Darfur we helped to convene the armed elements of the Sudanese government and opposition parties, to agree a humanitarian ceasefire.

Profile: Opinions

Stimulating debate and discussion

In addition to publishing authoritative research and practical guidance materials, the HD Centre has this year continued its practice of producing opinion pieces from personal perspectives in response to current events and developments. In 2005, *Opinions* were published on two different aspects of mediation.



Talking Peace in a Time of Terror

On the occasion of the UN reform process, this *Opinion* looks at the UN's efforts to mediate armed conflicts. The High Level Panel report has urged that the UN should considerably enhance its mediation efforts, including through the creation of a Mediation Support Unit and a considerable expansion in staff. In this *Opinion*, Martin Griffiths draws attention to the strengths and weaknesses of the UN as a mediator, asking 'When might the UN's best role be as leader, ally or supporter in a given mediation?', arguing that the UN needs to define its role clearly, and provide leadership in the expanding field of actors.

Talking Peace in a Time of Terror: United Nations mediation and collective security

Martin Griffiths

March 2005

16 pages.



We the Women

An overwhelming proportion of senior mediators are male, yet this year marks the 5th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, calling for increased representation of women at all levels in conflict resolution. There seemed insufficient guidance available on how to remedy this. To make a contribution here, Antonia Potter wrote an *Opinion* piece identifying the problem of the lack of women mediators in terms of the loss to peace processes, and offering options for the various institutions concerned on how to rectify the situation.

We the Women: Why conflict mediation is not just a job for men

Antonia Potter

October 2005

18 pages.

Both publications are available online and free of charge:
visit www.hdcentre.org (or telephone +41 22 908 1130).

Within the wider humanitarian community, there is currently considerable debate about how to improve international efforts for civilian protection, for example regarding Darfur, and the adequacy or not of various international deployments. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) was encouraged this year to increase its field presence, particularly in conflict situations, and UN member states agreed to a doubling of its budget. Significant new international deployments were put in place in Nepal, and, as with Darfur, controversy continued over the adequacy of international missions in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and in Sri Lanka.



Humanitarian Negotiation manual: distribution and follow-up

More than 2000 copies of the HD Centre's publication, *Humanitarian Negotiation* were distributed in 2005. In the last quarter of 2005, HD Centre staff surveyed each major purchaser to find out how the manual is being used. Agencies have been enthusiastic but have proved slow

in using the manual to bring negotiation support into their existing training programmes. However, our survey found that organisations have distributed the manual widely among staff. UNHCR has planned staff training on negotiation for 2006, in which the manual will be the main reference text.

Protection through Presence: research and outreach

The objective of this project is to give practical advice on strategies and tactics to improve the effectiveness of unarmed international monitors, deployed to protect civilians.

Completion of comparative research. Research carried out during 2005 included a literature review, field trips

to Colombia, Sudan and Sri Lanka, and more than 250 interviews. Nine monitoring missions were studied, each having an explicit protection objective and being primarily non-military, in countries suffering from ongoing conflict or serious human-rights abuses.

Draft report. Based on this research, the HD Centre produced a draft report showing that international presence is much more valuable than is commonly understood, and setting out important strategic and tactical recommendations to help organisations offer more effective protection on the ground. The final report is due to be published in 2006.

First outreach activities. Even before the completion of the research, the project has already had a notable impact on one of the main target institutions. Early in 2005, a senior member of the HD Centre's staff, and the lead consultant working on the report, developed reform proposals on protection and field presence for the reform plan of the OHCHR, at the request of the UN Secretary-General. The proposals have now been agreed in the context of the UN reform process.



Publications on civilian protection

September 2005 saw the launch at the HD Centre of the final version of *Protection: an ALNAP Guide for Humanitarian Agencies*, which the HD Centre contributed to. More than 2,500 copies have already been bought and distributed by humanitarian agencies,

and translation is underway for Spanish and Japanese versions. Oxfam Publications will now distribute the book in anticipation of further sales in 2006.

In October and November 2005, the World Food Programme asked the HD Centre to lead inter-agency training workshops on protection for UN country staff in Khartoum

and Monrovia. In doing this, the HD Centre developed a 2/3-day training course, which the UN more widely is also interested in using in 2006.

Also during 2005, field research and writing was undertaken for the HD Centre book, *Killing Civilians*, on anti-civilian ideologies. The second phase of this project is planned, targeting high-level negotiators in humanitarian operations and peace processes with the main messages from the research, aiming to increase effectiveness in negotiating civilian protection. The book is scheduled for publication in 2006, together with a short briefing of the main messages.

Arms and security

Highlighting the human cost of weapons misuse

Weapons availability and misuse is a major cause of insecurity in all societies. It affects the likelihood, duration and lethality of armed violence and, in many cases, seriously jeopardises the resolution of violent conflict. Following its mission to protect civilians and prevent armed conflict, the HD Centre's work in this area has focused on highlighting the human cost of small arms availability and misuse, and identifying policy recommendations for governments and international organisations to stem this crisis.

Some highlights from the Arms Programme in 2005:

- Convened a three-day international meeting in Rio de Janeiro of States and civil society in March 2005 on policy issues related to regulating guns in the hands of civilians;
- Release of *No Relief: Surveying the Effects of Gun Violence on Humanitarian and Development Personnel*, in Geneva in June, drawing to a close the four-year project, 'In the Line of Fire', on the impact of small arms availability on humanitarian and development activity. More than 2,000 English copies were distributed and the report

Profile: Missing Pieces

Reducing gun violence



What more is needed in the coming decade to reduce gun violence, control the arms trade and end misuse of small arms and light weapons?

The 2001 UN Programme of Action on small arms provides some of the

answers, but it is silent or insufficiently precise on several other pressing issues.

In July 2005 the HD Centre released a publication for policy makers and shapers identifying some of the missing pieces of the puzzle on armed violence and small-arms control, as well as providing recommendations for action. *Missing Pieces* was launched by Mexican Ambassador, Luis Alfonso de Alba at the Second UN Biennial Meeting of States on small-arms control in New York. The publication identifies where additional steps are needed to tackle the availability and misuse of small arms.

The main themes addressed are:

- preventing misuse (regulation at national level)
- controlling supply
- assistance to survivors of gun violence
- focusing on gender
- taking guns and ammunition out of circulation
- addressing the demand for small arms
- justice and security-sector reform.

Missing Pieces: Directions for Reducing Gun Violence through the UN Process on Small Arms Control. Available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic. Available online at www.hdcentre.org (or telephone +41 22 908 1130).

POLICY RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

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was also translated and distributed in French, Spanish and Arabic;

- Launch of *Missing Pieces: Directions for Reducing Gun Violence through the UN Process on Small Arms Control*, in New York in July at the Second UN Biennial Meeting of States on small arms. The publication was made available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish, and

more than 1,500 English copies were distributed. At least 10,000 versions have been downloaded in various languages from the website;

- Two more editions of the *Small Arms and Human Security Bulletin*, focussing on the UN process on small arms, and guns in the hands of civilians were distributed in five languages;
- And as part of the 'Negotiating Disarmament' project, two experts meetings were held, in November on the issues of civilian disarmament in the aftermath of armed conflict, and in December on gender, guns and peace processes.

No Relief: Surveying the Effects of Gun Violence on Humanitarian and Development Personnel, HD Centre, Geneva is available online in Arabic, English, French and Spanish, from www.hdcentre.org free of charge (or telephone +41 22 908 1130).

Small arms availability at a glance

- Of the estimated 639 million weapons in the world, almost 60 per cent are in civilian hands. The vast majority of the balance is in the arsenals of national armed forces and police, while about 1 million are in the hands of armed groups.
- The global stockpile grows by about 1 per cent annually through new production but it is the re-transfer of second-hand firearms that most shapes the global distribution.
- There are more than 250 million small arms in the USA; 84 million guns in 15 states of the EU; and between 45 and 80 million in 11 Latin American countries.
- Contrary to popular perception, sub-Saharan Africa is estimated to have 30 million small arms and light weapons – just 5 per cent of the global stockpile.
- There are 1,249 companies producing small arms, 98 countries with the capacity to produce weapons and ammunition, including all the major donors that provide resources to address the small arms problem.

Source: *Small Arms Survey*.

Mediation and negotiation

Promoting and improving mediation skills

The HD Centre maintains contacts and relations with a variety of people engaged in mediating for conflict resolution, in governments, the UN, NGOs and regional institutions, with the overall objective of building capacity and increasing the effectiveness of mediation.

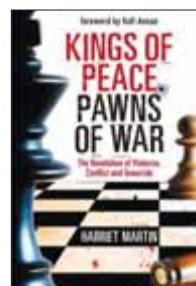
In 2005, there has been increasing international attention to mediated solutions to the problems of armed conflict, including within the ongoing UN reform, and the negotiated settlement in Aceh being a sign of hope that this approach can succeed, even in long-running, seemingly intractable conflicts.

The strengthening of the HD Centre's relationships with senior conflict mediators has been the primary focus of our work this year. In June 2005, the HD Centre co-hosted the third, and best-attended, Mediators' Retreat

in Oslo, together with the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The agenda included: the international context and prospects for conflict and its resolution, the relationship between mediators and the media, case study presentations on Sri Lanka and Aceh, and how human rights can be deployed in the service of peacemaking. The HD Centre also launched the first of a planned series of Regional Retreats – this one in Singapore for South and Southeast Asia, and co-hosted with the Institute of South East Asian Studies. Together with the Royal Norwegian

Government we will be considerably expanding the programme of activities for conflict mediators in 2006, both in Oslo and at regional levels.

Also in 2005, work progressed on the HD Centre's book on the experiences of mediators, now entitled *Kings of Peace, Pawns of War: the Untold Story of Peacemaking*, in preparation for a launch in Spring 2006.



Justice and the rule of law

Building sustainable peace

Reconstructing justice systems and the rule of law is an essential element of conflict resolution, although international assistance to this sector is often incoherent and uncoordinated. The HD Centre's work on transitional issues aims to promote understanding of all justice issues in conflict resolution to achieve sustainable peace.

In the Spring of 2005, HD Centre reports on the interaction between formal and informal justice systems in Somalia and Burundi were finalised, and have been disseminated through our website and targeted e-mail



◀ Group picture of participants at the Mediators' Retreat in Oslo

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alerts to policy makers and programmers. Printed copies have also been distributed to the interim government of Somalia and to senior UN officials in Burundi.

A new project called 'Negotiating Justice' was designed this year, to provide practical policy guidance on tackling justice issues for mediators and others involved in peace processes. Such issues include impunity, reform of justice-sector institutions, the role of informal justice systems and release of prisoners. The project also aims to help all those involved in peace processes to apply international standards while achieving workable consensus in the pressured and complex reality of peace negotiations. The heart of the project will be several case studies of established peace processes, to be analysed in terms of mediation and justice issues, selected for their relevance to negotiated settlements to violent conflict.

The Negotiating Justice project is an example of the HD Centre's continued efforts to build its own capacity, as well as that of others working in conflict resolution. Increased integration between our policy and mediation work is also beneficial to both areas, enabling further development of our work on justice and rule-of-law issues, with a clear focus on the treatment of these issues at the peace table.

Outreach

Sharing ideas through presentations and publications

Presentations and keynote speeches

In 2005, the HD Centre continued to promote conflict resolution, civilian protection and humanitarian policy through keynote papers and other major presentations at the following institutions.

- Amnesty International, London
- Ausaid, Canberra
- Australian Council for International Development, Canberra



- Canadian Mission to the UN, Geneva
- Chatham House, London
- The Defence Academy, UK
- Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, Boston
- Global Centre for Security Policy, Geneva (two occasions)
- Government House, Canberra
- Institute of International Studies (HEI), Geneva
- International Association of Commercial Mediators, Geneva (two occasions)
- International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva (two occasions)
- International Federation of the Red Cross, Geneva
- Ministry of Defence, London
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bern
- School of Oriental and African Studies, London University
- Swiss Mission to the EU, Brussels
- Swiss Mission to the UN, New York
- Wilton Park, UK (three occasions)
- World Council of Churches, Geneva

Papers and articles

The following articles and papers written by HD Centre staff were published in 2005.

- *Talking Peace in a Time of Terror: UN Mediation and Collective Security*, Martin Griffiths, HD Centre Opinion.
- *What Do We Actually Do? The Role of Mediators and Facilitators in Armed Conflict*, Martin Griffiths.
- *Missing Pieces: Directions for Reducing Gun Violence through the UN Process on Small Arms Control*.
- *Protection: an ALNAP Guide for Humanitarian Agencies*, Hugo Slim and Andrew Bonwick, Overseas Development Institute, August 2005.
- *No Relief: Surveying the Effects of Gun Violence on Humanitarian and Development Personnel*.
- *We the Women: Why International Conflict Mediation is not Just a Job for Men*, Antonia Potter, HD Centre Opinion.
- *A Christian Responsibility to Protect*, Hugo Slim.
- 'Establishment Radicals: an Historical Overview of British NGOs', Hugo Slim (chapter in book on French and Anglo-Saxon Humanitarianism, Paris).
- *Idealism and Realism in Humanitarian Action*, Hugo Slim.
- *The Influence of Geneva: Eleven Genevan Ideals in the World Today*, Hugo Slim
- *Violent Beliefs*, RUSI Journal (April), Hugo Slim, Royal United Services Institute, London.



FORUM FOR DIALOGUE

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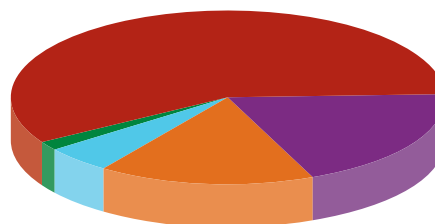
The HD Centre's venue

Inspiring communication

The HD Centre is based in an 18th-century villa on the shores of Lake Léman in Geneva. Three conference rooms there are regularly made available to the humanitarian and conflict-resolution communities, for meetings, conferences and retreats.

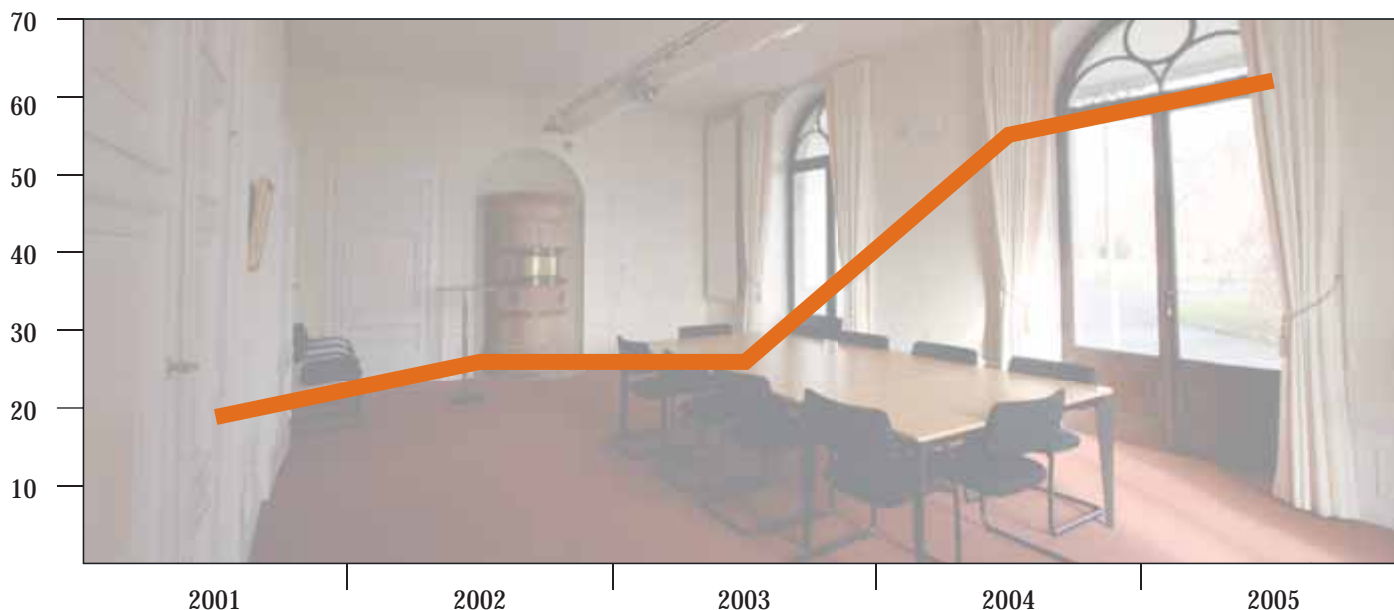
By hosting and also organising events around pressing humanitarian and conflict-resolution issues, the HD Centre aims to provide a unique and independent forum for the exchange of ideas. In 2005, the HD Centre hosted more than 50 external meetings involving UN agencies, the Red Cross Movement, and other non-governmental organisations such as Médecins San Frontières, World Vision, Food-

External meetings by type of organisation



- UN Agencies 36 (58%)
- NGOs 11 (19%)
- Red Cross Movement 10 (16%)
- Governments 4 (5%)
- Academic Institutions 1 (2%)

Growth in the use of the HD Centre's venue from 1999 to 2005



Use of the HD Centre venue by external organisations

UNHCR	17	<div></div>
IFRC	8	<div></div>
UNICEF	6	<div></div>
WHO	5	<div></div>
Governments	4	<div></div>
OHCHR	3	<div></div>
ICRC	3	<div></div>
OCHA	3	<div></div>
UNAIDS	2	<div></div>
MSF	2	<div></div>
COHRE	1	<div></div>
Exchange for peace	1	<div></div>
FIAN	1	<div></div>
ICVA	1	<div></div>
QUNO	1	<div></div>
Small Arms Survey	1	<div></div>
Tufts University	1	<div></div>
UNDP	1	<div></div>
World Vision	1	<div></div>



First Information and Action Network, and the Small Arms Survey.

In addition, the HD Centre organised and jointly set up more than 25 meetings on issues including humanitarian exchange of information, the UN process on small arms, gender and peace processes, the protection of civilians in war, the Human Security Report, and negotiating disarmament in peace processes. Those events included panel discussions and debates, book launches, introductory visits to the HD Centre, and training sessions.

Overall, more than 80 events, external and internal, took place at the HD Centre in 2005, confirming its growing reputation as a forum for the exchange of ideas among Geneva-based and international humanitarian organisations. The HD Centre remains committed to this role and has already received many requests for the use of its services as a venue in 2006. We welcome the widening use of the venue by external organisations, Geneva-based missions and Swiss institutions, and by conflict-resolution and peacebuilding organisations in particular.

For more information on the HD Centre's conference rooms, visit our website, at www.hdcentre.org.

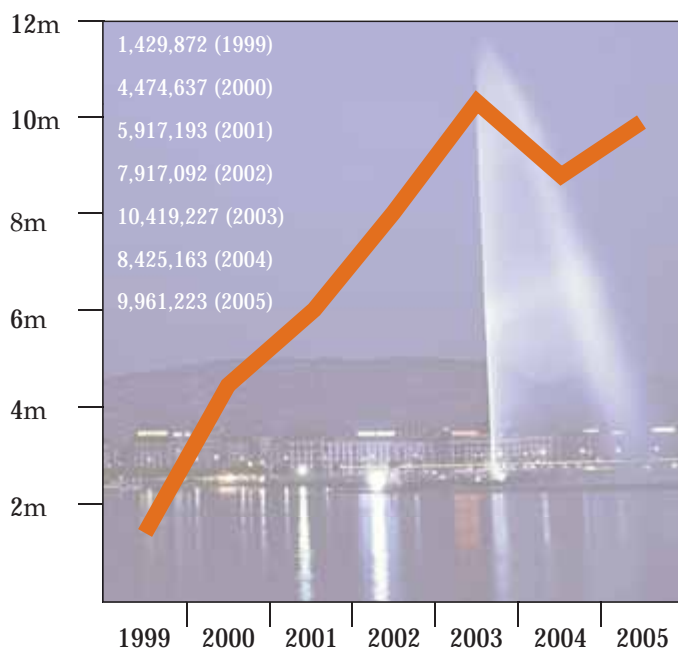
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Income

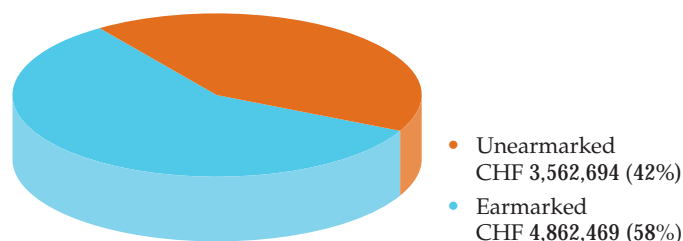
The HD Centre's total income for the financial year 2005 was CHF 9,961,223. This is 18% more than the income of 2004. This income does not include CHF 3,130,471 received for the Geneva Initiative project. These funds were disbursed through the HD Centre directly to the parties and are included in the audited financial statement of FY 2005 (available on request).

The HD Centre unearmarked and project earmarked contributions in 2005 increased by 8% and 26% respectively compared to 2004. The HD Centre also received unearmarked contributions from new donors. The 26% increase in earmarked funds was due to an increase project activities performed in 2005.

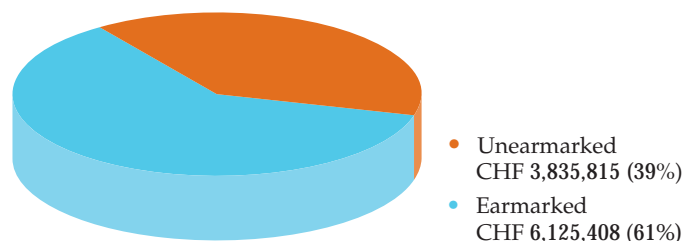
Income over time, in Swiss francs (CHF)



Contributions 2004



Contributions 2005



This balance is consistent with attempts to maintain the balance at 40% unearmarked and 60% earmarked funding. This balance ensures a certain level of flexibility and independence when responding to new challenges or in the planning of activities.

Financial contributions for the FY 2005 was received from the following donors:

- Governments & Bilateral Agencies – Norway, Switzerland, DFID (UK), Denmark, Sweden, Ireland, Canada, USAID.
- International Organisations – ICRC, The Rockefeller Foundation (TRF), UNDP, RUIG.
- Others – City of Geneva, Finish Church Aid.



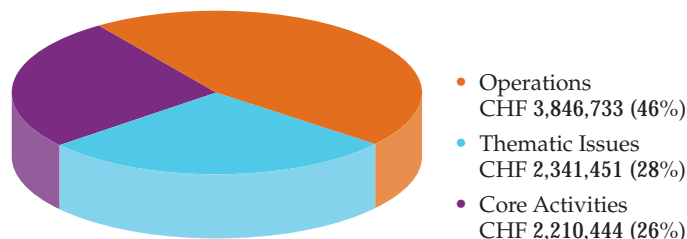
Expenses

The HD Centre total expenses in 2005 amounted to CHF 9,591,584, an increase of 14% when compared with 2004. Of these expenses 83% (CHF 7,964,319) was spent on project activities and 17% (CHF 1,627,265) was spent on core activities (admin).

The expenses for Geneva Initiative project amounted to CHF 3,130,471 is excluded from the above total expenses and is included in the audited financial statement of FY 2005.

External Relations was identified as new budget line in 2005 as a reflection of its efforts to improve its public and private networks which are essential to its effective operations, and to improve and increase understanding of its mission and objectives.

Expenses 2004



Expenses 2005

