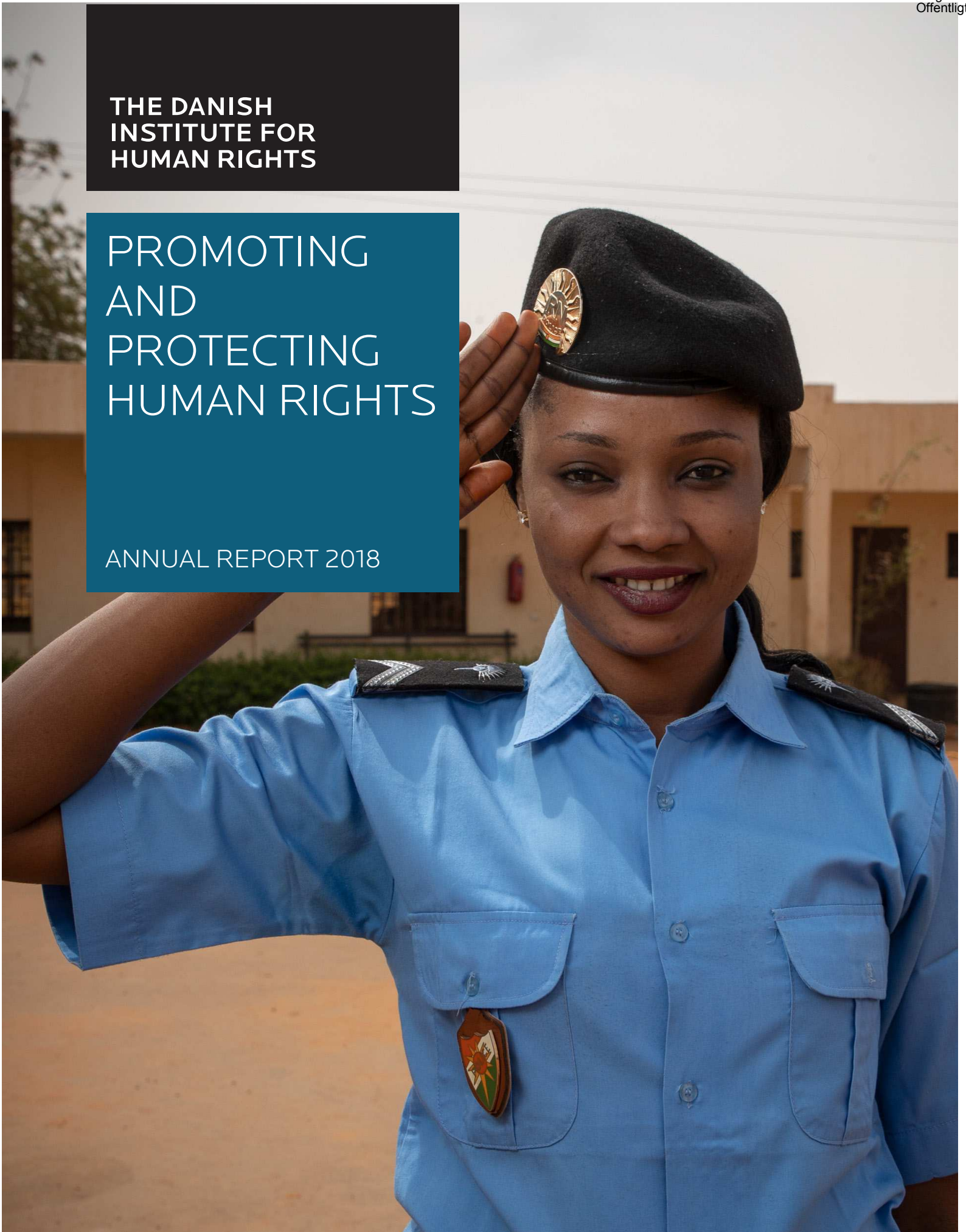
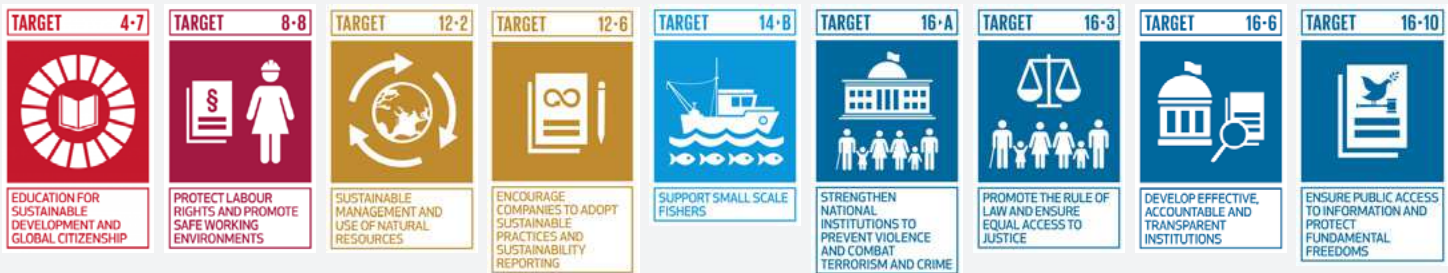


THE DANISH  
INSTITUTE FOR  
HUMAN RIGHTS

PROMOTING  
AND  
PROTECTING  
HUMAN RIGHTS

ANNUAL REPORT 2018





## HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE SDGS

Our work contributes to the achievement of several SDG targets. These are the ones, that the results presented in this report, contribute to.

Editorial staff: Esben Geist (editor in chief), Kathrine Storgaard Carlsen (editor), Amalie Schmidt, Eva Grambye and Jakob Gorm Andreasen

ISBN: 978-87-93605-73-2  
e-ISBN: 978-87-93605-74-9

Layout: Morten Bak  
Print: JC Grafisk

Photos: Front page and p.22: Ollivier Girard, p.6: OHCHR, p.7: Colourbox, p.9: Eva Grambye, p. 11: Eni Myanmar, p. 15: OHCHR, p. 16: Rentsendorj Bazarsukh Reuters/Ritzau/Scanpix, p. 17: Hichem AFP/Ritzau/Scanpix, p.21: P. Kalengo. p. 25: Ministry of Justice/Kyrgyzstan.

© 2019 The Danish Institute for Human Rights  
Denmark's National Human Rights Institution  
Wilders Plads 8 K,  
DK-1403 København K  
Phone +45 3269 8888  
[www.humanrights.dk](http://www.humanrights.dk)

Provided such reproduction is for non-commercial use, this publication, or parts of it, may be reproduced if author and source are quoted.



## WE BUILD TRUST

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

2018 marked the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We, alongside other defenders of human rights, used the occasion to celebrate this milestone document. The anniversary also reminds us of the continued significance of human rights, not least as a countermeasure to discourses of fear and mistrust that are on the rise in many countries. As UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres formulated it in his 2018 opening address to the General Assembly, 'the world is suffering from a trust deficit'.

In this what you might call 'battle between trust and fear', reclaiming civic space is crucial to allow all voices to be heard and thereby build trust. The reclamation is happening; Human Rights Watch reports that the world's autocrats are facing rising resistance. However, according to Freedom House a total of 68 countries suffered net declines in political rights and civil liberties during 2018, with only 50 registering gains. The battle most certainly must, and still is, going on.

Promoting the message that the enjoyment of human rights is key for societies to build and maintain trust is central to the Institute's work. In collaboration with our partners, for example the police in Niger and multinational companies such as ENI in Myanmar, and with our sister national human rights institutions all over the world, we work to build trust on many different levels.

In some of the most unstable and least democratic countries in the world, as well as in young democracies and countries with weak state apparatuses and high levels of poverty, we push for stronger human rights systems to secure the promotion and protection of human rights. By supporting the development of accountable and transparent state actors we help build trust between the authorities and their citizens, which is a precondition for a vibrant civic space and the full enjoyment of human rights for all.

Seeking to 'realise the human rights of all' is at the core of the 2030 Agenda and it has been a call to action for the Institute's international activities since its adoption in 2015. We are endeavouring to ensure a close and operational link between human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals. Our aim is to address the SDG accountability gap and the human rights implementation gap by demonstrating how human rights can concretely underpin and facilitate the implementation of the SDGs and help ensure that no one is, in reality, left behind.

This report presents some of the many results we have contributed to in 2018. In four chapters we present how **#01** We strengthen SDG accountability through human rights, **#02** We advance business with respect for human rights **#03** We strengthen national human rights institutions **#04** We support trust-building and security efforts

# #01

## WE STRENGTHEN SDG ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS

The 2030 Agenda allows for flexibility in the way states and the private sector implement and monitor their efforts. While this creates flexibility for country-specific approaches, there is equally a risk of an accountability gap. With more than 92% of the 169 SDG targets linked to human rights and labour standards, the potential for using human rights as a framework to monitor and guide strategies to implement the SDGs is enormous. A human rights-based approach to the SDGs can strengthen accountability, streamline efforts and secure that no one is left behind.

The Institute develops analyses, tools and guidance to operationalise a human rights-based approach to the realisation of sustainable development and has established itself as a key knowledge provider on this. Among other highlights, we have launched a database with an algorithm that allows users to explore recommendations from human rights mechanisms through the lens of the SDGs. We have also furthered the institutionalisation of the link between human rights and the SDGs through agenda-setting contributions at the Human Rights Council, the High-Level Political Forum, and relevant regional fora.

We have conducted SDG training for state actors in over **30 countries** since 2017. These include NHRIs, ministries and national statistical offices, as well as UN staff.

Our databases linking the SDGs with human rights mechanisms have been accessed by almost **27,000 users over 45,000 sessions** in 2018. Users from **151 countries** accessed 'Human Rights Guide to the SDGs'. The 'SDG-Human Rights Data Explorer' had users from **192 countries**.

In 2018 we authored 3 publications on the synergies between SDGs and human rights. We disseminated them at high level meetings in Europe, Asia, Eurasia and Africa.

# BOOSTING THE REALISATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA

A new database makes more than 150,000 human rights recommendations accessible to sustainable development policymakers and practitioners.

Every year the international human rights system generates thousands of recommendations to guide states' implementation of human rights for all sectors of society. Human rights issues pertaining to, for example, health, education and gender equality are well reflected in the SDGs, which explicitly seek to realise human rights of all. Hence, these thousands of country-specific and action-oriented recommendations produced by human rights mechanisms are essential to guide SDG implementation.

So far, this critical information has been an untapped resource for the 2030 Agenda, as it has not been linked to the SDGs. Consequently, efforts to realise the 2030 Agenda and human rights continue to be handled by different national and international

institutions, operating with separate logics and terminologies.

## STREAMLINING EFFORTS AND MAXIMISING RESOURCES

Using an experimental text-mining algorithm, the Institute has developed an online tool to solve this problem. The SDG–Human Rights Data Explorer allows users to explore how 150,000 human rights recommendations are linked to specific SDG targets for particular countries and rights-holders. For example, urban planners now have easy access to recommendations on how to design adequate public spaces for persons with disabilities (SDG 11). This means that states can boost policy coherence and accountability, while streamlining efforts and maximising resources to realise sustainable development and human rights for all.

Visit:

[www.sdgdata.humanrights.dk](http://www.sdgdata.humanrights.dk)

## FUNDED BY

**The project is funded by our framework agreement with Danida. It is the result of a partnership between the Institute, OHCHR and the social enterprise Specialisterne.**



# NO QUALITY EDUCATION WITHOUT HUMAN RIGHTS

SDG 4 emphasises the importance of human rights as part of quality education. The Institute is developing an indicator framework to help states keep track of their implementation.



**TARGET 4.7**

If future generations are to participate in the development of a universal culture of human rights, it is crucial that human rights values are integrated into all aspects of schooling. Human rights education needs to be provided for in national education laws and policies. Teachers should be trained to impart human rights knowledge and skills in order to build a human rights-based culture in the classroom.

Yet in many countries, monitoring data on the level of implementation of human rights education is poor or non-existent. In order to help clarify where more efforts are needed to secure effective implementation of human rights education the Institute, with the support of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), is working on an indicator framework.

## **SDG 4.7 GIVES IMPETUS**

The framework will build on the thematic and normative framework for human rights education.

Applying the indicators will thus generate a clear assessment of whether the implementation of SDG 4.7 in any given state is aligned with internationally agreed norms and standards for human rights education.

National human rights institutions play a crucial role as data providers to states. During the summer of 2018, six national human rights institutions piloted the framework. The proposed indicator framework is a contribution to the ongoing international process around developing a methodology for global monitoring of SDG indicator 4.7.1.

“It requires concerted action to realise the 2030 Agenda and SDG 4 on quality education. States across the globe need to strengthen their efforts” Morten Jespersen, the ambassador at the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the UN in Geneva, says.

## **FUNDED BY**

**The development of the indicator framework is funded by the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the UN.**

## FUNDED BY

The project is funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).



TARGET 14·B

# SUSTAINABLE OCEANS CANNOT BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT HUMAN RIGHTS

A global project led by the Institute promotes human rights and sustainability in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

“We cannot have great seafood tainted with human rights abuses” said professor Jan Bebbington of the University of Birmingham at an expert meeting facilitated by the Institute in 2018. Her statement refers to the increasing commercial exploitation, lack of regulations, forced labour and other challenges facing the fisheries sector in many countries. It also underpins the critical importance of a global project on sustainable oceans that the Institute initiated in 2018 in a unique collaboration with organisations across different sectors.

## EMPOWERING SMALL-SCALE FISHERS AND FISH WORKERS

Around 10 – 12 % of the world’s population depend on fisheries and aquaculture for their livelihoods. Small-scale fishers and fish workers are the ones suffering the most from weak regulations, and from the other challenges facing the sector. The project aims at protecting their human rights.

The sector cannot be improved until they know and claim their rights, such as their right to food, to an adequate standard of living and to decent work. In this regard SDG target 14.b which aims to “provide access of small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets” provides an important framework for the project, together with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGP).

## HOLDING GOVERNMENTS ACCOUNTABLE

To document and show the human rights implications in the sectors, the Institute is facilitating the conducting of Sector Wide Impact Assessments in Bangladesh and Chile as well as analyses in Africa. Based on the findings, the Institute and our partners will produce recommendations and tools that can be used to hold governments and the private sector accountable for the human rights situation in the sector as well as to ensure the implementation of SDG 14.b.



Bangladesh is one of the countries where the Institute will be conducting a sector wide impact assessment.

## #02 WE ADVANCE BUSINESS WITH RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Companies play a major role in society by generating jobs, revenue, innovation and services, which are all needed to realise human rights. They also have a responsibility to avoid and address negative impacts on the rights of people, be they employees, workers in the supply chain, local communities or customers. To ensure sustainable development based on human rights, we work to strengthen the collaboration between the human rights community and the private sector. Through research and by developing tools and partnerships with both companies and governments, we aim to build a global environment in which negative impacts on human rights by business are minimised, and positive contributions by business to the realisation of human rights are maximised.

In 2018 we published a database including concrete examples to inspire companies to avoid and address salient human rights issues as their contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We also supported more than ten states in developing and implementing national action plans on business and human rights. We have capitalised on our strong partnerships, for example with the Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business, an institution that has played a significant role in ensuring that the country's new investment law encourages responsible investment.

In 2018 we worked on the basis of contractual agreements with **15 multinational companies and financial institutions.**

We facilitated **7 collaborative company or multi-stakeholder initiatives and projects.** One example is the Nordic Business Network on Human Rights.

Our database [globalnaps.org](http://globalnaps.org) informs about the development of National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights. In 2018 it saw **10,827 users across 16,786 sessions.**





**TARGET 8-8**

# IMPORTANT STEPS TOWARDS RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT

The Institute's partner the Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business (MCRB), has worked to ensure that responsible business conduct is a requirement within the new investment law and rules.

Interest in Myanmar's once languishing economy intensified after the country's reforms began in 2011 and with the lifting of economic sanctions, although the recent Rohingya crisis has led to some drop-off in interest.

The 2016 Myanmar Investment Law and the 2017 Rules made responsible business conduct an explicit requirement for both foreign and domestic investors for the first time. The Institute's partner, MCRB, has played a significant role in ensuring that the investment law encourages responsible investment, increased transparency and respect for human rights.

## MAJOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUTURE ADVOCACY WORK

This provides a major opportunity for the centre's advocacy work in the future. The centre was established by the Institute in 2013, and has been "a leading protagonist in ensuring that responsible



In Rakhine State, gas terminals are run by multinational companies, while the local community continues their artisanal oil drilling nearby. Supported by the Institute, MCRB works to ensure responsible investments.

business has become a known concept in Myanmar", according to an external evaluation published in 2018.

Supported by the Institute, the MCRB has documented the impacts on society of business operations in five key sectors, articulating recommendations to businesses, state institutions and other stakeholders. This included the mining sector where the negative impacts of artisanal and small-scale mining are significant on the environment, women and children, while at the same time being critical to the livelihoods of thousands of poor people in Myanmar.

Overall MCRB's 2018 Sector-Wide Impact Assessment on Limestone, Gold and Tin Mining outlined the extensive human rights impacts of a barely regulated sector which is at the nexus of conflicts including conflict around land and ecosystems services.

## FUNDED BY

Our collaboration with MCRB is funded by, DFID, the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Swiss Confederation Federal Dept of Foreign Affairs – Human Security Division, the Netherlands Ministry for Trade and Development Cooperation and the Irish Aid.

The Institute condemns the human rights violations committed against the Rohingya in Myanmar as reported to the UN Security Council and Human Rights Council. Still, we remain committed to further human rights in business and university legal education in the country, because we see our efforts as contributing to a long-term process of facilitating human rights change in these areas.



TARGET 12-2

## FOLLOW-UP ASSESSMENTS STRENGTHEN COMPANY'S ACCOUNTABILITY

Assessments of potential human rights impacts conducted by the Institute have helped to develop good relations between local communities and a global company.

When, in 2016, the global energy company Eni planned to start new operations in the Magway region in Myanmar, they decided to team up with the Institute to conduct a human rights impact assessment (HRIA). Encouraged by the Institute, they also agreed to conduct an additional follow-up assessment after two years of operations to assess how the company implemented the Institute's recommendations and how its presence in the region was perceived by stakeholders.

The initial assessment revealed various concerns among the local communities about their livelihoods, based on which the Institute formulated recommendations for Eni. Nearly all recommendations were implemented by Eni during its exploration activities.

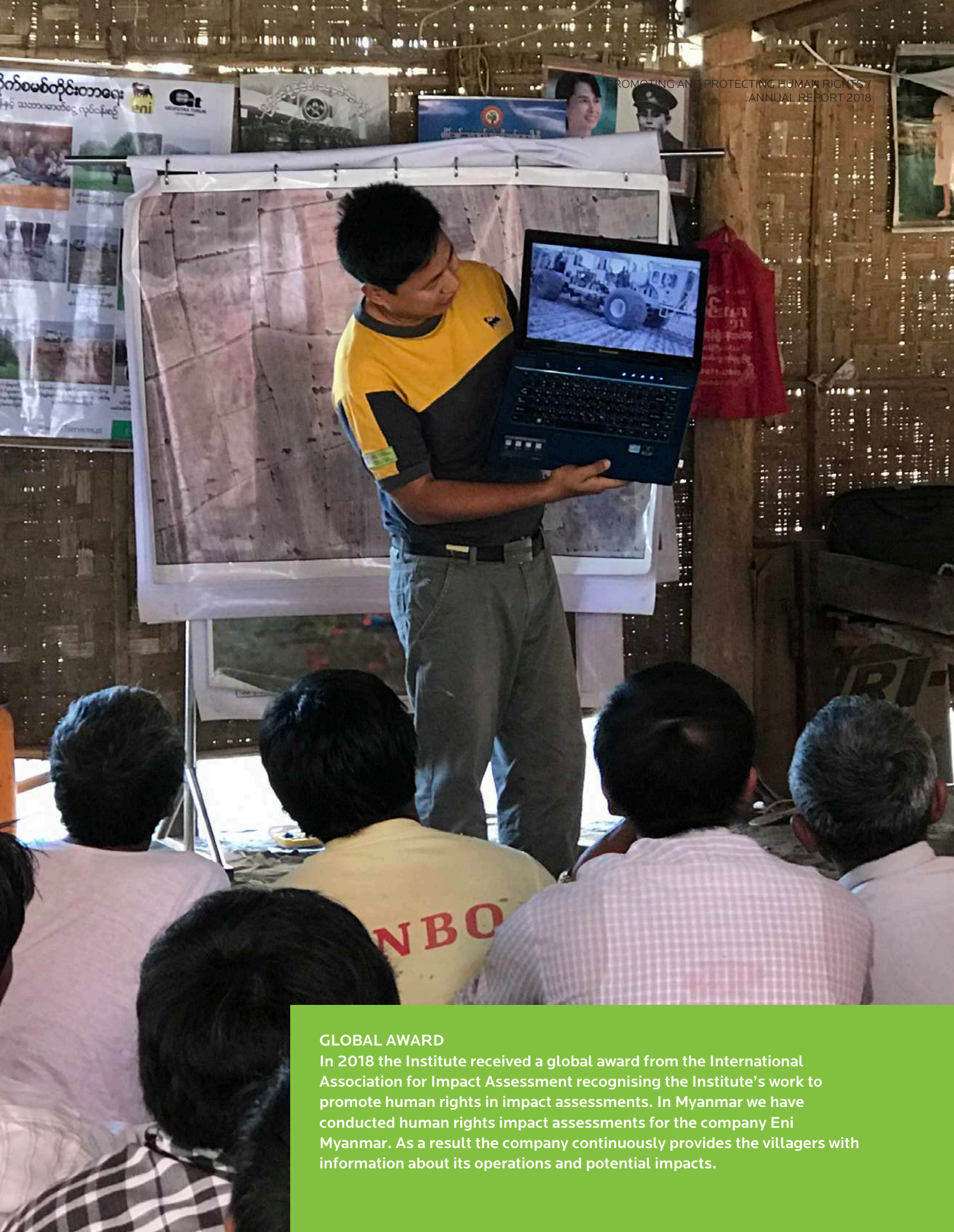
### IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS COMMITMENTS

The Institute returned to conduct the follow-up assessment in 2018. It confirmed that Eni had largely acted in accordance with its commitments. Among other things, Eni had appointed a community liaison officer from the local community and was providing a

constant stream of information about operations and potential impacts. Eni had also formulated guidelines for its employees on how to behave respectfully in the area. A concern among the villagers had been whether Eni would create jobs for the locals. The follow-up assessment showed that 93 % of the 600 employees were local.

### MOST VILLAGERS FEEL WELL INFORMED

Various stakeholders mentioned that Eni had done a lot to inform the villagers about its business operations; for example the company used a demonstration truck to show communities what the seismic surveys would feel like. The assessment did uncover some room for improvement. For example, community members mentioned that there was a lack of information on the qualifications required in order to be hired by Eni's sub-contractors. On the basis of these findings the Institute has developed new recommendations that will help Eni to further improve its social performance in Myanmar and other countries.

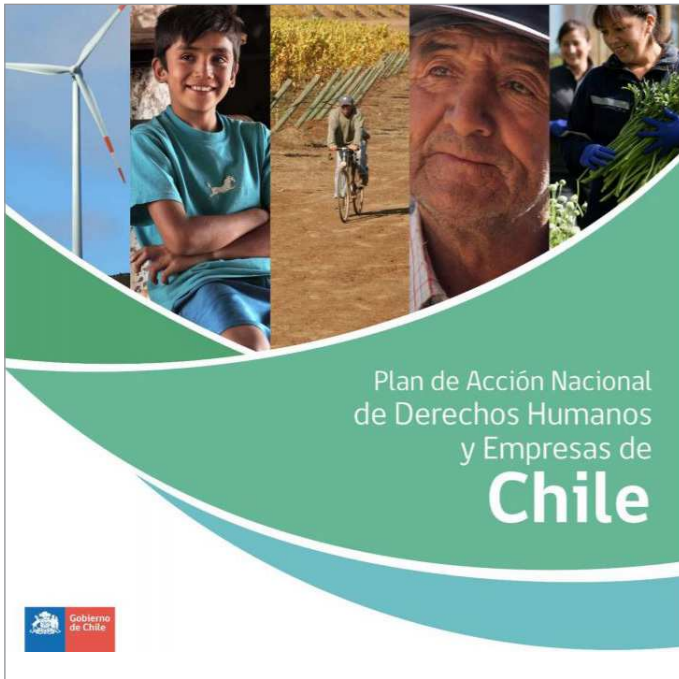


#### GLOBAL AWARD

In 2018 the Institute received a global award from the International Association for Impact Assessment recognising the Institute's work to promote human rights in impact assessments. In Myanmar we have conducted human rights impact assessments for the company Eni Myanmar. As a result the company continuously provides the villagers with information about its operations and potential impacts.

## FUNDED BY

The Intitute's work with NAPs is financed by the Swedish Development Agency (Sida) and co-financed by Danida.



TARGET 12-6

# PREVENTING BUSINESS-RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

From Georgia to Kenya and Chile. The Institute supports states in developing and implementing national action plans on business and human rights.

Since 2011 the international community has rallied around the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) as the framework to address business-related human rights abuses. The state

duty to protect against human rights abuses involving companies is an essential pillar of the UNGPs.

As experts on the UNGPs, the Institute supports states in developing and implementing national action plans (NAPs) to prevent human rights abuses by businesses.

## FACILITATING DIALOGUES BETWEEN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND BUSINESSES

In 2018 the Institute supported and facilitated the involvement of indigenous peoples in the development of Chile's national action plan on business and human rights. A lack of consultation with indigenous peoples has led to conflicts between indigenous peoples and companies in Chile, including in the energy sector. The involvement of indigenous peoples paves the way for a sustained dialogue between the Ministry of Energy, indigenous peoples' organisations and businesses in relation to energy projects and the realisation of SDG 7, which focuses on affordable and clean energy. The overall ambition of Chile's national action plan is to minimise conflict between indigenous peoples and businesses operating in Chile.

## NEED FOR MORE ACCOUNTABILITY

In 2018 we also conducted an analysis of all existing NAPs, which highlights both positives and areas of concern regarding the process of developing NAPs, as well as offering a survey of their content. By featuring relevant findings our aspiration is to facilitate the sharing of experiences and lessons learned with professionals working on the development of future NAPs.

# #03

## WE STRENGTHEN NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS

National human rights institutions (NHRIs) play an important role in safeguarding and realising human rights in their respective countries as they monitor the human rights situation and advise their parliaments and governments on human rights in legislation and policies. The catalytic role of NHRIs as drivers of sustainable development and change is recognised in the fact that fully independent, A-status NHRIs are an indicator for SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions.

Twenty-five years ago only a few countries had established NHRIs. Today there are more than 100. However, many NHRIs lack resources and face various challenges in becoming effective institutions.

As the only NHRI with a significant international mandate, the Institute plays a crucial role in enhancing the recognition and role of NHRIs in the various regional and international fora such as the UN and EU. We are working to ensure that human rights institutions remain independent and credible.

With support from the Institute a constitutional law for the creation of an independent human rights instance in Tunisia was adopted in 2018. We have designed a capacity development process that has led to new interventions by NHRIs in 15 countries.

Impact measurement shows that, since 2016, the capacity of over **80 NHRIs** has been strengthened due to their participation in our global capacity development project. Knowledge, skills and attitude within monitoring and reporting, for example, **improved by 24 %**.

In 2018 the Institute provided and conducted workshops on human rights education to **34 NHRIs**.

In 2018 we helped 9 NHRIs to develop a strategic approach to human rights education.



**TARGET 4.7**

## PUSHING FOR NATIONAL POLICIES ON HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

From Georgia to Mongolia, from Liberia to Honduras. National human rights institutions are working hard to ensure implementation of human rights education in formal education.

In 2018 Georgia's ministry of education decided to integrate a whole set of recommendations formulated by the Public Defender of Georgia into the new secondary school curricula. In a close collaboration they are developing a course on human rights education aimed at teachers of elementary and basic education.

This remarkable initiative of the Public Defender, which is impacting the country's education policy is the result of a whole chain of activities supported by the Institute. Like a growing number of other NHRIs, the Public Defender of Georgia has adopted a strategic approach to the implementation of human rights education.

### **FROM TRAINING TO STRATEGIC APPROACHES**

So far most NHRIs have tended to focus on face-to-face training activities, information campaigns in schools and development of educational material.

Working towards changing the formal structures for human rights education will allow NHRIs to create a more sustainable impact on the education sector. This is the argument in a comprehensive strategic guide, developed by members of the NHRI Network on Human Rights Education, edited by the Institute and shared with NHRIs across the world. The strategic approach described in the guide has also been the focal point for the many workshops the Institute has conducted on human rights education.

"We need to really focus on long-term approaches that will help us implement human rights education," says Roseline Eitu, Uganda Human Rights Commission, a member of the global NHRI network on human rights education.

### **FUNDED BY**

**The development of the 'Guide to a strategic approach to human rights education' is funded by our framework agreement with Danida.**

A group of young African women are shown in a classroom or meeting setting. One woman in the foreground on the left is smiling and has her right hand raised. Other women in the background are looking towards the camera or slightly to the side. They are wearing various colorful traditional and modern clothing. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting an indoor environment.

Human rights education is key for both children, youth and adults to know and claim their rights and to respect and uphold the rights of others. The Institute supports other national human rights institutions in adopting a strategic approach to human rights education.



**TARGET 16-6**

## FROM GLOBAL LEARNING TO NATIONAL ACTION

Since 2016, as part of our global capacity development programme, 80 national human rights institutions have taken part in a learning process. Fifteen of them received sub-grants of 15,000 EUR each for the implementation of projects to address human rights issues in their countries, which has led to impressive results around the world:

### **48,000 MONGOLIAN HEALTHCARE PRACTITIONERS TO ADVANCE THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS KNOWLEDGE**

The Mongolian Development Centre for Health introduced human rights as a new module in their biannual re-certification of Mongolia's 48,000 healthcare practitioners. The Mongolian Human Rights Commission developed the course, lobbied for its accreditation, and carries out the training.

### **ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE POLICE ACADEMY OF LIBERIA**

The Independent National Commission on Human Rights of Liberia mapped the integration of human rights within the police academy's curricula and formulated eight recommendations for advancing human rights. The police adopted all eight recommendations. The same methodology

will be applied in 2019 for secondary schools, the immigration services and the armed forces.

### **40 LOCAL OFFICES IN LATIN AMERICA COMMITTED TO PREVENTING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY BUSINESS**

The NHRIs of El Salvador and Guatemala established cross-border collaboration on business and human rights and delivered in-house training courses to 40 local offices. The first case to be investigated is one of a multinational company draining and polluting a large river, affecting people and communities in both countries.

### **FUNDED BY**

**The NHRI-EU project develops the capacity of NHRIs through four individualised learning programmes and through an organisational support programme for their networks. The project is funded by the EU and co-financed by our framework agreement with Danida.**



## FUNDED BY

Our work in Tunisia is funded by the Danish-Arab Partnership Programme.



TARGET

16·A

# INDEPENDENT WATCHDOG ON HUMAN RIGHTS IS EMERGING IN TUNISIA

The Institute played a major role in the process of the drafting of a new constitutional law in Tunisia. The law paves the way for a human rights instance with a remarkably broad mandate.

Since the 2011 revolution Tunisia has achieved significant progress in the field of human rights protection. On 18 October 2018, seven years after the revolution that toppled former president Zeine al-Abidine Ben Ali and unleashed the Arab Spring, the Tunisian parliament adopted a constitutional law for the creation of an independent human rights instance.

## INVESTIGATING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

The law paves the way for the creation of a human rights instance in accordance with the Paris Principles meaning, among other things, a broad mandate to protect and promote human rights, a representative board and an independent budget. The law envisages that future legislations relating to human rights be submitted to the new human rights instance for

advice and comments. As a new responsibility, the human rights instance is able to take the initiative to investigate potential human rights violations.

## ENSURING PLURALISTIC REPRESENTATION

Led by the Ministry of Human Rights in Tunisia, the Institute has strongly contributed in facilitating the entire process, from the drafting of the law proposal, to the broad public consultations with civil society organisations, to the discussion, amendments and adoption by the Parliament. The Institute co-organised and conducted consultations with all relevant stakeholders, such as civil society and state representatives from the different regions of Tunisia. This contributed to ensuring that the law drafting process was inclusive towards youth, women and citizens in marginalised areas.





MEXICO

COLOMBIA

CHILE

MOROCCO

MALI

GAMBIA

BURKINA FASO

BENIN



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 **13 countries**

## #04 WE SUPPORT TRUST-BUILDING AND SECURITY EFFORTS

Trust between a country's citizens and its authorities is a precondition for a stable and democratic society. Fair and equal access to justice for all citizens is just as important for a well-functioning democracy. Unfortunately, this is far from the reality for many countries.

Through some of our local offices we are working to build trust as part of major stability, security and development efforts. For example, in collaboration with ministries, security forces and other state authorities in the Middle East, Eurasia and Africa we support the development of laws and policies that promote human rights and strengthen police forces and judiciaries. We consider these tools of governance to be major building blocks for ensuring that citizens trust the national institutions of their country.

In the Sahel region we contribute to trust-building between citizens and their police forces by supporting human rights training of police officers. In Kyrgyzstan, which has experienced greater openness and more democratic reforms since independence in 1991 than has most of its neighbours, we have helped increase justice delivery to citizens living in remote rural areas. In Zambia we have supported the development of a law that ensures legal aid service to some of the countries' most marginalised persons. As the result of a three-year project led by the Institute, 57 Nepalese police stations are now using human rights law to prevent torture and other improper use of force.

In 2018 we supported human rights training of approximately **4,000 police officers** in Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali.

In Kyrgyzstan **11,700 persons** have received free legal aid with our support since 2016.

More than **11,000** persons in Zambia have now received legal aid through fifteen legal desks whose establishment we have supported.

**80 %** of students graduated from the Arab Master in Human Rights and Democracy programme that we support in Beirut are now working in the human rights sector.



TARGET 16-3

# NEW POLICY BENEFITS ALL ZAMBIANS

The Institute has contributed to the development of a policy that enhances justice delivery in Zambia. 11,000 marginalised persons, either in detention or living in rural areas far away from professional lawyers, have received legal aid from paralegals.

Two-thirds of the population in Zambia are living in poverty and many of them reside in rural areas unable to access the services of lawyers, who are mostly urban-based. When wanting to take legal action many Zambians are faced with a judicial system they often do not understand and are unable to afford to hire people who can represent and assist them to navigate the judicial process.

In 2018 the government of Zambia adopted a national legal aid policy, which ensures efficient delivery of free legal aid services to all Zambians. The Institute has played a key role in the development of the policy as providers of technical assistance and expertise to the Ministry of Justice since 2012.

### PARALEGALS PROVIDE FREE LEGAL SERVICES

Because the policy explicitly recognises the role of civil society organisations in providing legal aid



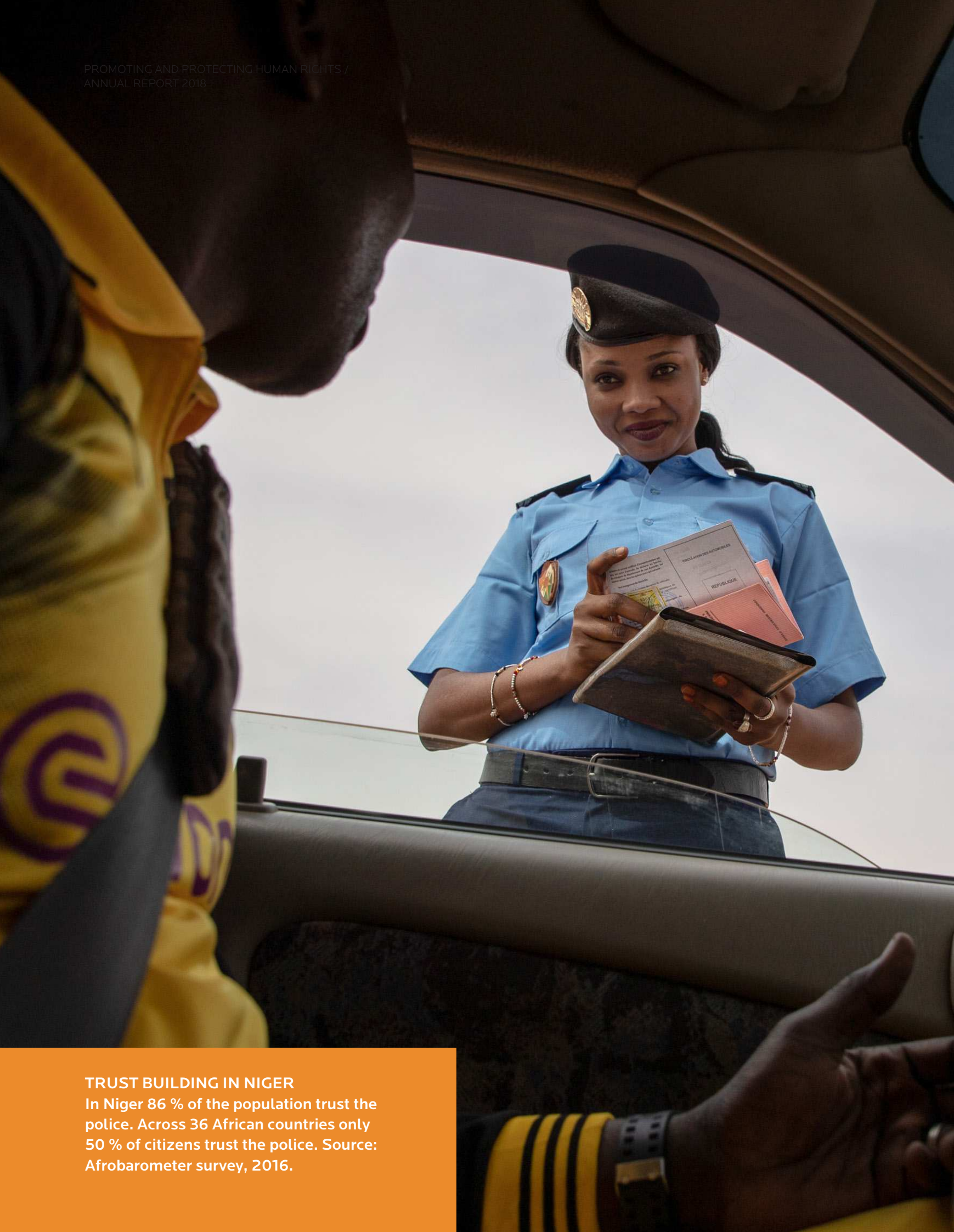
In 2018 paralegals based in three different Zambian provinces provided legal aid to almost 11,000 persons.

through paralegals, it paves the way for increased access to justice for the many Zambians who have the right to guidance in legal procedures. Paralegals are individuals trained in basic law and human rights and trusted members of the local communities committed to securing access to justice for the poor.

The policy recognises seven ways to provide legal aid services. One of these is through legal desks operated by full-time paralegals and legal aid assistants, operating from police stations, prisons and courts. This service was established in 2013. Fifteen desks are currently up and running with technical assistance from the Institute and pay special attention to women, juveniles, minors, persons with disability and persons living with HIV. In 2018 the fifteen desks based in three different provinces provided legal aid to almost 11,000 persons. Women and juveniles constitute 30% of the clients.

### FUNDED BY

The development of the policy and the operation of the desks are funded by the EU and Germany (MBZ).



### TRUST BUILDING IN NIGER

In Niger 86 % of the population trust the police. Across 36 African countries only 50 % of citizens trust the police. Source: Afrobarometer survey, 2016.

## FUNDED BY

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



TARGET 16.6

# POLICE TRAINING CONTRIBUTES TO STABILISATION IN TERROR-RIDDEN SAHEL REGION

In 2018 over 4,000 police officers received human rights training using tools developed by the Institute and the police schools in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger.

Insecurity and transnational crime remain major threats in the Sahel region. The ongoing challenges call for major stabilisation and security efforts. Supported by the Institute, the police schools of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger have become powerful human rights defenders, contributing to making the police a service for the population.

Regionally, the police schools meet in the network POLI.DH (Policing and Human Rights in Africa) established with the Institute's support, to share good practices on how to teach human rights and ensure high human rights standards in police work. In 2018 the police schools of Mauritania and Chad joined the network, which now encompasses the whole area of the G5 Sahel Joint Force, a regional force that jointly fights terrorism in the region.

In 2018, as part of Denmark's regional stabilisation programme in the Sahel, 1,800 police officers in the most insecure region of Burkina Faso received human rights training based on tools developed by the National Police School with support

from the Institute. In Mali, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission conducted human rights training of over 1,000 police cadets and officers in 2018, also using tools developed by the National Police School of Mali itself. Development of customised training tools in human rights is a key feature of the partnership between the Institute and the police schools.

Since the beginning of the partnership in Niger almost 20 years ago, ten thousand police officers have been trained in the human rights curriculum. This has led to increased trust between population and police, which plays a key role in the fight against terrorism. Without trust the population might not consider telling the police when they observe anything unusual that requires investigation. Furthermore, studies have indicated that young people in the Sahel region have been radicalised as a result of violations by the security forces. Trust and collaboration between the local population and the police are thus important to mitigate radicalisation.



TARGET 16.3

## BUILDING STRONGER INSTITUTIONS IN KYRGYZSTAN

Enhanced access to justice and increased awareness of human rights. The Institute supports several activities benefitting the Kyrgyz people.

In 2018 the Ombudsman Institution of Kyrgyzstan launched an electronic complaints-handling module on its website, which has given citizens of the former Soviet state the opportunity to submit complaints online for the first time.

It has helped cut down lengthy bureaucratic procedure, provided easier access for vulnerable groups and people living in remote rural areas, as well as reducing cases of corruption. The new web-based complaints-handling module is just one of many of improvements that the Institute has contributed to in the Central Asian country since 2004.

### RAISING LEGAL AWARENESS

In order to strengthen citizens' awareness of their rights, the Ministry of Justice began conducting legal awareness-raising campaigns across the main regions of the country under the slogan 'Know Your Rights'.

During the period 2016–18, following four waves of the campaign, 11,700 persons received free legal aid across the country. The campaign received wide media coverage, including on social media, and has been a catalyst for cooperation among governmental entities at both central and local levels. The participation of the Ombudsman Institution in the campaigns has contributed substantially to strengthening the people's awareness of their rights.

### STRONGER IMPLEMENTATION OF LAWS

Lack of implementation of laws in various regions is one of the major challenges in Kyrgyzstan. In order to strengthen implementation, the Constitutional Committee of the Kyrgyz parliament has finalised a 'Monitoring Manual on Implementation of Laws'. It is the first document ever produced by the legislative body to provide oversight of the delivery of public services by the government.

### FUNDED BY

The project is financed by the EU and co-financed by our framework agreement with Danida and implemented by a consortium of six international organisations led by GIZ.





### KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

As part of the campaign 'Know your rights' the Institute's partners and project team informed people living far away from Kyrgyzstan's capital about their rights and access to free legal aid.



TARGET 16-10

## COMMITTED TO TORTURE PREVENTION IN NEPAL

Supported by the Institute, 57 senior police officers at Nepalese law enforcement institutions are using human rights to address problems that have led to improper use of force amounting to torture.

57 Nepalese police stations working hard to prevent torture and other improper use of force. Their commitment is the result of a three-year project led by the Institute that has helped them identify and address the root causes of torture. By coaching their officers to develop their skills and knowledge pertaining to human rights, they have developed projects that are, today, helping to reduce torture and inhumane treatment at their stations.

### **MORE SUSPECTS TREATED WITH DIGNITY**

Root causes of inhumane treatment identified at the police stations dealing with investigative



interviews include lack of systematic planning and of psychological competencies, as well as absence of video cameras, both in custody and interrogation rooms, to record interviews with suspects. In order to address this, 154 investigative officers have now received training in the PEACE model for investigative interviewing, which teaches them how to treat suspects with dignity. Inspired by the PEACE model, many of the stations have established dedicated interrogation rooms equipped with recording cameras to oversee interviews and have increased their awareness of human rights.

### **ENHANCED INVESTIGATION**

A survey of one of the police stations shows that prior to the project most suspects report having felt nervous and unwilling to share information. Today nearly 95% of them experience that their rights are respected and are willing to share information. The increased number of suspects willing to share information has improved the investigation process and helped the police solve cases. This means that, ultimately, the officers' motivation for protecting human rights has increased.

### **FUNDED BY**

The project was implemented in close collaboration with the Kathmandu School of Law and the Danish Police and was funded by the Danish Embassy in Nepal.

# 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.

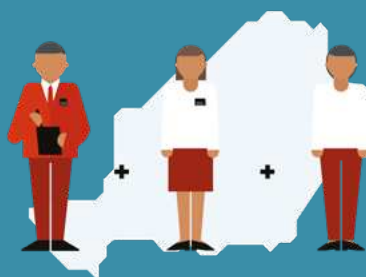
## RESEARCH CAPACITY AND PROVEN TRACK RECORD

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



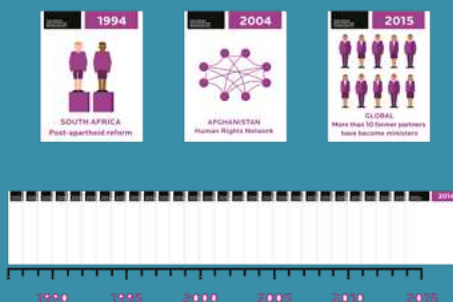
LEGITIMACY



LOCAL APPROACH



RESEARCH CAPACITY



PROVEN TRACK RECORD

Read more

[humanrights.dk](http://humanrights.dk)