



Annual report 2020





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Foreword

It is with some amount of pride that I present this annual report to Geneva Call's friends and partners, as 2020 has been a very challenging, yet fruitful year for our Foundation. As the pandemic overwhelmed the world, Geneva Call still managed to receive an Armed Non-State Actor (ANSA) in Geneva for the signature of a *Deed of Commitment* at the end of February and to hold our "Garance Talks" with four ANSAs in our headquarters, a few days before the beginning of the national lockdown.

Despite all the travel restrictions, our colleagues in the field have managed to keep in touch with all the ANSAs with whom we engage around the world and to achieve major impact, as shown in this report, in particular on health and child protection issues. In Iraq, Yemen, the DRC, Afghanistan, the Philippines, South Sudan and Myanmar, Geneva Call has gained new ground and has engaged hard-to-reach ANSAs.

Paradoxically, the challenges caused by the pandemic have rendered some of the hardest to engage field commanders more inclined to listen to humanitarian messages and abide by at least some of their obligations under International Humanitarian Law: a good first step in a long journey.

In 2020, sexual violence has increased in almost all zones of conflict. Geneva Call has kept this thematic at the forefront of our engagement priorities in all contexts. An in-depth evaluation of our *"Deed of Commitment on the prohibition of sexual violence in armed conflict and towards the elimination of gender discrimination"* has shown that our field staff address this issue in a wide and holistic way that incorporates all pillars of the "Women, Peace and Security Agenda" under UNSC resolution 1325. Geneva Call is clearly leading the way in promoting this agenda systematically in areas controlled by ANSAs.

During the pandemic, Geneva Call decided to suspend new signatures of *Deeds of Commitment* with ANSAs, as these require monitoring obligations that are difficult to comply with under the present world-wide travel restrictions. Instead, 14 ANSAs have signed a "unilateral declaration" of respect for basic humanitarian rules. Several of these will be invited to sign the formal *Deed of Commitment* in Geneva when travel restrictions permit.

I would like to thank all donors that have allowed us to carry out our mission in 2020 in accordance with our 2020-2023 strategic

plan. The needs on the ground are immense and we are still far from covering all the conflict areas where Geneva Call's action could make a real difference. The tangible achievements and impact realised despite the challenges throughout 2020 have only been possible thanks to the support of our donors. Importantly for an organization like Geneva Call, the receipt of unrestricted contributions provides flexibility and sustainability for operations.

Three governments have allocated to Geneva Call unrestricted funds that have allowed us to strengthen internal processes and control systems to ensure the optimal use of resources. My special thanks goes to these three donors, as core functional expertise at the heart of the organization is essential to ensure the sustainability of our operations and the delivery of real impact for the vulnerable communities we serve. With my thanks to all our donors, let me launch a special appeal for unrestricted donations, for sustained funding for operations that we have already invested in, so that, together, we can address Geneva Call's mission and expand to new areas of needs.

Alain Délétroz
Director General

Countries of operations 2020



Geneva Call's Mission

Vision

During situations of armed conflict, humanitarian norms and principles are respected, and civilians are protected.

Mission

In situations of armed conflict, Geneva Call, as a neutral, impartial and independent international humanitarian organization, endeavours to strengthen the respect of humanitarian norms by armed non-State actors, in order to improve the protection of civilians.

Values

- Humanity
- Neutrality
- Impartiality
- Independence
- Accountability
- Dedication
- Respect

Geneva Call works in situations of armed conflict or armed violence where there are one or more armed non-State actors (ANSAs) fighting government armed forces or other ANSAs, whose practices may have a direct negative impact on the protection of civilians. During conflict, fighters must comply with humanitarian norms enshrined in international humanitarian law (IHL) and in relevant international human rights law (IHRL) sources. Geneva Call engages with ANSAs to encourage them to comply with these norms.

Since Geneva Call began its work over 20 years ago, it has developed a unique methodology to increase awareness of, and respect for IHL and IHRL by ANSAs. In fact, Geneva Call is the only organization in the world focused exclusively on creating lasting behaviour change among ANSAs and is widely recognized as such. It has managed to engage 169 key ANSAs in 26 countries, many of which have taken active steps and made formal commitments to respect specific humanitarian norms.

Geneva Call engages ANSAs on specific thematic IHL and IHRL-related areas such as the ban on anti-personnel mines and cooperation in mine action, the protection of children from the effects of armed conflict, the prohibition of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict and towards the elimination of gender discrimination. Furthermore, it has recently developed its thematic humanitarian engagement efforts on the protection of cultural heritage in armed conflict, the protection of health care, the prohibition of forced displacement and is currently working on developing a thematic linked to famine prevention.

66 ANSAs have signed an innovative instrument known as the *Deed of Commitment (Deed)*. The Deed is a mechanism developed by Geneva Call to enable ANSAs to pledge to respect IHL and relevant norms of IHRL and to be held publicly accountable for their commitments.

Geneva Call subscribes to the humanitarian principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence, and ensures transparency by informing stakeholders, including the States concerned, of its engagement efforts with ANSAs.



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Table of Contents

Progress towards strategy 2020-2023	7
Thematic area	10
International Humanitarian Norms and Principles	10
Protection of health care in armed conflict	11
Displacement	12
Cultural heritage	13
Gender	14
Landmines and explosive weapons	15
Child protection and education	16
Africa	18
Africa: regional approach	19
Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)	20
Libya	21
Mali	22
South Sudan	23
Asia and Europe	24
Asia and Europe: regional approach	25
Afghanistan	26
Myanmar	27
Pakistan	28
The Philippines	29
Thailand	30
Ukraine	31
Latin America	32
Latin America: regional approach	33
Colombia	34
Near and Middle East (NAME)	36
Near and Middle East: regional approach - Regional Support Unit	37
Iraq	38
Syria	39
Yemen	40
Operational Support	41
Policy and legal unit	41
Communication	42
Administration and Finance	42
Human Resources	43
Financial Report	44
Geneva Call is thankful to its donors, supporters and staff	48
Support us	48
Board of Trustees	50
Directorate	50

Progress towards strategy 2020-2023

During 2020, Geneva Call has strived to respond to the evolution of conflict patterns, requiring an increase of the organization's capacities and expertise to ensure a stronger and deeper impact on civilian populations affected by armed conflict. The new strategy of the organization sets out interlinked pathways to dialogue and the protection of civilians during armed conflict, through the increased respect for humanitarian norms by armed non-state actors (ANSAs). Having significantly developed and expanded its expertise during the past years, Geneva Call has articulated its new strategy around two overriding objectives which guide all of Geneva Call's activities and therefore continue to position the organization as a crucial and conflict sensitive actor in the protection of civilians. These two overriding objectives encompass both its **operations** and **organizational structure & governance**:

- **DEEPEN EXPERTISE on the engagement of ANSAs and consolidate its action on the ground:** Geneva Call continues to consolidate its action in the current countries of intervention by more closely monitoring the actual commitment of ANSAs who are already engaged and by reaching out to additional ANSAs when possible.
- **STRENGTHEN GENEVA CALL'S CAPACITY to implement its operations effectively and sustainably:** Geneva Call works towards achieving financial sustainability and independence by establishing the necessary structure and elements to conduct its mission effectively.

OPERATIONS

Geneva Call continued to **strengthen its engagement of ANSAs** throughout 2020 in 14 contexts worldwide where its operations are located (Libya, Mali, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), South Sudan, Ukraine, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan/Pakistan, Myanmar, Thailand, the Philippines and Colombia). As the pandemic crises hit the world and impacted Geneva Call's field work and activities, several ANSAs in different countries, such as DRC, Mali, Iraq,

Yemen, etc., took concrete engagements to better respect International Humanitarian Law (IHL) by signing Unilateral Declarations or other commitments and by making concrete behaviour changes to protect the civilian population. An important achievement in several countries, such as Iraq, Yemen, DRC etc. was the **facilitation of humanitarian access** for the organizations and actors providing direct support to the people in need, in the areas controlled by armed groups.

Building on previous experiences and lessons learnt, specific efforts were focused on **effective monitoring of the commitments** taken by ANSAs, signatories of the *Deeds of Commitment* and/or other commitments. Geneva Call's teams in different countries and regions strengthened their internal knowledge and capacities to better identify and measure the impact on the ground, thanks to the improvement of the data management system and the development of additional tools adapted to regional and country context specificities.

In order to achieve its objectives, during 2020, Geneva Call continued to **train and build the capacity of programmatic staff in their engagement work with ANSAs**, despite the challenges imposed by the pandemic situation. While initial workplans had to be revised and adapted, alternative solutions and resources were applied to increase internal capacities (mostly via online tools). This contributed to Geneva Call's strategic objective aiming at applying a harmonized working manner and methodology across the contexts of operations.

In 2020, Geneva Call also explored the possibility of **developing humanitarian engagement in a new context**, namely in the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding territories. Following the eruption of an armed conflict between Azerbaijan and the self-proclaimed Republic of Artsakh together with Armenia, Geneva Call undertook 2 field assessments aiming to develop an engagement strategy with key actors of the crisis and build acceptance of humanitarian engagement.

In addition, important efforts were made and work accomplished to **engage new ANSAs, including "hard-to-reach" ones** in different contexts, notably in Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen and Myanmar. These efforts complemented the overall strategy of the organization by facilitating improved, safer and more sustainable humanitarian access.

Throughout the year, Geneva Call continued to strengthen its work through **research and dissemination of good practices**. The organization continued to collect and analyse data on ANSAs' practice and interpretation of IHL as part of a unique research project conducted in collaboration with the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, the American University in Cairo, the Global IHL Centre of Diakonia and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). In addition, Geneva Call also completed the development of a series of new educational and training tools on the protection of health care, displaced persons and cultural property in armed conflict.

As part of the organization's guiding values, Geneva Call pays particular attention to the **important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building and humanitarian access, fully in line with the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security (s/res/1325 (2000))**. As of December 2020, 25 ANSAs have signed the *Deed of Commitment on the prohibition of sexual violence in armed conflict and towards the elimination of gender discrimination*. Incorporating all pillars of the Women, Peace and Security agenda, the *Deed of Commitment* adopts a holistic and comprehensive approach. Moreover, during the engagement with ANSAs and affected communities, Geneva Call focuses particularly on the gender aspect, especially promoting actions and measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, such as rape and other forms of sexual abuse, in situations of armed conflict.

STRUCTURE & GOVERNANCE

As it looks to achieve ongoing **strengthened financial sustainability and accountability**, Geneva Call has continued on a path of improvement in its systems, processes, procedures as well as strengthening the team to bring about stronger financial management outcomes for the organization throughout 2020. An overall risk policy framework has been defined with the establishment of a consolidated risk register and risk management policy and a routine for annual review. A finance staff induction package has been developed including related policies, templates, and been implemented during the year as staff is onboarded. Several policies were upgraded and introduced during 2020, such as Delegation of Authority for all decisions committing the organization to legal or financial obligations, budget management and control policies, as well as travel and cash management.

The organization has invested in an independent business review, which examines existing systems, processes and workflows with the objective of highlighting bottlenecks and improvement opportunities. The outcome of the review is expected to yield a blueprint highlighting the priorities for change, to include financial systems and digital enhancements, to improve reporting and information management.

Geneva Call has focused on increasing and **improving its funding** by securing multiyear core support and increases to its core funding in 2020. Several donors also expressed an interest in increased thematic support, notably in the areas of Child Protection and Women Peace and Security. All key funders continued or renewed their funding for 2020 despite the challenging conditions due to Covid-19. In addition, several new earmarked donor countries came on board in 2020 to support specific programmes and a contribution to reserves was possible through the support of Geneva based private donors.

Geneva Call has shown modest budget growth in 2020 and can report that its revised budget was almost fully funded for the period under review thanks to the generous support of its donors and the trust they place in Geneva Call to deliver results. Core and Programme donors were presented a revised budget in September and an appeal for additional core funding to further strengthen organizational support and programme monitoring was made and fully funded. A 2021 Pledging Conference was held at the end of November 2020 where donors showed great interest in the work of Geneva Call resulting in renewed support from existing donors as well as new donors and increased financial support.

Geneva Call has continued to **attract outstanding profiles with a high degree of expertise and dedication** by further developing and promoting its human resources talent management systems, policies and tools. The Geneva Call talent management system comprises four elements: recruitment, performance management, learning and finally, compensation management.

The recruitment of talented staff deploying to difficult locations continues to be a challenge, as the humanitarian sector competes for the same limited resources. Despite this challenge, Geneva Call has seen strong interest in the number of applications it receives for advertised positions, demonstrating the niche that Geneva Call offers as an employer. There have been 39 staff members recruited for field positions and 3 at HQ during 2020. The performance management system is developed in conformity with the standards of best-practice. The system of performance appraisal has been implemented across all areas of the organization. Human resources regularly engage with staff and management to ensure effective use of the performance management system and to provide support and strengthening where and when needed. During 2021 Geneva Call will embark on the review of its salary scales focused on the local markets and competitive benchmarks by functions.

In efforts to **streamline activities carried out by headquarters and local offices**, the key roles required in country missions and regional support structures have been redefined and included in new project plans and budgets with a view to transfer accounting, fundraising, grant management and Project Cycle Management activities to field offices. Staff training and induction packages, as mentioned above have been developed to support this ongoing transfer.

Despite the constraints imposed by the global pandemic, Geneva Call's 20th anniversary in 2020 provided additional opportunities to enhance its visibility and influence. In addition to **advocating** for the necessary humanitarian space to be maintained, the organization's **communication** has evolved in a way which more actively demonstrates the impact of its work. Through elements such as virtual events, thematic briefings and the integration of the communication of Covid-19 measures and responses in its engagement with ANSAs, Geneva Call's communication has evolved to better show the impact of its work and to allow stakeholders to better understand the unique added value and expertise of the organization. The need to engage with ANSAs in order to protect civilians and to guarantee humanitarian access to territories under their control has been a particular focus of advocacy efforts during this time of pandemic.



International Humanitarian Norms and Principles

The vast majority of armed conflicts occurring around the globe today involve armed non-State actors (ANSAs) fighting against government forces or other ANSAs. Although International Humanitarian Law (IHL) establishes a comprehensive legal framework binding upon all parties to conflict, violations still continue and have a devastating effect on the civilian population. They include deliberate attacks on civilians and civilian facilities, such as schools and hospitals; sexual violence, the unlawful recruitment and use of children in hostilities, the indiscriminate use of explosive weapons and attacks against humanitarian workers. Many of these violations are committed by ANSAs.

The core of Geneva Call's work is to improve the protection of civilians during armed conflicts by engaging ANSAs to respect international humanitarian norms, in particular on the thematic areas listed in the following sections. Geneva Call has been engaging and training ANSAs on the respect of IHL since 2012. Trust has been built with the leadership of these groups, leading to the adoption and revi-

sion of codes of conduct and humanitarian unilateral declarations and agreements. In addition, Geneva Call has strived to share its experience and expertise with the humanitarian community through various ways.

Enhanced understanding of ANSAs practice and interpretation of IHL:

- Throughout the year, Geneva Call continued to collect and analyse data on ANSAs' practice and interpretation of IHL as part of a unique research project undertaken in collaboration with the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, the American University in Cairo, the Global IHL Centre of Diakonia and NRC. Field trips were conducted in Myanmar, the Philippines and Somaliland in January and February. Two case-studies (on FARC-EP and MNLA) are at an advanced stage and will be published during 2021. Others are ongoing. Preliminary results were presented during the Geneva Peace Week in November 2020 and various other events. Drawing on the database

www.theirwords.org and case studies, the project aims to increase knowledge of ANSAs' views and inform strategies to promote their compliance with IHL.

- On 18th February 2020, Geneva Call held its third session of the *Garance Talks* on the topic of the conduct of hostilities by ANSAs. The meeting brought together experts and four ANSAs from around the globe to address the challenges faced by the latter when attempting to comply with IHL rules, in particular distinction, proportionality and precaution. Different challenges were identified from the discussions, notably the "capacity" of the respective ANSA to actually implement rules that are primarily designed for the armed forces of States and the different interpretations that ANSAs may have of certain legal terms, such as "direct participation in hostilities". In addition to discussing the normative framework, the meeting also addressed the integration of the rules governing the conduct of hostilities within the internal regulations of the ANSAs which participated and their actual implementation.



Protection of health care in armed conflict

The provision and protection of health care in conflict-affected areas were of particular concern for Geneva Call during 2020. In addition to the already existing scenario in which health care personnel, facilities and transports come under attack, COVID-19 was reported in various armed conflicts around the globe, thus exacerbating the humanitarian needs of the population. Ensuring that individuals have access to health care has been challenging in this context. The Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) has documented that in several countries, parties to conflict have directly affected hospitals treating COVID-19 and quarantine centres. Ambulances transporting test results and testing teams were also subject of attacks. ANSAs have been involved in various related incidents during the year. They have also adopted measures to contain the spread of the virus in the territories they control, closing business, establishing lockdowns, increasing health checks, and imposing travel controls.

Geneva Call started to work on the protection of health care in armed conflict in 2018. To date, 2 ANSAs have signed the *Deed of Commitment for the protection of health care in armed conflict* and have taken measures to implement them. 14 ANSAs have signed unilateral declarations during the pandemic.

Strengthened compliance by armed non-State actors with humanitarian norms:

- Geneva Call completed the development of new educational materials on the protection of health care to be used in training activities with ANSAs, including an illustrated booklet on its *Deed of Commitment* and an immersive, scenario-based video.



Enhanced protection of conflict affected populations:

- Geneva Call launched a COVID-19 Armed Non-State Actors' Response Monitor with the goal of collecting systemic information on those measures adopted by ANSAs, when and how these have evolved over time. Preliminary conclusions on the impact and content of the Response Monitor were shared in different fora, including at the Paris Peace Forum in November. Geneva Call also supported various commitments undertaken by ANSAs through a Unilateral Declaration on COVID-19 and Health Care.

- In South Sudan, following Geneva Call's engagement and discussions on signing the Unilateral Declaration on COVID-19 and Health Care, the National Salvation Front (NAS) issued a press release calling on the South Sudanese People to help mitigate the spread of the pandemic and follow the measures and regulations of the WHO.

Displacement



By the end of 2020, an unprecedented 79.5 million people around the world were forced from their homes by armed conflict, persecution, or violence, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). ANSAs are present in most countries with high levels of internal displacement. They may be responsible for forced displacement, prevent displaced person from returning home or prevent the delivery of humanitarian assistance. In some instances, they also control territory where displaced people live. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the vulnerability of internally displaced people who are often without access to basic health care and

sanitation and live in densely populated sites. This is particularly the case for those who live in areas controlled by ANSAs.

Geneva Call started to engage ANSAs on the protection of displaced people in 2017.

Strengthened compliance by armed non-State actors with humanitarian norms:

- As part of its thematic engagement, Geneva Call completed new educational material and training tools in 2020. First, relying on the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, an illus-

trated booklet with key messages for fighters in armed conflicts explains the rules to prevent forced displacement as well as the rules granting protection to internally displaced people. Second, Geneva Call produced a new video on the prohibition of forced displacement for its “Fighter not Killer” campaign. Finally, Geneva Call developed a series of immersive, scenario-based videos to be used in training activities with ANSAs.

Cultural heritage

Armed conflict continues to threaten cultural heritage. Direct and deliberate attacks against cultural heritage, notably by ANSAs, as illustrated by the attacks against Timbuktu in Mali in 2012 or Palmyra in Syria in 2015, have profound long-term consequences. In addition, as a result of the urbanisation of warfare, historical monuments, religious buildings, and other cultural sites have suffered significant collateral damage. The illegal excavation of archaeological sites, looting and illicit trafficking of cultural objects further endanger cultural heritage.

Geneva Call started to engage ANSAs on the protection of cultural heritage in armed conflict in 2018.

Strengthened compliance by armed non-State actors with humanitarian norms:

- Against this background, Geneva Call completed the development of new educational tools to disseminate the protections granted under IHL to cultural property, namely an illustrated booklet with key messages for fighters and

a short video for its “Fighter not Killer” campaign. These were developed together with relevant stakeholders, who in turn praised the materials for rendering accessible highly technical rules to all those participating in armed conflict.



Gender

Sexual violence continues to be pervasive in armed conflict. In his 2020 report, the UN Secretary General flags that most allegations of sexual violence are attributed to ANSAs active in 9 countries: Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Mali, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Syria and Nigeria. In the same report, the UN Secretary General underlines the linkages between gender inequalities and sexual violence and highlights how many ANSAs contribute to or uphold deep-rooted gender inequalities in their policies and practices. The Covid-19 pandemic and the response thereto compounded the threats to women and girls in armed conflict, in what has been called a shadow pandemic by the UN Special Representative to the Secretary-General on sexual violence. On the one hand, the Covid-19 pandemic led to a rise in sexual violence in conflict areas. On the other hand, fewer services have become available to victims and survivors, amongst others due to movement restrictions, reluctance to visit health facilities for fear of exposure and the re-direction of existing resources.

Geneva Call has been working on gender issues since 2012. To date, 25 ANSAs have signed the *Deed of Commitment prohibiting sexual violence in armed conflict and towards the elimination of gender discrimination* and have taken measures to implement them.

Strengthened internal capacities of Geneva Call's to engage with ANSAs:

- In 2020, Geneva Call completed an internal evaluation of its engagement of ANSAs on the prohibition of sexual violence in armed conflict and gender discrimination. As part of this thematic engagement, 25 ANSAs have signed the *Deed of Commitment on the prohibition of sexual violence in armed conflict and towards the elimination of gender discrimination*. Incorporating all pillars of the Women, Peace and Security agenda, the *Deed of Commitment* adopts a holistic and comprehensive approach. The internal evaluation identified the major strengths of Geneva Call's thematic engagement, including in respect of its work with signatory ANSAs to the *Deed of Commitment*. In particular, Geneva Call is among the few organizations that addresses these issues in areas controlled

by ANSAs. The evaluation also provided recommendations for further improvement of the thematic engagement.

Enhanced protection of conflict affected populations:

- In the Philippines, Geneva Call completed a project on the empowerment of women and with convergence of Islamic Law and IHL at its centre. This focused on supporting the capacity of Alimat, female Ulama or Islamic scholars, and local civil society to advocate for increased compliance with international humanitarian norms and relevant Islamic Laws by ANSAs. Following the project, Geneva Call initiated the design of new materials/content for preventing Sexual Violence together with Alimat which will be launched in 2021.
- In Yemen, following its work in relation to gender and diversity aspects, Geneva Call has made an overall mapping of women in security forces with the view to identify gender issues. Geneva Call also carried out focussed group discussion on the issues and barriers to women's effective participation in security forces.



Landmines and explosive weapons

According to the latest Landmine Monitor, from mid-2019 through October 2020, the use of antipersonnel (AP) mines by ANSAs has been confirmed in at least six countries, including Afghanistan, Colombia, India, Libya, Myanmar, and Pakistan. There were also unconfirmed allegations of new AP mine use in Cameroon, Mali, the Philippines, Syria, Turkey, and Yemen, among other countries. 2019 was the fifth year in a row with high numbers of recorded casualties due to the indiscriminate use of landmines, of which the vast majority were civilians. In addition to the human cost, AP mines and other explosive weapons hamper the delivery of essential services, such as health care and education. Their presence also severely hinders the delivery of humanitarian relief, the return of displaced people and economic development.

Geneva Call has been working on landmine issues since it was set up in 2000. To date, 54 ANSAs have signed the *Deed of Commitment for the adherence to a total ban on anti-personnel mines and for cooperation in Mine Action* and have taken measures to implement them, such as stockpile destruction. Other ANSAs have taken similar pledges. Moreover, in recent years, Geneva Call has also addressed the use of explosive weapons in populated areas by ANSAs.

Induced policy change within ANSAs:

- In Yemen, the Southern Transitional Council (STC) agreed to move towards the implementation stage of the signed Geneva Call's *Deed of Commitment for the adherence to a total ban on anti-personnel mines and for cooperation in Mine Action*. Geneva Call worked with high-ranking officials, focusing on the prohibition use of landmines, AP mines and encouraging the removal of explosive remnants of war (ERW) in densely populated areas in coordination with mandate holder organizations and agencies. The STC expressed an interest in disseminating knowledge on this issue among other combatants who are under their responsibility/command.



- In Afghanistan, Geneva Call continued its humanitarian engagement with the Taliban, which expressed interest in having their field commanders trained on IHL, with a special interest on lawful means of war and legitimate use of explosives.

Strengthened capacities of operational partners:

- In Myanmar, after receiving training from Geneva Call, the Ta'ang Student and Youth Union (TSYU) released a public statement on the risk of AP mines, recommending that "all armed groups shall give respect and follow the rules or obligations under the international law of war, conventions, shall not use land mines, not operate military plan in concerning to harm civilians and its objects, and if any land mines from any armed groups did destroy to civilian shall have both responsible and accountable" and designed context-appropriate illustrations on the prohibition of AP mines targeting members of the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA).

- In Pakistan, Geneva Call strengthened the capacities of its partner SPADO, which leads the Pakistan chapter of the Landmine Report, in developing their knowledge of IHL in order for them to better disseminate key messages to their stakeholders. Geneva Call conducted trainings and awareness-raising sessions with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), local leaders, religious scholars, teachers and youth on key principles of international humanitarian law, including the prohibition of AP mines as part of discussions on the means and methods of warfare.

Enhanced protection of conflict affected populations:

- In Afghanistan, religious leaders supported Geneva Call in contextualising its core IHL messages, with corresponding Islamic references, including a specific message on prohibited means and methods of warfare. Geneva Call also launched a mass-media campaign on its Facebook page in Dari and Pashto, covering key messages of IHL, including the ban on AP mines, reaching over 2 million users, and developed a corresponding phone application.

Child protection and education



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According to Save the Children, 415 million children worldwide are living in conflict settings, including in high-intensity conflict zones. They are being killed and maimed, abducted and recruited and used in hostilities. Of the parties that are listed as perpetrators of grave violations against children in the 2020 report by the UN Secretary-General on children and armed conflict, most are ANSAs. Many children involved in armed conflict are indeed to be found among their ranks. The disruption of education is another major concern. In 2020, the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA) noted that in 2017-2018, there were at least 37 countries where attacks on education or military use of schools were reported. This not only creates a risk for the students and teachers, but also has an impact on their access to education. The denial of humanitarian access has also led to devastating consequences for children, who were, in some cases, denied food, shelter and medical care. In some contexts, they were also arbitrarily deprived of their liberty.

Geneva Call has been working towards the protection of children and education in armed conflict since 2010. To date, 28 ANSAs have signed the *Deed of Commitment for the protection of children from the effects of armed conflict*, the last one being in 2020, and have taken measures to implement the obligations contained therein, such as demobilization of children from their ranks. Other ANSAs have undertaken similar pledges.

Strengthened compliance by armed non-State actors with humanitarian norms:

- In 2020, and in addition to its operational activities, Geneva Call has continued working on these thematic areas by disseminating some of the challenges and successes it has encountered in the last ten years. An article summarizing Geneva Call's experience and lessons learned on these issues was published in the *International Review of the Red Cross*.

- In the Philippines, Geneva Call has had a series of consultations with Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), and its Ministry of Basic Higher and Technical Education (MBHTE) and the Committee on Tarbiyah on the Protection of Education within the autonomous region. 2021 will see concrete action on the thematic in coordination with the ANSA in transition.

Strengthened capacities of affected communities:

- In the Philippines, after Geneva Call's work with communities, aiming at increasing their awareness on child protection and education, the educational personnel at community level expressed support for the call to protect schools, teachers and students and approached Geneva Call to design and produce posters and other products for an awareness campaign.

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Africa



Africa: regional approach



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What was the conflict situation in the region, targeted countries?

The African continent has seen a continuation of several armed conflicts throughout 2020. Civilians continued to bear the brunt of these violent confrontations and have been victims of a multitude of IHL violations such as indiscriminate attacks, forced displacement, recruitment of children into armed groups, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and attacks on medical facilities.

Security incidents against humanitarian workers remain at a high level, limiting humanitarian access in hard-to-reach areas of conflict affected countries (Sahel region, South Sudan and the DRC). In several countries of operations, Security Sector Reforms processes have been put in place or are being negotiated. This has altered the nature of ANSAs that Geneva Call engages. As long as full integration is not concluded, Geneva Call maintains engagement with ANSAs who are signatory parties to peace agreements.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had multiple impacts on public health, local economies and livelihoods. African governments took measures to mitigate the pandemic, leading to a slow-down of Geneva Call's activities in spring. However, by mid-2020, Geneva Call was able to continue its operations and re-conduct field missions.

What were the regional achievements?

- Geneva Call continued its work in Mali, DRC, RSS and Libya, and worked towards developing operations in two additional contexts.
- Following its formal registration in Sudan in 2020, Geneva Call managed to initiate actions that set the ground for the resumption of in-country operations after about a decade of engaging Sudanese ANSAs on various IHL themes.
- Geneva Call initiated engagement with Cameroonian ANSAs and held a training on IHL for senior officers.

- The Africa team developed and deployed new tools to improve monitoring and quality assurance of project implementation and to systematically gather success stories of Geneva Call's work.

What has Geneva Call done in the region/targeted countries to ensure an ongoing conflict sensitive approach?

Geneva Call has taken a conflict sensitive approach in all its country programmes in Africa. This is done through a) transparent communication with all relevant stakeholders, including communities, in order to explain Geneva Call's work and engagement with ANSAs. This is particularly relevant to avoid being perceived as an NGO supporting ANSAs, but rather as an NGO working towards a better protection of civilians by maintaining a dialogue with ANSAs on international humanitarian norms. b) When selecting ANSAs for engagement and areas of intervention, Geneva Call ensures to have a balanced portfolio in terms of religious, political and ethnic identity of ANSAs. This means that in most contexts, Geneva Call engages ANSAs who are fighting each other and works in geographic areas held by antagonist ANSAs.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

What was the impact of Geneva Call's achievements in 2020?

Direct impact on affected populations

- A split faction of an ANSA whom Geneva Call is engaging had taken up quarters in a school awaiting their integration into the Congolese army. A female teacher, after participating in Geneva Call's awareness raising activities on IHL and the protection of education, reminded the ANSA commander that is unlawful to use a school for military purposes. As a result, the commander ordered the withdrawal from the school and relocation of his troops to another area, thus allowing the children to access education safely again.
- Geneva Call's direct negotiation with ANSA leadership led to the release of hostages kidnapped by two ANSAs of North Kivu. The hostages were from local communities and included a medical nurse.
- As a result of direct engagement with Geneva Call, an ANSA proactively launched an awareness raising campaign among communities to encourage parents to send the children to school, instead of making them work in the fields, thereby promoting education for children.

Induced policy change

- The Alliance des patriotes pour un Congo libre et souverain (APCLS), a signatory of the *Deed of Commitment for the protection of health care in armed conflict*, took a public commitment to protect health care and to contribute to prevent the spread of Covid-19. The ANSA also held a symposium on Covid-19 among their troops to raise their awareness on measures to mitigate the pandemic. In parallel, the implementation of the two Deeds of Commitment is ongoing and closely monitored by Geneva Call.



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- The APCLS as well as the Collectif des mouvements pour le changement (CMC) issued a circular to their troops to remind them about the respect of IHL, the protection of civilians and their property, the protection of the medical mission and the protection of schools.

Strengthened capacities of affected communities

- By installing feedback boxes in 12 communities, Geneva Call has been able to strengthen feedback loops and accountability.

Enhanced coordination and synergies

- Geneva Call has developed partnerships with international NGOs that allowed it to open its work to new thematic areas. The partnership with Fondation Hironnelle, for instance, aims at the expansion to the protection of the environment and conservation, in particular related to the Virunga Park which is an important natural reserve but currently being economically exploited by ANSAs.

What challenges did Geneva Call face in this context?

- Due to limited funding, Geneva Call's field office in Goma remained minimally staffed which impacts the level of follow-up that the organization would like to apply to its work with ANSAs and communities.
- The ANSA landscape in the DRC is volatile and fast-changing, with splits, unifications and new alliances on a regular basis. This is a challenge for the sustainable dialogue that Geneva Call seeks to establish.

Expenditure

	CHF
TOTAL	269 789

Libya

What was the impact of Geneva Call's achievements in 2020?

Direct impact on affected populations

- Geneva Call provided training of trainers on humanitarian norms for six Libyan CSOs and provided small grants to carry out IHL awareness raising activities. One of the CSOs, trained by Geneva Call, held an IHL awareness raising session with female representatives of the ministry of education and teachers. The sons of several of those teachers had recently been detained by an armed actor, who did not allow them to communicate with their families. After the session, some of the teachers staged a protest in front of the detention facility, and finally negotiated family visits for the detainees.

Strengthened capacities of operational partners

- The establishment of an IHL network, bringing together Libyan CSOs operating in East, West and South Libya, as well as ongoing capacity building and financial support through a small grants programme by Geneva Call led to the implementation of far-reaching IHL dissemination activities with academics, journalists, jurists and civil society activists, thus multiplying Geneva Call's awareness-raising efforts.
- As part of its efforts to develop IHL messages destined for religious audiences, Geneva Call held a consultation with religious leaders from different Islamic currents to ensure that developed messages are audible to Libyans of various Islamic affiliations.

Enhanced coordination and synergies

- Following completion of a comprehensive mapping of armed actors, Geneva Call conducted extensive briefings to key humanitarian and donor community members, relevant international actors, and UN agencies, sharing gained insights and advice with the larger humanitarian community.

What challenges did Geneva Call face in this context?

- Due to Covid-19, access to Libya was very restricted in 2020. Many planned activities were organized remotely. Strengthening the IHL network and the small grants programme mitigated access issues and allowed Geneva Call to implement activities through its local partners.

Expenditure

	CHF
TOTAL	447 483



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Mali

What was the impact of Geneva Call's achievements in 2020?

Induced policy change

- As a result of Geneva Call's work, the *Plateforme des mouvements du 14 juin 2014 d'Alger* and the Dana Ambassagou have signed the Unilateral Declaration on Covid-19 and Health Care. Both also conducted a number of dissemination activities to prevent the spread of the virus.
- Two ANSAs have requested Geneva Call's review of their respective Codes of Conduct which led to in-depth exchanges on the importance of aligning those with international humanitarian norms. Geneva Call has reviewed the Code of Conduct of one of these ANSA and has proposed amendments to ensure conformity with international humanitarian norms.

Facilitated humanitarian access

- Thanks to Geneva Call's negotiation with Dana Ambassagou, one humanitarian medical organization was able to access the affected territory and provide needed medical assistance.

Expanded range of ANSAs engaged

- Throughout the year, Geneva Call has maintained strong links to influential actors of the Peul community, in view of conveying protection messages based on Islamic law to more radical groups.

Strengthened capacities of operational partners

- Following training sessions targeting CSOs in Gao, Mopti and Koro, several youth groups have started discussing the set-up of early warning units (*cellules de veille*) to prevent violations and support the protection of civilians
- Local media partners in Gao and Mopti (Annuya and Kaoural) both have initiated radio shows on the topic of preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus based on material developed by Geneva Call.

Enhanced coordination and synergies

- Since the beginning of 2020, Geneva Call participates in an international research project led by the University of York to study the influence of religious leaders on Malian ANSAs.

What challenges did Geneva Call face in this context?

- The coup d'état in August 2020 and subsequent transition phase had a drastic impact on the social and political context in Mali and also led to the repositioning of some ANSAs. Geneva Call closely monitored the evolution of the situation and adapted its engagement work accordingly. Moreover, the coup resulted in a surge of the price of basic necessities forcing Geneva Call staff to implement a contingency plan.

Expenditure

	CHF
TOTAL	381 518



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South Sudan

What was the impact of Geneva Call's achievements in 2020?

Adaptation of Geneva Call's humanitarian engagement due to global pandemic

- Through direct engagement, Geneva Call was able to convince the National Salvation Front (NAS) to act on the COVID situation. As a result, NAS issued a press release calling on the South Sudanese people to help mitigate the spread of the pandemic and follow the measures and regulations of the WHO.
- Geneva Call also carried out a public campaign in Central and Western Equatoria states raising public awareness on the COVID-19 virus, targeting about 800,000 people through radio. Comments received from listeners indicate that these broadcast radio messages had reached areas that would be traditionally difficult to access due to insecurity. This was therefore seen by listeners as a good method for reaching out to remote areas with messages that affect their health and that of their families.



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Expanded range of ANSAs engaged

- In August 2020, Vice-President and general commander of Sudan People's Liberation Army-in-Opposition (SPLA-IO) Riek Machar, granted Geneva Call access to all of his troops and following this, Geneva Call held three training sessions with SPLA-IO troops and affiliates (Agwelek forces, White Army, Arrow Boys). Most of the participants lauded the initiative as crucial as they have never directly received such trainings. In fact, some of the senior SPLA-IO commanders in Maiwut recommended to continue such trainings with other sectors and divisions to improve their knowledge about IHL.

Strengthened capacities of operational partners

- Selected Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)/ Community Based Organizations (CBOs) working in areas affected by conflict were capacitated by Geneva Call on international humanitarian norms. Participants acquired good knowledge which Geneva Call sees as a first step to strengthen their work towards enhancing protection of civilians in their respective areas and ultimately to become the forefront responders to IHL violations when they occur.

What challenges did Geneva Call face in this context?

- The main challenge during 2020 was the COVID-19 pandemic that curtailed much of Geneva Call's operations in South Sudan. To mitigate this, Geneva Call focused on activities that did not require physical presence.
- Another challenge relates to staff turnover and recruitment of new staff that required coaching. Geneva Call had to send one of its HQ staff as acting Country Director to the field to carry out some activities and to be closer to the operations on the ground.

Expenditure

	CHF
TOTAL	597 372

Asia and Europe



Asia and Europe: regional approach



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What was the conflict situation in the region, targeted countries?

In 2020, Eurasia faced multiple security challenges at the subnational level which are closely linked to domestic economic and political issues, but which have ramifications beyond borders: from natural disasters such as the COVID-19 pandemic, ethnic and religious conflicts, and weak systems of governance. Eurasia is at the crossroads of many powerful States such as the Russian Federation, Turkey and China, that have a strong influence over the political and economic development of fragile states affected by armed conflicts and their security situations. COVID-19 has posed a significant threat to the maintenance of humanitarian access to populations in needs of protection. The newly designed COVID-19 ANSAs Response Monitor tracks the measures that ANSAs have taken regarding the prevention of the pandemic. Ongoing analysis will highlight how ANSAs comply with their positive obligations in regard to crisis management.

What were the regional achievements?

- Following the outbreak of conflict in South Caucasus, Geneva Call resumed humanitarian engagement with fighting parties with a particular focus on internal protection for the displaced, treatment of the dead/wounded/remains and the international framework of peacekeeping missions.
- Geneva Call also started to strengthen its approach towards gender mainstreaming through all phases of country programming. For example, Geneva Call enables female participants and presenters in Afghanistan and Pakistan, to be accompanied by *mahrms* (male guardians, such as their brothers, fathers, uncles) to increase female participation.
- Geneva Call increased its monitoring and evaluation capacity, through the systematic use of surveys and feedback mechanisms to assess the needs of our stakeholders and the impact of its actions.

What has Geneva Call done in the region/targeted countries to ensure an ongoing conflict sensitive approach?

Through its strong field presence in the Eurasia region at the capital and provincial levels, Geneva Call has been able to improve its understanding of the contexts and complex conflict dynamics in which it operates and how civilian protection is impacted. This relates in particular to the relations between different ANSAs or segments of the communities as well as the close interaction between Geneva Call's interventions and these ANSAs. To avoid unintended negative impacts of its work, Geneva Call carefully selected the target groups by ensuring it does not discriminate against a particular group of people nor exacerbate tensions between communities. Geneva Call also ensures transparent relations with all parties to the conflict including communities and states representatives to ensure acceptance as a neutral, impartial, and independent organization focused essentially on civilian protection through humanitarian engagement with ANSAs.

Afghanistan

What was the impact of Geneva Call's achievements in 2020?

Direct impact on affected populations

- After the Taliban disclosed to Geneva Call the reasons behind their closure of a health clinic in the Arghistan district of Kandahar province, Geneva Call successfully acted as an interlocutor between parties to the conflict, the local community, and international organizations to unblock access to the clinic for a community of 35,000 people.

Induced policy change

- Geneva Call jointly developed with the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) an information package related to the protection of healthcare, which their members distributed in their controlled areas in 4 provinces, reaching close to 9000 individuals. During initial steps, they showed definite openness and willingness on the part of the IEA to engage in constructive dialogue on changing their behavior towards the better protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure.

Expanded range of ANSAs engaged

- Geneva Call has established contacts with Shia interlocutors in Bamiyan province with links to notoriously secretive and hard-to-reach Shia- and Iran-related militias. They have expressed interest in increasing their compliance with international humanitarian norms, especially in connection to protection of cultural heritage, paving the way for direct engagement with such groups.

Adaptation of Geneva Call's humanitarian engagement due to global pandemic

- Following the outbreak of COVID-19, Geneva Call's thematic focus shifted to IHL in relation to protection of medical missions. Awareness raising and training sessions including modules on IHL, protection of medical missions and preventive measures against COVID-19 reached close to 4000 attendants. A communication campaign containing posts and videos on the same topics was visited by more than 2 million viewers.

What challenges did Geneva Call face in this context?

- Due to the military offensive in Helmand province leading to a full-scale conflict affecting Kandahar province as well as the complex security situation in Kunduz, Geneva Call put planned activities and teams on hold in both areas at the end of 2020.
- A change of leadership at important posts within the Government and complete change of the IEA leadership required Geneva Call to re-introduce itself as well as the planned engagement and next steps. However, Geneva Call was able to continue the dialogue with the new IEA leadership in Doha.

Expenditure

	CHF
TOTAL	545 365



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Myanmar

What was the impact of Geneva Call's achievements in 2020?

Direct impact on affected populations

- Following the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS)/ Shan State Army-South (SSA-S) signing the *Deed of Commitment for the protection of children from the effects of armed conflict*, Geneva Call has worked with the ANSA's Education Commission to increase implementation of its policy on demilitarization of schools – forbidding RCSS members to bring weapons into schools across Shan State. Most notably this was demonstrated during a diplomatic visit to a university at RCSS HQ where SSA-S fighters made a point of not carrying visible weaponry into the school compound. Implementation of this policy will ensure that RCSS run-schools across Shan State are weapon-free areas freeing more than 10,000, children from potential armed violence.

Induced policy change

- The Karen National Union (KNU)/ Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA), has agreed to formalize age verification across all its brigades as well as to establish a community-based complaints mechanism through which alleged violations of the two *Deeds of Commitment* signed by the KNU may be reported and addressed.
- Geneva Call and the RCSS Education Commission are developing a Prevention of Exploitation and Abuse policy to be implemented across RCSS run schools in Shan State.
- The Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) has shared their internal code of conduct with Geneva Call for legal and technical review.
- In collaboration with the Kachin Women's Association and the Kachin Political Consultative Team, Geneva Call is supporting the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) to develop internal policies to address human trafficking prevalent in their areas of operation.



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Expanded range of ANSAs engaged

- After many years, Geneva Call was able to establish direct humanitarian engagement with the KIO/KIA and conduct a field mission to their HQ along the Myanmar/China border. Geneva Call is now working with various KIO departments and the civil society on new policies to protect access to education and women's rights in conflict.

Strengthened capacities of operational partners

- Geneva Call trained over 500 civil society members on IHL and humanitarian engagement. As a result, the Ta'ang Student and Youth Union and the Shanni Youth Network conducted advocacy targeting ANSAs in their areas to address continued use of landmines and abductions and killings of youth in their areas.

Adaptation of Geneva Call's humanitarian engagement due to global pandemic

- Awareness-raising campaigns on the protection of healthcare in situation of complex emergency reached 300'000 people on social media and through the dissemination of posters and flyers.

What challenges did Geneva Call face in this context?

- The COVID-19 crisis seriously impacted Geneva Call's activities as movements (particularly between Government and Non-Government Controlled Areas and across international borders) were severely restricted. As such Geneva Call has adapted to providing remote engagement and activities. The legal environment and counter-terrorism laws also continue to impede Geneva Call's activities – particularly engagement with locally proscribed groups. Geneva Call's engagement with such ANSAs is limited to outside the country however progress on this front has been limited due to ongoing restrictions on international travel.

Expenditure

	CHF
TOTAL	569 484

Pakistan



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What was the impact of Geneva Call's achievements in 2020?

Strengthened capacities of operational partners

- Through focus group discussions and interviews with key members of the communities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, bordering Afghanistan, assessing IHL knowledge, attitude and practices influential stakeholders, and its subsequent restitution of the findings to some of the most respected religious leaders, local partners of Geneva Call developed a network of influencers to call for respect for humanitarian norms.

Strengthened capacities of affected communities

- Local partners engaged targeted key community members (including from the religious sector in Islamabad and Peshawar) on humanitarian norms and their correlation with Islamic Law, aiming through dialogues, trainings and awareness-raising sessions to increase their awareness of their rights and ability to disseminate such norms within their communities.

Adaptation of Geneva Call's humanitarian engagement due to global pandemic

- Awareness-raising campaigns on the protection of healthcare led by local partner organizations reached 1,300,000 people by using social media and radio networks and dissemination of booklets and flyers.

What challenges did Geneva Call face in this context?

- The formal registration of Geneva Call in Pakistan was delayed due to lockdown for several months, and was not completed within the expected timeframe, limiting Geneva Call's possibility to move and operate in country. Thanks to local partners covering various provinces, Geneva Call was still able to reach the targeted audiences and implement activities as planned.
- The COVID 19 pandemic remained a great challenge to start the project activities and execute as initially planned. However, Geneva Call managed to implement the activities through local partners and remotely.

Expenditure

	CHF
TOTAL	187 515

The Philippines

What was the impact of Geneva Call's achievements in 2020?

Expanded range of ANSAs engaged

- Two factions of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement/Fighters (BIFM/F) have been regularly engaged and they remain cautiously open to pursue engagement although security and legal reasons are slowing down the process. A study carried out by consultants into practices and values of BIFM/F factions in relation to civilian protection was also conducted.

Strengthened capacities of operational partners

- Geneva Call's local partner reported that during an awareness-raising session at the community level, members of an Islamist ANSA expressed appreciation for learning about humanitarian norms and invited them and Geneva Call to further discuss how to increase the protection of civilians in their areas of influence.
- Following Geneva Call's trainings, CSOs have launched several public awareness initiatives for the protection of civil-

ians. Reaching more than 50 000 individuals, these have included radio, SMS campaigns and efforts raising community-level awareness on humanitarian norms as well as, more specifically, the protection of healthcare. As a result of Geneva Call's capacity building activities, a CSO member approached fighters of BIFF to plead with them to prevent civilians from getting caught in the cross-fire and wait for them to evacuate while ANSA reinforcements were pouring into his village to retaliate after a raid by the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Strengthened capacities of affected communities

- As a result of increased awareness of their rights and duties of armed actors, communities started raising their concerns towards duty bearers, including also state security forces, and productively supporting initiatives carried out by religious leaders and CSOs on addressing protection issues.
- After extensive engagement with religious scholars/leaders and the development of 15 rules for fighters with Islamic references, religious leaders have begun

integrating humanitarian norms in regular lectures in mosques and madaris to create space for dialogue with other religious leaders said to be supporters of the targeted ANSA.

Enhanced coordination and synergies

- In the provinces of Maguindanao, North Cotabato and Lanao del Sur, Geneva Call has brought CSOs and the Islamic religious sector to work together on promoting civilian protection based on relevant Islamic principles.

Adaptation of Geneva Call's humanitarian engagement due to global pandemic

- Contextualized messages on the protection of healthcare with corresponding Islamic norms were widely disseminated by partner organizations in hotspot communities of Maguindanao and North Cotabato Provinces, where ANSAs are active.
- More than one million individuals were reached across Mindanao by Geneva Call's Facebook campaign on the protection of civilians and healthcare. These key messages were translated into local dialects for wider understanding and acceptance.



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What challenges did Geneva Call face in this context?

- COVID-19 restrictions caused some delays in implementation of activities. Emphasis was added on communications through radio and social media.
- The legal framework for ANSA engagement is blurred with the Anti-Terror Law of 2020. This uncertainty has had a negative effect on direct engagement, also by local partners. Geneva Call has sought the support of regional BARMM authorities for an explicit humanitarian exemption as provided by the law, but the outcome is yet to be made clear.

Expenditure

	CHF
TOTAL	276 333

Thailand

What was the impact of Geneva Call's achievements in 2020?

Direct impact on affected populations

- A notable trend has been observed in relation to recent operations believed to be carried out by the BRN with not only less children affected, but less civilian casualties overall.

Induced policy change

- Long-term, direct humanitarian engagement between the BRN and Geneva Call has built a solid, trustworthy relationship, paving the way for the signing of *Deed of Commitment for the protection of children from the effects of armed conflict* in early 2020. Following their signing, the BRN has issued policy documents to comply with the Deed.

Strengthened capacities of operational partners

- A local civil society group that Geneva Call has educated about the Deed and issues concerning child protection, took the initiative to contextualize and publish child protection messages through popular social media, resulting in a wider discussion about protecting children in the area.
- Two other trained partner organizations play an important role in stimulating humanitarian knowledge and have begun hosting activities to educate communities on humanitarian norms.
- Another local partner initiated a series of discussions on humanitarian norms with *Imams* from local mosques.

Strengthened capacities of affected communities

- Consultative meetings with communities allowed them to collectively reflect and analyse current protection concerns and come up with solutions, building cohesion and confidence to advocate for greater protection of civilians.

- Covid-19 and related restrictions forced Geneva Call to maintain remote communications with ANSA and work on policies from a distance. However, Geneva Call was unable to conduct trainings as ANSA members could not gather in one location for the videoconference. Positively, the hybrid approach (consultant on location, expat staff contributing through remote sessions) has been successful with local CSOs and the religious sector.

Adaptation of Geneva Call's humanitarian engagement due to global pandemic

- Local partners of Geneva Call shared flyers, posters and Facebook posts, as well as messages on the protection of health care shared through apps such as LINE and Messenger and reached more than 70,000 individuals.

Expenditure

	CHF
TOTAL	102 855



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Ukraine

What was the impact of Geneva Call's achievements in 2020?

Induced policy change

- In Eastern Ukraine, Geneva Call discussed the various provisions of *the Deed of Commitment for the protection of health care in armed conflict* with fighting parties expressing interest on their positive obligations to facilitate access for humanitarian aid and to medical care.
- Geneva Call also provided legal advice on transitional justice and the use of autonomous weapons, as requested by some combatants.

Expanded range of ANSAs engaged

- Geneva Call kept building trust and acceptance with integrated battalions and volunteer units, which have confirmed their interest in deepening their knowledge of humanitarian norms and discussing concrete policy changes.

Strengthened capacities of operational partners

- In partnership with a local civil society organization, Geneva Call led a series of mediation sessions along the front-line in the Donbass, bringing together conflict-affected communities, law enforcement representatives and fighting parties. These consultations provided a safe space and opened up dialogue about protection needs and rights guaranteed to civilians under international law in times of armed conflict.
- Seeking adherence and civilians participation in conflict-affected areas, Geneva Call is spreading key messages on humanitarian norms through mass media campaigns and virtual training tools. In 2020, they reached in total more than 1,6 million people on both side of the contact line.



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Adaptation of Geneva Call's humanitarian engagement due to global pandemic

- In times of COVID-19, Geneva Call especially sought to facilitate humanitarian access to healthcare for communities living along the frontline. To this end, its humanitarian engagement towards fighting parties emphasized the necessity of creating safety zones around critical medical infrastructures and protecting medical transportation. COVID-19 related activities reached more than 600 direct beneficiaries, members of fighting parties as well as civil society.

What challenges did Geneva Call face in this context?

- The global pandemic impacted the work of Geneva Call in Eastern Ukraine from both sides of the contact line. Drastic restrictions of movements across the contact line hampered humanitarian access and slowed down the implementation of humanitarian engagement. As an alternative, Geneva Call started developing online campaigns as well as virtual training tools, and a series of thematic videos were disseminated on social media from 2020 onwards.
- Furthermore, Geneva Call in Ukraine keeps facing strict counter-terrorism legislation susceptible to undermine its humanitarian engagement process.

Expenditure

	CHF
TOTAL	354 203

Latin America



Colombia

Latin America: regional approach



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What was the conflict situation in the region, targeted countries?

Latin America is the region of the world where peace deteriorated most in 2020 according to the “Global Peace Index 2020”. The signing of the “Final Agreement to End the Armed Conflict and Build a Stable and Lasting Peace” in Colombia represented a historic leap forward for peace and a new source of hope for people in the country. However, since January 2019, further dialogue with other ANSAs has largely been frozen and there has been an increase in the armed conflict. The withdrawal of the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia—Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP) from the areas they controlled triggered competition for the control of territory and for illegal economic activities leading to a reconfiguration of ANSAs.

There is an increasing trend in armed violence and IHL and IHRL violations with social leaders and human right activists being killed. Most of these killings are not

resolved, and not all can be attributed to ANSAs/ Organized Armed Groups (OAGs). Other humanitarian consequences include renewed displacement, the laying of AP mines, and increased forced recruitment of minors.

The Venezuela economic and social crisis has exacerbated existing violence and insecurity in the country. ANSAs, including the Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN), and other OAGs operate along both sides of the border with Colombia. Criminal organizations and illegal economies have become important income sources for migrants not integrated in the formal economy.

What were the regional achievements?

Geneva Call continued to strengthen its presence in the region while maintaining and consolidating its long-term engagement with ANSAs and other actors within Colombia. The Venezuelan crisis and regional migration have led to double

vulnerabilities for those migrants who find themselves in conflict settings in Colombia. Therefore, Geneva Call initiated its engagement with actors across borders, with the aim to address the Venezuelan community both as a community at risk, as well as recognizing the cross-border structure of several ANSAs.

What has Geneva Call done in the region/targeted countries to ensure an ongoing conflict sensitive approach?

The context in Latin America is highly politicized, with the wave of political elections and struggles between parties, especially for Colombia and Venezuela where Geneva Call engages several stakeholders. The conflict is moving fast, with new alliances and large level of power fights to control areas. Geneva Call has strived to work transparently and locally in pursuit of its mandate. This approach has so far enabled Geneva Call to operate, opening the path of direct engagement and relationship building with appropriate groups and stakeholders.

Colombia

What was the impact of Geneva Call's achievements in 2020?

Strengthened capacities of operational partners

• Building on a recent internal evaluation conducted in 2019, Geneva Call outlined a community-centered intervention and launched intensive communication campaigns with a focus on the protection of civilians, especially campaigns linked to acts of violence, and healthcare during COVID-19. The "Fighter Not Killer" campaign was adapted in Spanish to the local context at the end of 2020, and a specific component on the protection of medical mission was added. The results will be analyzed in 2021, once the campaign is finalized. In 2019, a similar campaign reached more than 1.6 million people via social media, providing a first space of discussion around IHL.

Adaptation of Geneva Call's humanitarian engagement due to global pandemic

• In response to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, a relevant communication campaign was launched and disseminated at the end of 2020. Considering the impact of the COVID-19 crisis, and the level of violence associated to it, as well as the ongoing conflict in Colombia, Geneva Call's work and campaign focused on the protection of the medical mission in-line with IHL and humanitarian norms. A specific approach was prepared with the Ministry of Health; the activities will be implemented mainly during the first quarter of 2021.

What challenges did Geneva Call face in this context?

• During 2020, Geneva Call finally obtained its registration in the country: while the result was achieved, the process was long due to the strict confinement and long bureaucratic procedures in the country. Moreover, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the confinement in Colombia was long and extremely strict. Therefore, most of the field activities had to be canceled or postponed.

Expenditure

	CHF
TOTAL	65 688



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Near and Middle East (NAME)



Near and Middle East: regional approach - Regional Support Unit

What was the conflict situation in the region, targeted countries?

The Near and Middle East (NAME) region has seen COVID-19 lockdowns since early 2020. Reports on fatalities are unreliable. Accompanying economic collapse has particularly hit Syria and Lebanon. Intense conflict in several countries in early 2020 generally decreased in the second half. A fragile status quo could be upended by the new US administration.

In Syria, following a rapid extension of the Turkish areas of control in early 2020 and a temporary retreat of US forces allowing for Government of Syria/Government of Russia expansion, the conflict has temporarily stabilized into smaller scale crossline attacks.

In Iraq, internal tensions have escalated between pro-Sistani and Iranian backed Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF) militias. Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and Peshmerga attempts to consolidate their control resulted in tensions with other key *de facto* armed groups, increasing the relevance of Geneva Call's engagement. Meanwhile, small scale operations continue in both Syria and Iraq against ISIS remnants.

In Yemen, many frontlines remained active throughout the year with the conflict intensifying at times in Marib, and Abyan. As progress in the implementation of the Riyadh Agreement, a unity government consisting of representation of the Southern Transitional Council (STC) and the Internationally Recognized Government of Yemen (IRG) was formed in December 2020. However, upon the arrival of the new government to Aden, three missiles targeted Aden airport soon after the plane landed resulting in death, injury, and destruction of the airport.



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What were the regional achievements?

Hard-to-reach armed actors were engaged on humanitarian norms in Yemen and Syria, increasing the scope of engagement with key armed actors of the region.

The support for the newly created "*Unilateral Declaration on Humanitarian Access*" underlines the importance of this thematic across the region. Access for humanitarian service delivery was negotiated with ANSAs in both Yemen and Iraq.

The COVID-19 responses across the region included Geneva Call facilitated information campaigns carried out by armed groups, increased focus on protection of the medical mission, and ensuring ANSAs did not restrict humanitarian access due to COVID-19 restrictions.

What has Geneva Call done in the region/targeted countries to ensure an ongoing conflict sensitive approach?

The highly politicized and fractured regional context in the Near and Middle East region requires a particular sensitivity while addressing the conflict consequences. Geneva Call has been working with a local presence in a transparent manner, allowing its teams to operate effectively thus far. In addition, Geneva Call has increased its direct engagement with States across the region. While this has focused on ensuring Geneva Call's access to ANSAs, engagement strategies also call on Geneva Call to address the responsibilities of states towards the IHL obligations of ANSAs that they support.

Broader engagement on the Women Peace and Security thematic area is being looked into as a focus of work in Yemen.

Iraq

What was the impact of Geneva Call's achievements in 2020?

Policy changes within ANSAs

- Geneva Call intensified the engagement with ANSAs' leadership to ensure the protection of healthcare personnel, transportation, facilities/infrastructure as well as vulnerable populations and Internally Displaced People (IDPs). As a result, 6 armed actors and Sunni religious leaders publicly affirmed their commitment by signing *unilateral declarations on the protection of healthcare and protection of IDPs*.

Facilitated humanitarian access

- Following humanitarian organizations' access difficulties and restrictions imposed by armed groups, Geneva Call was approached by UNHCR to address the issue. After lengthy discussions with the armed groups, access was granted to the humanitarian organizations and, therefore, assistance reached the areas of concern.

Expanded range of armed actors engaged

- Geneva Call expanded the engagement with hard-to-reach armed actors such as Al-Nujaba, Jund Al-Imamand, and anti-tanks brigade from the Commission of PMF. As a result, the groups affirmed their commitment and responsibility towards the protection of healthcare during COVID-19 by signing of *unilateral declaration on protection of healthcare*.

Strengthened capacities of operational partners

- Geneva Call reinforced its work with relevant CSOs to monitor, track and report violations committed by armed actors, strengthening the "Friends of IHL" network. A community-based protection project to increase local CBO capacities and the protection of children & education was launched in Sinjar, in partnership with a local Yazidi organization.



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Strengthened capacities of affected communities

- Tribal leaders from Qayarah were engaged to identify issues and mechanisms of safe return of the IDPs, allegedly associated as families of the Islamic State group (ISg) to Qayarah. Religious leaders from Mosul signed a unilateral declaration about the protection of IDPs in the aftermath of camp closures which led IDPs to resettle elsewhere.

Adaptation of Geneva Call's humanitarian engagement due to global pandemic

- As a result of Geneva Call's engagement with relevant armed actors on how to minimize the risks of pandemic, several groups in Iraq, took preventive measures such as initiating campaigns of fumigation & sterilization of public places in areas under their control benefiting around 100 000 persons leaving in the area.

What challenges did Geneva Call face in this context?

- Covid-19 tops the list of challenges faced by Geneva Call in 2020 as it restricted the movement of staff to specific locations of concern. However, where and when possible, Geneva Call mobilized to encourage armed actors and other categories of beneficiaries to enhance protection of healthcare workers and vulnerable populations especially the IDPs both inside and outside the camps.
- Online engagement due to COVID-19 restriction was another challenge initially. Geneva Call tried to adapt accordingly by reducing the number of participants in the workshops and training and organizing initial small group sessions with the participants.

Expenditure

	CHF
TOTAL	690835

Syria

What was the impact of Geneva Call's achievements in 2020?

Direct impact on affected populations

- Thanks to Geneva Call's reach of ANSAs leadership in North West Syria (NWS), the Syrian National Army (SNA) established a special committee to track and monitor violations and punish the perpetrators during Peace Spring Operations, which led to a decrease in the number of violations against civilians.
- Moreover, in October 2020, the SNA delivered training for its internal committee working on "Redressing Grievances and Reform" in Afrin, resulting in increased work to return rights and property to the owners, including money that some factions took by force as royalties from residents. The committee also helped resolve disputes in all 3 regions controlled by SNA faction, i.e., Euphrates Shield, Olive Branch and Peace Spring areas.

Policy changes within ANSAs

- As a result of Geneva Call's work in NWS, several groups took concrete steps in changing their internal policies:
 - "The Moral Guidance Directorate" of the SNA revised its new Code of Conduct.
 - Ahrar alSham issued "A mandatory note about the behavior of the warrior".
- Geneva Call's team provided the necessary legal documentation & support, leading to the amendment of the original texts and issuing the final documents.
- Thanks to Geneva Call's intervention, nine active and influential ANSAs publicly confirmed their commitment by signing *Unilateral Declarations* on the protection of healthcare and cooperating in limiting the spread of COVID-19.

Adaptation of Geneva Call's humanitarian engagement due to global pandemic

- In NWS, the above-mentioned armed groups undertook concrete activities, consisting of sterilizing tents and headquarters, distributing protection masks, and facilitating the humanitarian organizations' work, which curbed the spread of the epidemic.
- In North East Syria (NES), thanks to Geneva Call's training and advocacy campaigns for ANSAs, local civilian authorities, medical persons, and paramedics in various regions (Hasaka, Derek, Qamishli and Raqqa), several measures were undertaken for the civilians living in territories under ANSAs control, to prevent the spread and the impact of COVID 19.

What challenges did Geneva Call face in this context?

- The registration of Geneva Call in Turkey is a complex but very important process to ensure sustainable access in NWS, engagement with different ANSAs and coordination with the humanitarian community.
- The deteriorating security situation proved to be an obstacle: repeated use of Improvised Explosive Device (IED), Vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) and Under Vehicle Improvised Explosive Device (UVIED) detonations, renewed clashes in Tal Tamer-Ein Issa frontlines as well as insecurity, deteriorated the security situation and increased tribal tensions in places such as Al-Hol Camp and Eastern Deir-Ez-Zor. This had an inevitable impact on the field teams capacity to move and conduct activities.
- Also, the pandemic had a significant impact on Geneva Call's access in Syria, with local movement restrictions preventing field visits, delaying staff trainings and the signature of Deeds.



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Expenditure

	CHF
TOTAL	427305

Yemen

What was the impact of Geneva Call's achievements in 2020?

Policy changes within ANSAs

- Geneva Call's engagement with the leadership of the Southern Transitional Council (STC) led to securing an agreement to engage on the implementation of the Deeds previously signed. STC leadership has initially shown some reluctance to engage with Geneva Call, primarily for fear of implicating its leadership in legal accountability. However, the deep level of engagement helped to ease concerns and obtain commitment from the STC to proceed to the policy and implementation levels, e.g., concrete measures taken by establishing a screening mechanism on the age of recruitment within their internal system.

Facilitated humanitarian access

- Following Geneva Call's engagement with STC during the "self-administration" period, STC agreed to exempt humanitarian organizations from the application of the curfew rules it imposed during the onset of the pandemic in Aden.

- In addition, following reports on the targeting of migrants in transit by forces aligned to the STC, the STC leadership undertook to address such concerns as a result of Geneva Call's engagement with them.

Expanded range of ANSAs and de facto authorities engaged

- Geneva Call managed to deepen the engagement with the Houthis which allowed to transmit IHL messages in radio programmes across the Houthi controlled areas.
- While the COVID-19 measures brought new levels of challenges, the organization continued to deliver its programme for hard to engage forces such as the Thunderstorm Brigade in Aden, Elite Forces in Hadramout, security forces in Hadramout Valley, as well as forces in al Mahra. This is the first time Geneva Call has reached politically important governorates of Hadramout, Shabwa, Socotra and al Mahra.

- Geneva Call became the only NGO able to interact with such a wide range of armed actors in Yemen. In Sanaa, through IHL training and Training of Trainers (TOT), Geneva Call managed to reach influential figures in the security apparatus, prosecution, and military judges. The impact of this intervention has elevated the acceptance of Geneva Call and its messages with important actors in the Houthi *de facto* authorities.

What challenges did Geneva Call face in this context?

- The challenges in Yemen range from red tape by both MOPIC South and the SCAMCHA in the North. These impediments are both political in nature and also part of the closing of civic space. Geneva Call's interventions are naturally very sensitive and this brings an added complication beyond what other INGOs face in the country. Some of these impediments include a directive to seek prior approval from the authorities before conducting workshops. Another challenge was COVID-19 where delays experienced in the implementation of the programme activities.



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Expenditure

	CHF
TOTAL	1 165 778

Policy and Legal Unit

In coordination and with the contributions and support of the regional legal and policy officers, the PLU team continued during 2020 to enhance staff development and continuous learning. It provided day-to-day support to operations, including methodological advice on ANSA engagement and legal input for new thematic topics, such as the protection of the environment, or short articles on drones, COVID-19 screening post and transitional justice.

The PLU also completed the development of a series of new educational and training tools on the protection of health care, displaced persons and cultural property in armed conflict. For each thematic, a new booklet with engaging visuals and clear messages has been produced, in consultation with relevant stakeholders. In addition, video clips have been created as part of Geneva Call's *Fighter not Killer* campaign, promoting international humanitarian norms through social media, TV, radio, etc. Immersive, scenario-based videos to be used for training with ANSAs were also produced.

A major event in 2020 was the Garance Talks session held in February on the topic of the conduct of hostilities (see page 10 for more detailed information). The meeting brought together experts and four ANSAs from around the globe to address the challenges faced by the latter when attempting to comply with IHL rules, in particular distinction, proportionality and precaution.

Throughout the year, Geneva Call continued to collect and analyse data on ANSAs' practice and interpretation of IHL as part of a unique research project conducted in collaboration with the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, the American University in Cairo, the Global IHL Centre of Diakonia and NRC (see previous chapters for more detailed information).

In February, the PLU was commissioned by NRC to provide expert support to the development of its own ANSA engagement policy. The policy aims to provide clear guidance to staff and articulate the organization's support for principled engagement with ANSAs. Moreover, the PLU



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contributed guidance on how to manage counterterrorism risks when engaging with ANSAs that may be designated "terrorist groups" for the new NRC "Toolkit for Principled Humanitarian Action: Managing Counterterrorism risks".

As in 2019, the PLU delivered this year a 2-days thematic workshop on engaging ANSAs for humanitarian protection, in collaboration with the International Association of Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP). Twenty mid- and senior level staff of UN agencies, the ICRC, international and local NGOs and government agencies attended. The workshop, which combined lectures with roles playing, exercises and group discussions, reviewed the international legal framework applicable to non-international armed conflicts and the normative basis for humanitarian engagement with ANSAs. It also addressed key concepts, methods and challenges associated with engaging with ANSAs on protection issues. In addition to Geneva Call, speakers from the ICRC and the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) shared their approach and experience.

Throughout the year, the PLU continued to represent Geneva Call in various expert meetings and liaise with relevant stakeholders, notably OCHA, UNHCR, WHO, ICRC, MSF, Blue Shield International, Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative, Save the Children, Watchlist and ICBL. The latest report of the UN Secretary-General on the Protection of civilians in armed conflict, dated of 6 May 2020, stresses again the importance of "principled, sustained and strategic engagement" with ANSAs for strengthening their respect for IHL."

Moreover, in defence of the humanitarian space, Geneva Call, together with the Swiss Red Cross, MSF Switzerland and other organizations, successfully advocated for an exemption for humanitarian services in the new Swiss law criminalizing support to "terrorist organizations", adopted by federal parliament on 25 September.

Communication

2020 marked the 20th anniversary of Geneva Call and external communication was adapted to reflect this key milestone, within the constraints imposed by the global pandemic. Specific logos were developed and used on all external communication throughout 2020.

- In February, an event was held at the Martin Bodmer Foundation in Geneva during its "War & Peace" exhibition. Key Geneva based contacts were invited to a presentation entitled "20 years of humanitarian engagement with ANSAs".
- During the second week of September the Mont Blanc Bridge flew the Geneva Call Flags and a reception was held with key dignitaries from Switzerland, donor countries and partner organizations attending.

- In October, a virtual roundtable was organized in Brussels hosted by the German representation and with the heads of ECHO, DEVCO and FPI EU divisions and Geneva Call. Also marking Geneva Call's 20th anniversary the theme of the roundtable was "Armed Non-State Actors and the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus: Why and how to engage".

In order to better equip field offices in their own communication efforts, there has been an ongoing exercise of updating the organization's communication toolkit and induction documents relating to communication guidelines, notably on social media.

The Covid-19 pandemic also meant that much communication needed to be readapted to the situation and intense support was provided throughout the organization in the production and communication of key Covid-19 response positioning documents, as well as supporting the production of operational communication and training materials and the ANSA Covid Response Monitor previously mentioned.

Administration and Finance

Geneva Call has a continual improvement process in place to strengthen its internal control systems (ICS) and keep pace with best practice standards. Expenditure systems and processes are an important part of financial management execution. It is important to have policies, procedures and internal control systems to monitor expenditure against approved work plans and budgets, checking to ensure value for money is achieved with a system that supports timely recording and safeguarding of records. Several policies were upgraded and introduced during 2020, such as Delegation of Authority for all decisions committing the organization to legal or financial obligations, budget management and control policies, as well as travel and cash management. In addition, a global finance survey was launched to identify issues and seek feedback from field offices.

Geneva Call uses clear indicators to monitor improvements in budgeting and forecasting through the following that have been specifically progressed in 2020:

- Board approved budget is available in October in advance of implementation year
- Recruitment of a dedicated budget officer
- Integration of planning and budgeting processes
- Budgets are integrated with programmatic and financial results
- Budgets are developed on an activity basis and adopt a bottom-up approach
- Disbursement requests supported by cash forecasts completed correctly and submitted inside agreed timelines
- Budget Committee screens and approves any increase in Board approved budgets

Human Resources

One of the key challenges of 2020 was evidently the response to the Covid-19 pandemic from a human resources perspective. A special task force was set up to review the ongoing evolution, the recommended responses, and imposed restrictions. Appropriate measures were put in place and respected in line with the local law to protect employees in their work activities and also ensure operational continuity. A wellbeing survey was implemented to evaluate the impact of Covid 19 on staff and integrate feedback in the measures taken. An additional survey on remote working was carried out to review and optimize the adapted working conditions and facilities. These complemented the newly implemented ongoing annual staff satisfaction and development survey.

As Geneva Call strengthens and deepens its field operations and continues transferring roles and responsibilities to existing field offices, it has had to increase the staff numbers in the field in line with its budgeted projections. Despite the challenges of a humanitarian sector which competes for the same limited resources, Geneva Call has seen strong interest in the number of applications it receives for advertised positions, demonstrating its attractiveness for prospective applicants. There has been 39 staff recruited for field positions and 3 at HQ during 2020. Supporting this influx, the induction process has been improved, ensuring that tools are developed and deployed through the HR staff for proper on-boarding and that every employee acquires the necessary knowledge of work policies and regulations. For example, in

line with international NGO norms, online training on anti-corruption practices and policies as well as sexual harassment prevention was made mandatory for all staff.

In parallel to the efforts on recruitment, a review and implementation of a post tracking process has enabled Geneva Call to improve its management of recruitment costs and ensure better alignment between the finance units, the HR units and the tracking against budget.

In 2020 Geneva Call has initiated a project to implement a human resources enterprise resource planning (ERP) system for 2021. The tool has been specified to address identified staff needs which can be better served by systemized processes freeing up HR resources for other key priorities.



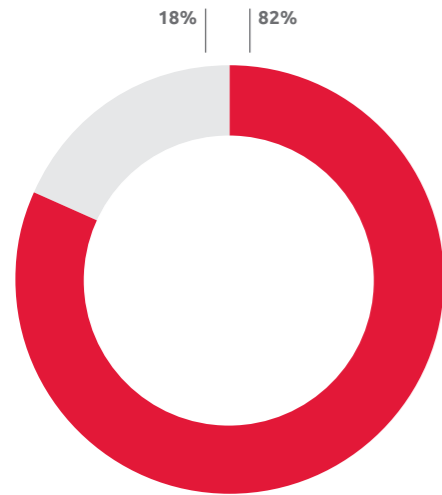
Financial Report

Geneva Call's full financial statements, including the auditors' report, can be found on www.genevacall.org/documents/.

Expenditure (CHF)

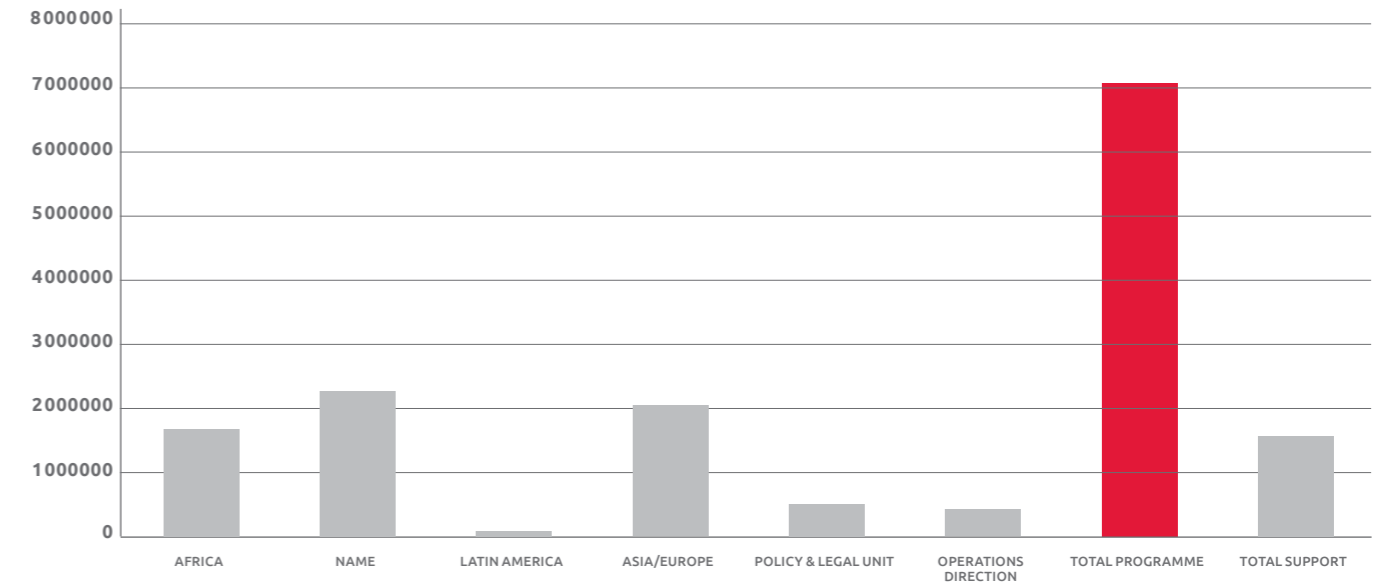
Annual Report		2020	
Africa	DRC	269 789	
	Libya	447 483	
	Mali	381 518	
	South Sudan	597 372	
	TOTAL AFRICA	1 696 162	
NAME	Iraq	690 835	
	Lebanon	5 257	
	Syria	427 305	
	Yemen	1 165 778	
	TOTAL NAME	2 289 175	
Latin America	Colombia	65 688	
	TOTAL LATIN AMERICA	65 688	
Asia/Europe	Armenia	13 940	
	Afghanistan	545 365	
	Myanmar	569 484	
	Pakistan	187 515	
	Philippines	276 333	
	Thailand	102 855	
	Ukraine	354 203	
	TOTAL ASIA/EUROPE	2 049 694	
	Programme Support	Policy & Legal Unit	542 511
		Operations Direction	441 565
TOTAL PROGRAMME SUPPORT		984 076	
PROGRAMME EXPENDITURES		7 084 794	
ADMINISTRATION/SUPPORT EXPENDITURES		1 587 120	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES		8 671 914	

Expenditure

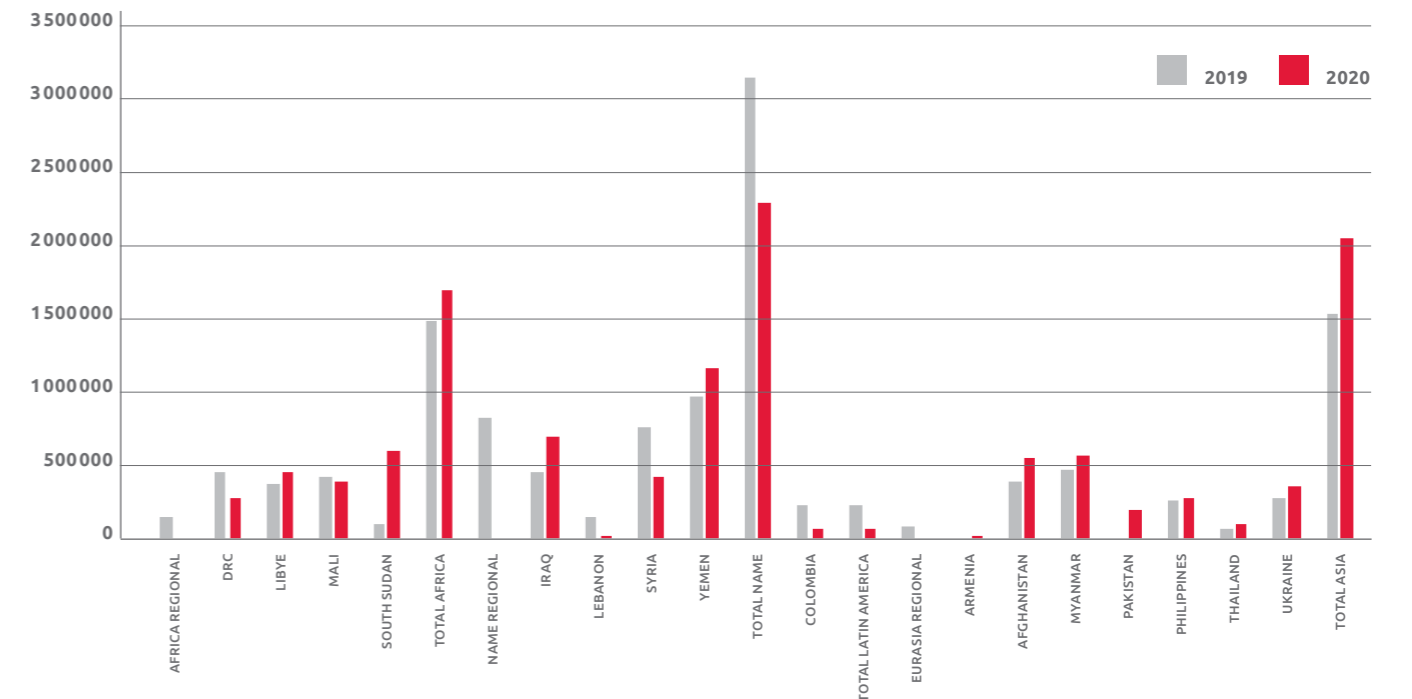


■ PROGRAMME EXPENDITURES
■ SUPPORT EXPENDITURES

Operating Expenditures



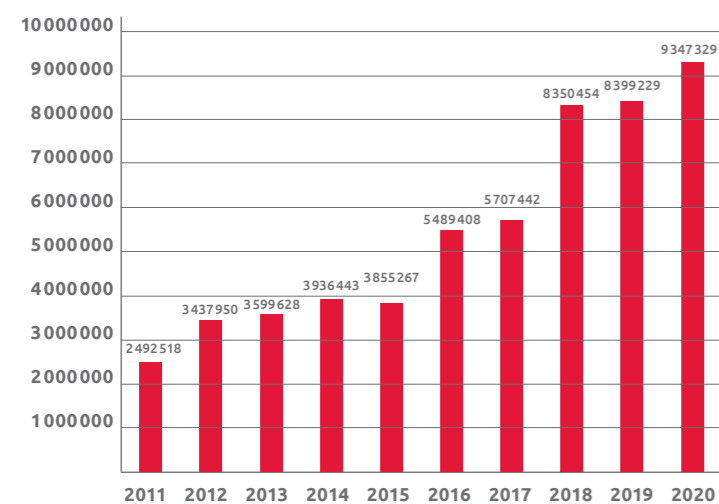
Programme Comparison 2019/2020



Balance sheet (CHF)

	2020	2019
Cash and cash equivalent	1 706 931	941 726
Receivables from donors	775 400	1 050 863
Other receivables	301 569	372 704
Prepayments and accrued income	131 112	74 112
CURRENT ASSETS	2 915 012	2 439 405
Fixed assets	4 920	22 193
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	4 920	22 193
TOTAL ASSETS	2 919 932	2 461 598
Payables due to suppliers of goods and services	365 223	419 475
Other liabilities	175 835	448 390
Accrued expenses	97 746	40 536
CURRENT LIABILITIES	638 804	908 401
OPERATING FUNDS	1 816 273	1 788 005
Organisational fund balances		
– Initial unrestricted funds	50 000	50 000
– Net surplus/(Deficit)	-134 809	-286 730
– Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	549 664	1 922
TOTAL ORGANISATIONAL FUND BALANCES	464 855	-234 808
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND ORGANISATIONAL FUND BALANCES	2 919 932	2 461 598

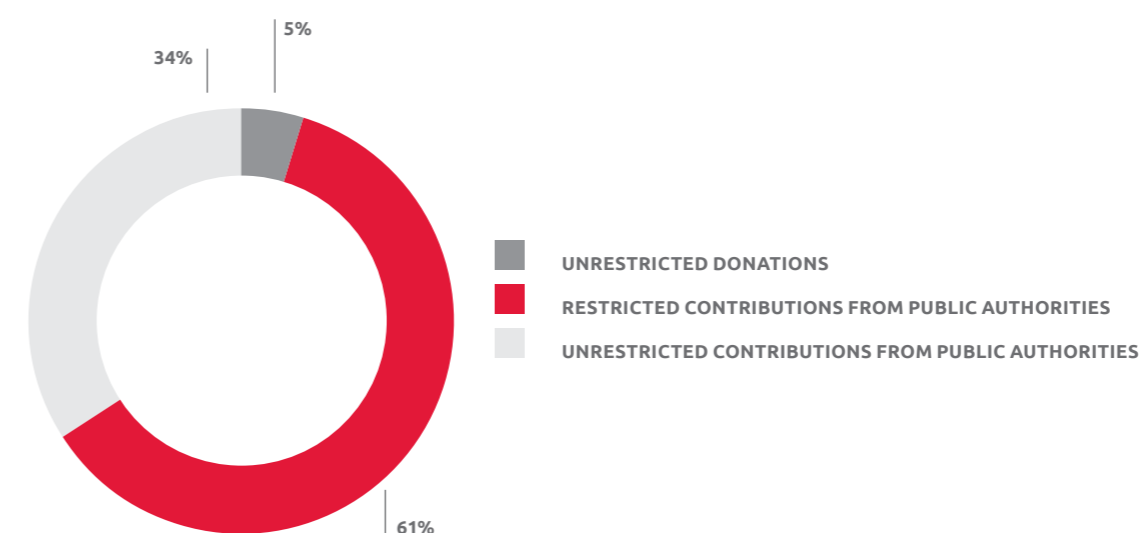
Evolution of income since 2011 (CHF)



Statement of operations (CHF)

	2020	2019
CONTRIBUTIONS		
Contributions received from private foundations/donors		
- restricted	–	1 000 000
- unrestricted	1 059	80 327
Contributions received from public authorities/ non-governmental organization		
- restricted	5 704 138	6 951 442
- unrestricted	3 187 813	–
Other contributions unrestricted	454 319	367 461
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	9 347 329	8 399 229
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	8 671 914	8 826 831
Direct expenditures	7 084 794	6 988 496
Support expenditures	1 587 120	1 838 335
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	8 671 914	8 826 831
ALLOCATION/USE OF FUNDS	-28 268	567 173
OPERATING RESULT	647 147	139 571
FINANCIAL RESULT	111 549	105 029
Financial expenses	25 092	22 315
Financial income	31	6
Net exchange loss/(gain)	86 488	82 720
EXCEPTIONAL RESULT	14 067	-32 620
Prior years income	50 372	–
Prior years expenses	36 305	32 620
RESULT OF THE YEAR	549 664	1 922

Sources of funding



Geneva Call is thankful to its donors, supporters and staff

Geneva Call is funded entirely by voluntary contributions, relying on and wholly dependent on the commitment of its partners as it endeavours to strengthen the respect of humanitarian norms by armed non-State actors, in order to improve the protection of civilians.

Geneva Call receives a combination of unearmarked core funding (which enables the overall functioning of the organization and specifically the support and management functions highlighted in the previous sections), loosely earmarked global thematic funding and targeted project funding covering the thematic and geographical operations. All three types of funding are fundamental to its operations. Geneva Call expresses its particular gratitude for the support it receives from its donors and partners, including:

Core donors: The governments of Norway, Sweden (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency), Switzerland (Human Security Division) and the City of Geneva.

Thematic donors: The governments of Australia (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade), Italy (through the GICHD), Liechtenstein. The government of Nor-

way, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Department of International Development), the European Commission (Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department).

Programme donors

- The governments of Australia (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade), Finland, France, Germany (Federal Foreign Office: Division S03 – Crisis Prevention, Division S08 – Humanitarian Assistance – Policy, International Organizations, Multilateral Coordination, Stabilization, Peacebuilding, and through its embassy in DRC), Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency), Switzerland (Human Security Division and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and through its embassy in Myanmar), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Department for International Development) through its embassy in Myanmar and New Zealand through its embassy in Philippines and Thailand.
- The European Commission (Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department, including through Danish Church Aid, Save

the Children, Save the Children Canada, Norwegian Refugee Council and Danish Refugee Council), the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), the European Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP).

- Danish Refugee Council, HD Center Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Save the children, Search for Common Ground, Truth Hounds Ukraine and York University.

- The City of Geneva and the Republic and Canton of Geneva.

Private support

- Geneva Call is thankful to its private donors, including Fondation de bienfaisance du Groupe Pictet.

Staff

- Geneva Call's board and directorate would like to thank all of the staff in the field and in the headquarters for their efforts, dedication and the results achieved, especially in this challenging year of a global pandemic.

Support us

Finding new financial resources represents a continuous challenge for Geneva Call. To address this, Geneva Call particularly seeks guaranteed multi-year funding, as this is a significant aid to overall planning and human resources commitments. It also reduces administrative costs, thereby allowing more resources to be dedicated to field activities.

Geneva Call is greatly appreciative of its donors and particularly those who give an element of core funding; this allows the organization greater flexibility and responsiveness to emerging needs. Geneva Call wishes to thank its current donors for continuing to fund it in this manner and hopes that new donors will consider doing so over the coming years.

For further details, please contact:

Gregory Pasche
Head of Communication and Fundraising
gpasche@genevacall.org
+41 22 879 94 36



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T. +41 22 879 10 50
F. +41 22 879 10 51
E. contact@genevacall.org

47, ch. de la Chevillarde, 1224 Chêne-Bougeries
Geneva – Switzerland

appel.de.geneve

[genevacall](https://www.genevacall.org)

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