



# CHANGING THE STORY



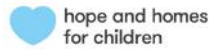
## A YEAR IN REVIEW

### 2017-18

BUILDING INCLUSIVE CIVIL SOCIETIES WITH AND FOR  
YOUNG PEOPLE IN 5 POST-CONFLICT COUNTRIES



# PROJECT PARTNERS



## CORE FUNDERS



## LEAD INSTITUTION



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

# WELCOME

Welcome to the Changing the Story Year One report. It's been such a privilege to be involved with this project, which brings together academics, international development professionals, civil society organisations, artists and young people from 14 countries from around the world to think about the challenges facing young people in a whole range of post-conflict settings, and how arts and heritage-based organisations can help to support them to effect change in their lives.



When we began Changing the Story, we wanted to focus on trying to do something with the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) that highlighted the potential of partnerships working across Higher Education and the international development sector; to see how, by working together, we could do things that neither sector could do on its own. We were specifically keen to create a space for reflection. This is something that many of the small civil society organisations we work with in particular find hard to create, given their focus on supporting vulnerable young people day to day in some extremely difficult environments. This has remained our focus as we have moved beyond the first phase of the project, taking the learning from our initial proof of concept projects in Colombia, Rwanda, Cambodia, South Africa and Kosovo and using it to shape the commissioning phase. This has now led to the creation of 16 further youth-focussed and youth-led projects across 14 countries, ranging from work on youth-led entrepreneurship in Malaysia to a project that uses street art to promote epistemic justice in Zimbabwe, more details of which will be highlighted in our Year 2 report.

It is also great to see how our work is already feeding into national policy, be that with the Rwandan Education Board and the 'Mobile Arts for Peace' project, led by Professor Ananda Breed, or our work in Kosovo on Civic Education, led by Dr. Stephanie Schwandner-Sievers and Dr. Nita Luci. We were equally pleased to be awarded further funding to develop a new strand of work on behalf of the wider GCRF research community: Praxis. Led by Professor Stuart Taberner, PRAXIS is designed to draw out synergies across the entire Arts and Humanities GCRF research portfolio.

However, what impresses me the most about Changing the Story is the way that the many hundreds of young people across the programme engage with, and shape, the work we do, taking ownership of our activities and highlighting very clearly what works and what does not. We still have a long way to go with Changing the Story, and we are keen to continue to grow our network and expand our learning. So, if you read this report and are interested in finding out more or in connecting with us, please get in touch.

*P. Cooke*

Professor Paul Cooke  
Principal Investigator: Changing the Story



# THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO OUR FIRST YEAR

Changing the Story is the first large scale comparative study that seeks to understand how the arts, heritage and human rights education can support youth-centred approaches to civil society building in a range of post-conflict settings. In our first year our focus countries were Colombia, Rwanda, Kosovo, Cambodia and South Africa.

Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council's Global Challenges Research Fund, the project, spearheaded by the University of Leeds, is a four-year international, multi-disciplinary project between universities, international non-government organisations, artists, grassroots civil society organisations and young people across the world.

Each country we have worked in has a very different relationship to this past, from Colombia, where the processes of reconciliation are only just beginning and risk, to Cambodia where the violence of the Khmer Rouge has passed into history and yet its memory continues profoundly to shape contemporary society.

Over the course of our first year, our project teams have undertaken critical reviews of current youth-focused participatory arts and heritage work in their context and delivered 5 unique 'proof-of-concept' projects that explore the legacy of conflict on the everyday lives of young people.

We've worked with hundreds of young people across the globe including those that had never previously engaged with outside agencies. We've built a growing network of local, national, regional and international partners, held four international network events, built and sustained an engaging digital presence, won international film awards, made progress with policy makers and received further funding to expand and continue our work.

Though the project has not been without its challenges, Changing the Story is on track to position itself as a leading international reference point for resources, learning and networks linked to the role of youth-led civil society building across the world.

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# A YEAR IN NUMBERS

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**78**

Global Partnerships  
Developed

**457**

In-country workshop  
participants

**4**

International  
Workshops

**170**

UK and International  
Workshop Participants

**135K**

YouTube and Video  
Audiences

**6000**

Individual Website  
Users

**48**

Engagement  
Activities

**25**

Artistic Outputs

**2.7M**

Further Funding  
Acquired

**14**

Open Access  
Learning Resources

**WE ARE TAKING  
STUDENTS ON A  
JOURNEY TO  
QUESTION AND  
FIND WAYS OUT  
OF STRUCTURAL  
INJUSTICES AND  
IMBALANCES**

Dr Stephanie Schwander-  
Sievers, CO-INVESTIGATOR  
OF ACT (Kosovo)





# PHASE 1 PROJECTS

# TALES OF THE FUTURE /

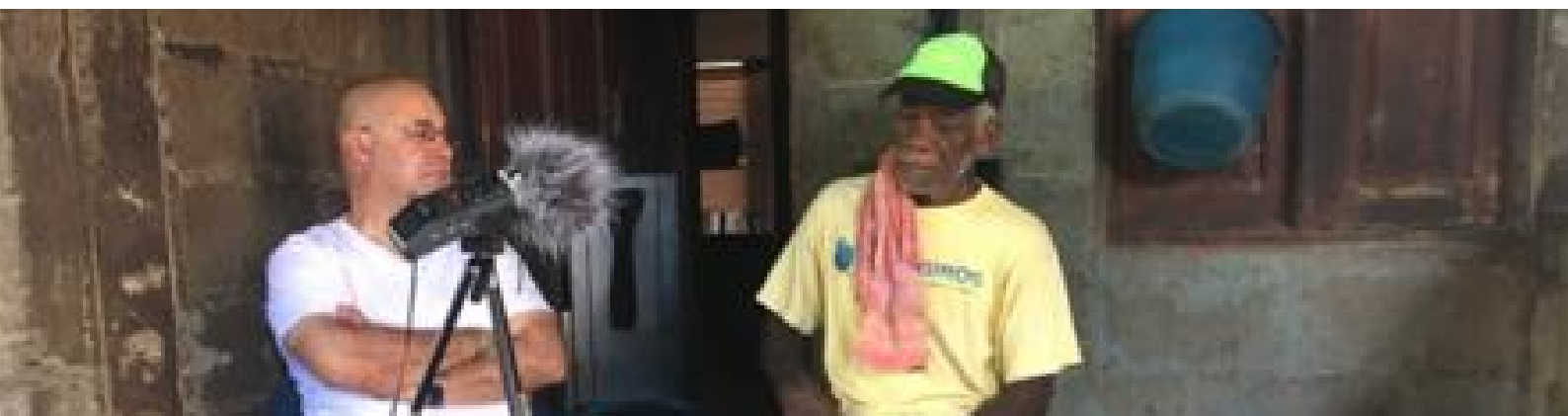
## THE FUTURE IS UNWRITTEN (COLOMBIA)

CTS' Phase 1 Colombia strand incorporates two areas of research. **Tales of the Future, Senses, Creativity and the Arts of Survival** is an experimental project that seeks to stimulate creativity among young people dwelling at the borders of precariousness. It engages with young people along the Atrato River and Potrero Grande neighbourhood that have previously never engaged with 'development' institutions. Alongside a critical review of testimonies and existing practical creative approaches, the project works with young people to produce sonic biographies, or sound narratives, that capture the relationship between young people, their experience of violence and the natural diversity of the environment. The aim of the project is to bring international development discussions to the forefront and generate community debates to support young people to 'imagine' new post-conflict identities for themselves.

**The Future is Unwritten: Social Imaginaries, Skills and Cultures in Colombia** looks at how imaginaries of violence in Colombia have come to dominate and how culture has the potential to challenge and change these imaginaries. It explores what is known about social imaginaries in Colombia in existing literature and how the imaginary affects the practical projects of those working through culture to social and cultural aims, analysed through the voices of an investigation interviewing cultural actors from across Colombia.

“  
**Young people don't buy into the institutional discourse that says that violence is located in the past. They're working through art to grapple with the idea that they are being promised a new society while at the same time inhabiting old forms of violence.**  
 ”

**Alejandro Castillejo Cuellar, Co-Investigator**



80

Initiatives Critically Reviewed



Debates with Young People in 7 conflict affected areas



Micro pilot completed in Ginebra-Paramo de las Hermosas



Sonic Biographies collected in 3 locations



Transnational Initiatives developed (Colombia, Brazil and the UK)



## MOBILE ARTS FOR PEACE (RWANDA)

Mobile Arts for Peace (MAP) is a practice as research project that explores the use of participatory arts with and for young people in Rwanda. The project specifically explores the extent to which participatory arts can be used to develop a national 'creative curriculum' for Rwandan schools that can, in turn, support critical reflection on the past. Mobile Arts for Peace partners with the Rwandan Board of Education and has created a lasting legacy in Rwanda through the production of a 250 page manual of participatory arts exercises, informed by cultural artists, educators and young people, and translated into Kinyarwanda.

The project has influenced the delivery of the national curriculum in Rwanda by introducing student led and experiential learning in the subject of performing arts. It has led to the development of new partnerships with grassroots and community based organisations alongside national policy influencing bodies, as well as the development of an interdisciplinary cultural artist network cementing the project's long-term impact in Rwanda.

“  
**We teachers are (now) capable to train the children in drama. The impact of MAP in our schools is seen through what we are doing.**  
 ”

Hassan Ngendahimana, Friends of the Children International School (Rwanda)



5 Schools in Eastern Province involved



An additional 60 trainers and 500 young people reached



3 Day curriculum workshop with cultural artists



Train the Trainer workshop with 25 trainers



Youth Camp with 50 young people



## THE CHANGEMAKERS (SOUTH AFRICA)

The Changemakers is a human rights education programme created in partnership with the South African Holocaust and Genocide Foundation and Aegis Trust that uses a series of relevant case studies to support youth leadership development. It strives to build resilience and resistance to violence, and to encourage participants to become upstanders and change-makers in their society in an effort to counter hatred and combat extremism. The programme involves a number of arts and drama-based activities, including exhibition-making, role-play and poster design.

The Changemaker programme has rolled out its train the trainer model to prepare delivery practitioners to other African countries including Nigeria, Senegal and the Gambia. In doing so, the programme has provided the opportunity for facilitators to work in-country long after the project team has left, building capacity for the future of the programme beyond the original funding period.

“

**When you look at our history, there is a clear need to confront our past. Change-Makers means we can start discussing these issues to reduce the incidence of conflict.**

”

Obioma Uche, American University of Nigeria



Train the Trainer Model rolled out in 4 Countries



Critical Review of the learners programme across South Africa



Programme launch in Senegal to 7 West African country Ministry of Education officials



International dissemination workshop in May 2018



## THE ANLONG PEACE TOURS (CAMBODIA)

The Cambodia strand worked in partnership with the Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam) on the delivery of the Anlong Veng Peace Tours. Considered the last stronghold of the Khmer Rouge movement, Anlong Veng has become an important site for DC-Cam to develop their work in creating space for memory, justice and healing in Cambodia. Specifically, the Anlong Veng Peace Tours are designed to educate young people about the legacies of genocide and issues of reconciliation, through engagement with members of a stigmatised Khmer Rouge community.

The project builds on the existing Anlong Veng Peace Tours by incorporating new ways of enhancing the participatory aspects of the tours, with a specific emphasis on participatory video. The project trained and encouraged trainee pre-service teachers to elicit and produce their own films about the experiences of the Khmer Rouge regime from those within the Anlong Veng Community.

Outputs created by the students reached large local and international audiences - in part thanks to the sharing of digital outputs by USAID. To date, videos created as part of the project have been viewed 132,000 times on YouTube and Facebook.

“ Before we came here, we thought [the genocide] was not true... I will share this finding with my students, my friends and my neighbours. ”

Anlong Veng Peace Tour Participant



Genocide education Learning materials produced

50

Teachers trained in participatory filmmaking approaches



Trainee teacher participatory film viewed 78,000 times on Facebook



132,000 views of published film outputs



## ACT: ARTS, CRITICAL THINKING AND ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP (KOSOVO)

“ We aim to bring an exchange of ideas between different organizations in diverse cities and showcase the efforts local organisations, activists and artists undertake to instil civic values in young people.

”

Lura Pollozhani (University of Prishtina)

ACT is concerned with working with young people living in peripheral spaces beyond the elites and trends in central Pristina. The project therefore is focused on four different municipalities in Kosovo and on the work of artists specifically. The aim of the project has been to conduct a comparative analysis between the content, forms and practices of formal versus informal independent, arts-based forms of civic education and explore how artist practices and arts-based education might be integrated into the traditional education curricula. The work has generated entirely new approaches to formal and informal education, combining the existing practices and expertise of a range of different in-country civil society organisations, artists and practitioners.



Two residencies with artists, academics and CSO practitioners



Mapping of 40 initiatives working with young people



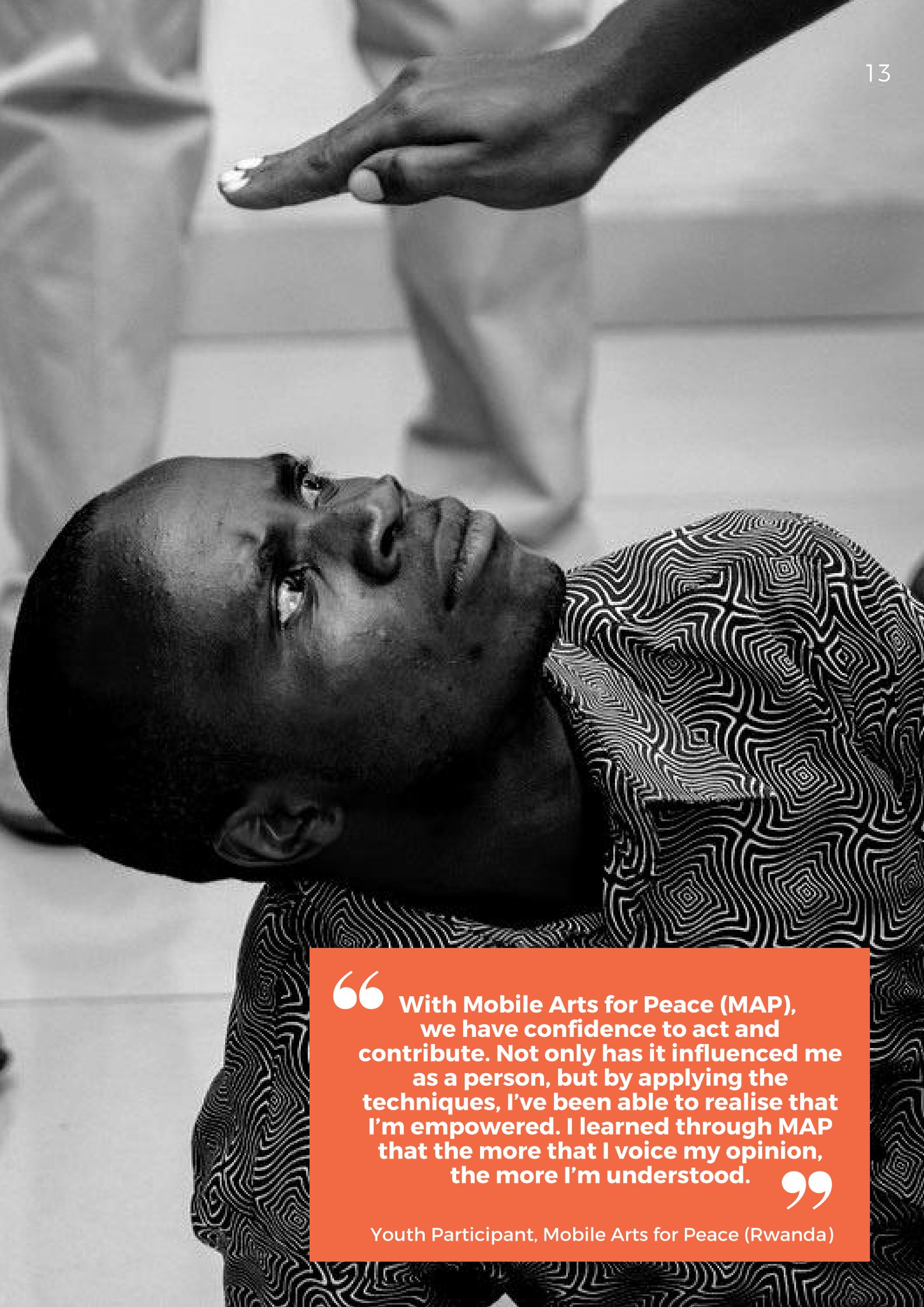
Engaging with 15 local partners across 4 municipalities



'Kick-off' workshop with 3 international and 15 local participants



4 Academic Publications



**“ With Mobile Arts for Peace (MAP), we have confidence to act and contribute. Not only has it influenced me as a person, but by applying the techniques, I’ve been able to realise that I’m empowered. I learned through MAP that the more that I voice my opinion, the more I’m understood. ”**

**Youth Participant, Mobile Arts for Peace (Rwanda)**



# YEAR 1 IN REVIEW

## Building Partnerships

Each project strand has deepened its existing partnerships and developed new ones. Having begun with 33 original partnerships, we're now working with an additional 45 local, regional and international partners, spanning 24 disciplines from anthropology and gender studies, to dance and, psychotherapy.

Our approach to partnership building has been tailored to each specific country and project context. In Cambodia and South Africa, the focus has been on key influencers such as the Cambodian Ministry of Tourism, while in Rwanda, Colombia and Kosovo, building regional and national networks with a range of organisations, researchers and practitioners has been key to success.

We've expanded the types of organisations we engage with beyond civil society organisations to include schools (Rwanda), religious organisations (Colombia) and informal community groups.

New South to South partnerships have been forged including a transnational partnership between the Colombia project team and civil society organisations in Brazil.

The young people we are working with have remained integral partners and building equitable partnerships has been a key focus of all our projects.

In both the Colombia and Kosovo projects, young people that had never engaged with national or international funders due to a lack of trust became collaborators and agents of change,

We successfully delivered 4 international events in partnership with high profile organisations such as the Leeds International Film Festival, the British Council and a number of UK and International institutions. Our partnership with the British Council has been particularly valuable, providing access to high level policy influencers and in-country grassroots civil society organisations.

These partnerships have been critical to the delivery of the project at all stages, and illustrate the need for a sustainable approach to project development in which projects are genuinely co-produced with partners and participants.

“ **What's distinctive about Changing the Story [is that] we're not just looking for dissemination, engagement or policy partners. We're looking for Civil Society Organisations to be knowledge creation partners.** ”

Emily Morrison, Global Research Manager, British Council

## Events

In our first 12 months we organised a series of major international conferences and network events in Leeds, Johannesburg and London, providing space for shared learning, constructive critical reflection and new partnerships that extend beyond the life of the project to be built.

# 4

International  
Network Events

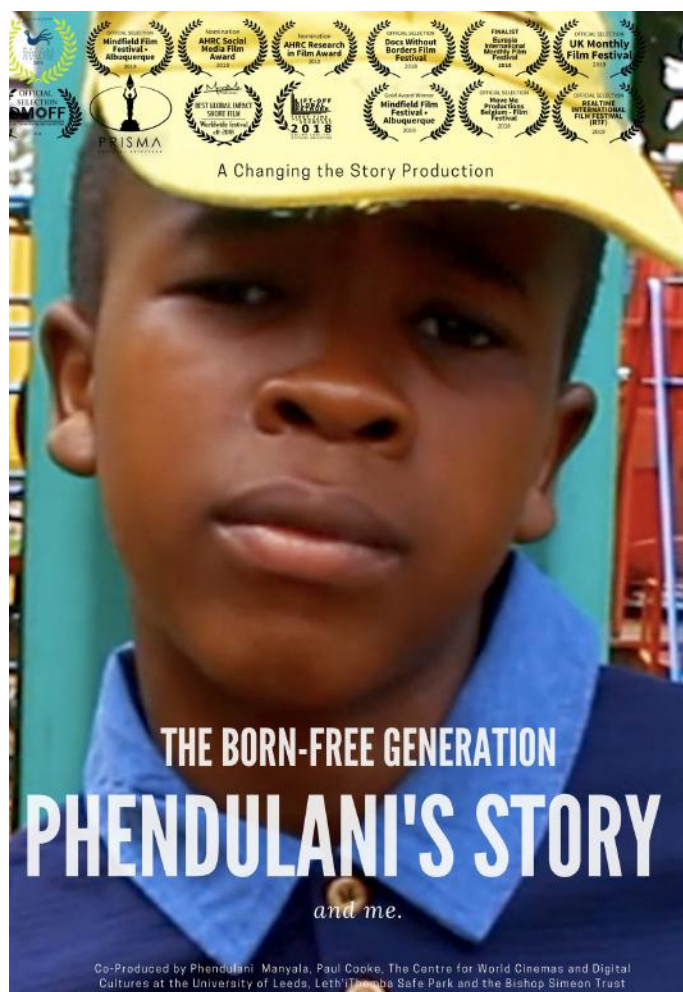
# 170

International and  
UK delegates

Events included: a launch event and International workshop in Leeds in collaboration with Leeds International Film Festival; an international workshop in Johannesburg held in partnership with the project 'Mobilising Multi-directional memory to build more resilient communities in South Africa'; a London-based network event in partnership with the British Council and attended by representatives from over 10 UK and International institutions; and finally, an early career development workshop in London with included 43 early career researchers as well as representatives from the British Council, UNESCO and other International Non-Government Organisations.

Of note, our Early Career Development workshop, which was used as an opportunity to co-design Changing the Story's Early Career funding call, received 106 applications from early career researchers to attend, from 34 different countries. 58% of applicants were based in development aid countries, highlighting the reach of Changing the Story beyond the Global North.

These meetings have become important moments in helping colleagues develop a deeper understanding of the nuances of working in post-conflict settings.



## Communication & Publications

Results from our work are beginning to appear in print including a forthcoming edited volume 'Participatory Arts in International Development' (eds. Cooke and Soria-Donlan, 2019), and a number of academic papers and publications from our partners.

One of our films 'Phendulani's Story' has been nominated for and won several awards.

In addition to our event series, the project has successfully developed a multifaceted approach to engage audiences through social media and our web platform, providing a space for young people, academics and peers to share their own narratives. In our first year we've uploaded 20 blog posts in English and non-English languages, boosted our Twitter following by 679 and received 6000 individual users from 36 countries to our website. Of those users, 8% were from Spanish speaking countries and 67% were aged 18-24, highlighting our appeal among young international audiences and our reach beyond the Global North.



“

**I came wondering how my discipline and research interests could fit into the realm of international development... Honestly , I can say that this workshop has helped realign aspects of my thinking, and I'm not sure I will ever look at my discipline the same way again.**

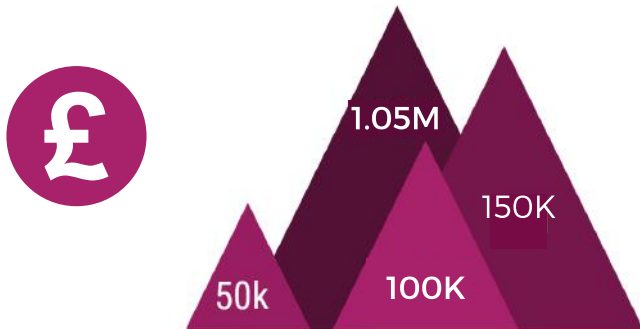
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Early Career Development Workshop Participant



## Funding

Changing the Story has been given a major opportunity to support and develop not only its own legacy but the legacy of the wider Arts and Humanities Research Council project portfolio through the awarding of additional funding.



The Salzburg Global Seminar and Rosa Luxemburg Foundation have invested an additional £50,000 to roll out the Changemakers programme (South Africa) across other Sub-Saharan Countries.

Approximately £150,000 has been awarded to recruit 3 postgraduate researchers across the portfolio.

We've received £100,000 to fund a complimentary project in partnership with the Bishop Simeon Trust that builds on the learning from the Changemakers programme (South Africa).

We've also received £1.05 Million to lead on a new project designed to support the work of the entire Arts and Humanities Research Council - Global Research Challenges Fund entitled 'Praxis: Arts and Humanities for Global Development.'



## Grants

As we move into Phase 2, our Commissioning Phase, we've been promoting two funding schemes: an Early Career Researchers (ECR) funding scheme (up to £30,000 available per project) and a Large Grant Funding Scheme (up to £100,000 per project), available to academics at any career stage.

The funding schemes build on the learning from Changing the Story's network of existing Phase 1 projects.

We remain on track to distribute the £300,000 of funding by September 2019, having received 31 ECR grant applications spanning 21 countries from applicants who attended the Project Development Workshop in Oct 2018, and a further 30 applications to our Large Grants Funding Scheme which at our 2019 network meeting and workshop in Cambodia (more details of which will be provided in our Year 2 report).



# LOOKING AHEAD

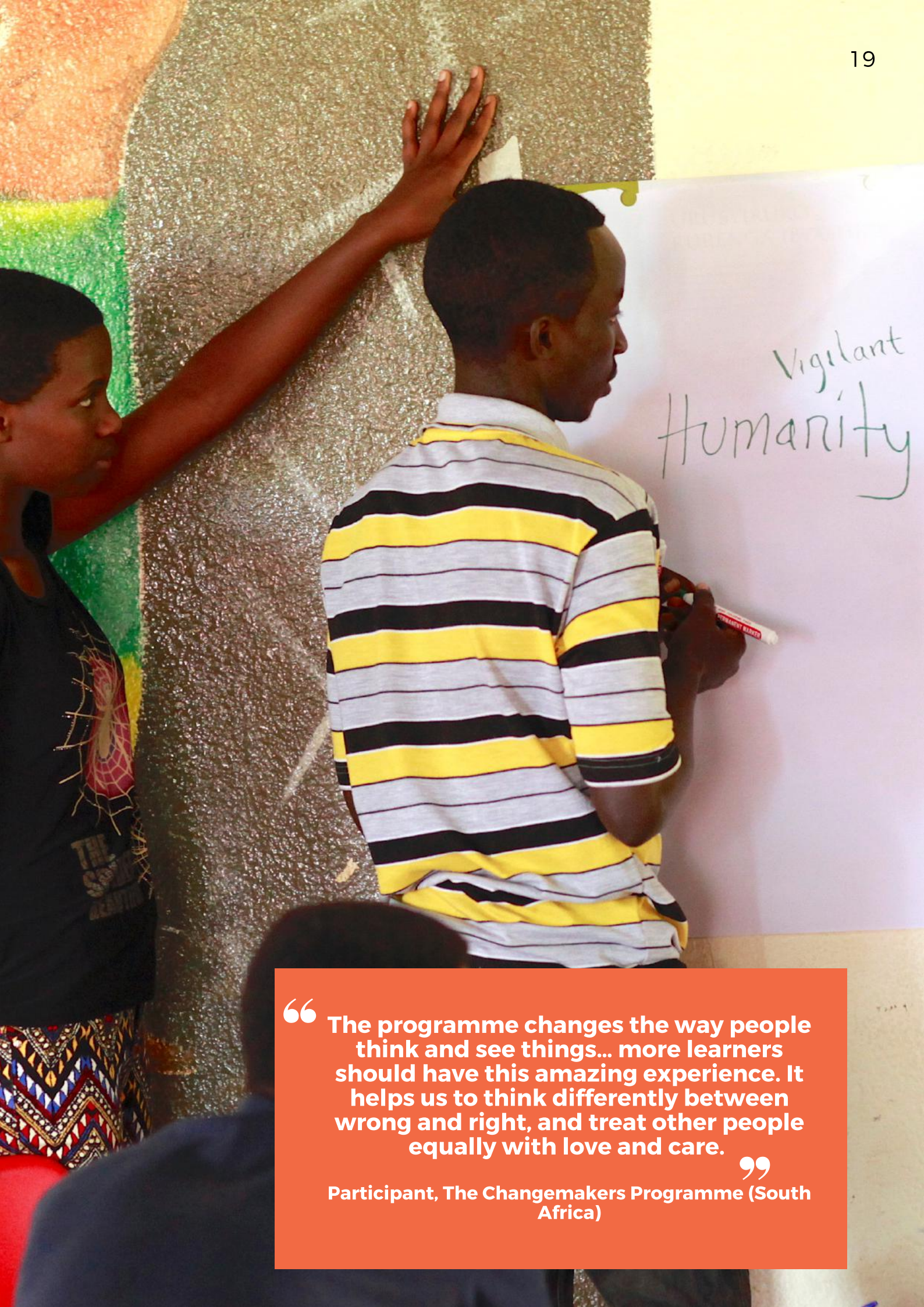
## PRAXIS: ARTS AND HUMANITIES FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

In Changing the Story's first year additional funding was awarded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) for a new project - 'Praxis: Arts and Humanities for Global Development' - to look at Arts and Humanities research across the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) portfolio. Specifically, Praxis aims to consolidate learning across GCRF projects to amplify their impact and policy relevance, and to champion the distinctive contribution that Arts and Humanities research can make in tackling urgent development challenges.

Over the next two years, Praxis will host four large international workshops (Nexus Events) and a series of one-day Learning Events. The Nexus Events are thematically organised workshops that aim to bring together global partners, to create synergies between projects, to foster innovative and interdisciplinary collaboration, and to discuss collective learning for global challenges. Learning Events are smaller workshops, aimed at UK researchers, that address issues that arise within GCRF projects. The aim of the workshops is to create resources that will be of support to other GCRF projects.

The four Nexus events are planned on the themes of Heritage (February 2020), Conflict and Displacement (October 2020), Resilience (February 2021), and Health (October 2021).

**If you are interested in participating in any of Praxis' Nexus Events, or if you have an idea for a Learning Event you would like to host, please get in touch with Dr Deena Dajani at [d.s.dajani@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:d.s.dajani@leeds.ac.uk) - we look forward to hearing from you!**



“ The programme changes the way people think and see things... more learners should have this amazing experience. It helps us to think differently between wrong and right, and treat other people equally with love and care. ”

Participant, The Changemakers Programme (South Africa)

# OUR PARTNERS

7Arte  
 AKTIV  
 Anibar Animation Festival  
 ARDA  
 Bishop Simeon Trust  
 Bophana Center  
 Bournemouth University  
 British Council  
 Centre for the Study of Humanitarian Law (CSHL)  
 Documentation Center of Cambodia  
 Hope & Homes for Children  
 IRDP Dialogue and Consensus  
 Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre  
 Kwetu Film Institute  
 Lirindja  
 Mashirika Performing Arts and Media Company  
 Opera Circus  
 RDA North  
 Salzburg Global Seminar  
 South African Holocaust and Genocide Centre  
 Stacion Centre for Contemporary Arts  
 UNESCO  
 Universidad de los Andes  
 University of Bath  
 University of Lincoln  
 University of Pretoria  
 University of Pristina  
 University of Rwanda  
 Varg e Vi



## CHANGING THE STORY

Photography: Deus Kwizera (University of Lincoln), Alex Sierra, Tali Nates, Documentation Center of Cambodia 2018, Paul Cooke, Nicole Mchardy, Kurtis Dennison, Lura Pollozhani, Freddie Mutanguha

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