



APPEL DE GENÈVE
GENEVA CALL

ANNUAL REPORT 2016



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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 armed 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.



Civilians in Homs. Syria. © B. Diab/UNHCR

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 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 contains over 500 online documents. It fills a gap in available resources and serves to better understand ANSA views on IHL and IHRL.

FOREWORD

2016 was marked by at least 36 non-international armed conflicts taking place in 20 States. The ten most significant conflicts in the world were all non-international in nature, involving one or several armed non-State actors (ANSAs).

ANSAs differ greatly in terms of their sizes, objectives, structures and modi operandi. Many conflicts have no clearly delineated front lines, and the distinction between civilians and combatants can become blurred. Hostilities take place in a multitude of locations, with changing actors and alliances. A clear end is rarely in sight.

These situations require Geneva Call to scale up its operations to reply to the increase in needs and to the complexity of the contexts. Moreover, our organization must reinforce its infrastructure and the security framework for its staff in order to provide the best conditions for them to work in such volatile, unsafe conflict environments. In 2016, these constraints resulted in a budget increase of 40% and the adoption of a new Strategy for 2017–2019. However, this progress must be set against the fact that Geneva Call's financial position remains precarious due to the type of funding it receives, most of which is earmarked.

Geneva Call's operational model also entails persistently communicating its messages about protecting civilians in armed conflict and testimonies from the field, notably in the key international fora which it is invited to participate in, such as the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul. Indeed, it is imperative that we continue to advocate the need for engagement with ANSAs as a complement to humanitarian assistance: Geneva Call's approaches address the factors that create violations in the first place. We see a trend in urgent conflict situations in which ever more means are dedicated to humanitarian assistance, at the expense of dialogue on protecting civilians from the outset. Unfortunately, this trend damages the fact that much civilian suffering can be avoided when humanitarian assistance and persistent preventive dialogue are deployed in parallel.

We are proud to carry out this fundamental task with such dedicated, enthusiastic staff, interns and local partners, as well as with the full commitment of the Board of Trustees and Advisory Committee. We would like to thank them all warmly for their tireless work towards our primary objective: the improved protection of civilians in armed conflict.

We hope that this annual report will encourage you to pursue your valuable support for Geneva Call in order to help us ensure an adequate humanitarian response and a reduction of civilian suffering in armed conflict.



Elisabeth Decrey Warner
Executive President



Bertrand Reich
President of the Board



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ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

A	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	
	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	
C	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.	
D	CSO	civil society organization	
	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 banning AP mines</i>	<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 protecting children in armed conflict</i>	<i>Deed of Commitment for the Protection of Children from the Effects of Armed Conflict</i>	
E	<i>Deed of Commitment prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination</i>	<i>Deed of Commitment for the Prohibition of Sexual Violence in Situations of Armed Conflict and towards the Elimination of Gender Discrimination</i>	
	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		HR	human rights

I	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.
	ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
	IDP	internally displaced person
	IED	improvised explosive device
	IHL	international humanitarian law: IHL is a branch of international law that regulates armed conflict situations. It seeks to limit the effects of armed conflict by protecting persons who are not, or no longer, taking part in hostilities, and by restricting the means and methods of warfare. Amongst other things, this means that civilians and combatants <i>hors de combat</i> must not be the target of attacks or subjected to acts of violence such as killing, maiming, torture and other forms of ill-treatment, forced recruitment and hostage taking. Civilian property must be respected. The forcible displacement of civilian populations is also prohibited unless required for the safety of the population or imperative military reasons. IHL also calls on parties to armed conflict to allow impartial humanitarian relief for populations in need. All parties to armed conflicts—whether States or ANSAs—are bound by the relevant rules of IHL.
	IHRL	international human rights law: IHRL is a branch of international law that can provide protection beyond IHL. In times of armed conflict, States may suspend a number of human rights in situations of emergency. However, certain fundamental rights—such as the right not to be arbitrarily deprived of life, the prohibition of torture and inhuman punishment or treatment—must be respected in all circumstances. Specific population groups, such as women and children, benefit from additional protection. In addition to this international legal framework, the UNSC has adopted a number of relevant resolutions, including on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, on women, peace and security and on children affected by armed conflict.
	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).
	IO	international organization
M	mine action	activities which aim to reduce the social, economic and environmental impact of mines and ERW, including unexploded sub-munitions. Mine action is not just about demining; it is also about people and societies, and how they are affected by landmine and ERW contamination. The objective of mine action is to reduce the risk from landmines and ERW to a level where people can live safely; in which economic, social and health development can occur free from the constraints imposed by landmine and ERW contamination, and in which the victims' different needs can be addressed. Mine action comprises five complementary groups of activities: mine-risk education; humanitarian demining; victim assistance; stockpile destruction; and advocacy against the use of AP mines.
	MRE	mine-risk education
N	NGO	non-governmental organization
O	OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
	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
S	(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.
	SGBV	sexual and gender-based violence
U	UN	United Nations

W	UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
	UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
	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.
	UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees
	UNSC	United Nations Security Council
	UNSG	United Nations Secretary-General
	weapon contamination	pollution by landmines, cluster munitions and other ERW

GENEVA CALL HIGHLIGHTS IN 2016



Geneva Call's meeting on children in armed conflict. Geneva, November 2016. © Geneva Call

In 2016, Geneva Call

- worked in 14 contexts, where it engaged with 61 active armed non-State actors on the respect of humanitarian norms
- reached more than 12 million people with its *Fighter not Killer* media campaign on humanitarian norms in Iraq, Syria and the DRC.
- trained 3,321 leaders, fighters, trainers and representatives from local communities or authorities including 811 women on humanitarian norms through 132 training sessions and workshops
- organized an ANSA meeting on the protection of children in armed conflict and 31 leaders, commanders and advisers from 21 armed movements from 12 countries actively participated

Geneva Call also:

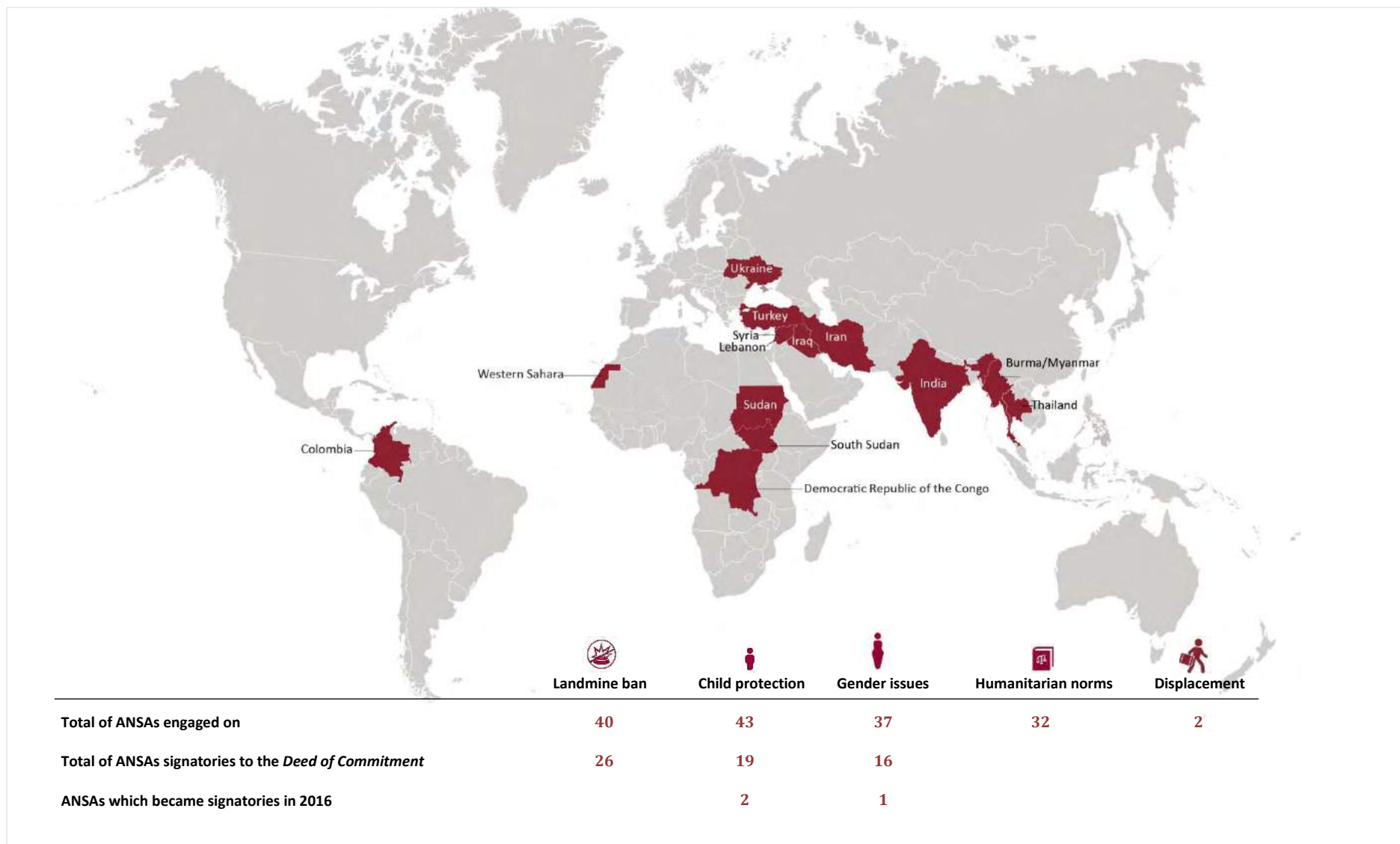
- defined its Strategy for 2017–2019 whose purpose it is to provide staff and governance bodies with an explicit framework for action and a reference tool that serves as the organization's internal compass, guiding its work and measuring its progress.
- participated in the high-level panel of the World Humanitarian Summit and presented its study on the ANSA perceptions of humanitarian action

2016 EXPENSES BY THEME AND REGION (IN CHF)

	Africa	Asia	Latin America	Middle East and Europe	Operational support	Overhead*	TOTAL
Landmine Ban	87'379	154'538	108'294	105'565	93'963	65'482	615'222
Child protection	286'229	108'478	56'702	117'898	359'870	109'974	1'039'150
Gender issues	230'833	191'283	58'805	41'593	138'821	78'273	739'609
Humanitarian norms	77'404	124'899	-	2'060'610	476'842	323'843	3'063'599
Displacement	4'656	-	-	-	48'249	6'262	59'166
Overhead*	81'251	68'551	26'488	275'254	132'291	583'834	
TOTAL	767'752	647'749	250'289	2'600'920	1'250'035		5'516'745

*for communication, fundraising and management, including financial charges and exchange loss

GENEVA CALL WORKED ON FIVE THEMATIC AREAS IN 14 CONTEXTS, WHERE IT ENGAGED WITH 61 ACTIVE ANSAs



LANDMINE BAN

Since its creation, Geneva Call has been engaging ANSAs on the landmine ban. It encourages ANSAs to sign the *Deed of Commitment* banning anti-personnel (AP) mines; 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.

Countries

Burma/Myanmar	Lebanon
Colombia	Sudan
the DRC	Syria
India	Turkey
Iran	Western Sahara

Expenses in CHF

EXPENSES IN CHF	
Africa	87'379
Asia	154'538
Latin America	108'294
Middle East and Europe	105'565
Operational support	93'963
<i>Overhead</i>	65'482
Total	615'222



Context

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 agriculture, healthcare and education. AP mines are a weapon of choice for ANSAs because they are cheap and easy to manufacture and transport.

The [Landmine Monitor 2016](#) reported on the use of AP mines or victim-activated improvised explosive devices (IEDs) by ANSAs in 10 countries (Afghanistan, Colombia, Iraq, Libya, Burma/Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen). ANSAs mainly used IEDs and booby traps, rather than factory-made landmines. During the same period, three States were reported to have used AP mines: North Korea, Burma/Myanmar and Syria, none of which is party to the AP Mine Ban Convention (APMBC). In 2015, there was a sharp rise in the number of people killed and injured by mines, victim-activated IEDs, the remnants of cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war (ERW). The Landmine Monitor recorded 6,461 casualties, at least 1,672 of whom were killed. Moreover, the civilians who live in mine-affected areas under the influence or control of ANSAs receive little or no humanitarian assistance or mine-action support, be it victim assistance (VA), mine-risk education (MRE), marking or clearance.

Operations

Logic of Intervention

Most international and national efforts against AP mines focus on States' adherence to the APMBC. Very few initiatives engage with ANSAs or train them on the APMBC's norms, or even support them in the implementation of their obligations in relation to these weapons. For instance, little or no technical support is given for destroying ANSAs' AP mine stockpiles. The use of IEDs by ANSAs is commonly considered one of the greatest challenges to reducing civilian casualties from explosive weapons. However, existing data are not nuanced enough, and they fail to look at the different ANSAs involved or the contexts of the incidents in which civilian casualties occurred.

Geneva Call has started a dialogue on AP mines with many of the ANSAs concerned, and it has helped those which have agreed to renounce AP mines to comply with their commitments. To date, 49 ANSAs have signed the *Deed of Commitment for Adherence to a Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines and for Cooperation in Mine Action* and have taken measures to implement it. In addition, Geneva Call has also facilitated mine-action activities in areas controlled by ANSAs, thereby reducing the impact of these weapons on civilian populations.



Key Achievements

Overall Impact: The threat of AP mines is reduced in areas where ANSAs operate

Expected Achievements

- 4 additional active ANSAs are engaged
- 2 additional active ANSAs sign the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines
- interventions occur in 9 contexts: Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, India, Iran, the Philippines, Sudan, Syria, Turkey and Western Sahara
- new opportunities for mine action open up in areas where targeted non-signatory ANSAs operate (e.g. Colombia, India and Syria)
- the 23 active ANSA signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines work on its implementation and take measures to comply with their obligations

Achievements

- ✓ Geneva Call started engaging four additional active ANSAs on the norms related to the ban on AP mines. These were in the DRC (Alliance of Patriots for a Free and Sovereign Congo - APCLS and the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda - FDLR), Lebanon (Hezbollah) and Syria (Syrian Democratic Forces - SDF).
- ✓ In total, 40 ANSAs were engaged in 2016
- ✓ Although dialogue on AP mines and the *Deed of Commitment* continued with Syrian ANSAs, Geneva Call did not receive formal requests to sign the document. Nevertheless, due to an error in its Operational Plans for 2016, the number of active signatories reached 26 ANSAs.
- ✓ ANSAs were engaged in 10 contexts: Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, the DRC, India, Iran, Lebanon, Sudan, Syria, Turkey and Western Sahara.
- ✓ The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army (FARC-EP) requested support from Geneva Call on MRE and community liaison activities, as well as about setting up its future demining agency. Geneva Call also organized discussions with the National Liberation Army (ELN) and specialized agencies, led by experts on humanitarian demining and community participation.
- ✓ Most of the signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* provided information on their implementation measures (such as dissemination of the norms, training sessions, enforcement measures and cooperation in mine action). Geneva Call continued to monitor their compliance through direct and indirect sources.
- ✓ Burma/Myanmar: the Palaung State Liberation Front/Ta'ang National Liberation Army (PSLF/TNLA) cooperated with Geneva Call's investigation into alleged mine use in 2015. However, because the government has not yet agreed to allow a fact-finding mission, this could not be conducted in 2016. MRE activities have been extended to new areas under the control of the Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO), the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP), the Karen National Union (KNU), the Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO) and the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA). ANSAs cooperated with international actors by permitting or facilitating MRE. The KNU agreed to conducting non-technical surveys in 20 villages, but as government approval is still pending, the surveys have not started yet. Karen ANSAs participated in mine-risk working groups at the state level.
- ✓ India: the Indian signatories were compliant with the *Deed of Commitment* and reported on its implementation.
- ✓ Iran: all signatories complied with their obligations and shared the necessary information with Geneva Call.
- ✓ Sudan: the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) remained committed to destroying its 2 remaining stockpiles of AP mines and requested external technical support. Due to access issues, this was not completed in 2016.
- ✓ Syria: The people's protection Units (YPG/YPJ) continued to comply with the *Deed of Commitment*. The Democratic Self-Administration established in 2016 a demining organization which reportedly demined more than 90,000 AP mines in the area under the control of the YPG/YPJ.
- ✓ Turkey: the People's Defence Forces/Kurdistan Worker's Party (HPG/PKK) shared information about its compliance with the *Deed of Commitment*. The Kurdistan Communities Union (the political umbrella organization of which the PKK is a member) responded to Geneva Call's request for clarification on the use of explosives by the PKK's youth organization, reaffirming that the explosions had been remote-controlled.
- ✓ Western Sahara: the Polisario Front again postponed the disclosure of the definitive number of AP mines in its stockpile.

Outcome 1

Geneva Call is able to make an informed decision on the value and feasibility of an intervention and build the capacity to start and maintain an engagement process

Expected Achievements

- analysis of conflict situations, ANSA profiles and strategies for engagement are defined for each programme context
- new opportunities for intervention arise, particularly in India and Syria
- up to 4 new ANSAs agree to start a dialogue with Geneva Call
- ANSAs know, respect and implement the content of the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines or, if not yet the case, become signatory or otherwise renounce the use of such weapons through other commitments

Achievements

- ✓ Analysis of the evolution of the conflicts in Geneva Call's contexts was continual and fed into its strategies for new engagements with ANSAs in the DRC, Lebanon and Syria. It also led to adaptations to its strategies in Colombia and Western Sahara.
- ✓ DRC: the APCLS and FDLR agreed to start a dialogue with Geneva Call on norms related to the ban on AP mines.
- ✓ Lebanon: Geneva Call extended its dialogue with Hezbollah to include AP mines.
- ✓ Syria: the Syrian Democratic Forces agreed to a dialogue with Geneva Call on humanitarian norms in general and on norms related to AP mines in particular.

Outcome 2

ANSAs are aware of international norms relating to the ban on AP mines and have the knowledge to respond to this issue

Expected Achievements

- up to 20 awareness raising workshops are organized—often with partners—to address landmine ban issues, sometimes together with other topics, targeting ANSA members from Burma/Myanmar, Iran and Syria
- approximately 220 members of ANSAs attend workshops, including 50 female participants

Achievements

- ✓ 33 workshops or training sessions were organized to address the issue of AP mines with ANSAs from Burma/Myanmar, Sudan, Syria and Turkey.
- ✓ In total, 721 representatives of ANSAs participated in these workshops or training sessions, including 37 women.
- ✓ All of the ANSAs newly engaged by Geneva Call expressed their interest in deepening the dialogue on this issue.

Outcome 3

ANSAs undertake commitments towards respecting international norms, including signing the *Deed of Commitment* or carrying out other measures

Expected Achievements

- 2 ANSAs from Syria sign the *Deed of Commitment*
- ANSAs from Burma/Myanmar and India prepare for the signing of the *Deed of Commitment*
- some ANSAs undertake other measures towards respecting the international norms relating to the ban on AP mines

Achievements

- ✓ Although the dialogue on AP mines and the *Deed of Commitment* continued with Syrian ANSAs, Geneva Call received no formal requests to sign the document.
- ✓ Colombia: the FARC-EP requested support from Geneva Call on MRE and community-liaison activities, as well as about setting up its future demining agency. ELN members in prison expressed their support for demining projects that had been advocated by select communities, and they participated in an expert-led discussion with demining actors and affected communities on humanitarian demining and community participation.

Outcome 4

Geneva Call has the necessary information to hold ANSAs accountable to their obligations under the *Deed of Commitment*

Expected Achievements

- 80% of the active signatories report on their compliance with their obligations under the *Deed of Commitment*
- Geneva Call gathers relevant information from third party sources and through field visits

Achievements

- ✓ Most of the active signatory ANSAs provided a compliance report or other information on their implementation measures (such as dissemination of the norms, training sessions, enforcement measures and cooperation on mine action).
- ✓ Geneva Call regularly collected information from third-party sources (local partners, CSOs, the media, UN reports) and/or gathered relevant information during field visits.
- ✓ Burma/Myanmar: the PSLF/TNLA was willing to facilitate a field-level investigation on alleged mine use by the TNLA, but the government has yet to agree to this. The ANSA asked Geneva Call to train its military commanders on the issue of AP mines. The Chin National Front (CNF) postponed a visit to its areas at the last minute.
- ✓ India: signatory ANSAs shared relevant information with Geneva Call.
- ✓ Iran: Geneva Call visited the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (PDKI), the Free Life Party of Kurdistan (PJAK) and the Kurdistan Democratic Party-Iran (KDP-Iran), and reviewed the status of their implementation of the *Deed of Commitment*. The other Iranian signatories shared information related to monitoring.
- ✓ Sudan: field monitoring in ANSA-controlled areas of Darfur was impossible due to government-imposed access restrictions. Nevertheless, Geneva Call discussed the implementation of the *Deed of Commitment* with the political leaders of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and Sudan Liberation Movement-Minni Minnawi (SLM/MM) in Europe. The SPLM-N remains committed to the destruction of its remaining stockpiles.
- ✓ Syria: the YPG/YPJ shared relevant information. Its first compliance report is due in 2017.
- ✓ Turkey: Geneva Call received clarification from the Kurdistan Communities Union on the use of explosives by a youth organization supported by the HPG/PKK.

Outcome 5

ANSAs take measures to ensure compliance with the *Deed of Commitment* or other commitments

Expected Achievements

- signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* follow up and adapt their implementation plans
- ANSA signatories take implementation measures to ensure compliance with their obligations under the *Deed of Commitment* and report accordingly
- AP mines belonging to signatory ANSAs are destroyed in Sudan and Western Sahara
- ANSAs undertake new mine-action activities (e.g. in Colombia)

Achievements

- ✓ Burma/Myanmar: the PSLF/TNLA cooperated with Geneva Call's investigation into alleged mine use in 2015. However, because the government has not yet agreed to allow a fact-finding mission, this could not be conducted in 2016. MRE activities have been extended to new areas under the control of the KIO, KNPP, KNU, PNLO and DKBA. ANSAs cooperated with international actors by permitting or facilitating MRE. The KNU agreed to conduct non-technical surveys in 20 villages, but as government approval is still pending, those surveys have not started yet. Karen ANSAs participated in mine-risk working groups at the state level.
- ✓ India: the Indian signatories were compliant with the *Deed of Commitment* and reported on its implementation.
- ✓ Iran: all signatories complied with their obligations and shared the necessary information with Geneva Call.
- ✓ Syria: the YPG/YPJ continued to comply with the *Deed of Commitment*.
- ✓ Turkey: the HPG/PKK shared information about its compliance with the *Deed of Commitment*. The Kurdistan Communities Union responded to Geneva Call's request for clarification on the use of explosives by the PKK's youth organization, reaffirming that its explosions had been remote-controlled.
- ✓ Sudan: the SPLM-N remained committed to destroying its 2 remaining stockpiles of AP mines. Due to access issues, this was not completed in 2016.
- ✓ Western Sahara: the Polisario Front again postponed the disclosure of the definitive number of AP mines in its stockpile.
- ✓ Colombia: the FARC-EP requested support from Geneva Call on MRE and community-liaison activities, as well as about setting up its future demining agency. ELN members in prison expressed their support for demining projects that had been advocated by select communities, and they participated in an expert-led discussion with demining actors and affected communities on humanitarian demining and community participation.

Outcome 6

CBOs/CSOs facilitate the engagement process at all stages—including through training, monitoring and assistance activities

Expected Achievements

- up to 12 training events are organized—often with partners—to address landmine ban issues, sometimes together with other topics, targeting CBOs/CSOs in Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, India, Iran, Sudan and Turkey
- approximately 180 members of CBOs/CSOs, including media representatives, attend workshops, including 70 female participants
- trained CBOs/CSOs develop mechanisms that support Geneva Call in monitoring signatories' compliance with the *Deed of Commitment*

Achievements

- ✓ 20 training events gathered almost 600 representatives of CBOs/CSOs, local authorities or traditional leaders, including 350 women.
- ✓ Burma/Myanmar: in 5 training events, several women's organizations strengthened their capacity to assist with monitoring and victim assistance (VA).
- ✓ Colombia: workshops took place in two regions with community representatives, CBOs and regional authorities, and facilitated discussion on humanitarian demining and emergency demining around schools.
- ✓ India: In a 3-day workshop, representatives of different ethnic Naga CSOs were trained on the legal framework surrounding the ban of AP mines and the contents of the *Deed of Commitment*. They started working on strategies for dissemination within their communities.
- ✓ Iran: 12 Iranian Kurdish journalists participated in a training session to learn about the obligations inherent in the *Deed of Commitment* and how to improve their reporting skills.
- ✓ Sudan: 17 representatives of CBOs and local leaders learned about the *Deed of Commitment* and how to support its monitoring.
- ✓ Syria: in 10 training events, about 140 members of CBOs/CSOs increased their knowledge about humanitarian norms related to the ban of AP mines.

Outcome 7

Geneva Call has the knowledge, capacity and stakeholder support for its engagement activities

Expected Achievements

- Geneva Call disseminates pedagogical materials (e.g. illustrated booklets, posters) to support its engagement activities
- local and international stakeholders take concrete actions to facilitate Geneva Call's work (statements of support, funding, partnership agreements, technical support for mine action, other evidence of support)
- new tools are developed for monitoring, including monitoring tables and incident forms

Achievements

- ✓ Extensive use of Geneva Call's dissemination materials required regular reprints.
- ✓ Geneva Call met with local and international stakeholders to inform them of its activities and to seek their support (to gain access for verification missions, etc.). Meetings also took place with local CBOs/CSOs in order to mutually enhance each other's work. Geneva Call regularly participated in coordination meetings organized by the mine-action community.
- ✓ Burma/Myanmar: CSOs strengthened their capacity to assist with monitoring and VA, and Geneva Call linked them to international humanitarian mine-action agencies.
- ✓ Colombia: Geneva Call and UNMAS, in coordination with the Directorate for Comprehensive Action against AP mines (DAICMA), organized a conference on humanitarian demining, peace processes and territory, in Bogota. This meeting allowed concerned stakeholders to share their experiences of humanitarian demining and develop proposals for reinforcing the participation of local communities in these processes. The FARC-EP and the ELN sent messages welcoming the event. A declaration was adopted supporting the strengthening of community participation in demining processes.
- ✓ The development of new tools for monitoring has been postponed to 2017 as part of a more global process to strengthen the internal operational guidelines

Outcome 8

The views and perspectives of ANSAs and Geneva Call's expertise are listened to and taken into account in the international debate on weapons-related issues

Expected Achievements

- key international stakeholders are aware of Geneva Call's work, the lessons learned and its advocacy messages
- the issues facing ANSAs are appropriately reflected in weapons-related debates and reports from international fora
- visibility of Geneva Call's experiences is raised through participation in relevant conferences and international fora, and the organization of side events

Achievements

- ✓ At the 39th San Remo Round Table on Weapons and the International Rule of Law, Geneva Call spoke about its work engaging ANSAs on landmines and other explosive weapons in populated areas.
- ✓ Geneva Call participated in a workshop about mine action and peace processes, organized by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and Swisspeace. It shared its experiences in Colombia and gave a public presentation.
- ✓ The GICHD and UNMAS invited Geneva Call to speak about mine action in areas controlled by ANSAs at the 19th International Meeting of Mine Action National Programme Directors and United Nations Advisers.
- ✓ Geneva Call contributed to relevant working groups and coalitions, such as the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL).

CHILD PROTECTION

Geneva Call has been working on child protection issues since 2008, taking advantage of its existing dialogues with ANSAs on the landmine ban. It encourages ANSAs to sign the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict, supports signatories in the implementation of their commitments and monitors these processes. It also encourages ANSAs to protect education from attacks and to avoid using schools for military purposes.



Countries

Burma/Myanmar	Lebanon
Colombia	Sudan
the DRC	Syria
India	Turkey
Iran	



Expenses in CHF

EXPENSES IN CHF	
Africa	286'229
Asia	108'478
Latin America	56'702
Middle East and Europe	117'898
Operational support	359'870
<i>Overhead</i>	109'974
Total	1'039'150



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Context

Most of the parties listed as the perpetrators of grave violations against children in the UN Secretary-General's [2016 annual report](#) on children and armed conflict – 51 out of 60, in fact – were ANSAs. “Grave violations” include: killing and maiming; the recruitment or use of children as soldiers; sexual violence against children; attacks against schools or hospitals; the denial of humanitarian access to children; and abduction. Many ANSAs have been on the list for at least five years, and are therefore considered “persistent perpetrators.” In addition, other sources continued to report ANSA violations against children in conflict situations not included in the UN Secretary-General’s report and, therefore, not addressed by the UN Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM).

The disruption of education was another major concern. Multiple factors hampered children’s access to education, including schools being attacked or used by fighting forces. Disaggregated data showed that ANSAs had used schools for military purposes in 21 of the 26 conflicts analysed between 2005 and 2015, whereas State forces had done so in all 26 conflicts.

Operations

Logic of Intervention

Efforts to engage ANSAs on child protection issues were mostly framed within the UNSC Resolution 1612 process. However, progress was limited compared to that achieved with State armed forces.

Geneva Call used its comparative advantages and the trusting relationships it has built with ANSAs over the years to promote their respect for children’s rights.

To date, 19 ANSAs have signed the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict and have taken measures to implement it. In addition, Geneva Call also promoted the [Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict](#).

Geneva Call collaborated with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, UNICEF, Save the Children and other specialized organizations.



Key Achievements

Overall Impact: Children are better protected from the effects of armed conflict in areas where ANSAs operate

Expected Achievements

- 6 additional active ANSAs sign the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict
- ANSAs take other measures towards the respect of international norms relating to the protection of children in armed conflict
- 8 additional ANSAs are engaged and interventions occur in 9 contexts: Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, the DRC, India, Iran, Lebanon, Syria, Sudan and Turkey
- signatory ANSAs take measures to implement their obligations under the *Deed of Commitment*

Achievements

- ✓ The Alliance of Patriots for a Free and Sovereign Congo (APCLS) in the DRC and the Zomi Revolutionary Organization (ZRO) in India signed the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict, bringing the number of active signatories to 19. The Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) in Burma remained committed to signing the *Deed of Commitment*, planned for 2017. The Kuki National Front (KNF) in India informed Geneva Call of its interest to sign the *Deed* and discussions on its practical implementation have started, particularly on how to disassociate children from the ANSA.
- ✓ ANSAs took other measures towards respecting international norms relating to the protection of children in armed conflict:
 - Colombia: the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army (FARC-EP) raised its age limit for recruitment from 17 to 18 years old and started demobilizing children. By the end of 2016, a first group of 15 children had been demobilized. The ANSA invited Geneva Call and other specialized organizations to follow up on the DDR process for its demobilized children.
 - India: The Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland-Isak Muivah (NSCN-IM) conducted an internal investigation into a case of child recruitment.
 - Lebanon: Geneva Call maintained dialogue with Palestinian ANSAs following their declaration on the Protection of Children from the Effects of Armed Conflict and Violence.
 - Syria: the general command of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) prohibited the recruitment of persons below 18 years old.
- ✓ Geneva Call engaged 7 additional ANSAs on the protection of children in armed conflict, bringing the total number to 43.
- ✓ Interventions occurred in 9 contexts: Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, the DRC, India, Iran, Lebanon, Sudan, Syria and Turkey.
- ✓ Signatory ANSAs took the following measures:
 - Burma/Myanmar: the Karen National Union (KNU) investigated an allegation of child recruitment (which turned out to be untrue) and set up an internal mechanism to deal with future allegations. The ANSA facilitated awareness-raising activities by Save the Children and agreed to several different measures, including mainstreaming the *Deed* into the basic training of all military personnel. The KNU also addressed challenges to the dissemination of the *Deed of Commitment* by facilitating a training session for 40 officers from one of its armed-wing's brigades. It shared its concerns about the low level of community understanding of the KNU's obligations under the *Deed*.
 - the DRC: before signing the *Deed of Commitment*, the APCLS amended its internal code of conduct to include a specific provision on the minimum age of combatants (18 years old). It also refused to enlist a minor who wanted to join the ANSA and returned him to his community.
 - Iran: all the Kurdish Iranian ANSAs continued to comply with the *Deed of Commitment*.
 - Sudan: after 5 years of Geneva Call's engagement with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) on child protection, and 1 year after its signature of the *Deed of Commitment*, the ANSA signed an Action Plan with the UN to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children in conflict. The implementation plan for the *Deed* was discussed during a workshop in Geneva with its representatives in Europe.

- Syria: the People's Protection Units/Women's Protection Units (YPG/YPJ)'s monitoring mechanism continued to investigate allegations of child recruitment. The ANSA also welcomed Geneva Call's monitoring officers, based in north-east Syria.
- Turkey: the People's Defence Forces/Kurdistan Worker's Party (HPG/PKK) has recruited fewer children under 16 years old inside Turkey itself, yet reports found cases of child recruitment by the ANSA in Iraq.

Outcome 1

Geneva Call is able to make an informed decision on the value and feasibility of an intervention and build the capacity to start and maintain an engagement process

Expected Achievements

- new engagement with ANSAs on child protection develops in Burma/Myanmar, DRC and India
- analysis of the conflict situation, ANSA profiles and strategies for engagement are defined for each programme context
- up to 8 new ANSAs agree to start a dialogue with Geneva Call

Achievements

- ✓ seven additional ANSAs were engaged in Burma/Myanmar (Palaung State Liberation Front/Ta'ang National Liberation Army - PSLF/TNLA), the DRC (Congo Defence Forces - FDC, Nduma Defense of Congo - NDC, Nduma Defense of Congo-Rénové - NDC-R), India (National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khaplang - NSCN-K), Lebanon (Hezbollah) and Syria (Syrian Democratic Forces - SDF).

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

- up to 34 awareness raising workshops organized—often with partners—to address child protection issues and protection of education, sometimes together with other topics, targeting ANSA members from Burma/Myanmar, DRC, Lebanon, South Soudan, Sudan, Syria
- approximately 470 members of ANSAs attend workshops, including 80 female participants
- most ANSAs attending for the first time agree to pursue a dialogue on this issue with Geneva Call
- Special Meeting on the protection of children in armed conflict with representatives of ANSAs and stakeholders takes place in Geneva

Achievements

- ✓ More than 800 ANSA commanders, fighters, legal advisers or political leaders, including 38 women, participated in 40 training sessions on child protection norms in Burma/Myanmar, the DRC, Sudan, Syria and Turkey.
- ✓ All the ANSAs which attended training events for the first time in 2016 agreed to pursue a dialogue with Geneva Call on child protection.
- ✓ In November in Geneva, 31 leaders, commanders and advisers from 21 armed movements from 12 countries (Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, the DRC, India, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Sudan, Syria, the Philippines, Turkey and Yemen) participated in Geneva Call's meeting on the protection of children in armed conflict. These representatives shared their experiences, discussed the challenges they face and learned about specific issues, such as methods to assess the ages of new recruits, the MRM system and the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict.

Outcome 3

ANSAs undertake commitments towards respecting international norms, including signing the *Deed of Commitment* or carrying out other measures

Expected Achievements

- 6 ANSAs from the DRC, Sudan and Syria sign the *Deed of Commitment*
- some ANSAs, for example, in Colombia, undertake other measures towards respecting international norms relating to the protection of children in armed conflict

Achievements

- ✓ The APCLS in the DRC and the ZRO in India signed the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict, bringing the number of active signatories to 19.
- ✓ Burma/Myanmar: the RCSS remained committed to signing the *Deed of Commitment*, currently planned for 2017.
- ✓ Sudan: due to security constraints and restricted field access to the Darfur region, Geneva Call decided not to move forward with the signing of the *Deed* by the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), Sudan Liberation Movement/Army-Abdel Wahid al-Nur (SLM/A-AW) and Sudan Liberation Movement/Army-Minni Minawi (SLM/A-MM).
- ✓ Syria: The Islam Army remained interested in signing all three *Deeds of Commitment*.
- ✓ Colombia: the FARC-EP raised the age limit for recruitment to 18 years old and started demobilizing children. The ANSA also invited Geneva Call, and other specialized organizations, to follow up on the DDR process for its demobilized children.
- ✓ India: the KNF informed Geneva Call of its interest in signing the *Deed*, and discussions on its practical implementation have started, particularly on how to disassociate children from the ANSA. The NSCN-IM conducted an internal investigation into a case of child recruitment.
- ✓ Lebanon: the dialogue with Palestinian ANSAs continued as a follow-up to their declaration on the Protection of Children from the Effects of Armed Conflict and Violence.
- ✓ Syria: the general command of the SDF prohibited the recruitment of persons below 18 years old.

Outcome 4

Geneva Call has the necessary information to hold ANSAs accountable to their obligations under the *Deed of Commitment*

Expected Achievements

- 80% of active signatories report on their compliance with their obligations under the *Deed of Commitment*
- Geneva Call gathers relevant information from third-party sources and through field visits

Achievements

- ✓ All signatory ANSAs provided information and reports on their implementation processes (such as dissemination of the norms, training sessions, enforcement and protection measures) and Geneva Call continued to monitor their compliance with the *Deed of Commitment* through direct and indirect sources.
- ✓ Geneva Call collected information from third-party sources (local partners, CSOs, the media, UN reports) and through field visits, and it followed up on allegations of violations by signatory ANSAs in Burma/Myanmar, Syria and Turkey.

Outcome 5

ANSAs take measures to ensure compliance with the *Deed of Commitment* or other commitments

Expected Achievements

- regular meetings and workshops take place with signatory ANSAs to follow-up on implementation of the *Deed of Commitment*
- ANSA signatories take implementation measures, like the demobilization of children, to ensure compliance with the *Deed of Commitment* or other commitments

Achievements

- ✓ Regular meetings took place with all signatory ANSAs to discuss implementation measures.
- ✓ Burma/Myanmar: the KNU investigated an allegation of child recruitment (which turned out to be untrue) and set up an internal mechanism to deal with any future allegations. The ANSA facilitated awareness-raising activities by Save the Children and agreed to several different measures, including mainstreaming knowledge about the *Deed* into the basic training of all its military personnel. The KNU also addressed the challenges in disseminating the *Deed of Commitment* by facilitating a training session for 40 officers from one of its armed-wing's brigades. It shared its concerns about the low level of community understanding of the KNU's obligations under the *Deed*. With its partner, the Karen Women's Organisation, Geneva Call hosted a workshop to train the women activists who will raise awareness of the *Deed* at the community level.
- ✓ DRC: before signing the *Deed of Commitment*, the APCLS amended its internal code of conduct to include a specific provision on the minimum age of combatants (18 years old). It also refused to enlist a minor who wanted to join the ANSA and returned him to his community.
- ✓ Iran: all the Kurdish Iranian ANSAs continued to comply with the *Deed of Commitment*.
- ✓ Sudan: after 5 years of Geneva Call engagement with the SPLM-N on child protection, and 1 year after its signature of the *Deed of Commitment*, the SPLM-N signed an Action Plan with the UN to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children in conflict. 30 SPLM-N officers from the Blue Nile area were trained on the prohibition of child recruitment, particularly on the age assessment of potential recruits, which the ANSA had identified as a challenge. Another workshop took place in Geneva with SPLM-N representatives based in Europe. The participants worked on an implementation plan for the *Deed of Commitment*, and reaffirmed the importance of protecting schools and education.
- ✓ Syria: the YPG/YPJ's monitoring mechanism continued to investigate allegations of child recruitment. It also welcomed Geneva Call's monitoring officers, based in north-east Syria. The YPG/YPJ participated in the ANSA meeting in Geneva and openly shared the challenges that it faces in ensuring compliance.
- ✓ Turkey: Although several allegations of child recruitment are still being discussed with HPG/PKK leaders, including via letters and high-level meetings, Geneva Call's partner organizations in Turkey reported a notable decrease in the recruitment of children under 16 years old.

Outcome 6

CBOs/CSOs facilitate the engagement process at all stages – including through training, monitoring and assistance activities

Expected Achievements

- up to 84 training events are organized – often with partners – to addressing child protection issues and protection of education, sometimes together with other topics, targeting CBOs/CSOs in Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, DRC, India, Iran, Lebanon, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Turkey
- approximately 1,170 members of CBOs/CSOs, including media representatives, attend workshops, including 435 female participants
- trained CBOs/CSOs share information with Geneva Call on violations of children’s rights and the positive or negative steps ANSAs take with regard to child protection
- trained CBOs/CSOs facilitate Geneva Call’s engagement with targeted ANSAs
- trained CBOs/CSOs support Geneva Call in monitoring signatories’ compliance with the *Deed of Commitment*

Achievements

- ✓ More than 550 members of CSOs/CBOs, traditional and religious leaders or local authorities, including 350 women, attended 23 training sessions on child protection issues in Burma/Myanmar, the DRC, India, Iran, Sudan and Syria. The issue was also addressed in more than 60 training sessions on IHL.
- ✓ Burma/Myanmar: to address the low level of community understanding about the KNU’s obligations under the *Deed*, Geneva Call and its partner, the Karen Women’s Organisation, hosted a workshop to train women activists who will raise awareness of the *Deed* at the community level.
- ✓ the DRC: 56 opinion leaders, including 2 women, and representatives of CBOs attended 3 workshops and learned about child protection issues. CBOs/CSOs liaised with the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) and NDC on Geneva Call’s engagement on child protection, and contributed to securing access to the FDC and its splinter factions.
- ✓ India: during a 3-day workshop, representatives of different ethnic Naga CSOs were trained on child protection issues and the contents of the *Deed of Commitment*. They started working on strategies for information dissemination to their communities.
- ✓ Iran: 12 Iranian Kurdish journalists participated in a training session to learn about the obligations under the *Deed of Commitment* and to improve their reporting skills.
- ✓ Sudan: 17 representatives of CBOs and local leaders learned about the *Deed of Commitment* and how to support its monitoring.
- ✓ Syria: in 14 training events, about 140 members of CBOs/CSOs increased their knowledge of humanitarian norms related to child protection. In a training of trainers for activists and leaders from the Syrian refugee community, representatives of 7 CSOs were trained on how to mainstream humanitarian norms in their communities.

Outcome 7

Geneva Call has the knowledge, capacity and stakeholder support for its engagement activities

Expected Achievements

- Geneva Call disseminates pedagogical materials (e.g. illustrated booklets, posters) to support its engagement activities
- Geneva Call's operational staff strengthens its capacity and knowledge to engage ANSAs on child protection in armed conflict (through technical support and/or training)
- Geneva Call evaluates its work on child protection in armed conflict, with a focus on the implementation of the *Deed of Commitment*
- Geneva Call mainstreams the [Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict](#) in its training materials
- Geneva Call conducts further research on ANSAs' practices and perspectives on the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict

Achievements

- ✓ Geneva Call developed a new illustrated booklet and a video on the protection of education in armed conflict.
- ✓ Geneva Call wrote an internal guideline on the methods of age assessment to be used by operational staff in their dialogue with ANSAs.
- ✓ Three initial case studies, involving the APCLS, the Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army (KNU/KNLA) and the YPG/YPJ – all signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* – were analyzed for Geneva Call's progress report on its child protection programme. This report aims to evaluate Geneva Call's impact on ANSA policies and practices.
- ✓ Geneva Call mainstreamed the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities in its training materials and engagement with ANSAs.
- ✓ Geneva Call interviewed 10 ANSAs involved in four different country contexts in order to gather their views and practices on education, including with regard to the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict. This research will support Geneva Call's engagement on this issue.

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

- key international stakeholders are aware of Geneva Call's work, the lessons learned and its advocacy messages
- stakeholders develop a better understanding of ANSAs' perspectives and the challenges they face
- visibility of Geneva Call's experiences is raised through participation in relevant conferences and international fora, and the organization of side events

Achievements

- ✓ Geneva Call had regular contact with States and other stakeholders, including the OSRSG-CAAC, UNICEF, DPKO, ICRC, Save the Children, War Child, PEIC and the GCPEA, all of which attended its ANSA meeting in November in Geneva.
- ✓ Geneva Call participated in various events related to child protection in order to share its experiences and lessons learned. These included the Wilton Park Conference on protecting children from extreme violence and a panel discussion on child soldiers organized by UNITAR. Geneva Call also briefed the Geneva-based Group of Friends on Children and Armed Conflict and contributed to the launch of Child Soldiers International's report on armed groups "A law unto themselves? Confronting the recruitment of children by armed groups".
- ✓ Geneva Call is a member of the Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, the Child Protection Working Group, the Focus Group on Children and Armed Conflict and the GCPEA. It was invited to join the Paris Principles Steering Group in 2016.

GENDER ISSUES

Taking advantage of its existing dialogues with ANSAs on the landmine ban, Geneva Call began engaging them on gender issues in 2009. Today, it promotes the signing of the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination; it also supports signatories in implementing their commitments and monitors their processes. Geneva Call sometimes encourages ANSAs to take other kinds of measures that contribute to the prevention of abuses and promote the elimination of structural discriminatory policies and practices with regard to gender. This includes fostering women's participation in decision-making processes and peace negotiations.

Countries

Burma/Myanmar	Iran
Colombia	Sudan
the DRC	Syria
India	Turkey

Expenses in CHF

EXPENSES IN CHF	
Africa	230'833
Asia	191'283
Latin America	58'805
Middle East and Europe	41'593
Operational support	138'821
<i>Overhead</i>	78'273
Total	739'609



Context

Sexual violence was widespread in many armed conflicts in 2016, whether perpetrated by government forces, ANSAs or other military entities. The [2016 annual report of the UN Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence](#) detailed the seriousness of the situation in 19 countries. As in the previous report, the majority of perpetrators were ANSAs.

UN Security Council Resolution 1960, adopted in 2010, continued to frame efforts to combat and curb sexual violence in armed conflict. However, the progress achieved with ANSAs remained limited. Most initiatives focused on providing assistance to victims rather than on the prevention of abuses in the first place. On 19 June 2015, in an effort to boost the global fight against the abuses 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 issues of concern included gender-based discrimination in the structures and policies of ANSAs, as well as the underrepresentation of women in peace processes. Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security continued to be a key document in the task of addressing gender discrimination in situations of conflict. This resolution reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building and peacekeeping, humanitarian response and post-conflict reconstruction. Furthermore, it stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in any efforts to maintain and promote peace and security.

Operations

Logic of Intervention

IHL provides a clear framework for the prohibition of acts of sexual violence and the protection of women and girls during armed conflict. 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 UN Security Council 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 has been made to curb such 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 is Geneva Call's objective. Since 2012, the organization has been promoting the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination. To date, 16 ANSAs have signed the *Deed of Commitment* and taken measures for its implementation.



Key Achievements

Overall Impact: The threat of conflict-related sexual violence, and discriminatory policies and practices, are reduced in areas where ANSAs operate

Expected Achievements

- 5 additional active ANSAs sign the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination, bringing the total of number of signatories to 19
- ANSAs take other measures towards the respect of international norms relating to the prohibition of sexual violence and the elimination of gender discrimination
- 10 additional ANSAs are engaged and interventions occur in 10 contexts: Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, DRC, India, Iran, Lebanon, the Philippines, Sudan, Syria and Turkey
- signatory ANSAs take measures to implement their obligations under the *Deed of Commitment*

Achievements

- ✓ 1 additional ANSA – the People's Defence Forces/Kurdistan Worker's Party (HPG/PKK) in Turkey – signed the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination. This brought the total number of active signatories to 16. The HPG/PKK also made a public declaration on its gender policy, reaffirming the importance of gender equality and the political participation of women.
- ✓ ANSAs took other measures towards respecting international norms relating to the prohibition of sexual violence and the elimination of gender discrimination:
 - Colombia: the National Liberation Army (ELN) appointed a woman to sign the agreement about the opening of the peace talks and appointed another to its negotiation team. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army (FARC-EP) nominated a woman as a member of the committee of follow-up and implementation of the peace agreements and showed its determination to maintain a strong gender-sensitive approach in the final peace agreement.
 - the DRC: the Alliance of Patriots for a Free and Sovereign Congo (APCLS) sought Geneva Call's advice on the appropriate action to take regarding a case of child sexual abuse. Following this exchange, the combatant concerned was handed over to the DRC's armed forces.
- ✓ Syria: the Islam Army remained interested in signing all three *Deeds of Commitment*. The First Coastal Division also declared that it was ready to sign the *Deed*, yet its capacity to implement it and questions regarding monitoring need to be tackled first.
- ✓ Geneva Call engaged 9 additional ANSAs, including 4 in Burma/Myanmar (Karenni National Progressive Party/Karenni Army - KNPP/KA, Klohtoobaw Karen Organization/ Democratic Karen Benevolent Army - KKO/DKBA, Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army-South - RCSS/SSA-S, Shan State Progress Party/Shan State Army-North - SSPP/SSA-N), 3 in the DRC (Congo Defence Forces - FDC, Nduma Defense of Congo - NDC, Nduma Defense of Congo-Rénové - NDC-R), 1 in India (National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khaplang - NSCN-K) and 1 in Syria (Syrian Democratic Forces - SDF). This brought the total number of ANSAs engaged by Geneva Call on the prohibition of sexual violence and the elimination of gender discrimination to 37.
- ✓ Geneva Call's interventions occurred in 8 contexts: Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, the DRC, India, Iran, Sudan, Syria and Turkey.
- ✓ Signatory ANSAs took the following measures:
 - Burma/Myanmar: the Karen National Union (KNU) addressed the challenges of disseminating the contents of the *Deed of Commitment* by facilitating a training session for 40 officers from one of its armed-wing's brigades. It also shared its concerns about the communities' low levels of understanding about the KNU's obligation under the *Deed*. With its partner, the Karen Women's Organisation, Geneva Call hosted a workshop to train women activists who will raise awareness about the *Deed* at the community level.
 - India: the Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland-Isak Muivah (NSCN-IM) conducted an internal investigation following an allegation of sexual violence involving a cadre raping a girl. According to the media, the ANSA apologized to the victim, her family and the community, suspended the cadre from active service and started an internal inquiry. The Zomi Revolutionary Organization (ZRO) included a female member in its negotiation team for the first time. The Kuki National Front (KNF) reported the promotion of two female cadres to the rank of sergeant.

Outcome 1

Geneva Call is able to make an informed decision on the value and feasibility of an intervention and build the capacity to start and maintain an engagement process

Expected Achievements

- new engagements with ANSAs on sexual violence and gender discrimination develop, for example in Burma/Myanmar, DRC, India and Lebanon
- up to 10 new ANSAs agree to start a dialogue with Geneva Call

Achievements

- ✓ 9 additional ANSAs were engaged: 4 in Burma/Myanmar (KNPP/KA, KKO/DKBA, RCSS/SSA-S, SSPP/SSA-N), 3 in the DRC (FDC, NDC, NDC-R), 1 in India (NSCN-K) and 1 in Syria (SDF).
- ✓ ANSA engagement in Lebanon on gender-related issues has been postponed to 2017 due to highly sensitive nature of this topic in Palestinian camps.
- ✓ Burma/Myanmar: Geneva Call deepened its understanding of the barriers to gender equality in meetings with women leaders from ANSAs and CSOs.

Outcome 2

ANSAs are aware of international norms relating to sexual violence and gender discrimination and have the knowledge to respond to this issue

Expected Achievements

- up to 34 awareness raising workshops organized—often with partners—to address gender issues, sometimes together with other topics, targeting ANSA members from Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, the DRC, Iran, Lebanon, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Turkey
- approximately 500 members of ANSAs attend workshops, including 130 female participants
- most of the ANSAs attending for the first time agreed to pursue a dialogue on this issue with Geneva Call

Achievements

- ✓ 775 ANSA commanders, fighters, legal advisers and political leaders (including 36 women) from Burma/Myanmar, the DRC, Syria and Turkey participated in 39 training sessions on the international norms pertaining to the prohibition of sexual violence and against gender discrimination.
- ✓ All the ANSAs which attended awareness-raising sessions for the first time agreed to continue their dialogue with Geneva Call.

Outcome 3

ANSAs undertake commitments towards respecting international norms, including signing the *Deed of Commitment* or carrying out other measures

Expected Achievements

- 5 ANSAs from Colombia, Iran, Syria and Turkey sign the *Deed of Commitment*
- some ANSAs – for example, in Colombia, DRC or India – undertake other measures towards the respect of international norms relating to the prohibition of sexual violence and the elimination of gender discrimination

Achievements

- ✓ Turkey: the HPG/PKK signed the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination. The ANSA also made a public declaration on its gender policy, reaffirming the importance of gender equality and the political participation of women.
- ✓ Colombia: the National Liberation Army (ELN) expressed its interest in continuing an exchange of ideas on gender issues. But no further advances towards signing the *Deed of Commitment* have been made
- ✓ Iran: the Kurdistan Free Life Party (PJAK) continued to show interest in signing the *Deed*. Geneva Call will follow up on this in 2017.
- ✓ Syria: the IA remained interested in signing all three *Deeds of Commitment*. The First Coastal Division also declared that it was ready to sign the *Deed*; however, its capacity to implement the *Deed* and questions regarding monitoring need to be tackled first.
- ✓ Colombia: the ELN appointed a woman to sign the agreement about the opening of the peace talks and appointed another to its negotiation team. The ANSA reiterated its interest to continue its exchanges with Geneva Call and female ex-combatants on gender issues. The FARC-EP nominated a woman to be a member of the follow-up commission and showed its determination to maintain a strong gender-sensitive approach in the final peace agreement. Both ANSAs sent messages in support of a roundtable, organized by Geneva Call, on gender issues in relation to the peace process. The roundtable gathered the government, civil society, INGOs, academia, and female ex-combatants.
- ✓ the DRC: the APCLS sought Geneva Call's advice on the appropriate action to take regarding a case of child sexual abuse. Following this exchange, the combatant concerned was handed over to the DRC's armed forces.

Outcome 4

Geneva Call has the necessary information to hold ANSAs accountable to their obligations under the *Deed of Commitment*

Expected Achievements

- 80% of active signatories report on their compliance with their obligations under the *Deed of Commitment*
- Geneva Call gathers relevant information from third-party sources and through field visits

Achievements

- ✓ All the active signatory ANSAs shared compliance reports or provided relevant information on their implementation processes (such as dissemination, training sessions, enforcement and protection measures). Geneva Call continued to monitor their compliance through direct or indirect sources.
- ✓ Geneva Call conducted field monitoring visits in Burma/Myanmar and Syria, as well as in Iraq to visit Iranian ANSAs.

Outcome 5

ANSAs take measures to ensure compliance with the *Deed of Commitment* or other commitments

Expected Achievements

- regular meetings and workshops take place with ANSAs from Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, DRC, India, Iran, Syria and Turkey on implementation and monitoring mechanisms
- ANSA signatories take implementation measures to ensure compliance with the *Deed of Commitment*

Achievements

- ✓ Meetings were held with all the active signatory ANSAs to discuss implementation and monitoring mechanisms.
- ✓ Burma/Myanmar: the KNU addressed the challenges of disseminating the contents of the *Deed of Commitment* by facilitating a training session for 40 officers from one of its armed-wing's brigades. It also shared its concerns about the low level of community understanding regarding the KNU's obligations under the *Deed*. With its partner, the Karen Women's Organisation, Geneva Call hosted a workshop to train the women activists who will work to raise awareness of the *Deed* at the community level.
- ✓ India: the NSCN-IM conducted an internal investigation following an allegation of sexual violence involving a cadre raping a girl. According to the media, the ANSA apologized to the victim, her family and the community, suspended the cadre from active service and started an internal inquiry. The ZRO included a female member in its negotiation team. The KNF reported the promotion of two female cadres to the rank of sergeant. The National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khole Kitovi (NSCN-KK) discussed its implementation plan with Geneva Call and shared its compliance reports, as did the ZRO.
- ✓ Iran: the Iranian Kurdish ANSAs continued to comply with the *Deed of Commitment* and promote the role of women in Kurdish society.
- ✓ Syria: no allegations of sexual violence were recorded against the People's Protection Units (YPG). This ANSA continued to comply with the *Deed of Commitment*, with its internal policies corresponding to the relevant international norms.
- ✓ Turkey: the HPG/PKK publically reaffirmed the importance of gender equality and women's participation. Geneva Call facilitated a meeting between the HPG/PKK and the ELN, a Colombian ANSA, so they could discuss the strengthening of their respective policies on the issue.

Outcome 6

CBOs/CSOs facilitate the engagement process at all stages – including through training, monitoring and assistance activities

Expected Achievements

- up to 49 training events are organized – often with partners – to address gender issues, sometimes together with other topics, targeting CBOs/CSOs in Burma/Myanmar, the DRC, India, Iran, Lebanon, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Turkey
- approximately 740 members of CBOs/CSOs, including media representatives, attend workshops, including 240 female participants
- trained CBOs/CSOs take concrete actions to promote international norms relating to the prohibition of sexual violence and the elimination of gender discrimination
- trained CBOs/CSOs facilitate Geneva Call's engagement with target ANSAs

Achievements

- ✓ 562 members of civil society, local authorities and religious and traditional leaders – including 386 women – participated in 23 training events on the prohibition of sexual violence and against gender discrimination in Burma/Myanmar, Colombia, India, Iran, Sudan and Syria. The issue was also addressed in more than 60 training sessions on IHL.
- ✓ Burma/Myanmar: Following a meeting with women leaders from ANSAs and CBOs/CSOs, Geneva Call conducted workshops with ethnic and local CBOs to coordinate dissemination activities and to strengthen

their monitoring capacities. To address the low level of community understanding of the KNU's obligations under the *Deed*, Geneva Call and its partner, the Karen Women's Organisation, hosted a workshop to train the women activists who will raise awareness about the *Deed* at the community level.

- ✓ Colombia: Geneva Call organized a roundtable with representatives of CSOs, academia, international organizations, the government and female ex-combatants to discuss gender issues in relation to the peace process. The participants formulated recommendations for the parties to the conflict. Another workshop was organized with members of the Colombian network of female ex-combatants and the CBO CONPAZ. The meeting addressed gender equality issues, DDR and sexual violence in the transition areas where demobilized combatants are transferred to.
- ✓ the DRC: 56 opinion leaders, including 2 women, and representatives of CBOs attended 3 workshops to learn about gender issues. CBOs/CSOs liaised with the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) and NDC on Geneva Call's engagement and contributed to securing access to the FDC and its splinter factions.
- ✓ India: At a 3-day workshop, representatives of different ethnic Naga CSOs were trained on gender issues and the contents of the *Deed of Commitment*. They started working on strategies for dissemination within their communities.
- ✓ Iran: 12 Iranian Kurdish journalists participated in a training session to learn about the obligations under the *Deed of Commitment* and to improve their reporting skills.
- ✓ Sudan: 17 representatives of CBOs and local leaders learned about the *Deed of Commitment* and how to support its monitoring.
- ✓ Syria: in 14 training events, about 140 members of CBOs/CSOs increased their knowledge about the humanitarian norms related to the prohibition of sexual violence and against gender discrimination. In a training of trainers for activists and leaders from the Syrian refugee community, representatives of 7 CSOs built up their capacity to mainstream humanitarian norms within their communities.

Outcome 7

Geneva Call has the knowledge, capacity and stakeholder support for its engagement activities

Expected Achievements

- Geneva Call's operational staff strengthens its capacity and knowledge to engage with ANSAs on the prohibition of sexual violence and gender discrimination issues (through technical support and training)
- Geneva Call further develops and adapts training materials (e.g. booklets, posters, video) and methodology as needed
- local and international stakeholders take concrete actions to facilitate Geneva Call's work (statements of support, funding, partnership agreements, other evidence of support)
- Geneva Call further strengthens work on the implementation of the *Deed of Commitment*, developing new tools to monitor ANSA compliance and adapting monitoring methodology, protocols and guidelines
- Geneva Call starts to prepare a progress report on its work related to sexual violence and against gender discrimination, to be published in 2017

Achievements

- ✓ Technical expertise and support were provided to Geneva Call's operational staff, including during training for ANSAs and CBOs/CSOs. 1 internal training course was organized with Prof. Elisabeth Wood, a renowned expert on conflict-related sexual violence.
- ✓ Geneva Call participated in key conferences on the topics of sexual violence and women, peace and security.
- ✓ The revision of Geneva Call's training materials was postponed until 2017/2018 due to other competing priorities.
- ✓ A two-day workshop, led by the innovation agency, MENSCH, and supported by the Humanitarian

Innovation Fund, was organized by Geneva Call with a consortium of experts. The aim was to develop ideas for innovative approaches to reduce gender-based violence in areas controlled by ANSAs.

- ✓ Geneva Call met with local authorities and representatives of humanitarian organizations in the field to share information, coordinate when necessary and gain support for Geneva Call's activities. Geneva Call participated in relevant clusters and actively contributed to various working groups on the issue of sexual violence.
- ✓ Geneva Call started to compile data on its work related to sexual violence for its progress report.

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

- key international stakeholders are aware of Geneva Call's work, the lessons learned and its advocacy messages
- stakeholders develop a better understanding of ANSAs' perspectives and the challenges they face
- visibility of Geneva Call's experiences is raised through participation in relevant conferences and international fora, and the organization of side events

Achievements

- ✓ Meetings focusing on issues related to gender-based violence and ANSAs were held with representatives of the concerned States and with donor States.
- ✓ Contact was maintained with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for sexual violence in conflict, UN Women and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF).
- ✓ Geneva Call participated in various events and meetings linked to its work on sexual violence and gender issues. For instance, its executive President was invited to the Global Women Leader's Forum, a high-level conference bringing together female leaders from all fields. This forum provided a platform to discuss current trends in women's empowerment and gender equality, and to explore ways of supporting and improving the role of women in business and society. Geneva Call also gave a lecture on its work as part of a training course on the theme of gender-based violence in conflict settings and emergencies, organized by the Geneva Centre for Education and Research in Humanitarian Action (CERAH).

HUMANITARIAN NORMS

Geneva Call works to raise awareness about humanitarian norms among ANSAs, and helps ANSAs integrate these norms into their internal regulations. This is done using various tools, including a training module that distills the complex sources of IHL/IHRL into a set of 15 rules of behaviour for ANSA fighters. Training sessions are good starting points for dialogue and engagement with ANSAs, especially when a *Deed of Commitment* process may not be relevant.

Countries

the DRC	Sudan
Iran	Syria
Iraq	Thailand
Lebanon	Turkey

Expenses in CHF

EXPENSES IN CHF	
Africa	77'404
Asia	124'899
Middle East and Europe	2'060'610
Operational support	476'842
<i>Overhead</i>	323'843
Total	3'063'599



Context

Most armed conflicts involve ANSAs either fighting government forces or other armed groups. The [War Report 2016](#) shows that there were at least 36 non-international armed conflicts taking place in 20 States, all of which involved ANSAs. Although IHL establishes a comprehensive legal framework to limit the effects of armed conflicts, violations were widespread. Many of these violations – though by no means all of them – were committed by ANSAs. The UN recognizes the need for humanitarian agencies to ensure consistent engagement with all the parties to armed conflicts for humanitarian purposes; this includes activities that aim to safeguard respect for IHL. However, such engagement remains limited, and most humanitarian organizations continue to focus their dialogue with ANSAs on ensuring humanitarian access to the people affected by conflict. Furthermore, counter-terrorism measures continue to restrict access to certain ANSAs and the areas they control.

Effective engagement requires a sound understanding of ANSAs' perceptions of humanitarian issues and the specific challenges that they may face in complying with IHL.

Operations

Logic of Intervention

The option to engage ANSAs on their compliance with international humanitarian norms – other than those covered by the existing *Deeds of Commitment* – has been part of Geneva Call's vision from the outset. When ANSAs sign a *Deed of Commitment*, they agree to consider this act to be one part of a broader commitment, in principle, to the spirit of IHL.

Geneva Call has increasingly engaged ANSAs to improve their awareness, understanding and respect of humanitarian norms, particularly IHL. This has been considered a good starting point for broader dialogue and engagement with ANSAs about their overall conduct. The large body of IHL has been summarized into a set of 15 rules of behaviour that ANSA fighters should seek to follow. The rules are included in a kit of training tools prepared by Geneva Call in consultation with legal experts. The materials help ANSAs better understand humanitarian norms and the practical steps needed for their compliance. The broad scope of these training programmes has also allowed Geneva Call to focus on specific thematic areas, such as the protection of children and education or the prevention of sexual violence, when relevant, and to give detailed explanations of the respective *Deeds of Commitment* at a later stage.

Geneva Call's approach aims not only to disseminate humanitarian norms, but to build up ANSAs' capacities to implement them through their own regulations, training systems and rules of engagement. Specific incidents and violations are discussed in order to elicit internal reflection and corrective action.



Key Achievements

Overall Impact: The protection of civilians and other protected persons in areas where ANSAs operate is improved.

Expected Achievements

- 4 additional active ANSAs are engaged and interventions occur in 13 contexts: Burundi, Central African Republic (CAR), Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Pakistan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine and Western Sahara
- in-depth assessments made in Burundi, CAR, Pakistan and Ukraine enable Geneva Call to make informed decisions about the added value of launching a programme in those contexts
- ANSAs take measures to commit to respecting humanitarian norms

Achievements

- ✓ 18 additional ANSAs were engaged: 5 in the DRC (Alliance of Patriots for a Free and Sovereign Congo - APCLS, Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda - FDLR, Congo Defence Forces - FDC, Nduma Defense of Congo - NDC, Nduma Defense of Congo-Rénové - NDCR); 1 in Iran (Kurdistan Democratic Party-Iran - KDP-Iran); 9 in Iraq (the 70 Forces, 80 Forces, Kurdistan Democratic Party-Sinjar Yezidi forces - KDP-Sinjar Yezidi, Ezidkhan Protection Force - HPE, Sinjar Resistance Units - YBS, Nineveh Plain Guards, different Sunni tribal forces); 1 in Lebanon (Islamic Forces-IF); 1 in Syria (Syrian Democratic Forces - SDF); and 1 in Thailand (Majlis Syuraa Patani - MARA).
- ✓ The total number of ANSAs engaged on humanitarian norms is now 32.
- ✓ Interventions occurred in 8 contexts: the DRC, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Sudan, Syria, Thailand and Turkey.
- ✓ High-level South Sudanese authorities, including the Minister for Humanitarian Affairs, were made aware of Geneva Call's work on the promotion of humanitarian norms, and they declared their initial support for these activities. The IHL programme in Western Sahara was put on hold for strategic reasons, and priority was given to activities related to AP mines.
- ✓ In-house assessments of its future work in Burundi, CAR and Pakistan confirmed Geneva Call's added value; however, due to financial constraints, the programmes could not be launched in 2016. The programme in Ukraine started with a thorough desk assessment, the establishment of contacts and an initial field mission. A second field mission, planned for 2017, will shape the logic of intervention and strategy for future engagements in the country.
- ✓ ANSAs took concrete measures:
 - The DRC: the APCLS and NDC-R reported on their humane treatment and handing over of any detainees, who were sent to the national authorities for trial.
 - Iraq: the president of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) issued a "decision" reminding Peshmerga forces to abide by the principles of human rights and protect civilians. Leaders of the People's Mobilization Forces (PMF) discussed a joint action plan to increase respect for humanitarian norms among the 40 different PMF brigades, and a high-level collaboration with Geneva Call was decided upon. The PMF also made various declarations in which they affirmed their commitment to protect civilians.
 - Lebanon: dialogue on humanitarian norms and child protection norms was maintained with all Palestinian ANSAs. The Joint Security Forces (JSF) committed to conducting regular training sessions on humanitarian norms. This demonstrates the JSF leadership's acceptance of the universality of the norms, which is an achievement in itself.
 - Syria: the Islam Army (IA) appointed a high-ranking representative to be its official interlocutor with Geneva Call. The representative set up a team of other representatives in charge of questions relating to IHL and to coordinate training sessions with the IA's leadership. The Southern Front promoted the *Fighter not Killer* campaign via its social media outlets.
 - Thailand: the Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN) publicly stated that attacks should only be carried out against "legitimate targets," and started to address the challenge of internal dissemination of IHL. The Pattani United Liberation Organization (PULO) adopted IHL as part of its policy and reportedly trained around 65% of its members.

Outcome 1

Geneva Call is able to make an informed decision on the value and feasibility of an intervention and to initiate and maintain an engagement process

Expected Achievements

- relevant ANSAs and their representatives are identified in contexts where engagement can take place
- at least 4 ANSAs agree to start a dialogue with Geneva Call in Iraq and South Sudan

Achievements

- ✓ 18 additional ANSAs were engaged: 5 in the DRC (APCLS, FDLR, FDC, NDC, NDCR); 1 in Iran (KDP-Iran); 9 in Iraq (70 Forces, 80 Forces, KDP-Sinjar Yezidi forces, HPE, YBS, Nineveh Plain Guards, different Sunni tribal forces); 1 in Lebanon (IF); 1 in Syria (SDF) and 1 in Thailand (MARA).
- ✓ South Sudan: Direct access to ANSAs in South Sudan was impossible due to security constraints, and thus engagement with them on respecting humanitarian norms had to be postponed. The process of officially registering Geneva Call in South Sudan progressed and should be completed in 2017.
- ✓ Syria: Geneva Call conducted research on humanitarian access to ANSA-controlled areas in order to develop recommendations for humanitarian organizations and improve aid delivery.

Outcome 2

ANSAs have knowledge of international humanitarian norms and are able to apply this in their decision making

Expected Achievements

- up to 39 training and awareness raising workshops are organized—often with partners—to address humanitarian norms, sometimes together with specific topics (e.g. child protection, gender issues), targeting ANSA members from Burma/Myanmar, the DRC, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, South Sudan, Syria, Thailand and Turkey
- approximately 600 members of ANSAs attend workshops, including 150 female participants

Achievements

- ✓ More than 1,500 ANSA commanders, fighters, legal advisers and political leaders (including 104 women) from the DRC, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Sudan, Thailand and Turkey participated in 67 training sessions on international norms.
- ✓ The DRC: 140 officers and combatants attended training sessions on humanitarian norms and the conduct of hostilities. Almost 1,500 booklets and 30 image-boxes were distributed for further internal training and dissemination.
- ✓ Iran: the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (PDKI), KDP-Iran and the Free Life Party of Kurdistan (PJAK) showed interest in receiving training on IHL. Training sessions planned for the PJAK and PDKI in 2016 needed to be postponed until 2017 for security and financial reasons.
- ✓ Iraq: 17 Peshmerga officers were trained as trainers in IHL and the protection of civilians during a 10-day programme. 19 other training sessions were conducted for more than 600 ANSA cadres and political leaders.
- ✓ Lebanon: thanks to the advanced training sessions held in partnership with the Legal Support Unit (LSU), the Palestinian National Security Forces (PNSF) developed an enhanced capacity to respect humanitarian norms. JSF trainees expressed their wishes for more in-depth training sessions by which to internalize humanitarian norms and increase their respect for them. The PNSF leadership, field commanders and the LSU were also trained on police ethics by a Swiss police expert, brought in by Geneva Call, allowing them to review the PNSF's Code of Conduct.
- ✓ Sudan: 30 Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) officers from the Blue Nile region, as well as 7 representatives from Europe, increased their knowledge of international humanitarian norms during 2 training sessions.
- ✓ Syria: Geneva Call conducted a workshop on IHL with 7 military and legal instructors from the Rojava Peshmerga, and they agreed to organize further IHL training sessions for their military forces in the future.

Thanks to its partnership with the Afaq Academy, Geneva Call conducted 27 training sessions with several ANSAs. These focused on IHL and questions of revenge and reprisals, themes that were regularly brought up by the participants.

- ✓ Thailand: 19 commanders and leaders from 5 ANSAs under the MARA Patani banner increased their understanding of humanitarian norms. The participants asserted that they were ready to become advocates of IHL within their respective organizations.
- ✓ Turkey: 50 political cadres from the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) improved their knowledge of international humanitarian norms.

Outcome 3

ANSAs undertake commitments and/or plan to respect international humanitarian norms

Expected Achievements

- some ANSAs commit to respecting humanitarian norms and/or integrating IHL into their internal regulations and training systems

Achievements

- ✓ Thailand: the BRN publicly stated that attacks should only be carried out on “legitimate targets.”
- ✓ Iraq: the PMF also made various declarations in which they affirmed their commitment to protect civilians
- ✓ Lebanon: the JSF committed to regular training on humanitarian norms. This demonstrates the JSF leadership’s acceptance of the universality of these norms, which is an achievement in itself.

Outcome 4

Geneva Call has the necessary information to hold ANSAs accountable to their commitments or plans

Expected Achievements

- as an initial stage in implementing these activities, Geneva Call harmonizes its monitoring tools and methodologies
- partnerships with other stakeholders are consolidated and extended whenever possible

Achievements

- ✓ Thailand: the BRN reiterated its willingness to discuss incidents with Geneva Call, and invited the organization to monitor future incidents.

Outcome 5

ANSAs take measures to ensure compliance with their commitments or plans

Expected Achievements

- ANSAs take measures such as changing their codes of conduct or drafting unilateral declarations

Achievements

- ✓ the DRC: the APCLS and NDCR reported humane treatment of their detainees, who were sent to national authorities for trial.
- ✓ Iraq: the president of the KRI issued a “decision” reminding Peshmerga forces to abide by the principles of human rights and protect civilians. The PMF leadership discussed a joint action plan to increase respect for humanitarian norms among the 40 different PMF brigades, and it decided upon a high-level collaboration with Geneva Call.
- ✓ Lebanon: dialogue on humanitarian norms and child protection norms was maintained with all Palestinian ANSAs. The JSF committed itself to regularly conduct trainings on humanitarian norms.
- ✓ Syria: the IA appointed a high-ranking representative as its official interlocutor with Geneva Call; the representative set up a team of other representatives in charge of questions linked to IHL and to coordinate training sessions with the IA leadership. The Southern Front promoted the *Fighter not Killer* campaign via its social media outlets.
- ✓ Thailand: the BRN started to address the dual challenges of internally disseminating information on IHL and drafting an internal code of conduct. The PULO adopted IHL as part of its policy and trained about 65% of its members on this subject.

Outcome 6

CBOs/CSOs facilitate engagement processes at all stages, including through training, monitoring and assistance activities

Expected Achievements

- the capacity of CSOs, CBOs and community leaders to support the dissemination of humanitarian norms and the engagement process is built up through meetings, training and the development of supporting material
- up to 88 training events are organized—often with partners—to address humanitarian norms, sometimes with specific topics (e.g. child protection, gender issues), targeting CBOs/CSOs in Burma/Myanmar, DRC, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Thailand and Turkey
- approximately 1,200 members of CBOs/CSOs members, including media representatives, attend workshops, including some 450 female participants

Achievements

- ✓ 1,109 members of civil society, local authorities, religious and traditional leaders, including 315 women, participated in 62 training events on international humanitarian norms in the DRC, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Sudan and Syria.
- ✓ the DRC: 56 opinion leaders, including 2 women, as well as representatives of CBOs, attended 3 workshops and learned about humanitarian norms. CBOs/CSOs liaised with the FDLR and NDC on future engagement with Geneva Call, and contributed to securing safe access to the FDC and its splinter factions.
- ✓ Iran: 12 Iranian Kurdish journalists participated in a training session to learn about humanitarian norms and to improve their reporting skills using language sensitive to IHL.
- ✓ Iraq: religious, political and tribal leaders expressed their support for Geneva Call’s engagement and were ready to facilitate its activities. CSO representatives and local authorities adopted a joint declaration and called on all parties involved in military operations to protect civilian populations regardless of their religion

or ethnicity. Geneva Call discussed activities which Yezidi CSOs could organize to ensure the protection of civilians; these had a strong focus on the prevention of revenge attacks following the conflict.

- ✓ Lebanon: 17 representatives of 9 political parties attended an inter-party summer school on international humanitarian norms, and several parties subsequently requested training of trainers for their cadres. 31 leaders from the Youth Sector of the Future Movement, along with representatives of Syrian CSOs, participated in a training of trainers (ToT). Partnerships were established with these CSOs, as were synergies with regard to Lebanon and Syria. Sunni religious leaders expressed their support for Geneva Call's work and insisted on continued cooperation with the organization across the country.
- ✓ Sudan: 17 representatives of CBOs and local leaders learned about humanitarian norms and how to monitor ANSA conduct.
- ✓ Syria: in 14 training events, approximately 140 members of CBOs/CSOs improved their understanding of humanitarian norms. Geneva Call tailored the programme to meet the needs of specific audiences – and approximated the principles of IHL to Islamic Law in particular – when training religious leaders or teachers. In a 2-week, in-depth ToT for the Syrian refugee community, activists and leaders from 7 CSOs increased their skills to mainstream humanitarian norms within their communities. 3 similar ToTs were conducted for different audiences.
- ✓ Turkey: training sessions with local lawyers and journalists were postponed until 2017, due to the ongoing conflict and security constraints.

Outcome 7

Geneva Call has the knowledge, capacity and stakeholder support for its engagement activities

Expected Achievements

- Geneva Call further disseminates pedagogical material (e.g. illustrated booklets, posters) to support its engagement activities using a broad media campaign, mainly in the Middle East
- local/international stakeholders take concrete actions to facilitate Geneva Call's work (statements of support, funding, partnership agreements or other evidence of support)
- Geneva Call's operational staff receives further training on IHL
- Geneva Call monitors global legal developments on humanitarian norms and counter-terrorism so as to adapt its work accordingly
- Geneva Call develops a better understanding of Islamist and Maoist ANSAs' views on international humanitarian norms, as well as how to engage such groups

Achievements

- ✓ The *Fighter not Killer* campaign enhanced Geneva Call's visibility, raised awareness of humanitarian norms and generated interest from local stakeholders who wished to participate in activities in the DRC, Iran, Iraq and Syria.
- ✓ The DRC: the *Fighter not Killer* campaign messages were adapted for radio and broadcast on 10 local stations, reaching 50,000 people. 25,000 people viewed the videos on Facebook and 170,000 visited the dedicated page.
- ✓ Iran: Iranian Kurdish ANSAs promoted the *Fighter not Killer* campaign through their own TV channels, which were viewed inside Iran. However, it was impossible to accurately monitor the number of views.
- ✓ Iraq: the *Fighter not Killer* campaign reached more than 10 million views, including in areas under the control of the Islamic State group (ISg). The videos received 8.6 million views on Facebook, and 2 million interactions were registered. Broadcasting on 5 Kurdish and Arabic radio stations and 3 TV channels reached an additional 2.3 million people.
- ✓ Syria: the *Fighter not Killer* campaign videos were broadcast on 4 TV channels and 8 websites, with significant audiences in Syria. Geneva Call estimates that approximately 500,000 people watched the videos on TV channels and nearly 600,000 saw the video on Facebook, where 190,000 interactions were recorded. On the Facebook page, run by the Free Syrian Lawyers Association, the campaign reached 100,000 views.
- ✓ Thailand: 6 videos from the *Fighter not Killer* campaign, adapted for the Thai context, were developed in Thai and Malay, and their dissemination will start in 2017. Moreover, Geneva Call briefed governmental

agencies and civil society on its plans to support the dissemination of humanitarian norms across affected communities. The participants provided useful insights and suggestions on how to move forward.

- ✓ Geneva Call's Policy and Legal Unit (PLU) provided legal expertise, and support was provided to operational staff, including during trainings for ANSAs and CBOs/CSOs.
- ✓ Geneva Call monitored global legal and policy developments relevant to its work and participated in various meetings and seminars, such as the 17th Bruges Colloquium on Terrorism, Counter-Terrorism and IHL, and an expert workshop on Justice in Non-International Armed Conflict, organized by the Manchester International Law Centre, in Louvain-la-Neuve.
- ✓ Geneva Call started to compile information on radical groups' practices during conflict and their perception and understanding of IHL. The organization participated in an event organized by the Qatari Red Crescent on the "Provisions and Ethics of War in Islam and International Humanitarian Law."

Outcome 8

The views and perspectives of ANSAs, together with Geneva Call's expertise, are listened to and taken into account in the international debate on the protection of civilians, IHL and IHRL

Expected Achievements

- visibility of Geneva Call's experiences is raised through the participation in relevant conferences and international fora
- key international stakeholders are aware of Geneva Call's work, the lessons learned and its advocacy messages
- stakeholders develop a better understanding of ANSAs' perspectives and challenges they face when trying to respect humanitarian norms
- Geneva Call organizes Garance Talks in 2016, a series of annual expert meetings aiming to promote a better understanding of the challenges ANSAs face when trying to comply with applicable international law

Achievements

- ✓ At the invitation of the UN, Geneva Call participated in the World Humanitarian Summit, which took place in Istanbul in May. Geneva Call was given the opportunity to address a high-level leaders' roundtable entitled "[Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity](#)," which gathered heads of State and government, as well as leaders of international and civil society organizations. Geneva Call also spoke at two side-events and launched its study entitled "In Their Words: Perceptions of Armed Non-State Actors on Humanitarian Action," in conjunction with the Summit.
- ✓ Geneva Call was invited to share its expertise and views in various other international fora and conferences throughout 2016. These included the ECOSOC humanitarian affairs segment on "Impediments to the Protection of Civilians" and a Chatham House roundtable on "Promoting Compliance with International Humanitarian Law," expert meetings on "Non-State Armed Groups and the Responsibility to Protect," and many others.
- ✓ Geneva Call's participation in country-specific events, such as the ECHO high-level event on the Humanitarian Crisis in Iraq, also helped the organization to increase its overall visibility.
- ✓ Geneva Call was also invited to speak about ANSA engagement at the first Annual Meeting of Frontline Negotiators, which launched the Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation, a joint initiative by the ICRC, UNHCR, World Food Programme, Médecins Sans Frontières and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue.
- ✓ Due to other priorities and a lack of funding, the 2016 edition of the Garance Talks was postponed until 2017.

DISPLACEMENT

Geneva Call has been exploring issues related to ANSAs and displacement in armed conflict for several years. Following a comprehensive study on the topic and an internal assessment of its own capacity, Geneva Call has decided to initiate pilot engagements with selected ANSAs on this new thematic area in 2017.

Expenses in CHF

EXPENSES IN CHF	
Africa	4'656
Operational support	48'249
<i>Overhead</i>	6'262
Total	59'166



Context

Forced displacement was a widespread phenomenon in many armed conflicts around the world in 2016; the number of displaced persons hit a record level. At the end of 2014, there were more than 57 million forcibly displaced persons worldwide, including 19.5 million refugees and 38.2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs). Those figures were higher than at any time since the Second World War.

Forced displacement affected not only refugees and IDPs, but also countless host families and communities. Common threats faced by displaced people included: direct attacks and ill-treatment; loss of property; increased risk of families being torn apart and children being separated from other family members; greater risk of sexual violence against women and girls; increased exposure to health hazards; and restricted access to healthcare and other essential services, among others.

All around the world, significant forced displacement has been caused by ANSAs. The countries with the highest numbers of IDPs are all affected by non-international armed conflicts where ANSAs operate. ANSAs have also used refugee or IDP camps to hide among civilians, store weapons and recruit new fighters. On the other hand, in certain situations, ANSAs have displaced people for their own safety, or provided IDPs and refugees with food and shelter and facilitated their access to services, including healthcare and education.

Operations

In 2013, building on a conference co-organized with the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Geneva Call published a comprehensive study about ANSAs and forced displacement. The study analyzed the dynamics at play between ANSAs and displaced persons, provided an overview of the legal and normative frameworks applicable to ANSAs in displacement contexts, and concluded with a series of recommendations, including the need to develop strategies for engaging ANSAs on the protection of displaced persons.

Geneva Call also conducted an internal assessment on the feasibility, related risks and opportunities of expanding its activities in this area. Despite their critical role, there remains little direct engagement with ANSAs regarding their responsibilities towards displaced people. Leading specialized agencies were consulted as part of Geneva Call's assessment, and they all indicated their support for the organization's intervention on this theme. Consequently, Geneva Call has decided to start pilot projects with selected ANSAs and would use results to adapt and further develop its methodology.



Key Achievements

Overall Impact: displaced persons are better protected in areas where ANSAs operate.

Expected Achievements

- development of a *Deed of Commitment* on the protection of displaced persons
- Geneva Call designs its methodology and related materials for engagement with ANSAs
- meetings with relevant stakeholders are organized in certain target contexts (to be defined)

Achievements

- ✓ Geneva Call completed an internal assessment of the feasibility, risks and opportunities of expanding its engagement on displacement.
- ✓ Throughout the year, Geneva Call liaised with relevant stakeholders (including the UNHCR, OCHA, International Organization for Migration, ICRC, Danish Refugee Council, Norwegian Refugee Council and IDMC, as well as the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons) and held a meeting to identify engagement strategies and options. These included developing content for a draft *Deed of Commitment* as well as looking into possible synergies and areas for collaboration. All the stakeholders consulted continued to encourage Geneva Call to work on this issue.
- ✓ Geneva Call mandated experts to develop a training kit on displacement. The material will include the following sections: ANSAs and displacement; legal and normative frameworks; implementation measures and practical exercises; and case studies. The draft training module will be shared with key stakeholders for peer-review and then tested with selected ANSAs.
- ✓ Geneva Call addressed the issue of displacement with two ANSAs from the DRC (Alliance of Patriots for a Free and Sovereign Congo – APCLS and the Forces Démocratiques pour la Libération du Rwanda – FDLR). Both have completed a questionnaire designed to assess their knowledge of the issue, their perception of relevant international humanitarian norms and the assistance needs of affected populations. They discussed the ANSAs' positive and negative obligations towards displaced persons and how Geneva Call could contribute to reinforcing their protection.

AFRICA

Expenses in CHF

EXPENSES IN CHF

Child protection	286'229
Gender issues	230'833
Displacement	4'656
Humanitarian norms	77'404
Landmine ban	87'379
<i>Overhead</i>	81'251
Total	767'752



Regional Coordination

In order to ensure that Geneva Call's interventions in different regions remain significant and of high quality, coordination and management activities took place independently of purely field-related work. Whether at headquarters or in the regions, this coordination required participation in desk monitoring meetings, internal coordination meetings, information sharing among operational units, or working towards specific advocacy or fundraising goals. Regional coordination and development

also aimed to continually 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.

Constant monitoring of country-specific and regional developments in conflict situations was essential to the implementation of relevant and timely activities. Regional programmes thus carefully analyzed the conflicts affecting their region and their impacts on civilian populations. At the same time, regional teams kept track of IHL and IHRL violations committed by the ANSAs present, whether or not they were engaged in a dialogue with Geneva Call, although ANSAs signatory to the *Deeds of Commitment* were especially closely monitored. Indeed, signatory ANSAs conducting only very limited military operations and which were no longer expected to have a severe impact on civilians weren't necessarily engaged in in-depth humanitarian dialogue. However, their compliance with the *Deeds of Commitment* remained a priority for Geneva Call and was therefore monitored. Assessments were conducted to evaluate Geneva Call's potential added value and to determine its logic of intervention.

In June 2016, Geneva Call determined that funding for two of its programmes in Africa would be difficult to secure in the immediate future; it thus decided to put their respective activities on hold. This was the case for the initial desk and field assessments for **Burundi** and the **Central African Republic**.

Regular communication with high-level stakeholders such as ANSA leaderships, State authorities, and political and religious leaders took place to secure appropriate support for planned operations. The Head of Region or team members also represented Geneva Call in regional forums and other venues. They actively contributed to public communication and awareness raising about the organization's work in a way that reinforced its influence, access and response to conflict. The development of a network of high-level regional stakeholders was constant, and sustainable partnerships were built and nurtured with other (local or international) organizations with the aim of facilitating and strengthening Geneva Call's work in the field.

Given the volatile and potentially dangerous contexts in which Geneva Call operates, security concerns were of the utmost importance; thus, security and safety assessments and monitoring are conducted frequently.

EXPENSES IN CHF

Child protection	27'549
Gender issues	13'853
Humanitarian norms	6'245
Landmine ban	2'961
<i>Overhead</i>	5'990
Total	56'598

THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Overview

Geneva Call directly engages major ANSAs and influential community leaders in North Kivu province. It primarily focuses on increasing their knowledge about humanitarian norms protecting children and prohibiting sexual violence in armed conflict. It operates within the country from an office in Goma. Through media campaigns, which are primarily broadcast on local radio stations and are based on messages from the *Fighter not Killer* campaign, Geneva Call aims to raise awareness of humanitarian norms among combatant groups with which it may not already be involved in a direct dialogue, and to inform local communities and authorities about the existence of the norms.

Armed conflict continues unabated in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), particularly in the Kivu, Ituri and Oriental provinces. The conflict is between several ANSAs and the DRC's armed forces. Inter-ethnic tensions and fighting between ANSAs also persist, in addition to land and identity conflicts and mass protests against the postponement of the presidential elections.

Serious violations of IHL remain widespread, including the recruitment and use of children, sexual violence against women and children, kidnapping and summary executions. More than 1.9 million people have been internally displaced.

EXPENSES IN CHF	
Child protection	210'953
Displacement	4'656
Gender issues	181'644
<i>Overhead</i>	47'017
Total	444'270

ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine Ban	Child Protection	Gender Issues	Displacement	Humanitarian Norms
Alliance des Patriotes pour un Congo Libre et Souverain	APCLS		✓			
Forces Démocratiques pour la Libération du Rwanda	FDLR					
Front de défense du Congo	FDC					
Nduma Defense of Congo (Mai Mai Cheka)	NDC					
Nduma Defense of Congo Rénové	NDCR					

ANSAs engaged on thematic area

ANSAs newly engaged on thematic area in 2016

● Deed of Commitment signed

✓ Deed of Commitment signed in 2016

Key Achievements

- ✓ the APCLS increased the minimum age of combatants to 18 years old and signed Geneva Call's *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict
- ✓ the APCLS and NDCR took measures to ensure respect for humanitarian norms, such as by imposing sanctions against a combatant who abused a minor, by treating detainees humanely and by handing them over to governmental bodies for fair trials
- ✓ the FDC reached out to Geneva Call in order to improve its compliance with IHL; this brought the number of Congolese ANSAs engaged by Geneva Call to 5. The Raia Mutomboki and Mai Mai Kifufua also contacted Geneva Call, though the possibility of any long-term engagement and potential impact with these groups has yet to be assessed
- ✓ nearly 200 ANSA representatives and opinion leaders participated in training sessions to increase their knowledge about humanitarian norms
- ✓ the *Fighter not Killer* campaign reached more than 50,000 people via social media and the radio; the DRC *Fighter not Killer* web page had 170,000 visitors and the video reached 27,000 views
- ✓ 5 ANSAs are engaged in a dialogue on the protection of schools and education

Context

Armed conflict continued unabated in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), particularly in the Kivu provinces; this was despite the 2012 agreement on peace and economic development. The main conflict was between ANSAs and the DRC's armed forces, but ANSAs also fought amongst themselves. Reports involved over 70 separate ANSAs, including Mai Mai self-defence groups and foreign armed groups. Although some ANSAs are well-structured and attempted to integrate the norms of IHL into their internal regulations, the modus operandi of others was more difficult to comprehend due to the fluidity of their internal structures.

2016 was due to be an election year, but President Kabila had already announced that he would go against constitutional law and remain in power until the funding and logistics were in place to properly organize the elections. In turn, the national and independent electoral commission announced that the elections would be held after a two-year delay. In late October, discussions involving some opposition parties, as well as the majority parties, agreed to install a unity government led by a prime minister from the opposition. The Congolese population expressed disappointment through large protests that led to the deaths and arrests of dozens of protestors. In response to strong pressure from the opposition and inclusive discussions held by the Catholic Church, President Kabila agreed to organize elections in December 2017. If these elections are not held, the country could sink further into political crisis, fuelling inter-communal conflict.

Impact on the Civilian Population

The civilian population suffered immensely from severe violations of IHL and IHRL. For example, in the first week of December 2016, the UNHCR recorded 994 protection incidents in the province of Northern Kivu alone, 71% of which were perpetrated by ANSAs. In November, 30 IDPs were killed by Mazembe militias because of their ethnicity, and more than 10 civilians were executed by Mai Mai on Christmas Eve.

Children are the most vulnerable persons in conflict situations; they need further protection and attention from all parties. The UN Secretary-General's 2016 report on children and armed conflict listed 12 ANSAs as perpetrators of grave violations against children in the DRC's armed conflict. Reports claimed the presence of child soldiers within some ANSAs, and hundreds of others living in proximity to ANSAs remain

exposed to attacks or forced/spontaneous recruitment. 900 children from the NDCR, FDLR, ADF and other groups were integrated into demobilization programmes in 2015. According to reliable sources, these children had directly participated in hostilities. Allegations of attacks against schools and educational personnel were also reported. Geneva Call staff witnessed such an attack in 2016 and the impact it had on the children, left traumatized and deprived of education.

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) remained a significant issue in the DRC. For example, MONUSCO reported 60 cases of SGBV in the territory of Walikale in the first 4 months of 2016 alone, 80% of which were perpetrated by ANSAs. Geneva Call had encouraging discussions with certain ANSAs on the issue of SGBV; however, they continued to be reluctant to change their policies and practices when it came to gender, mainly for cultural reasons. The DRC is a patriarchal society where women have limited influence in decision-making processes; the notion of gender equality is therefore rarely accepted by ANSAs.

The conduct of hostilities in the DRC in 2016 did not respect **IHL**. Reports of recent hostilities in North Kivu described ANSAs committing grave violations of IHL, such as the targeting of civilians, summary executions, the burning of villages, the looting of natural resources and hostage-taking. Through various training sessions with ANSAs, Geneva Call managed to ascertain that they do have a basic knowledge of the fundamental principles of IHL. However, when questioned about the details, their knowledge was often vague, especially regarding their positive obligations, such as humanitarian access and the provision of special protection to children.

The security of humanitarian workers was also an issue in North Kivu, which experienced an increase in the number of hostage-takings. Dozens of incidents have led to reductions in aid deliveries, especially medical assistance. Humanitarian access is becoming dire in the DRC and civilians are further deprived of access to first aid.

Operations and Achievements

Logic of Intervention

Geneva Call engaged ANSAs both directly and indirectly through local partners, communities, traditional leaders and other decision-makers. The aims were to build trust, understand ANSA practices (at field and policy levels) and provide them with advice on how to comply with humanitarian norms. When ANSAs were willing to improve their policies and practices, especially regarding children and sexual violence, Geneva Call encouraged them to sign the related *Deeds of Commitment* and organized training sessions for ANSA commanders, focusing on the norms for each particular topic. Geneva Call used various communication tools (e.g. *Fighter not Killer* materials and radio shows) to facilitate outreach to ANSAs and their constituencies through local media and social networks, and raise awareness about humanitarian norms.

As a party to major international treaties relevant to humanitarian norms, the DRC welcomed Geneva Call's action in the country. Geneva Call has an office in Goma and regularly shared information about its activities with the DRC authorities, particularly the Ministry of Defense, and, therefore, the FARDC. Geneva Call frequently travelled to remote locations to meet with ANSAs, their constituencies and the victims of armed violence.

Geneva Call's primary target groups included five ANSAs and their constituencies in North Kivu. It maintained well-developed relationships with the APCLS, FDLR and NDCR, and it started to develop one with the FDC. Dialogue with the NDC continued, though a different approach was pursued and activities were solely focused on advocacy efforts, as the group did not express a willingness to engage in a more structured or sustainable manner. Geneva Call could not engage with the Alliance of Democratic Forces (ADF), as this movement remained very guarded and did not demonstrate a willingness to engage with any humanitarian organizations.

Landmine Ban

The awareness of two ANSAs is raised

For the first time in the DRC, Geneva Call raised the awareness of two ANSAs, the APCLS and the FDLR, on the issue of AP mines and ERW in training sessions on humanitarian norms.

This dialogue on AP mines took place in conjunction with discussions on humanitarian norms in general.

Child Protection

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

In January, following intense discussions with Geneva Call, the APCLS amended its code of conduct to increase the minimum age of combatants to 18 years old, and to include the rules of war. The same month, it refused to enlist a 15-year-old who wanted to join the movement, and instead returned him to his community. As a further step, and after the development of its implementation plan, the group signed the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict on the eve of the ANSA meeting on child protection, held in Geneva.

As for the FDLR, the region's security and political context slowed discussions on child protection. Recent allegations of the ANSA's violations of IHL led Geneva Call to reconsider its signing of the *Deed of Commitment* in the near future.

5 ANSAs are engaged in a dialogue on the protection of schools and education

Geneva Call discussed the importance of protecting schools and educational services from military use with all targeted ANSAs. Furthermore, an illustrated booklet and a video on the protection of schools and education were produced and widely disseminated to ANSAs and CSOs, and through social media.

The APCLS attended the meeting on child protection, organized in Geneva in November 2016, and presented its practices and the challenges it faced in protecting schools and educational services during armed conflict.

Gender Issues

The APCLS deals seriously with a case of sexual violence

Committed to preventing sexual violence, the APCLS sought Geneva Call's advice on the appropriate action to take following a case of child sexual abuse perpetrated by one of its combatants. Geneva Call advised it to turn the combatant in to the State's judicial authorities. The combatant has since been handed over to the armed forces of the DRC (FARDC).

Geneva Call discussed SGBV with the FDLR, NDCR and APCLS in training sessions during which all the ANSAs

explained that SGBV was prohibited by their code of conduct and severely punished. Geneva Call also intended to address gender issues and SGBV with NDC but its leader was not receptive and adopted a negative attitude regarding the issue. The thematic will be tackled again in 2017.

Humanitarian Norms

ANSAs take concrete measures to respect and uphold humanitarian norms

In February 2016, following an attack on enemy forces, the NDCR announced that it had taken in the family members of enemy combatants – mostly women and children – and had subsequently handed them over to a humanitarian organization specialized in civilian protection. The group also committed itself to developing a code of conduct for its rank-and-file military members, so as to be able to internally investigate allegations reported by the UN panel of experts.

After consulting with Geneva Call, the APCLS transferred its FARDC detainees to MONUSCO, as it lacked the capacity to meet the requirements for a fair trial as stipulated by IHL. The soldiers had been captured in March 2016 and had been treated humanely during their detention.

An additional ANSA agrees to start a dialogue on humanitarian norms

Geneva Call continued its dialogue on humanitarian norms, including on the protection of children and on gender issues, with the APCLS, FDLR, NDCR and NDC. In April, it was contacted by the FDC, which was seeking support to help it improve its compliance with IHL. Since then, two meetings and one training session have taken place. Contact with the NDC has been maintained, and included a meeting, but the ANSA has yet to convince Geneva Call that its motives for improving its respect of humanitarian norms are sincere.

More than 200,000 people are reached by the *Fighter not Killer* campaign launched in July

At a press conference in Goma, Geneva Call launched the *Fighter not Killer* campaign in the DRC, and initiated the broadcast of 10 radio messages on 10 local radio stations. The videos reached more than 25,000 views on social media, the Facebook page had 170,000 visitors and 50,000 people were tuned into the radio when the messages aired.

Moreover, 2 radio documentaries about Geneva Call's humanitarian dialogue with ANSAs were aired on local stations, as were 15 interviews of its staff

discussing points of IHL and their implication for armed groups.

Tribal leaders, community representatives and local organizations support Geneva Call's work

Two representatives of a church and a school liaised with the FDLR and NDC about Geneva Call's engagement with them, whereas tribal leaders in Mahanga helped secure safe access to the FDC and its split factions.

140 officers and combatants attend training sessions on humanitarian norms, including on gender issues, child protection and the conduct of hostilities

Throughout the year, Geneva Call organized training sessions on all of its thematic areas, and on humanitarian norms in general, mainly for ANSA officers but also for combatants, representatives of CSOs and opinion leaders. On these occasions, almost 1,500 booklets and 30 image boxes were distributed for further internal training and dissemination among the ANSAs' rank and file.

Geneva Call reminds ANSAs of the provisions of IHL with regard to hostage-taking and the protection of humanitarian workers

Following reports of increased kidnappings (175 cases in the first quarter of 2016), Geneva Call sent formal letters to the FDLR, APCLS, NDC and NDCR, reminding them of the necessity to respect the relevant provisions of IHL and of the importance of protecting aid workers and medical missions.

Other letters were sent to ANSAs encouraging them to respect the principles of distinction and precaution in IHL, and highlighting the special protection needs of children.

Displacement

Two ANSAs start a dialogue on displacement issues

In several meetings, Geneva Call addressed the issue of displacement with the APCLS and the FDLR. Both have completed a questionnaire designed to assess their knowledge of the issue, their perception of relevant international humanitarian norms and the assistance needs of affected populations. They discussed the ANSAs' positive and negative obligations towards displaced persons and how Geneva Call could contribute to reinforcing their protection.

Training Sessions and Other Events

Type	Contents	ANSAs CBOs/CSOs	No.	Participants	Female Participants
Training of trainers					
Training for ANSA political leadership	Humanitarian norms, child protection, gender issues, protection of education, AP mines with (APCLS and FDLR)	NDC, APCLS, FDLR, FDC, NDCR	7	91	1
Training for fighters	Humanitarian norms	APCLS	1	49	0
Training for CBOs/CSOs	Monitoring activities	Action Humanitaire pour la Consolidation de la Paix et de Développement Intégré (AHCOPDI)	1	2	0
Training for local authorities	Humanitarian norms, child protection, gender issues	Opinion leaders	2	54	2
Total			11	196	3

Challenges

- The ANSAs targeted in the DRC control very remote areas and access to them implies long, hazardous journeys through mountains and forests. Geneva Call staff could only reach these areas by motorbike and long walks, increasing their exposure to security risks. To mitigate these risks, the organization is updating its security mechanisms and improving its staff security training.
- The Congolese government demanded greater control over Geneva Call's operations. Without breaching the confidentiality of its engagements with ANSAs or exposing itself to security risks, Geneva Call regularly shares non-sensitive information about its activities and visits the relevant government ministries.
- With hardly any other protection organizations involved in direct dialogue with ANSAs about respecting IHL, and with civilian populations experiencing an increasing need for protection, Geneva Call will have to strengthen its structure and develop its activities to meet their expectations. As a result, Geneva Call's funding requirements for work in the DRC will undoubtedly increase over the next few years.

SOUTH SUDAN

Overview

Work in South Sudan was first started by Geneva Call in 2001, during the independence-related armed conflict. Since 2015, Geneva Call has considered developing a programme in South Sudan within the context of the armed conflict, which started again in December 2013. After an initial assessment in 2016, in Juba, Geneva Call decided to further explore whether the conditions

EXPENSES IN CHF	
Child protection	2'154
Humanitarian norms	35'096
<i>Overhead</i>	4'409
Total	41'659

were suitable for engagement on humanitarian norms with the SPLM-IO and other ANSAs. Geneva Call primarily worked to develop its contacts with the government and investigate issues surrounding how to register in the country, whether field access was possible and any available options for monitoring.

Since armed conflict erupted again in South Sudan, in December 2013, clashes between government and opposition forces, particularly the SPLM-IO, have continued unabated. Targeted killings, sexual violence, the destruction and looting of property and other violations of humanitarian norms are rampant and have been committed by weapon bearers from all sides. 3 million people have been forced to flee their homes; this includes

 ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine Ban	Child Protection	Gender Issues	Displacement	Humanitarian Norms
Sudan People's Liberation Movement - In Opposition	SPLM-IO					

ANSA engaged on thematic area
 ANSA newly engaged on thematic area in 2016
 Deed of Commitment signed
 Deed of Commitment signed in 2016

Key Achievements

- ✓ meetings held with several governmental institutions and representatives, including the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management; International organizations and UN agencies confirmed Geneva Call's potential added value in South Sudan
- ✓ profiles of the main ANSAs were drawn up and a mapping exercise led to the conclusion that the SPLM-IO should be the main target of Geneva Call's advocacy work once such activities can commence
- ✓ the process of registering Geneva Call's operations has progressed and should be completed in 2017

Context

Following the eruption of armed conflict in South Sudan in December 2013, clashes between government and opposition forces, particularly the SPLM-IO, have continued despite several peace agreements for the cessation of hostilities, including one signed in August 2015. Confrontations occurred across the Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states and killed or injured tens of thousands of people.

In August 2015, under international pressure and following many failed attempts, both sides of the conflict signed a peace agreement. However, implementation of the agreement has been slow, beginning only in April 2016. On the ground, it has been obvious that any concrete implementation of this agreement remains purely hypothetical.

The outbreak of fighting in Juba, in July 2016, confirmed that any reconciliation between President Salva Kiir and the ousted former vice president, Riek Machar, remained far off. As the year ended, it seemed that both leaders were losing control over their own troops, drawing additional competitors into the initial power struggle. The situation in the provinces is certainly as acute as in Juba, but poor access impedes the collection of regular, reliable information. The conflict has been spreading to provinces such as Western and Eastern Equatoria and Western Bar El Gazal – areas previously spared from the hostilities.

Impact on the Civilian Population

The ethnic elements of the current conflict pushed many people to take refuge in UN-protected neutral zones, even though living conditions there are quite harsh and there is no guarantee of being spared by the fighting. Five million people are in critical need of food, and famine has been declared in some areas, with a high risk of a countrywide famine in the future.

Since the resumption of the armed conflict, various human rights organizations and the UN have reported large-scale **IHL** and human rights violations against civilians. Civilians were reportedly not only caught up in the fighting, but directly targeted, often because of their ethnicity.

There have been reports of more than 1.9 million displaced persons within South Sudan (of whom 50% are estimated to be children), in addition to over 1.3 million refugees being hosted in neighbouring countries. The hostilities in July alone caused more than 500 casualties and 40,000 IDPs, in addition to countless violations of IHL.

Children have been particularly vulnerable during this conflict: all types of violations of child protection norms have been widely reported and documented in both UN and NGO reports. Both sides have perpetrated widespread violations, such as the recruitment and use of children (12,000 youths are enrolled as fighters, according to UNICEF), kidnapping, castration, large-scale killing, the gang rape of minors and various other forms of abuse. Education and healthcare infrastructure has been attacked and teachers and medical staff have not been spared when massacres occur. The education and health systems – already extremely poor – have been completely disrupted and can no longer provide even the most basic social services to children.

Sexual violence has been widely reported in all the areas affected by the conflict. As usual, women and girls living in IDP camps and rural areas remain extremely vulnerable to sexual violence, particularly when working in the fields or collecting water or wood. Sexual violence is clearly tacitly approved of within both government forces and affiliated militias as a reward for victory.

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 engaging the movement on humanitarian norms. In 2016, Geneva Call carried out a field visit to South Sudan to explore opportunities for engagement with relevant ANSAs and key constituencies from civil society. However, a very unstable security situation involving violent clashes throughout the country hampered any further development of activities and these were postponed to 2017.

Geneva Call started the process of officially registering itself in South Sudan, which would allow the organization to follow the conflict more closely, adapt its activities when needed, and establish solid partnerships with local or international stakeholders on the ground.

Humanitarian Norms

ANSA profiles have been drawn up and the ground for engagement on humanitarian norms has been prepared

Geneva Call prepared profiles of five active ANSAs in South Sudan and continued updating them on a regular basis. According to its desk assessment, the SPLM-IO is the priority ANSA and should be engaged first.

Throughout 2016, Geneva Call held exchanges with several international organizations, UN agencies and embassies in South Sudan, all of which expressed their support for its future activities in the country.

The registration process in South Sudan progresses

In mid-June, South Sudan published a new NGO Act including rules of operation for international organizations. Geneva Call worked with a specialized lawyer in order to support its official registration in the country, which will allow it to carry out its operations.

Challenges

- The in-country registration process took more time than expected, slowing down the launch of Geneva Call's activities.
- The volatile security context caused the postponement of planned travel, whereas funding constraints limited Geneva Call's ability to further develop its operations.

SUDAN

Overview

Geneva Call's engagement in Sudan dates back to 2001, when the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army signed the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines, during South Sudan's independence-related armed conflict. After the independence of South Sudan in 2011, Geneva Call's activities began to focus progressively on other ANSAs operating in the Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan provinces. It has also focused on child protection, gender issues and humanitarian norms. Geneva Call helps signatories implement the *Deeds of Commitment* and promotes wider humanitarian norms.

EXPENSES IN CHF	
Child protection	45'573
Gender issues	35'336
Humanitarian norms	36'063
Landmine ban	47'838
<i>Overhead</i>	19'506
Total	184'316

Hostilities continue between Sudanese government troops and various ANSAs, mainly the JEM, SLM/A-AW and SLM/A-MM in Darfur, and the SPLM-N in the Blue Nile and South Kordofan provinces. These four ANSAs are currently allied in the Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF). Corroborated sources have repeatedly reported allegations of the recruitment of children, sexual violence, a lack of respect for schools and healthcare services, looting and the destruction of property.

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

ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine Ban	Child Protection	Gender Issues	Displacement	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 People's Liberation Movement-North	SPLM-N	●	●			

ANSA engaged on thematic area
 ANSA newly engaged on thematic area in 2016
 Deed of Commitment signed
 ✓ *Deed of Commitment* signed in 2016

Key Achievements

- ✓ Geneva Call continued its engagement with the JEM, SLM/A-MM, SLM/A-AW and SPLM-N, but was unable to directly visit ANSA-controlled areas in Darfur due to government-imposed restrictions
- ✓ high-level representatives from the JEM, SLM/A-MM and SPLM-N participated in a Geneva Call meeting on child protection, increased their knowledge of child protection norms and made commitments to implement their learnings from the field
- ✓ the SPLM-N signed an Action Plan with the UN to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children in conflict; this would not have been possible without Geneva Call's involvement
- ✓ 30 SPLM-N officers from Blue Nile province were trained regarding the prohibition on recruiting children and the landmine ban, and their awareness of international humanitarian norms was raised
- ✓ 7 representatives of the SPLM-N, based in the EU, increased their knowledge about several humanitarian issues (including displacement, cultural heritage, etc.) at a training event in Geneva
- ✓ 17 civil society actors from Blue Nile, including humanitarian workers and traditional and religious leaders, were trained on how they could support the monitoring of the SPLM-N in respecting its obligations under the *Deeds of Commitment*

Context

Hostilities continue between Sudanese government troops and ANSAs in the Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan provinces. This is despite a ceasefire agreement with the SPLM-N. The fighting has mainly affected the SLM/A-AW strongholds in Djebel Mara. According to reports, the conflict has killed more than 100,000 civilians and forced more than 3 million people to flee their homes. There have been repeated allegations of sexual violence, the recruitment of children, a 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 remain 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 provinces) opposes the SAF and the SPLM-N. The SPLM-N grouped its forces with the other main Darfuri ANSAs in late 2011 to form the Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF).

The armed conflict in South Sudan is linked to the Sudanese situation and complicates the overall picture. Furthermore, any peace agreement would need to be in accord with the regional interests of Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. Tensions within the Sudanese regime itself – between the members of the SRF and between the region’s many ethnic groups and tribes – continue to jeopardize the unity needed to win the war decisively on either side, and an end to the conflict is nowhere in sight. Currently, the relatively low level of international interest in the region means that the hostilities in Darfur and South Kordofan/Blue Nile have become forgotten conflicts.

Sudanese government policy states that humanitarian assistance must be channelled through its authorities and territory. This imposes drastic limitations on international humanitarian organizations seeking direct access to the civilians affected by the conflict.

Impact on the Civilian Population

Both sides of the conflict allegedly used AP mines in Sudan, though not on a significant scale. 2016 was the third consecutive year without any new documented incidents involving AP mines. All the incidents recorded were due to unexploded objects, explosive remnants of war or sub-munitions from cluster bombs.

The recruitment and use of **children** in Sudan’s armed conflict have been widely reported. The UN has accused all four ANSAs of recruiting and using children and exposing them to the risks related to military action. Although all the SRF’s movements firmly claim to be respecting child protection norms, they admit that defining a child’s age (less than 18 years old) is sometimes difficult, that joining an ANSA can constitute a young person’s only option for survival in such a context, and that the children themselves therefore insist on remaining associated with these armed groups.

Various humanitarian organizations have reported that women and girls living in camps for IDPs and in rural areas remain extremely vulnerable to **sexual violence**, particularly when working in the fields or collecting water or wood. Responsible parties often include men from the SAF and from militias and rebel groups, who predominantly target women and girls. Even if sexual violence is not used as a strategy of war, the number of incidents remains very high. Reliable data, however, is difficult to collect: neutral witnesses retain very limited access to the conflict zones, and the prevailing cultural taboos prevent victims from declaring incidents in order to avoid social stigmatization and exclusion.

In terms of gender equality, although all the SRF’s ANSAs claim to be open and proactive, with 25%–30% of their political and military leadership being women, tangible improvements remain modest. The number of female combatants is unknown and very few women hold top leadership positions. Deeply anchored cultural values jeopardize any progress on this issue, especially in remote rural areas, and the SRF’s ANSAs can easily hide behind this socio-cultural obstacle as an excuse.

In addition to the many humanitarian abuses mentioned above, **IHL** is regularly violated by all the parties to the conflict. The SRF and SAF reciprocally accuse each other of killing UN peace-keeping staff, but no definitive enquiry has managed to confirm these allegations. The looting and destruction of civilian property, schools and hospitals, attacks on civilian areas and numerous civilian casualties are only some of the examples of violations of IHL. Recent allegations have mainly been attributed to government troops and militias.

Operations and Achievements

Logic of Intervention

Geneva Call's engagement with ANSAs involved in the armed conflicts in the Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan provinces is a logical continuation of its engagement with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) during South Sudan's independence-related armed conflict.

Exploratory meetings with ANSAs in Darfur progressively examined the AP mine ban, child protection, gender issues and humanitarian norms. In 2010, the JEM was engaged by 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. All four of the SRF's ANSA members are now signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines. They also recognize the importance of child protection, gender issues and abiding by humanitarian norms, and they are ready to move forward on these issues. The SPLM-N became a signatory to the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict in 2015.

Due to security constraints and restricted access to the field, activities (meetings, training sessions or monitoring) involving ANSAs were difficult to implement, especially with the Darfuri groups (JEM, SLM/A-AW and SLM/A-MM). This situation also limited the possibilities of working with CBOs/CSOs, which can often act as intermediaries for the promotion of humanitarian norms and monitor compliance with the *Deeds of Commitment*. Although Geneva Call focused on monitoring Darfuri ANSAs' compliance with the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines, it also provided training on humanitarian norms for their European-based leadership.

Landmine Ban

The SPLM-N is still committed to destroying its two remaining stockpiles of AP mines

Since the destruction of 211 AP mines in 2015, the SPLM-N reiterated its intention to destroy, in 2016, the remainder of two stockpiles that it had seized during fighting. Geneva Call liaised with the SPLM-N's own mine unit and specialized international mine action organizations to facilitate this. However, due to access issues, the planned destruction was unable

to happen and no field visits were conducted after March 2016.

Restricted field access in Darfur and security constraints hinder the monitoring of signatories' compliance with the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines

Implementing monitoring activities on the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines remained very difficult as the Sudanese government restricted all access to the Darfur region for international organizations, and continued to refuse visas for Geneva Call staff. As a result, the organization was unable to visit fighters from the JEM, SLM/A-MM and SLM/A-AW in the field. Instead, Geneva Call staff met the political leaders of the first two ANSAs in Europe to discuss the implementation of their commitments.

In Blue Nile and South Kordofan the National Human Rights Monitors Organization (NHRMO), with which Geneva Call often cooperates, provided regular monitoring reports to support Geneva Call's dialogue with ANSAs.

Child Protection

30 SPLM-N officers from Blue Nile province are trained regarding the prohibition on recruiting children and the landmine ban

In March, Geneva Call held its first training session for 30 SPLM-N officers and fighters operating in the isolated Blue Nile province. Geneva Call presented the main rules contained in the *Deeds of Commitment* signed by the SPLM-N, and particularly raised the issue of the prohibition of recruiting children under 18 years old.

During the discussions, the SPLM-N leaders in Blue Nile province reaffirmed their refusal to use children in hostilities. However, they recognized the difficulties that exist when it comes to evaluating the age of new recruits. Geneva Call will keep encouraging the SPLM-N to train its fighters on this rule and to implement an age-checking process in military camps, at check points and on the frontlines.

The SPLM-N finalize its implementation plan

Following a September workshop with the SPLM-N leadership, based in Europe, work on the

implementation plan for the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict progressed; it is now awaiting final validation by the SPLM-N's top leaders.

The SPLM-N also reaffirmed the importance of protecting schools and educational services. This group controls wide territories and its implementation of child protection norms can have a huge impact on civilian populations.

The SPLM-N signs an Action Plan with the UN to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict

During the ANSA meeting in Geneva, the SPLM-N met with UN representatives to sign an Action Plan committing the group to ending and preventing the recruitment and use of children, and to ensuring their release. This would involve the SPLM-N issuing and disseminating military orders to that effect. The Plan also included a pledge to facilitate the reintegration of children into their communities.

After the signing of Geneva Call's *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict, the Action Plan was SPLM-N's second step towards respecting child protection norms. Geneva Call was pleased to see this happen following five years of humanitarian dialogue with the ANSA on the issue of child protection.

The JEM, SLM/A-MM and SPLM-N attend the ANSA meeting on child protection

In November, the JEM, SLM/A-MM and SPLM-N joined other ANSAs in Geneva to discuss international norms and mechanisms protecting children in armed conflict. They also looked at more specific issues, such as methods to assess the age of new recruits and the release and reintegration of child soldiers into civilian life. The Sudanese ANSAs shared their experiences and the challenges they face, particularly those relating to assessing the age of voluntary recruits.

Gender Issues

Geneva Call decides to postpone new signings of the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination

Due to the limited access to Sudan and the resulting difficulties in monitoring ANSA compliance with the *Deeds of Commitment*, Geneva Call decided not to pursue new signatures from the Sudanese ANSAs.

Humanitarian norms related to the prohibition of sexual violence and against gender discrimination were nevertheless presented and discussed at all meetings and training events, including with tribal leaders and CSOs.

Humanitarian Norms

30 SPLM-N officers from the Blue Nile area increase their knowledge of humanitarian norms

During the training event held in March in Blue Nile province, Geneva Call explained the basic rules of international humanitarian law by using the educational materials from its *Fighter not Killer* campaign.

17 representatives of CBOs and local leaders are trained

In March, Geneva Call trained 17 civil society actors from Blue Nile province, including humanitarian workers and traditional and religious leaders, on how they could support the monitoring of the SPLM-N in respecting its obligations under the *Deeds of Commitment*.

Training Sessions and Other Events

Type	Contents	ANSAs CBOs/CSOs	No.	Participants	Female Participants
Training of trainers					
Training for ANSA political leadership	<i>Deeds of Commitment</i> , humanitarian norms	SPLM-N	1	7	
Training for fighters	<i>Deeds of Commitment</i> , humanitarian norms	SPLM-N	1	30	2
Training for CBOs/CSOs	Introduction to Geneva Call, <i>Deeds of Commitment</i> , humanitarian norms	Traditional leaders, representatives of youth and women	1	17	2
Training for local authorities					
Total			3	54	4

Challenges

- Access to the Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan provinces remained the biggest challenge, and jeopardized Geneva Call's ability to be close to the ANSAs and the civilian populations and explore possibilities for closer, direct monitoring. Geneva Call will continue its lobbying activities with the Sudanese government in order to secure the necessary visas and access moving forward.

WESTERN SAHARA

Overview

Geneva Call has been working in Western Sahara and the Sahrawi refugee camps in Algeria since 2000. 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.

The armed conflict over Western Sahara broke out in 1975 between Morocco, Mauritania and the Polisario Front. Since the 1991 ceasefire, however, Western Sahara's status has remained a point of contention between Morocco and the Polisario Front. As a result of the 1975–91 armed conflict, 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.

EXPENSES IN CHF	
Landmine ban	36'580
Overhead	4'329
Total	40'909

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	•				

ANSA engaged on thematic area
 ANSA newly engaged on thematic area in 2016
 Deed of Commitment signed
 ✓ *Deed of Commitment* signed in 2016

Context

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

In June 2015, the Polisario Front declared its commitment to respect the Geneva Conventions; this was accepted by the Swiss government, the depositary of the Geneva Conventions. After the death of the Polisario Front's historic leader, Mohamed Abdelaziz, on 30 May 2016, Brahim Ghali was appointed to the dual role of president of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) and secretary general of the Polisario Front. Although Ghali is considered a pro-war militant and has a controversial judicial past, he will hold these positions

until what would have been the end of Abdelaziz's mandate, in 2018.

Impact on the Civilian Population

Western Sahara is heavily contaminated by **AP mines** and ERW. Despite the long ceasefire, there has still been no agreement on how to reduce or clear the 5-km-wide strip of mined land located on the Sahrawi side of the Berm. There are regular accidents involving herdsman and their cattle on this eastern side of the Berm. However, the latest available figures from the Landmine Monitor reported 23 casualties in 2013, 19 of which occurred in Moroccan-controlled areas west of the Berm.

Although the Polisario Front had announced that its last stock of 332 AP mines was destroyed in 2014, another 3,000 units were destroyed in February 2015. Even after this operation, however, the Polisario Front supposedly still had an additional stockpile. The true number of AP mines in that remaining stockpile has not yet been confirmed, nor has the planned date of its final destruction.

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 Front's implementation of the *Deed of Commitment* in conjunction with its local partner, the Sahrawi Campaign to Ban Landmines (SCBL). Together, they continue to urge the Polisario Front to complete the destruction of any AP mine stocks that it may still possess, in compliance with the *Deed*. On a positive note, between 2006 and 2015, the Polisario Front did destroy more than 13,000 stockpiled AP mines with technical assistance from specialized organizations like UNMAS, Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) and Mine Tech. By January 2014, AOA had cleared more than 26,000 km² of land and destroyed 20,000 items of ERW, including cluster munitions.

Geneva Call also promotes 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 by Geneva Call in cooperation with the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo. Following this initial course, a number of

training of trainers sessions took place at the Military Academy in the Rabouni refugee camp, near Tindouf (south Algeria) in February 2015.

Landmine Ban

The Polisario Front has yet to share precise figures of remaining stockpiles

Despite several attempts throughout 2016 to get in touch with the new president and his minister of defense, successor to the late Lamine Bouhali, Geneva Call has been unable to obtain a figure for the number of remaining AP mines kept in the Front's stockpiles.

Due to the current stability in the area, Geneva Call is adapting its programme in Western Sahara. The organization nevertheless stayed in contact with the Sahrawi Mine Action Coordination Centre (SMACO) and with Polisario Front representatives in Geneva. It thus continued to request compliance reports on the *Deed of Commitment* and to pursue the destruction of the remaining stockpiles of AP mines. Although little concrete progress was made in 2016, Geneva Call received assurances that the Polisario Front was committed to respecting its humanitarian obligations in the near future.

Challenges

- Obtaining exact figures for the AP mine stockpiles currently held by the Polisario Front remained challenging; Geneva Call will continue its attempts to follow up on this issue with the Polisario Front's high-level representatives.

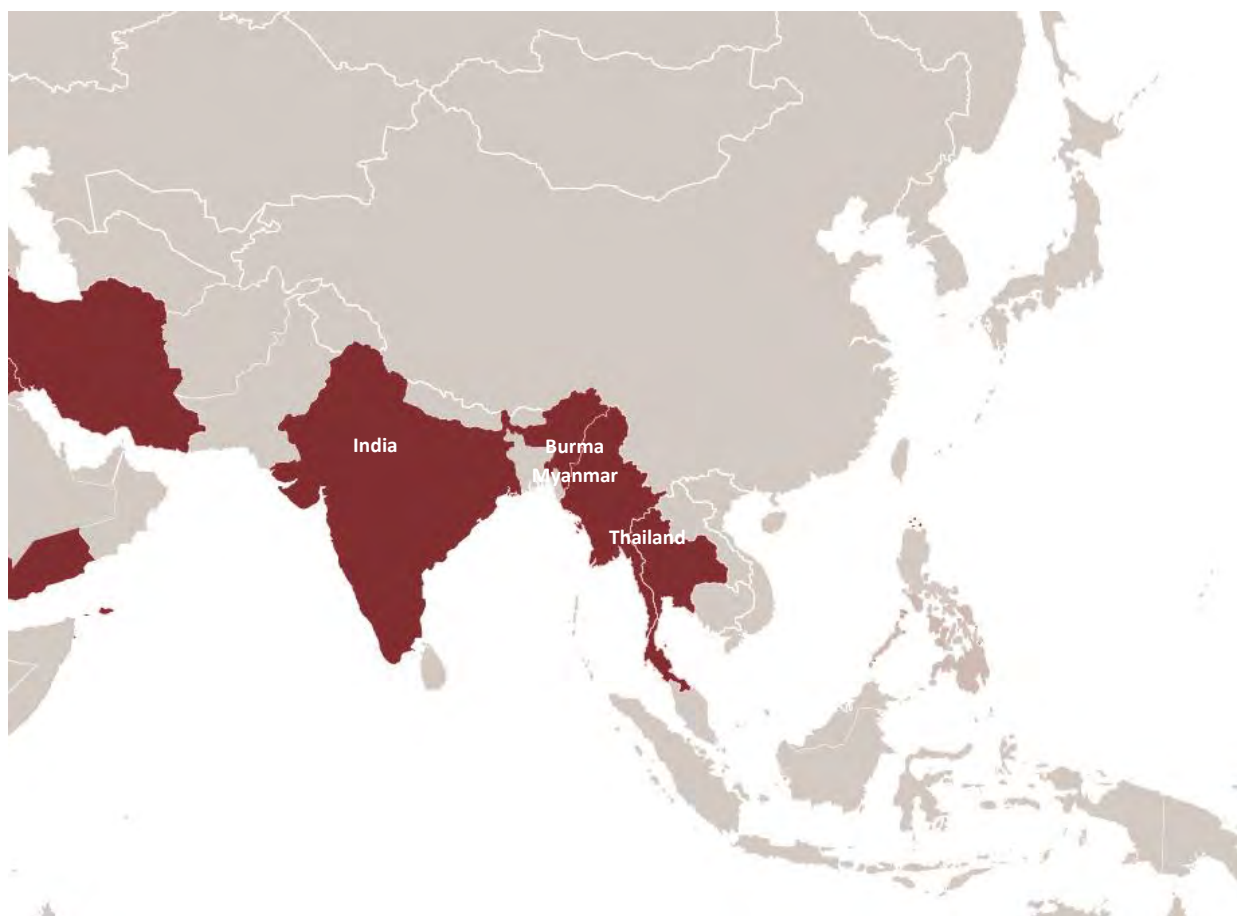
ASIA

Expenses in CHF

EXPENSES IN CHF	
Child protection	108'478
Gender issues	191'283
Humanitarian norms	124'899
Landmine ban	154'538
<i>Overhead</i>	68'551
Total	647'749



School children inspect the rubble of a school which was set alight. Thailand, 2010. © 2010 Bede Sheppard / Human Rights Watch



Regional Coordination

In order to ensure that Geneva Call's interventions in different regions remain significant and of high quality, coordination and management activities took place independently of purely field-related work. Whether at headquarters or in the regions, this coordination required participation in desk monitoring meetings, internal coordination meetings, information sharing among operational units, or working towards specific advocacy or fundraising goals. Regional coordination

EXPENSES IN CHF	
Child protection	12'607
Gender issues	25'439
Humanitarian norms	24'318
Landmine ban	39'650
<i>Overhead</i>	12'074
Total	114'088

and development also aimed to continually 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.

Constant monitoring of country-specific and regional developments in conflict situations was essential to the implementation of relevant and timely activities. Regional programmes thus carefully analyzed the conflicts affecting their region and their impacts on civilian populations. At the same time, regional teams kept track of IHL and IHRL violations committed by the ANSAs present, whether or not they were engaged in a dialogue with Geneva Call, although ANSAs signatory to the *Deeds of Commitment* were especially closely monitored. Indeed, signatory ANSAs conducting only very limited military operations and which were no longer expected to have a severe impact on civilians weren't necessarily engaged in in-depth humanitarian dialogue. However, their compliance with the *Deeds of Commitment* remained a priority for Geneva Call and was therefore monitored. Assessments were conducted to evaluate Geneva Call's potential added value and to determine its logic of intervention. With regard to **Pakistan**, Geneva Call's desk assessment identified very significant humanitarian needs but also the necessity to undertake a thorough exploration of possible entry points into this complex and challenging environment. Although one ANSA based in Pakistan showed interest in initiating a dialogue with Geneva Call on the respect of humanitarian norms, no activities were initiated in 2016 due to lack of available funds.

In 2016, Geneva Call decided to scale back its programme in the **Philippines** as the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)—the main ANSA engaged by Geneva Call in the Philippines—is currently involved in a peace process, and the signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines have indeed ended their AP mine use. This does not signal an end to Geneva Call's interest in the situation there, as the organization will continue to track developments in the country and monitor the signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines. Given that Geneva Call has been working in the country since 2000, this situation is an excellent opportunity to undertake a holistic evaluation of its work in this particular context. This was initially planned for the latter part of 2016, but due to funding constraints, it will now be conducted in 2017.

Regular communication with high-level stakeholders such as ANSA leaderships, State authorities, and political and religious leaders took place to secure appropriate support for planned operations. The Head of Region or team members also represented Geneva Call in regional forums and other venues. They actively contributed to public communication and awareness raising about the organization's work in a way that reinforced its influence, access and response to conflict. The development of a network of high-level regional stakeholders was constant, and sustainable partnerships were built and nurtured with other (local or international) organizations with the aim of facilitating and strengthening Geneva Call's work in the field.

Given the volatile and potentially dangerous contexts in which Geneva Call operates, security concerns continued to be of the utmost importance; thus, security and safety assessments and monitoring were conducted frequently.


BURMA/MYANMAR

Overview

Geneva Call has been active in Burma/Myanmar since 2003. Although it initially focused on engaging ANSAs in dialogue towards a ban on AP mines, and promoting and facilitating mine action – work that is ongoing – it now also seeks to raise awareness and to secure commitments on humanitarian norms protecting children in armed conflict, prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination.

EXPENSES IN CHF	
Child protection	70'843
Gender issues	127'830
Landmine ban	84'979
Overhead	33'572
Total	317'224

The new National League for Democracy (NLD) government took power in March 2016, and has sought to build on its predecessor's achievements, but by pursuing a different approach. It held a major meeting, the "21st Century Panglong Conference," in August and September. The conference was open to ANSAs that had signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) and to many – but not all – that had yet to do so. Despite the majority of ANSAs being in ceasefire agreements with the government and/or participating in the peace process, fighting continues to sporadically occur between government forces and ANSAs in various locations. More recently, there have also been clashes between ANSAs.

 ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine Ban	Child Protection	Gender Issues	Displacement	Humanitarian Norms
Chin National Front/Army	CNF/CNA	•	•	•		
Kachin Independence Organization/Army	KIO/KIA					
Karen National Union/ Karen National Liberation Army	KNU/KNLA		•	•		
Karenni National Progressive Party/ Karenni Army	KNPP/KA		•			
Democratic Karen Benevolent Army	DKBA					
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					

ANSA engaged on thematic area
 ANSA newly engaged on thematic area in 2016
 • Deed of Commitment signed
 ✓ Deed of Commitment signed in 2016

Key Achievements

- ✓ the KNU addressed challenges related to the dissemination of humanitarian norms and provided clarifications about allegations of child recruitment, whereas the PSLF clarified the misunderstanding on its alleged use of claymore mines
- ✓ the RCSS remained committed to signing the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict in conjunction with the ILO's Declaration of Forced Labour
- ✓ mine action activities were extended to Kachin and northern and southern Shan State
- ✓ 4 ANSAs were newly engaged on gender issues, and 1 on child protection
- ✓ 75 ANSA fighters increased their knowledge about humanitarian norms in 3 training sessions focusing on the ban on AP mines, the protection of children, the prohibition of sexual violence and the issue of gender discrimination
- ✓ 247 women, representing different ethnic CBOs, participated in workshops addressing humanitarian norms, the contents of the *Deeds of Commitment*, and how they could contribute to disseminating these norms and monitoring their respect by ANSAs

Context

The new National League for Democracy (NLD) government took power in March 2016, and has sought to build on the achievements of its predecessor, but by pursuing a different approach. It held a major meeting, the “21st Century Panglong Conference,” in August and September. The conference was open to ANSAs that had signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), and to many – but not all – that had yet to do so. Although the conference did not yield any substantive decisions, it did provide an opportunity for a vast range of stakeholders to express their views. It was reported that a follow-up conference will take place in early 2017, but at the time of writing, it is not clear whether or how it will function as a decision-making forum.

Despite the majority of ANSAs being in ceasefire agreements with the government, and most of these being a part of the peace process, fighting continued to sporadically occur between government forces and ANSAs in various locations. More recently, there have also been clashes between ANSAs.

Impact on the Civilian Population

Mines/ERW remained a major source of concern in an estimated 10 out of Burma/Myanmar’s 14 regions/states. In 2014, Burma/Myanmar’s 251 reported mine victims gave the country the dubious distinction of having the third highest reported number of new victims in the world. In 2016, reports indicated a sharp increase in landmine incidents in northern Shan State, despite the commitments of armed actors not to use these devices. By July 2016, 14 such incidents had already resulted in 12 civilian deaths and 29 injuries. By comparison, in all of 2015, eight documented incidents had led to four deaths and 18 injuries. This spike in reported incidents strongly suggests that they were not the legacy of previous mine use but were a direct result of ongoing and active mine use in northern Shan State.

ANSAs explain their use of mines by the fact that it gives them a means to impede the presence of government forces in their areas of operation.

Because they are not confident in the sustainability of the peace process, ANSAs remain reluctant to abandon any weapons. However, although most ANSAs are not yet supportive of mine surveys and clearance in dangerous areas, most of them welcome mine-risk education (MRE).

Children have borne a disproportionate burden of these intractable conflicts. Among the myriad abuses they have suffered, children in Burma/Myanmar’s ethnic states have been killed, maimed, tortured and forced to be soldiers. Based on reports of the alleged recruitment and use of children, the military and seven ANSAs have been included on the UN Secretary General’s list of Parties to Conflict Who Commit Grave Violations Against Children.

Despite an ongoing lack of reliable data about conflict-related **sexual violence** in Burma/Myanmar, it remained among the most egregious violations inflicted upon civilian populations during the conflict. Tatmadaw (Myanmar Armed Forces) personnel have reportedly been the main perpetrators of rape and sexual violence in conflicted-affected communities, and this has continued to be the case, despite the ongoing peace process. Much less is known about the sexual violence-related behaviour of ANSAs, probably due to both the social taboos about the issue and the partial and state-focused nature of the research and advocacy efforts related to it.

In both ethnic majority and minority areas, women have experienced high levels of discrimination. As a result, the perceived and expected roles and responsibilities of women have been profoundly shaped by endemic discrimination. This trend appears to be reflected in ANSA structures and conduct, as women rarely attain leadership roles. As a result, women have not regularly participated in the peace process and have often been absent from any talks that have occurred.

Operations and Achievements

Logic of Intervention

Geneva Call has engaged ANSAs operating in Burma/Myanmar on humanitarian norms regarding AP mines and mine action since 2003. Activities have also been conducted to encourage and increase the capacity of CBOs to address the consequences of landmines. Geneva Call has sought to work with ANSAs – and associated CSOs – towards the expansion of mine action while continuing to emphasize that the mine issue will only fully be addressed when all actors renounce their use of such devices and cooperate on their clearance. In 2015, a partnership was established between Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), the Danish Demining Group (DDG) and the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) to reinforce advocacy on mine action.

Since 2010, Geneva Call has also engaged ANSAs on improving the protection of children in armed conflict. This is done by raising awareness amongst ANSAs about related humanitarian norms and exploring the possibility of making commitments and establishing compliance. Geneva Call has ensured that its role is complementary to, and in coordination with, child-protection agencies. To date, five ANSAs have signed the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children.

Since 2010, two ANSAs – the CNF/CNA and KNU/KNLA – have been engaged by Geneva Call on issues of sexual violence and gender discrimination. They have notably addressed these issues within the context of the ongoing peace process. As this work was extended to include other ANSAs, Geneva Call has aimed to improve ANSA 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 have been important partners.

Landmine Ban

ANSAs allow mine action activities in their areas

MRE has been extended to ANSA-controlled areas of Kachin State, northern and southern Shan State, Kayah State and Kayin State, as well as to areas of mixed control throughout other conflict-affected areas of Burma/Myanmar, including the Bago and Thanintharyi divisions. The ANSAs cooperating with international actors to permit or facilitate MRE include the KIO, KNPP, KNU, PNLO and DKBA.

The KNU gave its agreement for non-technical surveys (NTS) of more than 20 villages in Karen State. However, as government approval could not be secured, these activities did not start in 2016. Though its activities focused on government-controlled areas, the MAG launched NTS in Kayah State in July 2016, reportedly with permission from the KNPP. Karen ANSAs also participated in mine risk working groups at the state level. The KNU started considering demining in Kayin State but stated that it first needed to develop its own policy on clearance.

Geneva Call continued to raise the issue of AP mines and the importance of mine action in all its meetings with ANSAs and to build relations with mine action agencies.

Signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* were monitored

Allegations about the PSLF/TNLA's use of mines were investigated, and Geneva Call urged the ANSA to publically reaffirm its commitment to ceasing their use. Geneva Call pursued enquiries about allegations of mine use made against the PSLF/TNLA and has requested that the parties concerned agree to facilitate a field-level investigation. Although the PSLF/TNLA agreed, a response from the government was not forthcoming.

The PSLF/TNLA asked Geneva Call to meet its leadership and train its military commanders in order to align their knowledge of the *Deed of Commitment*.

Geneva Call did not receive any word of mine use allegations by the CNF, but nevertheless planned to visit Chin State in 2016 for an activity focusing on all three of Geneva Call's areas of humanitarian focus. Despite the CNF's cooperation in organizing a visit and a workshop, it requested a last-minute postponement until early 2017. Both have since been further stalled due to political tensions.

CSOs support Geneva Call's mine work in Burma/Myanmar

At several workshops with CSOs from different ethnic groups, Geneva Call explained its activities and the objectives of humanitarian mine action. It encouraged several women's organizations to become involved in mine action and strengthened their capacity to assist with monitoring and victim assistance. To further this progress, Geneva Call has helped link CSOs active in

ANSA areas to the international mine action agencies based in Yangon.

Geneva Call's added value in the country is appreciated by international stakeholders

Geneva Call continued to liaise with all the HMA organizations operating in Burma/Myanmar, facilitated contacts with CSOs involved in mine action – particularly on victim assistance – and advised them on the complexities of the ethnic contexts and on aspects of the conflict-sensitivity involved in their work. An unofficial mine action network has developed and participants agreed to meet and exchange ideas whenever Geneva Call visits Yangon.

UNICEF informed Geneva Call that its video, *Invisible Enemies*, continued to be a key tool in state-level mine risk meetings with different stakeholders. The DDG also uses the video and requested that Geneva Call provide an improved Myanmar-language version of the existing film or, if possible, create a wholly updated version for use in advocacy activities throughout Burma/Myanmar.

Mid-level DKBA representatives participate in a workshop on humanitarian norms

After in-depth meetings with the DKBA, Geneva Call conducted a workshop on international humanitarian norms with 20 senior and mid-level DKBA members and members of CBOs working in DKBA-controlled areas. With the support of Save the Children, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and Danish Church Aid, Geneva Call highlighted different humanitarian issues, particularly those related to the ban on AP mines, child protection and gender issues. The contents of the *Deeds of Commitment* were explained and the participants developed a series of concrete suggestions to guide the DKBA towards better cooperation on humanitarian issues.

Child Protection

Geneva Call concludes an investigation into allegations against the KNU

Following an investigation into allegations of child recruitment by the KNU, the ANSA shared an internal report with Geneva Call, which identified the individual in question as a soldier well over 18 years old. The report cited the soldier, his mother, his commanding officer and an outside human rights group, all of whom indicated that the matter had been resolved to the satisfaction of all involved.

Geneva Call decided no further action was necessary. The KNU now plans to set up an internal mechanism to address allegations as they arise.

The KNU facilitated and supported awareness-raising activities by Save the Children after Geneva Call established contact between them. The KNU has agreed, in principle, to several key implementation measures for 2017, including: more training sessions, steps to mainstream the *Deeds of Commitment* into the basic training of all military personnel and measures to improve the efficiency and efficacy of internal KNU monitoring procedures.

Monitoring the signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict was ongoing in 2016. With the exception of the CNF, which seems to lack ownership of the *Deed*, the signatories made progress towards the implementation of their obligations.

The RCSS is ready to sign the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict

During a discussion with the RCSS chairman and a representative of its Foreign Affairs Committee, the group suggested a meeting with senior leaders of its military and political wings. In cooperation with the ILO, Geneva Call staged a full-day discussion on child protection norms and the content of the *Deed of Commitment*, as well as of the ILO's Declaration to Prohibit Forced Labour, which prohibits the use and recruitment of children. This Declaration was intended to be signed and jointly implemented with the *Deed*. However, given that the Declaration did not receive a green light from the government, none of the commitments were signed in 2016. Despite this delay, the RCSS was encouraged to start its implementation planning.

Gender Issues

The KNU addresses the challenges of disseminating the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination

In the midst of an intensive peace process, the KNU faced challenges disseminating the rules contained in the *Deed of Commitment*. To help overcome this, Geneva Call – with KNU facilitation and in close cooperation with Save the Children – gave a training session on the *Deed of Commitment* for one of the brigades in the KNU's armed wing, the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA). The training session was the first of its kind to target 40 battalion-level officers within a single brigade.

The KNU and Geneva Call also shared concerns about insufficient understanding of the KNU's obligations under the *Deed of Commitment* on the community level. To address this, Geneva Call and its partner organization, the Karen Women's Organisation (KWO), staged a workshop in February to train 39 Karen female activists from a range of geographical areas. Upon their return home, these women will raise awareness about the *Deed of Commitment* at the community level.

Engagement on gender issues is extended to eight ANSAs

As for its work among the non-signatory ANSAs, Geneva Call deepened its engagement with the NMSP in early 2016. Cooperating closely with the Mon Women's Network (MWN), Geneva Call conducted a gender workshop in Mon State for 30 NMSP leaders in March. This allowed them to study the *Deed of Commitment* and carefully consider its standards alongside NMSP policies and practices.

The RCSS shared a letter with Geneva Call reiterating its commitment to help the organization coordinate a workshop on gender issues for Shan women. Geneva Call also presented its gender work in constructive meetings with the SSPP, KIO, DKBA and KNPP.

Geneva Call deepens its understanding of barriers to gender equality in Burma/Myanmar

Geneva Call convened a meeting in Chiang Mai for women leaders from ANSAs and ethnic CSOs to share their experiences and perspectives and to identify the specific challenges facing women. The participants also explored how these might be overcome and how Geneva Call might better support efforts to bring about change.

Throughout 2016, Geneva Call met with ethnic and local CBOs and organized workshops to coordinate dissemination activities to provide further information on the prohibition of sexual violence and to strengthen their monitoring capacities.

Training Sessions and Other Events

Type	Contents	ANSAs CBOs/CSOs	No.	Participants	Female Participants
Training of trainers	Child protection, gender issues, <i>Deeds of Commitment</i>	KWO	1	40	40
Training for fighters	AP mines, child protection, gender issues, <i>Deeds of Commitment</i>	DKBA, NMSP, KNU	3	75	15
Training for CBOs/CSOs	AP mines, child protection, gender issues, <i>Deeds of Commitment</i>	Palaung Women, Kachin Women, Kachin CBOs, Mon Women	5	251	247
Training for local authorities					
Total			9	366	302

Challenges

- Securing government approval for demining continued to be challenging, as did gaining trust from ANSAs regarding demining activities, especially given their fear that the proposal to start with roads was a military strategy.
- Since its signature of the *Deeds of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict and prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination, the CNF has reportedly made little progress towards the *Deeds'* implementation. Geneva Call suspects that its leaders have not made the *Deeds* a priority. The CNF's leadership acknowledges that there have been challenges in communicating the *Deeds* to military and political personnel and in finalizing plans for implementation. A December 2016 workshop in Chin State, designed to address these challenges, was postponed at the last second at the CNF's request. Geneva Call is prepared to move ahead with this activity whenever the stakeholders are available and the security situation permits.
- Establishing an understanding and acceptance of Geneva Call's work with the new government was a top priority in 2016, and Geneva Call will continue towards this goal in 2017.
- It was difficult to maintain regular engagements with ANSAs at a time when the ongoing peace process and (mainly non-humanitarian) interventions by other stakeholders consumed most of Geneva Call's interlocutors' time.


INDIA

Overview

Geneva Call has been engaging with ANSAs in India since 2002, principally 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. Because of difficulties obtaining access to the country, Geneva Call currently conducts all of its activities outside of India or indirectly through local CBOs/CSOs.

EXPENSES IN CHF	
Child protection	25'028
Gender issues	38'014
Landmine ban	29'909
Overhead	11'001
Total	103'952

The security situation in the north-east remains complex and volatile. Dozens of ANSAs remain active in the region, particularly in Assam, Manipur and Nagaland. The government's "Look East Policy," as well as its increased military offensives against ANSAs in Assam, may lead to significant changes in the conflict situation. In central India, the communist insurgency continued to take a heavy toll on the civilian population. Civilians suffer directly from the conflict between government forces and ANSAs, and/or from conflicts between the ANSAs themselves, with regularly reported allegations of IHL violations, including the use of children in hostilities, sexual violence and the use of AP mines.

 ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine Ban	Child Protection	Gender Issues	Displacement	Humanitarian Norms
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)	NSCM-IM	•		•		
Revolutionary People's Front/ People's Liberation Army	RPF/PLA					
United National Liberation Front	UNLF					
Zomi Re-Unification Organisation	ZRO	•	✓	•		

ANSA engaged on thematic area
 ANSA newly engaged on thematic area in 2016
 Deed of Commitment signed
 Deed of Commitment signed in 2016

Achievements

- ✓ the ZRO signed the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict
- ✓ signatory ANSAs took concrete measures in line with the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination
- ✓ targeted ANSAs were engaged, either directly or indirectly, on all thematic issues; signatory ANSAs reported on compliance
- ✓ 13 members of 7 Naga CSOs learned about humanitarian norms and established a project of collective community dissemination



Context

The security situation in the north-east is complex and volatile. Dozens of ANSAs, often rooted in tribal communities, remained active there, particularly in Assam, Manipur and Nagaland. The government’s “Look East Policy,” represented by the mid-2015 Framework Agreement signed with the NSCN-IM, was designed to end the conflict in Nagaland. This policy was made following renewed military offensives against ANSAs in Assam, which aimed to bring about decisive changes in the conflict situation. However, details of the peace agreement with the NSCN-IM have been vague, and the potential inclusion of other Naga-dominated areas in neighbouring states has created additional tensions between communities. In central India, the communist insurgency continued to take a heavy toll on the civilian population.

Impact on the Civilian Population

Civilians continued to suffer directly from the conflict between government forces and ANSAs, and/or between the ANSAs themselves. Allegations of IHL violations were regularly reported, including the use of children in hostilities, sexual violence and, less frequently, the use of AP mines. In the 2000s, various ANSAs were reported to have

used AP mines in the north-east. Since 2012, however, there have been far fewer reports of AP mine use, and this can certainly be partially attributed to Geneva Call’s humanitarian engagement with ANSAs on this topic. The Communist Party of India (Maoist) was reported to be using IEDs in the central states, but information suggests that these were mostly command-detonated in ambushes. As mine use was generally sporadic, a mine action strategy and its related development has not been considered necessary by the central government or the administrations in affected states.

There have been allegations that ANSAs in every theatre of conflict in India use, recruit and associate with children. Ad hoc and limited efforts to address this situation have been largely driven by civil society actors, and as yet there is no comprehensive approach to it.

Following some recent high-profile incidents in India, sexual violence has now been acknowledged as a real problem. Although data is sparse, it is apparent that it is also prevalent in conflict-affected areas. Of course, this is by no means a new phenomenon but, as in many contexts, it is not openly discussed. Efforts to address the issue have focused on seeking to restore



Operations and Achievements

Logic of Intervention

Geneva Call has been engaging 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 from 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 takes place outside of the country or indirectly through local CBOs/CSOs. These organizations provide the necessary support for carrying out advocacy work and follow-up for all the *Deeds of Commitment*.

Landmine Ban

Targeted ANSAs are engaged on the AP mine ban and other humanitarian norms

Geneva Call engaged ANSAs both directly (through meetings or correspondence) and indirectly (through partners). The organization was thus able to reach out to targeted ANSAs and discuss relevant issues, and local partners, including new ones, conveyed messages to ANSAs which could not be met directly.

Geneva Call’s irregular presence in the field impeded any direct communication with representatives of the RPF/PLA, UNLF or NSCN-K, making any deeper engagement with those ANSAs very difficult.

13 members of Naga CSOs learn about humanitarian norms and commit to promoting them widely

At a 3-day workshop, Geneva Call trained 13 representatives of seven different ethnic Naga CSOs on the legal frameworks surrounding the ban on AP

mines, child protection, the prohibition of sexual violence, and IHL. They also learned about the contents of the *Deeds of Commitment*. The workshop was designed to introduce Naga civil society to Geneva Call's mission and activities, and to explore possibilities for greater cooperation and collaboration in future, particularly with regard to Geneva Call's ongoing engagement with ANSAs active in and around Nagaland.

A follow-up meeting, in June, provided an opportunity to deepen these discussions with some of the CSOs and to identify strategies for the dissemination of humanitarian norms in these communities. The participants established a collective community dissemination project for 2017, which Geneva Call will support.

Child Protection

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

In March, the ZRO became the third Indian ANSA to sign the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict. Although, in the past, this ANSA had many children in its ranks, there have been no further reports of it recruiting or using children since it signed a "Suspension of Operations Agreement" with the Indian government in 2005. This commitment by the ZRO is therefore preventive (i.e. if the conflict were to resume) and supports its wish to align its policies and practices with humanitarian norms in general.

In addition to the self-monitoring reports sent by the ZRO, Geneva Call monitors the ZRO's respect for the *Deed*, and those signed previously, and relies on monitoring by local human rights organizations. The ZRO also committed to disseminating the norms contained in the *Deed of Commitment* to its members.

The KNF informed Geneva Call of its interest to sign the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict. Geneva Call therefore organized a meeting to discuss the practical implementation of this *Deed*, particularly with regard to the dissociation of children. It was decided to initiate a step-by-step process towards greater respect prior to signing.

Gender Issues

Signatory ANSAs take measures in line with the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination

Following two allegations of cases of sexual violence and child recruitment, Geneva Call requested that the NSCN-IM carry out an internal inquiry, and this was eventually done. Although the investigation found no conclusive evidence of sexual violence, it did show the ANSA's genuine interest in making sure that its members were not involved in such behaviour. The topic of child recruitment and the ANSA's potential adherence to the *Deed of Commitment* will be discussed further in 2017. Another case of sexual violence was reported to the police, who arrested an NSCN-IM cadre for raping a 13-year-old girl. Subsequently, the media reported that the ANSA had apologized to the victim, the family and the community. It also suspended the cadre from active service and started an internal inquiry.

As a result of its engagement on gender issues and its signature of the *Deed of Commitment*, the ZRO has included a female member in its negotiations team. It also delivered the compliance reports for both of its previously signed *Deeds*. Geneva Call continued its discussions with the NSCN-KK on its implementation plan and compliance reports. The KNF submitted its report, noting that two women cadres have been promoted to the rank of sergeant.

Training Sessions and Other Events

Type	Contents	ANSAs CBOs/CSOs	No.	Participants	Female Participants
Training of trainers					
Training for ANSA political leadership					
Training for fighters					
Training for CBOs/CSOs	Humanitarian norms, AP mine ban, child protection, gender issues	7 Naga CBOs	1	13	4
Training for local authorities					
Total			1	13	4

Challenges

- Due to the government's refusal to grant visas to Geneva Call staff, direct access to India was impossible; this had an impact on the organization's ability to engage directly with ANSAs, their partners and stakeholders, and to monitor the commitments made. Geneva Call mainly relied on its local partners to establish indirect engagement with ANSAs and collect information.
- There remains a lack of precise data about the situation in the north-east and its impact on communities.
- Naga CSOs expressed deep concerns about being involved in monitoring, fearing a negative perception amongst ANSAs and a potential risk to their safety. It was decided that they would only share relevant, publicly available information from the news.
- Some of the efforts to engage ANSAs through intermediaries failed to progress in 2016.

THAILAND


Overview

Geneva Call has been engaging ANSAs in the south of Thailand since 2010. It focuses on promoting respect for humanitarian norms through training sessions for ANSA leaders and instructors. In parallel, it seeks to build the capacity of CBOs/CSOs to disseminate knowledge about humanitarian norms to communities – an intervention that is supported by both the government and 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 of Thailand.

After a decrease in violence in 2015, 2016 saw this trend reverse, with an upsurge in the reported number of both incidents and casualties. Since 2004, 6,543 people have been killed and 11,919 wounded in over 15,000 attacks, and the majority of casualties include people not or no longer participating in hostilities. ANSAs are reportedly responsible for most of the violations of IHL. They have specifically targeted civilians, including teachers. They have also carried out indiscriminate IED attacks. Peace talks between the government and MARA Patani, a coalition formed by a number of separatist organizations, have failed to make significant progress thus far; the talks have been undermined because the main ANSA, the BRN, remains absent from the table.

EXPENSES IN CHF

Humanitarian norms	100'581
Overhead	11'904
Total	112'485

 ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine Ban	Child Protection	Gender Issues	Displacement	Humanitarian Norms
Barisan Revolusi Nasional/Runda Kumpulan	BRN/RKK					
Majlis Syuraa Patani	MARA					
Patani United Liberation Organisation, Samdudine's faction	PULO					

ANSA engaged on thematic area
 ANSA newly engaged on thematic area in 2016
 Deed of Commitment signed
 Deed of Commitment signed in 2016

Key Achievements

- ✓ the BRN publicly stated that attacks should only be carried out on “legitimate targets,” and it started to address the challenge of disseminating humanitarian norms among its lower ranks
- ✓ the PULO adopted IHL as part of its policy and trained approximately 65% of its members
- ✓ 19 members of 5 ANSAs in the MARA Patani coalition increased their understanding of humanitarian norms
- ✓ governmental agencies and civil society supported a public campaign to disseminate humanitarian norms to communities affected by armed violence

Context

The conflict affecting the three southern Thai provinces of Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat – and, to some extent, neighbouring parts of Songkhla province (all parts of the former Sultanate of Patani) – is considered by some to be anti-colonial in nature, pitting Malay Muslims against the Thai Buddhist State. However, it is not classified as a religious conflict, despite the fact that calls to jihad have been used to mobilize fighters. The conflict itself fluctuates between what experts have classified as a non-international armed conflict (NIAC) and a situation of armed violence. Either way, the humanitarian impact remains significant.

Impact on the Civilian Population

Since 2004, 6,543 people – the majority of whom were civilians – have been killed and 11,919 wounded in over 15,000 attacks. Despite fewer incidents and casualties in 2015, 2016 saw a reversal in this trend and an upsurge in reported numbers of both incidents and casualties, confirming the need to pursue Geneva Call's work in Thailand on reinforcing understanding and respect of humanitarian norms. In

August, there were a number of attacks against civilian targets in other parts of the south (beyond the affected provinces), which, although not officially claimed, were reportedly privately acknowledged by a source within the BRN. Most experts attributed the attacks to southern insurgents.

The prospect of peace remains far off. Preliminary peace talks, facilitated by Malaysia, have taken place between the military-led Thai government and separatist organizations under the MARA Patani umbrella. Although both sides have set preconditions for more formal talks, none of the preconditions have been agreed upon as of yet. Moreover, despite the presence of purported members of the BRN within MARA, the BRN has distanced itself from both the movement and the peace initiative.

Operations and Achievements

Logic of Intervention

Geneva Call has engaged two of the main ANSAs in the south of Thailand since 2010: the BRN/RKK and the PULO. Geneva Call was the first actor to work directly with these ANSAs to improve their compliance with IHL. Through this engagement, both ANSAs have committed themselves to enhancing their compliance with humanitarian norms. At the PULO's insistence, Geneva Call has also sought to engage MARA Patani in order to reach out to the members of this broader movement. CBOs/CSOs have expressed an interest in awareness-raising campaigns and disseminating humanitarian norms among communities that might subsequently be able to help reach out to ANSAs and influence the behaviour of their members on the ground.

Geneva Call trains both BRN and PULO field commanders and instructors in the expectation that they can become self-sufficient in disseminating knowledge about humanitarian norms to their

members and enforce compliance.

Even though the Thai government showed more openness towards its proposed activities, Geneva Call kept a low profile, and most of its activities continued to take place outside of Thailand.

Humanitarian Norms

The BRN publicly states that attacks should only be carried out on "legitimate targets"

The BRN claimed to have made progress in disseminating humanitarian norms to its military members, although it tended to use different terminology. Following a news article quoting the BRN's policy that militant attacks should only be carried out on "legitimate targets," with consideration given to "collateral damage," the BRN stated that it would make efforts to convince the world that it was committed to IHL.

The BRN requests support for the internal dissemination of humanitarian norms

Despite these positive developments, some attacks have continued to raise concerns about IHL, including one launched from a hospital. The BRN promptly responded to Geneva Call's concerns and reiterated its commitment to IHL. The ANSA restated its willingness to discuss specific incidents with Geneva Call and to allow the organization to conduct field monitoring.

The BRN admitted to facing difficulties in reaching out to its members to disseminate humanitarian norms, and it asked Geneva Call to conduct additional training sessions and share more material to address this challenge. Geneva Call has thus developed 6 videos presenting the basic rules of war, in a design adapted for the local context. The BRN provided input for the production of these videos (e.g. it helped with the translation), and it continues to be interested in utilizing them in 2017.

The PULO adopts IHL as part of its policy and trains approximately 65% of its members

In early 2016, the PULO reported that it had trained approximately 65% of its members and that they were in the process of implementing the rules.

19 members of 5 ANSAs under MARA Patani increase their understanding of humanitarian norms

Following a meeting with MARA Patani in January, the organization publicly stated that it agreed with IHL and expressed its interest in receiving training on humanitarian norms with the aim of disseminating them to all its members.

Over the course of three days in August, Geneva Call trained 19 commanders and leadership-level representatives from across all MARA Patani's

member organizations. In the pre-workshop questionnaire, most of the participants had indicated that they knew little or nothing about IHL. By the end of their training, they felt they understood the norms well and would be able to convey them to others. The participants asserted that they were ready to become the advocates of IHL within their respective organizations.

Geneva Call mobilized support for a public campaign to disseminate humanitarian norms

During a visit to Thailand in February, Geneva Call briefed a multi-government agency forum about its work. This was facilitated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In a visit to Thailand's southern border provinces in June, Geneva Call briefed the Government's Southern Border Provinces Administration Center (SBPAC), the Thai army's Internal Security Operational Command 4 (ISOC4), local civil society and other stakeholders on its mission and its plans to support the dissemination of humanitarian norms to communities affected by armed violence.

The stakeholders present were supportive of this initiative and provided useful insights and suggestions on how to move forward with work to further enhance the protection of civilians in the southern border provinces. A dissemination strategy will be developed during a workshop on the humanitarian norms applicable to armed actors; the workshop is planned for potential civil society partners but has been postponed until 2017.

Training Sessions and Other Events

Type	Contents	ANSAs CBOs/CSOs	No.	Participants	Female Participants
Training of trainers					
Training for ANSA political leadership	Humanitarian norms	MARA Patani	1	19	
Training for fighters					
Training for CBOs/CSOs					
Training for local authorities					
Total			1	19	0

Challenges

- The Thai government has demonstrated a generally constructive approach to the programme. However, because of the government's strong resistance to the potential characterization of the situation as a NIAC, and because Geneva Call does not have an official presence in the country, engagement with ANSAs must be pursued outside of the country and a low profile must be maintained.
- The Thai government required Geneva Call to request official permission for its workshop with CSOs. This has delayed all planned activities with CSOs until 2017.

LATIN AMERICA

Expenses in CHF

EXPENSES IN CHF	
Child protection	56'702
Gender issues	58'805
Landmine ban	108'294
<i>Overhead</i>	26'488
Total	250'289



The FARC and the Government of Colombia signed a Peace Agreement after more than 50 years of conflict. ©Luis Ruiz Tito/Presidencia República Dominicana



Regional Coordination

In order to ensure that Geneva Call's interventions in different regions remain significant and of high quality, coordination and management activities took place independently of purely field-related work. Whether at headquarters or in the regions, this coordination required participation in desk monitoring meetings, internal coordination meetings, information sharing among operational units, or working towards specific advocacy or fundraising goals. Regional coordination and

development also aimed to continually 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.

Constant monitoring of country-specific and regional developments in conflict situations was essential to the implementation of relevant and timely activities. Regional programmes thus carefully analyzed the conflicts affecting their region and their impacts on civilian populations. At the same time, regional teams kept track of IHL and IHRL violations committed by the ANSAs present, whether or not they were engaged in a dialogue with Geneva Call, although ANSAs signatory to the *Deeds of Commitment* were especially closely monitored.

Regular communication with high-level stakeholders such as ANSA leaderships, State authorities, and political and religious leaders took place to secure appropriate support for planned operations. The Head of Region or team members also represented Geneva Call in regional forums and other venues. They actively contributed to public communication and awareness raising about the organization's work in a way that reinforced its influence, access and response to conflict. The development of a network of high-level regional stakeholders was constant, and sustainable partnerships were built and nurtured with other (local or international) organizations with the aim of facilitating and strengthening Geneva Call's work in the field.

Given the volatile and potentially dangerous contexts in which Geneva Call operates, security concerns continued to be of the utmost importance; thus, security and safety assessments and monitoring were conducted frequently.

EXPENSES IN CHF	
Child protection	1'914
Gender issues	2'850
Landmine ban	4'159
<i>Overhead</i>	1'056
Total	9'979

COLOMBIA

Overview

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 addresses the participation of women in peace negotiations and advocates for a gender-sensitive approach to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR). Furthermore, in partnership with CBOs, Geneva Call supports affected communities requesting humanitarian mine action, including demining, in their areas.

EXPENSES IN CHF	
Child protection	54'787
Gender issues	55'955
Landmine ban	104'135
<i>Overhead</i>	25'432
Total	240'309

An international organization contributed to some of these activities by directly paying for certain travel and accommodation expenses.

In 2016, a peace agreement was reached between the Colombian government and the FARC-EP. Its implementation has officially begun; FARC-EP members are gradually gathering into concentration zones for the purpose of demobilization and disarmament. Following the official announcement, on 30 March, that peace talks with the ELN were finally going to be held, an agreement regarding the formalities of the negotiation process was announced on 6 October. The opening ceremony for the talks was subsequently postponed until February 2017. Whereas the ceasefire between the FARC-EP and the government was largely respected, and only sporadic clashes occurred, the ELN and government forces continued to engage in hostilities throughout 2016.

 ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine Ban	Child Protection	Gender Issues	Displacement	Humanitarian Norms
National Liberation Army	ELN					
Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia - People's Army	FARC-EP					

ANSA engaged on thematic area
 ANSA newly engaged on thematic area in 2016
 ● Deed of Commitment signed
✓ Deed of Commitment signed in 2016

Key Achievements

- ✓ more than 100 representatives of the Colombian authorities, local and international organizations, and local communities discussed how those affected communities could contribute to and participate in mine action
- ✓ the FARC-EP took some initial steps to set up a civilian demining agency and learned about international mine action standards; it raised its recruitment age limit to 18 years old and started demobilizing children from its ranks
- ✓ the FARC-EP and the government invited Geneva Call, together with several other specialized organizations, to monitor and follow up on the group's DDR process for children and adolescents
- ✓ the ELN expressed interest in continuing exchanges with Geneva Call on gender
- ✓ ahead of the peace process with the government, the ELN requested Geneva Call's help in reinforcing its knowledge of humanitarian mine action and of humanitarian norms, especially the protection of children in armed conflict.
- ✓ 30 key stakeholders discussed gender-sensitive DDR and the participation of women in peace negotiations at a roundtable organized by Geneva Call

Context

In 2016, a peace agreement was signed between the Colombian government and the FARC-EP, and peace negotiations commenced with the ELN towards the end of the year.

Following the Colombian people's initial rejection of the peace agreement with the FARC-EP, in a referendum held on 2 October, a revised peace agreement was officially signed on 24 November and approved by the parliament on 30 November. Its implementation formally began with the formation of a commission dedicated to monitoring the agreement and the initial movement of combatants to transitional concentration zones. In the period leading up to the signing of the peace agreement, only sporadic clashes had occurred between the parties, and both sides mostly respected the measures intended to de-escalate the conflict, as well as the ceasefire to which they had committed.

On 30 March 2016, the ELN and the Colombian government announced the opening of official peace talks, but their start was delayed. The ELN and government forces continued to engage in hostilities throughout 2016; hostilities escalated even further from those the previous year. On 6 October, the agenda and formalities of the negotiation process were agreed upon in Caracas; however, the opening ceremony was repeatedly postponed until February 2017.

Impact on the Civilian Population

The Colombian government recorded 11,468 victims of **AP mines and ERW** between 1990 and 31 December 2016, 74 of whom were recorded in 2016 – significantly fewer than in previous years. Approximately 38.7% of victims were civilians. The consequences of AP mine use include population displacement, restricted livelihoods (including restricted access to education) and difficult access to humanitarian assistance.

Various armed actors in Colombia have been known to **recruit and use children** in combat, including the ELN, the FARC-EP and other so-called “post-demobilization armed groups.”

The FARC-EP has already reached an agreement with the government on the demobilization of all its members, including minors, and the first group of minors was discharged in September 2016. However, this DDR process must be conducted with the utmost

care and respect for the rights, needs and aspirations of all minors involved, and to avoid their re-recruitment by potential FARC-EP splinter groups, the ELN or other armed actors.

Sexual violence has been a serious concern for local communities in the Colombian conflict. According to previous research, apart from governmental forces (the army and other security forces), the main perpetrators of sexual violence linked to the conflict were former paramilitary groups, post-demobilization armed groups, the FARC-EP and other unidentified armed groups.

The demobilization process presents an additional risk: such transition periods are known to be prone to an increase in sexual violence (against civilians, as well as between combatants).

Within the framework of the Colombian peace process with the FARC-EP, a sub-commission was specifically created to address gender issues. While one female member sits on the ELN's plenipotentiary negotiation team, there still appears to be limited space for women within the guerrilla organization. Nevertheless, the ELN has informed Geneva Call of its interest in learning how to counter gender discrimination and further women's participation – both within and beyond the future peace process – and it has shown an interest in signing the *Deed of Commitment* on sexual violence and gender discrimination.

Ongoing clashes between the ELN and government forces, and between the ELN and post-demobilization armed groups, continued to have an effect on the civilian population, especially in areas where the ELN has traditionally been strong, such as Arauca, Norte de Santander and Chocó. The impact on the population includes violations of humanitarian norms, such as killings, hostage-taking, the injury and death of civilians, as well as their displacement and confinement.

Operations and Achievements

Logic of Intervention

Geneva Call has been working in Colombia since 2003, and has focused on establishing and maintaining a dialogue with the ELN and the FARC-EP regarding humanitarian norms. It has had a privileged partnership with Corporación Compromiso Humano, a local NGO, since 2010.

In 2016, direct engagement with the FARC-EP peace delegation mainly took place in Cuba, whereas dialogue with the ELN was conducted with representatives in the Bellavista prison, in Colombia, as well as in Europe.

In the Cauca, Nariño and Putumayo departments, Geneva Call sought to strengthen community practices of self-protection with regard to mine action, and it encouraged and supported CBOs/CSOs in their engagement of ANSAs and Colombian authorities on humanitarian issues.

Landmine Ban

The FARC-EP takes initial steps to set up a civilian demining agency

In line with its commitment to humanitarian demining beyond the pilot phase, the FARC-EP expressed an interest in getting support from Geneva Call related to MRE and community liaison activities. Geneva Call has facilitated meetings between mine action agencies and the FARC-EP to discuss international mine action standards and, more practically, the accreditation process for its future demining agency.

The ELN invites Geneva Call to reinforce its knowledge on humanitarian mine action and reaffirms its interest in advancing on concrete actions

With the announcement of the start of the peace negotiations, Geneva Call received a letter from the ELN stressing the ANSA's interest in receiving Geneva Call's support on humanitarian issues.

During meetings in prison, ELN representatives have expressed their support for the demining projects advocated by selected communities and a prisoner survey. Geneva Call organized an expert-led discussion on humanitarian demining, community participation in humanitarian demining, and how demining actors operate, which involved the ELN, UNMAS and Handicap International. This took place in the Bellavista prison,

thus allowing two key ELN commanders to learn about the issues and for all the actors to begin a relationship. These commanders are now released from prison and involved in the peace process. Geneva Call also organized a prison discussion between the ELN and affected communities in order to move forward with humanitarian demining proposals. However, as the peace process failed to start in 2016, this was not developed further.

More than 100 representatives of the Colombian authorities, the UN, mine action agencies, international organizations, Colombian CBOs/CSOs and local communities discuss mine action

Together with UNMAS, and in coordination with the Directorate for Comprehensive Action Against Antipersonnel Mines (DAICMA), Geneva Call organized an event entitled "Humanitarian Demining, Peace Processes and Territory," in Bogota in January. Its purpose was for all the stakeholders involved to share experiences on humanitarian demining in Colombia, exchange information on humanitarian demining and the current peace process, and discuss the development of proposals to reinforce the participation of local communities in humanitarian demining processes. Neither of the ANSAs were able to attend, but the FARC-EP shared a video message and the ELN sent a letter welcoming the meeting. The event closed with the adoption of a declaration calling for the strengthening of community participation in demining processes.

Discussions with regional authorities and local and international stakeholders take place on the humanitarian aspects of mine action

Geneva Call met with community representatives and relevant international stakeholders, as well as with local and regional authorities in the Nariño and Cauca departments, to discuss preparations for the implementation of the peace agreement with the FARC-EP. The parties also talked about the commencement of peace negotiations with the ELN, particularly with regard to humanitarian demining. They raised the issue of emergency demining around schools and shared the recommendations from the aforementioned event on humanitarian demining. Specific workshops on humanitarian demining were also held with communities and local authorities in El Sande and El Tambo.

Child Protection

The FARC-EP raises the recruitment age limit to 18 years old and starts demobilizing children below 15

In February, the FARC-EP announced that it had increased its recruitment age limit to 18. This followed the limit increase from 15 to 17 years old, implemented in 2015. In May, the FARC-EP and the government agreed on the DDR of all minors and established a technical committee to elaborate a protocol for their demobilization and reintegration. Geneva Call was invited to give input and participate in the elaboration of the protocol and reintegration programme. In September, the FARC-EP handed 13 children over to the ICRC as a first step in the DDR process.

The FARC-EP and the government have invited Geneva Call and other specialized organizations to establish a DDR monitoring mechanism, and to follow up on the process of demobilizing its child members. Geneva Call participated in several field monitoring visits and drafted recommendations which were shared with the parties.

Nevertheless, by the end of 2016, the parties to the conflict had still not reached an agreement on a reintegration programme for the FARC-EP's child recruits or on an institutional DDR process for minors, which would then trigger further demobilizations.

The ELN expresses its interest in discussing and learning about child issues

In Geneva Call's exchanges with the ELN, the ANSA expressed its openness to discussing and learning more about issues linked to children and armed conflict, among other topics.

The FARC-EP sends a video message as a contribution to the ANSA meeting on child protection

Although it had initially planned to attend Geneva Call's November meeting on child protection, FARC-EP representatives were unable to be physically present. In order to share their experience of child demobilization, the ANSA instead sent a video message which was broadcast during the meeting.

Gender Issues

30 key stakeholders discuss gender-sensitive DDR and the participation of women in peace negotiations

Geneva Call and the Observatory for Peace and Conflict of the National University of Bogota organized a

roundtable with representatives of the Colombian government, CSOs, academia, international organizations, and female ex-combatants to discuss gender issues in relation to the peace process. The participants formulated recommendations for the parties to the conflict. The FARC-EP and the ELN showed considerable interest in the roundtable and shared video messages on the importance of strong participation by women in the peace processes.

The ELN expresses its interest in continuing an exchange of ideas on gender issues

Geneva Call has ceaselessly raised the issue of women's participation with the FARC-EP and the ELN. Geneva Call organized a meeting between the ELN and women from the PKK, a Kurdish ANSA active in Turkey, in order to explore ways to strengthen women's participation within the Colombian ANSA. The exchange has reportedly inspired the ELN to consider adopting the PKK's system of "co-presidency," which includes one woman and one man at each level of internal hierarchy. The ELN also reiterated its interest in continuing its exchanges with Geneva Call and former female combatants on gender. In fact, as the peace process has advanced, a female representative of the ELN signed the agreement about the opening of peace talks, and another female representative will most likely join the plenipotentiary negotiation team.

The FARC-EP makes progress on women participation in the peace process

Although women are not excluded from key positions in the FARC-EP, there is still significant room for improvement and for stronger women's participation in its main decision-making bodies. Nevertheless, throughout the peace process, women's visibility and influence within the FARC-EP has increased notably. The nomination of a female member of the FARC-EP to the peace agreement's follow-up commission should be noted; this is a key body for the agreement's implementation.

Furthermore, the FARC-EP demonstrated increased sensitivity to gender issues when they showed determination to take a strong gender approach in the final peace agreement.

In November, Geneva Call organized a workshop in Buenaventura with participants from the network of female ex-combatants (the *Red Nacional de Mujeres Ex-combatientes de la Insurgencia*, or Red) and the community-based organization CONPAZ. FARC-EP representatives were scheduled to participate via Skype, but in the end this proved impossible due to time constraints. This meeting is expected to help pave

the way for further work with FARC-EP women on gender equality, DDR and against sexual violence in the regions and concentration zones.

Prison workshops on IHL, transitional justice, gender-sensitive DDR and the participation of women in the peace process are postponed

After an initial rescheduling of a planned workshop with female ELN detainees in Cucuta prison, due to funding issues, this event was eventually postponed

until 2017 because the trainers were unavailable in December. The ELN continues to show interest in this activity. It has also requested a meeting with members of the Red in order to seek their input on gender issues.

 **Training Sessions and Other Events**

Type	Contents	ANSAs CBOs/CSOs	No.	Participants	Female Participants
Training of trainers					
Training for ANSA political leadership					
Training for fighters					
Workshop for CBOs/CSOs	Humanitarian demining and mine action standards	Local authorities, CBOs and community members in El Sande and El Tambo	1	165	54
Workshop for CBOs/CSOs	Gender equality, DDR and sexual violence	CONPAZ, members of the Red	1	45	32
Training for local authorities					
Total			2	210	86

 **Challenges**

- A lack of accord between the parties on how to concretely operationalize the agreement towards the demobilization of children delayed its implementation.
- The numerous postponements to the official start of the peace negotiations between the government and the ELN led to reluctance on the part of the ANSA to move forward and to difficulties surrounding the implementation of planned activities.
- The lack of funding for Geneva Call's operations in Colombia hampered the effective development of its activities.

MIDDLE EAST AND EUROPE

Expenses in CHF

EXPENSES IN CHF	
Child protection	117'898
Gender issues	41'593
Humanitarian norms	2'060'610
Landmine ban	105'565
<i>Overhead</i>	275'254
Total	2'600'920



Dialogue with the religious authorities. Iraq, November 2016.
© Geneva Call



Regional Coordination

In order to ensure that Geneva Call's interventions in different regions remain significant and of high quality, coordination and management activities took place independently of purely field-related work. Whether at headquarters or in the regions, this coordination required participation in desk monitoring meetings, internal coordination meetings, information sharing among operational units, or working towards specific advocacy or fundraising goals. Regional coordination and development also aimed to continually 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.

Constant monitoring of country-specific and regional developments in conflict situations was essential to the implementation of relevant and timely activities. Regional programmes thus carefully analyzed the conflicts affecting their region and their impacts on civilian populations. At the same time, regional teams kept track of IHL and IHRL violations committed by the ANSAs present, whether or not they were engaged in a dialogue with Geneva Call, although ANSAs signatory to the *Deeds of Commitment* were especially closely monitored.

Regular communication with high-level stakeholders such as ANSA leaderships, State authorities, and political and religious leaders took place to secure appropriate support for planned operations. The Head of Region or team members also represented Geneva Call in regional forums and other venues. They actively contributed to public communication and awareness raising about the organization's work in a way that reinforced its influence, access and response to conflict. The development of a network of high-level regional stakeholders was constant, and sustainable partnerships were built and nurtured with other (local or international) organizations with the aim of facilitating and strengthening Geneva Call's work in the field.

Given the volatile and potentially dangerous contexts in which Geneva Call operates, security concerns continued to be of the utmost importance; thus, security and safety assessments and monitoring were conducted frequently.

EXPENSES IN CHF	
Child protection	6'739
Gender issues	5'390
Humanitarian norms	49'466
Landmine ban	3'504
<i>Overhead</i>	7'705
Total	72'802

IRAN


Overview

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* they have already signed, and it continues to promote the *Deed* they have not yet signed. Geneva Call organizes and provides training, advice and other support on its *Deeds of Commitment* and on humanitarian norms. Dialogue and activities with the Iranian ANSAs are held both in the region and in Europe.

EXPENSES IN CHF	
Child protection	16'365
Gender issues	12'959
Humanitarian norms	11'259
Landmine ban	14'882
<i>Overhead</i>	6'565
Total	62'029

Iranian Kurdish ANSAs are mainly based in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), but they also have members and supporters inside Iran. Since mid-2015, the situation inside Iran has slowly become more tense and military activities more regular. Occasional armed clashes occur between Iran's security forces and the PJAK, PDKI or PAK, with the PDKI having allegedly moved all its Peshmerga forces to the Iran-Iraq border. Other ANSAs have stated that the resumption of their armed struggles remains a possibility.

Of the Iranian Kurdish ANSAs, only the PAK is currently involved in the fight against the Islamic State group (ISg), in conjunction with the KRI Peshmerga forces and mainly in the Mosul and Kirkuk areas.

 ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine Ban	Child Protection	Gender Issues	Displacement	Humanitarian Norms
Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan	PDKI	●	●	●		
Free Life Party of Kurdistan	PJAK	●	●			
Komala Party of Iranian Kurdistan	KPIK	●	●	●		
Komala Party of Kurdistan	KPK	●	●	●		
Komalah - The Kurdistan Organization of the Communist Party of Iran	Komalah-CPI	●	●	●		
Kurdistan Democratic Party - Iran	KDP-Iran	●	●	●		
Kurdistan Freedom Party	PAK	●	●	●		

ANSA engaged on thematic area
 ANSA newly engaged on thematic area in 2016
 Deed of Commitment signed
 Deed of Commitment signed in 2016

Key Achievements

- ✓ all Iranian Kurdish ANSA complied with their obligations under the different *Deeds of Commitment*
- ✓ 12 Iranian Kurdish journalists, including 4 women, participated in a training session in the KRI on how to improve their reporting skills and use IHL-sensitive language
- ✓ the PJAK expressed its readiness to sign the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination, in 2017
- ✓ the PJAK and PDKI participated in a meeting organized by Geneva Call on the protection of children in armed conflict, and shared their experiences
- ✓ the PDKI, KDP-Iran and the PJAK declared their interest in receiving training on IHL and other themes
- ✓ all Iranian Kurdish ANSAs maintained a significant level of dialogue with Geneva Call through bilateral meetings

Context

Amid the tense political and military climate in the region, Iranian Kurdish ANSAs continued to demand the creation of a federal, democratic state that will uphold the rights of the Kurdish population living in Iran. Although most ANSAs have suspended their military activities, some armed clashes still occurred between Iran's security forces and the PJAK, PDKI or PAK. Iran occasionally bombed PJAK positions on Mount Qandil (KRI), as well as PDKI positions in the Soran area, where civilians were the victims. Other ANSAs have stated their preparedness to resume their armed struggles, should the situation require it. Of the Iranian Kurdish ANSAs inside Iraq, only the PAK was officially involved in the fight against the Islamic State group (ISg), as part of the Peshmerga forces of KRI.

As the powerful Shia actor in the region, Iran supported Iraq's central government in its fight against the ISg. Until now, the ISg has not conducted any attacks inside Iran.

Impact on the Civilian Population

As a result of years of armed conflicts, the Iranian Kurdish border with Iraq remains particularly contaminated by **AP mines** and explosive remnants of

war (ERW), mainly laid during the 1980–88 Iran–Iraq war. New bombings, shellings and fighting also created additional contamination by ERW, both in Iran and in the KRI.

The PJAK has been known to recruit **children** between the ages of 15 and 18 years old, but little detail is known about this. The PJAK has now signed the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict, and Geneva Call currently pursues its monitoring. Girls are allegedly more prone to joining the PJAK than boys: some of them reportedly join the organization to escape early and forced marriage. Since the PDKI has deployed its military forces to the border, young people have reportedly arrived from Iran with the intention to join. This situation has required an extra emphasis on monitoring.

Information about **sexual violence** linked to the Kurdish armed conflict in Iran remained insufficient. There are frequent reports of conflict-related torture and sexual abuse in Iranian prisons. With regard to gender discrimination, the Iranian Kurdish ANSAs generally show an interest in promoting women's roles in Kurdish society. However, women have not regularly been included in political decision-making platforms, and further measures to boost their participation could be taken.

Operations and Achievements

Logic of Intervention

Geneva Call has been engaging with Iranian Kurdish ANSAs since 2001, and it remains the only international humanitarian organization with sustained, regular relations with them. The confidence Geneva Call has built up with them over the years has put Geneva Call in a privileged position to tackle difficult issues when they arise. Geneva Call has maintained contact with the Iranian Kurdish ANSAs in the KRI, as it cannot meet with them in Iran. It regularly informs the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) about its missions and activities.

All seven ANSAs Geneva Call has engaged have signed the *Deeds of Commitment* banning AP mines, protecting children in armed conflict, and prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination (except the PJAK, which has yet to sign the latter *Deed*). While engaging the PJAK on gender issues, Geneva Call also focused on monitoring and helping ANSAs reinforce their commitments.

All the ANSAs concerned could have been involved in violations of IHL in Iran and/or in Iraq, where some ANSAs have remained active.

Given that the Iranian Kurdish ANSAs are based in and operate from the KRI, several activities with these groups were covered by Geneva Call's Iraq programme.

Landmine Ban

ANSAs continue to comply with the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines

Geneva Call continued its desk monitoring to track the signatories' compliance with their obligations under the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines. All the signatory ANSAs complied with their obligations and shared the necessary information with Geneva Call.

Child Protection

Monitoring visits allow discussions on compliance with the *Deed of Commitment*

In addition to desk monitoring, Geneva Call visited three of the Iranian ANSAs (PDKI, PJAK and KDP-Iran) in Koya and Souleymania to continue discussions on all the thematic issues and on their compliance with the signed *Deeds*. No allegations of child recruitment were found concerning the Iranian Kurdish ANSAs.

During Geneva Call's ANSA meeting on child protection, the PJAK prepared its compliance report, and its validation by the organization's armed wing is expected in early 2017. Due to security concerns in the Qandil area, Geneva Call has not yet visited any of the camps for non-militarily active members of the PJAK, but this is planned for 2017.

Gender Issues

The PJAK is willing to sign the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination

At several meetings with the PJAK, both in the KRI and in Europe, the group expressed its interest in signing this *Deed of Commitment*. Follow-up leading to its signature will continue in 2017.

Humanitarian Norms

12 Iranian Kurdish journalists participate in a training session in Iraq on how to improve their reporting skills and use IHL-sensitive language

Thanks to an Iranian human rights organization, Geneva Call was able to identify and reach out to

Iranian journalists living in Iraqi Kurdistan who were interested in learning more about humanitarian norms and how they could report on events using IHL-sensitive language.

They also learned about Geneva Call's *Deeds of Commitment* and how they could support the organization in monitoring signatory compliance.

The PDKI remains interested in training in IHL for its commanders and political members

Geneva Call also met with the PDKI in their camp to discuss the planned IHL training sessions for their commanders and political members involved at a decision-making level. These were supposed to be held in November, but because of a lack of funding, the training sessions could not take place as planned and were postponed to 2017. Bombings in the Qandil Mountain area also resulted in the postponement of an IHL training planned for PJAK commanders in 2016; if the security situation permits, it will be reorganized in 2017.

Fighter not Killer videos are broadcast on Kurdish TV channels

As several Iranian Kurdish ANSAs have their own TV channels, which can also be watched inside Iran, Geneva Call shared its Kurdish language *Fighter not Killer* videos with them in order to disseminate knowledge about the main humanitarian norms among their communities in Iran. Two TV channels broadcast the videos, but monitoring the number of views proved impossible.

Training Sessions and Other Events

Type	Contents	ANSAs CBOs/CSOs	No.	Participants	Female Participants
Training of trainers					
Training for ANSA political leadership					
Training for fighters					
Training for CBOs/CSOs	Humanitarian norms, <i>Deeds of Commitment</i> , reporting and monitoring techniques	Iranian Kurdish journalists	1	12	4
Training for local authorities					
Total			1	12	4

Challenges

- Establishing contact with Iranian and Iranian Kurdish NGOs inside Iran remained difficult due to limited access and security concerns. This was a major challenge because such organizations are crucial to establishing a better understanding of the situation on the ground. Geneva Call remained in touch with representatives of some of these NGOs based in Europe.
- Due to security reasons, there was a lack of access to the Qandil area and no high-level military meetings or training sessions took place with the PJAK.
- A lack of funding also impeded the implementation of some planned activities.

IRAQ

Overview


Geneva Call has been working in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq since 2001, and in 2015 it extended its activities to other regions of Iraq to engage in a dialogue on humanitarian norms with Shia, Christian, Yazidi and Sunni ANSAs, the PMF and Peshmerga Forces participating in the armed conflict. Geneva Call also works with CBOs/CSOs, influential religious and tribal leaders, and other relevant stakeholders who can facilitate the organization's

engagement with ANSAs and contribute to the dissemination of humanitarian norms. The *Fighter not Killer* campaign is used to raise awareness about humanitarian norms among armed actors, their constituencies and the broader public.

In December 2013, the Islamic State group (ISg) extended its operations, and it has since been involved in an unabated armed conflict with Iraqi government forces and numerous ANSAs. Government forces are supported by an international coalition of 40 States, Popular Mobilization Forces, the Kurdistan Regional Government's (KRG) Peshmerga forces and other Kurdish ANSAs from Iran, Turkey and Syria.

EXPENSES IN CHF

Child protection	13'438
Humanitarian norms	870'714
<i>Overhead</i>	104'644
Total	988'796

 Armed Actors	Acronyms	Landmine Ban	Child Protection	Gender Issues	Displacement	Humanitarian Norms
Kurdistan Regional Government – Peshmerga forces	Peshmerga					
Several brigades of Popular Mobilization Forces (Shia, Sunni and Christian)	PMF					
Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP)	KDP-70 Forces					
Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK)	PUK-80 Forces					
KDP Yazidi Peshmerga forces	KDP-Sinjar Yazidi forces					
HPE Ezidikhan Protection Forces (Yezidi Forces)	HPE					
YBS Sinjar Resistance Unit (Yezidi Forces)	YBS					
Sunni Tribal forces/Hashdi Ashairi/Watani	Sunni tribal forces					
Nineveh Plain Guards (Christian armed forces)	Nineveh Plain Guards					

actor engaged on thematic area
 actor newly engaged on thematic area in 2016
 Deed of Commitment signed
 Deed of Commitment signed in 2016

Key achievements

- ✓ Geneva Call engaged in a humanitarian dialogue with all the main Iraqi armed forces, including Kurdish, Shia, Sunni, Yazidi and Christian ANSAs; more than 350 representatives of the Peshmerga, including 17 trainers, were trained on humanitarian norms
- ✓ 64 events and training sessions were organized on humanitarian norms, both in southern Iraq and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq
- ✓ the Peshmerga and Popular Mobilization Forces officially agreed to respect humanitarian norms, with the backing of the KRG's President Barzani and Shia religious authorities supported by Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Al-Sistani
- ✓ the *Fighter not Killer* campaign greatly increased the visibility of Geneva Call's programme: it reached more than 10 million people and led to broad support for its activities from key stakeholders
- ✓ 130 CSO representatives from Nineveh province adopted a joint declaration on the protection of civilians during the Mosul operations
- ✓ more than 1,000 CSO representatives, journalists and influential leaders were trained on humanitarian norms

Context

Since December 2013, when the Islamic State group (ISg) extended its operations from Anbar province into other areas of the country, armed conflict between the ISg, the Iraqi army, numerous other government-controlled armed actors and several ANSAs has continued unabated. Government forces are also supported by an international coalition of more than 20 States, mainly through airstrikes and the provision of advice or training to Iraqi troops. The PMF – and the Islamic Resistance of Iraq, in particular – are in principle subordinated to the Iraqi army. The PMF include some of the main Shia ANSAs – Ahl Al-Haq (AAH), Kata'ib Hizbullah (KH) and Saraya Al-Salam (SAS). The KRG's Peshmerga forces and several Kurdish ANSAs also participate in the fight against the ISg.

Intensive operations by Iraqi security forces and allied PMF brigades were progressing in order to retake areas held by the ISg. Since the beginning of March 2016, tens of thousands of people have been newly displaced in the Anbar and Mosul corridors. Furthermore, the Mosul operation's commencement on 17 October has had consequences for the civilians living in the areas concerned. This ongoing operation has resulted in episodes of revenge and other instances of armed violence across Iraq between different armed actors linked to ethnic and religious communities.

Impact on the Civilian Population

Alleged violations of IHL and other international norms were widespread throughout Iraq. According to corroborated reports, all the parties to the armed conflict have committed violations of humanitarian norms. The impact of the ongoing conflict and related armed violence against civilians remained severe and extensive. According to the latest joint report by the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, since January 2014, acts of violence have killed or wounded tens of thousands of Iraqi civilians and displaced over 3 million people.

The ISg continued to deliberately target ethnic and religious communities through a range of human rights abuses and crimes. As part of its systematic policy of suppression, expulsion and elimination of those communities, it employed **sexual violence** as a tactic of war. Of particular concern was the fate of Yazidi women and children (and those from other ethnic and religious communities) who remained in

captivity. The ISg continued to deliberately target civilians and civilian infrastructure, including holy places and historic sites, in its campaign of violence and terrorist acts, and it employed tactics, such as IEDs and other methods, which indiscriminately or directly targeted civilians.

Iraqi security forces and associated forces carried out military operations, including airstrikes, which may, at times, have violated the principles of distinction and proportionality, or may have been carried out irrespective of the obligation to take all feasible precautions to protect civilians from the effects of attacks. Some forces associated with the government reportedly conducted attacks and reprisals against civilians from communities perceived to be in support of the ISg.

Grave violations of **children's rights** were a major concern: the UN Secretary-General's 2016 Annual Report on children and armed conflict reported 268 incidents of grave violations of rights, affecting 809 children. The true numbers were probably significantly higher. The majority of reported violations involved killing or maiming/injuring.

Although there is no precise information about the number of children fighting in the conflict, ANSA child recruitment was also a significant concern, and was on the rise. The same UN report gave information on 37 verified cases of the recruitment and use of children; 19 cases were attributed to the ISg, 6 to Kurdish ANSAs and 12 to the PMF. The large number of orphans in Iraq also drove the use of child soldiers. Although the ISg is infamous for its use of child soldiers, the militias fighting against them used minors as well.

Operations and Achievements

Logic of Intervention

Geneva Call has been working in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq since 2001. Since 2015, it has been establishing constructive, direct engagement with the Shia and Sunni PMF, the KRG's Peshmerga forces and other Kurdish ANSAs. It has created a solid basis for further engagement. Through humanitarian advocacy, awareness-raising activities and training sessions with ANSA cadres and fighters on international humanitarian norms, Geneva Call aimed to increase their knowledge of IHL. Because of the quasi State-like structure under which the Peshmerga forces and PMF operate within Iraq, Geneva Call organized its humanitarian engagement with them via training sessions and awareness raising events and campaigns, rather than by aiming for signed *Deeds of Commitment*.

Awareness-raising activities, designed for religious and traditional leaders, political parties, CSOs, the media and other stakeholders helped galvanize support for engaging ANSAs and disseminating humanitarian norms more broadly. Geneva Call focused on capacity building for local initiatives by providing training sessions on the norms of IHL and methods for their promotion. Training sessions tailored specifically to media workers explained how to employ the language of IHL and IHRL, how to support the dissemination process and how to raise awareness on a broad level.

The promotion of the *Fighter not Killer* campaign, which involved the use of Iraqi media and social networks as dissemination channels, was very successful. Throughout the campaign, Geneva Call was able to reach out to geographical areas to which it could not gain physical access. The campaign also reinforced and complemented Geneva Call's engagement with ANSAs that did not have strong chains of command or with which internal dissemination was difficult.

Thanks to its offices in Erbil and Baghdad, as well as key contacts working in Dohuk, Geneva Call was able to implement activities in a timely fashion within the context of a rapidly evolving conflict.

In addition to the activities listed below, several others were conducted with Iranian Kurdish ANSAs based in and operating from the KRI, though their armed struggle remains focused on Iran and the ISg.

Humanitarian Norms

Geneva Call engages 11 armed actors on international humanitarian norms

Throughout 2016, Geneva Call held meetings and strengthened its dialogue with four Peshmerga and Popular Mobilization Forces brigades, three Shia and Sunni Arab ANSAs, three Yezidi Kurdish ANSAs and one Christian ANSA. It was able to establish relationships of trust with all of them, which is crucial for future engagement.

Geneva Call conducted awareness-raising activities, training sessions, conferences and bilateral meetings with the different target groups. During the month of Ramadan, Geneva Call organized Iftar celebrations, which provided excellent opportunities to remind guests (including representatives of civil society and religious/tribal leaders) of humanitarian norms and to foster better cooperation.

KRI President Masoud Barzani calls on Peshmerga forces to respect human rights

In March 2016, President Barzani issued an official decree "Order number (3)" reminding Peshmerga forces to abide by the principles of human rights and protect civilians in the areas liberated from the ISg.

Throughout the year, several workshops and training sessions with Peshmerga leaders led to the identification of measures to increase Peshmerga forces' compliance with humanitarian norms. In October 2016, they also enabled Geneva Call to train 17 Peshmerga officers as basic trainers on IHL and the protection of civilians. In addition to training sessions based on Geneva Call's 15 rules of behaviour for combatants, two days of practical IHL simulation exercises took place in a camp. All trainees received a certificate at a high-level closing ceremony and committed to disseminating humanitarian norms to all Peshmerga units.

The Shia Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) reaffirm their commitment to protecting civilians from the effects of armed conflict

Several meetings and training sessions on IHL were held with fighters, officers and members of the Iraqi Shia Popular Mobilization Forces. Throughout the year, Geneva Call trained more than 150 fighters from different PMF brigades. Since many training session

participants were officers involved in military operation planning, their participation was excellent and led to many debates and fruitful discussions.

In October, Geneva Call met with several leaders of the PMF, including: Ahmad al-Assadi, their official spokesperson; Kareem Al-Nouri, a member of the Badr Brigade leadership; and Sayyid Amar Hakim, head of the Islamic Council and head of the Iraqi National Alliance. A joint action plan to increase respect for humanitarian norms among the 40 different PMF brigades was discussed, and the PMF leadership appointed high-level representatives to collaborate with Geneva Call on the protection of civilians.

In response to allegations of violations of humanitarian norms, the PMF also made various declarations in which they reaffirmed their commitments to protecting civilians from the effects of armed conflict.

Religious, political and tribal leaders express support for Geneva Call's engagement activities

In October, in Najaf, Geneva Call also met Sayyed Ahmad Al Safi and Sheikh Ali Bashir Al Najafi, representatives of the Shia religious authorities close to Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Al-Sistani, the most influential Shia religious leader in Iraq. They agreed to support Geneva Call's engagement with the PMF, which aims to improve the PMF's respect for humanitarian norms.

In Baghdad, Geneva Call held a round of meetings with the prime minister's cabinet director, the vice-minister of foreign affairs and the members of the parliamentary Human Rights Committee, all of whom expressed their support for Geneva Call's work in Iraq. Moreover, an agreement was reached between Geneva Call and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research: its Psychological Research Center agreed to support Geneva Call's activities and facilitate and provide training on humanitarian norms to civil society and armed actors.

130 CSO representatives adopt a humanitarian declaration

In October, Geneva Call and its partners – Un Ponte Per, the Public Aid Organization and Norwegian People's Aid – organized a conference in Dohuk on the

protection of civilians during the Mosul military operations. 130 representatives from Nineveh province adopted a joint declaration calling on all the parties involved in the current military operations to protect civilian populations, regardless of their religion or ethnicity. Participants included: the authorities of Nineveh province; representatives from all the religious and ethnic minorities present in Mosul; Yezidi, Christian, Sunni and Shia minority groups; as well as local and international NGOs working in the area.

Geneva Call trained members of Yezidi CSOs from Sinjar, helping these organizations to increase their knowledge about humanitarian norms. The participants discussed which practical activities they could carry out in order to contribute to the protection of civilians. A strong focus was put on respecting Iraqi national law and on the necessity for reconciliation after the conflict in order to prevent revenge attacks that would affect reconstruction and social cohesion in the long term.

In December, Geneva Call made an agreement with the Hakim Foundation, the largest CSO in Iraq, to cooperate on the organization of training events on humanitarian norms for the different PMF brigades.

The *Fighter not Killer* campaign reaches several million people

The *Fighter not Killer* campaign, launched in February, has been a tremendous success. It has reached more than 10 million individuals, including those residing in areas under the control of the ISg. On Facebook, the videos were viewed 8.6 million times, 2 million interactions were registered (likes, shares, comments) and tens of thousands liked the campaign's page. It is noteworthy that the vast majority of the audience were men between the ages of 18 and 34 years old. In parallel, five Kurdish and Arabic radio stations and three television channels broadcast the campaign's messages, reaching more than 2.3 million people.

Although it is difficult to assess the campaign's concrete impact on the number of violations of humanitarian norms committed by ANSAs, it certainly raised awareness about the rules of war, not only among the population at large – including civil society – but also among members of armed groups.

Training Sessions and Other Events

Type	Contents	ANSAs CBOs/CSOs	No.	Participants	Female Participants
Training of trainers	Humanitarian norms	KRG Peshmerga forces under the Ministry of Peshmerga	1	17	0
Training for ANSA political leadership and cadres	Humanitarian norms	KDP, PUK and PMF leaders	4	149	61
Training for fighters (mostly commanders)	Humanitarian norms	PMF, KDP Peshmerga and PUK Peshmerga	15	458	20
Training for CBOs/CSOs	Humanitarian norms	The media in the KRI and south-central Iraq, women's organizations, tribal, community and religious leaders from Nineveh and Anbar	28	606	158
Training for local authorities					
Total			48	1230	239

Challenges

- While the ISg continued to be the main perpetrator of humanitarian atrocities in Iraq, direct engagement has not yet been an option. This occasionally hampered adherence by others ANSAs or CSOs, which believed Geneva Call to be targeting what they consider the “wrong” groups.
- At times, political and sectarian divisions among the target armed actors made joint awareness-raising sessions on IHL difficult to achieve.
- A lack of access to some areas, for security reasons, resulted in the postponement of a few planned activities.
- Intense, ongoing military operations meant that target armed actors were sometimes unavailable to participate in Geneva Call’s activities.
- The high mobility of the target armed actors and the size of the country meant that monitoring and identifying alleged perpetrators of violations of international humanitarian norms remained difficult.

LEBANON

Overview

Geneva Call began working in Lebanon in 2005 because of extensive AP mine/ERW contamination in the country. Since 2010, it has been working on humanitarian norms, including child protection, with Palestinian ANSAs in the refugee camps. It supports training, especially for instructors of ANSA security forces, and it partners with CBOs/CSOs to raise awareness about these norms. Since 2013, Geneva Call and a national 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

Child protection	30'669
Humanitarian norms	292'844
<i>Overhead</i>	38'289
Total	361'802

The armed conflict in Syria and its spillover effects continue to have ramifications in Lebanon, fuelling longstanding ethnic and sectarian tensions. Pre-existing political tensions and clashes have increased, particularly sectarian violence between Shias and Sunnis. The Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon have become hotspots for the potential escalation of these tensions. All of the Palestinian political parties and Islamic groups are represented in the Ain el-Hilweh camp, where they perpetually compete for influence and power, thus leading to occasional armed clashes there. Syrian ANSAs operate in the border areas of Lebanese territory, and the Lebanese Hezbollah remains involved in the Syrian armed conflict.

ANSAs

	Acronyms	Landmine Ban	Child Protection	Gender Issues	Displacement	Humanitarian Norms
Forces of the Palestinian National Coalition	Tahaluf					
Hezbollah						
Islamic Forces	IF					
Palestinian Liberation Organization/ Palestinian National Security Forces	PLO/PNSF					

ANSA engaged on thematic area
 ANSA newly engaged on thematic area in 2016
 Deed of Commitment signed
 Deed of Commitment signed in 2016

Key Achievements

- ✓ humanitarian engagement with Palestinian ANSAs continued and was strengthened, mainly in the Ain el-Hilweh refugee camp
- ✓ the PNSF's capacity to respect humanitarian norms and prevent abuses was enhanced, thanks to advanced training sessions held in partnership with the LSU
- ✓ 11 political parties were engaged in a dialogue on protecting civilians from armed violence and they identified focal points for further sustained dialogue; 5 of these parties were engaged for the first time in 2016
- ✓ 11 leaders of the Future Movement's Youth Sector completed the training of trainers (ToT)
- ✓ 17 representatives from 9 political parties attended the inter-party summer school on international humanitarian norms
- ✓ Sunni religious leaders expressed their support for Geneva Call's work and promised cooperation in areas controlled by their constituencies
- ✓ a partnership was established with 7 Lebanon-based Syrian NGOs, and 13 representatives attended a ToT on IHL and IHRL

Context

Since the end of the civil war in 1990, the situation in Lebanon has remained fragile. Incidents of politically motivated violence have regularly occurred in Beirut and in various regions. Armed violence in Lebanon typically involves ANSAs, some of which are offshoots of Lebanese political parties.

The Syrian conflict has exacerbated existing political tensions in Lebanon and increased fears of a resurgence of armed conflict. In fact, armed political violence linked to the Syrian conflict has already erupted, mainly – but not only – in Aarsal and Majd al-Anjar, in the Beqa'a valley, in the northern towns of Tripoli and Akkar, in the Tariq al-Jdide neighbourhood of Beirut, and in Sidon. Extreme sectarian tensions have also led to the emergence of armed violence. Furthermore, Syrian ANSAs operate in border areas inside Lebanese territory and the Lebanese Hezbollah remains involved in the Syrian armed conflict.

The Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon have become hotspots for the potential escalation of these tensions. All of the Palestinian political parties and Islamic groups are represented in Ain el-Hilweh, the largest camp, where they perpetually compete for influence and power, leading to occasional armed clashes there. Furthermore, the conflict in Syria has generated a huge refugee population, and many refugees have arrived to join the overcrowded Palestinian camps.

Impact on the Civilian Population

A survey published in December 2015 by the cultural and social association, Nashet, and Geneva Call confirmed that children in the camps remain particularly vulnerable, owing to a lack of educational and social services. This can push them towards marginalization or enrolment in an ANSA. Despite the fact that the PLO/PNSF and Tahaluf have signed a declaration on the Protection of Children from the Effects of Armed Conflict and Violence on behalf of all their members, they have yet to ensure that their member factions fully respect this document.

Reports of **sexual violence** related to the Syrian conflict regularly make the news in Lebanon. In this context, raising awareness about this topic among weapon bearers and civil society – and especially among women – is important in order to avoid future violations. Local stakeholders in the Palestinian refugee camps firmly stress the need for greater awareness-raising efforts.

The complex architecture of human rights and humanitarian law has made it difficult for duty bearers, weapon bearers and their constituencies to understand the rights and obligations that these legal frameworks establish. Improving both access to and an understanding of humanitarian norms among weapon bearers, especially in areas where sectarian clashes occur, remains a priority means of improving the protection of civilians.

Operations and Achievements

Logic of Intervention

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

Following a needs assessment and some preparatory encounters in 2009, meetings with representatives of the main Palestinian factions took place in Lebanon in 2010. Since then, Geneva Call has engaged Palestinian ANSAs directly in the camps and indirectly with all levels of their membership – weapon bearers, decision makers, grassroots initiatives and civil society – in order to put humanitarian norms on the Palestinian refugee community's agenda. Work with the PNSF – which is run by ANSAs that are members of the PLO and de facto responsible for internal camp security – included backing their Legal Support Unit (LSU) and Legal Training Center (LTC). These are based in Ain al-Hilweh and were set up to ensure training for PNSF commanders in all camps. Geneva Call also partnered with CBOs/CSOs in Ain al-Hilweh camp to raise awareness about humanitarian norms and especially the protection of children in armed conflict.

Because tensions and clashes have been increasing across Lebanon since 2013, the Permanent Peace Movement (PPM) and Geneva Call have also engaged with decision makers from the major Lebanese political parties 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) within those parties through training workshops. This encouraged and integrated the dissemination of materials on humanitarian norms at all levels within their political movements and structures (e.g. political leaders, communities and weapon bearers). The PPM and Geneva Call also took this approach with other political parties, Sunni constituencies and the Syrian refugee community.

Child Protection

Direct and reliable dialogue is maintained with Palestinian ANSAs

In a declaration on the Protection of Children from the Effects of Armed Conflict and Violence, signed in

December 2013, the PLO and the Tahaluf notably condemned the recruitment of children under 18 years old and pledged to employ all practicable means to ensure that children under 18 years old do not directly participate in military action.

A dialogue on child protection and humanitarian norms was maintained through bilateral and multilateral meetings with Fatah, other member factions of the PLO, the Tahaluf and the Islamic Forces in Ain al-Hilweh.

Geneva Call met with a representative of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) to discuss the need to promote respect for humanitarian norms and protection principles, especially with regard to child protection, but also in the Syrian context. In September, meetings aimed to explore methods of cooperation were also held with Islamic Jihad and Osbat Ansar in Ain al-Hilweh.

Humanitarian Norms

The main political parties continue their dialogue with Geneva Call

Throughout 2016, direct dialogue and engagement with a number of political parties continued: the Future Movement, Hezbollah, Lebanese Forces (LF), the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), the Free Patriotic Movement (FPM), Kataeb, the Azm Movement, El Marada, the Democratic Party (DP), the Amal Movement and one of the factions of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party (SSNP). All 11 parties identified long-term focal points to ensure a sustainable dialogue.

Training workshops were held with cadres of the Azm Movement and with the LF; they included one for senior regional cadres and one for students. Tailored follow-up activities were discussed individually with each party and with regard to their respective focal points, with the aim of ensuring the sustainable dissemination of IHL and humanitarian norms within the parties' existing structures (internal training academies or similar) and subsequently with their respective constituencies.

Leaders of the Future Movement's Youth Sector complete a Training of Trainers

In 2015, Geneva Call gave a Training of Trainers (ToT) on international humanitarian norms for leaders of the Future Movement's Youth Sector. In January

2016, the second phase of the ToT took place, including coached training sessions for the newly trained trainers. Geneva Call has recognized the need to support the finalization of the training materials and has agreed to hold extra coaching meetings for the newly trained trainers in 2017.

17 representatives from 9 political parties attend an inter-party summer school on international humanitarian norms

A five-day summer school was held in August, in Byblos, which aimed to help party representatives build a better understanding of IHL and other humanitarian norms, and to allow youths from different political backgrounds to develop a common understanding of the rights and obligations relating to armed conflict and armed violence under domestic and international law.

Following the summer school, several parties separately requested ToT courses for their cadres. The possibility of holding an “Inter-party ToT” will be carefully explored and discussed with the interested parties in 2017.

By committing to regular training, the Joint Security Force (JSF) in Ain al-Hilweh accepts the universality of humanitarian norms

In July 2016, the JSF participated in a second two-day training session on the basic principles of the use of force and firearms in security operations. The training was conducted in partnership with the LSU, the PLO and the PNSF. Attendees were satisfied with the training and found it relevant for their work. Many expressed their desire for a more in-depth training for all JSF members, to help them better internalize the norms and increase their respect for them.

Geneva Call secured a commitment from the JSF leadership for regular trainings on the topic. Considering that the JSF comprises non-PLO and Islamic factions, this is a major achievement in itself: it demonstrates the JSF leadership’s acceptance of the universality of humanitarian norms by which their forces are trained to abide. The LSU is set to hold upcoming training sessions in coordination with Geneva Call. Training sessions were also held for the JSF in Beddawi, Tripoli.

A Swiss police expert, brought in by Geneva Call, trained the LSU and PNSF leadership and field commanders on police ethics. The aim of the visit was to bring in an experienced police trainer with operational knowledge who could answer related ethical questions, and tackle these aspects of police

work with the PNSF leadership and its field commanders from Beirut, Tripoli, Sidon, the Beqa’a and Tyr. The Swiss expert’s presence also allowed for a review of the PNSF’s Code of Conduct, previously drafted by the LSU. Comments for its improvement were made and the LSU is now in the process of developing a new version.

Sunni religious leaders express support for Geneva Call’s activities

Geneva Call held a meeting with Mufti Abdel-Latif Derian and representatives of Dar al-Ifta’, the religious establishment and government body responsible for Sunni affairs. The meeting aimed to re-introduce Geneva Call, its work and especially its activities within the Sunni constituency. The Mufti voiced support for the organization’s work in the north and insisted on the need for continued cooperation throughout Lebanon. Geneva Call met with representatives from Dar al-Ifta’ in Tripoli to establish an action plan and prepare a training session on international humanitarian norms for Syrian sheikhs from the north. Tripoli Mufti Malek Shaar expressed his continued support for the organization’s humanitarian work. Geneva Call also initiated a dialogue with the head of the Islamic Alawi Council in Jabal Mohsen, Sheikh Asad Assi.

13 representatives of Syrian CSOs participate in a Training of Trainers

Partnerships and regular exchanges were established with NGOs from Syrian civil society and Lebanon’s refugee community, and three training workshops on IHL were held for their respective staff and activists. In addition to its existing cooperation with NGOs, such as Dawlaty, Women Now for Development and Basamat for Development, Geneva Call was also introduced to the Levantine Relief Network in Beirut and Relief and Reconciliation for Syria (located in Akkar) to discuss synergies with regards to both Lebanon and Syria.

The ToT, which took place in December 2016, included representatives from the aforementioned NGOs and others, Syrian religious leaders from Tripoli and Akkar, and some independent lawyers. Geneva Call will continue to support their development with coaching sessions for newly trained trainers in 2017.

The LSU continues to strengthen its institutional and technical capacities

Geneva Call held coaching meetings with the members of the LSU to discuss the progress of their activities. It will continue to train, coach and monitor their performance. After a joint assessment of the LSU’s needs, it was agreed to hold additional workshops on international law and monitoring and evaluation

techniques in 2017.

In order to strengthen formal recognition of the LSU, Geneva Call and the LSU met with three PLO and Fatah representatives in July. Two meetings were also held with PLO/PNSF representatives in Beddawi to discuss the achievements made in cooperation with the LSU.

An external evaluation confirms the relevance of Geneva Call's programme

An external consultant was contracted to conduct a strategic review of Geneva Call's 5 years of work in

Lebanon. His role was to analyze whether/how it had been able to contribute to the protection of the civilian population and whether/how the political parties' and Palestinian ANSAs' attitudes towards humanitarian norms had been influenced by Geneva Call's humanitarian dialogue.

The evaluation underlined the high strategic relevance of Geneva Call's interventions, and made concrete recommendations, which will be integrated into the planning of future activities.

Training Sessions and Other Events

Type	Contents	ANSAs CBOs/CSOs	No.	Participants	Female Participants
Training of trainers	IHL, IHRL, peace building /conflict resolution (at the Future Movement's request), methodology of adult learning	Future Movement's Youth Sector, Syrian CSOs	2	31	15
Training for the LSU	Police ethics, IHL,IHRL, methodology	LSU	3	10	2
Training for ANSA political leadership	Police ethics	PLO/PNSF	1	8	
Training for ANSA members and commanders	Use of force and firearms, humanitarian norms, police ethics	PNSF/JSF	8	187	
Training for CBOs/CSOs	IHL and IHRL	Lebanese CSO, Ruwwad al-tanmeya, and Syrian CSOs (Dawlaty, Women Now, Basamat),	4	56	31
Training for religious authorities	IHL and IHRL	Lebanese and Syrian sheikhs and imams (Tripoli and Akkar), female religious education teachers in public schools	3	54	16
Training for political parties	IHL and IHRL	Azm Movement, LF	3	65	23
Summer school for political parties/movements	IHL and IHRL	Amal Movement, Azm Movement, FPM, Future Movement, Kataeb, LF, El Marada, PSP, PLO	1	17	7
Total			25	428	94

Challenges

- The LSU's financial situation was assessed to be unstable without external funding. This will hamper its long-term impact and sustainability. Geneva Call is joining forces with LSU team members to secure continued long-term funding for the unit.
- Engaging Hezbollah and implementing concrete, joint activities has remained a challenge. Nevertheless, Geneva Call has been in a continuous formal dialogue with certain Hezbollah representatives and will continue to look for opportunities to engage with the organization.

SYRIA

Overview

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, other ANSAs of an Islamist orientation and Kurdish ANSAs. Meetings and training sessions, also held for representatives of civil society, contribute directly to the promotion of humanitarian norms and the *Deeds of Commitment*


among ANSAs. A public communication campaign also supports these efforts. Activities are conducted in Syria and neighbouring countries.


In its sixth year, the conflict in Syria was characterized by a proliferation of ANSAs and other participants in the violence. In addition to the regime's forces and Hezbollah, parts of Syrian territory were controlled by Iranian and other militias, Salafi-Jihadi movements, the Free Syrian Army (FSA) and Kurdish ANSAs. Despite international efforts to resolve the conflict, no political solution was in sight.

The humanitarian impact of the country's armed conflict remained catastrophic. Hundreds of thousands of Syrians have been killed, around 13.5 million people have needed humanitarian assistance, there are 6.6 million IDPs and

EXPENSES IN CHF

Child protection	26'141
Humanitarian norms	816'128
Landmine ban	64'856
<i>Overhead</i>	107'363
Total	1'014'488

 ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine Ban	Child Protection	Gender Issues	Displacement	Humanitarian Norms
Democratic Self-Administration in Rojava/People's Protection Units/Women's Protection Units	YPG/YPJ	•	•	•		
Free Syrian Army and affiliated factions	FSA					
Islam Army	IA					
Southern Front	SF					
Syrian Democratic Forces	SDF					

 ANSA engaged on thematic area

 ANSA newly engaged on thematic area in 2016

 *Deed of Commitment* signed

 *Deed of Commitment* signed in 2016

Key Achievements

- ✓ 9 ANSAs continued to engage in a humanitarian dialogue with Geneva Call and address issues related to IHL, the AP mine ban, the protection of children and the prohibition of sexual violence
- ✓ the General Command of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) prohibited the recruitment of persons below 18 years old
- ✓ YPG/YPJ's monitoring mechanism continued to investigate cases of alleged child recruitment; the ANSA also welcomed Geneva Call's monitoring officers based in north-east Syria
- ✓ the Islam Army expressed interest in signing all Geneva Call's *Deeds of Commitment*, and the First Coastal Division – an affiliated faction of the FSA – expressed its readiness to sign the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination
- ✓ 703 representatives of ANSAs, CSOs, religious and political bodies, lawyers and journalists participated in 41 training sessions to gain knowledge about humanitarian norms
- ✓ 14 members of Syrian CSOs participated in a two-week in-depth training of trainers (ToT) on humanitarian norms; 8 Syrian journalists became knowledgeable about humanitarian norms in the second training session, organized by the Syrian Female Journalists Network and Geneva Call
- ✓ more than 4 million people saw the *Fighter not Killer* campaign on television, online media outlets and social media; Syrian CSOs, such as the Syrian Network for Human Rights, widely promoted the campaign

Context

In its sixth year, the conflict in Syria was characterized by a proliferation of ANSAs and other participants in the violence. In addition to the regime's forces and Hezbollah, parts of the country are controlled by Iranian and other militias, Salafi-Jihadi movements, the FSA and Kurdish ANSAs. The military forces opposing the regime were dominated by at least six major groups: the Jabhat Fatah al-Sham (formerly called the Al-Nusra Front, which merged into a new group called the Sham Liberation Committee, as of January 2017), Ahrar al-Sham, the Islam Army, the Kurdish Peoples' Protection Units (YPG) and its Women's Protection Units (YPJ), the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), and numerous Free Syrian Army (FSA) brigades of either an Islamist or secular orientation.

Many of the dozens of ANSAs operating in Syria, whether affiliated with or partly coordinated by the FSA, shared power in the areas where they operate by forming coalitions to better coordinate operations against the regime and other opponents. Other important actors included the Russian forces and the international coalition, which has been conducting air strikes against ISg military positions since August 2014.

A large number of international and local actors played a role in the Syrian conflict. In autumn 2015, the formation of the International Syria Support group prepared the ground for a series of opposition conferences aiming to establish a High Negotiation Committee (HNC), which then acted as a lead in the UN-led intra-Syrian talks in 2016. The HNC also included ANSA representatives. Three rounds of talks and a number of technical conferences and meetings with civil society took place in the first half of 2016, yet no political solution was found. The evacuation of east Aleppo at the end of the year was a turning point in the conflict dynamics between Syrian ANSAs, and has led to the formation of a new ANSA in Idlib, encompassing Jabhat Fatah al-Sham and other ANSAs.

Impact on the Civilian Population

The armed conflict's impact on the civilian population and civilian infrastructure has been catastrophic. Although different sources report different casualty figures, it is certain that several hundred thousand Syrians have been killed – both civilians and non-civilians. In its July 2016 needs assessment, UN OCHA

stated that around 13.5 million people needed humanitarian assistance, 6.6 million were IDPs and 4.8 million had fled the country. Indiscriminate attacks and the targeting of civilians and essential civilian infrastructure were commonplace; this was the case in all ANSA-controlled areas. Violations of humanitarian norms were committed both by the regime's forces and ANSAs. One NGO, Physicians for Human Rights, documented 400 attacks on medical facilities, involving the deaths of 768 personnel since the beginning of the conflict up until July 2016. According to its documentation, 336 of these attacks were carried out by Syrian government forces or the Russian air force.

There are highly credible reports of the **use of children** in hostilities by all sides. ANSAs – including pro-government militias – have recruited children, either by accepting their voluntary membership or through organized recruitment processes targeting both local and refugee/IDP communities. The UN Secretary-General's Special Representative 2015 report on children and armed conflict mentioned 362 cases of the recruitment and use of children in Syria. In addition, the targeting of children, child detention and attacks on schools all remained of the utmost concern in Syria. Several thousand schools have been damaged, forced to close or used for fighting or shelter.

The UN Secretary-General's latest report on conflict-related sexual violence mentioned several Syrian ANSAs "suspected of committing or being responsible for patterns of rape or other forms of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict." Among these were the Islamic State Group (ISg), an ANSA notorious for sexual violence, including rape and sexual slavery, as well as Ahrar al-Sham and the Islam Army. Sources have also indicated cases of **sexual violence and torture** against women, men and children in government detention facilities and during raids by the regime's forces and pro-government militias.

According to reports by international NGOs, the Syrian regime planted **AP mines** along its border with Turkey in 2012 and with Lebanon in 2013. Syria is not a signatory to the AP Mine Ban Convention. Syrian ANSAs, on the other hand, have been using IEDs rather than AP mines. IEDs can be either remotely controlled or victim activated (booby traps). However, there are also reports of ANSAs using AP mines – mostly with stocks captured from the regime's forces.

Operations and Achievements

Logic of Intervention

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

Geneva Call's primary aim is to increase the ANSAs' knowledge of and respect for humanitarian norms. This is achieved by engaging them on ways to better protect civilian populations. Through direct dialogue and training sessions, ANSAs are encouraged to sign the *Deeds of Commitment* and implement their obligations. Influential CSOs, Syrian journalists, lawyers and religious leaders also participate in these efforts.

Together with experts specializing in IHL, Geneva Call develops relationships and working partnerships with local and international organizations in order to promote humanitarian norms among ANSAs. The Afaq Academy is a key partner in this endeavour, and Geneva Call is actively seeking to establish new partnerships.

All of these efforts are supported by the *Fighter not Killer* public advocacy campaign.

Landmine Ban

9 ANSAs are aware of the risks caused by AP mines

In meetings and workshops with all the Syrian ANSAs, Geneva Call continued to raise awareness of the threat that AP mines represent to civilian populations, highlighting the importance of the AP mine ban and encouraging ANSAs to not use these weapons in combat.

The *Deed of Commitment* was discussed with targeted ANSAs, but none of them made a formal request to sign it.

The YPG/YPJ implements its obligations under the *Deed of Commitment*

The YPG/YPJ is a signatory to the *Deed of Commitment for Adherence to a Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines and for Cooperation in Mine Action*. The ANSA has been compliant with the *Deed's* obligations: no use of AP mines has been reported. In 2016, the Democratic Self-Administration of Rojava (a region under the control of the YPG/YPJ) established a demining organization, and it has reportedly eliminated—with the help of NGOs—more than

90,000 landmines, IEDs and ERW in the area under the ANSA's control. Its compliance report will be due in 2017.

Child protection

The General Command of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) prohibits the recruitment of persons below 18 years old

In November 2016, following discussions with Geneva Call initiated in 2015 on a draft humanitarian declaration, the SDF issued a statement on its commitment to uphold humanitarian principles in its fight against the ISg. The group also highlighted the importance of prohibiting the recruitment of persons below 18 years old.

The YPG/YPJ's monitoring mechanism continues to investigate allegations of child recruitment

After a long period with no access to north-eastern Syria, Geneva Call was able to meet the YPG/YPJ there in October 2016 and discuss the implementation of the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict. There had been a number of allegations against this ANSA regarding the use of children in hostilities. Confronted with these, the YPG/YPJ admitted to some individual cases, but it reaffirmed its commitment to the norm. The monitoring committee, created in 2015, was also active this year; it conducted battalion inspection missions to identify any persons below 18 years old in order to send them back to their families (if below 16) or to camps for members of the non-military active category (16 and 17-year-olds). According to a recent meeting with a member of the monitoring committee, there were currently two such centres established following the YPG/YPJ's commitment. The centres for demobilized children below 16 years old were able to close.

To support these efforts, Geneva Call hired two consultants responsible for monitoring the YPG/YPJ's compliance with the *Deed*.

The YPG/YPJ participates in the ANSA meeting on child protection

The YPG/YPJ participated in the ANSA meeting in order to explain best practices for implementing measures to comply with international standards pertaining to child protection, and to discuss related challenges.

4 ANSAs prepare for their participation in the ANSA meeting on child protection

Geneva Call continued its dialogue on child protection with the Islam Army and three affiliated factions of the FSA, and helped prepare the ANSAs for their participation in Geneva Call's ANSA meeting on the protection of children. In the end, the ANSAs were unable to attend the meeting, but Geneva Call has decided to hold a separate meeting with Syrian ANSAs on the issue, planned for early 2017.

Discussions held with Syrian ANSAs on the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict

In its meetings with different ANSAs, Geneva Call discussed the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict and raised the groups' general level of interest on the issue. Although ANSAs were already aware of the need to both protect children in armed conflict and abstain from the recruitment of persons below 18 years old, ANSAs often mentioned Syria's socio-economic reality as a driver of child recruitment. Furthermore, they attempted to justify associating children by claiming that it actually protected them from recruitment and brainwashing by adversary ANSAs. Signing the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children therefore remains highly problematic for some of the ANSAs with which Geneva Call maintains a dialogue.

Among other topics, the protection of schools from military attack is of key concern in the Syrian context (as are the protection of hospitals and healthcare facilities). Geneva Call introduced specific modules on the protection of schools into its training sessions on the protection of children and the respect of humanitarian norms for the FSA and affiliated ANSAs.

Gender Issues

The First Coastal Division (an affiliated faction of the FSA) is ready to sign the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination

Geneva Call had in-depth discussions with the First Coastal Division (FCD) about the different *Deeds of Commitment*, and the ANSA expressed its readiness to sign the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination. However, before proceeding to sign, all unanswered questions regarding monitoring and the FCD's capacity to implement the *Deed's* obligations will need to be addressed. The FCD also discussed alternative policy measures it could implement regarding child protection and the ban on AP mines instead of signing the respective *Deeds*.

YPG/YPJ implements the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and gender discrimination

As a signatory to this *Deed*, the YPG/YPJ has complied with the obligations stipulated therein, and no allegations of misconduct have been documented thus far. The YPG/YPJ's policies regarding sexual violence and gender discrimination already corresponded to international humanitarian norms when it signed the *Deed*.

Humanitarian Norms

9 ANSAs are engaged in sustained humanitarian dialogue

Geneva Call maintained regular exchanges with all the ANSAs with whom it engages: the Islam Army appointed a high-ranking representative as its official interlocutor with Geneva Call. He set up a team of representatives in charge of issues relating to IHL and coordinating training sessions with the ANSA's leadership.

Geneva Call initiated direct engagement with Nouredine Zenki, an ANSA affiliated with the FSA until January 2017, after a first meeting with its leadership in Geneva. Geneva Call continued to emphasize the ANSA's obligations under IHL throughout the year.

Dialogue with the **Southern Front** stalled in 2016 because the ANSA's main interlocutor with Geneva Call was wounded. Nevertheless, the ANSA continues to internalize humanitarian norms, as expressed through various exchanges with Geneva Call.

In May 2016, Geneva Call held in-depth discussions with the Rojava Peshmerga's leadership in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Geneva Call subsequently conducted a 1-day workshop for seven military and legal trainers from the Rojava Peshmerga, using Geneva Call's training materials. The parties decided to organize training sessions on IHL for the ANSA's military forces in the future.

496 ANSA fighters, officers and commanders participate in 27 training sessions to increase their knowledge about humanitarian norms

Thanks to its partnership with the Afaq Academy, Geneva Call was able to conduct 27 training sessions on IHL, both in Gaziantep (Turkey) and in Syria. Trainings covered the law of armed conflict and fostered discussions on the concrete challenges ANSAs face in daily combat. The issues of revenge and reprisals were frequently raised, as was detention. Participants in the training sessions often mentioned

particular difficulties related to respecting IHL when adversaries had killed family members. Geneva Call therefore regularly reminded ANSAs that reprisals constitute a violation of IHL, regardless of the enemy's conduct.

13 representatives of CSOs, religious organizations, political bodies and journalists are trained on humanitarian norms and their promotion in Syria

Throughout 2016, Geneva Call met with numerous CSOs to present its mission and activities and to discuss the importance of respecting humanitarian norms and civil society's role in their promotion.

At the same time, Geneva Call conducted 10 training sessions with seven organizations, including Women Now for Development, Basamat for Development, Dar el Fatwa, the White Helmets, the Humanitarian Relief Foundation (IHH) and the Syrian Female Journalists Network.

Geneva Call organized training sessions for sheikhs and imams as well as religious education teachers from Dar el Fatwa. The programme was tailored to meet the specific needs of this audience and to answer their numerous questions about how to relate IHL to Islamic Law.

High-level political leaders from seven Syrian Kurdish political parties, under the umbrella of the Kurdish National Council (KNC), participated in a workshop to increase their knowledge about humanitarian norms. Following intense discussions, it was agreed that a further training session on humanitarian norms would be organized for KNC members and their affiliated armed forces known as the Rojava Peshmerga.

A training of trainers (ToT) was organized for activists and leaders of the Syrian refugee community to increase their knowledge about humanitarian norms and build their capacity to mainstream these within their communities and across the border. Representatives from seven CSOs participated (including Basamat for Development, the Levantine Relief Network, Relief and Reconciliation for Syria, Women Now for Development and the Jafra Foundation, Dawlaty), along with religious scholars and independent lawyers. Additional ToTs were conducted for the Levantine Relief Network, the Free Syrian Lawyers and the Afaq Academy.

Geneva Call also organized an advanced ToT on international accountability mechanisms and detention with its partner organization, Afaq.

The *Fighter not Killer* Campaign gives broad visibility to humanitarian norms

For two weeks in October, Geneva Call promoted its *Fighter not Killer* campaign using commercial means. Its 12 videos were broadcast on four television channels and eight websites, with significant audiences in Syria. The videos were also promoted through their dedicated Facebook page, which enabled them to target audiences in border areas of Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon and in Syria. The campaign was promoted a second time for three weeks in November. To raise further awareness about humanitarian norms and the campaign, Geneva Call organized a launch event at the UN premises in Geneva to reach out to UN member states and international humanitarian organizations.

Although it is difficult to monitor television audiences in Syria, it was estimated that around 500,000 people watched the channels broadcasting the campaign. Three million people visited the media websites advertizing the campaign, leading to 32,000 video views. The related Facebook page recorded 566,496 video views and 190,000 interactions (comments, likes or shares).

Syrian CSOs, such as the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SN4HR) and the Free Syrian Lawyers Association (FSLA), also widely promoted the campaign. On SN4HR's Facebook page, the campaign video reached 100,000 views.

It is noteworthy that the Southern Front also promoted the campaign material via its social media outlets, including its YouTube channel.

Research is carried out on armed non-State actors and humanitarian access in Syria

In order to add to its in-depth knowledge of the conflict dynamics in Syria, the ANSAs operating there, the challenges to humanitarian access and other fundamental principles of humanitarian aid, Geneva Call has been carrying out research in the areas controlled by ANSAs. The goal is to develop recommendations for humanitarian action by international and national organizations working in Syria, with the aim to improve humanitarian access and aid delivery. The results will be presented to ECHO and its partners in the spring of 2017.

In addition to this, Geneva Call profiled nine of the ANSAs active in Syria during 2016 and it will continue this activity in 2017.

Training Sessions and Other Events

Type	Contents	ANSAs CBOs/CSOs	No.	Participants	Female Participants
Training of trainers	Humanitarian norms, child protection, gender issues	Levantine Relief Network, Basamat for Development, Levantine Network, Relief and Reconciliation for Syria, Women Now for Development, Jafra Foundation, Dawlaty and Afaq Academy, FSLA	4	46	14
Training for ANSA political leadership					
Training for fighters	Humanitarian norms, child protection, gender issues, 15 rules of armed conflict	First Coastal Division, Thuwar al-Sham, Soqour al-Jabal, Failaq al-Sham, Nouredine Zenki	27	519	0
Training for CBOs/CSOs	Humanitarian norms, child protection, AP mines, <i>Deeds of Commitment</i>	White Helmets, Dar el Fatwa, Women Now for Development, Basamat for Development, Humanitarian Relief Foundation, Kurdish National Council, Syrian Female Journalists Network	10	138	41
Training for local authorities					
Total			41	703	55

Challenges

- The difficulties ANSAs and local CSO partners faced when attempting to cross borders (in Turkey, Jordan or Iraq) affected the regular exchanges and ability of participants to join Geneva Call meetings in neighbouring countries.
- Fluid ANSA structures remain and fast-changing alliances, coalitions and splits complicated sustainable engagement with ANSAs and proved challenging in terms of signing and monitoring the different *Deeds of Commitments*. In an attempt to address this, Geneva Call tried to focus on ANSAs with the most established structures in Syria's extremely volatile military and political environment.
- The lack of direct contact with the Syrian authorities was a severe challenge for Geneva Call, which seeks transparency with all governments concerned by its programmes, as well as regarding the potential engagement of pro-government militias operating in Syria.
- Direct access to the Kurdish region in Syria was very difficult and thus regular, sustained engagement with the YPG/YPJ and proper monitoring of its implementation of the *Deeds of Commitment* were hampered.
- The refusal of pro-government television channels, which were considered the primary source of information in government-controlled areas, reduced the *Fighter not Killer* campaign's visibility. Moreover, the campaign's reach via Facebook was affected by the fact that it remains impossible to commercially promote videos in Syria.

TURKEY

Overview

Geneva Call has been engaging the HPG/PKK on the AP mine ban since 2001, and on child protection, gender issues and humanitarian norms more generally since 2008. Since Geneva Call lacks access to Turkey to engage the ANSA directly, 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. To overcome this, a special monitoring process has been set up. Though Geneva Call has repeatedly requested meetings with the Turkish authorities, none have been granted thus far.

Since the peace talks between the HPG/PKK movement and the Turkish government broke down in July 2015, levels of violence have reached an all-time high. Many areas in the Kurdish region of Turkey are undergoing a full-scale conflict affecting civilian populations and impeding any meetings with the HPG/PKK. In July 2016, part of the Turkish army attempted a coup against the current government. Although the coup ultimately failed, it has jeopardized the country's political and military stability. The HPG/PKK continues to be involved in the fight against the Islamic State group (ISg) in Iraq on the Sinjar and Kirkuk fronts, and it hosts IDPs and refugees in the areas under its influence.

EXPENSES IN CHF	
Child protection	24'547
Gender issues	19'438
Humanitarian norms	16'889
Landmine ban	22'323
<i>Overhead</i>	9'847
Total	93'044

ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine Ban	Child Protection	Gender Issues	Displacement	Humanitarian Norms
People's Defence Forces/Kurdistan Worker's Party	HPG/PKK	•	•	✓		

ANSA engaged on thematic area
 ANSA newly engaged on thematic area in 2016
 Deed of Commitment signed
 Deed of Commitment signed in 2016

Key Achievements

- ✓ the HPG/PKK signed Geneva Call's *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination and made a declaration on its gender policy
- ✓ 50 PKK representatives, including 20 women, increased their knowledge about international humanitarian norms at a training event in Europe
- ✓ the HPG/PKK provided information on some of its child members and affirmed that they would be released from their tasks as soon as the security situation allowed; it also indicated it would take measures to prevent future recruitment
- ✓ the HPG/PKK and the Kurdistan Communities Union (KCK) answered Geneva Call's concerns about the explosives used in civilian areas in Turkey by members of its youth movement, YDG-H/YPS; it confirmed these were remote-controlled explosives and not AP mines
- ✓ according to NGO reports, the HPG/PKK and affiliated organizations are recruiting fewer children under 16 years old in Turkey

Context

Peace talks between the HPG/PKK movement and the Turkish government, launched in late December 2012, broke down in July 2015. Since then, levels of violence have reached an all-time high. The HPG/PKK, together with its armed urban youth movement (the Civil Protection Units, or YPS), has been fighting against Turkish security forces, including special police forces. Attacks by Turkish forces took the form of aerial bombing and other operations in the Kurdish part of the country, including in cities. Over the past year, more than 1,700 people have been killed and more than 350,000 civilians have been displaced by the conflict. While no open conflict exists between the Islamic State group (ISg) and Turkey's internal security forces, the ISg has organized several suicide attacks in civilian areas of Turkey, though it has not always claimed them officially. In August 2016, Turkey sent its troops into Syria to fight against the ISg. Since then, its military forces have been active there and several of its soldiers have died during the fighting.

In July 2016, part of the Turkish army attempted a coup against the current government and President Erdogan. Though the coup ultimately failed, it had a major impact on the country's political and military stability, including an increase in overall risk levels and a decrease in the space and opportunities for political opposition, the media and even human rights organizations.

In March 2016, 10 revolutionary socialist and communist organizations in Turkey created an alliance, of which the PKK movement became a member. The alliance, called the Peoples' United Revolutionary Movement, is also active in the fight against the Turkish army and has attacked several military targets. The TAK (Kurdistan Freedom Falcons) have organized several attacks in cities, mainly targeting military and security objectives but causing many civilian casualties. The TAK is known to be close to the PKK movement, though the PKK has yet to recognize it.

In contrast, and because of the conflict situation in Iraq, the HPG/PKK has played an important role in the protection of civilians, especially IDPs and refugees. It fought against the ISg in Iraq on the Sinjar and Kirkuk fronts.

Impact on the Civilian Population

The Turkey–Syria border has been mined since the Second World War and, as a result of over 30 years of conflict, the Kurdish regions of Turkey remain particularly contaminated by **AP mines and ERW**. The latest conflict has contributed to additional contamination caused by shelling and bombing by the Turkish army and IEDs, used by the YDG-H/YPS in some cities, and some of which were allegedly victim-activated. At the beginning of the conflict, in 2015, the YDG-H/YPS used explosive devices more extensively, but the number of incidents seemed to decrease in the second part of 2016.

Although its recruitment age has gone up over the last 10–20 years, the HPG/PKK is still known to recruit **children** between 16 and 18 years old. Despite having signed the *Deed of Commitment* protecting children, there are still concerning allegations of the HPG/PKK recruiting and using children inside Turkey and in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). The resurgence of violence in 2015 and early 2016 led to an increased number of cases of alleged child recruitment, notably by the YDG-H/YPS. Nevertheless, at the same time, Geneva Call's monitoring partner reported that both the HPG/PKK and YDG-H/YPS had recently started to be more systematic about sending children back to their families; however, more evidence is needed to confirm this trend.

The HPG/PKK is known to have robust policies against **sexual violence**. With regard to gender discrimination, the HPG/PKK has put in place good practices regarding the integration of women in both political and military decision-making processes, including at the highest level. It is possible, however, that the organization's structure and the limited possibilities for expressing disagreement internally could be hiding examples of disregard for the HPG/PKK's non-discrimination policy.

⚙️ Operations and Achievements

Logic of Intervention

Geneva Call first engaged the HPG/PKK in 2001, and today it holds a privileged position when it comes to discussing different issues with this ANSA – not least its compliance with the three *Deeds of Commitment*. Furthermore, Geneva Call is working with HPG/PKK members to increase their knowledge of and respect for humanitarian norms.

Geneva Call believes that through the HPG/PKK's network of contacts and its occasional cooperation with other ANSAs in the region, the movement can be an example to them, especially regarding the roles and protection of women. Geneva Call also hopes that engaging this large ANSA will increase the awareness of international humanitarian norms among its affiliate members (whether they are recognized members or not) and lead to a reduction in civilian casualties.

Turkey does not recognize the existence of an armed conflict on its territory; therefore, it also does not recognize the need for and applicability of IHL. It is also opposed to any actors maintaining a dialogue with the HPG/PKK. In 2016, it was still impossible for Geneva Call to work directly in Turkey on the PKK issue; it therefore carried out most of its work in and from the KRI and Europe. Nevertheless, Geneva Call cultivated relationships with Kurdish and Turkish NGOs, international NGOs and agencies, lawyers and the media. These groups contributed to monitoring and reporting on the HPG/PKK's implementation of the *Deeds of Commitment*.

Landmine Ban

The KCK assures Geneva Call that the HPG/PKK's youth organization only uses remote-controlled explosive devices

During clashes between Turkish security forces and the YDG-H/YPS, a Kurdish youth organization which is supported by the HPG/PKK, there were several incidents involving the use of explosives against military targets, but in civilian areas. Consequently, in addition to military casualties, the explosions caused several civilian casualties, including children.

Geneva Call sent a letter to the Kurdistan Communities Union (the political umbrella organization of which the PKK is a member, the KCK)

asking for clarification and encouraging a response. The KCK responded about the use of explosives and assured Geneva Call that the YDG-H/YPS was only using remote-controlled explosive devices against security forces, not victim-activated IEDs.

Child Protection

Field research by Geneva Call sheds light on child recruitment by the HPG/PKK's youth organization

Through a partner organization, Geneva Call conducted field research in several Turkish cities on child recruitment by the HPG/PKK and its youth organization, the YDG-H/YPS. This research revealed credible data on patterns of child recruitment by these groups. Consequently, Geneva Call sent a letter to the KCK asking for clarification and encouraging a response. The KCK could not assure Geneva Call that the YDG-H/YPS was not recruiting children. This question requires a concrete response and will be tabled again in 2017.

Recruitment of children under 16 years old by the HPG/PKK and affiliated organizations decreases inside Turkey, but new reports surface in Iraq

Although several allegations of child recruitment are still being discussed with HPG/PKK leaders, including via letters and high-level meetings, Geneva Call's partner organizations in Turkey reported a notable decrease in the recruitment of children under 16 years old.

The HPG/PKK responded to one case with a video message, which showed the girl concerned explaining that she had been 16 when she joined the movement. The HPG/PKK also answered a letter requesting information about some allegations, which it provided for some members, and affirming that they would release the children if the security allowed. It further stated that it would take measures to prevent future child recruitment. Nevertheless, in cases of doubt, *Deed of Commitment* signatories are supposed to be conservative and reject membership to potential child recruits and, in cases of command-level mistakes, signatories are supposed to impose sanctions to avoid it happening again.

Throughout the year, Geneva Call repeatedly met with the persons in charge at the HPG/PKK and

systematically raised the issue of child recruitment. The HPG/PKK was also mentioned, for the first time, in the UN Secretary-General's 2016 report on children and armed conflict. Geneva Call helped coordinate follow-up work to discuss the allegations leading to this listing.

Geneva Call was also in touch with human rights organizations about the preparation of research on child recruitment in Turkey, although this did not come to fruition. Given the difficulties in gaining access to conflict areas in Turkey, they instead conducted research inside Iraq, mainly in the Sinjar and Halabja areas, and focused on several ANSAs. The research was published in December, and confirmed the existence of child recruitment cases by the HPG/PKK. Geneva Call is following up on this concerning issue directly with the HPG/PKK.

Gender Issues

The HPG/PKK signs Geneva Call's *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination

On 1 March 2016, after several years of constructive dialogue, the Kurdistan Women's Communities (KJK) – the women's branch of the PKK – signed the *Deed of Commitment* prohibiting sexual violence and against gender discrimination on behalf of the HPG/PKK.

According to its pre-existing internal policies and a unilateral declaration shared with Geneva Call, gender equality and the political participation of women have always been important within the HPG/PKK, and the movement has played an active role in promoting them within Kurdish society. In fact, these existing internal policies even interested the ELN, a Colombian ANSA, and Geneva Call held a meeting to facilitate the sharing of the ANSAs' respective experiences.

Humanitarian Norms

50 PKK representatives deepen their knowledge of humanitarian norms

In January, Geneva Call met with PKK movement representatives in Brussels during a conference at the European Union headquarters. Several issues related to humanitarian norms were raised. The movement agreed to send 50 of its political cadres to participate in a 2-day training event in August, organized to deepen their knowledge of IHL. The participants, including 20 women, also learned about the humanitarian norms related to the ban on AP mines, child protection and the prohibition of sexual violence.

The January meeting in Brussels also provided an opportunity to discuss humanitarian issues with Turkish-Kurdish lawyers, who also agreed to organize a training on humanitarian norms designed especially for lawyers. Due to the ongoing conflict and security

Training Sessions and Other Events

Type	Contents	ANSAs CBOs/CSOs	No.	Participants	Female Participants
Training of trainers					
Training for ANSA political leadership	Humanitarian norms, AP mines, child protection, gender issues	PKK	1	50	20
Training for fighters					
Training for CBOs/CSOs					
Training for local authorities					
Total			1	50	20

Challenges

- Due to security reasons, Geneva Call could not reach the Qandil area (Kurdistan Region of Iraq); therefore, no meetings or training events with high-level military representatives of the HPG were able to take place.
- Monitoring ANSAs inside Turkey became more difficult as political tensions increased.
- Training sessions on IHL for lawyers and Turkish-Kurdish journalists were postponed, due to the security situation in Turkey. Geneva Call plans to hold the trainings in Geneva instead.
- A lack of funding impeded the implementation of various planned activities.

UKRAINE

Overview

Depending on the outcome of an assessment process, Geneva Call is considering developing a programme in Ukraine. If it is concluded that a programme would indeed add value, an engagement strategy will be established for initial meetings and discussions with ANSAs in the separatist Donbass region. These meetings will examine humanitarian norms, raise awareness and assess ANSA interest levels regarding a structured dialogue, with the overarching aim of improving the protection of civilians.

EXPENSES IN CHF

Gender issues	3'807
Humanitarian norms	3'310
<i>Overhead</i>	842
Total	7'959

After nearly three years of conflict, tensions remain high over the status of the separatist-controlled regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, and clashes continue to occur on an almost daily basis. In late November 2015, fighting resumed, but the frontlines did not move. In spring 2016, the humanitarian situation deteriorated when various checkpoints were closed due to repeated outbreaks of hostilities. Since May 2016, fighting has intensified, and in summer 2016, the parties' fighters started to move closer to each other in the buffer zone, further increasing the risk of confrontation. The Minsk talks have been extended into 2017 as clashes between the parties continue. Tensions between Ukraine and Russia over Crimea are also having repercussions in the Donbass region.

 ANSAs	Acronyms	Landmine Ban	Child Protection	Gender Issues	Displacement	Humanitarian Norms
Donetsk People's Republic	DPR					
Luhansk People's Republic	LPR					

ANSA engaged on thematic area
 ANSA newly engaged on thematic area in 2016
 ✓ *Deed of Commitment signed*
● *Deed of Commitment signed in 2016*

Key Achievements

- ✓ Geneva Call continued its desk assessment, deepened its understanding of the context and received valuable advice from relevant stakeholders in Switzerland
- ✓ the diplomatic missions of representatives from Ukraine and Russia, in Geneva, showed initial openness to Geneva Call's activities in Ukraine
- ✓ an initial field visit to Ukraine helped prepare the ground for Geneva Call's activities and indicated the general openness of the Ukrainian authorities, and national and international stakeholders, towards Geneva Call's work

Context

The starting point for the current conflict in Ukraine is considered to be the ousting of former president Viktor Yanukovich on 22 February 2014. This occurred after months of demonstrations in Maidan Square, in Kiev, in protest of the government's refusal to sign an association agreement with the EU. Counter-demonstrations first started in the regions of Crimea and Donbass (the name for the combined Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, or regions). In April 2014, armed opposition groups took control of official buildings in Donetsk and Luhansk, declaring the establishment of the "Donetsk People's Republic" (DPR) and "Luhansk People's Republic" (LPR), respectively. On 11 May 2014, both groups proclaimed victory in referendum they organized on the independence of Donetsk and Luhansk from Ukraine.

After nearly three years of conflict, tensions remain high over the status of the separatist-controlled regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, and clashes continue to occur on an almost daily basis. In spring 2016, the humanitarian situation deteriorated when various checkpoints were closed due to repeated outbreaks of hostilities. Since May 2016, fighting has intensified, and in summer 2016, the parties' fighters started to move closer to each other in the buffer zone, further increasing the risk of confrontation. This, in turn, increased the number of civilian casualties and once again led to the intermittent closure of different checkpoints.

Moreover, in August 2016, tensions between Ukraine and Russia increased over Crimea, the Ukrainian territory annexed by Russia in March 2014; Ukraine moved troops to the "border" and Russia moved additional military resources to the territory. These tensions also had repercussions in the Donbass region, where the level of hostilities remained significant.

Impact on the Civilian Population

Corroborated sources report that around 9,700 people have been killed and more than 22,300 injured since mid-April 2014. According to Ukraine's Ministry of Social Policy, there are over 1.78 million IDPs, including 228,000 children.

Assessing civilian populations living in DPR and LPR-

controlled areas, so as to deliver humanitarian aid, is proving to be increasingly problematic. Humanitarian organizations have difficulties delivering assistance or reaching civilians in need of protection. More often than not, restrictions are imposed by the ANSAs.

Violations of **IHL** are reported to have been committed by all parties to the armed conflict, with the main violation being insufficient respect given for the principles of precaution and distinction (as well as proportionality) in the conduct of hostilities. Most notably, this has taken the form of the widespread use of explosive weapons in densely populated areas, resulting in high numbers of civilian casualties as well as the destruction of or damage to civilian infrastructure (health facilities, public infrastructure such as schools and hospitals, and civilian homes).

There remain severe risks (to civilians and combatants) of shelling or explosions by mines and the explosive remnants of war in and around the 15-kilometre buffer zone on each side of the frontline or "line of contact." According to a 2017 Human Rights Watch report, there was a 66% increase in civilian casualties between May and August 2016 compared to earlier in the year, and 28 civilian deaths were documented in the summer alone, many of which resulted from shelling and AP mines. Moreover, weapon contamination makes any repairs to damaged infrastructure hazardous and prevents many farmers from cultivating their land.

Several reports have also highlighted serious violations with regard to the treatment of prisoners or detainees by all parties to the conflict. These included allegations of ill-treatment and torture, disappearances and the summary executions of captured combatants and people considered close to the enemy. Information on sexual or gender-based violence is limited, most likely due to the victims' fear of stigmatization or retaliation, but there have been some reports of rapes by actors in the conflict, as well as the use of "sexualized" torture and threats of sexual violence against detainees and their families.

No conclusive reports attesting to the use of **children** in combat roles have been found. However, there have been several media reports about the military training of children, mostly between 15 and 18 years old, as well as some cases of voluntary association with the DPR and LPR by children.

Operations and Achievements

Logic of Intervention

The preliminary assessment of Geneva Call's potential added value in Ukraine – in consultation with international and national stakeholders present in the country – showed that there was indeed space to engage with the DPR and LPR on the respect of international humanitarian norms. A desk assessment and a field assessment in late 2016 have already helped to identify key stakeholders and to prepare the ground for the necessary permissions to work in the country and in ANSA-controlled areas. A second field assessment, planned for spring 2017, will enable the logic of intervention for this programme to be finalized.

At the time of writing, Geneva Call has been unable to finalize the profiles for each separatist group, and more information will be collected during the second field assessment.

Humanitarian Norms

Ukrainian and Russian authorities show initial openness to Geneva Call's activities in Ukraine

As part of its desk assessment, Geneva Call met separately with Ukrainian and Russian representatives in Geneva to inform them about Geneva Call and its mission, as well as its possible engagement with the DPR and LPR on humanitarian norms. Both meetings were positive and indicated an initial openness towards further activities.

Geneva Call deepens its understanding of the context and receives advice from relevant stakeholders

Geneva Call met with relevant actors permanently present in Ukraine or that have current activities in the country, such as humanitarian/human rights organizations, mediators, researchers and diplomats. This helped the organization to deepen its

understanding of the context and receive advice on approaches, strategies and relevant means of opening communication with the ANSAs. In addition, Geneva Call identified key stakeholders and made the most of some of the lessons learned from its 2005–11 work in the South Caucasus region. These lessons helped to improve understanding of the broader regional issues and better identify an engagement strategy.

An initial field visit to Ukraine helps prepare the ground for Geneva Call's activities and reveals the general openness of Ukrainian authorities (and national and international stakeholders) towards Geneva Call's work

In late 2016, Geneva Call organized a field visit to Ukraine with the main purpose of meeting with Ukrainian authorities and different stakeholders who had been identified and contacted beforehand. The Ukrainian mission in Geneva kindly helped with some of these preparations. Meetings were held in Kiev, Kramatorsk and Sloviansk. The Geneva Call team introduced the organization, its mandate and especially its activities to the Ukrainian authorities, and tried to prepare the ground for obtaining the necessary permissions to work within the country, including in ANSA-controlled areas.

At different meetings, local authorities welcomed Geneva Call's proposal to work in the country, mainly in "non-governmentally controlled areas" (NGCAs). The fact that Geneva Call is a small, flexible organization, which maintains a low profile and focuses its work on protection activities without providing humanitarian aid, were all reasons mentioned as being assets for engagement in a dialogue with the DPR and LPR.

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

Expenses in CHF

EXPENSES IN CHF	
Meeting on the protection of Children in Armed Conflict	251'377
Public advocacy	270'465
Transversal research and activities	413'779
Management cycle	105'246
Operational communication	76'877
Overhead	132'291
Total	1'250'036

Key Achievements

- ✓ Geneva Call brought together 21 ANSAs in Geneva to discuss how to better protect children and education in armed conflict.
- ✓ At the World Humanitarian Summit, Geneva Call launched its study on ANSA perceptions of humanitarian action, and it addressed a high-level leaders' roundtable, entitled "Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity," which gathered heads of State and government as well as leaders of international and civil society organizations.
- ✓ 10 million people in Iraq and more than 1 million in Syria were reached by Geneva Call's *Fighter not Killer* IHL campaign on radio, TV and social media channels.
- ✓ The *Fighter not Killer* campaign was translated and adapted for new contexts, such as the DRC, Turkey and Thailand.



Meeting on the Protection of Children in Armed Conflict

In November 2016, with support from the governments of Luxembourg, Norway and Switzerland, Geneva Call gathered representatives of ANSAs and international and national organizations to discuss how to improve the protection of children and education in armed conflict. The meeting's objectives were three-fold: to encourage ANSAs to formally commit to respecting international standards and addressing the challenges of their implementation; to provide an opportunity for ANSAs and specialized agencies to exchange views on assistance and protection gaps and to identify potential solutions; and to respond to ANSAs' expressed needs for in-depth knowledge sharing and practical guidance.

A total of 21 ANSAs from 12 countries participated in the meeting, including signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* for the protection of children from the effects of armed conflict, and other ANSAs Geneva Call has engaged in dialogue. Leading agencies working on the protection of children and education in armed conflict were also present, including the Office of the SRSG CAAC, UNICEF, the ICRC, Save the Children, War Child, Protect Education in Insecurity and Conflict, and the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack. A number of Geneva Call's local partner organizations also participated.

Over three intensive days of discussions, the participants addressed issues related to the MRM, the recruitment and use of children in hostilities, age-assessment methods, the release and reintegration of children and how to protect schools from military use and attack. Plenary sessions and expert briefings were used to introduce topics and transmit knowledge, whereas practical issues, such as the challenges of compliance, were addressed during working groups, which gave ANSA representatives the opportunity to share their experiences and best practices. The meeting identified concrete measures that ANSAs could take to ensure compliance with international standards. It also created the opportunity for two armed movements to make new pledges: the SPLM-N signed an Action Plan with the UN and the APCLS signed Geneva Call's *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict.

Public Advocacy

Through its public advocacy work, Geneva Call aims to increase awareness of its role among national, regional and international institutions and individual States, with the objective of creating a more favourable operational environment on the ground and maintaining a space for principled humanitarian engagement with ANSAs. Indeed, although the need to engage with all the parties to armed conflicts remains widely acknowledged at the global level, some States still deny humanitarian organizations access to ANSAs operating in their territories or have adopted donor policies that prohibit any engagement with ANSAs that they designate as terrorist organizations.

In 2016, therefore, Geneva Call continued to highlight the importance of engaging ANSAs in humanitarian dialogue in order to protect civilians in armed conflict. The organization participated in numerous conferences and events – listed in the annex on page 125 – in order to explain its approach, share its experiences on the ground and present the positive results that engagement has achieved in the field. For example, the United Nations invited Geneva Call to participate in the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), which took place in Istanbul, Turkey, from 23 to 24 May. While there, the organization addressed the high-level leaders' roundtable, entitled "Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity," which gathered heads of State and government as well as leaders of international and civil society organizations. During the roundtable, Geneva Call made six commitments to reinforce its engagement with ANSAs on the respect of international humanitarian and human rights law. Geneva Call was also invited to speak at a Chatham House side-event on "Principled Engagement with Non-State Armed Groups for Humanitarian Purposes" and at a Qatari Red Crescent side-event on the "Provisions and Ethics of War in Islam and International Humanitarian Law."

Geneva Call took advantage of the WHS to release a study on ANSA perceptions of humanitarian action. Although the humanitarian community is currently facing an explosion of humanitarian needs, it has become apparent that little is known about why ANSAs facilitate or hinder humanitarian action. As part of this study, Geneva Call collected the opinions of 19 ANSAs from 11 different countries, including Syria, Iraq, Sudan, Colombia and Burma/Myanmar. The study found that most of the ANSAs interviewed understood and accepted humanitarian action and its core principles. However, most of them admitted that although they cooperated with humanitarian organizations and had created coordination structures, they had limited formal knowledge of the specific rules of international law that govern

humanitarian access. Some ANSAs admitted to expelling specific aid agencies they believed to be spying or supporting the enemy. The study makes several concrete recommendations to humanitarian actors, notably the need to maintain a sustained dialogue with ANSAs and to clearly demonstrate their respect of the principles of impartiality, neutrality and independence in their work. These findings were also presented in New York at a meeting of the Group of Friends on the Protection of Civilians before the WHS.

Transversal Research and Activities

As part of its role supporting operations and overseeing knowledge management, Geneva Call's Policy and Legal Unit (PLU) conducted research on various issues related to the organization's work and produced tools and resources, such as dissemination materials. It provided technical support for ANSA training sessions, conducted internal training sessions on legal developments or thematic issues for Geneva Call staff (e.g. on sexual violence in armed conflict) and drafted guidance notes (e.g. on age assessment). The PLU liaised with key international stakeholders, built partnerships and maintained a network of experts in numerous fields. It participated in relevant conferences and seminars, and contributed to working groups and coalitions, sharing its expertise and providing input to various reports and advocacy messages.

The PLU continued to explore potential new thematic areas for Geneva Call's future engagement work. For instance, it conducted research on ANSAs and cultural heritage in Iraq, Mali and Syria, and participated in relevant conferences on this theme to present its preliminary findings. The final study, funded by UNESCO, will be published mid-2017. Moreover, Geneva Call continued discussions with MSF and the ICRC to explore collaboration on a programme to protect medical missions. Research on ANSAs' views and practices related to IHL and IHRL were ongoing, and the PLU continued to develop the www.theirwords.org website, Geneva Call's directory of humanitarian commitments made by ANSAs. Geneva Call also developed a new illustrated booklet and a video on the protection of education in armed conflict.

Management Cycle

Geneva Call continued to use the Theory of Change approach to management; the approach has significantly improved the organization's internal planning and monitoring of projects since its adoption in 2014. In parallel to the definition of its multi-year operational and institutional strategy, and in order to accompany the planned expansion of its work, Geneva Call has decided to update, adapt and strengthen its internal planning, monitoring and evaluation (PM&E) systems. A new Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) unit, with dedicated staff members, will be set up in 2017 in order to strengthen staff capacity, analyze information and identify and share trends and lessons learned.

Operational Communication

Geneva Call not only reinforced its communication activities in the contexts in which it operates to increase the trust of ANSAs and local communities, but also to disseminate the principles and rules of IHL. In 2016, Geneva Call reached more than 10 million people in Iraq and over 1 million in Syria through its *Fighter not Killer* campaign on TV and Facebook. In the DRC, the same campaign reached thousands of people via radio and Facebook. These campaigns boosted acceptance of Geneva Call's engagement in these contexts and reinforced knowledge of IHL among the population. Geneva Call also initiated a process of empowering local staff to conduct communication activities.

Challenges

- Geneva Call is more and more frequently asked to participate in international conferences and events. Given its limited resources (both financial and human), it has had to decline several invitations despite them being of high interest and relevance to the organization.

- Several ANSAs refused to participate in the November 2016 meeting on child protection due to the presence of enemy armed groups. Because of the significant relevance of those ANSAs with regard to child protection issues, Geneva Call decided to organize a subsequent meeting exclusively for them. The meeting will take place in Geneva in 2017.
- In Syria, Geneva Call faced strong challenges surrounding the launch of its media campaign, as the country's media infrastructure is disorganized and sometimes dysfunctional. Promotion via Facebook is highly restricted, and the campaign failed to reach as many people as expected.

COMMUNICATION, FUNDRAISING AND MANAGEMENT

Expenses in CHF

EXPENSES IN CHF	
Presidency and Directorate	124'773
Communication	76'342
Fundraising	31'695
Financial management and Administration	351'024
Total	583'834

These expenses correspond to and represent the overhead costs included in operations.

Key Achievements

- ✓ Geneva Call built its new strategy for 2017–2019 on its positive results from 2014–2016, and, more generally, on its 17 years of experience.
- ✓ Geneva Call continued to raise its profile among various key audiences in order to enhance fundraising prospects.
- ✓ A feasibility study on private fundraising helped Geneva Call to identify its strengths and plan its next steps towards attracting more private donors.
- ✓ Geneva Call continued to adapt its financial management system to its evolving internal structure and the external environment.



AFRICA

December 01, 2016 3:41 PM
Lisa Schlein

2 More Armed Groups Agree to End Use of Child Soldiers

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Print



FILE— In this file photo from Sept. 25, 2015, South Sudan government soldiers in the town of Kochi, Unity state, South Sudan.

GENEVA — A humanitarian group says its work of persuading armed groups to stop the recruitment of child soldiers is making slow, but steady progress. The group, known as Geneva Call, reports it received pledges by two rebel groups to end this practice during a recent three-day training workshop, which taught

Related

Sudan Rebel Group Vows to End Recruitment

Presidency and Directorate

In 2016, the Directorate's main objective was to lead the process of defining Geneva Call's new Strategy for 2017–2019. The Strategy was developed between March and September 2016, during working sessions with Geneva Call's staff and supported by an external consultant, Sylvie Giossi Caverzasio. It was also discussed with key donors and was finally adopted by the Board of Trustees in November 2016. This document, which is the third of its kind developed by the organization, sets out its goals, directions and priorities for the next three years. Its purpose is to provide staff and governance bodies with an explicit framework for action and a reference tool that serves as the organization's internal compass, guiding its work and measuring its progress. It also provides a solid and predictable basis from which the organization can inform donors and partners in a transparent way.

These new perspectives build on the results of the Strategy for 2014–2016, and, more generally, on Geneva Call's 17 years of experience engaging ANSAs on compliance with international norms. The Strategy will help to steer Geneva Call through a crucial phase in its evolution, which foresees an increase in both its budget and staffing levels, the progressive opening of more field offices and a transition in its leadership.

In 2016, the Directorate started preparing for the retirement of Geneva Call's co-founder and Executive President, Elisabeth Decrey Warner, planned for late 2017. The Directorate, with the support of the Board of Trustees, is organizing this succession process.

The Directorate welcomed two new members in 2016: Hichem Khadhraoui, Head of Operations, joined in February and Alexandre Gillen, Head of Administration and Finances, joined in November.

Communication

Geneva Call continued to expand its communication activities, which aimed to reinforce trust, maintain the organization's positive image with key stakeholders and support fundraising activities.

Newsletters



6,350 subscribers
+18% in 2015
9 newsletters

Website



4,800 visitors/month
134,000 page views

Social Media



Facebook: 6,204 interactions
Twitter: 1,842 followers
YouTube: 46,724 views
LinkedIn: 1,100 followers

Media/Press



More than 100 news articles around the world in publications such as *Le Monde*, *Huffington Post*, *ABC News*, *RTS*, *VOA* and more

Geneva Call also reinforced its information, video and photo database with content directly from the field. This was in response to both the growing demand from media outlets for pre-packaged content and the need to enhance fundraising initiatives with stories from the field.

Fundraising

In 2016, Geneva Call continued to be heavily dependent on public donors – about 15 governments and international organizations. Institutional funding amounted to nearly 92% of Geneva Call's entire revenue and therefore represented the organization's financial backbone. Contracts with those entities were earmarked as follows: 54% of all signed contracts were project-specific, 16% were linked to thematic issues and 30% supported core funding. Despite a 47% increase in Geneva Call's income in 2016, the fact that the majority of funds were tied to particular projects meant that Geneva Call did not have complete flexibility to respond to the highly volatile environments in which it intervenes, nor did it have the ability to react to new conflict situations and emerging needs as fully as possible. Moreover, current constraints and cuts in government budgets have contributed to making it difficult for Geneva Call to raise the necessary funds for all of its activities.

Throughout the year, Geneva Call maintained relations with its donors and communicated openly with them about the progress of its activities, the challenges encountered and the lessons learned, as well as its financial situation. Several

visits to donors were dedicated to presenting the new perspectives outlined in the organization's Strategy for 2017–2019, and to encouraging them to support Geneva Call in a multi-year perspective.

Internally, Geneva Call revised roles and responsibilities in the area of fundraising to better coordinate efforts to reach out to institutional donors' local representations in the different contexts where Geneva Call intervenes.

Geneva Call developed a private sector fundraising strategy that aims to guide the organization's efforts with private foundations, major individual donors and companies. Geneva Call was supported in this endeavour by FairCom Geneva, whose feasibility study and advice provided useful insight and greatly contributed to the definition of the organization's objectives and plan of action for private sector fundraising in 2017–2019.

Financial Management and Administration

Improving the management and supervision of Geneva Call's financial transactions was a priority in 2016. Efforts were made to reinforce budget monitoring with the support of temporary additional human resources and thanks to specific training for local staff.

Careful monitoring of foreign exchange rate contracts led to a reduction in exchange rate risks, but to complement this effort, Geneva Call has also started to develop strategies to mitigate exchange rate risks.

New guidelines and procedures on financial management were developed, not only at the headquarters level but also to strengthen internal control procedures in field operations.

FINANCES

In 2016, Geneva Call's total income was CHF 5.5 million, compared to CHF 3.86 million in 2015. Grants and contributions from institutional donors amounted to 92% of its revenue (90% in 2015). A significant proportion of its 2017 funding (CHF 2.4 million) was secured before the end of 2016.

Expenditure for 2016 increased to CHF 5.5 million, compared to CHF 3.9 million in 2015, and 69% of Geneva Call's expenditure (70% in 2015) was spent on interventions for the protection of civilians in 14 contexts. The 3 contexts with the largest budgets were Syria, Iraq and the DRC.

For the 2016 fiscal year, Geneva Call's financial statements will be presented according to Swiss GAAP RPC 21 recommendations, the common accounting standard for NGOs.

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), Finland, France, Italy (through the GICHD), Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency), Switzerland (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 Danish Church Aid, Handicap International, the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action and Save the Children Norway), UNESCO, UNICEF and UNMAS.
- The Commune of Anières, the Commune of Chêne-Bougeries, the City of Geneva and the Republic and Canton of Geneva.
- The Education Above All Foundation, the Loterie Romande and the Swiss Network for International Studies.
- Association des Amis de la Fondation pour Genève, Charles Henri Pictet, Stiftung Usine, Quaero Capital.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT



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To Board of Trustees of

Appel de Genève / Geneva Call

Geneva

**Report of the Statutory Auditor on the Financial Statements for the
year 2016 in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER 21**

(for the period from 1.1. to 31.12.2016)

26 April 2017
12739/21508708/20-3

REPORT OF THE STATUTORY AUDITOR

To Board of Trustees of Appel de Genève / Geneva Call, Geneva

Report of the Statutory Auditor on the Financial Statements

As statutory auditor, we have audited the accompanying financial statements of Geneva Call, which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 December 2016 and the statement of operations, cash flow statement, statement of changes in funds and capital and notes for the year then ended. In accordance with Swiss GAAP FER 21, the information in the performance report is not subject to the obligation of examination of auditors.

Board of Trustees' Responsibility

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER, the requirements of Swiss law as well as the statutes of the 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 (SAS). 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 accounting policies used and the reasonableness of 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 2016 give a true and fair view of the financial position, the results of operations and the cash flows in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER, comply with Swiss law and the statutes of the 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 Code of Obligations (CO)) and that there are no circumstances incompatible with our independence.

In accordance with article 728a para. 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, 26 April 2017

BDO Ltd



Jean-Marc Jenny
Auditor in Charge
Licensed Audit Expert



Roland Loup
Licensed Audit Expert

Enclosures
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2016

GENEVA CALL FOUNDATION

BALANCE SHEET (CHF)		Notes	31.12.2016	31.12.2015
Cash and cash equivalent	4		439'188	263'428
Receivables from services	5		1'730'094	2'441'200
Other short-term receivables	6		62'759	147'104
Withholding tax	6		128	126
Prepayments and accrued income	7		58'118	16'447
Current assets			2'290'287	2'868'305
Fixed assets	8		17'905	9'302
Non-current assets			17'905	9'302
Total Assets			2'308'193	2'877'607
Payables from goods and services			190'766	197'423
Other short-term liabilities			128'659	45'127
Accruals expenses			27'343	27'343
Non-current liabilities	9		346'768	269'893
Restricted funds	10		1'806'477	2'464'635
Organization capital				
- Initial capital			50'000	50'000
- Free capital			200'000	200'000
- Net accumulated deficit			-95'052	-106'921
Total Organization capital	11		154'948	143'079
Total Liabilities and Organization capital			2'308'193	2'877'607

GENEVA CALL FOUNDATION

Statement of operations	Notes	2016	2015
Operating income	12		
Free donations received		89'264	124'547
Restricted contributions from public authorities		3'776'084	3'464'347
Restricted contributions from private donors		839'008	71'982
Other income		126'394	194'391
Total Operating income		4'830'750	3'855'267
Programmes expenditures	13	4'932'880	3'496'873
Direct expenditures		3'815'166	1'912'610
Support expenditures		1'117'714	1'584'263
Administrative costs		281'544	213'964
Maintenance		54'672	43'288
Office supply		27'584	18'880
Telecommunication		30'475	36'940
Rental charges		21'136	27'031
Other charges		131'127	79'051
Depreciation		16'549	8'775
Fundraising costs	13	207'656	192'524
Total Operating expenditures		5'422'080	3'903'362
Variation of restricted funds / Change in fund capital	11	730'238	-
Net Operating result after variation of restricted funds / Change in fund capital		138'908	-48'095
Financial result	14	-127'038	-171'542
Financial charges		-6'908	-7'801
Exchange loss		-190'828	-357'886
Exchange gain		70'698	194'144
Exceptional net income		-	21'232
Previous years income		-	24'179
Previous years expenses		-	-2'947
Result of the year		11'869	-198'405

CASH FLOW STATEMENT		2016	2015
		CHF	CHF
Result of the year		11'869	-198'405
Change in capital of restricted funds / Change in fund capital		-658'158	-44'953
Depreciation		16'549	8'775
Increase (-) / Decrease (+) Receivables from services		711'106	85'024
Increase (-) / Decrease (+) Prepayment and accrued income		-41'673	15'841
Increase (-) / Decrease (+) Other short-term receivables		84'345	-130'534
Increase (+) / Decrease (-) Other short-term liabilities		83'532	-61'388
Increase (+) / Decrease (-) Payables from goods and services		-6'657	-86'754
Increase (+) / Decrease (-) Accruals expenses		-	27'343
Cash flow from operating activities		200'913	-385'051
Investment (-) in tangible fixed assets		-25'153	-2'434
Disinvestment (+) of financial assets		-	36'652
Cash flow from investment activities		-25'153	34'218
Increase (+) / Decrease (-) in cash and cash equivalent		175'760	-350'834
Cash and cash equivalent beginning of the year		263'428	614'262
Cash and cash equivalent end of the year		439'188	263'428
Increase (+) / Decrease (-) in cash and cash equivalent		175'760	-350'834

GENEVA CALL FOUNDATION

Change in restricted funds

2016

RESTRICTED FUNDS	01.01.2016	Contributions / Fundings 2016	Loss (+) / Profit (-) 2016	Use for income 2016	Total Change	31.12.2016
PRIVATE DONORS						
FOUNDATION HANS WILSDORF	-	300'000		-37'861	262'139	262'139
FONDS USINE STIFTUNG	-	300'000		-	300'000	300'000
SUISSE LANDMINES	28'900	-		-	-	28'900
EDUCATION ABOVE ALL	-	125'000		-121'285	3'735	3'735
HIF VIA SAVE THE CHILDREN	-	14'008		-14'008	-	-
LOTERIE ROMANDE	-	100'000		-100'000	-	-
Total private donors	28'900	839'008		-273'134	565'874	594'774
PUBLIC AUTHORITIES						
SWISS CONFEDERATION OFAE - MSD	214'755	772'883		-762'682	10'201	224'956
SWISS CONFEDERATION - MSD CORE FUNDING	-	500'000		-500'000	-	-
NORWAY, MAE	-	328'671		-328'671	-	-
AUSTRALIA OFAT	-	478'231		-258'348	219'883	219'883
REPUBLIC AND CANTON GENEVA	200'000	25'000		-225'000	-200'000	-
LIECHTENSTEIN	-	60'000		-60'000	-	-
FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE	47'235	-	9'887	-57'122	-47'235	-
SIDA SWEDEN	825'720	-	79'443	-905'163	-825'720	-
MFA NORWAY	-	13'436		-	13'436	13'436
CITY OF GENEVA	200'000	30'900		-130'300	-99'400	100'600
MFA France	-	162'380		-114'270	48'110	48'110
MFA Italy	-	8'130	-78	-	8'052	8'052
MFA Luxembourg	-	54'309		-54'309	-	-
UNMAS	14'558	83'339	-1'990	-57'835	23'514	38'072
UNICEF	-	48'442		-48'442	-	-
SWISS NETWORK FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES	28'970	-		-19'832	-19'832	9'138
MFA FINLAND	342'710	-0	-14'658	-189'907	-204'565	138'145
UNESCO	3'913	56'018		-23'341	32'677	36'590
ECHO via FSD	557'858	-13'616	-2'991	-541'251	-557'858	-
ECHO via Save The Children	7	148'722	6'338	-108'078	46'982	46'989
ECHO via DCA	-	1'019'238	-3'871	-687'645	327'722	327'722
Total public authorities	2'435'736	3'776'084	72'080	-5'072'196	-1'224'032	1'211'704
TOTAL	2'464'635	4'615'092	72'080	-5'345'330	-658'158	1'806'477

Statement of change in capital

2016

CHF

Organization Capital	Balance 01/01	Annual result	Attribution	Utilization	Balance 31/12
Initial capital	50'000				50'000
Free capital	200'000				200'000
Net accumulated deficit	-106'921	11'869			-95'052
Total Organization capital	143'079	11'869	-	-	154'948

Equity

CHF

2015

	Balance 01/01	1st ARR modification Note 20	Balance 01/01 according to ARR	Annual result	Attribution	Utilization	Balance 31/12
Initial capital	50'000		50'000				50'000
Free capital	200'000		200'000				200'000
Net accumulated deficit	-22'516	114'000	91'484	-198'405			-106'921
Total Organization capital			341'484	-198'405	-	-	143'079



Appendix to the annual financial statements for year ended 31 December 2016

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.

Geneva Call engages dialogue with 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 its statutes that were updated on 24 June 2014.

The supreme body of Geneva Call is the Foundation Board of Trustees. With seven to maximum thirteen members, the term of the 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 financial 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 financial statements of Geneva Call each year. BDO SA Geneva has been appointed as the auditor for the 2016 financial year.

3. Accounting principles

a) Basis

As of 2016, the Geneva Call Foundation ("Geneva Call") presents its annual accounts in accordance with the Swiss GAAP RPC standards (respect of the conceptual framework, fundamental RPCs and other Swiss GAAP RPCs, in particular RPC 21). This presentation provides a true picture of both the financial position and financial result of the organization (true and fair view). The annual financial statements comply with Swiss law and the Foundation's articles of association.

The presentation of the financial statements for the financial year 2015 has been adapted to the SWISS GAAP RPC standards.

The annual accounts are prepared in accordance with the historical cost principle (acquisition values) and presented in Swiss francs. Figures are rounded to the nearest franc. The most important evaluation principles and the most pronounced differences from the mentioned bases are commented upon.

The Board of Trustees approved the annual accounts at its general assembly of April 12, 2017.

b) Scope of the annual account

The present accounts consider the Foundation as a whole. The financial statements include transactions processed by headquarters as well as those of offices abroad.

c) Conversion of foreign currencies

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 assets and liabilities in foreign currencies of the balance sheet as at 31 December are converted to Swiss francs at rates in force at 31 December. The results of these currency conversions are recorded in the statement of operations.

d) Cash and equivalents

Cash in hand, on postal accounts, on banks at headquarters and abroad are shown in the balance sheet at their nominal value.

e) Accounts receivable, prepayments and accrued income

Accounts receivable and, prepayments and accrued income are stated at their nominal value, deductions made from the necessary value adjustments.

f) Fixed assets

Fixed assets are shown in the balance sheet at their acquisition cost, after deduction of depreciation calculated on a straight-line basis, according to the usual length of use:

Machines, vehicles and equipment in Switzerland	5 years
Installation and hardware in Switzerland	3 years
Fixed assets abroad (excluding buildings and lands)	Direct amortization *

**) Geneva Call records all fixed assets used directly in overseas projects as expenses during the financial year. 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. Buildings are amortized on a 5 year period basis.*

g) Financial assets

Financial assets are recorded in the balance sheet at their acquisition cost, taking into account the necessary value adjustments.

h) Revenue recognition

Funding contracts

Revenues from funding contracts are recognized at the date of signature of the contracts. These amounts are considered as restricted funds. Funds not used at the end of the year are shown under "Restricted funds" in the balance sheet.

Public contribution

Revenues from private fundraising activities are recognized when they are definitively acquired by Geneva Call. They shall be regarded as unrestricted funds, unless otherwise indicated by the donor. These donations are then considered as restricted funds. Funds not used at the end of the year are shown under "Restricted funds or fund capital" in the balance sheet.

Bequests and successions

The revenue from bequests and successions accepted but not realized are considered as contingent assets. They will be recognized as income when they are actually transferred to Geneva Call.

Other revenues

All other products received without special mention are allocated to the free (generated) capital.

i) Valorization of services and goods received for free

Services and goods received for free are valued at the lowest price of the relevant market and disclosed in this appendix. For voluntary work contributions in Switzerland, in accordance with accounting principles, these benefits are not recognized in the statement of operations but are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

j) Tax exemption

Geneva Call benefits from a tax exemption on its income and capital. 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.

4. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and Cash equivalents	31.12.2016	31.12.2015
Cash	23 013	10 870
Postal bank	18 911	7 863
Bank	395 979	244 292
Paypal account	881	-
Short term deposit	404	403
TOTAL	439 188	263 428

5. Receivables from services

Grants receivables	31.12.2016	31.12.2015
SIDA SUEDE	-	825 720
CANTON DE GENEVE	25 000	200 000
ECHO via FSD	120 732	563 151
CONFEDERATION SUISSE DFAE - HSD	-	241 266
MFA Finlande	-	263 818
SWISS NETWORK FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES	-	30 000
RU FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH OFFICE	-	89 722
DFAT AUSTRALIE	147 250	-
MFA Italie	8 052	-
ECHO via SAVE THE CHILDREN NORVEGE	-	6 824
VILLE DE GENEVE	100 000	200 000
EDUCATION ABOVE ALL	35 000	-
ECHO via DCA	503 670	-
DFAE HSD	195 936	-
ECHO via SAVE THE CHILDREN RDC	102 680	-
FONDATION USINE STIFTUNG	300 000	-
FONDATION HANS WILSDORF	150 000	-
UNESCO	41 774	20 699
TOTAL	1 730 094	2 441 200

These contributions receivables are, in principle, due within 12 months of the end of the financial year; If not, according to contractual conditions, in particular as regards public and private financing.

6. Other receivables

Other receivables	31.12.2016	31.12.2015
Debtors	61 297	131 613
Debtors (staff)	1 462	15 492
Debtors (tax administration)	128	126
TOTAL	62 888	147 231

The other receivables (CHF 62,888) consist of:

- Cash advances made to partners in the intervention areas (CHF 61'297)
- Cash advances made to headquarters staff for field missions (CHF 1'462)
- Withholding tax to be recovered (CHF 128)

7. Prepayments and accrued income

This heading corresponds to expenses incurred in advance.

PREPAYMENTS AND ACCRUAL EXPENSES	2016	2015
PREPAID EXPENSES	6 077	7 938
OTHER ASSETS	16	-240
ACCRUALS	52 025	8 749
TOTAL	58 118	16 447

8. Fixed Assets and IT hardware

Fixed Assets	2016	2015
Gross value 01.01	31 465	29 031
Outgoing Acquisitions	25 153	2 434
Gross value 31.12	56 618	31 465
Accumulated depreciation 01.01	-22 164	-13 389
Recovery of value	-	-
Depreciation	-16 549	-8 775
Accumulated depreciation 31.12	-38 713	-22 164
Net value 01.01	9 301	15 642
Net value 31.12	17 905	9 301

The fire insurance contracted for the head office in Chêne-Bougeries covers an amount of CHF 2'000'000
The Foundation has received donations of furniture and equipment worth CHF 550,000. This furniture is not recorded in the Foundation's fixed assets.

9. Current liabilities

The current liabilities are composed of various payable expenses related to mission and program-related overheads as well as expenses related to audit and service costs .

Creditors	31.12.2016	31.12.2015
Payables from goods and services	190 766	197 423
Other short-term liabilities	128 659	45 127
Accruals expenses	27 343	27 343
TOTAL	346 768	269 893

10. Restricted funds

These funds are made up of contributions from the public sector and from private institutions acquired contractually or cashed in advance, the specific use of which is determined by the contributors.

Restricted funds	2016	2015
FOUNDATION HANS WILSDORF	262 139	-
FONDS USINE STIFTUNG	300 000	-
SWISS LANDMINES ACTION	28 900	28 900
EDUCATION ABOVE ALL	3 735	-
SWISS NETWORK FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES	9 138	28 970
SWISS CONFEDERATION DFAE - HSD	224 966	214 765
CANTON OF GENEVA	-	200 000
FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE	-	47 235
SIDA SWEDEN	-	825 720
MFA NORWAY	13 436	-
CITY OF GENEVA	100 600	200 000
MFA France	48 110	-
MFA Italy	8 052	-
UNMAS	38 072	14 558
DFAT	219 883	-
MFA FINLAND	138 145	342 710
UNESCO	36 590	3 913
ECHO via FSD	-	557 858
ECHO via Save The Children	46 989	7
ECHO via DCA	327 722	-
TOTAL	1 806 477	2 464 635

For the years 2017 and 2018 the breakdown is as follows:

	2017	2018
Restricted funds	1 506 477	300 000

11. Change in funds and capital

The financial year 2016 resulted in a positive result of CHF 11,869 allowing the Foundation's capital to be increased from CHF 143,079 to CHF 154,947.

The variation of funding by institutional donors is as follows:

Change in restricted funds 2016						
RESTRICTED FUNDS	01.01.2016	Contributions / Fundings 2016	Loss (+) / Profit (-) 2016	Use for income 2016	Total Change	31.12.2016
PRIVATE DONORS						
FONDATION HANS WILSDORF	-	300 000		-37 861	262 139	262 139
FONDS USINE STIFTUNG	-	300 000		-	300 000	300 000
SUISSE LANDMINES	28 900	-		-	-	28 900
EDUCATION ABOVE ALL	-	125 000		-121 265	3 735	3 735
HIF VIA SAVE THE CHILDREN	-	14 008		-14 008	-	-
LOTTERIE ROMANDE	-	100 000		-100 000	-	-
Total private donors	28 900	839 008	-	-273 134	565 874	594 774
PUBLIC AUTHORITIES						
SWISS CONFEDERATION DFAE - HSD	214 765	772 883		-762 682	10 201	224 966
SWISS CONFEDERATION - HSD CORE FUNDING	-	500 000		-500 000	-	-
NORWAY, MAE	-	328 671		-328 671	-	-
AUSTRALIA DFAT	-	478 231		-258 348	219 883	219 883
REPUBLIC AND CANTON GENEVA	200 000	25 000		-225 000	-200 000	-
UECHSTENSTEIN	-	60 000		-60 000	-	-
FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE	47 235	-	9 887	-57 122	-47 235	-
SIDA SWEDEN	825 720	-	79 443	-905 163	-825 720	-
MFA NORWAY	-	13 436		-	13 436	13 436
CITY OF GENEVA	200 000	30 900		-130 300	-99 400	100 600
MFA France	-	162 380		-114 270	48 110	48 110
MFA Italy	-	8 130	-78	-	8 052	8 052
MFA Luxembourg	-	54 309		-54 309	-	-
UNMAS	14 558	83 339	-1 990	-57 835	23 514	38 072
UNICEF	-	48 442		-48 442	-	-
SWISS NETWORK FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES	28 970	-		-19 832	-19 832	9 138
MFA FINLAND	342 710	-0	-14 658	-189 907	-204 565	138 145
UNESCO	3 913	56 018		-23 341	32 577	36 590
ECHO via FSD	557 858	-13 616	-2 991	-541 251	-557 858	-
ECHO via Save The Children	7	148 722	6 338	-108 078	46 982	46 989
ECHO via DCA	-	1 019 298	-3 871	-687 645	327 722	327 722
Total public authorities	2 435 736	3 776 084	72 080	-5 072 196	-1 224 032	1 211 704
TOTAL	2 464 635	4 615 092	72 080	-5 345 330	-658 158	1 806 477

From 2016, the Foundation applies the SWISS GAAP RPC standards. The presentation of the restricted funds is made from the financial year 2016.

12. Revenue

In 2016, the Geneva Call received non-restricted contributions from the following donors:

General Donations	2016	2015
CHARLES PICTET	15 000	60 000
CITY OF ASNIERES	10 000	-
FOUNDATION CITY OF GENEVA	25 000	-
OTHER	39 264	31 312
IVAN PICTET	-	15 000
CONCERT	-	12 235
SWISS CAMPAIGN AGAINST LANDMINES	-	6 000
TOTAL	89 264	124 547

Contributions from governments and public organizations used in 2016 to finance spending are composed as follows:

- The amount of funding dedicated to supporting the Foundation's structure represents CHF 1'405'163.
- The rest of public funding is dedicated to specific projects and objectives and is restricted in their uses by contributors. In the event that projects can not be carried out or completed according to the conditions laid down, unused earmarked funds may be returned to the lenders. However, as at December 31, 2016, there is no known risk that such an eventuality will occur.

RESTRICTED FUNDS	2016	2015
PUBLIC AUTHORITIES		
SWISS CONFEDERATION DFAE - HSD	772 610	737 446
SWISS CONFEDERATION - HSD CORE FUNDING	500 000	500 000
NORWAY, MFA	328 671	358 229
AUSTRALIA DFAT	478 231	217 014
REPUBLIC AND CANTON GENEVA	25 000	200 000
LIECHTENSTEIN	60 000	60 000
FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE	-	79 851
SIDA SWEDEN	-	775 853
MFA NORWAY	13 436	-
CITY OF GENEVA	27 260	130 900
MFA France	162 380	-
MFA Italy	8 130	-
MFA Luxembourg	54 309	-
UNMAS	83 339	35 544
UNICEF	48 442	-
MFA FINLAND	-0	144 494
MFA DANEMARK		56 806
SWITZERLAND MFA - DOIP		20 000
UNESCO	59 931	57 910
MFA Italle via GICHD		8 130
ECHO via FSD	-13 616	54 315
ECHO via Save The Children	148 722	6 824
ECHO via DCA	1 019 238	-
SWISS NETWORK FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES		21 030
Total public authorities	3 776 084	3 464 346

(Contributions from ECHO via different organizations were presented under private funding in 2015 and are included in public funding in 2016)

The Foundation has also received limited contributions in their use from private organizations. These allocated funds were used to finance the related program expenditures as follows:

RESTRICTED FUNDS	2016	2015
PRIVATE DONORS		
FONDATION HANS WILSDORF	300 000	-
FONDS USINE STIFTUNG	300 000	-
SUISSE LANDMINES	-	-
EDUCATION ABOVE ALL	125 000	66 433
SWISS NETWORK FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES	-	-
HIF VIA SAVE THE CHILDREN	14 008	-
LOTTERIE ROMANDE	100 000	5 550
Total private donors	839 008	71 983

(Contributions from ECHO via different organizations were presented under private funding in 2015 and are included in public funding in 2016)

13. Total costs per type of expenses

Expenses by type of expense are composed as follows:

- **Direct Project Costs:** The direct costs of projects include all direct project-related costs as well as coordination costs incurred at headquarters for these projects.
- **Indirect Project Costs:** The indirect costs of projects include all the costs incurred at headquarters to conduct, coordinate, assist and evaluate the projects carried out.

The component of these costs covers, in particular, program management with the legal and thematic unit, operational communication as well as control of operational finances.

- **Operating expenditures:** Under this heading are the costs incurred at headquarters for the general administration. This includes the Executive Presidency, Corporate Communications, Information Technology Management, Human Resources Management and non-project related accounting.

TYPE OF EXPENSES	OPERATIONS	SUPPORT TO OPERATIONS	COMMUNICATION & MANAGEMENT	2015
HUMAN RESOURCES	1'838'153	560'909	312'108	2'711'170
TRAVEL & ACCOMODATION	371'273	58'294	22'155	451'722
OPERATING COSTS AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	411'352	116'203	53'106	580'661
MAINTENANCE FEES	32'822	8'392	5'026	46'241
COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING	60'637	30'980	13'177	104'794
DEPRECIATION	6'149	1'709	917	8'775
TOTAL	2'720'386	776'487	406'489	3'903'362

TYPE OF EXPENSES	OPERATIONS	SUPPORT TO OPERATIONS	COMMUNICATION & MANAGEMENT	2016
HUMAN RESOURCES	1'822'331	668'687	387'063	2'878'081
TRAVEL & ACCOMODATION	570'188	162'590	18'380	751'159
OPERATING COSTS AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	786'435	232'091	66'101	1'084'626
MAINTENANCE FEES	37'920	15'203	5'068	58'190
COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING	588'639	33'627	11'209	633'476
DEPRECIATION	9'654	5'516	1'379	16'549
TOTAL	3'815'166	1'117'714	489'200	5'422'080

Fundraising expenses	2016	2015
HR costs	166 310	158 739
Publications and events	41 346	33 785
Total	207 656	192 524
% total expenditures	4%	5%

14. Financial results

The financial result is mainly impacted by the foreign exchange transactions related to the financing received in different currencies.

	2016	2015
Financial result	-127 038	-171 542
Financial charges	-6 908	-7 801
Exchange loss	-190 828	-357 886
Exchange gain	70 698	194 144

15. Non-monetary contributions

For the year 2016, members of the Board of Trustees and volunteers contributed 189 hours to the activities of the Foundation (2015: 144 hours). The premises of the foundation Chemin de la Chevillarde 47 are made available free of charge by the commune of Chêne-Bougeries in agreement with the owner, the CPPS, in exchange of which the Foundation has committed to bear all the costs of renovation, maintenance and insurance of the villa. The estimated value of this gratuity is CHF 140,000 on an annual basis.

16. Remuneration of Management

The board members and certain members of management work on a voluntary basis. The total payroll of the members of the management represents a total amount of CHF 534'840.- for the year 2016 (2015: CHF 541'000).

17. Retirement scheme

The employees of Geneva Call, i.e. 25 persons at 31 December 2016 (2015: 22) working at headquarters, are covered by an occupational pension scheme in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Law on Occupational Pensions, Old-Age and Survivors' Benefits. Pension benefits are provided by CIEPP. The employer does not guarantee pension benefits. The pension plan is financed by the contributions of Geneva Call and its employees. Employer contributions are recorded for the period in which they were due. Each employee is informed of the BVG services as soon as he takes office. 50% of the premiums are paid by the Foundation and 50% by the employee.

18. Risk assessment and internal control system

The Foundation defines the internal control system (ICS) as the totality of the processes, methods and measures used to ensure a smooth flow of business.

a) Financial risk management

The Foundation does not currently have an active policy to hedge currency risk and tends to convert currencies as and when it is needed. The funds are kept in Swiss.

b) Banking risk management

Geneva Call tends to avoid the concentration of this risk, working in Switzerland with several banks. In the field, the policy is to limit the volume of bank deposits to strict operational requirements.

c) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a counterparty will not meet its commitments. The Foundation is not exposed to a high credit risk because it ensures that the amounts paid to the partners are fully released only once the services are performed.

d) Liquidity risk

The Foundation ensures that at all times a sufficient level of liquidity for its operations has been maintained. As a result, the funds are held in cash. In addition, the Foundation ensures that liquidity is managed correctly and safely in all operating areas

e) Operational risk

Given its field activities in different countries around the world, the Foundation has defined a set of measures and procedures to limit operational risks through a management manual, monitoring of operations by program Regular and rigorous monitoring of established budgets.

19. Employees

As of December 31, 2016, the Foundation employs 25 people in Switzerland (EPT: 20.61) and 3 employees are hired by the offices of Geneva Call via its projects abroad (2015: 22 employees in Switzerland and 3 field workers).

20. Provision

A provision was set up from 2005 for an initial amount of CHF 120,000, to reach CHF 264,000 at the end of 2010, before closing. This provision was not set up on the basis of a particular event. The Board of Trustees decided to reduce this provision to CHF 174,000 for the year ended December 31, 2010 and CHF 114,000 for the year end 2011. This amount was maintained in 2014. In 2015 this provision had been reduced to CHF 34,000 and finally fully dissolved as of 31 December 2016 in the statutory accounts. As part of the application in 2016 of the SWISS GAAP RPC, this unnecessary provision has been restated with effect from 1 January 2015 and applied against the deficit on the balance sheet. The reversals of this provision in 2015 and 2016 were consequently canceled in the SWISS GAAP RPC 2016 and 2015 statement of operations.

21. Off balance sheet items

The Foundation concluded a leasing contract for its photocopiers for an annual fee of CHF 4'704.

22. Subsequent events to the closing

No event occurred after the balance sheet date that could change the annual accounts as of 31 December 2016.

ANNEX

ROUNDTABLES, SEMINARS, CONFERENCES

In 2016, Geneva Call was invited to take part in many conferences, roundtables, panel discussions and expert groups in order to share its experience and expertise. These included, but were not limited to:

International Peace Institute/Independent Commission on Multilateralism, “Humanitarian Engagements”, New York, USA, January

Maison de la Paix, “Future Challenges of Conflict Research”, Geneva, Switzerland, January

European External Action Service, “Non-State Armed Groups and the Responsibility to Protect”, Brussels, Belgium, March

Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein, launch of the Child Soldiers International report on armed groups entitled “A Law unto Themselves? Confronting the Recruitment of Children by Armed Groups”, New York, USA, March

Permanent Mission of Switzerland, presentation of the preliminary findings of Geneva Call’s study on ANSAs’ perceptions of humanitarian action to the Group of Friends on the Protection of Civilians, New York, USA, March

German Federal Foreign Office for the German Humanitarian Coordination Platform, “How to Oblige Armed Non-State Actors to Abide by IHL”, Berlin, Germany, April

Oxford University, “Analysing and Understanding Violent Non-State Groups”, Oxford, UK, April

Global Women Leaders Forum, Sofia, Bulgaria, May

World Humanitarian Summit high-level round table, Istanbul, Turkey, May

World Humanitarian Summit side-event with Chatham House “Principled Engagement with Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) for Humanitarian Purposes”, Istanbul, Turkey, May

World Humanitarian Summit side-event with the Qatar Red Crescent Society, “Provisions and Ethics of War In Islam and International Humanitarian Law”, Istanbul, Turkey, May

European Union, #unite4heritage: Cultural Diversity Under Attack Conference, “Working with Law Enforcement to Protect Cultural Property”, Brussels, Belgium, June

ECOSOC, “Impediments to the Protection of Civilians”, New York, USA, June

University of Geneva, Conference on all Art and Cultural Heritage Law, Geneva, Switzerland, June

International Criminal Court, Consultation on the Draft Policy on Children, The Hague, The Netherlands, July

European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operation (ECHO), high-level event on the humanitarian crisis in Iraq, New York, USA, September

International Institute of Humanitarian Law, 39th Round Table on current issues of IHL, “Weapons and the International Rule of War”, Sanremo, Italy, September

Manchester University, “Justice in non-International Armed Conflict”, Louvain, UK, September

Paris Principles Steering Group, “Protecting Children from Extreme Violence: Towards a More Comprehensive Approach to Prevention and Response”, Wilton Park, UK, October

Chatham House, “Promoting Compliance with International Humanitarian Law”, London, UK, October

ICRC and Collège d'Europe, "Terrorism, Counter-Terrorism and International Humanitarian Law", Bruges, Belgium, October

Frontline Negotiators, Annual Meeting, "Negotiating with Non-State Armed Groups", Geneva, Switzerland, October

Conflict and Prevention Peace Forum and UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, "The Threat of Non-State Armed Groups in Perpetrating Atrocity Crimes", New York, USA, December

In addition, Geneva Call was asked to address groups of students, lecturers, civil servants, military personnel and employees of international organizations, as well as to participate in 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, the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, 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 Coalition to Prevent Education from Attack (GCPEA)

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 Paris Principles Steering Group

Associate member of Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict (Watchlist)

Local Partners

Africa

- Action Humanitaire pour la Consolidation de la Paix et le Développement Intégré, the Democratic Republic of Congo
- Global Synergie pour la Paix et le Développement, the Democratic Republic of Congo
- National Human Rights Monitors Organization, Sudan

Latin America

- Corporación Compromiso Humano, Colombia

Asia

- DanChurchAid (DCA) and Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) Myanmar Joint Country Programme
- Danish Demining Group (DDG)
- Humanity Institute, Burma/Myanmar
- International Labour Organization, Burma/Myanmar

- Karen Human Rights Group, Burma/Myanmar
- Mon Women's Organization, Burma/Myanmar
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- People's Empowerment, Thailand
- Save the Children

Middle East

- Afaq Academy, Syria
- Badael, Syria
- Barzani Charity Foundation, Iraq
- Danish Church Aid, Syria
- Hakim Foundation, Iraq
- Harikar, Iraq
- Legal Support Unit of the Palestinian National Security Forces, Lebanon
- Levantine Relief Network, Syria
- Mayday Rescue, Syria
- Middle East Research Institute, Iraq
- Nashet Association, Lebanon
- Norwegian People's Aid, Iraq
- Permanent Peace Movement, Lebanon
- Psychological Research Center of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Iraq
- Public Aid Organization, Iraq
- Swiss Foundation for Mine Action, Iraq
- Syrian Female Journalists Network, Syria
- Un Ponte Per, Iraq
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Syria

IOs and NGOs

Action on Armed Violence
 Amnesty International
 Chatham House
 Centre for Education and Research in Humanitarian Action (CERAH)
 Child Soldiers Initiative
 Child Soldiers International
 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

Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining

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

International Institute of Humanitarian Law, San Remo

Small Arms Survey, Geneva

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Ruth Flint

Jean Keller

François Nordmann

† Alexander C. Notter

Bertrand Reich

François Tissot

Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold

Michel Veuthey

We would like to pay a final tribute to Alexander Notter, who sadly passed away in early 2016. His dedication and enthusiasm for Geneva Call's mission will be greatly missed.

Staff

Estelle **Aebersold**, Conference Organizer
Mehmet **Balci**, Programme Director, Middle East
Annyssa **Bellal**, Legal Adviser
Sami **Ben Ayed**, Head of Finance and Administration
Pascal **Bongard**, Policy and Legal Unit Director
Maud **Bonnet**, Head of Communications and External Relations
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Alessio **di Sanzio**, IT Manager & System Administrator
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Elkane **Kartumwa**, Administrative and Finance Officer, DRC
Hichem **Khadhraoui**, Head of Operations
Tony **Kiumbe Munse**, Programme Coordinator, DRC
Armin **Köhli**, Programme Manager, Middle East
Katherine **Kramer**, Programme Director, Asia
Taylor **Landis**, Programme Officer, Asia
Augustin **Matabaro Chirhuza**, Driver & Mechanic DRC
Jonas **Martin**, Accounting Assistant
Fred **Meylan**, Programme Director, Africa
Camila **Morais**, Project Officer, Middle East
Céline **Morgan**, Programme Manager, Middle East
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Yazid **Ounnough**, Financial Controller
Christopher **Rush**, Programme Manager, Asia
Carla **Ruta**, Programme Manager, Colombia
Delphine **Saddy**, Accountant and Staff Administration Officer
Nicolas **Sion**, Communications and External Relations Officer
Ann-Kristin **Sjöberg**, Programme Director, Latin America and Kurdish Region
Alejandra **Tschudi**, Receptionist
Annette **Willi**, Development and Fundraising Officer

Geneva Call employs staff at both its headquarters in Chêne-Bougeries, Geneva, and in the different areas where it intervenes. As of 31 December 2016, Geneva Call employed 25 staff in Switzerland and 3 staff in its local offices (in 2015, these numbers were 22 and 3). In 2016, the staffing level at Geneva Call's headquarters was equivalent to 20.61 full-time positions. In addition, Geneva Call received support from volunteers equivalent to 189 working hours (up from 144 in 2015). In terms of gender balance, Geneva Call's staffing ratio was 43% female and 56% male.

Consultants and Trainers

Kamil Abbas Hussein, Abdullah Ali Abbou, Khalid Abboud, Suleiman Abdallah Ali, Sardar S. Abdulkarim, Me Abel, Menal Alhaj, Fadi Abi Allam, Qais Alkelabi, Moaffak Alkhfaji, Wissam Al Saliby, Zaki Al Zaatari, Jamilah

Ashkar, Imad Bleibel, Amal Fawaz Chehabi, Vicken Cheterian, Peter du Toit, Taline El Salibi, Tariq Finjan Jasim, Philippe Gitz, Yahya Hajir, Jamal Hamad, Jenny Hedström, Walid Ibrahim, Mahmoud Krayyim, Sandra Liliana Martinez Galindo, Hiba Mikhail, Leeloz Muhamad, Iyad Nasr, Nataliia Neshevets, Yolvi Lena Padilla Sepúlveda, Haider Quarashi, Nizar Rammal, Hauraz Saadi Raof, Lynn Shamma'a, Amal Shehabi, Pishkafti Tariq Shokri, Sardar Sidiq Abdulkarim, Jonathan Somer, Karyn Stone, Koenraad Van Brabant, Youssef Wehbeh, Yesid Ariza Zambrano, Azzam Rached Zeid

Interns and Volunteers

Motaz Beloua, Gabriele Bompani, Anaïs Felder, Susanne Gfeller, Laurent Hess, Althea Knotter, Georg Koeppinghoff, Mona-Lisa N. Kole, Jan Lepeu, Kalika Mehta, Sari Osseiran, Nadine Seleem

Geneva Call would like to thank the members of its board of trustees, its staff, volunteers and interns for their enthusiasm and commitment to the promotion of human dignity, and Sylvie Giossi Caverzasio, for her great support in drafting the three-year strategy.

We would like to give special mention to Sophie Martin Hobden, who sadly passed away 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.

