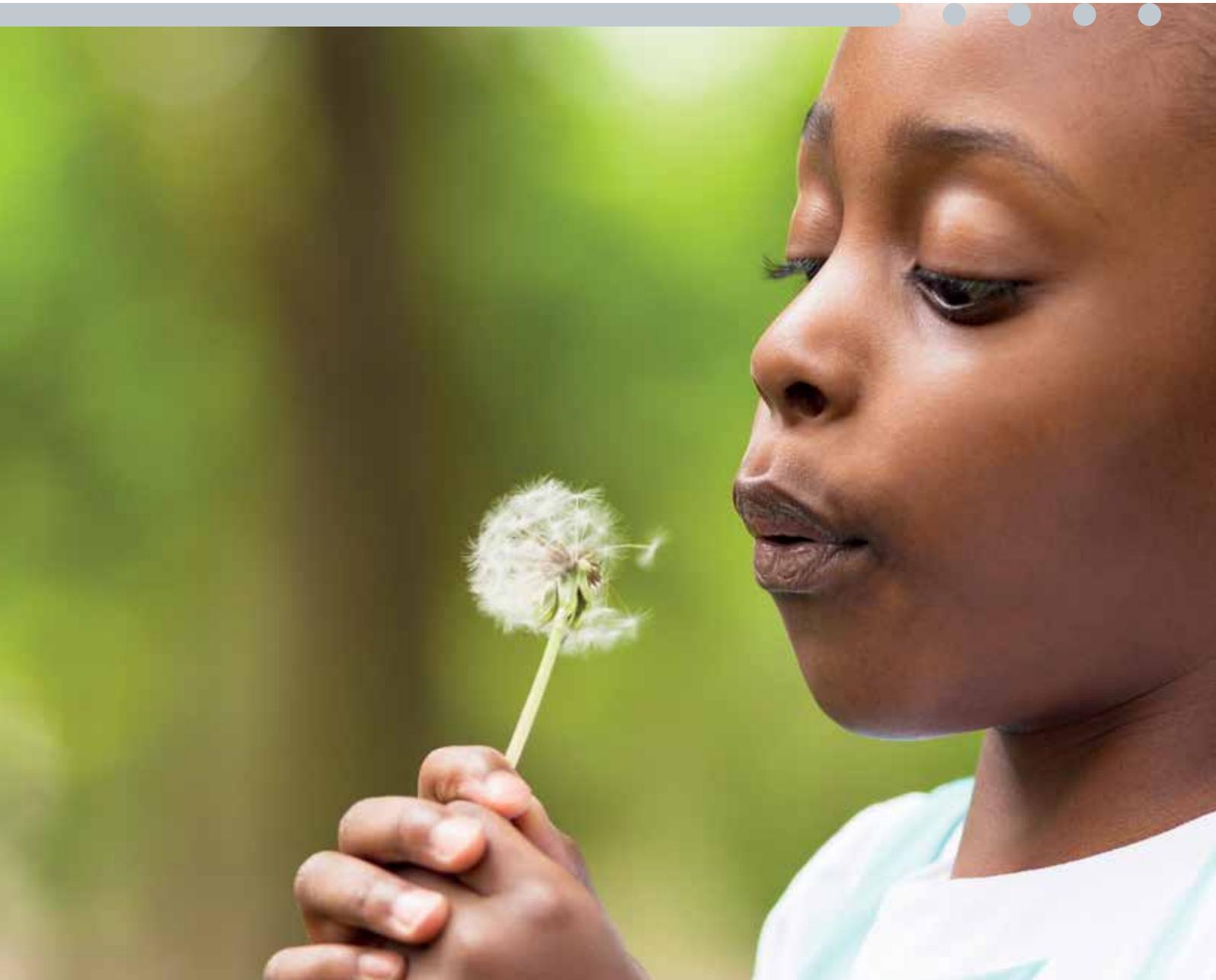


Franciscans International



Annual Report 2014



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 at 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 2014



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is my pleasure to present you with this annual report which highlights FI's activities through both global and regional programmes. We are grateful for FI's noteworthy achievements in 2014. An historic step has been achieved in the area of business and human rights, as an intergovernmental working group prepares to negotiate a legally-binding instrument to hold businesses to account for human rights abuses. A handbook has been developed to make the UN Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights more accessible to local communities; it is built around the conviction that the empowerment and participation of individuals and communities are crucial for positive change. FI actively engaged with the post-2015 Agenda for sustainable development, and continued to promote a human rights based approach to this agenda. In Africa, Asia, and the Americas, FI influenced policy makers to address human rights issues affecting women, children, indigenous peoples, and migrants.

2014 marked the 25th anniversary of the recognition of Franciscans International (FI) as a Non-Governmental Organization by the United Nations. At this landmark moment, it is appropriate to pause and remember that these achievements have been possible only because of the dedication of those who have guided and animated FI throughout its

history. This includes the Conference of the Franciscan Family, the Board of Directors and the manager, staff, and partners of the organization. Always, we have endeavored to build on the foundation of those who have come before us, over a period of more than 25 years, and we continue to serve the needs of the marginalized and the environment.

The Franciscans International Board of Directors is most appreciative to the Franciscan Orders and Congregations who continue to support this common ministry of the Franciscan Family. The Board is equally thankful for the managers and staff of FI, for their professional work and their personal commitment. We thank the funding agencies, foundations, partners and individuals who have collaborated with FI, for their generous support to Franciscans International.

Doug Clorey, OFS

President, Franciscans International Board of Directors



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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: GUARANTEEING THE RIGHT TO WATER IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

An estimated 900 million people around the world lack access to safe water. These are often people living in extreme poverty, in informal settlements, in remote rural regions, and in lands affected by development projects, in particular mining and broader extractive industry activities. Access to water is also increasingly threatened by recent practices of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) that depletes and pollutes water through overuse, toxic wastes, and hazardous substances.

Access to water is a human right. It is essential for life, and inherently connected to the fulfilment of a series of other rights, including the rights to health and development. Franciscans International and the Mining Working Group at the UN joined the Blue Planet Project to launch a campaign to protect the explicit inclusion of the right to water in the new proposed set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the UN's post-2015 development agenda. This coalition worked to spearhead a massive sign-on letter campaign of

grassroots groups directed at the UN General Assembly Open Working Group in charge of proposing the draft SDGs. The campaign was a response to the troubling backward step taken in the SDGs negotiations in May 2014 when the human right to water initially recognized explicitly was removed from the set of goals meant to guide the global development agenda.

The campaign gathered the endorsement of more than 300 organizations from around the world, and more than 1100 people wrote directly to the UN Secretary General demanding that the new global development agenda explicitly protect and promote peoples' right to water for personal use and sustainability, over and above that of commercial interests. The GA's Open Working Group concluded its work on July 19th and produced a proposal with 17 goals, including one on water and sanitation. Thanks to the intense months of advocacy with governments, at the final negotiating session, the human right to water was explicitly recognized in the overarching chapeau.

This campaign was also the culmination of months of advocacy promoting a rights-based approach to development that prioritizes people and the environment, as opposed to profit-driven and market-based models that have dominated the discussions. FI worked with the Mining Working Group to advance this agenda through oral statements in the GA Open Working Group process, events, lobbying, and advocacy briefs, including the publication "A Rights-based Approach to Resource Extraction in the Pursuit of Sustainable Development." Once the General Assembly resumes the post-2015 negotiations in early 2015, FI will again come together with broad-based coalitions to demonstrate the need for a rights-based approach to sustainable development, especially for contested and threatened rights such as the human right to water.



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INFLUENCING THE BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS AGENDA

The year 2014 will be remembered as an historic year in the area of Business and Human Rights: on June 25th, the Human Rights Council in Geneva adopted by majority vote a landmark Resolution establishing an Inter-Governmental Working Group (IGWG) to develop an international legally binding instrument on business and human rights. This means that the process towards a Treaty on Business and Human Rights has begun and negotiations are underway. This was the result of joint efforts of the Treaty Alliance, a global coalition campaigning for more robust legislation on corporate accountability. Since early 2014, Franciscans International has been one of the leading members of the Treaty Alliance, a group of more than 600 civil society organizations around the world committed to address corporate human rights and environmental abuses.

The rights of people and communities are being persistently violated by the private sector. Entire communities are being displaced; water and soil are being contaminated; and people's rights to participate in policy-making that affects them are being ignored. Furthermore, access to remedies for victims is often non-existent. This is mainly due to the current development model which puts business and profit ahead of human beings and their rights. Civil society has been struggling for

over 40 years for greater regulation of the impact of business activities on human rights. This Resolution represents therefore an historical political victory. FI firmly supports a binding treaty because according to cases it is following with local partners in around 50 countries, existing voluntary guidelines on Business and Human Rights have proved to be insufficient and ineffective.

Following the adoption of the Resolution, FI carried out consistent advocacy to the Human Rights Council and in strategic meetings, denouncing the devastating impact on human rights of business practices in countries like Guatemala, Honduras, Peru, Brazil, Bolivia, El Salvador, Indonesia, Philippines, and the DRC. FI continued to link local context with global context, prioritizing the voice of field partners by providing them with opportunities to intervene in different UN spaces, conferences, and meetings with diplomats.

FI is now preparing the ground to ensure that the IGWG, whose 1st session is scheduled for July 2015, is democratic in its negotiations. FI's position and commitment remain close to and in solidarity with affected communities, and it is FI's duty to ensure that victims from around the world will be present at the negotiations during the IGWG, so that they can have a strong say and an assurance that their concerns are duly addressed.





BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS: ISSUES IN EUROPE

During Italy's UPR process, FI systematically raised business and human rights concerns in Italy:

1. The environmental disaster involving ILVA, Europe's largest steel plant, blamed for causing environmental disasters and serious health damage to local people.
2. The Eternit case, involving the deaths of hundreds of workers by asbestos poisoning. The case was dismissed last November due to statute of limitations, leaving the 263 victims and their families without redress.
3. The practice of caporalato, which can be defined as the illegal practice of exploitation of migrant workers in various segments of the labour market - from agriculture to construction – which is widespread across the whole Italian territory, and by no means limited to Southern regions of the country. In the agricultural sector only, the phenomenon involves around 400.000 people, including undocumented migrant workers, who are subject to labour exploitation and to degrading living conditions

MAKING HUMAN RIGHTS WORK FOR PEOPLE LIVING IN EXTREME POVERTY: MOBILIZING PARTNERS AT THE GRASSROOTS

The majority of the world's population is trapped in a vicious circle of poverty, inequality, landlessness, unemployment, environmental degradation, marginalisation and violence, which prevent it from enjoying basic civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.



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In 2012, the UN adopted a set of guiding principles that focus on the human rights of people living in poverty, in which the UN defined extreme poverty as a human rights violation, rather than the mere result of lack of income and financial means, and thereby designated government as first duty bearer, ie the one responsible for addressing the issue.

Franciscans International is committed to promoting a rights-based approach to extreme poverty primarily based on participation, empowerment, inclusion, transparency, equality and non-discrimination. With its partner organization ATD Fourth World, FI has translated the UN Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights into an accessible and comprehensible tool: the handbook "Making Human Rights Work for People Living in Extreme Poverty." This will be an important tool for social workers and activists working at community level to help people living

in poverty. The handbook highlights the importance of participation in policy and decision-making, and emphasises empowerment, to promote the principle that individuals and communities can be agents of their own change.

To ensure that the handbook truly reflects the needs of the grassroots, FI carried out field tests and consultations around the world, from September to December 2014, in order to collect feedback and input for its first version. The handbook has been through eight field-tests – in Latin America, Africa, Asia and Europe- and is being finalised for its official launch in late 2015.

In the context of its work on a rights-based approach to extreme poverty, FI with ATD-Fourth World organised a side-event during the 25th session of the Human Rights Council that featured a panel of experts including Ambassadors of France and South Africa, former UN Experts on Poverty and Housing Rights, and Michael Perry, Minister General of the Order of Friars Minor. Father Michael Perry emphasised that States have the primary responsibility to reduce poverty, if not to eliminate it. "One important means for them to do this is to integrate the Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights into their national economic and development programs. In this way, they will help ensure the promotion of the principles of dignity, non-discrimination, participation and inclusion, encouraging those trapped in all forms of poverty, especially those in extreme poverty, to become the lead actors for their own social transformation."

FI continues to advocate for a rights-based approach to extreme poverty in international strategic meetings, presenting an alternative to the current poverty-reduction models that are primarily based on economic factors and on a market-driven development model, both of which ignore systemic human rights abuses.

BIRTH REGISTRATION: LEVERAGING THE UPR AND HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL AS STRATEGIC SPACES TO PROMOTE UNIVERSAL BIRTH REGISTRATION

According to official data from UNICEF, the births of 230 million children around the world are not registered. Birth registration is the first right to which a child is entitled, and it represents an instrument for protection. Unregistered children are invisible and are condemned to remain in the informal sector, and thus to be exposed to numerous abuses. Birth registration contributes to the prevention of child marriage, under-age recruitment in armed forces, child labour, trafficking, unsafe migration, illegal adoption, being tried and sentenced as adults, statelessness and family separation. Franciscans International considers birth registration to be a real Human Rights imperative.

FI is committed to promoting Universal Birth Registration within the Human Rights Council (HRC), in particular by encouraging the use of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to ensure countries' commitments to address Birth Registration issues at a national level. FI has been an active member of Child Rights Connect's Working Group on Birth Registration. As part of a campaign

on the vital importance of civil registration, as well as the promotion of Universal Birth Registration, Franciscans International partnered with Plan International, World Vision International, UNICEF and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to organize a side event in the context of the 27th session of the HRC. The organizations sought to create space to discuss some of the key challenges that still prevent millions of children around the world from having their birth registered and their human rights recognized.

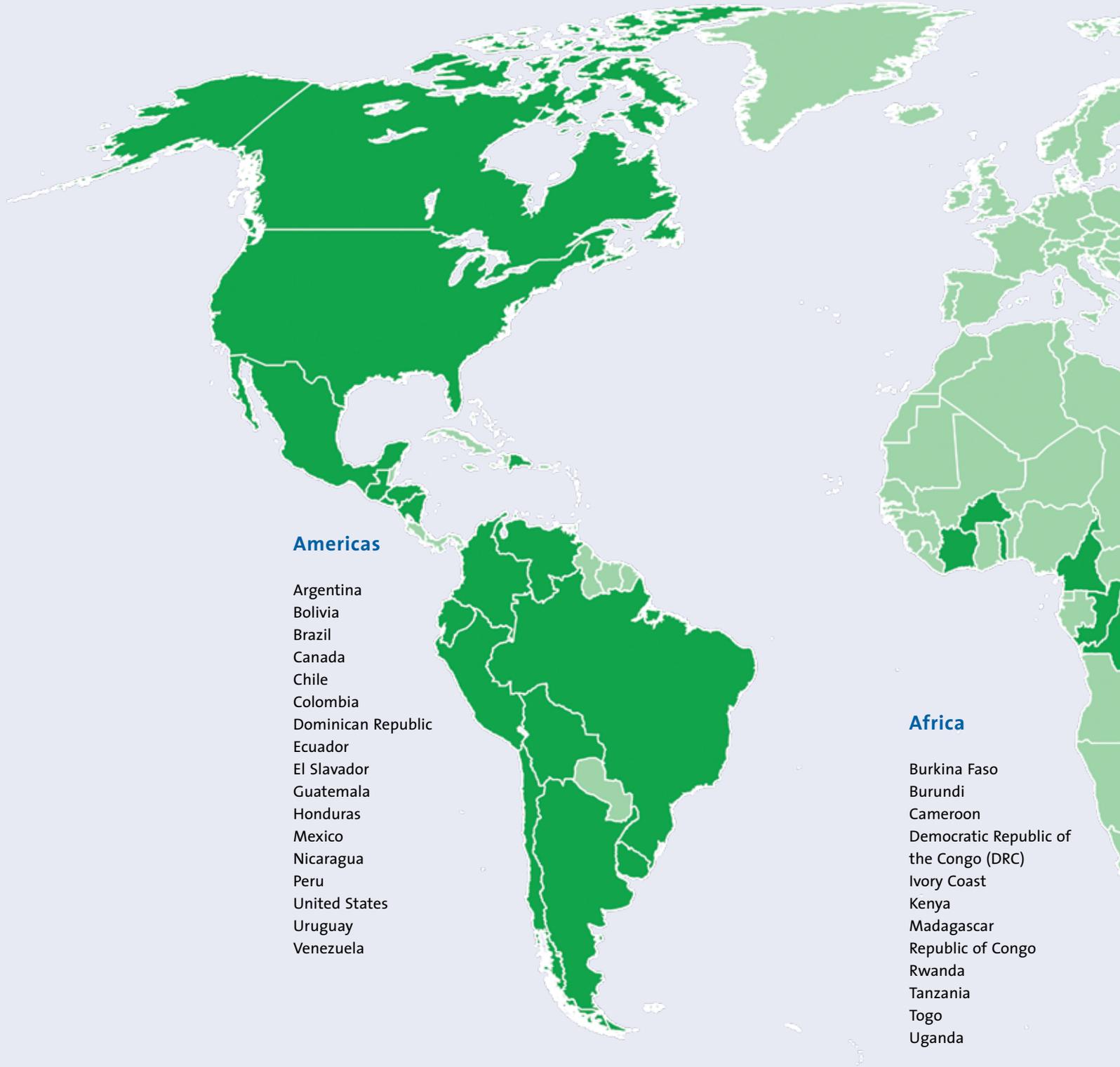
FI was able to underline its commitment and its call to governments to continue maximizing the potential of the UPR and the HRC as strategic spaces to promote universal birth registration, giving clear figures on how the UPR could be leveraged to promote Birth Registration. Unfortunately, countries with the lowest levels of registration receive little if any attention in the UPR. FI continues to call on UN Member States to reinforce the use of UPR recommendations in situations where it is most needed.

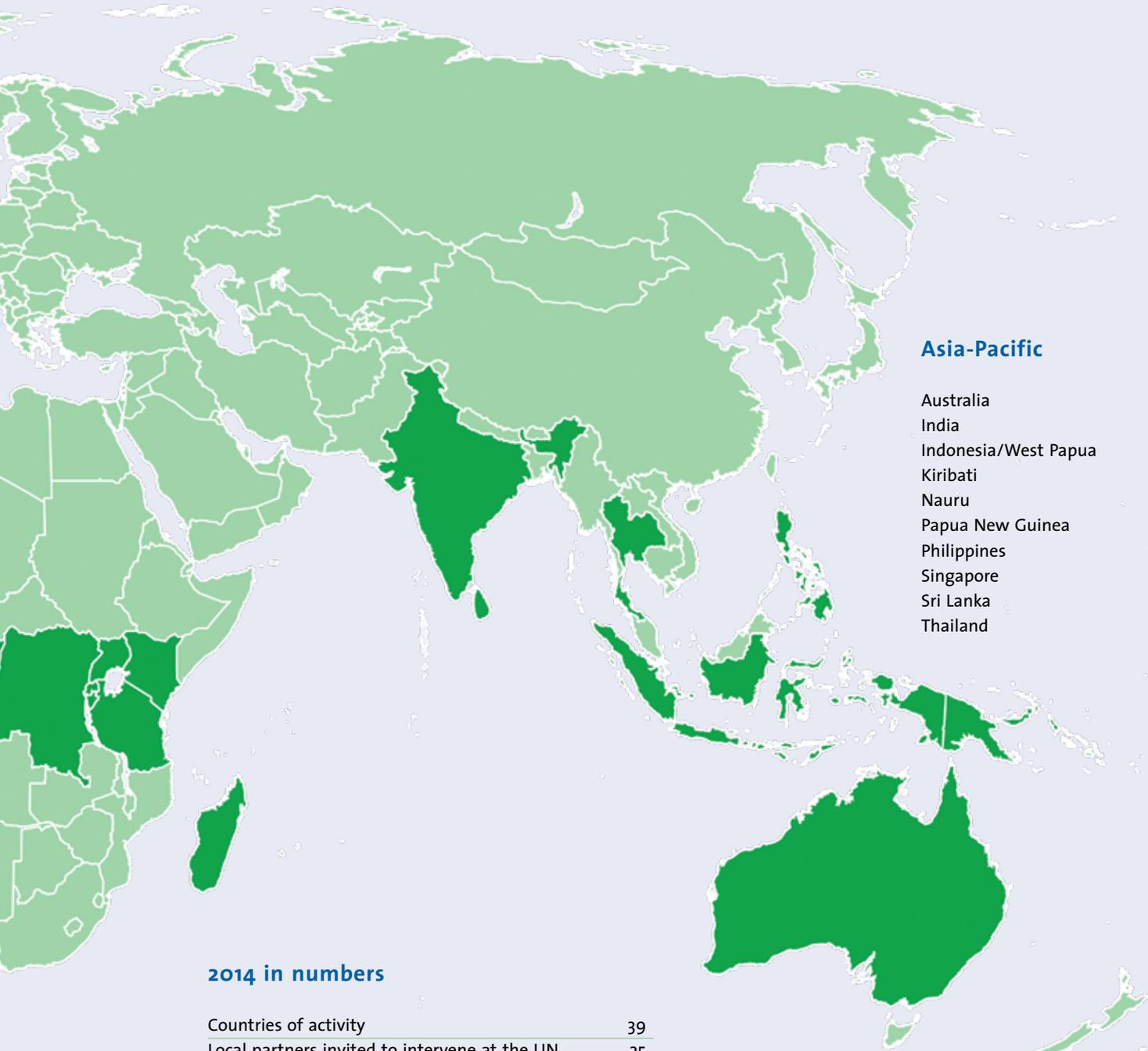


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2014 AT A GLANCE

Countries where FI is active





Asia-Pacific

- Australia
- India
- Indonesia/West Papua
- Kiribati
- Nauru
- Papua New Guinea
- Philippines
- Singapore
- Sri Lanka
- Thailand

2014 in numbers

Countries of activity	39
Local partners invited to intervene at the UN	25
Statements at the UN	38
UPR submissions and lobby papers	10
Legal Submissions to the UN	8
Thematic position papers	9
Urgent Appeals & Campaigns	8
FI-lead debates at the UN	14
Workshops & Trainings	32



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AFRICA

A key element of Franciscans International's work on human rights in Africa has been to enable several field partners to take part in UN advocacy actions, including participating in the review of their countries by different UN mechanisms. By delivering official statements at strategic UN meetings, coordinating UN debates on specific issues, and holding bilateral meetings with key diplomats, FI and partners influenced formal UN recommendations that called for further protection of human rights that promoted universal birth registration, the right to water, and the right to health; and that requested just and regulated practices in natural resource extraction.

At national level, FI engaged significantly with civil society, supporting partners in their human rights advocacy and exploring ways in which to include UN mechanisms into their national advocacy strategies.

Franciscans International worked with grassroots partners to denounce violations against those living in extreme poverty in Kenya, Uganda, and Ivory Coast, and proposed key actions. It advocated for just practices in mineral extraction in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and concentrated on child protection in Ivory Coast, Madagascar, and Cameroon.

The formal recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) endorsed FI's three main advocacy foci for **Cameroon**: child trafficking with a specific focus on the case of newborns abducted in hospitals for illegal adoption, persistent high maternal mortality rates partly due to the shortage in blood supplies, and early and forced marriages in Northern Cameroon.

JANUARY

Uruguay UPR session

Submission of report to the UN CESCR on Indonesia, including West Papua

01

Analysis on rights-based approach to natural resource extraction

National consultation on the right to water and sanitation in Kenya



FI has been at the forefront of the struggle against ritual infanticide and discrimination against children accused of witchcraft in **Benin** for years, bringing the issue to the attention of the international community by reporting to the UN, facilitating advocates from the grassroots to speak at UN events, and planning debates and discussions around the issue. This has been done in close collaboration with partners in Benin, who work to ensure that international decisions protecting these children are actually being implemented in the country. FI is therefore honoured that the French embassy in Benin awarded its 2014 Prize for Human Rights to Franciscains-Bénin, one of FI's main partners in the country, in early December. Through this prize, France recognised the difficult and time-consuming work that goes into raising awareness and changing attitudes about children accused of witchcraft.

In preparation for **Uganda's** review by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), FI worked with partners to submit a list of major concerns with regards to economic, social, and cultural rights in Uganda. In addition to echoing FI's main concerns around the development of a universal birth registration system in its formal recommendations, the CESCR included most of the other issues raised by FI around rights to health, food, education, water and sanitation, as well as issues affecting women and children.



FOCUS ON: Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
Breaking the links between Conflict and Minerals

The DRC suffers from what is called “the resource curse”. It is a country rich in mineral resources, but these resources and the mismanagement that exists around them cause dramatic human rights violations including child-labour and exploitation, dangerous and unacceptable working conditions, sexual violence, and the exploitation of thousands of women. The weakness of the Congolese government in these regions often leads to growing impunity for those responsible, including foreign companies and armed groups.

tuation in Eastern DRC, mainly by intervening at the Human Rights Council.

Over the course of 2014, FI has called for peaceful and transparent exploitation of minerals, for sustained efforts towards certification and traceability of minerals, and for stronger State supervision in certain parts of the country where armed groups are still active. FI is becoming an important actor at the UN in Geneva in the fight against conflict minerals in the DRC.

Convinced that ‘conflict minerals’ are one of the main causes fuelling conflict and contributing to the violations of the local population’s rights, FI has been catalysing global attention to the si-

Together with a group of international NGOs, FI delivered statements and coordinated debates, whose high-level panellists (including Mary Robinson and Bishop Fridolin Ambongo) mo-

FEBRUARY

FI fact-finding mission on conflict minerals in Eastern DRC

National workshop on Indigenous Peoples and the mining industry in the Philippines

Advocacy tour of field partners from Honduras

02

Lobbying brief on justice for oceans and coastal communities

Participation in a UNHCR & UNICEF workshop on statelessness and birth registration

14



bilised new attention to the issue. FI's local counterpart in the DRC, the Episcopal Commission on Natural Resources (CERN), was able to participate in the Human Rights Council, which opened a new door for national advocacy. FI also established a constructive relationship with influential permanent missions, including the Permanent Mission of the DRC in Geneva, to seriously address the issue at the UN.

FI went on to use the DRC's Universal Periodic Review in April strategically, to continue drawing attention to the issues of conflict minerals and to generate formal recommendations that would bring change to affected communities. In the process, FI leveraged its partnerships and connections at local, national, and international levels, strengthening FI's calls to immediately address human rights violations in the mining context.

FOCUS ON: Côte d'Ivoire Promoting child rights and birth registration



Testimonies from field partners show that child rights are still being largely violated in Côte d'Ivoire. Children continue to be subjected to sexual and economic exploitation, and are victims of human trafficking and forced labour, preventing them from attending school. FI has been promoting universal birth registration as a means to address these violations, since children who are not registered have no rights to nationality, to social security, or to education which makes them particularly vulnerable to a range of abuses.

FI was also active during Côte d'Ivoire's Universal Periodic Review (UPR), mainly by enabling a local partner to meet with diplomats in Geneva, so that they could then make recommendations to the Ivorian government that would address child protection. The UPR formal recommendations did indeed echo FI's concerns on birth registration, child labour and trafficking, and the right to health and education for the most vulnerable.

Through oral statements at the Human Rights Council, collaborative reporting, and participating in high-level national meetings, FI called for a simple and cost-free procedure for birth registration, and for the government's collaboration with civil society and traditional chiefs for awareness campaigns. The government in turn requested FI's input on its consultation on birth registration.

FI rounded out its advocacy work in Côte d'Ivoire by conducting workshops in the field to support communities in better leveraging the UPR process, and finding ways to monitor the implementation of UPR recommendations. Strategies for follow-up on UPR recommendations were later discussed during a sub-regional workshop organised by FI, which was attended by Franciscan partners and several NGOs.



Advocacy tour with field partners during UN Commission on Status of Women

MARCH

FI-hosted debate on extreme poverty, participation, and empowerment

Urgent appeal to Special Rapporteur on Indigenous peoples in Brazil (Tupinambá case)

03

Urgent Appeal on asylum seekers in Australia and Papua New Guinea

Side event to DRC UPR on breaking the links between natural resources and conflict in Eastern DRC

FOCUS ON: Kenya Advocating for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights



Thousands of Kenyans do not yet enjoy the basic human right to safe water, even though it is stipulated in the Kenyan Constitution, and only 30 percent of the population has access to improved sanitation. The most marginalized communities are often forced to pay much more for their water than approved tariffs.

In January, FI held a national consultation on the right to water, to engage and empower civil society organizations working on advocacy for the right to water and on the effective implementation of a national action plan.

FI continued its advocacy in preparation for Kenya's second Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

It prepared a joint report to submit to the UN, in partnership with 26 other NGOs, including Edmund Rice International and Pax Romana. Water features as a main issue. Other themes include the right to food, the right to education, the right to health, the rights of displaced people, and the rights of indigenous peoples and minorities.

During the lobbying period for Kenya's UPR, FI facilitated the participation of a field partner in the session, which allowed him to share the key concerns of the coalition in multilateral and bilateral meetings.



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APRIL

UPR lobbying with diplomats for Côte d'Ivoire and DRC

Strategic coalition meeting on human rights in West Papua

04

Attendance of conference for lawyers working with communities affected by mining in the Americas

Creation of the Treaty Alliance to advocate for a Treaty on Business & Human Rights





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AMERICAS

Over the course of 2014, Franciscans International’s Americas Programme worked to document and expose violations suffered by marginalised groups in Latin America, to influence UN decision makers to call for structural changes that address the root causes of human rights abuses, to increase the international advocacy capacity of local and national partners, and to strengthen local, national, and international networks for strategic information-sharing and collaboration.

FI submitted reports monitoring the human-rights situations in Bolivia, El Salvador, Honduras, Peru, Brazil, and Canada. It developed Universal Periodic Review lobby strategies, seeking to influence diplomats in both Geneva and locally. FI delivered statements at the UN on the human rights situation in Honduras, Uruguay, Chile, Brazil, and Nicaragua, and invited local partners to represent the needs of marginalised populations at international forums. Written technical guidance for local partners was developed, and possibilities for collaboration were mapped in Mexico, Venezuela, Ecuador, Argentina, and Chile. FI also produced country case studies on birth registration for Bolivia, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic.

FI carried on its work of bringing grassroots concerns to international audiences through its work in **Honduras**. It delivered two oral statements to the Human Rights Council on the situation of vulnerability of human rights defenders in Honduras, and



MAY

Statement on economic, social, and cultural rights in Papua during Indonesia’s review by the UN CESCR

Campaign on Business & Human Rights with the Treaty Alliance

05

Sub-regional human rights workshop for Western Africa

Interventions at the UN on La Puya case (Guatemala) and Cajamarca case (Peru)



on foreign debt, human rights, and the environment. The statements were endorsed by 20 partners, at local, national, and international levels. FI also submitted a report for Honduras' Universal Periodic Review, and developed a lobby-strategy around it. The process involved national consultations and conversations with field partners to elaborate a strategy informed by the grassroots, and the hosting of a grassroots activist in Geneva who contributed to influencing the formal recommendations.

El Salvador is one of the countries in Latin America with the greatest inequality between the privileged and the marginalized when it comes to access clean water. FI's partners there have a long history of working with civil society and communities to defend life through environmental justice. In 2014, FI worked with these partners to develop an advocacy campaign around the Universal Periodic Review to bring increased momentum and international visibility to the issue of clean water, and other environmental justice issues. The campaign included a report to the UN on the situation in El Salvador, focusing on the water crisis, mining, and natural disaster risk management. This joint advocacy strategy is ongoing with activities planned at the national and international levels in order to attract the attention of relevant decision makers, and obtain formal recommendations that will bring change to affected communities in El Salvador.

Madre de Dios, in **Peru**, is a department in the Amazon that is known for both its abundant biodiversity and its mineral resources. Illegal gold mining in Madre de Dios has led not only to grave environmental destruction but has also contributed to entrenched and precarious conditions of security and governance. This remote region is also the primary passageway for migrants on their way to North America, creating a dramatic increase in exploitative practices in the region including modern-day slavery and human trafficking, both in terms of forced labour in the mines and of sexual exploitation around camps and towns.

FI and partners prepared a report for the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) on trafficking and the right to an identity in Peru, urging the CERD to take up the issues of discrimination in access to birth registration, and practices of modern slavery related to the mining boom in the region of Madre de Dios. Issued in September, the formal recommendations of the CERD included the main concerns presented by FI and partners. In addition, thanks to a strong collaborative process, FI's field partners are now more aware of international advocacy opportunities, and have expressed their desire to continue partnering with FI.

JUNE

UPR submission on Kenya around the right to water and other economic, social, and cultural rights

Advocacy at the HRC on the impact of climate change in the Pacific Islands

Invited partner to UN for lobbying in the SDG right to water campaign

06

UN adopts landmark resolution towards a Treaty on Business and Human Rights

Advocacy tour with Brazilian partner on business and human rights issues in Brazil

14



FOCUS ON: Brazil

Mobilising grassroots advocacy campaigns

Troubling policies promoting the expanding mining sector in Brazil are causing serious human rights violations: displacing communities, threatening fresh water sources, and disproportionately infringing on the rights of indigenous people. Throughout the year, FI has worked with partners, internationally and in the field, to bring several cases and campaigns to international attention by documenting situations for urgent appeals and reports and facilitating the participation of representatives from affected communities in UN forums and discussions. FI's Brazilian partners also played a significant role in the global campaign towards a binding treaty on business and human rights.

FI worked with the Inter-Franciscan Service for Justice, Peace and Ecology (SINFRAJUPE), on the case of the Tupinambá indigenous people, who are one of the oldest indigenous groups in Brazil, and who have never had their lands demarcated by the government. For over 500 years, the Tupinambá community has been resisting incursion and struggling to remain on their sacred

lands. This resistance continues to be marked by numerous cases of violence, criminalization and persecution against them. The serious omission of the Brazilian authorities in failing to demarcate and register the lands of the Tupinambá Indigenous Community is preventing Tupinambá members as individuals and as a collective to enjoy their human rights, including the human right to life. On behalf of SINFRAJUPE and the indigenous mission of the national bishops' conference, FI drafted and submitted an urgent appeal to the Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples regarding the threats to the Tupinambá people.

In addition to achieving greater international visibility for important campaigns like this one, throughout the year, FI deepened its working ties with key partners in the region by participating in several workshops and conferences focused on exploring the challenges and dynamics of mining and human rights in Brazil.



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JULY

Report submission to Human Rights Committee on Canadian companies' extraterritorial obligations

Preparatory work for advocacy on Côte d'Ivoire and DRC for the HRC

07

Urgent Appeal on environmental degradation in Papua New Guinea

Production of short film on Birth Registration with the Universal Birth Registration Working Group



FOCUS ON: Bolivia Voicing grassroots concerns at the UN

In 2014, FI continued supporting and advising a strong coalition of organisations in Cochabamba, in central Bolivia, assisting them in the development of a strategy to use the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to mobilize efforts to push for structural changes on key issues of shared concern: violence against children, child labour, right to health for women and children, gender equality, violence against women, political violence against indigenous peoples, and the situation of women in detention.

FI supported the coalition group in developing a written report to submit for Bolivia's UPR, consulting different groups of women and child

workers' unions in Cochabamba through individual interviews and community forums. The analysis and recommendations for the report to the UN were then elaborated based on this first-hand information and analysis. While the report recognised advances and aimed at dialogue with the government, the research still revealed shocking findings of injustice that should be addressed.

FI and partners' concerns were largely reflected in UN review documentation, including final UPR recommendations to be implemented by Bolivia, and the government recognised FI throughout the UPR process.



FOCUS ON: Canada Canada's responsibility for the environment and Human Rights abroad

Most extractive and mining companies operating around the world are headquartered in Canada. Such businesses are increasingly concentrating their exploitative activities in Latin American countries. As a result of these activities and the policies driving them, local communities systematically suffer a wide range of environmental and human rights abuses. The increased criminalisation of social protests and threats against human and environmental rights defenders are among the alarming tendencies which result from this development trend based on extractivism in Latin America.

In July 2015 Canada will be reviewed by the UN Human Rights Committee for its compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, a key international human rights treaty. In preparation for this review, in October 2014, FI submitted a report urging the Committee to

include in its considerations the patterns of grave environmental and human-rights harms that are being inflicted throughout Latin America in connection with the expansion and operation of the Canadian-based mining industry. FI called on the Committee to give priority to upholding the rights of those vulnerable and marginalized groups affected by Canada's mining activities.

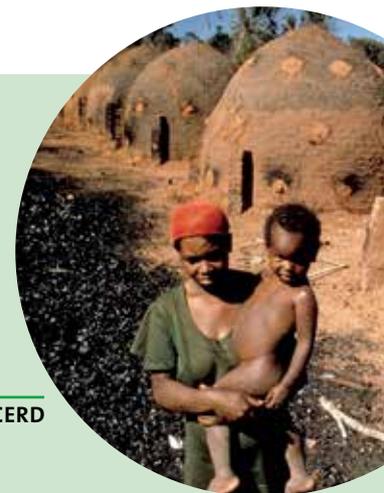
The Committee accepted the arguments and called on the Canadian government specifically to provide more information about human rights abuses committed abroad in connection to Canada's mining sector. Following this preliminary positive result, FI has continued exploring with partners in Canada and Latin America the possibility of submitting further information detailing the wide range of human rights concerns expected to be reviewed by the Committee.

AUGUST

Follow-up consultations on UN human rights mechanisms in Cameroon and Burkina Faso

National consultation in Indonesia on human rights and environmental protection

Submission of Peru report to CERD





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ASIA-PACIFIC

Over the course of 2014, Franciscans International (FI) worked on two fronts in its Asia-Pacific Programme: bringing the human rights concerns of its local partners to the UN and empowering grassroots partners by organising national consultations and trainings on human rights. FI advocated for the right to food in India and Indonesia, and the freedom of religion in Pakistan. It explored the impact of business activities on human rights in the Philippines and Indonesia, and tackled human trafficking in Singapore and Thailand. FI worked to increase international awareness about human rights abuses perpetrated against asylum seekers in Australia, Papua New Guinea, and Nauru, and about how climate change is affecting communities in Kiribati and Tuvalu. FI monitored human rights situations and the implementation of UN recommendations in Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Indonesia, Australia, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, and India, and responded to urgent human rights situations related to indigenous peoples and human rights defenders.

As a country with more than one billion people, ensuring the access to food remains a major challenge for **India**. FI partners in India have been working to advocate for the right to food of those who are marginalized, especially the Dalits, the Adivasi, the urban and rural poor, with particular attention to women. In November, FI and the Association of Franciscans Family in India (AFFI) organized a national consultation in

SEPTEMBER

National consultation about UPR follow-up on mining issues in the Republic of Congo

Training for human rights defenders in West Papua

FI brief for UN Climate Summit

09

Co-hosting of UN debate on Birth Registration with UNICEF, OHCHR, Plan, and WVI

Regional workshop on human rights, sustainable development, and mining in Latin America





Bangalore to develop a national strategy to ensure the use of a rights-based approach to addressing the food-related concerns of India’s most vulnerable populations.

Since the end of the civil war in 2009, **Sri Lanka** has been faced with the question of post-war reconciliation. Despite national and international pressure, the Sri Lankan government has failed to bring peace to the country. FI and partners in Sri Lanka submitted a report to the UN Human Rights Committee in September 2014, focusing on the Government’s compliance on issues of accountability, torture, the independence of the judiciary, human rights defenders, minority groups, and freedom of expression, association, and assembly. Some of FI’s concerns were reflected in the formal recommendations of the Committee.

Climate change has brought serious impacts to **Kiribati**, a low-lying island in the Pacific, including its impending eventual disappearance. While its contribution to climate change is negligible, the population of Kiribati is the first to suffer from its ultimate consequences. FI, along with its partners in Kiribati, advocated for the protection of the I-Kiribati’s human rights by integrating their voice into the report submitted in June for Kiribati’s Universal Periodic Review at the UN. The report focused on the adverse impact of climate change and the human rights of the Kiribati population, especially the right to self-determination, right to water, right to food, right to health as well as the issue of climate-induced displacement and climate refugees. As a result of efforts made by FI and other NGOs, the Human Rights Council agreed to organise a panel on Climate Change and Human Rights in its session in March 2015, in which the President of Kiribati agreed to make a special address.



FOCUS ON: Australia
Addressing the human rights of Asylum Seekers

Australia has been processing asylum seekers offshore since 2012. They are sent to detention centres on Nauru and on Manus Island in Papua New Guinea to wait for their status as refugees to be determined. Living conditions in these centres are of particular concern, with hundreds of individuals being crammed into small rooms without basic amenities.

In early 2014, local partners updated FI on the deteriorating situation on Manus Island. The human rights of asylum seekers were being systemically denied by the centre’s administration, with limited access to drinking water, overcrowded living spaces and prolonged uncertainty of the status of their applications for refugee status. Riots were breaking out, at the end of which one asylum seeker was found dead.

OCTOBER

Submission of main concerns to the CESRC on Uganda

Field test for the handbook on extreme poverty in India

UPR lobbying with diplomats for Bolivia and El Salvador



Convinced that the issue of asylum seekers and refugees should be addressed on the basis of international law, FI - in partnership Edmund Rice International and the Marist International Solidarity Foundation - urged the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention to put pressure on the Australian government to address the situation in accordance with international human rights standards, underlining that immigration detention centres in Manus Island and Nauru should be closed immediately, and that Australia should return to a policy of processing asylum-seekers on the Australian mainland, in compliance with international law.

The issue was noted at the highest level, by the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights himself, Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein. During his statement to the Human Rights Council in September, he noted: "Australia's policy of off-shore processing for asylum seekers arriving by sea, and its interception and turning back of vessels, is leading to a chain of human rights violations, including arbitrary detention and possible torture following return to home countries. It could also lead to the resettlement of migrants in countries that are not adequately equipped." The issue is now bound to garner international attention, and require action from the Australian government.

FOCUS ON: Philippines
A Rights-based Approach to Natural-resource Extraction



Human rights violations abound in Tampakan, on the island of Mindanao in the southern Philippines: mining companies are dislocating indigenous communities, and contaminating natural resources. Human rights defenders and indigenous leaders are being threatened and killed, and there are no effective remedial systems in place. FI is committed to highlighting the importance of this grievous case to the international community, particularly to UN experts and diplomats.

At the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights in December, FI partnered with the Tampakan Forum and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung to facilitate participation by human rights defenders working on the Tampakan case, thus allowing UN experts, diplomatic delegations, NGO representatives, and the general public to hear first-hand information about the case.

Over the course of 2014, FI repeatedly pointed to the Tampakan case as emblematic of the importance of addressing human rights violations perpetrated by business. FI leveraged the case during the Human Rights Council, at UN debates, and in informal negotiations on the elaboration of a legally-binding instrument for corporate accountability.



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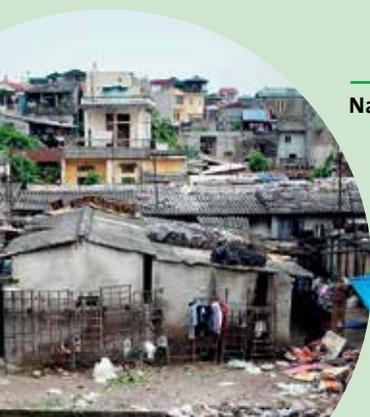
NOVEMBER

Field tests for the handbook on extreme poverty in Kenya and Côte d'Ivoire

National consultation in India on the right to food and human rights of the Dalits

FI policy paper on the history of Business & Human Rights advocacy

FI presentation at international conference on Extractivism and Challenges for Human Rights



FOCUS ON: West Papua Addressing human rights violations of indigenous peoples



While the transition to democracy has brought about significant change and has restored a range of rights in many parts of Indonesia, West Papua continues to suffer from inadequate protection of human rights, the exploitation of abundant natural resources, heavy military presence, and insufficient attention to key human development needs. FI frequently receives reports of torture, extra-judicial killings, and violent dispersals of peaceful demonstrations. Violence is particularly high in areas of large-scale economic projects, where foreign and national companies exploit mineral and other natural resources. In many cases, companies' licenses are provided by government agencies without the free, prior, or informed consent of indigenous Papuan communities. Lack of access to education and health care constitutes a serious challenge for indigenous communities in rural areas. When women become victims of violence by security forces, they often face sexual harassment as well. The situation is exacerbated by West Papua's enforced international isolation. Foreign journalists and observers are often denied access to West Papua.

FI has been advocating for freedom of expression and association in West Papua. When two French journalists and an indigenous leader were arrested in Wamena, Papua Province, on August 6th, FI delivered a statement urging the Indonesian government to release them, and affirming Papua should be open to the international community.

At the UN, FI met with the Special Rapporteurs on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and on the Freedom of Expression to raise the issue, and submitted an urgent appeal to the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, requesting him to investigate the intimidation of a lawyer for an indigenous leader who was arrested with the French journalists.

In December, following the unlawful killing of four young indigenous Papuans, FI once again condemned the use of violent and brutal force by Indonesian security forces against peaceful protests held by the local indigenous community.

Believing that the conflict in Papua should be addressed in a constructive way with the participation of the Papuan indigenous people itself, FI organized, in collaboration with Papuan NGOs, human rights training in August, in Papua, to strengthen the capacity of Papuan human rights defenders. FI conducted a series of discussions with Indonesian authorities in Jakarta, and the Indonesian diplomatic representative to the UN in Geneva, focusing on improvement of the human rights situation in Papua by ensuring freedom of expression and assembly, opening access to Papua for the international community, and finding peaceful and sustainable solutions.

DECEMBER

Invitation of field activist to the UN to speak on mining in the Philippines (Tampakan case)

FI-hosted UN debate on Land and Environment Defenders

Consultation for CESC meeting on Uganda

Sponsored seven Franciscans to attend meeting of Latin America Network on Church and Mining



2014 has been a positive year: In comparison to 2013, FI increased its income both from Franciscan Orders and Congregations (+28%) and from funding agencies and institutions (+22%). Total income has gone up from CHF 852'275 in 2013 to CHF 1'065'333 in 2014.

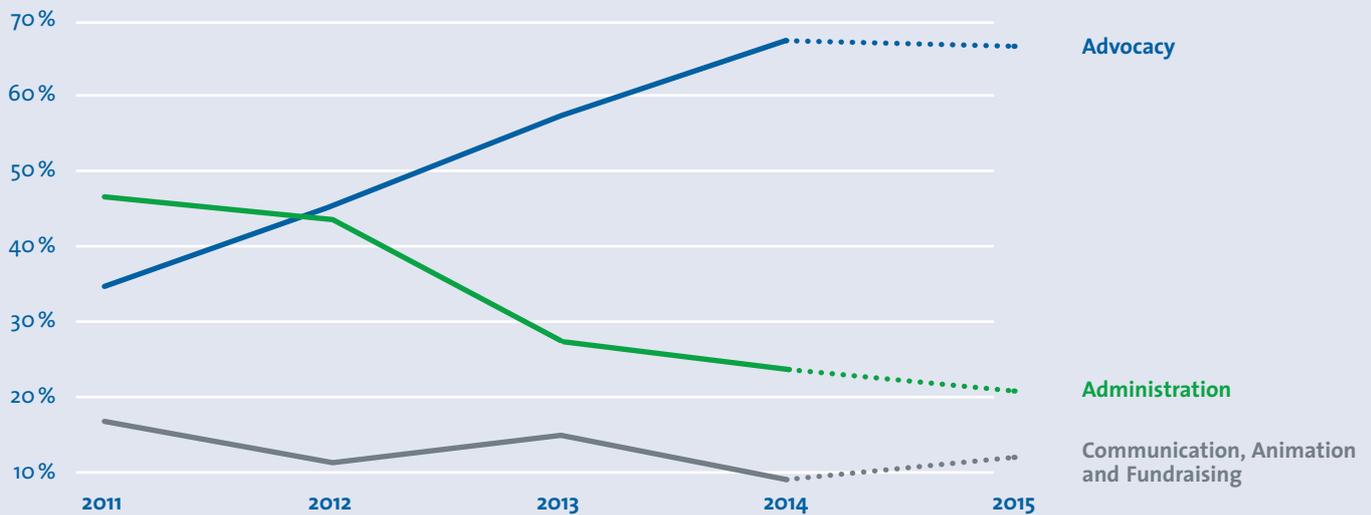
In addition to increasing FI's revenue, FI applied for and successfully obtained multi-annual grants from funding agencies and institutions. It also received pledges from Franciscan Orders and Congregations. This means that by end of 2014, more than 60% of FI's 2015 income budget was already confirmed.

These achievements enabled FI to grow stronger as an organisation:

- FI had the means to respond to various requests from Franciscans (for joint advocacy work, assistance, support, training, etc.), to implement advocacy activities, and to achieve the positive results described in this report;
- FI was able to build a contingency reserve as advised by the auditors and the International Board of Directors to ensure financial security.

Finally, the percentage of advocacy expenditure continued increasing in relation to administration expenses. It reached 67,5 % of the organisation's total expenses in 2014 (see the graph below).

Trends in Expenditure



FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2014

(Reviewed by PricewaterhouseCoopers SA)

	CHF	Percentage
Income		
Franciscan Orders and Congregations	433,088	40.7 %
Funding Agencies and Foundations	611,511	57.4 %
Other Donations	20,734	1.9 %
Total income	1,065,333	
Expenses		
Advocacy	(575,320)	67.5 %
Communications, Animation and Fundraising	(73,172)	8.6 %
Administration	(203,823)	23.9 %
Total operating expenses	(852,315)	
Non-Operating Income and Expenses		
Depreciation	(12,086)	
Interests and bank charges	(1,556)	
Re-invoicing	5,520	
Foreign exchange loss	(7,823)	
Total non-operating expenses	(15,944)	
Contingency Reserve	197,074	

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 to the following funding entities for their generous funding in 2014:

Adveniat (Germany), Bread for the World (Germany), Cordaid (Netherlands), Fastenopfer (Switzerland), Etat de Genève (Switzerland), Franciscan Foundation (USA), Franziskaner Mission (Germany), Mensen met een Missie (Netherlands), Miseen Cara (Ireland), Misereor (Germany), Missionszentrale der Franziskaner (Germany), Rose Marie Khoo Foundation (Singapore- Switzerland), Trócaire (Ireland), Ville de Carouge (Switzerland).

ANYONE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE: YOU TOO CAN SUPPORT THE WORK OF FI!

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.

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

FI's 25 years: celebrating advocacy achievements and a growing supportive community

2014 marked Franciscan International's 25 years as non-governmental organisation recognised at the UN. The anniversary was celebrated through receptions and Eucharistic celebrations in both New York and Geneva, and a global invitation to commemorate was sent out to Franciscans worldwide. Local church representatives, NGOs, representatives of diplomatic missions, and former staff all joined the FI Team and International Board of Directors in the various festivities.

Over these twenty five years, FI has built a community around itself, rallying partners, supporters, and collaborators from around the world to promote human rights and dignity, as well as social and environmental justice.

In 2014, FI continued to enlarge its networks and to collaborate on many projects, convinced that building coalitions and partnering are key for successful human rights advocacy. FI has connected with more partners at local, national, regional, and international levels, and diversified its partnerships, working with Franciscan and faith-based networks, as well as with secular human rights organisations. Participating in a number of key networks has helped grow FI's audience and has contributed to increasing its impact. This is exemplified by FI's participation in the Treaty Alliance, a worldwide coalition requesting the UN Human Rights Council to set up a legal process to hold businesses to account for human rights abuses. Joint and concerted efforts enabled the Treaty Alliance to obtain a UN Resolution that establishes an intergovernmental group to begin this work.

In addition to growing partnerships, FI's relationships with donors have deepened over the past years, going beyond financial support. They have become increasingly engaged and interconnected, as common advocacy priorities and methods are discussed with the shared objective of ending social injustice.



Celebration of the 25th anniversary of FI in Geneva

ACRONYMS

CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
CERD	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CERN	Episcopal Commission on Natural Resources
CESCR	Committee on Social, Economic, and Cultural Rights
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
EU	European Union
FI	Franciscans International
HRC	Human Rights Council
IGWG	Inter-Governmental Working Group
JPIC	Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
OFM	Order of Friars Minor
OFS	Secular Franciscan Order
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
SINFRAJUPE	Inter-Franciscan Service for Justice, Peace and Ecology
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UPR	Universal Periodic Review



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

