

# Peace Fund Sustainability Calculator

## Introduction

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Sustainable peacebuilding requires transitioning from external dependency to local resource mobilization. This Peace Fund Sustainability Calculator provides communities, peace committees, and local organizations with practical tools to plan, track, and achieve financial sustainability for peace initiatives. The calculator helps users visualize resource transitions, set realistic targets, and monitor progress toward self-reliance.

This tool includes:

1. A paper-based calculator for contexts with limited technology
2. An Excel-based digital calculator (with low-bandwidth options)
3. Implementation guidance and case examples
4. Customization guidance for different contexts

## How to Use This Tool

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This calculator helps you:

- Assess your current resource mix and dependency level
- Set realistic targets for increasing local resources
- Develop a phased transition toward sustainability
- Track progress and adjust strategies as needed
- Communicate resource needs and contributions to stakeholders

The tool is designed to be:

- Practical for real-world peacebuilding contexts
- Accessible for users with limited financial expertise
- Adaptable to different community capacities and resources

- Useful for both planning and monitoring purposes
- Effective for communication with both communities and donors

## PART 1: PAPER-BASED SUSTAINABILITY CALCULATOR

### Current Situation Assessment

#### Resource Mapping Chart

**Instructions:** Fill in your current peace initiative resource sources. For non-financial resources, estimate monetary equivalent.

Resource Type	Annual Value	% of Total
External Donor Funding		
Local Government Funding		
Community Financial Contributions		
In-Kind Contributions (space, materials)		
Volunteer Time		
Income-Generating Activities		
Other Resources		
<b>TOTAL</b>		100%

#### Dependency Analysis

**Instructions:** Use the totals above to calculate your current dependency ratio.

Total External Resources: \_\_\_\_\_ (%) **Total Local Resources:** \_\_\_\_\_ (%)

Current Dependency Ratio: : (External:Local)

Sustainability Target Ratio: : (External:Local)

## Transition Planning Worksheet

### Three-Year Transition Plan

**Instructions:** Project how your resource mix will change over time, with decreasing external dependency and increasing local resources.

#### Year 1 Targets:

Resource Type	Current Value	Year 1 Target	Change Strategy
External Donor Funding			
Local Government Funding			
Community Financial Contributions			
In-Kind Contributions			
Volunteer Time			
Income-Generating Activities			
Other Resources			
<b>TOTAL</b>			

**Year 1 Dependency Ratio Target:** : (External:Local)

#### Year 2 Targets:

Resource Type	Year 1 Target	Year 2 Target	Change Strategy
External Donor Funding			
Local Government Funding			

Resource Type	Year 1 Target	Year 2 Target	Change Strategy
Community Financial Contributions			
In-Kind Contributions			
Volunteer Time			
Income-Generating Activities			
Other Resources			
<b>TOTAL</b>			

**Year 2 Dependency Ratio Target: :** (External:Local)

**Year 3 Targets:**

Resource Type	Year 2 Target	Year 3 Target	Change Strategy
External Donor Funding			
Local Government Funding			
Community Financial Contributions			
In-Kind Contributions			
Volunteer Time			
Income-Generating Activities			
Other Resources			
<b>TOTAL</b>			

**Year 3 Dependency Ratio Target: :** (External:Local)

## Resource Mobilization Strategies

### Local Resource Development Plan

**Instructions:** For each local resource type, identify specific strategies to increase availability.

Local Resource Type	Current Challenges	Growth Strategies	Success Indicators
Community Financial Contributions			
In-Kind Contributions			
Volunteer Time			
Income-Generating Activities			
Local Government Support			
Other Local Resources			

External Resource Transition Plan

**Instructions:** For current external resources, plan how to gradually reduce dependency.

External Resource	Current Role	Transition Approach	Timeline
Donor A			
Donor B			
External NGO Support			
International Volunteer Support			
Other External Resources			

Progress Tracking Chart

**Instructions:** Use this visualization to track progress toward sustainability targets. Color in the bars to show current status.

YEAR 1:

External Resources [ \_\_\_\_\_ ] \_\_\_\_\_%

Local Resources [ \_\_\_\_\_ ] \_\_\_\_\_%

YEAR 2:

External Resources [ \_\_\_\_\_ ] \_\_\_\_\_%

Local Resources [ \_\_\_\_\_ ] \_\_\_\_\_%

YEAR 3:

External Resources [ \_\_\_\_\_ ] \_\_\_\_\_%

Local Resources [ \_\_\_\_\_ ] \_\_\_\_\_%

SUSTAINABILITY TARGET:

External Resources [ \_\_\_\_\_ ] \_\_\_\_\_%

Local Resources [ \_\_\_\_\_ ] \_\_\_\_\_%

## Quarterly Review Worksheet

**Instructions:** Complete this worksheet every 3 months to track progress and adjust strategies.

**Review Period:** \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Resource Type	Target for Period	Actual for Period	Variance	Adjustment Needed
External Donor Funding				
Local Government Funding				
Community Financial Contributions				
In-Kind Contributions				
Volunteer Time				
Income-Generating Activities				

Resource Type	Target for Period	Actual for Period	Variance	Adjustment Needed
Other Resources				
TOTAL				

Current Dependency Ratio: : (External:Local) Target Dependency Ratio: : (External:Local)

Key Challenges Encountered:

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Successful Strategies:

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Adjustments to Sustainability Plan:

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PART 2: DIGITAL CALCULATOR INSTRUCTIONS

# Excel-Based Calculator (Basic)

The Excel version of this calculator automates calculations and creates visual representations of your sustainability journey. This section explains how to use the digital calculator effectively.

## Spreadsheet Structure

The Excel calculator contains these worksheets:

1. **Instructions** - How to use the calculator
2. **Current Assessment** - Input your current resource mix
3. **Transition Plan** - Project and track changes over time
4. **Strategy Planning** - Document approaches for each resource type
5. **Progress Dashboard** - Visualize your sustainability journey
6. **Quarterly Review** - Track and adjust based on actual results
7. **Resource Valuation** - Guidelines for valuing non-financial resources

## Key Features

### Automated Calculations:

- Automatic percentage and ratio calculations
- Built-in formulas to track progress against targets
- Visual indicators of progress (charts and conditional formatting)

### Visual Dashboards:

- Resource mix pie charts
- Transition timeline graphs
- Progress-to-target indicators
- Quarterly variance analysis

### Planning Aids:

- Dropdown menus for resource categories
- Strategy suggestion database
- Common challenges and solutions reference



- Example valuation for non-financial resources

## Using the Excel Calculator

### 1. Start with Current Assessment:

- Enter current resource values in the yellow cells
- Review the automatically calculated percentages and ratios
- Note the initial dependency level shown in the dashboard

### 2. Develop Your Transition Plan:

- Set targets for Years 1-3 in the blue cells
- Document strategies in the green cells
- Review the transition charts that appear automatically

### 3. Track Quarterly Progress:

- Enter actual resource figures each quarter
- Review variance analysis
- Document challenges and adjustments
- Update strategies based on results

### 4. Share and Communicate:

- Use the built-in charts for stakeholder communications
- Print specific sections for community discussions
- Export data for donor reports if needed

## Low-Bandwidth Digital Options

For settings with limited connectivity, these simplified options retain key functionality:

### Offline Excel File:

- Downloadable once and usable without internet
- Reduced file size with essential functions only
- Simplified graphics for low-resource computers

### Google Sheets Version:

- Works on mobile devices with intermittent connectivity
- Automatic saving when connection is available
- Sharing capabilities for team collaboration

### SMS-Based Tracking (where available):

- Simple code-based system for updating via text message
- Predefined formats for submitting updates
- Automated response with current status

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## PART 3: RESOURCE VALUATION GUIDELINES

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### Valuing Non-Financial Contributions

To create meaningful sustainability calculations, communities must fairly value non-financial contributions. This section provides practical guidance for consistent valuation.

#### Volunteer Time

**Standard Approach:** Value volunteer time based on local equivalents for similar paid work.

#### Calculation Options:

- **Market Rate Method:** What would similar skills cost if hired locally?
- **Opportunity Cost Method:** What could the person earn during this time?
- **Replacement Cost Method:** What would it cost to replace this volunteer?

#### Example Valuations:

- Peace Committee Member (4 hours/month): \$\_\_\_\_
- Community Mediator (8 hours/month): \$\_\_\_\_
- Peace Event Organization (12 hours/event): \$\_\_\_\_
- Administrative Support (2 hours/week): \$\_\_\_\_

## Meeting Spaces and Facilities

**Standard Approach:** Value based on local rental costs for similar spaces.

**Calculation Options:**

- **Market Rate Method:** What would similar space rental cost?
- **Utility Cost Method:** What are the power, water, cleaning costs?
- **Opportunity Cost Method:** What income is foregone by providing space?

**Example Valuations:**

- Community Hall (per day): \$\_\_\_\_
- Religious Facility (per meeting): \$\_\_\_\_
- School Classroom (per session): \$\_\_\_\_
- Outdoor Meeting Area (per gathering): \$\_\_\_\_

## Transportation and Equipment

**Standard Approach:** Value based on local rental or usage costs.

**Calculation Options:**

- **Market Rate Method:** What would rental cost?
- **Depreciation Method:** Assign portion of asset value per use
- **Operating Cost Method:** Calculate fuel, maintenance costs

**Example Valuations:**

- Vehicle Use (per kilometer): \$\_\_\_\_
- Sound Equipment (per event): \$\_\_\_\_
- Computer/Projector Use (per day): \$\_\_\_\_
- Mobile Phone Use (per month): \$\_\_\_\_

## Food and Hospitality

**Standard Approach:** Value based on local market costs.

**Calculation Options:**

- **Market Rate Method:** What would catering cost?
- **Ingredient Cost Method:** Calculate raw material costs
- **Labor-Included Method:** Add preparation time value to ingredients

#### Example Valuations:

- Basic Refreshments (per person): \$\_\_\_\_
- Full Meal (per person): \$\_\_\_\_
- Traditional Feast (per ceremony): \$\_\_\_\_
- Water and Basics (per meeting): \$\_\_\_\_

## Traditional and Cultural Contributions

**Standard Approach:** Develop community consensus on appropriate valuation.

#### Calculation Considerations:

- **Ceremony Costs:** Material components, preparation time
- **Knowledge Value:** Uniqueness and preservation importance
- **Social Capital:** Community respect and recognition
- **Consensus Approach:** Community agreement on appropriate value

#### Example Valuations:

- Traditional Reconciliation Ceremony: \$\_\_\_\_
- Cultural Performance for Peace: \$\_\_\_\_
- Elder's Knowledge Sharing: \$\_\_\_\_
- Peace Symbol Creation: \$\_\_\_\_

## Creating Locally Appropriate Valuation Systems

#### Community Valuation Workshop Process:

1. Identify all common non-financial contributions
2. Discuss valuation approaches that respect cultural values
3. Reach consensus on standard valuations
4. Document agreed values for consistent application

5. Review and update valuations annually

#### **Balancing Considerations:**

- **Fair Recognition:** Ensuring all contributions are valued
  - **Cultural Appropriateness:** Respecting what communities value
  - **Practical Application:** Creating usable, simple systems
  - **External Credibility:** Values that external partners understand
  - **Consistency:** Applying standards uniformly
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## **PART 4: IMPLEMENTATION CASE STUDIES**

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### **Case Study 1: Rural Women's Peace Network**

**Context:** A women's peace network in rural Liberia worked to transition from full donor funding to a sustainable resource model over three years.

#### **Initial Situation:**

- External Funding: 95% (\$12,000/year)
- Local Resources: 5% (\$600/year in volunteer time)

#### **Three-Year Strategy:**

1. **Year 1:** Established peace gardens generating \$2,000/year and formalized volunteer contributions
2. **Year 2:** Developed training services for other organizations, generating \$3,000/year
3. **Year 3:** Created peace product line (crafts with peace messages) generating \$4,000/year

#### **Final Resource Mix:**

- External Funding: 40% (\$8,000/year, focused on technical support)
- Local Resources: 60% (\$12,000/year from various sources)

#### **Key Success Factors:**

- Phased approach with realistic yearly targets

- Multiple income streams to reduce risk
- Building on women's existing skills and networks
- Regular quarterly reviews with transparent tracking
- Maintaining core functions while growing resources

## Case Study 2: Urban Youth Peace Initiative

**Context:** A youth-led peace organization in an urban setting needed to diversify funding beyond initial NGO support.

### Initial Situation:

- External NGO Funding: 90% (\$20,000/year)
- Local Resources: 10% (\$2,200/year in volunteer time and space)

### Three-Year Strategy:

1. **Year 1:** Engaged local businesses for sponsorships (\$5,000/year)
2. **Year 2:** Developed youth peace training program with fees (\$7,000/year)
3. **Year 3:** Secured municipal government budget allocation (\$10,000/year)

### Final Resource Mix:

- External Funding: 25% (\$10,000/year for specialized activities)
- Local Resources: 75% (\$30,000/year from diverse sources)

### Key Success Factors:

- Strong youth leadership development focus
- Strategic engagement with local government
- Business partnerships built on mutual benefit
- Clear demonstration of community impact
- Step-by-step buildup of different resource streams

## Case Study 3: Post-Conflict Community Reconciliation

**Context:** A community emerging from conflict needed to sustain local reconciliation committees initially funded by a peacebuilding NGO.

### **Initial Situation:**

- External Funding: 100% (\$15,000/year)
- Local Resources: 0% (community still rebuilding)

### **Five-Year Strategy** (extended timeline due to context):

1. **Year 1-2:** Formalize and value in-kind contributions (\$3,000/year)
2. **Year 2-3:** Establish revolving peace fund with community contributions (\$2,000/year)
3. **Year 3-4:** Develop peace-positive enterprises across former conflict lines (\$5,000/year)
4. **Year 4-5:** Secure district government budget allocation (\$5,000/year)

### **Final Resource Mix:**

- External Funding: 33% (\$5,000/year for technical support)
- Local Resources: 67% (\$10,000/year from various sources)

### **Key Success Factors:**

- Longer timeline appropriate to post-conflict context
- Emphasis on cross-community economic activities
- Strong focus on making peace work visible to authorities
- Detailed tracking of all resource types, including in-kind
- Celebration of increasing self-reliance as reconciliation milestone

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## **PART 5: TROUBLESHOOTING AND ADAPTATIONS**

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### **Common Challenges and Solutions**

#### **Challenge: Difficulty Valuing Non-Financial Resources**

#### **Solutions:**

- Conduct community workshops focused specifically on valuation

- Create simple reference guides with standard local values
- Use ranges rather than precise figures when consensus is difficult
- Document the reasoning behind valuations for consistency
- Start with the most concrete contributions and gradually add more complex ones

## **Challenge: Unrealistic Transition Expectations**

### **Solutions:**

- Begin with a thorough assessment of real local potential
- Use case studies from similar contexts for realistic benchmarking
- Develop more detailed quarterly targets for closer monitoring
- Create contingency plans for different scenarios
- Negotiate more gradual transitions with external partners

## **Challenge: Uneven Resource Mobilization Progress**

### **Solutions:**

- Disaggregate targets by resource type for more specific tracking
- Focus extra support on lagging resource streams
- Document and analyze successful resource mobilization approaches
- Create peer learning between different community initiatives
- Adjust overall timeline while maintaining the ultimate goal

## **Challenge: Maintaining Quality During Transition**

### **Solutions:**

- Define minimum resource requirements for core activities
- Prioritize essential functions in resource allocation
- Develop quality monitoring alongside financial tracking
- Create emergency backstop protocols for critical shortfalls
- Focus external resources on capacity building during transition



## Challenge: Shifting Community Priorities

### Solutions:

- Schedule regular reassessment of peace priorities
- Build flexibility into resource mobilization planning
- Create unallocated resource reserves for emerging needs
- Develop decision-making processes for resource reallocation
- Document how shifting priorities affect resource needs

## Context-Specific Adaptations

### Very Low-Resource Settings

#### Adaptations:

- Simplify tracking to essential metrics only
- Focus more on in-kind and volunteer contributions
- Extend transition timelines to more gradual changes
- Utilize pictorial tracking methods where needed
- Emphasize group accountability through public displays

### High-Conflict Settings

#### Adaptations:

- Incorporate conflict sensitivity in resource tracking
- Create resource diversification for conflict resilience
- Use neutral third parties for verification where needed
- Develop transparent systems trusted by all parties
- Plan for potential disruptions and adaptations

### Urban Settings

#### Adaptations:

- Engage formal business and municipal structures
- Analyze diverse resource opportunities in urban economy
- Create networked resource mobilization across urban areas
- Leverage technology for more sophisticated tracking
- Connect with formal financial institutions where appropriate

## Transitioning from Humanitarian to Development

### Adaptations:

- Map the humanitarian-development funding transition
- Identify peace components within broader programming
- Create phased approach aligned with humanitarian exit
- Document peace impacts in development terms
- Connect with development donors during transition

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## PART 6: FACILITATION GUIDANCE

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### Introducing the Calculator to Communities

#### Recommended Process:

1. **Preparation Session:** Explain purpose and concepts (1-2 hours)
2. **Initial Assessment Workshop:** Complete current situation mapping (3-4 hours)
3. **Vision and Planning Workshop:** Develop sustainability targets (4-6 hours)
4. **Quarterly Review Sessions:** Track progress and adjust (2 hours each)

#### Facilitation Tips:

- Use local examples to explain abstract concepts
- Start with simple applications before adding complexity
- Create visual displays of progress visible to the community
- Celebrate milestones in the sustainability journey

- Link resource discussions to peace impact for motivation

## Adapting to Different Literacy Levels

### Low Literacy Adaptations:

- Use symbols and pictures instead of text where possible
- Create color-coded systems for tracking
- Develop simplified metrics focused on key ratios
- Utilize oral reporting with structured questions
- Train community focal points who can support others

### Mixed Literacy Approaches:

- Pair participants with complementary skills
- Provide multiple formats of the same information
- Create mentor relationships for skills transfer
- Use both numbers and visual representations
- Document processes in multiple formats

## Engaging External Partners

### Donor Engagement Strategies:

- Present sustainability planning as responsible stewardship
- Provide clear transition timelines with specific milestones
- Demonstrate community commitment through detailed local contributions
- Show how external resources will catalyze sustainability
- Request transition funding rather than abrupt endings

### Partner Organization Engagement:

- Share calculator results to coordinate support approaches
- Develop complementary roles in sustainability development
- Create joint monitoring of transition progress
- Align technical assistance with identified capacity needs

- Coordinate gradual handover of responsibilities

## Cultural Considerations

### **Adapting to Cultural Contexts:**

- Incorporate traditional resource sharing concepts
- Use culturally appropriate metaphors for sustainability
- Align with existing community decision processes
- Respect cultural validation processes for new approaches
- Consider cultural perspectives on discussing resources

### **Culturally Sensitive Facilitation:**

- Identify appropriate community entry points
- Respect traditional leadership while ensuring inclusion
- Consider gender dynamics in resource discussions
- Acknowledge cultural values around reciprocity and giving
- Frame sustainability in terms of community strength and dignity

## Conclusion

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Financial sustainability represents a journey rather than a destination. The Peace Fund Sustainability Calculator provides communities with practical tools to navigate this journey step by step, building greater self-reliance while maintaining effective peacebuilding activities. By systematically planning, tracking, and adjusting resource mobilization strategies, communities can reduce external dependency while strengthening local ownership and commitment to peace.

Each context will require adaptation of these tools, but the fundamental principles remain consistent: clear assessment, realistic planning, regular monitoring, and thoughtful adjustment. The calculator helps make what might seem an overwhelming transition more manageable through concrete, incremental steps.

The ultimate goal is not simply financial self-sufficiency, but rather the development of resilient, community-owned peace initiatives that can sustain their impact over time. When communities

mobilize their own resources for peace, they simultaneously strengthen their commitment to and ownership of peace processes, creating foundations for lasting positive change.