



APPEL DE GENÈVE  
GENEVA CALL

# ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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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.



Child in Idlib, Syrian Arab Republic ©Syria Freedom

## FIGHTER NOT KILLER QUIZ: A MOBILE APPLICATION ON THE RULES OF WAR

Can a hospital be targeted if the enemy is inside and targeting you? Can you enrol young people as combatants without ensuring that they are 18? Geneva Call's mobile application quiz is designed to test users on their knowledge of humanitarian norms.

The quiz has two levels of difficulty and 28 scenarios. Users are faced with true-to-life situations and questions related to assisting the wounded, the use of certain weapons, child protection, the conduct of hostilities or war tactics.

Disseminating the law of war to warring parties, and in particular to ANSAs, is essential to ensuring the protection of civilian populations during armed conflicts.



To download it:

<http://www.genevacall.org/mobile-application-rules-war/>

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

[www.theirwords.org](http://www.theirwords.org) is an online collection of commitments and policies made by 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](http://www.theirwords.org) contains over 500 online documents. It fills a gap in available resources and serves to better understand ANSA views on IHL and IHRL.

# FOREWORD

2015 was marked by a number of different political, conflict-related and financial upheavals that also affected Geneva Call efforts to implement its operational plans. These unexpected changes created the contradictions evident in this annual report.

In fact, Geneva Call's expertise in its core themes has been increasingly called upon in international fora, and its know-how has been sought on new themes such as *Health Care in Danger* and the *Protection of Cultural Heritage in Armed Conflict*. It has also pursued its work on defining a logic of intervention aimed at armed non-State actors (ANSAs) on the protection of displaced people and on potential new tools for engaging those groups. In order to meet the urgent needs developing in re-emerging conflicts, Geneva Call has opened new programmes in Iraq and South Sudan. It also assessed its potential to add value by developing a programme in Mali. However, concurrently, the programmes in Yemen and Afghanistan had to be frozen due to a lack of funding, and Geneva Call had difficulties maintaining support for other programmes in areas where humanitarian needs were still significant but where the international community's attention was decreasing.

Despite the challenges in 2015, Geneva Call worked in 19 contexts, engaging with 61 active ANSAs and encouraging them to move towards compliance with humanitarian norms. In addition to improvements to their internal codes of conduct, 8 *Deeds of Commitment* were signed by 5 separate ANSAs. 1'537 leaders, fighters, training instructors and representatives from ANSAs, local communities and authorities attended awareness raising sessions and were trained on humanitarian norms. Geneva Call continued to accompany and monitor the implementation of all the *Deeds of Commitment* signed by the 31 signatory ANSAs which remain active.

Throughout 2015, Geneva Call received a number of awards for its unique work.

All of these achievements would have been impossible without its dedicated, enthusiastic staff and local partners, as well as the full commitment of its Board of Trustees and Advisory Board. We would like to thank them all warmly, for despite financial constraints and occasional political difficulties they keep working towards our primary objective: better protection of civilians in armed conflict.

We are also very grateful to Geneva Call's donors for their constant support and trust as they accompany Geneva Call's sustainable development and the implementation of 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 to a Total Ban on 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

<b>I</b>	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. Further 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
<b>M</b>	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
<b>N</b>	NGO	non-governmental organization
	OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>O</b>	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.
<b>S</b>	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
<b>U</b>	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.
	UN	United Nations
	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
	UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

## ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

	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.
	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
<b>W</b>	weapon contamination	pollution by landmines, cluster munitions and other ERW
	WHO	World Health Organization



# GENEVA CALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015



Training session for combatants of a Syrian armed non-State actors © Geneva Call

- ▶ Geneva Call worked in 19 contexts, where it engaged with 61 active armed non-State actors (ANSAs), encouraging them to move towards compliance with humanitarian norms; 8 *Deeds of Commitment* have been signed by 5 ANSAs
- ▶ Geneva Call notably resumed concrete field activities in Iraq in order to reply to the conflict escalation
- ▶ 1537 leaders, fighters, trainers, representatives from local communities or authorities attended training sessions on humanitarian norms or other thematic issues through 84 training sessions and workshops
- ▶ Geneva Call accompanied and monitored the implementation of the *Deeds of Commitment* with each of the 31 still active signatory ANSAs in 2015

#### Geneva Call also:

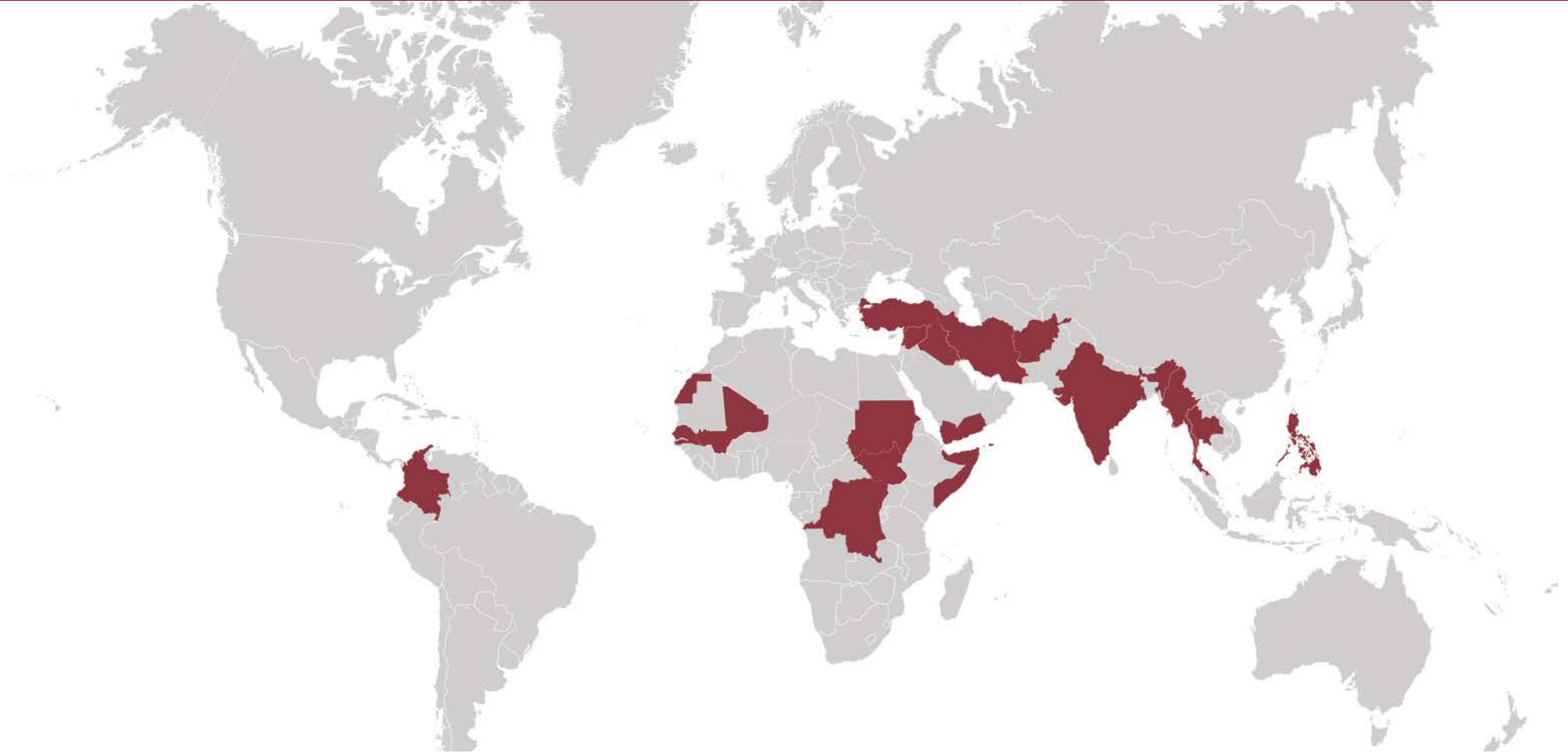
- ▶ continuously kept its responsive and informative communication tools up to date, notably continuing to develop its *Fighter not Killer* media campaign
- ▶ constantly highlighted in international fora the increasing need for greater means and resources for humanitarian engagement with ANSAs
- ▶ strengthened its position as a leader in sustainable engagement with ANSAs on humanitarian norms

#### 2015 EXPENSES BY THEME AND REGION (IN CHF)

	Africa	Asia	Latin America	Middle East and Europe	Operational Support	Overheads*	Total
Landmine ban	95'919	261'250	155'423	93'819	133'964	102'042	842'416
Child protection	224'154	116'847	92'889	144'906	224'636	101'577	905'009
Gender issues	211'190	214'313	117'342	63'507	130'565	101'651	838'567
Humanitarian norms	117'837	108'914	47'886	654'191	287'323	101'219	1'317'370
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>649'101</b>	<b>701'324</b>	<b>413'540</b>	<b>956'422</b>	<b>776'487</b>	<b>406'489</b>	<b>3'903'362</b>

\*for communication, fundraising, and management

**GENEVA CALL WORKED ON FOUR THEMATIC AREAS IN 19 CONTEXTS, WHERE IT ENGAGED WITH 61 ACTIVE ANSAs**



Africa	Asia	Middle East and Europe	Total of ANSAs engaged on			
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Afghanistan	Iraq	<b>Landmine ban</b>	<b>Child protection</b>	<b>Gender issues</b>	<b>Humanitarian norms</b>
Mali	Burma/Myanmar	Islamic Republic of Iran	43	40	34	30
Senegal	India	Lebanon	<b>Total of active ANSAs signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i></b>			
Somalia	Philippines	Syrian Arab Republic	26	17	14	
South Sudan	Thailand	Turkey	<b>of which became new signatories in 2015</b>			
Sudan	<b>Latin America</b>	Yemen	1	4	3	
Western Sahara	Colombia					

# LANDMINE BAN

Since its beginnings, three years after the adoption of the AP Mine Ban Convention in 1997, Geneva Call has been engaging with ANSAs on the landmine ban. It encourages ANSAs to sign the *Deed of Commitment for Adherence to a Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines and for Cooperation in Mine Action*; it also supports signatories in implementing 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 regarding humanitarian demining.

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

## EXPENSES IN CHF

Africa	95'919
Asia	261'567
Latin America	155'423
Middle East and Europe	93'819
Operational support	131'288
<b>Total</b>	<b>738'016</b>



Destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines. Western Sahara, March 2015 © Geneva Call



The number of ANSAs using AP mines has declined significantly over the past decade. Since 1999, the number of recorded casualties caused by mines/improvised explosive devices (IEDs)/explosive remnants of war (ERW) has also continued to decrease. However, it increased by 12% between 2013 and 2014, with a worldwide total of 3,678 recorded casualties, of whom 80% were civilians and nearly 40% were children.

In 2015, Geneva Call engaged with 43 ANSAs on landmine ban issues in 13 contexts. By the end of 2015, 26 active ANSAs were signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines and had started or were continuing its implementation. Other ANSAs showed readiness to limit their use of AP mines or to facilitate mine action in areas under their control.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2015:

- ▶ 1 ANSA in Iran, the Kurdistan Freedom Party (PAK), signed the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines (hereafter *Deed of Commitment*)
- ▶ most of the 26 active ANSAs signatory to the *Deed of Commitment* provided information and reports on their implementation measures (such as dissemination, training sessions, enforcement measures and cooperation on mine action), and Geneva Call continued to monitor their compliance with the *Deed of Commitment* (through direct and indirect sources).
- ▶ Other non-signatory groups that Geneva Call engages with on this topic in Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, India and Syria have shown interest in learning more on this topic and some of them facilitated humanitarian demining activities.
- ▶ In compliance with its obligations under the *Deed of Commitment*, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro (Polisario Front) destroyed another stockpile of AP mines in March 2015. Since its signature in 2005, this movement has now destroyed more than 13,000 AP mines under Geneva Call's supervision. The Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) dismantled 211 stockpiled AP mines with the support of a technical expert brought in by Geneva Call. This was a first step towards the total destruction of the SPLM-N's stockpiles following its signature to the *Deed of Commitment* in 2013. The Democratic Self-Administration (DSA) in Rojava and the People's Protection Units/Women's Protection Units (YPG-YPJ) provided information about how they had complied with their obligations under the *Deed of Commitment*, such as demining in Kobane and the destruction of IEDs and booby traps found after retaking this city from the Islamic State group (ISg, also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria).
- ▶ 715 representatives of ANSAs and/or CSOs/CBOs, of whom 33 were women, attended 38 training courses addressing landmine ban issues, sometimes in conjunction with other topics, in Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Iran, Sudan, Syria, Thailand and Turkey
- ▶ in several contexts, CSOs/CBOs contributed directly to: monitoring signatories' compliance with the *Deed of Commitment* (e.g. Burma/Myanmar, India, Sudan and Turkey); engaging with ANSAs to limit or ban the use of mines; and facilitating humanitarian demining (e.g. Burma/Myanmar and Colombia)
- ▶ lack of funding forced Geneva Call to postpone planned activities in Yemen

## CONTEXT/PROBLEM STATEMENT

In parallel to the results of State engagement on the AP mine ban over the last 18 years, progress on engaging with ANSAs has been significant. The number of ANSAs using AP mines or IEDs has substantially declined in the past decade. However, it recently increased again. According to [Landmine Monitor 2015](#), ANSAs were reportedly using AP mines in 10 countries: Afghanistan, Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, Iraq, Libya, Pakistan, the Syrian Arab Republic (hereafter Syria), Tunisia, Ukraine and Yemen. The last time the Monitor reported that ANSAs were using AP mines in 10 or more countries was 2006.

The number of recorded casualties caused by mines/IEDs/ERW increased by 12% between 2013 and 2014. A worldwide total of 3,678 casualties were recorded, of whom 80% were civilians and nearly 40% were children. Nevertheless, 2014 still had the second lowest annual total of mine/ERW casualties recorded since 1999. One factor which influenced the 2014 increase was more extensive data collection, particularly in Burma/Myanmar.

ANSAs also reportedly produced AP mines, mostly in the form of victim-activated IEDs, in seven countries—Afghanistan, Colombia, Iraq, Burma/Myanmar, Pakistan, Syria and Tunisia.

## OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### Logic of intervention

Victim activated AP mines do not discriminate between civilians and combatants. In addition to the human cost, AP mines have a huge social and economic impact and hamper essential services such as healthcare and education. AP mines are a weapon of choice for ANSAs because they are cheap and easy to manufacture and transport. Thus, it was essential to work with ANSAs to make the ban on these weapons effective. Geneva Call continued or began a dialogue on this issue with most of the ANSAs concerned, and it helped those that have agreed to renounce AP mines to comply with their commitments. Geneva Call encouraged them to sign the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines, supported and monitored their implementation, and facilitated and helped ANSAs carry out mine-action activities, thereby reducing the impact of these weapons on civilian populations.

As part of Geneva Call's operational support activities, all the work carried out across various contexts and themes was analysed, and together these analyses contributed to improving the organization's efficiency in the mid to long term.

2015 expected achievements and achievements

OVERALL IMPACT	The threat of AP mines is reduced in areas where ANSAs operate
Expected achievements	Achievements
<p>➔ 2 new signings of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> bring the total number of active ANSA signatories to 28 (or, including inactive ANSAs, to 50)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Iran: 1 ANSA signed the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> banning AP mines (hereafter <i>Deed of Commitment</i>)—the Kurdistan Freedom Party (PAK)</li> <li>✓ India: Geneva Call worked with the National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khaplang (NSCN-K) towards the signing of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>, however this was postponed due to internal tensions and a split in the group</li> <li>✓ this brought the total number of active ANSAs signatory to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> to 26</li> </ul>
<p>➔ 4 other measures are taken by ANSAs towards the respect of humanitarian norms relating to the ban on AP mines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Burma/Myanmar: the Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army South (RCSS/SSA-S) expressed interest in deepening its engagement and cooperation on mine action. It requested a workshop to improve its members' understanding of humanitarian norms related to landmines (to take place in 2016)</li> <li>✓ Colombia: the National Liberation Army (ELN) showed a willingness to make progress on the facilitation of humanitarian demining. In 2 departments, 35 members of CBOs, CSOs and local authorities gained a new understanding of mine action and mine/ERW clearance operations as well as of their respective potential roles in this</li> <li>✓ Syria: the Islam Army (IA) developed in-depth dialogue with Geneva Call about the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> and expressed its readiness to sign it</li> </ul>
<p>➔ 10 new ANSAs are engaged with, bringing the number of active ANSAs working with Geneva Call on international norms relating to the ban on AP mines to 58 (including existing signatories of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 1 ANSA newly engaged with Geneva Call on the landmine ban: the PAK in Iran began engagement with Geneva Call and signed the related <i>Deed of Commitment</i> within the same year</li> <li>✓ this brought the total number of active ANSAs engaged with Geneva Call on this theme to 43, including 26 existing signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i></li> <li>✓ Burma/Myanmar: preliminary contacts were made with ANSAs with whom Geneva Call had not previously engaged but who were participating in the national ceasefire negotiations. Opportunities to engage with further ANSAs, such as the Arakan Army (AA) and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), were being explored</li> </ul>
<p>➔ 13 contexts of intervention: Afghanistan, Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran (hereafter Iran), the Philippines, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic (hereafter Syria), Turkey, Western Sahara and Yemen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Geneva Call worked in 13 contexts: Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, India, Iran, the Philippines, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, Western Sahara and Yemen. In some contexts the number of activities and the amount of follow-up necessary were significant. In others, the level of engagement was low, due to various constraints</li> <li>✓ Yemen: the Yemen Mine Action Centre expressed its support for a mine-action project. However, a lack of funding impeded the implementation of planned activities</li> </ul>
<p>➔ new opportunities for mine action open up in areas where targeted non-signatory ANSAs operate (in Colombia and Yemen)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Burma/Myanmar: the RCSS/SSA-S and SSPP/SSA-N explored different perspectives and ways of addressing the landmine ban issue in areas under their control/influence and in relation to the evolving peace process. Following awareness raising activities, carried out in part by Geneva Call, most ANSAs welcomed mine-risk education (MRE) as there was a growing realisation that</li> </ul>

	<p>communities deserved support in this area. MRE working groups were therefore set up in Kayah and Kachin states</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Colombia: the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia–People's Army (FARC-EP) signed a pilot humanitarian demining agreement. A first area was cleared of mine/ERW in the Antioquia department and demining operations that began in a second area will be continued in 2016. The ELN confirmed its interest in humanitarian demining in two departments (Nariño and Cauca)</li> <li>✓ Yemen: Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi movement/ (Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi) maintained its dialogue with Geneva Call and welcomed planned activities. The Yemen Mine Action Centre welcomed a project on humanitarian demining and MRE. However, due to a lack of funding, planned activities could not start in 2015</li> </ul>
<p>→ active signatory ANSAs take measures to implement their obligations under the <i>Deed of Commitment</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 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, training sessions, enforcement measures and cooperation in mine action). Geneva Call continued to monitor their compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> (through direct and indirect sources)</li> <li>✓ Burma/Myanmar: following credible allegations of the use of AP mines by the Taan National Liberation Army (TNLA), the military wing of the Palaung State Liberation Front (PSLF), this ANSA fully cooperated with the enquiries that Geneva Call launched. Although it denied any violation of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>, it agreed to a field verification mission aimed at producing clear findings about the allegations</li> <li>✓ India: the National Socialist Council of Nagalim-Isak Muivah (NSCN-IM) reported the dissemination of the content of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> to its combatants and was in the process of updating its disciplinary measures. The National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khole Kitovi (NSCN-KK) pursued its efforts to disseminate the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> to all its members, including via printing illustrated materials and monitoring visits to its camps to ensure compliance. In its compliance report, the Kuki National Organisation (KNO) described the measures it took to implement its obligations</li> <li>✓ Iran: all 7 signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> reported activities furthering the implementation of their obligations and submitted compliance reports or relevant information</li> <li>✓ the Philippines: monitoring of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front/Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (MILF/BIAF), the Revolutionary Workers Party of Mindanao (RPM/RPA) and the Revolutionary Workers Party of the Philippines/Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayo Brigade (RPM-P/RPA-ABB) showed that they had complied with their obligations as signatories. It should be noted that the RPM/RPA and RPM-P/RPA-ABB were no longer militarily active at the end of 2015</li> <li>✓ Somalia: monitoring of the remaining active signatories compliant with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> continued. In the self-declared Republic of Somaliland (hereafter Somaliland), since facilitating the <i>de facto</i> authorities' adoption of mine-ban legislation in 2009, Geneva Call has monitored its implementation. In both the semi-autonomous region of Puntland (hereafter Puntland) and in Somaliland, mine action continued via the Puntland Mine Action Centre and Somaliland Mine Action Centre. This included all types of activities: marking and clearing contaminated areas, destroying AP mines and ERW and conducting MRE</li> <li>✓ Sudan: the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) reported on measures taken to fulfil its obligations to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> and confirmed its willingness to destroy 2 AP mines stockpiles. As a first step, it dismantled 211 stockpiled AP mines with the support of a technical expert brought in by Geneva Call</li> <li>✓ Syria: the Democratic Self-Administration (DSA) in Rojava and the People's Protection Units/Women's Protection Units (YPG-YPJ) provided information about how they had complied with their obligations under the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> (such as demining in Kobane and the destruction of IEDs and booby traps found after retaking this city from ISg and facilitating mine ac-</li> </ul>

	<p>tion) and started to prepare a compliance report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Turkey: the People's Defence Forces/Kurdistan Worker's Party (HPG/PKK) provided Geneva Call with the necessary information concerning its compliance with its obligations. The HPG/PKK's demining wing (HAW-PAR) provided pictures and videos about the landmines and ERW it had marked and collected in contaminated areas, to facilitate and prepare their destruction</li> <li>✓ Western Sahara: after the destruction of about 3,000 AP mines, the Polisario Front announced an additional stockpile of 7,485 units. The real number of mines in the remaining stockpile could not be verified</li> </ul>
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<b>OUTCOME 1</b>		<b>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</b>
<b>Expected achievements</b>	<b>Achievements</b>	
→ analysis of the conflict situation, ANSA profiles and strategies for engagement with them are defined for each programme context	✓ the evolution of armed conflicts in different contexts was regularly analysed and strategies and programmes were updated accordingly (e.g. in India, Iraq, Mali, Philippines, Senegal and South-Soudan)	
→ new opportunities for engagement arise, particularly in India, Syria and Yemen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Burma/Myanmar: several ANSAs that were not yet signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> deepened their understanding of the AP mine ban, including: the Karenni National progressive Party/Karenni Army (KNPP/KA); the Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army (KNU/KNLA); the Karen National Union Peace Council/Karen National Liberation Army Peace Council (KNU-PC/KNLA-PC); the New Mon State Party/Mon National Liberation Army (NMSP/MNLA); the Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army South (RCSS/SSA-S); and the Shan State Progressive Party/Shan State Army North (SSPP/SSA-N). Preliminary contacts were made with ANSAs participating in the national ceasefire negotiations that had not yet been previously engaged with. Opportunities to engage with other ANSAs, such as AA and the MNDAA, were explored</li> <li>✓ Yemen: the Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi once again confirmed that Geneva Call was welcome to support humanitarian mine action; the Yemen Mine Action Centre expressed its support for a project on humanitarian demining and MRE. However, a lack of funding impeded the implementation of activities</li> </ul>	
→ up to 7 new ANSAs agree to start a dialogue with Geneva Call	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 1 ANSA agreed to start a dialogue with Geneva Call on AP mines: the PAK in Iran began engagement with Geneva Call and signed the related <i>Deed of Commitment</i> within the same year</li> <li>✓ Geneva Call raised the awareness of affiliate groups of the PMF in Iraq on this issue and they expressed interest in continuing the dialogue. The interest in such a dialogue was also shared by the ZUF in India and Ahrar al-Sham in Syria but it didn't start in 2015</li> <li>✓ this brought the number of active ANSAs working with Geneva Call on this theme to 43, including signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i></li> </ul>	
<b>OUTCOME 2</b>		<b>ANSAs are aware of international norms relating to the ban on AP mines and have the knowledge to respond to this issue</b>
<b>Expected achievements</b>	<b>Achievements</b>	
→ 15 awareness raising workshops are organized during the year with ANSA members	✓ 33 training sessions and workshops were organized, often co-organized with Geneva Call partners, addressing landmine ban issues	

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from Colombia, Iran, Sudan, Syria, Turkey and Western Sahara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ dozens of awareness raising meetings also took place with ANSA representatives in order to foster their knowledge of landmine ban issues, including mine action. In Colombia, for example, meetings took place with leaders from the ELN and FARC-EP; in Burma/Myanmar, significant dialogue took place with the representatives of six ANSAs—the KNPP/KA, KNU/KNLA, KNU-PC/KNLA-PC, NMSP/MNLA, RCSS/SSA-S and SSPP/SSA-N and PSLF/TNLA; and in Sudan, discussions were held with the SPLM-N</li> </ul>
→ approximately 250 members of ANSAs attend workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ all of the 28 workshops and training events targeted ANSA commanders and fighters, legal advisers and political leaders in or from DRC, Iran, and Syria. There were 603 participants in total, of whom 7 were women</li> <li>✓ 51 trainers, of whom 7 were women, also benefited from training during 5 events held in Syria, Thailand and Turkey or in neighbouring countries</li> </ul>
→ ANSAs undertake new mine-action activities in Burma/Myanmar, Colombia and Sudan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Burma/Myanmar: most ANSAs welcomed MRE as there was a growing realisation that communities deserved support in this area. MRE working groups were set up in Kayah and Kachin States. The KNU/KNLA allowed a survey of some villages under its control by international mine-clearance experts. Unfortunately, it then put on hold any extension of this operation and remained cautious about such activities pending positive developments in the peace process</li> <li>✓ Colombia: the government and the FARC-EP signed a humanitarian agreement that included a pilot phase in which 2 areas were to be cleared of mines and ERW. FARC-EP members provided information for the demining to the Colombian armed forces and were present in the areas. A first area was cleared of mines and demining operations began in a second</li> <li>✓ Sudan: the Sudan Humanitarian Demining Service (SHDS), created by the SPLM-N to address mine-action activities in areas under its control, started to prepare the destruction of 2 AP stockpiles that should take place in 2016. 211 stockpiled AP mines were dismantled with the support of a technical expert brought in by Geneva Call</li> <li>✓ Syria: the YPG-YPJ demined—with the support of specialized organizations—the city of Kobane and destroyed IEDs and booby traps found there after retaking the city from the ISg</li> <li>✓ Western Sahara: the Polisario Front destroyed a further stock of more than 3,000 AP mines under the supervision of Geneva Call and its partner, the Sahrawi Campaign to ban landmines</li> </ul>
<b>OUTCOME 3</b>	<b>ANSAs undertake commitments towards respecting international norms, including signing the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> or carrying out other measures</b>
<b>Expected achievements</b>	<b>Achievements</b>
→ 2 ANSAs from India and Syria sign the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Iran: 1 ANSA signed the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> banning AP mines—the PAK</li> <li>✓ India: at the beginning of 2015, the NSCN-K again confirmed its willingness to sign the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>, however, this was postponed due to internal tensions and a split within the group</li> </ul>
→ 3 ANSAs undertake other measures towards respecting the international norms relating to the ban on AP mines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Burma /Myanmar: the RCSS/SSA-S expressed interest in deepening its engagement with Geneva Call and cooperation on mine action. It requested a workshop to improve its members' understanding of humanitarian norms related to landmines, and this should take place in 2016</li> <li>✓ Colombia: the ELN showed a willingness to further facilitate humanitarian demining. In 2 departments, 35 members of CBOs, CSOs and local authorities gained a new understanding of mine action and mine/ERW clearance operations as well as of their respective potential roles in this. The FARC-EP participated in a workshop on humanitarian mine action in Havana, Cuba</li> <li>✓ Syria: through direct dialogue and training sessions, ANSAs were encouraged to sign the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>. Influential CSOs also participated in order to encourage ANSAs to sign it</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Syria: the IA developed an in-depth dialogue with Geneva Call about the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> and declared its readiness to sign it</li> </ul>
<b>OUTCOME 4</b>	<b>Geneva Call has the necessary information to hold ANSAs accountable to their obligations under the <i>Deed of Commitment</i></b>
<b>Expected achievements</b>	<b>Achievements</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ 80% of the signatories report on their compliance with their obligations under the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>, whether formally or informally</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ most of the 26 active ANSAs signatory to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> provided a compliance report, or the necessary inputs for such a report, as well as other information on their implementation measures (such as dissemination, training sessions, enforcement measures and cooperation on mine action)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Geneva Call gathers relevant information from third party sources and through field visits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Geneva Call regularly gathered information about signatories' compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> from third party sources (local partners, CSOs, media, UN reports) and through field visits</li> <li>✓ Burma/Myanmar: Geneva Call collected more information with regards to allegations about the use of AP mines by the PSLF/TNLA and submitted a request to the government to allow a verification mission</li> <li>✓ Sudan: Geneva Call monitored the SPLM-N's implementation of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> during visits to the Blue Nile and South Kordofan provinces</li> <li>✓ Syria: several field visits were undertaken to meet with the YPG-YPJ, discuss their compliance with the <i>Deed</i> and collect information on mine-affected areas</li> </ul>
<b>OUTCOME 5</b>	<b>ANSAs take measures to ensure compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> or other commitments</b>
<b>Expected achievements</b>	<b>Achievements</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ new signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> develop implementation plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Iran: the PAK, which signed the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> in June, started to develop its implementation plan. It welcomed Geneva Call's help in building up its capacity to enforce its obligations</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ 80% of ANSA signatories take implementation measures to ensure compliance with their obligations under the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> and report accordingly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Burma/Myanmar: following credible allegations of the use of AP mines by the TNLA (the military wing of the PSLF), this ANSA fully cooperated with the enquiries subsequently launched. Although denying any violation of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>, it agreed to a field verification mission aimed at producing clear findings about the allegations</li> <li>✓ India: the NSCN-IM reported that the content of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> had been disseminated to its combatants, and it was in the process of updating its disciplinary measures. The NSCN-KK pursued its efforts to disseminate the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> to all its members, including by printing illustrated materials and making monitoring visits to its camps to ensure compliance. The KNO's compliance report described the measures it had taken to implement its obligations</li> <li>✓ Iran: all the ANSA signatories were implementing appropriate measures to comply with their obligations and submitted compliance reports</li> <li>✓ the Philippines: monitoring of the MILF/BIAF, RPM/RPA and RPM-P/RPA-ABB showed that they complied with their obligations as signatories. It should be noted that the RPM/RPA and RPM-P/RPA-ABB were no longer militarily active at the end of 2015</li> <li>✓ Somalia: monitoring of the remaining active signatories compliant with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> continued</li> <li>✓ Sudan: the SPLM-N reported measures taken to fulfil its obligations to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> and confirmed its willingness to destroy 2 AP mine stockpiles. As a first step, 211 stockpiled AP mines were dismantled with the support of a technical expert brought in by Geneva Call</li> <li>✓ Syria: the YPG-YPJ provided information about how they had complied with their obligations under the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>.</li> </ul>

	<p>They reported on how they had demined the city of Kobane—with the support of specialized organizations—and destroyed the IEDs and booby traps found there after retaking the city from the ISg. They started to prepare a compliance report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Turkey: the HPG/PKK provided Geneva Call with the necessary information on its compliance with its obligations. The HPG/PKK’s demining wing (HAW-PAR) provided pictures and videos about the landmines and ERW it had marked and collected in contaminated areas in order to facilitate and prepare their destruction</li> <li>✓ Western Sahara: after the destruction of 3,000 AP mines (see below), the Polisario Front announced the existence of an additional stockpile of 7,485 units. The real number of mines in the remaining stockpile could not be verified</li> </ul>
→ over 800 AP mines are destroyed in Sudan and Western Sahara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Sudan: the SPLM-N confirmed its intention to destroy 2 existing AP mine stockpiles, seized during fighting—around 600 units. Geneva Call evaluated about 90% of those stockpiles in South Kordofan province and 25% in Blue Nile province</li> <li>✓ Western Sahara: the Polisario Front destroyed more than 3,000 AP mines in February, under the supervision of Geneva Call and its partner, the Sahrawi Campaign to ban landmines</li> </ul>
<b>OUTCOME 6</b>	<b>CSOs and CBOs facilitate the engagement process at all stages—including through training, monitoring and assistance activities</b>
<b>Expected achievements</b>	<b>Achievements</b>
→ 13 training events are organized with CSOs and CBOs in Afghanistan, Burma/Myanmar, India, Sudan, Syria and Turkey; with a total of 230 participants or more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ among the 38 events organized—often with Geneva Call’s partners—5 events gathered 61 members of CSOs/CBOs, including 18 women, in Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, India, Sudan, Syria and Turkey</li> <li>✓ Colombia: in 2 training events, 35 members of CSOs/CBOs/local and regional authorities from the Cauca and Nariño departments gained a new understanding of mine action. Geneva Call sought to help address community needs related to landmines and ERW</li> <li>✓ India: 8 CSO representatives, including 2 women, participated in a workshop to strengthen their capacities to monitor signatories’ compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i></li> <li>✓ Sudan: 11 members of CSOs/CBOs and the SPLM-N attended a workshop in the Blue Nile province, including a presentation of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> banning AP mines, and explored the modalities of monitoring the situation in the region</li> <li>✓ Syria: during 3 training-of-trainers workshops, Geneva Call’s partners presented the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> to 32 participants, enhancing their capacities with regard to dissemination</li> <li>✓ Turkey: 7 members from 4 branches of Geneva Call’s partner NGO, Mazlumder, attended a three-day training course in Geneva to improve their capacity to monitor the enforcement of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> banning AP mines</li> </ul>
→ trained CSOs/CBOs develop mechanisms that support Geneva Call in monitoring signatories compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ on the basis of the training that they had received, CSOs/CBOs in India, Sudan, Syria and Turkey participated in monitoring signatories’ compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>. Such activities were undertaken on the condition that they complemented Geneva Call’s direct engagement with the ANSAs concerned and had the potential to influence ANSAs’ behaviours without putting local people at risk</li> </ul>
→ indirect engagement takes place with 4 AN-SAs in Colombia and India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ India: Geneva Call’s engagement with ANSAs takes place outside the country or indirectly through local CSOs/CBOs. Geneva Call sought opportunities to engage with the Naxalites. People and organizations with the potential to help establish contact with them encouraged Geneva Call to adopt an indirect approach through other ANSAs, but to no avail in 2015</li> </ul>
<b>OUTCOME 7</b>	<b>Geneva Call has the knowledge, capacity and stakeholder support for its engagement activities</b>
<b>Expected achievements</b>	<b>Achievements</b>



<p>→ Geneva Call disseminates pedagogical material (e.g. illustrated booklets, posters) to support its engagement activities in 9 countries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ extensive use of Geneva Call’s dissemination materials by ANSAs required regular reprints of existing materials and, in some cases, their publication in additional languages (e.g. Arabic, Malay, Thai, Turkish)</li> <li>✓ 1,850 booklets were distributed</li> </ul>
<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"> <li>✓ in Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, Philippines, Sudan, Syria and Yemen (for example), meetings took place with local authorities and representatives of humanitarian organizations present in the country, such as Action on Armed Violence, DanChurchAid, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), Handicap International, the ICRC, Mine Tech, Norwegian People’s Aid, the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action and various UN agencies; these enabled information sharing, coordination where necessary and better support for Geneva Call’s objectives and activities</li> <li>✓ Geneva Call’s contribution to a mine-free world was mentioned in numerous different conferences and fora</li> <li>✓ meetings with representatives of concerned or donor States took place regularly at the headquarters of major humanitarian organizations, 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</li> <li>✓ in several contexts, local organizations and Geneva Call and/or its partners had regular meetings to support and enhance each other’s work</li> </ul>
<p><b>OUTCOME 8</b></p>	<p><b>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</b></p>
<p><b>Expected achievements</b></p>	<p><b>Achievements</b></p>
<p>→ key international stakeholders are aware of Geneva Call’s work, lessons learned and advocacy messages</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Geneva Call actively participated in expert meetings on different issues related to mines/ERW where it was able to share its experience of engaging with ANSAs; for example, it was invited to speak at an international expert meeting organized by the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) on the protection of civilians by preventing harm from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas</li> <li>✓ Geneva Call is member of the GICHD Advisory Board</li> </ul>
<p>→ the issues facing ANSAs are appropriately reflected in weapons-related debates and reports from international fora</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Geneva Call developed a research project on ANSAs’ policies and practices in relation to the use of explosive weapons, including IEDs. This will help inform the international community’s discussions on how to protect civilians from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. This research complements OCHA’s and the ICRC’s work with States on this topic.</li> </ul>
<p>→ the visibility of Geneva Call’s experience is raised through participation in relevant conferences and international fora, and the organization of side events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Geneva Call participated in numerous conferences and events related to landmines and other weapons, including a course for the UN Disarmament Fellows, an international expert meeting on explosive weapons in populated areas organized by the Austrian MFA and a side event on Colombia at the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of State Parties to the Mine Ban Convention</li> <li>✓ Geneva Call participated in the efforts to mobilize aid to clear Kobane, in Syria, of ERW, including by giving a speech at the European Parliament</li> </ul>

# CHILD PROTECTION

Geneva Call has been working on child protection issues since 2008, taking advantage of its existing dialogue with ANSAs on the landmine ban. It promotes the signature of the *Deed of Commitment for the Protection of Children from the Effects of Armed Conflict*, and it supports signatories in implementing their commitments and monitors these processes. Geneva Call sometimes encourages ANSAs to make other types of commitments or unilateral declarations, including those that contribute to preventing abuses and attacks on schools. Geneva Call considers its work to be complementary to the UN's actions, for instance, by operating in areas where the UN cannot or paving the way towards the conclusion of Action Plans within the framework of the UN Monitoring and Report Mechanism.

Burma/Myanmar	Lebanon
Colombia	Sudan
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Syrian Arab Republic
India	Turkey
Islamic Republic of Iran	Yemen

## EXPENSES IN CHF

Africa	224'154
Asia	116'530
Latin America	92'889
Middle East and Europe	144'906
Operational support	227'317
<b>Total</b>	<b>805'796</b>



A girl who was demobilized from the Kurdish armed forces, is reviewing her class material. Syria, March 2015 © Geneva Call

The [UN Secretary-General's 2015 annual report on children and armed conflict included](#) 49 ANSAs among the 58 parties listed as perpetrators of grave violations against children. Furthermore, corroborated sources continued to report allegations about the use of children in conflicts by other ANSAs not included in the UNSG report.

In 2015, Geneva Call engaged with 40 ANSAs on child protection issues in 10 contexts. By the end of 2015, 17 active ANSAs had signed the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict and had started, or were continuing, to implement it. Several other active ANSAs showed a readiness to engage with Geneva Call on child protection issues.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2015:

- ▶ 4 ANSAs signed the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict (hereafter *Deed of Commitment*): 1 in India (the Kuki National Organisation, KNO); 2 in Iran (the Free Life Party of Kurdistan, PJAK, and the Kurdistan Freedom Party, PAK); and 1 in Sudan (the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North, SPLM-N)
- ▶ the SPLM-N became the first African ANSA to sign this *Deed of Commitment*
- ▶ all 17 active ANSAs signatory to the *Deed of Commitment* provided information on their implementation processes, and Geneva Call continued to monitor their compliance with the *Deed of Commitment*
- ▶ ANSAs signatory to the *Deed of Commitment* took numerous implementation measures. In **Burma/Myanmar**, the Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army (KNU/KNLA) worked to remedy the reported presence of armed, uniformed children in some areas under its control. In **India**, the KNO reported the appointment of a person in charge of bringing child protection issues to the attention of its committee; the National Socialist Council of Nagaland–Khole Kitovi (NSCN-KK) disseminated the *Deed of Commitment* and made revisions to its internal rules, regulations and training curricula. In **Iran**, all 7 signatories reported activities to further implement their obligations; following allegations of past child recruitment, the PJAK prepared a detailed implementation plan; the PAK declared never to have recruited children under 18. In **Sudan**, the SPLM-N made strong efforts to give children access to education in the areas under its control and planned to create an internal child protection unit. In **Syria**, the Democratic Self-Administration in Rojava/People's Protection Units/Women's Protection Units (YPG-YPJ) started integrating the provisions of the *Deed of Commitment* into their internal regulations, introduced a new decree whereby all fighters under the age of 18 were no longer eligible to participate in military operations, created a committee in charge of internal monitoring and declared that disciplinary measures had been taken against contraveners of their obligations. The YPG-YPG also demobilized 21 additional children and discharged 55 16- and 17-year-olds from the ranks, relocating them to centres specifically created for them. In **Turkey**, the People's Defence Forces/Kurdistan Worker's Party (HPG/PKK) announced an investigation into persistent allegations about the continued recruitment of children under 16 years old and declared that corrective measures would be taken.
- ▶ 6 new ANSAs, in Burma/Myanmar, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), India and Iran, agreed to start a dialogue with Geneva Call on child protection and/or the protection of schools
- ▶ 1,087 representatives from ANSAs and/or CSOs/CBOs, including 137 women, attended 54 training courses tackling child protection issues in Burma/Myanmar, DRC, India, Iran, Lebanon, Sudan, Syria and Turkey
- ▶ in several contexts, CSOs/CBOs contributed directly to monitoring signatories' compliance with the *Deed of Commitment* (e.g. Burma/Myanmar, India, Syria, Turkey) and to convincing ANSAs to consider child protection issues and/or encouraging them to sign and implement *the Deed of Commitment* (e.g. Lebanon, Syria)
- ▶ Geneva Call positioned itself as a key organization within the child protection community, notably, during the UN Security Council's Open Debate on children and armed conflict and ANSAs, in March 2015
- ▶ In June, an unprecedented gathering brought together actors in the fields of child protection and education with members of ANSAs from Burma/Myanmar, Sudan and Syria at a meeting on education which was organized by Geneva Call and Protection of Education in Insecurity and Conflict (PEIC)
- ▶ Geneva Call—as a member of Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict—actively contributed to several consultative processes regarding documents prepared for the SRSG, UNSC and UNSG; it also actively participated in the consultative process leading to the development of the Safe School Declaration and was invited to speak at several side-events, conferences and workshops on issues linked to child protection

## CONTEXT/PROBLEM STATEMENT

[UN Security Council Resolution 1612](#) continued to frame efforts to engage with ANSAs on child protection issues, but progress remained limited. The [UN Secretary-General's 2015 annual report on children and armed conflict included](#) 49 ANSAs among the 58 parties listed for grave violations against children. Most were so-called *persistent perpetrators*, or parties that had been on the list for five years or more. Furthermore, corroborated sources continued to report allegations about the use of children in conflict by ANSAs not included in the UNSG report and therefore not addressed by the UN MRM.

In 2015, Geneva Call engaged with 40 ANSAs on child protection issues in 10 contexts (including some ANSAs mentioned in the above list). By the end of 2015, 17 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, the inclusion of obligations in internal codes of conduct and child protection measures. Other active ANSAs showed a readiness to engage with Geneva Call on child protection issues.

## OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### Logic of intervention

Efforts to work with ANSAs on child protection issues were mostly framed within the UNSC Resolution 1612 mechanism. However, progress with ANSAs was slow. Most of the parties listed as perpetrators of grave violations against children, in Annexes I and II of the UNSG's annual report on children and armed conflict, continued to be ANSAs. In addition, there were a number of worrying contexts where ANSAs were reportedly using children in hostilities, but because these situations did not appear in the UNSG's lists of grave violations against children, they were not addressed by the UN MRM.

Both UNICEF and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for children and armed conflict (CAAC) continued to encourage Geneva Call to use its comparative advantages and the trusting relationships that it has built with ANSAs to launch programmes to improve their respect for humanitarian norms on the protection of children during armed conflict. This paves the way for future engagement by UN agencies. Since 2010, Geneva Call's strategy has aimed to encourage and help ANSAs to commit to and implement the most effective standards of protection possible by signing the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict and ensuring its implementation. The *Deed of Commitment* also encouraged ANSAs to take positive, constructive and concrete measures towards the protection of children and education. To complement the *Deed of Commitment*, Geneva Call also promoted the [Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict](#).

Geneva Call's preventive work towards the protection of children in armed conflict is considered complementary to that of the UN and other specialized agencies.

## 2015 expected achievements and achievements

OVERALL IMPACT	Children are better protected from the effects of armed conflict in areas where ANSAs operate
Expected achievements	Achievements
<p>→ 5 new signings of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> making a total of 18 active ANSA signatories</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 4 ANSAs signed the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> protecting children in armed conflict (hereafter <i>Deed of Commitment</i>): 1 in India (the Kuki National Organisation, KNO); 2 in Iran (the Free Life Party of Kurdistan, PJAK, and the Kurdistan Freedom Party, PAK); and 1 in Sudan (the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North, SPLM-N) that became the first African ANSA to do so</li> <li>✓ the total number of active ANSA signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> rose to 17</li> </ul>
<p>→ 5 ANSAs take measures towards the respect of international norms relating to the protection of children in armed conflict</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Burma/Myanmar: the Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army South (RCSS/SSA-S) agreed to and facilitated 2 training sessions on the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> for 150 mid-level officers</li> <li>✓ Colombia: the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia–People's Army (FARC-EP) raised its age limit for recruitment from 15 to 17 years old. It worked on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) protocols and processes for children with the government, the UN and humanitarian actors, among them Geneva Call. The National Liberation Army (ELN) reiterated its commitment to abide by its internal code of conduct concerning the non-recruitment of children under 16 years old</li> <li>✓ DRC: 2 ANSAs (the Alliance des Patriotes pour un Congo Libre et Souverain, APCLS, and the Forces Démocratiques pour la Libération du Rwanda, FDLR) started to adjust their internal policies and practices in order to plan for their signatures of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>. Both ANSAs agreed to get technical support and advice on child protection and participated in training sessions</li> <li>✓ India: the National Socialist Council of Nagalim Isak Muivah (NSCN-IM) agreed to investigate allegations about the recent recruitment of children, which went against its stated policy, and to take the necessary steps should those allegations be confirmed. According to reports, some corrective measures were subsequently taken. The Zomi Re-unification Organisation (ZRO) agreed, in principle, with the content of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> and declared itself ready to sign it</li> <li>✓ Lebanon: during several meetings, the Tahaluf and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation/Palestinian National Security Forces (PLO/PNSF) explored ways to better address child protection in areas under their control, particularly measures to prevent child recruitment. This followed a survey confirming that children in Palestinian camps remained vulnerable to situations that might push them towards enrolment in ANSAs, due mainly to a lack of educational and social services</li> <li>✓ Syria: the Islam Army (IA) developed an in-depth dialogue with Geneva Call about the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> and expressed its readiness to sign it</li> </ul>
<p>→ 6 new ANSAs are engaged with, bringing the number of active ANSAs working with Geneva Call on international norms relating to the protection of children in armed conflict to 41 (including the signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 6 new ANSAs engaged with Geneva Call on this <i>Deed of Commitment</i> for the first time: 1 in Burma/Myanmar (the Shan State progressive Party/Shan State Army North, SSPP/SSA-N); 3 in DRC (the-APCLS, FDLR and Nduma Defense of Congo-Rénové, NDC-R); 1 in India (the People's Liberation Army, PLA); 1 in Iran (PAK)</li> <li>✓ this brought the number of active ANSAs working with Geneva Call on this theme to 40, including signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> (1 Syrian signatory group has dismantled)</li> </ul>

<p>→ 9 contexts of intervention: Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo (hereafter DRC), India, the Islamic Republic of Iran (hereafter Iran), Lebanon, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic (hereafter Syria) and Turkey</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Geneva Call was active in 10 contexts of intervention: Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, DRC, India, Iran, Lebanon, Sudan, Syria, Turkey and Yemen</li> <li>✓ in some countries there were significant numbers of activities and follow-up; in others the level of engagement was low, due to various constraints</li> <li>✓ Yemen: a lack of funding forced Geneva Call to postpone planned activities, but contacts were maintained with ANSAs</li> <li>✓ Thailand: as part of Geneva Call's programme on humanitarian norms, discussions and awareness raising, work with the Barisan Revolusi Nasional/Runda Kumpulan (BRN/RKK) and the Patani United Liberation Organisation (PULO) took place on child soldiers, the protection of education and the non-military use of schools</li> </ul>
<p>→ signatory ANSAs take measures to implement their obligations under the <i>Deed of Commitment</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ all 17 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) and Geneva Call continued to monitor their compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> (through direct and indirect sources)</li> <li>✓ Burma/Myanmar: 4 signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>—the Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army (KNU/KNLA), Karenni National Progressive Party/Karenni Army (KNPP/KA), New Mon State Party/Mon National Liberation Army (NMSP/MNLA) and Pa'o National Liberation Organization/Pa'o National Liberation Army (PNLO/PNLA)—either finished drafting their implementation plans or were putting them into practice. The KNPP/KA submitted a compliance report and the other ANSAs provided information on the implementation of their obligations in meetings and correspondence. Following the reported presence of armed, uniformed children in some areas under KNU/KNLA control, the ANSA worked to facilitate compliance on the ground. Later, during a training session, 38 mid-level KNU/KNLA army, police and defence officers improved their knowledge of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> in order to facilitate the implementation of its obligations</li> <li>✓ India: the KNO and the National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khole Kitovi (NSCN-KK) drafted implementation plans and started to put them into practice in order to fulfil their obligations. The KNO admitted to still having some children in its camps and reported the appointment of a person in charge of bringing any issues relating to the recruitment and protection of children to the attention of its committee. It organized a training session about child protection for its members and distributed Geneva Call's brochures and booklets. The NSCN-KK disseminated the <i>Deed of Commitment's</i> obligations to its members and civil society. It also made revisions to its internal rules, regulations and training curricula</li> <li>✓ Iran: all 7 signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> reported activities to further implement their obligations. For example, following allegations of past child recruitment, the PJAK prepared a detailed implementation plan; the PAK declared never to have recruited children under 18 and never to send combatants under 20 years old to the frontline</li> <li>✓ Sudan: the SPLM-N became the first African ANSA to sign the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> and immediately started to work on an implementation plan, making strong efforts to give children access to education in the areas it controlled. The SPLM-N declared its intention to create an internal child protection unit and to present plans to the international community that comply with international standards on child protection</li> <li>✓ Syria: the Democratic Self Administration in Rojava/People's Protection Units/Women's Protection Units (YPG-YPJ) were in the process of implementing the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>. Top commanders declared they had started integrating the provisions of the <i>Deed</i> into their internal regulations, with special efforts to prevent children under 18 years old from taking part in hostilities. They introduced a new decree whereby all fighters under the age of 18 were no longer eligible to participate in military operations and created a committee in charge of internal monitoring. The movement responded in detail to cases of continued re-</li> </ul>

	<p>cruitment and use of children in hostilities. They stated that disciplinary measures had been taken against 7 commanders, who were dismissed from the ranks. The YPG-YPJ also demobilized 21 additional children (who were sent home) and discharged 55 16-and 17-year-olds from the ranks, relocating them to centres specifically created for them (where they received education)</p> <p>✓ Turkey: the People's Defence Forces/Kurdistan Worker's Party (HPG/PKK) reported activities to comply with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>. It announced an investigation into persistent allegations that children under 16 years old continued to be recruited. The HPG/PKK declared that corrective measures would be taken. Information appeared to suggest that there were fewer new allegations reported in 2015 than in the previous year</p>
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OUTCOME 1	
Geneva Call is able to make informed decisions on the value and feasibility of interventions and to build capacity to start and maintain engagement processes	
Expected achievements	Achievements
→ engagement on child protection begins in the DRC, India and Iran	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ DRC: following in-depth discussions started in 2015, 2 ANSAs (the APCLS and FDLR) began to adjust their policies and practices in order to plan for their signature of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>. The NDC-R held a fruitful first meeting with Geneva Call on the protection of children and agreed to continue discussions</li> <li>✓ Burma/Myanmar: the SSPP/SSA/N agreed to initiate a dialogue on child protection with Geneva Call</li> <li>✓ India: for the first time, the PLA included child protection issues in its dialogue with Geneva Call</li> <li>✓ Iran: the PAK started a dialogue on child protection in 2015 and signed the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> in June</li> </ul>
→ analysis of the conflict situation, ANSA profiles and strategies for engagement are defined for each programme context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ the evolution of the armed conflicts in all contexts was regularly analysed and strategies and programmes were updated accordingly. For example:</li> <li>✓ Sudan: due to security constraints and restricted access, no field visits were able to take place with three Darfuri ANSAs (the Justice and Equality Movement, JEM, Sudan Liberation Movement/Army Abdel Wahid al-Nur, SLM/A-AW, and Sudan Liberation Movement/Army Minni Minnawi, SLM/A-MM)</li> <li>✓ Syria: due to the extremely volatile situation, the programme was carried out using a broad media campaign</li> <li>✓ Yemen: a lack of funding forced the planned activities to be postponed</li> </ul>
→ up to 6 new ANSAs agree to start a dialogue with Geneva Call	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 6 new ANSAs started a dialogue on children</li> <li>✓ Burma/Myanmar: the SSPP/SSA-N held meetings that, for the first time, focused on child protection</li> <li>✓ DRC: 3 ANSAs (the APCLS, FDLR and NDC-R) started to engage with Geneva Call on children's issues and the protection of schools and agreed to continue those discussions</li> <li>✓ India: the PLA included child protection issues in its dialogue with Geneva Call</li> <li>✓ Iran: Geneva Call initiated a dialogue with the PAK and it signed the <i>Deed</i> in June the same year</li> </ul>
OUTCOME 2	
ANSAs are aware of international norms relating to the protection of children and have the knowledge to respond to this issue	
Expected achievements	Achievements
→ 9 awareness raising workshops are organized during the year with ANSA members from Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, Iran, Sudan, Syr-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ of the 54 workshops and training events organized, 34 targeted ANSA commanders and fighters, legal advisers and political leaders in Burma/Myanmar, DRC, Iran, Sudan, Syria, Turkey or a neighbouring country</li> <li>✓ dozens of awareness raising meetings also took place with ANSA representatives in order to help foster awareness of child pro-</li> </ul>

ia and Turkey	tection issues, such as in Colombia, India, Lebanon and Sudan
→ approximately 110 members of ANSAs attend workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ at least 791 members of ANSAs, of whom 7 were women, participated in workshops</li> <li>✓ 59 trainers, of whom 27 were women, also benefited from training at 6 events held in Burma/Myanmar, Syria, Turkey or a neighbouring country</li> </ul>
→ 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"> <li>✓ all the ANSAs which attended awareness raising sessions for the first time agreed to pursue the dialogue on this topic</li> </ul>
<b>OUTCOME 3</b>	<b>ANSAs make commitments towards respecting international norms, including signing the Deed of Commitment or carrying out other measures</b>
<b>Expected achievements</b>	<b>Achievements</b>
→ 5 ANSAs from Burma/Myanmar, DRC and Sudan sign the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Sudan: the SPLM-N signed the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> in June, in Geneva, becoming the first African ANSA to do so</li> <li>✓ India: the KNO signed the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> in March, following a dialogue that started in 2014</li> <li>✓ Iran: the PAK signed the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> in June; the PJAK signed it, with a reservation, in April, after in-depth discussions and the preparation of a detailed implementation plan</li> <li>✓ Burma/Myanmar: 2 ANSAs (the Kachin Independence organisation/Army, KIO/KIA, and the SSPP/SSA-N) consolidated their engagement with Geneva Call on child protection issues but, by mutual agreement, decided to postpone signature until they were sure of being able to fully implement the obligations of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i></li> <li>✓ DRC: the APCLS and FLDR expressed their willingness to sign the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> but were not yet ready to do so. They began to adapt their internal policies in order to be ready</li> </ul>
→ 5 ANSAs undertake other measures towards respecting international norms relating to protection of children in armed conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Burma/Myanmar: the RCSS/SSA-S agreed to and facilitated 2 training sessions on the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> for 150 mid-level officers</li> <li>✓ Colombia: the FARC-EP raised its age limit for recruitment from 15 to 17 years old. It worked on DDR protocols and processes for children with the government, the UN and humanitarian actors, and it consulted Geneva Call on this project. The ELN reiterated its commitment to abide by its internal code of conduct concerning the non-recruitment of children under 16 years old</li> <li>✓ DRC: 2 ANSAs (the APCLS and FDLR) started to adjust their policies and practices in order to plan for the signature of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>. Both ANSAs agreed to get technical support and advice on child protection and participated in training sessions</li> <li>✓ India: the NSCN-IM committed to investigating allegations regarding the recent recruitment of children, which would go against its stated policy, and to take the necessary steps should those allegations be confirmed. According to reports, some corrective measures were subsequently taken. The ZRO agreed, in principle, with the content of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> and declared itself ready to sign it</li> <li>✓ Lebanon: during several meetings, the Tahaluf and PLO/PNSF explored ways of better addressing child protection issues in areas under their control, particularly measures to prevent child recruitment. This followed a survey that confirmed that children in Palestinian camps remained vulnerable to situations which could push them towards enrolment in ANSAs, notably due to a lack of educational and social services</li> </ul>



<b>OUTCOME 4</b>	
<b>Geneva Call has the necessary information to hold ANSAs accountable to their obligations under the Deed of Commitment</b>	
<b>Expected achievements</b>	<b>Achievements</b>
→ 80% of the signatories report on their compliance with their obligations under the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>	✓ all 17 active ANSA signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> provided information and reports on their implementation processes (such as dissemination, training sessions, enforcement and protection measures) and Geneva Call also continued to monitor their compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> through direct and indirect sources
→ Geneva Call gathers relevant information from third party sources and through field visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Geneva Call regularly collected information from third party sources (local partners, CSOs, the media, UN reports) and through field visits investigating signatories' compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i></li> <li>✓ Geneva Call followed-up on allegations about child recruitment reported in Burma/Myanmar, Syria and Turkey, requesting internal investigations by the ANSA signatories concerned and discussing their conclusions with them, once available, and the action subsequently taken</li> </ul>
<b>OUTCOME 5</b>	
<b>ANSAs take measures to ensure compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> or other commitments</b>	
<b>Expected achievements</b>	<b>Achievements</b>
→ regular meetings and workshops take place with signatory ANSAs from Burma/Myanmar, India, Iran, Syria and Turkey to follow-up on implementation of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>	✓ regular meetings took place with signatory ANSAs from Burma/Myanmar, India, Iran, Sudan, Syria and Turkey. Training workshops were also conducted for their fighters in Burma/Myanmar, Iran, Syria, Turkey or a neighbouring country
→ ANSA signatories take implementation measures to ensure compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Burma/Myanmar: 4 signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> (the KNU/KNLA, KNPP/KA, NMSP/MNLA and PNLO/PNLA) either finalized drafting their implementation plans or were putting them into practice. The KNPP/KA submitted a compliance report, whereas other ANSAs provided information on the implementation of their obligations in meetings and correspondence. Geneva Call facilitated contacts between UNICEF and the KNPP/KA and they started negotiations on signing an Action Plan. The KNPP/KA's 2012 signature to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> protecting children in armed conflict paved the way to this further step which will allow the group to be delisted from the Annexe to the UNSG's report on children and armed conflict. Following the reported presence of armed, uniformed children in some areas under KNU/KNLA control, it worked to facilitate compliance on the ground. Later, during a training session, 38 mid-level KNU/KNLA army, police and defence officers increased their knowledge of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> in order to improve that ANSA's implementation of its obligations</li> <li>✓ India: the KNO and NSCN-KK drafted implementation plans and started to put them into practice in order to fulfil their obligations. The KNO admitted to there still being some children in KNO camps and reported the appointment of a person in charge of bringing any issues relating to child protection to the attention of its committee. It organized a training session about child protection for its members and distributed Geneva Call's brochures and booklets. The NSCN-KK reported that it disseminated its <i>Deed of Commitment</i> obligations to its members and civil society. It also made revisions to its internal rules, regulations and training curricula</li> <li>✓ Iran: all 7 signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> reported activities to further implement their obligations. For example, following allegations of past child recruitment, the PJAK prepared a detailed implementation plan; the PAK declared never to have recruited children under 18 and never to send combatants under 20 years old to the frontline</li> <li>✓ Sudan: the SPLM-N became the first African ANSA to sign the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> and immediately started working on an im-</li> </ul>

	<p>plementation plan. Its officials reported significant efforts to guarantee children access to education in the areas under its control. The SPLM-N declared its intention to create an internal child protection unit and to present its plan to the international community, thus complying with international standards on child protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Syria: the YPG-YPJ were in the process of implementing the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>. Top commanders declared they had started integrating the provisions of the <i>Deed</i> into their internal regulations, with special efforts made to prevent children under 18 years old from taking part in hostilities. They introduced a new decree whereby all fighters under the age of 18 were no longer eligible to participate in military operations and created a committee in charge of internal monitoring. The YPG-YPJ responded in detail to cases of continued recruitment and use of children in hostilities. They stated that disciplinary measures had been taken against 7 commanders, who had been dismissed from the ranks. The YPG-YPG also demobilized 21 additional children (who were sent home) and discharged 55 16- and 17-year-olds from the ranks, relocating them to centres specifically created for them where they received education</li> <li>✓ Turkey: the HPG/PKK reported on its activities to comply with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>. It announced an investigation into persistent allegations about the continued recruitment of children under 16 years old. The HPG/PKK declared that corrective measures would be taken. Information appeared to suggest that there were fewer new allegations reported in 2015 than in the previous year</li> </ul>
<b>OUTCOME 6</b>	<b>CSOs/CBOs facilitate engagement processes at all stages, including through training, monitoring and assistance activities</b>
<b>Expected achievements</b>	<b>Achievements</b>
→ 7 training events are organized with CSOs and CBOs in Burma/Myanmar, India, Sudan and Turkey with a total of 150 participants or more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ of the 54 events organized—mainly involving Geneva Call’s partners addressing child protection issues and sometimes including other topics—17 events gathered 237 members of CSOs/CBOs, including 103 women, in Burma/Myanmar, DRC, India, Lebanon, Sudan, Syria and Turkey</li> </ul>
→ 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Lebanon: a CSO partner and Geneva Call published a survey on the situation of children in Palestinian camps, based on 39 focus groups in 7 camps and on interviews with military and political leaders from Palestinian factions. Following the publication, 2 ANSAs—Talahuf and the PLO/PNSF—engaged with Geneva Call on measures to enforce their pledge on child protection</li> <li>✓ Sudan: during a workshop in Blue Nile Province, members from CSOs/CBOs explored the possibilities and modalities of monitoring the child protection situation in the region</li> <li>✓ Syria: after having participated in 2 training workshops in Lebanon, a CSO partner developed an action plan for campaigning for child protection and against child recruitment inside Syria</li> <li>✓ Turkey: Geneva Call cultivated and strengthened relationships with various Kurdish and Turkish NGOs, as well as the media, so that they can contribute to the collection of information on child protection issues.</li> </ul>
→ trained CSOs/CBOs facilitate Geneva Call engagement with target ANSAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ in numerous situations, CSOs/CBOs facilitated Geneva Call’s engagement with target ANSAs, for example:</li> <li>✓ Burma/Myanmar: members of Karen, Kachin and Mon CBOs participated in workshops on child protection issues and undertook or prepared to undertake awareness-raising activities in their communities. Kachin CBOs expressed their readiness to support Geneva Call in moves towards a more substantive engagement with the KIO/KIA</li> <li>✓ DRC: 2 CSOs that participated in 2 workshops on child protection and protecting schools in armed conflict, started to contribute to Geneva Call’s efforts to engage with ANSAs. They provided information about the local political environment, the ANSAs and</li> </ul>

	<p>their areas of influence, and they facilitated access to some of those ANSAs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ India: 8 CSO representatives, who had participated in a workshop to strengthen their capacity for advocacy for children protection, facilitated engagement with targeted ANSAs</li> <li>✓ Syria: influential civil society and political organizations—such as members of the <a href="#">Planet Syria</a> NGO coalition, members of the <a href="#">Syrian National Coalition</a>, member parties of the Kurdish National Council, and the Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD)—as well as a group of female journalists with which Geneva Call had also forged links, participated in efforts to raise Syrian civil society’s awareness of humanitarian norms and to encourage ANSAs to respect those norms and sign and enforce the <i>Deed of Commitment</i></li> </ul>
<p>→ trained CSOs/BOs support Geneva Call in monitoring signatories’ compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ on the basis of the training they had received, CSOs/CBOs in Burma, India, Sudan, Syria and Turkey participated in monitoring signatories’ compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>. Such activities were undertaken on the condition that they complemented Geneva Call’s direct engagement with the ANSAs concerned and had the potential to influence ANSAs’ behaviours without putting local people at risk</li> <li>✓ Burma/Myanmar: CSOs/CBOs contributed to the monitoring of signatories’ compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>. For example, they reported the presence of armed, uniformed children at check points in areas under KNU/KNLA control, prompting the ANSA to reinforce its efforts to comply with its obligations</li> <li>✓ Syria: 18 lawyers and activists, all close to the Kurdish National Council, attended a workshop in Turkey aimed at monitoring the YPG/YPJ’s implementation of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i></li> <li>✓ Turkey: a CSO established an initial list of allegations regarding the HPG/PKK’s non-compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>, specifically the recruitment of children under 16 years old. Later in the year, CSO members participated in a training course to improve their capacities to monitor that ANSA’s enforcement of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i></li> </ul>
<b>OUTCOME 7</b>	<b>Geneva Call has the knowledge, capacity and stakeholder support for its engagement activities</b>
<b>Expected achievements</b>	<b>Achievements</b>
<p>→ Geneva Call evaluates its work on child protection in armed conflict, with a focus on the implementation of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Geneva Call started work on a report evaluating its child protection activities over the past 5 years. This report will summarize the achievements and challenges encountered and go into more detail using case studies</li> </ul>
<p>→ Geneva Call mainstreams the <a href="#">Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict</a> in its training material</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ in 2015, Steven Haines, lead author of the Guidelines, briefed Geneva Call’s staff on their content</li> <li>✓ the protection of education is included in all Geneva Call’s training sessions on child protection issues, and it has developed a video and drafted a booklet (yet to be finalized) on the protection of education. It has developed these tools and training materials in close cooperation with the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA)</li> </ul>
<p>→ Geneva Call conducts further research on ANSAs practices and perspectives on the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Geneva Call conducted interviews on the practices and perspectives of selected ANSAs regarding the protection of education. In DRC, this was discussed extensively with the APCLS. This research is ongoing</li> <li>✓ during a conference (see below) organized jointly by Protection of Education in Insecurity and Conflict (PEIC) and Geneva Call, 3 ANSAs from Burma, Sudan and Syria presented the challenges they faced when it comes to facilitating or providing education in areas under their control</li> </ul>

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
Expected achievements	Achievements
<p>→ key international stakeholders are aware of Geneva Call's work, lessons learned and advocacy messages</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ regular meetings took place with representatives of concerned or donor States and at the headquarters of major humanitarian organizations (including child-protection agencies), focusing on issues related to child protection</li> <li>✓ Geneva Call attended periodic meetings of the Child Protection Working Group, the Focus Group on Children and Armed Conflict and the GCPEA</li> <li>✓ at a one-day meeting with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for children and armed conflict (CAAC) and UNICEF, in New York in August, Geneva Call discussed ways to enhance collaboration. The establishment of a focal point in each organization, six-weekly conference calls to exchange information and the need for closer coordination were all agreed upon, and the complementary role of each organization was recognized</li> <li>✓ Geneva Call—as a member of Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict—actively contributed to several consultative processes regarding documents prepared for the SRSG, UNSC and UNSG</li> <li>✓ other key organizations, such as Save the Children, expressed their interest in developing a closer collaboration with Geneva Call</li> <li>✓ Geneva Call is a member of Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, the Child Protection Working Group, the Task Force on Minimum Standards, the Focus Group on Children and Armed Conflict and the GCPEA</li> </ul>
<p>→ stakeholders' understanding of ANSAs perspectives and challenges are improved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ the need to engage with ANSAs, and indeed to allow for such humanitarian engagement, was the topic of an Open Debate of the UN Security Council on Children in Armed Conflict, in March 2015. During that debate, numerous Member States mentioned not only the need for engagement with ANSAs and other complementary approaches, but specifically mentioned Geneva Call's work.</li> <li>✓ Geneva Call continuously raised awareness among States, including members of the Security Council Working Group on CAAC, and other stakeholders about this topic and on ANSAs' perspectives and challenges. Among other advocacy meetings, Geneva Call briefed the UNSC Child Protection Working Group about its work and planned to brief the Group of Friends on CAAC in Geneva beginning of 2016.</li> <li>✓ in June 2015, an unprecedented meeting on education, organized by Geneva Call and PEIC, brought together actors from the fields of child protection and education with members of ANSAs from Burma/Myanmar, Sudan and Syria. This event allowed the education community to get an insight into the realities and challenges faced by ANSAs when it comes to facilitating or providing education in areas under their control; they also discussed possible solutions. This topic will be followed-up in 2016 (<a href="http://www.genevacall.org/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2015/12/Geneva_Call_Paper1.pdf">http://www.genevacall.org/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2015/12/Geneva_Call_Paper1.pdf</a>)</li> </ul>
<p>→ the visibility of Geneva Call's experience is raised through participation in relevant conferences and international fora and through the organization of side events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Geneva Call actively participated in various events tackling child-protection issues; such as an expert meeting on Child Protection in Emergencies, organized by Save the Children, a workshop on children in armed conflict, organized by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Institute for International and Security Affairs, and two side-events at the Human Rights Council</li> <li>✓ Geneva Call also actively participated in the consultative process leading to the development of the Safe School Declaration and was invited to speak at the international conference on Safe Schools, in Oslo in May 2015. In November 2015, the PIEC invited Geneva Call to speak at the World Innovation Summit for Education, in Doha, Qatar, in a high-level panel with Graça Machel</li> </ul>

# GENDER ISSUES

Geneva Call has been working on gender issues since 2009, taking advantage of its existing dialogue with ANSAs on the landmine ban. Since 2012, it has been promoting signature of the *Deed of Commitment for the Prohibition of Sexual Violence in Situations of Armed Conflict and towards the Elimination of Gender Discrimination*, and it supports signatories in implementing their commitments and monitors these processes. Geneva Call sometimes encourages ANSAs to make other types of commitments if they contribute to preventing abuse and promoting gender participation in their organizational structures and policies. This includes fostering women’s participation in decision-making processes and peace negotiations.

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

## EXPENSES IN CHF

Africa	211'190
Asia	214'313
Latin America	117'342
Middle East and Europe	63'507
Operational support	130'559
<b>Total</b>	<b>736'911</b>



Training for fighters of a signatory to the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination. Iraq, November 2015  
© Geneva Call

Sexual violence was widespread in many armed conflicts in 2015, whether perpetrated by government forces, ANSAs or other military entities. [UN Security Council Resolution 1960](#), adopted in 2010, continued to frame efforts to combat and curb sexual violence in armed conflicts. However, the progress achieved with ANSAs remained limited. Other concerns also persisted, including gender-based discrimination in the structures and policies of ANSAs and the under-representation of women in peace processes.

In 2015, Geneva Call engaged with 34 ANSAs in 9 contexts on gender issues. By the end of 2015, 14 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 a readiness to engage with Geneva Call on gender issues.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2015:

- ▶ 3 ANSAs signed the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination (hereafter *Deed of Commitment*): 2 in India (the Kuki National Organisation, KNO, and the National Socialist Council of Nagal-im-Isak Muivah, NSCN-IM); and 1 in Iran (the Kurdistan Freedom Party, PAK)
- ▶ all 14 active signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* provided information and reports on their implementation measures (such as dissemination, training sessions, the inclusion of the norms in codes of conduct, enforcement, equality policies, etc.), and 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 **Burma/Myanmar**, the KNU/KNLA started to disseminate the *Deed of Commitment* to its members and introduced its content into training programme curricula; in **India**, all 5 ANSA signatories were putting their implementation plans into practice. The KNF reported organizing training on sexual violence in its camps and revising its disciplinary code. The KNO announced having appointed a woman to bring women's issues to the attention of its central committee. The NSCN-KK reported on the dissemination of the content of the *Deed of Commitment* to its members and how discriminatory practices were dealt with within the organization. It also declared that it dealt severely with any cases of sexual violence; in **Iran**, all 6 ANSA signatories reported implementing or launching activities for the protection of women and girls and for the promotion of their role in Kurdish society. In **Syria**, the YPG-YPJ provided Geneva Call with information on their process of implementation of the *Deed of Commitment* signed in 2014
- ▶ 1,087 representatives of ANSAs and/or CSOs/CBOs, of whom 137 were women, attended 54 training courses tackling gender issues, sometimes together with other topics, in Burma/Myanmar, Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Iran, Sudan, Syria and Turkey
- ▶ in several contexts, CSOs/CBOs contributed directly to monitoring signatories' compliance with the *Deed of Commitment* and/or promoted gender participation and implementation measures (e.g. Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, DRC, Syria)
- ▶ Geneva Call participated in various events and meetings linked to its work on sexual violence and gender issues. For instance, in Geneva in September, it participated in the conference entitled "15 years of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. Review and Outlook." It was invited to speak to a livestream conference organized by the ICRC and CERAH entitled "Responding to sexual violence in conflict: can we do better?" in November. In New York, Geneva Call met with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), UN Women and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence on various occasions, to exchange information and discuss further collaboration

## CONTEXT/PROBLEM STATEMENT

Sexual violence was widespread in many armed conflicts in 2015, whether perpetrated by government forces, ANSAs or other military entities. It reached appalling levels in some countries.

[UN Security Council Resolution 1960](#), adopted in 2010, continued to frame efforts to combat and curb sexual violence in armed conflicts. However, the progress achieved with ANSAs remained limited. Most initiatives focused on providing assistance to victims rather than on prevention. The [2015 annual report of the UN Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence](#) detailed the seriousness of the situation; other corroborated sources reported on additional perpetrators not included in the report. On 19 June 2015, in an effort to boost the global fight against the horrors faced by women and girls in conflict zones worldwide, the UN General Assembly approved a [resolution](#) by consensus to commemorate 19 June as the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict.

Other concerns persisted, however, including gender-based discrimination in ANSAs' organizational structures and policies, as well as the under-representation of women in peace processes.

In 2015, Geneva Call engaged with 34 ANSAs in 9 contexts on gender issues. By the end of 2015, 14 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 a readiness to engage with Geneva Call on gender issues.

## OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### Logic of intervention

IHL and IHRL provide a clear framework for the prohibition of acts of sexual violence and the protection of women and girls during armed conflicts. Other international treaties, such as the [Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women](#), also reinforce women's rights. In the last decade, the UNSC has adopted an additional series of resolutions on women, peace and security that apply to both States and ANSAs.

Despite the UN's efforts to address conflict-related sexual violence, little significant progress was made in curbing those violations, particularly with regard to ANSAs. It is generally agreed that efforts to end sexual violence in situations of armed conflict should focus more on prevention, which was Geneva Call's objective. Since 2012, the organization has been promoting the Deed of Commitment prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination. In 2015, it encouraged ANSAs to sign and implement the Deed, to involve women in peace process discussions as early as possible and to help women strengthen their capacity to defend their own interests.

As part of Geneva Call's operational support activities, all the work carried out across various contexts and themes was analysed, and together these analyses contributed to improving the organization's efficiency in the mid- to long-term.

## 2015 expected achievements and achievements

OVERALL IMPACT	The threats of conflict-related sexual violence, and discriminatory policies and practices, are reduced in areas where ANSAs operate
Expected achievements	Achievements
<p>→ 7 new signings of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> bring the total number of active ANSA signatories to 19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 3 ANSAs signed the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination (hereafter <i>Deed of Commitment</i>): 2 in India (the Kuki National Organisation, KNO, and the National Socialist Council of Nagalim-Isak Muivah, NSCN-IM); and 1 in Iran (Kurdistan Freedom Party, PAK)</li> <li>✓ this brought the total number of active ANSA signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> to 14 (one Syrian signatory group had dismantled)</li> </ul>
<p>→ 3 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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Colombia: the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army (FARC-EP) revised its internal policy regarding female combatants' pregnancies. No abortion should be undertaken against the woman's will; consent would henceforth be obligatory. This new policy was referred to in public statements in order to counter previous allegations of forced contraception and abortion</li> <li>✓ DRC: following an awareness-raising session, the Alliance des Patriotes pour un Congo Libre et Souverain (APCLS) agreed to disseminate 150 booklets about the prohibition of sexual violence and against gender discrimination to its officers and fighters. The Forces Démocratiques pour la Libération du Rwanda (FLDR) decided to distribute booklets, and 13 high level officers participated in a training session on the issue of sexual violence and gender discrimination. The Nduma Defense of Congo/Mai Mai Cheka (NDC) received 50 booklets on the issue and agreed to distribute them to its members</li> <li>✓ Syria: the Islam Army (IA) developed an in-depth dialogue with Geneva Call about all three <i>Deeds of Commitment</i> and expressed its readiness to sign them</li> <li>✓ Turkey: representatives of the People's Defence Forces/Kurdistan Worker's Party (HPG/PKK) women's movement (the Kurdistan Women's Community, KJK) provided a document presenting their existing policies against sexual violence and gender discrimination and describing their good practices. The HPG/PKK confirmed its readiness to sign the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination</li> </ul>
<p>→ 9 new ANSAs engage with Geneva Call, bringing the number of active ANSAs working on the prohibition of sexual violence and towards the elimination of gender discrimination to 40 (including the signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 4 new ANSAs engaged with Geneva Call on gender issues for the first time: 3 in DRC (the APCLS, FDLR and NDC); 1 in Iran (the PAK)</li> <li>✓ this brought the number of active ANSAs working with Geneva Call on this theme to 34, including signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> (one Syrian signatory group had dismantled)</li> </ul>
<p>→ 9 contexts of intervention: Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo (hereafter DRC), India, Islamic Republic of Iran</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Geneva Call worked in 9 contexts (either directly or indirectly): Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, DRC, India, Iran, the Philippines, Sudan, Syria, Turkey. In some countries the number of activities and the follow-up were high; in others, due to various constraints, the level of engagement was low</li> </ul>



(hereafter Iran), the Philippines, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic (hereafter Syria) and Turkey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ the Philippines: planned workshops on gender issues with ANSAs' members had to be cancelled and, at the end of 2015, the gender programme there was suspended due to a lack of funding</li> </ul>
→ signatory ANSAs take measures to implement their obligations under the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Burma/Myanmar: the Chin National Front/Army (CNF/CAN) was finalizing its implementation plan and started to implement it. The Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army (KNU/KNLA) worked on the internal dissemination of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>. It also introduced the content of <i>the Deed</i> in the curriculum of its training programmes</li> <li>✓ India: all 5 ANSA signatories managed to draft their implementation plans and started to put them into practice. The Kuki National Front (KNF) reported organizing training on human rights (including sexual violence) in its camps and revising its disciplinary code. The KNO reported having recently appointed a woman to bring women's issues to the attention of the organization's central committee. The National Socialist Council of Nagaland–Khole Kitovi (NSCN-KK) declared that it disseminated the content of the <i>Deed</i> to its members and began to address discriminatory practices within the organization. It also declared that it had dealt severely with all cases of sexual violence</li> <li>✓ Iran: all 6 ANSA signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> implemented or launched activities to improve their implementation and continued to show interest in the protection of women and girls and the promotion of their role in the Kurdish society</li> <li>✓ Syria: the Democratic Self Administration in Rojava/People's Protection Units/Women's Protection Units (YPG-YPJ) provided Geneva Call with information on their process for the implementation of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>, signed in 2014</li> </ul>

<b>OUTCOME 1</b>	<b>Geneva Call is able to make informed decisions on the value and feasibility of interventions and build the capacity to start and maintain engagement processes</b>
<b>Expected achievements</b>	<b>Achievements</b>
→ assessments of potential new engagements are undertaken in India and Iran	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ India: Geneva Call sought opportunities to engage with the Naxalites. People and organizations with the potential to help Geneva Call establish direct contact with this group were approached and they encouraged Geneva Call to adopt an indirect strategy through other ANSAs in the country; however, no concrete activities took place in 2015. Research and contacts with its partners enabled Geneva Call to update its information about the situation in India and prepare profiles of potential new ANSAs to engage with. The assessment of one new ANSA, the Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF), allowed a new engagement process to develop</li> <li>✓ Iran: after an earlier assessment, Geneva Call initiated an engagement process with the Kurdistan Freedom Party (PAK) and it signed <i>the Deed of Commitment</i> prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination in June.</li> </ul>
→ up to 9 new ANSAs agree to start a dialogue with Geneva Call	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ DR Congo: 3 ANSAs (the APCLS, FDLR and NDC) engaged with Geneva Call in a first dialogue about sexual violence and gender discrimination</li> <li>✓ Iran: the PAK agreed to work with Geneva Call on gender issues and signed the <i>Deed</i> in June</li> <li>✓ this brought the number of active ANSAs working with Geneva Call on this theme to 34, including signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i></li> </ul>
<b>OUTCOME 2</b>	<b>ANSAs are aware of international norms relating to sexual violence and gender discrimination and have the knowledge to respond to this issue</b>
<b>Expected achievements</b>	<b>Achievements</b>

<p>→ up to 20 awareness raising workshops are organized during the year with ANSA members from Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, DRC, India, Iran, the Philippines, Sudan and Syria</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ of the 52 workshops and training events organized, 31 targeted ANSA commanders and fighters, legal advisers and political leaders from Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, DRC, Iran, Sudan, Syria and Turkey</li> <li>✓ several awareness raising meetings also took place with ANSAs' representatives in order to help foster awareness of the fight against gender violence and discrimination</li> <li>✓ Colombia: the FARC-EP deepened its understanding of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>. During a session in Havana, Cuba, its representatives studied its content in detail</li> <li>✓ the Philippines: the Moro Islamic Liberation Front/Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (MILF/BIAF) committed to organizing two workshops to explore the issues of protecting women and girls from violence as well as women's rights and their participation in the peace process. However, the workshops were postponed because of delays in the peace process and then had to be cancelled due to a lack of funding</li> </ul>
<p>→ approximately 450 members of ANSAs attend workshops</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ at least 791 members of ANSAs, of whom 7 were women, participated in workshops</li> <li>✓ 59 instructors, of whom 27 were women, also benefited from training during 6 events held in Burma/Myanmar, Syria, Turkey or a neighbouring country</li> </ul>
<p>→ 80% of ANSAs attending for the first time agree to pursue a dialogue on this issue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ all the ANSAs which attended awareness-raising sessions for the first time agreed to continue their dialogue with Geneva Call on this topic</li> </ul>
<p><b>OUTCOME 3</b></p>	<p><b>ANSAs make commitments towards respecting international norms, including signing the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>, or carrying out other measures</b></p>
<p><b>Expected achievements</b></p>	<p><b>Achievements</b></p>
<p>→ 7 ANSAs from Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, India, Iran and Syria sign the <i>Deed of Commitment</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ India: in March, the KNO signed the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination and thus became the second ANSA from India to have signed all three <i>Deeds of Commitment</i>; in July, the NSCN-IM signed the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>, having initiated its engagement on gender issues in 2010</li> <li>✓ Iran: the PAK signed <i>the Deed of Commitment</i> prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination</li> <li>✓ Burma/Myanmar: the new Mon State Party/Mon National Liberation Army (NMSP/MNLA) agreed, in principle, to work towards the signing of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>. However, a number of issues needed to be explored in more detail before this could take place</li> <li>✓ Colombia: the National Liberation Army (ELN) stated that it would be ready to sign the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> once official peace negotiations with the government started. The FARC-EP declared its potential interest in signing <i>the Deed of Commitment</i> and promised to inform Geneva Call of specific areas of concern regarding the compatibility between its internal code of conduct and <i>the Deed</i></li> <li>✓ India: although it had agreed to sign of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> in principle, the Hmar People's Congress–Democracy (HPC-D) postponed its signature due to internal difficulties</li> <li>✓ Iran: the Free Life Party of Kurdistan (PJAK) agreed with the content of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> in principle and was still considering whether to become a signatory. However, it reported requiring additional internal discussions before it could sign</li> <li>✓ Syria: following in-depth discussions about its obligations and how to implement them, the IA expressed its readiness to sign the <i>Deed of Commitment</i></li> <li>✓ this brought the total number of active ANSA signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> to 14</li> </ul>

<p>→ 3 ANSAs undertake other measures towards the respect of international norms relating to the prohibition of sexual violence and the elimination of gender discrimination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Colombia: the FARC-EP revised its internal policy regarding female combatants' pregnancies. No abortion should be undertaken against the woman's will; consent would henceforth be obligatory. This new policy was referred to in public statements in order to counter previous allegations of forced contraception and abortion</li> <li>✓ DRC: the APCLS decided to disseminate 150 booklets about the prohibition of sexual violence and against gender discrimination to its officers and fighters. The FLDR agreed to distribute booklets and 13 high-level officers participated in a training session on the issue of sexual violence and gender discrimination. The NDC accepted 50 booklets on the issue to be distributed to its members</li> <li>✓ Turkey: representatives of the PKK women's movement, the KJK, provided a document presenting their existing policies against sexual violence and gender discrimination and describing their good practices. The HPG/PKK confirmed its readiness to sign the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination</li> </ul>
<b>OUTCOME 4</b>	<b>Geneva Call has the necessary information to hold ANSAs accountable to their obligations under the <i>Deed of Commitment</i></b>
<b>Expected achievements</b>	<b>Achievements</b>
<p>→ 80% of the signatories report on their compliance with their obligations under the <i>Deed of Commitment</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ all 14 active ANSA signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> provided information and reports on their implementation processes (such as dissemination, training sessions, enforcement and protection measures) and Geneva Call also continued to monitor their compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> through direct and indirect sources</li> </ul>
<p>→ Geneva Call gathers relevant information from third party sources and through field visits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Geneva Call regularly gathered information from third party sources (local partners, CSOs, the media, UN reports) and through field visits investigating signatories' compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i></li> </ul>
<b>OUTCOME 5</b>	<b>ANSAs take measures to ensure compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> or other commitments</b>
<b>Expected achievements</b>	<b>Achievements</b>
<p>→ regular meetings and 3 workshops take place with ANSAs from Iran and Syria on implementation and monitoring mechanisms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Iran: regular meetings took place with all 7 Iranian Kurdish ANSAs and 20 fighters attended a workshop about the <i>Deed of Commitment</i></li> <li>✓ Syria: direct dialogue continued with ANSAs both inside and outside Syria. Through meetings and training, ANSAs were encouraged to sign and enforce the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>. Of the 17 training sessions and workshops organized, a dozen addressed sexual violence and gender discrimination</li> </ul>
<p>→ ANSA signatories take implementation measures to ensure compliance with the <i>Deed of Commitment</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Burma/Myanmar: the CNF/CNA was finalizing its implementation plan and had started to enforce it. The KNU/KNLA worked on its internal dissemination of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>. It also added the content of <i>the Deed</i> in the curriculum of its training programmes</li> <li>✓ India: all 5 ANSA signatories managed to draft their implementation plans and started to put them into practice. The KNF reported organizing training on human rights (including sexual violence) in its camps and revising its disciplinary code. The KNO reported having recently appointed a woman to bring women's issues to the attention of the organization's central committee. The NSCN-KK disseminated the content of the <i>Deed</i> to its members and began to address discriminatory practices within the organization. It also declared that it dealt severely with all cases of sexual violence</li> <li>✓ Iran: all 6 ANSA signatories to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> reported its implementation or the launch of activities to improve its implementation, and they continued to show interest in the protection of women and girls and the promotion of their role in</li> </ul>

	<p>the Kurdish society</p> <p>✓ Syria: the YPG-YPJ were in the process of implementing the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed in 2014</p>
<b>OUTCOME 6</b>	<b>CSOs and CBOs facilitate engagement processes at all stages—including through training, monitoring and assistance activities</b>
<b>Expected achievements</b>	<b>Achievements</b>
<p>➔ more than 15 training events on the prohibition of sexual violence and towards the elimination of gender discrimination are organized with CSOs/CBOs in Burma/Myanmar, DRC, India, Syria and Turkey, with a total of 200 participants or more</p>	<p>✓ of the 52 events organized—mainly involving Geneva Call’s partners—15 were attended by 175 members of CSOs/CBOs, including 75 women, in Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, DRC, India, Lebanon, Sudan, Syria and Turkey</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>✓ Burma/Myanmar: following their participation in 4 workshops, 33 members of Karen, Kachin and Mon CBOs, including 29 women, were undertaking, or preparing to undertake, awareness-raising activities in their communities about gender issues</p> <p>✓ DRC: following a training session about the prohibition of sexual violence and the elimination of gender discrimination, 14 Congolese journalists in North Kivu produced radio documentaries about sexual violence. They identified different subjects for radio documentaries and then produced eight radio shows that were aired on local radio stations</p> <p>✓ Syria: at 11 training events, 60 women representatives of Syrian CSOs, notably the Syrian Female Journalists Network, Badael and Women Now, learned how concrete actions can 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>✓ India: following a workshop on Geneva Call’s different thematics, CSOs close to ANSAs shared information with those groups, which have since expressed a willingness to meet with Geneva Call to discuss those thematics, including gender.</p> <p>✓ Burma/Myanmar: at the initiative of the Mon Women’s Network (MWN), the NMSP agreed that its leaders would attend a workshop on women, peace and security, to be facilitated by UN Women, as well as a workshop on the <i>Deed of Commitment</i> with Geneva Call (planned for March 2016). It was apparent that the NMSP’s continued openness to working on gender issues has been influenced by the MWN and particularly the Mon Women’s Organisation (MWO). The Karen Women’s Organisation (KWO) arranged a meeting between Geneva Call and some of its field staff who provided important information on the challenges they had faced—including some local resistance from the KNU—when implementing the project</p>
<b>OUTCOME 7</b>	<b>Geneva Call has the knowledge, capacity and stakeholder support for its engagement activities</b>
<b>Expected achievements</b>	<b>Achievements</b>
<p>➔ 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)</p>	<p>✓ reports, guidelines, policy documents and tools from other agencies were regularly shared with Geneva Call’s staff</p> <p>✓ technical expertise and support were provided to Geneva Call’s operational staff, including during training for ANSAs and CBOs</p> <p>✓ Geneva Call participated in key conferences on the topic of sexual violence and women, peace and security</p>
<p>➔ Geneva Call further develops and adapts training material (e.g. booklets, posters, vide-</p>	<p>✓ internal tools and resources, such as the annotations to the <i>Deed of Commitment</i>, were reviewed (and are ongoing)</p> <p>✓ Geneva Call applied and received the seed funding on Gender Based Violence (GBV) from the Humanitarian Innovation Fund in</p>

<p>os) and methodology as needed</p>	<p>order to develop a new tool or methodology to prevent GBV by ANSAs. A workshop with a consortium of experts will meet in 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Geneva Call developed two specific videos and 12 radio messages in Arabic and Kurdish addressing sexual violence and indiscriminate attacks. These were broadcast on Syrian local TV channels and radio stations as part of the <i>Fighter not Killer</i> campaign</li> </ul>
<p>→ local/international stakeholders take concrete actions to facilitate Geneva Call's work (e.g. statements of support, funding, partnership agreements, other evidence of support)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ meetings regularly took place—for example, in Burma/Myanmar, DRC and Syria—with local authorities and representatives of humanitarian organizations present in those countries, such as the ICRC or UN agencies; these meeting enabled information sharing, coordination where necessary and better support for Geneva Call's objectives and activities</li> <li>✓ in several contexts, such as Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, DRC, India, Syria and Turkey, local organizations and Geneva Call and/or its partners had regular meetings to support and enhance each other's work</li> </ul>
<p>→ Geneva Call reviews its work on sexual violence in armed conflict, with a focus on the implementation of the <i>Deed of Commitment</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ at the request of specific stakeholders, Geneva Call carried out several research studies in 2015 involving ANSAs and a number of different thematics (e.g. displacement, the World Humanitarian Summit or the protection of cultural heritage); the planned comprehensive review of Geneva Call's work on gender issues had to be postponed due to lack of time</li> </ul>
<p><b>OUTCOME 8</b></p>	<p><b>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</b></p>
<p><b>Expected achievements</b></p>	<p><b>Achievements</b></p>
<p>→ key international stakeholders are aware of Geneva Call's work, lessons learned and advocacy messages</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ meetings focusing on issues related to gender-based violence regularly took place with representatives of concerned or donor States and at the headquarters of major humanitarian and women's organizations</li> <li>✓ Geneva Call had meetings in New York with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) on Sexual Violence, which resulted in a decision to further discuss areas of collaboration</li> <li>✓ a meeting with UN Women took place in New York and potential collaboration was discussed</li> <li>✓ several meetings with WILPF resulted in a mapping of potential collaborations in countries of interest as well as at a global level</li> </ul>
<p>→ stakeholders' understandings of ANSAs' perspectives and challenges are improved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Geneva Call continuously raised the awareness of States and other stakeholders on this topic and on ANSAs' perspectives and challenges</li> <li>✓ the need to engage with ANSAs and for such humanitarian engagement to be permitted was regularly mentioned by Geneva Call at the conferences and meetings that it attended</li> </ul>
<p>→ the visibility of Geneva Call's experience is raised through participation in relevant conferences and international fora, and the organization of side events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Geneva Call participated in various events and meetings linked to its work on sexual violence and gender issues. For instance, it participated in a conference entitled "15 years of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. Review and Outlook", in Geneva in September 2015</li> <li>✓ The Geneva Centre for Education and Research in Humanitarian Action (CERAH) asked Geneva Call to give a lecture on its work with ANSAs on sexual violence as part of CERAH's training on the theme of GBV in conflict settings and emergencies</li> <li>✓ Geneva Call was invited to speak at an ICRC and CERAH livestream conference entitled "Responding to sexual violence in conflict: can we do better?" in November 2015</li> </ul>

# HUMANITARIAN NORMS

Geneva Call has been working to raise ANSAs' awareness of humanitarian norms and to help them integrate these norms into their internal regulations. This work is done using various tools, including a training module that distills the complex sources of IHL into a set of 15 rules of behaviour for ANSA fighters. Training on IHL is a good starting point for dialogue and engagement with ANSAs, especially when a *Deed of Commitment* process and/or a thematic approach are not relevant.

Afghanistan	South Sudan
Colombia	Sudan
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Syrian Arab Republic
Iraq	Thailand
Islamic Republic of Iran	Turkey
Lebanon	Western Sahara
Mali	Yemen

## EXPENSES IN CHF

Africa	117'838
Asia	108'914
Latin America	47'886
Middle East and Europe	654'191
Operational support	287'323
<b>Total</b>	<b>1'216'151</b>



Workshop with fighters of a Syrian ANSA on humanitarian norms. Syria, July 2015 © Geneva Call

In his June 2015 report on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, covering the period from November 2013 to May 2015, the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UNSG) identified the need for humanitarian organizations to ensure a more systematic engagement with ANSAs in order to press them to comply with the law and ensure the protection of civilians and humanitarian access. However, this type of engagement remained weak, and most humanitarian organizations continued to focus their relationships with ANSAs on getting access to the people affected by conflict.

By the end of 2015, Geneva Call was working on humanitarian norms with ANSAs and/or CSOs/CBOs in 14 of the 19 contexts where it was active.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2015:

- ▶ 30 active ANSAs in 14 contexts engaged with Geneva Call on humanitarian norms, including 12 new ones— i.e 3 in DRC (Alliance des Patriotes pour un Congo Libre et Souverain, APCLS; Forces Démocratiques pour la Libération du Rwanda, FDLR; and Nduma Defense of Congo, NDC); 6 in Iran (Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan, PDKI; 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; Kurdistan Freedom Party, PAK); 1 in Iraq (the Popular Mobilisation Forces, PMF); 1 in Lebanon (the Joint Security Force, JSF); and 1 in Syria (Ahrar al-Sham, AAS)
- ▶ 1,267 representatives of ANSAs, CSOs/CBOs or local authorities, of whom 178 were women, attended 71 training sessions promoting and presenting humanitarian norms in DRC, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, and Western Sahara. These were often examined together with the content of the 3 existing *Deeds of Commitment*
- ▶ 3 ANSAs took measures to ensure compliance with their commitments or plans. In DRC, the FDLR announced that it was working on revisions to its internal regulations and agreed to get outside technical advice to improve compliance with humanitarian norms. In Mali, the National Liberation Movement of Azawad (MNLA) accepted Geneva Call's help in transcribing its oral code of conduct, including rules about the protection of children, women and other civilians. In Syria, the Free Syrian Army (FSA) completed its code of conduct, including provisions about a mine ban, the protection of children and the prohibition of sexual violence
- ▶ In Western Sahara, the Polisario Front declared, under article 96, para. 3 of Additional Protocol I, its commitment to apply the 1949 Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol I. For the first time in the history of IHL, Switzerland, as the depositary of the Conventions and their Additional Protocols, accepted its declaration, confirming the application of the law of international armed conflicts to the conflict between Morocco and the Polisario Front
- ▶ 3 ANSAs followed-up on allegations of violations of humanitarian norms: in Lebanon, the PLO/PNSF announced that it had set up an internal committee to investigate allegations of violations of humanitarian norms during an armed confrontation between its members and those of another ANSA. In Syria, the Islam Army (IA) responded to the allegations of violations presented to them by Geneva Call. In Thailand, the Barisan Revolusi Nasional/Runda Kumpulan (BRN/RKK) provided Geneva Call with information following allegations of the recruitment and use of children in hostilities
- ▶ In Iraq, Iran, Syria and Thailand, ANSAs supported broad media campaigns aimed at raising people's awareness of humanitarian norms
- ▶ Geneva Call held its first, annual Garance Talks, a series of expert meetings aimed at promoting a better understanding of the challenges ANSAs face in complying with applicable international law

## CONTEXT/PROBLEM STATEMENT

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. In his June 2015 report on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, covering the period from November 2013 to May 2015, the UNSG identified the need for humanitarian agencies to ensure a more systematic engagement with ANSAs in order to press them to comply with the law and guarantee the protection of civilians and humanitarian access. However, such engagement remained weak, and most humanitarian actors continued to focus their relationships with ANSAs on getting humanitarian access to the people affected by conflict. Furthermore, access to certain ANSAs was restricted and these restrictions sometimes included criminalizing humanitarian organizations that had contact with those ANSAs labelled as “terrorists”.

Effective engagement with ANSAs thus required organizations to have a very good understanding of the specific challenges that they might face in complying with the existing legal and normative frameworks allowing humanitarian organizations to work with armed groups.

By the end of 2015, Geneva Call was working on humanitarian norms with ANSAs and/or CSOs/CBOs in 14 of the 19 contexts where it was active.

## OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### Logic of intervention

The ability to engage with ANSAs about compliance with humanitarian norms other than those covered by the existing *Deeds of Commitment* has always been a part of Geneva Call’s vision. Indeed, when signing a *Deed of Commitment*, ANSAs agree to consider that act as but one part of a broader commitment, in principle, to the ideal of respecting all humanitarian norms, particularly IHL and IHRL.

On the basis of requests from ANSAs, Geneva Call discussed the sources of humanitarian norms with them, particularly the sources of IHL and IHRL. This was considered a good starting point for a broader dialogue and engagement with ANSAs about their overall conduct. That large body of law has been summarised into a set of 15 rules of behaviour, and it is hoped that ANSA fighters will seek to follow those rules drawn from the customary IHL applicable in non-international armed conflicts. These rules were included in a kit of training tools prepared by Geneva Call in consultation with legal experts. These materials help ANSAs to better understand the relevance of humanitarian norms, how to adapt them to the reality in the field and what they need to do practically to comply with them. The guiding principles in these rules and training programmes also allowed Geneva Call to focus on specific themes, such as child protection or sexual violence, when relevant, and to give detailed explanations of the *Deeds of Commitment* concerned at a later stage.

As part of Geneva Call’s operational support activities, all the work carried out across various contexts and themes was analysed, and together these analyses contributed to improving the organization’s efficiency in the mid- to long-term.



2015 expected achievements and achievements

OVERALL IMPACT	The protection of civilians and other protected persons in areas where ANSAs operate is improved
Expected achievements	Achievements
<p>→ 2 new ANSAs engage with Geneva Call on humanitarian norms, bringing the number of active ANSAs working with and trained by Geneva Call on this theme to 19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ in Democratic Republic of the Congo (hereafter DRC), 3 ANSAs engaged in dialogues on humanitarian norms and agreed to continue these in 2016: Alliance des Patriotes pour un Congo Libre et Souverain, APCLS; Forces Démocratiques pour la Libération du Rwanda, FDLR; and Nduma Defense of Congo, NDC</li> <li>✓ in Iran, 6 ANSAs engaged in dialogues and expressed their commitments to deepening them and organizing specific training sessions on humanitarian norms: Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan, PDKI; 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; and the Kurdistan Freedom Party, PAK</li> <li>✓ in Iraq, Geneva Call initiated discussions on its humanitarian norms programme with the Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF); they showed strong interest in continuing discussions and benefiting from awareness-raising activities</li> <li>✓ in Lebanon, the commanders of the new main security body created in Ain al-Hilweh Camp—the Joint Security Force (JSF)—made up of members from most of the Palestinian ANSAs, attended a pilot training-session in April. During that session, organized by Geneva Call in partnership with the Palestinian Liberation Organisation’s Legal Support Unit (LSU), participants learned the basic principles of the use of force and firearms in security operations and further developed their understanding and knowledge of humanitarian principles</li> <li>✓ in Syria, Ahrar al-Sham (AAS) began a direct dialogue with Geneva Call on humanitarian norms and expressed its wish to deepen discussions</li> <li>✓ these 12 new ANSAs brought the total number of ANSAs working with Geneva Call on humanitarian norms to 30</li> </ul>
<p>→ Geneva Call works in 8 contexts of intervention: Afghanistan, Colombia, Islamic Republic of Iran (hereafter Iran), Lebanon, Syrian Arab Republic (here after Syria), Thailand, Turkey and Western Sahara</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Geneva Call worked in 14 contexts of intervention: Afghanistan, Colombia, DRC, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Mali, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, Western Sahara and Yemen</li> <li>✓ in some countries, the number of activities and follow-up were high; in others, the level of engagement was low, due to various constraints</li> </ul>
<p>→ at least 4 ANSAs take measures to commit to respecting humanitarian norms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Lebanon: the Palestinian Liberation Organization/Palestinian National Security Forces (PLO/PNSF) declared that it had set up an internal committee to investigate allegations of violations of humanitarian norms during an armed confrontation between its members and those of another ANSA. It recognized that violations had been committed by both sides</li> <li>✓ Syria: the Islam Army (IA) presented its policy on humanitarian norms and responded to allegations of violations presented by Geneva Call. The IA expressed its readiness to sign the 3 <i>Deeds of Commitment</i>. The Free Syrian Army (FSA) completed its code of conduct, including provisions about a mine ban, the protection of children and the prohibition of sexual violence</li> <li>✓ Thailand: the Barisan Revolusi Nasional/Runda Kumpulan (BRN/RKK) provided information on allegations that it had recruited and used children in hostilities. It confirmed its leadership’s full approval for the dissemination of humanitarian norms to its</li> </ul>

	<p>members and offered support in carrying this out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Western Sahara: the Polisario Front declared, under article 96, para. 3 of Additional Protocol I, its commitment to apply the 1949 Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol I. For the first time in the history of IHL, Switzerland, as the depositary of the Conventions and their Additional Protocols, accepted such declaration, confirming the application of the law of international armed conflicts to the conflict between Morocco and the Polisario Front</li> </ul>
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OUTCOME 1	
Expected achievements	Achievements
<p>→ relevant ANSAs and their representatives open to engagement with Geneva Call are identified</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Iraq: Geneva Call resumed work in Iraq, starting its operations in Baghdad, areas controlled by the Kurdistan Regional Government and the southern regions. It aimed to engage with Yezidi Kurdish, Shia and Sunni ANSAs on humanitarian norms. A network of contacts was developed and Geneva Call began reaching out to relevant ANSAs</li> <li>✓ Lebanon: following engagement with decision makers from the major Lebanese political parties about humanitarian norms in 2013, Geneva Call extended its approach to other political parties and constituencies. 3 Lebanese political parties thus began a dialogue on humanitarian norms—Azzm wa Saadeh, Marada and the Democratic Party (DP)—whereas others showed increased interest in disseminating humanitarian norms among their constituencies</li> <li>✓ Mali: Geneva Call started to assess its potential to add value in Mali. A top representative of the National Liberation Movement of Azawad (MNL) gave positive feedback on the potential for engagement with Geneva Call on awareness raising about humanitarian norms</li> <li>✓ South Sudan: Geneva Call started to assess whether conditions were suitable for an initial engagement with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement–In Opposition (SPLM-IO) on humanitarian norms. A mission to South-Sudan established that a more in-depth assessment was necessary, including an exploration of the possibilities for engaging with other ANSAs to promote humanitarian norms, such as the South Sudan Democratic Movement–Cobra Faction (SSDM) and the White Army</li> </ul>
<p>→ at least 2 ANSAs agree to start a dialogue with Geneva Call in Afghanistan and Syria</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Afghanistan: Geneva Call continued to communicate, through various channels, with contacts who maintain good relationships with the leadership of 2 ANSAs—Hezb-e-Islami Gulbuddin, HIG, and the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, IEA. However, due to a lack of funding in 2015, planned activities were halted</li> <li>✓ DRC: initial indirect contacts with ANSAs via communities, traditional leaders and other decision makers supporting them were carried out in order to build trust. These facilitated the first direct contacts and effective engagement involving dialogues on humanitarian norms with 3 ANSAs (the APCLS, FDLR and NDC)</li> <li>✓ Iran: following its lengthy engagement with Iranian Kurdish ANSAs on the <i>Deeds of Commitment</i>, Geneva Call sought to further develop their knowledge and respect of humanitarian norms. Consequently, 6 ANSAs engaged in dialogues on humanitarian norms and expressed commitments to deepening discussions (the PDKI, KPIK, KPK, Komalah, Komalah-CPI, KDP-Iran and PAK)</li> <li>✓ Iraq: Geneva Call initiated discussions on its humanitarian norms programme with the PMF, which showed strong interest in continuing discussions and benefiting from further awareness-raising activities</li> <li>✓ Lebanon: JSF commanders attended a pilot training-session on the basic principles of the use of force and firearms in security</li> </ul>

	<p>operations. This event was organized by Geneva Call in partnership with the LSU, and participants were keen to further their training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Syria: the AAS began a direct dialogue with Geneva Call on humanitarian norms. This dialogue progressed well and the AAS expressed its wish to deepen discussions</li> </ul>
<b>OUTCOME 2</b>	<b>ANSAs have knowledge about humanitarian norms and are able to apply it in their decision making</b>
<b>Expected achievements</b>	<b>Achievements</b>
<p>➔ 10 training and awareness raising workshops are organized with ANSAs' members from Colombia, Iran, Lebanon, Syria, Thailand, Turkey and Western Sahara</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ of the 71 events organized, 42 (in DRC, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, Western Sahara or a neighbouring country) targeted ANSA commanders and fighters, legal advisers and political leaders. These mainly involved Geneva Call's partners promoting/presenting humanitarian norms, often together with the content of the <i>Deeds of Commitment</i></li> <li>✓ 84 trainers, of whom 15 were women, also benefited from training at 8 events held in Lebanon, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, Western Sahara or a neighbouring country</li> <li>✓ DRC: 10 different training events helped to deepen knowledge about humanitarian norms for 76 APCLS officers, 41 FDLR officers and fighters, and 10 NDC officers</li> <li>✓ Iran: 20 PAK fighters, including one female commander, developed their knowledge of humanitarian norms and the 3 <i>Deeds of Commitment</i> signed by the PAK in 2015</li> <li>✓ Lebanon: JSF commanders participated in a pilot training-course on humanitarian norms organized in partnership with the LSU. The LSU team also participated in 2 refresher courses about humanitarian norms, among other subjects</li> <li>✓ Sudan: security constraints and restricted field access limited the possible dialogue and activities on humanitarian norms with the Darfuri ANSAs: 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)</li> <li>✓ Syria: 17 training events contributed to encouraging 380 ANSA members to commit to respecting and implementing humanitarian norms</li> <li>✓ Thailand: a training session enhanced the capacities of 12 representatives of the BRN/RKK to teach humanitarian principles and the 15 rules included in Geneva Call's booklets to their members. BRN/RKK members will thus better understand the relevance of humanitarian norms</li> <li>✓ Turkey: a 3-day course took place in Iraqi Kurdistan for 7 People's Defence Forces/Kurdistan Worker's Party (HPG/PKK) training instructors, including 2 women. They improved their capacities to promote humanitarian norms with their members</li> <li>✓ Western Sahara: 14 military instructors at the Polisario Front's military academy followed a training session about humanitarian norms and IHL and started to integrate these provisions into their curricula</li> <li>✓ Yemen: Ansar Allah/Al Houthi maintained its dialogue with Geneva Call on humanitarian norms and welcomed planned activities. However, due to a lack of funds in 2015, these activities did not take place</li> </ul>
<p>➔ Approximately 150 members of ANSAs attend training sessions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ at least 870 members of ANSAs, of whom 40 were women, participated in training sessions and workshops</li> </ul>

<b>OUTCOME 3</b>	
<b>ANSAs make commitments or plans to respect humanitarian norms</b>	
<b>Expected achievements</b>	<b>Achievements</b>
<p>→ 4 ANSAs commit to respecting humanitarian norms and/or integrating IHL rules into their internal regulations and training systems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ DRC: 2 ANSAs—the APCLS and FDLR—started to adjust their policies and practices. The APCLS provided Geneva Call with a copy of its internal rules and requested technical support to improve its policies. Its leaders then followed Geneva Call’s advice and adopted a new code of conduct. The FDLR shared its "penal code" with Geneva Call and stated that it was ready to receive support on designing new regulations, such as a code of conduct for its combatants. This process is ongoing</li> <li>✓ Lebanon: the PLO/PNSF announced that it had set up an internal committee to investigate allegations of violations of humanitarian norms during an armed confrontation between its members and those of another ANSA. It recognized that violations had been committed by both sides. An expansion of the LSU, set up to ensure training for PNSF commanders in all camps, took place in Palestinian refugee camps in North Lebanon and Tyre. The sustainability of both the LSU and LTC has yet to be guaranteed</li> <li>✓ Syria: the Islam Army (IA) presented its policy on humanitarian norms and responded to allegations about violations described by Geneva Call. The IA expressed its readiness to sign the 3 <i>Deeds of Commitment</i></li> <li>✓ Thailand: the BRN/RKK explained itself following allegations about the recruitment and use of children in hostilities. It confirmed its leadership’s full approval for the dissemination of humanitarian norms to its members and offered support in carrying this out. 1 Patani United Liberation Organisation (PULO) faction leader uploaded Geneva Call’s booklet on the 15 rules to his Facebook page with the caption: "We all have to respect International Humanitarian Law (IHL)"</li> <li>✓ Western Sahara: the Polisario Front declared its commitment to apply the 1949 Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol I. Switzerland, as the depositary of the Conventions and their Additional Protocols, accepted the Polisario Front's declaration</li> </ul>
<b>OUTCOME 4</b>	
<b>Geneva Call has the necessary information to hold ANSAs accountable to their commitments or plans</b>	
<b>Expected achievements</b>	<b>Achievements</b>
<p>→ as an initial stage in the implementation of these activities, Geneva Call harmonizes monitoring tools and methodologies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Geneva Call’s Policy and Legal Unit began reviewing its tools and methodologies, but their harmonization has yet to be finalized. This is expected in 2016</li> </ul>
<p>→ partnerships with other stakeholders are consolidated and extended in Afghanistan, Burma/Myanmar and Iran</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Afghanistan: the Ministry for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs committed itself to supporting Geneva Call's partner, The Liaison Office, in its programme to help local leaders strengthen their negotiation skills for better protecting their communities. However, a lack of funding for 2015 impeded the implementation of the activities planned</li> </ul>
<b>OUTCOME 5</b>	
<b>ANSAs take measures to ensure compliance with their commitments or plans</b>	
<b>Expected achievements</b>	<b>Achievements</b>
<p>→ 4 ANSAs take measures such as changing their codes of conduct or drafting unilateral declarations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ DRC: the APCLS declared its interest to improve its compliance with humanitarian norms and explained the challenges it faced in abiding by these norms. It informed Geneva Call about the basic training on humanitarian norms being provided in its military camps. The FDLR announced that it was in the process of revising some of its internal regulations and agreed to get technical advice so that the adjustments made were compliant with international legal standards</li> <li>✓ Mali: the MLNA welcomed Geneva Call’s help in transcribing its oral code of conduct, including rules about the protection of children, women and other civilians, and it expressed the wish to prepare a unilateral declaration on the respect for humanitarian norms</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Syria: the IA presented its policy on humanitarian norms. The FSA completed its code of conduct, including provisions about the mine ban, the protection of children and the prohibition of sexual violence. Other affiliated factions of the FSA—the First Brigade and the Fastaqim Kama Umerta (FKO)—expressed their readiness to develop code of conducts or to draft unilateral declarations on humanitarian norms</li> <li>✓ Western Sahara: the Polisario Front declared its commitment to apply the 1949 Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol I. Switzerland, as the depositary of the Conventions and their Additional Protocols, accepted the Polisario Front's declaration</li> </ul>
<b>OUTCOME 6</b>	<b>CSOs and CBOs facilitate engagement processes at all stages—including through training, monitoring and assistance activities</b>
<b>Expected achievements</b>	<b>Achievements</b>
<p>➔ the capacity of CSOs, CBOs and community leaders is built to support the dissemination of humanitarian norms and the process of engagement with ANSAs, mainly in Afghanistan, Lebanon and Syria, through meetings, training and the development of supporting materials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Geneva Call organized 71 events, very often with its partners, promoting/presenting humanitarian norms in general and 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. 19 of these events gathered 376 CSO/CBO members, including 138 women, in DRC, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Sudan and Turkey; 2 events gathered 46 political leaders, including 18 women, in Lebanon</li> <li>✓ Afghanistan: planned activities here were cancelled due to a lack of funding (see above)</li> <li>✓ DRC: following a workshop for 87 members of 19 CSOs/CBOs, including community leaders, women's groups, IDPs and refugees, 2 CSOs facilitated engagement with ANSAs</li> <li>✓ Iraq: at several meetings, CSOs and tribal leaders welcomed the opportunity to receive training on humanitarian norms and how to disseminate knowledge on humanitarian norms to ANSAs and communities</li> <li>✓ Lebanon: 7 political parties explored activities aimed at sustaining the dissemination of humanitarian norms within party structures and constituencies. They also discussed how to include humanitarian norms in the curricula of their internal academies and other similar steps. Following their training, leaders of Future Movement's Youth Sector gave their own first courses about humanitarian norms</li> <li>✓ Syria: 128 members from CSOs/CBOs, mainly operating in the northern regions, as well as some female journalists, developed their capacity to promote humanitarian norms within civil society in Syria</li> <li>✓ Turkey: cooperation and capacity building activities with a partner CSO helped to strengthen its ability to monitor respect for humanitarian norms</li> </ul>
<b>OUTCOME 7</b>	<b>Geneva Call has the knowledge, capacity and stakeholder support for its engagement activities</b>
<b>Expected achievements</b>	<b>Achievements</b>
<p>➔ Geneva Call further disseminates pedagogical material (e.g. illustrated booklets, posters) to support its engagement activities through broad media campaigns, mainly in the Middle East</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Iraq: the <i>Fighter not Killer</i> Campaign was developed further. 3 TV advertisements were produced and provided to ANSAs via TV channels; a new website in Arabic, Kurdish and English was created with accompanying videos, a booklet and a mobile telephone application. 4 booklets and posters on humanitarian norms were translated into Kurdish and printed in Arabic and Kurdish</li> <li>✓ Iran: all 7 Iranian Kurdish ANSAs agreed to broadcast the <i>Fighter not Killer</i> videos and radio messages on their TV and radio channels in order to raise people's awareness about humanitarian norms</li> <li>✓ Syria: 2 Geneva Call videos and 12 radio messages addressing sexual violence and indiscriminate attacks were prepared for broadcasting on local Arabic and Kurdish language TV channels and radio stations as part of the <i>Fighter not Killer</i> campaign</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Thailand: 2 ANSAs—BRN/RKK and PULO—welcomed the launch of the <i>Fighter not Killer</i> campaign that started on social media. A training manual, presentation materials and illustrated booklets and posters in the Thai and Malay languages were also produced to support ANSAs' dissemination efforts</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ local/international stakeholders take concrete actions to facilitate Geneva Call's work (statements of support, funding, partnership agreements, other evidence of support)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ DRC: 2 CSOs, Global Synergie pour la Paix et le Développement (GYSPAD) and Action Humanitaire pour la Consolidation de la Paix et le Développement intègre (AHCOPDI) signed an MoU with Geneva Call that included provisions for reaching out to ANSAs and promoting humanitarian norms within their communities</li> <li>✓ Iraq: 20 political leaders signed a humanitarian declaration following a national conference session on humanitarian norms organized by Geneva Call in collaboration with the Middle East Research Institute (MERI). This was attended by representatives of the Kurdistan Regional Government's Ministry of Peshmerga and Shia Militias. The declaration was later presented to the Iraqi Parliament's Human Rights Commission. MERI signed an MoU with Geneva Call to conduct further IHL training sessions</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Geneva Call's operational staff receive further training on IHL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Geneva Call operational staff attended 3 training sessions on humanitarian norms. The first focused on the key principles of IHL, the second on the human rights law applicable to situations of armed conflict and the third on qualification of conflicts under IHL. In addition, in August 2015, Geneva Call's operational staff received training on Islamic law and counterterrorism from experts in these fields, namely Naz Modirzadeh and Prof. Andrew March</li> </ul>
<b>OUTCOME 8</b>	<b>The views and perspectives of ANSAs and Geneva Call's expertise are listened to and taken into account in the international debate on the protection of civilians, IHL and IHRL</b>
<b>Expected achievements</b>	<b>Achievements</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ the visibility of Geneva Call's experience is raised through its participation in relevant conferences and international fora</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Geneva Call was invited to speak at expert meetings on ANSAs and humanitarian norms (e.g. the San Remo Roundtable on current issues of IHL, and the ICRC Advanced Seminar in IHL for University Lecturers). Geneva Call also gave courses to humanitarian practitioners, diplomats, military chaplains and university students (e.g. the ICRC, Dutch Red Cross, GCSP, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Australian National University, Melbourne Law School, Leiden University and Glasgow University)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ key international stakeholders are aware of Geneva Call's work, lessons learned and advocacy messages</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Geneva Call met regularly with key international stakeholders during 2015. In particular, it held a series of meetings with the ICRC to further develop a shared framework for coordination and collaboration. It also maintained contacts with OCHA and participated in the global consultation for the World Humanitarian Summit hosted by Switzerland in Geneva</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ stakeholders improve their understandings of ANSAs' perspectives and the challenges they face in respecting humanitarian norms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ In November 2015, Geneva Call held its first Garance Talks, a series of annual expert meetings aimed at promoting a better understanding of the challenges ANSAs face in complying with applicable international law. The theme selected for this first series was the positive obligations of ANSAs. Participants included academic experts and representatives from the ICRC, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Amnesty International and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. An ANSA judge (from the "Rojava administration" in Syria) was also invited. The meeting's report will be published in 2016.</li> <li>✓ Geneva Call maintained and updated the <a href="http://www.theirwords.org">www.theirwords.org</a> database</li> </ul>

# AFRICA

Democratic Republic of the Congo  
Mali  
Senegal  
Somalia  
South Sudan  
Sudan  
Western Sahara

## EXPENSES IN CHF

Landmine ban	95'919
Child protection	224'154
Gender issues	211'190
Humanitarian norms	117'838
<b>Total</b>	<b>649'101</b>



## HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ 4 ANSAs in DRC began to engage in a dialogue with Geneva Call and agreed to continue it in 2016—the APCLS, FDLR, NDC and NDC-R
- ▶ In Sudan, the SPLM-N signed the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict, becoming the first African ANSA to do so; it started to work on an implementation plan
- ▶ the Polisario Front destroyed a further stock of 3,000 AP mines in Western Sahara, while the remaining stockpile remained unknown despite continuous advocacy by Geneva Call



Fighter from a Congolese ANSA reading Geneva Call's illustrated booklets on the landmine ban. Democratic Republic of Congo, July 2015 © Geneva Call

## REGIONAL COORDINATION

Geneva Call's interventions in different regions must remain significant, timely and of the utmost quality. To ensure this, coordination and administrative activities, led by regional directors in collaboration with the head of operations, took place independently of purely field-related work. This coordination, whether at headquarters or in the regions, required participation in desk monitoring meetings, internal coordination meetings, information sharing between departments, or working on specific advocacy or fundraising needs. Regional coordination activities also aimed to constantly improve Geneva Call's work by evaluating results, conducting critical reviews as needed, supporting transversal operational research projects and consulting with external stakeholders, such as donors, UN agencies and other NGOs. This also included liaising with consultants, trainers and partners involved in the programme's implementation. Furthermore, regional coordination facilitated preliminary assessments of whether Geneva Call's engagement in new contexts would add value, as is currently the case for Burundi and Central African Republic, for example.

## EXPENSES IN CHF

Landmine ban	4'694
Child protection	4'694
Gender issues	4'694
Humanitarian norms	6'609
<b>Total</b>	<b>20'692</b>



# CONGO, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE

Following groundwork carried out in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as of 2011, 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 within the country from an office in Goma.

## EXPENSES IN CHF

Landmine ban	
Child protection	163'171
Gender issues	155'963
Humanitarian norms	2'795
<b>Total</b>	<b>321'929</b>

Armed conflict continued in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (hereafter DRC), particularly in the eastern provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu, Orientale and Katanga. This opposed the DRC's armed forces, often backed by the integrated [UN Stabilization Mission in the DRC](#) (MONUSCO), against several foreign and local ANSAs. Fighting between ANSAs persisted along ethnic lines. Corroborated sources reported that widespread violations of IHL remained, perpetrated by all the parties to the conflict, including the recruitment and use of children and sexual violence against women and children. However, in this context, it should be noted that child recruitment by armed forces has started to slow down recently, certainly thanks to the concerted awareness raising efforts of child protection organizations.

ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine ban	Child protection	Gender issues	Humanitarian norms
Alliance des Patriotes pour un Congo Libre et Souverain	APCLS		new	new	new
Forces Démocratiques pour la Libération du Rwanda	FDLR		new	new	new
Mai Mai Kifufua	Kifufa				
Mai Mai Nyatura	Nyatura				
Nduma Defense of Congo (Mai Mai Cheka)	NDC				new
Nduma Defense of Congo - Rénové	NDC-R		new		
The Alliance of Democratic Forces-National Army for the Liberation of Uganda	ADF-NALU				
✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed		✓✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed in 2015		ANSA engaged on thematic area (new = new in 2015)	

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2015:

- ▶ 4 ANSAs began to engage in a dialogue and agreed to continue it in 2016—the APCLS, FDLR, NDC and NDC-R
- ▶ the NDC-R, APCLS and FDLR provided Geneva Call with copies of their internal rules and agreed to receive technical support to improve them in order to comply with humanitarian norms, especially the protection of children
- ▶ 2 ANSAs—the APCLS and FDLR—started to adjust their policies and practices in order to plan for the signature of the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict, following in-depth discussions initiated in 2015
- ▶ the APCLS and FDLR engaged in a dialogue about the prevention of sexual violence and gender discrimination
- ▶ 203 officers from 3 ANSAs (the APCLS, FDLR and NDC) participated in 10 training sessions and improved their knowledge of humanitarian norms, the protection of children in armed conflict, the protection of schools and the prohibition of sexual violence
- ▶ 750 booklets on various related issues were distributed to officers and combatants
- ▶ following a workshop with 87 members of 19 CSOs/CBOs, 2 CSOs facilitated engagement with ANSAs and agreed to partnerships for the dissemination of information on humanitarian norms

## CONTEXT

Armed conflict continued in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (hereafter DRC), particularly in the Kivu provinces. This was despite a 2012 agreement on regional peace, economic development and collaboration. Conflict opposed the DRC's armed forces, backed by the [UN Stabilization Mission in the DRC](#) (MONUSCO), against ANSAs. ANSAs also fought among themselves, with reports involving over 70 separate ANSAs, including Mai Mai self-defence groups and foreign-armed groups (e.g. the ADF-NALU and 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).

Although some ANSAs were well-structured, such as the FDLR or APCLS, the modus operandi of others was more difficult to understand (e.g. the NDC and Nyatura).

## OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### Logic of intervention

Desk analysis, followed by field missions to the DRC, confirmed 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, encouraging them to take ownership of humanitarian norms and thereby improving their behaviour during hostilities. Nevertheless, close coordination with actors involved in the protection of civilians in that region—particularly Save the Children, the ICRC, Search for Common Ground and UN bodies (e.g. UNICEF, UNHCR and MONUSCO)—remained essential to coordinate advocacy efforts towards ANSAs.

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, the DRC's government welcomes Geneva Call's action in the country that supports its policies. The DRC government is also in the process of endorsing the [Safe Schools Declaration](#) and is favourable to Geneva Call's efforts to encourage ANSAs to protect education in armed conflicts. Since 2014, Geneva Call has had an office in Goma and regularly shared information about its activities with the DRC authorities, particularly the Ministry of Defence, Disarmament and Veterans and the armed forces.

With the help of CSOs, Geneva Call has sought to develop 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.

Such engagement essentially comprised meeting ANSAs in their regions of operation. Indirect contacts with ANSAs—through their communities, traditional leaders or other decision-makers supporting them—aimed to build trust, an understanding of ANSAs' practices (at field and policy levels) and to provide advice on compliance with humanitarian norms. When ANSAs were willing to improve their behaviours regarding children and sexual violence, including through a fear of criminal proceedings for abuses of IHL, Geneva Call encouraged the signing of the related *Deeds of Commitment*. Furthermore, it also organized training sessions for ANSAs' members (in their local language and adapted to their environment) focusing on the norms regarding the topics concerned.

## Child protection

### **The APCLS expresses its willingness to sign the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict**

The APCLS has been listed as recruiting and using children in armed conflict in the UNSG's reports. Throughout 2015, the APCLS engaged in a dialogue with Geneva Call and held in-depth discussions about the use and recruitment of children in hostilities and about its related policies and practices. In three additional training sessions, 68 APCLS officers, including members of the leadership, gained additional knowledge about the protection of children in armed conflict and the safety of schools. 300 booklets on the subject were also distributed.

The APCLS agreed to receive technical support to improve its policies and procedures relating to the protection of children. It provided Geneva Call with its rules of war and code of conduct and agreed to their publication online once some necessary adjustments had been made.

These meetings and training sessions provided opportunities for a detailed exploration of the content of the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict. The APCLS expressed its willingness to sign the *Deed* in 2016 after Geneva Call visited its military camps.

### **The FDLR expresses its readiness to sign the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict**

The FDLR has been listed as recruiting and using children in armed conflict in the UNSG's reports. Throughout 2015, the FDLR engaged in a constructive dialogue with Geneva Call and it developed direct discussions on the issue of child protection in armed conflict. For example, in April, 15 FDLR officers, including

two female fighters, held a thorough discussion on its practices concerning the recruitment and use of children and the protection of schools.

During these exchanges, the FDLR shared its internal regulations with Geneva Call and sought legal advice on their improvement. It started to develop internal procedures (rules of war) with specific provisions about the protection of children.

The FDLR agreed to participate in training sessions including a presentation of the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict, and distributed 200 booklets on this issue to its fighters. The FDLR said that it was ready to sign the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict in 2016. However, Geneva Call needs to resume monitoring of other IHL violations by this ANSA, as a signature will not be permitted if other serious violations, such as arbitrary executions, continue to be perpetrated.

### **NDC-R engages in a dialogue on the protection of children in armed conflict**

A fruitful first meeting also took place with the leadership of the NDC-R, and focused initially on the protection of children. The NDC-R shared its code of conduct with Geneva Call in order to receive legal advice. It also agreed to organize a training session about child protection, to distribute 200 booklets on this issue to its members and to continue discussions.

### **Preparation of new material on the protection of education in armed conflict is initiated**

A new booklet and one video on the protection of education, with a particular focus on protecting schools and universities from military use, were in preparation in 2015. They included specific aspects and design relevant for the DRC conflict.

## Gender issues

### **The APCLS engages in a dialogue about sexual violence and gender discrimination**

During meetings about child protection, the APCLS also engaged in a dialogue on gender issues, particularly the prohibition of sexual violence. The APCLS's code of conduct already contained some provisions on prohibiting and punishing sexual violence; however, there were no provisions on gender discrimination, which is a very sensitive issue. As a first step, it agreed to disseminate 150 booklets on the subject to its officers and fighters and to continue discussions.

### **The FDLR holds in-depth discussions about its policy and practices regarding sexual violence and gender discrimination**

Throughout 2015, the FDLR held in-depth discussions about its policy regarding sexual violence and the

means to prevent it. Senior officers demonstrated sound knowledge of the international norms relating to the prevention of sexual violence. According to them, the FDLR's internal rules and regulations prohibit and punish sexual abuse and any form of sexual violence.

The FDLR, which counts some female officers and fighters among its ranks, agreed to the distribution of booklets on the prohibition of sexual violence. In August, 13 high-ranking officers, including one woman (plus one woman from civil society), participated in a training session on the subject.

### **Following a training session, 14 journalists in North Kivu produce eight radio documentaries about sexual violence**

During a training event in September, 14 Congolese journalists in North Kivu, including 2 women, improved their knowledge about the protection of civilians, particularly women, in armed conflict. They learned how concrete actions can promote international norms relating to the prohibition of sexual violence and the elimination of gender discrimination.

The journalists identified a number of different subjects that could be used for making radio documentaries on gender-based violence. By the end of 2015, they had produced eight documentaries that were

aired on local radio stations. They continued to work on the production of additional documentaries to be broadcast in 2016.

The dissemination of information on sexual violence remained a priority. The [\*Report of the Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence\*](#), dated 25 March 2015, noted continued, widespread acts of sexual violence by security forces and ANSAs, mainly in North Kivu and Orientale provinces. According to the report, 70% of the recorded cases of abuse were by ANSAs, including the APCLS, NDC, NDC-R, ADF-NALU and FDLR.

## Humanitarian norms

### **ANSAs engage in a dialogue on the protection of civilians in armed conflict**

In three meetings with Geneva Call, APCLS leaders engaged in a dialogue on humanitarian norms and the protection of civilians in armed conflict. They showed good knowledge of this issue, presenting some of their current positive practices and expressing their interest in deepening them and improving compliance with the normative framework.

The APCLS declared that it faced challenges abiding by norms due to its geographic isolation; a lack of equipment and facilities; and, despite the basic training on humanitarian norms being provided in its military camps, insufficient knowledge of them among rank and file fighters. The APCLS was very limited in terms of the assistance it could provide to the victims of the conflict in terms of healthcare and education as the region suffers from extreme poverty.

After the training sessions, combatants answered 100% of the questions correctly when tested using the *Fighter not Killer* mobile telephone application.

In three meetings, high-ranking FDLR officers and field commanders held in-depth discussions with Geneva Call about humanitarian norms and the protection of civilians in armed conflict.

The FDLR declared that it was in the process of revising some of its internal regulations. It agreed to share its "penal code" with Geneva Call and to receive technical advice so that necessary adjustments could make this comply with international standards. The FDLR stated that it was ready to receive support on designing new regulations and developing implementation plans to disseminate them internally.

In July, 15 FDLR officers were trained on the conduct of hostilities. After training sessions, they all answered 100% of the questions correctly when tested using the *Fighter not Killer* mobile telephone application.

The head of the NDC agreed to meet Geneva Call in October and to start a dialogue on humanitarian

norms. Discussions began, not without difficulties, around the conduct of hostilities and the prohibition of sexual violence. The NDC received 50 booklets on these issues to distribute to its members. It also agreed to continue the dialogue in the coming months. Geneva Call needs to adapt its approach for this group, which is particularly undisciplined and disorganized.

### **Approximately 90 officers from ANSAs attend training sessions on humanitarian norms**

Throughout 2015, 10 different training events organized for ANSA officers contributed to increased respect for humanitarian norms. These sessions deepened and developed knowledge about the *Deeds of Commitment* and humanitarian norms for 76 APCLS officers, 41 FDLR officers and fighters, and 10 NDC officers.

The use of various tools—including films, posters, mobile telephone applications—made for very interactive sessions and content that was easy to remember and contextualize.

### **Two workshops engage with 19 CSOs and CBOs on humanitarian norms**

In February, around 87 participants from 19 CSOs and CBOs (including community leaders, women's groups, IDPs and refugees) attended four training workshops in Kalembe, Masisi, Nyabiondo and Bweru. The training covered an introduction to humanitarian norms and humanitarian dialogue, as well as the protection of children and schools in armed conflict. Topics included how to share information effectively and how communities might come to trust Geneva Call. These sessions aimed to start a dialogue with organizations willing to facilitate future contact with ANSAs to promote humanitarian norms.

### Two CSOs facilitate engagement with ANSAs and the promotion of humanitarian norms

Following the aforementioned workshops, two of the participating CSOs—*Global Synergie pour la Paix et le Développement* (GYSPAD) and *Action Humanitaire pour la Consolidation de la Paix et de Développement Intègre* (AHCOPDI)—regularly contributed to Geneva Call’s work in 2015. They provided information about the local political environment and ANSAs and their areas of influence. They also facilitated access to some ANSAs.

The GYSPAD and AHCOPDI became steady partners and signed MOUs with Geneva Call in order to better support their endeavours to reach out to ANSAs and promote humanitarian norms in their communities.

Geneva Call’s public *Fighter not Killer* campaign to promote humanitarian norms supported these dissemination efforts. The use of communication tools such as videos, booklets and mobile telephone applications helped efforts to reach ANSAs and their constituencies through local media and social networks and contributed to raising awareness about these norms.

### Trainings and other events – Summary table

Type	No.	Content	Partners	Participants	Female participants
Training of trainers					
Training for ANSA political leaderships					
Training for fighters	10	Geneva Call’s <i>Deeds of Commitment</i> ; humanitarian norms; protection of education		203	3
Training for CSOs/CBOs	3	Humanitarian norms		87	30
Training for journalists	1	Protection of civilians and prohibition of sexual violence		14	2
Training for local authorities	3	Humanitarian norms		21	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>			<b>325</b>	<b>35</b>

# MALI

Since 2013, Geneva Call has been carrying out desk and field research on the security and humanitarian context in Mali. It has created profiles of the various actors in the conflict, especially ANSAs. Regular contacts with ANSAs, the ICRC, INGOs, EU and UN organizations enable Geneva Call to identify opportunities for and challenges to interventions in this volatile context where a variety of jihadi and separatist ANSAs are active.

## EXPENSES IN CHF

Landmine ban	
Child protection	
Gender issues	
Humanitarian norms	12'215
<b>Total</b>	<b>12'215</b>

Insecurity continued with sporadic fighting between ANSAs and Malian and French military forces. Clashes between armed groups, as well as terrorism and banditry involving human, drug and arms trafficking, persisted along clan lines. In northern and central regions, IED and mine attacks targeted Malian security forces and government outposts as well as vehicles and convoys. Attacks on peacekeepers continued too. Deadly bombings attributed to Islamist factions hit hotels frequented by foreigners, including in Bamako, and prompted the imposition of a nationwide state of emergency. The Government of Mali and some of the opposition movements signed a peace agreement, but more extreme movements stayed away from the deal, thus weakening it and undermining its nationwide implementation.

ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine ban	Child protection	Gender issues	Humanitarian norms
Arab Movement of Azawad	MAA				
Haut Conseil de l'Unité de l'Azawad	HCUA				
Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa	MUJAO				
National Liberation Movement of Azawad	MNLA				
Al-Murabitun					
Al-Qaeda in the Lands of Islamic Maghreb	AQMI				
Ansar Dine					
✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed	✓✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed in 2015	ANSA engaged on thematic area (new = new in 2015)			

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2015:

- ▶ the MNLA provided positive feedback about potential engagement with Geneva Call in Mali in order to raise awareness about humanitarian norms
- ▶ the MNLA welcomed help in transcribing its oral code of conduct, including rules about the protection of children, women and other civilians or persons *hors de combat*, as well as hospitals, schools, cultural heritage and property
- ▶ the MNLA also welcomed specific training sessions for its fighters about humanitarian norms
- ▶ the MNLA declared its wish to prepare a unilateral declaration on the respect of humanitarian norms, including the protection of cultural heritage, and its need for legal advice on how to do this
- ▶ the MNLA proposed helping Geneva Call by liaising with other ANSAs

## CONTEXT

Insecurity continued with sporadic fighting between ANSAs and Malian and French military forces. Clashes between armed groups, as well as terrorism and banditry involving human, drug and arms trafficking, persisted along clan lines.

In northern and central regions, IED and mine attacks by ANSAs targeted Malian security forces and government outposts as well as vehicles and convoys. Attacks on peacekeepers continued too. Deadly bombings attributed to Islamist factions hit hotels frequented by foreigners, including in Bamako, and prompted

the imposition of a nationwide state of emergency in November.

The Government of Mali and some of the opposition movements signed a peace agreement, but extreme movements stayed away from the deal, thus weakening it and undermining its nationwide implementation.

Arrests and civilian casualties were regularly reported, and thousands of people were still displaced within the country. Malians remained heavily dependent on humanitarian aid.

## OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### Logic of intervention

In 2015, Geneva Call started to assess the potential added value of developing a programme in Mali. It conducted desk research and collected information on ANSAs. It held a series of meetings with international actors involved in humanitarian and protection activities in Mali. After preliminary contact, Geneva Call met the MNLA representative for France and Europe to explore the opportunities for engagement with the movement in Mali.

Geneva Call now plans to carry out an in-depth assessment, including several consultations with contacts inside and outside the country, and to explore the feasibility of operating in Mali. Depending on the outcome of this assessment, it will decide whether it is pertinent to engage with ANSAs in Mali in order to help improve the protection of civilians.

### Humanitarian norms

#### **The MNLA welcomes potential engagement with Geneva Call on humanitarian norms and support in developing written rules on the protection of civilians**

Following some initial communication in 2013 and December 2014, Geneva Call and the MNLA representative for France and Europe held a long meeting on various issues relating to humanitarian norms.

The contact provided positive feedback about the potential for engagement between Geneva Call and the MNLA on humanitarian norms, as there are few organizations with whom to liaise on these issues. Geneva Call could be useful in raising awareness about humanitarian norms, given that the MNLA has only provided basic information on these matters to its members.

The contact informed Geneva Call that several MNLA fighters, as former professional soldiers, had some knowledge about humanitarian norms, particularly concerning the treatment of prisoners. The MNLA has also received training from the ICRC. Although no formal or specialized training had been prepared for other ANSAs, this was sorely needed.

The MNLA had an oral code of conduct including rules about the protection of children, women and other civilians or persons *hors de combat*, as well as the protection of hospitals, schools, cultural heritage and property. Since 2012, an MNLA commission for political and cultural affairs has dealt with these issues, providing some training and advice to its members. Measures have been taken to preserve cultural heritage (buildings and cultural items) during military operations, for example in Kidal.

The MNLA would welcome any help—be it technical, legal or financial—to develop training sessions on humanitarian norms for its members or the transcription of its oral code of conduct.

The MNLA representative also expressed the movement's wish to prepare a unilateral declaration on the respect of humanitarian norms. Some legal advice would be needed beforehand and he welcomed help in this matter. The representative also insisted on the need to engage with other ANSAs in Mali, including jihadi groups, in order to maximize the protection of civilians.

# SENEGAL

Since 2006, Geneva Call has been advocating 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 meeting brokered by Geneva Call, contacts between the MFDC's southern faction and Senegalese authorities continue, however, not on humanitarian demining. Geneva Call remains prepared to resume its facilitation work on humanitarian issues if requested to do so by the parties.

## EXPENSES IN CHF

Landmine ban	12'813
Child protection	
Gender issues	
Humanitarian norms	
<b>Total</b>	<b>12'813</b>

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.

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 2015</i>	ANSA engaged on thematic area (new = new in 2015)			

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2015:

- ▶ no meetings between MFDC factions and Geneva Call took place
- ▶ the dialogue on mine action between MFDC factions and the relevant Senegalese authorities showed no progress, and humanitarian clearance operations in Casamance, except some along sections of the RN6 national highway, failed to move forward
- ▶ Geneva Call monitored the situation and remained prepared to resume its facilitation work if requested to do so by the parties to the armed conflict



## CONTEXT

Despite some skirmishes between MFDC fighters and government troops in April 2015, there has been a decline in armed violence in Casamance. However, peace negotiations between the authorities and factions of the MFDC have yet to bear fruit. 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 the IDPs who could not return home and farmers working in their fields.

One MFDC faction—the Kassolol faction, operating along the border with Guinea Bissau—has agreed to allow some demining along the construction route of a new national highway. However, due to the difficult security situation, demining organizations had limited access to the areas affected by the 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 inhabited areas of southern Casamance, the most affected zone. Demining operations expanded rapidly and moved closer to the MFDC’s military bases in 2013. In an attempt to prevent the MFDC from 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). Despite these efforts, the MFDC decided that clearance operations could go no further geographically, considering that these demining activities were too close to its military camps. When demining operations continued despite its warnings, the MFDC captured 12 demining staff in reprisal in May 2013. They were released in July, after the intercession of several international and national actors, including Geneva Call.

Since then, several face-to-face meetings have taken place between the MFDC and CNAMS, but no agreement on demining was found.

### Landmine ban

#### **Discussions on humanitarian demining and humanitarian clearance operations are not moving forward**

No meetings between the MFDC and Geneva Call were organized in 2015. The MFDC Kassolol faction showed no interest in signing an agreement with the government about humanitarian demining. Furthermore, the leadership of the MFDC faction along the border with Gambia declared that it did not wish to enter into any discussion about mine action.

However, the CNAMS and grassroots organizations have been conducting advocacy sessions about AP mines and mine action, particularly humanitarian

demining, for community leaders who might have an influence on MFDC factions. Clearance operations resumed without further incidents but only along sections of the RN6 national highway. Some actors, both local and international, have contested the humanitarian aspect of these demining operations, claiming that they do not sufficiently take into account community-based interests. Other humanitarian clearance operations did not move forward.

Geneva Call followed the situation closely and remained ready to resume its advocacy and facilitation work for negotiations if requested to do so by the parties.

# SOMALIA

Geneva Call has 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 involves monitoring compliance with the *Deed of Commitment* signed by the remaining active signatories. The organization is also studying the possibility of engaging more systematically with the ANSA Harakat al-Shabaab al-Mujahideen.

EXPENSES IN CHF	
Landmine ban	8'775
Child protection	
Gender issues	
Humanitarian norms	
<b>Total</b>	<b>8'775</b>

Fighting continued to pit the Somali armed forces and other forces supporting them against al-Shabaab. The authorities nevertheless continued to pursue the consolidation of a federal State. This included integrating existing 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 2015	ANSA engaged on thematic area (new = new in 2015)			

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2015:

- ▶ monitoring of the remaining active signatories' compliance with the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines continued, pending a review of the evolving situation and the potential integration of the ANSAs into the Somali federal government's armed forces
- ▶ communication with Geneva Call's network of contacts in Somalia and abroad explored the possibilities of establishing contact with al-Shabaab

## CONTEXT

Fighting between the Somali armed forces and other forces supporting them—including the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and defence forces from neighbouring countries—and ANSAs, mainly al-Shabaab, continued in southern and central Somalia. The government forces and AMISOM controlled the major towns previously held by al-Shabaab, however, inter-communal violence also persisted in these areas.

The authorities pursued the consolidation of a federal State. This included integrating existing ANSAs into the Somali armed forces. However, al-Shabaab and local

clans regularly challenged the authorities. Security incidents, often claimed by al-Shabaab, took place regularly in Mogadishu. 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 remained hindered by widespread insecurity.

## 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.

Geneva Call has continued to monitor the compliance of the remaining active signatories that have not rallied to the government. It has also looked at potential engagement with al-Shabaab by maintaining its network of contacts across the country and abroad.

### Landmine ban

#### **Monitoring the remaining active signatories' compliance with the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines continued**

Somaliland, a self-declared State with relationships with members of the international community, claims to be bound by the AP Mine Ban Convention and has adopted mine ban legislation, which Geneva Call facilitated. It also declared that it had destroyed its entire stockpile of AP mines. Geneva Call monitored the implementation of the mine ban legislation.

The JVA and SNF/SRRC's integration into the Somali federal government's armed forces had not yet been confirmed, thus, monitoring of their compliance with the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines contin-

ued. Monitoring of Puntland's authorities also continued as these have asserted that Puntland is a part of the Somali State and therefore bound by the AP Mine Ban Convention.

In both Puntland and Somaliland, mine action continued through the Puntland Mine Action Centre and the 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, and reports regularly alleged the use of AP mines and IEDs by al-Shabaab.

# SOUTH SUDAN

Initial work by Geneva Call in South Sudan dates back to 2001, during South Sudan's independence-related armed conflict. Since 2015, Geneva Call has been considering developing a programme in South Sudan within the frame of the armed conflict that started again in December 2013. It aims to engage with government opposition forces on humanitarian norms, especially those related to child protection and gender issues.

## EXPENSES IN CHF

Landmine ban	
Child protection	
Gender issues	
Humanitarian norms	7'190
<b>Total</b>	<b>7'190</b>

Since armed conflict erupted in South Sudan in December 2013, clashes between government and opposition forces, particularly the SPLM-IO, continued unabated. Confrontations killed or injured tens of thousands of people. Targeted killings, sexual violence, destruction and looting of property, and other violations of humanitarian norms were rampant, committed by weapon bearers from all sides. There were reports of more than 1.6 million IDPs and over 500,000 refugees hosted in neighbouring countries. Security and logistical constraints limited humanitarian agencies' ability to assist communities.

ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine ban	Child protection	Gender issues	Humanitarian norms
Sudan People's Liberation Movement–In Opposition	<b>SPLM-IO</b>				
South Sudan Democratic Movement/Army	<b>SSDM/A</b>				
The White Army					
South Sudan Liberation Movement/Army	<b>SSLM/A</b>				
South Sudan Democratic Movement-Cobra Faction	<b>SSDM-Cobra Faction</b>				
<b>✓ Deed of Commitment signed</b>	<b>✓✓ Deed of Commitment signed in 2015</b>	<b>ANSA engaged on thematic area (new = new in 2015)</b>			

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2015:

- ▶ a planned assessment of potential engagement with ANSAs in South Sudan was carried out around Juba
- ▶ regular exchanges were maintained with an array of contacts in Juba
- ▶ despite several attempts, contact with the leadership of the SPLM-IO had to be postponed
- ▶ due to an extremely volatile context, a more in-depth assessment of field access and monitoring options was deemed necessary to explore whether the conditions were suitable for an initial engagement with the SPLM-IO and other ANSAs on humanitarian norms

## CONTEXT

Since the armed conflict erupted in South Sudan in December 2013, clashes between government and opposition forces, particularly the SPLM-IO, continued despite several peace agreements on the cessation of hostilities, including one signed in August 2015. Confrontations took place across the Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states and killed or injured tens of thousands of people. Targeted killings, sexual violence, destruction and looting of property, and other violations

of humanitarian norms were rampant, committed by weapon bearers from all sides. There were reports of more than 1.6 million people displaced within South Sudan in addition to over 500,000 refugees hosted in neighbouring countries. Security and logistical constraints limited humanitarian agencies' ability to assist communities, and widespread fighting prevented people from planting crops.

## OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### Logic of intervention

In 2014, initial communication with the leader of the SPLM-IO and his wife, who is in charge of protection and humanitarian issues, provided Geneva Call with positive feedback about the potential for engagement with the movement on humanitarian norms. Geneva Call's previous experience in South Sudan, before its independence, was an asset for potential engagement with local ANSAs. In addition, Geneva Call has already been engaged in a dialogue with the four Sudanese ANSAs forming the Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF)

for the past four years; they are also involved in the conflict in South Sudan.

In 2015, therefore, Geneva Call started to assess whether the conditions were suitable for initial engagement with the SPLM-IO on humanitarian norms, particularly those related to child protection and sexual violence.

### Humanitarian norms

#### **Geneva Call prepares the ground for engagement with ANSAs and communities on humanitarian norms**

In 2015, Geneva Call maintained regular exchanges with an array of contacts in Juba (embassies, UNICEF/UNAMIS, the ICRC, various INGOs and the South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission). There were many personnel changes in these contacts and therefore these exchanges were sometimes difficult.

Despite several attempts, Geneva Call failed to get in touch with the SPLM-IO leadership. A mission to South Sudan established that a more in-depth assessment would be necessary in order to explore whether the conditions were suitable for an initial engagement with the SPLM-IO on humanitarian norms, particularly those related to child protection and sexual violence.

Such an assessment could also be an opportunity to further evaluate the possibilities of engaging with oth-

er ANSAs, such as the South Sudan Democratic Movement-Cobra Faction (SSDM) and the White Army, in order to promote humanitarian norms.

With a view to supporting these objectives, the profiles of the relevant ANSAs were regularly updated, and the evolving situation was monitored on a weekly basis.

Geneva Call collected information about the many allegations of violations of humanitarian norms committed by all sides in the conflict, including: systematic killings based on ethnicity; widespread torture and sexual violence against women, girls and boys; looting and racketeering; the destruction or burning of homes and businesses; the recruitment of thousands of child soldiers; and attacks on or destruction of schools, hospitals and other public and religious buildings.

# SUDAN

Geneva Call's engagement in Sudan dates back to 2001, when the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement/Army signed the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines, during South Sudan's independence-related armed conflict. This engagement progressively began to focus on other ANSAs operating in the Blue Nile, Darfur and South Kordofan provinces. Since 2010, it has also started involving child protection, gender issues and humanitarian norms in general. Geneva Call helps the signatories to the *Deeds of Commitment* to implement them and promotes wider humanitarian norms, including other *Deeds of Commitment* yet unsigned.

## EXPENSES IN CHF

Landmine ban	68'789
Child protection	56'289
Gender issues	50'532
Humanitarian norms	64'786
<b>Total</b>	<b>240'397</b>

Hostilities continued between government troops and ANSAs, mainly the JEM, SLM/A-AW and SLM/A-MM in the Darfur and the SPLM-N in the Blue Nile and South Kordofan provinces. This resulted in millions of IDPs. The four ANSAs are grouped into the Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF). Corroborated sources repeatedly reported allegations of sexual violence, the recruitment of children, lack of respect for schools and healthcare services, looting and the destruction of property.

The Sudanese government continued to impose substantial 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	✓			
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	✓	✓✓		
✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed	✓✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed in 2015	ANSA engaged on thematic area (new = new in 2015)			

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2015:

- ▶ the SPLM-N reported on the measures it had taken to fulfill its obligations to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines and confirmed its willingness to destroy 2 stockpiles of AP mines. As a first step, it dismantled 211 stockpiled AP mines with the support of a technical expert brought in by Geneva Call.
- ▶ Sudanese signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines continued to work on its implementation
- ▶ the SPLM-N signed the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict, becoming the first African ANSA to do so; it started to work on an implementation plan
- ▶ due to restricted access, no meeting with the military representatives of the three Darfuri actors (JEM, SLM/A-AW and SLM/A-MM) could take place and monitoring, even by third parties, was challenging
- ▶ 11 members from CBOs/CSOs and the SPLM-N, including 4 women, attended a 2-day workshop in Blue Nile province about humanitarian norms and the *Deeds of Commitment*

## CONTEXT

Hostilities continued between government troops and ANSAs in the Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan provinces. According to reports, during the first semester of 2015, the conflict created over 220,000 new IDPs in addition to over 2.5 million who have been displaced for some time. There were repeated allegations of sexual violence, the recruitment of children, lack of respect for schools and healthcare services, looting and the destruction of property. 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 (in the Blue Nile and South Kordofan regions) opposed the SAF and the SPLM-N.

The SPLM-N grouped its forces with the main Darfuri ANSAs in late 2011 to form the Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF).

The armed conflict in South Sudan, linked to the Sudan situation, complicated the overall picture; any peace agreement would need to comply with the regional interests of Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda.

Sudanese government policy stated that humanitarian assistance must be channelled through its authorities. This imposed substantial limitations on international humanitarian organizations seeking direct access to the 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 continuation of its engagement with the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) during South Sudan's independence-related armed conflict.

Exploratory meetings with ANSAs in Darfur took place progressively on the AP mine ban, child protection, gender issues and humanitarian norms. In 2010, the JEM engaged with Geneva Call on child protection and

announced its interest in signing the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines. In parallel, communication also developed with other ANSAs and members of the SRF, including the SPLM-N as of 2012. Since 2014, these four ANSA have been signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines.

All four ANSA members of the SRF also recognized the importance of child protection, gender issues and humanitarian norms. In 2014, they claimed to be ready to engage with Geneva Call further on these issues.

### Landmine ban

#### The SPLM-N confirms its willingness to destroy two stockpiles of AP mines

The SPLM-N did not submit a formal compliance report about the implementation of the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines that it signed in 2013. However, during two Geneva Call field visits, it provided information on measures it took to comply with its obligations.

It confirmed its intention to destroy two existing AP mine stockpiles that it had seized during fighting—around 600 units. Geneva Call evaluated about 90% of the stock in South Kordofan province and 25% in Blue Nile province. As a first step, the SPLM-N dismantled 211 stockpiled AP mines with the support of a technical expert brought in by Geneva Call. The full destruction of these stockpiles was planned for 2016. To prepare for this, Geneva Call facilitated also contacts between the SPLM-N's internal civilian mine unit (the Sudan Humanitarian Demining Service, or SHDS, created by the SPLM-N to address mine-action activities in areas under its control) and foreign mine action organizations. A clear assessment of the necessary technical, professional expertise required was made to help prepare for destruction operations in the near future.

Although there have been allegations about the use of AP mines in the Blue Nile and South Kordofan provinces, they have never been documented. All parties were allegedly using anti-vehicle mines.

#### The monitoring of signatories' compliance with the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines is hampered by security constraints and restricted field access in Darfur

Due to government restrictions on field access and security constraints, it proved difficult to implement monitoring activities on the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines with three Darfuri ANSAs (JEM, SLM/A-AW and SLM/A-MM). Direct dialogue with their military forces was impossible during 2015, and only exchanges with their political leaders could take place. In addition, the reduction in the territories controlled by these ANSAs, as well as military pressure from the SAF, partly explains their lack of responsiveness to Geneva Call's requirements.

Geneva Call followed the situation through sporadic contact with a local CSO. Allegations of AP mine use were not documented in Darfur; however, all parties were allegedly using anti-vehicle mines.

## Child protection

### The SPLM-N signs the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict

On 30 June, the SPLM-N signed the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict in Geneva. It became the first African ANSA to do so.

The SPLM-N immediately started to work on an implementation plan to be finalized in 2016. Its humanitarian officials reported on their efforts to give children access to education in the areas it controls. During two visits to South Kordofan and Blue Nile in 2015, Geneva Call was informed that the SPLM-N had not used schools for military purposes. This was confirmed by other sources.

The SPLM-N also declared its intention to create an internal child protection unit and to present its plans to the international community, thus complying with international standards on child protection.

The UN has accused the SPLM-N of recruiting and using children in armed conflict and putting them at risk during military operations. The SPLM-N claimed to strictly respect child protection norms, but admitted that age was sometimes difficult to establish precisely and that the conditions facing demobilized children were unsatisfactory.

During a workshop on humanitarian norms, carried out in Blue Nile province, the obligations of the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict were explained to the participants.

### Dialogue with three Darfuri ANSAs (the JEM, SLM/A-AW and SLM/A-MM) on child protection is limited, notably owing to restricted access and security constraints

In May, in Vienna (Austria), the JEM, SLM/A-AW and SLM/A-MM signed a joint statement on the protection

of children under the initiative of the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution. However, no information was provided relating to the practical implementation on monitoring this commitment. Throughout 2015, no information was available regarding the situation in areas controlled by the JEM, SLM/A-AW and SLM/A-MM. The UNSG's reports have repeatedly listed all three of these ANSAs as recruiters and users of children in armed conflict.

In 2010, the JEM signed a Memorandum of Understanding on child protection with the UN; in 2012, it submitted a unilateral declaration to the [African Union–United Nations Hybrid Mission in Darfur \(UNAMID\)](#) entitled *Operational Mechanism to prevent and end recruitment and use of child soldiers*.

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 having set up a committee with the specific task of monitoring child protection issues. In 2015, however, the JEM's dialogue with Geneva Call on child protection did not progress, due the departure of the JEM's contact person for Geneva Call in the region, who was not replaced.

For the same reasons, field contacts could not be established with either the SLM/A-AW or SLM/A-MM. This meant that Geneva Call could not follow up on the progress made by these ANSAs in 2015.

## Gender issues

### Dialogue continues with the SPLM-N on the prohibition of sexual violence

Geneva Call engaged with the SPLM-N on the prohibition of sexual violence and gender discrimination through several meetings held with its leadership based in Europe and numerous discussions to raise the awareness of field commanders and combatants in South Kordofan and Blue Nile regions. Educational material was distributed at these meetings.

During a workshop on humanitarian norms, given in Blue Nile province, prohibitions pertaining to sexual violence were presented to the participants.

### Restricted field access limits dialogue on gender issues with Darfuri ANSAs

Due to restricted field access and security constraints, activities such as meetings and training sessions with the Darfuri ANSAs (JEM, SLM/A-AW and SLM/A-MM) were limited.



## Humanitarian norms

### 11 members from CBOs/CSOs and the SPLM-N attend a two-day training workshop in Blue Nile province about humanitarian norms and the *Deeds of Commitment*

11 members from CBOs/CSOs and the SPLM-N, of whom four were women, attended a workshop in Blue Nile about humanitarian norms and the *Deeds of Commitment*. The participants included five National Human Rights monitors, four members of the Human Rights Commission and two members of the SPLM-N Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Agency (SRRA). Training included presentations of the *Deeds of Commitments* banning AP mines, protecting children in armed conflict and prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination. The participants also deepened their knowledge of existing protection monitoring mechanisms and explored the possibilities and modalities

of collaboration for monitoring the situation in the Blue Nile region.

### Restricted field access limits dialogue on humanitarian norms with Darfuri ANSAs

After a first training session in 2014 in Kampala, the four SRF ANSAs have repeatedly requested training to deepen their knowledge of humanitarian norms. Due to restricted field access by the government and security constraints, activities such as meetings and training sessions with the Darfuri ANSAs (JEM, SLM/A-AW and SLM/A-MM) were limited.

This situation also limited possible work with the CBOs/CSOs that could act as relays for the promotion of humanitarian norms.

## Trainings and other events – Summary table

Type	No.	Content	Partners	Participants	Female participants
Training of trainers					
Training for ANSA political leaderships					
Training for fighters					
Training for CSOs/CBOs/ANSAs	1	<i>Deeds of Commitment</i> ; humanitarian norms; monitoring mechanisms		11	4
Training for local authorities					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>

# WESTERN SAHARA

Geneva Call has been working in Western Sahara and the Sahrawi refugee camps in Algeria since 2000. With a local partner, and whenever possible, 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. On various occasions since 2011, Geneva Call has also trained members of the Polisario Front on humanitarian norms.

## EXPENSES IN CHF

Landmine ban	849
Child protection	
Gender issues	
Humanitarian norms	24'242
<b>Total</b>	<b>25'092</b>

The armed conflict over Western Sahara broke out in 1975 between Morocco, Mauritania and the Polisario Front. Since the 1991 cease-fire, 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, civilians 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	Displacement	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 2015	ANSA engaged on thematic area (new = new in 2015)				

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2015:

- ▶ the Polisario Front destroyed an additional stock of 3,000 AP mines, while the remaining stockpile remained unknown despite continuous advocacy by Geneva Call
- ▶ the Polisario Front became bound to the Geneva Conventions and the first Additional Protocol when Switzerland, as the depositary of these treaties, accepted the Front's unilateral declaration
- ▶ 14 military instructors and a representative of a newly created human rights organization attended a training session on IHL given by Geneva Call at the Polisario Front's military academy

## CONTEXT

The armed conflict over Western Sahara broke out in 1975 between Morocco, Mauritania and the Polisario Front. Since the 1991 cease-fire, 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 \(MINURSO\)](#) has been extended to April 2016.

As a result of the 1975–91 armed conflict, civilians continued 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's Casualties and Victims Assistance](#) chapter (last updated on 17 December 2014), in August 2014, the [Sahrawi Association of Mine Victims](#) (ASAVIM) reported that 1,006 landmine and cluster munition victims (including certain family members of people killed), as well as 473 other war victims and people with disabilities were living in Sahrawi refugee camps and in Polisario Front-controlled Western Sahara. Despite the fact that few new victims had been recorded in those areas recently, they 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*, whenever possible with its local partner, the Sahrawi Campaign to Ban Landmines (SCBL). Together, they have also urged the Polisario Front to complete—in compliance with the *Deed*—the destruction of any AP mine stocks that it may still possess.

Since the signing of the *Deed* and with facilitation from Geneva Call, various specialized organizations have operated in Polisario Front-controlled Western Sahara following their respective mandates linked to humanitarian mine action, whether in demining, general vic-

tim assistance, or mine risk education. Between 2006 and 2015, the Polisario Front destroyed more than 13,000 stockpiled AP mines under Geneva Call's supervision.

Several years ago, Geneva Call also started promoting IHL among the members of the Polisario Front. In 2011, senior military officers from the Polisario Front, including the inspector of armed forces and the head of the Polisario Front's military academy, attended a five-day training course organized in cooperation with the San Remo International Institute of Humanitarian Law. The decision was taken to organize a follow-up at the Polisario Front's military academy.

### Landmine ban

#### **The Polisario Front destroys an additional stock of 3,000 AP mines**

In March, the Polisario Front destroyed an additional stockpile in Tifariti. There remains a discrepancy between the Polisario Front's figures for remaining stockpiles (332 AP mines mentioned in 2014 in the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic's Article 7 voluntary report) and the destruction of 3,000 AP mines

which occurred in March 2015. The true number of mines remaining in the stockpile was still unknown. Ongoing advocacy work should soon result in the calculation of a definitive figure and the destruction of the entire stockpile as per the engagement taken by the Polisario Front through its *Deed of Commitment*.

### Humanitarian norms

#### **Instructors at the Polisario Front's military academy and a representative from a human rights organization attend training on IHL**

Following an initial course in 2011, Geneva Call organized a subsequent training of trainers event.

In February, 14 military instructors at the Polisario Front's military academy and a member of the Commission Nationale Sahraouie des Droits de l'Homme (CONASDH), created in 2014, attended a training ses-

sion about IHL at the academy in the Rabouni refugee camp, near Tindouf (south Algeria). Participants started to integrate IHL into their teaching and to think about its dissemination.

#### **The Polisario Front commits to respecting the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocol I (API)**

In June 2015, the Polisario Front submitted a unilateral declaration to Switzerland, by which it undertook to

## WESTERN SAHARA

apply the Geneva Conventions and the API in its armed conflict with Morocco. Switzerland, as the depositary State for the Conventions and their Additional Protocols, accepted the Polisario Front's declaration, thereby confirming that the Conventions and the API

are applicable to this situation. This was the first time that the depositary State had accepted an armed movement's declaration under Article 96.

### Trainings and other events – Summary table

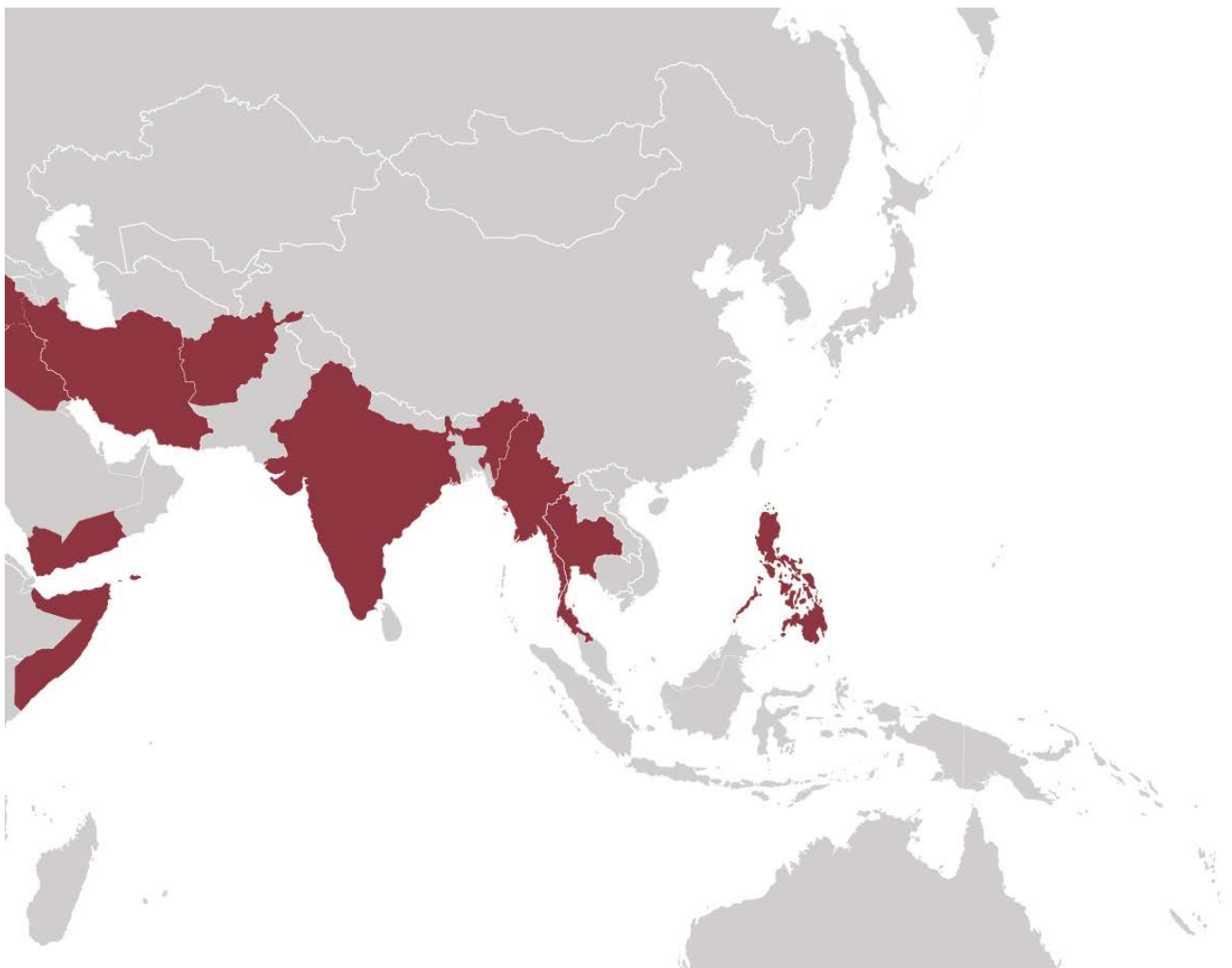
Type	No.	Content	Partners	Participants	Female participants
Training of trainers	1	IHL		15	
Training for ANSA political leaderships					
Training for fighters					
Training for CSOs/CBOs					
Training for local authorities					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>15</b>	

# ASIA

Afghanistan  
Burma/Myanmar  
India  
The Philippines  
Thailand

## EXPENSES IN CHF

Landmine ban	261'567
Child protection	116'530
Gender issues	214'313
Humanitarian norms	108'914
<b>Total</b>	<b>701'324</b>



## HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ ANSAs signatory to *Deed(s) of Commitment* in Burma/Myanmar took measures to ensure their enforcement
- ▶ 3 workshops in Burma/Myanmar involved 188 officers from the KNU/KNLA and the RCSS/SSA-S to improve their knowledge about the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict
- ▶ the KNO signed the *Deeds of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict and prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination, becoming the second ANSA from India to have signed all three Deeds, while the NSCM-IM signed the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination
- ▶ the BRN/RKK and PULO in Thailand showed openness to deepening their dialogue on the protection of children, specifically on issues of recruitment and use of children in hostilities
- ▶ the BRN/RKK reaffirmed its commitment to disseminate humanitarian norms directly to its members and, at its request, received a new training manual and presentation materials to support its efforts



Training for fighters of the Karen National Liberation Army on the protection of children in armed conflict. Burma/Myanmar, September 2015 © Geneva Call

## REGIONAL COORDINATION

Geneva Call's interventions in different regions must remain significant, timely and of the utmost quality. To ensure this, coordination and administrative activities, led by regional directors in collaboration with the head of operations, took place independently of purely field-related work. This coordination, whether at headquarters or in the regions, required participation in desk monitoring meetings, internal coordination meetings, information sharing between departments, or working on specific advocacy or fundraising needs. Regional coordination activities also aimed to constantly improve Geneva Call's work by evaluating results, conducting critical reviews as needed, supporting transversal operational research projects and consulting with external stakeholders, such as donors, UN agencies and other NGOs. This also included liaising with consultants, trainers and partners involved in the programme's implementation. Furthermore, regional coordination facilitated preliminary assessments of whether Geneva Call's engagement in new contexts would add value, as is currently the case for Nepal and Pakistan, for example.

## EXPENSES IN CHF

Landmine ban	8'025
Child protection	8'615
Gender issues	5'343
Humanitarian norms	7'189
<b>Total</b>	<b>29'172</b>

# 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

Landmine ban	
Child protection	
Gender issues	
Humanitarian norms	82'435
<b>Total</b>	<b>82'435</b>

The government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (hereafter Afghanistan) continued to face major security challenges. Foreign troops of the [Resolute Support Mission](#) remained in the country to train and advise Afghan forces, and at least two foreign governments maintained a combat presence. The armed conflict between Afghan forces and ANSAs intensified, affecting most provinces. HIG and the IEA remained the main ANSAs involved. However, the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan and groups allegedly affiliated with the Islamic State group (ISg, also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) slowly gained ground.

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 signed</i>	✓✓ <i>Deed of Commitment signed in 2015</i>	ANSA engaged on thematic area (new = new in 2015)			

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2015:

- ▶ the Ministry for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs committed to supporting Geneva Call's partner, [The Liaison Office](#), in its programme to help leaders strengthen their negotiation skills to better protect their communities
- ▶ communication continued with a number of contacts with good relationships to ANSA leaderships
- ▶ a lack of funding for 2015 impeded the implementation of planned activities

## CONTEXT

The Afghan government formed in 2014 continued to face major security challenges. Foreign troops of the [Resolute Support Mission](#) remained in the country to train and advise Afghan forces, and at least two foreign governments maintained a combat presence.

The armed conflict between Afghan forces and ANSAs affected most provinces. In addition to HIG and the IEA, still the main ANSAs involved in fighting, the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) and groups allegedly affiliated with the Islamic State group (ISg, also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) slowly gained ground.

According to the [United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan](#) (UNAMA), the number of civilian casual-

ties continued to increase. This was mainly the result of more ground fighting in and around populated areas, along with suicide and other attacks in major cities. UNAMA reported around 3,500 deaths and 7,500 injured among the civilian casualties for 2015. This included a 37% increase in casualties among women and a 14% increase in child casualties compared to 2014.

UNAMA attributed 62% of all civilian casualties to ANSAs. These were the result of targeted killings of civilians, complex and suicide attacks, and indiscriminate and illegal IEDs. Other serious reported violations included cases of beheadings and the use of children in warfare.

## OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### Logic of intervention

In 2011, an initial scoping study by Geneva Call showed that there was an opportunity to bring added value by applying its methodologies to the context of the armed conflict in Afghanistan. Most actors on the ground welcomed Geneva Call's intervention, thereby confirming its potential added value.

In a study in 2013, Geneva Call's partner, [The Liaison Office](#) (TLO), established that community leaders needed better knowledge of humanitarian norms and their relation to Sharia and local customs. This would help them to strengthen their capacity to negotiate with ANSAs about the protection of their communities and services for them. In 2014, TLO further fine-tuned these information needs down to key concerns for

protecting communities, and it identified specific community leaders with whom to work.

In parallel, through both public statements and their actions, HIG and the IEA expressed their concerns about civilian populations and a readiness to improve civilian protection.

Thus, in order to contribute to improving the protection of civilians, Geneva Call partnered with TLO to work at two levels: to provide expertise useful to community leaders wishing to strengthen their negotiation efforts with local ANSA commanders on the self-protection of their communities; to communicate with ANSA representatives to gain support for community-level work, while liaising on the project with the government and other relevant actors.

### Humanitarian norms

#### **The Ministry for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs supports TLO's training for community leaders**

Following meetings with its representatives, the Ministry for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs committed to supporting the programme of Geneva Call's partner, TLO, to help community leaders strengthen their negotiation skills to better protect their communities.

#### **Due to a lack of funds in 2015, little is achieved in comparison to the initial plan**

By mid-year, due to a lack of funding, Geneva Call froze the activities, and the staff member who had been hired for the programme in 2014 was unfortunately made redundant.

#### **Communication with ANSAs continues**

Geneva Call continued to communicate, through various channels, with contacts who maintain good relationships with ANSA leaderships.



# BURMA/MYANMAR

Geneva Call has been active in Burma/Myanmar since 2003. While it continues to engage with ANSAs towards a ban on AP mines, it also seeks to promote and facilitate mine action throughout its network. Since 2010, it has also worked to raise awareness and secure commitments in relation to humanitarian norms protecting children in armed conflict and prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination.

## EXPENSES IN CHF

Landmine ban	89'839
Child protection	67'728
Gender issues	106'817
Humanitarian norms	
<b>Total</b>	<b>264'384</b>

Eight ANSAs signed a Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) in October 2015, a few weeks before the general elections held in November. However, many ANSAs, including several key ones, did not sign the NCA. Moreover, clashes persisted between Burma/Myanmar government forces and ANSAs in Kachin and Shan states, displacing thousands of civilians.

ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine ban	Child protection	Gender issues	Humanitarian norms
Arakan Army	AA				
Chin National Front/Army	CNF/CNA	✓	✓	✓	
Kachin Independence Organisation/Army	KIO/KIA				
Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army	KNU/KNLA		✓	✓	
Karen National Union Peace Council/Karen National Liberation Army Peace Council	KNU-PC/ KNLA-PC				
Karenni National Progressive Party/Karenni Army	KNPP/KA		✓		
Klo Htoo Baw Karen Organization/ Democratic Karen Benevolent Army	KKO/DKBA				
Myanmar National Democratic Alliance/Army	MNDAA				
New Mon State Party/Mon National Liberation Army	NMSP/MNLA		✓		
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 South	RCSS/SSA-S				
Shan State Progressive Party/Shan State Army North	SSPP/SSA-N		new		
✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed		✓✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed in 2015		ANSA engaged on thematic area (new = new in 2015)	

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2015:

- ▶ ANSAs signatory to *Deed(s) of Commitment* took measures to ensure their enforcement
- ▶ the PNLO finalized its implementation plan for the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict
- ▶ while denying any violations, the PSLF agreed to a verification process to investigate allegations of non-compliance with the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines
- ▶ 3 workshops involved 188 officers from the KNU/KNLA and the RCSS/SSA-S to improve their knowledge about the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict
- ▶ Following awareness-raising activities, several ANSAs welcomed MRE and working groups on this topic were set up in Kayah and Kachin states
- ▶ members of Karen, Kachin and Mon CBOs learned how to promote humanitarian norms relating to child protection, sexual violence and gender discrimination within their communities
- ▶ mine surveys and humanitarian clearance activities did not move forward significantly owing to pending positive developments in the peace process

## CONTEXT

In 2015, the Burma/Myanmar parliament failed to adopt amendments to the 2008 constitution that would have removed the army's veto over constitutional change. Seats in the parliament were still reserved for members of the armed forces.

Eight ANSAs signed a Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) in October, a few weeks before the general elections that were held in November. However, many ANSAs, including several key ones, did not sign the NCA.

Sporadic clashes continued to occur between government forces and various ANSAs in Kachin and Shan states, displacing thousands of civilians. Martial law was declared in some northern parts of Shan state.

Mines/ERW remained a major source of concern in an estimated 10 out of 14 regions/states. The government—and ANSAs—made it clear that mine action would only progress in relation to developments in the peace process.

Some children were still reportedly serving in the ranks of the regular armed forces and allegations also persisted about their recruitment and presence in the ranks of some ANSAs.

There was a lack of reliable data on conflict-related sexual violence, including that perpetrated by ANSAs. In both ethnic majority and minority areas, women experienced high levels of discrimination and were largely absent from the peace process.

## OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### Logic of intervention

Since 2003, Geneva Call has been engaged with ANSAs operating in Burma/Myanmar on humanitarian norms regarding AP mines and mine action. Given the difficulties of reaching the relevant ANSAs on the ground, meetings have often taken place outside the country. Activities to encourage and increase the capacity of CBOs to address the consequences of landmines were also undertaken. Through its relationships with ANSAs, Geneva Call aimed to facilitate mine action in areas under their control/influence, thereby complementing other actions undertaken. In 2015, a partnership to reinforce advocacy on mine action was established with Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), the Danish Demining Group (DDG) and the Mines Advisory Group (MAG).

Since 2010, two ANSAs—the CNF/CNA and KNU/KNLA—have been working with Geneva Call on sexual violence and gender discrimination issues, most notably to address them in the context of the ongoing peace process. As this work was extended to include

other ANSAs, Geneva Call aimed to improve their policies and protective measures to prevent and address sexual violence and gender discrimination in areas under their influence. In this regard, CSOs from a number of ethnic minority groups were important partners.

Since 2010, Geneva Call has also been engaging with ANSAs to improve the protection of children in armed conflict. This was done by raising the ANSAs' awareness about related humanitarian norms and negotiating their commitments to comply with them. Geneva Call ensured that its role was complementary to those of child-protection agencies and coordinated closely with them.

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

### Landmine ban

#### **The PSLF/TNLA cooperates with monitoring of its compliance with the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines**

In 2014, there were credible allegations of the use of AP mines by the TNLA (the military wing of the PSLF), which would have contravened its obligations under the *Deed of Commitment*. Geneva Call continued the process of investigation that had been initiated following these allegations, including liaising with relevant stakeholders. While denying any violations, the PSLF fully cooperated with the enquiries and agreed to a field verification mission. Such a mission would aim to produce clear findings about the allegations and recommendations for the PSLF/TNLA. A request to allow

and facilitate the mission was submitted to the Government of Burma/Myanmar, however, at the year end, Geneva Call was still awaiting a response.

#### **Dialogue develops with ANSAs about the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines**

In meetings and correspondence with Geneva Call, a number of ANSAs that were not yet signatories continued to deepen their understanding of the AP mine ban, including the KNPP/KA, KNU/KNLA, KNU-PC/KNLA-PC, NMSP/MNLA, RCSS/SSA-S and SSPP/SSA-N. They explored different perspectives and ways to address the landmine issue in areas under their control/influence and in relation to the evolving peace process.

The RCSS/SSA-S informed Geneva Call that it wished to deepen its engagement and cooperation on mine action. It requested that Geneva Call organize a workshop to improve its members' understanding of the humanitarian norms related to landmines. Unfortunately, it was impossible to convene this workshop in 2015, so it is hoped that it will take place in 2016.

Preliminary communication was established with ANSAs with which Geneva Call had not previously engaged but which were participating in the ceasefire negotiations. Opportunities to engage with further ANSAs, such as the AA and MNDAA were explored.

### **Progress continues on MRE although surveys and humanitarian clearance activities did not move forward significantly**

Following awareness-raising activities made in part by Geneva Call, most ANSAs welcomed MRE as they increasingly realized that communities deserved support in this area. MRE working groups were therefore set up in Kayah and Kachin states.

However, not all ANSAs held the same opinion about surveys of dangerous areas and clearance. Many remained cautious about such activities, pending positive developments in the peace process and related developments in their trust of and confidence in relevant government actors.

The KNU/KNLA allowed international mine-clearance experts to survey some villages in territories under its control. However, it then put on hold an extension of this operation. A project to clear mines from KNU and KNU-PC areas, developed by independent mine-action experts, did not move forward because of the complicated situation on the ground. The NMSP/MNLA, which facilitated surveys by an international mine-action group in several areas under its control in 2014, refused to extend the survey in 2015. Although its stalling peace process (NMSP did not sign the NCA) was not cited as a reason for this, observers considered it to be a clearly relevant factor.

## **Child protection**

### **Four signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict implement plans to fulfill their obligations**

Direct and indirect communication with ANSAs provided information about how these signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* were implementing their obligations.

Four signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict (the KNU/KNLA, KNPP/KA, NMSP/MNLA and PNLO/PNLA) either finalized the drafting of their implementation plans or were putting them into practice.

### **Signatories report on their compliance with the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict**

The KNPP/KA submitted its compliance report. Other ANSAs, which did not submit formal compliance reports, did, however, provide information on how they had implemented their commitments in meetings and correspondence.

International and local organizations contributed to monitoring the signatories' compliance with the *Deed of Commitment*. They reported the presence of armed, uniformed children at checkpoints along the Asian Highway, which constitutes a violation of the *Deed* signed by the KNU/KNLA. It was admitted that the dissemination and implementation of the *Deed's* obligations remained limited in some areas under KNU/KNLA control. During the dialogue on these issues, KNU/KNLA leaders asked Geneva Call to provide their forces with more training sessions and to work to improve compliance with their obligations in the field.

### **The KNPP/KA prepared to sign an Action Plan with the UN**

Geneva Call facilitated contact between the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict and UNICEF with the KNPP/KA. As a signatory to the *Deed of Commitment* since 2012 this group has already been trained on and has implemented the obligations related to the protection of children and the prohibition of recruitment and use of children in hostilities below 18 years and is therefore prepared to sign an Action Plan with UNICEF and the UN. Geneva Call has thus paved the way for this UN process which is ongoing.

### **Army, police and defence officers from the KNU/KNLA attend training sessions on child protection**

Following the dialogue mentioned above, in October, 38 mid-level army, police and defence officers from the KNU/KNLA attended a training session organized by Geneva Call and including the participation of two international child-protection agencies. Participants improved their knowledge of the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict—and other issues—to disseminate the *Deed's* related obligations and facilitate implementation.

### **The RCSS/SSA-S deepens dialogue about child protection and the *Deed of Commitment***

150 mid-level officers from the RCSS/SSA-S attended two one-day training sessions on the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict. Representatives from two international child-protection

agencies also participated. In parallel, the RCSS/SSA-S continued to deepen dialogue about child protection but emphasized that the organization needed additional time and discussions before it could make a commitment.

### Engagement with ANSAs about child protection is deepened

Engagement continued with the KIO/KIA and was initiated with the SSPP/SSA-N about child protection through meetings and various communications. Kachin CBOs expressed their readiness to support Geneva Call in moves towards a more substantive engagement with the KIO/KIA.

## Gender issues

### The two signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination implement plans to fulfill their obligations

Direct and indirect communication with the KNU/KNLA provided information about how this signatory to the *Deed of Commitment* had implemented its obligations. The CNF/CNA was still in the process of finalizing its implementation plan.

As with the issue of children, the KNU/KNLA identified that internal dissemination of the *Deed of Commitment* needed to be consolidated, and the aforementioned KNU/KNLA training session also covered this issue. In addition, they identified that the content of the *Deed* should be written into its training programme curriculum.

### The NMSP/MNLA continues to work towards signing the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination

The NMSP/MNLA's dialogue with Geneva Call continued to develop, and it showed interest in working to-

wards signing the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination. However, a number of issues needed to be explored in more detail before this could take place. The NMSP agreed to organize workshops dedicated to this issue in 2016.

### Members from Karen, Kachin and Mon CBOs are ready to lead awareness-raising activities within their communities on child protection, sexual violence and gender discrimination

Members of Karen, Kachin and Mon CBOs were carrying out, or preparing to undertake, awareness-raising activities within their communities about child protection in armed conflict and gender issues. Four workshops in different locations—organized in January, May, September and November—trained 33 CBO staff, mainly women, about the content of the *Deeds of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict and prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination. In December, CBOs in Karen communities requested and received 1,000 booklets and 40 posters to support their dissemination efforts.

## Trainings and other events – Summary table

Type	No.	Content	Partners	Participants	Female participants
Training of trainers	2	Geneva Call's <i>Deeds of Commitment</i>	CBOs	20	20
Training for ANSA political leaderships					
Training for fighters	3	Child protection, sexual violence and gender discrimination		188	-
Training for CSOs/CBOs	2	Child protection, sexual violence and gender discrimination		13	9
Training for local authorities					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>			<b>221</b>	<b>29</b>

# INDIA

Geneva Call has been engaged with ANSAs in India since 2002, particularly in the north-eastern states of Manipur and Nagaland. Its work initially focused on the AP mine ban and has expanded to include child protection and gender issues. Geneva Call conducts all activities outside India.

## EXPENSES IN CHF

Landmine ban	57'706
Child protection	57'706
Gender issues	57'706
Humanitarian norms	
<b>Total</b>	<b>173'117</b>

India continued to be challenged by security issues within its borders, including conflicts taking place in the Jammu and Kashmir region 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 between ANSAs, with regularly reported allegations of violations of IHL, including the indiscriminate use of children in hostilities and sexual violence, and in the central part of the country, the use of AP mines.

ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine ban	Child protection	Gender issues	Humanitarian norms
Naxalites	Naxalites				
Hmar People's Congress-Democracy	HPC-D				
Kuki National Front	KNF			✓	
Kuki National Organisation	KNO	✓	✓✓	✓✓	
National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khaplang	NSCN-K				
National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khole Kitovi	NSCN-KK	✓	✓	✓	
National Socialist Council of Nagalim (Isak Muivah)	NSCN-IM	✓		✓✓	
People's Liberation Army	PLA		new		
United National Liberation Front	UNLF				
Zeliangrong United Front	ZUF				
Zomi Re-unification Organisation	ZRO	✓		✓	
✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed		✓✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed in 2015		ANSA engaged on thematic area (new = new in 2015)	

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2015:

- ▶ the KNO signed the *Deeds of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict and prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination, becoming the second ANSA from India to have signed all three *Deeds*
- ▶ the NSCN-IM signed the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination
- ▶ the KNO submitted compliance reports on its 3 signed *Deeds of Commitment*, providing descriptions of the measures taken to ensure their enforcement
- ▶ all the other signatories to the *Deeds of Commitment* while not submitting a compliance report, did report on measures taken to fulfill their obligations
- ▶ discussions continued with 3 ANSAs—the KNF, NSCN-IM and ZRO—on improving the protection of children
- ▶ the PLA engaged with Geneva Call directly, whereas local CSOs/CBOs initiated first contacts with the ZUF and deepened the dialogue with the UNLF
- ▶ 8 CSO representatives from Manipur attended a workshop about humanitarian norms and the *Deeds of Commitment*; however, a lack of funds forced the cancellation of all the other planned training sessions
- ▶ internal difficulties led the HPC-D to suspend its engagement with Geneva Call, whereas following the NSCN-K's split in March, Geneva Call lost its focal contact person with the group

## CONTEXT

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

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 children in hostilities and sexual violence, and in the central part of the country, the use of AP mines.

## OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### Logic of intervention

Geneva Call has been engaged with ANSAs in India since 2002, particularly in the north-eastern states of 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, Geneva Call's engagement with ANSAs is undertaken outside the country or indirectly through local CSOs/CBOs. These organizations provide the necessary support for carrying out advocacy work on all the *Deeds of Commitment* and monitoring signatories' compliance with the *Deeds of Commitment* signed. This was, for example, how the first discussions took place with the ZUF in 2015. The same year, Geneva Call held a workshop with 8 CSO representatives to strengthen their capacities in these endeavours. Another workshop planned for CSOs from Nagaland was cancelled owing to a lack of funds.

Due to internal difficulties, the HPC-D suspended its engagement with Geneva Call. Following the NSCN-K's split in March, Geneva Call lost its focal contact person with the group.

Geneva Call also sought opportunities to engage with the Naxalites. People and organizations with the potential to help Geneva Call establish direct contact with the Naxalites encouraged Geneva Call to adopt an indirect approach through other ANSAs in the country; however, no concrete activities took place in 2015.

Research and contacts with its partners enabled Geneva Call to update its information about the situation in India and ANSA profiles. There was no contact or few communication opportunities with some ANSAs in 2015, either because of the conflict situations themselves or the internal dynamics within the ANSAs concerned.

### Landmine ban

#### **The four signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines report on their compliance**

Direct and indirect communication with these ANSAs provided information about how the signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* had implemented their obligations.

All signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines (the KNO, NSCN-KK, NSCN-IM and ZRO) managed to draft their implementation plans and started to put them into practice to fulfill their obligations.

The NSCN-IM reported the dissemination of the *Deed of Commitment* content to its combatants and shared it was in the process of updating its disciplinary measures.

The NSCN-KK pursued its efforts to disseminate the *Deed of Commitment* content to all members, including via the printing of illustrated materials, and its rep-

resentative continued monitoring visits to its camps to ensure compliance.

The KNO submitted a compliance report about the implementation of its obligations, as well as descriptions of the measures taken to ensure enforcement. The other signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines (the NSCN-KK, NSCN-IM and ZRO) did not submit their compliance reports. However, they all reported verbally on measures taken to fulfill their obligations.

#### **The NSCN-K confirms its interest in the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines**

At the beginning of the year, the NSCN-K confirmed its willingness to sign it, but then faced internal tensions and split. The situation has to be evaluated in 2016.

## Child protection

### **The KNO signs the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict**

Engagement with the KNO on the theme of child protection began in 2014, and the ANSA signed the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict in March 2015.

### **The KNO and NSCN-KK fulfill their obligations as signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict**

Direct and indirect communication with these ANSAs provided information about how the signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* had implemented their obligations. Both signatories managed to draft their implementation plans and started to put them into practice in order to fulfill their obligations.

The KNO also submitted a voluntary compliance report. It admitted to having had children in its military wing in the past and to there still being some children in KNO camps. It reported the appointment of a person in charge of bringing any issue relating to the protection of children to the attention of its committee. To support the training session on child protection prepared by the KNO, Geneva Call provided illustrated material for printing and booklets.

The NSCN-KK reported on its compliance, which included dissemination of its *Deed of Commitment* obligations to its members and to civil society, as well as making revisions of its internal rules, regulations and training curricula.

### **Engagement with the PLA and UNLF progresses**

Direct engagement with the PLA progressed in 2015 and it identified a clear contact person for Geneva Call. Further contacts were established with the UNLF. Both relationships broadened to include child protection in particular. According to reports, including from partners, the PLA both recruits children and uses them in hostilities, whereas the UNLF appears to have set recruitment at 18 years old.

### **A dialogue on child protection develops with three ANSAs**

Dialogue about child protection continued to develop with the KNF, NSCN-IM and ZRO.

As a result, the ZRO agreed in principle with the content of the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict. At the end of the year, it informed Geneva Call that it was ready to sign the *Deed*.

Other ANSAs reported that they still needed to carry out work internally before they could sign the *Deed of Commitment*. Issues to overcome included alternative arrangements for children already involved in these organizations or who volunteered to join them.

In its communication with Geneva Call, the NSCN-IM committed to investigating allegations regarding the recent recruitment of children, which would go against its stated policy, and to take the necessary steps should those allegations be confirmed. According to reports, some corrective measures were subsequently taken.

## Gender issues

### **The KNO and NSCN-IM sign the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination**

The KNO signed the *Deed of Commitment* regarding gender issues in March and consequently became the second ANSA from India to have signed all three *Deeds of Commitment*.

The NSCN-IM signed the same *Deed of Commitment* in July, having initiated its engagement with Geneva Call on this issue in 2010.

Although it had agreed in principle to the content of the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination by the end of 2014, the HPC-D postponed its signature of the *Deed* due to internal difficulties in the organization.

### **The five signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination implement plans to fulfill their obligations**

Direct and indirect communication with the ANSAs provided information about how the signatories (the KNF, KNO, NSCN-IM, NSCN-KK and ZRO) to the *Deed of Commitment* implemented their obligations. All the signatories managed to draft their implementation plans and started to put them into practice to fulfill their obligations. For example, the KNF reported organizing training on human rights (including sexual violence) in its camps, together with the revision of its disciplinary code. The NSCN-KK reported that it dealt severely with every case of sexual violence, had disseminated the obligations to its members and had addressed discriminatory practices within the organization.

### The KNO reports on its compliance to the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination

The KNO also submitted a voluntary compliance report on the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination. It reported having recently appointed a woman to bring women's

issues to the attention of the organization's central committee.

The other signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* (the KNF, NSCN-IM, NSCN-KK and ZRO) did not submit their compliance reports; however, they reported on measures taken to fulfill their obligations.

### Trainings and other events – Summary table

Type	No.	Content	Partners	Participants	Female participants
Training of trainers					
Training for ANSA political leaderships					
Training for fighters					
Training for CSOs/CBOs	1	Humanitarian norms and Geneva Call's <i>Deeds of Commitment</i>		8	2
Training for local authorities					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>



# PHILIPPINES (THE)

Geneva Call has been engaged in the Philippines since 2000, mainly promoting, monitoring and supporting the implementation of the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines. From 2010, it sought to broaden its engagement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) to also include gender-related issues. With the peace process between the MILF and the government in place, support for the transition process increased and Geneva Call's added value has decreased. Moreover, the absence of progress with some ANSAs and difficulties in establishing or maintaining contact with others – which are currently no longer active - mean that Geneva Call is beginning to wind down its involvement in the Philippines.

## EXPENSES IN CHF

Landmine ban	47'276
Child protection	
Gender issues	61'065
Humanitarian norms	
<b>Total</b>	<b>108'341</b>

Clashes between government forces and weapon bearers from the BIFM/BIFF and elements of the MILF/BIAF delayed the peace process between the government and the MILF/BIAF. However, the congressional review of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) for the creation of an autonomous Bangsamoro political region resumed in August. A large number of actors were preparing for the BBL's enactment after the presidential and general elections scheduled for May 2016. Sporadic clashes between government forces and other ANSAs, including the CPP/NPA, continued to occur, often in remote, impoverished areas of Luzon, Mindanao and the Visayas.

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	✓			
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 2015	ANSA engaged on thematic area (new = new in 2015)			

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2015:

- ▶ regular monitoring confirmed compliance by the signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines
- ▶ in view of the evolution of the situation and the reduction of Geneva Call's added value, the organization began to explore phasing out its activities
- ▶ the gender programme was suspended due to a lack of funding

## CONTEXT

Deadly clashes between government forces and weapon bearers of the BIFM/BIFF and elements of the MILF/BIAF delayed the peace process between the government and the MILF/BIAF. However, the congressional review of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) on the creation of an autonomous Bangsamoro political region subsequently resumed in August. Once approved, a national referendum on the BBL's ratification should take place after the presidential and general elections scheduled for May 2016. A large number of actors—States and international and local organizations—are helping to prepare for the peace agree-

ment's implementation and the MILF's transition into a purely political organization tasked with addressing all kinds of issues (e.g. the role of women, education and health). By the end of 2015, the RPM/RPA and RPM-P/RPA-ABB had launched processes for implementing the peace agreements with the government.

Sporadic clashes between government forces and other ANSAs, including the CPP/NPA, and clans, continued to occur, often in remote, impoverished areas of Luzon, Mindanao and the Visayas.

## OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### Logic of intervention

Most ANSAs in the Philippines remained open to dialogue on humanitarian issues. A large number of international and local organizations engage with them, particularly with the MILF/BIAF in order to help it prepare for the implementation of the peace agreement.

Contacts with other Bangsamoro ANSAs became difficult as they are considered spoilers by both the government and the MILF/BIAF. The military situation and lack of a suitable intermediary did not allow engagement with the BIFM/BIFF. Relations with the CPP/NPA made no progress either.

Thus, Geneva Call's added value has decreased over the year. As a result, the organization began to consider phasing out its activities. After a meeting with political leaders of the CPP/NPA on Geneva Call's thematic issues, the organization took the decision to

suspend further engagement with this ANSA, although it would maintain informal contacts. It decreased its activities with the MILF/BIAF on gender, suspending them as of July due to a lack of funding.

However, monitoring the compliance of the signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines remains important. In parallel, Geneva Call started to prepare and initiate meetings with ANSAs to explain its progressive withdrawal, without excluding the possibility of pursuing future opportunities for engagement.

Contacts with all the other actors involved (e.g. government bodies and humanitarian organizations) continued in order to best understand the continuing changes in the situation.

### 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 complied with their obligations. The MILF agreed to submit its compliance report as soon as possible. No contact could be established with the two other signatories; however, they were no longer militarily active.

### Gender issues

#### **The MILF/BIAF postpones workshops that were planned with Geneva Call about the protection of women and girls and gender equity**

The MILF/BIAF committed to proceeding with the organization of two separate workshops for its female and male members. The workshops were to explore

the issue of protecting women and girls from violence and women's rights and their participation in the peace process. These workshops were postponed to August because of delays in the peace process. However, they then had to be cancelled due to a lack of funding.

# THAILAND

Geneva Call has engaged ANSAs in the south of Thailand since 2010. It focuses on promoting the respect of humanitarian norms through training sessions for ANSA leaders and instructors. In parallel, it helps build the capacity of CBOs/CSOs to disseminate knowledge about humanitarian norms to communities—an intervention that is supported by the ANSAs. In view of the sensitive situation in the country, Geneva Call keeps a low profile on its activities, most of which take place outside Thailand.

EXPENSES IN CHF	
Landmine ban	58'722
Child protection	
Gender issues	
Humanitarian norms	19'290
<b>Total</b>	<b>78'012</b>

Violence has ebbed markedly in southern Thailand: 2015 saw the lowest number of attacks since 2004, despite civilian casualties still being reported. In 11 years, an alleged 6,500 people have died and nearly 10,000 have been injured due to violence related to the conflict. Most of them were not or no longer participating in hostilities. The majority of the violations of humanitarian norms targeted civilians directly or through indiscriminate IED attacks attributed to ANSAs.

ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine ban	Child protection	Gender issues	Humanitarian norms
Barisan Revolusi Nasional/Runda Kumpulan	BRN/RKK				
Patani United Liberation Organisation	PULO				
✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed	✓✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed in 2015	ANSA engaged on thematic area (new = new in 2015)			

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2015

- ▶ the BRN/RKK and PULO further disseminated rules on AP mine ban
- ▶ the BRN/RKK and PULO showed openness to deepening their dialogue on the protection of children, specifically on issues of recruitment and use of children in hostilities
- ▶ the BRN/RKK reaffirmed its commitment to disseminating humanitarian norms directly to its members and, at its request, received a new training manual and presentation materials to support its efforts
- ▶ 12 representatives from the BRN/RKK enhanced their knowledge of how to teach the 15 Rules included in Geneva Call's booklet
- ▶ illustrated booklets and posters in the Thai and Malay languages helped local CSOs promote humanitarian rules
- ▶ the launch of the [Fighter not Killer](#) campaign created growing interest among ANSAs
- ▶ regular monitoring of the press and experts' reports revealed a decrease in the number of unlawful incidents, although violations of humanitarian norms by ANSAs continued

## CONTEXT

Violence has ebbed markedly in southern Thailand: 2015 saw the lowest number of attacks since 2004, despite civilian casualties still being reported. 11 years of conflict have allegedly caused 6,500 deaths and nearly 10,000 injured, most of them civilians.

People not or no longer participating in hostilities nevertheless constituted the majority of casualties, with

violations of IHL mainly attributed to ANSAs. They reportedly carried out targeted killings, as well as indiscriminate IED attacks. [Research](#) showed that ANSAs recruited and used children as young as 14 years old.

Peace talks between the government and MARA Patani, a coalition formed by six ANSAs, failed to make progress during 2015.

## OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### Logic of intervention

According to ANSAs, and to Geneva Call's own research, there are many international and national NGOs in Thailand working with ANSAs on peace process issues. However, no NGOs are directly engaging with ANSAs on the respect for humanitarian norms.

Geneva Call has engaged with two of the main ANSAs in the south of Thailand—the BRN/RKK and the PULO—since 2010. Through their work with Geneva Call, both ANSAs have committed to adhering to humanitarian norms. Through the training of instructors from both ANSAs, Geneva Call expects them to become self-sufficient in disseminating knowledge about humanitarian norms to their members, as well as enforcing compliance with them.

CBOs/CSOs expressed an interest in disseminating information on humanitarian norms among communities that might be able to help reach out to ANSAs and influence the behaviour of their members on the ground.

Geneva Call has kept a low profile on its activities, most of which took place outside Thailand. Acting as partners with Geneva Call, the Cross Cultural Foundation and the Duay Jai (Hearty Support) Group disseminated humanitarian norms among CBOs/CSOs and, from there, to communities.

### Landmine ban

#### The BRN/RKK and PULO further disseminate rules on AP mine ban

Geneva Call started its engagement in 2011. Since 2012, there has not been a report of AP mine use in Thailand's Deep South.

Geneva Call organized a training for 12 trainers (including 1 woman) of BRN on international humanitarian norms, including the AP mine ban. A training manual along with illustrated posters and booklets was prepared to support its own internal trainings. At the specific request of the BRN, AP mines were included in the illustration of prohibited weapons. The illustrated

material was disseminated on a member of Patani United Liberation Organisation (PULO's) Facebook page, and received 51 likes and 21 shares.

#### Local communities receive dissemination material on the ban of AP mines

Geneva Call also supported the dissemination of IHL norms, including the ban of AP mines, to communities in Thailand through the design and the publication of illustrated booklets and posters. It is worthwhile to note that the ANSAs themselves requested that AP mines be incorporated into the illustration of banned devices.

### Humanitarian norms

#### The BRN/RKK and PULO increase their openness to discussing the recruitment and use of children in hostilities

A 2014 Child Soldiers International (CSI) report made allegations about ANSAs—specifically the BRN/RKK—recruiting and using children in hostilities in Thailand. During 2015, in their communications with Geneva Call, the BRN/RKK and PULO showed openness to discussing these issues and to deepening the dialogue on their child protection policies. Geneva Call also expressed deep concern with regard to frequently re-

ported attacks on security forces in schools. With regard to the allegations, the BRN/RKK provided feedback and expressed an interest in enhancing the protection of children and schools.

#### The BRN/RKK confirms its full support for the dissemination of humanitarian norms to its members and to civil society

During a meeting in June, the BRN/RKK confirmed its leadership's full approval for the dissemination of humanitarian norms to its members. It also offered sup-

port for the dissemination of material through civil society, which might thus reach its members on the ground in a faster manner.

### **New tools follow BRN/RKK requests to increase the dissemination of humanitarian norms**

During the aforementioned meeting with Geneva Call, the BRN/RKK requested further support to facilitate the dissemination of humanitarian norms to its members. It asked for additional tools, such as a training manual for its instructors and an adaptation of existing booklets, posters and videos. These tools would help it to convey the message to all its members in a timely manner and support its trainers' capacities to adequately explain the rules in a concise way. Geneva Call responded to this request by producing a training manual, presentation materials and illustrated booklets and posters in the Thai and Malay languages.

In parallel, the Cross Cultural Foundation and Duay Jai (Hearty Support) Group launched a programme to disseminate humanitarian norms to communities, an operation supported by the ANSAs.

### **ANSAs welcome Geneva Call's campaign**

The ANSAs welcomed the launch of Geneva Call's [Fighter not Killer](#) campaign that started on social me-

dia. Both ANSAs expressed an interest in having the material translated into Malay so that they could use it in their own dissemination efforts.

### **12 members of the BRN/RKK in charge of training improve their knowledge about humanitarian norms**

In response to a request by the BRN/RKK, a second training session followed the previous one in 2014 and enabled 12 of its representatives to enhance their capacity to teach the 15 Rules contained in Geneva Call's booklet. They thus became better equipped to share them widely and help members understand the relevance of humanitarian norms and practical steps for compliance.

### **Experts and the press report a decrease in ANSA violations of IHL**

While a new awareness of humanitarian norms may not be the only factor, regular monitoring of the press and experts' reports showed a decrease in the number of unlawful incidents; however, the number of civilian casualties has fluctuated and violations of IHL persist.

**Trainings and other events – Summary table**

Type	No.	Content	Partners	Participants	Female participants
Training of trainers	1	Humanitarian norms and how to teach them		12	1
Training for ANSA political leaderships					
Training for fighters					
Training for CSOs/CBOs					
Training for local authorities					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>

# LATIN AMERICA

Colombia

## EXPENSES IN CHF

Landmine ban	155'423
Child protection	92'889
Gender issues	117'342
Humanitarian norms	47'886
<b>Total</b>	<b>413'540</b>



## HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ a first area in the Antioquia department was cleared of mine/ERW after the Colombian government and the FARC-EP signed a pilot humanitarian demining agreement
- ▶ the ELN declared its willingness to adhere to the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination and the FARC-EP also showed interest and potential to sign
- ▶ the FARC-EP revised its internal policy regarding female combatants' pregnancies so that abortions could only be undertaken with the woman's consent



Meeting with leaders of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army (FARC-EP) on child protection and demining issues. Cuba, April 2015 © Geneva Call

## REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Geneva Call's interventions in different regions must remain significant, timely and of the utmost quality. To ensure this, coordination and administrative activities, led by regional directors in collaboration with the head of operations, took place independently of purely field-related work. This coordination, whether at headquarters or in the regions, required participation in desk monitoring meetings, internal coordination meetings, information sharing between departments, or working on specific advocacy or fundraising needs. Regional coordination activities also aimed to constantly improve Geneva Call's work by evaluating results, conducting critical reviews as needed, supporting transversal operational research projects and consulting with external stakeholders, such as donors, UN agencies and other NGOs. This also included liaising with consultants, trainers and partners involved in the programme's implementation. Furthermore, regional coordination facilitated preliminary assessments of whether Geneva Call's engagement in new contexts would add value.

## EXPENSES IN CHF

Landmine ban	3'980
Child protection	7'201
Gender issues	3'980
Humanitarian norms	5'414
<b>Total</b>	<b>20'574</b>

# COLOMBIA

Geneva Call has been working in Colombia since 2003, promoting 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 for the inclusion of a gender-sensitive approach to DDR. Furthermore, in partnership with CBOs, Geneva Call supports affected communities requesting humanitarian mine action, including demining, in their areas.

## EXPENSES IN CHF

Landmine ban	151'443
Child protection	85'688
Gender issues	113'362
Humanitarian norms	42'472
<b>Total</b>	<b>392'965</b>

Peace negotiations, initiated in 2012 between the Colombian government and the FARC-EP, progressed in 2015. The FARC-EP declared a new unilateral ceasefire; the Colombian government decided on a gradual de-escalation of military operations. Both announced the signing of a final peace agreement in 2016. The beginning of official peace talks between the government and the ELN was still under discussion.

Meanwhile, armed confrontations continued to affect civilians—particularly in rural areas—causing displacements, new victims of AP mines/ERW, 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 2015		ANSA engaged on thematic area (new = new in 2015)	

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2015:

- ▶ a first area in the Antioquia department was cleared of mine/ERW after the Colombian government and the FARC-EP signed a pilot humanitarian demining agreement
- ▶ 35 members of CBOs/CSOs and local authorities from the Cauca and Nariño departments improved their knowledge of mine action during a training event
- ▶ the FARC-EP raised its age limit for recruitment from 15 to 17 years old and prepared a draft DDR protocol for children
- ▶ the ELN declared its willingness to adhere to the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination and the FARC-EP also showed interest and potential to sign
- ▶ the FARC-EP revised its internal policy regarding female combatants' pregnancies so that abortions could only be undertaken with the woman's consent
- ▶ former female combatants, introduced by Geneva Call, worked with the FARC-EP to strengthen the gender perspective in the peace and DDR processes
- ▶ the ELN expressed its readiness to work on proposals regarding mine ban, child protection and gender issues as soon as official peace negotiations with the Colombian government begin
- ▶ members of the ELN in Bellavista prison participated in a pilot survey of imprisoned ANSA members who had been victims of mines/ERW or other combat injuries



## CONTEXT

Peace negotiations initiated between the Colombian government and the FARC-EP in 2012 resulted in agreements on three agenda points (land reform, political participation and drug trafficking) and progressed on the two remaining ones (rights of victims and end of conflict/disarmament). With regard to the agenda point on victims, an agreement on transitional justice was reached. From July onwards, the FARC-EP declared a unilateral ceasefire and the Colombian government decided on a gradual de-escalation of military operations. In 2015, both parties announced that the final peace agreement would be signed in 2016. After more than a year of exploratory talks, the beginning of official peace negotiations between the Colombian government and the ELN was still under discussion.

Armed confrontations continued between the ELN, FARC-EP and other ANSAs and government armed forces. Hostilities directly affected civilians, particularly vulnerable communities in rural areas (e.g. indigenous groups, Afro-Colombians and/or isolated peasant communities), causing displacements, additional victims of AP mines/ERW, child recruitment and other IHL violations. The situation in border areas, especially with Ecuador and Venezuela, remained particularly serious.

The Colombian government recorded 218 victims of AP mines and ERW in 2015 and almost 11,400 victims, 38% of whom were civilians, between 1990 and 2015.

## OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### Logic of intervention

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

Geneva Call's aim is for the FARC-EP and ELN to make unilateral commitments on humanitarian issues (including signing one or several *Deeds of Commitment*, especially the one on gender) and for the ANSAs to conclude humanitarian agreements with the Colombian government (e.g. agreements on humanitarian demining and 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.

Direct engagement with the FARC-EP peace delegation took place in Cuba (3 multi-day meetings), whereas, with the ELN, it took place with its representatives in Bellavista prison in Medellín (8 meetings).

Geneva Call helped to further promote the participation of female combatants in the peace process and the inclusion of a gender-sensitive approach in the fu-

ture DDR process. This was done through exchanges with female and male members of ANSAs on what the pertinent norms related to sexual violence and the participation of women should be.

In the Cauca and Nariño departments, Geneva Call sought to contribute to a positive change in communities' interactions with ANSAs and helped address community needs related to landmines and ERW. Such activities were undertaken on the condition that they complemented Geneva Call's direct engagement with the ANSAs involved and had a potential influence on the ANSAs' attitudes and behaviours without putting local people at risk. Interaction and training sessions for CBOs/CSOs were an essential means of doing this, especially when linked to Geneva Call's engagement with the ELN, which is known to be sensitive to community demands.

Geneva Call's activities aimed to contribute to broader efforts to improve respect for humanitarian norms among all parties to the conflict. It sees its work as an integral part of the endeavours of the many local and international actors working in Colombia with which it is continuously coordinating through various platforms and bilateral contacts.

### Landmine ban

**Mine/ERW clearance is completed in one area of the Antioquia department following the signature of a pilot humanitarian demining agreement between the FARC-EP and the Colombian government**

Since the beginning of its activities in Colombia, Geneva Call has raised with ANSAs (as well as with the Co-

lombian government) the importance of mine action and bilateral humanitarian agreements on demining, both for the benefit of the population and as a trust-building measure between parties to the conflict. In March, the Colombian government and the FARC-EP signed a humanitarian agreement that included a pilot phase in which two areas were to be cleared of mines and ERW. Demining operations started in the first area

(Orejon village, Briceño municipality, Antioquia department). Colombian armed forces performed the demining based on information given by FARC-EP members who were present in the area. Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) liaised with the communities and verified the quality of the demining at the end of the process. In December, the first area was declared clear of mines and handed back to communities. The demining operations began in the second area (Santa Helena village, Mesetas municipality, Meta department) and will continue in 2016.

The FARC-EP was contemplating participation in further demining processes. It had recognized that the use of AP mines sometimes had unintended consequences but was not ready to fully renounce their use in the absence of a comprehensive ceasefire. In Havana, Geneva Call organized an in-depth discussion with the FARC-EP on humanitarian mine action and the actors involved.

### **The ELN confirms its interest in humanitarian demining**

In 2015, the ELN was still using mines. However, it continued to show interest in pilot proposals for humanitarian demining in Santa Cruz de Guachavez (Nariño department) and El Tambo (Cauca department), although without concrete results as yet. Neither the ELN nor the government wished to make further

commitments on this issue while still engaged in preliminary talks about the peace process.

In two training events, 35 members of CBOs/CSOs and local and regional authorities from the Cauca and Nariño departments gained a new understanding of mine action.

### **ELN members in Bellavista prison participate in a pilot survey on the specific needs of imprisoned ANSA members who have been injured in combat or by mines/ERW**

In February, four members of the ELN in Bellavista prison in Medellín participated in a pilot survey of imprisoned members of the ELN or FARC-EP who had been the victims of mines/ERW or other combat injuries. The survey's aims were first to contribute to strengthening confidence in the peace process and raising awareness about mines/ERW and then to provide useful information about the specific needs of ANSA members in prison or during their demobilization process. The pilot survey was conducted by Geneva Call and the Fundación Comité de Solidaridad con los Presos Políticos (FCSPP). The prisoners gave positive feedback on the pilot survey and suggested improvements to the questionnaire. However, the roll out of the survey was suspended—as were all training programmes in prisons—because of the delicate nature of engaging prisoners during peace negotiations.

## **Child protection**

### **The FARC-EP raise the age limit for recruitment from 15 to 17 years old and works on DDR protocols for children**

In February, the FARC-EP announced that the recruitment age would rise from 15 to 17. In November, it was said to have raised the recruitment age to 18 years old and to be considering a cessation of all recruitment. However, they had not officially confirmed this new commitment.

As a first step, the FARC-EP declared their intention to demobilize children below the age of 15. It was negotiating with the Colombian government and the UN about DDR protocols for the children concerned. They also approached a small number of humanitarian actors—among them Geneva Call—for support and contributions to the DDR process. A meeting organized by Geneva Call with the FARC-EP and the Coalición contra la vinculación de niños, niñas y jóvenes al conflicto armado en Colombia (COALICO), aimed to ensure that

the children's best interests were adequately taken into account and child protection best practices were followed.

### **The ELN continues the dialogue on the recruitment and use of children in hostilities**

The ELN reiterated its commitment to abide by its internal code of conduct concerning the non-recruitment of children under 16 years old. Unfortunately, in the absence of a start to the official negotiation process between the Colombian government and the ELN, no further advances could be made on this topic. However, Geneva Call facilitated exchanges on child protection and the DDR of minors between the COALICO and ELN representatives in Bellavista prison.

## **Gender issues**

### **The ELN declares its willingness to adhere to the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination and the FARC-EP show interest and potential to sign**

In October, an ELN representative stated that it would be ready to sign the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting

sexual violence and against gender discrimination once official peace negotiations with the Colombian government had started. In the meantime, it encouraged preparatory work on gender issues, for example, with currently imprisoned female members of the ELN. The ELN's gender policy condemns and punishes acts of sexual violence, and the organization is open to

gender equality within its ranks, thus being compatible with the *Deed of Commitment*.

The FARC-EP declared their potential interest to sign the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination. In meetings with Geneva Call, they deepened their understanding of the *Deed*. During a session in Havana, representatives studied its content in detail and promised to send written feedback to Geneva Call on specific areas of concern with regard to its implementation and compatibility with their internal code of conduct. Since 2014, the FARC-EP have shown increasing openness to gender-related questions. For example, they made a declaration condemning all forms of sexual and gender-based violence and proposed the creation of a technical team specializing in issues concerning sexual violence within the framework of peace process discussions about transitional justice.

### The FARC-EP modify their internal policy relating to abortion within their ranks

The FARC-EP revised their internal policy regarding female combatant pregnancies. No abortions should be undertaken against a woman's will, and her con-

sent should henceforth be obligatory. This policy was referred to in public statements. It partially addressed previous allegations of forced contraception and abortion within the FARC-EP that were incompatible with the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination.

### Former female combatants engage with the FARC-EP to strengthen gender perspectives in the peace and DDR processes

With Geneva Call's support, former Colombian female combatants, members of the Red Nacional de Mujeres Ex-combatientes de la Insurgencia (Red), have shared their experiences and recommendations on the issues of female combatants' participation in peace processes and gender-sensitive DDR with both ANSAs and the government (in 2013 and 2014). Following this, Geneva Call organized two meetings in 2015 with the FARC-EP and the Red, in Cuba, to further discuss these topics.

Female combatants have remained underrepresented in the peace process despite the significant number of female members in both the ELN and FARC-EP.

## Humanitarian norms

### ANSAs confirm their interest in training programmes on humanitarian norms for their members in prisons

The FARC-EP and the ELN confirmed their interest in the training programmes on humanitarian norms for their members in prisons. However, the planned ses-

sions that had been authorized by the prison administration in March were postponed in view of the complex negotiations about the issue of prisoners in the peace process. Focusing on IHL, transitional justice, humanitarian demining and DDR, these trainings will be implemented as soon as possible.

## Trainings and other events – Summary table

Type	No.	Content	Partners	Participants	Female participants
Training of trainers					
Training for ANSA political leaderships					
Training for fighters					
Training for CSOs/CBOs	2	Impact of AP and ERW; humanitarian demining; MRE; respective roles of communities and authorities	UNMAS/ACIN	35	9
Training for local authorities					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>			<b>35</b>	<b>9</b>

# MIDDLE EAST AND EUROPE

Iraq  
Islamic Republic of Iran  
Lebanon  
Syrian Arab Republic  
Turkey  
Yemen

## EXPENSES IN CHF

Landmine ban	93'819
Child protection	144'906
Gender issues	62'507
Humanitarian norms	654'191
<b>Total</b>	<b>956'422</b>



## HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ 20 political figures in Iraq signed a humanitarian declaration and several ANSAs showed a strong interest in collaborating with Geneva Call to improve their knowledge of humanitarian norms
- ▶ the PAK in Iran signed all three *Deeds of Commitment* and started to implement them, while the PJAK signed the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict
- ▶ the Tahaluf and PLO/PNSF in Lebanon explored ways to improve their members' behaviour in line with their 2013 pledge on child protection in armed conflict as well as protecting schools and education
- ▶ in Syria, around 380 ANSA fighters from the IA, FSA-affiliated groups and the YPG-YPJ attended 17 training sessions on humanitarian norms. In several cases noted changes in behaviour have been reported
- ▶ the YPG-YPJ took measures to comply with the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict and introduced a new decree whereby all fighters under the age of 18 could no longer participate in military operations
- ▶ the HPG/PKK took steps to investigate persisting allegations regarding the recruitment of children under 16 years old, in violation of its *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict



Training for fighters of the Free Syrian Army using Geneva Call's mobile quiz on humanitarian norms. Syria, June 2015. © Geneva Call

## REGIONAL COORDINATION

Geneva Call's interventions in different regions must remain significant, timely and of the utmost quality. To ensure this, coordination and administrative activities, led by regional directors in collaboration with the head of operations, took place independently of purely field-related work. This coordination, whether at headquarters or in the regions, required participation in desk monitoring meetings, internal coordination meetings, information sharing between departments, or working on specific advocacy or fundraising needs. Regional coordination activities also aimed to constantly improve Geneva Call's work by evaluating results, conducting critical reviews as needed, supporting transversal operational research projects and consulting with external stakeholders, such as donors, UN agencies and other NGOs. This also included liaising with consultants, trainers and partners involved in the programme's implementation. Due to the relatively high level of attention that this region is currently receiving, Geneva Call's regional director was invited to several conferences and trained other NGOs. Furthermore, regional coordination facilitated preliminary assessments of whether Geneva Call's engagement in new contexts would add value, as is currently the case for Ukraine, for example.

## EXPENSES IN CHF

Landmine ban	3'147
Child protection	5'523
Gender issues	3'147
Humanitarian norms	3'147
<b>Total</b>	<b>14'962</b>

Geneva Call has been working in Iraqi Kurdistan since 2001 and has built trusting relationships with both the Kurdistan Regional Government and its Peshmerga (fighters) forces. Since 2015, it has sought to engage with other Shia, Kurdish and Sunni ANSAs participating in the armed conflict and accused of committing violations of humanitarian norms. In addition, Geneva Call works with CBOs/CSOs and other relevant stakeholders that can act as intermediaries and facilitate engagement with ANSAs. A public communication campaign helped to reach out to communities and political leaders as well as ANSAs and their constituencies.

## EXPENSES IN CHF

Landmine ban	
Child protection	
Gender issues	
Humanitarian norms	124'299
<b>Total</b>	<b>124'299</b>

Since December 2013, with the geographic expansion of the Islamic State group (ISg), also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) operations, armed conflict has continued unabated. It opposed the ISg to government forces supported by an international coalition of 40 countries, the Popular Mobilisation Forces—mainly Shia ANSAs which are not legally subordinated to the regular armed forces—and the Kurdistan Regional Government's (KRG) Peshmerga forces. Kurdish ANSAs from Iran, Turkey and Syria are also involved in the fight against the ISg.

Violations of humanitarian norms by weapon bearers on all sides were allegedly widespread. Since the beginning of 2014, corroborated reports have alleged the displacement of at least 3.3 million people.

ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine ban	Child protection	Gender issues	Humanitarian norms
Affiliate groups of the Popular Mobilisation Forces	<b>PMF</b>				<b>new</b>
Sunni ANSAs and Islamic State group/Islamic State of Iraq and Syria	<b>Sunni ANSAs</b>				
Kurdish Forces					
✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed	✓✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed in 2015	ANSA engaged on thematic area (new = new in 2015)			

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2015:

- ▶ PMF and Peshmerga forces representatives decided to support Geneva Call's programme in Iraq
- ▶ the Iraqi government and the Kurdistan Regional Government welcomed Geneva Call's intervention disseminating humanitarian norms to ANSAs and civil society actors
- ▶ 20 political figures signed a humanitarian declaration
- ▶ several ANSAs showed a strong interest in collaborating with Geneva Call to improve their knowledge of humanitarian norms and of the content of the *Deeds of Commitment*
- ▶ CSOs and tribal leaders were sensitized and welcomed the opportunity to be further trained about humanitarian norms and how to disseminate knowledge about these to ANSAs and communities
- ▶ the public *Fighter not Killer* campaign was developed further and launched

## CONTEXT

Since December 2013, when the ISg expanded the geographical range of its operations from Anbar province to other areas, the armed conflict between Iraqi government forces and numerous ANSAs has continued unabated. Government forces were supported by an international coalition of 40 countries, mainly through airstrikes and advice or training for Iraqi troops. Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF), particularly the Islamic Resistance of Iraq, that were neither legally nor practically subordinated to the government's regular armed forces, became more independent and pursued their own agendas. These included the four main Shia ANSAs—Ahl Al-Haq (AAH), the Badr Brigades (BB), Kata'ib Hizbullah (KH) and Saraya Al-Salam (SAS). The Kurdistan Regional Government's (KRG) Peshmerga forces participated in the fighting against the ISg

with the support of Iranian, Syrian and Turkish Kurdish ANSAs.

Alleged violations of humanitarian norms, mainly by the ISg, but also by other weapon bearers, were reportedly widespread. These included targeted and sectarian killings, the recruitment and use of children in hostilities, abductions, looting and destruction of civilian property, disproportionate attacks and the forced displacement of civilians. Since January 2014, corroborated reports have alleged the displacement of at least 3.3 million people and tens of thousands of wounded or killed.

The conflict was fuelled by longstanding, unresolved inter-ethnic and inter-sectarian tensions and the lingering effects of past situations of violence.

## OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### Logic of intervention

At the beginning of the year, Geneva Call conducted an initial assessment of the situation. Meetings with Iraqi government and parliamentary representatives and international humanitarian actors enabled the organization to adapt its intervention and to ensure that its actions were complementary to those being carried out by other international organizations. They also allowed Geneva Call to develop its network of contacts and to begin reaching out to ANSAs.

The Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) and Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and both their military forces have worked with Geneva Call since 2001 and became

signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines in 2002. Since the new Iraqi constitution in 2005, Geneva Call has maintained strong, trusting relationships with the KDP and PUK while developing relations with the KRG. In 2015, Geneva Call resumed concrete field activities in KRG-controlled areas. It aimed to maintain its relationship with the KRG and engage with Yazidi Kurdish, Shia and Sunni ANSAs on humanitarian norms and violations of those norms allegedly committed against civilians.

Simultaneously, Geneva Call started to operate from Baghdad and the country's southern regions.

### Humanitarian norms

#### Twenty political leaders sign a humanitarian declaration

Representatives from Shia militia groups and the KRG's Ministry of Peshmerga attended a national meeting on humanitarian norms held in collaboration with the Middle East Research Institute (MERI) during its yearly high-level forum. A humanitarian declaration was circulated and 20 political leaders signed it. The declaration was subsequently presented to the Iraqi parliament's Human Rights Commission, with the aim of providing the basis for a future resolution for endorsement by all groups and parties.

Engagement with political leaders and party cadres aimed to make them commit to humanitarian norms, promote respect for those norms among ANSAs and facilitate direct contact with ANSAs for Geneva Call.

#### Government representatives and ANSA leaders show interest in training about humanitarian norms and the content of the *Deeds of Commitment*

Geneva Call presented its activities in Iraq and the concept of humanitarian norms to government representatives and ANSA leaders during a number of bilateral meetings held in various locations.

- ▶ in Baghdad, Iraqi government representatives and Shia PMF leaders expressed their interest and willingness to attend training sessions about humanitarian norms as well as the three Geneva Call specific thematic *Deeds* and to subsequently promote them
- ▶ Syrian Kurdish Peshmerga representatives fighting in Iraqi Kurdistan requested training for their political leaders and Peshmerga forces

Geneva Call will follow up on these requests so that middle- and high-ranking ANSA officers are aware of humanitarian norms and are provided with the relevant knowledge and methodology to positively influence their organizations' standards, codes of conduct and practices.

### A public campaign about humanitarian norms targets ANSAs and their constituencies

The launch of a public communication campaign helped Geneva Call to engage with ANSAs and raise their awareness about humanitarian norms. It included:

- ▶ the broadcasting of all Geneva Call videos on various Iraqi national TV channels, as well as on ANSA channels
- ▶ the production of three additional video clips for TV
- ▶ a new website to support the [Fighter not Killer](#) campaign in Arabic, Kurdish and English, as well as videos, booklets and a mobile telephone application

- ▶ the translation of four booklets and posters on humanitarian norms into Kurdish and their printing in Arabic and Kurdish

### Preparations are made for engagement with CSOs on humanitarian norms

Many CSOs welcomed Geneva Call's efforts to engage with ANSAs and communities on humanitarian norms.

- ▶ in Baghdad, at three separate meetings, 38 CSOs and 20 Shia tribal leaders learned about Geneva Call activities and the concept of humanitarian norms
- ▶ in Souleymaniye and Erbil, CSO members learned about how to support the promotion of humanitarian norms within their communities
- ▶ Geneva Call and MERI signed a memorandum of understanding for the organization of training sessions on IHL; two professors of IHL were provided with Geneva Call's teaching materials and methodological tools.

### Trainings and other events – Summary table

Type	No.	Content	Partners	Participants	Female participants
Training of trainers					
Training for ANSA political leaderships					
Training for fighters					
Training for CSOs/CBOs	2	Humanitarian norms		58	11
Training for local authorities					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>			<b>58</b>	<b>11</b>



# 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. Geneva Call organizes and provides training on its *Deeds of Commitment* and on humanitarian norms. Dialogue and activities with the ANSAs concerned take place in the region and in Europe.

## EXPENSES IN CHF

Landmine ban	29'629
Child protection	36'400
Gender issues	27'587
Humanitarian norms	23'348
<b>Total</b>	<b>116'963</b>

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

Following the military activities of the Islamic State group (ISg, also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) in the Sinjar area of Iraq, the Iranian Kurdish ANSAs offered their support to the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq and some, such as the PAK, have been involved in the fighting inside Iraq.

ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine ban	Child protection	Gender issues	Humanitarian norms
Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan	PDKI	✓	✓	✓	new
Free Life Party of Kurdistan	PJAK	✓	✓✓		
Komala Party of Iranian Kurdistan	KPIK	✓	✓	✓	new
Komala Party of Kurdistan	KPK	✓	✓	✓	new
Komalah—The Kurdistan Organization of the Communist Party of Iran	Komalah-CPI	✓	✓	✓	new
Kurdistan Democratic Party—Iran	KDP-Iran	✓	✓	✓	new
Kurdistan Freedom Party	PAK	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	new
✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed	✓✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed in 2015	ANSA engaged on thematic area (new = new in 2015)			

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2015:

- ▶ the PAK signed all three *Deeds of Commitment* and started to implement them, including organizing a training event on humanitarian norms attended by 22 of its fighters, including 4 women
- ▶ the PJAK signed the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict, with one reservation, however, and it reported needing additional internal discussions on gender issues before signing the relevant *Deed*
- ▶ all the Iranian Kurdish ANSA signatories provided the necessary information for their compliance reports to the *Deeds of Commitment*
- ▶ all 7 Iranian Kurdish ANSAs (the PDKI, PJAK, KPIK, KPK, Komalah-CPI, KDP-Iran and PAK) expressed their commitment to deepening the dialogue with Geneva Call on humanitarian norms and organizing specific training sessions on this theme

## 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, except the PAK, which is fighting in Iraq alongside the Kurdistan Regional Government's Peshmerga forces. Some sporadic armed confrontations also occurred

between Iran's security forces and the PJAK. Other ANSAs were prepared to resume their armed struggle, should the situation require it.

As a result of the military activities of the Islamic State group (ISg) in the Sinjar area of Iraq, where the Yazidi Kurds live, the Iranian Kurdish ANSAs offered to send troops to support the Peshmerga forces of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) of Iraq.

## 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 mutual confidence built up with them over the years has put Geneva Call in a privileged position to tackle difficult issues when they arise. Geneva Call maintained contact with the Iranian Kurdish ANSAs in Iraqi Kurdistan, as it does not have access to them in Iran. It kept the KRG regularly informed about its missions and activities.

In 2015, all seven Iranian Kurdish ANSAs engaged with Geneva Call had signed the *Deeds of Commitment* banning AP mines and protecting children in armed conflict. Except for the PJAK, which was still considering its signature, they had also all signed the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination.

While continuing to engage with the PJAK on gender issues, Geneva Call focused on monitoring and helping other ANSAs to carry out their commitments. As most of them have already taken implementation measures to comply with their obligations, Geneva Call supported them as and when necessary. In addition to this, Geneva Call sought to further develop the ANSAs' knowledge of and respect for humanitarian norms.

Direct and indirect contacts with Iranian NGOs developed slowly and contributed to monitoring and reporting on compliance by the signatories to the *Deeds of Commitment*. Preparations began for training key actors on how to improve the monitoring mechanism.

### Landmine ban

As a result of years of armed conflicts, the Iranian Kurdish border with Iraq remains particularly contaminated by mines/ERW, mainly laid during the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq war. These existing minefields continue to cause casualties.

#### **The PAK signs the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines**

Although engagement with the PAK on the AP mine ban only began in 2015, it signed the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines on 28 June. Furthermore, it started its implementation work and welcomed Gene-

va Call's help in building up its capacity to carry out its obligations.

#### **The six other signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines comply with their obligations**

Monitoring of the six other signatories (the PDKI, PJAK, KPIK, KPK, Komalah-CPI and KDP-Iran) to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines showed that they were complying with their obligations and implementing the appropriate measures. All the signatory ANSAs submitted compliance reports for 2014.

### Child protection

#### **The PJAK and PAK sign the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict**

There have been allegations of child recruitment by the PJAK in the past. Children most prone to joining the PJAK were allegedly girls from rural and traditional areas who might otherwise have faced an early mar-

riage and restricted rights. On 25 April, the PJAK signed the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict, with one reservation. This commitment came after in-depth discussions, mainly on the conditions of this reservation, and the preparation of a detailed implementation plan.

The PAK signed the *Deed* on 28 June, without reservations. It declared that it had never recruited children under 18 years old and that traditionally it did not send combatants under 20 years old to the frontline.

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

### Gender issues

Iranian Kurdish ANSAs showed interest in the protection of women and girls and the promotion of their role in Kurdish society. Information about sexual violence linked to the Kurdish armed conflict in Iran remained poor.

#### **The PAK signs the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination**

Although the PAK's engagement with Geneva Call on gender issues only began in 2015, it signed the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against

gender discrimination on 28 June and started to implement it.

The PJAK agreed, in principle, with the content of the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination, and it was considering whether or not to become a signatory. However, at the end of the year, it reported that additional internal discussions were needed before it could sign the *Deed*.

### Humanitarian norms

#### **20 PAK fighters, including one female and one male commander, attend a training session about humanitarian norms**

20 PAK fighters, including one female commander for the women fighters and one male commander, attended a two-day training session organized by Geneva Call in November. They developed their knowledge of humanitarian norms and of the three *Deeds of Commitment* that the PAK signed in June. Around 100 illustrated booklets were handed over to support the PAK's dissemination efforts.

#### **All seven Iranian Kurdish ANSAs (the PDKI, PJAK, KPIK, KPK, Komalah-CPI, KDP-Iran and PAK) express their commitment to deepening the dialogue with Geneva Call on humanitarian norms and organizing specific training sessions on this theme**

During several discussions with Geneva Call, high-level representatives from Iranian Kurdish ANSAs (the PDKI, PJAK, KPIK, KPK, Komalah-CPI, KDP-Iran and PAK) gained further knowledge of humanitarian norms and how to better ensure compliance with their obligations. They identified means to promote respect for humanitarian norms among their members. They agreed to broadcast Geneva Call's [Fighter not Killer](#) videos and announcements on their television and radio channels in order to raise people's awareness about humanitarian norms.

### Trainings and other events – Summary table

Type	No.	Content	Partners	Participants	Female participants
Training of trainers					
Training for ANSA political leaderships					
Training for fighters	1	Humanitarian norms and Geneva Call's <i>Deeds of Commitment</i>		20	4
Training for CSOs/CBOs					
Training for local authorities					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>20</b>	<b>4</b>

# LEBANON

Geneva Call began working in Lebanon in 2005 owing to the extensive AP mine/ERW contamination. Since 2010, it has been working on humanitarian norms, including child protection, with Palestinian ANSAs in the refugee camps. It supports training, especially for trainers of ANSA security forces, and it partners with CBOs/CSOs to raise awareness about these norms. Since 2013, Geneva Call and a local partner have also been engaging with Lebanese political parties and relevant communities on the humanitarian norms applicable to the violence resulting from ethnic or sectarian tensions and the Syrian armed conflict.

## EXPENSES IN CHF

Landmine ban	
Child protection	57'866
Gender issues	
Humanitarian norms	205'332
<b>Total</b>	<b>263'198</b>

The armed conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic (hereafter Syria) and its spillover effects continued to have ramifications in Lebanon, fuelling longstanding ethnic or sectarian tensions. Pre-existing political tensions and clashes increased, particularly sectarian violence between Shias and Sunnis. Various Syrian ANSAs operated in Lebanese territory and the Lebanese Hezbollah remained involved in the Syrian armed conflict.

The situation deteriorated in the 12 camps that host around half of the 450,000 Palestinian refugees registered in Lebanon by UNRWA, particularly because of additional pressure exerted by some [44,000 new Palestinian refugees from Syria](#). This situation augmented the risks of clashes, child recruitment, sexual violence and other abuses.

ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine ban	Child protection	Gender issues	Humanitarian norms
Forces of the Palestinian National Coalition	<b>Tahaluf</b>				
Hezbollah					
Joint Security Force	<b>JSF</b>				<b>new</b>
Palestinian Liberation Organization/Palestinian National Security Forces	<b>PLO/PNSF</b>				
✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed		✓✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed in 2015		ANSA engaged on thematic area (new = new in 2015)	

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2015:

- ▶ the Tahaluf and PLO/PNSF explored ways to improve their members' behaviour in line with their 2013 pledge on child protection in armed conflict as well as protecting schools and education
- ▶ a survey on the risks affecting children in Palestinian camps confirmed the need for the Tahaluf and PLO/PNSF to enforce appropriate behaviour in line with their pledge on child protection
- ▶ the PLO/PNSF and Islamic ANSAs engaged with Geneva Call after an assessment of alleged violations of humanitarian norms during clashes in Ain al-Hilweh camp
- ▶ the Legal Support Unit (LSU) trained 109 commanders from the newly created Palestinian National Security Force (PNSF)
- ▶ the Azzm wa Saadeh and Marada political parties and the Democratic Party (DP) initiated a dialogue with Geneva Call on humanitarian norms, and 27 cadres of the Azzm wa Saadeh attended a training workshop
- ▶ the Future Movement, Hezbollah, Lebanese Forces (LF), Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and Free Patriotic Movement (FPM) continued to talk with Geneva Call about humanitarian norms; most agreed to deepen working relations
- ▶ 18 leaders of the Future Movement's Youth Sector attended a training event for trainers, and some participants later gave their first courses on humanitarian norms and peace building
- ▶ 23 members of 2 CSOs from the Syrian refugee community participated in 2 workshops on humanitarian norms and developed further cooperation with Geneva Call, particularly on child protection and gender issues

## CONTEXT

The armed conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic (hereafter Syria) and its spillover effects continued to have ramifications in Lebanon, fuelling longstanding ethnic or sectarian tensions. Pre-existing political tensions increased—particularly sectarian violence between Shias and Sunnis—with clashes occurring mainly in Aarsal and Majd al-Anjar in the Beqa'a valley, in the northern town of Tripoli, in the Tariq al-Jdeide neighbourhood of Beirut and in Saida. Clashes pitted weapon bearers against the Lebanese Armed Forces and Internal Security Forces. Syrian ANSAs operated on Lebanese territory while the Lebanese Hezbollah remained involved in the Syrian armed conflict.

The situation deteriorated in the 12 camps hosting around half of the 450,000 Palestinian refugees registered in Lebanon by UNRWA. According to this organization, [44,000 new Palestinian refugees from Syria](#) (as at mid-2015) were exerting additional pressure on these camps. In addition to pre-existent overcrowding, a dire socio-economic outlook, limited civil rights, insufficient health, social and educational services and inter-Palestinian friction, this situation augmented the risks of armed clashes, child recruitment, sexual violence and other abuses. Children remained particularly vulnerable in the camps.

## OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### Logic of intervention

In 2005, Geneva Call initiated dialogues with local organizations affiliated with Hezbollah in order to assess the feasibility of engaging with that movement on AP mines and contamination by ERW. Direct dialogue with Hezbollah on humanitarian norms has been ongoing since 2008.

After a needs assessment and some preparatory encounters in 2009, meetings with representatives of the main Palestinian factions in Lebanon took place in 2010. Since then, Geneva Call has engaged with Palestinian ANSAs directly in the camps 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. Work with the PNSF—run by ANSAs which are members of the PLO and *de facto* responsible for internal security in the camps—included backing their Legal Support Unit (LSU) and Legal Training Center (LTC), both of which were established by Geneva Call and are based in Ain al-Hilweh, the biggest refugee camp in Lebanon, near Saida. Geneva Call also partnered with CBOs/CSOs in Ain al-Hilweh to raise their

awareness about humanitarian norms and especially the protection of children in armed conflict and situations of armed violence.

Because tensions and clashes have been growing across Lebanon since 2013, the Permanent Peace Movement (PPM) and Geneva Call also engaged with decision makers from five of the major Lebanese political parties (the Future Movement, Free Patriotic Movement, Kataeb, Lebanese Forces and the Progressive Socialist Party) about the humanitarian norms applicable in armed conflict and other situations of violence. The PPM and Geneva Call targeted key groups (party cadres, youth organizations and party-affiliated media) from these parties through training workshops, thereby encouraging the dissemination of materials on humanitarian norms at all levels of their political environment (e.g. political leaders, communities and weapon bearers). They also sought to extend this approach to further political parties, Sunni constituencies and the Syrian refugee communities.

### Child protection

#### **A survey confirms the need for the Tahaluf and PLO/PNSF to enforce appropriate behaviour by their members in line with their pledge on child protection**

A survey published by the Nashet Association and Geneva Call confirmed that children in the Palestinian camps remained particularly vulnerable due to a lack of educational and social services. This could push them towards marginalization and enrollment in ANSAs. The survey was based on 39 focus groups in seven camps, as well as on interviews with the military and political leaders of Palestinian factions. According to

its findings, the Tahaluf and PLO/PNSF had yet to begin enforcing appropriate behaviour by all their member factions, in line with the joint declaration they signed in December 2013 on the Protection of Children from the Effects of Armed Conflict and Violence. This joint declaration, made by the main Palestinian factions, condemned the recruitment of children below the age of 18. During the bilateral and multilateral meetings with Geneva Call that followed the publication of the survey, the Tahaluf and PLO/PNSF explored ways to better address child protection in areas under their control, particularly measures to prevent child recruitment.

## Humanitarian norms

### **PLO/PNSF and Islamic ANSAs engage with Geneva Call after an assessment of allegations of violations of humanitarian norms during clashes in Ain al-Hilweh camp**

Following the armed confrontation in August between the PLO/PNSF and Jund al-Sham/Muslim Youth, the most serious incident in Ain al-Hilweh camp in 10 years, the Nashet Association conducted a rapid assessment of the violations of humanitarian norms that had occurred during the clashes.

In the report, whose distribution was restricted to the audiences concerned, Nashet recommended concrete measures for the protection of the civilian population, such as setting up an alert mechanism to allow civilians to leave a certain area on time, temporary humanitarian ceasefires for evacuating the wounded, etc.

This assessment of the violations of humanitarian norms committed by ANSAs in Palestinian camps was the first ever conducted by a local organization. Geneva Call assisted in its production on legal aspects. These violations had never been systematically monitored before owing to the lack of awareness and knowledge of the relevant norms, and also owing to the security risks for the individuals involved in monitoring.

The PLO/PNSF welcomed the assessment and recognized that violations of humanitarian norms had been committed by both sides. It announced that it had set up an internal committee to investigate the allegations concerning the PLO.

Following the clashes in the camp, the Islamic Force, a group of Islamic factions active in Ain al-Hilweh camp, also engaged in a dialogue with Geneva Call about violations of humanitarian norms. Members of the Islamic Force were not directly involved in the armed confrontation but they communicated actively with Jund al-Sham/Muslim Youth. During a meeting organized by Nashet, they expressed their disapproval of indiscriminate shootings and the disproportionate use of force. The meeting was attended by all members of the Islamic Force—Haraka Islamyya al-mudjahida, Osbat Ansar, Islamic Jihad, Hamas and Hizb al-Tahrir, as well as a representative of the League of the Palestinian Clerics, the Oulama.

### **Members of the Joint Security Force (JSF) are trained on the basic principles of the use of force and firearms in security operations**

The commanders of the new primary security body created in Ain al-Hilweh Camp—the Joint Security Force (JSF)—made up of members from most of the Palestinian ANSAs, attended a pilot training session in April. During the session, organized by Geneva Call in

partnership with the LSU, participants learned the basic principles of the use of force and firearms in security operations. The 225 members of the JSF, all ANSA fighters, perform the tasks of a police force—including maintaining order, resolving disputes, investigating petty crimes, arresting drug dealers, directing traffic and protecting public facilities and buildings. These were tasks for which they had not been trained.

After the armed clashes in August, the JSF had to be consolidated and was still subject to political disputes. Factions that provided staff to the JSF declared their interest in improving their knowledge of the humanitarian norms and standards involved in policing and the use of force. Training sessions were to resume once the JSF could be firmly re-established; it could then be extended to cover other camps.

### **The PLO Legal Support Unit improves its training capacity but still faces sustainability challenges**

The LSU team followed two refresher courses about international humanitarian norms and standards on the use of force and firearms in security operations. These courses also included training methodology and adult learning. An expansion of the LSU, set up to ensure training for PNSF commanders in all camps, took place in Palestinian refugee camps in North Lebanon and Tyre.

However, despite the PLO/PNSF's institutional commitment to the LSU, and the personal support expressed by the PLO/PNSF's political and military leaders, the very limited resources available to the Legal Support Unit reduced its efficiency. The sustainability of both the LSU and LTC has yet to be guaranteed.

### **Hezbollah continues its dialogue on humanitarian norms**

The Hezbollah continued in its dialogue with Geneva Call, sharing views and information on humanitarian norms, but without any concrete results. The formal relationship established with Geneva Call several years ago has yet to make progress on any of the main issues of concern. Suggestions for activities have been declined or rendered irrelevant by political and/or security incidents. In view of this situation, Geneva Call began to re-assess the possibilities of significant interaction with Hezbollah in the future.

### **Three Lebanese political parties initiate a dialogue on humanitarian norms and four others confirm their interest to increase cooperation**

The Azzm wa Saadeh, Marada, and the Democratic Party (DP) began a dialogue with Geneva Call on humanitarian norms, whereas four other political parties—the Future Movement, LF, PSP and FPM—showed increased interest in deepening exchanges.

All these political parties confirmed their keen interest in continued cooperation, and all had appointed or confirmed contact persons. Each party individually explored tailor-made follow-up activities, with the aim of sustaining the dissemination of humanitarian norms throughout their party structures and constituencies. The parties also held discussions on how to include humanitarian norms into the curricula of their internal academies, or similar activities. The Azzm wa Saadeh, LF, PSP, DP and FPM all planned training sessions. A two-day workshop was held with Azzm wa Saadeh cadres, half of whom were lawyers.

### **Leaders of the Future Movement's Youth Sector develop their knowledge of humanitarian norms and start training sessions within their communities**

18 leaders of the Future Movement's Youth Sector were trained to become trainers on humanitarian norms and peace building during a 17-day workshop that was held over six weekends. They represented all the country's relevant regions: Akkar, Tripoli, Koura, Central Beqa'a, Western Beqa'a, Arsal-Hermel (Northern Beqa'a), Beirut, Saida, Hasbaya-Marjaayoun and

Southern Mount Lebanon. The course covered international humanitarian norms, peace building, conflict resolution, Islamic law and adult learning methodology.

Following the course, ten leaders gave their first training sessions within their communities. The Future Movement also started to develop a 12-month plan for the training sessions which the new trainers would give in 2016.

### **Members of two CSOs from the Syrian refugee community are trained on IHL**

23 staff and activists from two CSOs from the Syrian refugee community in Lebanon, Dawlaty and Women Now for Development, participated in two training workshops on humanitarian norms, following contacts initiated with Geneva Call in 2015.

Consequently, Dawlaty developed an action plan for campaigning for child protection and against child recruitment inside Syria. Women Now for Development proposed further cooperation with Geneva Call about humanitarian norms and the role of women in the protection of civilians.

## **Trainings and other events – Summary table**

Type	No.	Content	Partners	Participants	Female participants
Training of trainers	2	IHL; training methodology		18	7
Training for ANSA political leaderships	2	Humanitarian norms; conflict resolution; peacebuilding		46	18
Training for fighters	11	Humanitarian norms; use of force and firearms in security operations	LSU	126	
Training for CSOs/CBOs	2	Humanitarian norms; child protection; gender issues	LSU	62	28
Training for local authorities					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>			<b>252</b>	<b>53</b>

# SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Since 2012, Geneva Call has been raising awareness about humanitarian norms among the ANSAs operating in the Syrian armed conflict. Its primary targets include the Free Syrian Army and its affiliated brigades, the Islamic ANSAs and their affiliated brigades and Kurdish ANSAs. Meetings and trainings, held also for representatives of civil society, contribute directly to the promotion of humanitarian norms and the *Deeds of Commitment* among the ANSAs. A broad public communication campaign also supports these efforts. Activities are conducted on Syrian territory and in neighbouring countries.

EXPENSES IN CHF	
Landmine ban	11'593
Child protection	
Gender issues	
Humanitarian norms	261'192
<b>Total</b>	<b>272'785</b>

The Syrian Arab Republic (hereafter Syria) remained in the grip of an armed conflict between Syrian government forces and numerous ANSAs, some of which were also fighting among themselves. In September 2015, the armed conflict escalated, with the Russian Federation initiating airstrikes against certain ANSAs, brigades and the Islamic State group (ISg, also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria). The airstrikes against the ISg were in parallel to those of a coalition of third-party States. No immediate political solution was in sight. Serious and repeated breaches of IHL aggravated the worsening humanitarian situation. Coalitions formed by ANSAs for coordinating their operations against the government or other opponents were constantly changing.

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	✓	✓	✓	
Free Syrian Army & affiliated factions	FSA				
Islam Army	IA				
Revolutionary Army & affiliated factions	RA				
Ahrar al-Sham	AAS				new
✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed	✓✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed in 2015	ANSA engaged on thematic area (new = new in 2015)			

To simplify the presentation, only principal movements are listed and not all affiliated factions

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2015:

- ▶ approximately 380 ANSA fighters from the IA, FSA-affiliated groups and the YPG-YPJ, including many commanders, attended 17 training sessions on humanitarian norms; in several cases, noted behavioural change was reported
- ▶ an advanced IHL training session took place in Geneva for 11 FSA commanders; a joint humanitarian declaration was also discussed
- ▶ the YPG-YPJ provided information on their compliance with the *Deeds of Commitment* banning AP mines and prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination
- ▶ the YPG-YPJ took measures to comply with the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict and introduced a new decree whereby all fighters under the age of 18 could no longer participate in military operations
- ▶ 18 lawyers and activists close to the Kurdish National Council learned how to monitor the YPG-YPJ's implementation of the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict
- ▶ 4 ANSAs—the IA and 3 FSA brigades (First Coastal Division, FKO and SF)—considered signing the *Deeds of Commitment* following an in-depth dialogue with Geneva Call and improved their awareness of humanitarian norms
- ▶ Ahrar al-Sham engaged in dialogue on humanitarian norms with Geneva Call for the first time



## CONTEXT

Syria remained in the grip of an armed conflict between Syrian government forces and numerous ANSAs, some of which were also fighting among themselves. In September 2015, the armed conflict escalated with the Russian Federation initiating airstrikes against some ANSAs, brigades and the ISg. The airstrikes against the ISg were in parallel to those of a coalition of third-party States. No immediate political solution was in sight. Serious and repeated breaches of IHL aggravated the worsening humanitarian situation. Since 2011, over 250,000 people are reported dead, with over 1 million injured and more than half of all

Syrians displaced, often repeatedly due to shifting front lines. The parties to the conflict often denied the delivery of humanitarian aid.

Coalitions formed by ANSAs for coordinating their operations against the government and other opponents were constantly changing. For example, the Levant Front and the Syrian Democratic Forces led by the YPG-YPJ were created, whereas the Southern Front (SF) fragmented. Some past members of the former Hazzm Movement joined other groups, such as the RA and Levant Front.

## OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### Logic of intervention

Since late 2012, Geneva Call has been engaged with ANSAs both inside and outside Syria. Despite government limitations, security constraints and difficulties entering the country, some activities continued to take place in Syria, often with partner organizations.

Geneva Call primarily aimed to contribute to improving ANSAs' knowledge of and respect for humanitarian norms. This was done by engaging ANSAs on how to improve protection for civilian populations. The ANSAs directly targeted for this included FSA and their affiliated factions and the Kurdish YPG-YPJ. Through direct dialogue and training sessions, ANSAs were encouraged to sign and implement the *Deeds of Commitment*.

Influential civil society and political organizations—such as members of the Planet Syria NGO coalition, members of the Syrian National Coalition, member parties of the Kurdish National Council, and the Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD)—with which Geneva Call was also engaged, participated in efforts to encourage ANSAs to sign and enforce the *Deeds of Commitment*.

Together with experts specializing in IHL, Geneva Call developed relationships and working partnerships with local and international organizations, such as the Afaq Academy, Badael, Dawlaty, the Syrian Female Journalists Network and other legal and human rights initiatives. Thanks to Geneva Call's training of trainers, these partners developed their own capacity to promote humanitarian norms. These efforts were supported by the [Fighter not Killer](#) communication and media campaign.

The ICRC and Geneva Call communicated regularly about the complementary work that they were able to implement in this difficult context. Geneva Call also coordinated its efforts with relevant UN agencies and international NGOs, such as UNICEF, Human Rights Watch and Save the Children.

In Syria's volatile and complex environment, the need to promote respect for humanitarian norms among ANSAs, particularly those related to the protection of civilians, was more acute than ever.

### Landmine ban

#### **The YPG-YPJ implement the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines and cooperate with Geneva Call regarding the monitoring of their compliance with the *Deed's* obligations**

The Democratic Self-Administration (DSA) in Rojava and the YPG-YPJ, the main military forces in the Kurdish-populated areas of Syria since the withdrawal of most government forces in 2012, provided information about how they had complied with their obligations under the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines, signed in 2014. They started to prepare a compliance report.

The YPG-YPJ demined—with the support of humanitarian demining organizations—the city of Kobane as well as destroyed IEDs and booby traps found after re-taking this city from the ISg.

#### **Geneva Call advocates a safe return of civilians to Kobane**

Geneva Call mobilized the mine action community, through a conference and meetings, to clear mines and other explosive remnants of war left behind in Kobane after the ISg's retreat. As a result, several humanitarian demining organizations intervened and started mine clearance operations.

## Child Protection

### The YPG-YPJ take measures to implement the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict

The YPG-YPJ were in the process of implementing the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict signed in 2014. During direct meetings and in-depth discussions, the DSA and YPG-YPJ's top commanders declared that they had started integrating the *Deed* into their internal regulations, with special efforts being made to prevent children under 18 years old from taking part in hostilities. However, they admitted to still facing some difficulties, mainly because children had tried to join or rejoin local military units due to the intensification of fighting with the ISg.

Due to persistent allegations of the YPG-YPJ's recruitment and use of children in hostilities, Geneva Call sent a formal letter to the DSA and YPG-YPJ reminding them that even the voluntary involvement of children below 18 is not allowed under the *Deed of Commitment*. During three visits to Rojava by Geneva Call, the YPG-YPJ responded in detail. They declared that disciplinary measures had been taken against seven commanders who had subsequently been dismissed from the YPG-YPJ. They also introduced a new decree

whereby all fighters under the age of 18 were no longer eligible to participate in military operations and created a committee in charge of internal monitoring.

In addition to those demobilized in 2014, the YPG-YPJ demobilized 21 children (who were sent home) and discharged 55 16- and 17-year-olds from duties, relocating them to a protected educational centre—with two separate buildings, one for girls, one for boys—that kept them away from hostilities. Geneva Call faced no difficulty in visiting this centre and speaking to the children. It also held discussions with Save the Children to explore alternative educational opportunities and possibilities to train the local staff.

### 18 lawyers and activists close to the Kurdish National Council learn about how to monitor the implementation of the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict

18 lawyers and activists close to the Kurdish National Council attended a workshop in Turkey. It aimed to increase their knowledge about the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict and teach them how to monitor its implementation by the YPG-YPJ.

## Gender issues

### The YPG-YPJ cooperate with Geneva Call regarding the monitoring of their compliance with the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination

The DSA and YPG-YPJ provided information about how they had complied with their obligations under the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination, signed in 2014. They started to prepare a compliance report for Geneva Call.

### 60 women from CSOs participate in training sessions highlighting their role in the protection of civilians

Via six training events, 60 female representatives of Syrian CSOs, notably the Syrian Female Journalists Network, Badael and Women Now, learned more about humanitarian norms and the role of women in the protection of civilians during armed conflict. They also learned how concrete actions can promote international norms relating to the prohibition of sexual violence and the elimination of gender discrimination.

## Humanitarian norms

### The IA deepens dialogue on humanitarian norms and expresses its readiness to sign the *Deeds of Commitment*

Following its visit to Geneva in 2014, the IA developed in-depth discussions about the three *Deeds of Commitment* and explored the possibilities of signing and implementing them.

During a meeting in August, the IA's spokesperson and other high-level commanders presented the group's policy about humanitarian norms. They also responded to allegations of violations that Geneva Call submitted to them. At the end of the year, the IA expressed its readiness to sign the *Deeds of Commitment*.

### Ahrar al-Sham engages with Geneva Call on humanitarian norms for the first time

For the first time, Ahrar al-Sham began a direct dialogue with Geneva Call on humanitarian norms. It admitted to "isolated violations" committed by some of its fighters and declared its desire to take steps to remedy these issues. Ahrar al-Sham's engagement with Geneva Call progressed well and it expressed its wish to deepen discussions on humanitarian norms.

### Three FSA brigades declare their interest to adhere to the *Deeds of Commitment*

The SF continued the dialogue initiated at the end of 2014 and, in March, it completed drafting its Code of Conduct (CoC) with Geneva Call's help. This included provisions about a mine ban, the protection of children and the prohibition of sexual violence. The SF estimated that it already complied with 60% of the provisions in the *Deeds of Commitment* and soon expected to be up to 90% compliant. The military situation delayed a workshop for the SF's top commanders to present and discuss the *Deeds of Commitment* that the SF had declared itself willing to sign.

Two other FSA brigades started a dialogue about humanitarian norms:

- ▶ The First Coastal Division expressed its willingness to develop a CoC with Geneva Call's assistance and to discuss the *Deeds of Commitment*. The ground had to be prepared, and the commanders had to be made aware of the issue. Thus, several training sessions for around 50 commanders were organized in cooperation with Geneva Call and the Afaq Academy
- ▶ Following a previous training session on humanitarian norms, that had reportedly caused a noted change in behaviour, the FKO expressed its readiness to draft a unilateral declaration on the three themes of the *Deeds of Commitment*. This was to be followed by in-depth discussions and the possibility of signing them

### Several meetings and training events encourage ANSAs to respect humanitarian norms

Throughout 2015, 14 meetings held with high-level ANSA representatives and 17 training events organized for their fighters contributed to encouraging ANSAs and their supporters to commit to respecting and implementing humanitarian norms. Around 300 illustrated booklets and posters supported these dissemination efforts.

Training events developed knowledge about the three *Deeds of Commitment* and humanitarian norms. For example:

- ▶ In meetings with Geneva Call, Asayish (security forces of the DSA) representatives explored means of enabling the group's commanders to respect humanitarian norms. Subsequently, 65 members of Asayish participated in two training events on this issue
- ▶ Around 25 IA fighters, including high-ranking commanders, attended a training session about humanitarian norms organized in cooperation with the Afaq Academy in July 2015. As a result of this fruitful experience, the IA and Afaq Academy signed a memorandum of understanding for the

organization of a series of training sessions supported by Geneva Call (see below)

- ▶ Commanders from 8 FSA Brigades were trained on the ban of AP Mines and humanitarian norms in Geneva. These brigades number an estimated 15'000 combatants active in northern Syria

### More than 300 fighters from ANSAs and their factions participate in training sessions conducted by the Afaq Academy

In two training of trainers (ToT) courses organized by Geneva Call, 17 members of the Afaq Academy enhanced their capacities for the dissemination of humanitarian norms and increased their knowledge about some of the specific legal issues that might be raised by ANSA members during training sessions. These included the issues of detention, the status of prisoners of war, collateral damage, indiscriminate attacks, summary executions, the protection of schools, looting and humanitarian access.

Following the two ToTs, well-qualified Afaq Academy trainers started to conduct sessions on humanitarian norms with ANSAs across Syria, notably in Aleppo and Lattakia. In 2015, 317 members of 11 ANSAs and their factions attended 14 training sessions on humanitarian norms organized by the Afaq Academy with Geneva Call's support: Al-Sham Revolutionaries Brigade; al-Furkan Brigade; Asifit al Hazzam; Darayya Martyrs Brigades; Fastakim; First Coastal Division; Islam Martyrs Brigade; the IA; Jaysh al Islam; Tenth Brigade; and Thouwar al-Sham.

Additional fighters have been trained by other partners and Geneva Call's staff.

### CSOs/CBOs develop their capacities to disseminate knowledge about humanitarian norms, supported by Geneva Call's public campaign

CSOs/CBOs continued to develop their capacities to disseminate knowledge about humanitarian norms in order to influence the behaviour of ANSAs and monitor their practices. This was done through 10 training sessions organized with local partners such as Women Now, Planet Syria, the Syrian Female Journalists Network, Badael and Dawlaty. These played an essential role in disseminating humanitarian norms in ANSA-controlled territories. They were supported by Geneva Call's public *Fighter not Killer* campaign.

22 members from the CSOs Badael and Dawlaty attended two training sessions focusing on humanitarian norms for civil society. Educational games and exercises were used in addition to simulations. As a follow-up, Badael prepared a work plan to hold a series of training sessions on humanitarian norms inside Syria for other CSOs. Dawlaty worked on developing its collaboration with Geneva Call focusing on child protection in armed conflict.

**New dissemination material is produced**

Two new Geneva Call videos and 12 specific radio announcements were produced in Arabic and Kurdish in order to address the issues of sexual violence and the indiscriminate attacks that ANSAs frequently launch. These were for broadcasting on local TV channels and radio stations as part of the *Fighter not Killer* cam-

paign. Radio was a powerful vector for dissemination since radios were widely used due to the continued shortage of power and electricity, and because fighters used them as a safe means of being connected to the outside world.

**Trainings and other events – Summary table**

Type	No.	Content	Partners	Participants	Female participants
Training of trainers	3	<i>Deeds of Commitment</i> ; specific IHL issues; adult learning	Afaq Academy, Badael	32	5
Training for ANSA political leaderships	1	Humanitarian norms		11	-
Training for fighters	17	Humanitarian norms; <i>Deeds of Commitment</i>	Afaq Academy and other partners	380	-
Training for CSOs/CBOs	10	<i>Deeds of Commitment</i> protecting children in armed conflict, prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination, and their monitoring	Badael, Dawlaty, Planet Syria	125	60
Training for local authorities					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32</b>			<b>566</b>	<b>65</b>

# TURKEY

Geneva Call has been engaging with the People's Defence Forces/Kurdistan Worker's Party (HPG/PKK) on the AP mine ban since 2001, and on child protection, gender issues and humanitarian norms in general since 2008. As 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. Geneva Call has repeatedly made requests for discussions with the Turkish authorities but these have always been rejected.

## EXPENSES IN CHF

Landmine ban	29'629
Child protection	36'400
Gender issues	27'587
Humanitarian norms	23'348
<b>Total</b>	<b>116'963</b>

The peace talks, launched in 2013, between the Government of Turkey and the HPG/PKK were interrupted in July 2015 as renewed fighting erupted. The conflict has since intensified, with increased numbers of violent incidents, mainly in Turkish cities where ethnic Kurds make up the majority, and the Turkish armed forces launched airstrikes on the HPG/PKK's positions in Iraqi Kurdistan and Turkey.

The HPG/PKK continued to fight against the Islamic State group (ISg, also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria), present in northern Iraq, and to play an important role in the protection of IDPs and refugees, including Yazidis, affected by ISg.

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 2015			ANSA engaged on thematic area (new = new in 2015)	

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2015:

- ▶ the HPG/PKK took steps to investigate persisting allegations regarding the recruitment of children under 16 years old, in violation of its *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict
- ▶ the HPG/PKK provided information for mine/ERW destruction operations, however these were delayed for security reasons
- ▶ the PKK women's movement provided Geneva Call with a document on its existing policies against sexual violence and gender discrimination and on its good practices, and it expressed its willingness to sign the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination in 2016
- ▶ 7 HPG/PKK instructors, including 2 women, developed their knowledge of humanitarian norms during a three-day training session
- ▶ cooperation and capacity-building activities with a partner CSO helped strengthen its capacity to monitor the HPG/PKK's compliance with its *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict

## CONTEXT

The peace talks between the Turkish government and the HPG/PKK seemed to enter an important new phase at the beginning of 2015, with discussions on the drafting of a new Turkish constitution. Abdullah Öcalan, the imprisoned leader of the PKK movement, called for an HPG/PKK congress in the spring with the aim of organizing a complete withdrawal of HPG/PKK fighters from Turkey. However, in July, the president of Turkey renounced the continuation of discussions.

After the June election resulted in no parliamentary majority and coalition negotiations broke down, the previously ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) won a clear majority at the new parliamentary election in No-

vember. However, the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) narrowly exceeded the minimum electoral threshold and confirmed itself as a new national political force.

Although tensions had risen before the first elections, violent incidents in Turkish cities where ethnic Kurds make up the majority increased after a suicide bomb killed 32 young people in Suruc, close to the Syrian border, on 20 July. A few days later, Turkey opened its airbases to allied forces fighting the ISg and launched airstrikes against its positions. Turkish airstrikes also targeted HPG/PKK positions in Iraqi Kurdistan, leading to an intensification of the conflict in Turkey.

## OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### Logic of intervention

Geneva Call first engaged with the HPG/PKK in 2001 and is in a privileged position to discuss different issues with this ANSA, not least its compliance with two *Deeds of Commitment*—on banning AP mines and protecting children in armed conflict. It has also engaged with the HPG/PKK on signing the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination and on promoting its gender policies. Furthermore, Geneva Call has been working with HPG/PKK members to improve their knowledge about and respect for humanitarian norms.

Thanks to its network of contacts and its occasional cooperation with other ANSAs, the HPG/PKK has become a good example to other ANSAs regarding the participation of women and the promotion of women's rights.

Turkey does not recognize the existence of an armed conflict on its territory and thus the applicability of IHL. It is also opposed to any actors (including humanitarians)

maintaining a dialogue with the HPG/PKK. Therefore, working in Turkey remained impossible and Geneva Call thus carried out most of its work, in total transparency, in and from Iraqi Kurdistan—3 missions in 2015—and Europe. It also cultivated relationships with Kurdish CSOs abroad, particularly with Kurdish women's associations based in Iraqi Kurdistan, but with representatives in other regions too. Moreover, contacts developed with a few Kurdish and Turkish NGOs (e.g. the Initiative for a Mine-Free Turkey and Mazlumder, a neutral Islamic NGO), 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*.

To achieve its objectives, Geneva Call systematically met with all the stakeholders concerned, and it collected information to ensure that it had the necessary network and support from those stakeholders and to engage with targeted ANSAs, CBOs/CSOs and the media.

### Landmine ban

Although no new use of AP mines was reported, the Kurdish-populated areas of Turkey remained particularly contaminated by mines/ERW as a result of over 30 years of armed conflict. This situation affects the daily lives of the population because very limited mine action has taken place. Little formal mine action was initiated in the contaminated areas under the control or influence of the HPG/PKK in Iraqi Kurdistan. Moreover, the current conflict dynamics have seen new contamination in the Kurdish areas, both from bombings and the use of explosives that target army vehicles, reportedly triggered by both remote control and impact.

**The HPG/PKK provides information about landmines and ERW in areas under its control/influence**

The HPG/PKK's demining wing (HAW-PAR) provided pictures and videos about the landmines and ERW it had marked and collected in contaminated areas. It aimed to facilitate and prepare their destruction by the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) that was in charge of the operation. However, the security situation did not allow their destruction to take place.

The HAW-PAR reaffirmed its need for support in collecting data and marking mines/ERW. The training session for its members that had been planned initially was cancelled due to a lack of funds.

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

## Child protection

### The HPG/PKK investigates continued allegations regarding the recruitment of children under 16 years old

In 2015, Geneva Call continued to receive allegations regarding the HPG/PKK's non-compliance with the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict. According to a list of about 30 allegations drawn up by a Turkish NGO, children under the age of 16 years old reportedly continued to be recruited. During a meeting in June, the HPG/PKK announced an investigation into these allegations and stated that corrective measures would be taken.

In 2014, the HPG/PKK had presented a report on its investigations into earlier allegations of non-compliance, as well as the various measures taken since the signature of the *Deed of Commitment*. It created a category of non-militarily active members for 16–18-year-old children, hosted them in separate camps away from hostilities. Geneva Call representatives visited one of these camps in 2014, and another in 2015, and they appeared to be

well-organized, with specific areas for education and access to medical care. During their visits, they spoke freely with the approximately 35 boys and girls about their living conditions and educational needs.

In June, Geneva Call representatives again visited a camp hosting 16- and 17-year-old children and spoke with boys and girls about their lives in the camps and their educational needs and wishes.

After a monitoring workshop with Mazlumder (see section on humanitarian norms) and the regular updates about allegations, it appeared that fewer new allegations were reported in 2015 than in 2014. Unfortunately, with the conflict's intensification at the end of the year came new allegations of child involvement in urban fighting.

The HPG/PKK provided Geneva Call with other relevant information in compliance with the obligations under the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict.

## Gender issues

### The PKK women's movement provides a document on its existing policies against sexual violence and gender discrimination and on its good practices

Representatives of the PKK women's movement (the Kurdistan Women's Community, KJK) provided Geneva Call with a document presenting its existing policies against sexual violence and gender discrimination and on

its good practices. It confirmed the KJK's strong interest in continuing to work with Geneva Call on various issues linked to gender and the protection of women and girls.

The HPG/PKK also confirmed its readiness to sign the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination and/or to publish a declaration on its gender policies.

## Humanitarian norms

### Seven HPG/PKK members in charge of training improve their knowledge about humanitarian norms at a 3-day training session

HPG/PKK fighters may become involved in violations of IHL during active combat operations relating to the Iraqi, Syrian or Turkish conflict situations. To minimize this risk, the HPG/PKK expressed an interest in improving its members' knowledge about humanitarian norms by providing them with training.

Following the success of a course for commanders in charge of HPG/PKK training in 2014, a three-day course took place in July 2015 for seven HPG/PKK training instructors, including two women, in Iraqi Kurdistan. Participants increased their knowledge of the specific norms related to Geneva Call's three *Deeds of Commitment*. They also improved their capacity to promote humanitarian norms with their members.

### Members from a partner NGO learn how to contribute to monitoring the implementation of the *Deeds of Commitment* signed by the HPG/PKK

Seven members from four branches (Bitlis, Diyarbakir, Urfa and Van) of Geneva Call's partner NGO, Mazlumder, attended a three-day training course in Geneva in December to improve their capacity to monitor the HPG/PKK's implementation of the *Deeds of Commitment* banning AP mines and protecting children in armed conflict. As well as landmine issues, participants discussed the collection of allegations concerning the recruitment of children under 16 and the use of children under 18 in hostilities. They also improved their knowledge about humanitarian norms in general, and specifically those related to mines/ERW and child protection.

### Trainings and other events – Summary table

Type	No.	Content	Partners	Participants	Female participants
Training of trainers	1	IHL for trainers; the three <i>Deeds of Commitment</i>		7	2
Training for ANSA political leaderships					
Training for fighters					
Training for CSOs/CBOs	1	IHL; <i>Deed of Commitment</i> banning AP mines; <i>Deed of Commitment</i> protecting children in armed conflict		7	3
Training for local authorities					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>			<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>



# YEMEN

Geneva Call began discussions on an AP mine ban with the Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi movement in 2008 and later extended them to include child protection. As this armed conflict evolves, it also targets other ANSAs on the same priority themes. In view of the security constraints, Geneva Call faces difficulties conducting activities. As a result, it organizes meetings outside the country, aims to influence ANSAs' behaviour indirectly by engaging with CBOs/CSOs and works very closely with partners in the implementation of all activities.

EXPENSES IN CHF	
Landmine ban	19'821
Child protection	8'718
Gender issues	5'187
Humanitarian norms	13'525
<b>Total</b>	<b>47'251</b>

The security situation deteriorated drastically in 2015, progressively affecting 21 out of 22 governorates. After the Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi takeover of Sana'a and the president's escape to Saudi Arabia in March, a Saudi-led military coalition launched airstrikes on the country, with the objective of restoring the legitimate government.

Shelling and bombardments reportedly led to thousands of casualties, the displacement of over 1 million people and the massive destruction of civilian property. Crippled by decades of conflict and under-development, communities were overwhelmed by their needs and had limited access to basic services.

ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine ban	Child protection	Gender issues	Humanitarian norms
Al-Houthi movement/Ansar Allah	<b>Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi</b>				
Popular Resistance Committees	<b>PRC</b>				
The Southern Movement	<b>Al-Hirak</b>				
Al-Qaeda in the Arab Peninsula	<b>AQAP</b>				
✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed	✓✓ <i>Deed of Commitment</i> signed in 2015	ANSA engaged on thematic area (new = new in 2015)			

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2015:

- ▶ discussions continued with Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi on humanitarian norms
- ▶ the Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre welcomed a project on mine action, and CSOs expressed interest in the promotion of humanitarian norms
- ▶ a lack of funding impeded the implementation of planned activities

## CONTEXT

The security situation deteriorated drastically in 2015, progressively affecting 21 out of 22 governorates. After the Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi takeover of Sana'a and President Hadi's escape to Saudi Arabia in March, a Saudi-led military coalition launched airstrikes on the country. The coalition's stated aims were to curb the Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi movement's growing control over the country, prevent the General People's Congress (the former ruling party) and former President Saleh—the *de facto* allies of the Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi—from returning to the political arena and restore the legitimate government. Meanwhile, airstrikes conducted by other actors also continued, notably against Al-Qaeda in the Arab Peninsula (AQAP). Other ANSAs and the Popular Resistance Committees (PRC) in Aden and other cities increased their presence and operated as *de facto* government allies or pro-Hadi forces.

Shelling and aerial bombardments reportedly led to thousands of casualties, the displacement of over 1 million people and the massive destruction of civilian property. Crippled by decades of conflict and underdevelopment, communities were overwhelmed by the magnitude of their needs. Severe restrictions caused by the conflict further reduced the already limited access people have to food and basic services—water, electricity, education and health.

The AP mines and ERW that have plagued Yemen's people for a decade continued to be used and to destroy the lives of civilians, damage infrastructure and block access to critical resources. Credible sources reported an increase in child recruitment by ANSAs that have all been listed by the UN Secretary-General in his latest annual report on children and armed conflict.

## OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### Logic of intervention

Initial contact with the Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi took place in 2008. However, due to the evolving situation and the difficulties of operating in Yemen, Geneva Call carried out a new analysis of the opportunities and risks of engaging with this movement and working in the country.

Geneva Call sought engagement with ANSAs on a number of issues. The problem of mines/ERW was considered to be an entry point, given the widespread weapon contamination in Yemen and the number of resulting casualties reported. The issue of child protection was also significant, given the credible reports about ANSAs using children in combat. Respect for humanitarian norms needed to be discussed in general because of corroborated reports about violations during the conduct of hostilities. Targeted ANSAs included the Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi as part of the development of an existing programme, alongside initial engage-

ments with Al-Hirak and the PRC. These two ANSAs might also have helped to initiate a dialogue with AQAP and with pro-Hadi or pro-Saleh military groups.

Given the difficult security conditions, Geneva Call's work with civil society—tribal leaders, CBOs/CSOs and the media—was mainly indirect. During and following a workshop run in Yemen for Yemeni women in cooperation with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), Geneva Call identified several CBOs/CSOs wishing to build up their capacities to influence ANSAs on humanitarian norms, particularly those related to mines and child protection. Thus, it was hoped that training sessions organized for these actors, combined with engagement with the media on the same topics, would raise civilian awareness of existing humanitarian norms and influence ANSAs accordingly.

### Landmine ban

The Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre welcomed a proposed project on humanitarian demining and MRE.

Geneva Call was unable to start the activities it had intended to implement in Yemen due to the lack of funding.

### Child protection

Geneva Call was unable to start the activities it had intended to implement in Yemen due to the lack of funding.

### Gender issues

Geneva Call was unable to start the activities it had intended to implement in Yemen due to the lack of funding.

**Contact with the Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi movement continues**

The Ansar Allah/Al-Houthi maintained a dialogue with Geneva Call and welcomed the planned activities. However, due to a lack of funds, the activities were not conducted.

**Little is achieved in 2015 compared to the initial plan**

Geneva Call conducted a desk assessment and prepared a project proposal which was submitted to a number of potential donors. Geneva Call also established new contacts with Yemeni civil society organizations.

In meetings with Geneva Call, CSOs representatives expressed interest in activities aimed at promoting humanitarian norms. However, at the beginning of the year, Geneva Call was unable to start the activities it had intended to implement in Yemen due to a lack of funding.

# OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

## EXPENSES IN CHF

Public advocacy and transversal activities	12'669
New thematic	31'243
Garance Talks	20'000
World Humanitarian Summit	50'000
Protection of education	66'433
Management cycle	466'596
Operational communication	129'546
<b>Total</b>	<b>776'487</b>

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2015:

- ▶ Geneva Call highlighted the increasing need for greater means and resources for humanitarian engagement with ANSAs
- ▶ Geneva Call assessed additional thematic areas in which it could apply its unique and recognized approach and better respond to the various breaches of humanitarian law in armed conflict
- ▶ Geneva Call continued to generate new fora on ANSAs' compliance with humanitarian norms and to produce studies explaining the challenges and proposing potential solutions
- ▶ the organization further improved follow-up on project implementation in order to guarantee the proper allocation of available resources, record progress made and continually adapt operational plans to needs
- ▶ in support of its operations, Geneva Call continuously kept its responsive and informative communication tools up to date and produced additional material to disseminate knowledge on humanitarian norms



Extract from a video on the protection of education in armed conflict © Geneva Call

## Public advocacy and transversal activities

Over the past few years, Geneva Call has been successful in promoting the case for humanitarian engagement with ANSAs in order to protect civilians in armed conflict. This success has been largely due to the organization's ability to tie awareness raising to concrete results on the ground. The need for humanitarian engagement with all the parties to armed conflicts is now widely acknowledged at the global level. However much more remains to be done. A number of States continue to oppose any engagement with ANSAs operating on their territory and deny (or restrict) humanitarian organizations access to those groups. In addition, some of them have adopted measures that prohibit, or even criminalize, engagement with ANSAs listed as "terrorist organizations", and a few donor States have introduced non-engagement clauses in their funding agreements. These policies have created serious challenges for humanitarian organizations, affecting their operational environment and potentially limiting the scope of their work.

Geneva Call's public advocacy work has sought to change policies and the underlying support for humanitarian engagement with ANSAs at an operational level. Geneva Call has provided valuable information about the legal and normative context in

conflict-affected areas and about the need for engagement with the ANSAs involved. It has thus contributed to stimulating debates within the relevant departments of national and international institutions. Throughout the year, Geneva Call was invited to participate in many conferences and expert groups—listed in annex page 142—in order to share its experience and expertise, liaise with key stakeholders worldwide and maintain a network of relevant experts. The Policy and Legal Unit (PLU) played an important role in these activities.

In addition, the PLU reviewed and updated internal tools and resources (such as training modules and dissemination materials) and provided technical expertise and support (e.g. through training for ANSAs). It also organized training sessions for Geneva Call's staff on IHL/IHRL, qualification of armed conflicts, Islamic Law (with the support of Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP)), and recent developments related to child protection.

The PLU has further developed the [www.theirwords.org](http://www.theirwords.org) website, Geneva Call's unique directory of humanitarian commitments made by ANSAs.

## New thematic

Although Geneva Call initially concentrated its engagement with ANSAs on activities surrounding the ban of AP mines, it soon expanded into child protection and the prevention of sexual violence and gender discrimination. More recently, Geneva Call has been assessing additional thematic areas and has led wide consultations with ANSAs and leading agencies in order to evaluate the feasibility and possible scope of a *Deed of Commitment* on the protection of displaced people. Further goals of these consultations were to design detailed potential engagement strategies and develop synergies on the issue.

At the request of UNESCO, Geneva Call also conducted a study on the protection of cultural heritage, analyzing the legal framework and ANSAs' attitudes towards this issue. Furthermore, the study aimed to assess the

feasibility, related risks and potential opportunities for engaging with ANSAs on respecting the provisions of international law related to the protection of cultural heritage. This research provided preliminary recommendations on the type of activities that UNESCO and other relevant partners might undertake.

Regarding the protection of healthcare, Geneva Call and the ICRC have been discussing the possibility of developing engagement activities with ANSAs.

Finally, many other discussions were initiated during 2015 and were ongoing at the time of writing, such as consultations and assessments on other thematic areas, including humanitarian access, hostage taking and detention.

## Garance talks

In its past operations, Geneva Call has witnessed the challenges which ANSAs face in complying with international humanitarian norms. Some of these challenges are due to a lack of clarity in the applicable law itself; others can be explained by some ANSAs' insufficient capacity to abide by the requirements of certain rules. In this context, in 2014, Geneva Call launched the Garance Talks. These yearly meetings bring together experts and encourage them to brainstorm responses to the current legal and practical challenges faced by ANSAs as they attempt to comply with hu-

manitarian norms. They also bring ANSA perspectives to these legal discussions and thus complement ongoing international processes which do not or cannot—whether for legal, political or institutional reasons—focus on or even address the issues facing those groups.

The 2015 edition dealt with ANSAs' positive obligations. This theme was important to Geneva Call as it engages with ANSAs on both negative and positive norms. The meeting was attended by 14 experts from

academia and relevant international organizations and NGOs, plus one member of an ANSA. The main conclusions dealt with the recognition of how complementary IHL and HRL are in regulating everyday life for people living under the control of an ANSA. The difficulties in applying those regulations and engaging with ANSAs on their positive obligations when they fall un-

der counter-terrorism legislation were also discussed. Recommendations for further policy and academic research were made, particularly with regard to the exact scope of the positive obligations to be applied to ANSAs irrespective of how fully they control a territory.

### World Humanitarian Summit

On 23–24 May 2016, the United Nations Secretary-General will convene the first World Humanitarian Summit (WHS). Its purpose is to set an agenda for humanitarian action to collectively address today’s most pressing humanitarian challenges. However, although ANSAs play an integral role in facilitating or hindering humanitarian operations during conflict, they were not consulted about the WHS. This fact encouraged Geneva Call to conduct a study to deepen the international humanitarian community’s understanding of

ANSAs’ perceptions of humanitarian action in the lead-up to the summit. 19 ANSAs from 11 countries were consulted. While the report of the study is still being finalized at the time of writing, several recommendations aiming to feed into the WHS process, with implications for donors and humanitarian actors, were formulated and initial findings were shared with relevant stakeholders during the global consultations in Geneva in October.

### Protection of education

According to the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA), ANSAs used educational facilities in 60% of the countries (15 out of 25) where use was reported between 2005 and 2014. Geneva Call is a member of the GCPEA and has played an active role in the process establishing the “Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict.” The *Deed of Commitment* protecting children from the effects of armed conflict includes articles on the protection of education and the prohibition of using schools for military purposes. While promoting the guidelines among ANSAs in a variety of contexts, Geneva Call has also conducted research on their use of education facilities. It was invited to be a panellist at a conference on protecting education from attack, organized by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, during which 37 States adopted the “Safe Schools Declaration”.

Internally, in order to adequately prepare and support the operational staff members in its engagement work in the field, the PLU organized a half-day training ses-

sion on the Guidelines, given by their author, Steven Haines. New training and communication material was also produced, including a new video clip and a booklet on the protection of education in armed conflict.

In June 2015, Geneva Call and Protect Education in Insecurity and Armed Conflict (PEIC) —programme of the global “Education Above All” initiative—organized a workshop on the negative and positive impacts which ANSAs have on education in armed conflict, as well as the suitability of the international response. The workshop brought together policymakers, child protection and education-in-emergency practitioners, researchers and three ANSA representatives from Burma/Myanmar, Sudan and Syria. It took stock of the realities on the ground, identified gaps in knowledge and response, and addressed the challenges faced. This involved a comprehensive, inclusive approach, starting with the proviso that ANSAs could be key stakeholders: ANSAs can not only attack education and use schools for military purposes, but they can also facilitate and even provide education.

### Management cycle

Thanks to its use of the Theory of Change approach, first applied fully in 2014, Geneva Call has been able to ensure consistency across programmes and explain its logic of intervention more easily. This approach has significantly improved the internal planning and monitoring of projects.

At an operational level, Geneva Call’s financial controller and development officer have supported this process at every stage (planning, fundraising, implementation and reporting). Once projects started, monthly monitoring meetings took place for each one in order to review and measure progress and to convey operational needs to supporting departments.

Geneva Call's Communications and External Relations department supported the Operations department in its objective of better disseminating knowledge about humanitarian norms among ANSA rank and file members, civil society organizations, the media and the general population.

Three new *Fighter not Killer* videos and a website ([www.fighternotkiller.org](http://www.fighternotkiller.org)) were produced, and a campaign dissemination strategy was established for Iraq and Syria through local media agencies. In order to maximize the audience reached by the prevention campaign, multimedia campaigns were developed in offline (TV and radio) and online (Facebook and Google ads) environments.

In order to support its monitoring processes, Geneva Call also ensured that local stakeholders and media, as well as populations living in areas under the control or influence of ANSAs, were made aware that new *Deeds of Commitment* had been signed.

# COMMUNICATION, FUNDRAISING AND MANAGEMENT

## EXPENSES IN CHF

Presidency and Directorate	120'232
Communication	68'798
Fundraising	12'180
Financial management and administration	204'548
<b>Total</b>	<b>406'489</b>

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2015:

- ▶ Geneva Call enhanced its responsiveness to operational imperatives while maintaining high standards of relevance, transparency and thoroughness in the implementation of its mission
- ▶ Geneva Call improved communication about its activities and achievements to its donors, stakeholders and followers and strengthened its position as a leader in sustainable engagement with ANSAs on humanitarian norms
- ▶ Geneva Call continued to diversify its financial resources and improve information sharing with donors while constantly striving for higher accountability
- ▶ Geneva Call carefully managed its resources in the face of a fluctuating exchange rate environment and emerging conflict situations

The screenshot shows a TIME magazine article. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'TIME' logo, 'MENU', and 'WHO SHOULD BE ON THE 2016 TIME 100?' with a 'VOTE NOW' button. Below the navigation, there are tabs for 'LATEST', 'MAGAZINE', and 'VIDEOS'. The main article title is 'This App Teaches Rebels Fighters Not to Commit War Crimes' by Rebecca Collard / Beirut, dated June 3, 2015. The article text discusses the 'Fighter Not Killer' app developed by Geneva Call, which educates Syrian-Kurdish fighters on the laws of war. A quote from Nicolas Sion, a spokesman for Geneva Call, is included. To the right of the article is a photo of a woman and a child looking at a tablet, with the text 'How do we pass on our values?'. On the left side of the screenshot, there are several smaller article teasers: 'Am I a good father?', 'Nobel Panel Condemns Iranian Death Warrant Against Salman Rushdie 27 Years Later', 'Baseball's Venezuelan Talent Pool Dries Up Amid Poverty and Discord', 'Worker Blames Google Maps After Tearing Down Wrong House', 'Case of Mad Cow Disease Found in France', and 'How World War II First Brought'.

Article about Geneva Call's mobile application in the TIMES © Geneva Call



## Presidency and directorate

In 2015, the Directorate continued to work on its internal policies and practices to enhance responsiveness to operational imperatives, while maintaining high standards with regard to relevance, transparency and thoroughness in the implementation of its mission. Efforts to improve its human resources policy continued, with the goals of ensuring a better definition of roles and responsibilities, enhancing the hiring process for equal opportunities, and boosting personal development, motivation and commitment. Furthermore, Geneva Call's internal structure achieved a gender balance. A new staff commission was established to enable collaborative, constructive dialogue between the Directorate and its employees. Institutional knowledge management was also enhanced thanks to the new Policy and Legal Unit set up in the Operations Department. Growing recognition of Ge-

neva Call's successes and the increasing number of requests for it to provide its expertise meant that the Directorate had to strike a careful balance between field activities and participation in conferences and experts groups which feed relevant international fora and debates.

Late in 2015, the Swiss government, led by the Human Security Division (HSD) of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), conducted an evaluation of the quality of Geneva Call's work. The study also aimed to provide recommendations for Geneva Call and the FDFA to strengthen their strategic partnership. The Directorate was very pleased with the process, the report and its recommendations, and looks forward to discussing how to follow up on them with the FDFA in 2016.

## Communication

Geneva Call continued to improve communication about its activities and achievements with its donors, stakeholders and followers and strengthened its position as the leader in sustainable engagement with ANSAs on humanitarian norms. 44 articles were published on its website in 2015, reaching 39,000 independent visitors (+28% from 2014). In addition, 3,300 people were subscribed to Geneva Call's monthly newsletter (+6% from 2014) and 3,800 people followed the organization via social media (+36% from 2014). More than 160 articles and features on Geneva Call appeared in global and local media (including The Times, the BBC, Le Monde, Reuters, Voice of America, RTS and Süddeutsche Zeitung), ensuring good visibility about its main achievements. Geneva Call also developed a series of interactive tools which helped to in-

crease its visibility worldwide, including: a series of four short documentaries produced together with Swiss national television and broadcast on more than 10 television stations around the world; "In their Words", a new video presenting Geneva Call's activities; and *Fighter not Killer*, a mobile telephone application quiz on humanitarian norms.

With regard to internal communication, Geneva Call developed an intranet platform by which its staff can find the organization's latest internal news, galleries of pictures, key documents and a shared calendar. Each department also regularly organized mission debriefings, project presentations and discussions to enhance the internal flow of information.

## Fundraising

Although Geneva Call has received more and more recognition for its work overall, raising enough funds to meet its increasing operational expectations remains difficult. Certain projects had to be withdrawn at the mid-year review and some activities were cut. The difficulty in raising enough funds to cover the entire operational plan for 2015 encouraged Geneva Call to further adapt its public fundraising strategy. As a result, its annual operational plan was presented in a new format. It is hoped that this document can help provide a better understanding of the organization's planned activities by thematic area and context; interested donors may thus more easily choose activities in line with their funding strategies. Geneva Call communicated regularly with its donors and maintained the excellent working relationships established over the

last few years. New donors were approached and met in view of future partnerships.

In terms of private fundraising, Geneva Call officially launched its Friends of Geneva Call group at an Open House event in June. This initiative was part of a broader strategy to raise more private sector funds, including from private foundations or the corporate sector. Geneva Call was chosen as the beneficiary of a concert given by cellist Camille Thomas and the UN Orchestra. This concert proved to be a great opportunity to enhance Geneva Call's local visibility and raise funds as all the profits were donated to the organization. A call for support was also launched when Elisabeth Decrey Warner, Geneva Call's Executive President, ran the New York City Marathon.

**Financial management and administration**

Despite encouraging indicators (only 10% expenditure on administration and 90% on operations, versus 88% in 2014 for nearly the same total expenditure), Geneva Call had to pay careful attention to a fluctuating exchange rate environment. The Swiss National Bank's 15 January 2015 decision to discontinue the Swiss franc's minimum exchange rate had a very negative

impact on Geneva Call's finances and clearly showed how exposed and vulnerable such organizations and their resources are to economics. Consequently, Geneva Call failed to maintain the reserves in cash and equivalents needed to maintain the ratio mentioned above (ensuring acceptable coverage for operations) and the ability to respond to new crises such as Iraq.

# FINANCES

In 2015, Geneva Call's total reported income was CHF 3.85 million, compared to CHF 3.9 million in 2014. Grants and contributions from institutional donors amounted to 90% of this revenue (80% in 2014). A significant proportion of funding (CHF 2.9 million) for 2016 had already been secured by the end of 2015.

Expenditure for 2015 was stable at CHF 3.9 million, compared to CHF 3.9 million in 2014, and 70% (68% in 2014) of expenditure was on interventions for the pro-

tection of civilians in 19 contexts. The 3 contexts with the largest budgets were Colombia, DRC and Syria.

It is of note that Geneva Call was forced to bear a significant exchange rate loss of CHF 170,000. Because many of the organization's grants are in euros or other foreign currencies, the Swiss National Bank's 15 January 2015 decision to discontinue the Swiss franc's minimum exchange rate was the main reason for this.

## GENEVA CALL IS GRATEFUL TO ALL ITS DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

Geneva Call extends its sincere thanks to:

- ▶ the governments of Australia (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade), Denmark, Finland, Italy (through the GICHD), Liechtenstein, Norway, Sweden (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency), Switzerland (Directorate of International Law and Human Security Division) and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Department for International Development) through its embassy in Burma/Myanmar
- ▶ the European Commission (Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department through the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action and Save the Children Norway), UNESCO and UNMAS
- ▶ the City of Geneva, the commune of Chêne-Bougeries and the Republic and Canton of Geneva
- ▶ the Loterie Romande, the Education Above All Foundation and the Swiss Network for International Studies

Geneva Call would also like to thank its individual private donors, particularly the generous support of Mr Charles Pictet, all those who contributed to the concert given by the UN Orchestra, and Elisabeth Decrey Warner, Executive President, for her participation in the New York City Marathon.

# AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015

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

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2015

(with comparative figures for 2014, in Swiss francs)

BALANCE SHEET	Notes	31.12.2015	31.12.2014
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		2,868,306	3,189,470
TREASURY	5	263,428	614,262
OTHER CURRENT ASSETS	6	-	9,290
OTHER SHORT TERM RECEIVABLES			
<i>MISCELLANEOUS</i>	7	147,232	16,697
<i>GRANTS RECEIVABLE</i>	8	2,441,200	2,516,934
PREPAID EXPENSES AND ACCRUED INCOME	9	16,447	32,287
<b>NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>		9'302	52,294
FINANCIAL ASSETS	10	-	36,652
FIXED ASSETS	11	9,302	15,642
<b><u>TOTAL ASSETS</u></b>		<b><u>2,877,608</u></b>	<b><u>3,241,765</u></b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		2,734,529	2,900,281
LIABILITIES ARISING OUT OF PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES	13	197,423	284,177
SHORT TERM LIABILITIES			
<i>MISCELLANEOUS</i>	14	45,127	106,515
<i>GRANTS RECEIVED IN ADVANCE</i>	15	2,464,635	2,509,588
ACCRUED EXPENSES AND DEFERRED INCOME	16	27,343	-
<b>LONG TERM LIABILITIES</b>		34'000	114,000
PROVISIONS	17	34,000	114,000
<b>EQUITY</b>		109'079	227,484
CAPITAL		50,000	50,000
LEGAL RETAINED EARNINGS		200,000	200,000
LOSS BROUGHT FORWARD		-22,516	24,912
CURRENT YEAR RESULT		-118,405	-47,428
<b><u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u></b>		<b><u>2,877,608</u></b>	<b><u>3,241,765</u></b>

The appendix is an integral part of the financial statement

**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015**

(with comparative figures for 2014, in Swiss francs)

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS		31.12.2015	31.12.2014
<b>INCOME (BY NATURE)</b>	18	3,855,267	3,936,443
GENERAL DONATIONS		124,547	289,804
CONTRIBUTION FROM INSTITUTIONAL DONORS		3,374,047	3,167,157
CONTRIBUTION FROM PRIVATE DONORS		162,282	353,614
OTHER OPERATIONAL INCOME		194,391	125,869
<b>EXPENDITURE (BY DESTINATION)</b>	19	3,903,362	3,952,829
PROGRAMMES		2,720,386	2,673,699
DIRECT PROGRAMME SUPPORT		776,487	795,466
COMMUNICATION & MANAGEMENT		406,489	483,665
<b>OPERATING RESULT</b>		<b>-48,095</b>	<b>-16,386</b>
FINANCIAL REVENUE		193,475	71,764
FINANCIAL CHARGES		-365,017	-80,458
TERMINATION OF PROVISION		80,000	-
INCOME OF PREVIOUS PERIOD		24,179	11,714
CHARGES OF PREVIOUS PERIOD		-2,947	-34,063
MALAGNOU BUILDING REVENUE	22	251,114	979,426
MALAGNOU BUILDING CHARGES		-251,114	-979,426
CHILDREN PROTECTION CENTER SYRIA REVENUE	23	90,926	-
CHILDREN PROTECTION CENTER SYRIA CHARGES		-90,926	-
<b>LOSS FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>-118,405</b>	<b>-47,428</b>

The appendix is an integral part of the financial statement

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015**

(with comparative figures for 2014, in Swiss francs)

CASH FLOW STATEMENT	2015	2014
DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	-118,405	-47,428
./ DEPRECIATION	8,775	9,629
./ RELEASE OF PROVISIONS	-80,000	-
INCREASE / DECREASE IN OTHER CURRENT ASSETS	9,290	18,976
INCREASE / DECREASE IN OTHER SHORT TERM RECEIVABLES	-130,535	26,101
INCREASE / DECREASE IN GRANTS RECEIVABLE	75,734	-567,956
INCREASE / DECREASE IN PREPAID EXPENSES AND ACCRUED INCOME	15,841	15,632
INCREASE / DECREASE IN LIABILITIES ARISING OUT OF PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES	-86,754	58,718
INCREASE / DECREASE IN OTHER SHORT TERM LIABILITIES	-61,388	-27,549
INCREASE / DECREASE IN GRANTS RECEIVED IN ADVANCE	-44,953	-359,432
INCREASE / DECREASE IN ACCRUED EXPENSES AND DEFERRED INCOME	27,343	-8,000
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	-385,052	-881,307
FINANCIAL ASSETS	36,652	-
FIXED ASSETS	-2,434	-22,562
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES	34,218	-22,562
CASH FLOW FROM FININCING ACTIVITIES	-	-
<b>INCREASE / DECREASE IN CASH &amp; CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>-350,834</b>	<b>-903,869</b>
CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	614,262	1518,131
CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR	263,428	614,262
<b>INCREASE / DECREASE IN CASH &amp; CASH EQUIVALENT</b>	<b>-350,834</b>	<b>-903,869</b>

The appendix is an integral part of the financial statement

## APPENDIX TO THE ANNUAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

(in Swiss francs)

### 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 international humanitarian norms and building their capacity to implement these norms, in particular by signing the *Deed of Commitment* that aims 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 2015 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 new law on commercial accounting and presentation of accounts is applied for this fiscal year 2015. Historical values have been adjusted to this new provision.

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 2014 of Geneva Call on April 28, 2015.

#### b. Assessment principles

Assets are assessed at their nominal value, minus possible value corrections.

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 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 2015 Geneva Call conducted 44 projects in 19 countries.

#### **d. Conversion of foreign currencies**

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are converted into Swiss Francs at the exchange rate in force at the balance sheet date.

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 recorded in the balance sheet 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). This 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. TREASURY

TREASURY	31.12.2015	31.12.2014
CASH	10,870	15,181
CCP (POSTAL ACCOUNT)	7,863	31,871
BANK	244,292	566,806
SHORT TERM DEPOSIT	403	403
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>263,428</b>	<b>614,262</b>

## 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. OTHER SHORT TERM RECEIVABLES - MISCELLANEOUS

OTHER RECEIVABLES TO THIRD PARTIES	31.12.2015	31.12.2014
DEBTORS	131,613	8,113
DEBTORS (STAFF)	15,492	8,488
DEBTORS TAX ADMINISTRATION	126	96
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>147,232</b>	<b>16,697</b>

## 8. OTHER SHORT TERM RECEIVABLES - GRANT RECEIVABLE

This heading includes:

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

These grants 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	31.12.2015	31.12.2014
SWEDEN SIDA	825,720	1,681,017
ECHO via FSD	563,151	188,402
FINLAND, MFA	263,818	-
SWITZERLAND MFA, HSD	241,266	115,687
REPUBLIC AND CANTON OF GENEVA	200,000	400,000
CITY OF GENEVA	200,000	-
UK FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH OFFICE	89,722	35,467
SWISS NETWORK FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDY	30,000	-
UNESCO	20,699	-
ECHO via SAVE THE CHILDREN NORVEGE	6,824	-
DANEMARK, MFA	-	53,480
OTHERS	-	42,882
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,441,200</b>	<b>2,516,934</b>

## 9. PREPAID EXPENSES AND ACCRUED INCOME

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. FIXED ASSETS

FIXED ASSETS	IT Equipments	2015	2014
GROSS VALUE 01.01	29,031	29,031	4,846
OUTGOING ACQUISITIONS	-	-	-
GROSS VALUE 31.12	31,465	31,465	27,407
ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION AT 01.01	-13,389	-13,389	-2,135
RECOVERY OF VALUE	-	-	-
DEPRECIATION	-8,775	-8,775	-9,629
ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION AT 01.01	-22,164	-22,164	-11,765
NET VALUE 01.01	15,642	15,642	2,711
NET VALUE 31.12	9,302	9,302	15,642

## 12. PENSION SCHEME

Staff members working at the Geneva Call 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.

### 13. LIABILITIES ARISING OUT OF PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES

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. SHORT TERM LIABILITIES – MISCELLANEOUS

This category consists of social debts and professional expense. These amounts are subject to regular reconciliations.

### 15. SHORT TERM LIABILITIES - 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	31.12.2015	31.12.2014
SWEDEN SIDA	825,720	1,681,017
ECHO - Via FSD	557,858	-
FINLANDE, MFA	342,710	-
SWITZERLAND MFA, HSD	214,765	15,227
REPUBLIC AND CANTON OF GENEVA	200,000	400,000
CITY OF GENEVA	200,000	-
UK FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH OFFICE	47,235	-
SWISS NETWORK FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDY	28,970	-
FONDATION SUISSE D'AIDE AUX VICTIMES	28,900	51,510
UNMAS	14,558	-
UNESCO	3,913	-
ECHO via SAVE THE CHILDRENS NORWAY	7	-
LOTTERIE ROMANDE	-	256,664
DANEMARK, MFA	-	53,634
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA - DFAT	-	35,334
NORWAY, MFA	-	16,201
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,464,635</b>	<b>2,509,588</b>

### 16. ACCRUED EXPENSES AND DEFERRED

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

### 17. PROVISIONS

The provision was constituted in 2005 at an initial figure of 120,000 CHF, rising to 264,000 CHF during 2010. 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. In 2015 this provision is reduced to reach the amount of CHF 34,000.

### 18. 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	31.12.2015	31.12.2014
CHARLES PICTET	60,000	-
OTHERS	31,312	9,980
IVAN PICTET	15,000	15,000
CONCERT	12,235	-
CAMPAGNE SUISSE CONTRE LES MINES	6,000	-
ANONYMOUS DONATION	-	251,824
ACTIONS HUMANITAIRES	-	13,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>124,547</b>	<b>289,804</b>

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

PUBLIC FUNDING	31.12.2015	31.12.2014
SWEDEN SIDA	775,853	646,545
SWITZERLAND MFA, HSD	737,446	446,465
SWITZERLAND MFA, HSD, CORE CONTRIBUTION	500,000	500,000
NORWAY, MFA	358,229	347,807
AUSTRALIA - DFAT	217,014	144,310
REPUBLIC AND CANTON OF GENEVA	200,000	200,000
FINLANDE, MFA	144,494	-
CITY OF GENEVA	130,900	111,399
UK FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH OFFICE	79,851	117,253
LIECHTENSTEIN	60,000	60,000
UNESCO	57,910	-
DANEMARK, MFA	56,806	54,622
UNMAS	35,544	51,099
SWITZERLAND MFA - DDIP	20,000	-
NORWAY EMBASSY	-	235,938
GERMANY, MFA	-	170,647
AUSTRALIA, AusAID	-	71,591
CITY OF LANCY	-	9,480
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,374,047</b>	<b>3,167,157</b>

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

PRIVATE FUNDING	31.12.2015	31.12.2014
ECHO via FSD	54,315	331,567
ITALY MFA via GICHD	8,130	9,018
SERVICES INDUSTRIELS GENEVOIS - SIG	-	7,000
FRANCE MFA via GICHD	-	6,029
ECHO via SAVE THE CHILDREN NORWAY	6,824	-
EDUCATION ABOVE ALL	66,433	-
LOTTERIE ROMANDE	5,550	-
SWISS NETWORK FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDY	21,030	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>162,282</b>	<b>353,614</b>

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

## 19. DETAIL OF EXPENSES

Note 21 lists the expenses by type of expense, in accordance with the law.

### • 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	31.12.2015	31.12.2014
AFRICA	649,101	506,920
ASIA	694,835	854,597
EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH AMERICA	1,376,450	1,312,181
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,720,386</b>	<b>2,673,699</b>

### • Indirect project costs

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

Costs in 2015 include, in particular, the management of programmes with thematic coordination, operational communication, and the monitoring of operational finances.

SUPPORT TO OPERATIONS	31.12.2015	31.12.2014
OPERATIONAL COMMUNICATION & PUBLIC ADVOCACY	142,225	451,916
OPERATIONAL & THEMATIC COORDINATION	499,957	304,170
FINANCES, RH & IT (OPERATIONNEL)	134,305	39,379
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>776,487</b>	<b>795,466</b>

### • Communication & management

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

This covers in particular the president's expenses, institutional communication, IT management, human resources management and accounting, for the portion not related to a project.

COMMUNICATION & MANAGEMENT	31.12.2015	31.12.2014
COMMUNICATION & MANAGEMENT	406,489	483,665
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>406,489</b>	<b>483,665</b>

## 20. REMUNERATION OF DIRECTORS

The managerial team comprises 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.

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	2015	2014
GROSS DIRECTORIES SALARY (4)	541,000	523,728
RATIO BETWEEN HIGHEST AND LOWEST SALARY IS 1:2.34		

Geneva Call has a staff of 20.61 full-time equivalents (in 2014 – 21.21).

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

**21. STATUS OF EXPENDITURE BY TYPE**

NATURE OF EXPENDITURE	OPERATIONS	SUPPORT TO OPERATIONS	COMMUNICATION & MANAGEMENT	2015	2014
HUMAN RESOURCES	1,838,153	560,909	312,108	2,711,170	2,525,429
TRAVEL & ACCOMODATION	371,273	58,294	22,155	451,722	724,665
OPERATING COSTS AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	411,352	116,203	53,106	580,661	544,078
MAINTENANCE FEES	32,822	8,392	5,026	46,241	11,946
COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING	60,637	30,980	13,177	104,794	137,083
DEPRECIATION	6,149	1,709	917	8,775	9,629
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,720,386</b>	<b>776,487</b>	<b>406,489</b>	<b>3,903,362</b>	<b>3,952,829</b>

**22. NEW OFFICE, KNOWN AS “LA GARANCE”**

The last finishing works are now complete.

The office is currently occupied according to the agreements in term of rehabilitation and funding.

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

**23. CHILD PROTECTION CENTER IN SYRIA**

Geneva Call has acted as intermediary in a project for which most of the international

humanitarian actors entitled to intervene are not present in the region.

This commitment covers a one year period.

This punctual intervention of Geneva Call does not fit into the mission of the organization nevertheless it is mentioned in all transparency in the accounting records of the organization but outside of the operating account

## BDO LETTER



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BDO Ltd  
Rte de Meyrin 123  
Case postale 150  
1215 Genève 15

**Report of the statutory auditor  
to the Board of trustees**

**Appel de Genève/Geneva Call, Geneva**

As statutory auditor, we have audited the accompanying financial statements of Appel de Genève/Geneva Call, which comprise the balance sheet, the statement of operations, the cash flow statement and the notes for the year ended 31 December 2015.

### *Board of trustees Responsibility*

The Board of trustees is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of Swiss law and the deed of foundation. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining an internal control system relevant to the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. The Board of trustees is further responsible for selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

### *Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Swiss law and Swiss Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers the internal control system relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control system. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of the accounting estimates made, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### *Opinion*

In our opinion, the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2015 comply with Swiss law and the deed of foundation.



**Report on Other Legal Requirements**

We confirm that we meet the legal requirements on licensing according to the Auditor Oversight Act (AOA) and independence (article 728 of Code of Obligations (CO)) and that there are no circumstances incompatible with our independence.

In accordance with article 728a paragraph 1 item 3 CO and Swiss Auditing Standard 890, we confirm that an internal control system exists, which has been designed for the preparation of financial statements according to the instructions of the Board of trustees.

We recommend that the financial statements submitted to you be approved.

Geneva, 12 May 2016

BDO Ltd

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'NLM'.

Nigel Le Masurier  
Licensed Audit Expert

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Roland Loup'.

Roland Loup  
Licensed Audit Expert  
(Auditor in Charge)

## TRAINING COURSES, ROUNDTABLES, FOCUS GROUPS, CONFERENCES

In 2015, Geneva Call was invited to take part in many conferences, roundtables, panel discussions and expert groups, in order to share its experience and expertise, often considered unique. These included, but were not limited to:

German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Protection of children in armed conflict, Berlin, Germany, January

Norwegian Red Cross, Armed non-State actors and access to health in conflict situations, Oslo, Norway, February

Overseas Development Institute, World Humanitarian Summit conversations that matter: Humanitarian response within the constraints of armed conflict, London, United Kingdom, March

Melbourne Law School, Non-State armed actors in non-international armed conflict, Melbourne, Australia, March

Chatham House, Healthcare and non-State armed groups, Geneva, Switzerland, March

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, Safe schools: Protecting education from attack, Oslo, Norway, May

29<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Human Rights Council, Children in armed conflict: The MENA as a case study, Geneva, Switzerland, June

38<sup>th</sup> Round Table on current issues in IHL, The distinction between international and non-international armed conflict: Challenges for IHL, Sanremo, Italy, September

International Network on Explosive Weapons, Protecting civilians by preventing harm from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, Vienna, Austria, September

Pre-World Humanitarian Summit, Humanitarian operations in conflict, Geneva, Switzerland, October

ICRC, Advanced seminar in IHL for university lecturers, Generating respect for the Law: Taking stock, moving forward, Geneva, Switzerland, October

Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, IV International Course for Catholic Military Chaplains in International Humanitarian Law, the Vatican, October

World Innovation Summit for Education: Education, violence and conflict—from daunting challenge to effective response, Doha, Qatar, November

Chatham House, Humanitarian engagement with non-State armed groups, London, United Kingdom, November

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), The application of the Responsibility to Protect concept to the protection of cultural property in times of armed conflict: The role of armed non-State actors, Paris, France, December

In addition, Geneva Call was asked to address groups of students, lecturers, civil servants, military personnel, employees of international organizations, etc., as well as different courses and events at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, the University of Geneva, various Ministries of Foreign Affairs, the ICRC, OXFAM, OCHA, UNICEF, the European Parliament, Sanremo, the Human Rights Council or the United Nations System Staff College.

## 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) Mine Action Area of Responsibility (AoR)
- ▶ Member of the GPC Gender-Based Violence (GBV) AoR
- ▶ Member of the ICBL
- ▶ Member of the InterAction Learning and Steering Group on Results-Based Protection
- ▶ Associate member of the advisory board of Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict (Watchlist)

### Local partners

#### Africa

- ▶ Action Humanitaire pour la Consolidation de la Paix et le Développement Intégré, Democratic Republic of Congo
- ▶ Global Synergie pour la Paix et le Développement, Democratic Republic of Congo
- ▶ Sudan Humanitarian Demining Service, Sudan
- ▶ National Human Rights Monitors Organization, Sudan
- ▶ International Refugee Rights Initiative
- ▶ Sahrawi Campaign to Ban Landmines, Western Sahara

#### Americas

- ▶ Corporación Compromiso Humano, Colombia
- ▶ Red nacional de mujeres excombatientes de la insurgencia, Colombia

#### Asia

- ▶ DanChurchAid (DCA)
- ▶ Norwegian Peoples' Aid (NPA)
- ▶ Save the Children
- ▶ The Liaison Office, Afghanistan
- ▶ Mon Women's Organization, Burma/Myanmar
- ▶ Karen Human Rights Group, Burma/Myanmar
- ▶ Humanity Institute, Burma/Myanmar
- ▶ International Labour Organization, Burma/Myanmar
- ▶ UNYPHIL Women, Philippines
- ▶ Cross-Cultural Foundation, Thailand
- ▶ Duayjai Group, Thailand

#### Middle East

- ▶ Nashet Association, Lebanon
- ▶ Legal Support Unit of the Palestinian National Security Forces, Lebanon
- ▶ Permanent Peace Movement, Lebanon
- ▶ Middle East Research Institute, Iraq
- ▶ Afaq Academy, Syrian Arab Republic
- ▶ Syrian Female Journalist Network, Syria
- ▶ Badael, Syria

#### IOs and NGOs

- ▶ Action on Armed Violence
- ▶ Amnesty International



- ▶ Child Soldiers Initiative
- ▶ Child Soldiers International
- ▶ Global Coalition to Prevent Education from Attack
- ▶ GPC AoR for: Child Protection; GBV; and Mine Action
- ▶ HD Centre
- ▶ Human Rights Watch
- ▶ International Campaign to Ban Landmines
- ▶ ICRC
- ▶ Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
- ▶ Mines Advisory Group
- ▶ Norwegian People's Aid
- ▶ Norwegian Refugee Council
- ▶ Save the Children
- ▶ 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
- ▶ UN Women
- ▶ Watchlist
- ▶ The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

#### **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
- ▶ Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection
- ▶ Sanremo IIHL
- ▶ Small Arms Survey, Geneva

#### **Board of Trustees**

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- ▶ Philippe Bertherat
- ▶ Micheline Calmy-Rey
- ▶ François Nordmann
- ▶ † Alexander C. Notter
- ▶ † Vera Gowlland-Debbas
- ▶ Priscilla Hayner
- ▶ Bertrand Reich
- ▶ Wilder Tayler
- ▶ François Tissot

- ▶ Ruth-Gaby Vermot
- ▶ Michel Veuthey

We would like to pay a final tribute to two of our Board Members, Vera Gowland and Alexander Notter, who sadly died in 2015 and early 2016, respectively. Their dedication and enthusiasm for Geneva Call's mission will be greatly missed.

### Staff

- ▶ Mehmet **Balci**, Programme Director, Middle East
- ▶ Annyssa **Bellal**, Legal Adviser
- ▶ Rabia **Ben Ali**, Programme Manager
- ▶ Sami **Ben Ayed**, Head of Finances and Administration
- ▶ Pascal **Bongard**, Director of Policy and Legal Unit
- ▶ Maud **Bonnet**, Head of Communications and External Relations
- ▶ † Tim **Carstairs**, Head of Communications and External Relations
- ▶ Marie **Coutin**, Programme Manager, Africa
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- ▶ Karima **Habbes**, Event Organizer
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- ▶ Eric **Ouannes**, Head of Operations
- ▶ Yazid **Ounnough**, Financial Controller
- ▶ Mathilde **Roch**, Accountant
- ▶ Christopher **Rush**, Programme Manager, Asia
- ▶ Carla **Ruta**, Programme Manager, Colombia
- ▶ Delphine **Saddy**, Accountant and Staff Administration Officer
- ▶ Alessio di **Sanzio**, IT Officer
- ▶ Kim **Schautz**, Assistant
- ▶ Nicolas **Sion**, Communications and External Relations Officer
- ▶ Ann-Kristin **Sjöberg**, Programme Director, Latin America and Kurdish region
- ▶ Annette **Willi**, Development and Fundraising Officer

Geneva Call's staffing level in 2015 was the equivalent of 20.61 full-time 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

Khalid Abboud, Sardar S. Abdulkarim, Me Abel, Fadi Abi Allam, Qais Alchallabi, Moaffak Alkhfaji, Wissam Al Saliby, Jamilah Ashkar, Imad Bleibel, Yehya Hajir, Jamal Hamad, Walid Ibrahim, Mahmoud Krayyim, Osama Maatermawi, Hiba Mikhail, Iyad Nasr, Antonia Potter, Nizar Rammal, Amal Shehabi, Jonathan Somer, Clotilde de Swarte, William Manuel Vega Vargas, Carlos Arturo Velandia, Youssef Wehbeh, Zaki Zaatari, Azzam Zeid

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

**Interns**

Anna Chiapello, Ataa Dabour, Jakob Donatz, Sandy Fong, Mona-Lisa Kole, Oriane Makowka, Kevin Meister, Linda Peterhans, Juliette Praz, Nadine Selim

**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 Sylvie Giossi Caverzasio for her great support in drafting this annual report.

We would like to give a special thought for Sophie Martin Hobden, who sadly died in early 2016, following a long illness. Sophie was instrumental in designing the annual report's new format and was its principal author in 2015. We are very grateful for all the time and energy she gave to Geneva Call. We would like to dedicate the 2015 Annual Report to Sophie.



13-year-old fighter in Aleppo, Syrian Arab Republic © Molhem Barakat

## HOW TO SUPPORT GENEVA CALL

Finding new financial resources represents a continuous challenge for Geneva Call.

To address this, Geneva Call particularly seeks guaranteed multi-year funding, as this is a significant aid to overall planning and human resources commitments. It also reduces administrative costs, thereby allowing more resources to be dedicated to field activities. Finally, it continues working towards a more diversified donor base.

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

For further details, please contact:

Maud Bonnet, Head of Communications and External Relations

[mbonnet@genevacall.org](mailto:mbonnet@genevacall.org)

+41 22 879 10 50

### 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: BCGEGHGX

IBAN: CH30 0078 8000 0501 3648 0

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

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