



Franciscans International
A voice at the United Nations

Franciscans International



Annual Report 2013



ABOUT FRANCISCANS INTERNATIONAL

The Franciscan Family is composed of approximately 750 000 Franciscans who put into practice the principles of St Francis of Assisi. Franciscans include religious (brothers and sisters) and lay people (the majority) who are committed to justice and peace.

Franciscans International (FI) is an international non-governmental organisation (NGO) working for the promotion, protection, and respect of human and environmental rights. Since its establishment in 1989, FI uses advocacy as a tool to combat and curb human rights abuses. FI is inspired by Franciscan values envisioning a global community in which the dignity of every person is respected, the resources are shared equitably, the environment is sustained, and nations and peoples live in peace. In 1995 FI was granted the “General Consultative Status” under ECOSOC which allows FI to address human rights and environmental issues to the United Nations (UN).

FI relies on a large network of Franciscans, working with the most vulnerable sectors in approximately 160 countries throughout the world. Franciscans working at the grassroots level bring human and environmental issues to the attention of FI. In turn, FI addresses those concerns at the UN and other international and regional forums. FI also supports Franciscans and other local partners (religious and lay) through capacity-building, awareness-raising, and campaigning at the national and international levels.

FRANCISCANS INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT 2013



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INTRODUCTION

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

During 2013, Franciscans International continued its restructuring efforts to enable the organization to operate in a way that would be more effective and efficient in achieving its vision and mission. As the financial report shows at the end of this report, FI's financial situation is now stabilized, demonstrated by a positive balance at the end of December 2013.

FI continues to provide a bridge between Franciscans working at the grass roots and the United Nations (UN), and does so in a sustainable manner. Vital work for the underprivileged strata of societies is being

carried out in 44 countries around the globe. In 2013, FI worked specifically in the following key areas: sustainable development, business and human rights, rights based approach to extreme poverty, migration, as well as violations of children's, women's and indigenous peoples' rights. FI continues to serve at the UN as a voice for the voiceless, and a visible and vocal advocate for the oppressed. FI has prepared detailed reports, delivered oral interventions at UN conferences and organised events to raise awareness on a variety of human rights challenges. This work contributed to making the concerns of the poor heard at the highest levels of the international community and to addressing ecological violations through proposals for changes in national and international law and policies. FI's efforts in

support of Mother Earth are particularly meaningful as the Church and the world recognize the 35th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Francis of Assisi as Patron of Ecology by Saint John Paul II.

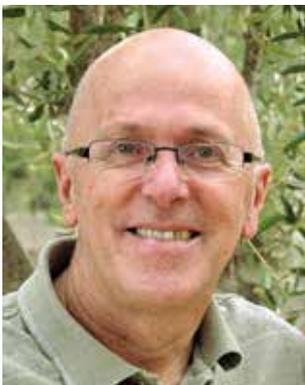
FI would not be able to continue its ministry without the support of the Franciscan Orders and Congregations, along with the funding agencies, foundations and other institutional and individual donors. The activities outlined in this annual report are the result of collaborative efforts of the Franciscan Family, FI's staff, including interns and volunteers, and donors.

In closing, let us remember why FI was initially established, especially as we mark the 25th anniversary of FI's recognition by the UN as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). In 1982, it was the dream of Dionysius Mintoff, OFM from Malta and Sr. Elizabeth Cameron, OSF from the U.S. to have a Franciscan presence at the UN. The idea quickly grew into a common project of the Franciscan Family and, by 1989, the UN Department of Public Information (DPI) officially recognized FI as an NGO. Since then, many Franciscans and capable staff have animated and guided the organization, including the current team from the Conference of the Franciscan Family, the Board of Directors and FI's Manager and staff. As we move forward, may we build on the faith and work of those who have come before us, continuing to reflect on the important ministry of the Franciscan Family that serves the needs of the poor and the planet. In spite of challenges, FI has continued to support the vulnerable through its advocacy at the UN, both in Geneva and New York. This has been a year of extraordinary accomplishments for which we should be extraordinarily grateful.

Doug Clorey, OFS

President, Franciscans International Board of Directors

*Celebration of the
25th anniversary
of FI in Geneva;
Br. Benedict
from the IBD
and Sr. Anne,
Intern at FI*



A LENS ON 2013 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Fighting Injustice through International Advocacy

In every corner of the world, Franciscans live and work among the poorest and most vulnerable populations. They witness first-hand poverty, human rights violations and environmental damage. Our international advocacy stems from the experiences of Franciscans and other partners on the ground and connects our grassroots network to the UN, bringing their voice to a forum where it is heard by global decision-makers.

Throughout 2013 FI strengthened its advocacy work to achieve a stronger impact. FI focused on specific thematic issues related to environmental justice, mainly on extractive industries, to child protection, principally birth registration, and trafficking. Through its presence in Geneva and New York, FI has also been particularly effective in promoting a rights-based approach to the Sustainable Development agenda. FI carried out strong advocacy on sustainable development as well as business and human rights issues before both ECOSOC, General Assembly and Human Rights Council (HRC), making connections between the different fora.

Giving Voice to the Grassroots

We believe that the international community should react more consistently to current multi-faceted challenges related to an increasingly complex world that adversely impact the rights of local communities and in particular women and children. In 2013 we worked hard to identify ways and actions to involve grassroots partners, to promote justice to victims, denounce abuses and prevent further violations by advocating for concrete changes.

Franciscan activists and other partners from communities facing environmental, social or economic injustices played a central role in our advocacy efforts in 2013, by speaking out at UN events and giving powerful first-hand testimony on the issues at stake. Through the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), a UN human rights review mechanism, FI gives voice to local partners and the possibility to be heard.

In 2013 FI country-specific advocacy focused on UPR-related activities mobilizing grassroots in 44 countries around the world.

Sustainable Development: Global Solutions to Local Issues

FI worked to promote environmental and social justice and to build a more sustainable and equitable world. We contributed to the international debate related to poverty reduction and development issues by emphasising the need to fill the gap between human rights and development policies and practices.

2013 marked the aftermath of the UN Conference on Sustainable development (Rio +20). FI developed and initiated international strategies based on the outcome of the Rio+20 negotiations and built on the concept of real people-centred sustainable development where human rights should be the non-negotiable normative basis for the discussions. Together with Franciscans, civil society partners, religious and non-religious organizations, we worked towards a rights-based sustainable development model that effectively preserves, promotes, and restores the environmental, social and economic conditions for current and future generations to fully enjoy civil political, economic, social and cultural rights.

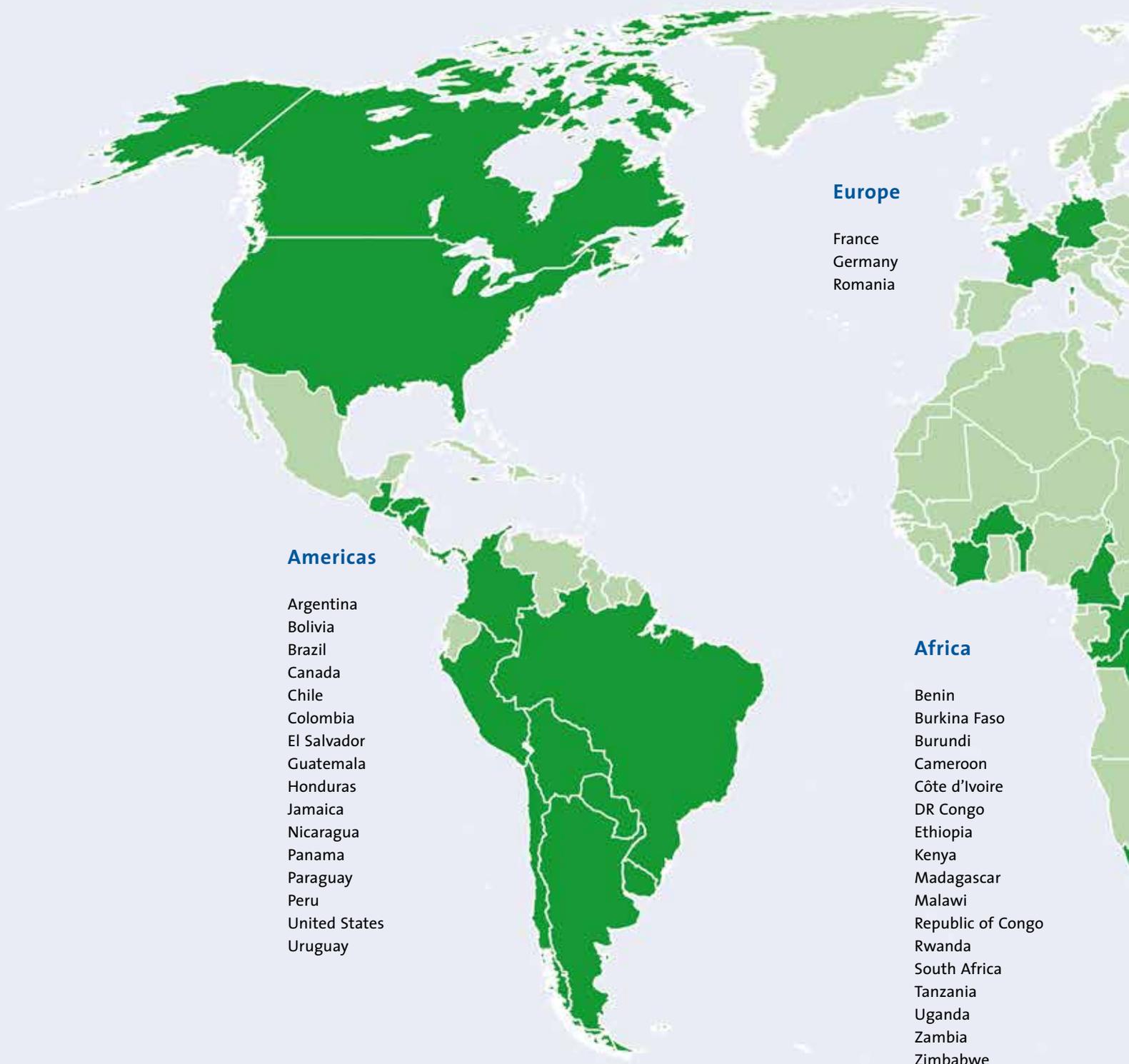
Holding Business to Account

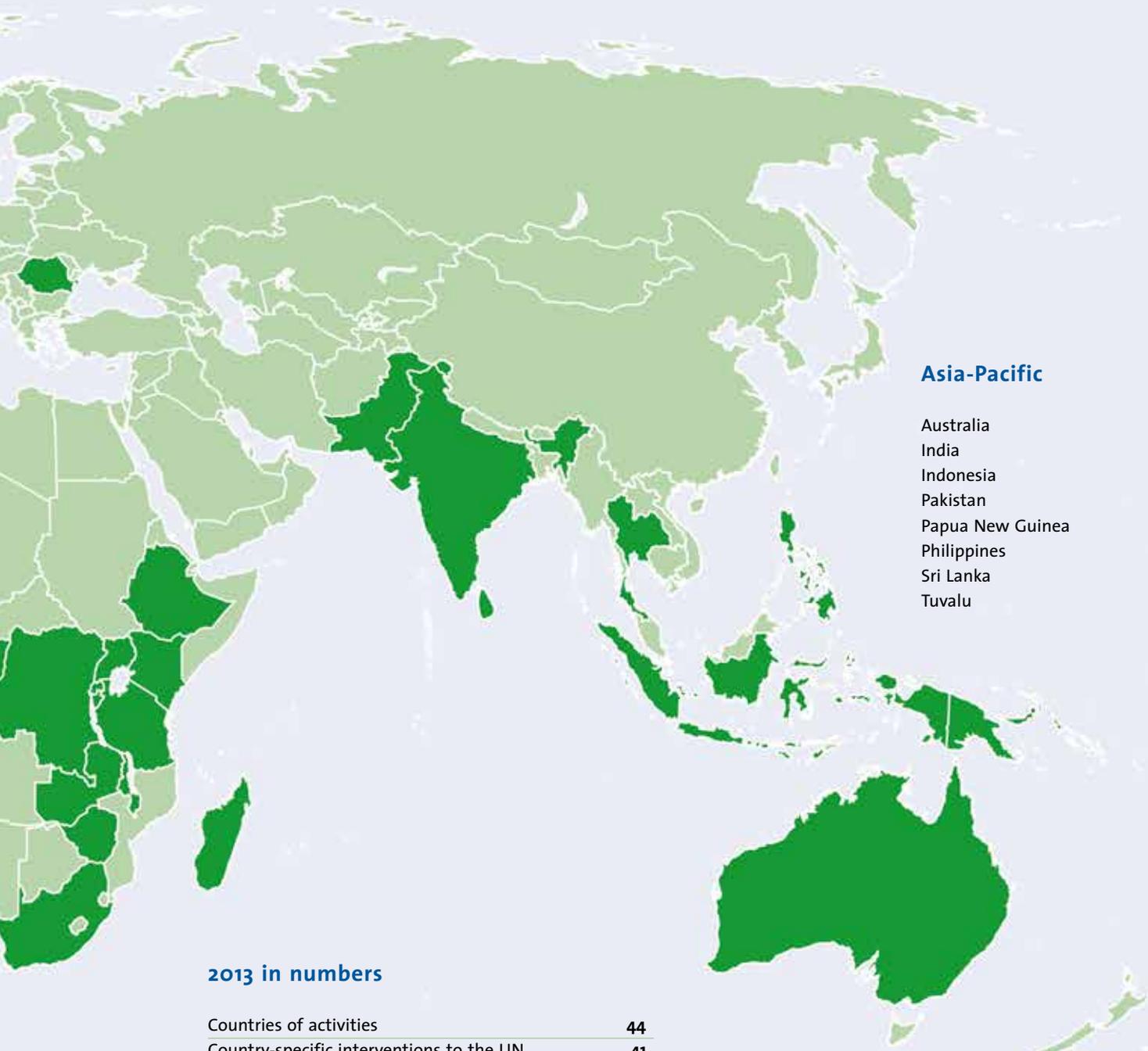
FI remains concerned about consistent reports by field partners about abuses and violations which directly or indirectly involve the responsibility of the business sector and in particular the extractive industries. We also deplore that these misconducts have a disproportionate impact on women, children, peasants, indigenous peoples, and persons living in poverty.

To address these concerns, part of our work focused on advocating for better business accountability, for the effective implementation of existing human rights standards, and the promotion of a legally binding Treaty ensuring respect for human rights and effective remedies for victims.

2013 AT A GLANCE

Countries of Projects and other Activities





Asia-Pacific

- Australia
- India
- Indonesia
- Pakistan
- Papua New Guinea
- Philippines
- Sri Lanka
- Tuvalu

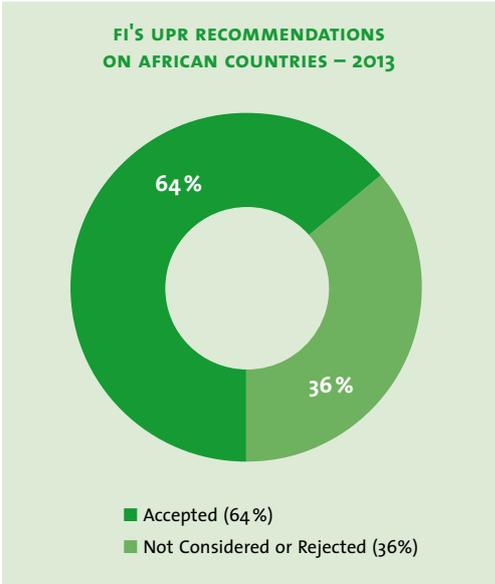
2013 in numbers

Countries of activities	44
Country-specific interventions to the UN	41
Thematic interventions to the UN	15
Reports to the UN	12
Workshops	14
Participants trained	385
Field missions and gatherings	16
Local partners invited to intervene before the UN	25
International conferences organised by FI	17

REGIONAL PROGRAMS

AFRICA

Franciscans International in collaboration with local and global partners in 2013 effectively took action against several key issues of concern in Africa. Through expanding and utilising regional networks and engaging with the UN and international community, FI enhanced country specific advocacy activities throughout the region. FI conducted advocacy on child rights in Benin, Cameroon, Rwanda, Madagascar and Côte d'Ivoire; the rights to water and sanitation in Burkina Faso, Kenya and Tanzania; peace and reconciliation in Burundi; the negative impact of mining on women and children in Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the rights of women in Republic of Congo.



FI actively engaged in advocacy activities throughout the year through reports, statements and conferences at the UNHRC, regional capacity building activities and workshops, lobbying governments and taking part in diplomatic dialogues through the UPR process and alerting UN Special Procedures. The UPR process in which FI submitted recommendations for governments to make changes was highly successful in Africa in 2013. The region accepted 64 per cent of FI's recommendations for change, as demonstrated in the graph on the left.



JANUARY

Workshop in Jamaica

Submission of the UPR mid-term assessment for Kenya

01

Submission on the situation of the civil and political rights in Indonesia to the Human Rights Committee

UPR Advocacy on Romania and France





Focus on: Democratic Republic of the Congo Wealth that Casts a Shadow: Exploitation and Mining

FI raises awareness of the “resource curse” and governance in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Why are the citizens of this country rich of natural resources suffering exploitation and abuse?

In response to the abhorrent human rights abuses occurring in and around mining sites throughout the eastern region of North and South Kivu, FI and partners have prepared long-term advocacy to improve governance and regulation in the mining sector.

The Kivu region of DRC is an unfortunate example of the “resource curse” in action. This region of vastly abundant natural resources has endured a systemic exploitation of its mineral wealth and its people for decades. Resources like diamonds, timber, copper, gold, and cobalt are illegally extracted, mismanaged and sold on the global market, mostly to the benefit of foreign companies and armed groups.

Weakness of the Congolese government and poor transparency of procedures reinforces exploitative practices and perpetrators flourish with impunity. Workers are often illegally employed and working in hazardous conditions, with children representing a large portion of those exploited in the mines. Furthermore, brutal mass rapes occurring in the North Kivu region of DRC are a well-documented and sad reality. As a result of the conflict and of mining related violence, hundreds of women in the region are falling victim to rape.

FI engaged with the HRC in 2013, submitting several interventions to address the issues of abuse against women and children in eastern DRC. To further highlight human rights abuses in the Kivu region, FI submitted two detailed reports and recommendations to the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the UPR of the DRC. The report to the CEDAW focused on sexual violence perpetrated against women in armed conflict areas. The second report addressed issues of child miners in Eastern DRC. Both addressed these issues in the context of minerals’ exploitation. FI partners in DRC, who are working on mining related conflict and exploitation issues, were invited to Geneva to address the CEDAW and other actors of the international community to advocate towards breaking the links between minerals’ trade and human rights abuses.

Taking Action for Child Rights

In collaboration with global and regional partners, FI coordinated awareness-raising and advocacy actions in 2013. In partnership with UNICEF Benin, FI contributed to several recommendations for legislative reform to the “Child Code of Benin”. These amendments concerned harmful traditional practices in Northern Benin in which children are being murdered after being labelled witches.

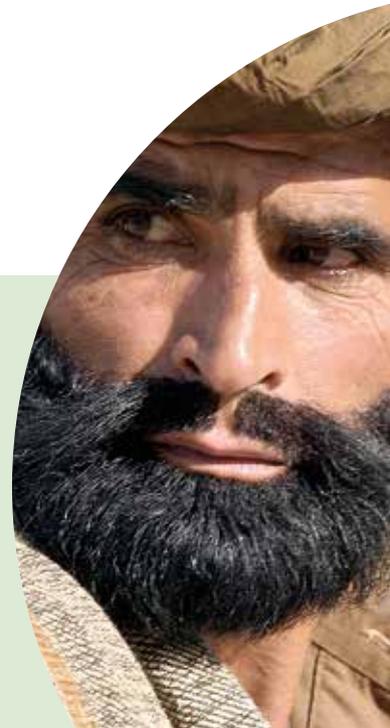
FEBRUARY

UPR Advocacy on Sri Lanka and Pakistan

Sub-regional workshop on human rights and environmental justice in Argentina

02

Submission on the situation of women in Cameroon to CEDAW



Focus on: Côte d'Ivoire

Children who do not exist are Deprived of their Rights

In Côte d'Ivoire, especially in rural areas, many parents struggle to register their child for basic services such as schooling and medical care. Why? Because there are no official records stating that their child exists.

Lack of official birth registration processes and procedures deprives a child of a legal status. This denies them their fundamental rights of nationality, social security and education. It also makes them easier targets for human rights violations such as child trafficking and forced labour. How do we encourage parents to register their children? What's preventing them from doing it now? These are some of the questions that FI asked in 2013.

At the request of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), FI conducted a survey regarding birth registration in Côte d'Ivoire. The aim of the survey was to clearly identify the barriers that prevent effective birth registration practices in the region. FI also aimed to define best practices and provide recommendations for achieving universal birth registration. With this intention, FI staff in the field surveyed 113 locals in the Abidjan district in southern Côte d'Ivoire in October 2013.

Results from the survey suggested that the lack of awareness about the importance of birth registration and high illiteracy rates among locals were two primary reasons for low birth registration rates. The results also highlighted that the most effective example of best practise was the implementation of easily accessible registration centres in close proximity to villages and smaller rural areas.

Several important recommendations for improvement emerged from the survey. These include; government awareness raising campaigns on the importance of birth registration, the construction of more secondary registration centres and investment into new innovates ways to register births, such as SMS systems and launching a public hotline. It was also recommended that a mobile team of civil officers travel through rural areas regularly implementing these solutions.

The survey conducted by FI was shared with international stakeholders interested in universal birth registration (both NGO partners of Child Rights Connect and key diplomatic missions) and informed the UPR for the Côte d'Ivoire. FI believes that implementing effective capacity building strategies, such as those suggested in the survey, will ensure a better start and stronger future for children in the region.

FI also actively advocated for children's rights at the HRC in March 2013 highlighting these troubling practices in Northern Benin. The Ambassador of Benin in Geneva committed to address this issue with both his government and the international community. FI also contributed to a conference that raised awareness about linkages between birth registration and access to health. Capacity building activities and consultations of field partners were also conducted in Côte d'Ivoire and Cameroon. Participants had the opportunity to share concerns regarding children living in extreme poverty, the lack of birth registration, child trafficking and the issue of forced and early marriages of girls. FI extensively utilised the UPR framework and Treaty Bodies, to submit human rights monitoring reports and recommendations for improvements of child rights in Benin, DRC, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon and Rwanda.



Human rights workshop in Belgium for franciscan missionaries

MARCH

03

Intervention on birth registration and access to health in Benin

Conference on access to justice for Dalits

Submission of UPR report on Republic of Congo

UN Advocacy on mining and human rights defenders with partners from Peru



The Rights to Water and Sanitation: A daily Struggle for Survival

The Vanderbijlpark Advanced Training Workshop was held by FI in October 2013, enabling regional representatives to discuss water and sanitation issues. As part of the workshop there were 22 participants representing Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The group emphasised governments' accountability to protect the rights to water and sanitation and the needs of those living in rural communities. These points were reflected in the Vaal Water and Sanitation Declaration drafted and adopted by participants. The declaration outlines recommendations for managing water and sanitation issues, with special emphasis on vulnerable and disadvantaged communities. The declaration also calls for the empowerment of local communities in providing water services, and protection from the commercialisation of these services. The participants of the workshop pledged to disseminate the declaration to relevant networks in each of their responsible regions.



APRIL



Strategic meeting on environmental justice in Italy

Consultation in the Netherlands on the human rights situation in West Papua

04

UPR Advocacy on Germany

Submission on the situation of children in Rwanda through CRC

13



AMERICAS

In the Americas, 2013 proved to be a key year in advancing regional networks and ongoing advocacy strategies. FI significantly expanded the breadth of the Americas Program, carrying out advocacy activities regarding the human rights situation in 16 countries in the region. In pursuit of our mission to defend the rights of vulnerable or marginalised groups, FI advocated at the UN on issues as diverse as the trafficking and exploitation of children in Uruguay, the rights of migrants and refugees in Chile, a lack of birth registration among vulnerable populations in Nicaragua, and discrimination of Afro-Peruvian children in the right to education. Responding to the overwhelming concern of our local and national partners over the issue, FI prioritised strategies regarding the impact of extractive industries and unsustainable development practices on marginalised groups in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Peru, the United States and Uruguay. FI carried out these advocacy strategies through reports to human rights mechanisms, statements before the Human Rights Council (HRC), direct lobbying before governments and UN agencies, capacity building workshops and urgent appeals to UN Special Procedures.



MAY

Advocacy on water resources over-consumption and pollution by mining

05

UPR Advocacy on Burkina Faso and Cameroon

Urgent appeal on the freedom of expression in Papua, Indonesia

Abuses by Extractive Industries

Throughout the region, FI responded to urgent appeals for intervention and carried out ongoing strategies to defend human rights and the environment against the destructive practices of extractive industries. Our partners in the field consistently raise concerns about communities' ability to object to mining projects before they begin, the nature of harms caused by mining operations that are already installed, violence and persecution suffered by communities and persecution of environmental human rights defenders at the local and national level.

Together with the Franciscan Family of Colombia's Justice and Peace Commission, FI continued work on strategies involving mining issues. FI submitted a report on the issue to the UN for Colombia's UPR in April; a second report focusing on the impact of mining on women was submitted to CEDAW in September. Also in September, FI collaborated with the inter-Franciscan Commission and local partners to deliver a declaration to the HRC regarding the threat posed to the environment by mining in a particular ecologic zone. Other advocacy strategies carried out related to destructive agro-industry in Argentina, human rights defenders in Honduras, threats to water in El Salvador, and human rights defenders in Peru. Mining was a central focus of FI workshops for the Southern Cone in February 2013, and fact-finding missions to Jamaica, Central America and Peru.

Focus on: Uruguay Threats to Fresh Water

Cloudy brown with a pungent odour and taste is not how one would expect their drinking water to appear, but in March 2013 the residents of Montevideo the capital city of Uruguay faced this reality. The water contamination was due to regular polluting of the Santa Lucia River Basin, which is the main water source for over 50% of Uruguayans. The urban poor of the city, who cannot afford to purchase bottled water, were severely impacted by this incident. The incident revealed systemic problems with the Uruguayan government's management of fresh water resources. Sources of pollution to the basin include sewage, run off from agricultural fields, and industrial water waste.

The right to water was one of five human rights concerns raised in FI's joint advocacy campaign with the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS). The strategy also addressed human trafficking, sexual abuse and exploitation of children, the rights of persons with disabilities and children in poverty. Together with strategic NGO partners, the Franciscan coalition utilised the UPR for Uruguay to lobby the government for change.

This campaign was initially designed and launched at FI's regional capacity and network building workshop for the Southern Cone in February. Following this workshop, FI, Franciscans partners and local NGOs collaborated in researching and drafting a detailed report that evaluates human rights violations in the country and proposed recommendations. This report was submitted in June and the recommendations were shared with local media and foreign governments in Montevideo. In November 2013, FI invited two representatives of the coalition to Geneva to directly raise their concerns and recommendations with decision makers. Raúl Giudice, a member of the National Fraternity of the OFS and Cristina Prego, a member of the National Network Against Sexual and Domestic Violence, made several presentations of the report and carried out bilateral advocacy meetings with diplomats. In 2014, FI continues to collaborate with Franciscans and assist with preparing advocacy campaigns and strategies for the region.



JUNE

Launching of the publication: Human Rights in West Papua 2013

Submission on the situation of women in DRC to CEDAW

Participation on UN regional forum on business and human rights, Colombia

06

Conference on empowering people living in poverty

Advocacy on decent work, climate change, and extractive industries



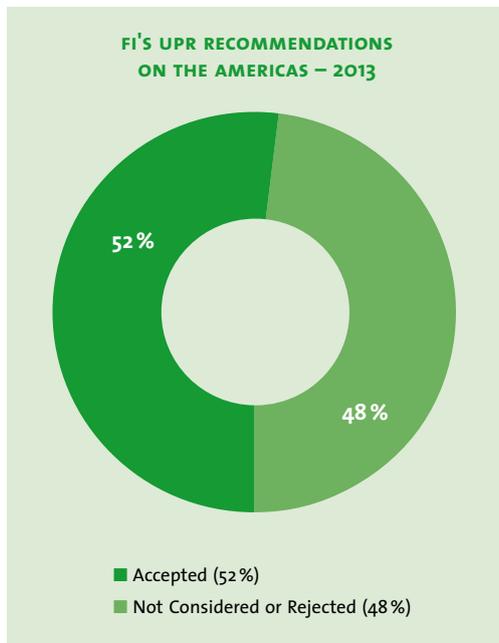
Focus on: **Brazil**

Mobilising to Protect Indigenous Peoples' Rights

Hundreds of indigenous peoples representing the native communities of Brazil descended upon government buildings in Brasilia on April 19, 2013 to protest increased attacks on their constitutional and territorial rights. The protests were ignited by a new set of legal reforms that propose the scaling back of hard-fought protections of indigenous rights to land and self-determination. The threats to legal protections for indigenous peoples go hand in hand with efforts to overhaul the regulatory framework in favour of expanding the mining industry.

In collaboration with the National Inter-Franciscan Service for Justice, Peace and Ecology (SINFRAJUPE) and other partners, FI supported the mobilisation around these issues and drew international attention through several interventions at the UN. In 2013, in collaboration with our Brazilian partners and other allies at the UN, FI delivered statements before the HRC in May and September, lobbied the Brazilian Mission to the UN in New York in August, submitted an urgent appeal to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in September, connected local partners with the UN Special Rapporteur on Water and Sanitation in December, facilitated SINFRAJUPE's participation in the regional and global Forums on Business and Human Rights in August and December and also supported a national consultation aimed at consolidating a strategy for future collaborative work in November. FI remains committed to supporting grassroots movements in Brazil regarding indigenous rights and environmental justice.

In September 2013, in collaboration with the Sisters of Mercy, FI submitted extensive research on the human rights implications of fracking in Canada to the UN Special Rapporteurs on Water and Hazardous Wastes. The report was also sent to the UN Independent Expert on Human Rights and Environment as well as numerous Canadian government representatives. As a result of public pressure, the provincial government in Canada announced a moratorium on fracking in November 2013.



JULY



Urgent appeal against Tipaimukh Hydroelectric Dam in India



07

National consultation on women's rights in Cameroon

Open Veins: Transnational Corporations and Human Rights

Transnational corporations are assuming an increasingly influential role in Latin America, both as drivers of policy and as actors that must be regulated by international human rights and environmental law. Franciscans working at the margins of society in Latin America have a powerful voice to contribute and influence policy discussions and decisions. In August 2013, FI partnered with the Sisters of Mercy at the UN and the Franciscan Family of Colombia to send an international advocacy delegation to Medellín to participate in the UN Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights for Latin America and the Caribbean. Maria Leonor Mesa Arango (Franciscan Commission on Justice and Peace in Colombia), led the delegation that included, Fr. Rodrigo Peret (OFM, SINFRAJUPE in Brazil), Maria Elena Aradas (Franciscan Center for Regional Studies and Development in Argentina), Bárbara Curbelo Castillo (Young Franciscan YuFra Movement in Argentina) and others. The group made several strong interventions on the rights of peasants, indigenous peoples, other vulnerable communities and the environment. The resounding conclusion of the delegation was that the existing legal and policy framework on business and human rights is insufficient to ensure corporations respect human rights. This point of view is reflected into FI's ongoing global advocacy at the UN that pledges to campaign for better regulation on these issues at national and international levels. A representative of the delegation also attended the UN Global Forum in Geneva in December.



AUGUST

Fact finding mission on the impact of extractive industry on human rights in the Philippines

National consultation on UPR Côte d'Ivoire

08

Fact-finding mission to El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras

Advocacy on Brazil's mining code reforms



ASIA-PACIFIC



In the Asia-Pacific region, FI in collaboration with local and global partners influenced change on several issues of concern in 2013. Through expanding and utilising regional networks and engaging with the UN and international community, FI carried out advocacy activities in Australia, India, Indonesia including West Papua, Philippines, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tuvalu and Papua New Guinea.

In pursuit of our mission to protect the most vulnerable, FI focussed on issues such as the rights of indigenous peoples and the negative impact of mining in India, Indonesia including West Papua, and Philippines, the rights of asylum seekers in Australia and Papua New Guinea (PNG), peace and reconciliation, migrant workers, human trafficking and the rights of persons with disabilities in Sri



SEPTEMBER

International conference on human rights in West Papua

National consultations in Brazil and Bolivia

Urgent appeal on fracking in Canada

09

Submission of UPR report on DRC and Côte d'Ivoire

Submission on women's rights in Colombia to CEDAW





Focus on: Australia

Trapped with no Hope: Australia’s Offshore Detention of Asylum Seekers

“The impact of detention on health has not been able to be differentiated from the impact of an unknown future ... estimates place suicidal behaviour by men and women in Australian Immigration Detention centres to be 41 and 26 times higher than the National Average” Joint Selection Committee on Australia’s Immigration Detention Network.

“Deplorable”, that is how an FI partner described the living conditions of detained asylum seekers in PNG. As part of a new Australian policy announced in 2013, asylum seekers who arrive by boat to Australia without a visa, are refused settlement in Australia and instead they are settled in PNG and Nauru. Whilst waiting for their applications to be processed, these asylum seekers are held in crowded and unsanitary conditions for extended periods of time, often with no knowledge of when or whether they will ever be released.

Franciscans International partners in Australia, alerted FI of human rights abuses occurring in detention centres in PNG. “There is one large room with a tin roof, no fans and it houses around 140 persons”, stated an FI partner who visited Manu Island Regional Processing Centre.

To coincide with Human Rights Day, FI in collaboration with Edmund Rice International (ERI) sent an urgent appeal to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants and to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. The appeal reported that the Government of Australia and the Government of PNG allegedly violated human rights of asylum seekers, due to deprivation of their right to liberty and security. FI and ERI made recommendations to both governments, stating that reasonable and humanitarian measures need to be set to time limits spent in detention, and that these asylum seekers should not be processed offshore in PNG or Nauru but only in Australia.

Lanka, freedom of religion in Pakistan and Indonesia, the right to education and women’s and children’s rights in Pakistan and the impact of climate change on human rights in Tuvalu. FI also actively engaged in advocacy activities through statements and conferences at the HRC, lobbying governments through the UPR Process and engaging UN Special Procedures.

OCTOBER

Advocacy on mining and violence in Honduras

Conference on gold mining in Central America

UPR Advocacy on Republic of Congo

Human rights workshop in Belgium for franciscan missionaries

List of issues on Indonesia submitted to the CESCR



Focus on: Philippines
People ahead of Profit. The negative Impact of Extractive Mining

The murder of numerous anti-mining activists, the intimidation and exploitation of local communities and a severe degradation of the environment, these are some of the human rights violations perpetrated in the name of “economic development”.

They can see their lands being stolen and destroyed but peaceful protest is not an option, in the mining regions of the Philippines, the act of protesting is a way to get killed. You may ask why the reaction to protesting is so aggressive and inhumane. The simple answer is, profit. The extraction of natural resources is one of the largest economic activities in the Philippines, whilst this is considered a generator for economic development; it’s also an instigator for exploitation, social and environmental upheaval, with particular impact on indigenous communities and their lands.

According to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, almost 60 per cent of approved mines in Philippines cover indigenous peoples’ territories, and 69 percent of this mining activity occurs without consent of indigenous peoples’. These mines reduce water resources, biodiversity and forests. As a result local communities are displaced and their economic, social, cultural and political rights violated. Insufficient and corrupt government leads to mining companies ignoring the rights of local communities. Companies rarely inform local communities of mining projects and any attempt at protest from locals is swiftly and violently repressed.

To strengthen and support the advocacy activities of Franciscans and other partners in the Philippines, FI conducted capacity building and lobbying initiatives throughout 2013. In August, FI visited affected communities, Cagayan Valley and Manicani Island, conducting a fact-finding mission. FI then voiced the concerns raised by locals to the Philippines Commission on Human Rights (CHR). FI also enhanced advocacy networks in the region by organising strategic meetings with key national NGOs involved in mining advocacy.

To enhance pressure from the international community, in September, FI submitted a statement on the impact of mining on human rights and indigenous communities to the HRC. FI advocacy efforts in the region peaked at the Global Forum on Business and Human Rights in Geneva, December 2013. During the Forum, FI held a conference focusing on the issue. As a speaker sharing his experience from the field, Mr Jesus Vincente Garganera the National Coordinator of ATM (Alliance to Stop Mining), addressed several cases of exploitative mining practices in Philippines, including the Tampakan mine case. Tampakan is known as a mine that would displace approximately 5 000 indigenous people possibly triggering violent conflicts in the area. FI constantly urged the Philippines Government to take effective action against abusive mining practices and to revoke Mining Act 1995.

Destructive Mining Practices against Indigenous Populations

The impact of the “resource curse” is occurring in several regions throughout Asia, often the most vulnerable to exploitation are indigenous communities. FI is working with local NGOs to support capacity building in the region and at the international level to pressure government reform. In addition to in the Philippines, FI has been actively working on projects regarding the impact of mining, especially on local indigenous populations in India, and Indonesia including West Papua. In July, FI sent an urgent appeal to the UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples, regarding the construction of a dam “Tipaimukh Multipurpose Hydroelectric Project” in Northern India. The construction violated the rights of indigenous peoples and their forest. As a result of FI and others’ actions, the Indian Government refused forest clearance permission for the project.

NOVEMBER

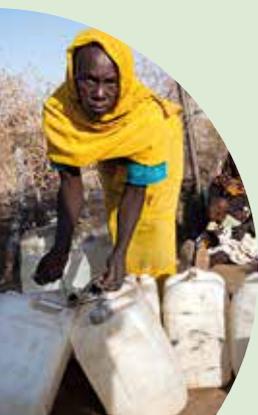
Intervention on the freedom of religion in Pakistan at the UN annual forum on minority issues

Regional workshop in South Africa on the rights to water and sanitation

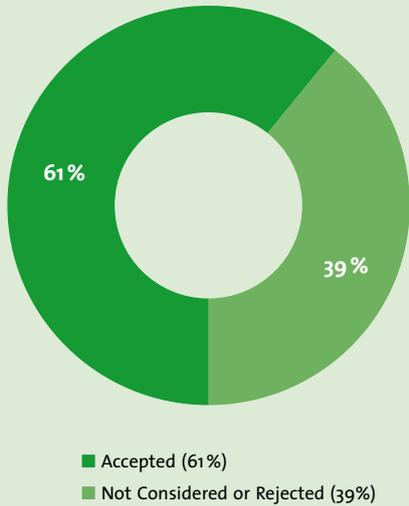
Conference and publication on fracking

Fact-finding mission and meeting in Peru of LA network of religious concerned with mining

National consultations in Argentina, Colombia and El Salvador



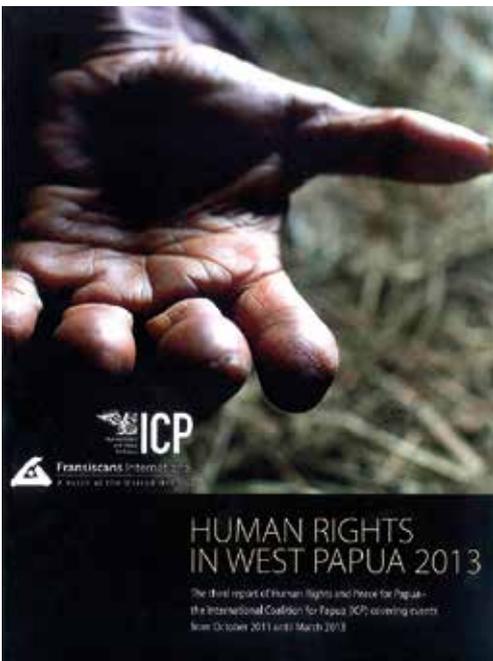
FI'S UPR RECOMMENDATIONS
IN ASIA-PACIFIC COUNTRIES – 2013



Oppressing the Freedom of Expression

Three people were killed by armed forces and at least 30 demonstrators arrested during the May 1st commemoration of the 50th anniversary of administrative transfer of Papua to Indonesia. Indigenous Papuans continue to suffer aggressive and severe punishment by the Indonesian government for peaceful political protests.

Indigenous Papuans are regularly arrested and abused for acts such as raising the Papuan Morning Star flag or attending public events associated with Papuan nationalism. As in previous years, FI in collaboration with The International Coalition for Papua brought the issue of freedom of expression in Papua to the attention of the appropriate UN mandate. In September, FI also addressed the issue through co-organizing a conference at the UN in Geneva on indigenous peoples in Asia. At the conference a speaker invited by FI discussed issues occurring in Papua. FI continues to advocate for the rights of indigenous peoples in 2014 with the UN Human Rights Committee on the limitation of freedom of expression in West Papua. To create greater awareness on a regional level of human rights provisions FI translated the document "Human Rights in Papua 2013" into Bahasa Indonesia and launched the publication at the HRC in September.



DECEMBER

Urgent appeal on the situation of the asylum seekers in Australia and Papua New Guinea

Conference on impact of extractive industry in the Philippines

Conference on conflict mineral in DRC

Advocacy on human rights and mining

Launching of FI publication "Development: Sustainable for whom?"



EUROPE

FI in collaboration with local partners endeavours to influence reform for better protection of those marginalised in Europe. That included advocacy activities in relation to human trafficking in Germany, France and Romania, and the social inclusion of the homeless and freedom of religion in prisons in France. FI also actively engaged through interventions at the HRC, diplomatic dialogue through the UPR by engaging UN Special Procedures.

Focus on: **Germany**

Stolen Lives: The Trafficking of Women and Children

“Alone, desperate, trapped, exploited and sexually abused, everyday presents a new source of terror.”

This is how Tea recalls the excruciating agony of her stolen childhood. Only a child when trafficked from Nigeria, Tea fell into a trap of false promises of education, a better life and hope. Instead she was forced into a child prostitution ring in Italy. Her grief continued as Tea’s abusers dragged her from city to city in Germany for further sexual exploitation, eventually causing her to fall pregnant whilst still a child herself. After years of exploitation Tea finally escaped but the German government dealt her a further blow when they rejected her application for political asylum. Eventually, through the tireless advocacy efforts of Franciscan sisters, Tea was granted permanent residency in Germany.

Unfortunately Tea’s story is all too familiar for many young women who are trafficked and forced into prostitution in Europe. Sr. Stephanie Schwester, a Franciscan from Germany, has dedicated 25 years to the plight of refugees and victims of human trafficking. FI addressed 23 diplomatic delegations during a conference at the UN in Geneva highlighting Tea’s story, human trafficking and prostitution in general. FI particularly urged the German Government to take concrete action in preventing forced prostitution and other forms of slavery. Also urging all governments to take steps aimed at protecting victims, including granting temporary or permanent residency based on humanitarian grounds. The same concerns were also addressed to the UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons. The German government accepted three of FI’s recommendations, regarding assistance and protection services for victims of human trafficking.



FI urged governments to adopt legislation that protects victims of trafficking and forced prostitution by implementing better regulation regarding business registration, labour inspections, building regulations, licensing requirements and social security checks. To combat issues of elderly abuse in care homes in France, FI lobbied the French government to institute better training for elderly care professionals.

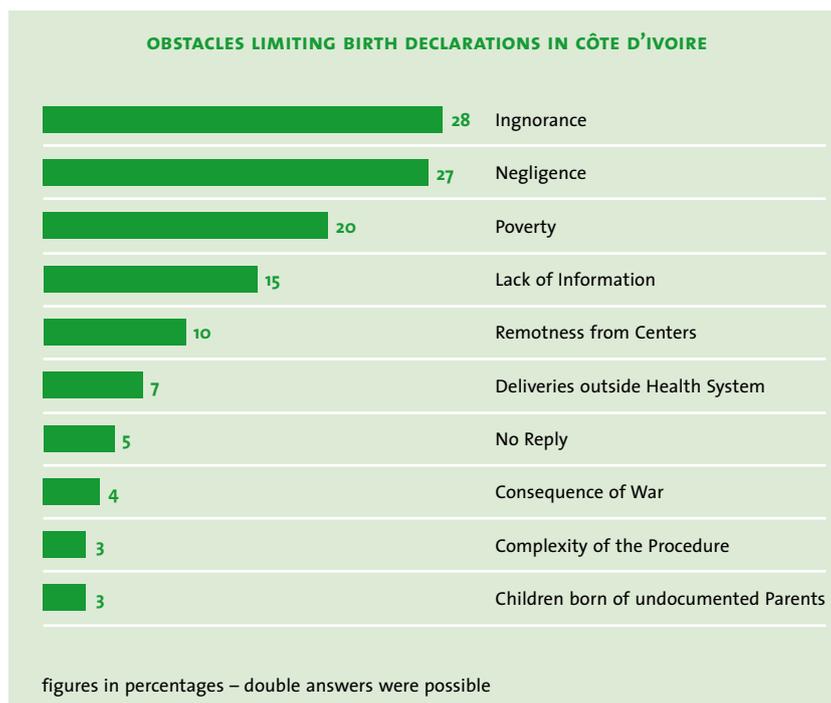
LET'S START AT THE BEGINNING: ENCOURAGING BIRTH REGISTRATION

“Around 290 million children (or 45 per cent of all children under age five worldwide), do not possess a birth certificate” UNICEF

Multiple child rights violations such as forced labour, early marriage and child trafficking are exacerbated by the fact that there is no documentation stating that these children exist. Birth registration is the first right of a human being. Not only does it provide a child with a legal identity, it helps to secure their other fundamental rights such as health care, immunization, education and employment. Denial of birth registration condemns people to a life in the informal sector, acting as a precursor to future human rights violations. In addition to issues of child protection, an up-to-date registry of births allows countries and regional governments to better plan for future services such as hospitals and schools.

In collaboration with the Universal Birth Registration Working Group of Child Rights Connect, FI conducted significant advocacy efforts on the issue at the international and country-specific level. This includes addressing the Human Rights Council (HRC) in regards to birth registration through statements on Benin, research and reports for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) processes of Cameroon, Nicaragua, Côte d'Ivoire, Chile, DRC, Congo Brazzaville, and Rwanda. FI also initiated a broader strategy to promote birth registration through the UPR.

An FI birth registration survey conducted on Côte d'Ivoire revealed that two primary reasons for low rates of registration is a lack of awareness about the importance of birth registration, and high illiteracy rates amongst target populations. The survey also produced several important recommendations for increasing birth registration numbers, including awareness raising campaigns, making registration centres accessible, and investing into new innovative ways to register births, such as SMS systems, public hotline, and mobile registering team.



PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Around the world, the most impoverished and marginalized groups bear most directly the consequences of environmental degradation stemming from the current development model. The inter-Franciscan delegation that gathered for the 2012 UN Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development responded to this reality by drafting concrete proposals for the global Franciscan Family to take action. These priorities guided FI's sustainable development advocacy plan at the UN during 2013. FI focused on the negative impact of mining, the commodification of nature, promoting alternative development methods and collaborating with NGOs that share these priorities, including the NGO Mining Working Group (MWG).



Together with our partners, FI contributed to numerous interventions and advocacy activities with governments and UN agencies. In one of FI's statements to the UN General Assembly's Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, FI urged governments to design an agenda that would protect fresh water resources from the irreparable harm caused by mining and agro-industry activity. FI carried out an advocacy campaign at the UN with the MWG and Franciscan Action Network, calling on governments to reject the myth that job creation and environmental conservation is an "either-or" question. On behalf of the MWG, FI also made a strong statement at the HRC session regarding gaps in the current development model that expose human rights and the environment to vulnerabilities.



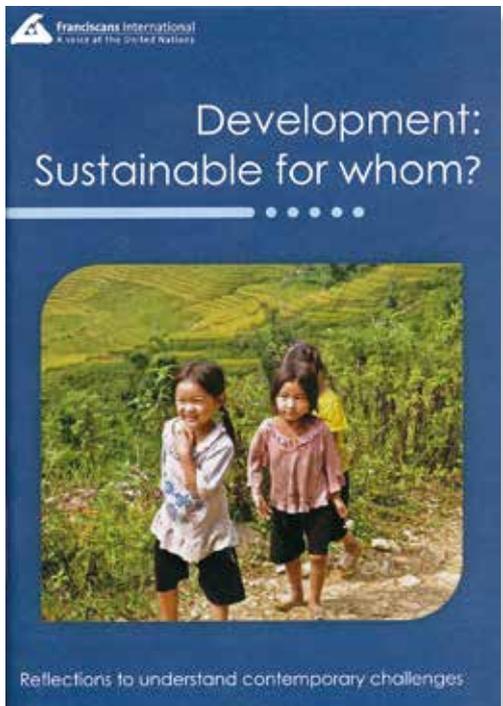
To further engage the UN, the HRC and other key players, FI hosted 4 conferences in Geneva parallel to the Forum on Business and Human Rights. They gathered speakers from around the world to discuss the human rights violations by the mining industries. Countries represented at the events included, Palestine, Philippines, Kenya, South Africa, Zambia, Brazil, Thailand and DRC.

Through capacity building, advocacy activities, lobbying diplomatic missions and engaging with the UN and partners, FI in 2013 has taken significant steps to raise the attention of the international community on the actions of business and governments in regards to sustainable development and human rights.

In 2013, FI created the booklet “Development: Sustainable for whom?” which discusses different sustainable development models and ideas. The booklet addresses poverty eradication, green economy, climate change, access to water, food and agriculture and mining.

Business and Human Rights

In collaboration with international and regional partners, FI actively advocated for greater legal protections to ensure the implementation of ethical business practices, with special emphasis on the negative impact of mining and energy industries on human rights and the environment. FI addressed the HRC regarding the impact of mining on human rights in Peru, Argentina, Indonesia, Brazil, Philippines and DRC. FI also conducted country-specific advocacy activities focusing on government obligations and regulation of business in Cameroon, DRC, India, Indonesia including West Papua, Philippines, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Peru, the United States and Uruguay.



Throughout 2013, FI improved its financial position for the short and medium term future, closing the year at a surplus of almost CHF 100,000 (from unrestricted donations). This surplus will support efforts to build a contingency reserve for the organisation.

We also enhanced cost-efficiency between advocacy expenditure and administrative costs in 2013 (see graph below). A restructuring of the organisation assisted in decreasing administrative costs significantly and contributed to the efficiency of advocacy work.

In addition, we endeavoured to increase FI's revenue and ensure a more predictable income stream in the coming years. At the end of 2013, we achieved the following:

- We obtained multi-year grants from several donor agencies for 2013, 2014 and in some cases for 2015;
- CHF 568,000 had been granted or firmly pledged for 2014 (CHF 300,000 was pledged by Franciscan Orders and Congregations and CHF 268,000 by funding agencies for advocacy projects). This represented 63% of the budget for 2014.

In order to diversify sources of income in 2013, new potential donors were approached. We received significant grants from two new donor agencies for a total of CHF 260,000 for 2013 and 2014.

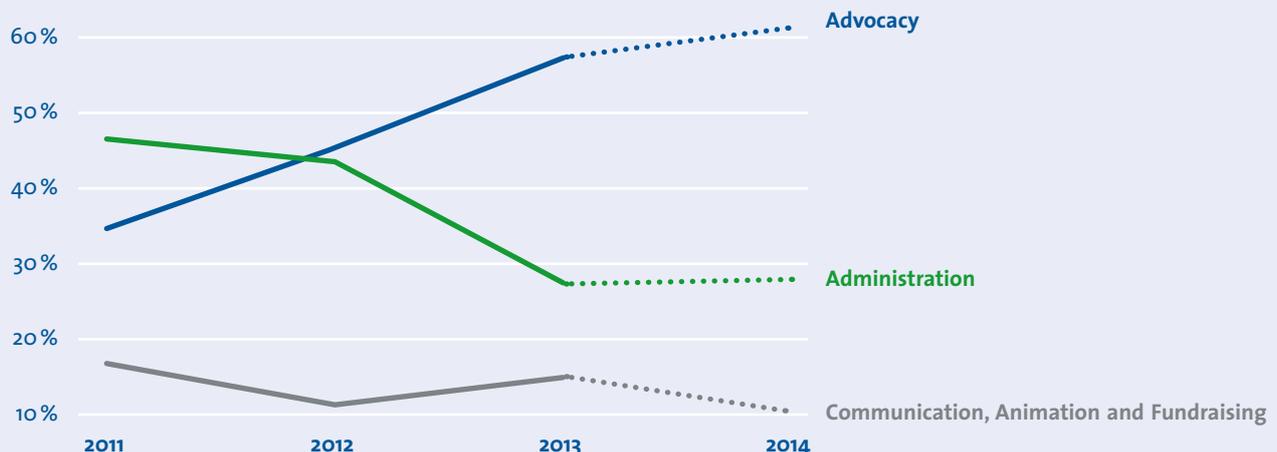
Similar efforts towards financial sustainability continue in 2014 and will contribute to strengthen FI advocacy work in the future.

DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The work of FI is entirely dependent on the support of the Franciscan orders and congregations, funding agencies, and Franciscan-hearted people. FI wishes to express its sincere gratitude to the Franciscan orders and congregations as well as the following funding entities for their generous funding in 2013:

Adveniat (Germany), City of Meyrin (Switzerland), Cordaid (Netherlands), Fastenopfer (Switzerland), Franziskaner Mission (Germany), Hans Wilsdorf Foundation (Switzerland), Mensen met een Missie (Netherlands), Miseen Cara (Ireland), Misereor (Germany), Missionszentrale der Franziskaner (Germany), Rosemary Khoo Foundation (Singapore-Switzerland), Trócaire (Ireland).

Trends in Expenditure

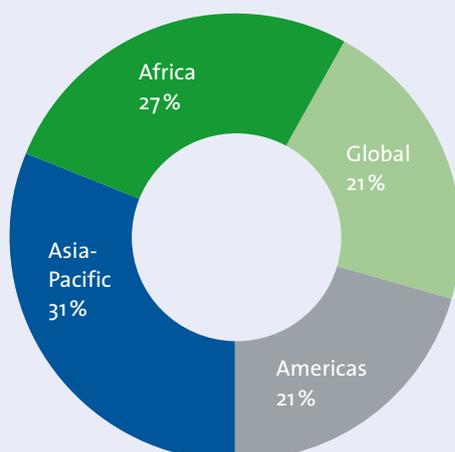


FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2013

(Audited by independent and accredited external auditors)

	CHF	Percentage
Income		
Franciscan Orders and Congregations	336,395	39.5 %
Funding Agencies and Foundations	501,436	58.8 %
Other Donations	14,444	1.7 %
Total income	852,275	
Expenses		
Advocacy	(394,689)	57.9 %
Communications, Animation and Fundraising	(99,650)	14.6 %
Administration	(187,857)	27.5 %
Total operating expenses	(682,196)	
Non-Operating Income and Expenses		
Depreciation	(16,140)	
Interests and bank charges	(4,129)	
Extraordinary expenses	(45,388)	
Foreign exchange loss	(6,268)	
Total non-operating expenses	(71,926)	
Result of the year	98,153	

Advocacy Project Division by Region (2013)



Anyone can make a difference; you too can support the work of FI!

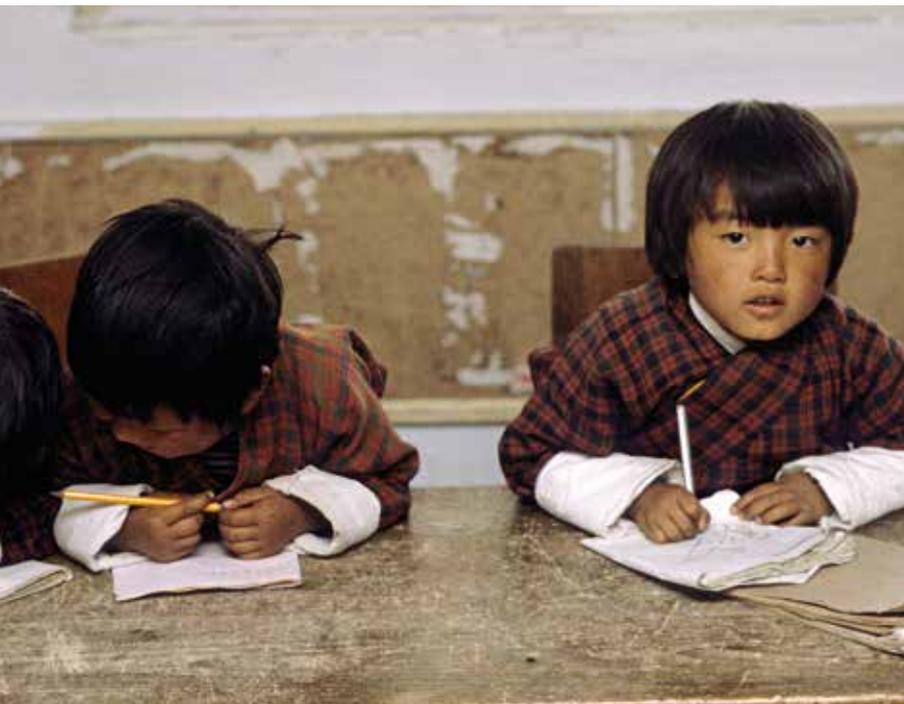
Take Action

- Franciscan hearted or valuing FI work? Keep yourself informed of FI's activities via the website and the Franciscan Voice e-newsletter, spread the word about FI and promote our work on social media.
- Working at the grassroots? Inform us of your concerns, successes and experiences with local communities and take action with FI to build a positive future for people around the world.
- Student or wanting internship experience? Volunteer with us and get experience.

Make a Donation

FI is entirely dependent on donations from Franciscan orders and congregations, funding agencies and institutions, parishes, and people sensitive to Franciscan values of solidarity, peace, social justice, and respect for the environment.

- "5 for Francis" enables people to give small gifts regularly. It is an easy way to support FI's work throughout the year.
- Details regarding "5 for Francis" and other types of donations can be found online at: <http://franciscansinternational.org>.



Bank Details:

Switzerland:

Name of account holders:

Franciscans International

Address of account holder:

37-39 rue de Vermont, CH 1202 Geneva

Bank Name: UBS SA

Address:

Route de Florissant 59, CH – 1206 Geneva

SWIFT/BIC: UBSWCHZH80A

Clearing No. 240

CHF Account No: 240-357384.01F,

IBAN: CH69 0024 0240 3573 8401 F

EUR Account No: 240-357384.61W,

IBAN: CH85 0024 0240 3573 8461 W

USA:

Name of account holders:

Franciscans International

Address of account holder: 246 E. 46th St.,

Apt. #1F, New York, NY 10017-2937

Bank Name: JPMorgan Chase Bank

Address of Bank:

One UN Plaza, New York NY 10017 USA

Account Number: 292500458265

ABA Number: 021000021

Currency of Account: USD

ACRONYMS

CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
CESCR	Committee on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights
CFS	Contemporary Forms of Slavery
CRC	Committee on the Rights of the Child
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
EU	European Union
FI	Franciscans International
HR	Committee Human Rights Committee
HRC	Human Rights Council
IP	Indigenous peoples
JPIC	Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation
MNW	Mining Working Group
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OFS	Secular Franciscans Order
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
PNG	Papua New Guinea
SR	Special Rapporteur
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UPR	Universal Periodic Review



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The report was drafted by Mrs. Rena Gashumba, thanks to contributions from FI team in Geneva and New York offices.



Franciscans International

A voice at the United Nations

Our Vision

A global community in which the dignity of every person is respected, resources are shared equitably, the environment is sustained, and nations and peoples live in peace.

Our Mission

We are the Franciscan voice at the UN protecting the vulnerable, the forgotten, and the wounded earth.

