



Franciscans International
A voice at the United Nations



Franciscans International
Annual Report 2018

Imprint

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Franciscans International Annual Report 2018

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/ Letter from the President /

As President of the International Board of Directors of Franciscans International, I am pleased to present the Annual Report for 2018. This document provides an overview of the organization's main activities. It highlights how, in an international context where respect for human dignity and our common home are increasingly under pressure, the Franciscan Family was able to make a positive and tangible difference.

In line with the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan, Franciscans International has further strengthened synergies between its offices in Geneva and New York. This year, we also recruited a new Program Coordinator for the Americas and a new Communications Officer. I have every confidence that our young and dynamic team is ready to face any challenges head on.

On 10 December 2018 – International Human Rights Day – we launched a campaign to celebrate our presence at the United Nations: thirty years ago, the Franciscan Family established a voice at the UN. Throughout 2019, as part of the outreach program, we will be sharing our achievements over the past three decades and call attention to the many challenges our brothers and sisters still face in all parts of the world. I look forward to welcoming you to a series of celebratory events where we Franciscans will be able to meet, connect, and exchange experiences with our partners and other people of good will.

On behalf of the International Board of Directors and the Conference of the Franciscan Family, I wish to express my gratitude to all who continue to support our work. In particular, I would like to recognize the Franciscan Orders, Congregations, and individuals that have made generous donations, as well as the funding agencies and foundations that make the work of Franciscans International possible. I would also like to thank the staff and management for their commitment, dedication, and hard work.

May God continue to bless our common ministry.

Joseph Rozansky, OFM
President, International Board of Directors

/ Letter from the Executive Director /

Throughout 2018, we have seen a further decline in respect for the values represented by Franciscans International, be it through intolerance toward migrants and refugees escaping violence and extreme poverty, or continued disregard of the environment in the face of climate crisis. Today, more than ever, there is an urgent need to strongly advocate in support of human dignity and environmental justice. However, we are doing so in a context that is growing more hostile toward civil society and international cooperation.



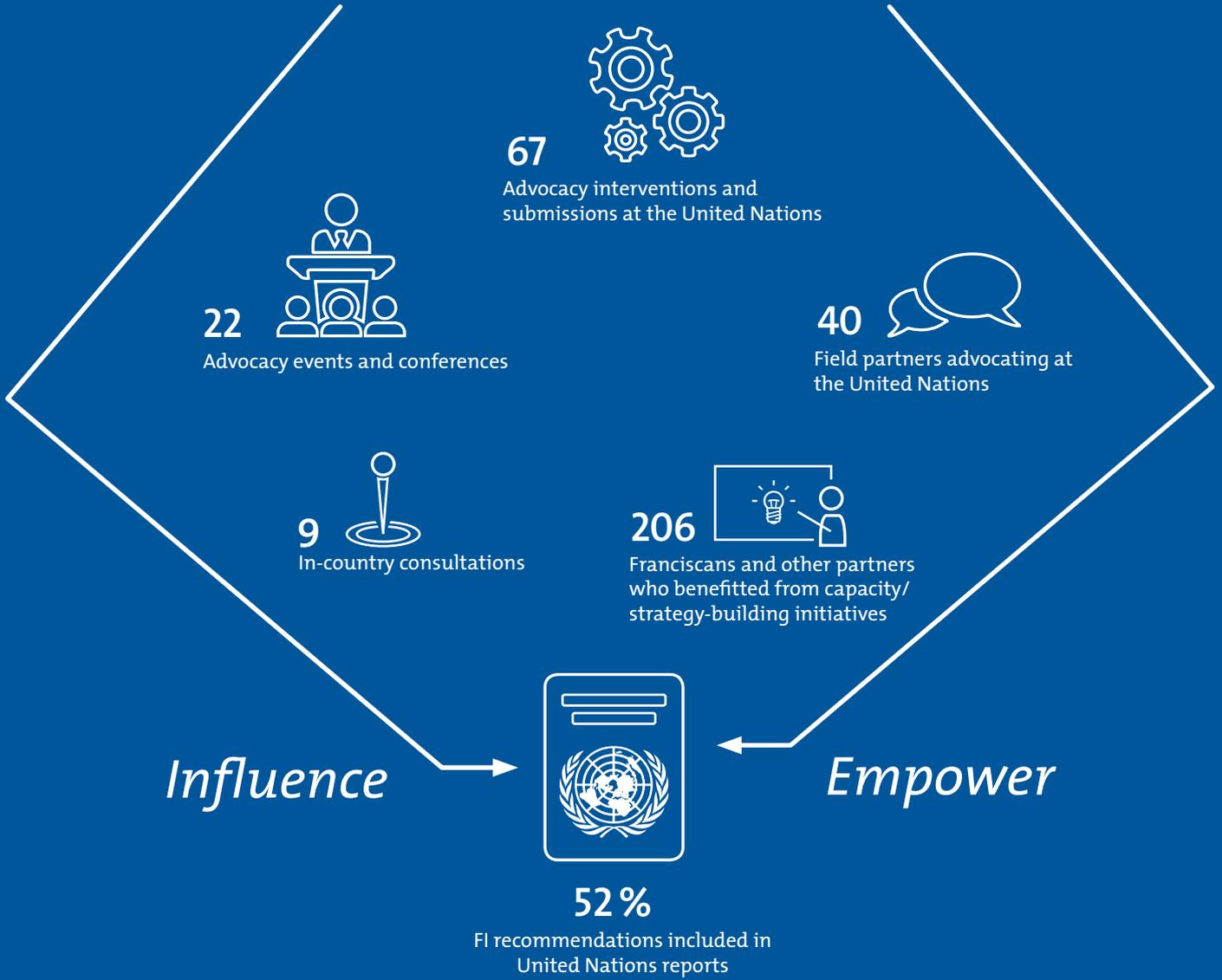
Franciscans International joined a large chorus of voices that condemned the withdrawal of the United States from the Human Rights Council as a blow to international commitment to human rights and multilateralism. I am encouraged however that many States, including in the Global South, have reaffirmed their commitment to dialogue and mutual cooperation.

As an organization, we have continued to bring our brothers and sisters across the world together. In 2018, we hosted workshops and forums that offered Franciscans and other partners in Africa, the Americas, and Asia-Pacific to meet, build relations, and formulate common strategies. As a Franciscan voice at the United Nations we were able to host forty advocates in Geneva and New York. With the support of our staff, we were able to engage with diplomats, our fellow civil society partners, Franciscans, and journalists to share the challenges faced by their communities and advocate for effective solutions.

Finally, as Executive Director, and on behalf of the staff, I wish to express my gratitude to all those that made our work possible: the Franciscan Orders and Congregations, the International Board of Directors, the funding agencies, our partners, and all those that spoke out with us at the United Nations. I look forward to meeting you during our thirty-year anniversary.

Markus Heinze, OFM
Executive Director

Franciscans International in Numbers



3.807 
Social media reach increased by 9,2% to 3.807 followers

800 
Franciscan Family members reached in 12 Franciscan gatherings



© Franciscans International
The International Board of Directors

/ About Franciscans International /

For the past three decades, Franciscans International has worked tirelessly to bring the human rights challenges faced by our Franciscan and lay partners at the grassroots to the attention of international and national policymakers. Working with civil society in over 30 countries across four continents, we address some of the most pressing human rights issues of our times.

At the core of Franciscans International's mission is our belief in the dignity of all people, which is lived out in a commitment to protecting and preserving human rights and the environment. We use advocacy as a tool to combat and curb human rights abuses, and to reclaim the central role of human rights in the formulation and framing of national and international public policies. We believe that human rights must be at the heart of all political processes, in particular those that are related to international development, the environment, and security.

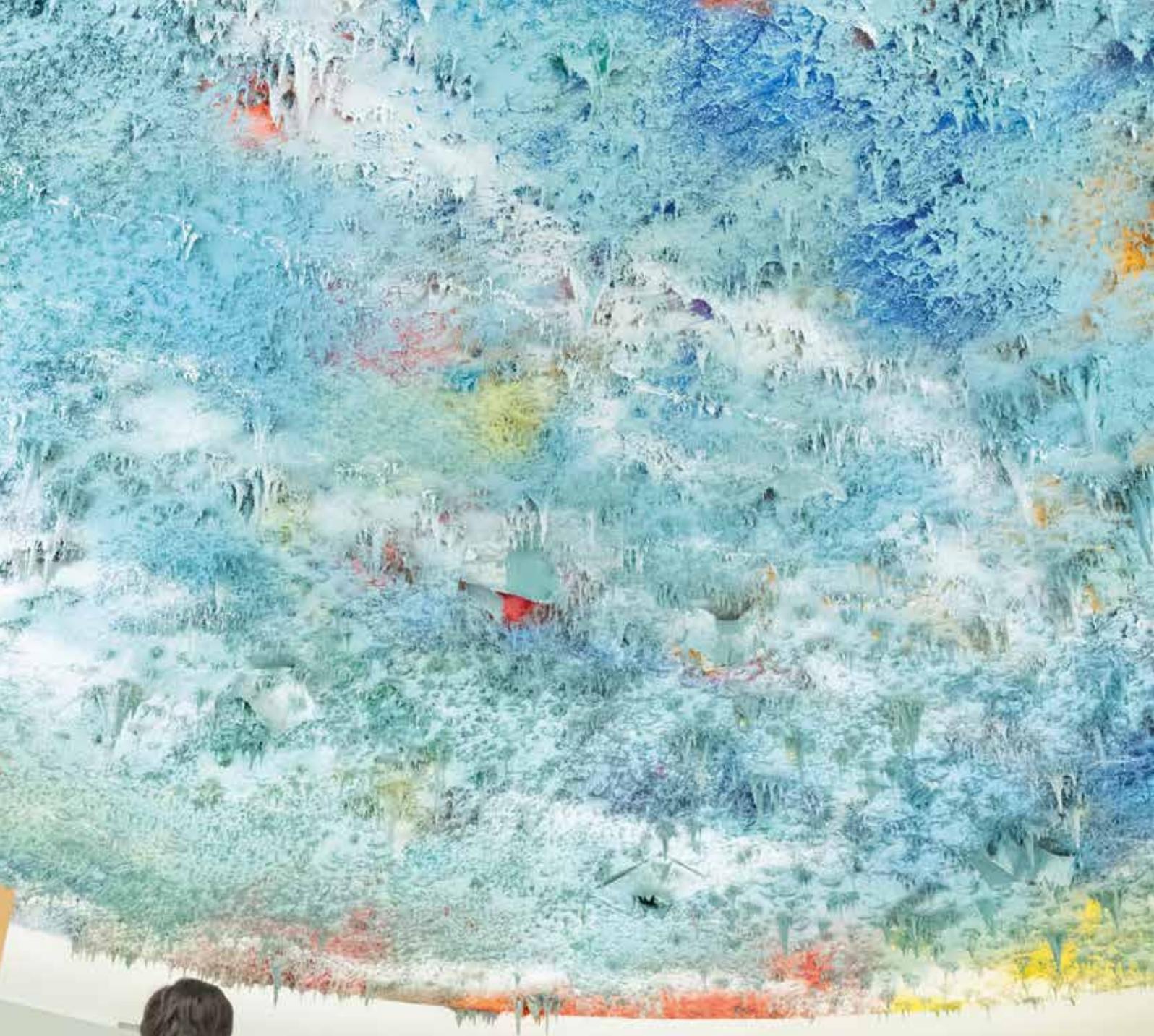
With offices in Geneva and New York, Franciscans International plays a significant role in denouncing human rights violations and empowering human rights defenders. Through evidenced-based advocacy, facilitating dialogues, capacity building, and by providing our partners with the opportunity to address the human rights violations occurring in their communities directly at the United Nations (UN), we are able to engage and fulfill our mission of promoting social and environmental justice, and peace.

Franciscans International operates under the sponsorship of the Conference of the Franciscan Family (CFF), which represents the various branches of the Franciscan Family. Ministers General of the Conventuals (OFMConv.), the Capuchins (OFMCap.), the Order of Friars Minor (OFM), the Third Order Regular (TOR), the International Franciscan Conference of the Sisters and Brothers of the Third Order Regular (IFC-TOR), and Secular Franciscans (OFS), along with an International Board of Directors, work with Franciscans International's management team and dedicated staff to ensure that the organization supports and maintains the Franciscan Family's commitment to justice and peace throughout the world.

Franciscans International is a non-profit organization which operates only thanks to generous contributions from public, private, and Franciscan donors.



© Photo/Jean-Marc Ferré
Peacock in the park of the United Nations in Geneva



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Global Advocacy

Franciscans International believes that sustainable development, the preservation of the environment, and respect and promotion for human rights are inextricably linked – international human rights standards should therefore be at the heart of all political processes. As a common theme throughout our 2018 global advocacy, we emphasized the need for more policy coherence in compliance with human rights, including in relation to State commitments at the UN in Geneva and New York.

Business and human rights

The negative impact of mining and other large-scale extractive projects on the human rights of local communities, their livelihoods, and the environment has been a key issue at the core of our advocacy. In close cooperation with local partners and international civil society networks, we have taken a leading role in the efforts toward improving business accountability for human rights abuses.

A significant step forward was taken in 2014, when the Human Rights Council established an Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) to elaborate on a treaty to address and prevent the negative impact on human rights caused by the activities of transnational corporations. In October 2018, the IGWG convened in Geneva for its fourth session, where delegates discussed a ‘zero draft’ – the first proposed text of a future treaty. Franciscans International invited three high-level guests to show the support of religious leaders for this process.

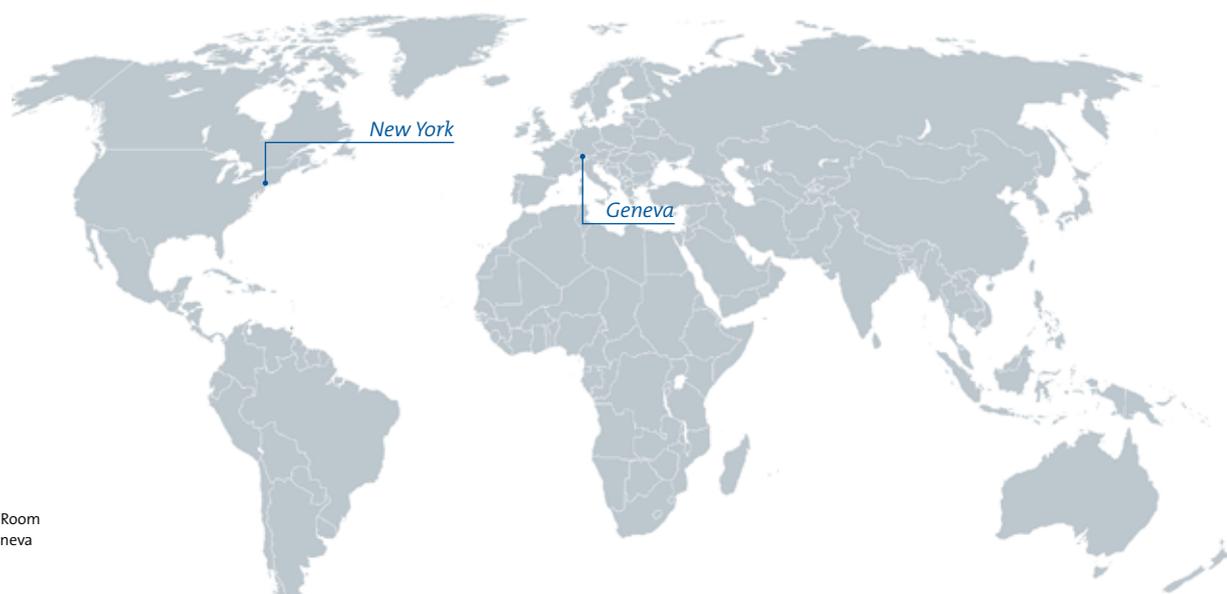
Throughout the session, Mgr. André de Witte (Bishop of Ruy Barbosa, Brazil), Mgr. Alvaro Ramazzini (Bishop of Huehuetenango, Guatemala), and Rev. Ralf Häussler (Director of the Education Center for Development of the Protestant Church of Württemberg) were able to meet with diplomats, civil society representatives, and journalists. During a side-event, they elaborated on the challenges for victims who seek redress through existing non-binding mechanisms on business and human rights, and their inadequacies in preventing abuses and violations.

Our International Advocacy Director was among the human rights experts invited to share their insights on the scope and definitions used in the zero-draft. Ms. Sandra Epal Ratjen elaborated on the necessity that a future mechanism address the specific challenges posed by businesses operating across borders, without undermining the responsibilities that all corporations have to respect human rights.



© Franciscans International
Demonstration during the Thematic Social Forum on Mining and the Extractives Economy in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Franciscans International offices



Franciscans International also worked to build stronger frameworks outside the UN. After two years of work as a steering committee member, we co-hosted the Thematic Social Forum on Mining and the Extractives Economy in Johannesburg, South Africa. This forum was attended by representatives from mining-affected communities, trade unions, women's rights movements, faith-based groups including Franciscans, indigenous peoples, small scale farmers, youth organizations, and academics from 60 countries. Based on the shared challenges identified during the deliberations, the participants created a common platform and network of solidarity at the international level to better coordinate future advocacy.

No development without human rights

Since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, Franciscans International has sought to strengthen the links between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and existing treaties and instruments on human rights, labor standards, and the environment. In particular, over the course of 2018, we worked with national partners in El Salvador to provide a human rights analysis of the implementation of SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and SDG 9 (Resilient Infrastructure). Focusing on water issues in El Salvador, the paper formed the basis of subsequent side-events at the margins of the High-Level Political Forum in New York and the Human Rights Council in Geneva, as well as an intensive in-country training for civil society.



© UN Photo/Elma Okic
Journalists take photos of the
voting board at the Human Rights
Council

Environmental justice has been a key pillar of our advocacy, and Franciscans International is a prominent voice on this issue in the faith-based community. In 2018, Franciscans International helped coordinate the activities of several civil society networks ahead of the 24th Conference of the parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, commonly referred to as COP24, in Katowice, Poland. During the conference, our delegation met with its Under-Secretary to discuss the contributions of faith-based organizations to the fight against climate change and to propose a human rights focal point for the UNFCCC Secretariat. We again emphasized the interconnectivity of human rights and climate action. Although the COP24 included explicit references to human rights – especially on participation, gender responsiveness and indigenous peoples – in the Paris Agreement Implementation guidelines, we emphasized that stronger and more urgent action is needed to address the current climate crisis.

Migration

The negotiations towards the Global Compact for Safe Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), that took place in New York, were a key focus of our work in the first half of 2018. The GCM is the first inter-governmentally negotiated agreement on international migration governance. From the publication of the zero draft, in February 2018, to the end of the formal sessions, in July 2018, Franciscans International's efforts aimed at promoting and protecting the human rights of migrants, regardless of their status and in any given context.

Franciscans International's work was trifold: we closely monitored the progress of the negotiations by attending the open sessions; we provided analyses of the various drafts of the Compact and Member States' positions and submitted statements in this regard to the co-facilitators; and we led advocacy meetings with key Member States participating in the negotiations throughout this period.

In May 2018, Franciscans International actively participated in a conference organized by the Holy See and Caritas International entitled "Sharing the Journey of Migrants

and Refugees: An Interfaith Perspective on the Global Compacts.” Sr. Diana Muñoz Alba of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (FMM) and director of the Mexico’s Santa Martha Migrants’ Shelter shared her experience as an immigration lawyer in Mexico.

As the negotiations drew to a close in July and with the GCM adopted later in December 2018, Franciscans International was disappointed to see that the final text ultimately fell short of the promises contained in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants that was already adopted in 2016 by all states at the United Nations, and in some areas regressed in terms of human rights protections by adopting lower standards than those already adopted by several Member States. Nevertheless, we continue our work with local and international partners to advocate for the fulfillment of the universal human rights of migrants and use existing international mechanisms to protect and promote them.



© Franciscans International
Mgr. de Witte speaks during a side-event at the United Nations

Mgr. André de Witte

Born in Belgium, Mgr. André de Witte spent most of his life in Brazil, where he was consecrated as the bishop of the Ruy Barbosa Diocese in 1994. Since then, he has repeatedly spoken out against attacks on human rights defenders working with indigenous communities. He joined Franciscans International in Geneva during the October 2018 session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on transnational corporations to call for better access to justice and recourse for communities affected by business activities.

Mgr. de Witte witnessed these issues in his own diocese when his 50,000 parishioners, thinly spread out over an area bigger than many European countries, found their livelihoods threatened

by large scale mining projects. “A small laborer, who doesn’t own the land he cultivates, can wake up one morning and find little pegs around his house telling him it’s now claimed by a mining company. This doesn’t happen to the powerful,” says de Witte.

In his view, the Church has a responsibility to play a role in this process. “We need to be part of these discussions because our work rests on two pillars: one is catechesis, but we must also strive to create an equal and just society in the service of life. Ultimately, this treaty is not against the economy or against transnational corporations. It is in the service of the lives of victims – It is in the service of all of us.”



Regional Programs

/ Africa Program /

Franciscans International's engagement in Africa, in line with its thematic priorities has focused mainly on issues related to rule of law, environmental rights, extreme poverty, and the protection of the rights of women and children.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

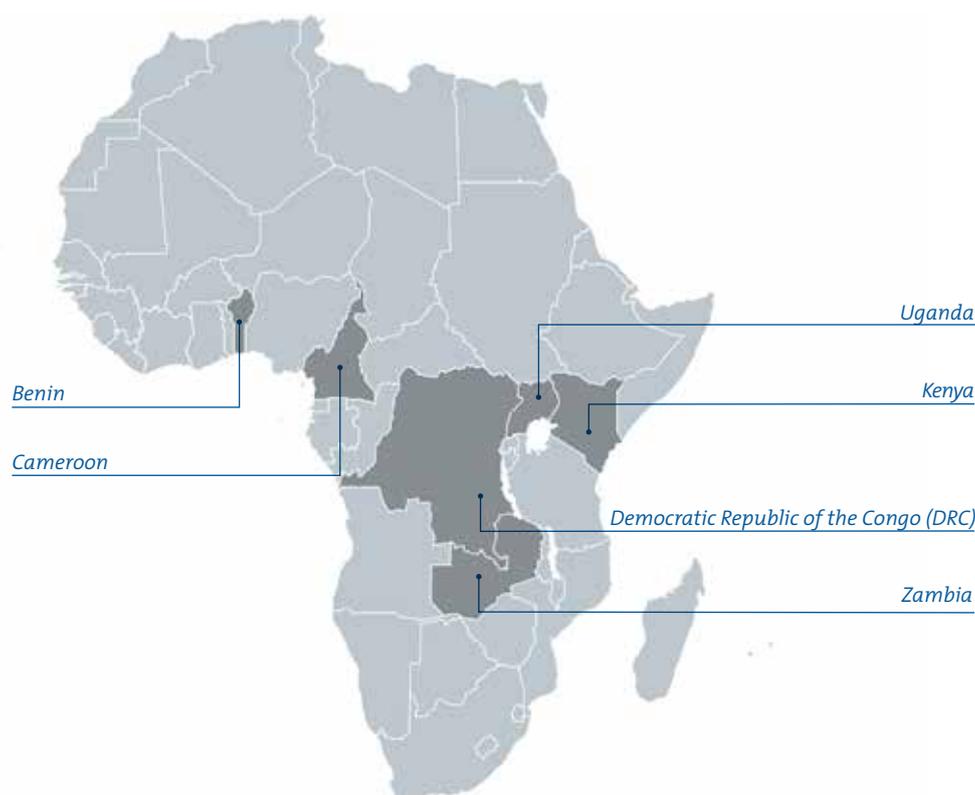
The Catholic Church has played a pivotal role in facilitating a political dialogue in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) when mass protests broke out in September 2016 after the announcement that scheduled presidential elections would be postponed. The New Year's Eve agreement, brokered by the Conférence Nationale Épiscopale du Congo (CENCO), extended President Joseph Kabila's mandate by one year until December 2017 on the condition that elections would be prepared in this period. However, the agreed vote did not take place, further increasing tensions.

Throughout 2018, Franciscans International raised its concern about the political situation in the DRC and advocated for the full implementation of the agreement. During the June and September sessions of the Human Rights Council, we hosted members of CENCO to stress the importance of free, fair, and transparent elections and to denounce repeated acts of excessive force by the government as well as other restrictions posed on the freedoms of association, expression, and peaceful assembly. During a conference at the Council's September session, Abbé Donatien Nshole, the Secretary General of the CENCO, also highlighted the need to address systemic issues



© Franciscans International
Sr. Nathalie Kangaji prepares to deliver an oral statement at the June 2018 session of the Human Rights Council

Focus countries



“It was really important that our government was aware of our presence during the discussion on the DRC resolution at the Human Rights Council.”

Sr. Nathalie Kangaji, SND
Commission for Justice and Peace
CENCO



© Franciscans International
Consultations with Franciscans
International's delegation in Zambia

to ensure a credible process, such as the general distrust surrounding voting machines and the voter's register.

Although presidential elections did finally take place on 30 December 2018, we remain concerned about widespread reports of irregularities and disenfranchisement. Franciscans International will continue its close cooperation with CENCO and other field partners on the large number of human rights issues that continue to plague the DRC.

Kenya

In October 2018, the Franciscans International conducted a workshop in Nairobi to raise awareness of the linkages between human rights and development for 25 representatives of the Franciscan Family, civil society partners, and representatives from Mukuru, one of the largest informal settlements in the city.

Participants had the opportunity to exchange views with several experts from the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights and other civil society organizations who work on this issue at the national and international level. The workshop explored how the SDG implementation process is being conducted in Kenya and also ways of engaging relevant stakeholders.

Afterwards, the participants indicated that the workshop exposed them to the international human rights protection system and its existing mechanisms and standards, allowing them to better make use of these when bringing grassroots cases to the attention of the United Nations.

Zambia

The Government of Zambia accepted the majority of recommendations received at its third Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in March 2018, including some for the protection of human rights and the environment in relation to extractive industries activities. However, the UPR process does not end in Geneva: it is essential that authorities come together with other stakeholders to follow up on recommendations and work toward their effective implementation.

In April 2018, Franciscans International conducted a follow-up mission to Zambia where, in collaboration with local partners, it organized a series of activities to ensure that stakeholders are aware of the commitments made by their government, particularly in the area of natural resources and extractive industries. Franciscans International's delegates met with civil society representatives but also facilitated a dialogue with local and national authorities and highlighted the crucial role of civil society in monitoring the implementation of the UPR recommendations.

The presence of Franciscans International gave local partners an opportunity to inform their communities about their rights and to educate local officials about their obligations to protect them. A meeting with local communities identified the need for further engagement with the people who will be primarily affected by the exploration for and exploitation of oil, forming the basis for our future engagement in the country.





© Franciscans International
Br. Auguste Agoukpe during a meeting with the
Independent Expert on albinism at the Geneva office of Franciscans International.

Brother Auguste Agoukpe, OFM Cap.

In Benin, ritual infanticide of children accused of witchcraft still occurs in some communities. “During Benin’s first UPR in 2008, two states made recommendations on the issue, while in 2012 it was raised by 14 states. This helped to shed light on the work we do,” says Brother Auguste, OFM Cap., from Franciscains-Bénin who joined Franciscans International in Geneva to again call attention to this issue during the Benin’s 2018 UPR adoption. He has been fighting ritual infanticide for almost a decade.

Although the National Assembly adopted a new Penal Code in June 2018 that incorporates provisions of the Child’s Code regarding ritual infanticide, stronger action is needed to end the

practice. Franciscains-Bénin has developed a strategic plan that does not only entails awareness-raising campaigns and dissemination of new provisions in the Child Code but also focusses on social work, ensuring education for girls and abandoned children.

“As a Franciscan, this work is essential because Saint Francis was the voice of those who did not have any. So, automatically, Franciscans will take to the defense of any man, woman or child whose rights are abused to protect them,” say Brother Auguste. “To me, I am only doing my mission.”



/ Americas Program /

Throughout the year, the Americas Program continued its work on populations at risk, focusing on migrants, refugees, indigenous peoples, and communities affected by extractive industries and environmental degradation.

Mexico

In 2018, four waves of migrants – mostly from Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala – brought international attention to the human rights situation in Central America. Mexico has been the predominant route for migrants trying to make their way to the United States. However, the violence caused by the war on drugs has made the journey increasingly dangerous. Cases of discrimination, violence, disappearance of migrants by cartels or the military, as well as violations of the right to claim asylum were documented throughout 2018. Meanwhile, the United States has responded by adopting more aggressive policies that include mass-deportations, family separation, and the suspension of migration programs.

Franciscans International worked closely with Franciscans shelters such as La 72 Hogar Refugio Para Personas Migrantes (La 72) in Tenosique, which provides legal, medical, and psychological support to migrants and refugees. La72 Director Ramón Marquez attended the 38th session of the Human Rights Council, where he provided testimony about the risks faced by migrants and asylum seekers, particularly women and children and the human rights violations faced during their deportation and detention.

To help reinforce regional collaboration, Franciscans International organized a workshop on migration in November 2018 that brought together the Franciscan Family from Brazil, Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico, and Paraguay. In their conclusions, the participants called for a more comprehensive regional and sub-regional approach to address the issue of migration and reiterated the call made by Pope Francis to protect, welcome, promote, and integrate migrants.

Focus countries



El Salvador

Unchecked mining practices have had a devastating impact on El Salvador's environment, leaving over 90 percent of its surface waters heavily polluted. After nearly 13 years of advocacy by popular movements – including the Franciscan Family – the National Congress adopted a landmark law in 2017, prohibiting metal mining. However, the impact of years of neglect is still deeply felt.



© Franciscans International Americas Program Coordinator Ulises Quero with Sandra Carolina Ascencio, during a visit to El Salvador

In July 2018, Franciscans International presented a position paper to the UN in New York during the High Level Political Forum, focusing on El Salvador. The paper examined the right to water in different contexts, exploring issues related to transboundary waters, mining, and the prevention and mitigation of disasters in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Franciscans International also hosted Sandra Carolina Ascencio from the Franciscan JPIC – El Salvador in Geneva and New York. At various platforms, she shared problems related to the extractive industries and the potential risks associated with El Salvador's proposed privatization of water. She further highlighted the issues stemming from the lack of international agreements between El Salvador and its neighbors for the conservation and management of transboundary water resources.

The Universal Periodic Review

Under the UPR, the human rights situation in each of the 193 UN member states is reviewed every five years. These reviews are based on a national report prepared by the state, a compilation of UN information by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and a summary of information received from civil society.

We support Franciscans and civil society at the national levels to engage with the UPR, and to effectively follow up on the recommendations accepted by the State. In 2018, we worked on the reviews of six countries, including three in the Americas.

Franciscans International facilitated the participation of three Canadian field partners working on issues related to water and human trafficking. In collaboration with the global advocacy program, one of the guests invited was Sandra Pilar Sanchez from the Service Intercommunautaire d'Animation Franciscaine (SIAF) who later joined us in New York on a related discussion on the right to water in the context of the SDGs. Franciscans International also hosted Jill Hanley from le Comité d'Action contre la Traite Humaine Interne et Internationale (CATHII) to address the issue of human trafficking.

Margarita Bautista, from the Colombian Franciscan Family joined Franciscans International in Geneva for a presentation highlighting the main issues of the country's UPR. She talked about the threats against and harassment of environmental human right defenders, mining, and popular consultations, particularly in the La Colosa mining region in Colombia.

Finally, we also submitted an UPR report ahead of Chile's review in January 2019, together with the Oficina de Justicia Paz e Integridad de la Creación de los Hermanos Franciscanos de Chile, to address concerns related to access and scarcity of water as a consequence of business activities, particularly mining companies in the north of the country, pine and eucalyptus plantations, and fruit businesses.

“States are worried about their international image in front of cooperation partners at the United Nations, so it is a good advocacy opportunity to ask them to improve and to change their decisions and public policies.”

Sandra Carolina Ascencio
JPIC – El Salvador



© Franciscans International
UN Special Rapporteur on internally displaced
persons during the launch of the Spanish version of the toolbox
at the Human Rights Council

Toolbox in Spanish

Franciscans International helps civil society to promote an integrated and coherent human rights-based approach to sustainable development, poverty eradication, and environmental justice. In order to build their capacity, we have developed a Toolbox which:

- Highlights how violations of human rights can harm or hinder the implementation of SDGs and make people more vulnerable to climate change;
- Connects the dots between human rights, sustainable development and climate change at the national and international levels to better inform the various review mechanisms; and
- Helps people make full use of existing mechanisms and promote an integrated approach that respects and protects human rights.

In 2018, we published a Spanish version of the Toolbox, which formed the basis of a workshop in El Salvador, where around 30 participants were trained how to use different mechanisms of the United Nations to strengthen the link between State and international policies and the realization of human rights. The Toolbox is available on our website in English, French, and Spanish.



/ Asia-Pacific Program /

In the past year, Franciscans International has further developed its longstanding relationships in Asia-Pacific and responded to emerging human rights crises. In line with our thematic priorities, the main issues addressed include extra-judicial killings, transitional justice, the rights of indigenous peoples, the rights of migrants and refugees, and the rights of communities affected by extractive industries.

Indonesia

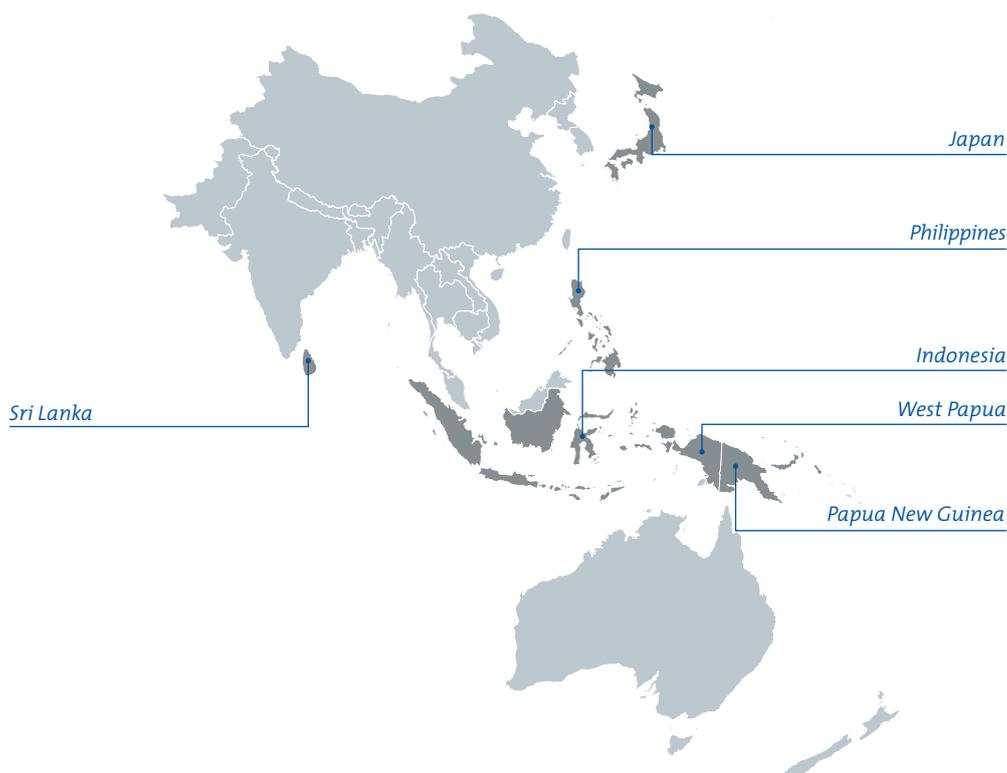
Franciscans International has deep roots in the provinces of Papua and West Papua, where tensions over its special autonomous status, reports of violence by both State and non-State actors, limited access by the international community, and demographic shifts threatening the indigenous populations, continue to be a source of concern. Although the Indonesian government has repeatedly signaled its willingness to address these issues, key efforts stalled ahead of the April 2019 general elections. Nevertheless, as an organization we continue to work to facilitate a dialogue between churches, civil society, and different levels of government. We particularly welcomed the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food to Indonesia, where she discussed the situation in West Papua with the Indonesian President, as a meaningful step to renewed engagement with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Indonesian civil society also approached Franciscans International to raise a variety of issues associated with large scale palm oil plantations. During the 38th session of the Human Rights Council, we made a statement calling for a moratorium on palm oil plantation permits and improved protection of the right to land of indigenous peoples as well as of the rights of plantation workers.



© Franciscans International
Participants during a training in the Philippines

Focus countries



“We recognize our commonalities. Earth is our common home, therefore we all have a common responsibility to protect and defend it from abuse and destruction. We have a common heritage of human kind. We have common values, goals and priorities”

Opening sentence of the Semarang Declaration of the Asia-Pacific Gathering on Human Rights and Extractives 2018

Finally, in collaboration with other Catholic organizations, Franciscans International hosted a consultation to discuss human trafficking of migrant workers in the East Nusa Tenggara Province. During this meeting, participants were able to share information and elaborate on future strategies for international advocacy.

Philippines

Since 2016, an estimated 30,000 people have become victims of extra-judicial killings in the government's 'war on drugs,' most of them poor people. The widespread condemnation of this massacre has created an increasingly hostile situation in the Philippines for civil society, with repeated attacks against human rights defenders, religious leaders, journalists and indigenous peoples.

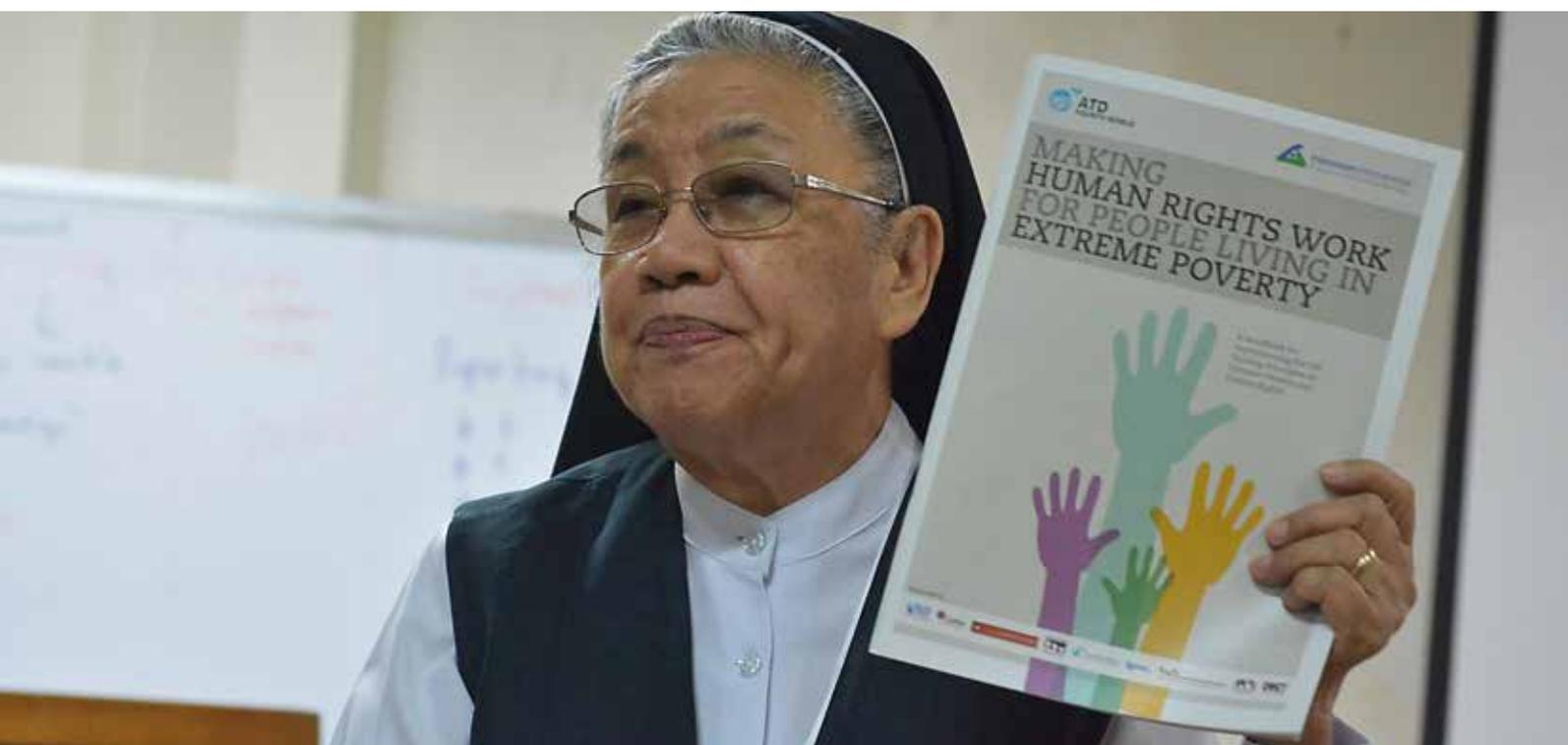
Following a long tradition, churches in the Philippines have denounced the killings, and provided sanctuary for witnesses, victims, and their families. Throughout the year, Franciscans International has supported local friars and sisters to attend key meetings in Geneva, and Rome to mobilize both the UN stakeholders and the Catholic Church network to take action against the ongoing violations in the Philippines. In May 2018 we also organized a joint training with the Franciscan Solidarity Movement, which provided a valuable opportunity for partners to gather and coordinate joint actions benefitting the marginalized communities that they represent.

Sri Lanka

Throughout 2018, the political situation in Sri Lanka remained extremely fragile. In October, the dissolution of the 2015 National Unity Government and the appointment of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa as a Prime Minister sparked a constitutional crisis that paralyzed the government for months. Meanwhile, despite repeated commitments, authorities have been slow to implement transitional justice mechanisms to provide accountability for human rights abuses committed during the Sri Lankan civil war.

In response to the constitutional crisis, Franciscans International hosted representatives from Sri Lankan civil society in Geneva, where they highlighted the potential negative impact on the transitional justice process. They emphasized that the political crisis should also be seen as a human rights crisis and voiced their concern about the potential chilling effects the situation could have on human rights defenders and victims, particularly in the Northern and Eastern Tamil provinces.

Much of the efforts focused on preparations for the 40th session of the Human Rights Council in March 2019, with the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights scheduled to report on the implementation of Resolution 30/1 on Transitional Justice in Sri Lanka. Franciscans International stressed throughout 2018 that, although nominal progress has been made, a clear, timebound roadmap and strong monitoring process is still needed to continue on the path to peace and reconciliation.



© Franciscans International
Sr. Crescencia Lucero, SFIC

In Memoriam: Sister Cres

It is with great sadness that we received the news of the passing of Sister Crescencia Lucero, SFIC, on 15 May 2019. At 77 years old, as coordinator of the JPIC's Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines (AMRSP), she was a renowned human rights defender throughout the Asia-Pacific Region.

Sister Cres started her human rights work under the Marcos' rule in the 1970s and 1980s where, as the chairwomen of the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP) she helped document over 5,500 cases of torture, over 2,500 cases of summary executions, and more than 750 enforced disappearances.

"We owe it to ourselves; we owe it to Fr. Rudy Romano and all those who have been martyred during martial law, and we owe

it to the future generations to remain vigilant. Let us not become complacent," she said in a 2014 interview.

She worked closely with Franciscans International in her efforts to combat the current human rights crisis in the Philippines. Sister Cres frequently attended Human Rights Council sessions in Geneva, most recently in September 2017 when she spoke about the impact of the war on drugs on human rights. Almost every year, Sister Cres also joined forces with Franciscans International to organize capacity building workshops for civil society in an effort to bring lasting and positive change to the Philippines.

Financial Report 2018

Reviewed by PricewaterhouseCoopers SA

CHF

Income

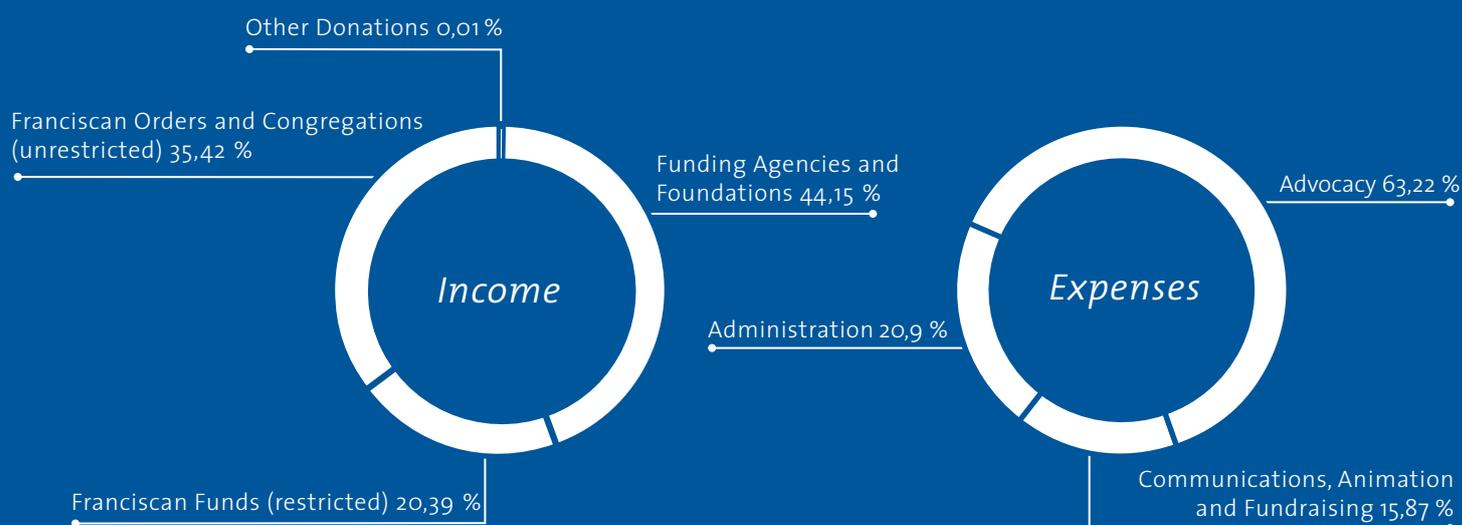
Franciscan Orders and Congregations (unrestricted)	421'714
Franciscan Funds (restricted)	242'774
Funding Agencies and Foundations	525'576
Other Donations	269
<i>Total income</i>	<i>1'190'333</i>

Expenses

Advocacy	687'608
Communications, Animation and Fundraising	172'645
Administration	227'329
<i>Total operating expenses</i>	<i>1'087'579</i>

Total non-operating income and expenses 21'652

Result of the year 81'103



Help us protect human rights

Franciscans International 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. Make a difference with your donation and help us protect human rights.

Switzerland

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Mural at the Franciscan La72 shelter in Mexico

/ Donor Acknowledgement /

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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

Using a rights-based approach, Franciscans International advocates at the United Nations for the protection of human dignity and environmental justice.



Franciscans International
A voice at the United Nations

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