

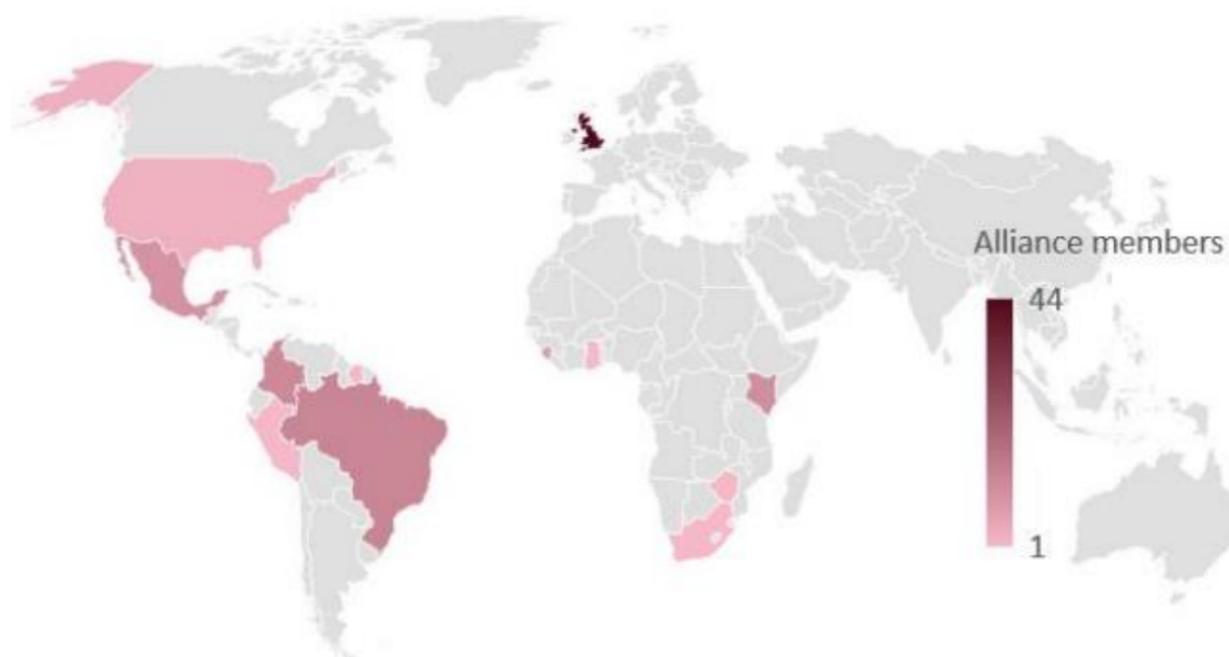
Key takeaways from the May 2020 external evaluation

In May 2020, an **evaluation** of the programme since April 2017 was undertaken by external evaluators (SocialQual and Cloud Chamber). This document summarises the key takeaways from their evaluation report.

The **Fight for Peace Alliance** is a global community of organisations all trained in the Fight for Peace methodology and all working together to support young people in their local communities.

The Alliance enables organisations focusing on youth development and violence prevention to strengthen, develop, and become more sustainable, through support, knowledge exchange and access to development tools.

There were **118 members** of the Fight for Peace Alliance between May 2017 and March 2020. Members were drawn from 18 countries from across the world including the UK (39%), Brazil (12%), Colombia (11%) and Kenya (10%).



Why join the Alliance?

Between July 2018 and March 2020, 25 new organisations from the UK joined the Alliance and reported the following motivations for doing so:

To address social challenges

To be associated with FFP and its reputation

To build capacity of club / organisation

To support their club as it grows / expands

In response to personal invitation or contacts

For continued professional development

Alliance Theory of Change

Activities

What Fight for Peace does

- Training
- Consultancy support
- Knowledge & information sharing
- Joint fundraising
- Network coordination



1

Supporting a **thriving network of partner organisations.**



2

Strengthening Alliance members' **organisational capacity** (in governance, fundraising, MEL, communications, etc.), and capability to implement the Fight for Peace **Five Pillars methodology.**



Realising the potential of **young people** in communities affected by crime and violence.



1 Thriving network

Key Takeaways:

- The **Alliance in the UK grew by 25 organisations** during the period under evaluation.
- The **initial training creates a strong bond** both with and between new members.
- There is evidence of a thriving network with **good communication and peer support** between members throughout.
- While there has been **good sharing of information** between members, there have been only **isolated examples of organisations [...] jointly [delivering] projects**.
- Involvement with **the Alliance lends credibility** and improves organisations' perception amongst stakeholders such as potential funders.

What Alliance members said:

"There was a clear before and after Fight for Peace – before, we only had one idea, we were really isolated, it felt like we were alone working in this community. Then we realised that there were more organisations working in Sport for Development, and that they were very advanced and professional."

"We feel like a family. The past 2-3 years have been tough due to low levels of funding. So you just use what you have; your passion and your friends."

"WhatsApp was very important for sharing knowledge, we can see what other organisations are doing in addition to the funding opportunities that are shared."



2 Strengthened capacity and capabilities

Key Takeaways:

- As a result of highly valued initial training, Alliance members report an **excellent understanding** of the spirit of the **Fight for Peace methodology**, as set out in its Five Pillars.
- **Boxing and Martial Arts (BMA), personal development and youth leadership** are the elements of the Fight for Peace methodology which are the most commonly implemented. Following engagement with Fight for Peace, some have gone on to establish Youth Councils to ensure young people's voices are heard.
- Fight for Peace support had helped to leverage nearly **£1m of fundraising** during the evaluation period.

What Alliance members said:

"We went on the training. We designed a sports programme. We use BMA to build capacity. We use these ideas to strengthen our programme. Before we joined the Alliance, we did not use sports."

"I was a hard coach. But after meeting with Fight for Peace, I softened my approach. I realised that my new methodology would give kids an option. I realised I could leave a door open."

"The greatest need for our organisation is funding and fundraising."



3 Realising the potential of young people

Key Takeaways:

- Members are undoubtedly strengthened as a result of belonging to the Alliance. The energy and ideas shared between members has **strengthened** organisations and their **ability to deliver for young people**.
- It is reasonable to assume that **young people** will be the **ultimate beneficiaries** of these improved organisations.

What Alliance members said:

"As we have the youth council here, we started to listen more to young people and put them more at the centre of our activities."

"We want to change the narrative of young people in our community. We find the entrepreneurship pillar really suitable."

Lessons learnt about what works



One-to-one consultancy support (online or face-to-face), complemented with informal check-ins, has the most depth of impact. Consultancy support is also the most popular activity with 70% of members accessing this kind of support.

“They [FFP] are very responsive. Always at the end of the phone. I can't fault it.”



During Alliance webinars, partners are invited to participate in an online discussion on a particular topic. The evaluation showed that **webinars** serve more as a *community builder* than a *capacity builder*.

“The experience of sharing with other organisations is very interesting. It gives us ideas, but it doesn't always mean we can use them.”



Face-to-face support is favoured over remote support. Members report that they would like to have more opportunities to come together with other Alliance members. They also value face-to-face support from the Fight for Peace team.



The Fight for Peace Toolkit (an online platform giving members access to a range of tools) gives members a sense of reassurance or security – i.e. it is good to know it is there and positions Fight for Peace as *experts*. However, it doesn't suit everyone's learning style. Tools have the most impact when sent to members directly and are most heavily used where Fight for Peace has significant expertise.



Training is referred to as the pivotal moment of joining the Alliance.

“Training, workshops and face-to-face delivery have the most impact.”

There remains some ambiguity about the support available. While many report that Fight for Peace are very approachable, there would be value in **reiterating the packages of support available** to members.

Summary of recommendations

On capacity and capability:

- Clarify the programme objectives with organisational capacity building as central aim
- Work to strike a balance support of provided to members between *reactive* and *proactive*

On network building:

- Offer refresher training for long-standing members
- Consider how to support members to reach out to one another directly
- Continue to deliver regular knowledge share through a range of formats

On delivery and strategy:

- Provide targeted support to reach segments of members at varying stages of development
- Communicate the vision / purpose of the Alliance with the Alliance
- Develop the role of technology in sharing information
- Consider the governance of the Alliance

Fight for Peace's next steps

- The **2020-2025 strategy** for the Alliance addresses most of the recommendations made in the external evaluation.
- The Fight for Peace Alliance team is currently conducting **consultations with partners** (in the UK and internationally) to refine this strategy and ensure that next steps will meet their needs.
- Recommendations from the external evaluation are also shaping the **communications strategy**; the Fight for Peace website for instance, is being updated to ensure that the purpose and vision of the Alliance are appropriately conveyed.
- Fight for Peace is also fundraising to develop a **digital solution** that would allow for better connection and interaction between partners, and for better delivery of services and support.