



APPEL DE GENÈVE
GENEVA CALL

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

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MISSION

Geneva Call is a neutral and impartial non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting respect, by armed non-State actors (ANSAs) in armed conflict and other situations of violence, for humanitarian norms, in particular those related to the protection of civilians. Geneva Call is currently focusing its efforts on banning the use of anti-personnel mines, protecting children from the effects of armed conflict, prohibiting sexual violence in armed conflict, and working towards the elimination of gender discrimination.

Geneva Call also responds to requests from ANSAs to help build their knowledge of, and capacity to implement, humanitarian norms, and provides training and technical advice. In addition, the organization may provide other assistance and services within communities where ANSAs operate.

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



Celebrations in the Palestinian camp of Ain al-Hilweh, Lebanon. © Geneva Call

A UNIQUE DIRECTORY OF ARMED NON-STATE ACTORS' HUMANITARIAN COMMITMENTS

www.theirwords.org is an online collection of commitments and policies made by armed non-State actors (ANSAs) on international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law (IHRL) issues. It includes unilateral declarations and statements, internal rules and regulations, and agreements made by ANSAs with governments, inter-governmental or humanitarian organizations. The publication of such documents does not mean endorsement by Geneva Call, nor that the commitments made by ANSAs are compliant with IHL and IHRL, nor that they have been implemented and respected in practice.

www.theirwords.org contains some 470 online documents and will grow to over 500 in 2015. It fills a gap in available resources, and will serve to better understand ANSA views on IHL and IHRL.

FOREWORD

Welcome to Geneva Call's 2014 Annual Report!

Despite many challenges, this year has shown great progress for Geneva Call, with a number of exciting achievements that are shared in what we hope you will find an informative and inspirational annual report.

In 2014, Geneva Call worked in 16 countries and territories, where it engaged directly and indirectly with 52 armed non-State actors (ANSAs) and encouraged them to move towards compliance with humanitarian norms. Fourteen *Deeds of Commitment* have been signed by eight ANSAs. Eight hundred and one leaders, fighters, trainers and representatives from local communities and authorities attended awareness raising sessions and were trained on humanitarian norms. Geneva Call accompanied and monitored the implementation of the *Deeds of Commitment* with each of the 30 signatory ANSAs who remain active.

Another major step in 2014 was the organization of the Third Meeting of Signatories to the *Deeds of Commitment*, which gathered 70 high-level representatives from 35 ANSAs in Geneva. This event was an important milestone in monitoring and discussing signatory ANSAs' compliance with the *Deeds of Commitment*, in particular the recent *Commitments* protecting children and addressing gender issues. It was also a significant opportunity to deepen dialogue with these groups, especially regarding the challenges they face in their field contexts *vis-à-vis* the respect of humanitarian norms. Such knowledge allows Geneva Call to constantly adapt its logic of intervention.

All of these achievements would not have been possible without its dedicated and enthusiastic staff and local partners, as well as the strong engagement of its Board of Trustees. We would like to warmly thank them, for even despite financial constraints and occasional political difficulties they never get discouraged and keep working towards our objective: better protection of civilians in armed conflict.

We give a special thought for Tim Carstairs, who left us much too soon in early 2015, following a long illness. We would like to pay tribute to him in this report—of which he was the main force until 2014—and we honour the work he did with us.

We are grateful to Geneva Call's donors and especially to the Swiss Confederation for its constant support for so many years, and to the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) for reiterating its trust and increasing its strong support for Geneva Call's mission. We also give a special thanks to the private donors and to the City of Chêne-Bougeries, who made it possible for Geneva Call to move to its new office, free of rent.

We are confident that the positive impact our activities have for the protection of civilians and our continuous structural progress will reinforce donor confidence and enable the organization to pursue its sustainable development and its humanitarian mission.

Elisabeth Decrey Warner
Executive President



Bertrand Reich
President of the Board



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ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

A	1977 Additional Protocols	Additional Protocols I and II
	Additional Protocol I	Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I), 8 June 1977
	Additional Protocol II	Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II), 8 June 1977
	ANSA	armed non-State actor: in the context of its mission, Geneva Call focuses on organized armed entities that are involved in armed conflict, which are primarily motivated by political goals and which operate outside State control, thereby lacking legal capacity to become party to relevant international treaties. These include armed groups, national liberation movements and de facto governing authorities. Geneva Call also works with non-recognized States as well as in situations of violence other than armed conflict if it is deemed that its action can have a positive impact on beneficiaries and lead to better protection for civilians.
	AP Mine Ban Convention	Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, 18 September 1997
	AP	anti-personnel
C	armed conflict	international and/or non-international armed conflict(s), as governed, <i>inter alia</i> , by the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and their two Additional Protocols of 1977 and by customary international law
	CBO	community-based organization
	CCW	Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects, 10 October 1980
	CHF	Swiss francs
	civilian	a civilian is anyone who is not a member of State armed forces or of an organized armed group. Civilians are protected under IHL from the effects of armed conflicts. In particular, they cannot be directly targeted if they do not or no longer participate in hostilities. In addition, IHL also protects those who have been placed <i>hors de combat</i> , for example, wounded and sick or detained combatants.
	CSO	civil society organization
D	DDR	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration: the objective of the DDR process is to contribute to security and stability in post-conflict environments so that recovery and development can begin. The DDR of ex-combatants is a complex process, with political, military, security, humanitarian and socio-economic dimensions. It aims to deal with the post-conflict security problem that arises when ex-combatants are left without livelihoods or support networks—other than their former comrades—during the vital transition period from conflict to peace and development. This occurs through a process of disarming combatants, which takes them out of military structures and helps them to integrate socially and economically into society.
	<i>Deed of Commitment</i> banning AP mines	<i>Deed of Commitment for Adherence on Total Ban of Anti-Personnel Mines and for Cooperation in Mine Action</i>
	<i>Deed of Commitment</i> protecting children in armed conflict	<i>Deed of Commitment for the Protection of Children from the Effects of Armed Conflict</i>
	<i>Deed of Commitment</i> prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination	<i>Deed of Commitment for the Prohibition of Sexual Violence in Situations of Armed Conflict and towards the Elimination of Gender Discrimination</i>
E	ERW	explosive remnants of war
G	1949 Geneva Conventions	Convention (I) for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field, 12 August 1949
		Convention (II) for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea, 12 August 1949
		Convention (III) relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, 12 August 1949
		Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, 12 August 1949
H	HD Centre	Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue
	HR	human rights
	humanitarian norms	Geneva Call uses the term <i>humanitarian norms</i> to refer to both IHL and those norms of IHRL, which should govern the conduct of ANSAs in situations of armed conflict or other situations of violence—regardless of their binding nature—in order to improve the protection of civilians and other protected persons (persons not/no longer participating in hostilities) and the enjoyment of human rights.

ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

I	ICBL	International Campaign to Ban Landmines
	ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
	IDP	internally displaced person
	IED	improvised explosive device
	IHL	international humanitarian law: IHL is a branch of international law that regulates armed conflict situations. It seeks to limit the effects of armed conflict by protecting persons who are not, or no longer, taking part in hostilities, and by restricting the means and methods of warfare. Amongst other things, this means that civilians and combatants <i>hors de combat</i> must not be the target of attacks or subjected to acts of violence such as killing, maiming, torture and other forms of ill-treatment, forced recruitment and hostage taking. Civilian property must be respected. The forcible displacement of civilian populations is also prohibited unless required for the safety of the population or imperative military reasons. IHL also calls on parties to armed conflict to allow impartial humanitarian relief for populations in need. All parties to armed conflicts—whether States or ANSAs—are bound by the relevant rules of IHL.
	IHRL	international human rights law: IHRL is a branch of international law that can provide protection beyond IHL. In times of armed conflict, States may suspend a number of human rights in situations of emergency. However, certain fundamental rights—such as the right not to be arbitrarily deprived of life, the prohibition of torture and inhuman punishment or treatment—must be respected in all circumstances. Specific population groups, such as women and children, benefit from additional protection. In addition to this international legal framework, the UNSC has adopted a number of relevant resolutions, including on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, on women, peace and security and on children affected by armed conflict.
	ILO	International Labour Organization
	international norms	legally binding rules, which may or may not be codified in treaties, that States are obliged to comply with if they are applicable to the situation in a given context (e.g. customary norms of international law, which are binding on States regardless of whether or not they are party to the pertinent treaty, and which provide legal protection to the people affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence in cases where there are no applicable treaty provisions)
	internationally recognized standards	principles and guidelines that are not legally binding but are widely recognized by the international community; they are persuasive rather than normative, i.e. States and private actors are not obliged to comply with them but are encouraged to do so (e.g. soft law instruments such as: the Montreux document on private military and security companies, the UN minimum standards for the treatment of prisoners, and various sets of standards on the use of force)
	IO	international organization
M	mine action	activities which aim to reduce the social, economic and environmental impact of mines and ERW, including unexploded sub-munitions. Mine action is not just about demining; it is also about people and societies, and how they are affected by landmine and ERW contamination. The objective of mine action is to reduce the risk from landmines and ERW to a level where people can live safely; in which economic, social and health development can occur free from the constraints imposed by landmine and ERW contamination, and in which the victims' different needs can be addressed. Mine action comprises five complementary groups of activities: mine-risk education; humanitarian demining; victim assistance; stockpile destruction; and advocacy against the use of AP mines.
	MRE	mine-risk education
	NGO	non-governmental organization
N	OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
	OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, 25 May 2000
	(other) situations of violence	situations of collective violence below the threshold of an armed conflict but generating significant humanitarian consequences, in particular, internal disturbances (internal strife) and tensions. The collective nature of the violence excludes self-directed or interpersonal violence.
S	Sanremo	The International Institute of Humanitarian Law, in Sanremo, Italy, is a non-governmental organization set up in 1970 to spread knowledge and promote the development of IHL. It specializes in organizing courses on IHL for military personnel from around the world.
	SGBV	sexual and gender-based violence
	Study on customary international humanitarian law	a 5,000-page text that is the outcome of eight years of research by ICRC legal staff and other experts who reviewed State practice in 47 countries and consulted international sources such as the United Nations and international tribunals.
U	UN	United Nations
	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

W	UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
	UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
	UNMAT	United Nations Mine Action Teams
	UN MRM	United Nations Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism set up by the UN Security Council to follow up on six grave violations of children's rights in armed conflict: killing or maiming of children; recruitment or use of child soldiers; attacks on schools or hospitals; rape or other grave sexual violence against children; abduction of children; and the denial of humanitarian access to children.
	UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
	UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
	UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees
	UNSC	United Nations Security Council
	UNSG	United Nations Secretary-General
	weapon contamination	pollution by landmines, cluster munitions and other ERW
WHO	World Health Organization	

2014 GENEVA CALL HIGHLIGHTS



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- ▶ Geneva Call worked in 16 contexts, where it engaged directly and indirectly with 52 ANSAs, encouraging them to move towards compliance with humanitarian norms; 14 *Deeds of Commitment* have been signed by 8 ANSAs
- ▶ 801 leaders, fighters, trainers and representatives from local communities or authorities attended awareness raising sessions and were trained on humanitarian norms through 45 training sessions and workshops
- ▶ Geneva Call accompanied and monitored the implementation of the *Deeds of Commitment* with each of the 30 still active signatory ANSAs in 2014

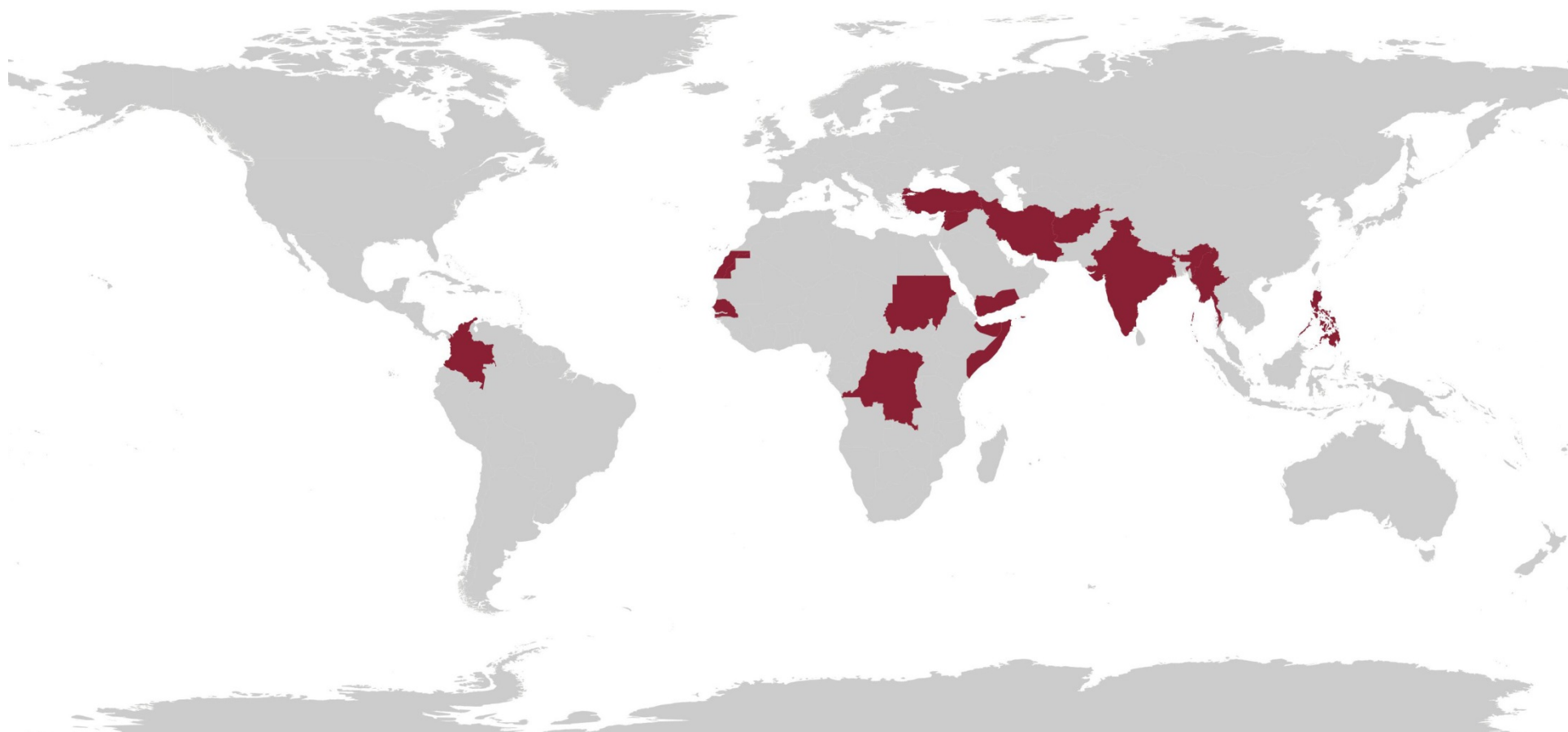
Geneva Call also:

- ▶ organized its Third Meeting of Signatories to the *Deeds of Commitment*, gathering 70 high-level representatives from 35 ANSAs in Geneva. This event was a major milestone in monitoring and discussing signatory ANSAs' compliance with the *Deeds of Commitment*
- ▶ played a decisive role in the demobilization of 149 child soldiers in the Syrian Arab Republic, after the signature of the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict by the main Syrian Kurdish ANSA
- ▶ spoke before the UNSC Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict for the first time, in New York. More than 30 representatives from States and relevant organizations attended, and many of them acknowledged the need to engage with ANSAs
- ▶ moved into its new office building called "La Garance" in Chêne-Bougeries
- ▶ contributed its expertise and experience at 16 international conferences and seminars

2014 EXPENSES BY THEME and REGION (IN CHF)

	Africa	Asia	Latin America	Middle East and Europe	Total
Landmine ban	89,650	212,466	134,012	45,440	481,567
Child protection	169,198	151,788	71,066	112,386	504,437
Gender issues	156,017	287,439	111,842	67,871	623,170
Humanitarian norms	47,659	156,754	32,880	523,840	761,133
Multi-thematic	44,396	46,149	139,761	73,085	303,391
TOTAL	506,920	854,596	489,561	822,621	2,673,698

GENEVA CALL WORKED ON FOUR THEMATIC AREAS IN 16* CONTEXTS, WHERE IT ENGAGED WITH 52* ACTIVE ANSAs



Africa		Asia		Middle East and Europe		Total active ANSAs engaged on			
Democratic Republic of the Congo		Afghanistan		Islamic Republic of Iran		Landmine ban	Child protection	Gender issues	Humanitarian norms
Senegal		Burma/Myanmar		Lebanon		48	35	31	
Somalia		India		Syrian Arab Republic		Total active ANSAs signatories of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>			
Sudan		Philippines		Turkey		26	13	12	
Western Sahara		Latin America		Yemen		of which became signatories in 2014			
		Colombia				5	4	5	

*including 2 ANSAs in one context kept confidential and indirect engagement in 2 contexts | ** including 2 ANSAs in one context kept confidential

LANDMINE BAN

Since its beginnings, Geneva Call has been engaging with ANSAs on the landmine ban, three years after the adoption of the AP Mine Ban Convention in 1997. It encourages ANSAs to sign the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines, supports signatories in the implementation of their commitments and monitors these processes. Geneva Call sometimes encourages ANSAs to make other types of commitments and acts as a facilitator, when necessary and possible, between ANSAs and mine-action organizations, especially in regard to humanitarian demining.

Burma/Myanmar	Somalia
Colombia	Sudan
India	Syrian Arab Republic
Islamic Republic of Iran	Turkey
Lebanon	Western Sahara
Philippines (The)	Yemen
Senegal	

EXPENSES IN CHF	
Africa	89,650
Asia	212,466
Latin America	134,012
Middle East and Europe	45,440
Total	481,567



Two combatants from the Sudanese Justice and Equality Movement discuss Geneva Call's manual on the ban of AP mines. 2014. © JEM

The number of ANSAs using AP mines has declined significantly over the past decade. Although the number of recorded casualties caused by mines/IEDs/ERW has continued to decrease over the past two years, civilians still [accounted for 79% of casualties in 2013 and nearly half of them were children](#).

In 2014, Geneva Call engaged 48 ANSAs on landmine ban issues in 13 contexts. By the end of 2014, 26 active ANSAs were signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines and had started or were continuing its implementation. Other active ANSAs showed readiness to limit the use of AP mines or to facilitate mine action in areas under their control.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2014:

- ▶ 5 ANSAs signed the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines (hereafter *Deed of Commitment*): 1 in India (National Socialist Council of Nagaland Khole Kitovi), 2 in Sudan (Sudan Liberation Movement/Army – Abdel Wahid al-Nur; Sudan Liberation Movement/Army – Minni Minnawi) and 2 in the Syrian Arab Republic (hereafter Syria) (Democratic Self-Administration in Rojava/People’s Protection Units/Women’s Protection Units; Hazzm Movement/Free Syrian Army & affiliated factions)
- ▶ most of the 26 active ANSAs signatory to the *Deed of Commitment* provided information and reports on their implementation measures (such as dissemination, trainings, enforcement measures and cooperation in mine action), whereas Geneva Call continued to monitor their compliance with the *Deed of Commitment* (through direct and indirect sources)
- ▶ as a direct result of discussions with Geneva Call, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro (Polisario Front) announced its decision to destroy its last stock of AP mines in early 2015
- ▶ 640 representatives of ANSAs, CSOs/CBOs and/or local authorities, of whom 168 were women, attended 39 training courses addressing landmine ban issues, sometimes together with other topics, in Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Lebanon, Sudan, Syria, Turkey and Western Sahara
- ▶ in several contexts, CSOs/CBOs contributed directly to: monitoring signatories’ compliance with the *Deed of Commitment* (e.g. Burma/Myanmar, India); engaging with ANSAs to limit or ban the use of AP mines; and facilitating humanitarian demining (e.g. Burma/Myanmar, Colombia and Syria)
- ▶ humanitarian demining in areas controlled by ANSAs progressed, particularly in Burma/Myanmar, whereas in Colombia, ANSAs showed increased openness to considering demining activities
- ▶ at the Third Review Conference of the AP Mine Ban Convention in Maputo in June, Geneva Call shared its approach on the need to engage ANSAs in discussions on the mine-ban process and organized a side event on the use of new media as a means to do so
- ▶ lack of funding forced Geneva Call to delay planned activities in Afghanistan and Colombia

CONTEXT

In parallel to the results of engaging with States, there has been significant progress in work to engage ANSAs on the AP mine ban over the last 15 years. The number of ANSAs using AP mines has substantially declined in the past decade. However, according to [Landmine Monitor 2014](#), ANSAs in Afghanistan, Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, Libya, Pakistan, Syrian Arab Republic (hereafter Syria) and Yemen are still reportedly using AP mines. The authorities of Nagorno-Karabakh also allegedly laid new AP mines in 2013–14. Even if the number of recorded casualties caused by mines/IEDs/ERW continued to decrease in 2013, civilians still accounted for 79% of all casualties and nearly half of them were children.

In 2014, Geneva Call engaged 48 ANSAs on landmine ban issues in 13 contexts. By the end of 2014, 26 active ANSAs were signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines and had taken implementation measures, including mine action, thus reducing the impact of these weapons on civilians. Most signatories which acknowledged their possession of AP mines have destroyed their stockpiles. Altogether, they have destroyed over 20,000 stockpiled AP mines, along with thousands of IEDs and items of abandoned explosive ordnance. Other non-signatory ANSAs showed readiness to limit the use of AP mines or to facilitate mine action in areas under their control.

2014 EXPECTED ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

OVERALL IMPACT		The threat of AP mines is reduced in areas where ANSAs operate	
2014 Expected achievements		2014 Achievements	
→ 4 new signings of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> bring the total of active ANSA signatories to 25 (or, including inactive ANSAs, to 47)	✓ 5 ANSAs signed the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> banning AP mines (hereafter <i>Deed of Commitment</i>): 1 in India (National Socialist Council of Nagaland Khole Kitovi – NSCN-KK); 2 in Sudan (Sudan Liberation Movement/Army – Abdel Wahid al-Nur – SLM/A-AW; Sudan Liberation Movement/Army – Minni Minnawi – SLM/A-MM); and 2 in Syria (Democratic Self-Administration in Rojava/People’s Protection Units/Women’s Protection Units – YPG-YPJ; Hazzm Movement/Free Syrian Army & affiliated factions – Hazzm/FSA)	✓ this brought the total number of active ANSAs signatory to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> to 26	
→ 4 other measures are taken by ANSAs towards the respect of humanitarian norms relating to the ban on AP mines	✓ Colombia: the National Liberation Army (ELN) showed willingness to advance on the facilitation of humanitarian demining; it allowed affected communities to attend 2 workshops during which they gained a new understanding of mine action and their capacity to discuss humanitarian mine/ERW clearance operations with ANSAs in their areas	✓ India: the National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khaplang (NSCN-K) confirmed that it was ready to sign the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>	
→ Geneva Call engages with 6 new ANSAs on international norms relating to the ban on AP mines, bringing the total of active ANSAs to 48	✓ Sudan: 3 of the 4 Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF) members, signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> (SLM/A-AW; SLM/A-MM; Sudan Peoples’ Liberation Movement – North) expressed interest in drafting a unilateral declaration banning also the use of anti-vehicle mines	✓ 6 ANSAs were engaged on the landmine ban for the first time, including 2 which signed the related <i>Deed of Commitment</i> the same year: in India, 4 ANSAs agreed to engage with Geneva Call on the landmine ban issue (Kuki National Front – KNF; NSCN-KK, which signed the related <i>Deed of Commitment</i> the same year; People’s Liberation Army – PLA; United National Liberation Front – UNLF) and 2 in Syria (Hazzm/FSA which signed the related <i>Deed of Commitment</i> the same year; Islam Army (Jaysh al-Islam) & other Islamic Front affiliated factions – IA/IF)	

LANDMINE BAN

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ this brought the total number of active ANSAs engaged on this theme to 48, including 26 signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>
<p>→ 14 contexts of intervention: Afghanistan, Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, India, Islamic Republic of Iran (hereafter Iran), Lebanon, the Philippines, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, Western Sahara and Yemen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Geneva Call worked in 13 contexts (whether directly or indirectly): Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, India, Iran, Lebanon, the Philippines, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, Western Sahara and Yemen ✓ Afghanistan: a lack of funding forced Geneva Call to delay its activities in this context; no direct contact has yet taken place with the ANSAs targeted; research and work with CSOs/CBOs also shifted the approach to focus more on humanitarian norms in general ✓ the Philippines: no engagement took place in the Philippines on this theme; Geneva Call’s monitoring showed that signatories had complied with their obligations to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>; no meeting took place with the Communist Party of the Philippines/New People’s Army (CPP/NPA) due to security reasons
<p>→ new opportunities for mine action open up in areas where targeted non-signatory ANSAs operate (in Colombia, Burma/Myanmar and Syria)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Burma/Myanmar: survey and clearance activities continued to develop informally in areas controlled by ANSAs. Useful meetings with various ANSAs explored mine action, particularly with regard to the context of ongoing peace talks. These contributed to surveys and some humanitarian clearance activities took place informally in areas controlled by/under the influence of ANSAs, including some with the agreement/facilitation of ANSAs which were not yet signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>; the KNU/KNLA agreed to and facilitated an external actor for the first time—an ad hoc mine-action group headed by a Karen community activist and supported technically by two international mine-clearance experts—to undertake a pilot humanitarian clearance project ✓ Colombia: discussions about humanitarian demining progressed with two ANSAs (ELN; Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People’s Army – FARC-EP) ✓ Yemen: the Al-Houthi movement/Ansar Allah (Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi) welcomed Geneva Call’s engagement as a neutral intermediary for facilitating mine action, including humanitarian demining in the Sa’ada area
<p>→ active signatory ANSAs take measures to implement their obligations under the <i>Deed of Commitment</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ most of the 26 active ANSAs signatory to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> provided information and reports on their implementation measures (such as dissemination, trainings, enforcement measures and cooperation in mine action), whereas Geneva Call continued to monitor their compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> (through direct and indirect sources) ✓ Burma/Myanmar: the Palaung State Liberation Front/Taan National Liberation Army (PSLF/TNLA) cooperated with Geneva Call to investigate reports about its allegedly persistent use of landmines; the Chin National Front/Army (CNF/CAN) provided Geneva Call with a report describing how it complied with its obligations under the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> ✓ India: after signing the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> in July, the NSCN-KK developed an implementation plan, including a revision of its existing rules and regulations; at the end of 2014, this was awaiting the leadership’s approval. It provided Geneva Call with documentation demonstrating that it had organized and completed the dissemination of the content of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> among its members

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Iran: all 6 signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> reported activities to further implement their obligations. For example: the Kurdistan Democratic Party – Iran (KDP-Iran) reported having integrated the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> into the training of new peshmergas (i.e. fighters); the Komalah – the Kurdistan Organization of the Communist Party of Iran (Komalah-CPI) and Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (PDKI) reported an awareness-raising programme about the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> (and AP mines in general) based on TV documentaries and/or radio broadcasts; and the Komala Party of Iranian Kurdistan (KPIK) reported using Geneva Call’s posters and documentation in training, as provided by Mine Uxo Impact Relief (MIR), a local NGO involved in mine action with which Geneva Call cooperates ✓ Somalia: in the self-declared Republic of Somaliland (hereafter Somaliland), after facilitating the de facto authorities’ adoption of mine-ban legislation in 2009, Geneva Call monitored its implementation. In both the semi-autonomous region of Puntland (hereafter Puntland) and Somaliland, mine action continued through the Puntland Mine Action Centre and Somaliland Mine Action Centre, supported by the UN. This included all types of activities: marking and clearing contaminated areas, destroying AP mines and ERW and conducting risk education ✓ Sudan: the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) integrated the obligations in the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> into its code of conduct; the Sudan Peoples’ Liberation Movement – North (SPLM-N) set up a committee to oversee the implementation of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>, announced its willingness to destroy its stock of AP mines (requesting external technical support) and encouraged the creation of a humanitarian mine-action organization mandated to undertake demining activities in the areas it controls ✓ Syria: both YPG-YPJ and Hazzm/FSA publicly and internally disseminated their obligations under the newly signed <i>Deed of Commitment</i> ✓ Turkey: the demining wing of the People’s Defences Forces/Kurdistan Worker’s Party (HPG/PKK) reported different activities, especially in regard to the collection of landmines and ERW and the marking of contaminated areas, and requested Geneva Call’s support for the destruction of the collected devices ✓ Western Sahara: discussions between the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro (Polisario Front) and Geneva Call contributed directly to the Polisario Front announcing its decision to destroy its last stock of AP mines in early 2015; lacking funds, as of 2014, the Sahrawi Association for Mine Victims and the Sahrawi Campaign to Ban Landmines received support from Geneva Call to establish contact with potential donors in order to pursue their mine-action activities
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OUTCOME 1		Geneva Call is able to make an informed decision on the value and feasibility of an intervention and build the capacity to start and maintain an engagement process
2014 Expected achievements	2014 Achievements	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ analysis of the conflict situation, ANSA profiles and strategies for their engagement are defined for each country programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ the evolution of the armed conflicts in all contexts was regularly analysed and strategies and programmes were updated accordingly (e.g. in Afghanistan, Syria and Yemen) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ new opportunities for engagement arise, particularly in India and Yemen ➔ up to 6 new ANSAs agree to start a dialogue with Geneva Call 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Burma/Myanmar: many meetings took place with ANSAs which have not yet signed the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>, including with representatives from the following ANSAs: National Union/Karen National Liberation Army (KNU/KNLA), Karen National Union Peace Council/Karen National Liberation Army Peace Council (KNU-PC/KNLA-PC), Klo Htoo Baw Karen Organization/Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (KKO/DKBA), New Mon State Party/Mon National Liberation Army (NMSP/MNLA) ✓ India: contact with organizations or individuals with links to the Communist Party of India (Maoist) was the first step in an attempt to engage with this ANSA; 4 ANSAs agreed to start a dialogue with Geneva Call about the landmine ban (KNF; NSCN-KK; PLA; UNLF); 3 of them declared not yet being ready to commit themselves on this issue, whereas the NSCN-KK signed the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> the same year ✓ Syria: Geneva Call initiated a dialogue with 2 new ANSAs (Hazzm/FSA and IA/IF); the Hazzm/FSA signed the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> the same year ✓ Yemen: as a result of renewed contact with the Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi, in Yemen and abroad, it was confirmed that Geneva Call was welcome in Sa'ada to support humanitarian mine action, including humanitarian demining 	
OUTCOME 2		ANSAs are aware of international norms relating to the ban on AP mines and have the knowledge to respond to this issue
2014 Expected achievements	2014 Achievements	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ 10 awareness raising workshops are organized during the year with ANSA members from Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, Sudan, Syria and Western Sahara ➔ approximately 135 members of ANSAs attend workshops ➔ 80% of ANSAs attending for the first time agree to pursue a dialogue on this issue with Geneva Call 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ among the 39 events organized—mainly with Geneva Call partners, addressing landmine ban issues and sometimes together with other topics—18 events (in Colombia, Lebanon, Syria and Western Sahara) targeted ANSA commanders and fighters, legal advisers and political leaders (there were 287 participants in total, of whom 57 were women) ✓ 47 trainers, of whom 8 were women, also benefited from training during 4 events held in Lebanon, Sudan and Turkey ✓ a few planned events were postponed, for example: in Burma/Myanmar, a workshop for PSLF/TNLA members was cancelled due to security conditions; in Colombia, training courses for imprisoned ELN and FARC-EP members were cancelled due to a lack of funding ✓ dozens of awareness raising meetings also took place with ANSA representatives to help foster their knowledge of landmine ban issues, including mine action; for example: in Colombia, 16 meetings took place with leaders from the ELN and FARC-EP, including commanders; in Burma/Myanmar, significant dialogue took place with representatives of the CNF/CNA, KNU/KNLA, KNU-PC/KNLA-PC, KKO/DKBA and PSLF/TNLA ✓ all the ANSAs engaged for the first time on the landmine ban agreed to continue the dialogue on this topic 	

OUTCOME 3		ANSAs undertake commitments towards respecting international norms, including signing the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> or carrying out other measures
2014 Expected achievements	2014 Achievements	
→ 4 ANSAs from India, Sudan and Syria sign the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>	✓ 5 ANSAs signed the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> : 1 in India (NSCN-KK), 2 in Sudan (SLM/A-AW; SLM/A-MM) and 2 in Syria (YPG-YPJ; Hazzm/FSA)	
→ 4 ANSAs undertake other measures towards respecting the international norms relating to the ban on AP mines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Burma/Myanmar: survey and clearance activities continued to develop informally in areas controlled by ANSAs. Useful meetings with various ANSAs explored mine action, particularly with regard to the context of ongoing peace talks. These contributed to surveys and some humanitarian clearance activities took place informally in areas controlled by/under the influence of ANSAs, including some with the agreement/facilitation of ANSAs which were not yet signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>; the KNU/KNLA agreed to and facilitated an external actor for the first time—an ad hoc mine-action group headed by a Karen community activist and supported technically by two international mine-clearance experts—to undertake a pilot humanitarian clearance project ✓ Colombia: the ELN showed willingness to advance towards the facilitation of humanitarian demining; it allowed affected communities to attend 2 workshops during which they gained a new understanding of mine action and capacity to discuss humanitarian mine/ERW clearance operations in their areas with ANSAs ✓ India: the NSCN-K confirmed being ready to sign the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> ✓ Sudan: 3 of the 4 SRF members, signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> (SLM/A-AW; SLM/A-MM; SPLM-N), expressed interest in drafting a unilateral declaration banning the use of anti-vehicle mines, thus going further than the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> and the AP Mine Ban Convention 	
OUTCOME 4		Geneva Call has the necessary information to hold ANSAs accountable to their obligations under the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>
2014 Expected achievements	2014 Achievements	
→ signatory ANSAs participate in Geneva Call's Third Meeting of Signatories to the <i>Deeds of Commitment</i>	✓ 22 active ANSAs signatory to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> banning AP mines participated in Geneva Call's Third Meeting of Signatories to the <i>Deeds of Commitment</i> in November	
→ 80% of the signatories report on their compliance with their obligations under the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>	✓ most of the 26 active ANSAs signatory to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> provided a compliance report (14), or the necessary inputs for such a report, during Geneva Call's Third Meeting of Signatories to the <i>Deeds of Commitment</i> in November, as well as other reports on their implementation measures (such as dissemination, trainings, enforcement measures, and cooperation in mine action)	
→ Geneva Call gathers relevant information from third party sources and through field visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Geneva Call regularly gathered information about signatories' compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> from third party sources and through field visits ✓ in Burma/Myanmar, Geneva Call followed up allegations about the use of AP mines by signatories reported by such sources 	

OUTCOME 5		ANSAs take measures to ensure compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> or other commitments	
2014 Expected achievements		2014 Achievements	
<p>➔ regular meetings and workshops take place with signatory ANSAs from Burma/Myanmar, Iran and Turkey to follow-up on implementation of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i></p>		<p>✓ regular meetings took place with signatory ANSAs from Burma/Myanmar, India, Iran, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Turkey and Western Sahara</p>	
<p>➔ ANSA signatories take implementation measures to ensure compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i></p>		<p>✓ Burma/Myanmar: survey and clearance activities continued to develop informally in areas controlled by ANSAs (see above, outcome 3)</p> <p>✓ India: after signing the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> banning AP mines in July, the NSCN-KK developed an implementation plan, including a revision of its existing rules and regulations; at the end of 2014, the latter were awaiting the leadership's approval. It provided Geneva Call with documentation demonstrating that it had organized and completed the dissemination of the content of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> among its members</p> <p>✓ Iran: all 6 signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> reported activities to further implement their obligations. For example: KDP-Iran reported having integrated the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> into the training of new peshmergas (i.e. fighters); Komalah-CPI and PDKI reported an awareness-raising programme about the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> (and AP mines in general) based on TV documentaries and/or radio broadcasts; the KPIK reported using Geneva Call's posters and documentation for their training, as provided by Mine Uxo Impact Relief (MIR), a local NGO involved in mine action with which Geneva Call cooperates</p> <p>✓ Somalia: after facilitating the de facto authorities' adoption of mine-ban legislation in 2009 in Somaliland, Geneva Call monitored its implementation. In both Puntland and Somaliland mine action continued through the Puntland Mine Action Centre and Somaliland Mine Action Centre, supported by the UN. This included all types of activities: marking and clearing contaminated areas, destroying AP mines and ERW and conducting risk education</p> <p>✓ Sudan: JEM integrated its obligations to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> into its code of conduct; the SPLM-N set up a committee to oversee the implementation of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>, announced its willingness to destroy its stock of AP mines (requesting external technical support) and encouraged the creation of a humanitarian mine-action organization mandated to undertake demining activities in the areas it controls</p> <p>✓ Syria: both YPG-YPJ and Hazzm/FSA publicly and internally disseminated information on their commitments to the newly signed <i>Deed of Commitment</i></p> <p>✓ Turkey: the demining wing of the People's Defences Forces/Kurdistan Worker's Party (HPG/PKK) reported different activities, especially in regard to the collection of landmines and ERW and the marking of contaminated areas, and requested Geneva Call's support for the destruction of the devices collected</p> <p>✓ Western Sahara: discussions between the Polisario Front and Geneva Call contributed directly to the Polisario Front announcing its decision to destroy its last stock of AP mines in early 2015; lacking funds as of 2014, the Sahrawi Association for Mine Victims and the Sahrawi Campaign to Ban Landmines received support from Geneva Call to establish contact with potential donors in order to pursue their mine-action activities</p>	

OUTCOME 6		Civil society organizations and community-based organizations facilitate the engagement process at all stages—including through training, monitoring and assistance activities
2014 Expected achievements	2014 Achievements	
<p>➔ 20 training events are organized with CSOs and CBOs in Afghanistan, Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, India, Iran, Sudan, Syria and Turkey; with a total of 250 participants or more</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ among the 39 events organized—mainly with Geneva Call partners, addressing landmine ban issues and sometimes together with other topics—15 events gathered 278 members of CSOs/CBOs, including 100 women, in Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, DRC, India, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey; and 2 events gathered 28 traditional leaders (local authorities) in the DRC ✓ Colombia: 6 indigenous communities in the Cauca, Nariño and Putumayo departments improved their safety by integrating MRE into their daily lives as a result of a 4-year project reaching 17,500 people ✓ Afghanistan: a lack of funding delayed most of the activities planned ✓ Iran: timing, security and organizational issues also delayed events with Iranian ANSAs 	
<p>➔ trained CSOs/CBOs facilitate Geneva Call’s engagement with target ANSAs</p> <p>➔ trained CSOs/CBOs support Geneva Call in monitoring signatories’ compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ in numerous situations, CSOs/CBOs facilitated Geneva Call’s engagement with target ANSAs; for example: in Colombia, they contributed to convincing ANSAs to consider humanitarian demining in certain areas; in Syria, they contributed to convincing ANSAs to sign and start implementing the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> ✓ Burma/Myanmar and India: on the basis of the training received, CSOs/CBOs participated in monitoring signatories’ compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> 	
OUTCOME 7		Geneva Call has the knowledge, capacity and stakeholder support for its engagement activities
2014 Expected achievements	2014 Achievements	
<p>➔ Geneva Call’s operational staff strengthen its capacity and knowledge to engage with ANSAs on the ban on AP mines issues (through technical support and training)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ no formal training of Geneva Call staff was organized due to staff turn-over ✓ however, Geneva Call’s operational staff benefited from technical advice from the thematic advisor during training with ANSAs, in addition to advice provided by specialized agencies (mainly demining operators) in the assessment of concrete cases of contamination in areas controlled by ANSAs 	
<p>➔ Geneva Call produces pedagogical materials (illustrated booklets and posters) to support its engagement activities in facilitating the dissemination of rules amongst its target audience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ extensive use of Geneva Call’s dissemination materials by ANSAs required regular reprints of existing materials and in some cases its publication in additional local languages (e.g. Arabic, Spanish and Turkish) ✓ 77 posters and 800 booklets were distributed 	

<p>→ local/international stakeholders take concrete actions to facilitate Geneva Call's work (statements of support, funding, partnership agreements, other evidence of support)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ for example, in Afghanistan, Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, Iraqi Kurdistan, Sudan, Syria and Yemen, meetings took place with local authorities and representatives of humanitarian organizations present in the country, such as Action on Armed Violence (AOAV), DanChurchAid (DCA), the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), Handicap International, the ICRC, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD), and various UN agencies; these enabled information sharing, coordination where necessary and better support for Geneva Call's objectives and activities ✓ meetings with representatives of concerned or donor States and at the headquarters of major humanitarian organizations took place regularly, usually focusing on more general issues related to the landmine ban; this included Geneva Call's regular participation in coordination meetings organized by the mine-action network and UNMAS ✓ several IOs and NGOs, such as the DCA, FSD, GICHD, Handicap International, ICBL, ICRC, ICBL, NPA and UNMAS attended Geneva Call's Third Meeting of Signatories to the <i>Deeds of Commitment</i> in November ✓ in several contexts, local organizations and Geneva Call and/or its partners had regular meetings to support and enhance each other's work
<p>→ a roundtable on humanitarian mine action in peace processes is organized in Colombia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Colombia: the roundtable on humanitarian mine action was postponed as the preparatory work with ANSAs on the landmine ban had not advanced sufficiently and funds were also lacking
<p>OUTCOME 8 The views and perspectives of ANSAs and Geneva Call's expertise are listened to and taken into account in the international debate on weapons related issues</p>	
<p>2014 Expected achievements</p>	<p>2014 Achievements</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → key international stakeholders are aware of Geneva Call's work, lessons learned and advocacy messages → the issues facing ANSAs are appropriately reflected in weapons related debates and international fora reports, especially in the context of the APMBC Review Conference → the visibility of Geneva Call's experience is raised through participation in relevant conferences and international fora, and the organization of side events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ at the Third Review Conference of the AP Mine Ban Convention, in Maputo (hereafter Review Conference) in June, Geneva Call shared its approach on the need to engage with ANSAs both in discussions on the mine-ban process and during the drafting of official documents; it also organized a side event on the use of new media for engaging with ANSAs. The Maputo Action Plan, adopted at the Review Conference on 27 June, reflected, in accordance with the principle of universality, that ANSAs have a role to play in the mine-ban process ✓ Geneva Call was regularly invited to participate in UN Directors' meetings and attended the conferences on the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its Protocols ✓ Geneva Call actively participated in expert meetings on different issues related to mines/ERW where it was able to share its experience on engaging with ANSAs; for example, it was invited to a meeting of 40 experts gathered at Chatham House to explore how to effectively address this issue of IEDs ✓ as a member, Geneva Call attended the Advisory Board to the GICHD

CHILD PROTECTION

Geneva Call has been working on child protection issues since 2008, taking advantage of its existing relationships with ANSAs. It promotes the signature of the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict to ANSAs and supports signatories in implementing their commitments whilst monitoring this process. It sometimes encourages other types of commitments made by ANSAs, such as those that contribute to preventing abuses and attacks on schools. Geneva Call considers this work to be complementary to the UN's actions, for instance, when operating in areas where the UN cannot intervene or paving the way towards the conclusion of action plans within the framework of the UN MRM.

		EXPENSES IN CHF	
Burma/Myanmar	Philippines (The)	Africa	169,198
Colombia	Sudan	Asia	151,788
India	Syrian Arab Republic	Latin America	71,066
Islamic Republic of Iran	Turkey	Middle East and Europe	112,386
Lebanon	Yemen		
		Total	504,437



Workshop on child protection and gender issues with the Karen Human Rights Group. November 2014, Burma/Myanmar. © Geneva Call

In the [UN Secretary-General's 2014 report on children and armed conflict](#), 51 ANSAs were among the 59 parties listed as perpetrators of grave violations against children, and corroborated sources reported allegations about the use of children by more ANSAs not included in the UNSG report.

In 2014, Geneva Call engaged with 35 ANSAs in 10 contexts on child protection issues. By the end of 2014, 13 active ANSAs had signed the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict and had started, or were continuing, its implementation. Other active ANSAs showed readiness to engage with Geneva Call on child protection issues.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2014:

- ▶ 4 ANSAs signed the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict (hereafter *Deed of Commitment*): 2 in Burma/Myanmar (Chin National Front/Army; Pa'O National Liberation Organization/Pa'O National Liberation Army), 1 in India (National Socialist Council of Nagaland Khole Kitovi – NSCN-KK) and 1 in the Syrian Arab Republic (hereafter Syria) (Democratic Self-Administration in Rojava/People's Protection Units/Women's Protection Units – YPG-YPJ)
- ▶ all 13 active ANSAs signatory to the *Deed of Commitment* provided information on their implementation processes, whereas Geneva Call continued to monitor compliance with the *Deed of Commitment*
- ▶ implementation measures by ANSAs signatory to the *Deed of Commitment* included: in Burma/Myanmar, the Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army briefed its brigades about child protection and investigated allegations of non-compliance; in India, the NSCN-KK revised existing internal regulations in accordance with the *Deed of Commitment*; all 5 Iranian Kurdish ANSAs used various means for disseminating the content of the *Deed of Commitment*; in Syria, the YPG-YPJ demobilized 149 children from its ranks and started to amend its internal regulations; in Turkey, the People's Defence Forces/Kurdistan Worker's Party investigated allegations regarding the recruitment of children under 16 years old and informed its members about the creation of a *non-militarily active* membership category for 16 to 18-year-olds
- ▶ 567 representatives from ANSAs, CSOs/CBOs and/or local authorities, including 188 women, attended 35 training courses tackling child protection issues, sometimes together with other topics, in Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Lebanon, Sudan, Syria and Turkey
- ▶ in several contexts, CSOs/CBOs contributed directly to: monitoring compliance with the *Deed of Commitment* by signatories (e.g. Burma/Myanmar); convincing ANSAs to consider child protection issues (e.g. Colombia, India); encouraging ANSAs to sign and implement the *Deed of Commitment* (e.g. Syria)
- ▶ among many contributions to events on child protection, an invitation by the UN Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict provided a major opportunity for Geneva Call to present and promote its work on children and ANSAs

CONTEXT

The [UN Security Council Resolution 1612](#) process continued to frame efforts to engage with ANSAs on child protection issues; however, progress was limited. In the [UN Secretary-General's 2014 annual report on children and armed conflict](#), 51 ANSAs were among the 59 parties listed for grave violations against children; most so-called *persistent perpetrators*, or parties that had committed violations for five years or more, were ANSAs, and only three of the ANSAs listed had committed to ending violations by signing action plans within the framework of the UN MRM process. Furthermore, corroborated sources continued to report allegations about the use of children by more ANSAs not included in the UNSG report and therefore not addressed by the UN MRM.

In 2014, Geneva Call engaged with 35 ANSAs in 10 contexts (including six mentioned in the above list) on child protection issues. By the end of 2014, 13 active ANSAs had signed the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict and had taken implementation measures, including the dissemination of command orders, training, inclusion of the obligations in codes of conduct and child protective measures. Other active ANSAs showed readiness to engage on child protection issues.

2014 EXPECTED ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

OVERALL IMPACT		Children are better protected from the effects of armed conflict in areas where ANSAs operate	
2014 Expected achievements		2014 Achievements	
→ 5 new signings of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> , making a total of 14 active ANSA signatories		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 4 ANSAs signed the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> protecting children in armed conflict (hereafter <i>Deed of Commitment</i>): 2 in Burma/Myanmar (Chin National Front/Army – CNF/CNA; Pa'O National Liberation Organization/Pa'O National Liberation Army – PNLO/PNLA), 1 in India (National Socialist Council of Nagaland Khole Kitovi – NSCN-KK) and 1 in the Syrian Arab Republic (hereafter Syria) (Democratic Self-Administration in Rojava/People's Protection Units/Women's Protection Units – YPG-YPJ) ✓ this brought the total number of active ANSA signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> to 13 	
→ 3 measures are taken by ANSAs towards the respect of international norms relating to the protection of children in armed conflict		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Burma/Myanmar: the Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army (RCSS/SSA-S) showed interest in the content of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> protecting children in armed conflict ✓ Colombia: the National Liberation Army (ELN) and Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People's Army (FARC-EP) reaffirmed their commitment to respecting their code of conduct on child recruitment ages; the FARC-EP considered raising the age of recruitment, which was then 15 years old ✓ Islamic Republic of Iran (hereafter Iran): the Free Life Party of Kurdistan (PJAK) confirmed its willingness to sign the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> protecting children in armed conflict ✓ Lebanon: a panel, hosted by the Lebanese government, discussed possible measures to support the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO)/Forces of the Palestinian National Coalition (Tahaluf) in their 2013 pledge to not use children in hostilities 	

CHILD PROTECTION

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sudan: the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) gave Geneva Call its enhanced code of conduct, having added the prohibition of child recruitment and use in hostilities and set up a committee to monitor child protection in its ranks; the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army – Minni Minnawi (SLM/A-MM) gave Geneva Call a copy of its Command Order on the prohibition of recruitment and use of child soldiers, signed in December 2013, and its Operational Mechanism to End Recruitment and Use of Children, signed in August 2014, wherein its chairman committed to establishing an implementation committee
<p>→ 14 new ANSAs are engaged for the first time, bringing the number of active ANSAs working with Geneva Call on international norms relating to the protection of children in armed conflict to 40</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 9 new ANSAs were engaged on the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> for the first time: 1 in Burma/Myanmar (Klo Htoo Baw Karen Organization/Democratic Karen Benevolent Army – KKO/DKBA); 6 in India (Hmar People’s Congress-Democracy – HPC-D; Kuki National Front – KNF; Kuki National Organisation – KNO; National Socialist Council of Nagalim (Isak Muivah) – NSCM-IM; NSCN-KK which signed the related <i>Deed of Commitment</i> the same year; Zomi Re-unification Organisation – ZRO); and 2 in Syria (Hazzm Movement/Free Syrian Army & affiliated factions – Hazzm/FSA; Islam Army (Jaysh al-Islam) & other Islamic Front affiliated factions – IA/IF) ✓ this brought the number of active ANSAs working with Geneva Call on this theme to 35, signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> included
<p>→ 11 contexts of intervention: Afghanistan, Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo (hereafter DRC), India, Iran, Lebanon, Sudan, Syria, Turkey and Yemen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 10 contexts of intervention (whether direct or indirect): Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, India, Iran, Lebanon, Philippines, Sudan, Syria, Turkey and Yemen ✓ however, in practice no work took place in the Philippines on this theme as no meeting took place with the Communist Party of the Philippines/New People’s Army (CPP/NPA) due to security reasons ✓ Afghanistan: the lack of funding forced Geneva Call to delay its activities in this context; no direct contacts have yet taken place with the ANSAs targeted; research and work with CSOs/CBOs also shifted the approach to focus more on humanitarian norms in general ✓ DRC: a preparatory approach tackled child protection issues within humanitarian norms in general; workshops with 13 community leaders, 15 local authorities and 14 CSO representatives prepared the ground for Geneva Call to engage with communities/ANSAs on humanitarian norms more generally ✓ Yemen: representatives of Al-Houthi movement, Ansar Allah (Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi), denied recruiting and using children below 15 years old; in cases of children younger than 15 wishing to join Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi forces, the recruiter would call the parents and ask them to keep their child at home. Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi representatives remained open to deepening dialogue with Geneva Call on their child policy

<p>→ signatory ANSAs take measures to implement their obligations under the <i>Deed of Commitment</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ all 13 active ANSA signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> provided information and reports on their implementation processes (such as dissemination, training, enforcement and protection measures), whereas Geneva Call continued to monitor compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> (through direct and indirect sources) ✓ Burma/Myanmar: the ANSA signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>, such as the Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army (KNU/KNLA), the KNPP/KA and the New Mon State Party/Mon National Liberation Army (NMSP/MNLA), took measures to ensure its enforcement. For instance, the KNLA reported training its brigades about both the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> and how to enforce it and provided pictures of these activities; it also moved a boarding house for children out of its 5th brigade military camp and into a village, after discussions with Geneva Call on this point. Additionally, the KNU/KNLA conducted investigations on allegations of non-compliance ✓ India: the NSCN-KK revised existing internal regulations in accordance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> and provided Geneva Call with documentation demonstrating that it organized and completed the dissemination of its obligations among its members ✓ Iran: all 5 signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> reported activities to further implement their obligations; for example: the Kurdistan Democratic Party – Iran (KDP-Iran) reported the publication of a presentation of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> in its magazine, also read in Iranian Kurdistan; the Komalah – The Kurdistan Organization of the Communist Party of Iran (Komalah-CPI) and the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (PDKI) reported using their TV channels to raise awareness about child protection and the content of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>; the PDKI also reported that it widely informed its members about the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>—existing peshmergas (i.e. this included existing peshmergas (i.e. fighters), nearly 100 new recruits (the topic was introduced during military training), civilians, families and children, especially through the organization of festivals for children, civilians, families and children ✓ Syria: the YPG-YPJ demobilized 149 children from their ranks on the day they signed the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> and started its integration into their internal regulations; the demobilized children, most of them between 15 and 17 years old, joined educational centres—two for girls, two for boys—keeping them away from hostilities: some were reunited with their families, but for the majority the conflict and family situations did not allow for a safe and sustainable return home ✓ Turkey: the People’s Defence Forces/Kurdistan Worker’s Party (HPG/PKK) took steps to investigate allegations regarding the recruitment of children under 16 years old, in violation of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> it signed; it disseminated information to its members about the creation of a new <i>non-militarily active</i> membership category for 16 to 18-year-old children, hosted in separate camps and benefiting from safer conditions and education
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OUTCOME 1		Geneva Call is able to make an informed decision on the value and feasibility of an intervention and build the capacity to start and maintain an engagement process
2014 Expected achievements	2014 Achievements	
→ analysis of the conflict situation, ANSA profiles and strategies for engagement are defined for each programme context	✓ the evolution of the armed conflicts in all contexts was regularly analysed and strategies and programmes were up-dated accordingly (e.g. in Afghanistan, DRC or Syria)	
→ engagement on child protection begins in Afghanistan, DRC, India, Sudan and Yemen → up to 14 new ANSAs agree to start dialogue with Geneva Call	✓ Afghanistan: a lack of funding forced Geneva Call to delay its activities in this context; no direct contact took place with the ANSAs targeted; research and work with CSOs/CBOs also shifted the approach to a greater focus on humanitarian norms in general ✓ Burma/Myanmar: the KKO/DKBA was engaged for the first time on the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> , and the RCSS/SSA-S showed interest in the content of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> ✓ DRC: a preparatory approach tackled child protection issues within humanitarian norms in general; workshops for 13 community leaders, 15 local authorities and 14 CSO representatives prepared the ground for Geneva Call to engage with ANSAs on humanitarian norms more generally ✓ India: 5 ANSAs (Hmar People's Congress-Democracy—PC-D; Kuki National Front – KNF; Kuki National Organisation – KNO; NSCN-IM; ZRO—expressed interest in enhancing the protection of children in armed conflict; they reported challenges about signing the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> , such as alternatives for children already involved with their organizations or who volunteer to join them; a sixth ANSA, NSCN-KK, first engaged on child protection in 2014, also signed the related <i>Deed of Commitment</i> that year ✓ Syria: 2 ANSAs were engaged for the first time on the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> : Hazzm/FSA and IA/IF ✓ Yemen: representatives of the Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi denied recruiting and using children below 15 years old; in cases of children younger than 15 wishing to join Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi forces, the recruiter would call the parents and ask them to keep their child at home. Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi representatives remained open to deepening dialogue with Geneva Call on their child policy	
OUTCOME 2		ANSAs are aware of international norms relating to the protection of children and have the knowledge to respond to this issue
2014 Expected achievements	2014 Achievements	
→ 8 awareness raising workshops are organized during the year with ANSA members from Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, Iran, Sudan and Syria → around 120 members of ANSAs attend workshops → 80% of ANSAs attending for the first time agree to pursue a dialogue on this issue with Geneva Call	✓ among the 35 events organized—mainly with Geneva Call partners addressing child protection issues and sometimes including other topics—17 events (in Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, Lebanon and Syria) targeted ANSA commanders and fighters, legal advisers and political leaders (276 participants in total, of whom 68 were women) ✓ 47 trainers, of whom 8 were women, also benefited from training during 4 events held in Lebanon, Sudan and Turkey ✓ in addition to the workshop/training events there, 6 missions to Iraqi Kurdistan provided regular opportunities for discussing child protection issues with Kurdish ANSAs operating in Iran or Turkey	

CHILD PROTECTION

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ a few planned events were postponed, for example: in Burma/Myanmar, the political and security situation forced the postponement of a workshop with the CNF/CNA that aimed to facilitate the planning of the <i>Deed of Commitment's</i> implementation ✓ dozens of awareness raising meetings also took place with ANSA representatives in order to help foster awareness of child protection issues; for example: 16 meetings took place with leaders from the Colombian ELN and FARC-EP, including commanders; substantive dialogue took place with members of Burmese groups: CNF/CNA, KNU/KNLA, Karenni National Progressive Party/Karenni Army (KNPP/KA), New Mon State Party/Mon National Liberation Army (NMSP/MNLA), PNLO/PNLA and RCSS/SSA-S ✓ all the ANSAs which had attended awareness raising sessions for the first time agreed to continue the dialogue on the topic
OUTCOME 3	ANSAs undertake commitments towards respecting international norms, including signing the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> or carrying out other measures
2014 Expected achievements	2014 Achievements
→ 5 ANSAs from Burma/Myanmar, Iran, Sudan and Syria sign the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>	✓ 4 ANSAs signed the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> : 2 in Burma/Myanmar (CNF/CNA; PNLO/PNLA), 1 in India (NSCN-KK) and 1 in Syria (YPG-YPJ)
→ 3 ANSAs undertake other measures towards respecting international norms relating to protection of children in armed conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Colombia: the ELN and FARC-EP confirmed their commitment to respect their code of conduct regarding child recruitment ages; the FARC-EP considered raising the recruitment age, which was then from 15 years old ✓ Iran: the PJAK confirmed its willingness to sign the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> protecting children in armed conflict ✓ Lebanon: a panel, hosted by the Lebanese Government, discussed possible measures to support the PLO/Tahaluf's 2013 pledge to not use children in hostilities ✓ Sudan: the JEM gave Geneva Call its enhanced code of conduct including the prohibition of child recruitment and use in hostilities and set up a committee to monitor child protection in its ranks; the SLM/A-MM gave Geneva Call a copy of its Command Order on the prohibition of recruitment and use of child soldiers, signed in December 2013, and its Operational Mechanism to End Recruitment and Use of Children, signed in August 2014, wherein the chairman committed to establishing an implementation committee
OUTCOME 4	Geneva Call has the necessary information to hold ANSAs accountable to their obligations under the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>
2014 Expected achievements	2014 Achievements
→ signatory ANSAs participate in the Third Meeting of Signatories	✓ all ANSA signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> protecting children in armed conflict participated in Geneva Call's Third Meeting of Signatories to the <i>Deeds of Commitment</i> in November
→ 80% of the signatories report on their compliance with their obligations under the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>	✓ all 13 active ANSA signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> provided information and reports on their implementation processes (such as dissemination, training, enforcement and protection measures), whereas Geneva Call continued to monitor compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> (through direct and indirect sources)

CHILD PROTECTION

<p>→ Geneva Call gathers relevant information from third party sources and through field visits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Geneva Call regularly gathered information from third party sources and through field visits on signatory compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> ✓ Geneva Call followed up allegations about child recruitment reported in Burma/Myanmar, Syria and Turkey, requesting investigations by the ANSA signatories concerned and discussing the outcomes with them, once available, and the steps taken
OUTCOME 5	ANSAs take measures to ensure compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> or other commitments
2014 Expected achievements	2014 Achievements
<p>→ regular meetings and workshops take place with signatory ANSAs from Burma/Myanmar, Iran and Turkey to follow-up on implementation of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ regular meetings took place with signatory ANSAs from Burma/Myanmar, India, Iran, Syria and Turkey
<p>→ ANSA signatories take implementation measures to ensure compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Burma/Myanmar: the ANSA signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>, such as the KNU/KNLA, the KNPP/KA and the New Mon State Party/Mon National Liberation Army (NMSP/MNLA), took measures to ensure its enforcement. For instance, the KNLA reported training its brigades about both the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> and how to enforce it and provided pictures of these activities; it also moved a boarding house for children out of its 5th brigade military camp into a village, after discussions with Geneva Call on this point. Additionally, the KNU/KNLA conducted investigations on allegations of non-compliance ✓ India: the NSCN-KK revised existing internal regulations in accordance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> and provided Geneva Call with documentation demonstrating that it had organized and completed the dissemination of information about its obligations to its members ✓ Iran: all 5 signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> reported activities to further implement their obligations; for example: the KDP-Iran reported the publication of a presentation of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> in its magazine, also read in Iranian Kurdistan; the Komalah-CPI and PDKI reported using their TV channels to raise awareness about child protection and the content of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>; the PDKI also reported that it had widely informed its members about the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>— existing peshmergas (i.e. this included existing peshmergas (i.e. fighters), nearly 100 new recruits (the topic was introduced during military training), civilians, families and children, especially through the organization of festivals for children ✓ Syria: the YPG-YPJ demobilized 149 children from their ranks on the day they signed the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> and started its integration into their internal regulations; the demobilized children, mostly between 15 and 17 years old, joined educational centres—two for girls, two for boys—keeping them away from hostilities: some were reunited with their families, but conflict and family situations did not allow the majority a safe and sustainable return home ✓ Turkey: the HPG/PKK took steps to investigate allegations regarding the recruitment of children under 16 years old, in violation of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> it signed; it disseminated information to its members about the creation of a new <i>non-militarily active</i> membership category for 16 to 18-year-old children, hosted in separate camps and benefiting from safer conditions and education

OUTCOME 6		Civil society organizations and community-based organizations facilitate the engagement process at all stages, including through training, monitoring and assistance activities
2014 Expected achievements	2014 Achievements	
<p>→ 9 training events are organized with CSOs and CBOs in Afghanistan, Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, DRC, India, Sudan and Syria; with 135 or more participants in total</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ among the 35 events organized—mainly with Geneva Call partners addressing child protection issues and sometimes including other topics—12 events gathered 216 members of CSOs/CBOs, including 109 women, in Burma/Myanmar, DRC, India, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey; and 2 events gathered 28 traditional leaders (local authorities) in the DRC ✓ Afghanistan: lack of funding delayed most of the planned activities ✓ Colombia: 6 indigenous communities in the Cauca, Nariño and Putumayo departments improved their safety by integrating MRE—with an important focus on the protection of children—into their daily life as a result of a 4-year Geneva Call project reaching some 17,500 people 	
<p>→ trained CSOs/CBOs share information with Geneva Call on violations of children’s rights and the positive or negative steps ANSAs take with regard to child protection</p> <p>→ trained CSOs/CBOs facilitate Geneva Call engagement with target ANSAs</p> <p>→ trained CSOs/CBOs support Geneva Call in monitoring signatories’ compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ in numerous situations, CSOs/CBOs facilitated Geneva Call’s engagement with target ANSAs; for example: ✓ Burma/Myanmar, India and Turkey: on the basis of the training received, CSOs/CBOs participated in monitoring signatories’ compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> ✓ Colombia: CSOs/CBOs contributed to pushing ANSAs to consider child protection issues, especially with regard to the recruitment age and the protection of schools ✓ Syria: CSOs/CBOs contributed to encouraging ANSAs to sign and start implementing the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> 	
OUTCOME 7		Geneva Call has the knowledge, capacity and stakeholder support for its engagement activities
2014 Expected achievements	2014 Achievements	
<p>→ Geneva Call’s operational staff strengthen its capacity and knowledge to engage with ANSAs on child protection issues (through technical support and training)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ no formal training of Geneva Call staff was organized due to staff turn-over, including the legal adviser in charge of this theme ✓ Geneva Call’s operational staff did benefit, however, from technical advice from the thematic advisor during training with ANSAs, in addition to advice provided by child-protection agencies ✓ a review of the monitoring framework will allow the use of an updated version in 2015 	
<p>→ Geneva Call produces pedagogical materials (illustrated booklets and posters) to support its engagement activities in facilitating the dissemination of rules amongst its target audience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ extensive use of Geneva Call dissemination materials required regular reprints of existing materials and in some cases its publication in additional local languages (e.g. Arabic, Sorani and Swahili) ✓ 78 posters and 1,277 illustrated booklets were distributed 	
<p>→ collaboration is strengthened with child protection agencies and other key stakeholders at the local and global levels</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ in Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, DRC, Iraqi Kurdistan, Lebanon, Sudan, Syria and Turkey, regular meetings took place with local and international child-protection agencies; these enabled information sharing, coordination where necessary and increased support for Geneva Call objectives and activities 	

OUTCOME 8	The views and perspectives of ANSAs, together with Geneva Call's expertise, are listened to and taken into account in the international debate on child protection related issues	
2014 Expected achievements	2014 Achievements	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ key international stakeholders are aware of Geneva Call's work, lessons learned and advocacy messages ➔ stakeholders' understandings of ANSA perspectives and challenges are improved ➔ the visibility of Geneva Call's experience is raised through participation in relevant conferences and international fora, and the organization of side events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ meetings with representatives of concerned or donor States and at the headquarters of major humanitarian organizations (including child-protection agencies) regularly took place, focusing on issues related to child protection ✓ Geneva Call actively participated in various events tackling child-protection issues; for example, it attended a consultative workshop on accountability for violations against children in armed conflict, organized by Conflict Dynamics International, and a workshop on child protection and peace processes, organized by Watchlist on Children in Armed Conflict; in June, upon invitation, Geneva Call shared its work on children and ANSAs with a meeting of the UN Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict and the Group of Friends on Children and Armed Conflict in New York ✓ in October 2014, Geneva Call also contributed to a two-day conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, about the challenges of preventing child recruitment, lessons learned and next steps, organized by the Paris Principles Steering Group; this conference aimed to promote high level political commitments to child protection among members of the African Union ✓ in March, following discussions initiated by Geneva Call, the European Parliament unanimously passed a recommendation to the European Council to support engagement with ANSAs on child protection in armed conflict; the recommendation urged the European Commission to encourage the signing of action plans for the protection of children in armed conflict by concerned States and ANSAs, and encouraged ANSAs to adhere to Geneva Call's <i>Deed of Commitment</i> protecting children in armed conflict ✓ 2 meetings with the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Children and Armed Conflict allowed an exchange of information and the strengthening of complementary approaches with the SRSG Office as well as with UNICEF ✓ Geneva Call—as an associate member of the Advisory Board of Watchlist on Children in Armed Conflict—actively contributed to several consultative processes regarding documents prepared for the SRSG, UNSC and UNSG; for instance, Geneva Call participated in the process leading to the finalization of the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict and started promoting them among ANSAs during Geneva Call's Third Meeting of Signatories to the <i>Deeds of Commitment</i> in November ✓ several IOs and NGOs, such as Child Soldiers International, the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, ICRC, Médecins Sans Frontières, Save the Children, UNICEF, UN Office of the SRSG on Children and Armed Conflict and War Child attended Geneva Call's Third Meeting of Signatories to the <i>Deeds of Commitment</i> in November 	

GENDER ISSUES

Taking advantage of its existing relationships with ANSAs, Geneva Call has been engaging with them on gender issues since 2009. It promotes the signing of the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination, and it supports signatories in implementing their commitments and monitors their processes. Geneva Call sometimes encourages other types of commitments made by ANSAs that contribute to preventing abuses and promoting gender participation in their structures and policies. This includes fostering women's participation in decision-making processes, including peace negotiations.

Burma/Myanmar	Sudan
Colombia	Syrian Arab Republic
India	Turkey
Islamic Republic of Iran	Yemen
Philippines (The)	

EXPENSES IN CHF	
Africa	156,017
Asia	287,439
Latin America	111,842
Middle East and Europe	67,871
Total	623,170



Training on the prevention of sexual violence in armed conflict, with the Karen Women Organization. February 2014, Burma/Myanmar. © Geneva Call

[UN Security Council Resolution 1960](#), adopted in 2010, continued to frame efforts to combat and curb sexual violence in armed conflict. However, the progress achieved with ANSAs remained limited. Other concerns persisted: gender-based discrimination in the structures and policies of ANSAs and the underrepresentation of women in peace processes.

In 2014, Geneva Call engaged with 31 ANSAs on gender issues in nine contexts. By the end of 2014, 12 active ANSAs were signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination and had started or were continuing its implementation. Other active ANSAs showed readiness to engage on gender issues.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2014:

- ▶ 5 ANSAs signed the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination (hereafter *Deed of Commitment*): 1 in Burma/Myanmar (Chin National Front/Army); 2 in India (Kuki National Front – KNF; National Socialist Council of Nagaland Khole Kitovi – NSCN-KK); and 2 in the Syrian Arab Republic (hereafter Syria) (Democratic Self-Administration in Rojava/People’s Protection Units/Women’s Protection Units; Hazzm Movement/Free Syrian Army & affiliated factions)
- ▶ all 12 active signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* provided information and reports on their implementation measures (such as dissemination, training, inclusion of the norms in codes of conduct, enforcement, equality policy measures, etc.), whereas Geneva Call continued to monitor their compliance with the *Deed of Commitment* (through direct and indirect sources)
- ▶ implementation measures by signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* included: in India, the KNF visited all its camps in order to brief its members about the *Deed of Commitment*; the NSCN-KK and the Zomi Re-unification Organisation updated their internal regulations; all 5 Iranian Kurdish ANSAs used various means for promoting women (such as the integration of gender issues in training for women, the organization of courses for illiterate women and children, a training module about women’s rights and the *Deed of Commitment* added to training for new fighters, the drafting of a legal basis against violations of women’s rights and their promotion through local TV channels)
- ▶ 626 representatives of ANSAs, CSOs/CBOs and/or local authorities, of whom 261 were women, attended 38 training courses tackling gender issues, sometimes together with other topics, in Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Lebanon, the Philippines, Sudan, Syria, Turkey and Yemen
- ▶ in several contexts, CSOs/CBOs contributed directly to: monitoring compliance with the *Deed of Commitment* by signatories (e.g. Burma/Myanmar); convincing ANSAs to consider gender issues (e.g. Colombia); promoting gender participation and implementation measures (e.g. the Philippines)
- ▶ Geneva Call actively participated in various events tackling gender issues, including the [Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict](#) in June, where it jointly organized a side event with the Swiss government

CONTEXT

[UN Security Council Resolution 1960](#), adopted in 2010, continued to frame efforts to combat and curb sexual violence in armed conflict. However, the progress achieved with ANSAs remained limited. Most initiatives focused on providing assistance to victims rather than on prevention. The [2014 annual report of the UN Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence](#) detailed the seriousness of the situation, while corroborated sources reported on additional perpetrators not included in the report. The international community continued to improve its efforts on this theme, as demonstrated by the [Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict](#) (hereafter Global Summit) organized by the government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (hereafter United Kingdom).

Other concerns persisted: gender-based discrimination in the structures and policies of ANSAs, as well as the underrepresentation of women in peace processes.

In 2014, Geneva Call engaged with 31 ANSAs on gender issues in nine contexts. By the end of 2014, 12 active ANSAs were signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination and had started or were continuing its implementation. Other active ANSAs showed readiness to engage with Geneva Call on gender issues.

2014 EXPECTED ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

OVERALL IMPACT	The threat of conflict-related sexual violence, and discriminatory policies and practices, are reduced in areas where ANSAs operate	
2014 Expected achievements	2014 Achievements	
→ 4 new signings of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> bring the total of active ANSA signatories to 11	✓	5 ANSAs signed the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination (hereafter <i>Deed of Commitment</i>): 1 in Burma/Myanmar (Chin National Front/Army – CNF/CAN); 2 in India (Kuki National Front – KNF; National Socialist Council of Nagaland Khole Kitovi – NSCN-KK); and 2 in the Syrian Arab Republic (hereafter Syria) (Democratic Self-Administration in Rojava/People’s Protection Units/Women’s Protection Units – YPG-YPJ; Hazzm Movement/Free Syrian Army & affiliated factions – Hazzm/FSA)
→ 2 other measures are taken by ANSAs towards the respect of international norms relating to the prohibition of sexual violence and the elimination of gender discrimination	✓	Burma/Myanmar: the New Mon State Party/Mon National Liberation Army (NMSP/MNLA) agreed to participate in a workshop dedicated to exploring the content of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> and ways of enforcing and monitoring compliance with it. It subsequently confirmed its willingness to adhere to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination once it has the capacity to implement its obligations in a timely manner
	✓	Colombia: the National Liberation Army (ELN) presented a gender policy compatible with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia –People’s Army (FARC-EP) publicly condemned all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, and not merely rape (the only type of sexual violence specifically prohibited by the FARC-EP’s code of conduct)
	✓	India: 3 ANSAs, the Hmar People’s Congress-Democracy (HPC-D), Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and National Socialist Council of Nagalim (Isak Muivah) (NSCN-IM), were considering signing the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> after awareness raising workshops about sexual violence and gender discrimination

GENDER ISSUES

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Islamic Republic of Iran (hereafter Iran): the Free Life Party of Kurdistan (PJAK) confirmed its willingness to sign the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination ✓ Turkey: the women’s movement of the People’s Defence Forces/Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK) confirmed its willingness to make a unilateral declaration on its existing policies against sexual violence and gender discrimination and on its good practices
<p>➔ Geneva Call engages with 6 new ANSAs on the prohibition of sexual violence and towards the elimination of gender discrimination, bringing the total of active ANSAs to 22</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 15 ANSAs were engaged on gender issues for the first time: 3 in Burma/Myanmar (Kachin Independence Organisation/Army – KIO/KIA; Karen National Union Peace Council/Karen National Liberation Army Peace Council – KNU-PC/KNLA-PC); NMSP/MNLA; 6 in India (HPC-D; KNO; NSCN-IM; NSCN-KK which signed the related <i>Deed of Commitment</i> the same year; People Liberation Army – PLA; United National Liberation Front – UNLF); 4 in Sudan (Justice and Equality Movement – JEM; Sudan Liberation Movement/Army – Abdel Wahid al-Nur – SLM/A-AW; Sudan Liberation Movement/Army – Minni Minnawi – SLM/A-MM; Sudan Peoples’ Liberation Movement – North – SPLM-N); and 2 in Syria (Hazzm/FSA which signed the related <i>Deed of Commitment</i> the same year; Islam Army (Jaysh al-Islam) & other Islamic Front affiliated factions – IA/IF) ✓ this brings the total number of active ANSAs engaged on this theme to 31, including signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>
<p>➔ 10 contexts of intervention: Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo (hereafter DRC), India, Iran, Lebanon, the Philippines, Sudan, Syria and Turkey</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Geneva Call worked in 9 contexts (whether directly or indirectly): Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, India, Iran, the Philippines, Sudan, Syria, Turkey and Yemen ✓ DRC: a preparatory approach tackled gender issues within humanitarian norms in general; workshops for 13 community leaders, 15 local authorities and 14 CSO representatives prepared the ground for Geneva Call to engage with ANSAs on humanitarian norms more generally ✓ Lebanon: training and dissemination sessions with the Lebanese political parties included gender aspects related to armed conflict ✓ Yemen: 17 women from CSOs based in 9 provinces across the country participated in a three-day workshop held in partnership with the OHCHR during which they primarily reviewed their main security concerns, including sexual violence, and how they could increase their contributions to civilian protection and peacebuilding; each participant committed herself to taking the outcomes of the workshop back to her CSO, and to consider how implementation might be adapted to her own environment

GENDER ISSUES

<p>→ signatory ANSAs take measures to implement their obligations under the <i>Deed of Commitment</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ all 12 active signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> provided information and reports on their implementation measures (such as dissemination, training, inclusion of the norms in codes of conduct, enforcement, equality policy measures) whereas Geneva Call continued to monitor compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> (through direct and indirect sources) ✓ Burma/Myanmar: upon signature of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>, the CNF/CNA immediately began drafting an implementation plan with the help of Geneva Call; the KNU/KNLA started to implement its plan to comply with its obligations under the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> ✓ India: the KNF visited all its camps in order to brief its members about the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> and how to comply with the new obligations; the NSCN-KK developed an implementation plan, including the clarification of its gender policy through the revision of existing rules and regulations, and provided Geneva Call with documentation demonstrating that it organized and completed the dissemination of the content of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> among its members; the Zomi Re-unification Organisation (ZRO) revised its rules and regulations to include clear gender equality policies ✓ Iran: all 5 signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> reported activities to further implement their obligations; for example: Komala Party of Iranian Kurdistan (KPIK) reported the integration of gender issues into women’s training; Komala Party of Kurdistan (KPK) reported the organization of courses for illiterate women and children, including about treating boys and girls equally, as well as seminars discussing violence against women and how to stop it; Kurdistan Democratic Party – Iran (KDP-Iran) reported groups created to discuss gender issues, and a module about women’s rights and the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> was added to the various yearly training sessions for new peshmergas (i.e. fighters); Komalah – the Kurdistan Organization of the Communist Party of Iran (Komalah-CPI) reported using its TV channel to promote the content of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>; Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (PDKI) reported a training set up to educate women about their rights and the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> and the commencement of a draft legal basis against violation ✓ Syria: the YPG-YPJ extensively disseminated information on their commitment and several of their members participated in a training session on the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>; the legislative council of one of the three Cantons of the Democratic Self-Administration in Rojava, Al Jazira’s Canton, passed a law against gender discrimination and for increased women’s participation in public affairs
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OUTCOME 1		Geneva Call is able to make an informed decision on the value and feasibility of an intervention and build the capacity to start and maintain an engagement process	
2014 Expected achievements		2014 Achievements	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ relevant ANSAs are identified where an engagement on gender issues can take place ➔ new engagement fronts are opened, notably in DRC and Syria ➔ up to 6 new ANSAs agree to start a dialogue with Geneva Call 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ regular and comprehensive analysis of ANSAs enabled Geneva Call to engage with more ANSAs than initially planned on gender issues ✓ 15 ANSAs newly engaged on gender issues: 3 in Burma/Myanmar (KIO/KIA; KNU-PC/KNLA-PC; NMSP/MNLA); 6 in India (HPC-D; KNO; NSCN-IM; NSCN-KK, which signed the related <i>Deed of Commitment</i> the same year; PLA; UNLF); 4 in Sudan (JEM; SLM/A-AW; SLM/A-MM; SPLM-N); and 2 in Syria (Hazzm/FSA, which signed the related <i>Deed of Commitment</i> the same year; Islam Army (Jaysh al-Islam) & other Islamic Front affiliated factions – IA/IF) ✓ DRC: a preparatory approach tackled gender issues within humanitarian norms in general; workshops with 13 community leaders, 15 local authorities and 14 CSO representatives prepared the ground for Geneva Call to engage with ANSAs on humanitarian norms more generally 	
OUTCOME 2		ANSAs are aware of international norms relating to sexual violence and gender discrimination and have the knowledge to respond to this issue	
2014 Expected achievements		2014 Achievements	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ 10 awareness raising workshops are organized during the year with ANSA members from Colombia, Iran, the Philippines, Sudan and Syria ➔ around 80 members of ANSAs attend workshops ➔ 80% of ANSAs attending for the first time agree to pursue a dialogue on this issue with Geneva Call 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ among the 38 events organized—mainly with Geneva Call partners addressing gender issues and sometimes including other topics—17 events (in Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, Lebanon and Syria) targeted ANSA commanders and fighters, legal advisers and political leaders (in total: 281 participants, of whom 59 were women) ✓ 47 trainers, of whom 8 were women, also benefited from trainings during 4 events held in Lebanon, Sudan and Turkey ✓ in addition to the workshop/training events, 6 missions to Iraqi Kurdistan provided regular opportunities for discussing gender issues with Kurdish ANSAs operating in Iran or Turkey ✓ the Philippines: in December, a CSO workshop took place for 16 women and 1 man, all members of CSOs from parts of Mindanao that may become part of a Bangsamoro political region; it ought to have been followed by two training sessions for female and male members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front/Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (MILF/BIAF), about protecting women and girls from violence and women’s rights and participation in the peace process, but this was postponed to 2015 ✓ dozens of awareness raising meetings took place with ANSA representatives to help foster their knowledge of gender issues; for example: substantive dialogue took place with representatives of the Indian HPC-D, KNF, KNO, NSCN-IM, NSCN-KK, PLA and UNLF about gender issues, following which the KNF and NSCN-KK became signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> and the HPC-D, KNO and NSCN-IM were considering signing it; in Sudan, following a presentation of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>, the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army – Minni Minnawi (SLM/A-MM) was open to discussing further sexual violence and gender discrimination ✓ all the ANSAs engaged on this subject for the first time agreed to continue the dialogue on this topic 	

OUTCOME 3		ANSAs undertake commitments towards respecting international norms, including signing the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> or carrying out other measures
2014 Expected achievements	2014 Achievements	
→ 4 ANSAs from Burma/Myanmar, Iran and Syria sign the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>	✓ 5 ANSAs signed the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> : 1 in Burma/Myanmar (CNF/CAN); 2 in India (KNF; NSCN-KK); and 2 in Syria (YPG-YPJ; Hazzm/FSA)	
→ 2 ANSAs undertake other measures towards the respect of international norms relating to the prohibition of sexual violence and the elimination of gender discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Burma/Myanmar: NMSP/MNLA agreed to participate in a workshop dedicated to exploring the content of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> and ways of enforcing and monitoring compliance with it. Following this workshop, it confirmed its willingness to adhere to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination once it has the capacity to implement its obligations in a timely manner ✓ Colombia: ELN presented a gender policy compatible with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination, and FARC-EP publicly condemned all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, and not merely rape (the only type of sexual violence specifically prohibited in the FARC-EP's code of conduct) ✓ India: 3 ANSAs, HPC-D, KNO and NSCN-IM, were considering signing the related <i>Deed of Commitment</i> after improving their awareness about sexual violence and gender discrimination in workshops ✓ Iran: PJAK confirmed its willingness to sign the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> ✓ Turkey: PKK women's movement confirmed its willingness to make a unilateral declaration on its existing policies against sexual violence and gender discrimination and on its good practices 	
OUTCOME 4		Geneva Call has the necessary information to hold ANSAs accountable to their obligations under the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>
2014 Expected achievements	2014 Achievements	
→ signatory ANSAs participate in the Third Meeting of Signatories	✓ all ANSA signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> participated in Geneva Call's Third Meeting of Signatories to the <i>Deeds of Commitment</i> in November	
→ 80% of the signatories report on their compliance with their obligations under the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>	✓ all 12 active signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> provided information and reports on their implementation measures (such as dissemination, trainings, inclusion of the norms in codes of conduct, enforcement and equality policy measures)	
→ Geneva Call gathers relevant information from third party sources and through field visits	✓ Geneva Call regularly gathered information from third party sources and through field visits on signatory compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>	
OUTCOME 5		ANSAs take measures to ensure compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> or other commitments
2014 Expected achievements	2014 Achievements	
→ regular meetings and workshops take place with signatory ANSAs from Burma/Myanmar, India and Iran to follow-up on implementation of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>	✓ regular meetings took place with signatory ANSAs from Burma/Myanmar, India, Iran and Syria	

<p>→ ANSA signatories take implementation measures to ensure compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Burma/Myanmar: upon signature of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>, the CNF/CNA immediately began drafting an implementation plan with the help of Geneva Call; the KNU/KNLA started to implement its plan to comply with its obligations under the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> ✓ India: the KNF visited all its camps in order to brief its members about the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> and how to comply with the new obligations; the NSCN-KK developed an implementation plan, including the clarification of its gender policy through the revision of existing rules and regulations, and provided Geneva Call with documentation demonstrating that it had disseminated the content of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> among its members; the ZRO revised its rules and regulations to include clear gender equity policies ✓ Iran: all 5 signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> reported launching activities to improve its implementation; for example: KPIK reported the integration of gender issues into a women’s training; KPK reported organizing courses for illiterate women and children, including about treating boys and girls equally, as well as seminars discussing violence against women and how to stop it; KDP-Iran reported creating groups for discussing gender issues and a module about women’s rights and the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> were added to the various yearly training sessions for new peshmergas; Komalah-CPI reported using its TV channel to promote the content of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>; PDKI reported the commencement of a draft a legal basis against violations and setting up a training to educate women about their rights and the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> ✓ Syria: the YPG-YPJ extensively disseminated information on their commitment and several of their members participated in training sessions on the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>; the legislative council of one of the three Cantons of the Democratic Self-Administration in Rojava, Al Jazira’s Canton, passed a law against gender discrimination and for increased women participation in public affairs
<p>OUTCOME 6</p>	<p>Civil society organizations and community-based organizations facilitate the engagement process at all stages—including through training, monitoring and assistance activities</p>
<p>2014 Expected achievements</p>	<p>2014 Achievements</p>
<p>→ 13 training events on the prohibition of sexual violence and towards the elimination of gender discrimination are organized with CSOs and CBOs, in Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, DRC, India, the Philippines and Sudan; with 100 participants or more in total</p>	<p>✓ among the 38 events organized—mainly with Geneva Call partners addressing gender issues and sometimes including other topics—15 events gathered 270 members of CSOs/CBOs, including 191 women, in Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, DRC, India, Lebanon, the Philippines, Syria, Turkey and Yemen; and 2 events gathered 28 traditional leaders (local authorities) in the DRC</p>
<p>→ trained CSOs/CBOs take concrete actions to promote international norms relating to the prohibition of sexual violence and the elimination of gender discrimination</p> <p>→ trained CSOs/CBOs facilitate Geneva Call’s engagement with target ANSAs</p> <p>→ trained CSOs/CBOs support Geneva Call in monitoring signatories’ compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i></p>	<p>✓ in numerous situations, CSOs/CBOs facilitated Geneva Call’s engagement with target ANSAs; for example:</p> <p>✓ Burma/Myanmar: the Karen Women’s Organization (KWO) and Mon Women’s Organization (MWO), as well as other CSOs, agreed to work with Geneva Call in respect of their engagement with ANSAs regarding sexual violence and gender discrimination; in two workshops, 80 participants, including six men, studied the content of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination and how they could cooperate on these issues, particularly within their communities</p>

GENDER ISSUES

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Colombia: former Colombian female combatants shared their experience from their respective collective DDR processes and made concrete recommendations for future DDR processes to the government and ANSAs; FARC-EP showed interest in meeting with these women in Havana, Cuba, to discuss their proposals in detail; the possibility of also organizing a meeting between them and both parties—government and FARC-EP—in the frame of the peace process was under discussion ✓ the Philippines: at the end of a workshop discussing the role of women and the measures required for implementing the principles included in the Basic Law of the possible new autonomous Bangsamoro political region for Moro people in Mindanao, 17 Moro CSO representatives provided firsthand information on the implementation of gender equality by the MILF/BIAF ✓ Yemen: 17 women from CSOs based in 9 provinces across the country participated in a three-day workshop held in partnership with the OHCHR; during this they primarily reviewed their main security concerns, including sexual violence, and how they could increase their contributions to civilian protection and peacebuilding; each participant committed herself to taking the outcomes of the workshop back to her CSO, and to consider how implementation might be adapted to her own environment
OUTCOME 7	Geneva Call has the knowledge, capacity and stakeholder support for its engagement activities
2014 Expected achievements	2014 Achievements
→ Geneva Call’s operational staff strengthen its capacity and knowledge to engage with ANSAs on the prohibition of sexual violence and gender discrimination issues (through technical support and training)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ no formal training of Geneva Call staff was organized due to staff turn-over, including the legal adviser in charge of this theme ✓ Geneva Call’s operational staff did benefit, however, from technical advice from the thematic advisor during training with ANSAs, in addition to advice provided by specialized agencies
→ Geneva Call produces pedagogical materials (illustrated booklets and posters) to support its engagement activities in facilitating the dissemination of relevant rules amongst its target audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ extensive use of Geneva Call dissemination materials by ANSAs required regular reprints of existing materials and in some cases its publication in additional local languages (e.g. Arabic, Marano, Swahili and Tagalog) ✓ 66 posters and 1,102 booklets were distributed
→ local/international stakeholders take concrete actions to facilitate Geneva Call’s work (statements of support, funding, partnership agreements, other evidence of support)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ for example, in Afghanistan, Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, DRC, Iraqi-Kurdistan, Lebanon, the Philippines, Sudan, Syria and Yemen, meetings regularly took place with local authorities and representatives of humanitarian organizations present in the country, such as the ICRC or UN agencies; these enabled information sharing, coordination where necessary and better support for Geneva Call’s objectives and activities ✓ in several contexts, local organizations and Geneva Call and/or its partners, had regular meetings to support and enhance each other’s work
→ a roundtable on the participation of women in peace process is organized in Colombia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Colombia: the roundtable was postponed as the preparatory work with ANSAs on gender issues had not advanced enough and there was a lack of funds

OUTCOME 8		The views and perspectives of ANSAs and Geneva Call's expertise are listened to and taken into account in the international debate on sexual violence in armed conflict and gender discrimination	
2014 Expected achievements		2014 Achievements	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ key international stakeholders are aware of Geneva Call's work, lessons learned and advocacy messages ➔ stakeholders' understandings of ANSA perspectives and challenges are improved ➔ the visibility of Geneva Call's experience is raised through the participation in relevant conferences and international fora, and the organization of side events 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ meetings regularly took place with representatives of concerned or donor States and at the headquarters of major humanitarian organizations, focusing on general concerns related to gender issues ✓ in November, several IOs and NGOs, such as the ICRC, Médecins Sans Frontières, Save the Children, the OHCHR and the UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, attended Geneva Call's Third Meeting of Signatories to the <i>Deeds of Commitment</i> ✓ two articles published in the Small Arms Survey 2014 (testimonies of former women fighters) and in the Humanitarian Exchange Magazine promoted Geneva Call's engagement on gender issues ✓ Geneva Call attended various events tackling gender issues; it actively contributed to the Global Summit organized in June by the United Kingdom ✓ the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) and Geneva Call jointly organized a side event at the Global Summit; this provided an opportunity to discuss the challenges related to ANSAs' engagement on the prevention of sexual violence in armed conflict; one representative of an ANSA engaged by Geneva Call presented his group's perspectives and the commitments it had taken on the prohibition of sexual violence, as well as discussing the inclusion of women and gender issues in peace negotiations; experts from the FDFA and Geneva Call also shared their approach 	

HUMANITARIAN NORMS

The principle of engaging with ANSAs on wider humanitarian norms is included in the *Deeds of Commitment*. Since 2011, at the request of both signatory and non-signatory ANSAs, Geneva Call has been working with legal experts in order to raise awareness amongst ANSAs about humanitarian norms and to help them integrate norms into their internal regulations. This work uses various tools, including a training module which distills the complex sources of IHL/IHRL into a simple set of 15 rules of behaviour for ANSA fighters. Trainings are a good starting point for dialogue and engagement with ANSAs, especially when the existing *Deed of Commitment* process is not relevant.

Afghanistan	Lebanon
Burma/Myanmar	Sudan
Colombia	Syrian Arab Republic
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Turkey
India	Western Sahara
Islamic Republic of Iran	one context kept confidential

EXPENSES IN CHF

Africa	47,659
Asia	156,754
Latin America	32,880
Middle East and Europe	523,840
Total	761,133



Four-day training session on humanitarian norms, for eight training instructors from the People's Defence Forces/Kurdistan Worker's Party. July 2014. © Geneva Call

In his [February 2013 statement](#), the UNSC president recognized the need for humanitarian agencies to ensure consistent engagement with all the parties to armed conflicts for humanitarian purposes; this included activities aimed at ensuring respect for IHL. However, such engagement remained poor, and most humanitarian actors continued to focus their relationships with ANSAs on getting access to conflict-affected people.

By the end of 2014, Geneva Call was working on humanitarian norms with ANSAs and/or CSOs/CBOs in 12 of the 16 different contexts where it is active.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2014:

- ▶ 17 active ANSAs in 8 contexts engaged with Geneva Call on humanitarian norms, including 5 new ones in Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic (hereafter Syria): 2 in Colombia (National Liberation Army; Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People’s Army); 1 in the Islamic Republic of Iran (Free Life Party of Kurdistan); 3 in Lebanon (Forces of the Palestinian National Coalition; Hezbollah; Palestinian Liberation Organization/Palestinian National Security Forces – PLO/PNSF); 4 in Sudan (Justice and Equality Movement; Sudan Liberation Movement/Army – Abdel Wahid al-Nur; Sudan Liberation Movement/Army – Minnin Minnawi; Sudan Peoples’ Liberation Movement – North); 3 in Syria (Democratic Self-Administration in Rojava/People’s Protection Units/Women’s Protection Units – YPG-YPJ; Hazzm Movement/Free Syrian Army & affiliated factions – Hazzm/FSA; Islam Army (Jaysh al-Islam) & other Islamic Front affiliated factions – IA/IF); 1 in Turkey (People’s Defence Forces/Kurdistan Worker’s Party); 1 in Western Sahara (Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro); and 2 additional ANSAs in a context which must remain confidential, but which is known by the government concerned
- ▶ in 4 additional contexts—Afghanistan, Burma/Myanmar, Democratic Republic of the Congo – hereafter DRC and India—work with CSOs/CBOs and traditional leaders and prepared further engagement with ANSAs
- ▶ 370 representatives of ANSAs, CSOs/CBOs or local authorities, of whom 153 were women, attended 34 training courses promoting/presenting humanitarian norms, which were often examined together with the content of the 3 existing *Deeds of Commitments*, in Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, DRC, India, Lebanon, Sudan, Syria and Turkey
- ▶ in November, 70 high-level representatives of 35 ANSAs from 14 different contexts adopted a [declaration to better protect civilians in armed conflict](#) at Geneva Call’s Third Meeting of Signatories to the *Deeds of Commitment*
- ▶ in Lebanon, a PLO Legal Support Unit, based in its new Legal Training Centre at the Ain al-Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp, developed sustainable training programmes on humanitarian norms for the PNSF
- ▶ in Syria, IA/IF, with the participation of the Syrian Islamic Council, prepared a humanitarian statement including 15 key rules of behaviour to be respected in armed conflict

CONTEXT

Many violations of IHL and IHRL—though by no means all—are committed by ANSAs controlling inhabited areas. Their behaviour can have an impact on millions of people. The UNSC has called for armed groups to be trained about IHL, IHRL and refugee law. In its [February 2013 statement](#), its president recognized the need for humanitarian agencies to ensure consistent engagement with all parties to armed conflicts for humanitarian purposes, including activities which aim to ensure respect for IHL. However, such engagement remained poor, and most humanitarian actors continued to focus their relationships with ANSAs on getting humanitarian access to conflict-affected people. Furthermore, an international trend continued to restrict access to certain ANSAs as a reinforcement of the *war on terror*. This included the criminalization of humanitarian actors which had contact with those ANSAs.

Engagement with ANSAs requires that one/an organization has a very good understanding of the specific challenges they face in complying with the existing legal and normative frameworks that allow humanitarian actors to help them.

By the end of 2014, Geneva Call was working on humanitarian norms with ANSAs and/or CSOs/CBOs in 12 of the 16 contexts where it was engaged, including one context which must remain confidential, though through being known by the authorities concerned.

2014 EXPECTED ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

OVERALL IMPACT	The protection of civilians and other protected persons in areas where ANSAs operate is improved	
2014 Expected achievements	2014 Achievements	
→ Geneva Call engages with 14 active ANSAs and trains them on humanitarian norms	✓	17 active ANSAs, including 5 new ones (2 in Sudan and 3 in the Syrian Arab Republic – hereafter Syria), were engaged on humanitarian norms: 2 in Colombia (National Liberation Army – ELN; Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People’s Army – FARC-EP); 1 in the Islamic Republic of Iran – hereafter Iran (Free Life Party of Kurdistan – PJAK); 3 in Lebanon (Forces of the Palestinian National Coalition – Tahaluf; Hezbollah, Palestinian Liberation Organization/Palestinian National Security Forces – PLO/PNSF); 4 in Sudan (Justice and Equality Movement – JEM; Sudan Liberation Movement/Army – Abdel Wahid al-Nur – SLM/A-AW; Sudan Liberation Movement/Army – Minnin Minnawi – SLM/A-MM; Sudan Peoples’ Liberation Movement – North – SPLM-N); 3 in Syria (Democratic Self-Administration in Rojava/People’s Protection Units/Women’s Protection Units – YPG-YPJ; Hazzm Movement/Free Syrian Army & affiliated factions – Hazzm/FSA; Islam Army (Jaysh al-Islam) & other Islamic Front affiliated factions – IA/IF); 1 in Turkey (People’s Defence Forces/Kurdistan Worker’s Party – HPG/PKK); 1 in Western Sahara (Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro – Polisario Front); and 2 more in a context kept confidential, but which is known to the government concerned
→ 8 contexts of intervention: Afghanistan, Colombia, Iran, Lebanon, Sudan, Syria, Turkey and Western Sahara	✓	12 contexts of intervention: Afghanistan, Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo (hereafter DRC), India, Iran, Lebanon, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, Western Sahara and 1 other context, where Geneva Call worked confidentially

OUTCOME 1	Geneva Call is able to make an informed decision on the value and feasibility of an intervention and to initiate and maintain an engagement process	
2014 Expected achievements	2014 Achievements	
→ analysis of the conflict situation, ANSA profiles and strategies for engagement are defined for each country programme	✓ the evolution of the armed conflicts in all contexts were regularly analysed, and strategies and programmes were up-dated accordingly (e.g. Afghanistan, DRC and Yemen)	
→ Geneva Call has the necessary pool of experts, notably IHL trainers, to conduct its activities	✓ Geneva Call employed its own experts in IHL and IHRL, and used an external pool of IHL training experts, including some Arabic speakers with good knowledge of Islamic Law	
OUTCOME 2	ANSAs have knowledge of humanitarian norms and are able to apply this in their decision making	
2014 Expected achievements	2014 Achievements	
<p>→ 15 training and awareness raising workshops are organized during the year with ANSA members from Colombia, Iran, Lebanon, Sudan, Syria, Turkey and Western Sahara</p> <p>→ approximately 150 members of ANSAs attend</p>	<p>✓ among 34 events organized—mainly with Geneva Call partners, promoting/presenting humanitarian norms often together with the content of the <i>Deeds of Commitments</i> banning AP mines, protecting children in armed conflict and prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination—16 of these events (in Colombia, Lebanon and Syria) targeted ANSA commanders and fighters, legal advisers and political leaders (136 participants in total, of whom 57 were women)</p> <p>✓ 47 trainers, of whom 8 were women, also benefited from training at 4 events held in Lebanon, Sudan and Turkey</p> <p>✓ Colombia: an initial group of 9 imprisoned ELN commanders refreshed and enhanced their knowledge in a supplementary training session on transitional justice and DDR; this followed 2013’s successful pilot training session on topics such as IHL, transitional justice, humanitarian demining and DDR with the support of the University of San Buenaventura and Colombian and international experts</p> <p>✓ Syria: 193 ANSA representatives attended 11 training sessions, including: 28 members of Asayish, the police forces of the Democratic Self-Administration in Rojava, attended a three-day training session on humanitarian norms and principles surrounding the use of force and firearms; for the first time, 3 high-level representatives of Jaysh al-Islam attended a one-day presentation about Geneva Call and its <i>Deeds of Commitment</i>; in addition, approximately 170 members of various ANSAs attended training sessions at the Afaq Academy given by trainers previously trained by Geneva Call in 2013</p> <p>✓ a few events were delayed/postponed; for example: in Afghanistan, lack of dedicated funding delayed the implementation of most activities; in Lebanon, political turmoil caused delays in the implementation of some activities and the postponement of events and workshops on humanitarian norms for members of the main political parties</p>	

HUMANITARIAN NORMS

OUTCOME 3		ANSAs undertake commitments and/or plan to respect humanitarian norms	
2014 Expected achievements		2014 Achievements	
→ 3 ANSAs commit respecting humanitarian norms and/or integrating IHL rules into their internal regulations and training systems		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ in November, 70 high-level representatives—political leaders, commanders, officers and legal advisers—of 35 ANSAs from 14 different contexts adopted a declaration to better protect civilians in armed conflict at Geneva Call’s Third Meeting of Signatories to the <i>Deeds of Commitment</i> ✓ Iran: the Free Life Party of Kurdistan requested support to improve its trainers’ knowledge of humanitarian norms; in view of the armed conflict in Iraqi Kurdistan, all Iranian Kurdish ANSA representatives expressed their interest in better ensuring the protection of civilians in armed conflict and therefore in improving their knowledge of related humanitarian norms ✓ Syria: IA/IF, with the participation of the Syrian Islamic Council, prepared a humanitarian statement including 15 key IHL rules of behaviour that should be respected in armed conflict. This document was passed to their leadership for approval; although it was reportedly approved by the IF, the security situation delayed a formal announcement of its adoption 	
OUTCOME 4		Geneva Call has the necessary information to hold ANSAs accountable to their commitments or plans	
2014 Expected achievements		2014 Achievements	
→ as an initial stage in implementing these activities, Geneva Call develops tools to monitor ANSAs’ compliance with humanitarian norms		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Geneva Call launched a monitoring and review study of the behavioural changes made by a few ANSAs that underwent training on humanitarian norms; the study was based on comparisons between the specific rules to be respected during hostilities, as discussed during training, and the descriptions of hostilities on the ground related to these rules; the information collected enriched training course curricula by providing concrete examples of violations and of behavioural improvements in conducting hostilities following training and dialogue with Geneva Call 	
→ target ANSAs participate in the Third Meeting of Signatories		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ in November, 70 high-level representatives—political leaders, commanders, officers and legal advisers—of 35 ANSAs from 14 different contexts adopted a declaration to better protect civilians in armed conflict at Geneva Call’s Third Meeting of Signatories to the <i>Deeds of Commitment</i> 	
OUTCOME 5		ANSAs take measures to ensure compliance with their commitments or plans	
2014 Expected achievements		2014 Achievements	
→ Geneva Call provides ANSAs with technical support in implementing their humanitarian commitments		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ in addition to trainings organized for their members and trainers (see outcome 2), ANSAs received informational material on humanitarian norms (see outcome 7) ✓ Lebanon: a PLO Legal Support Unit (LSU) was formally established, made up of 6 staff—mostly alumni of Geneva Call’s 2012 training of trainers and selected in consultation with Geneva Call. The LSU’s responsibility is to develop sustainable training programmes on humanitarian norms for all the PNSF members in Lebanon, including its obligations surrounding the use of force during security operations. The LSU is now based in a new permanent Legal Training Centre (LTC) opened in Ain al-Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp in October; this base was set up with Geneva Call’s support 	

OUTCOME 6		Civil society organizations and community-based organizations facilitate engagement processes at all stages—including through training, monitoring and assistance activities
2014 Expected achievements	2014 Achievements	
<p>➔ Geneva Call helps CSOs, CBOs and community leaders to build their capacity to support the dissemination of information on humanitarian norms and engagement processes, mainly in Afghanistan and Syria, through meetings, trainings and the development of supporting material</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ among 34 events organized—mainly with Geneva Call partners, promoting/presenting humanitarian norms often together with the content of the <i>Deeds of Commitments</i> banning AP mines, protecting children in armed conflict and prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination—12 of these events gathered 159 CSO/CBO members, including 85 women, in the DRC, Lebanon, India, Syria and Turkey; and 2 events gathered 28 traditional leaders (local authorities) in the DRC ✓ Afghanistan: a lack of dedicated funding delayed the implementation of most activities planned; however, with UNMAS support, Geneva Call’s partner, The Liaison Office, launched and completed a consultation process with community leaders to identify their needs to better protect their communities vis-a-vis armed actors and, on this basis, started preparing the curriculum for a future training that will include sections on IHL and Islamic Law ✓ DRC: 3 workshops involving 13 community leaders, 15 local authorities and 14 CSO representatives prepared the ground for Geneva Call to engage with communities/ANSAs on humanitarian norms; all participants, supported the idea of engaging with ANSAs on humanitarian norms because of the interest the latter have in complying with them, and they agreed to relay and facilitate Geneva Call’s mission with ANSAs ✓ India: Geneva Call’s training of CSO partners allowed them to improve their engagement with and monitoring of ANSAs in the north-eastern region; for example: a Kuki CSO in Manipur, together with Geneva Call’s partners, organized workshops on the <i>Deeds of Commitment</i> and humanitarian norms for their communities; several CSOs organized a discussion programme at the Diocesan Social Service Society (Imphal, Manipur) about IHL and the Indian Armed Forces Special Powers Act (1958); this addressed IHL violations committed by the armed forces and ANSAs and, regarding the ANSAs, recommended that <i>Armed Opposition Groups respect and implement the Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions, 1949, sign and respect Geneva Call’s Deeds of Commitment on landmine use, gender and children and to stop inter-factional animosity and fighting in the interest of the civilians</i> ✓ Lebanon: senior Sunni religious leaders welcomed Geneva Call’s initiatives and expressed their readiness to facilitate Geneva Call’s humanitarian work in Lebanon, especially in regard to the dissemination of humanitarian norms for the protection of civilians in armed conflict and other situations of violence ✓ Syria: meetings with CSO/CBO representatives and cooperation with existing and new partners developed, such as with the Afaq Academy, the Syrian International NGO Forum and the Syrian Islamic Council; these meetings mainly: encouraged discussion on the congruence of humanitarian norms and Islamic law, how to navigate between both and how to put them into practice concretely; enabled the signature of <i>Deeds of Commitment</i> by Hazzm/FSA and YPG-YPJ/FSA; facilitated the preparation of a humanitarian statement including 15 key rules of behaviour to be respected in armed conflict by IA/IF 	

HUMANITARIAN NORMS

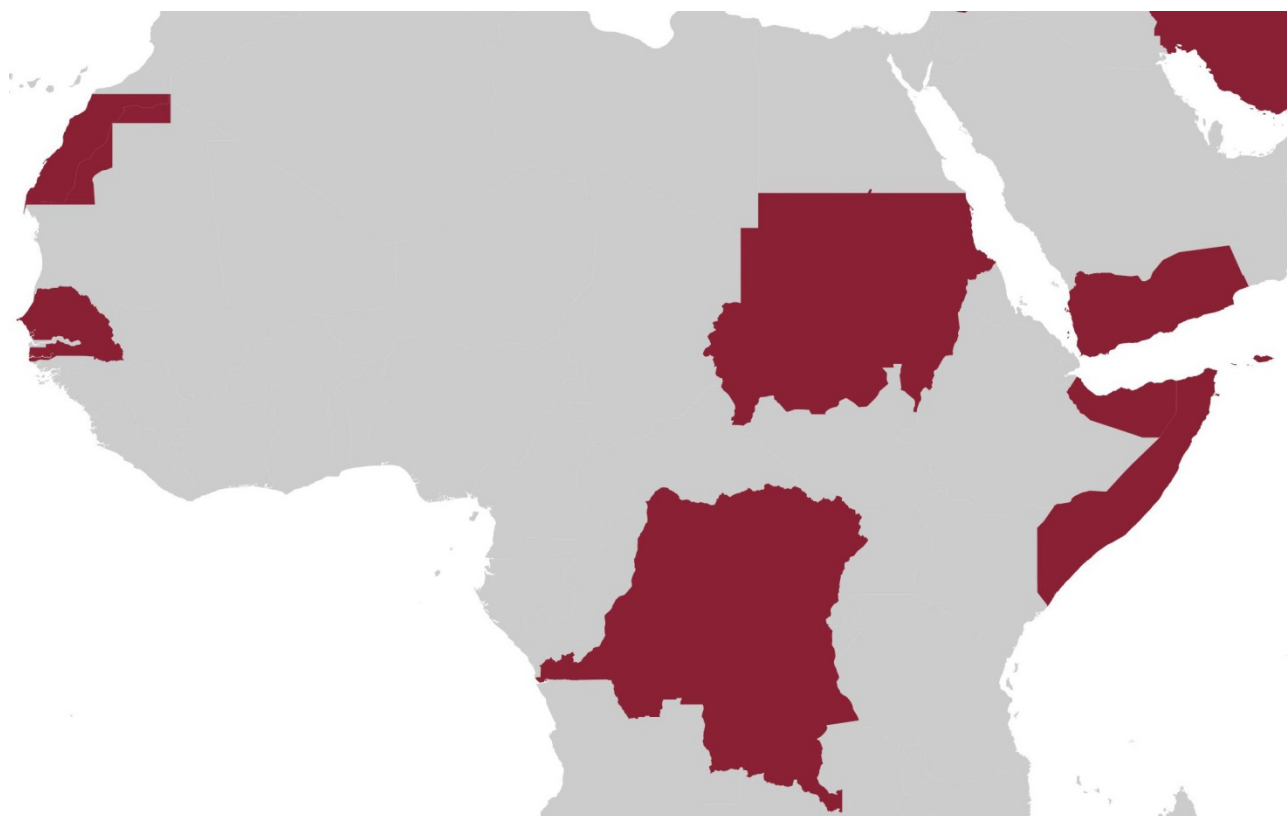
OUTCOME 7		Geneva Call has the knowledge, capacity and stakeholder support for its engagement activities	
2014 Expected achievements		2014 Achievements	
<p>→ Geneva Call produces pedagogical materials (illustrated booklets, posters) to support its engagement activities in facilitating the dissemination of rules amongst its target audience</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ finalized a mobile-phone quiz on humanitarian norms adapted for ANSAs, available in Arabic, English and French, with 28 scenarios on: the conduct of hostilities, basic human rights, tactics, weapons, children, healthcare and aid ✓ produced a new card game with 28 scenarios covering the main topics of IHL ✓ ANSAs' extensive use of Geneva Call's dissemination materials regularly required reprints of existing materials and, in some cases, publication in additional local languages (Arabic, Sorani, Spanish and Swahili) ✓ 84 posters and 1,319 booklets were distributed 	
<p>→ local/international stakeholders take concrete actions to facilitate Geneva Call's work (statements of support, funding, partnership agreements, other evidence of support)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ at Geneva Call's presentation of its 2014 strategy to its main donors and supporters in January, the ICRC's president highlighted the complementarity between the missions carried out by his organization and those of Geneva Call ✓ in March, following discussions initiated by Geneva Call, the European Parliament unanimously passed a recommendation to the European Council to support engagement with ANSAs on child protection in armed conflict; the recommendation urges the European Commission to encourage concerned States and ANSAs to sign action plans for the protection of children in armed conflict, and ANSAs to adhere to Geneva Call's <i>Deed of Commitment</i> protecting children in armed conflict 	
OUTCOME 8		The views and perspectives of ANSAs, together with Geneva Call's expertise, are listened to and taken into account in the international debate on the protection of civilians, IHL and IHRL	
2014 Expected achievements		2014 Achievements	
<p>→ visibility of Geneva Call's experience is raised through their participation in relevant conferences and international fora</p> <p>→ key international stakeholders are aware of Geneva Call's work, lessons learned and advocacy messages</p> <p>→ stakeholders improve their understandings of ANSA perspectives and the challenges they face in respecting humanitarian norms</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Geneva Call's Third Meeting of Signatories to the <i>Deeds of Commitment</i>, in November, included a final declaration that participants adopted unanimously: this reinforced the knowledge of humanitarian norms of participating ANSAs; strengthened ANSAs' wills to respect their commitments to comply with these norms; showed all participants that the prohibition of sexual violence, child soldiers and/or AP mines were feasible measures for ANSAs; and raised Geneva Call's visibility among key international stakeholders ✓ in November, Geneva Call launched a short video presenting a simple message and highlighted its work to engage ANSAs on the protection of civilians in armed conflict ✓ Geneva Call actively participated in various events tackling contemporary issues in IHL, including the XXXVII Sanremo roundtable on current issues of IHL, entitled <i>Conduct of Hostilities: the Practice, the Law and the Future</i>, and was a speaker at the 15th Bruges Colloquium on IHL, co-organized by the College of Europe and the ICRC, addressing questions of detention in armed conflict ✓ during a preview session, organized by Geneva Call with the support of Sanremo at its XXXVII roundtable, Geneva Call announced the launch of the Annual Garance Discussions, as of 2015: these yearly expert meetings in Geneva will brainstorm responses to current situations and challenges facing ANSAs trying to comply with IHL, as witnessed by Geneva Call in the field 	

AFRICA

Democratic Republic of the Congo
Senegal
Somalia
Sudan
Western Sahara

EXPENSES IN CHF

Landmine ban	89,650
Child protection	169,198
Gender issues	149,666
Humanitarian norms	47,659
Multi-thematic	
Regional coordination	50,747
Total	506,920



HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ **Democratic Republic of the Congo:** Geneva Call opened an office in Goma and conducted 3 workshops involving 13 community leaders, 15 local authorities and 14 CSO representatives
- ▶ **Sudan:** the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army – Abdel Wahid al-Nur and the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army – Minni Minnawi signed the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines and started implementing its provisions
- ▶ **Sudan:** the Justice and Equality Movement and the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement – North (SPLM-N) took measures to implement the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines and the SPLM-N requested technical support for the destruction of its stock of AP mines as soon as possible
- ▶ **Western Sahara:** 23 military instructors or high ranking officers attended a training session on AP mines and ERW at the military academy of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro in Camp Rabouni, near Tindouf



Workshops on civilian protection with key provincial stakeholders. July 2014, Democratic Republic of the Congo. © Geneva Call

CONGO, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE

Following groundwork carried out in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2011–13, Geneva Call aims to engage with major ANSAs and influential community leaders in North Kivu province. It focuses primarily on raising their awareness about humanitarian norms protecting children in armed conflict and prohibiting sexual violence. It operates from within the country through an office in Goma.

EXPENSES IN CHF

Total 243,963

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (hereafter DRC), armed conflict continued unabated, particularly in the Kivu provinces. It opposed the DRC's armed forces, backed by the UN Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO), against several ANSAs, whilst inter-ethnic tensions and fighting between ANSAs continued to persist too. The humanitarian consequences affected tens of thousands of civilians. Serious violations of IHL remained widespread, including the recruitment and use of children of children in hostilities and sexual violence against women and children. On average, corroborated sources reported an average of 1,000 violations of IHL per week in North Kivu.

ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine ban	Child protection	Gender issues	Humanitarian norms
Alliance des Patriotes pour un Congo Libre et Souverain	APCLS				
Forces Démocratiques pour la Libération du Rwanda	FDLR				
Maï Maï Nyatura	Nyatura				
Nduma Defense of Congo (Mai Mai Cheka)	NDC				
✓ Deed of Commitment signed	✓✓ Deed of Commitment signed in 2014	ANSA engaged on thematic area (new = new in 2014)			

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2014:

- ▶ Geneva Call opened an office in Goma
- ▶ 3 workshops involving 13 community leaders, 15 local authorities and 14 CSO representatives, respectively, prepared the ground for Geneva Call to engage with ANSAs on humanitarian norms
- ▶ workshop participants provided useful information: primarily about the ANSAs in North Kivu, their areas of influence, how local communities are structured and how they interact with ANSAs
- ▶ workshop participants, elders, local and political authorities and DRC army officers expressed their support for Geneva Call's efforts to engage with ANSAs in North Kivu on humanitarian norms
- ▶ local authorities and elders helped Geneva Call identify CSOs that might become useful partners thanks to the interactions they have with the ANSAs in North Kivu

CONTEXT

The armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (hereafter DRC) continued unabated, particularly in the Kivu provinces. This was despite an agreement in 2012 on peace and economic development. Conflict opposed the DRC's armed forces, backed by the UN Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO), against ANSAs. However, ANSAs also fought among themselves, with reports involving over 30 ANSAs, including Mai-Mai self-defence groups and foreign armed groups (e.g. Alliance of Democratic Forces/National Army for the Liberation of Uganda or ADF/NALU, and the FDLR). The humanitarian consequences affected tens of thousands of civilians.

Widespread violations of IHL continued, allegedly committed by all parties. On average, corroborated sources reported 1,000 violations of IHL per week in North Kivu; children—both boys and girls—and women were particularly targeted. Violations included child recruitment (fewer girls), sexual abuses, attacks deliberately targeting children and rape used for fetishism but mainly as a weapon of terror (the stigma associated with rape affects the whole family/community, particularly when it results in pregnancy).

While some ANSAs remained well-structured, such as the FDLR or Nyatura, there were difficulties even understanding the *modus operandi* of certain others, such as the ADF/NALU.

OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Logic of intervention

Desk analysis and field missions to the DRC in 2012–13 established that Geneva Call's engagement with selected well-structured ANSAs in North Kivu regarding child protection and sexual violence could add value to humanitarian efforts there. As a neutral, independent organization with no humanitarian assistance mandate to maintain, Geneva Call has a comparative advantage over most of the actors present in the Kivu provinces when it comes to engaging with ANSAs on improving their behaviour during hostilities. Nevertheless, close coordination with actors involved in the protection of civilians in that region—particularly the [Danish Refugee Council](#), [ICRC](#), [Search for Common Ground](#) and UN bodies (e.g. UNICEF, UNHCR, MONUSCO)—remained essential to avoid duplication and ensure complementarity.

The DRC's government approved Geneva Call's presence in the country. Indeed, its presence could complement/strengthen governmental policies related to child protection and sexual violence. As a party to major relevant international treaties, the DRC has criminalized child recruitment and use in combat via domestic law; similarly, legislation on sexual violence, adopted in 2006, is the

basis for a government campaign of *zero tolerance* aimed at fighting impunity and putting an end to sexual violence. Thus, based on a framework agreement with the authorities, Geneva Call opened an office in Goma at the beginning 2014 and regularly shared information about its activities with those authorities. Hiring national staff in Goma took more time than expected, and the office only started working effectively at the end of the year.

Before approaching ANSAs directly, it seemed essential to have a deeper understanding of how local cultures perceive childhood and the status of women, as well as how local societies are structured and how they behave towards those groups, including with regard to sexual violence outside warfare. Knowledge about these subjects would help Geneva Call build a strong argument for beginning a dialogue with ANSAs on child protection and sexual violence.

In a second step, based on existing documentation, influencing ANSAs would require working at two levels: direct communication with the leadership of the ANSAs concerned, and indirect contact through their communities, traditional leaders or other decision-makers among groups supporting them. Direct engagement with ANSAs would also have to take into account the interest that certain ANSAs have (usually the most structured) in improving their compliance with humanitarian norms; some, notably, fear criminal proceedings for abuses of IHL, wish to protect communities or want to gain credibility in peace processes.

In 2014, the first steps in this incremental approach were implemented. Due to the very volatile situation in the region, Geneva Call remained flexible as to which of the most structured ANSAs were to be targeted as priorities, and in which areas of North Kivu.

Humanitarian norms

Three workshops prepare the ground for Geneva Call to engage with communities and ANSAs on humanitarian norms

Networking with local authorities, international organizations and local CSOs/CBOs enabled the organization of three workshops in July, respectively:

- ▶ with 13 traditional leaders, based in Goma, who play key roles in their communities in traditional, North Kivu conflict-prevention and dispute-resolution mechanisms (known locally as *Baraza*)
- ▶ with 14 representatives of local CSOs mostly working on child protection issues and against SGBV in North Kivu
- ▶ with 15 representatives of local authorities from North Kivu, including 11 Goma parliamentarians, some of whom were former supporters of ANSAs

The workshops provided opportunities for Geneva Call to better understand the local political environment, the various ANSAs and their areas of influence, how *Baraza*

operates, and the interactions between communities and ANSAs, as well as local authorities and ANSAs.

Participants notably listed and prioritized the main threats faced by civilians, mentioning, in order: rape and other forms of sexual violence; killing and massacre; looting; insecurity and, particularly for children, recruitment; murder and maiming; abduction for ransom; and forced labour. With regards to sexual violence, the main risks put forward were: rape, forced pregnancy and marriage; sexual harassment, including torture; and sexual slavery. In general, however, although workshop participants confirmed sexual violence and abuses by ANSAs, there was little or no familiarity with the concept of gender equality and they referred to the *natural* roles assigned to men and women.

Baraza members described the measures they take to mitigate existing threats mentioning, in order: awareness raising; establishing local branches of *Baraza* at the community level; dialogue; setting up community alert networks; and early warning systems.

All the participants stressed the traumas communities felt as a result of violations perpetrated against them, such as a loss of hope, despair leading to revenge, humiliation, hatred and stigmatization. In order to improve the situation for children, both directly and indirectly, they put forward the need to address the underlying reasons why children joining ANSAs, including lack of education, poverty, peer and community pressure, desire for revenge, land disputes and domestic violence.

Traditional leaders, local authorities, politicians and CSOs express their support for Geneva Call's efforts to engage with ANSAs and communities on humanitarian norms

Workshop attendees also got an opportunity to learn about Geneva Call, its approaches and the *Deeds of Commitment* mechanism in particular. All supported the idea of engaging with ANSAs on humanitarian norms in view of the interest the latter have in complying with these norms (e.g. to improve their international image, to avoid prosecution by the [International Criminal Court](#) or to demobilize or integrate peace talks). Representatives from CSOs also recommended engaging with the wives of ANSA members, as they manage the money, the households and thus have influence. All confirmed that community leaders had some influence over the behaviours of ANSA members. They also recommended an inclusive approach in order to avoid any potential violent reactions from ANSAs which might not be engaged. This could be achieved by providing information on Geneva Call's mission to all the ANSAs present in North Kivu via local communities and through local media.

All three groups of participants confirmed that they had contact with ANSAs, such as the APCLS, FDLR or NDC, because of the control these groups had over the areas

where their communities lived. For traditional and political leaders, their discussions aimed to make civilian life as normal as possible (e.g. requesting ceasefires or free access for civilians to their fields, homes, etc., preventing attacks and understanding their demands, and promoting dialogue with the government). For CSOs, communication included asking for authorizations to work in certain areas, raising awareness about various topics, including human right concerns, and issues regarding the demobilization processes for recruited children.

If they could count on practical support from Geneva Call, *Baraza* members confirmed their willingness to make contact with their relevant community leaders and prepare the ground for direct engagement with the ANSAs themselves, particularly commanders. Similarly, the local authorities confirmed their readiness to share their contacts in ANSAs with Geneva Call. Both *Baraza* members and local authority representatives considered that the FDLR should be the first ANSA to be engaged on humanitarian norms: communities perceived it to be the most violent yet best structured ANSA in North Kivu.

CSO representatives are ready to relay Geneva Call's mission but require support in capacity-building

CSO representatives pro-actively contributed to their workshop; they were particularly keen to improve their knowledge of humanitarian norms. They welcomed the idea of supporting Geneva Call.

Several CSO representatives both knew about and were participating in the UN-led MRM process. This had already been put in place as a pilot scheme in the DRC in 2007. They were also participating in the action plan prohibiting and preventing the recruitment of children by all parties, as signed by the DRC's government and the UN, in 2012. In March 2014, the government also endorsed the campaign called [Children, Not Soldiers](#). These measures contributed to several hundred children being demobilized from the DRC's army, but had not had much effect on ANSAs. Although a network of trained child-demobilization experts and a hotline exist for reporting abuses, the workshop participants expressed their need for more capacity-building in order to mitigate the threats from ANSAs and undertake effective monitoring and reporting.

Following the July workshops, bilateral meetings with political and military leaders and elders confirmed their support for Geneva Call's mission. They identified a few CSOs that had the potential to become useful Geneva Call partners because of the interactions they had with ANSAs in North Kivu. However, these meetings also confirmed that Geneva Call would have to exercise great flexibility due to the constantly changing conflict situation.

Trainings and other events – Summary table

Type	No.	Content	ANSAs CSOs/CBOs	Partners	Participants	Female participants
Training for traditional leaders	1	Identifying ways to improve the behaviour of ANSAs and thus the protection of civilians; building support for Geneva Call's mission; introduction to humanitarian norms on children and sexual violence			13	3
Training for CSOs/CBOs	1				14	7
Training for local authorities	1				15	
TOTAL	3				42	10

SENEGAL

Since 2006, Geneva Call has been advocating for an AP mine ban by the Mouvement des Forces Démocratiques de Casamance (MFDC), in Senegal. Information dissemination and training sessions, organized with a local NGO, have encouraged MFDC factions and community leaders to allow mine action in inhabited areas. Advocacy through refugee communities in neighbouring countries complemented this approach. Since a first meeting brokered by Geneva Call, contact between the MFDC's southern faction and Senegalese authorities continue, however, huge progress. Geneva Call remains prepared to resume its facilitation work on humanitarian issues if requested to do so by the parties.

EXPENSES IN CHF

Total 16,557

There has been a decline in armed violence in Casamance, even though peace negotiations between the authorities and factions of the MFDC have yet to bear fruit. However, the presence of weapon bearers and mines/ERW, and the precarious security situation, continued to harm the economy and civilian life in general.

ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine ban	Child protection	Gender issues	Humanitarian norms
Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance	MFDC				
✓ <i>Deed of Commitment signed</i>	✓✓ <i>Deed of Commitment signed in 2014</i>	ANSA engaged on thematic area (new = new in 2014)			

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2014:

- ▶ no meetings between MFDC factions and Geneva Call took place on the ground in Casamance
- ▶ direct dialogue on humanitarian demining continued between the MFDC's southern faction and relevant Senegalese authorities, initially enabled by Geneva Call with the help of its local partner
- ▶ humanitarian clearance operations in Casamance failed to move forward; the National Centre for Mine Action in Senegal and the MFDC only reached agreements on demining areas along a new highway
- ▶ with the help of its local partner, Geneva Call kept a close eye on the situation and remained prepared to resume its advocacy and facilitation work if requested to do so by the parties to this armed conflict

CONTEXT

There has been a decline in armed violence in Casamance, Senegal, even though peace negotiations between the authorities and factions of the MFDC have yet to bear fruit. However, the presence of weapon bearers and mines/ERW, and the precarious security situation continued to harm the economy and civilian life in general, especially for IDPs who cannot return home and farmers working in their fields. MFDC factions have agreed to allow some demining along the construction route of a new national highway.

The security situation meant that demining organizations had limited access to the areas affected by conflict in Casamance.

OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Logic of intervention

Geneva Call has been engaging with the MFDC on an AP mine ban since 2006, though none of its factions have ever been willing to sign the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines, claiming a defensive need for them. Geneva Call has thus continuously maintained its focus on mine action, including humanitarian demining, as a means of protecting and helping civilians.

In 2008, Geneva Call contributed to efforts to convince the Kassolol faction to accept humanitarian demining in southern inhabited areas of Casamance. Demining operations expanded rapidly and moved closer to the MFDC's military bases in 2013. In an attempt to avoid the MFDC impeding demining operations, a major CSO in the region, together with Geneva Call, brokered a first meeting between the Kassolol faction and the National Centre for Mine Action in Senegal (CNAMS); however, the MFDC considered that clearance operations could go no fur-

ther. When demining operations continued despite its warnings, the MFDC captured 12 demining staff in reprisal in May 2013. They released them in July, after the intercessions of several international and national actors, including Geneva Call.

Since then, several direct meetings have taken place between the MFDC and the CNAMS. No further incidents have occurred along sections of the RN6 national highway or in the laterite quarries used in its renovation since the resumption of clearance operations in November 2013. However, some actors, both local and international, have contested the humanitarian aspect of these demining operations, claiming that they did not sufficiently take into account community-based interests.

Landmine ban

In the absence of agreements with MFDC factions, humanitarian clearance operations are not moving forward and advocacy is suspended

No meeting was organized with the MFDC in 2014. However, direct dialogue on humanitarian demining continued between the MFDC's southern faction and the relevant Senegalese authorities. Geneva Call was instrumental in establishing initial contact between these parties, and its local partner continued to facilitate the dialogue between them.

Unfortunately, the CNAMS and the MFDC only managed to reach demining agreements on areas along the new RN6 highway; therefore, humanitarian clearance operations have barely moved forward in Casamance.

Geneva Call followed the situation closely and remained prepared to resume its advocacy and facilitation work for negotiations if requested to do so by the parties in this armed conflict.

SOMALIA

Geneva Call has been engaged with Somali ANSAs since 2002. While only a few remain active today, 17 ANSAs have signed the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines. The self-declared Republic of Somaliland has adopted similar mine ban legislation. Geneva Call's role mainly consists of monitoring compliance with the *Deed of Commitment* signed by the remaining active signatories, and facilitating the work of mine-action NGOs and the destruction of AP mines and ERW.

EXPENSES IN CHF

Total 5,523

Fighting continued between the Somali Armed Forces together with the forces supporting them and various ANSAs, particularly al-Shabaab. The authorities nevertheless pursued the consolidation of a federal State. This included integrating existing allied ANSAs into the Somali Armed Forces. In the north, tensions lingered between the semi-autonomous region of Puntland and the self-declared Republic of Somaliland.

The protracted armed conflict continued to take a heavy toll on civilians, and widespread insecurity hindered humanitarian activities.

ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine ban	Child protection	Gender issues	Humanitarian norms
Harakat al-Shabaab al-Mujahideen	al-Shabaab				
Juba Valley Alliance	JVA	✓			
Puntland State of Somalia	PSS	✓			
Somali National Front/Somalia Reconciliation and Restoration Council	SNF/SRRC	✓			
Somaliland authorities	Somaliland				
✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed	✓✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed in 2014	ANSA engaged on thematic area (new = new in 2014)			

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2014:

- ▶ the monitoring of the remaining active signatories compliant with the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines continued
- ▶ regular communication with ANSAs maintained Geneva Call's network of contacts and thus its capacity to follow-up with this evolving armed conflict

CONTEXT

Fighting continued between the Somali Armed Forces together with the forces supporting them—including the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and defence forces from neighbouring countries—and ANSAs, particularly al-Shabaab. Hostilities intensified in 2014 after AMISOM seized control of several towns previously held by al-Shabaab, although this ANSA maintained its control over parts of southern and central Somalia. Intercommunal clashes persisted in these areas.

The authorities nevertheless pursued the consolidation of a federal State. This included the integration of existing allied ANSAs into the Somali armed forces. However, al-Shabaab and local clans regularly challenged the authorities. In the north, tensions lingered between the semi-autonomous region of Puntland (hereafter Puntland) and the self-declared Republic of Somaliland (hereafter Somaliland).

The protracted armed conflict continued to take a heavy toll on civilians. The delivery of assistance to vulnerable communities continued to be hindered by widespread insecurity, the blurring of front lines and the difficulty of maintaining humanitarian supply lines.

OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Logic of intervention

Since Geneva Call first engaged with ANSAs in Somalia in 2002, 17 ANSAs have signed the *Deed of Commitment*

banning AP mines. However, since then, most of them have rallied to the government and have been integrated into its armed forces; their obligations under the *Deed of Commitment* therefore became part of those of the State, which is party to the AP Mine Ban Convention.

Thus, Geneva Call has continued to monitor the compliance of the remaining active signatories. By closely following the situation in the field, it is also looking at potential engagement with other ANSAs, including al-Shabaab. The organization has therefore worked to maintain its network of contacts across the country.

Landmine ban

The monitoring of the remaining active signatories compliant with the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines continued

In Somaliland, Geneva Call monitored the implementation of mine ban legislation after facilitating its adoption by the *de facto* authorities in previous years.

In both Puntland and Somaliland, mine action continued through the Puntland Mine Action Centre and Somaliland Mine Action Centre, both supported by the UN. This included all types of activities, such as marking and clearing contaminated areas, the destruction of AP mines/ERW and conducting risk education.

Insecurity hampered all the activities planned in the centre and south of the country, while reports regularly alleged the use of AP mines and IEDs by al-Shabaab.

SUDAN

Geneva Call's engagement in Sudan dates back to 2001 when the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army signed the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines, during South Sudan's independence-related armed conflict. This engagement on the landmine ban evolved to focus progressively on other ANSAs operating in the Blue Nile, Darfur and South Kordofan provinces, and since 2010 also on child protection, gender issues and humanitarian norms in general. Geneva Call helps the signatories to *Deeds of Commitment* implement them and promotes wider humanitarian norms and *Deeds of Commitment* not yet signed.

EXPENSES IN CHF

Total 163,017

Hostilities continued between government troops and armed groups in the Blue Nile, Darfur and South Kordofan provinces, resulting in millions of IDPs. Corroborated sources continued to report allegations about the recruitment of children by ANSAs. The major ANSAs opposed to the Sudanese Armed Forces in Darfur (the JEM, SLM/A–AW and SLM/A–MM) and along the border with South Sudan (the SPLM–N) grouped themselves into the Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF) in 2011.

The Sudanese government continued to impose strong limitations on international humanitarian organizations seeking direct access to civilians affected by the conflict and refugees from South Sudan.

ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine ban	Child protection	Gender issues	Humanitarian norms
Justice and Equality Movement	JEM	✓		new	
Sudan Liberation Movement/Army – Abdel Wahid al-Nur	SLM/A-AW	✓✓		new	new
Sudan Liberation Movement/Army – Minni Minnawi	SLM/A-MM	✓✓		new	new
Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement – North	SPLM-N	✓		new	
✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed	✓✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed in 2014	ANSA engaged on thematic area (new = new in 2014)			

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2014:

- ▶ the SLM/A-AW and SLM/A-MM signed the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines and started implementing its provisions
- ▶ the JEM and SPLM-N took measures to implement the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines and the SPLM-N requested technical support to destroy its stock of AP mines as soon as possible
- ▶ the JEM, SLM/A-AW and SLM/A-MM continued to report their steps towards compliance with the norms in their internal regulations on the prohibition of recruitment and use of children in hostilities
- ▶ 33 representatives of JEM, SLM/A-AW, SLM/A-MM and SPLM-N attended a training session about the landmine ban, child protection and gender issues
- ▶ all 4 ANSAs—JEM, SLM/A-AW, SLM/A-MM and SPLM-N—repeatedly showed that they were open to discussing the issues of sexual violence and gender discrimination as well as IHL

CONTEXT

Hostilities continued between government troops and armed groups in the Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan provinces. According to reports, the escalation in fighting in Darfur resulted in hundreds of thousands of additional people joining the 2 million who have been progressively displaced since the conflict started in 2003. There were repeated allegations about the use of anti-vehicle mines, by government forces and ANSAs, especially in Blue Nile and South Kordofan, and allegations about the recruitment of children by ANSAs.

In Darfur, the JEM, SLM/A-AW and SLM/A-MM remained the major ANSAs opposed to the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF). Fighting along the border between Sudan and South Sudan (the Blue Nile and South Kordofan regions) initially opposed the SAF to the SPLM-N, which had grouped its forces with the main Darfuri ANSAs in late 2011 to form the Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF).

In late 2013, South Sudan's armed conflict increased in complexity, with the SRF and Uganda also becoming involved.

Sudanese government policy remained that humanitarian assistance must be channelled through its authorities. This imposed strong limitations on international humanitarian organizations seeking direct access to civilians affected by the conflict and refugees from South Sudan, particularly in Darfur.

OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Logic of intervention

Geneva Call's engagement with ANSAs involved in armed conflict in the Blue Nile, Darfur and South Kordofan regions was a logical follow-up to its engagement with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) during South Sudan's independence-related armed conflict. The SPLM/A had signed the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines in 2001 and taken several steps towards its implementation, including in mine action. The Sudanese government became party to the AP Mine Ban Convention in 2003.

Exploratory meetings with ANSAs in Darfur continued progressively and in 2010, the JEM engaged with Geneva Call on child protection and announced its additional interest in signing the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines. In parallel, contact also developed with other ANSAs which were members of the SRF. In 2012, the SPLM-N, including former members of the SPLM/A, also engaged with Geneva Call on the banning of AP mines and child protection. The JEM and SPLM-N, which constitute the majority of the SRF's forces, signed the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines in 2012 and 2013, respectively, and also recognized the importance of abiding by humanitarian norms.

CBOs were able to act as relays for the promotion of humanitarian norms. However, security constraints and a lack of travel permits made contact and follow-up with them difficult, as it did with ANSAs.

Landmine ban

The SLM/A-AW and SLM/A-MM sign the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines and start its implementation

After separate meetings and specific discussions based on their methods of warfare, the SLM/A-AW and SLM/A-MM, both members of the SRF, signed the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines on 14 August. The ANSAs defined action plans in order to adjust their policies to their new commitment. They also agreed on the steps to be taken next and on how Geneva Call could help them. These steps comprised both ANSAs disseminating their amended internal regulations and:

- ▶ for the SLM/A-AW, including the *Deed of Commitment* provisions in its future training programmes; providing mapping of mined areas; and reactivating its committee on mines
- ▶ for the SLM/A-MM, sharing the *Deed of Commitment* with its commanders in the field via the radio; establishing a committee on mines; and being put in touch with technical mine-action experts by Geneva Call

Both ANSAs committed to providing Geneva Call with the contact details of CSOs/CBOs that would be able to contribute to monitoring the implementation of their commitments. Discussions also took place about mine action and more particularly about measures—such as MRE—that could contribute to improving the safety of civilians.

Three of the four signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines (SLM/A-AW, SLM/A-MM, SPLM-N) expressed their interest in drafting a unilateral declaration banning the use of anti-vehicle mines.

The JEM and SPLM-N take measures to comply with the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines and the SPLM-N expresses its willingness to destroy its stock of AP mines

Since the JEM signed the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines in 2012, and the SPLM-N signed in 2013, both have started to prepare a compliance report for Geneva Call in 2014.

The JEM has integrated the obligations resulting from the *Deed of Commitment* into its code of conduct.

The SPLM-N was preparing its new constitution and set up a committee to supervise the implementation of the *Deed of Commitment*. It announced its willingness to destroy its stock of AP mines and requested technical support to do so. It also encouraged the creation of a humanitarian mine-action organization mandated to undertake demining activities in the areas it controlled.

Child protection

The JEM continues to take steps to comply with the norms regarding child protection

In 2010, the JEM signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the UN on child protection; in 2012, it submitted an action plan entitled *Operational Mechanism to prevent and end recruitment and use of child soldiers* to the [African Union–United Nations Hybrid Mission in Darfur \(UNAMID\)](#). In 2014, the JEM provided Geneva Call with its enhanced code of conduct, having added the prohibition of child recruitment and use in hostilities and set up a committee with the specific task to monitor child protection issues.

The SLM/A-MM confirms taking steps to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers

As both the SLM/A-AW and SLM/A-MM have been repeatedly listed as recruiting and using children in armed conflict in the UNSG's reports, Geneva Call's objective was to identify the measures which the movements were undertaking to prevent and prohibit the recruitment of children into their ranks.

Meetings with them, on the sidelines of discussions about the ban of AP mines, provided the opportunity to share information on the content of the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict. The SLM/A-MM gave Geneva Call a copy of its Command Order on the prohibition of recruitment and use of child soldiers, signed in December 2013, and a copy of its Operational Mechanism to End the Recruitment and Use of Children, signed in August 2014. In the latter, their Chairman committed to establishing an Implementation Committee and to issuing a first progress report by the end of 2014. For its part, the SLM/A-AW maintained that the recruitment and use of children in military activities was not one of its practices and focused on receiving assistance for orphans.

Gender issues

The SLM/A-MM is open to discussions on sexual violence and gender discrimination

During a presentation of the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender

discrimination, the SLM/A-MM stated that, according to its constitution, 30% of its political bureau was expected to be made up of women, even if this rate had not yet been reached in practice. The discussions covered customary rules and humanitarian norms related to sexual violence and gender discrimination, as well as how to overcome the existing gaps between both.

A last-minute emergency delayed a meeting on the same topic with the SLM/A-AW.

Humanitarian norms

33 members of JEM, SLM/A-AW, SLM/A-MM and SPLM-N attend training about banning landmines, child protection and gender issues

All four ANSAs have shown interest in training their members about humanitarian norms. The JEM developed its own training and the SPLM-N committed to working with Geneva Call on information dissemination and training sessions on humanitarian norms.

In this framework, 33 representatives of the four ANSAs (7–9 from each ANSA, military commanders made up half the total, plus political leaders, legal advisers, policemen and spokesmen) attended a training session organized by Geneva Call in October, in Uganda. Training covered an introduction to humanitarian norms, the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines that all had signed, plus child protection and gender issues, and more particularly sexual violence. While all the participants knew that their ANSA had signed the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines, they did not all have the same level of knowledge about its content. They also had a low level of awareness about issues related to child protection. Nevertheless, the participants debated very openly about gender issues, particularly sexual violence. During this training event and on other occasions, all four ANSAs confirmed their openness towards discussing gender issues in more depth.

Tests made at the beginning and end of the training session showed an average 18% increase in correct answers.

Trainings and other events – Summary table

Type	No.	Content	ANSAs CSOs/CBOs	Partners	Participants	Female participants
Training of trainers	1	Landmine ban, child protection, gender issues and humanitarian norms	4		33	3
TOTAL	1				33	3

WESTERN SAHARA

Geneva Call has been working in Western Sahara and the Sahrawi refugee camps in Algeria since 2000. Together with a local NGO, it supports the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro (Polisario Front) in its efforts to implement the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines that it signed in 2005. This includes facilitating communication with mine action agencies regarding stockpile destruction and clearance activities, including the removal of ERW. Since 2011, Geneva Call has also been encouraging training on humanitarian norms for members of the Polisario Front.

EXPENSES IN CHF

Total 27,113

The armed conflict over Western Sahara broke out in 1975 between Morocco, Mauritania and the Polisario Front. Since the 1991 ceasefire, however, Western Sahara's status has remained a point of contention between Morocco and the Polisario Front. As a result of the 1975–91 armed conflict, families continue to risk death or injury from mines/ERW, particularly on either side of *the Berm*, the demarcation line between Moroccan-controlled and Polisario Front-controlled Western Sahara.

ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine ban	Child protection	Gender issues	Humanitarian norms
Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro	Polisario Front	✓			
✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed	✓✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed in 2014	ANSA engaged on thematic area (new = new in 2014)			

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2014:

- ▶ the Polisario Front confirmed its willingness to destroy its last supposed stock of AP mines in early 2015, which is the result of years of advocacy by the Sahrawi Campaign to Ban Landmines and Geneva Call
- ▶ 23 military instructors or high ranking officers attended a training session on AP mines and ERW at the Polisario Front's Military Academy in Camp Rabouni, near Tindouf (south Algeria)
- ▶ the ICRC took note of Geneva Call's recommendation to include instructors from the Polisario Front's Military Academy in its awareness raising sessions on IHL for border guards and military police
- ▶ the [Sahrawi Association for Mine Victims](#) and the Sahrawi Campaign to Ban Landmines received support from Geneva Call to establish contact with potential donors

CONTEXT

The armed conflict over Western Sahara broke out in 1975 between Morocco, Mauritania and the Polisario Front. Since the 1991 ceasefire, however, Western Sahara's status has remained a point of contention between Morocco and the Polisario Front. The [UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara](#) (MINURSO) was extended to April 2015.

As a result of the 1975–91 armed conflict, families continue to risk death or injury from mines/ERW, particularly on either side of *the Berm*, the demarcation line between Moroccan-controlled and Polisario Front-controlled Western Sahara. According to the [Landmine & Cluster Munition Monitor](#), in August 2014, the [Sahrawi Association for Mine Victims](#) (ASAVIM) reported 1,006 landmine and cluster munition victims (including certain family members of persons killed), as well as 473 other war victims and people with disabilities, living around Sahrawi refugee camps and in Polisario Front-controlled Western Sahara. Despite the fact that few new victims (four, [according to the Landmine & Cluster Munition Monitor](#)) were recorded in the same area in 2013, it remained heavily contaminated.

OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Logic of intervention

After four years of engagement with Geneva Call, the Polisario Front signed the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines in 2005. Since this signature, Geneva Call has been monitoring the implementation of the *Deed of Commitment* with its local partner, the Sahrawi Campaign to Ban Landmines (SCBL). Together, they have also urged the Polisario Front to complete the destruction of any AP mine stocks that it may still possess. [Between 2006 and 2011, the Polisario Front destroyed more than 10,000 stockpiled AP mines](#) with the technical assistance of [Action on Armed Violence](#) (AOAV). By January 2014, [AOAV had cleared more than 26,000 km² of land and destroyed 20,000 items of ERW, including cluster munitions.](#)

In 2011, senior military officers from the Polisario Front, including the inspector of armed forces and the head of

the Military Academy, attended a five-day training course organized in cooperation with Sanremo. Following the success of this initial course, a subsequent training of trainers was planned at the Polisario Front's military academy in Camp Rabouni, near Tindouf (south Algeria).

Landmine ban

The Polisario Front confirms its willingness to destroy its last supposed stock of AP mines in early 2015

The [Sahrawi Arabic Democratic Republic](#) published an exhaustive qualitative report under article 7 of the AP Mine Ban Convention, which served as an update to previous compliance reports provided to Geneva Call by the Polisario Front. The latter announced its willingness to destroy its last supposed stock of AP mines in early 2015; discussions between the Polisario Front, SCBL and Geneva Call contributed directly to this result.

A total of 23 military instructors or high ranking officers attended a half-day session provided by Geneva Call on the theme of AP mines and ERW at the Polisario Front's military academy.

Although ASAVIM and SCBL lacked the finances necessary to continue their activities, Geneva Call helped them to establish contact with potential donors.

Humanitarian norms

ICRC takes note of Geneva Call's recommendation to include instructors from the Polisario Front's military academy in its awareness raising sessions on IHL for border guards and military police

To follow-up on the 2011 course on IHL held in Geneva, a training course for trainers on IHL was due to take place at the Polisario Front's military academy in September. It was cancelled at the last minute, however, as the trainer did not get the necessary visa.

For the future, Geneva Call recommended to the ICRC that it accepts instructors from the Polisario Front's military academy for inclusion in the one-day awareness raising sessions on IHL which it regularly organizes for border guards and members of the military police.

Trainings and other events – Summary table

Type	No.	Content	ANSAs CSOs/CBOs	Partners	Participants	Female participants
Training for fighters	1	AP mines and ERW thematic			23	
TOTAL	1				23	-

ASIA

Afghanistan
Burma/Myanmar
India
Philippines

EXPENSES IN CHF

Landmine ban	212,466
Child protection	151,788
Gender issues	283,176
Humanitarian norms	156,754
Multi-thematic	
Regional coordination	50,412
Total	854,596



HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ **Burma/Myanmar:** the Chin National Front/Army (CNF/CNA) and the Pa’O National Liberation Organization/Pa’O National Liberation Army signed the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict, and the CNF/CNA also signed the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination.
- ▶ **India:** the National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khole Kitovi signed all 3 *Deeds of Commitment* regarding the AP mine ban, child protection and gender issues, and the Kuki National Front signed the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination
- ▶ **the Philippines:** the compliance of the signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines—the Moro Islamic Liberation Front/Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces, Revolutionary Workers Party of Mindanao and Revolutionary Workers Party of the Philippines/Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayo Brigade —was confirmed by regular monitoring by Geneva Call



Community leaders in Paktia province, Afghanistan. © The Liaison Office

AFGHANISTAN

On the basis of discussions and assessments that started in 2011, Geneva Call works with a local partner to help community leaders enhance the protection of their communities through dialogue with ANSA commanders on humanitarian norms.

EXPENSES IN CHF

Total 161,632

The new Afghan government, formed in September 2014, faced the immediate task of dealing with the longstanding challenges facing the country, including taking on full responsibility for internal security, due to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) exit strategy. At the end of 2014, the remaining 15,000 international troops were focused on training and advising Afghan troops. The armed conflict continued between Afghan forces and ANSAs, namely the HIG and the IEA, as they contested large areas of the country, particularly in the east, south-east and south.

ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine ban	Child protection	Gender issues	Humanitarian norms
Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin	HIG				
Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (also known as Taliban)	IEA				
✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed	✓✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed in 2014	ANSA engaged on thematic area (new = new in 2014)			

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2014:

- ▶ a lack of dedicated funding delayed the implementation of most of the activities initially planned for Geneva Call's engagement in Afghanistan
- ▶ government officials, key international actors present in Afghanistan and people close to ANSAs confirmed the added value that Geneva Call's project would bring
- ▶ the same actors expressed their support for engagement with community leaders to help them strengthen their negotiation skills with ANSAs on the self-protection of their communities
- ▶ in December, initial communication took place with various people who have good relations with the ANSAs' leadership, and who agreed to put Geneva Call in contact with them
- ▶ during a consultation process launched by Geneva Call's partner, [The Liaison Office](#) (TLO), community leaders identified their needs for better protecting their communities *vis-à-vis* armed actors
- ▶ TLO/Geneva Call started to use the outcomes of this process to prepare a training curriculum addressing these needs, which will include elements of IHL and Islamic law

CONTEXT

The new Afghan government, formed in September 2014, faced the immediate task of dealing with the longstanding challenges that the country is facing, including taking on full responsibility for internal security, due to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) exit strategy. At the end of 2014, the remaining 15,000 international troops were focused on training and advising Afghan troops.

The armed conflict continued between Afghan forces and ANSAs, namely the HIG and the IEA, affecting large areas of the country, particularly in the east, south east and south.

Civilians bore the brunt of the fighting. Casualties increased drastically in 2014 compared to 2013. The [United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan \(UNAMA\)](#) [reported](#) 24% more civilian casualties, including 34% more children and 24% more women wounded and killed during the first semester of 2014 compared to the same period in 2013. Corroborated sources stated that an escalation of ground operations in populated areas had resulted in this becoming the primary cause of casualties, while indiscriminate IED use remained the secondary one. Other serious violations of IHL were also reported to be on the rise and included targeted killings of civilians, abductions and the use of children in hostilities.

OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Logic of intervention

In 2001, an initial scoping study by Geneva Call showed that there was an opportunity to apply its methodologies in the context of the armed conflict in Afghanistan. These would particularly add value to the issues of AP mines, including victim-activated IEDs, and on child protection. Most actors on the ground welcomed Geneva Call's intervention, thereby confirming its potential added value.

Studies found—notably, one carried out in 2012–13 by Geneva Call's partner, [The Liaison Office](#) (TLO)—that community leaders had no choice but to be in frequent contact with ANSAs, usually through elders, in order to negotiate the self-protection of their communities. However, such contact did not imply support for the ANSAs; they were often the only way to address communities' concerns and make them benefit from development, education, health care, etc. Community pressure had led, for example, to the re-opening of schools or the release

of people abducted by ANSAs. Research showed, however, that the quality of such contacts and the level of respect shown to civilians would often depend on the perceived strengths of both the ANSA and the community.

On several occasions, the HIG and the IEA have expressed their concerns about civilian populations. Previous communication between ANSAs and community leaders also indicated a willingness to reduce and even investigate civilian casualties and to improve civilian protection through feedback from the communities. However, outside observers continued to note contradictory practices, which also varied from one place to another.

Thus, in order to contribute to improving the protection of the civilians, Geneva Call partnered with TLO with the aim to:

- ▶ provide expertise useful to TLO's training programme for community leaders wishing to strengthen their negotiation efforts with ANSAs' local commanders on the self-protection of their communities
- ▶ communicate with ANSAs' leaderships to gain support for community-level work, while liaising on the project with the government and relevant international actors

Humanitarian norms

Unfortunately, due to a lack of funds, little was achieved in 2014 compared to what was initially planned.

Two missions to Kabul confirmed support for Geneva Call's intervention, both from officials in the Afghan government and in key IO in the country.

In December, initial communication took place with various people who maintained good relations with the ANSAs' leaderships, and who subsequently agreed to put Geneva Call in contact with them.

Community and religious leaders share their needs for better protecting their communities

Following a proposal from Geneva Call and with UNMAS support, TLO launched and completed a consultation process with community leaders to identify their needs to better protect their communities *vis-a-vis* armed actors. The outcomes and knowledge gained in this process started to be used for preparing the curriculum of future training programmes that will include elements of IHL and Islamic Law.

BURMA/MYANMAR

Geneva Call has been active in Burma/Myanmar since 2003. Although it continues to work in engaging with ANSAs to ban the use of AP mines, it also seeks to promote and facilitate mine action throughout its network. Since 2010, it has been raising awareness and securing commitments in relation to humanitarian norms protecting children in armed conflict and prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination.

EXPENSES IN CHF

Total 393,631

The Myanmar government's moves towards reform have reportedly slowed down. Sporadic clashes continued between government forces and some ANSAs in Kachin and Shan states. Mines and ERW remained a major source of concern. Some children were discharged from the Myanmar armed forces, although allegations persisted about the recruitment and presence of children in the ranks of the armed forces and several ANSAs.

ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine ban	Child protection	Gender issues	Humanitarian norms
Chin National Front/Army	CNF/CNA	✓	✓✓	✓✓	
Kachin Independence Organisation/Army	KIO/KIA			new	
Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army	KNU/KNLA		✓	✓	
Karen National Union Peace Council/Karen National Liberation Army Peace Council	KNU-PC/KNLA-PC			new	
Karenni National Progressive Party/Karenni Army	KNPP/KA		✓		
Klo Htoo Baw Karen Organization/Democratic Karen Benevolent Army	KKO/DKBA		new		
New Mon State Party/Mon National Liberation Army	NMSP/MNLA		✓	new	
Palaung State Liberation Front/Taan National Liberation Army	PSLF/TNLA	✓			
Pa'O National Liberation Organization/Pa'O National Liberation Army	PNLO/PNLA		✓✓		
Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army	RCSS/SSA-S				
Shan State Progressive Party/Shan State Army	SSPP/SSA-N				
✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed	✓✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed in 2014	ANSA engaged on thematic area (new = new in 2014)			

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2014:

- ▶ 2 ANSAs—the CNF/CNA and the PNLO/PNLA—signed the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict
- ▶ the CNF/CNA also signed the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination, whereas the NMSP/MNLA confirmed its willingness to do the same
- ▶ while mine action remained stalled at the national level, surveys and even some humanitarian clearance activities developed informally in areas controlled by ANSAs
- ▶ numerous ANSAs—the KIO/KIA, KKO/DKBA, KNPP/KA, KNU/KNLA, KNU-PC/KNLA-PC, PNLO/PNLA and RCSS/SSA-S—engaged in in-depth dialogue on landmine, child protection or gender issues
- ▶ the ANSA signatories to *Deed(s) of Commitment* took measures to ensure their enforcement, such as the KNU/KNLA which briefed its brigades about child protection and investigated allegations of non-compliance
- ▶ Karen and Mon women's organizations agreed to co-operate to tackle sexual violence and gender discrimination, particularly within their communities
- ▶ Kachin CSOs explored how to promote humanitarian norms mainly relating to landmines, child protection and sexual violence and gender discrimination within their communities

CONTEXT

Although the Myanmar government's moves towards reform have reportedly slowed down, the parliamentary discussions about amendments to the 2008 constitution, which started mid-November, were due to resume in January 2015. This was in preparation for the 2015 general election.

The government and 16 ANSAs continued ceasefire negotiations, although sporadic clashes persisted between government forces and some ANSAs in Kachin and Shan states.

Mines and ERW remained a major source of concern in an estimated 10 out of 14 regions/states. Since the commitment to create a Myanmar Mine Action Centre (MMAC) within the Myanmar Peace Centre (MPC) was made in 2011, the government has made it clear that mine action would progress only after the signing of a national ceasefire agreement.

Although several hundred children have been discharged from Myanmar's armed forces since their signing of a Joint Action Plan in 2012 to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children, numerous children reportedly remain present in their ranks. Allegations about the recruitment and presence of children in the ranks of some ANSAs also persisted throughout 2014.

OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Logic of intervention

Since 2003, Geneva Call has been engaged with ANSAs operating in Burma/Myanmar on humanitarian norms regarding the banning of AP mines and mine action. In view of the difficulties of reaching the concerned ANSAs on the ground, meetings have often taken place outside the country. Activities focused on encouraging and increasing the capacity of CBOs to themselves address the consequences of landmines. Through its relationships with ANSAs, Geneva Call also aimed to facilitate mine action in areas under their control/influence, thereby complementing other actions undertaken, most notably by [DanChurchAid](#) (DCA), [Norwegian People's Aid](#) (NPA) and the [Swiss Foundation for Mine Action](#) (FSD).

Following a workshop organized in 2010 for various ANSAs operating in Asia, two of them—the CNF/CNA and KNU/KNLA—began working with Geneva Call on sexual violence and gender discrimination issues, most notably to address both issues in the context of the ongoing peace process. By doing such work, which has now been extended to include other ANSAs, Geneva Call aimed to improve the policies and protective measures taken by ANSAs to prevent and address sexual violence and gender discrimination in their areas of influence. In this regard, CSOs from the Chin, Kachin, Karen and Mon ethnic minority groups are important partners.

As of 2011, Geneva Call has been engaging with ANSAs in order to improve the protection of children in armed conflict by raising their awareness about related humanitarian norms and obtaining their commitments to comply with them. Coordination with child-protection agencies ensured that Geneva Call's role was complementary.

Meetings held with Myanmar government representatives provided them with regular information about Geneva Call activities.

Landmine ban

The CNF/CNA and PSLF/TNLA cooperate with Geneva Call regarding the monitoring of their compliance with the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines

The CNF/CNA provided Geneva Call with a report describing how it had complied with its obligations under the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines. In addition to information collected from CNF/CNA members and other stakeholders, this report confirmed its appropriate enforcement of the *Deed of Commitment*.

In 2014, Geneva Call became aware of allegations about the use of AP mines by the TNLA, the military wing of the PSLF, which would have contravened their obligations under the *Deed of Commitment*. Geneva Call launched a process of investigation into these allegations. It has, therefore, been in communication with the PSLF and other stakeholders. Whilst denying any violations, the PSLF has been co-operative with the enquiries, which should be concluded soon.

Non-signatory ANSAs engage on landmine issues

Useful meetings took place with a number of ANSAs not yet signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines, including the KKO/DKBA, KNPP/KA, KNU/KNLA, KNU-PC/KNLA-PC and NMSP/MNLA. These meetings explored their perspectives and ways to address the landmine issue in areas under their control/influence, particularly with regard to the context of ongoing peace talks. They included discussions on potential geographical areas for non-technical surveys and humanitarian mine clearance.

Despite Geneva Call's efforts, the KNU/KNLA has not yet publicly announced its reported instructions to its forces not to use landmines during the ceasefire.

Surveys and humanitarian clearance activities develop informally in ANSAs' areas

Surveys and some humanitarian clearance activities took place informally in areas controlled/under the influence of ANSAs, including some with the agreement/facilitation of ANSAs which were not yet signatories to the *Deed of Commitment*. This was the first time that the KNU/KNLA had agreed to accept and facilitate clearance work by an external actor; a pilot humanitarian clearance project was carried out by an ad hoc mine-action group headed

by a Karen community activist and supported technically by two international mine-clearance experts. At the end of the year, the mine-action group was seeking agreement from the ANSA for the necessary support for an extension of its activities. However, this project suffered a significant setback in November when a leading member of the ANSA was killed in a traffic accident.

The United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC), an umbrella alliance of most of Burma/Myanmar's ANSAs, asked Geneva Call to organize a workshop to improve its members' understanding of humanitarian norms related to landmines. Initially planned for June, this was postponed several times, mainly because of developments in the peace process, and it had still not taken place by the end of the year.

Child protection

The CNF/CNA and the PNLO/PNLA sign the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict

The CNF/CNA signed the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict in March. This commitment comes after several years of engagement on this issue by Geneva Call.

Geneva Call also engaged the PNLO/PNLA in further discussions on the same *Deed of Commitment* and its implementation. This resulted in it signing the *Deed of Commitment* at Geneva Call's Third Meeting of the Signatories to the *Deeds of Commitment* in November.

A workshop with the CNF/CNA, aimed to facilitating the planning of their implementation of the *Deed of Commitment*, was initially planned for mid-year in Chin state. Unfortunately, a set-back in the peace talks towards the end of the year lead the CNF/CNA to request a postponement of the workshop until the political situation improves. At the end of the year, the CNF/CNA was still in the process of planning the *Deed of Commitment's* implementation.

The RCSS/SSA-S shows some interest in the content of the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict

Twenty-one members of the RCSS/SSA-S (including 11 women) attended a two-day workshop that allowed them to carry out an in-depth review of the content of the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict. Unfortunately, because of internal communication issues, several of the RCSS/SSA-S attendees did not have the adequate profile for participation in the workshop. Because of this, the RCSS leadership requested the organization of a second workshop, which should take place in 2015.

The KNU/KNLA, KNPP/KA and NMSP/MNLA take measures to implement the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict

The KNU/KNLA, KNPP/KA and NMSP/MNLA are all in the process of implementing the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict according to their implementation plans. The KNLA provided a compliance report. It reported the organization of trainings for its brigades about both the *Deed of Commitment* and how to enforce it and provided pictures of these activities. This ANSA also moved a boarding house for children out of its 5th brigade military camp into a village after discussions with Geneva Call on this point.

Geneva Call follows up allegations of signatories' non-compliance with the *Deed of Commitment*

International and local organizations, as well as journalists, contributed to the monitoring of signatories' compliance with the *Deed of Commitment*.

Following allegations raised by a journalist about children still being enrolled into the ranks of the KNLA, the KNU leadership launched an internal investigation at the request of Geneva Call. Its report showed no evidence of such a practice. A human rights activist later reported an allegation about the presence of armed minors at a checkpoint. By the end of 2014, the KNU had yet to report back to Geneva Call on the results of its investigation regarding this allegation.

Gender issues

The CNF/CNA signs the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination

On the day it signed the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict, the CNF/CNA also became a signatory to the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination. With Geneva Call's help, the CNF/CNA immediately started drafting a *Deed of Commitment* implementation plan.

By the end of 2014, the KNU/KNLA, which had signed the same *Deed of Commitment* in 2013, had started to progressively implement its plan to comply with its obligations.

The NMSP/MNLA confirms its willingness to adhere to the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination

In order to get a better understanding of its potential obligations under the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination, the NMSP/MNLA agreed to participate in a workshop dedicated to exploring the content of the *Deed of Commitment* and ways of enforcing and monitoring compliance with it. This event took place in April and included 26 high-level participants (including two women), mainly representatives of the NMSP's military wing, the

MNLA. Later in the year the NMSP declared its intention to sign the *Deed of Commitment* in the future, but stressed that this would only take place when it considered that it had the capacity to implement its obligations in a timely manner.

Karen and Mon CSOs engage on sexual violence and gender discrimination

The Karen Women's Organization (KWO) and Mon Women's Organization (MWO), as well as other CSOs, agreed to work with Geneva Call in its engagement with ANSAs regarding sexual violence and gender discrimination. In two workshops, 80 participants, including 6 men, studied the content of the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination and how they could cooperate on these issues, particularly within their communities.

Humanitarian norms

Kachin CSOs explore how to promote humanitarian norms mainly relating to landmines, child protection and sexual violence and gender discrimination within Kachin communities

In partnership with the [Humanity Institute, Geneva](#) Call organized a workshop that brought together 17 representatives (including 9 women) from eight Kachin CSOs

and provided them with an opportunity to deepen their understanding of humanitarian norms, particularly in respect of landmines, child protection, sexual violence and gender discrimination. This workshop also provided Geneva Call with useful information on how to further develop partnerships with these and other CSOs, as well as on how to enhance the promotion of norms in the Kachin context.

ANSAs signatories to *Deeds of Commitment* welcome Geneva Call materials supporting the dissemination of their obligations

Illustrated booklets and posters in the local languages, provided by Geneva Call, helped the signatories to disseminate the *Deeds of Commitment* and humanitarian norms among their military forces and civilian supporters. Both the KNU/KNLA and NMSP/MNLA used these materials in their dissemination efforts, and during field visits Geneva Call saw its posters displayed by the KNU/KNLA and local organizations.

The CNF/CNA requested and received materials for the dissemination of all the *Deeds of Commitment* at the end of the year. The KWO has requested a reprint of the materials to be used in a community dissemination campaign planned for 2015.

Trainings and other events – Summary table

Type	No.	Content	ANSAs CSOs/CBOs	Partners	Participants	Female participants
Training for an ANSA military leadership	1	Child protection	1		21	11
Training for an ANSA military leadership	1	Sexual violence and gender discrimination	1		26	2
Training for CSOs/CBOs	1	Humanitarian norms, particularly landmines, child protection, sexual violence and gender discrimination	8	1	17	9
Training for CSOs/CBOs	2	Sexual violence and gender discrimination	12		80	74
TOTAL	5				144	96

INDIA

Geneva Call has been engaged with ANSAs in India since 2002, particularly in the north-east, in Manipur and Nagaland. Its work initially focused on the AP mine ban and expanded to include child protection and gender issues. The organization is exploring how to engage with more ANSAs. Geneva Call meets with representatives of these ANSAs outside India, but works through local partners in order to support engagement with the armed groups and to monitor their compliance with the *Deeds of Commitment* they have signed.

EXPENSES IN CHF

Total 99,890

India continued to be challenged by security issues within its borders, including the armed conflicts taking place in Jammu and Kashmir, bordering Pakistan, in the central part of the country and in the north-eastern region. Civilians suffered directly from clashes between government forces and ANSAs and/or ANSAs among themselves, with regularly reported allegations of violations of IHL, including the indiscriminate use of AP mines, children in hostilities and sexual violence.

ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine ban	Child protection	Gender issues	Humanitarian norms
Communist Party of India (Maoist)	Naxalites				
Hmar People's Congress-Democracy	HPC-D		new	new	
Kuki National Front	KNF	new	new	✓✓	
Kuki National Organisation	KNO	✓	new	new	
National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khaplang	NSCN-K				
National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khole Kitovi	NSCN-KK	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	
National Socialist Council of Nagalim (Isak Muivah)	NSCM-IM	✓	new	new	
People's Liberation Army	PLA	new		new	
United National Liberation Front	UNLF	new		new	
Zomi Re-unification Organisation	ZRO	✓	new	✓	
✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed	✓✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed in 2014	ANSA engaged on thematic area (new = new in 2014)			

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2014:

- ▶ the NSCN-KK was engaged for the first time on Geneva Call's 3 core themes and signed all 3 *Deeds of Commitment* regarding the AP mine ban, child protection and gender issues
- ▶ the KNF signed the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination
- ▶ 3 ANSAs—the KNO, NSCN-IM and ZRO—submitted compliance reports on the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines, providing descriptions of the measures taken to ensure their enforcement
- ▶ the ZRO's first compliance report for the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination included revised internal rules and regulations with clear gender equity policies
- ▶ discussions with 5 ANSAs—the HPC-D, KNO, KNF, NSCN-IM and ZRO—on improving the protection of children continued and progressed
- ▶ 3 ANSAs—the HPC-D, KNO and NSCN-IM—were considering signing the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination following their improved awareness of this topic
- ▶ at a workshop organized with Geneva Call's partner, 11 CSO/CBO representatives from Manipur learned more about how to monitor the compliance of signatories to the *Deeds of Commitment*
- ▶ Geneva Call partners organized a discussion programme which recommended that ANSAs in India respect common article 3 of the 1949 Geneva Conventions

CONTEXT

India continued to be challenged by security issues within its borders, including the armed conflicts taking place in the Jammu and Kashmir regions bordering Pakistan, in the central part of the country and in the north-eastern regions. The Naxalites reportedly operated across 13 states, mainly in the central part of the country. Dozens of ANSAs, often rooted in tribal communities, remained active in the north-eastern region, particularly in Assam, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.

Civilians suffered directly from clashes between government forces and ANSAs and/or ANSAs among themselves, with regularly reported allegations about serious violations of IHL, including the indiscriminate use of AP mines, children in hostilities and sexual violence.

OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Logic of intervention

Geneva Call has been engaged with ANSAs in India since 2002, particularly in the north-east—in Manipur and Nagaland. Its work initially focused on the landmine ban and has expanded to include child protection and gender issues.

The Indian government does not encourage engagement with ANSAs by local actors, much less by national or international organizations; it considers such actions as interference in the country's internal affairs. As a result, a large part of Geneva Call's engagement with ANSAs has been undertaken outside the country or through local CSOs/CBOs. These organizations also contribute to monitoring compliance with the various *Deeds* signed by ANSAs in India. One positive sign is that discussions with certain state parliamentarians in 2014 suggested that some state governments might be supportive of Geneva Call's work.

Geneva Call partnered with the [United NGOs Mission of Manipur](#) (UNMM) for its work in that state. The UNMM, together with some other NGOs, provided the necessary support for Geneva Call to extend its network to other conflict-affected states in the north-eastern region, to carry out advocacy work about all the *Deeds of Commitment* and to monitor signatories' compliance with the *Deeds of Commitment*.

In order to support their work, 11 members of the UNMM and other NGOs attended a five-day training session on the contents of Geneva Call's *Deeds of Commitment* and on how to monitor signatories' compliance with those *Deeds of Commitment*. Tests carried out at the beginning and end of the workshop revealed that seven participants had clearly improved their knowledge by the end of the training.

Geneva Call also sought opportunities to engage with the Naxalites. Communication with people and organizations

with the potential to help Geneva Call establish direct contact with the Naxalites took place in 2014. They encouraged Geneva Call to adopt this indirect approach with other ANSAs in the north-eastern region and in Jammu and Kashmir.

Landmine ban

The NSCN-KK signs the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines

Although Geneva Call's engagement with the NSCN-KK on the theme of an AP mine ban only began in 2014, it had signed the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines by July. It went on to develop an implementation plan, including a revision of its existing internal rules and regulations. At the end of 2014, these were awaiting the leadership's approval. However, the NSCN-KK did provide Geneva Call with documentation demonstrating that it had organized and completed the dissemination of the content of the *Deed of Commitment* among its members.

The KNO, NSCN-IM and ZRO report on their compliance to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines

All three previous signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines reported on their compliance with their obligations. The KNO, NSCN-IM and ZRO submitted written reports about the implementation of their obligations, as well as descriptions of the measures taken to ensure their enforcement.

Geneva Call's partners played an essential role in the production of and follow-up to these reports. For example, their meetings with the NSCN-IM helped it to draft its report and allowed discussion on recommendations for improving its implementation of the *Deed of Commitment* in the future. Geneva Call provided expertise and counsel for the preparation of these meetings.

Dialogue with further ANSAs promote the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines

In meetings with Geneva Call or its partners, the HPC-D, KNF, NSCN-K, PLA and UNLF deepened their understanding of the AP mine ban. Whereas the NSCN-K confirmed that it was ready to sign this *Deed of Commitment*, the other ANSAs declared that they were not yet ready to commit themselves on this issue, but were willing to [continue the dialogue](#).

Child protection

The NSCN-KK signs the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict

Although engagement with the NSCN-KK on the theme of child protection only began in 2014, it had signed the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict by July. It took the same measures towards its implementation as those described above for the Landmine ban.

Five ANSAs express interest in enhancing the protection of children in armed conflict.

A dialogue about child protection developed with the HPC-D, KNO, KNF, NSCN-IM and ZRO. As a result, all five ANSAs reported that they needed to carry out more work internally before they could consider signing the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict. Issues to overcome included alternative roles for children involved in their organizations or who volunteered to join them.

Gender issues

The KNF and the NSCN-KK sign the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination

Although Geneva Call's engagement with the NSCN-KK on the theme of gender issues only began in 2014, it had signed the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict by July. It took the same measures towards its implementation as those described above for the Landmine ban. Notably, in this case, the NSCN-KK clarified its gender policy in the revision of its existing rules and regulations.

Following advocacy undertaken by the ZRO and a meeting with Geneva Call in October, the KNF signed the *Deed of Commitment* at the Geneva Call's Third Meeting of Signatories to the *Deeds of Commitment* in November. As part of its implementation plan, the KNF has launched visits to all its camps in order to brief its members about the *Deed of Commitment* and how to comply with the new obligations.

The ZRO reports on its compliance with the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination

The ZRO submitted its first compliance report regarding the enforcement of the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination that it signed in 2013. This report included revised internal rules and regulations incorporating clear gender equity policies.

Five ANSAs improve their awareness about sexual violence and gender discrimination

Through partners or directly, several meetings about gender issues took place with the HPC-D, KNO, NSCN-IM, PLA and UNLF. As a result, the HPC-D, KNO and NSCN-IM agreed in principle with the content of the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination and, at the end of the year, they were considering becoming signatories.

Humanitarian norms

The NSCN-KK is the first ANSA from India to sign all three *Deeds of Commitment*

In July 2014, the NSCN-KK became the first ANSA from India to sign all three *Deeds of Commitment*, and it immediately started to implement them (see above).

Engagement with ANSAs develops with local support

During a workshop organized in partnership by the UNMM and Geneva Call, 11 representatives from CSOs/CBOs in Manipur learned more about how to monitor the compliance of signatories to the *Deeds of Commitment*.

Training provided to the UNMM and other CSOs by Geneva Call allowed them to improve their engagement with and monitoring of ANSAs in the north-eastern region of India. As a result, for example:

- ▶ a Kuki CSO in Manipur organized Kuki community workshops together with the UNMM on Geneva Call's *Deed of Commitment*
- ▶ a group of CSOs organized a discussion programme, held at the [Diocesan Social Service Society](#) (Imphal, Manipur), about IHL and the [Indian Armed Forces Special Powers Act \(1958\)](#); it addressed the IHL violations committed by the armed forces and ANSAs and, with regard to the latter, [recommended](#) that *Armed Opposition Groups respect and implement the Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions, 1949, sign and respect Geneva Call's Deeds of Commitment on the use of landmines, gender and children, and stop inter-factional animosity and fighting in the interest of civilians.*

Trainings and other events – Summary table

Type	No.	Content	ANSAs CSOs/CBOs	Partners	Participants	Female participants
Training for CSOs/CBOs	1	Geneva Call's <i>Deeds of Commitment</i> and monitoring compliance	7	1	11	2
TOTAL	1				11	2

PHILIPPINES (THE)

Geneva Call has been engaged in the Philippines since 2000. It monitors and supports the implementation of the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines by signatory ANSAs. Geneva Call also contributes, whenever possible, to the development of humanitarian mine/ERW clearance programmes jointly implemented by government agencies, the ANSA concerned and mine-action organizations. Since 2010, Geneva Call has sought to broaden its engagement with ANSAs to also include gender-related issues, especially in view of the possible creation of an autonomous Bangsamoro political region for Moro people in Mindanao.

EXPENSES IN CHF

Total 115,202

A draft law on the creation of an autonomous Bangsamoro political region for Moro people in Mindanao was under review in Congress at the end of 2014. This was one outcome of a peace agreement signed between the Philippines government and the MILF/BIAF in March. Clashes between government forces and other Moro ANSAs continued to occur, though, usually in remote areas of Mindanao, as did the low-intensity armed conflict in various parts of the country opposing the CPP/NPA and the army.

ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine ban	Child protection	Gender issues	Humanitarian norms
Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement/Fighters	BIFM/BIFF				
Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army	CPP/NPA				
Moro Islamic Liberation Front/Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces	MILF/BIAF	✓			
Moro National Liberation Front/Bangsamoro Armed Forces	MNLF/BAF				
Revolutionary Workers Party of Mindanao	RPM/RPA	✓			
Revolutionary Workers Party of the Philippines/Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayo Brigade	RPM-P/RPA-ABB	✓			
✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed	✓✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed in 2014	ANSA engaged on thematic area (new = new in 2014)			

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2014:

- ▶ compliance by the signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines—the MILF/BIAF, RPM/RPA and RPM-P/RPA-ABB—was confirmed by Geneva Call's regular monitoring by
- ▶ 16 women and 1 man, members of Moro CSOs based in areas that may become part of the Bangsamoro political region, participated in a workshop on gender issues organized jointly with [UnYPhil-Women](#)
- ▶ participants learned about existing humanitarian norms related to sexual violence and gender discrimination and provided firsthand information for the implementation of gender equity by the MILF/BIAF
- ▶ security constraints hindered Geneva Call's contact with certain ANSAs and delayed the implementation of activities with them

CONTEXT

A draft law on the creation of an autonomous Bangsamoro political region for Moro people in Mindanao was under review in Congress at the end of 2014. This was one outcome of a peace agreement signed between the Philippine government and the MILF/BIAF in March. The law, if approved, will be ratified by a national referendum scheduled for 2015. Clashes between government forces and ANSAs—including the BIFM/BIFF and the Abu Sayyaf Group—continued to occur, usually in remote areas of Mindanao. In view of the heavy fighting that took place between the MNLF/BAF and the army in Zamboanga City in 2013, concerns remained about whether the MNLF/BAF and other ANSAs might have the capacity to undermine the MILF/BIAF peace process, even at this late stage.

The low intensity armed conflict opposing the CPP/NPA and the army continued, with clashes occurring mainly, though not exclusively, in Western Mindanao and Eastern Visayas.

The major ANSAs remained on the UNSG's list for grave violations against children because of their recruitment and use of children in hostilities.

OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Logic of intervention

Most ANSAs in the Philippines remained open to dialogue on humanitarian issues. Notably as a result of the MILF/BIAF peace process, a large number of international and local organizations have been engaging with them in this field for several years, with governmental acknowledgment.

Monitoring the compliance by the signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines remained important. The fact that all three signatories have agreed to a ceasefire with the government probably explains the absence of allegations of violations. During the reporting period, the MILF/BIAF nevertheless continued to disseminate the provisions of the *Deed of Commitment* among its armed forces and amended its code of conduct.

The government continued to regularly report allegations regarding the use of AP mines by the CPP/NPA. Although this ANSA has declared that its policy is not to use AP mines, it has not signed the *Deed of Commitment*. Reports also regularly accused the CPP/NPA of not complying with their own stated policies regarding wider humanitarian norms.

The serious allegations regarding child recruitment and their use by ANSAs continued to justify Geneva Call's engagement with the CPP/NPA and, when possible, with the BIFM/BIFF and the MNLF/BAF as well. No engagement took place on this issue with the MILF/BIAF since this ANSA implements an action plan signed with UNICEF.

Nevertheless, Geneva Call continued to engage with the MILF/BIAF on gender issues. Despite the signing of a comprehensive agreement by this ANSA with the government, Geneva Call considered that continuing contact remained useful because its long-term relationship gave it the ability to directly engage with the MILF leadership on gender issues.

In view of the complexity of the ongoing conflicts, maintaining contacts with all actors involved (e.g. government bodies and agencies, embassies, international and local organizations) in order to best understand changes in the situation, also constituted an important objective for Geneva Call. With this in mind, numerous meetings took place in the Philippines and abroad during the year.

However, security constraints hindered or suspended Geneva Call's contact with certain ANSAs—the BIFM/BIFF and the MNLF/BAF. Communication made in December aimed to facilitate the resumption of direct contact with the MNLF/BAF.

No meetings in the field were able to take place with the CPP/NPA and security concerns meant that none of its representatives could be invited to Geneva Call's Third Meeting of Signatories to the *Deeds of Commitment* in November.

Landmine ban

Compliance of the signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines is confirmed through monitoring

Monitoring of the signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines—the MILF/BIAF, the RPM/RPA and the RPM-P/RPA-ABB—showed that they had complied with their obligations.

Gender issues

17 Moro CSO representatives provide firsthand information for the implementation of gender equity by the MILF/BIAF

The MILF/BIAF and the government agreed that provisions regarding the rights of women, their political participation, protection against all forms of violence and equality of opportunities were to be included in the Bangsamoro Basic Law. However, how the MILF/BIAF would implement these measures remained open to question.

Meetings with the MILF/BIAF leadership indicated a low degree of awareness (and the lack of priority given to the implementation) of gender issues and the principles of gender equality to be included in the Basic Law. As a first step, in December, 16 women and one man—all members of CSOs from parts of Mindanao that may become part of the Bangsamoro political region—participated in a workshop organized in partnership with [UnYPhil-Women](#). This aimed to raise the participants' awareness of existing humanitarian norms and to discuss the role of

women and the measures required to implement the principles included in the Basic Law. The participants' conclusions yielded specific information useful for planning the next step in the MILF/BIAF's engagement with these issues.

A delay in the execution of this CSO workshop forced two more training sessions to be postponed until 2015. These will cover the protection of women and girls from violence and women's rights and their participation in the peace process, and separate meetings will be held for female and male members of the MILF/BIAF.

Trainings and other events – Summary table

Type	No.	Content	ANSAs CSOs/CBOs	Partners	Participants	Female participants
Training for CSOs/CBOs	1	Gender issues			17	16
TOTAL	1				17	16

LATIN AMERICA

Colombia

EXPENSES IN CHF

Landmine ban	130,850
Child protection	71,066
Gender issues	79,557
Humanitarian norms	32,880
Multi-thematic	
Regional coordination	175,208
Total	489,561



HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ **Colombia:** 6 indigenous communities in the Cauca, Nariño and Putumayo departments improved their safety by integrating MRE into their daily lives as a result of a four-year project covering approximately 17,500 people
- ▶ **Colombia:** former Colombian female combatants shared their experiences of their respective collective DDR processes and made specific written recommendations to both the government and the ANSAs



Closing event of Geneva Call's self-protection project. May 2014, Colombia. © Geneva Call

COLOMBIA

Geneva Call has been engaged in Colombia since 2000. Mainly working with partners, it promotes humanitarian norms regarding the AP mine ban, child protection and sexual violence. In its dialogue with ANSAs, Geneva Call also tackles the participation of women in peace negotiations and advocates the inclusion of a gender sensitive approach to DDR. Furthermore, in partnership with CBOs, Geneva Call has particularly supported affected indigenous communities in developing self-protection mechanisms against the risks posed by mines/ERW, child abuse and sexual violence.

EXPENSES IN CHF

Total 314,353

Peace negotiations, initiated in 2012, between the Colombian government and FARC-EP progressed in 2014: agreements were reached on three of five important agenda items. In June 2014, the government and the ELN issued a joint statement announcing that they had been holding exploratory peace talks since January. Meanwhile, armed confrontations continued to affect civilians, particularly in rural areas, causing displacements, new victims of AP mines and ERW, additional child recruitment and other IHL violations.

ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine ban	Child protection	Gender issues	Humanitarian norms
National Liberation Army	ELN				
Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia–People’s Army	FARC-EP				
✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed	✓✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed in 2014	ANSA engaged on thematic area (new = new in 2014)			

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2014:

- ▶ 6 indigenous communities in Cauca, Nariño and Putumayo departments improved their safety by integrating MRE into their daily lives as a result of a four-year project covering around 17,500 people
- ▶ the ELN and FARC-EP, encouraged by the influence of local communities trained on AP mines by Geneva Call, showed increased openness to discussing specific humanitarian demining proposals
- ▶ survey of mine/ERW victims was initiated among imprisoned members of the ELN and FARC, notably to raise awareness about mines/ERW whilst strengthening confidence building in the peace process
- ▶ the ELN and FARC-EP confirmed their commitment to ensure respect for their internal codes of conduct regarding child recruitment ages, and showed increased openness to addressing child recruitment
- ▶ the ELN presented a gender policy compatible with the related *Deed of Commitment* and FARC-EP condemned gender-based violence altogether, thereby no longer limiting sexual violence to rape
- ▶ former Colombian female combatants shared their experiences of their respective collective DDR processes and made specific written recommendations to the government and the ANSAs about them
- ▶ following a pilot training session on humanitarian norms in 2013, 9 ELN commanders in Bellavista prison, Medellin, refreshed/enhanced their knowledge during a session on transitional justice and DDR
- ▶ the late arrival of funding delayed IHL training for other imprisoned ANSA members and data collection about the specific needs of those who had been injured in combat or by mines/ERW

CONTEXT

By the end of 2014, peace negotiations initiated between the Colombian government and FARC-EP in 2012, had resulted in agreements on three important agenda points (land reform, political participation and drug trafficking) and had progressed on the two remaining ones (rights of victims and end of conflict/disarmament). FARC-EP declared a unilateral ceasefire for an indefinite period as of 20 December.

In June 2014, the government and the ELN issued a joint statement announcing that they had been holding exploratory peace talks since January and had agreed on some points for an agenda to be discussed in formal talks.

Meanwhile, armed confrontations continued between other ANSAs, the ELN and FARC-EP and government armed and security forces. Hostilities directly affected the civilian population, particularly vulnerable members of communities (e.g. indigenous, Afro-Colombian and/or isolated peasants) in rural areas, causing displacements, additional victims of AP mines/ERW (the government recorded [over 11,000 victims of AP mines and ERW between 1990 and December 2014, including 277 in 2014, of whom 38% were civilians](#)), child recruitment and other IHL violations. The situation in border areas, for example with Ecuador and Venezuela, remained particularly serious.

OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Logic of intervention

Geneva Call has been engaged in Colombia since 2003 and has worked in an exclusive partnership with the NGO Corporación Compromiso Humano (hereafter Compromiso) since 2010. It has established and maintained dialogue with two ANSAs—the ELN and FARC-EP—with regard to humanitarian norms related to:

- ▶ an AP mine ban, including mine action: though the government signed the AP Mine Ban Convention, the ELN and FARC-EP carried on using these weapons (mainly IEDs)
- ▶ child protection: both the ELN and FARC-EP, as well as other ANSAs (e.g. Rastrojos or Urabeños) continued recruiting and using children in hostilities, while attacks against schools and threats against teachers often deprived children of education
- ▶ the prohibition of sexual violence: the ELN and FARC-EP codes of conduct limited the prohibition of sexual violence to rape; as an initial step, both groups received the executive summary of research carried out by the Gender School of the [Universidad Nacional de Colombia](#), in association with Geneva Call, mapping practices of conflict-related violence against women and girls that showed how sensitive this topic was for local communities

Geneva Call's aim was for the ELN and FARC-EP to make unilateral commitments on these humanitarian issues and to conclude humanitarian agreements with the Colombian government (e.g. agreements on humanitarian demining, the protection of schools, the demobilization of children) prior to the signature of a peace agreement. Such commitments and agreements would contribute to building trust in the peace process.

The issue of women's participation in the peace process was on the agenda of CSOs, the government and the international community. However, the need for female combatants to be better represented in the peace processes did not come out strongly, despite both ANSAs having significant numbers of female members. Geneva Call thus sought to help promote their participation further and include a gender sensitive approach in future DDR processes. In 2013, through training on humanitarian norms, transitional justice and peace processes, Geneva Call also started targeting key ELN members in prison who might later act as relays for influencing behaviour in their organization.

In addition to direct engagement with ANSAs, Geneva Call partnered and supported CBOs from indigenous communities particularly affected by conflict. Taking into account cultural specificities, it supported training for community trainers in MRE and helped communities build or strengthen self-protection mechanisms, particularly against child recruitment and sexual violence.

Finally, Geneva Call maintained a broad network of contacts (government agencies, international humanitarian organizations, including UN agencies, national and local NGOs) in order to broaden support for its humanitarian goals and improve coordination activities, and to contribute to raising the awareness of key actors about important humanitarian issues.

Landmine ban

The ELN and FARC-EP show increased openness to discussing humanitarian demining

Detailed pilot proposals for humanitarian demining pushed slowly forward in Samaniego (Nariño department) and Tambo (Cauca department), areas where the ELN is present. No concrete results have materialized yet, because neither the government nor the ELN wished to go further in a context of talks about peace talks. Nevertheless, in November, in a video message to Geneva Call's Third Meeting of Signatories to the *Deeds of Commitment*, the ELN reaffirmed its willingness to work with Geneva Call towards humanitarian demining.

FARC-EP continued to acknowledge that its use of AP mines sometimes had unintended humanitarian consequences, but it was not ready to renounce their use in the absence of a comprehensive ceasefire. However, during a meeting in Havana (Cuba), in September, FARC-EP representatives showed strong interest in starting detailed discussions about the humanitarian demining of

certain areas. FARC-EP also started liaising with the ELN on this matter.

In two training events and in meetings with *Compromiso*, representatives from local communities and CBOs/CSOs, notably from Samaniego and Tambo, gained a new understanding of mine action and their capacity to discuss humanitarian mine/ERW clearance operations in their areas with ANSAs.

Six indigenous communities improve their safety by integrating MRE into their daily lives as a result of a four-year project reaching around 17,500 people

In 2010–14, six indigenous organizations in the departments of Cauca, Nariño and Putumayo strengthened their capacity to protect themselves from the risks of AP mines and ERW. Community trainers from each organization were taught about MRE using tools developed in Spanish and indigenous languages and taking into account the culture and traditions of each community. Using these tools, the trainers conducted MRE training sessions for their respective communities. This project concluded in May.

This project reached the quantitative targets initially set. Between June 2010 and May 2014, it trained 209 MRE community trainers who in turn taught 17,557 community members (of whom 54% were women and girls) in the three provinces how to better protect themselves. A total of 20 instructors for community trainers also qualified, of whom 17 remained active and helped to train new trainers. Furthermore, in Putumayo, indigenous organizations signed an agreement with the Colombian mine-action authorities to provide MRE for their own communities and others, via community trainers initially taught by Geneva Call—this is a strong sign of sustainability.

An external evaluation of the project, which analysed its ethnic parameters and efficiency, confirmed the quality and success of this grassroots approach. The success was also the result of involvement by all the possible actors (e.g. central, regional and local institutions and organizations). In accordance with the expected outcome, communities have taken action to mitigate the risks posed by mines/ERW in their areas. The project's evaluator also established indices of sustainability, such as the ownership of MRE by the indigenous organizations and their communities as manifested by continued training activities within them.

Launch of a survey of mine/ERW victims among imprisoned members of the ELN and FARC-EP

At the end of 2014, representatives of the [Fundación Comité de Solidaridad con los Presos Políticos](#) and a consultant hired by Geneva Call started preparing a questionnaire for imprisoned members of the ELN or FARC-EP who had been the victims of mines/ERW or other combat injuries. The draft questionnaire also received input from [Handicap International](#). As discussed with all

the parties concerned, including the government, the aims of the survey were to constitute an additional step towards strengthening confidence in the peace process and raising awareness about mines/ERW whilst providing useful information about the specific needs of ANSA members in prison or during their demobilization process. The late arrival of funding imposed a delay in the data collection process until 2015.

Child protection

The ELN and FARC-EP confirm their commitment to ensure the respect of their internal codes of conduct regarding child recruitment ages

In their statements to Geneva Call's Third Meeting of Signatories to the *Deeds of Commitment*, in November, the ELN and FARC-EP confirmed their commitments to abide by their own internal codes of conduct with regard to recruitment ages. This signified that the ELN and FARC-EP would not recruit children under 16 and 15 years old, respectively. The ELN further specified that recruitment of children under 16 would only take place with the consent of the parents.

The ELN and FARC-EP show increased openness to addressing child recruitment and their use in combat

Despite this topic remaining sensitive, meetings with both ANSAs showed their increasing openness to tackling child recruitment. This allowed the discussion of proposals regarding demobilizing children younger than 16 years old, protecting schools and education and FARC-EP raising their recruitment age to above 15 years old.

Indigenous communities and their MRE trainers conclude that time and effort are needed in order to tackle sensitive issues such as child protection and sexual violence

During the last phase (2012–14) of the self-protection project carried out with indigenous communities (see Landmine ban), trainers also sought to address child protection and sexual violence issues during their workshops with community leaders. In spite of some progress, all those involved concluded that more time, awareness raising and training would be necessary to push these topics forward, especially in view of the sensitivities of the communities concerned. This was confirmed by an external evaluation of the project.

Gender issues

FARC-EP condemns gender-based violence thereby no longer limiting sexual violence to rape

FARC-EP made a notable declaration condemning all forms of sexual- and gender-based violence and not just rape, which was the only type of sexual violence specifically prohibited in its internal code of conduct.

The ELN presents a gender policy compatible with the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination

In a video message to Geneva Call's Third Meeting of Signatories to the *Deeds of Commitment* in November, a member of the ELN Central Command reiterated its organization's policy condemning and sanctioning sexual violence and favouring gender equity within its ranks. He further detailed the ELN gender policy, which was compatible with the relevant Geneva Call *Deed of Commitment*, and ELN representatives confirmed that signing this *Deed of Commitment* could be an option.

Former Colombian female combatants share their experiences of their respective collective DDR processes and make specific recommendations to the government and the ANSAs

The NGO [Red nacional de Mujeres ex-combatientes de la insurgencia](#) (Red) sent a document to both the government and FARC-EP about its members' respective experiences during the peace and DDR processes, with a view to improving future DDR processes. Red received Geneva Call's continuous support during this work, and the document was also shared with the ELN.

FARC-EP showed interest in meeting with Red in Havana to discuss their proposals in detail. Initial discussions took place between both parties and Geneva Call to explore the possibility of organizing another meeting there between Red and the Gender Sub-Commission and/or the Technical Sub-Commission of the official peace talks.

Indeed, peace negotiations progressed on gender issues. For example, several references were made to the participation of women in politics in the agreement on political participation (second point on the agenda), a Gender Sub-Commission was created in 2014 and gender balance was considered in the selection of the victims who testified in Cuba in August as a part of the fourth point on the agenda—the rights of victims.

Humanitarian norms

ELN commanders in Bellavista prison in Medellín attend a refresher training session

An initial group of nine imprisoned ELN commanders refreshed and enhanced their knowledge in a complementary session on transitional justice and DDR. This followed 2013's successful pilot training session on topics such as IHL, transitional justice, humanitarian demining and DDR with the support of the [University of San Buenaventura](#) and Colombian and international experts.

To follow-up on the interest shown by the ELN and FARC-EP regarding similar training sessions for more of their key members in prison, six extra training sessions for around 60 female and male prisoners in five prisons were planned for 2014. Because of late funding, the launch of this programme had to be postponed to 2015. However, preparation started with the hiring of two trainers and meetings with the prison administration to ensure the necessary authorizations.

Trainings and other events – Summary table

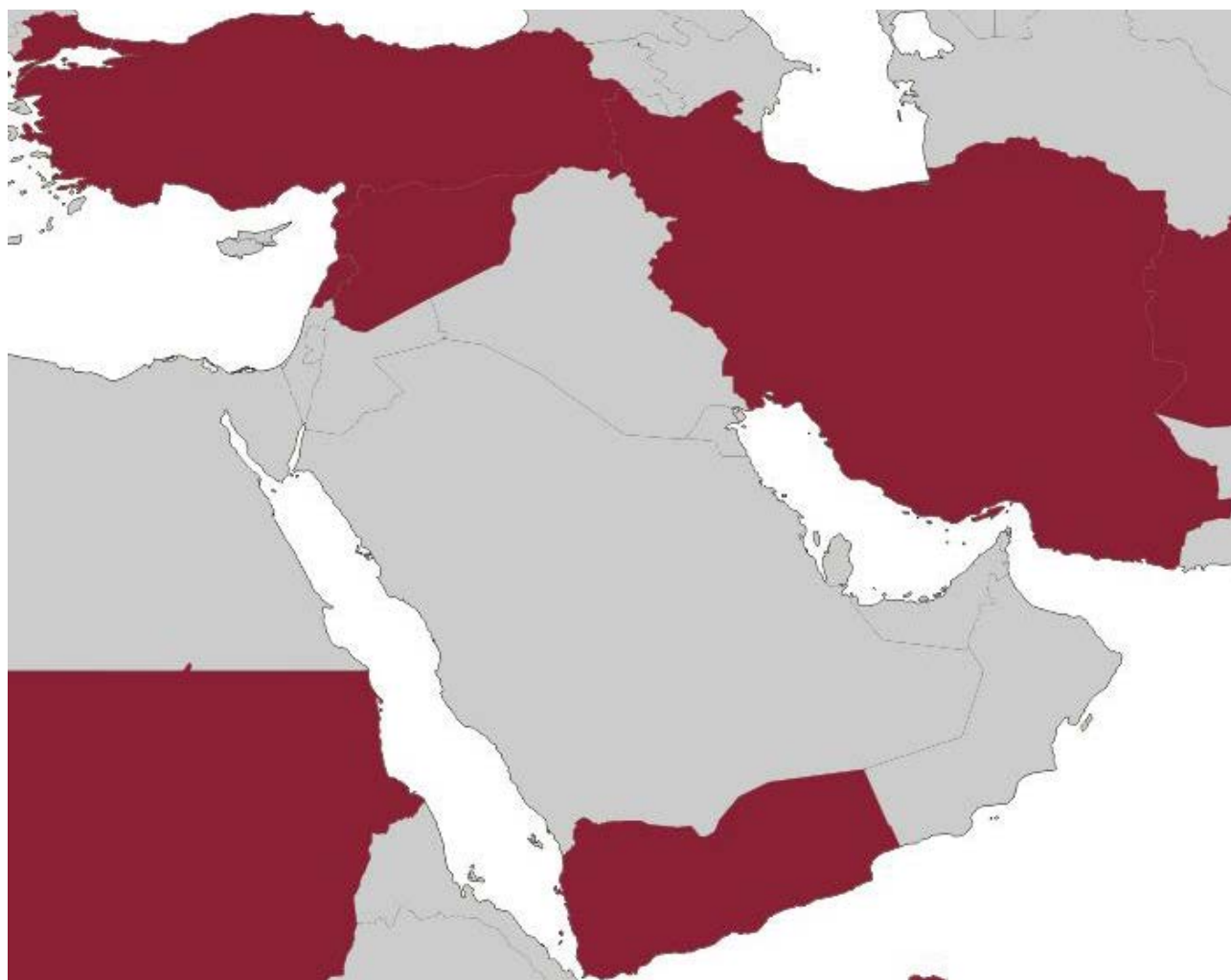
Type	No.	Content	ANSAs CSOs/CBOs	Partners	Participants	Female participants
Training for an ANSA military leadership	1	IHL, transitional justice, peace processes/DDR processes	1		9	
Awareness raising meetings with key ANSA representatives	1	IHL, participation of women and DDR, mine action, child protection	1		15	6
Training for CBOs, indigenous people and local authorities	2	mine/ERW contamination, mine action including humanitarian demining, humanitarian action, and the role of the community, its leaders and authorities	22	1	59	
TOTAL	4				83	6

MIDDLE EAST AND EUROPE

Islamic Republic of Iran
Lebanon
Syrian Arab Republic
Turkey
Yemen

EXPENSES IN CHF

Landmine ban	45,440
Child protection	112,315
Gender issues	65,502
Humanitarian norms	523,840
Multi-thematic	19,190
Regional coordination	56,335
Total	822,622



HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ **Islamic Republic of Iran:** all signatories to the *Deeds of Commitment* took further measures to implement their obligations
- ▶ **Lebanon:** the Legal Training Centre opened in Ain al-Hilweh refugee camp, providing a base for the 6 experts of the Palestinian Liberation Organization Legal Support Unit responsible for training members of the Palestinian National Security Forces across Lebanon on humanitarian norms
- ▶ **Syrian Arab Republic** (hereafter: Syria): 2 ANSAs (the Democratic Self-Administration in Rojava/People's Protection Units/Women's Protection Units (YPG-YPJ) and the Hazzm Movement/Free Syrian Army & affiliated factions) signed *Deeds of Commitment*, banning AP mines and prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination, respectively
- ▶ **Syria:** the YPG-YPJ also signed the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children and immediately demobilized 149 of them from their ranks
- ▶ **Turkey:** the People's Defence Forces/Kurdistan Worker's Party (HPG/PKK) provided 16 to 18-year-old children—not allowed to participate in hostilities—with safer conditions and education in separate camps. The HPG/PKK took steps to investigate allegations regarding the recruitment of children under 16 years old. The ANSA undertook mine/ERW clearance and requested help with the destruction and for marking contaminated areas
- ▶ **Yemen:** the Al-Houthi movement/Ansar Allah welcomed Geneva Call's engagement as a neutral intermediary for facilitating mine action, including humanitarian demining in the Sa'ada area



Inauguration of the Legal Training Center in Ain al-Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp. October 2014, Lebanon. © Geneva Call

IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF

Geneva Call has been working with Iranian Kurdish ANSAs on the AP mine ban since 2001 and on child protection and gender issues since 2010. It helps ANSAs implement and comply with the *Deeds of Commitment* which they have already signed, while continuing to promote the *Deeds* which they have not. For instance, Geneva Call organizes and provides training on specific rules, as well as on more general humanitarian norms. Dialogue and activities with the ANSAs concerned take place in the region and in Europe.

EXPENSES IN CHF

Total 92,981

Although most of the Iranian Kurdish ANSAs have suspended their military operations, occasional armed clashes occurred between Iranian security forces and the PJAK. Other ANSAs have stated they are prepared to resume their armed struggle, should the situation require it.

Following the military activities of the Islamic State (also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) in the Iraqi Sinjar area, all the Iranian Kurdish ANSAs offered to send troops to support the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq and contribute to ensuring the protection of civilians in Kurdish areas affected by conflict.

The Iranian-Iraqi Kurdish border remained particularly contaminated by mines and ERW.

ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine ban	Child protection	Gender issues	Humanitarian norms
Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan	PDKI	✓	✓	✓	
Free Life Party of Kurdistan	PJAK	✓			
Komala Party of Iranian Kurdistan	KPIK	✓	✓	✓	
Komala Party of Kurdistan	KPK	✓	✓	✓	
Komalah – The Kurdistan Organization of the Communist Party of Iran	Komalah-CPI	✓	✓	✓	
Kurdistan Democratic Party – Iran	KDP-Iran	✓	✓	✓	
✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed	✓✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed in 2014	ANSA engaged on thematic area (new = new in 2014)			

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2014:

- ▶ all 6 signatories (PDKI, PJAK, KPIK, KPK, Komalah-CPI, KDP-Iran) to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines took further measures to implement their obligations
- ▶ all 5 signatories (PDKI, KPIK, KPK, Komalah-CPI, KDP-Iran) to the *Deeds of Commitment* protecting children and prohibiting sexual violence took further measures to implement their obligations
- ▶ all signatories to *Deeds of Commitment* provided inputs for their compliance reports
- ▶ all signatories reported awareness activities, using their media accessible in Iran (TV, radio and newspapers), on AP mine risks, children and women's rights and on their related *Deeds of Commitment*
- ▶ several signatories integrated *Deeds of Commitment* obligations into their training of new recruits, as encouraged to do so in a workshop organized by Geneva Call at the end of 2013
- ▶ the PJAK confirmed its willingness to sign the *Deeds of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict and prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination

CONTEXT

Amid the tense political and military climate in the region, Iranian Kurdish ANSAs continued to demand the creation of a federal, democratic State to uphold the rights of the Kurdish population living in the Islamic Republic of Iran (hereafter Iran). The ANSAs maintained the suspension of their military activities, though some sporadic armed confrontations occurred between Iran's security forces and the PJAK, as well as a few alleged clashes between Iranian forces and the PDKI or KDP-Iran. Other ANSAs stated they were prepared to resume their armed struggle, should the situation require it.

Following the military activities of the Islamic State (IS, also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) in the Sinjar area of Iraq, where Yezidi Kurds were living, all the Iranian Kurdish ANSAs offered to send troops to support the *peshmerga* forces of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) of Iraq. Indeed, they went on to play a role in ensuring the protection of civilians in areas of Iraqi Kurdistan affected by the conflict.

As a result of years of armed conflicts, the Iranian Kurdish border with Iraq remained particularly contaminated by ERW and landmines, which were mainly laid during the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq war.

OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Logic of intervention

Geneva Call has been engaged with the Iranian Kurdish ANSAs since 2001; it remains the only international humanitarian organization with sustained regular relations with them. The confidence built-up with them over the years has put Geneva Call in a privileged position to tackle difficult issues whenever necessary. Geneva Call maintained contacts with the Iranian Kurdish ANSAs whilst they operated in Iraqi Kurdistan, as it does not have access to Iran. It kept the KRG regularly informed about its activities, and it organized two missions to Iraqi Kurdistan in June and November 2014.

All six Iranian Kurdish ANSAs engaged with Geneva Call have signed the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines; all except the PJAK have also signed the *Deeds of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict and prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination. While continuing to engage with the PJAK on child protection and gender issues, Geneva Call's main objective remained monitoring signatories' compliance with existing *Deeds of Commitment* and supporting them as necessary and where possible in their implementation. In addition to this, Geneva Call sought to further develop the ANSAs' knowledge of humanitarian norms and their respect of them.

The mines laid during the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq war, as well as alleged new mines, caused some casualties in 2014. The PJAK continued to be accused of recruiting children,

however, little information was available: it seems that the children most prone to joining the PJAK are girls from rural and traditional areas who might otherwise face early marriage and restricted rights. Information about sexual violence linked to the Kurdish armed conflict in Iran remained poor.

All the ANSAs concerned could risk being involved in violations of IHL if fighting were to resume in Iran, but this also applies to the situations in Iraq and Syria. Thanks to the contacts they maintain and the activities which they sometimes carry out with other Kurdish ANSAs and Syria's People's Protection Units, the Iranian Kurdish ANSAs can play an exemplary role by demonstrating their respect for the AP mine ban, child protection and the respect of humanitarian norms in general. Furthermore, they can specifically demonstrate the rights and the protection they afford to women.

In December 2013, all the signatories to the various *Deeds of Commitment* attended a workshop about their implementation, the challenges they might meet and solutions for overcoming them—which includes the support of Geneva Call. The workshop gathered mid- to high-level political and military delegates from the ANSAs, almost two-thirds of whom were women; all were representatives assigned by their leaderships for the implementation of the *Deeds of Commitment*. Geneva Call's visits in June and November were mainly aimed at reviewing the follow-up to this workshop and establishing how to go forward.

All signatories to the *Deeds of Commitment* reported progress in their implementation, including by using their respective TV channels and written media. Moreover, the December 2013 workshop was said to have been reported in a PDKI TV programme. The ANSAs expressed the wish to receive more technical support from Geneva Call, including additional posters and booklets.

Indirect and direct contact with Iranian NGOs both inside and outside Iran developed slowly, but have also contributed to monitoring and reporting on compliance by the signatories to the *Deeds of Commitment*.

Although some messages were exchanged and some contact occurred in Europe, meetings with PJAK representatives on the ground only resumed in November. This delay was explained by the PJAK's reorganization and security challenges in the region.

Landmine ban

All six signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines take additional measures to improve its implementation

Some ANSAs reported new mines placed along the Iraqi Kurdistan border (most probably for curbing smuggling), as well as mine/ERW victims. For example, PDKI records registered 50 people wounded and 15 killed in Iranian Kurdistan between March 2013 and March 2014. Most

mine casualties probably occurred in existing minefields along the Iranian Kurdish border with Iraq.

All signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines reported additional implementation measures. For example:

- ▶ the KDP-Iran reported having integrated the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines into its training of new *peshmergas*
- ▶ the Komalah-CPI and the PDKI reported awareness-raising programmes about, respectively, the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines and about AP mines in general (based on TV documentaries and/or radio broadcasts)
- ▶ the KPIK reported using Geneva Call posters and documentation received during training at a December 2013 workshop provided by [Mine Uxo Impact Relief \(MIR\)](#), a local NGO involved in mine action with which Geneva Call cooperates

Signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines request more support from Geneva Call for improving their implementation

The signatories also requested further support from Geneva Call to help them improve their implementation of the *Deed of Commitment*. For example:

- ▶ all signatory ANSAs would welcome pre-recorded messages for their TV broadcasts to raise people's awareness about the risks posed by mines and ERW
- ▶ the KDP-Iran asked Geneva Call to plan a training session about the implementation of the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines for some of its high-level representatives, as this would raise awareness of the importance of the AP mine issue in Iranian Kurdistan; it also asked for technical training on mine action for its forces in Iranian Kurdistan
- ▶ the PJAK requested training to build up its capacity to raise awareness among communities on the risks caused by AP mines and ERW

All six signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines provided Geneva Call with the necessary information for their compliance reports.

Child protection

All five signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict take additional measures to improve its implementation

All five signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict reported that they had launched activities to further improve its implementation. For example:

- ▶ the KDP-Iran's magazine, also read in Iranian Kurdistan, published a presentation of the *Deed of Commitment*

- ▶ Komalah-CPI promoted the content of the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict using its TV channel, whereas the PDKI raised awareness about children's rights, notably through its TV programme

- ▶ the PDKI reported that it had widely informed existing *peshmergas* and around 100 new recruits, civilians, family members and children about the *Deeds of Commitment*, notably claiming to have: organized three festivals for children; held meetings for families and their children; created a children's organization providing them information on their rights; added this topic to the training for new *peshmergas*; and joined with the KRG to hold some events in favour of children's rights

All five signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict provided Geneva Call with the necessary information for their compliance reports.

The PJAK reiterates its readiness to sign the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict

During the November mission, the PJAK confirmed its willingness to sign the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict. Before doing so, the PJAK and Geneva Call must prepare and agree on a detailed implementation plan.

Gender issues

All five signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination take additional measures to improve its implementation

Information on sexual violence in relation to the Kurdish armed conflict in Iran continued to be limited. On the basis of investigations made by the PDKI about violence against women in the Kurdish region of Iran, 37 women were said to have been killed and 74 to have committed suicide between March 2013 and March 2014.

However, all signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination reported launching new activities to improve its implementation. For example:

- ▶ the KPIK reported the integration of gender issues into its training for women and expressed its wish to receive support for similar training for men
- ▶ the KPK reported the organization of courses for illiterate women and children, including about treating boys and girls equally, as well as seminars discussing violence against women and how to stop it
- ▶ groups created by the KDP-Iran regularly discussed gender issues and a module about women's rights and the related *Deed of Commitment* was said to have been added to training for new *peshmergas*

- ▶ the KDP-Iran's women's section started organizing meetings about Geneva Call and the *Deed of Commitment* in various areas of Iranian Kurdistan
- ▶ Komalah-CPI reported using its TV channel to promote the content of the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination
- ▶ the PDKI began to draft a legal basis against sexual abuses and to set up training programmes to educate women about their rights and the related *Deed of Commitment*

All five signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination provided Geneva Call with the necessary information for their compliance reports.

The PJAK reiterates its readiness to sign the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination

During the November mission, the PJAK confirmed its willingness to sign the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination. Before

doing so, the PJAK and Geneva Call must prepare and agree on a detailed implementation plan.

Humanitarian norms

The PJAK requests support to improve its trainers' knowledge about humanitarian norms

The PJAK stated its need for support to train its training instructors on humanitarian norms, as well as for specialized material, notably training booklets. Moreover, in 2014, two PJAK members participated in a four-day training session for training instructors run by the People's Defences Forces/Kurdistan Worker's Party.

During Geneva Call's Third Meeting of Signatories to the *Deeds of Commitment* in November, and in light of the risk of an extension of the armed conflict in Iraqi Kurdistan, all the representatives of the Iranian Kurdish ANSAs declared their willingness to improve the protection of civilians in armed conflict and their knowledge of humanitarian norms.

LEBANON

Geneva Call initiated work in Lebanon in 2005 by engaging with Lebanese ANSAs about the extent of AP mine/ERW contamination. Since 2010, Geneva Call has been working on humanitarian norms, and more specifically on child protection, with Palestinian ANSAs in the refugee camps: it supports training, including for trainers, mainly for their security forces; it helped run a project providing a safe place for the development of girls aged 7–15 years old. Since 2013, and together with a local partner, Geneva Call has been dealing with Lebanese political parties on the humanitarian norms applicable to the violence resulting from ethnic–sectarian tensions and the Syrian armed conflict.

EXPENSES IN CHF

Total 207,987

The armed conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic (hereafter Syria) and its spillover effects continued to touch Lebanon, with Syrian ANSAs operating in Lebanon and Hezbollah operating in Syria. This fuelled longstanding ethnic–sectarian tensions, particularly Shia/Sunni sectarian violence, with clashes opposing weapon bearers and the Lebanese Armed Forces.

The situation in the camps, which host half of the estimated 450,000 Palestinian refugees registered by UNRWA, has deteriorated. Over 50,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria (as of April, according to UNRWA) put additional pressure on the camps' pre-existing dire conditions, increasing risks of clashes, child recruitment and other abuses.

ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine ban	Child protection	Gender issues	Humanitarian norms
Forces of the Palestinian National Coalition	Tahaluf				
Hezbollah					
Palestinian Liberation Organization/Palestinian National Security Forces	PLO/PNSF				
✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed	✓✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed in 2014	ANSA engaged on thematic area (new = new in 2014)			

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2014:

- ▶ the Legal Training Centre opened in Ain al-Hilweh refugee camp as a base for the 6 experts of the PLO Legal Support Unit responsible for training PNSF members across Lebanon on humanitarian norms
- ▶ a panel, hosted by the Lebanese government, presented a PLO/Tahaluf pledge not to use children in hostilities to 25 Palestinian, Lebanese and international child-protection agency representatives
- ▶ after initial workshops for major Lebanese political parties, held in 2013 in partnership with the Permanent Peace Movement, 4 political parties and Geneva Call deepened their relationships
- ▶ the 10 most senior Sunni religious leaders discussed the humanitarian norms applicable in armed conflict and other situations of violence and expressed their support for Geneva Call's humanitarian work

CONTEXT

The armed conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic (hereafter Syria) and its spillover effects continued to touch Lebanon, fuelling longstanding ethnic-sectarian tensions. Pre-existing political tensions increased—particularly Shia/Sunni sectarian violence—with clashes occurring mainly in Aarsal and Majd al-Anjar in the Beqaa valley, in the northern town of Tripoli, in the Tariq al-Jdeide neighbourhood of Beirut and in Saida. They opposed weapon bearers against the Lebanese Armed Forces and Internal Security Forces. Syrian ANSAs were operating on Lebanese territory, while the Lebanese Hezbollah remained involved in the Syrian armed conflict.

The situation deteriorated in the 12 camps hosting half of around 450,000 Palestinian refugees registered by UNRWA in Lebanon. According to UNRWA, [as of April 2014, more than 53,070 Palestinian refugees from Syria](#) were exerting extra pressures on the camps. In addition to pre-existing overcrowding, a dire socio-economic outlook, limited civil rights, insufficient health, social and educational services and inter-Palestinian frictions, this influx augmented risks of clashes, child recruitment, sexual violence and other abuses. Children remained particularly vulnerable due to a lack of educational and social services pushing them towards marginalization and ANSA enrolment (one third of children aged 7–17 were reportedly illiterate).

OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Logic of intervention

In 2005, Geneva Call opened dialogues with local organizations affiliated with Hezbollah to assess the feasibility of engaging with the movement on AP mines and ERW contamination. In 2008, a first assessment mission provided a better understanding of the past conflict and ongoing violence in Lebanon, including the extent of weapon contamination and local mine action. The situation in the country, however, delayed contact and the potential definition of any engagement process.

After a needs assessment and some preparatory encounters in 2009, meetings with representatives of the main Palestinian factions in Lebanon eventually took place in 2010. Consequently, Geneva Call launched a programme in the refugee camps to engage with Palestinian ANSAs directly and indirectly at all levels—weapon bearers, decision makers, grassroots initiatives and civil society—in order to put humanitarian norms on the agenda of the Palestinian refugee community. Actions included: dissemination of targeted information about the fundamental rights of the most vulnerable; promotion of an understanding of protection needs within the community; and instigating measures to reduce the potential impact of armed violence on civilians. After a first round of training sessions on humanitarian norms for key commanders, the Palestinian National Security Forces

(PNSF)—run by ANSAs that are members of the PLO and thus *de facto* responsible for internal security in the camps—approached Geneva Call requesting training on humanitarian norms for commanders in the refugee camps throughout Lebanon. With its headquarters in Ain al-Hilweh (near Saida), the biggest refugee camp in Lebanon, the PNSF has a reported 20,000 members, including about 4,000 military personnel.

Also in 2010, a first group of approximately 35 girls ages 7–15 started to benefit from a project run with [Nashet](#), a local partner of Geneva Call in Ain al-Hilweh; this partner provided them safety, educational, social and psychosocial support and raised their awareness about women's rights—which, indirectly, raised their families' awareness too.

After a second round of specially tailored trainings on humanitarian norms for PNSF commanders in Ain al-Hilweh and Beddawi (near Tripoli), two more training sessions took place in 2012 for trainers from both the civilian and military wings of the PLO/PNSF in five camps. These new trainers started instructing their members in 2013, under Geneva Call's supervision. The PNSF made training on humanitarian norms a precondition for promotion through its ranks or hierarchy. Training also started for CSOs in the camps. At the end of 2013, after working directly with CSOs about child protection, the two main Palestinian umbrella organizations (PLO and Tahaluf) made a joint declaration condemning the use of children in all forms of armed action, and they pledged to ensure that children under 18 years old would not take any direct part in hostilities.

In 2013, tension was growing across Lebanon, with the resulting risks to people's security and the respect of human rights. In an attempt to counteract this, the Permanent Peace Movement (PPM) and Geneva Call, in partnership, engaged with decision makers from seven of the major Lebanese political parties (Amal, Future Movement, Free Patriotic Movement—FPM, Hezbollah, Kataeb, Lebanese Forces—LF and the Progressive Socialist Party—PSP) about the humanitarian norms applicable in armed conflict and other situations of violence. PPM and Geneva Call also engaged with key groups (party cadres, youth organizations and party-affiliated media) from five of these parties in a series of training workshops, thereby encouraging the dissemination of humanitarian norms at all levels of their political environment (e.g. political leaders, communities, weapon bearers).

Child protection

A panel, hosted by the Lebanese government, presented a PLO/Tahaluf pledge not to use children in hostilities to Palestinian and child-protection agency representatives

The 2014 armed hostilities in the Gaza Strip and their resulting political consequences in the refugee camps in Lebanon changed the priorities of the PLO/Tahaluf. They therefore delayed Geneva Call's plans to follow-up the

2013 declaration made by both the main Palestinian factions about child protection.

However, on 26 June, the government body dealing with issues relating to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon—the [Lebanese–Palestinian Dialogue Committee](#) (LPDC)—and Geneva Call organized a discussion panel on child protection at Government Palace. Some 25 representatives from international and local child-protection agencies learned about the PLO/Tahaluf 2013 pledge and discussed possible measures to support its implementation.

Humanitarian norms

The PLO Legal Training Centre in Ain al-Hilweh serves as a base for the experts of the Legal Support Unit responsible for training all the PNSF members in Lebanon on humanitarian norms

A PLO Legal Support Unit (LSU) made up of six members was formally established; members are mostly alumni of the 2012 training of trainers and selected in consultation with Geneva Call. The LSU's responsibility is to develop sustainable training programmes on humanitarian norms for all the PNSF members in Lebanon, including information on its obligations surrounding the use of force during security operations. The LSU can now count on a new permanent Legal Training Centre (LTC) opened in Ain al-Hilweh on 25 October; this base was set up with Geneva Call's support.

Setting up the LSU and building the LTC required several visits by Geneva Call during 2014; this mainly involved complementary training for the LSU's experts and participation in the renovating and equipping of the LTC. This also involved the adoption of clear terms of reference for the LTC by the PLO.

The LSU successfully ran its first training sessions in two camps in September and October.

Dialogue on humanitarian norms with four Lebanese political parties deepens

Following initial meetings and workshops held in 2013, organized by PPM and Geneva Call with seven major Lebanese political parties, relationships with four of them—the FPM, Kataeb, LF and PSP—developed through discussions and training events. However, political turmoil imposed delays for the implementation of the work plan and led to postponements of events and workshops.

Nevertheless, a one-day workshop for each political party—two in 2013, two in 2014—involved party managers and lawyers, youth organization leaders and party-affiliated media. Using the outcomes of the 2013 workshops, the 2014 workshops focused on suggestions for disseminating and fostering dialogue on humanitarian norms and especially on the issues of refugees and children used in hostilities, as well as on the protection of women, by key actors and groups.

The 10 most senior Sunni religious leaders discuss humanitarian norms for the protection of civilians in armed conflict and other situations of violence and express their support for Geneva Call's humanitarian work

In March, at the invitation of the Swiss Ambassador to Lebanon, the 10 most senior Sunni religious leaders—including the five Muftis and the Head of the Higher Islamic Shari'a Council—and Geneva Call discussed issues related to the protection of civilians in armed conflict and other situations of violence. The participants also learned about the Geneva Call campaign entitled [Fighter not Killer](#) and its activities in Lebanon and Syria. The religious leaders welcomed Geneva Call's initiatives and expressed their readiness to facilitate the organization's humanitarian work in Lebanon.

Trainings and other events – Summary table

Type	No.	Content	ANSAs CSOs/CBOs	Partners	Participants	Female participants
Training of trainers	2	Humanitarian norms and methodology	1		6	2
Training for political party cadres	2	Humanitarian norms and their dissemination	2		27	
Training for fighters (implemented by the LSU)	2	Humanitarian norms	1		20	
Training for CSOs/CBOs	1	Humanitarian norms	1		10	
TOTAL	7				63	2

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Since 2011, Geneva Call has been raising awareness about existing humanitarian norms among the ANSAs operating in the Syrian armed conflict. Its priority targets are the Free Syrian Army, its affiliated brigades and supporters, Kurdish ANSAs and the Islamic Front. Meetings and trainings contribute directly to promoting and, once signed, implementing *Deeds of Commitments*. A broad public communication campaign supports these efforts. Activities are carried out on Syrian territory and in neighbouring countries.

EXPENSES IN CHF

Total 348,680

The Syrian armed conflict continued to escalate and polarization along sectarian lines increased. There was heavy fighting among more than 100 ANSAs and brigades, grouped into five major coalitions: the Al-Nusra Front; the FSA brigades; the Islamic State (also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria); the Kurdish YPG-YPJ; and the IA/IF. Every one of the forces present on the battlefield—whether government forces or ANSAs—have been accused of grave violations of IHL.

ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine ban	Child protection	Gender issues	Humanitarian norms
Democratic Self-Administration in Rojava/People's Protection Units/Women's Protection Units	YPG-YPJ	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	new
Hazzm Movement/Free Syrian Army & affiliated factions	Hazzm/FSA	✓✓	new	✓✓	new
Islam Army (Jaysh al-Islam) & other Islamic Front affiliated factions	IA/IF	new	new	new	new
✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed	✓✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed in 2014	ANSA engaged on thematic area (new = new in 2014)			

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2014:

- ▶ 2 ANSAs (Hazzm/FSA and YPG-YPJ) signed *Deeds of Commitment*, banning AP mines and prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination, respectively
- ▶ the YPG-YPJ also signed the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict and immediately demobilized 149 of them from their ranks
- ▶ the IA/IF and other ANSAs jointly prepared a draft statement with 15 key IHL rules and their congruence with Islamic law to be respected in armed conflict
- ▶ around 170 representatives of ANSAs attended training sessions on humanitarian norms provided at the Afaq Academy by instructors initially trained by Geneva Call in 2013
- ▶ 269 representatives of ANSAs and CSOs/CBOs, including 25 female CSO representatives, attended 17 training sessions on humanitarian norms and the *Deeds of Commitment*, organized with partners
- ▶ 28 members of the Democratic Self Administration in Rojava's police force were trained on humanitarian norms and internationally recognized standards governing security and law enforcement operations
- ▶ work with the Syrian Islamic Council directly helped to foster an environment conducive to raising awareness among ANSAs and CSOs/CBOs of humanitarian norms and their congruence with Islamic law
- ▶ as part of the *Fighter not Killer* campaign, videos on key rules of IHL were viewed hundreds of thousands of times on social media, including the Facebook pages and websites of various organizations

CONTEXT

The Syrian armed conflict continued to escalate and polarization along sectarian lines increased. There was heavy fighting among more than 100 ANSAs and brigades, grouped into several coalitions for coordinating their operations against the government and other opponents. By the end of 2014, five major coalitions were identifiable: the Al-Nusra Front; the FSA brigades; the Islamic State (IS, also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria); the Kurdish YPG-YPJ; and the IF. Every one of the forces present on the battlefield—whether government forces or ANSAs—have been accused of grave violations of IHL. Killings, the use of children in hostilities, abductions, summary executions and torture were reported daily; thousands of families were seeking news about their missing relatives; and millions of people were internally displaced or refugees, mainly in neighbouring countries.

According to reliable sources, at the beginning of the armed conflict, none of the ANSAs involved had ever had the opportunity to be trained on IHL.

OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Logic of intervention

Since late 2011, Geneva Call has engaged with ANSAs both inside and outside the Syrian Arab Republic (hereafter Syria). Despite increased government limitations and difficulties entering the country, some activities continued to be carried out inside Syria during 2014.

Geneva Call aimed primarily to contribute to improved knowledge and respect for humanitarian norms. This was done by targeting ANSAs about helping to ensure the protection of civilian populations. The ANSAs directly targeted included FSA brigades and the Kurdish YPG-YPJ, whereas members of the IF were—as a first step—mainly targeted indirectly. Through direct dialogue and training sessions, ANSAs were encouraged to sign and enforce *Deeds of Commitment*. Influential civil society organizations, such as the Syrian Islamic Council, the Syrian National Coalition or Kurdish political parties, with which Geneva Call also engaged, participated in those efforts.

Together with consultants specialized in IHL, Geneva Call developed relations and worked with local and international partners, such as the [Afaq Academy](#), the Qatar Red Crescent, the [Syrian Legal Development Programme](#) (SLDP) and the [Syrian International NGO Forum](#) (SIRF), as well as with other legal and human rights initiatives. Thanks to the training of trainers carried out by Geneva Call and its consultants in 2013, these partners had managed to increase their capacity to promote humanitarian norms.

Geneva Call and the ICRC maintained regular communication about the complementary work they were able to achieve in this difficult context.

Landmines ban

Two ANSAs sign the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines

The Democratic Self-Administration in Rojava and the YPG-YPJ, which were the main military forces in the Kurdish-populated areas following the withdrawal of most government forces in 2012, signed the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines in June. Similarly, the Hazzm Movement, one of the FSA's major brigades, signed the same *Deed of Commitment* in October.

Child protection

YPG-YPJ signs and starts implementing the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict

In June, the YPG-YPJ committed to recording all the combatants in their ranks aged under 18 and to demobilizing them within a month. They also agreed to no longer recruit children under 18 and to sign the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict. This took place on 5 July. The *Deed of Commitment* was signed jointly by the YPG-YPJ and the Democratic Self-Administration in Rojava. A reservation was added concerning children between 16 and 18 who would become *non-militarily active* members, a new category, under the Rojava administration, but only on a voluntary basis. The YPG-YPJ demobilized 149 children from their ranks on the day of signature. They also started to integrate the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict into their internal regulations.

The demobilized children, mostly between 15 and 17 years old, joined educational centres—two for girls, two for boys—that would keep them away from hostilities. Some were able to be reunited with their families. Many of the children, however, did not see going back to their homes as a good option; armed operations, closed schools, family poverty, domestic violence, and their personal desire to join the armed forces made their safe and sustainable return unlikely. The lack of means for the reintegration of children slowed down the process in the centres.

In September, Geneva Call carried out a visit to monitor the signatories' respect of the *Deed of Commitment*. The Democratic Self-Administration in Rojava and YPG-YPJ confirmed that they had faced challenges in enforcing the *Deed of Commitment* as some children tried to re-join/join local military units, and felt obliged to do so because of the intensification in the fighting with IS. Constant fighting in the region of Kobane meant that Geneva Call could not carry out comprehensive field monitoring, despite allegations of boys and girls accompanying fighting forces. Nevertheless, YPG-YPJ commanders reiterated their willingness to comply with the *Deed of Commitment* and, therefore, the need for sustained efforts to prevent children under 18 years old from taking part in hostilities. Rojava's civil servants undertook routine field checks and one of their

representatives regularly shared information with Geneva Call about the implementation of the *Deed of Commitment*.

Gender issues

Two ANSAs sign the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination

On the day that Hazzm/FSA and YPG-YPJ signed the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines they also became signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination.

The YPG-YPJ disseminated the newly signed *Deed of Commitment* widely. Several of their members participated in training on the implementation of the *Deed of Commitment*. The legislative council of one of the three Cantons of the Democratic Self-Administration in Rojava, the Al Jazira's Canton, passed a law against gender discrimination and for increased women's participation in public affairs.

Women participate actively in training events highlighting their role in the protection of civilians during armed conflict

During a training event organized with the [Women's International League for Peace and Freedom](#) (WILPF), 25 women, representatives of Syrian CSOs, learned more about humanitarian norms and the role of women in the protection of civilians. The participation of women was also significant during training sessions for the Democratic Self-Administration in Rojava and the YPG-YPJ. More than half of the participants were women.

Humanitarian norms

The IF and affiliated ANSAs prepare a humanitarian statement

The IF and affiliated ANSAs, with the participation of the Syrian Islamic Council, prepared a humanitarian statement including 15 key IHL rules of behaviour that should be respected in armed conflict. This document was passed to their leadership for approval. Although it was reported as approved by the IF, the security situation delayed the formal announcement of its adoption.

Meetings and trainings encourage ANSAs to sign and implement *Deeds of Commitments* and to respect humanitarian norms

Eleven meetings with high-level representatives from relevant ANSAs and their CSO/CBO supporters contributed directly to the signature of *Deeds of Commitment*. Throughout 2014, Geneva Call contact and networking extended to many new ANSAs and CSOs/CBOs.

For example, initial meetings took place with the Democratic Self-Administration in Rojava, as well as with the IA, a member of the IF. In February, the [Geneva II Con-](#)

[ference on Syria](#) provided an opportunity to talk with members of the opposition delegation about the possibility of making a position statement on key humanitarian issues and calling on all the parties involved in the Syrian armed conflict to take the necessary measures to protect non-combatants, in conformity with humanitarian norms.

The training sessions contributed to persuading ANSAs and CSOs/CBOs to commit to respecting humanitarian norms, to helping ANSAs sign *Deeds of Commitment* and to ANSAs and CSOs/CBOs implementing them. These events targeted ANSA representatives, usually commanders, but also members of their political wings and key actors in civil society, including religious leaders and the media.

Although initially only 5 training sessions were planned for 50 representatives of ANSAs, a total of 11 sessions eventually trained 193 people—including 108 fighters, mainly commanders from the five major ANSA groupings. For example, over 45 officials from the Democratic Self-Administration in Rojava and the YPG-YPJ, including the Prime Minister and heads and members of the legislative and executive councils, attended a training to help them enforce the *Deeds of Commitment* signed a few weeks earlier. Similarly, 28 members of Asayish—the Self Administration's police force—attended a 3-day training session organized after it had approached Geneva Call requesting that programmes be developed to train its staff on the humanitarian norms and principles surrounding the use of force and firearms. Three high-level representatives of the IA attended a one-day presentation of Geneva Call and its *Deeds of Commitment*—this was a first.

Training events took place in Syria and in neighbouring countries, led by three experts in IHL/IHRL from the region and hired by Geneva Call. Cooperation with existing and new partners developed, such as with the Afaq Academy, SIRF and the Syrian Islamic Council. They contributed directly to fostering an environment conducive to raising awareness of humanitarian norms among ANSA military and political representatives. They notably helped discussions on the congruence of IHL and Islamic law: how to navigate between them and how to put them into practice alongside each other. This proved to be particularly important during a training session organized by the Qatar Red Crescent, with the participation of Geneva Call's experts in IHL, for members of the IF. This type of cooperation also multiplied the number of representatives from ANSAs attending training on IHL and IHRL. Around 170 members of various ANSAs attended training sessions at the Afaq Academy given by trainers previously trained by Geneva Call in 2013.

Geneva Call's public campaign *Fighter not Killer* promotes humanitarian norms

The dissemination of the campaign entitled [Fighter not Killer](#) continued through booklets and videos available on social media. It directly contributed to overcoming con-

straints on access in the field, differing levels of education within ANSAs and CSOs/CBOs and constant changes within/between ANSAs.

These videos—including three new ones about prevention of sexual violence, summary executions and indiscriminate attacks—were viewed thousands of times on social media platforms such as Facebook or YouTube

or the web sites of media (e.g. [Al Arabiya](#)), of Syrian organizations (e.g. the [National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces](#) and of Geneva Call.

Over 2,000 booklets on the same topics reached civilians and fighters in Syria thanks to the dissemination efforts of ANSAs, CSO/CBOs and other humanitarian organizations present on the ground.

Trainings and other events – Summary table

Type	No.	Content	ANSAs CSOs/CBOs	Partners	Participants	Female participants
Training for ANSA political leaderships	5	Geneva Call's <i>Deeds of Commitment</i> and humanitarian norms	5		85	33
Training for fighters	6	Geneva Call's <i>Deeds of Commitment</i> , humanitarian norms and principles of the use of force	5		108	18
Training for CSOs/CBOs	7	humanitarian norms, civilian protection, child protection, IHL and women's participation in protecting civilians	4	4	104	56
TOTAL	18				297	107

TURKEY

Geneva Call has been engaged with the People's Defence Forces/Kurdistan Worker's Party (HPG/PKK) on the AP mine ban since 2000, and on child protection, gender issues and humanitarian norms in general since 2008. Although Geneva Call does not have access to Turkey, meetings with the HPG/PKK take place elsewhere in the region and in Europe. This lack of access poses challenges for monitoring the HPG/PKK's compliance with the *Deeds of Commitment* it has signed. In order to overcome this lack of access, a specific monitoring process has been set up.

EXPENSES IN CHF

Total 92,981

The peace process between the government of Turkey and the HPG/PKK has progressed slowly since its launch in 2013, despite the legislative framework adopted by the parliament in 2014. Following the advances made by the Islamic State (also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) in northern Iraq, the HPG/PKK helped tens of thousands of Yazidi people escape attacks in the Sinjar area.

ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine ban	Child protection	Gender issues	Humanitarian norms
People's Defence Forces/Kurdistan Worker's Party	HPG/PKK	✓	✓		
✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed	✓✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed in 2014	ANSA engaged on thematic area (new = new in 2014)			

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2014:

- ▶ together with the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict, the HPG/PKK informed its members of the creation of a category of *non-militarily active* members from 16 to 18 years old
- ▶ the HPG/PKK provided these children with safer conditions and education in separate camps
- ▶ the HPG/PKK took steps to investigate allegations regarding the recruitment of children under 16 years old, in violation of the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict that it signed in 2013
- ▶ the HPG/PKK undertook mine/ERW clearance and requested help with the destruction of collected devices and for marking contaminated areas
- ▶ the PKK women's movement confirmed its willingness to make a unilateral declaration on its existing policies against sexual violence and gender discrimination and on its good practices
- ▶ 8 HPG/PKK training instructors, including 3 women, developed their knowledge of humanitarian norms during a four-day training session and practicing with specially developed manuals for internal training
- ▶ strong, permanent cooperation and capacity-building activities, notably with CSOs, helped strengthen capacities to monitor compliance with the *Deeds of Commitment* signed by the HPG/PKK

CONTEXT

In late December 2012, the Turkish government announced that it had initiated pre-peace talks with Abdullah Öcalan, the imprisoned leader of the PKK movement. On 21 March 2013, Öcalan called for a ceasefire and the complete withdrawal of HPG/PKK troops from Turkey as a precursor to peace negotiations. The HPG/PKK stopped its withdrawal in 2013 in response to what it saw as a lack of progress by the government. It maintains the ceasefire, however, with a few exceptions. After a first *democratization package* proposed in 2013, which did not respond to the HPG/PKK's demands, the government presented a new reform to push the peace process forward in June; this contained a legislative framework for the peace process and was approved by parliament. However, the pace of the peace process remained slow because of some clashes and the after-effects of the armed conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic (hereafter Syria).

Following the advances of the Islamic State (also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) in northern Iraq, the HPG/PKK helped tens of thousands of Yazidi people escape attacks in the Sinjar area.

OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Logic of intervention

The necessary monitoring of the HPG/PKK's compliance with both *Deeds of Commitment* continued—on banning AP mines and protecting children in armed conflict.

Although no new AP mines were reported used in 2014, the Kurdish-populated areas of Turkey remained particularly contaminated by mines/ERW as a result of dozens of years of armed conflict. This situation affects the daily lives of the population because very limited mine action has taken place. Likewise, little or no formal mine action has taken place in the contaminated areas under the control or influence of the HPG/PKK in Iraqi Kurdistan.

HPG/PKK fighters may also have been involved in violations of IHL during active combat operations, notably in relation to the Iraqi and Syrian conflict situations. To make sure that this does not occur in the future, it confirmed its interest in improving its members' knowledge about humanitarian norms.

Geneva Call believes that because of its network of contacts and its occasional coordination and cooperation with other ANSAs, the HPG/PKK can become a good example to other ANSAs regarding the AP mine ban, child protection and respect of humanitarian norms in general, as well as about the roles and protection it can afford to women.

Because Turkey does not recognize the existence of an armed conflict on its territory and thus the applicability of IHL, and because it is opposed to humanitarian actors

maintaining a dialogue with the HPG/PKK, working inside Turkey remained impossible. Geneva Call thus carried out most of its work in and from Iraqi Kurdistan—four missions in 2014—and in Europe. It also cultivated relationships with Kurdish CSOs abroad, particularly with Kurdish women's associations based in Iraqi Kurdistan, but also with representatives in other regions.

More recently, notably following a training seminar organized in 2013, contacts were also developed with a few Kurdish and Turkish NGOs, as well as with the media, all of which can contribute to monitoring and reporting on the HPG/PKK's implementation of the *Deeds of Commitment*. At a three-day meeting in November in Geneva, two representatives of [Mazlumder](#) (a neutral Islamic NGO), a journalist and Geneva Call discussed monitoring issues and how they could become partners in this task; this resulted in the preparation of a draft agreement.

Landmine ban

The HPG/PKK undertakes mine/ERW clearance

In relation to its implementation of the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines, the demining wing of the HPG/PKK, called HAW-PAR, reported many different activities and needs. It cleared and collected landmines and ERW, but also reported the need for more equipment and support for the destruction of what it had collected. It also stated that it would welcome more training on collecting data about the presence of mines/ERW and support for marking contaminated areas. Geneva Call will follow-up on these requests.

The HPG/PKK also provided Geneva Call with the necessary information for its compliance report on its obligations under the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines.

Contact continued between [Mine Uxo Impact Relief](#) (MIR), a local NGO involved in mine action, and Geneva Call in order to provide expertise to bring the HAW-PAR's mine-action efforts closer into line with internationally recognized standards.

Child protection

The HPG/PKK takes steps to investigate allegations regarding the recruitment of children under 16 years old

The priority issue in all four of Geneva Call's missions to Iraqi Kurdistan was investigating serious allegations regarding the HPG/PKK's non-compliance with the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict.

Mazlumder and an independent journalist helped to establish a list of the children concerned, with detailed information about them, their families, the circumstances of their alleged recruitment and developments since then. Geneva Call wrote to the HPG/PKK regarding this information. The latter reconfirmed its adherence to the

Deed of Commitment, but recognized that it may have faced some difficulties linked to assessing the ages of new recruits and slow communications.

Meetings with the HPG/PKK leadership in June, July and November brought further clarifications. The HPG/PKK presented the investigations which it had carried out following the allegations of non-compliance, as well as the various measures it had taken since the signature of the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict in 2013.

With regard to the allegations, the HPG/PKK reported that all its units had received the list of the children concerned, as transmitted by Geneva Call. Only a few of them could be found and those under 16 years of age were immediately released from their duties. After establishing contact with their families, some children between 16 and 18 years old were reunited with them, if they so wished. In view of the situation of flux along the borders, the aforementioned children could have joined various other forces or political organizations. At a high-level meeting during Geneva Call's November mission, the HPG/PKK recognized that some errors had occurred, but stated that corrective measures were underway. Their representatives confirmed these facts publicly during Geneva Call's Third Meeting of Signatories to the *Deeds of Commitment* in November.

The HPG/PKK informs its members of the creation of a category of *non-militarily active members* for 16–18-year-old children, hosted in separate camps with improved conditions

The HPG/PKK leadership reported the following actions regarding the implementation of the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict:

- ▶ the dissemination, to the public and its units, of new rules about a category of *non-militarily active* membership for children between 16 and 18 years old, after this proposal was adopted at the HPG/PKK conference in November 2013
- ▶ the camps for the children belonging to this *non-militarily active* category would become systematically better organized and the 16–18-year-old children would benefit from the development of an educational programme based on the material used in the [Makhmur refugee camp](#), including leisure activities

Geneva Call initiated visits to these camps for 16–18-year-old children. A first visit revealed what appeared to be a well-organized camp. It had a specific space for education and the children reportedly had access to medical care. Geneva Call representatives introduced themselves and spoke freely with the 50 boys and girls in the camp.

Gender issues

The PKK women's movement confirms its wish to make a unilateral declaration on its existing policies against sexual violence and gender discrimination and on its good practices

Several meetings with representatives of the PKK women's movement (the Kurdistan Women's Community, KJK) were necessary in order to clarify why a training session initially planned for its members—about how to integrate gender into peace negotiations—had to be cancelled. This resulted from misunderstandings between the different people involved in planning the initial training session, as well as the timing of events. The KJK representatives confirmed their strong interest in the women's movement continuing to work with Geneva Call on various issues linked to gender and to the protection of women and girls, such as training workshops, sharing good practices and the preparation of a declaration on existing policies against sexual violence and gender discrimination. Such a declaration would show that the HPG/PKK policy went further than the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination and would thereby justify why the HPG/PKK is not a signatory to the *Deed*.

Humanitarian norms

Eight HPG/PKK commanders in charge of training improve their knowledge about humanitarian norms in a four-day training session

In past years, discussions with HPG/PKK commanders had focused on how the HPG/PKK's internal policies and humanitarian norms might apply to different situations arising during hostilities and two training sessions had taken place. As a follow-up, the HPG/PKK expressed interest in further improving its implementation of IHL, particularly through the training it provides to its members.

A first four-day course took place for HPG/PKK training instructors in Iraqi Kurdistan in July. For most of the trainees, a set of humanitarian norms was new, although they knew most of their basic content as it was reflected in their code of conduct. As part of their training, participants compared their code of conduct with the 15 rules of behaviour in armed conflict for ANSA fighters that Geneva Call sets out as minimum requirements. Participants also deepened their knowledge of specific norms related to the Geneva Call's three *Deeds of Commitment*; they recognized the usefulness of the training, that it had improved their level of knowledge, and that further similar training for their peers would be favourable. In November, the HPG/PKK's top leadership confirmed the trainings' usefulness and its coherence with existing training mechanisms. It was therefore agreed that Geneva Call would prepare a refresher training for the same participants.

Sixty CSO members and students raise their awareness about humanitarian norms during a half-day information and discussion session

In the Kurdish region of Turkey, 60 CSO members and students raised their awareness about IHL and humani-

tarian norms specifically related to mines/ERW and child protection. They benefited significantly from this half-day information and discussion session organized by Geneva Call.

Trainings and other events – Summary table

Type	No.	Content	ANSAs CSOs/CBOs	Partners	Participants	Female participants
Training of trainers	1	humanitarian norms in general and those related to the three <i>Deeds of Commitment</i>	1*		8	3
Monitoring workshop/training for CSO	1	humanitarian norms and the implementation and monitoring of the <i>Deeds of Commitment</i> banning AP mines and protecting children in armed conflict	1	1	3	1
Half-day awareness-raising and discussion session for CSOs and students	1	IHL, humanitarian norms related to mines/ERW and child protection			60	25
TOTAL	3				71	29

YEMEN

Geneva Call began discussions on an AP mine ban with the Al-Houthi movement, Ansar Allah (Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi), in 2008. Activities developed slowly because of the situation in the country. With the support of other actors present in Yemen, Geneva Call's objectives are to facilitate mine action in the north and to engage with Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi on child protection and humanitarian norms. In parallel, it aims to indirectly influence the behaviour of ANSAs by working with women's CSOs. In view of the existing security constraints, Geneva Call works very closely with partners in the implementation of activities.

The situation in Yemen continued to be precarious. Despite the conclusion of a national dialogue conference in January, political and tribal-based fighting persisted throughout the country, opposing many ANSAs among themselves and to the Yemeni Armed Forces.

In August, the government's decision to remove fuel subsidies resulted in large protests. These were followed by violent fighting with Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi, which then took control of most of the government buildings in Sana'a and began consolidating their political power.

EXPENSES IN CHF

Total 23,657

ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine ban	Child protection	Gender issues	Humanitarian norms
Al-Houthi movement/Ansar Allah	Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi				
✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed	✓✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed in 2014	ANSA engaged on thematic area (new = new in 2014)			

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2014:

- ▶ Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi welcomed Geneva Call's engagement as a neutral intermediary for facilitating mine action, including humanitarian demining in the Sa'ada area
- ▶ Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi informed Geneva Call that they do not recruit and use children below 15 years of age and remained open to deepening the dialogue with Geneva Call on their child policy
- ▶ during a three-day workshop organized together with OHCHR, 17 women from 9 provinces across the country discussed their role in the protection of civilians and peacebuilding

CONTEXT

The situation in Yemen continued to be precarious. A national dialogue conference (NDC) concluded its work in January, producing a document which was to form the basis of a new constitution.

However, political- and tribal-based fighting continued throughout the country, notably with Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi, Salafi supporters, Al-Qaeda in the Arab Peninsula (AQAP), Ansar al-Sharia and the Al-Hirak movement in combat amongst themselves, and sometimes against the Yemeni Armed Forces.

In parallel to the fighting, Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi made alliances in order to oust the former Yemeni president's allies who still held key roles in the government. A series of military victories saw them advancing ever closer to the capital, Sana'a. The government's decision to remove fuel subsidies, in August, resulted in large protests followed by violent fighting, and Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi took control of most of the government buildings in Sana'a, thus consolidating their political power. Following a UN-brokered agreement in September, the newly designated prime minister failed to reach an agreement with the various political parties enabling him to form a government by end of the year.

Insecurity, the lack of basic goods and services—even water and electricity—and the alleged mismanagement of national resources regularly triggered countrywide protests.

OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Logic of intervention

Initial contacts with Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi came in 2008. However, with regard to the evolving situation and the difficulties of operating in Yemen, Geneva Call carried out a new analysis—during 2013 and at the start of 2014—of the opportunities and risks of engaging with them. In view of the country's widespread weapon contamination, the number of resulting casualties reported and the absence of any mine-action organization in the north, mines/ERW were considered to be an entry point for engagement with Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi. Child protection issues and respect for humanitarian norms would need to follow, in view of credible reports about Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi's recruitment and use of children and violations in the conduct of hostilities.

The analysis included desk work and contact with the Yemeni authorities, diplomatic representatives in Yemen, international and local organizations working there and Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi itself.

The government and other actors expressed their support for Geneva Call's engagement with Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi on mines/ERW, stressing the need for coordination between all the agencies involved in mine action.

Initial meetings with Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi showed simultaneous attitudes of openness and suspicion, confirming that time and patience would be necessary to build confidence with this ANSA. A meeting in Jordan in March, with a senior political representative, concluded that Geneva Call's engagement with Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi could be useful as an independent, neutral organization and facilitate mine action, particularly humanitarian clearance operations. After the meeting, the representative confirmed Geneva Call's invitation to travel to Sa'ada.

Geneva Call also considered the national dialogue as an opportunity for working with other partners; its aims were to raise awareness of the roles of women in peace processes and to help women identify and implement those roles. The dialogue thus provided a chance to come into contact with CSOs/CBOs from across country, which might initially support work with Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi and, later, potential engagement with other ANSAs in the south of the country.

In view of the poor security situation, Geneva Call's engagement in Yemen had to remain flexible, especially in to visa and travel constraints. Means of implementation, therefore, mainly included working with and via local partners and using telecommunications.

Landmine ban

Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi welcomes Geneva Call's engagement as a neutral intermediary for facilitating mine action, including humanitarian demining in the Sa'ada area

Several armed conflicts in Yemen since 1962 have resulted in large portions of the country being contaminated by mines and ERW. Ongoing armed conflicts have provoked new contaminations, sometimes on previously cleared land.

In the north, reports accused both the government—a State party to the AP Mine Ban Convention—and Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi of using mines. In their communication with Geneva Call, Houthi representatives denied using AP mines, but confirmed using anti-vehicle mines as well as IEDs.

They also expressed interest in mine action, particularly in MRE and humanitarian demining. Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi had in the past called upon and co-operated with the Yemen Executive Mine Action Center (YEMAC) for clearing certain areas in Sa'ada. However, YEMAC stopped such activities in October 2013 due to insecurity and accusations of partiality by Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi. The latter would welcome Geneva Call acting as a neutral intermediary between them and YEMAC, providing the necessary guarantees and facilitating the resumption of mine action in a transparent way.

Child protection

Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi informs Geneva Call that they do not recruit and use children below 15 years old

Credible reports, including the UNSG's report on children and armed conflict, have made allegations about Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi recruiting and using children. Verified information remained poor or non-existent.

In their communication with Geneva Call, Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi representatives denied recruiting and using children below 15 years old. They reported that in cases where children younger than 15 wish to join Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi forces, the recruiter responsible would call on the parents, asking them to keep their child at home. Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi representatives remained open to deepening the dialogue with Geneva Call on their child policy.

however, the various different levels of cultural constraints which these women face, often based on their geographical/tribal origin.

The participants carried out several tasks in groups. For example: they brainstormed about the main security concerns in their areas; they mapped all the actors relevant to the security situation; they discussed how they would like their community to have evolved in 10 years' time; and they thought about what actions they could imagine taking personally to progressively realize their vision.

All the women agreed that their main security concerns included: the multiplication of armed people and ANSAs; enforced disappearances (including hidden detention and extra-judicial killings); child recruitment; and violence against women, including rape, with no possibility of recourse. They had no inhibitions in discussing sexual violence, and how society hides those affected and even refuses to provide them with the necessary medical/psychological care.

While all the women agreed that they did indeed have a role to play at the local level, they also expressed worries that their position had weakened compared to before the current ongoing conflicts, notably because of decreasing levels of education and literacy.

Each participant committed herself to taking the outcomes of the workshop back to her CSO, and to consider how implementation might be adapted to her own environment. For its part, Geneva Call will consider how to support some of these CSOs in order to facilitate their activities with ANSAs.

Gender issues

Seventeen women from nine provinces across the country discussed their roles in the protection of civilians and peacebuilding

Seventeen women from CSOs based in nine provinces across the country participated to a three-day workshop held in partnership with OHCHR in Sana'a in December. The workshop focused on two main topics: sharing humanitarian norms and supporting women in increasing their contribution to civilian protection and peacebuilding. The diversity of participants' backgrounds led to comprehensive and lively discussions. It also showed,

Trainings and other events – Summary table

Type	No.	Content	ANSAs CSOs/CBOs	Partners	Participants	Female participants
Training for CSOs/CBOs	1	Gender issues	17	1	17	17
TOTAL	1				17	17

COMMUNICATION AND MANAGEMENT



Side event jointly organized with the Swiss government at the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence. June 2014, London. © Geneva Call

THIRD MEETING OF SIGNATORIES TO THE *DEEDS OF COMMITMENT*

From 17–20 November 2014, Geneva Call held its Third Meeting of Signatories to the *Deeds of Commitment* and gathered 70 high-level representatives of 35 armed non-State actors from 13 countries. One of the meeting's main objectives was to review the implementation of the humanitarian commitments the signatories have made. Representatives from ANSAs attended sessions on humanitarian norms, child protection, mine action and gender issues given by renowned academics and experts from UN agencies, the ICRC and NGOs.

During these sessions, ANSA representatives presented the progress which their organizations had made in implementing their commitments, but also the challenges they face. In the meeting's [final declaration](#), all the ANSAs present reaffirmed their willingness and responsibility to protect civilians in armed conflict and improve compliance with the "rules of war". Signatories to Geneva Call's *Deeds of Commitment* adopted a [specific declaration](#) in which they committed to fully respect and implement the *Deeds of Commitment* that they have signed.

COMMUNICATION

In 2014, Geneva Call continued to enhance its visibility to donors and stakeholders in western countries and in countries of operations. It further developed its communication tools in order to reinforce its position as a key actor in the negotiation of humanitarian agreements with ANSAs and to better support its activities in the field.

One year after its launch, the new website has more than 4,000 individual visitors per month, and more than 2,400 people are following the organization on social networks. Thirty-three news releases were posted on these on-line communication channels as well as being e-mailed to 3,100 contacts through Geneva Call's monthly newsletter. In 2014, new communication tools were used, including the production of an animated presentation video and leaflets presenting the organization in 4 languages.

To better support field operations, more than 10,000 illustrated booklets, as well as 712 posters in 12 different languages, were printed to disseminate humanitarian norms to ANSAs. The IHL mobile telephone quiz was finalized, with 28 scenarios covering topics such as tactics, the conduct of hostilities and weapons; a card game version was also printed.

Geneva Call was highly visible in more than 150 articles in local and international media outlets in Arabic, English, French, Spanish and Turkish.

THEORY OF CHANGE IN PRACTICE

From 2012 to 2013, Geneva Call undertook a review of its planning, monitoring and evaluation processes and subsequently adopted the Theory of Change (ToC) approach. This approach was used for the first time in 2014—from the planning process to the closure of yearly projects.

The ToC enables Geneva Call to conceptualize and analyse the big picture of how change happens in relation to a specific thematic area or a specific context (such as a country, a territory or even a project dedicated to a specific ANSA). Different ToC lay out the ideal pathways that Geneva Call envisions following in order to have the biggest overall impact in improving the protection of civilians in areas under the control of ANSAs or where they operate.

From the analysis of its use throughout 2014, Geneva Call has ascertained that adopting ToC processes ensures the coherence of the thematic approach across programmes. The tool improved internal operational planning and monitoring for project implementation. Furthermore, it supported external communication about Geneva Call's logic of intervention, especially for its existing and prospective donors.

However, to date, using the ToC in operational processes remains mainly a tool for conceptual thinking at the planning stage. Furthering its implementation and using it as part of a longer-term approach will enable Geneva Call not only to tighten the definition of its initial logic of intervention but also to improve its programmatic learning and impact evaluation.

HUMAN RESOURCES

In 2014, Geneva Call started to implement its new human resources policy. This includes measures to retain employees and develop their skills, such as a reengineering the organization's structure (new organizational chart), better job descriptions for each position, a new salary grid and the possibility for staff members to get specialized training. However, strict budgetary constraints imposed by donors and the objective of minimizing administrative costs make this last point difficult to implement.



Renovation of Geneva Call's new office in Chêne-Bougeries © Geneva Call

GENERAL

In 2014, Geneva Call reported a total income of CHF 3.9 million, compared to CHF 3.5 million in 2013. Grants and contributions from institutional donors amounted to 88% of this revenue. A significant portion of funding (CHF 2.5 million) for 2015 had already been secured by the end of 2014.

Expenditure also increased to CHF 3.9 million, compared to CHF 3.5 million in 2013. 88% of expenditure was focused on operations for the protection of civilians in 16 contexts. The three contexts with the largest budgets were Colombia, Burma/Myanmar and the Syrian Arab Republic.

In 2014, Geneva Call's organizational processes were audited by one of its main donors, the [Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency](#). Overall, this audit was a success and the donor not only renewed its grant for the next three years but also multiplied its contribution by 2.5.

This success is a good reflection of the efforts that have been made since 2011 to enhance Geneva Call's organizational and financial processes, and even though Geneva Call's professionalization is an ongoing process, many improvements have been made.

As a side note, the rise of the Swiss franc in early 2015 increased Geneva Call's currency risk exposure as many of its grants are in Euro or other foreign currencies.

GENEVA CALL IS GRATEFUL TO ALL ITS DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

Geneva Call extends its sincere thanks to:

- ▶ the governments of Australia ([AusAID](#) and [Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#)), Denmark, France (through the [Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining – GICHD](#)), Germany ([Foreign Affairs](#) and [Institute for Foreign Affairs](#)), Italy (through GICHD), Liechtenstein, Norway and the embassies of Norway in Lebanon and Thailand, Sweden ([Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency](#)), Switzerland ([Directorate of International Law](#), [Human Security Division](#), [Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation](#) through Compromiso Humano) and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ([Foreign and Commonwealth Office](#)) and its embassy in Burma/Myanmar

- ▶ the European Commission ([Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department](#) through the [Swiss Foundation for Mine Action](#))
- ▶ the [City of Geneva](#), the communes of [Chêne-Bougeries](#) and [Lancy](#), [Fondation Hans Wilsdorf](#), [Foundation for the Future](#) (through the [Permanent Peace Movement](#) in Lebanon), [Loterie Romande](#), the [Republic and Canton of Geneva](#), the [Services Industriels de Genève](#) and the [UNMAS](#)

Geneva Call also thanks its private individual donors and those who have invested in Humanitarian Shares.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2014

(This report is a translation; only the French version of this report has legal validity)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2014

(with comparative figures for 2013, in Swiss francs)

BALANCE SHEET	Notes	BALANCE 31.12.2014	BALANCE 31.12.2013
CURRENT ASSETS		3,189,470	3,586,093
CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS	5	614,262	1,518,131
OTHER CURRENT ASSETS	6	9,290	28,266
RECEIVABLES	7	16,697	42,798
GRANTS RECEIVABLE	8	2,516,934	1,948,979
ACCRUED ASSETS	9	32,287	47,918
NON CURRENT ASSETS		52,294	39,363
FINANCIAL ASSETS	10	36,652	36,652
IT INFRASTRUCTURE	11	15,642	2,711
TOTAL ASSETS		3,241,765	3,625,455
CURRENT LIABILITIES		2,900,281	3,236,543
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	13	390,693	359,523
GRANTS RECEIVED IN ADVANCE	14	2,509,588	2,869,021
ACCRUED LIABILITIES	15	-	8,000
LONG TERM LIABILITIES		114,000	114,000
PROVISIONS	16	114,000	114,000
EQUITY		227,484	274,912
CURRENT YEAR RESULT		-47,428	6,018
ACCUMULATED RESULT BROUGHT FORWARD		24,912	18,894
RESERVE		200,000	200,000
CAPITAL		50,000	50,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES		3,241,765	3,625,455

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

(with comparative figures for 2013, in Swiss francs)

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS		BALANCE 31.12.2014	BALANCE 31.12.2013
INCOME	17	3,936,444	3,599,628
GENERAL DONATIONS		289,804	134,046
CONTRIBUTION FROM INSTITUTIONAL DONORS		3,167,157	3,206,831
CONTRIBUTION FROM PRIVATE DONORS		353,614	139,057
OTHER OPERATIONAL INCOME		125,869	119,695
EXPENDITURE	18	3,952,830	3,592,138
PROGRAMMES		2,673,699	2,156,435
DIRECT PROGRAMME SUPPORT		795,466	958,052
<i>SUB-TOTAL OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURES</i>		<i>3,469,165</i>	<i>3,114,487</i>
COMMUNICATION & MANAGEMENT		483,665	477,651
RESULT FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES		-16,386	7,490
REALIZED FOREIGN EXCHANGE LOSS		-9,422	-13,413
INTEREST INCOME		729	757
INCOME & CHARGES OF PREVIOUS YEARS		-22,349	11,184
MALAGNOU BUILDING REVENUE	21	979,426	63,910
MALAGNOU BUILDING EXPENDITURE		-979,426	-63,910
NET OPERATING RESULT		-47,428	6,018

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

(with comparative figures for 2013, in Swiss francs)

CASH FLOW STATEMENT	2014	2013
NET SURPLUS / DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	-47,428	6,018
./. DEPRECIATION	9,629	2,135
./. PROVISIONS	-	-
INCREASE / DECREASE IN OTHER CURRENT ASSETS	18,976	51,931
INCREASE / DECREASE IN RECEIVABLES	26,101	-37,593
INCREASE / DECREASE IN GRANTS RECEIVABLE	-567,956	-946,195
INCREASE / DECREASE IN ACCRUED ASSETS	15,632	-46,622
INCREASE / DECREASE IN ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	31,170	193,006
INCREASE / DECREASE IN GRANTS RECEIVED IN ADVANCE	-359,432	1,082,391
INCREASE / DECREASE IN ACCRUED LIABILITIES	-8,000	-
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	-881,307	305,071
FINANCIAL INVESTMENT	-	-21
IT INVESTMENT	-22,562	-1,548
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES	-22,562	-1,569
INCREASE / DECREASE IN LOAN	-	-
INCREASE / DECREASE IN EQUITY	-	-
CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES	-	-
INCREASE / DECREASE IN CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS	-903,869	303,501
CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,518,131	1,214,629
CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR	614,262	1,518,131
INCREASE / DECREASE IN CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS	-903,869	303,501

APPENDIX TO THE ANNUAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014 (IN SWISS FRANCS)

The appendix is an integral part of the financial statement

1. PRESENTATION

L'Appel de Genève / Geneva Call (Geneva Call) is a private, not-for-profit humanitarian organisation founded in 1998 first as a charity and later, in 2004, as a foundation under Swiss law, governed by Articles 80 et seq. of the Civil Code. It is headquartered in Geneva. It adapted its official name to the one it uses in 2014.

Geneva Call engages armed non-State actors (ANSAs) to protect civilians in armed conflict by promoting respect for humanitarian norms and building their capacity to implement these norms, in particular by signing the *Deed of Commitment* that aim to fully ban the use of anti-personnel mines, the recruitment and/or use of child soldiers, violence towards women during armed conflicts, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading forms of punishment or treatment.

2. ORGANISATION

The Geneva Call foundation is governed by statutes that were updated on 24 June 2014.

The supreme body of Geneva Call is the Foundation Board of Trustees. The term of this Board of Trustees lasts 3 years and is renewable.

It elects its own President, Vice-President and Secretary for a 3-year term.

The Board of Trustees conducts the overall administration, management and monitoring of Geneva Call. In particular it decides on general orientations, an action plan and Geneva Call's annual budget.

It approves the activity report and financial report, votes on annual statements, and considers all questions on the agenda.

The Board of Trustees appoints persons authorised to reliably represent the Foundation to third parties and determines their signatory power.

An auditor appointed by the Board of Trustees audits the annual statements of Geneva Call each year. BDO SA Geneva has been appointed as the auditor for the 2014 financial year.

3. ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES

a. Basis for preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of Geneva Call have been established in accordance with its statutes and the applicable provisions of the Code of Obligations.

The financial statements are prepared according to the historical cost principle and are presented in Swiss Francs. Figures are rounded to the nearest franc, which explains the differences of some totals.

The Board of Trustees approved the financial statements for 2013 of Geneva Call on April 04, 2014.

b. Assessment principles

Receivables are assessed at their nominal value, minus possible correction of values. Fixed assets are assessed at the historical cost, minus accumulated amortisations. Payables are assessed at their nominal value.

c. Scope of annual statement

The scope of Geneva Call's financial statements includes:

- ▶ The financial statements of the Foundation under Swiss law
- ▶ The annual statement of projects undertaken by Geneva Call, as well as projects managed by local organisations, which are legally independent of Geneva Call, but remain under its control.

In 2014 Geneva Call conducted 43 projects in 16 countries.

d. Conversion of foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are converted to Swiss Francs at the exchange rate in force at the time of the statement.

Transactions in foreign currencies are converted to Swiss Francs at the rate on the last day of the month preceding the date of transaction. The results of these currency conversions are included in the operating account for the financial year.

e. Fixed assets

Fixed assets held by Geneva Call are listed in the statement at acquisition cost. (Assets held by Geneva Call are considered fixed assets either for use as part of the activity or for administrative purposes with a useful economic life of more than one financial year).

As an exception to this principle, Geneva Call records all assets used directly in overseas projects of projects as expenses during the financial year. If these assets have a value, their duration of use is limited and their residual value is low.

This principle is justified by the fact that the contexts in which Geneva Call works are unstable, and it is difficult to reliably determine their duration of use and residual value.

f. Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated according to linear methods and divided by the duration of use of the fixed asset.

g. Income recognition

In general, income is recognised when it is certain that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will be received by Geneva Call and that they can be reliably estimated.

- ▶ Private donations are recognised in the operating account when they are received; as an exception, donations earmarked for a specific purpose by the donor are recognised in the year in which the operational expenses funded in this way are incurred
- ▶ Revenues from funding contracts signed with donors are recorded as income in the year in which the funded operational expenses are incurred, in order to respect the principle of correspondence of expenses and revenues.

Funding to be received is recorded when circumstances authorise its recognition as income for the financial year, when the amounts can be reliably assessed, and when it is likely that they will be transferred to Geneva Call.

The amounts collected or received for a specific project that have not been used at the financial year end and which will be used in the future years are registered under the heading "Grants received in advance", when there are contractual stipulations specifying the possibility of returning these assets to the donor.

4. TAX EXEMPTION

Geneva Call benefits from a tax exemption on its income and capital, according to Article 9, Clause 1, Letter f) of the Law on the Taxation of Corporate Bodies, as well as a reduction in inheritance and registration duties of 70% (except for registration rights relating to property actions and operations). Cantonal exemption was renewed on 14 January 2009 for a period of 10 years.

Direct federal tax exemption, according to Article 16, Clause 3, of the Decree on Direct Federal Taxation, is valid for an unlimited period. It was determined by a decision dated 26 September 2003.

5. CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS

CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS	31/12/2014	31/12/2013
CASH	15,181	8,205
CCP (POSTAL ACCOUNT)	31,871	501,863
BANK	566,806	1,007,663
SHORT TERM DEPOSIT	403	401
TOTAL	614,261	1,518,131

6. OTHER CURRENT ASSETS

This heading includes cash advances to partners in field for operation.

These advances are as expenses when the partners justify their expenditure.

This justification occurs monthly with the despatch of justifications for on-site expenditure.

7. RECEIVABLES

RECEIVABLES	31/12/2014	31/12/2013
DEBTORS	8,113	39,223
DEBTORS (STAFF)	8,488	3,185
DEBTORS TAX ADMINISTRATION	96	391
TOTAL	16,697	42,798

8. GRANTS RECEIVABLE

This heading includes:

- ▶ Donations pending receipt;
- ▶ Private funding pending receipt;
- ▶ Public funding pending receipt.

These receivables are, in principle, payable in the twelve months following the end of the financial year. Otherwise, they are payable according to contractual conditions, especially with regard to public and private funding.

GRANTS RECEIVABLE	31/12/2014	31/12/2013
SWEDEN, Swedish International Development Cooperation (SIDA)	1,681,017	4,138
REPUBLIC AND CANTON OF GENEVA	400,000	600,000
EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S HUMANITARIAN AID AND CIVIL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (ECHO) via the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (SFD)	188,402	370,128
SWITZERLAND, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), Human Security Division (HSD)	115,687	197,351
DENMARK, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)	53,480	108,920
OTHERS	42,882	934
UNITED KINGDOM FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH OFFICE	35,467	143,527
FONDATION HANS WILSDORF	-	375,000
CITY OF GENEVA	-	80,000
NORWAY, MFA	-	43,613
IVAN PICTET	-	15,000
FONDATION PEACE NEXUS	-	10,000
AUSTRALIA, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australia aid program (AusAid)	-	368
TOTAL	2,516,934	1,948,979

9. ACCRUED ASSETS

This heading corresponds to expenses incurred in advance.

10. FINANCIAL ASSETS

This heading corresponds to the rental guarantee for offices at the headquarters of Geneva Call.

11. IT EQUIPMENT

FIXED ASSETS	IT EQUIPMENT	Total 2014	Total 2013
GROSS VALUE 01.01	4,846	4,846	3,298
OUTGOING	-	-	-
ACQUISITIONS	22,561	22,561	1,548
GROSS VALUE 31.12	27,407	27,407	4,846
ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION AT 01.01	-2,135	-2,135	-
RECOVERY OF VALUE	-	-	-
DEPRECIATION	-9,629	-9,629	-2,135
ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION AT 01.01	-11,765	-11,765	-2,135
NET VALUE 01.01	2,711	2,711	3,298
NET VALUE 31.12	15,642	15,642	2,711

12. PENSION SCHEME

Staff members working for Geneva Call at the headquarters benefit from a professional insurance scheme in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Law on pension funds.

Insurance payments are managed by the Inter-Company Fund for Professional Insurance (CIEPP) with an insurance scheme known as "SUPRA": capital yields do not affect payments, and the final benefit is not guaranteed. The insurance plan is funded by payments by Geneva Call and its staff.

It covers the usual services of insurance: pensions, disability benefits and death benefits. The risks are insured by CIEPP; no information is available on specific assets relating to this insurance scheme.

A control by the Cantonal Office of Social Insurance on 25 September 2012 confirmed that Geneva Call is in compliance with the applicable rules in terms of social insurance.

13. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

This heading covers both suppliers used by Geneva Call for the acquisition of goods and services as well as current accounts of certain staff members and partners in field for operations.

14. GRANTS RECEIVED IN ADVANCE

Donations and funding received in advance correspond to amounts collected or received for a project which have not been used at the financial year end and will be used in future years, in accordance with contractual conditions for private and public funding.

GRANTS RECEIVED IN ADVANCE	31/12/2014	31/12/2013
SWEDEN, SIDA	1,681,017	-
REPUBLIC AND CANTON OF GENEVA	400,000	600,990
LOTERIE ROMANDE	256,664	471,067
DANEMARK, MFA	53,634	110,728
FONDATION SUISSE D'AIDE AUX VICTIMES	51,510	51,510
DFAT, COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA	35,334	-
NORWAY, MFA	16,201	173,095
SWITZERLAND, DFAT, HSD	15,227	61,692
FONDATION HANS WILSDORF	-	465,021
ECHO via the FSD	-	357,111
ANONYMOUS DONATION	-	251,824
UNITED KINGDOM FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH OFFICE	-	131,618
CITY OF GENEVA	-	80,499
AUSTRALIA, DFAT, AusAid	-	66,011
GERMANY, MFA	-	32,852
IVAN PICTET	-	15,000
TOTAL	2,509,588	2,869,021

15. ACCRUED LIABILITIES

Under this heading are the expenses to be paid mainly to suppliers.

16. PROVISIONS

The provision was constituted from 2005 at an initial figure of 120,000 CHF, rising to 264,000 CHF by the end of 2010, before year end. The Board of Trustees decided to reduce this provision to 174,000 CHF at the end of the 2010 financial year and 114,000 CHF at the end of the 2011 financial year, and this amount was retained for 2014

17. DETAIL OF INCOME

Geneva Call organises its income according to the following classification:

► **Private donations:** this represents funds collected from the public.

These donations are for specific projects if the donor explicitly requests this or when donations are collected for a particular cause.

PRIVATE DONATIONS	31/12/2014	31/12/2013
ANONYMOUS DONATION	251,824	81,510
IVAN PICTET	15,000	15,000
HUMANITARIAN SHARES	13,000	5,000
OTHERS	9,980	22,135
JEAN RENE CHRISTOPHE RICARD	-	10,400
TOTAL	289,804	134,046

► **Government contributions:** this is funding obtained on a contractual basis.

PUBLIC FUNDING	31/12/2014	31/12/2013
SWEDEN, SIDA	646,545	392,598
SWITZERLAND, DFAT, HSD, CORE CONTRIBUTION	500,000	500,000
SWITZERLAND, DFAT, HSD	446,465	647,630
NORWAY, MFA	347,807	539,384
NORWAY, EMBASSY (Burma/Myanmar; Lebanon)	235,938	36,036
REPUBLIC AND CANTON OF GENEVA	200,000	200,000
GERMANY, MFA	170,647	164,459
AUSTRALIA, DFAT	144,310	-
UNITED KINGDOM FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH OFFICE	117,253	11,913
CITY OF GENEVA	111,399	110,425
AUSTRALIA, DFAT, AusAid	71,591	181,597
LIECHTENSTEIN	60,000	59,995
DENMARK, MFA	54,622	87,197
UNMAS	51,099	88,054
CITY OF LANCY	9,480	18,960
NETHERLANDS, MFA	-	100,138
FRANCE, MFA	-	30,988
SWITZERLAND, DFAT, Directorate of Public International Law	-	30,000
CANADA, EMBASSY	-	7,458
TOTAL	3,157,157	3,206,831

► **Private contributions on a contractual basis:** this is funding obtained from private persons or institutions on a contractual basis.

PRIVATE FUNDING	31/12/2014	31/12/2013
ECHO via the FSD	331,567	12,945
ITALY, MFA via the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)	9,018	37,008
SERVICES INDUSTRIELS DE GENÈVE	7,000	-
FRANCE, MFA via the GICHD	6,029	12,164
FONDATION PEACE NEXUS	-	26,793
LOTERIE ROMANDE	-	50,148
TOTAL	353,614	139,057

► **Other income:** this heading covers all income registered during a financial year, especially insurance reimbursements.

18. DETAIL OF EXPENSES

Note 20 lists the expenses by type of expense.

► **Direct project costs**

The direct costs of projects cover all expenses directly linked to these projects as well as the costs of coordinating these projects at the headquarters.

OPERATIONS	31/12/2014	31/12/2013
AFRICA	506,920	457,405
ASIA	854,597	662,213
EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH AMERICA	1,312,181	1,036,816
TOTAL	2,673,699	2,156,435

► **Indirect project costs**

The indirect costs of projects cover all expenses incurred at the headquarters to lead, coordinate, assist and review projects.

Costs in 2014 include, in particular, the management of programmes with thematic coordination, operational communication, and the monitoring of operational finances.

SUPPORT TO OPERATIONS	31/12/2014	31/12/2013
OPERATIONAL COMMUNICATION & PUBLIC ADVOCACY	451,916	323,562
OPERATIONAL & THEMATIC COORDINATION	304,170	454,899
FINANCES, Human Resources & IT (OPERATIONAL)	39,379	179,591
TOTAL	795,466	958,052

► **Communication & management**

Under this heading are costs incurred at the headquarters for administration in general.

This covers in particular the president's expenses, institutional communication, IT management, human resources management and accounting.

COMMUNICATION & MANAGEMENT	31/12/2014	31/12/2013
COMMUNICATION & MANAGEMENT	483,665	477,651
TOTAL	483,665	477,651

19. REMUNERATION OF DIRECTORS

The managerial team is made up of the Executive President, Head of Operations, Head of Communication and External Relations, Head of Administration and Finances, and four directors in charge of four geographical regions.

20. STATUS OF EXPENDITURE BY TYPE

NATURE OF EXPENDITURE	OPERATIONS	SUPPORT TO OPERATIONS	COMMUNICATION & MANAGEMENT	2014
HUMAN RESOURCES	1,742,978	365,116	417,334	2,525,429
TRAVEL & ACCOMODATION	459,655	234,104	30,906	724,665
OPERATING COSTS AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	366,594	157,589	19,895	544,078
MAINTENANCE FEES	11,005	-	941	11,946
COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING	93,467	38,657	4,959	137,083
DEPRECIATION	-	-	9,629	9,629
TOTAL	2,673,699	795,466	483,665	3,952,829

21. NEW OFFICE KNOWN AS "LA GARANCE"

The renovation of the house was completed according to the planned schedule: in July 2014.

The move was normally performed on that date.

Some finishing completion work is underway and will be, reasonably, finished in 2015.

All expenses related to this project are brought into the operating account and the use of funds, CHF 979,426.

As a result of adopting a new organization (August 2014) the four regional directors are no longer, as in previous years, considered part of the team of Directorate.

The Executive President and the three Heads of Department form the Management Board of Geneva Call. They are registered in the « Registre du Commerce ».

SALARIES AND INDEMNISATIONS	2014	2013
GROSS SALARIES OF THE DIRECTORS (4)	523,728	513,530
RATIO BETWEEN HIGHEST AND LOWEST SALARY IS 1:2.17		

Geneva Call has a staff of 21.21 full-time equivalents (in 2013 – 18.47).

The members of board of trustee are non-remunerated functions.

22. EVENTS OCCURRING AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

Due to the abandonment of the floor rate by the Swiss National Bank (SNB), the current EURO / CHF fell sharply in January 15, 2015.

When preparing the annual accounts (status 17.03.2015), it is significantly lower than its value at 31.12.2014.

If this event was taken into consideration in the annual accounts for 2014, the result would be CHF 278,683 lower with the application of the conversion price in effect at the time of preparation of financial statements.

The origin of the current collapse occurred after the balance sheet date, the event was not recorded in the financial statements for 2014 in accordance with the legal principles governing the submission of accounts.

BDO LETTER



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Report of the statutory auditor on the limited statutory examination

To the Board of trustees

Appel de Genève/ Geneva Call, Geneva

(previously FONDATION DE L'APPEL DE GENEVE POUR L'ADHESION DES ACTEURS NON-ETATIQUES AU DROIT INTERNATIONAL HUMANITAIRE)

As statutory auditor, we have examined the financial statements (balance sheet, statement of operations and notes) of Appel de Genève/ Geneva Call for the year ended 31 December 2014.

These financial statements are the responsibility of the board of trustees. Our responsibility is to perform a limited statutory examination on these financial statements. We confirm that we meet the licensing and independence requirements as stipulated by Swisslaw.

We conducted our examination in accordance with the Swiss Standard on the Limited Statutory Examination. This standard requires that we plan and perform a limited statutory examination to identify material misstatements in the financial statements. A limited statutory examination consists primarily of inquiries of company personnel and analytical procedures as well as detailed tests of company documents as considered necessary in the circumstances. However, the testing of operational processes and the internal control system, as well as inquiries and further testing procedures to detect fraud or other legal violations, are not within the scope of this examination.

Based on our limited statutory examination, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the accompanying financial statements do not comply with Swiss law and the deed of foundation.

Geneva, 28 April 2015

BDO Ltd

Nigel Le Masurier

Licensed Audit Expert

Roland Loup

Licensed Audit Expert
Auditor in Charge

Appendix

Financial statements

TRAINING COURSES, ROUNDTABLES, FOCUS GROUPS, CONFERENCES

[Inter-Agency Standing Committee](#) (coordination of humanitarian assistance), Geneva, Switzerland, January 2014
Geneva Call was invited to make a presentation and discuss *Protection of Civilians: Is Engagement with Armed Non-State Actors an Option?*

[Group of Friends on the Protection of Civilians](#), New York, United States of America (hereafter United States), February 2014

Thanks to the Swiss Mission, Geneva Call was invited to present its work to this group of 15 UN member States.

[London Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict](#), London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (hereafter United Kingdom), June 2014

Geneva Call gave a presentation on how to engage with armed non-State actors to prevent and stop sexual violence in conflict, including the challenges and opportunities.

[Third Review Conference of the AP Mine Ban Convention](#), Maputo, Mozambique, June 2014

In discussions on the mine-ban process and during the drafting of official documents, Geneva Call shared information on its approach to the need to engage with ANSAs; it also organized a side- event on the use of new media for engaging with ANSAs.

[UNSC Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict](#), New York, United States, June 2014

Geneva Call shared information about its work on children and ANSAs.

[Health Care in Danger workshop](#), ICRC, Geneva, Switzerland, June 2014

Geneva Call was invited to make a presentation and discuss, *Promoting Operational Practices Consistent with the Protection and Respect of Healthcare to Non-State armed groups*.

[Watchlist on Children in Armed Conflict, workshop on child protection and peace processes](#), Princeton Club, New York, United States, June 2014

Geneva Call shared its experiences working with children and ANSAs.

[Expert meeting on improvised explosive devices](#), Chatham House, London, United Kingdom, September 2014

Geneva Call was invited to join a group of 40 experts gathered at Chatham House to explore how to effectively address the issue of IEDs.

[37th Round Table on current issues of IHL, Conduct of Hostilities: the Practice, the Law and the Future](#), International Institute of Humanitarian Law and ICRC, San Remo, Italy, September 2014

[Commission Nationale Consultative des Droits de l'Homme](#), Paris, France, October 2014

Geneva Call was requested to present its work on the protection of civilians during armed conflict and the respect of human rights by armed non-State actors.

[Meeting to identify issues concerning children affected by armed conflict](#), Paris Principles Steering Group, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, October 2014

Geneva Call was invited to contribute information on its experiences to the conference.

[15th Bruges Colloquium on International Humanitarian Law, Detention in Armed Conflict](#), Bruges, Belgium, October 2014

Geneva Call gave a presentation in a panel on detention by non-State armed groups.

[Geneva Centre for Security Policy](#), Geneva, Switzerland, November 2014

Geneva Call was requested to present its own specific approach to International Law and Non-State Actors to the participants of the International Training Course in Security Policy and in International and European Security.

[Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte](#), Berlin, Germany, December 2014

Geneva Call presented its work during the session *Bewaffnete Oppositionsgruppen und völkerrechtliche Standards* (armed opposition groups and international law).

[TEDx Place Des Nations](#), United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, December 2014

Elisabeth Decrey Warner, Geneva Call's Executive President, gave a speech at *TEDx Place Des Nations in Geneva* with other leaders of Geneva-based IOs. The talk can be viewed on <http://bit.ly/1Dpw7hO>.

Geneva Call participated in 16 international conferences and roundtables in order to share its experiences of engaging with ANSAs on humanitarian norms. These contributions helped Geneva Call to become a

more widely recognized actor in the humanitarian sector and to be better supported in its politically sensitive work.

Furthermore, in addition to contributions in its recognized fields of expertise, Geneva Call also participated in conferences on other themes such as *Health Care in Danger* and *Protection of Cultural Heritage in Armed Conflict*.

PARTNERS AND STAFF

Working groups and advisory boards

- ▶ Member of the [Centre for Peacebuilding](#)
- ▶ Associate member of the [Child Protection Working Group](#) (CPWG)
- ▶ Member of the CPWG [Child Protection Minimum Standards Task Force](#)
- ▶ Member of the Geneva-based Focus Group on Children and Armed Conflict
- ▶ Member of the advisory board of the [Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining](#) (GICHD)
- ▶ Member of the [Global Protection Cluster](#) (GPC) on Mine Action Area of Responsibility (AoR)
- ▶ Member of the GPC on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) AoR
- ▶ Member of the [ICBL](#)
- ▶ Associate member of the advisory board of [Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict](#) (Watchlist)
- ▶ Member of the Learning and Steering Group on Results-Based Protection of [InterAction](#)

Local partners

Africa

- ▶ [Association pour la Promotion Rurale de l'Arrondissement de Nyassia–Solidarité](#), Développement, Paix, Senegal
- ▶ [International Refugee Rights Initiative](#)
- ▶ Sahrawi Campaign to Ban Landmines, Western Sahara

Asia

- ▶ [DanChurchAid](#) (DCA)
- ▶ [Norwegian Peoples' Aid](#) (NPA)
- ▶ Mon Women's Organization, Burma/Myanmar
- ▶ Karen Human Rights Group, Burma/Myanmar
- ▶ Humanity Institute, Burma/Myanmar
- ▶ [The Liaison Office](#), Afghanistan
- ▶ Shan State Development Foundation, Burma/Myanmar
- ▶ United NGOs Mission Manipur, India
- ▶ [UNYPHIL Women](#), Philippines

America

- ▶ Asociación de Cabildos Indígenas del Pueblo Siona, Colombia
- ▶ Asociación de Cabildos Indígenas del Norte del Cauca, Colombia
- ▶ Cabildo Mayor del Resguardo de Yunguillo, Colombia
- ▶ Cabildo Mayor Awá de Ricaurte, Colombia
- ▶ Compromiso Humano, Colombia
- ▶ Escuela Laureano Inampué Cuantin de Derecho Propio, Colombia
- ▶ Unidad Indígena del Pueblo Awá, Colombia
- ▶ Red de mujeres excombatientes, Colombia

Middle East

- ▶ Afaq Academy, Syria
- ▶ Nashet Association, Lebanon
- ▶ Institute of Political and Moral Guidance for Palestinian National Security Forces, Lebanon

- ▶ [Permanent Peace Movement](#), Lebanon
- ▶ [Syrian Legal Development Programme](#), Syria
- ▶ Qatar Red Crescent

IOs and NGOs

- ▶ [Action on Armed Violence](#)
- ▶ [Amnesty International](#)
- ▶ [Child Soldiers Initiative](#)
- ▶ [Child Soldiers International](#)
- ▶ DCA
- ▶ [Global Coalition to Prevent Education from Attack](#)
- ▶ GPC AoR for: Child Protection; GBV; and Mine Action
- ▶ [HD Centre](#)
- ▶ [Human Rights Watch](#)
- ▶ [Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre](#)
- ▶ ICBL
- ▶ [ICRC](#)
- ▶ [Mines Advisory Group](#)
- ▶ NPA
- ▶ [Norwegian Refugee Council](#)
- ▶ [Swiss Foundation for Mine Action](#) / Fondation Suisse de Déminage
- ▶ [Swisspeace](#)
- ▶ [UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict](#)
- ▶ [UNDP](#)
- ▶ [UNHCR](#)
- ▶ [UNICEF](#)
- ▶ [UNMAS](#)
- ▶ [UNOCHA](#)
- ▶ UN [Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights](#)
- ▶ UN [Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict](#)
- ▶ UN [Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict](#)
- ▶ Watchlist

Academic Institutes, Research Centres, Universities

- ▶ [Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights](#)
- ▶ [Geneva Centre for Security Policy](#)
- ▶ GICHD
- ▶ [Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies](#), Geneva
- ▶ Harvard University, Harvard School of Public Health, [Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research](#)
- ▶ [International Peace Institute](#), New York
- ▶ [Sanremo](#)
- ▶ [Small Arms Survey](#), Geneva

Staff

- ▶ Amin **Brwa**, Programme Assistant, Middle East
- ▶ Mehmet **Balci**, Programme Director, Middle East
- ▶ Latifa **Benmou**, Caretaker
- ▶ Annyssa **Bellal**, Legal Adviser
- ▶ Sami **Ben Ayed**, Head of Finances and Administration

- ▶ Pascal **Bongard**, Head of Operations
- ▶ Maud **Bonnet**, Head of Communications and External Relations *ad interim*
- ▶ Tim **Carstairs**, Head of Communications and External Relations
- ▶ Marie **Coutin**, Programme Officer, Africa
- ▶ Elisabeth **Decrey Warner**, Executive President
- ▶ Adrian **Goodliffe**, Programme Director, Africa
- ▶ Laura **Green**, Assistant
- ▶ Gran **Hewad**, Programme Officer, Afghanistan
- ▶ Yvette **Issar**, Project Officer
- ▶ Armin **Köhli**, Programme Officer, Middle East
- ▶ Katherine **Kramer**, Programme Director, Asia and Thematic Adviser (Landmines)
- ▶ Aurélie **Lamazière**, Thematic Adviser (Gender)
- ▶ Taylor **Landis**, Programme Officer, Asia
- ▶ Myriam **Marcuello-Lopez**, Thematic Adviser (Children & Gender)
- ▶ Fred **Meylan**, Programme Director, Africa
- ▶ Reno **Meyer**, Programme Officer, Asia
- ▶ Eric **Ouannes**, Head of Operations (from December)
- ▶ Yazid **Ounnough**, Financial Controller
- ▶ Alexandra **Petersen**, Conference Organizer
- ▶ Mathilde **Roch**, Accountant
- ▶ Christopher **Rush**, Senior Programme Officer, Asia
- ▶ Carla **Ruta**, Programme Officer, Colombia
- ▶ Alessio di **Sanzio**, Human Resources and IT Officer
- ▶ Nicolas **Sion**, Communications and External Relations Officer
- ▶ Kim **Schautz**, Office Assistant
- ▶ Ann-Kristin **Sjöberg**, Programme Director, Latin America and Kurdish region
- ▶ Marion **Socquet**, Programme Assistant, Asia and Africa
- ▶ Jonathan **Somer**, Legal Advisor
- ▶ Youssef **Wehbeh**, Programme Officer, Middle East
- ▶ Annette **Willi**, Development and Fundraising Officer

The full-time staffing level in 2014 was the equivalent of 21.21 positions, as some staff worked part-time. During the year, some of the above staff ended their contracts and several new staff members joined.

Consultants and trainers

Me Abel, Wissam Al Saliby, Jamilah Ashkar, Imad Bleibel, Cate Buchanan, Hakim Chkam, Luis Ernesto Corredor Portilla, Rania Faza, Walid Ibrahim, Yehya Hajir, Osama Maatermawi, Iyad Nasr, Cynthia Petrigh, Antonia Potter, Nizar Rammal, Aisha Said, Khalil Salem, Delly Mawazo Sesete, Amal Shehabi, Jonathan Somer, William Manuel Vega Vargas, Carlos Arturo Velandia, Zaki Zaatari, Claudine Zbinder

The staff of Geneva Call's local partner in Colombia, Compromiso Humano: Yolvi Lena Padilla, Luz Marina Mora Chaparro, Carlos Alberto Guarín, Dora Alicia Villaquiran, Yesid Ariza Zambrano

Interns

Sophie Bobillier, Marketa Fialova, Kyle Holec, Fabien Kaufmann, Hiba Mikhail-Rizk, Agnese Sollero, Clotilde de Swarte

Volunteers

Sophie Martin Hobden, Marco Pedrazzini

Geneva Call would like to thank its staff, board members, volunteers and interns for their enthusiasm and commitment to the promotion of human dignity, and especially Sophie Martin Hobden for her work in drafting this annual report.



Demobilization of 149 child soldiers by Syrian Kurdish ANSA. June 2014, Syrian Arab Republic. © Geneva Call

HOW TO SUPPORT GENEVA CALL

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT GENEVA CALL, PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING BANK DETAILS:

Postal account in CHF (in Switzerland):

Fondation de l'Appel de Genève
17-695277-4
IBAN: CH76 0900 0000 1769 5277 4

For donations in other currencies:

Banque Cantonale de Genève
PO Box 2251, CH-1211 Genève 2
Fondation de l'Appel de Genève
SWIFT: BCGECHGGXXX
IBAN: CH30 0078 8000 0501 3648 0

DONATIONS CAN ALSO BE MADE VIA: <http://www.genevacall.org/donation/>

SUPPORT GENEVA CALL LONG-TERM FUNDING INITIATIVE ACTION HUMANITAIRE

Geneva Call also runs an initiative called Actions Humanitaires. This is a play on words as, in French, actions means both stocks and shares, and an action taken! Roger Pfund is an artist and designer of banknotes for many countries; he created Geneva Call's Actions Humanitaires, and the Atelier Roger Pfund helped to produce them. Individuals and corporations can now purchase a share in Geneva Call's humanitarian work, and help to protect civilians in armed conflict. Each share plays a role in saving the lives of the women, men and children who are innocent victims of wars and conflicts; each share is a fair and dependable investment in human beings, with a guaranteed humanitarian return. Humanitarian shares can be ordered for CHF 1,000 per share via <http://www.genevacall.org/donation/humanitarian-shares/>.

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