



Annual report 2021





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Foreword

To our friends and partners.

The continuation of the pandemic throughout the world and the high level of violence observed in the zones of conflict where Geneva Call is active have certainly made the year 2021 quite a challenging time for all humanitarian workers. Like in 2020, Geneva Call has restrained from signing new *Deeds of Commitment* for as long as the pandemic kept complicating travels. Geneva Call has nevertheless managed to implement its 2020-2023 strategy with minimal delay due to those external constraints. Geneva Call's staff both in the Program Department and the External Relations and Support Services have displayed a high level of professionalism, dedication and commitment as can be witnessed by the successful completion and enhancement of protection of civilian populations in the zones of conflict where we work. This report will underline several examples of these successes.

Protection of women and children in armed conflict have been challenged in most of Geneva Call's terrains, while famine and destruction of crops have emerged as an urgent thematic with many armed actors, in particular in the Sahel area. Geneva Call promulgated in September 2021, a new *Deed of Commitment on the Prevention of*

Starvation and Addressing Conflict-Related Food Insecurity to address the growing concern on the level of unacceptable suffering that famine, blocking of humanitarian convoys and lack of access to water cause for civilians.

Women who speak out have increasingly become a target of reprisal in many armed conflicts. This trend is profoundly destructive for societies and Geneva Call has constantly addressed this issue in all its programs and field action throughout the year. In Afghanistan, for instance, a multi stakeholder roundtable was organised with women representatives from key sectors, including civil society, the religious sector, the security sector, and local community, to discuss the role and participation of women within and associated with armed actors in armed conflict. Most regions of the country were represented and the strong leadership that the participants displayed should be heard by the Taliban. Throughout the year Geneva Call has remained in contact with the Taliban, engaging them in particular on the healthcare system and the place of women in it. All Geneva Call's offices have remained open and operational during the transition of power in Kabul with its global operations in the country continued and reinforced.

In Ukraine, Geneva Call has had a long engagement with semi-integrated armed actors in the Southeast in particular, in Mariupol, while maintaining high level contacts on the other side of the lines. Before the fighting began Geneva Call managed to have IHL obligations integrated in the codes of conduct of these groups. Change of policies and revision of armed actors' have been a mark of Geneva Call's engagement in all zones of conflict and are a secure tool to project changes of behaviour. The dedication of our staff has been remarkable and allowed Geneva Call to move even further with new armed actors.

May our partners and donors be recognized and thanked for their strong support throughout this difficult year. Geneva Call's funding mechanisms are heavily earmarked and thus do not provide sufficient flexibility and quick reactions to the extent needed when the reality on the ground demands. In today's chaotic and explosive world, it is essential for Geneva Call to establish a Rapid Response Mechanism to allow it to respond promptly to new protection challenges, an endeavour upon which we shall work closely on with our donors and partners.

Alain Délétroz
General Director

Countries of operations 2021



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 and principles 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) mechanisms. Geneva Call engages with ANSAs to encourage them to comply with these norms.

Since Geneva Call began its work more than 20 years ago, it has developed a unique methodology to increase awareness of, and respect for IHL and IHRL by ANSAs. 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 171 key ANSAs in 27 countries, many of which have taken active steps and made formal signed 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 on 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 the prevention of starvation and conflict related food insecurity.

66 ANSAs have signed an innovative instrument known as the *Deed of Commitment (DoC)*. The *DoC* 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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Progress towards strategy 2020-2023

At the end of 2021, as the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic came to an end, Geneva Call has strived and managed to ensure an effective implementation of its programs and projects within the ensuing constraints. While coping and dealing with the challenges imposed by the pandemic, affecting their usual ways of operating, Geneva Call has developed and applied new *modus operandi*, combining remote and online events and activities with face-to-face meetings, training sessions and events when possible. Despite the access challenges posed by the global pandemic in 2021, Geneva Call managed to follow its initial planning and achieve important outcomes and impact for the protection of civilians in armed conflict.

Geneva Call continued to implement its strategy articulated around two overriding objectives that encompass both components, programmatic aspects, and the organization's structure and governance, which guide all of Geneva Call's activities and therefore continue to situate the organization as a crucial and conflict sensitive actor in the protection of civilians:

- **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.

PROGRAMMATIC RESPONSE (OPERATIONS)

Despite the challenges imposed by the pandemic, 2021 was marked by a **noticeable increase of Geneva Call's engagement with ANSAs** in 17 contexts worldwide (Libya, Mali, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Sudan, South Sudan, Burkina Faso, Ukraine, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Myanmar, Thailand, The Philippines and Colombia). In addition, during 2021, Geneva Call initiated a new program in Burkina Faso, engaging with ANSAs and local communities on the topics of health care and displacement. A new regional structure was re-defined within the previous set-up, focusing on the Sahel countries, to ensure coherence in the organization's programmatic work in Mali and Burkina Faso.

In line with the findings and the recommendations of the evaluation of the *Deed of Commitment (DoC)*, during 2021 Geneva Call dedicated special focus and emphasised its intervention on **effective monitoring of the commitments** taken by ANSAs, signatories of the *DoCs* and/or other commitments. The monitoring of the *DoC* implementation plans was set as a priority for many country teams, in line also with the existing capacities of the ANSAs as well as their willingness and openness to take concrete steps.

Many of the ANSAs engaged in different countries continued to operationalise their engagements to better respect IHL or made other new commitments and encouraged behaviour change to protect the civilian population under their territories of control. An important outcome of Geneva Call's engagement with the ANSAs in several countries, such as Mali and DRC, was the **facilitation of humanitarian access** for humanitarian organizations providing direct support to people in need, in the areas of concern.

As part of its strategy, Geneva Call continued to **train and build the capacity of programmatic staff for their engagement work with ANSAs**. During the first part of the year, these activities were mostly organised via online tools and platforms, due to limited travel and movement imposed by the pandemic. The evolution of the pandemic allowed better access to the field, and a series of training were delivered directly to the teams in few countries. This is a continuation of the work from the previous years, contributing to the Geneva Call's strategic objective aiming at applying a harmonized working approach and methodology across the contexts of operations.

2021 saw important efforts to **engage new ANSAs, including "hard-to-reach" ones** in different contexts, specifically in Afghanistan and Libya. High level Libyan stakeholders were invited to Geneva to discuss the protection of children and education, leading to the adoption of a public statement on these themes.

Building on the initiatives launched already in previous years, Geneva Call continued its work on **research and dissemination of good practices**. Together with the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, Geneva Call released two substantive studies on the practice and interpretation of core humanitarian norms by ANSAs in Colombia. In collaboration with the Centre for Applied Human Rights from the University of York (UK), Geneva Call also conducted research activities on the influence of religious leaders on ANSAs. The 'Generating Respect Project' examines how these individuals influence the behaviours of parties to armed conflicts and whether their religious interpretations (can) generate greater respect for humanitarian norms.

As a core value and integral part of its strategy, Geneva Call pays specific attention to the **important role that women play 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 of 2000)**. Geneva Call integrates responses to the gendered harm caused by armed conflicts in all its interventions and identifies the underlying social-cultural norms and practices that influence such patterns of harm. In its contextual conflict analyses, Geneva Call maps, in consultation with local partners, how women and men experience and are affected differently by armed violence and how this intersects with their age, ability, socio-economic status, and location. During its engagement with ANSAs and affected communities, Geneva Call focuses particularly on the promotion of actions and measures to protect women and girls not only from gender-based violence, such as rape and other forms of sexual abuse, but more generally gendered harm, for example in relation to the use of explosive weapons, and access restrictions, namely the particular difficulties faced by women to access reproductive health care or education during armed conflict.

STRUCTURE & GOVERNANCE

2021 has again demonstrated Geneva Call's ability to be nimble, flexible, and agile on the ground. The programmatic interventions were ramped up in line with signed donor agreements and Geneva Call achieved an implementation rate of 85% despite substantial funds being received in the last quarter of the financial period. 2021 was again a challenging year with COVID, coups and the summer events in Afghanistan, however Geneva Call still delivered on its priorities, to the fullest extent possible. Geneva Call continued to be a key partner in the sector and helped to facilitate the work of multi-laterals, especially in the area of protection and humanitarian access.

Geneva Call broadened its engagement with partners and hope that it can expand on this even further in 2022, bringing expertise to the center of planning and implementation in the humanitarian system.

Geneva Call finalised 2021 in a strong financial position. The total budget for 2021 was fully funded and with sufficient funding available to meet planned objectives whilst also making further modest transfers to reserves during the closing phase of the financial year. Internal control systems were further strengthened during the period in the areas of Budget Management, Budget vs Actual reporting to Executive Management and Field Operations, as well as cash forecasting and treasury management.

The business process review project was finalised in the third quarter of 2021, culminating in a project proposal aimed at bringing in much needed investment to upgrade the digital infrastructure and equip the organization with the necessary information technology systems in the medium and longer terms. Geneva Call will pursue investment during 2022 to ensure the necessary improvements to the IT infrastructure are made.

Geneva Call has expanded its pool of donors who provide valuable unearmarked funds and has extended its portfolio of multi-year core support with its key long-term partners. The organization also achieved success in increasing its thematic and regional support throughout the regions.

Geneva Call is grateful for the trust our donors and partners place in us and hope that the support can be sustained without disrupting programme activity throughout the course of 2022. Geneva Call has planned for modest growth in its budget (12%) in 2022 and will continue to ensure optimal use of resources when delivering results. Geneva Call is encouraged by the support already shown by donors with secured funding already close to 50% against this budget at the end of 2021.

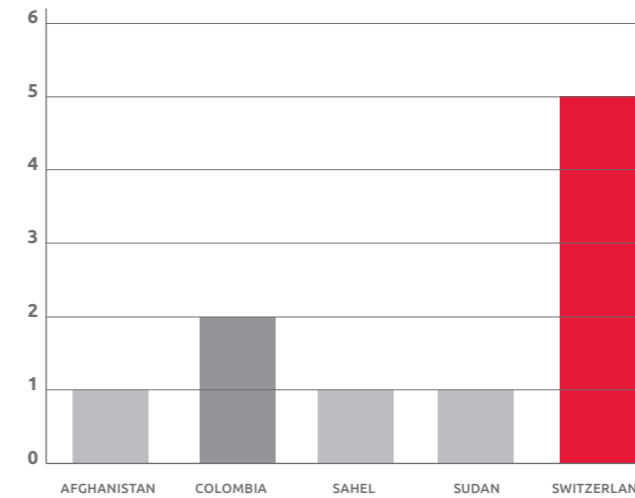
Geneva Call has consistently proven its ability to attract talent with expertise and professionalism, and continuously strives for performance optimisation. The Geneva Call talent management system comprises four elements: recruitment, performance management, learning and finally, compensation management.

Significant efforts were made in 2021 to recruit over 50 staff for field operations, with support and training for new colleagues on-going.

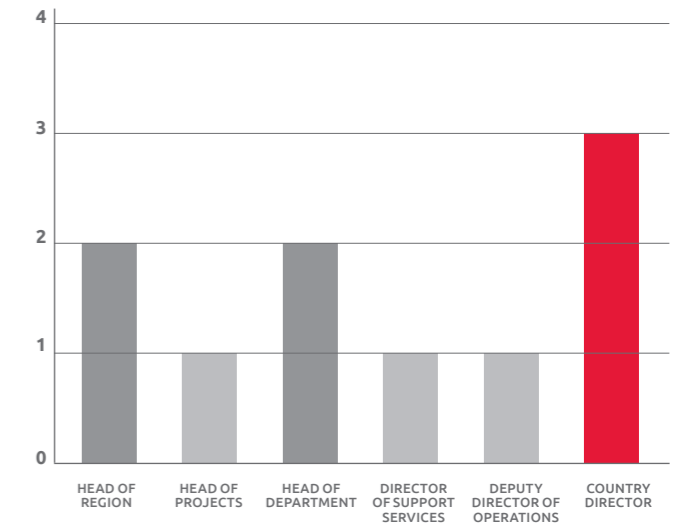
Geneva Call's board gathers a variety of expertise (IHL, management, finances, humanitarian operationals) and continues to have a 50/50 gender representation. In 2021, Geneva Call achieved a seven percent increase in female staffing to reach 41% female staff overall. Efforts are on-going to ensure we have diversity and gender parity in our work force.

2021 saw an increase in the organization's communication capacity at both institutional and operational communication activities, ensuring a good coverage. Targeted and focused social media coverage of Geneva Call's key humanitarian engagements was provided, including coverage of achievements and better visibility for its ongoing advocacy on the humanitarian engagement of ANSAs and related access.

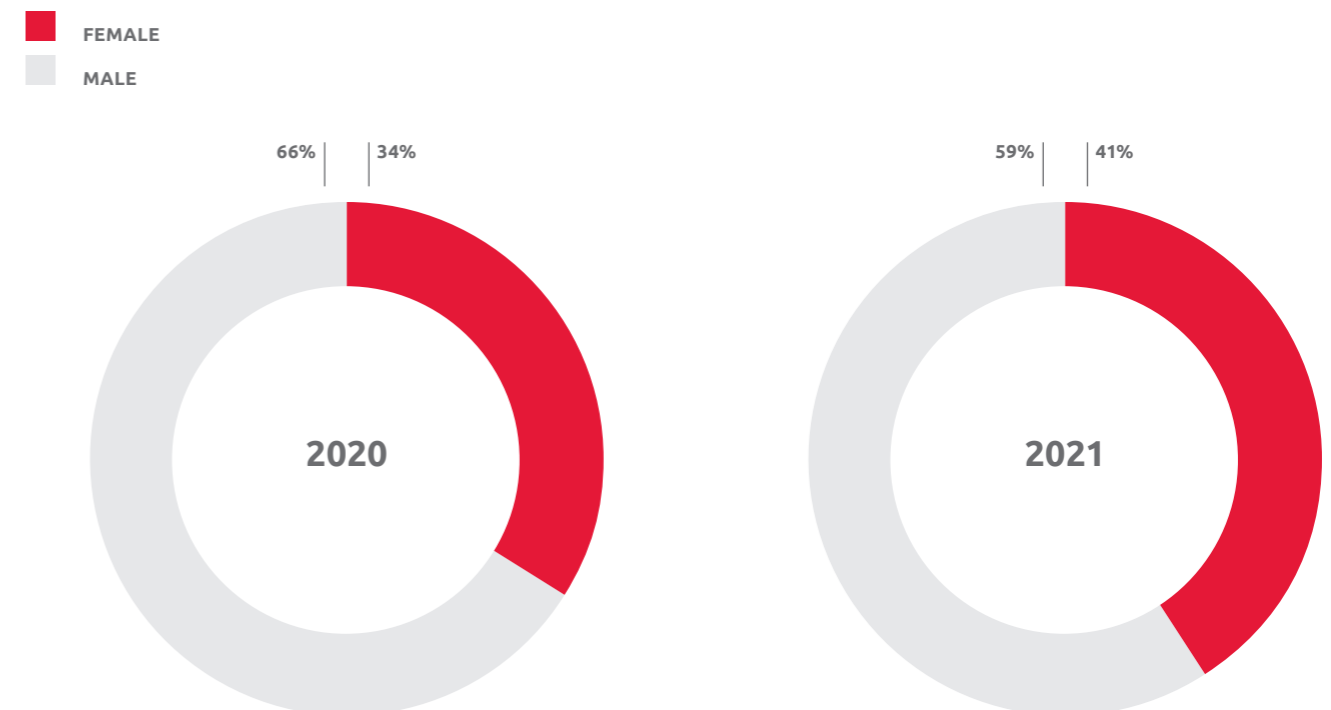
Women in leadership positions, by country



Women in leadership positions, by jobs



Gender distribution for 2020 & 2021



International Humanitarian Norms and Principles

At the time of writing, approximately 66 million people live in territories controlled by armed non-State actors (ANSAs). Humanitarian responses tend to overlook the protection needs of these communities, putting them in a particularly vulnerable position and at risk of being left behind. In conflict-affected areas, dependency on humanitarian assistance to cover basic needs in areas controlled by ANSAs, is common. Although international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law (IHRL) include certain obligations regulating these matters, problems related to compliance persist, thus demonstrating the need for continuous and long-term engagement with all parties, including ANSAs, with the goal of enhancing the protection of civilians in conflict settings. 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.

Increased respect for IHL and IHRL contributes to a general reduction of violence in armed conflicts and provides an enabling environment for humanitarian assistance. The core of Geneva Call's work continues to focus on the protection of civilians during armed conflicts by engaging ANSAs to respect international humanitarian norms, particularly on the thematic areas of expertise that the organization has developed since its creations, namely: Child Protection & Education, Cultural Heritage, Displacement, Famine (Starvation), Gender & Sexual Violence, Landmine Ban, and Medical Care.

The highlights of Geneva Call's thematic and transversal work in 2021

- Together with the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, Geneva Call released two substantive studies on the practice and interpretation of core humanitarian norms by the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia – Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP) and the Mouvement National de Libération de l'Azawad (MNLA). The

studies are part of a major research project, the first of its kind, which aims at informing strategies to promote ANSAs compliance with IHL. Funded by the UK Research and Innovation, the project is undertaken in collaboration with the American University in Cairo with the support of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and Diakonia International Humanitarian Law Centre. Studies on six other ANSAs are at an advanced stage and will be published in 2022.

- Drawing on these case-studies and the database www.theirwords.org, the research will result in a global comparative analysis on ANSAs attitudes towards IHL and operational guidance for humanitarian actors. A dedicated website (www.words2deeds.org) was created to provide information on the project and disseminate its outputs among stakeholders. In July, the MNLA case-study was presented to the humanitarian community, including members of the Mali Protection Cluster, donor States as well as civil society actors in Bamako.



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Afghanistan (IEA) on conduct of hostilities principles, including with a view to protect cultural heritage.

- In 2021, Geneva Call acted and developed a new *Deed of Commitment on the Prevention of Starvation and Addressing Conflict-Related Food Insecurity*. The new *Deed of Commitment* is Geneva Call's first to include a clear unequivocal obligation for ANSAs to allow and facilitate humanitarian assistance to all those in need. Moreover, it highlights the crucial links between environmental degradation and food insecurity as well as the cycle between displacement and food insecurity, in line with Geneva Call's commitment to address humanitarian protection concerns in a holistic manner.
- With this new *Deed of Commitment*, Geneva Call offers ANSAs the opportunity to publicly pledge to respect international humanitarian law and relevant human rights norm and to be held accountable for their commitments. In line with its approach focusing on ownership, Geneva Call consulted ANSAs during the development of the new *Deed*. The new *Deed* also benefitted from the input from other relevant humanitarian organizations, including OCHA, WPF, FAO and the ICRC.
- The new *Deed of Commitment* and Geneva Call's emerging thematic engagement of ANSAs on food insecurity is an important contribution to the ongoing international processes to address famine in armed conflict, namely the implementation of Security Council Resolution 2417 and the UN High-Level Task Force on Preventing Famine.
- Throughout 2021, Geneva Call continued to engage the IEA on the use of explosive weapons and improvised explosive devices and developed some new internal training materials tailored to this context. Following the take-over of Kabul, engagement with the IEA has been continuing and refocused on mines' clearance.
- In collaboration with the Centre for Applied Human Rights from the University of York (UK), Geneva Call conducted research activities on the influence of religious leaders on ANSAs. The '*Generating Respect Project*' examines how these individuals influence the behaviours of parties to armed conflicts and whether their religious interpretations (can) generate greater respect for humanitarian norms. In July 2021, Geneva Call focused on conducting a mapping exercise in Yemen and Syria, and with the aforementioned centre, jointly convened a workshop in Bamako, bringing together Malian religious leaders, scholars, and humanitarian actors to reflect on the topic. Finally, in December 2021 the project organized an international conference with the support of Geneva Call in which findings from the research were widely disseminated.
- In November 2011, Geneva Call organized a conference in Geneva, gathering eleven (11) key government actors from Libya to engage on IHL and the protection of children and education which resulted in a public conference statement where the Libyan government committed to protect education. In support of this work, Geneva Call developed a tailored curriculum on the protection of children and education during armed conflict, aimed to be used in IHL trainings for armed actors.
- Geneva Call further developed and conceptualised its understanding of the protection of cultural heritage in armed conflict in 2021 to include the protection of natural sites and mixed natural/cultural sites in contexts like Mali, Yemen etc. Throughout 2021, Geneva Call continued to engage the Islamic Emirate of

Africa – Great Lakes & Horn of Africa (GLHA)



Africa – Great Lakes & Horn of Africa (GLHA)

What was the conflict situation during 2021 in the region, targeted countries?

- In recent years, the region has seen an increased dynamism across the spectrum of conflict, politics and geopolitics, resulting in the spread of instability, protracted crises of conflict, and displacement due to both conflict and natural disasters. Hostile governments' policies prevent local integration of displaced populations, resulting also in lack of safety and security.
- A study conducted by Geneva Call in 2019 in North Kivu, DRC, showed the multitude of violations of the law suffered by communities, including IDPs: sexual violence, theft, looting, summary executions, torture, child recruitment, and abductions. Taxation by ANSAs can lead to other forms of violence. There is no indication that violent conflict will end in 2022.
- In South Sudan, the civilian population face the consequences of protracted humanitarian crisis resulting from years

of armed conflict, recurring natural disasters and severe economic crisis, with nearly 8.3 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and protection in 2021 (OCHA - Humanitarian Needs Overview, South Sudan, January 2021). Old and current conflicts have exposed civilians to many human rights and IHL violations and abuses, such as extrajudicial killings, forced disappearances, child recruitments, SGBV, arbitrary arrests and detention, targeted attacks against civilians and attacks on hospitals and schools.

- Sudan struggles to create stability following the removal of the former regime of Omer al-Bashir, internal political challenges continue to pose a threat to its ability to achieve such objectives. Many political actors continue to contest the outcomes of the military takeover, raising the potential for continued armed conflict. 2021 was marked by heightened tensions and military clashes between Ethiopia and Sudan over a territorial dispute, and other tensions between other countries in the region, raising further the prospect of region-wide instability.

What were the regional achievements of Geneva Call in 2021?

- In 2021, Geneva Call proceeded with a split of its regional management in Africa, resulting in the establishment of two sub-regional units: Great Lakes & Horn of Africa (Democratic Republic of the Congo – DRC, South Sudan and Sudan) and the Sahel region. This new structure will facilitate improved coordination and more tailored approaches at a country level.
- In South Sudan, Geneva Call expanded the range of the ANSAs engaged and strengthened considerably its work with communities (including traditional leaders) and civil society. A better coordination was also noted with other actors operating in the country, including local and international organization, UN agencies, academic bodies etc.
- In Sudan, Geneva Call established a new office and a new team in the country, therefore becoming operational through implementing direct activities, especially in the Darfur area.

Conflict sensitivity

- The conflict dynamics and spectrum, coupled with the challenges accompanying the new organizational set-ups in the region, had led Geneva Call to carry out prior detailed analysis of these dynamics, including updating contextual situation analysis, humanitarian needs assessments, stakeholder analysis, ANSAs' profiles, etc. Further, the adaption of IHL messages to the traditional customs and values has been in the focus of consultations with group of academics and traditional leaders, especially in the context of South Sudan. This has led to adjustments to Geneva Call's normal messaging to ensure its relevance to participants of the projects. The messaging is translated into different local languages and further integrated into training tools and dissemination materials such as booklets, video, and radio messages.



Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

What was the impact of Geneva Call's work in 2021?

Direct impact on affected populations

- Following Geneva Call's dialogue and engagement with the leadership of Collective Movement for Change (CMC) – Forces de Défense du Peuple (FDP) group, 30 children enrolled within their forces were released. The CMC leadership is currently carrying out an assessment within their units aiming to replicate the action and release other children that may be still enrolled within the group.
- Similarly, six children were released by the Alliance of Patriots for a Free and Sovereign Congo (APCLS) group in Masisi territory. This release is a result of the implementation of the *Deed of Commitment for the Protection of Children from the Effects of Armed Conflict*, signed in 2016 with the group.
- As a result of Geneva Call's advocacy and engagement with the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) and another ANSA, both operating in Masisi, two occupied schools have been released, respectively in September 2021 and December 2021.
- In July 2021, during clashes in Nyabiondo between the FARDC and APCLS, the latter refrained from attacking the loyal forces who had taken refuge in the health center, thanks to Geneva Call's long-term engagement and IHL promotion.

Policy change

- Geneva Call's engagement with the leadership of the CMC led in the signature of two unilateral declarations (April 2021), namely on the protection of children and schools and the protection of medical mission. This is part of the process leading to the expected signing of the *Deed of Commitment for the protection of health care in armed conflict* in 2022.

- As a result of Geneva Call's work with CMC, the group took concrete steps at



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launching the revision of its internal policies. Documents such as internal regulations, combatant code, military penal code, etc., are being reviewed so as to increase compliance with IHL.

Facilitated humanitarian access

- Following the kidnapping of four staff of an INGO in May 2021 in Masisi Territory, Geneva Call was involved in advocating with the ANSA leadership who controlled the area. After discussions and dialogue, the hostages were released two days later.
- As a result of Geneva Call's advocacy work realized with one armed group active in Masisi, pregnant women were facilitated access to health posts without paying the taxes usually imposed by the group.

Strengthened capacities of affected communities

- During the reporting period, Geneva Call strengthened its work with the commu-

nities including round tables, awareness sessions, training sessions, media campaigns, etc. At the end of these various events, unilateral declarations for improved humanitarian access were signed by the populations, including local authorities.

What challenges did Geneva Call face in this context?

- The splitting among some of the ANSAs proved to be a major challenge for Geneva Call's work in the country. Geneva Call started engagement with dissident ANSAs as well. In addition, access to certain areas has been restricted due to military operations. Geneva Call had to remain extremely flexible on its planning and implementation of operations.

Expenditure

	CHF
TOTAL	681 844

South Sudan

What was the impact of Geneva Call's work in 2021?

Direct impact on affected populations

- In July 2021, following field assessments in Rumbek, Lakes State, carried out by Geneva Call, it was reported that children had been observed 'living' with armed troops inside a military base. Geneva Call staff collaborated with a local NGO who subsequently coordinated with UNICEF and Dallaire Institute. As a result, in November 2021, seven children (boys aged between 13-17 years old) were released to the relevant government ministry and are expected to be reunified with their families.
- In a follow up to IHL trainings for civil society actors in Yambio, Western Equatoria, Geneva Call carried out a series of case study interviews with participants, with the focus on the use of sexual and gender-based violence and the relevant IHL provisions. The feedback from female participants claimed that there had been a noticeable decrease in sexual violence post Geneva Call's programme activities. One participant stated that *'During the armed conflict many happened, hospitals were occupied by armed forces, men were*

beating their wives, but now I observe a reduction of domestic violence. I attribute this to Geneva Call, as they [Geneva Call] launched awareness raising activities on SGBV in the area'.

Policy change

- The direct engagement with the National Salvation Front (NAS) led to the signing of a general Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) defining the cooperation situation, stating that Geneva Call will support NAS in its compliance with IHL and human rights standards. In follow up to the MoU and subsequent direct engagement, Geneva Call and NAS have agreed on the modalities for trainings scheduled for 2022.

Expanded range of ANSAs engaged

- Thanks to its continuous work with armed groups in Kuajok, Warrap State, Geneva Call started its engagement with a community self-protection armed youth group intended to manage internal issues and defend the community from outside attack. The group commended Geneva Call for being the first INGO to reach-out to them in the bush to raise awareness of IHL.



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Strengthened capacities of civil society

- Geneva Call increased its efforts at strengthening the capacities of civil society. The results of a rapid assessment organised during a series of field monitoring exercises, show that 90% of the interviewees participating in the activities are positive about their increased knowledge on the topics developed by Geneva Call. One former member of an armed group stated: *'Participating in Geneva Call's trainings has changed my mentality. When I was with the Arrow Boys, I did not know about IHL, but gaining this knowledge has helped me live among civilians after my demobilization (...) I also have friends who are still soldiers. When we meet and discuss things, I also talk about IHL'.*

What challenges did Geneva Call face in this context?

- The main challenge during 2021 remained the COVID-19 pandemic that limited Geneva Call's operations in South Sudan, especially hindering the building of trust and cooperation between Geneva Call and project stakeholders.
- In addition, the political and security situation remains a challenge with slow progress in the implementation of the peace process. ANSAs continue to splinter into subgroups, making it difficult to prepare and implement strategic engagement approaches and define, who, what and when re-engaging on IHL.

Expenditure

	CHF
TOTAL	737 193

Republic of the Sudan

What was the impact of Geneva Call's work in 2021?

Expanded range of ANSAs engaged

- During the second half of 2021, Geneva Call opened the doors of its first ever country office in Sudan. With a new operational presence in-country, and a nationwide peace process underway, Geneva Call focused on creating the conditions for comprehensive programming in Darfur by leveraging historical links with ANSAs (with Geneva Call's engagement with ANSAs in Sudan tracing back to the early 2000s) and expanding the range of ANSAs engaged.
- A field mission by Geneva Call's Director General in October 2021 resulted in commitments from the leadership of various Darfur ANSAs, government officials, and local authorities to support Geneva Call's efforts in the region. With a highly fluid and often volatile context in many parts of Sudan in 2021, Geneva Call's establishment of a country office, progress in dialogue and trust building with a wide range of stakeholders and positioning of the organization as critical protection actor in Sudan, were significant successes.

- A three-day IHL Awareness Raising & ANSA Consultation Workshop was held in El Fasher, Darfur in October 2021 to provide baseline/fundamental knowledge on IHL and to gather insight and recommendations from ANSAs on critical protection risks and ANSA capacity building needs in Darfur. 30 participants attended the workshop, with representation from five ANSAs in Darfur. 80% of workshop participants demonstrated an increase in knowledge.

Strengthened capacities of civil society

- Launching a joint project with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) to increase the protection of displaced populations in Darfur, Geneva Call worked to identify protection risks for conflict affected communities, and challenges and opportunities for enhanced coordination and synergies amongst stakeholders. Through dialogue and trust building, and the three-day IHL Workshop in 2021, Geneva Call paved the way to roll-out targeted and contextually appropriate advocacy and awareness raising, ANSA training, and civil society strengthening - IHL and IHRL programming in 2022.

What challenges did Geneva Call face in this context?

- Roughly one year after the October 2020 signing of the Juba Peace Agreement, an agreement that charted the way forward for Sudan's political transition, Sudan's military took control of the government in a coup d'état. This resulted in substantial shifts within the political, security, and humanitarian contexts across the country, and with that, an increased need and urgency for Geneva Call's activities. By working closely with other inter-agency partners to closely monitor and navigate the evolving contexts, Geneva Call made a series of adaptations to mitigate the increased risks and challenges, and to ensure the prioritization of a 'do not harm' approach across all Geneva Call activities.

Expenditure

	CHF
TOTAL	125 789



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Africa - Sahel Region



Africa - Sahel Region



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What was the conflict situation during 2021 in the region, targeted countries?

- Sahel has long been one of the most vulnerable regions in Africa. The populations face numerous economic, security and integration challenges, including cyclical conflicts between various communities that share the same areas and resources (sedentary and pastoral). The 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan for Burkina Faso states that the country is facing a severe and multifaceted crisis due to the impact on the civilian population of conflict and violence related to the increasing activities of armed groups and intercommunity tensions which pose considerable security risks. Mali is particularly exposed and not immune to these multiple crises. The country is amid an unprecedented security crisis and much of the territory is under the control of various armed actors.
- In both countries, ANSAs carry out attacks against State armed forces, State officials, and civilians. The use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), frequent human rights violations, including the kidnapping of medical personnel, and restrictions on people's access to health care and of medical organizations to populations in need of health coverage, are daily protection concerns.

- Other external elements, including the COVID-19 pandemic and the climate change also had devastating impact on the populations.

What were the regional achievements of Geneva Call in 2021?

- In 2021, Geneva Call created a new division for its operations in Africa, with the Sahel Regional Unit consisting of Burkina Faso and Mali country programs. This division allows to customise Geneva Call to customise its approach for the protection of the civilian population and ensure a more in-depth impact in the region, especially in the Liptako Gourma area.
- In 2021, Geneva Call initiated its first regional project in partnership with Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) by launching a survey on the humanitarian access in Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali. The project aims to provide a comparative study between the three countries and identify good practices for a better perception of humanitarian actors by armed groups.
- In Mali, Geneva Call deepened its engagement with armed actors despite the pandemic. In 2021, the mission expanded in new areas, namely in Mopti, Timbuktu, and Gao.

Conflict sensitivity

- The situation in the Sahel region, where endemic poverty, climate change, violence, chronic food insecurity, and malnutrition continue to lead to extreme levels of vulnerability, requires particular attention to conflict sensitivity. Geneva Call's work focuses on recognizing local practices and initiatives and localizing humanitarian standards. This has been done through the dissemination of key messages via radio, brochures and videos that have been simplified and translated into local languages in Mali. In addition, Geneva Call organized roundtables bringing together different actors (armed actors, government representatives and members of civil society) in both countries.
- These exchange spaces based on a participatory approach allow Geneva Call to consider the impact of its operations in the contexts of intervention, and, conversely, the impact of these contexts on its field operations.

Burkina Faso

What was the impact of Geneva Call's work in 2021?

Enhanced coordination and synergies

- Geneva Call expanded its mission in Burkina Faso during September 2021. As a result of intensified dialogue, consultation and engagement with different stakeholders, Geneva Call managed to establish its presence in the country, to become operational in the field and now enjoys acceptance and recognition by state actors, members of civil society and some armed non-state actors. The rounds of consultations and dialogue with stakeholders enabled the mission to build upon recommendations and develop the organization's country strategy for 2022.

What challenges did Geneva Call face in this context?

- The acceptance of the organization in the country was one of the main risks and challenges identified by Geneva Call in Burkina Faso. Indeed, the inherent sensitivity of working with ANSAs, the security and political context of Burkina Faso increased the risk of non-acceptance of Geneva Call's interventions in the country. However, thanks to a successful communication strategy with the authorities, to the adaptation of the organization's presentation and approach, Geneva Call managed to overcome this challenge successfully.

Expenditure

	CHF
TOTAL	312 136



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Mali

What was the impact of Geneva Call's work in 2021?

Direct impact on affected populations

- The intervention of Geneva Call resulted in the establishment of local mechanisms promoting humanitarian standards. The process is now focusing on defining appropriate frameworks, organization and functioning to facilitate measuring the impact of the interventions.

Policy change

- As a result of engagement with the Coordination of Azawad Movements (CMA), the coalition reviewed its military code of conduct and is currently preparing for signing the *Deed of Commitment on the protection of health care and medical mission*.
- Similarly, the "Coordination des mouvements de l'inclusivité (CMI)" expressed its willingness to sign the unilateral declaration on the protection of the medical mission and prepare for signing the *Deed of Commitment*, seeking to place its actions within the framework of humanitarian standards.

Facilitated humanitarian access

- Following requests by two international humanitarian organizations to facilitate access in the Mopti region, Geneva Call successfully managed to dialogue with concerned ANSAs. As a result, access was granted to the humanitarian organizations' health teams and assistance reached the areas of concern.
- In addition, three humanitarian organizations developed their guidelines for dialogue with ANSAs thanks to support provided by Geneva Call.

Expanded range of ANSAs engaged

- Following Geneva Call's awareness and sensitization work, 90 community influencers were mobilized and involved in revitalizing existing networks and the dialogue with the so-called radical ANSAs.



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Strengthened capacities of civil society

- Geneva Call strengthened its network with relevant community leaders, influencers and CSOs in the regions of Mopti, Gao and Timbuktu. As a result, Geneva Call noticed the emergence of a young citizens' dynamic in favor of the respect of IHL in Gao.
- Following a workshop for women leaders, members of CMA, the Platform, the CMI and the Dana Ambassagou movement, a periodic forum of dialogue was established with the women leaders of these ANSAs to promote the respect of humanitarian norms.

Enhanced coordination and synergies

- Geneva Call continued its work of mobilizing networks for promoting the respect of humanitarian norms by ANSAs. A workshop was organized in partnership with York University sharing the preliminary results of a study on the practice and interpretation of international humanitarian law by non-state armed actors (National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad – MNLA).

What challenges did Geneva Call face in this context?

- Working with armed groups not responding to the coalitions' chain of command, proved to be a major challenge, for example traditional hunters' groups emerged in the Mopti region, not attached to Dana Ambassagou. The volatility of the context and the instability of the institutions make ANSAs leaders generally unavailable. The continuous change of position and alignment of ANSAs, the creation of new coalitions, alliances or dissidences require close monitoring of the evolution of their configuration.

Expenditure

	CHF
TOTAL	757 282

Europe & Asia (Eurasia)



Europe & Asia (Eurasia)



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What was the conflict situation during 2021 in the region, targeted countries?

2021 has been an eventful year with considerable implications for global security and peace across Eurasia. The impact of the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, the military coup in Myanmar, the withdrawal of international forces from Afghanistan and the Taliban takeover, and the continuous militarization around the Donbass, as well as shrinking space for civil society in Pakistan, The Philippines and Thailand, will continue to be felt in 2022. This is likely to increase the risk for some of the most complex emergency crises to sink deeper into armed violence. The volatile and fragile economies caused by the pandemic could become a conducive ground for despair and violence. Symptoms of climate change such as heavy precipitation in South-East Asia will gradually pose natural resources and food insecurity problems while macro infrastructure projects will continue stretching climate change into armed conflicts. This will entrench existing divisions into localized armed conflict with regional ramifications.

In most operations of Geneva Call across Eurasia, the absence of equitable political solutions, unaddressed grievance, and lack of safety in the protracted crisis will continue nurturing fragmentation and multiplication of armed actors evolving with a greater level of autonomy from States or against them threatening the protection of civilians and humanitarian space.

What were the regional achievements of Geneva Call in 2021?

- In this volatile and changing context, Geneva Call promoted norms among the 17 ANSAs and as a result, Geneva Call was able to increase knowledge and awareness of humanitarian norms across the target groups by an average of 15%.
- Geneva Call played an advisory role in Eurasia by advocating with 13 ANSAs to take concrete policy and related enforcement measures to allow rapid and unimpeded humanitarian assistance, to protect civilians during hostilities and to demilitarize schools as examples.
- In countries such as Myanmar, Ukraine and Afghanistan, Geneva Call engaged armed organizations on IHL, IHRL and law enforcement and how complementarity of these law regimes contributes to higher international protection of civilians.
- Geneva Call also innovated with humanitarian advocacy in endogenous areas where underrepresented communities are affected by armed violence but where IHL application is arguable. Across the region, ANSA reported that Geneva Call showed neutrality by considering all parties of the conflict impartially and engaging them all for humanitarian purposes only.

Conflict sensitivity

Due to the nature of its humanitarian engagement, Geneva Call maintains a deep understanding of the context it operates in particularly intergroup relations. Through protection and context monitoring, Geneva Call has developed a strong and neutral understanding of the interactions between its interventions, and the context/group relations and has been acting upon the understanding of these interactions, in order to avoid negative impacts and maximize positive impacts.

Geneva Call builds its humanitarian engagement specifically around the sensitivities and challenges of the context, following consultations with communities and key stakeholders. Humanitarian engagement is preventative, aiming at building the technical capacity of stakeholders to safely advocate and disseminate humanitarian norms among armed actors. Geneva Call seeks to utilize the potential of local actors as agents of change to enhance the respect for the fundamental rights of civilians in armed conflict, including vulnerable and underrepresented groups. The stakeholders are key leaders of Geneva Call's work in targeted communities in engaging with the duty bearers including authorities and armed organizations. This level of engagement and shared ownership of interventions ensures Geneva Call remains agile and sensitive to the context of intervention.

Afghanistan

What was the impact of Geneva Call's work in 2021?

Policy change

- In November 2021, as the Polio vaccination campaign was resuming, Geneva Call launched a health protection campaign to foster the protection of healthcare services. As a result of this work, the Taliban have officially announced that humanitarian organizations would be allowed to pursue their work without any obstacle. At the provincial level, the Taliban have also officially committed to the protection of civilians and the protection of healthcare.

Strengthened capacities of civil society

- Geneva Call conducted trainings for approximately 300 civil society members, including women, community elders, local leaders, teachers, youth, and academics on humanitarian engagement, international humanitarian norms and

the protection of healthcare. As a result, it was noticed that the participants had an average knowledge increase of 36.5%. Geneva Call secured permission from the Taliban for female CSOs, who are recipients of seed grants, to organize trainings and activities for their community members. As a result, in November 2021, two female CSOs organized workshops on women and the protection of healthcare in Nangarhar and Kunduz provinces.

Strengthened capacities of affected communities

- A multi stakeholder roundtable was organised with women representatives from key sectors, including civil society, the religious sector, the security sector, and local community, to discuss the role and participation of women within and associated with armed actors in armed conflicts in Afghanistan. The participants provided a series of recommendations to Geneva Call to better consider the role that women can play in influencing be-

haviour in conflicts; and how the international community and local authorities could support and enhance the positive contribution that women can play in reducing violence and contribute to a more inclusive peace process.

Enhanced coordination and synergies

- In November 2021, Geneva Call organized a workshop on "Protection of Healthcare Services in Kandahar Province", aiming at facilitating experience and expertise sharing of various stakeholders, including the Minister of Health, provincial authorities and civilian participants, UN agencies, INGOs, local NGOs and health practitioners. The Minister noted that "Geneva Call showed neutrality in the past years by bringing all parties of the conflict and stakeholders to the same table".

What challenges did Geneva Call face in this context?

- The application of international counter-terrorism laws and policies, sanctions, closure of the banking system, and the lack of clarity over the new rules of engagement with the Taliban are disrupting the flow of humanitarian aid within the country and essential financial transfers. At the same time, the closure or restriction of most borders and airports, and airstrips have also cut humanitarian supply lines.
- The lack of inclusivity by the Taliban within decision-making and opinion-making where women and minority groups are excluded is undermining efforts led by the Afghans and the international community to engage Afghanistan on the path towards sustainable peace and development.

Expenditure

	CHF
TOTAL	631 417



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Myanmar

What was the impact of Geneva Call's work in 2021?

Direct impact on affected populations

- Communities reported that due to Geneva Call's activities and direct intervention to facilitate communication between ANSA representatives and communities, landmine victims were able to receive compensation where injuries to persons and property had negatively impacted their livelihoods.
- In addition, following Geneva Call's engagement with the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS), teachers engaged through this action had applied child protection measures and a participatory approach in schools after learning about child protection and positive discipline. Through Geneva Call's support and engagement on the *Deed of Commitment on the protection of children from the effects of armed conflict*, 21 children living in schools in areas controlled by RCSS were able to regularly contact their parents – some for the first time in four years.

Policy change

- In response to the military coup in February 2021 and emerging protection issues, Geneva Call has increasingly focused engagement with ANSA members on the conduct of hostilities, protection of healthcare and the protection of education.

Facilitated humanitarian access

- Through its engagement with the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), Geneva Call opened pathways of engagement with other ANSAs. The cooperation of the TNLA in this endeavour is a positive step towards the implementation of their *Deed of Commitment* and creates further opportunities to enhance the protection of civilians in areas where there has been limited humanitarian access over the last decade.

Strengthened capacities of civil society

- Despite the challenges of the coup, Geneva Call organised various trainings for 1,009 ANSA members (including 20% female) on international humanitarian law, specifically focused on the protection of children, education, and the prohibition of sexual violence, in addition to trainings for teachers, education personnel, students, youth and CSO members. As a result, Geneva Call was able to increase knowledge and awareness of humanitarian norms across the target groups by an average of 16%.

What challenges did Geneva Call face in this context?

- Increasing insecurity and military presence in many of Geneva Call's areas of operation has required Geneva Call to adapt many activities. To mitigate against these risks, Geneva Call continues to maintain low visibility inside the country and has taken measures to strength-

en digital communication standard operating procedures, develop remote training methodologies and resources, and continue to leverage its strong local networks in ethnic areas to travel safely and engage with ANSAs.

- This challenging operational environment has been further compounded by the near-collapse of financial services – which restricts humanitarian organizations and communities-in-needs access to cash.

Expenditure

	CHF
TOTAL	593 742



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Pakistan

What was the impact of Geneva Call's work in 2021?

Strengthened capacities of civil society

- Geneva Call conducted various engagement and capacity building sessions with local authorities, communities (and fighters) and CSOs. The capacity was particularly increased for local CSOs on the basic principles of IHL and international human rights law (IHRL) applicable in armed conflict, conflict sensitivity, monitoring of violations, reporting and advocacy tools, engagement strategies, and future planning. Pre- and post-test score comparison reflected a clear knowledge increase on the main provision of IHL/IHRL.

Strengthened capacities of affected communities

- Meetings with state authorities have contributed towards the acceptance of humanitarian norms by officials, which particularly reflected on the coherence between international humanitarian norms and Islamic Law. Local authorities have requested Geneva Call to provide

an IHL booklet to be incorporated into the police training curriculum. This has been bolstered by engagement in communities on respect for humanitarian norms, including with religious leaders, tribal leaders, youth and fighting forces members in the districts of Peshawar, Khyber, and Mohmand. In closing sessions, participants expressed their commitment to play a positive role in their communities by raising awareness of humanitarian norms. Results from a recent survey of beneficiaries indicate that 100% now feel confident to share and explain the learnt messages to others and 55% of respondents had since conducted direct dialogue with local authorities and/or other actors about their protection concerns following the activity. Religious leaders have expressed willingness to Geneva Call to adopt IHL as part of their teaching syllabus and promote contextualised IHL into their Jumma sermons.

What challenges did Geneva Call face in this context?

- Geneva Call is working alongside the western border with Afghanistan to reach conflict-affected and extremely violence-exposed communities, whereas the government forces are primarily focused on targeting ANSA networks and affiliates in intelligence-based operations. This creates a vulnerable situation for organizations with limited access and complex security clearance procedures and permissions to engage with local communities.
- NGOs are particularly vulnerable and exposed to risks posed by ANSA attacks on workers and limited access granted by the local authorities.
- The regime shift in Afghanistan has added new security challenges through increased ANSAs activities and illegal migration.

Expenditure

	CHF
TOTAL	325 363



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The Philippines

What was the impact of Geneva Call's work in 2021?

Direct impact on affected populations

- Reports from engaged CSOs and religious leaders indicate that the space for humanitarian engagement has opened and that messages on the protection of civilians have reached Islamist armed actors. Armed encounters that took place in Maguindanao, in December 2020 and May 2021, may indicate that an active ANSA has taken proportionality and precaution into account as civilian casualties were avoided in both instances. Trained religious leaders and CSO volunteers ensured through dialogue with ANSA members that affected civilians were evacuated from harm's way during the outbreak of clashes in March 2021 in the village of Dabenayan in Mamasapano.

Strengthened capacities of civil society

- In cooperation with partner civilian stakeholders, Geneva Call adopted multidisciplinary advocacy plans tailored to the complex conflict contexts in Mindanao, along with capacity building activities. It was noted that these activities increased the understanding of participants and improved their ability to articulate and negotiate for civilian protection. Further, they continuously achieve secondary gains such as an increase in confidence, bringing empowerment, and providing opportunities for vulnerable sectors such as women.
- Geneva Call held various meetings with civilian stakeholders such as CSOs, religious sector, women, youth, authorities, academia, media, indigenous people as well as communities displaced by recent rounds of hostilities. Specialized consultation sessions with only women were conducted in Libutan, Mamasapano, and Datu Unsay, Maguindanao, resulting in recommendations to strategize on how to voice the needs and rights of civilians.



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Strengthened capacities of affected communities

- To increase local ownership, Geneva Call supported ten community-based protection projects by local CSOs to continue to promote humanitarian norms. Steps towards reaching a safer space for dialogue led by civilians to discuss protection issues in armed conflict was among the positive feedback received, as communities expressed those rights are not only protected by IHL/IHRL but also under long-established religious beliefs and local practices.
- In interviews, most respondents mentioned that they feel more confident and have taken measures (symposiums, informal meetings & discussions, awareness sessions, radio programmes, khutba (sermon), muhadrah (lecture), and school discussions) to advance the protection of civilians following Geneva Call's interventions. Also reported, religious leaders from remote villages persuaded other religious leaders with influence over armed actors to promote humanitarian norms.

What challenges did Geneva Call face in this context?

- Humanitarian engagement with hard-to-reach ANSAs is complicated due to counterterrorism frameworks. This kind of relationship-building is challenging in the current climate in The Philippines where there are increasing constraints on humanitarian engagement and dialogue with ANSAs led by local civil society and international organizations due to both national and international frameworks as well as donor policies.
- The unpredictability of COVID-19 restrictions caused some delays in implementation, particularly as many of the target communities have poor communications infrastructure. Geneva Call had to adjust its delivery methods to adapt to the situation and minimise risks to both participants and staff.

Expenditure

	CHF
TOTAL	442 620

Thailand



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What was the impact of Geneva Call's work in 2021?

Direct impact on affected populations

- Geneva Call has continued to see an impact following the Barisan Revolusi Nasional Melayu Patani's (BRN) *Deed of Commitment*, in parallel with other developments affecting the trends in violence in the far South of Thailand. Most observers, both local and international, have noted a clear decline in not only child victims of armed violence but in civilian casualties in general. In a survey carried out in mid-2021 with individuals from affected areas, respondents told Geneva Call they felt that the level of violence is decreasing. While statistically it seems that the number of incidents has increased since the survey, violence directly affecting civilians continued to decrease. Respondents also indicated that they feel safe to discuss protection-related issues at the community-level, and the results related to awareness of humanitarian norms are also high.

Enhanced coordination and synergies

- Geneva Call's trusted partners continued to discuss humanitarian norms and protection concerns with communities. Geneva Call also engaged with both Malay-Muslim and Thai-Buddhist groups, providing them with awareness, knowledge, and skills development, with a particular focus on the protection of children. This cooperation is a crucial component of Geneva Call's wider programme in the deep South as it enables a diversity of voices to call for fighting forces to act in line with humanitarian norms. Signs of such greater awareness have been evident when local organizations have underlined respect for humanitarian norms when commenting on incidents in the far South.

What challenges did Geneva Call face in this context?

- Geneva Call traditionally maintains a lower profile in the politically sensitive context of the deep South, but the *DoC*

is by nature a public instrument. While Geneva Call has adjusted with reducing the organization's publicity in affected areas, local civil society have continued to welcome the *DoC* and wider humanitarian advocacy and are keen to take more localised action and ownership of promoting humanitarian norms for the protection of local communities.

- While capacity-building activities have been extremely difficult to organise due to COVID-19 and related restrictions across the region where relevant stakeholders are present, Geneva Call has managed to organise some capacity-building sessions in online and/or hybrid format to help maintain the momentum for the *DoC*'s implementation.

Expenditure

	CHF
TOTAL	201 309

Ukraine

What was the impact of Geneva Call's work in 2021?

Policy change

- In Ukraine, Geneva Call has increased the awareness and the acceptance of IHL by fighting parties through humanitarian sessions and the promotion of various provisions of several Geneva Call *Deeds of Commitment*, including awareness session engagements with interested fighting parties on specific thematic topics and training sessions.
- Geneva Call developed a virtual training platform, which builds on the successes of the initial 'Fighter not Killer' phone application. The platform has been developed both in Ukrainian and Russian to allow combatants to better understand the concrete application of IHL in armed conflicts.

Strengthened capacities of civil society

- Geneva Call has strengthened the capacities of civil society through workshops and awareness sessions for civilians concerning IHL, protection of healthcare, humanitarian assistance and gender-based

violence. Geneva Call provided these sessions to NGO workers, medical personnel and civilians living along the line of contact.

- Geneva Call also conducted monitoring visits and social research in eastern Ukraine to locations particularly affected by the armed conflict to better understand the problems and the needs of the location population suffering IHL violations.

Strengthened capacities of affected communities

- Geneva Call raised awareness of civilians and armed actors with innovative media and technology-based mass dissemination and teaching tools. Geneva Call produced a mobile phone application, articles, and videos in Russian and Ukrainian languages to disseminate the fundamental principles of IHL among all populations in eastern Ukraine.

Enhanced coordination and synergies

- Geneva Call has tried to reinforce the network and synergies with other humanitarian organizations operating in the

country. within this framework, Geneva Call organized and conducted several advanced trainings with 186 NGO workers, therefore increasing their knowledge on their rights and obligations in armed conflict.

What challenges did Geneva Call face in this context?

- In Ukraine, the COVID-19 pandemic and the increase of tensions in the east of the country did limit the ability of Geneva Call to reach all the parties involved in the conflict. Geneva Call has a strong engagement and recognition among many armed groups, but there are still hard-to-reach actors. The next challenge is to increase the number of the armed actors involved in the Ukrainian conflict reached by building acceptance among all the parties involved.
- Geneva Call in Ukraine keeps facing strict counter-terrorism legislation undermining its humanitarian engagement process.

Expenditure

	CHF
TOTAL	365 028



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Latin America



Colombia

Latin America



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

Latin America has been marked by waves of conflict during 2021, with violence increasing and decreasing over the year, in different countries.

In 2021, Colombia faced an intensification of the armed conflict, especially related to control of territory and access to illegal markets. Violence targeting civilians significantly increased, leading to additional humanitarian needs and displacement. Since the signature of the peace agreement in 2016, more than 500,000 people have been displaced because of the armed conflict (<https://cifras.unidadvictimas.gov.co/Home/Desplazamiento>). Humanitarian actors have registered the presence of armed groups in 450 local administrative entities in Colombia, and according to OCHA, seven million people live in areas under influence or control of ANSAs. Some armed groups, including the ELN and FARC-dissidents have become established as cross-border actors with established presences in Venezuela.

The situation in Venezuela, with the continuous tensions between the government and the opposition has worsened the humanitarian emergency, also becoming a huge concern for the neighbor countries.

What were the regional achievements?

- In Colombia, Geneva Call, as part of its expanded engagement in the country, advocated access for humanitarian service delivery to remote indigenous communities.
- Simultaneously, regular monitoring and initial engagement with cross-border actors were carried out at the Venezuelan border. Geneva Call paid particular attention to the protection of bi-national indigenous communities who find themselves migrating towards Colombia. Geneva Call engagement with actors across borders, facilitated access to humanitarian assistance to these groups in Colombia's bordering departments.

Conflict sensitivity

The Latin American context where Geneva Call operates is highly politicized given the upcoming presidential elections in Colombia (May 2022), and the political issues emanating from the migration crisis and the humanitarian situation in Venezuela. Parallel to the ongoing politics, the conflict in Colombia is evolving and with it the interconnectivity between both countries. While key stakeholders that Geneva Call must engage with have presence in Colombia and Venezuela, relations between both countries require understanding sensitivities and navigating engagement with transparency and discretion. A local approach maximizing the presence and knowledge of local community leaders and protection actors has been key for Geneva Call as it evolves, expands and deepens its operations.

Colombia

What was the impact of Geneva Call's work in 2021?

Facilitated humanitarian access

- Following direct engagement and contacts with the Bari Indigenous people, Geneva Call carried out an assessment of their current humanitarian emergency needs that was further shared with other humanitarian organizations. Thanks to this work, an emergency mission, gathering five different organizations, was planned for January 2022, to ensure proper inclusion and delivery of humanitarian food to the Bari communities. The access to the indigenous area is very challenging, therefore Geneva Call facilitated this possibility through its direct daily work with indigenous leaders.

Strengthened capacities of civil society

- Geneva Call provided training for conflict affected communities in three areas of work (Arauca, Norte Santander and Antioquia) focusing on IHL and negotiations with ANSAs. Additional partnerships were established with local organizations working with remote communities in hard-to-reach areas aiming at reinforcing their capacities in developing protection mechanisms.

Strengthened capacities of affected communities

- The dialogue established with indigenous communities and the Indigenous Government of Antioquia on child protection issues resulted into a commitment made by the Indigenous Government to review its policies in that regard (especially re-considering age groups considered as adults). In addition, the identification of recruitment patterns of children in two regions is in process.

Enhanced coordination and synergies

- Geneva Call is a member of the NGO forum and actively participates in the access working group led by OCHA. Through this participation, Geneva Call shares its experience in ways to approach armed groups via proxies and advocates for a legal change in Colombia with regards to the dialogue with armed groups. Geneva Call is also an active member of the medical roundtable organized by the Ministry of Health on protection of the medical mission nationwide.
- Geneva Call has established a collaboration with the Colombian Campaign Against Mines (local partner) on the identification and use of the anti-

sonal mines in Colombia, recording the number of incidents as well as mapping the new areas recently affected by mines.

What challenges did Geneva Call face in this context?

- The legal barriers imposed by the Colombian Government had a direct impact on the possibilities for formal dialogue with ANSAs. Geneva Call developed an action plan to implement its work to access ANSAs, with support from regional governments and leaders, including the development of a draft decree for the government.
- In 2021, an intensification of the conflict has reduced access to some areas due to security incidents, especially in Arauca and Norte de Santander, which led to a suspension of activities planned in remote areas. Geneva Call started dialogue with key community leaders to identify risks and negotiate its access through hard-to-reach areas and maintain most of its planned activities.

Expenditure

	CHF
TOTAL	382 925



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Middle East & North Africa (MENA)



Middle East & North Africa (MENA)

What was the conflict situation during 2021 in the region, targeted countries?

In Yemen, Ansar Allah made important territorial gains. The Internationally Recognised Government (IRG), with Saudi-led Coalition air support, responded with heavy shelling. The Joint Forces (JFs), under the IRG, withdrew from parts of Hodeida. In late 2021, the Giants Brigade re-deployed to central Yemen, reversing some Houthi gains. Civilian casualties increased significantly, and the internal IRG coalition rift grew. Conflict continues to spread beyond Yemen's borders, with drone and missile attacks on Saudi Arabia and other Gulf targets.

The rest of the MENA region saw lower levels of open conflict. Islamic State (IS) activities slowly re-gained momentum in Iraq and Syria. There were few shifts in front lines in Syria, however airstrikes, shelling, and assassinations continued. Iranian-aligned Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) militias launched several attacks against US assets in Iraq, and Turkey continued its air campaign against the Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK) positions. Libya saw the formation of a Government of National Unity, however elections planned for December 2021 were postponed.

Conflict dynamics were exacerbated by other crises the region. Yemen, Syria and Lebanon are all experiencing collapsing national economies. COVID-19 led to national lockdowns. Severe weather events and water scarcity continued to impact the region. Cross-front line water infrastructure faced regular interruptions, including Alouk Water station in Syria and the Man-Made River in Libya.



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What were the regional achievements of Geneva Call in 2021?

- In Iraq, Geneva Call facilitated humanitarian access into PMF controlled areas, ensuring safe spaces for returnees, and helped negotiate the return of health structures and a school in Sinjar to civilian use.
- In Libya, Geneva Call supported the signature by the Inter-Ministerial Committee on IHL for the Protection of Education from Attack, followed by a circular on protection of education from the Ministry of Defence and draft legislation for formal adoption of the international agreement.
- In North-West Syria, Geneva Call's intervention expanded to engage most armed actors, and moved to ensure internal IHL training capacity. Geneva Call managed to map crucial civilian infrastructure and negotiated the return of some private houses occupied by armed groups. In North-East Syria, Geneva Call developed a hotline for landmine response, and engaged civilian authorities and Internal Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Al Hole and other camps on codes of conduct.

- In Yemen, Geneva Call facilitated dialogue with the Southern Transition Council (STC) on protection issues of detained migrants and achieved return of IDPs blocked by COVID restrictions. Moreover, Geneva Call informed the STC screening process to avoid child recruitment and supported a *Unilateral Declaration on Health* by the Taiz Access forces, allowing access to vaccination sites.

Conflict sensitivity

Geneva Call works with civil society across the MENA region on holding armed actors to account for their respect of IHL. This requires ongoing assessment of possible risks to communities. It also builds platforms for dialogue between armed actors and communities to address local conflict issues.

Geneva Call works with ANSAs on bringing their operational norms up to national and international standards for humanitarian norms. In some countries, such as Yemen and Iraq, this is done jointly with armed actors that have intermittent conflict – building joint ownership for these norms.

Iraq

What was the impact of Geneva Call's work in 2021?

Direct impact on affected populations

- Through the community-based project on protection of children and in partnership with Youth Bridge Organization, Geneva Call raised awareness on protection of children and education and trained 50 local monitors, reaching out to 500 families. As a result, parents have shared that they feel more empowered on how to engage armed actors and whom to contact if asked to offer their children for recruitment.

Policy change

- All the key armed actors operating in Sinjar area are engaged on issues related to the protection of children. A formal commitment on child protection is expected to be signed in the coming months by the key armed groups in Sinjar where the Geneva Call community-based project has been implemented. No cases of recruitment of children were reported during the reporting period.
- Geneva Call team continued to monitor the declarations on the protection of health care signed by several armed actors, along with the measures adopted at ensuring their compliance. The dialogue has resulted in new commitments on codes of conduct, humanitarian access and displacement, expected to be signed in the coming months.

Facilitated humanitarian access

- In December 2021, Geneva Call facilitated the resumption of humanitarian operations in Sinjar District, northern Iraq, after the People's Protection Units (YBS) obstruction of all national and international agencies operations – effectively cut vital humanitarian access. Geneva Call was able to immediately engage with the YBS, securing full cooperation and support for the immediate resumption of humanitarian access. As a result, approximately 110,000 people are currently benefiting from humanitarian assistance in Sinjar.



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- After signing a cooperation agreement with Geneva Call, the Iraqi Minister of Migrations and Displacement publicly pledged to work together with the organization to ensure the safe return of IDPs, announcing the determination of the government to bring all IDPs back to their areas of origin.

Expanded range of ANSAs engaged

- During 2021, Geneva Call expanded its range of ANSAs engaged, reaching out to 22 armed actors (717 officers ranked fighters - 96% men and 4% women), who received training sessions on thematic topics such as displacement, health care and protection of children and education.

Strengthened capacities of civil society

- Geneva Call further strengthened the capacity of Friends of IHL Network who signed a statement on safe and dignified return of IDPs. 13 CSOs are active members of the Friends of IHL Network, and many other local and international organizations expressed their interest in joining the network.

Enhanced coordination and synergies

- Geneva Call participated regularly in the protection cluster and Return Working Groups led by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Partnerships are developed with Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and IOM on facilitating safe and dignified return of IDPs in areas presenting security concerns.

What challenges did Geneva Call face in this context?

Some of the activities were delayed due to COVID-19 pandemic, elections and intermittent attacks by IS against security forces and PMF groups. In Sinjar, Nineveh, activities and signing of commitments is delayed due to regular aerial attacks by the Turkish Airforce targeting PKK and their affiliated groups. Geneva Call continued dialogue with all the relevant armed groups and readjusted the venue and timing of the engagements.

Expenditure

	CHF
TOTAL	911 452

Lebanon

What was the impact of Geneva Call's work in 2021?

Policy change

- Geneva Call raised awareness on the right to healthcare within the Palestinian refugee camps, engaging political factions and security bodies, aiming to strengthen their commitment to apply COVID-19 safety rules, both within their ranks and within the community. These efforts led to the adoption of a Unilateral Declaration by the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and its affiliated entities in Lebanon, on safeguarding access to health care and preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Strengthened capacities of civil society

- Geneva Call strengthened partnerships with local actors and conducted community-based activities focused on disseminating protection messages linked to COVID-19 and the right to healthcare. Within this framework, Geneva Call engaged with healthcare providers and representatives of the Syrian refugee community to identify challenges and propose ways to address hampered access to healthcare during the pandemic. Key observations from these inter-

actions were subsequently utilized to inform dialog with relevant Lebanese authorities, including representatives from ministries and the security sector, to support the adoption of policy measures aimed at tackling impediments faced by the most vulnerable.

Strengthened capacities of affected communities

- Geneva Call initiated its engagement with key actors within the Shia community through a set of meetings on access to healthcare, leading up to the organization of a roundtable on 'Access to Healthcare in times of Armed Conflict and Pandemic' with representatives of Hezbollah affiliated organizations, religious scholars, and academics.

Enhanced coordination and synergies

- Geneva Call engaged in active dialogue and advocacy efforts with Lebanese authorities and stakeholders – including ministries, security bodies, healthcare providers, and civil society organizations. These efforts led to the organization of a panel discussion around 'Challenges Faced by Vulnerable Communities to Access Healthcare in times of Pandemic in Lebanon'. Concrete recommendations

were generated for humanitarian actors and other stakeholders to build upon.

What challenges did Geneva Call face in this context?

- The beginning of 2021 saw tightened national COVID-19 restrictions which initially hampered the implementation of field-based activities. To ensure respect for COVID-19 precaution measures, Geneva Call continuously assessed the feasibility of face-to-face activities and moved meetings and awareness raising sessions online where necessary.
- The shortage of dedicated resources has constituted a challenge in terms of engagement of key stakeholders, especially from the side of local authorities and political actors, prompting Geneva Call to increase communication at different levels to generate support and advance Geneva Call's agenda.

Expenditure

	CHF
TOTAL	37 064



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Libya

What was the impact of Geneva Call's work in 2021?

Policy change

- Due to the hybrid security environment in Western Libya, Geneva Call developed contacts and working relationship with members of the Government of National Unity. Members of the Inter-ministerial IHL committee were convened in Geneva for a conference on Child Protection and the Protection of Education which led to the signature of a commitment to strengthen the protection of children and education in Libya. This conference also enabled Geneva Call to strengthen contacts into the Libyan network, which further open opportunities for Geneva Call to engage with ANSAs in the West of the country.

Strengthened capacities of civil society

- During 2021, Geneva Call maintained engagement with civil society organizations promoting increased knowledge and dissemination of IHL messages to the wider population through large media campaign, as well as trainings of community influencers, social workers, teachers and education monitors. Further to the reinforcement of capacity of the civil society, Geneva Call through its "friends of IHL" network, supported the development and implementation of local protection initiatives in affected communities, to simultaneously strengthen the immediate protection environment and build the response capacity to IHL violations.

Strengthened capacities of affected communities

- Within the framework of the child protection and education initiatives, Geneva Call trained 194 community influencers, teachers, education monitors and social workers. Geneva Call further supported those trained to create eight groups of volunteers in their respective communities, to develop localized responses and protection initiatives.



@ ICRC - Elyaser, Hussein

Enhanced coordination and synergies

- Finally, in 2021, Geneva Call remained an active member of the Libya INGO Forum and all related broad and thematic coordination mechanisms. These include a platform for the coordination of civil society organization, which enables information sharing and coordinated capacity building of local partners. Furthermore, in collaboration with a university, Geneva Call had been able to produce a mapping of ANSAs, as well as religious and tribal leaders in Libya. Finally, as part of the overall development of material tailored to its context of implementation, Geneva Call has initiated the development of a mobile application on IHL to be used by ANSAs.

What challenges did Geneva Call face in this context?

As Geneva Call re-initiated activities in Libya in late 2021 after a six month pause, the work in Libya continues to confront access constraints, although several of these were resolved in early 2022. Geneva Call held a primary event in Geneva to ensure future access for concerned actors.

Expenditure

	CHF
TOTAL	482 472

Syria



@ Geneva Call

What was the impact of Geneva Call's work in 2021?

Direct impact on affected populations

- In Northwest Syria, Geneva Call engaged regularly via silent diplomacy all armed actors on reported abuses and violations. As a result, armed actors committed to develop and disseminate circular notes prohibiting the use or recruitment of minors and vacated private and public property previously occupied.
- In Northeast Syria, Geneva Call contributed to the demobilization of minors and developed a landmines and explosive devices hotline for civilians at risk to raise awareness and identify the location of existing unexploded devices.

Policy change

- Geneva Call continued providing regular trainings to combatants, security forces officers, and *de-facto* authorities in Northern Syria, encouraging eventual policy and practice behavioral change. The organization did review the Code of Conduct and the internal regulations of key armed actors increasing their alignment with IHL.
- In addition, Geneva Call signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* with two key armed actors and had seven armed actors sign the *Unilateral Declarations on health care protection during the pandemics*. Moreover, Geneva Call guided armed actors in developing their own human rights and international humanitarian law monitoring entities and mechanisms, often called "Grievance Redress Committee".

Facilitated humanitarian access

- Geneva Call facilitated ad-hoc bilateral and multilateral dialogue on key international humanitarian law access related issues, as well as organized round tables with armed actors, international non-governmental organizations to promote access, IHL and dialogue on the protection of civilians. In this regard, special attention was given to the protection of children, IDPs and the civilian infrastructure (health facilities, schools and water infrastructure).

Expanded range of ANSAs engaged

- Geneva Call enlarged its ANSA engagement, reaching out to some of the hardest to reach groups, often accused of regularly committing some of the most concerning IHL violations. As a result, additional ANSA expressed their willingness to sign engagement commitments and to build the understanding of their combatant on IHL.

Strengthened capacities of civil society

- Geneva Call developed the knowledge of dozens of civil society organizations, including women and youth CSO, as well as including CSO located in hard-to-reach IDP camps such as Al Hol camp on international humanitarian law/international human rights law.

What challenges did Geneva Call face in this context?

2021 was clearly marked by the continuation and deterioration of the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, impacting movement and the conduct of Geneva Call's regular activities. In addition, the North of Syria continued being a dangerous place to operate. Airstrikes, bombs, and assassinations continue. Last, access to beneficiaries and target groups was often hindered due to the conflict dynamics, be it border crossing, or access to certain IDP camps, or certain unstable areas.

Expenditure

	CHF
TOTAL	921 393

Yemen

What was the impact of Geneva Call's work in 2021?

Policy change

- In 2021, Geneva Call deployed active and successful engagement of armed groups such as Taiz Axis Forces (TAF) which resulted in the signing of a "Unilateral Declaration on the Safeguarding of Healthcare and Protection of civilians during COVID-19", hence pledging publicly to respect humanitarian norms during the pandemic. As a result, the group facilitated and ensured access to vaccines for civilians from other governorates.

Strengthened capacities of civil society

- In addition to rolling out of IHL capacity building trainings for civil society organizations through the Geneva Call supported Friends of IHL Network (FoIHLN), the organization advocated for the greater role that these actors can play in monitoring, documenting and reporting IHL, and conflict related violations in line with the "Do No Harm" principle. Other influential civilian actors, such as journalists, have an important role to play

in terms of documenting and reporting IHL violations against civilian and civilian infrastructure to wider audience. Therefore, Geneva Call capacitated journalists to promote IHL and producing and sharing articles reporting civilian casualties and violations of laws of war in Yemen.

- For a better evidence-based interventions and engagement, in 2021, Geneva Call conducted rapid assessments in five governorates, 11 districts, to understand communities' perceptions of protection and impact of the conflict of safety and access to civilian facilities. In particular, the assessment focused on the civilians' ability to report IHL and conflict related violations to relevant stakeholders.

Facilitated humanitarian access

- Geneva Call facilitated humanitarian access to several INGOs, in particular for the case of migrants in detention. Geneva Call negotiated with armed groups in Aden to allow the reach and assistance of this vulnerable group by mandated organizations. Geneva Call has also engaged with relevant ANSAs and other actors to rein incidents affecting INGOs

access and movements in certain areas which, eventually, contributed to improvements in the situation.

Enhanced coordination and synergies

- Geneva Call Yemen is part of different coordination mechanisms on different issues affecting civilians such as humanitarian access, protection, advocacy, etc. Through these platforms, Geneva Call contributes to the unification of messaging and positions, either operationally and/or institutionally.

What challenges did Geneva Call face in this context?

- The operating environment is getting very difficult with bureaucratic impediments including interference from authorities in budgeting and programme activity choices, delayed memorandum of understanding and project sub-agreements, delays in visa and permit processing and layered movement and activity permits.
- Generalised violence due to economic deterioration, infighting between armed groups in Aden and conflict flare-ups contributed to insecurity among staff and target groups.



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Expenditure

	CHF
TOTAL	627 213



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Programme Quality Development & Innovation Unit

The Unit contributes directly to field operations by supporting field missions in training of armed non-State actors (ANSAs), communities and local partners; effective monitoring and implementation of commitments undertaken by ANSAs; and the development of dissemination materials on international humanitarian norms for different audiences.

Strengthening Geneva Deed of Commitment Monitoring and Implementation Capacity

To implement key recommendations of the 2019 Evaluation of the *Deed of Commitment* Mechanism, the Unit has been strengthening Geneva Call's capacity to monitor and follow up on the implementation of *Deeds of Commitment* signed by ANSAs:

- Geneva Call has set up a process to guide field mission before, during and after the signing of a *Deed of Commitment* to ensure that the signing of a *Deed of Commitment* is the adequate tool to respond to a pressing humanitarian need.
- Geneva Call undertook a comprehensive mapping of the status of its existing *Deeds of Commitment* signed by ANSAs with an overview of the implementation measures taken to provide the basis for a comprehensive strategy for each signatory to be developed to reinforce the implementation of the *Deed of Commitment*.

Expansion of the COVID-19 Response Monitor

Launched in 2020, Geneva Call's COVID-19 Armed Non-State Actor Response Monitor has proven to be an innovative and successful tool that gives visibility to a broad variety of responses and measures taken by ANSAs in response to COVID-19. With almost 400 different categorized responses from nearly 80 ANSAs from 27 countries, the Response Monitor has caught the attention of international, regional, national and local stakeholders that seek to tailor their strategies to address the ongoing health crisis to their interventions in areas controlled by ANSAs. The Response Monitor also proved to be an important monitoring tool for Geneva Call, enabling it to effectively engage ANSAs on their measures taken in response to COVID-19 and their potential humanitarian impact on the civilian population. In December 2021, Geneva Call presented a more interactive, comprehensive, and user-friendly version that offers analytical data through a dashboard in order to display disaggregated data.

Advocacy and outreach

- In 2021, Geneva Call undertook various advocacy activities in New York in order to highlight the opportunities and challenges faced when engaging ANSAs on humanitarian issues. In particular, Geneva Call participated in the multilateral

discussions that led to the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 2601 on the protection of education in armed conflict; briefed the Protection of Civilians' Group of Friends composed by States, on its engagements with ANSAs; conducted a closed-door briefing for the UN Security Council's members on a specific context; and maintained bilateral exchanges with key stakeholders working on child protection and education, health care and conflict prevention, among other relevant thematic areas.

- In Brussels, Geneva Call participated in series of advocacy meetings to highlight the opportunities and challenges faced when engaging ANSAs for an increased protection of civilians, communities and infrastructure. Geneva Call was invited to brief the EU and its Member States, including within the Political and Security Committee (PSC) and the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA). In addition to this, Geneva Call held a number of engagements with key European Union officials, such as the European Commissioner for Crisis Management, and representatives from the Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI), the European External Action Service (EEAS), the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), and other Delegates and Ambassadors from the EU Member states permanent representations to Brussels. Geneva Call also organised a series of (online) events targeting the EU Member States, EU institutions, NGO partners and wider international community to raise awareness on the importance of engaging with ANSA to ensure increased IHL compliance in conflict-affected countries.



External Relations and Support Services

Donor Relations & Communication

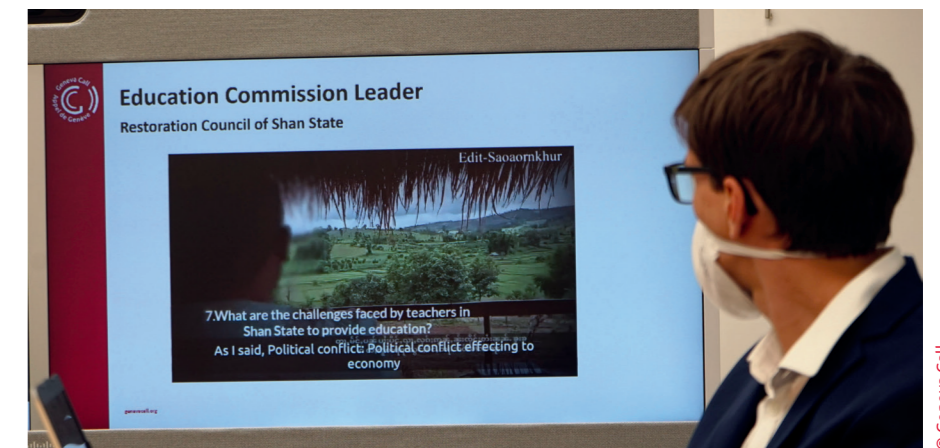
During 2021, Geneva Call strengthened its capacity with relevant tools and processes to implement a scale up of its programmes in an accountable and transparent manner which in turn facilitates improved donor reporting. The Donor Relations team went through a restructuring exercise designed to meet business needs and programmatic demands and facilitating direct and dedicated support to donors. In addition, donor relations teams made additional efforts to grow the core donor group were to increase unearmarked funding sources and to ensure burden sharing amongst the donor community.

Regular engagement was promoted with existing partners, Government representatives, United Nations agencies, and NGOs to maintain and enhance collective interests. Operational updates were provided to partners highlighting Geneva Call's operational outcomes and impact.

In parallel, the communication capacity of the organization was increased with an additional central communication staff resource supporting both institutional and operational communication. This enabled critical expansion of its ongoing communication coverage.

Key thematic training material were updated throughout the year followed by significant communication around the new *Deed of Commitment on the Prevention of Starvation and Addressing Conflict-Related Food Insecurity*.

The relaxation of travel constraints enabled more regular high-level stakeholder contact and the ensuing communication with key trips of Geneva Call's Director General and Director of Operations to Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, Sudan and the Sahel region for example. This has led to an increase in invitations for Geneva Call to provide its expertise on ANSA engagement in relation to key issues concerning the respect of humanitarian norms and protection of civilian populations (e.g., COHAFA, Stockholm Peace Forum, EU PSC briefings, next year's European Humanitarian Forum etc.).



Financial and Budgetary Management

Geneva Call opened 2021 with a positive fund balance and increased its reserves during the year. The organization enjoyed a clean audit opinion for 2020 with no open management recommendations carried into 2021.

The Finance Team benefited from restructuring and further professionalization to meet the needs of operational strengthening, expansion of existing operations and field finance staff development.

Geneva Call has continued to implement robust budgetary and financial management control systems to maintain the improvements made to strengthen its internal control systems (ICS) and keep pace with best practice standards. Reporting systems were developed and made available to all budget holders across the organization, providing up-to-date financial information to allow for more informed decision making and control. Continued development and updates were made on key financial management policies to ensure policies and processes meet the demands of the users. Strengthening of the cash management and liquidity processes was completed during 2021. Training and support were provided to all finance staff in field offices on new reporting tools, coupled with regular communication and meetings set up to ensure coherence and improved coordination on financial management.

Human Resources

The efforts of the Human Resource teams in 2021 included enhancements to the

workforce planning processes, especially in the Africa regions where there were significant recruitments completed during the last quarter of the year resulting in over 50 new staff in the field.

The recruitment efforts incorporated good practice to ensure greater inclusion, diversity, and gender balance in the Geneva Call's staffing. As a result, and as noted above, gender balance increased for female staff members by 7% in the year, reaching to 41% female staff overall, and the number of nationalities in the Geneva Call team also increased by two to a total of 36 nationalities in 17 locations.

A revised grade system was developed along with a benchmarking exercise to ensure that Geneva Call maintains a fair and transparent grading framework developed for all functions and grades and that it remains competitive within the humanitarian sector.

The introduction and roll out of a new system enabling the management of absences, employee information, contract and recruitment information at the local and international level was implemented, and efforts are ongoing to train staff in the field in its use and benefits.

Geneva Call also reviewed its payroll processes in all countries with a view to making improvements and consolidating payroll processing in one place.

Geneva Call's Human Resources team also managed the related COVID-19 challenges for the organization.

Financial Report

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

Expenditure (CHF)

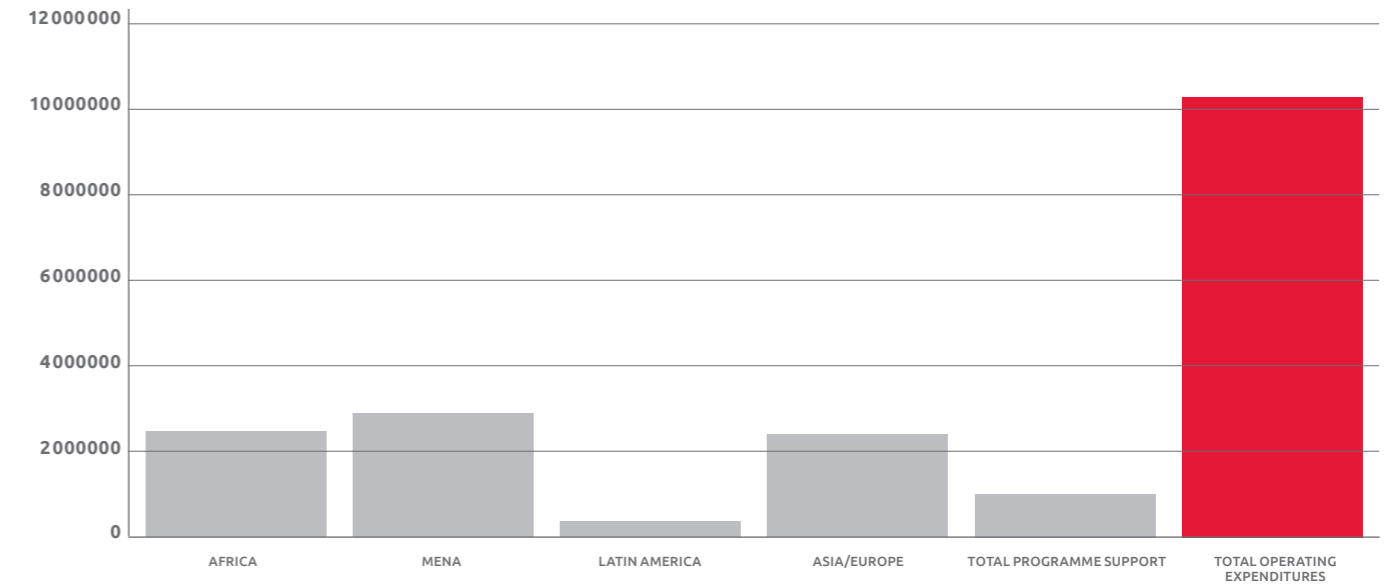
Annual Report		2021	
Africa Sahel	Burkina Faso	312 136	
	Mali	757 282	
	Total Africa Sahel	1 069 418	
Africa Great Lakes & Horn of Africa	DRC	681 844	
	South Sudan	737 193	
	Sudan	125 789	
	Total Africa Great Lakes & Horn of Africa	1 544 826	
	TOTAL AFRICA	2 614 244	
MENA	Iraq	911 452	
	Lebanon	37 064	
	Libya	482 472	
	Syria	921 393	
	Yemen	627 213	
	TOTAL MENA	2 979 594	
	Latin America	Colombia	382 925
TOTAL LATIN AMERICA		382 925	
Asia/Europe	Armenia	11 390	
	Afghanistan	631 417	
	Myanmar	593 742	
	Pakistan	325 363	
	Philippines	442 620	
	Thailand	201 309	
	Ukraine	365 028	
	TOTAL ASIA/EUROPE	2 570 869	
	Programme Support	OPERATIONS DIRECTION	816 591
		PQDI	264 091
TOTAL PROGRAMME SUPPORT		1 080 682	
PROGRAMME EXPENDITURES	9 628 314		
ADMINISTRATION/SUPPORT EXPENDITURES	1 401 639		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	11 029 953		

Expenditure

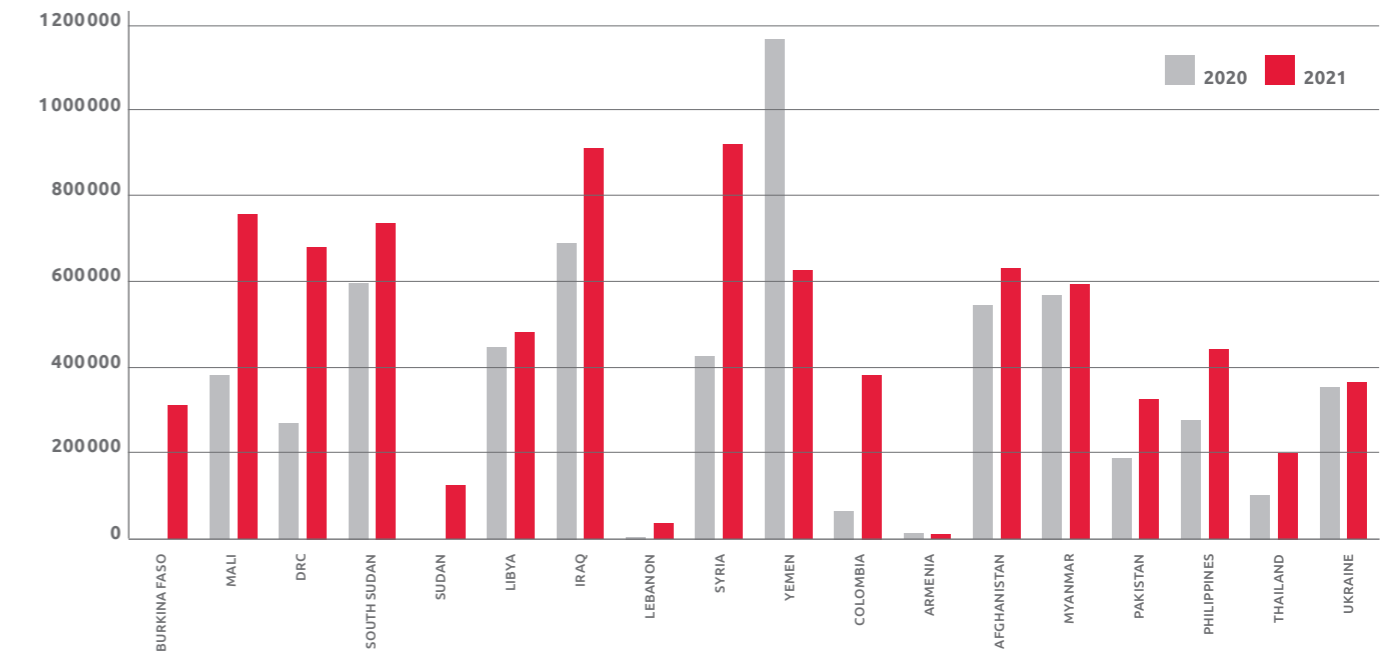


■ PROGRAMME EXPENDITURES
■ SUPPORT EXPENDITURES

Operating Expenditures



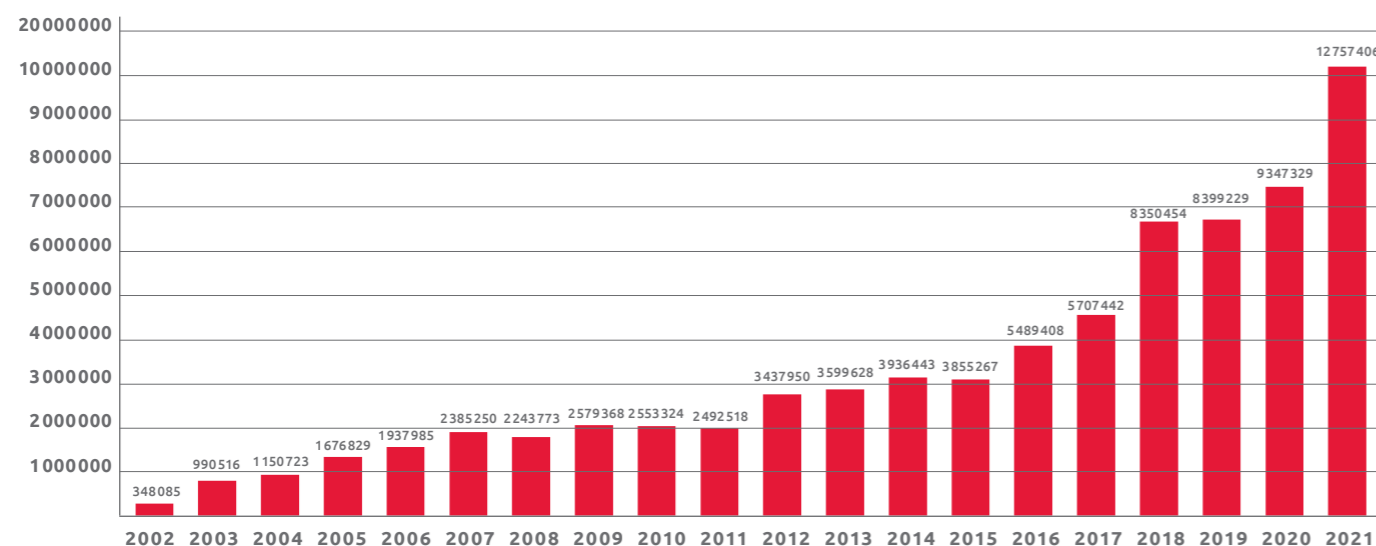
Programme Comparison 2020/2021



Balance sheet (CHF)

	2021	2020
Cash and cash equivalent	3 074 285	1 706 931
Receivables from donors	1 258 207	775 400
Other receivables	517 983	301 569
Prepayments and accrued income	186 602	131 112
CURRENT ASSETS	5 037 077	2 915 012
Fixed assets	275	4920
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	275	4920
TOTAL ASSETS	5 037 352	2 919 932
Payables due to suppliers of goods and services	418 159	365 223
Other liabilities	259 883	175 835
Accrued expenses	605 923	97 746
CURRENT LIABILITIES	1 283 965	638 804
OPERATING FUNDS	2 598 171	1 816 273
Organisational fund balances		
– Initial unrestricted funds	50 000	50 000
– Net surplus/(Deficit)	414 855	-134 809
– Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	690 361	549 664
TOTAL ORGANISATIONAL FUND BALANCES	1 155 216	464 855
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND ORGANISATIONAL FUND BALANCES	5 037 352	2 919 932

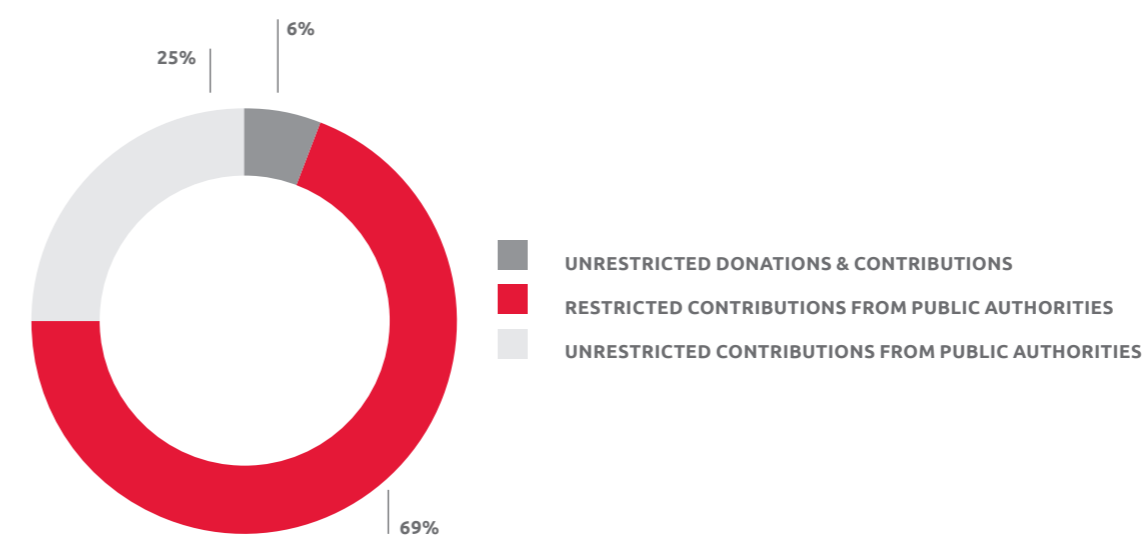
Evolution of Geneva Call income 2002 - 2021 (CHF)



Statement of operations (CHF)

	2021	2020
CONTRIBUTIONS		
Contributions received from private foundations/donors		
- restricted	–	–
- unrestricted	62 945	1 059
Contributions received from public authorities/ non-governmental organization		
- restricted	897 639	5 704 138
- unrestricted	3 095 871	3 187 813
Other contributions unrestricted	622 251	454 319
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	12 757 406	9 347 329
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	11 029 956	8 671 914
Direct expenditures	9 628 317	7 084 794
Support expenditures	1 401 639	1 587 120
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	11 029 956	8 671 914
ALLOCATION/USE OF FUNDS	-781 898	-28 268
OPERATING RESULT	945 552	647 147
FINANCIAL RESULT	217 723	111 549
Financial expenses	59 764	25 092
Financial income	24	31
Net exchange loss/(gain)	157 983	86 488
Exchange gain	–	–
EXCEPTIONAL RESULT	-37 467	14 067
Prior years income	4 354	50 372
Prior years expenses	41 821	36 305
RESULT OF THE YEAR	690 361	549 665

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

Core donors

The governments of Ireland, Norway, Sweden (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency), Switzerland (Peace and Human Rights Division), the City of Geneva and the Holy See.

Thematic donors

The governments of Australia (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade), the German Federal Foreign Office, Italy (through the GICHD), Liechtenstein, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency), Switzerland (Peace and Human Rights Division), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Department of International Development via a partnership with Geneva Academy for International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights and York University), the European Commission (Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department via a consortium with the Norwegian Refugee Council - NRC).

Programme donors

- The governments of Australia (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade), Austria, Belgium, Canada (including via a partnership with Save the Children in DRC), 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, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden (Swedish International Development Cooperation

Agency), Switzerland (Peace and Human Rights Division and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Department for International Development, including via a partnership with NRC in Sahel).

- The European Commission (Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department, including via partnerships with Danish Refugee Council, International Rescue Committee, Norwegian Refugee Council and Save the Children), the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), the European Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP).
- 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 staff members in the field and in headquarters for their efforts, work and dedication that contributed to our organization's success.

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.

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