

THE DANISH
INSTITUTE FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS

PROMOTING
AND
PROTECTING
HUMAN RIGHTS

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



Human Rights Resource Centre
လူ့အခွင့်အရေး ရန်ပုံငွေဗဟို

Denmark - Myanmar
Role of Law and Human Rights
Programme
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HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE SDGS

Our work contributes to the achievement of several SDGs.

These are the ones, that the results presented in this report, contribute to.

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HUMAN RIGHTS FRONT AND CENTRE

Eva Grambye,
Deputy Executive Director,
Head of International Division,
The Danish Institute for Human Rights

It is our mission at the Danish Institute for Human Rights to promote and protect human rights. As a national human rights institution, we have a mandate to work directly with state actors and companies. As the only national human rights institution with a significant international capacity, the Institute is in a unique position to gain access to and collaborate with such actors also outside Denmark. We often operate in challenging environments and occasionally with partners who have a record of negative impacts on human rights. We constantly explore our unique position, so to instigate change even where it might look most unlikely.

Our approach differs from that of many NGOs who more often take action by asserting pressure from the outside through, for example, the media, campaigns and protests. Their work is extremely important for our work. And we share a common mission and a common understanding that human rights are a crucial vehicle for change and can provide solutions to some of the most important challenges in the world today. But human rights are under assault and not necessarily seen as part of the solution – sometimes even the opposite.

We see our role as being to show HOW human rights are fundamental, including in current agendas, like the climate crisis, migration and digitalisation. And we support the UN Secretary-General's recent call: "to put human rights principles and mechanisms front and centre in the implementation of the SDGs".

We have shown how a human rights-based approach is instrumental to efforts to realise the sustainable development goals. We have shown how making the police more accountable and transparent increases trust. And for the last 20 years, we have been showing how businesses should assess their human rights impact.

In the years to come human rights must be applied front and centre to global challenges including the transition from fossil fuels to more sustainable forms of energy and the efforts to deal with the far-reaching impact of digital technologies in society. Moreover, a human rights-based approach must be applied to the challenges that the spread of COVID-19 has set in motion, but to which we do not yet know the full extent. In these cases, human rights can and will be able to provide the foundation for solutions, to ensure that no one is left behind.

On the following pages we present the results of our work in 2019. In four chapters we explain how **#01** We support state actors to create change in challenging environments, **#02** We promote human rights in the world of business, **#03** We enable national human rights institutions across the globe and **#04** We push the agenda of human rights and SDGs forward.

#01 WE SUPPORT STATE ACTORS TO CREATE CHANGE IN CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENTS

States have a responsibility to ensure that human rights are respected. Unfortunately, not all states have the will, capacity or resources to maintain a society where rule of law provides adequate protection. In far too many states, people do not have access to justice and grievance mechanisms when their rights are violated. It is often difficult to get the responsible state actors to grant access and engage in changing the situation. Yet, it is our experience that we, as a national human rights institution, can gain such access which puts us in a position to support progressive forces and change from within.

Therefore the Institute cooperates with state actors to strengthen and develop the necessary infrastructure and capacity to promote and protect human rights in their countries.

Often we work in countries where human rights are under severe pressure, so engaging with state actors must be done with prudence and we continuously assess whether we are able to create the change we want in these challenging environments.

Besides state actors, we also cooperate with civil society organisations, companies and universities.

In 2019 we focused on ‘training of trainers’ in our work with police and security forces in Niger. We supported the human rights training of **25** trainers from Niger national police and **25** trainers from Niger national guard.

In China we supported human rights training of **861** prosecutors across six provinces in 2019. The training courses enhance the uniform application of the

amended Chinese Criminal Procedure Law across the country and focus on procedural safeguards for suspects and detainees.

Through our online learning hub, we continuously develop and provide free, state-of-the-art learning materials accessible in six languages. We have **900** monthly users from across the world on our learning hub.



PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH EDUCATION IN MYANMAR

The Institute is working with its partners to empower and capacitate a new generation of human rights defenders through an increased focus on education in human rights.



Law student in Myanmar

Discrimination against ethnic minorities in Myanmar is rampant and well-documented, especially regarding the Rohingya community in Rakhine state, and these severe human rights violations are cause for serious concern.

Myanmar is still transitioning from being a military state and the Institute is committed to working alongside partners and contributing to a long-term process of facilitating understanding and respect for human rights in the country. The undermining of the legal profession during military rule has been

FUNDED BY
The Embassy of Denmark in Myanmar has contracted the Danish Institute for Human Rights and the International Commission of Jurists in a joint venture to provide technical assistance and capacity building to all partners within the Denmark – Myanmar Programme on Rule of Law and Human Rights.

a determining factor impeding access to justice in the country. Myanmar lacks adequate legal service provision and a judiciary capable of delivering justice to the people.

A NEW GENERATION OF LAWYERS
Ensuring that future lawyers and legal professionals have knowledge of human rights and their application in practice is of vital importance for the democratic transition in Myanmar.

Following the 2015 elections, the Institute has been working under the Denmark – Myanmar Programme on Rule of Law and Human Rights 2016-2020 to implement human rights education at the universities of Dagon and East Yangon. In 2019, for the first time, it became mandatory that all law students throughout the country receive education in human rights. In 2019 four thousand students were taught human rights law as a core course.

STUDENTS INFORM THE COMMUNITY
Not only are the university students learning about human rights law, they are also passing this knowledge on to others. Through newly established legal information centres at the universities, students are providing legal information to cases of infringements of rights in Myanmar. The two legal information centres of Dagon and East Yangon University are the first of their kind in Myanmar and in 2019 alone the centres supported 2081 community members with information on laws and practice on debt, land and labour rights as well as sexual harassment, which are all common cases in the community. Moving forward, the programme is expanding to include new partner universities.

PROVIDING ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS IN ZAMBIA

A network of legal aid desks changes the lives of thousands of Zambians in detention.

Backlogs within the court system exist in most countries and this is certainly a problem in Zambia where the judicial system is challenged by congestion. In addition, most detainees do not have access to legal assistance, leaving them unaware of their rights and vulnerable to injustice.

According to the Zambia human rights commission, close to 50% of accused persons spend at least six months in custody. More than 13% of them spend over two years incarcerated before their cases are concluded in court. In the case of juveniles arrested for petty crimes, some of the most decisive years of their lives may be lost in prison instead of attending school and being with friends and family.

PARALEGALS AND LEGAL AID ASSISTANTS GET THINGS DONE

Since 2013 the Danish Institute for Human Rights has been contributing to the emergence of a strengthened and more accessible legal aid system. In cooperation with a network of civil society and state actors, we are currently supporting the operation of 16 legal aid desks in courts, prisons and police stations.

In 2019 these desks assisted more than 13,000 poor and vulnerable persons. Children and juveniles between the ages of 8–18 constituted 8% of these clients.

FUNDED BY
The Programme for Legal Empowerment and Enhanced Justice Delivery (PLEED) in Zambia, implemented by the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) with technical assistance from the Danish Institute for Human Rights. PLEED itself is funded by the European Union and the Federal Republic of Germany.



For the desks based in Southern Province, criminal cases provided with legal representation were concluded within four to five months on average. Of these, 39% were acquitted, discharged, withdrawn or diverted away from the criminal justice system; 30.5% received non-custodial sentences and only 30.5% were sentenced to prison.

Since its inception in 2013, more than 30,000 clients have received help and assistance through the programme. The plan is to open three new legal aid desks in 2020 to expand the network of desks to nineteen, distributed across three of Zambia's ten provinces.



Harrison Chisale (19 years-old) was detained and charged for breaking a window. He initially pleaded to be innocent, as he feared for the consequences of a confession. While in detention, Harrison got in contact with the Legal Services Unit in Kitwe, and after being well informed on his situation and his rights, he asked for the legal aid assistant, Huntley Ng'andu, to change his plea to that of guilt. The legal aid assistant successfully pleaded in mitigation and Harrison was ordered by the court to repair the damaged window, thereby avoiding being sentenced to imprisonment.



PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS ACROSS BORDERS IN SAHEL

With the support of the Institute, cross-border collaboration is being strengthened to protect citizens and migrants against violations in the troubled Sahel region.

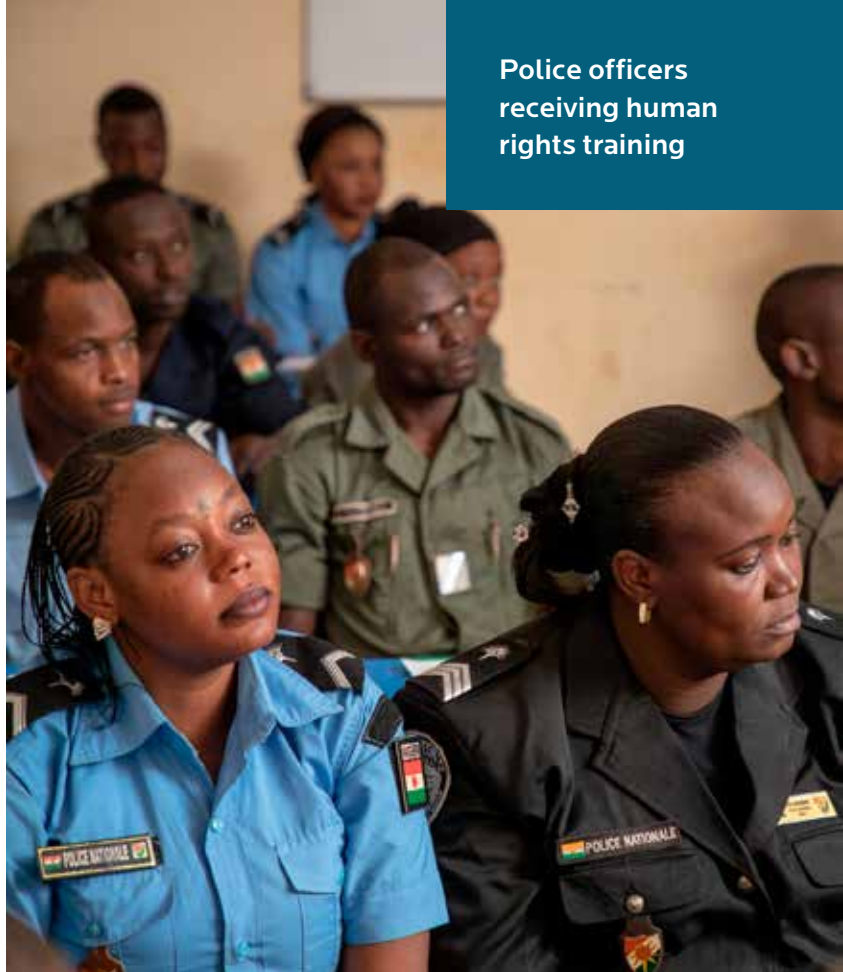
The Sahel is one of the poorest and most challenged regions in the world, and in recent years transnational crime and terror attacks have intensified. The Institute has worked in the region for more than 20 years, putting our network of national and regional human rights actors to use to promote human rights.

INCREASED ATTENTION TO MIGRANTS' RIGHTS

It is well documented that migrants and refugees are extremely vulnerable to falling victim to the most serious human rights violations. With technical support from the Institute, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights conducted a study in Niger on root causes of violations, for example gaps in legislation, the responsibility of institutions, etc. Following this study, the commission now hosts periodic meetings among member states to discuss ways forward on improving the protection of migrants' and refugees' rights.

REGIONAL NETWORK OF POLICE

With the inclusion of Mauritania and Chad, the



network 'Policing and Human Rights in Africa' now consists of five countries from the Sahel, the others being Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. The network was established and operates with financial and technical support from the Institute. In 2019 a new partnership with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights was established and a strategic plan has been developed to increase collaboration and address cross-border issues, including terrorism.

EU GRANT FOR BUILDING TRUST

In 2019 the Institute received an EU grant of €10.4 million over three years to support the security forces in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger in the fight against impunity and the task of strengthening trust with the populations. Research shows that when people view the police as legitimate, they are more likely to cooperate, for example by providing information on terrorist activities, obeying the law and identifying with the state. One aim of the programme is to increase collaboration with the national human rights institutions.

FUNDED BY

Our work in West Africa is funded by our framework agreement with Danida and by the EU.

#02

WE PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE WORLD OF BUSINESS

The year 2019 marked the 20th anniversary of our work to promote respect for human rights by governments as well as Danish and international business. Throughout the years we have, in particular, helped state actors develop, implement and promote policies, legal frameworks and national action plans to prevent and remedy human rights violations connected to business activities, and we have engaged directly with companies in their efforts to act on negative impacts of their activities.

Today, we continue to develop and refine tools, methods and training programmes to promote respect for human rights in business. In 2019 Institute staff edited and provided key contributions to the first-ever handbook on human rights impact assessments, collating practical experiences and theoretical insights across sectors and themes.

As new human rights challenges arise, particularly those linked to the development of digital technologies and to the transition to renewable energy, we are developing analyses and providing guidance to states, companies and civil society organisations to address these and strengthen accountability of duty bearers.

Our database globalnaps.org collates information about the development of national action plans on business and human rights worldwide. In 2019 more than **30,000** users accessed the database; a number that has nearly tripled since 2018.

In 2019 six major tech companies committed to working with the Institute to provide case studies for guidance on human rights impact assessment of digital business activities, which we will further develop in 2020.

On behalf of the Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) Working Group on Business and Human Rights, the Institute provides an e-learning course on business and human rights and the role of national human rights institutions in that regard. The number of e-learning trainees increased from **213** in 2017 to more than **1,000** in 2019.

FUNDED BY
The project is funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).



ASSESSING THE HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS OF THE SALMON INDUSTRY IN CHILE

Human rights are challenged in the Chilean salmon farming industry, and while the environmental impacts of the industry have been documented in the past, only limited data is available on the human rights impacts.

While the link between human rights and the fisheries and aquaculture industries may seem extraneous at first, the human rights implications of these global industries are far-reaching. Ten per cent of the world's population either work in the fishing and aquaculture industry or are dependent upon it. Unfortunately, we too often see hazardous working conditions, forced labour and limited access for small-scale fishers to marine resources.

Since 2018 the Chilean National Human Rights Institution and the Institute have been conducting a comprehensive, sector-wide assessment of the impacts on human rights of the Chilean salmon farming industry through extensive desktop research, qualitative field research and interviews with nearly 250 individuals.

IMPACTS ON WORKERS AND COMMUNITIES

The findings of the assessment include accounts of precarious working conditions in salmon farms and processing plants as well as health and safety risks to workers, for example deaths of divers who maintain and clean the offshore nets. In addition, the contamination caused by the industry severely impacts the livelihoods and traditional culture of the affected communities, in particular indigenous coastal communities.



The findings will be shared with the industry, government and other stakeholders and the recommendations will include: 1) training of all relevant stakeholders in business and human rights; 2) improving labour conditions in the industry; and 3) mitigating impacts on affected communities.

“Salmon farming can affect local communities, including women who live from artisanal fishing and seaweed harvesting. The sector-wide impact assessment can give us background information on how state actors and salmon farming companies are behaving, from the eyes of the people who experience it first-hand. We want ecosystems, marine resources and our artisanal fishing culture to be preserved,” says Gigliola Centonzio, National Assembly for Artisanal Fishers.



TWENTY YEARS OF PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN BUSINESS

The year 2019 marked the 20th anniversary of the Danish Institute of Human Rights working in the field of business and human rights.

Since 1999 the Institute has focused on addressing the impacts of business on human rights. The field of business and human rights has developed and matured – and we have been part of that process for 20 years. During this time we have helped clarify and strengthen the roles and responsibilities of state and non-state actors, inter alia by developing tools and training materials on responsible business conduct. Following the landmark adoption of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, we have provided guidance on implementing these principles to state actors, national human rights institutions and companies.

We have conducted more than 20 human rights impact assessments across many sectors, including oil and gas, mining, pharmaceuticals, and food and beverages. We have supported a number of states to develop national action plans on business and human rights. In the last three years we have trained 56 national human rights institutions from around the world on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. We have also developed analysis and advised companies in a variety of sectors.

“Addressing the impacts of companies on human rights is vital to creating a better future. The practical knowledge and insights that the Danish Institute for Human Rights provide, based on its partnerships with companies, are major contributions to achieving this goal,” says Julie Garfieldt Kofoed, Head of Human Rights, United Nations Global Compact.



Snapshots from 20 years of working with business and human rights

2005: The Human Rights Indicators for Business are launched; a tool that makes it possible for businesses to assess corporate policies, procedures and practices on human rights.

2009–2011: Working with the Global Alliance of NHRIs (GANHRI), the Institute supported the adoption of the 2010 Edinburgh Declaration, through which NHRIs committed to integrating business and human rights into their strategies and activities.

2014: The first edition of our National Action Plans Toolkit and Guidance is published. This has subsequently been used by national actors around the world.

2018: Recognising the Institute's leadership role in the area of Human Rights Impact Assessments, in particular our tools, guidance and training programmes, the International Association for Impact Assessment awarded the Institute its annual **Global Award in 2018** (see picture above).



FUNDED BY
The project is funded by the Swedish International
Development Corporation Agency (SIDA)



THE FIRST NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFRICA

By supporting the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights and the Department of Justice, the Institute is helping to pave the way for better protection against adverse human rights impacts of business in Kenya.

National action plans outline a state's priorities and actions to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and set it on a path towards improving human rights in the world of business. Many countries have already adopted and implemented national action plans, but Kenya is the first African country to do so. This represents an important step towards increasing businesses' respect for human rights on the African continent.

SUPPORTING THE PROCESS

The process to develop a national action plan was initiated in April 2016 following a recommendation of the Universal Periodic Review. Since then, the Institute has been working with the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights to advise the government and the multi-stakeholder steering group that has been established to lead the process.

The Institute has supported research on key gaps in policy and law related to business and human

rights, to identify areas where these need to be strengthened. The Institute also provided capacity-building for the steering group members and contributed to the process of consultation with indigenous peoples and other groups at risk of human rights abuses.

TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION

While the draft national action plan was published in the summer of 2019, it has not yet been officially adopted by the Kenyan Government. Once this happens, strong coordination is needed to make sure it is implemented. This is something that the Institute and its national partners in Kenya will collaborate on as a next step.

A strong implementation mechanism with an effective monitoring framework and close collaboration between partners is critical to ensuring that businesses take human rights issues into account in their operations and address them.

Women on the labour market are one of the identified groups at risk of human rights abuses in Kenya.



Through our local offices in **10 countries**, we support the development of laws and policies, that promote human rights and strengthen police forces and judiciary.

Through our global and thematic programmes, we work with stakeholders in **11 countries**

#03

WE ENABLE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS ACROSS THE GLOBE

National human rights institutions (NHRI) have become an increasingly prominent feature of the human rights landscape – nationally, regionally and globally. Drawing on the Paris Principles, over 110 countries around the world have established national human rights institutions. As one of the only national human rights institutions with a significant international mandate, the Danish Institute for Human Rights plays a crucial role in developing the capacity and influence of other national human rights institutions.

During the past year we have collaborated closely with individual national human rights institutions all over the world. Specific engagements include technical support for monitoring and reporting, assistance in outreach and awareness-building and a number of other activities to increase their impact and effectiveness in fulfilling their mandates. Thereby, we aim to contribute to more effective national human rights institutions, implementing their mandates and achieving A-status, which is a specific indicator under SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions.

As a part of the NHRI.EU project we have supported the secretariats for the global and regional networks of national human rights institutions in order to advance the sustainability of these secretariats and improve their interactions with human rights mechanisms at regional and global levels. On the following pages we highlight some of the examples of our work with national human rights institutions at country level, as well as in a regional and global context.

In 2019 the Institute registered **55** results of our engagement with **24** national human rights institutions across Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America. The results are registered using 'Outcome Harvesting' methodology and include support in developing policies and communication tools as well as support to projects and workshops leading to specific human rights outcomes.

Since 2015, **69** national human rights institutions have received training in monitoring and reporting.

In 2019 the Institute worked directly with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) and the four regional networks to strengthen the capacity of national human rights institutions individually and collectively.



SUPPORTING LONG-TERM CHANGE IN PALESTINE

The Institute is supporting the Independent Commission for Human Rights in Palestine which has established itself as a leading human rights institution in the Palestinian territories and in the Middle East.

Massive human rights violations take place in Palestine, and arbitrary arrests, use of excessive force and torture as well as other systematic violations are commonplace.

Since 2017 the Institute has worked in close cooperation with the Independent Commission for Human Rights in Palestine to provide technical support and assist them in fulfilling their mandate as an independent national human rights institution. The commission receives approximately 3,000 complaints a year, so having a well-functioning filing system is crucial to ensure that complaints submitted by citizens who claim that their human rights have been violated by the authorities are properly documented. In 2019 the Institute has supported the commission in establishing an electronic management information system which enables the commission to analyse the cases and address the most critical human rights issues at a systemic level.



MAKING INFORMATION ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS ACCESSIBLE

Until now, teaching material on human rights in the Palestinian context has been limited. In 2019 the Institute facilitated a process to develop a textbook to be published in Arabic. This will allow the people of Palestine to be properly introduced to human rights, and includes principles such as non-discrimination, accountability and participation and sets out how the principles are practiced in Palestine. The textbook will be used by the commission and others as a supplement to ongoing human rights training in Palestine.

“We now have a textbook contextualised into the Palestinian culture, which is so very important for the Palestinian people. We are the first to make such a textbook in Arabic, and we aim to share it with national human rights institutions across Arab countries, universities and the civil society,” says Ola Adawi, International Relation and Programme Development Officer at the Independent Commission for Human Rights.

FUNDED BY

Our work in Palestine is funded by the Representative Office of Denmark in Ramallah.

STRENGTHENING THE IMPACT OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS IN THE AMERICAS

The Institute has supported the establishment of a secretariat for the regional network of national human rights institutions in the Americas and continues to contribute to the development of a new strategy for the network.

In recent years human rights have been under extraordinary pressure in the Americas. Indigenous peoples continue to be at great risk throughout the region, violence against women remains prevalent and attacks against human rights defenders are widespread. This poses a tremendous task for the national human rights institutions of the region, who often find themselves on the frontline of the crisis.

The Network of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the American Continent (RINDHCA), one of the four regional networks collaborating with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), works to support the efforts of national human rights institutions (NHRIs) in the Americas. So far, the work of the network has been limited, partly due to lack of leadership and facilitation of regional activities. This is about to change.

A NEW OFFICE IN PANAMA

The Danish Institute of Human Rights has supported the network in establishing a permanent secretariat located in Panama. In 2019 the Government of Panama granted permission to establish the office and a director has been hired. This is the culmination of more than three years of consultations and

advocacy coordinated under the auspices of the NHRI.EU project.

“Many Latin American countries are going through turbulent times and human rights defenders in a number of countries are risking their lives to create change. The national human rights institutions in the region are doing a remarkable job to protect and promote human rights but they need the support and coordination that a strong regional secretariat can offer,” says Cecilia Bernuy, Director of RINDHCA Secretariat.

MOBILISING CHANGE IN THE REGION

One of the main challenges for the new regional secretariat is to coordinate and organise activities that facilitate knowledge exchange amongst national human rights institutions in order to increase their impact by suggesting common solutions to regional human rights problems. In 2020 the Institute will continue to work alongside the regional secretariat on the development of a new strategy to increase the impact and outreach of the network.

FUNDED BY

The NHRI.EU project is a consortium of national human rights institutions networks led by the Danish Institute for Human Rights and funded by the EU, with co-financing from the Institute framework agreement with Danida.



Many countries in the Americas has experienced social unrest and protests during 2019. In October more than one million people took to the streets of Santiago in Chile protesting against rising inequality and demanding social and political reforms.

GIVING VOICE TO CIVIL SOCIETY IN JORDAN

The Institute works with partners in Jordan to ensure inclusive human rights reporting and support effective follow-up and implementation of human rights obligations.

Minorities and marginalised groups experience difficulties in making their voices heard in Jordanian politics. But during Jordan's 2018 Universal Periodic Review report on human rights, the Institute supported the Jordanian government and the Jordanian National Centre for Human Rights in facilitating increased engagement of civil society in policy-making processes.

CREATING WIDER ENGAGEMENT

Three consultations with Jordanian women's and youth organisations were organised, providing opportunities for women and young people in Jordan to make their voices heard.

"The Universal Periodic Review was a great opportunity for assessing the current situation in Jordan and strengthening our efforts to hold the Jordanian government accountable to its commitment for a better and wider engagement of young activists and young women representatives in particular. It allowed their voices to reach a very high level of decision making," says Asma Khader, President of Sisterhood is Global Institute/Jordan, who took part in the consultations.

SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION

Making reporting inclusive is crucial, as is ensuring



The Universal Periodic Review is a process which involves a periodic review of the human rights records of all 193 UN Member States. It provides an opportunity for all states to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to overcome challenges to the enjoyment of human rights. Moreover, states under review receive human rights recommendations from other states. According to our SDG–Human Rights Data Explorer, Jordan has received and accepted 364 recommendations from Universal Periodic Review, mainly concentrating on SDGs 5, 8 and 16.

proper implementation of the recommendations generated by the process of the Universal Periodic Review. In 2019 the Institute supported Jordan in identifying its priorities and actions for follow-up and effective implementation of the recommendations. This included a first-ever state actor conference on the establishment of a permanent national mechanism for reporting and follow-up. Participants included Jordan's prime minister's office, line ministries, the military, the national centre for human rights and other public institutions.

This is an important step towards having a more solid framework for inclusive and effective implementation of Jordan's human rights obligations and, ultimately, strengthening human rights in Jordan.

#04 WE PUSH THE AGENDA OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND SDGS FORWARD

Human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are inextricably linked. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 'seek to realise the human rights of all', and the Institute has established that more than 92% of the targets directly reflect elements of international human rights and labour standards. The pledge to 'leave no one behind' mirrors the fundamental human rights principles of non-discrimination and equality.

During 2019 we have been working in a number of ways to realise the potential of a human rights-based approach to implementing the SDGs. In January, we launched the SDG–Human Rights Data Explorer, an algorithm-driven search engine linking 150,000 human rights recommendations to the 169 SDG targets. We have documented best practices of national institutions working with human rights and SDGs and developed human rights-based analyses, tools and guides for actors working on different SDGs and at different levels. We have also been engaged in promoting work on human rights and SDGs through contributions at the UN Human Rights Council, the High-Level Political Forum, and relevant regional fora.

The world is not on track to realise the 2030 Agenda, and much work remains to be done. But so far, the lessons learned from taking a human rights-based approach have shown great promise and we will continue to push the agenda forward in the years to come.

Our databases linking recommendations of the human rights mechanisms to the SDGs have been accessed by almost **50,000** unique users over **78,000** sessions in 2019. This is up from **27,000** users over **45,000** sessions in 2018. Our databases continue to be accessed from nearly every country in the world.

In 2019 we worked with **22** national human rights institutions across all regions to support them to use their mandates to

ensure human rights are protected and promoted through SDG implementation and monitoring.

Our tools are being used and promoted by major international organisations like the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights as well as by national ministries, for example in El Salvador and Honduras.

DATA-DRIVEN ADVOCACY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

With thousands of users all over the world, our SDG–Human Rights Data Explorer has already become a valued tool for many.



The Danish Institute for Human Rights launched the SDG–Human Rights Data Explorer in January 2019. An algorithm-driven search engine linking 150,000 human rights recommendations to the 169 targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Our analysis shows that more than 92% of the SDG targets reflect international human rights. This means that the human rights system can monitor and guide implementation of the SDGs and thereby compensate for the limited framework for accountability built into the 2030 Agenda.

More and more development actors are looking for ways to exploit the synergies between SDGs and human rights, and the Institute's Data Explorer is available in all six official UN languages and has rapidly become a popular tool among academics, UN agencies, civil society organisations and state actors alike.

USING DATA FOR ADVOCACY

Micah Grzywnowicz is a frequent user of the Data Explorer. Micah is the international advocacy advisor at the Swedish Federation for LGBTQI Rights and the coordinator of the LGBTQI stakeholder group,

formally recognised in the UN 2030 Agenda processes, and a member of the UNDP civil society advisory committee.

"We need both the Sustainable Development Goals and human rights to push for progress. The Data Explorer connects these two sides of the UN. It's a really useful tool for people to use in their advocacy," says Micah Grzywnowicz.

When conducting advocacy, finding the language and terminology to support the cause in UN documents is of great importance. Since the 2030 Agenda does not mention LGBTQI specifically, Micah and peers have had to (re)claim representation within the framework. According to Micah, the Data Explorer has been an essential resource for this.

"This tool helps us to engage with governments and the UN more effectively. We are talking about the same issues, but in a new language and from a new perspective. With the Data Explorer, we can now draw upon our human rights advocacy practice and actualise it to the 2030 Agenda. That clears a major burden for us".

HUMAN RIGHTS AS AN ACCELERATOR OF SDG IMPLEMENTATION

From Geneva to New York and at regional forums for sustainable development all over the world, the Danish Institute for Human Rights has pushed the agenda at the highest levels of the UN.

Despite the enormous potential for synergy, human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are most often pursued in quite disconnected ways. Promoting new partnerships, workflows and methods to bridge this gap has thus been a big part of the Institute's efforts in 2019.

PUSHING THE AGENDA FORWARD

Denmark has made itself a strong and influential player in the UN Human Rights Council since becoming a first-time member in January 2019. Denmark was among the initiators of a resolution and a series of high-level meetings on human rights and the implementation of the SDGs. The Institute has been – and continues to be – a strong partner to the Danish Mission in Geneva in promoting this agenda by delivering analyses, tools and technical support and participating at two intersessional meetings of the Human Rights Council, where the Institute was invited to present its work.

In addition, we have been pushing the agenda forward throughout the year at the regional forums on sustainable development and at the High-Level

Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York. We promoted our key messages, participated in panels, hosted training workshops and facilitated network meetings across the human rights and SDG communities.

THE TREND IS TURNING

While there is still a long way to go and the clock is ticking for realising the 2030 Agenda, it is increasingly recognised that human rights perspectives can strengthen and accelerate SDG implementation.

The updated 2019 UN guidelines for the Voluntary National Reviews mentions how national human rights institutions are involved in SDG implementation and reporting processes. Also, more than 80% of the Voluntary National Reviews presented in 2019 referred to human rights, a number that is up from 70% in 2016. These are encouraging signs that a common understanding of the synergies between human rights and the SDGs is gaining ground in the international community.



The Institute at the High-Level Political Forum in New York



Ghana faces serious business and human rights challenges especially in the country's large cocoa industry



THE ROLE OF RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS IN REALISING THE SDGS

The Institute is working with partners to explore the role of responsible business in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in developing countries. In Ghana, the Institute's work focuses on addressing human rights challenges in the country's cocoa and gold-mining industries.

Ghana has numerous business-related human rights challenges, including forced labour and trafficking linked to the gold-mining sector as well as child labour, especially in the country's large cocoa industry.

Since 2018 the Institute has been leading a research project to explore how responsible business initiatives support the SDGs in developing countries. The project is generating new knowledge on how to realise SDGs 8 and 16 in a development context. It is also supporting local partners to define legal and policy initiatives to address business-related human rights challenges in the country.

ADDRESSING GAPS IN THE FIELD OF BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

In May 2019 Ghana's Commission for Human Rights and Administration of Justice and the Ghana Institute for Management and Public Administration committed to examine current gaps in the realisation of human rights in business in the country. A first step has been the development of a national baseline assessment, and the Institute will take part in the collaboration to produce this. The national baseline assessment is a crucial move towards understanding business-related human rights challenges in Ghana, and what actions are needed

to address these challenges. Development of the national baseline assessment is informed by a toolkit produced by the Institute and has engaged a wide range of stakeholders in Ghana.

This work provides an evidence base for a Ghana national action plan to create significant progress in the field of business, human rights and sustainable development.

"A national action plan essentially highlights the national and international standards that should guide businesses in Ghana to ensure that human rights are protected and vulnerable people in society are not unduly affected by their activities," says Victor Brobbey, Lecturer in Law at the Ghana Institute for Management and Public Administration.

In addition to the Ghana analysis, results from the research project will inform sustainable development efforts in Kenya and in wider development circles.

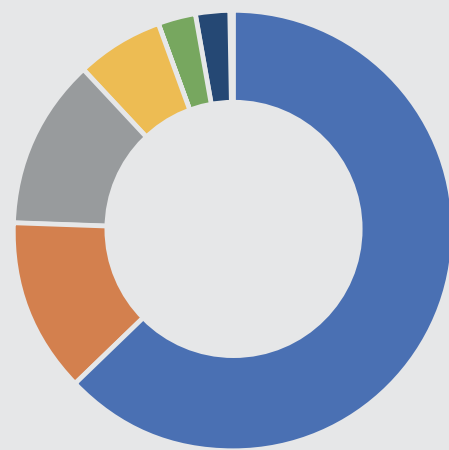
FUNDED BY

The research project is funded by Danida and carried out in cooperation with the Schools of Law and Business, and the Sustainability Leadership Centre of Strathmore University in Kenya; the Faculties of Law and Business of the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration; and the College of Law of the Australian National University.

INCOME FOR OUR INTERNATIONAL WORK IN 2019

Million DKK

Danida	56.1
EU	11.5
Sida	11.0
Private cooperations	5.7
British Council	0.1
Other donors	2.5
Giz	2.1
Internal projects	0.1
Multilateral organisations (UN etc.)	0.1
In total	89.2



- Danida
- EU
- Sida
- Private cooperations
- British Council
- Other Donors
- Giz
- International projects
- Multilateral organisations

THE INTERNATIONAL DIVISION OF THE DANISH INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



THE INTERNATIONAL WORK OF THE DANISH INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

LEGITIMACY AND LOCAL APPROACH

Our status as an independent state institution gives us legitimacy in our work with governments, international institutions, civil society and businesses. We work in local partnerships to ensure sustainability and local relevance of our work.

RESEARCH CAPACITY AND PROVEN TRACK RECORD

Our in-house research capacity ensures that we build our projects, tools and training programmes on scientific evidence and solid academic knowledge. With 25 years of experience worldwide, we have a proven record of accomplishment.

WE CREATE SUSTAINABLE CHANGE BECAUSE OF OUR



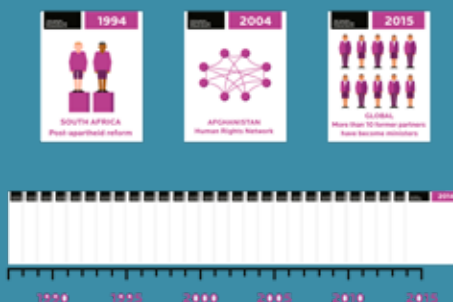
LEGITIMACY



LOCAL APPROACH



RESEARCH CAPACITY



PROVEN TRACK RECORD

Read more

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