

Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice

Annual Report

2018



"Most women who have returned from captivity feel that their rights are violated. Nobody understands us. At least if there is a law we can make our voices be heard."

SGBV Victim/Survivor at a training on addressing stigma

Acknowledgements

We are pleased to present the 2018 Annual Report of Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice. We would like to thank our staff and interns for their excellent work and commitment to the organisation and our mission.

We would also like to express our appreciation to all our extraordinary partners, allies and supporters who made 2018 another important and impactful year for our work with the ICC and with grassroots organisations in conflict-affected areas of northern Uganda and eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

We would particularly like to acknowledge our partners with whom we continue to dream big and tackle daunting challenges.. It is a privilege to collaborate, co-create and be inspired by and with you.

In the DRC:

Claudine Bela Badeaza, Director, Centre d'Education et Recherche pour les Droits des Femmes (CERDF); Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice Focal Point for Province Orientale

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Stella Yanda Bililo, Executive Secretary, Initiatives Alpha; Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice Project Focal Point, South Kivu

In Uganda:

Justice and Reconciliation Project

Women's Advocacy Network

We would also like to express our gratitude to our donors for making the implementation of our mission and programmes possible.



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Mission

The Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice works to achieve global gender justice.

2018 at a glance...

This year Women's Initiatives worked with grassroots organisations, decision-makers, faith leaders, victims/survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), justice stakeholders, women abducted by militia groups, clan leaders, family members and communities affected by armed conflicts. We also worked with **seven** domestic courts in Uganda and the DRC as well as the ICC on the prosecution of conflict-related sexual and gender-based crimes and advocated and facilitated the participation of women in the justice system.

During 2018 we:

- Interviewed over **77** victims of conflict-related sexual violence and other grave crimes. We utilized this data in cases before domestic courts, as well as in advocacy with provincial authorities, prosecutors and judges, calling for greater access to justice, and better medical and livelihood assistance for victims of these crimes.
- Assisted **1,041** victims of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence to access medical and psychosocial services.
- Held **69** community outreach sessions involving **2,803** participants in two conflict-affected provinces in eastern DRC with a focus on reducing stigma for victims of SGBV and informing communities about the services available for victims of these crimes.
- Hosted gender justice documentary screenings for **1,088** participants in conflict-affected provinces including remote villages and areas where sexual violence is highly prevalence..
- Conducted 2 training and capacity building workshops in eastern DRC for **47** participants including provincial and local policy-makers and political leaders, military prosecutors, judges, the police, and civil society groups.
- Consulted local partners and SGBV victims/survivors in Uganda about meaningful reparations, victim expectations, and safety and security concerns relevant to accessing court-ordered reparations before the ICC.
- Monitored domestic courts in Uganda and eastern DRC working with **victims in** SGBV cases providing support to and advocacy on behalf of the victims of these crimes.
- Engaged with cultural leaders, clan elders, family members, women formerly abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and their children born of war to facilitate family reunification, reconciliation and reintegration activities in northern Uganda.
- Monitored **11** situations under investigation by the ICC from a gender perspective and monitored all of the cases in which sexual and gender-based crimes have been charged.
- Advocated with ICC staff and officials on gender justice issues and provided policy briefings and information for over **400** delegates and representatives of states parties.



35,857
Website
Views

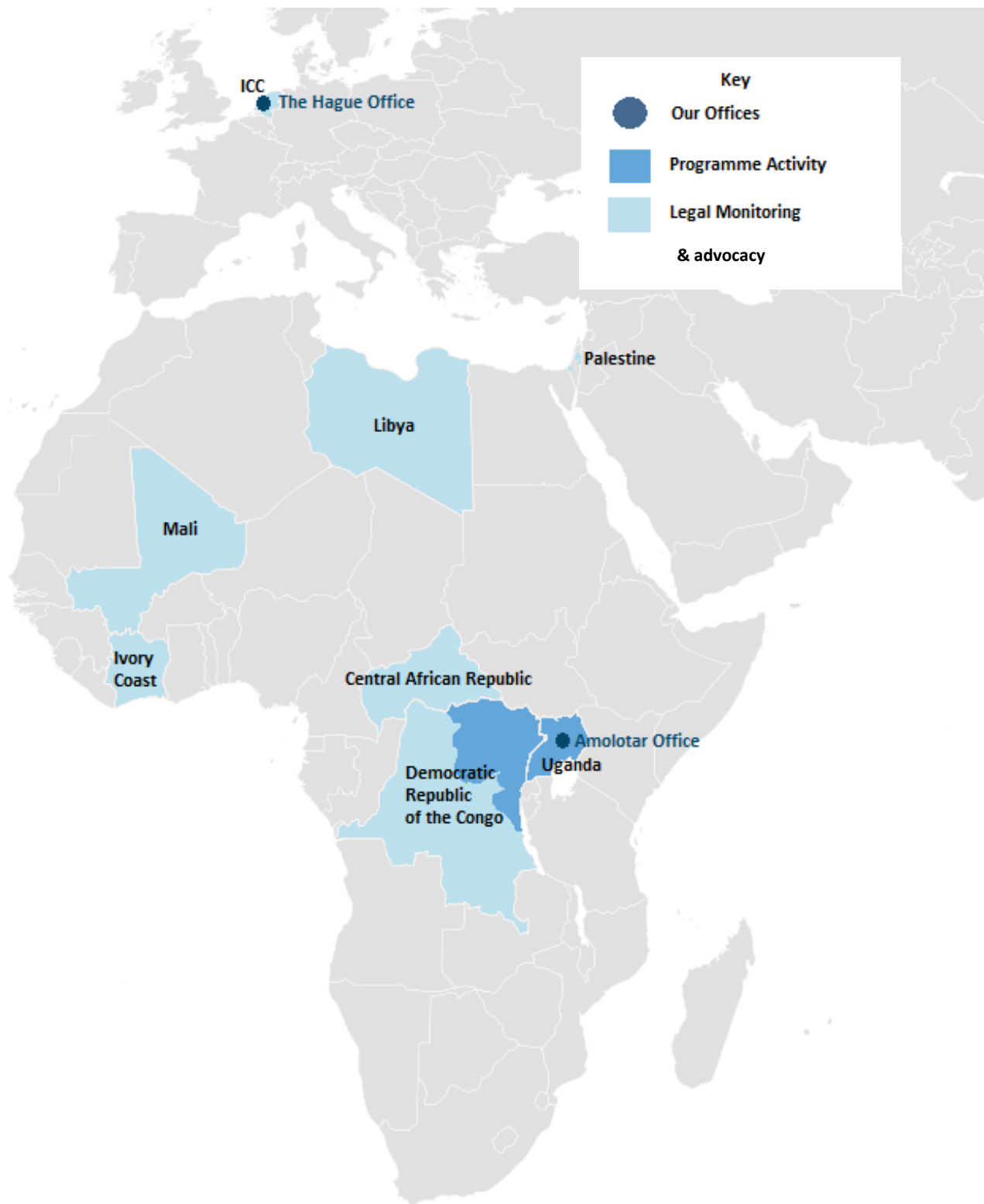


6,097 Facebook
engagements



3,300+
Twitter
Followers

Where we work



Values Statement

The Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice is dedicated to achieving gender equality women's human rights and international justice. We work to ensure justice for women and communities affected by armed conflict through an independent and effective International Criminal Court and promote use of the Rome Statute to advance women's rights.

Our shared values help us to achieve this. These values include:

Human Rights - Human rights are indivisible, inter-related and universal and as such we will work towards the eradication of all discrimination based on gender, sexuality, religion, race, age, ability, ethnicity, nationality, class or other factors. We will work towards the full application of the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women, other international human rights and humanitarian law. We will actively challenge any fundamentalisms that threaten these rights.

Justice and Peace - We strive towards a world free from violence against women and an end to war and conflicts. We work towards a world based on principles of justice, interdependence, equality, solidarity and respect. We promote the rule of law and international legal standards to ensure accountability for perpetrators and the end to all forms of violence, discrimination and oppression.

Self Determination - We stand in solidarity with those dispossessed of their land, livelihood, language and cultural identity and support gender equality within movements towards self-determination. We also promote a woman's right to determine and choose her relationships, sexuality, identities, goals and dreams.

Diversity - We will work together as feminists and gender justice advocates, respecting and learning from each other's diverse backgrounds, beliefs, abilities and experiences. Openness to diversity is integral to advancing women's rights and creating just and equitable societies.

Responsibility - We will strive for fairness and respect in our relations, responsible and effective use of our resources, transparency in our processes, accountability, integrity and excellence in all our work.

These values guide our work with the International Criminal Court, in the field, our collaborations and partnerships, within the organisation, and as actors in the international movements of advocates for women's human rights and gender justice.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)



'Despite everything that has happened to me, I need to continue living like everybody else. I only want the perpetrator to face justice. I am convinced that sexual violence will be put to an end one day.' – Survivor in Province Orientale.

Documentation

Documenting conflict-related SGBV is one of our long-standing and most effective collaborative programmes. Through our documentation programme we: interview victims/survivors of conflict-related SGBV; provide psycho-social assistance, legal and medical referrals to victims/survivors; and utilise the documentation data to advocate for the investigation and prosecution of these crimes before local courts and the International Criminal Court (ICC), and to advocate for better access to medical and psycho-social support.

In 2018, three partners in three conflict-affected provinces of eastern DRC (South Kivu, North Kivu and Province Orientale) conducted four documentation missions, interviewing 77 victims/survivors of sexual violence. Our documentation programme in the DRC ended in April 2018.

In analysing the data, we were able to ascertain that the majority of the attacks documented between January and March 2018 were allegedly committed by: the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC); the DRC police; the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR); the Raia Mutomboki armed group; the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA); the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF); and Mai Mai militia groups, including the Mai Mai Nyatura. According to our analysis of the information gathered during this period, most documented incidents of sexual violence occurred in the context of attacks by armed groups directed against the civilian population and clashes of armed groups with the DRC military. In North Kivu, one of our partners documented cases of sexual and gender-based violence committed in the context of kidnappings by armed groups. Further, in South Kivu, interviewees reported having been targeted due to their ethnicity.

In general, the documentation material is utilised in advocacy for the opening of investigations and prosecutions before domestic courts and as a component of our ongoing Strategic Accountability Project in South Kivu. It is also used in advocacy with local political leaders in support of accountability and the provision of more medical and psychosocial services to victims/survivors. We have also successfully used our documentation material in advocacy with the ICC and it has been incorporated in two ICC cases to date, including the current case against Bosco Ntaganda in support of sexual and gender-based crimes charges.

During 2018, partners utilised documentation data in advocacy on two occasions. In South Kivu, our partner Initiatives Alpha advocated with provincial parliamentarians and members of the socio-cultural commission of the provincial assembly seeking to provide acknowledgement and reparations to SGBV victims and to fight corruption, particularly informal agreements between SGBV victims and the perpetrator to avoid criminal responsibility. In North Kivu, our partner LSC used documentation data in advocacy with the provincial governor to raise awareness of the security situation in the province. In both instances, addressees were very receptive to the advocacy and committed themselves to raising awareness and using the data to advocate at the national level for SGBV victims. In Province Orientale, CERDF has not yet conducted advocacy with the data collected during this period but is planning to launch a series of advocacy missions in the near future. Over the years, the use of documentation data in advocacy meetings, screenings and events targeting local and provincial leaders is proving to be an effective strategy in influencing decision-makers.

In addition to advocacy, partners generally utilise documentation data to: monitor prosecution of SGBVs and provide legal representation to victims/survivors before mobile gender courts; monitor security; and inform the community of the situation in their area during screenings/advocacy meetings.

Documentation missions further give victims/survivors an opportunity and platform to express themselves, and partners have reported that victims appreciated the chance to tell their stories. Furthermore, all DRC documentation partners are reporting stronger interviewing and documenting skills and techniques.

‘The documentation programme is an efficient advocacy tool in the fight against sexual violence and the prosecution of perpetrators. It can also strengthen the partnership between our organisation and other institutions through advocacy, particularly with the judiciary.’ - Claudine Bela Badeaza, WI Focal Point for Province Orientale, Director of CERDF.

‘The interviews provide victims with an occasion to share their suffering. They believe that with the prosecution of perpetrators and proper support, they could restore their lost dignity.’ - Claudine Bela Badeaza, WI Focal Point for Province Orientale, Director of CERDF.

‘Despite everything that has happened to me, I need to continue living like everybody else. I only want the perpetrator to face justice. I am convinced that sexual violence will be put to an end one day.’ – One interviewee in Province Orientale.

‘Interviewees are desperate given the unchanging security situation. Documenting the crimes that were committed against them helps ease their suffering.’ – Joséphine Malimukono, WI Focal Point for National Advocacy, Director of LSC, North Kivu.

Challenges

All three partners who conducted documentation missions during this period noted difficulties in managing the strong emotions presented by victims and acknowledged their need for further capacity-building on documentation techniques and avoiding re-traumatisation.

CERDF suggested organising a meeting for all WI partners to discuss and exchange views and experiences on documentation, the challenges they face and future perspectives. LSC also noted that technical reinforcement would be very welcome, also with view to improving their reports, as they would like to compile a report to the UNSC for international advocacy.

Initiatives Alpha notes that a documentation programme that is limited on gathering information is not sufficient to address the needs of victims. Initiatives Alpha says that it is necessary for them to also be able to provide assistance. Furthermore, they noted that, although all victims were informed of the possibility of reporting their instances of SGBV to the closest legal clinic, in many cases there is no legal clinic nearby.

Transit House Project

The Transit House project continues to be highly effective in supporting a significant number of individuals, predominantly women, to access medical assistance and a greater level of medical care in relation to injuries and harm as a result of conflict-related rape and other forms of sexual violence.

In 2018, the Transit House project has continued to operate in Kabondozi, South Kivu, and in Rutshuru, North Kivu. The project provides psycho-social assessments, referrals and assistance to victims/survivors of conflict-related (and other) SGBV to access local health centres and general hospitals for more specialised treatment, including surgeries for rape-related injuries. The project provides two residential Transit House facilities for SGBV victims/survivors to stay in while awaiting surgery and during their post-surgery recovery,

before returning home. The project also provides transportation for victims/survivors to and from the hospital.

During this year, our partners LSC and AFD assisted 1,041 SGBV victims/survivors to access psycho-social and medical support, of whom 879 (84%) victims/survivors were referred to either a hospital or local health centre for further treatment, most commonly for reparative surgeries for rape-related injuries.

In addition to medical assistance, the project also provides information and referrals to legal clinics for those who wish to seek redress and justice for SGBV incidents. In this reporting period, the project referred 420 victims/survivors to legal clinics and several were supported through the justice process with partners acting as victims' advocates.

Additionally, 69 community sessions were held, involving 2,803 participants. The outreach sessions raised awareness within the community to reduce stigma for victims of SGBV, provided information about the services available for victims of these crimes, and stressed the importance of reporting SGBV incidents rather than accepting informal agreements with the perpetrator or the perpetrator's family.

Many SGBV victims/survivors are rejected by their husbands and/or families as a result of being raped and face additional social and economic challenges. In North Kivu, the Transit House project, through our partner LSC, assisted SGBV victims with the process of reintegrating with their families. In this reporting period, LSC provided follow-up psycho-social counselling to 228 victims, training workshops on income-generating activities for 34 SGBV victims, 60 house-to-house visits to raise awareness amongst victims' families, and 18 family mediation session for women who were rejected by their husbands as a result of being raped.

In addition to its regular Transit House activities, AFD also held a two-day training at the Transit House early in the year for 25 police officers and civil society representatives who had set up five surveillance committees in villages in South Kivu, following their participation in screenings or awareness-raising sessions last year. This is explained in detail below in the *Gender Justice Training and Capacity-Building Workshops* section.

Data about the commission of sexual violence and the type of perpetrators (largely militia groups) gathered from those who access the Transit House project was utilised early in the year in both provinces. In South Kivu, our partner AFD used Transit House data during three advocacy missions it conducted in this period targeting local authorities, traditional leaders, judges and prosecutors, police, and civil society. In North Kivu, Transit House data was used in advocacy with the provincial assembly, during which LSC recommended the provincial assembly to do more to stop armed groups in North Kivu, to strengthen the capacity of the military and police forces, and to create integration projects to keep the youth busy to reduce the incentive of joining armed groups.

Since the awareness-raising sessions and advocacy, our partners have noted an increase in the reporting of rape cases by local authorities, community members and victims/survivors, as well as increased commitment by the police to refer rape cases to the Prosecutor's office and fight corruption. More cases are also being referred to our partners for medical and psychosocial support and fewer informal agreements seem to be concluded between victims/survivors and perpetrators.

Challenges

Both AFD and LSC highlighted early in the year the increasingly high level of insecurity in the area as a challenge, especially due to clashes between the FARDC and Mai Mai groups. Despite an improvement of the security situation in the area due to the weakening of some armed groups by the FARDC, the population is still afraid of reporting crimes committed by the FARDC due to potential reprisals.

AFD also noted that the transport of victims to the hospital and health centres is a problem given that buses no longer can pass through certain routes due to security concerns and can only pick up victims by the national road, which implies walking or a motorcycle ride to get there.

AFD suggested printing the AFD/WI logos on T-shirts and caps for Transit House personnel, increasing the number of psycho-social assistants, enlarging the Transit House facilities, providing psychological support for psycho-social assistants and AFD personnel, and equipping psychosocial assistants with megaphones. They further suggested increasing the number of psychosocial assistants in order to avoid them having to travel long distances and cover temporary accommodation. Another suggestion is the opening of another Transit House facility in Baraka (45km from Kabondozi) and equip a room in Uvira for the temporary stay of victim survivors (before and after staying at the Transit House), as well as to expand the Transit House project and services.

Towards the end of 2018, our partner in South Kivu noted the lack of capacity by Panzi hospital to take in more prolapses cases, as well as the lack of medication provided by the hospital. Furthermore, there is a need to provide psychological assistance to psycho-social assistants of the Transit House, as well as increased security in the field. Our partner in North Kivu noted that the armed groups operating in nearby areas continue to be a challenge to reaching survivors.

Documentary Screenings and Advocacy Events

Engaging with local decision-makers has been a deliberate and critical strategy for creating the diverse alliances necessary to generate tangible changes for gender justice, within communities experiencing conflict-related violence and its aftermath. This has been our strategy and our experience for many years within eastern DRC and this period was no exception.

One of the programmes through which we engage local leaders is in the strategic advocacy events and community debates, including documentary screenings, organised by our partners in North Kivu, South Kivu and Province Orientale. This strategy is intended to ‘influence those with influence’ and contributes to positive gender justice outcomes.

In 2018, four partners held 12 screenings of our gender justice documentary ‘Our Voices Matter’ and advocacy events/missions in three provinces (South Kivu, North Kivu and Province Orientale), involving 1,088 participants, of whom 215 (19.8%) were decision-makers. Many of the screenings were held in the context of International Women’s Day.

Those attending the documentary screenings included: local authorities, provincial parliamentarians, community leaders, religious leaders, police and military officers, civil society including women’s rights organisations, teachers, students, journalists, health specialists, and affected communities.

According to the data collected by partners, following the documentary screenings, decision-makers report that they feel more aware of SGBV issues and have a stronger recognition of their responsibility to prevent

the commission of these crimes. Many express a commitment to ending impunity in their respective villages, agencies, courts, institutions and ministries.

A sample of additional concrete actions undertaken by local leaders following their participation in the documentary screenings includes:

- In Province Orientale, participants committed themselves to raising awareness over the local community radio to increase in the reporting of SGBV. Two weeks after the screening, our partner CERDF was referred two cases of rape to receive medical care and psycho-social support.
- In North Kivu, in the context of a screening held in a school, students and teachers committed themselves to advocating amongst their peers and within their communities.
- In South Kivu, judicial police are increasingly referring rape victims to our partner for medical care and psycho-social support.

‘Screenings contribute to raising the awareness of affected communities and increasing the reporting of SGBV. Participants were encouraged by the fact that CERDF reached them, even when located in a more remote location.’ – Claudine Bela Badeaza, WI Focal Point for Province Orientale, Director of CERDF.

Examples of advocacy events conducted in 2018 include:

In South Kivu, in January and February 2018, our partner AFD conducted three advocacy missions in Lusenda, Mboko and in Baraka, targeting 94 actors, including local authorities, traditional leaders, judges and prosecutors, police, women’s rights organisations and other civil society representatives. The advocacy sought to inform the participants of the security situation in the province, particularly the commission of sexual and gender-based violence, and to encourage them to provide adequate security for the population, in particular women and girls. As a result of successful advocacy, the judicial police reported increased awareness of sexual violence issues and military forces agreed to escort civilians to the fields every Wednesday and Saturday to ensure their safe passage.

Also in South Kivu, on 5 and 20 February 2018, Initiatives Alpha conducted two advocacy events with local authorities and civil society organisations in Kavumu to discuss and address SGBV victims/survivors’ needs. After the advocacy, participants reported better awareness of sexual violence issues and victims’ needs and decision-makers and civil society representatives committed themselves to assisting SGBV victims in forming associations at the village level to provide mutual support, facilitate referrals to medical and legal structures, as well as to conducting advocacy at the national and international level to assist SGBV victims.

In addition to these advocacy missions, from 18 to 19 January 2018, five WI partners participated in a meeting in Goma, North Kivu, to prepare for a joint advocacy mission to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. During the preparatory meeting, partners evaluated the activities of their newly established consortium, planned future activities and drafted an advocacy document for their mission to Addis Ababa. Partners agreed to take further steps to formalise the consortium and work together. From 20 to 21 January 2018, four WI partners (LSC, CERDF, EFIM and AFD) travelled to Addis Ababa to attend the 31st Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) session on ‘Corruption and Governance: Impact and way out for Women, Children and Youths’. About 300 people participated the two-day session. During the session, our partners successfully advocated for gender justice with Chantal Safou, the DRC national Minister of Gender, Children and Women, Hendrina Doroba, the GIMAC Director, Mary Robinson, President of the Climate Justice Foundation, and Julienne Lusenge, President of SOFEPADI.

‘We are grateful to the Women’s Initiatives for Gender Justice for its support and encouragement over the many years and for allowing us to participate at the AU session.’ – WI DRC Focal Points.

Challenges

CERDF noted a challenge in accessing remote areas, due to the poor road infrastructure. Initiatives Alpha requested institutional support to be able to provide legal representation for SGBV victims, as well as its own equipment to project the screenings and take good quality photos.

After the advocacy mission in Addis Ababa, partners noted their limited English skills as a challenge, as well as their ability to access larger grants/funds.

Gender Justice Training and Capacity-Building Workshops

In this reporting period, three partners conducted two training workshops in two provinces (South Kivu and North Kivu), involving a total of 47 participants, of whom two were political decision-makers and justice stakeholders.

The strategy is to support the meaningful engagement of decision-makers who wish to act or may be encouraged to act in support of gender justice but are unsure of what they can do and how to go about it. Through training workshops, we also provide capacity-building to our partners to enable them to improve their work and enhance their impact.

Examples:

In South Kivu, our partner AFD held a two-day training on 24 February 2018 for 25 police officers and civil society representatives at the Transit House who had set up five surveillance committees in villages, following their participation in screenings or awareness-raising sessions last year. The aim of these committees is to actively cooperate with the Transit House and police stations in their respective areas regarding the identification of SGBV victims/survivors and their referral to medical structures and legal clinics. The committees engage in awareness-raising, reporting of SGBV cases, local advocacy, identifying victims/survivors and Transit House referrals. The training reinforced the capacity of these newly established committees by providing technical and material support (knowledge, information and relevant practices, as well as supplies and phones). After the training, participants reported increased awareness of gender justice issues, and were better equipped to implement the surveillance committees.

In North Kivu, our partner EFIM held a two-day training/roundtable in Goma from 13 to 14 March 2018 for 22 religious leaders to integrate new elements for the 2nd guide for religious leaders, which aims at building the capacity of religious leaders to promote peace and women’s rights and protection, and to fight against SGBV according to legal texts, the Bible and the Quran. This guide complements the first one produced in 2016 on awareness-raising on the fight against sexual and gender-based violence. The next step is to review and modify the second guide if necessary, through an additional and final training. Since the training, our partner noted that women and girls are increasingly being considered equal to men, improving relationships between fathers and daughters, and a better community atmosphere. Furthermore, women are reportedly increasingly participating in decision-making processes at the church and community levels.

Also in Goma, North Kivu, a two-day Partner Consortium Meeting was held on 24-25 August 2018. The meeting was organised by our partner LSC. Goma was chosen due to its geographical proximity for most partners. Overall, four WI partners attended the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to evaluate the

activities of the consortium at its first anniversary and develop a strategic plan for 2018-2020. The meeting analysed the security situation and the political participation of women, finding that women are discouraged from participating, and that while the law is equal, its implementation is not. Women are underrepresented in national and provincial institutions and gender discrimination prevails.

The Strategic Plan 2018-2020 developed outlines different outcomes, activities and results to assist them in guiding their work and in drafting joint grant proposals. It outlines eight focus areas and goals:

1. Gender justice: Contribute to the fight against impunity and against stigma through advocacy with youth, dissemination of legal instruments, monitoring and documentation, training for judicial actors, and advocacy for the opening of legal clinics.
2. Service provision to victims: Assist victims of SGBV through Transit House activities, mediation, and community reinsertion.
3. Empowerment of women: assist female initiatives for empowerment through training and advocacy to open learning centres for women.
4. Environment and health: Fight against global warming effects on women and girls through awareness-raising, promoting renewable energies, and documentation on natural resources; Promoting women's and girls' health through awareness-raising of women's and girls' health issues, and access to medical services and contraception.
5. Peace and security: Promote female participation in peace negotiations through training, dissemination of UNSC Resolution 1325 on WPS, and advocacy.
6. Female leadership and political participation: Increase female participation in decision-making by strengthening leaders' capacity, advocacy and lobbying, dissemination of legal texts on equality; incite women to own the electoral process through awareness-raising campaigns, training of electoral observers, training of candidates; and contribute to the promotion of women's and girls' rights through training, advocacy, dissemination of relevant legal texts and awareness raising.
7. Advocacy: ensure greater visibility for the consortium by conducting a mapping of relevant actors and joining relevant networks.
8. Training: Strengthen the capacity of the consortium members through participation in meetings at the national, regional and international level, and exchange of views and experiences with other feminist national structures at the national, regional and international level.

Legal Representation and Monitoring of Mobile Courts

WI collaborates with local partners in monitoring mobile courts in eastern DRC, specifically focusing on cases in which the accused have been charged with SGBCs. The mobile courts are for the prosecution of military soldiers charged with crimes, including SGBCs. In addition to monitoring SGBC cases, we provide legal representation for SGBC victims/survivors.

In North Kivu, our partner LSC continuously monitors four mobile courts, covering six territories of the province, and provides legal representation to SGBC victims. In 2018, LSC monitored one military mobile court hearing held from 12 to 24 February 2018 at the military tribunal in Goma, involving 26 SGBV cases and 32 accused. The hearing was supposed to take place in the territory of Rutshuru, but due to last-minute insecurity, it was held at the tribunal in Goma. Our partner provided legal representation for 20 SGBV victims. The trials led to seven convictions for sexual violence, five were acquitted and 14 cases are pending. The alleged perpetrators were military officials.

In early 2018, LSC also continued its advocacy concerning the issue of court fees and the impact of the legal tariffs on the ability of SGBV victims to access the justice system. Specifically, LSC raised awareness through 18 radio broadcasts on the issue of court fees and the impact of the use of illegal tariffs on the ability of SGBV victims to access the justice system. During the radio broadcasts, 775 people called or texted with questions about legal tariffs. The information presented during the radio broadcasts was based on research conducted by LSC since the last quarter of 2016 on the court fees charged at four local and mobile courts, as well as interviews conducted with community and justice stakeholders. The data collected showed: that the legal tariffs are not respected; that the legal limit set for the court fees are exaggeratedly high; and that the fee levels further reduce the ability of SGBV victims/survivors to access justice. The research also revealed that there is inconsistency between the courts as to the tariff and fees charged.

Our strategy of concurrently interfacing with gender justice issues at the grassroots level as well as within the international arena has proven to be an effective approach to expand and improve access to and outcomes for gender-inclusive justice. Working with local courts as well as with the ICC informs our advocacy and legal strategies in both jurisdictions.

Strategic Accountability Project

The Strategic Accountability Project in South Kivu was launched in 2017 to support greater accountability for conflict-related sexual and gender-based crimes through training and support for key actors in the justice process – police, prosecutors and judges – in pre-selected courts and territories.

Based on an extensive mapping and consultation process with local partners and women's rights organisations between 2014 and 2016, we identified courts to focus on over the three years of this project. Both military and civil courts were selected reflecting the statistics that perpetrators of conflict-related sexual and gender-based crimes are soldiers, militia combatants, members of the security services as well as civilians. The courts selected for this project are: two military courts located in Uvira and Bukavu; and two civil courts located in Uvira and Kavumu. Of these combined territories in South Kivu, the project focuses primarily on conflict related sexual and gender-based crimes committed in the territories of Kabare, Kalehe, Uvira and Fizi.

In December 2017, we held our first training for key actors, namely for judicial police officers. The four-day training was held in Bukavu with judicial police officers from the four selected territories and the Bukavu police station. The goal of the training was to strengthen the capacity of the judicial police in the territories of Kalehe, Kabare, Fizi and Uvira, particularly with regards to investigation and documentation techniques in the context of conflict-based sexual and gender-based crimes. With support from four Congolese trainers with national and international legal experience, participants were trained in the definition of sexual and gender-based crimes, the national laws on sexual violence, and the modes of liability applicable to sexual and gender-based crimes at the national and international level. The training further included simulation exercises to highlight the role of the judicial police in the investigative process.

This project continued in 2018 with three main activities which were held in Bukavu:

- A four-day workshop with judges and judicial officers on increased knowledge of international standards and best practices adjudicating sexual and gender-based crimes as international crimes.
- A four-day training with prosecutors working in South Kivu on the prosecution of sexual and gender-based crimes as international crimes.

- The development of a draft policy paper on sexual and gender-based crimes for prosecutors in South Kivu (completed in early 2019).

Both the workshop with judges and the training with prosecutors took place during the week of 29 October 2018, with a two-day overlap, in Bukavu, DRC. Overall, 16 judges from four different prosecutorial offices across three territories, and 14 prosecutors from six different prosecutorial offices across seven territories, actively participated in the activities. The sessions were facilitated by three different trainers from the region, selected for their specific expertise and availability.

At the beginning of each activity, all participants received a copy of the French translation of our consultations report to understand the results of the consultations WI conducted in December 2016. Due to the high turnover of judicial staff, not all workshop participants were involved at the consultations.

The discussions combined both theory and practical exercises related to sexual violence as international crimes, focused on causes and consequences of sexual violence, elements of crimes, modes of liability, the DRC Situation and cases before the International Criminal Court (ICC), witness protection, the role of civil society in the prosecution of sexual and gender-based crimes, and the different experiences adjudicating these crimes before civilian and military courts. The workshop was tailored based on the needs expressed by the participants, and, overall, the participants found the training to be useful to their work.

On the third day of the judges' workshop, a teleconference was organised with two ICC judges – Judge Perrin de Brichambaut (France) and Judge Alapini-Gansou (Benin) in The Hague. The teleconference started with a short presentation by the ICC Judges on the work of the Court and the importance of complementarity, and was followed by an extensive Q&A on the work of the ICC in the DRC, the different cases, and successes and failures of the Court. Both DRC and ICC Judges found the teleconference to be very useful and informative, as well as an important step to better understanding how national and international jurisdictions can work more efficiently together, complementing each other.

During the last evening of the workshop, which overlapped with the end of the first day of the prosecutors' training, a reception took place with all participants, WI partners, and other relevant actors working on justice issues in Bukavu. This reception provided the opportunity to discuss issues in a less formal setting and promote an amical environment between participants. For WI partners and other actors from the NGO sector present, this reception provided a good opportunity to forge professional relationships with judicial actors.

Overall, successes of these two activities included:

- Demonstrated willingness of judges to adjudicate, and prosecutors to prosecute, sexual violence domestically as international crimes.
- Participants found the format and content of the activities useful, especially the inclusion of both theory and practical exercises around issues that had been identified as of interest.
- Allowed participants to exchange views between military and civilian jurisdictions and prosecutor offices.
- Better understanding of elements of crimes and modes of liability.
- Identification of possible collaborations with civil society.

Responding to specific requests from participants, we additionally provided participants with USBs containing a selection of relevant international jurisprudence (primarily from the ICTR and ICC) and printed copies of relevant legal instruments (including the Rome Statute, the Elements of Crimes, and Rules of Procedure and Evidence). We further provided an introduction to the International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict. Participants indicated this was something that wanted to expand on in future programmes if possible.

During the last training session with prosecutors, a South Kivu-wide policy paper to assist prosecutors in investigating and prosecuting sexual and gender-based crimes was discussed and concrete next steps were determined. Prosecutors were overwhelmingly in favour of such a policy paper, highlighting the high rotation of posts at the different prosecutorial offices and the need to provide guidance, especially to more junior prosecutors who may be less experienced in prosecuting sexual and gender-based crimes. In December 2018, a meeting was organised for prosecutors to develop policy guidelines on sexual and gender-based crimes to be applied by prosecutors across South Kivu. The draft was finalised with support from our local partner and Hague team, and was taken forward in the following months.

The draft South Kivu policy paper on sexual and gender-based crimes provides definitions of sexual violence crimes in line with current international norms, taking into account the context of impunity and conflict in the DRC. In addition to explaining the legal framework, both at the national and international level, including the elements of crimes and modes of liability, it further outlines investigative and evidence standards for cases involving sexual and gender-based crimes, as well as necessary protection measures for victims of these crimes. The foreseen use of this policy paper by South Kivu authorities would demonstrate their commitment to the fight against impunity for sexual and gender-based crimes and strengthen accountability efforts for these crimes going forward.

To support and inform the project activities, we continued liaising throughout the reporting period with other relevant actors, including the Task Force on International Criminal Law (TFJPI) – comprising numerous organisations providing financial, logistical and technical support to the judiciary across the province. Participating in the Task Force has helped us to stay informed about relevant activities by other actors and strengthen collaborations in the area. Additionally, we provided support to a military mobile court hearing through the TFJPI – by providing interpretation from Swahili, Kitembo and Mashi into French and vice-versa throughout the hearing. The hearing was against a high-ranking military official, Major Mabiala, and opened on 21 November 2018 despite logistical and security issues. On 29 November 2018, he was found guilty of murder, rape, torture, pillage and arson amounting to crimes against. He was sentenced to life imprisonment. All participating victims were recognised, entitling them to reparations: 10,000 USD for the victims of murder, rape and torture, and 5,000 USD for the victims of pillage and arson – to be paid by the DRC Government.

Uganda



“For long we have been advocating and we see no result, let the voices of women be heard in the world.”

Reintegration Programme

Following a two-year consultation process, in 2016 we launched a formal partnership with the Justice and Reconciliation Project (JRP) and the Women's Advocacy Network (WAN), a network of women formerly abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

Women Advocacy Network (WAN) is an initiative of the Justice and Reconciliation Project (JRP) which brings together over 600 war affected women. They carry out several activities such as advocacy; child tracing that is reuniting children with their parents as well as offering peer support to its members. WAN also ensures that the interests of the mothers and children are catered for. One of the objectives of the WAN is advocating for the promotion and respect of rights of children born during the war and/or born from forced marriages while their mothers were abducted. From its inception child reintegration and family reunion has been a core activity of the Women's Advocacy Network (WAN). Members of the WAN reunite children with their families as a way of rebuilding life after the conflict.

The Reintegration Programme that was implemented during 2018 continued with its three-stage process:

1. **Family Tracing** which has two components; home/background search; and pre-visits with paternal families.
Home/background search – the names and whereabouts of paternal families are often unknown and can be difficult to discover as males abducted by the LRA often used pseudonyms in the bush. Various methods are used to locate the family, including consulting others who were in the LRA and other abductees. Background information obtained also helps with reunification planning and preparation.
Pre-visits and Family Dialogues – once located, the project mediators conduct a pre-visit with the paternal and maternal families with the dual purpose of mediating any 'bitterness' between them, and informing and preparing the process of reunification, including assessing the willingness to proceed.
2. **Reunifications** – women (mothers), children and other members of the maternal family are escorted by the mediators to the paternal home and supported through a reunification process led by local cultural leaders.
3. **Follow-up and referral** – after the reunification ceremony, the mediators follow-up with the paternal family to ensure child(ren) and women's safety and welfare, and to provide referrals to other services and support for the child(ren) according to their needs (including counselling/psycho social, health, livelihoods, education).

In addition to family reunification, the project also conducted related activities, including:

- Capacity building for WAN group members, to increase their skills and legitimacy to advocate for and lead processes relating to the (re)integration of children born of war as well as their mothers.
- Hosting two dialogues with cultural leaders – to encourage their engagement and participation on the issue of reunification and reconciliation and to foster greater acceptance of female returnees and their children.

Profiling of children and families in need of reunification

From mid-2017 through March 2018, a total of 89 children were in the process of being reunified. Out of 89 children, 18 home pre-visits were conducted, and 10 children were taken home. A total of 71 children are still waiting home tracing and pre-visits to their various paternal families and 79 children are waiting reunion when the pre-visits and dialogue are completed successfully. During the profiling, there is a review and screening process of the forms that have been filled out. Screening of all forms is undertaken to ensure that the children (those born in captivity or from a forced marriage in captivity) and their mothers get supported and are eligible for the programme. WAN will continue to profile potential beneficiaries in need of child reintegration.

Child tracing

This activity includes liaising with local leaders and community members, both in person and over the phone, to help trace and identify the home and relatives of the child in question. The information used as a foundation for the child tracing comes from the form the mother originally filled out during profiling. Between January and March 2018, the main strategy for child tracing has been to utilize the WAN network, networks of ex-combatants, connections with local leaders and connections with the general community. Through making phone calls to the respective persons, the team could enquire as to whether they know of the location of relatives of the child, as many of the returnees came to know each other in captivity and some would have been abducted from the same areas. In this period, a total of 18 families have been traced, and pre-visits have been conducted for all the families traced.

Pre-visits/family dialogue

There were 18 pre-visits conducted during the first three months of 2018. During the pre-visits, WAN members and the JRP team pay a visit to the family in which the child is to be reunited in order to inform the relatives about the programme, including its objectives and its importance. This gives the family a chance to confirm whether they are willing to accept the child and gives JRP the chance to prepare them for the process.

Pre-visits were conducted with both the family who approached JRP asking for assistance with tracing (often the maternal family) and the family who will be reunited with the child. There were multiple cases in which after a pre-visit was conducted with the paternal side to prepare them for the child, the maternal side would stand in opposition perhaps due to interests surrounding future bride-price and so a visit would be conducted with the maternal family. These pre-visits are intended to help mediate, hoping to enhance reconciliation among the families, acceptance and support to the child once there is agreement for reunification ceremonies. Often, JRP and WAN would collaborate with local cultural and religious leaders during these dialogues.

Below are some quotations taken from the pre-visits conducted between January and March 2018:



- Pre-visit to paternal family in Ayek Ayek village, Koch Goma sub-county in Nwoya District

A paternal auntie to the child said, *“our hearts are open to the child!”*

- Pre-visit to a maternal family of three children in Pabo Kal

Great-uncle of the children, after a discussion amongst the elders, said, *“in Uganda, you are free to follow your blood and so they should not fear.”*

One of the uncles explained that the war was really bad for many people and that everyone went through bad times and pain. Therefore, even though the children were born in captivity, they are not different to the family than those who were not born in captivity. He said, *“to the family, they are free.”*



The representative of Rwot, Oceng Jiceto, spoke briefly in proverbs, telling the family that, *“if you are carrying a burden alone it may become too heavy, but if someone comes to help then it can lighten the burden.”* Taking this proverb with reference to the family’s situation, he wanted to explain that if someone can help support the child then that offer should be accepted for both your sake and the sake of the child.

- Pre-visit to a paternal family in Labala Parish, Pabbo sub-county:



The head of the family told the group, *“since our brother is dead, it is now the grandchildren who replace him. So, it is our responsibility to provide for the children.”*

- Pre-visit to the paternal family (where father is still living) of two children in Lakung Oguru, Awach sub-county

A former soldier who had guided JRP to the village, emphasized that *“blood is thicker than water.”*

- Pre-visit to the paternal side in Laguri parish, Pader district

The sister to the father of the child concluded, *“in Acholi, once a child is born in this world, it’s not only the role of the mother and father in bringing up the child but; the role of everyone in the community and to have a collective role in seeing that a child is brought of well.”*

- Pre-visit to the paternal family in Oryang Ojuma, Amida subcounty, Kitgum district

“We cannot deny or even reject that [the children], this is good news and we were aware. If the children want to come home, who I’m I object to that, they did not apply to go to the bush,” one elder’s remarked.

- Pre-visit in Lacek Ocot in Pader district

“Today we have come to you as relatives, it was truly God’s blessings that we have come here,” one of the maternal relative said to the auntie of the child.

Child Reunions

Between January and March 2018, a total number of 10 reunion trips were made, with a total of 16 children being reunited with their families. In this part of the program, the JRP team and WAN members escort the child or children and their mother to the home that had been traced. The family welcoming the child is given the opportunity to welcome their grandchild or grandchildren in their



own cultural customs and a dialogue is initiated to ensure that the wellbeing of the child is catered for. For instance, it may be necessary to engage in discussions over access to resources, such as land, plus other basic needs. The number of children reunited at each taking the child home event depended on the number of children the mother had given birth to in captivity – some cases just one child was reunited, while in other cases two or three children were taken home.

Below are some quotations taken from the child reunions conducted between January and March 2018:

Child Reunion in Gotmoko

- One of the paternal Uncles to the child said: “I want to thank JRP who spearheaded the process of uniting children born in captivity with their families, because, in most times, the paternal family is never informed about their children. Often, when a child is born in captivity they will never know their paternal relatives unless told by the mother. Therefore, I want to thank the organization and the mother of this child who willingly accepted to make her child know the paternal relatives.”
- The child said: *“I am happy to see my own relatives that I have been longing to meet”*
- Furthermore, during the meeting, the grandmother of the child from the paternal side presented her appreciation to the mother of the child for taking a step to see that she searched for the paternal relatives of her child. She also added that: *“this woman (mother of the child) is outstanding and has managed to do what no man in my clan has ever thought of.”*

Child Reunion in Akado Village, Kitgum district

- “Rubanga pe wang ki tic cee” meaning God is not selfish with his work, he made them meet their grandson.
- The child’s auntie said, *“my blood is still alive,”* meaning Obuk, who was the child’s father, is still alive through his son.
- *“Today I will sleep”* was said by the Rwot of their clan who happens to be the grandfather of the child that was reunited. He said this because the child’s father was loved by everyone in the family and his abduction brought a lot of sorrows to the home.
- The child was also given the opportunity to say a word and this is what he said: *“where I was, I felt I wasn’t in the right place but now I know my home and I’m happy to come to my father’s land.”*
- The local community leader gave a proverb *“Lum nget yoo tero twon gang”* meaning however small something is, it takes care of visitors: in this case it meant that even the small contribution that was given will help supplement where there was previously a shortage.

Child Reunion in Acuru Village

- We asked the elders why they perform these rituals. The elders responded by saying: *“rituals are conducted to cleanse the homes, children, gives them good health, welcome back the people who have stayed away for some time and also to allow them come home freely.”*
- *“My grandson brought me good health,”* said Mr. Latigo. Mr. Latigo from Acuru village testified to the JRP/WAN and the general community how his grandson brought him good health on 20th January 2018.
- These were Latigo’s words: *“I have been sick for a while and I could not get up on my own nor walk without the help of others or a stick. But yesterday, when I was informed that my grandson was on his way home, I got the strength to walk on my own.”* Mr. Latigo believes that his health has been restored and requested JRP/WAN and the maternal family who escorted the child’s mother to allow his grandson to stay with him for a week so that they could talk. His request was granted and happily he said, *“my grandson removed the thorn from my leg.”*



Child Reunion in Lakung Ogoro

- A former soldier that helped JRP trace the family proclaimed that, *"today the family were harvesting crops"* and told the family that they were so lucky to see their grandchildren today
- He added, *"even if you are black or white, you have roots somewhere. Therefore, the children should be allowed to know their roots. Everything on earth has a source, even water."*
- The mother's uncle said, *"people do not just fall from heaven, they have a family somewhere."* Therefore, he thanked JRP for this project, as *"their vision reflects the foundation of Acholi culture, which is knowing your roots."*
- The uncle said, *"as human beings we are entitled to know our family,"* and for this reason he asked that the two families to join hands together and support the children.
- The head of the family said, *"blood does not just disappear."* He thanked the project because *"everyone during the conflict did not sleep, they were constantly on their toes."*
- The head of the paternal family said, *"if you stigmatise someone or point a finger at someone, the rest of the fingers will point at you."* With this he meant that even though you may not have been in captivity, everyone suffered a lot and so should not judge.
- The new husband of the mother said, *"we need to devote ourselves to moving ahead."*
- One of the former soldiers said, *"the time of war is now over, and so now we should enjoy when we can."*



Child Reunion in Labala Parish, Pabbo sub-county

- A paternal uncle to the children being reunited proclaimed, *"before the children came, I felt like I was buried in the ground, but now they are here I have risen!"*
- A brother to the father of the children proclaimed, *"we are so happy we could carry them all on our backs."*

Child Reunion in Gweng-diya parish, Awach sub-county

- The paternal grandmother to the children was so overwhelmed with excitement of seeing her grandchildren and she said, *"I am very happy despite the pain, sorrow, and torture put on me by the government soldier for the sake of my son, I am happy to see my own blood because I am consoled when I see them and this alone makes me forget that my son is dead."*



- During the meeting, the clouds gathered and started to rain, then later, one of the uncles to the children said, *“we are blessed with this rain because even our ancestors are happy, wherever they are for knowing their children are home.”*
- The maternal grandfather of the children spoke to the group with reference to a previous event where one of the children searched for the paternal family alone, only to be retrieved by the maternal family by force. He appreciated the words from the paternal family and then said *“I would like to take this opportunity to apologize on behalf of my son and my entire family about the conduct shown previously when one of the children escaped and found her way to the paternal family. It was not right for my son to intimidate any of you. Therefore, I regret that act and my kind request for forgiveness goes to you.”*
- During the reunion, when one of the children was given that opportunity to speak, he said *“I am happy to know where my father comes from and it was something I never expected that would happen. Therefore, I would like to ask my paternal family to “quickly come pick us and always be good examples to us growing up.”*

Follow up of reintegrated children

In 2018, a total of **5 follow-ups** have been conducted. The follow-up visits typically took place approximately a year after the reunion was conducted. However, in one case, a follow-up was conducted just 3 weeks after the reunion. All cases of follow-up visits were conducted where the paternal family had been the family reunited with the child. The follow-ups showed that each child reintegration process follows a different path and works at a different pace.



For instance, in the case of the follow-ups conducted in Coo Rom sub-county, Pabbo sub-county and Odek, strong bonds had been formed between the maternal and paternal families. In both cases, land had been provided for the mothers of the children for farming and business uses, and school requirements had been covered due to collaboration between the families. On the other hand, some follow-ups revealed that promises made by the various sides involved in the reunion process had not been kept. In the case of a follow-up conducted in Kitgum, it was learned that since the reunion that child had not been reinstated in school, as former promises were made that the child would be brought to the paternal side to attend school. A main issue which was brought up was that of communication between the families, as well as lack of transport means for the child to be moved between families. In such cases, further monitoring and support may be given to ensure wellbeing of child and sustainable reintegration.

Impact/Achievement

- Reunions helped promote and facilitate reconciliation between families in war-affected communities

- The project created a platform for war-affected communities to discuss their experiences of war and formulate resolutions to issues together
- Child reunions have created more awareness and has led to more people showing interest in child reintegration
- Reunion has made the children born from captivity have their identity, sense of belonging and access to resources like land, school fee support and good relationship between families among others

Lesson learned

- We learned that it is beneficial to bring along local cultural and religious leaders from their community because they can help JRP mediate, they can create more awareness for child reintegration and they are also well-respected figures within the community, and can help to emphasize the importance of the project.
- There is need to ensure that the current spouses of the mothers are informed about the project, its objectives and the importance of the project and also escort their wives during the reunion day. This will help avoid any misconception about the program and will also help to avoid domestic violence.
- Increased awareness and sensitization amongst communities to the project and its objectives helps create an open platform for reconciliation amongst war-torn communities.
- Some families may become reliant on JRP, such as for transport, and may not independently seek to maintain what the project has begun. Therefore, a lesson learned was that the sustainability of the project should be kept in mind and the team should emphasize the families' role in continuing the reintegration process after the reunion.

Challenges

- The project has previously encountered a few instances in which the maternal family objected to the reunion of families halfway through the reintegration process, often when a date for taking the child home had already been set and a pre-visit to the paternal family has already been conducted.
- There have also been instances when a date has been set by the two families for taking the child home, only to be postponed due to the paternal family not having the funds to prepare or cater for the party.
- In some cases, when attempting to trace the child's families, inadequate information has been available, leading to delays
- Some mothers face resistance from their current husbands concerning the idea of child reintegration, as some husbands may have expectation of gain for keeping the child with the maternal side or they may have fear that the reintegration could mean the wife renews their relationship with the father of the children (the bush husband).
- Additionally, there is sometimes worry amongst families that such a project could bring violence within a family e.g. if the new husband is unhappy with the project then he may be violent against the mother.
- Some families may have high and unrealistic expectations of what JRP and WAN can offer but WAN and JRP has stood their ground to explain thoroughly the importance and the objectives of the project

Overall, there is need to continue supporting the women who returned from captivity in searching for the paternal relatives of the children. This support would undoubtedly help the mothers with:

- dealing with persistent pressure from the children to know who their paternal relatives are,
- sharing financial costs in bringing up the children
- Reducing chances of a child marrying a relative
- Ensure that children's identity and sense of belonging is catered for

Supporting Survivors to Access Justice

Training for Survivors

In August 2018, WIGJ together with JRP provided a capacity strengthening training for 20 women leaders/survivors, from Gulu and Nwoya districts in Uganda. The training imparted knowledge on advocacy, human rights, the right to redress, accountability mechanisms, documentation, advocacy and stigma. The training was engaging and interactive, the participants were very active during the training.

During the first day of the training, the participants were welcomed and given an overview of what the training included and the aim of the training. The participants were asked what they wished to learn or achieve during the training, this included: elevating their advocacy internationally, sensitising others to their rights, which includes lawmakers and community members, addressing stigma and developing a strategy to combat it, addressing the continuing violation of rights. Some of the responses included:

"For long we have been advocating and we see no result, let the voices of women be heard in the world."

"Most women who have returned from captivity feel that their rights are violated. Nobody understands us. At least if there is a law we can make our voices be heard."

"Our rights are being violated, almost every day, especially for us formerly abducted. As if we are sub-citizens. A petition was submitted to parliament, they did not even respond to it. We want to be working with human rights workers directly to address the issue of human rights violations."

"They failed to protect us, for us nothing has been done. It is affecting us, potential marriages and it is even being passed on to our children. Stigmatisation also affects us in our work."

During the first day the participants were additionally given an overview of the history of human rights, which human rights there are, the different human rights treaties (including CEDAW), and how to report human rights abuses (including at the international level, for example via the Universal Periodic Review and UN special procedures mechanisms).

"It is the responsibility of the state to make other people know about this. Some of us did not know about this until now."

"So many women's rights are violated, so I feel that in some way maybe some people don't want these rights to be known. This should be used so there is no difference between men and women."

A session provided by a trainer from JRP addressed formal and informal justice mechanisms and their differences. Domestic courts were explained, including the International Crime Division of the High Court, Magistrate Court and High Court. Furthermore, the Acholi justice mechanisms and principles were discussed, including Moto Oput (reconciliation ceremony) and Gomo Tong (bending of the spear).

During the second day of the training, the focus was on documentation including guidance from the UK PSVI IP and starting the draft outline of the strategy document addressing stigma. The participants were given an overview of what documentation entails and the risks that can come with it. Some participants were familiar with documentation because their own stories had been documented in the past. Addressed were issues including knowing what the documentation is for, the principle of Do No Harm, confidentiality agreements, how to approach someone for documenting their experience and how to make sure that the information and person being documented is protected. The training concluded with an evaluation by participants, provision of reading materials to the participants and a small ceremony in which the participants were awarded a certificate for their participation in the training.

The knowledge on documentation, human rights, accountability and justice mechanisms, and advocacy skills was increased as a result of the training. All 20 participants expressed via their evaluation form that they felt empowered by the training and that they will be able to use what they have learned during the training. 100% of participants would recommend the training to others. The evaluation forms show that the participants very much appreciated the training and would like to benefit from more training in the future for themselves and other WAN members/survivors. Some of the responses from the participants:

“This training has empowered us very well, so we request you to train us again next time.”

“This kind of training should continue because we have many people, for example WAN members, who have never attended such a training.”

“I deserve to have the same rights as every other person.”

“More of this training for the local leaders at district levels so they can understand to have victims as a priority.”

Capacity Strengthening with JRP and WAN

In September, a three-day workshop was held with JRP and WAN. The workshop was focused on enhancing partners' capacities on documentation and the UK PSVI IP and for skill sharing beyond the life of this project.

The PSVI IP was used to provide the training on documentation. JRP has conducted some documentation in the past, mostly in relation to child tracing and documenting experiences of women who have been in captivity. The workshop included an overview of what documentation entails, the principle of do no harm, trauma and secondary trauma, making sure there is a referral pathway in place, security and confidentiality. Discussed was how the purpose of the documentation colours the way documentation is done and what information is needed/relevant. Other subjects discussed during the workshop included red flags and stereotypes in relation to sexual violence.

Based on the evaluation of JRP and WAN, and in line with their requests, a part of the workshop was focused on proposal writing, including SWOT analyses, analysing a potential problem, research and data collection, Theory of Change, and outcomes, outputs, activities and indicators. This was further linked to strengthening their capacity in relation to the development of the strategy document and follow up.

The evaluation forms show that the workshop was well received, and the participants expressed that it will benefit their work, especially in relation to future documentation.

Petition on Reducing Stigma

Despite the fact that young women and girls were usually forced to join the LRA insurgency, local communities, often terrorized by the LRA, still regard these women as rebels and perpetrators rather than victims upon their return. They are perceived as wild, violent, from the “bush” or as possessed by Kony’s spirit. Therefore, female ex-abductees are often confronted with a variety of stigmas, discrimination, mistrust and suspicion. These stigmas and discrimination do not only hinder the effective rehabilitation and reintegration of these women and their children, but also constitutes a great obstacle to their access to justice. Women have described stigmatization and discrimination by relatives and neighbours as well as a lack of understanding of gender issues faced by female ex-abductees in their local communities. Stigma and discrimination not only adversely affect access to key community relationships such as marriage, but also hinders social and economic opportunities for the recovery of female ex-abductees. Similarly, stigma is often passed down to their children and thus transferred from one generation to the next.

JRP conducted field missions to present and inform Women Advocacy Network (WAN) groups about the JRP sponsored petition that urged local and district governments as well as community leaders to eliminate stigma and discrimination against ex-abductees in accordance with Art. 21 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and African Charter on Human and People’s Rights (ACHPR; Maputo Protocol) and educate their respective communities about the laws, making clear that stigmatization and discrimination are strictly prohibited. The petition also urged leaders to incorporate this legal framework and ensure its enforcement through the formulation and application of local customary laws prohibiting stigmatization and discrimination in all forms.

Gulu and Soroti

The Groups in Gulu and Soroti received the signatory form for signing on the 21st/ January 2019 from the chairpersons of the groups. And this was to be done during their saving scheme meetings that are done weekly. The group was so moved to see that their cry against stigma is being put into consideration. But they also emphasized the importance of community leaders, members, and neighbours that were against stigma to sign in support.

Abia

JRP staff explained that after hearing the community concerns about stigma, JRP in partnership with WIGJ had created a petition with the goal to eliminate the stigmatization of ex-abductees by asking local leaders to enforce existing law prohibiting stigma and discrimination and to create local customary laws. She also stated that the team would conduct two interviews about stigma with selected community members. Following the meeting, all participants signed the petition, and they agreed to collect more signatures from the community and return it to Gulu via courier.

Nomakora

The team asked the group about strategies they had used to fight stigma. The women spoke about seeking support from local leaders and using community drama to sensitize others. As in Abia, women signed the petition and agreed to share it with other community members. The petition will be sent back to Gulu via courier.

Radio Spots on Reducing Stigma

Together with the representative from victims' groups, JRP team members participated in a radio talk show on Delta FM in Soroti to create awareness on challenges of stigmatization and to sensitize the community around the issue of stigmatization. The talk show was held between 8:00 to 9:00pm on January 9th. The talk show was punctuated with telephone calls from listeners who emphasized the need to stop the stigmatization of formerly abducted people. The callers appealed to local elected officials and cultural leaders to take up the campaign against stigma.

Additional quotes from radio spots

- "I cannot visit my parents' home during daytime. I can only go at night and stay in the vicinity due to stigma." –Victim, Soroti
- "JRP is carrying out work that should have been done by the local leaders." –CDO, Abia
- "I don't want to tell lies, but I know that there are no bylaws for stigma in all of Soroti, because leaders were not aware that victims of conflict SGBV exist. JRP is making them aware." – Senior Town Clerk, Soroti
- "I do not live in my village due to stigma, since villagers threaten my life. –Victim, Soroti
- "We are not allowed to say a word in the community meeting due to our history of abduction. People say the formerly abducted are possessed with the spirit [cen] of Kony." – Victim, Abia
- "The relatives to these women who returned, their brain does not work. How can you stigmatize your own child?" –Radio Caller, Gulu.
- "It should be the obligation of the parents to allocate land irrespective of which children returned from captivity, and which did not." Radio Caller, Gulu.
- "In case this person is to stigmatize me again I will break the law to prove to them that I am killer." –Victim, Abia
- "It is very important for the local leaders to be as neutral as possible, so we can access justice." Victim, Abia
- "The relatives stigmatizing these women should have to answer to the law." –Radio Caller, Gulu
- "My parents were supposed to protect me when I was abducted. I was with them when I was abducted. Now they are the ones stigmatizing me." –Victim, Gulu

Community Consultations

JRP conducted consultations with community members and 48 leaders in Adjumani, Gulu, Kitgum, Pader, Oyam, Lira and Soroti districts in northern Uganda. The survey participants consisted of groups of conflict survivors, non-conflict affected Ugandans, and community leaders. Thirteen groups of at least 15 people were involved in focus group discussions and individual interviews were conducted with 48 leaders at community level. For the report, desk research was conducted by both WIGJ and JRP.

During the consultations, participants of different focus groups highlighted some of the issues they felt were relevant to the trial of Dominic Ongwen. Ongwen is currently on trial at the ICC for 70 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, including a significant number of charges relating to sexual and gender-based crimes. The charges against him relate to attacks on the Lukodi, Pajule, Odek and Abok IDP camps. The counts against Ongwen in relation to these attacks include attacks against the civilian population, murder, torture, enslavement, outrages upon personal dignity, pillaging, destruction of property, and persecution. The charges further include sexual and gender-based crimes committed from 2002 to 2005, including forced

marriage, rape, torture, sexual slavery, and enslavement, as well as the conscription and use of children under the age of 15.

One issue raised by the participants was that the number of “affected communities” recognised by the Court is very limited. Following a potential conviction, only these victims from these communities would be eligible to receive reparation. This could create tensions between communities receiving reparations and communities being deprived of them, despite also being victims of attacks by the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA).

Another issue raised was the fact that the Court lacks effective enforcement mechanisms which contributes to the low number of successful arrest warrants issued. Many of the respondents also thought that the issuance of rebel leader Kony’s arrest warrant would lead to an immediate arrest. The fact that there is a wide gap between issuing an arrest warrant and the enforcement thereof has led to frustration among communities that have suffered under the violence by the LRA.

One thing often highlighted during the consultations was the need for reconciliation between and within communities. Fears were voiced that the conflict could erupt again, depending on the outcome of the Ongwen case, and that it might have a negative effect on the children still in captivity.

To a large extent, participants held the view that the reconciliation initiatives implemented were successful in promoting reconciliation in northern Uganda. This is because these activities directly focused on community conflict issues and most of them were implemented in accordance with customary reconciliation approaches which people in northern Uganda understand. Participants of the study cited evidence of reconciled relationship in the following ways:

- Following reconciliation dialogues held between people of Acholi and Lango in Oguu Sub County, the people of Lango are now freely living with Acholi and are cultivating in Acholi land,
- A number of people who returned from captivity including children born of war who were once ostracised have now been accepted and reintegrated
- Land owners whose lands were used for hosting internally displaced people were reconciled with former internally displaced people after replenishing their lands.

However, some participants held the view that some of the initiatives missed out on some affected communities which should have as well benefited from such reconciliation programmes as well. They call for replication of such measures to the rest of northern Uganda in order to equally address reconciliation needs.

Monitoring Domestic Courts

We continued monitoring the ongoing preparations by the Ugandan Director of Public Prosecutions and the Judges of the International Crimes Division (ICD) for the first hearing in the case against Thomas Kwoyelo, a former LRA commander. In 2018, there was very limited activity at the court.

This is an important test case. It is the first case before the ICD and the first case prosecuted by an ICC state’s party, enacting the complementarity principle. It is also the first case where a state party is implementing and applying the rules and practices of the ICC in a domestic trial. Novel to the justice system within Uganda is the practice of victim participation in legal proceedings. During the pre-trial hearings a number of victims

were recognised to participate and according to one of the two victim's legal representative teams, there are likely to be more victims in the case through-out the pre-trial phase.

Kowyelo is charged with rape, murder, recruitment of children and destruction of crops and property, amongst other charges. The original charges did not include acts of rape. However, as a result of advocacy by us and others for the ICD to expand its investigative priorities to include sexual violence, the charges against Kowyelo were amended in September 2016 to include rape as a crime against humanity.

Our strategy of concurrently interfacing with gender justice issues at the local and national levels as well as in the international arena has proven to be an effective methodology for expanding and improving access to and outcomes of justice processes. In addition, it ensures that our work is grounded in the reality and experience of victims of these crimes. It also informs our domestic programmes to address harm, promote reconciliation, and support those who are amongst the most marginalised victims of armed conflicts, primarily women and children.

ICC Legal Monitoring and Advocacy



During the reporting period, we continued our legal monitoring and advocacy in eleven situations¹ and all cases before the ICC where charges for sexual and gender-based crimes (SGBCs) have been brought.

During the reporting period, there were two very significant decisions: the overturning of the conviction of Jean Pierre Bemba and the dismissal of the case against Laurent Gbagbo and Charles Blé Goudé.

Overall, 16 (64%) of the 25 ICC cases involving war crimes, crimes against humanity and/or genocide² have included charges for SGBCs and seven of these cases have had SGBC charges successfully confirmed to trial.

Our consistent monitoring and advocacy since 2004 has contributed to this record, including through our: strategic advocacy with senior decision-makers within the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) and case-based teams; case-by-case legal monitoring; the provision of SGBV documentation to support ICC investigations and SGBV charges; phase-based advocacy (at the preliminary examination, investigation, analysis, prosecution, sentencing, and reparation phases); and legal filings as *amicus curiae* before the Court on nine occasions.

During the reporting period we submitted our latest *amicus curiae* filing on the Prosecution's Request for a Ruling on Jurisdiction under Article 19(3) of the Statute. Submitted jointly with Naripokkho; Ms. Sara Hossain; and the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights the filing addressed the issue of sexual and gender-based crimes as a coercive act underlying the crime of deportation or forcible transfer. The full *amicus* brief may be found at <http://iccwomen.org/publications/AC2018.html>.PDF

In the reporting period, two new Preliminary Examination were opened by the OTP; Philippines and Bangladesh/Myanmar.

Case Monitoring

Dominic Ongwen - Uganda



During 2018, we continued monitoring the ICC case against LRA commander Dominic Ongwen, who has been charged with the highest number of sexual violence crimes in any case before the ICC to date. This includes the charge of forced pregnancy which has not previously been prosecuted by an international tribunal or special court. This is the first trial before the ICC involving an LRA commander. Our monitoring of the LRA-related cases before the ICC complements our monitoring and advocacy work

on the LRA related cases before the domestic court within Uganda – the ICD.

We are monitoring this case because of the sexual violence charges and also because it complements our domestic work with partners in Uganda where we work with victims of the LRA-related conflict. During 2018, the Prosecution completed its case and the Defense began its presentation of evidence. In June of 2018, the Judges from Trial Chamber IX visited Northern Uganda following the Prosecution's presentation of evidence.

¹ Uganda, DRC, Sudan, CAR II, Kenya, Libya, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Philippines and Myanmar/Bangladesh.

² This statistic excludes the three cases focused on offences against the administration of justice.

Bosco Ntaganda- DRC



We continued our monitoring and advocacy of the DRC cases before the ICC, specifically the trial of Bosco Ntaganda which began in September 2015. This is the first case under international humanitarian and criminal law to charge an individual with sexual violence committed against child soldiers within their own militia group and under their command.

The ICC judges considered hearing the closing statements in this case in either the DRC, where the crimes for which Ntaganda is on trial were committed, or in a location relatively close to it. However, after receiving submissions from the parties and participants and the Registry on this issue, including on the present security situation in eastern DRC, the Chamber indicated that it did not intend to recommend to the Presidency that the closing statements be held in situ.

Closing statements were held from 28-30 August 2018 and a decision will be announced in due course.

Laurent Gbagbo and Charles Blé Goudé- Côte d'Ivoire



The Laurent Gbagbo and Blé Goudé trial continued during this reporting period. Laurent Gbagbo is the former President of Côte d'Ivoire and is charged, alongside Charles Blé Goudé, with the commission of rape in the aftermath of the 2010 post-election violence.

The Laurent Gbagbo and Blé Goudé trial continued during this reporting period. Laurent Gbagbo is the former President of Côte d'Ivoire and is charged, alongside Charles Blé Goudé, with the commission of rape in the aftermath of the 2010 post-election violence.

On 15 January 2019, Trial Chamber I, by majority, acquitted Laurent Gbagbo and Charles Blé Goudé of all charges of crimes against humanity allegedly committed in Côte d'Ivoire in 2010 and 2011. At the time of writing, the fully reasoned decision has not been issued in writing. The Prosecutor has indicated that she may seek an appeal of the decision once a written decision has been issued.

Jean Pierre Bemba Gombo- CAR



On 8 June 2018, the Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Court (ICC), by a 3-2 majority, acquitted Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo (Bemba). The Appeal Judgment overturned his conviction handed down unanimously in March 2016 for two counts of crimes against humanity (murder and rape) and three counts of war crimes (murder, rape and pillaging). Women's Initiatives issued a statement on the acquittal which can be found at <https://4genderjustice.org/overturn-of-1st-icc-conviction-for-crimes-of-sexual-violence/>.

CAR: Bemba et al.

Regarding the second Bemba case, involving offences against the administration of justice, on 8 March 2018, the Appeals Chamber issued its judgment on the appeals against the conviction (filed by the five accused Arido, Babala, Mangenda, Bemba and Kilolo) and sentencing (filed by Prosecution, Babala, Bemba and Arido). The Chamber unanimously acquitted Bemba, Kilolo and Mangenda of the charge of presenting false evidence under Article 70(1)(b) of the Statute, while it confirmed all the other convictions.

Regarding the sentencing, the Appeals Chamber found several errors by the Trial Chamber in the assessment of the gravity of the offences committed by Bemba, Kilolo and Mangenda and in the suspension of the sentences for Kilolo and Mangenda. The Appeals Chamber, thus, remanded the Sentencing decision to the Trial Chamber for a new determination, while it confirmed the sentences imposed on Babala and Arido. This marks the first time that the Appeals Chamber reversed a Sentencing decision, remanding the determination of the sentences to the Trial Chamber. New sentences for Mr Bemba, Mr Mangenda and Mr Kilolo were pronounced on 17 September 2018. Convictions and acquittals in relation to all five accused are now final and imprisonment sentences were served.

Ahmad Al Faqi Al Mahdi- Mali



The case against Al Mahdi, who pleaded guilty to charges of wilful destruction of religious sites in Mali, is in the Reparations phase.

On 8 March 2018, the Appeals Chamber issued its decision on the two issues the LRV appealed. The Chamber confirmed, for the most part, the Reparations Order issued on 17 August 2017, in which Al Mahdi was found liable for individual, collective and symbolic reparations to the community of Timbuktu in the amount of 2.7 million euros. However, the Chamber amended the Order on two points, deciding that the applicants for individual reparations should be able to contest the decision taken by the Trust Fund for Victims on their eligibility for individual reparations before the Trial Chamber, which would make the final determination; and that the applicants who do not wish their identities to be disclosed to Al Mahdi may nevertheless be considered for individual reparations and their identities will be disclosed to the Trust Fund for Victims.

After several postponements, the Trust Fund for Victims was due to submit the Draft Implementation Plan by 20 April 2018. A redacted version of Trial Chamber VIII's decision on the Draft Implementation Plan was issued on 12 July 2018.

Germain Katanga- DRC



During this period, we continued monitoring the Katanga case which is now at the reparations stage. In 2014, Katanga was acquitted of all charges of sexual and gender-based crimes; however, there are important gender considerations with respect to the reparative programmes which will respond to the harms arising from the acts of murder, pillaging, destruction of property and directing attacks against the civilian population for which

Katanga was convicted. The Katangais, awaiting the approval of the Chamber of the reparations Draft Implementation Plan, taking into account the observations of the Legal Representative of Victims, the Office of the Public Counsel for Victims and the Defence, which it received in September 2017. There have been no additional developments in the Katanga case during the reporting period.

Al Hassan – Mali



In the reporting period, a new arrest warrant in the Mali Situation has been issued by ICC Pre-Trial Chamber I for Al Hassan Ag Abdoul Aziz Ag Mohamed Ag Mahmoud (Al Hassan). The Arrest Warrant was issued on 27 March 2018 and unsealed on 31 March 2018 at the surrender of the accused to the Court. Al Hassan is a Malian national, who was a member of Ansar Eddine (Tuareg movement associated with Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb) and the *de facto* chief of Islamic police. This case is the first arising from the Mali

Situation in which sexual and gender-based crimes have been charged. Notably, Al Hassan is alleged to have participated in the policy of forced marriages which victimised the female inhabitants of Timbuktu and led to repeated rapes and the sexual enslavement of women and girls.

Overall, he is alleged to have committed crimes against humanity of torture; rape and sexual slavery; persecution of the inhabitants of Timbuktu on religious and gender grounds; and other inhumane acts; and war crimes of rape and sexual slavery; violence to person and outrages upon personal dignity; attacks intentionally directed against buildings dedicated to religion and historic monuments; and the passing of sentences without previous judgement pronounced by a regularly constituted court in Timbuktu, Mali, between April 2012 and January 2013. The confirmation of charges hearing is currently scheduled for May 6, 2019.

Sudan: Al Bashir and non-compliance of States Parties

Regarding the Al Bashir case, after the Pre-Trial Chamber's decision finding that Jordan failed to comply with its obligations under the Statute by not arresting and surrendering Al Bashir to the Court while he was on Jordanian territory, the Chamber granted Jordan leave to appeal the Decision on 21 February 2018.



On 29 March 2018, the Appeals Chamber invited the United Nations, the African Union, the European Union, the League of Arab States and the Organization of American States to submit observations by 16 July 2018, on the legal questions raised by Jordan in its appeal; and invited States parties and professors of international law to express their interest in submitting observations.

On May 25, 2018, the Appeals Chamber invited submissions, by 16 July 2018, from the competent authorities of the Republic of Sudan and Mr Omar Hassan Ahmad Al Bashir on the legal questions raised by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan ("Jordan") in its appeal pending before the Appeals Chamber and anticipated to be rendered on XX May 2019.


Thomas Lubanga Dyilo- DRC



We have monitored and advocated in this case since its beginning in 2006. On 3 November 2017, a second decision on the review concerning the reduction of the sentence of Lubanga has been delivered, rejecting the reduction. On 15 December 2017, Trial Chamber II issued an additional decision on reparations in the Lubanga case. The Chamber unanimously held that Lubanga's liability for collective reparations amounts to \$10 million and concluded that 425 out of 473 applicants demonstrated that they were direct or indirect victims of the crimes for which Lubanga has

been found guilty and, therefore, have a right to reparations. Notably, the Chamber assessed that 425 is only a sample of the number of victims of the crimes in the Lubanga case: evidence showed that the number is manifestly higher. The Chamber estimated the number of victims to be approximately 1,000-1,500; however, it specified that it could not determine it concretely, stating that the total is still uncertain. The Chamber evaluated the harm suffered by each of the 425 victims in the amount of \$8,000, setting Lubanga's liability for these victims at \$3,400,000. Moreover, reiterating that the victim number is higher than 425, the Chamber decided that an additional amount of \$6,600,000 would cover his liability regarding other potential eligible victims.

The Chamber stated that it will decide in due course the next steps regarding the implementation of collective reparations. Additionally, Lubanga has been found indigent by the Court for the purpose of reparations; thus, the Chamber instructed the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims to examine the possibility of allocating an additional amount for the implementation of collective reparations and to continue its efforts to raise additional funds.



GENDER REPORT CARD

ON THE
INTERNATIONAL
CRIMINAL COURT

2018

Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice



The organisation's communication during 2018



3,800 Twitter followers



39,219 website views



15 public statements gender justice and ICC-related issues, including judgments and major decisions in cases



105 Facebook posts; 7,164 page likes, 69,000 reached,
4,441 engagements



Published The Gender Report Card 2019.



See quotes by the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice in the media:
The Guardian: [ICC prosecutes Islamist militant on ground-breaking gender-based charges](#)

Annex A

Legal and Organisational Structure

The Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice was established on 7th of January 2004 in The Hague, Netherlands and is established for an unlimited period of time. Since 2010, we have also been registered as a non-profit organisation within Uganda. The organisation was created with the goal to promote the integration of a gender perspective into international humanitarian and criminal laws and institutions.

The Board is responsible for the governance of the organisation with the following members in 2018:

1. Gabrielle McIntyre, Chair
2. Judicael Elidje, Treasurer
3. Elizabeth Farr, Secretary
4. David Tolbert
5. Melinda Reed, Executive Director

In 2018, the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice operated with the staff structure approved by the Board, with the following staff members:

1. Melinda Reed, Executive Director (appointed January 23, 2018)
2. Siobhan Hobbs – Legal and Programme Director
3. Raj Shah, Finance Officer and ATripel, Finance Company)
4. Marina Sarakini – Administration Associate
5. Judith Acana – Uganda Programme Officer
6. Maria Elvira Mingo Jaramillo – Legal and Programme Officer
7. Priska Babuin – Legal and Programme Assistant
8. Samantha Addens – Legal and Programme Associate
9. Andrea Raab – Legal Intern
10. Sally Eshun – Legal Intern
11. Lina Stotz – Legal Intern

Governance and Policy Framework

The internal governance of the organisation is outlined in the Governance Manual and is further supported by a set of policies and standard operating procedures including:

- Standard Operating Procedures Manual
- General Policies
 1. WI Values Statement
 2. WI Statute
 3. WI Governance Manual
 4. Quality Management Practices
 5. WI Board of Directors Conflict of Interest Policy
 6. WI Planning Monitoring and Evaluation System
 7. WI Operational Theory of Change
 8. WI Theory of Change

- 9. Confidentiality Form
- Financial Policies and Protocols
 - 1. Financial Policies and Procedures Manual
 - 2. Reserve Policy - results are annually appropriated to the general reserve and appropriated reserves are formed if necessary.
 - 3. Payment Protocol
 - 4. Procurement Policy
 - 5. WI Financial Monitoring Policy
- Risk Management
 - 1. Risk Management Framework
 - 2. Managing Programme Risks
- Memorandum of Understanding
- WI Approval, Assessment and Reporting Forms
- Partner Request & Reporting Forms

Budget and Finance

Annual Budget: In 2017, the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice, implemented our domestic and international programmes with a budget €1,331,797. During the 2017 financial year we raised €859,411 through the generous support of our donors.

Risk Management: We have a robust risk management framework with respect to three key areas - institutional, financial and programmatic risks. These are reflected in our Risk Management Framework and the Managing Programme Risks protocol. The key risks identified and assessed by the organisation include:

Risk 1: Risk of security to field operations and local partners

Risk description: Field operations and local partners are affected due to external and local insecurity issues. Field staff, [consultants] and local partners are endangered [and harmed]

Risk type: Programmatic

Risk 2: Risk of insufficient funds

Risk description: Reduced funds or insufficient funds to implement our programmes and support institutional resilience.

Risk type: Financial and Institutional

Risk 3: Risk of loss of credibility

Risk description: Loss of credibility due to insufficient implementation of quality control standards or compliance challenges with implementing partners

Risk type: Operational and Institutional

Risk 4: The risk of our capacity not matching our mandate

Risk description: Personnel, structure and capacity to fulfil our mandate and related programmes and strategies

Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice



Annual report 2018

**Stichting Women's Initiatives for
Gender Justice**

Den Haag

Reportno.:
II.01.01\

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Independent auditors' report

Independent auditors' report

To: The board of Stichting Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice

A. Report on the audit of the financial statements 2018

Our opinion

We have audited the financial statements 2018 of Stichting Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice, based in Den Haag.

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Stichting Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice as at 31 December 2018, and of its result for 2018 in accordance with Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code.

The financial statements comprise:

1. the balance sheet as at 31 December 2018;
2. the statement of income and expenses for 2018; and
3. the notes comprising a summary of the accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Material uncertainty related to going concern

We draw attention to the negative result over the year 2018 and the negative equity of the foundation. The foundation is in need for funding for its programs and general expenses. The funding for 2019 is been received.

Basis for our opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Dutch law, including the Dutch Standards on Auditing. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report.

We are independent of Stichting Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice in accordance with the Verordening inzake de onafhankelijkheid van accountants bij assurance-opdrachten (ViO, Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, a regulation with respect to independence) and other relevant independence regulations in the Netherlands. Furthermore we have complied with the Verordening gedrags- en beroepsregels accountants (VGBA, Dutch Code of Ethics).

We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

C. Description of responsibilities regarding the financial statements

Responsibilities of the board for the financial statements

The board is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code. Furthermore, the board is responsible for such internal control as the board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error.

As part of the preparation of the financial statements, the board is responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern. Based on the financial reporting framework mentioned, the board should prepare the financial statements using the going concern basis of accounting unless the board either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The board should disclose events and circumstances that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern in the financial statements.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objective is to plan and perform the audit assignment in a manner that allows us to obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence for our opinion.

Our audit has been performed with a high, but not absolute, level of assurance, which means we may not detect all material errors and fraud during our audit.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial statements. The materiality affects the nature, timing and extent of our audit procedures and the evaluation of the effect of identified misstatements on our opinion.

We have exercised professional judgement and have maintained professional skepticism throughout the audit, in accordance with Dutch Standards on Auditing, ethical requirements and independence requirements. Our audit included among others:

- Identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatements of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, designing and performing audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatements resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- Obtaining an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control;
- Evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the board;
- Concluding on the appropriateness of the board's use of the going concern basis of accounting, and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we

conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause a company to cease to continue as a going concern;

- Evaluating the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures; and

- Evaluating whether the financial statements represents the underlying transactions and events free from material misstatements.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant findings in internal control that we identify during our audit.

The Hague, 2 March 2020

Maas Accountants B.V.



G.J. Maas RA

Financial statements

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2018

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2018

(After proposal distribution of result)

		<u>31 December 2018</u>		<u>31 December 2017</u>	
		EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
ASSETS					
Fixed assets					
Property, plant and equipment	1		424		1.545
Financial assets	2		8.000		8.000
Current assets					
Receivables	3		44.290		10.010
Cash and cash equivalents	4		16.710		168.960
			<u>69.424</u>		<u>188.515</u>
LIABILITIES					
Equity	5		(4.412)		45.982
Short-term liabilities	6		73.836		142.533
			<u>69.424</u>		<u>188.515</u>

Statement of income and expenses for the year 2018

		2018	2017
	EUR	EUR	EUR
Net Turnover	7	430.205	859.411
Cost of sales	8	<u>(340.529)</u>	<u>(636.936)</u>
Gross margin		89.676	222.475
Expenses of employee benefits	9	40.135	57.335
Afschrijvingen op immateriële, materiële vaste activa en vastgoed- beleggingen	10	1.121	1.570
Other operating expenses	11	<u>98.814</u>	<u>153.522</u>
Total of sum of expenses		<u>140.070</u>	<u>212.427</u>
Total of result before tax		(50.394)	10.048
Income tax expense		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total of result after tax		<u>(50.394)</u>	<u>10.048</u>

Notes to the financial statements

ENTITY INFORMATION

Registered address and registration number trade register

The registered and actual address of Stichting Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice is Noordwal 10, 2513 EA in Den Haag. Stichting Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice is registered at the Chamber of Commerce under number 27264260.

GENERAL NOTES

The most important activities of the entity

The activities of Stichting Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice consist mainly of: An international women's human rights organisation that advocates for gender justice through the International Criminal Court (ICC) and through domestic mechanisms, including peace negotiations and justice processes.

The location of the actual activities

The actual address of Stichting Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice is Noordwal 10, 2513 EA in Den Haag.

GENERAL ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES

The accounting standards used to prepare the financial statements

The financial statement is drawn up in accordance with the provisions of Title 9, Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code and the Dutch Accounting Standards, as published by the Dutch Accounting Standards Board ('Raad voor de Jaarverslaggeving').

Assets and liabilities are generally valued at historical cost, production cost or at fair value at the time of acquisition. If no specific valuation principle has been stated, valuation is at historical cost.

ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES

Financial assets

Participations, over which significant influence can be exercised, are valued according to the net asset value method. In the event that 20% or more of the voting rights can be exercised, it may be assumed that there is significant influence.

The net asset value is calculated in accordance with the accounting principles that apply for these financial statements; with regard to participations in which insufficient data is available for adopting these principles, the valuation principles of the respective participation are applied.

If the valuation of a participation based on the net asset value is negative, it will be stated at nil. If and insofar as Stichting Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice can be held fully or partially liable for the debts of the participation, or has the firm intention of enabling the participation to settle its debts, a provision is recognised for this.

Newly acquired participations are initially recognised on the basis of the fair value of their identifiable

assets and liabilities at the acquisition date. For subsequent valuations, the principles that apply for these financial statements are used, with the values upon their initial recognition as the basis.

The amount by which the carrying amount of the participation has changed since the previous financial statements as a result of the net result achieved by the participation is recognised in the statement of income and expenses.

Participations over which no significant influence can be exercised are valued at historical cost. The result represents the dividend declared in the reporting year, whereby dividend not distributed in cash is valued at fair value.

In the event of an impairment loss, valuation takes place at the recoverable amount; an impairment is recognised and charged to the statement of income and expenses.

Receivables recognised under financial fixed assets are initially valued at the fair value less transaction costs. These receivables are subsequently valued at amortised cost price, which is, in general, equal to the nominal value. For determining the value, any depreciation is taken into account.

Deferred tax assets are recognised for all deductible temporary differences between the value of the assets and liabilities under tax regulations on the one hand and the accounting policies used in these financial statements on the other, on the understanding that deferred tax assets are only recognised insofar as it is probable that future taxable profits will be available to offset the temporary differences and available tax losses.

The calculation of the deferred tax assets is based on the tax rates prevailing at the end of the reporting year or the rates applicable in future years, to the extent that they have already been enacted by law.

Deferred tax assets are valued at their nominal value.

Receivables

Receivables are initially valued at the fair value of the consideration to be received, including transaction costs if material. Receivables are subsequently valued at the amortised cost price. If there is no premium or discount and there are no transaction costs, the amortised cost price equals the nominal value of the accounts receivable. Provisions for bad debts are deducted from the carrying amount of the receivable.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at banks and in hand represent cash in hand, bank balances and deposits with terms of less than twelve months. Overdrafts at banks are recognised as part of debts to lending institutions under current liabilities. Cash at banks and in hand is valued at nominal value.

Current assets

Current assets are initially valued at the fair value of the consideration to be received, including transaction costs if material. Trade receivables are subsequently valued at the amortised cost price. Provisions for bad debts are deducted from the carrying amount of the receivable.

Current liabilities

On initial recognition current liabilities are recognised at fair value. After initial recognition current liabilities are recognised at the amortised cost price, being the amount received taking into account

premiums or discounts and minus transaction costs. This is usually the nominal value.

Accounting principles for determining the result

The result is the difference between the realisable value of the goods/services provided and the costs and other charges during the year. The results on transactions are recognised in the year in which they are realised.

Revenue recognition

Net turnover comprises the income from the supply of goods and services and realised income from construction contracts after deduction of discounts and such like and of taxes levied on the turnover.

Notes to the balance sheet**FIXED ASSETS**

	<u>31-12-2018</u>	<u>31-12-2017</u>
	EUR	EUR
1 Property, plant and equipment		
Furniture, fixtures and fittings	<u>424</u>	<u>1.545</u>
Property, plant and equipment		
		Furniture, fixtures and fittings
		EUR
Balance as at 1 January 2018		
Cost or manufacturing price		86.626
Accumulated depreciation		<u>(85.081)</u>
Book value as at 1 January 2018		<u>1.545</u>
Movements		
Depreciation		<u>(1.121)</u>
Balance movements		<u>(1.121)</u>
Balance as at 31 December 2018		
Cost or manufacturing price		86.627
Accumulated depreciation		<u>(86.203)</u>
Book value as at 31 December 2018		<u>424</u>
	<u>31-12-2018</u>	<u>31-12-2017</u>
	EUR	EUR
2 Financial assets		
Deposit rent	<u>8.000</u>	<u>8.000</u>

CURRENT ASSETS

	<u>31-12-2018</u>	<u>31-12-2017</u>
	EUR	EUR

3 Receivables

Other receivables and accrued assets	<u>44.290</u>	<u>10.010</u>
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Other receivables and accrued income

Receivable staff	-	2.000
Accrued income and prepaid expenses	<u>44.290</u>	<u>8.010</u>
	<u>44.290</u>	<u>10.010</u>

Accrued income and prepaid expenses

Accrued income	39.856	5.923
Miscellaneous prepaid expenses	<u>4.434</u>	<u>2.087</u>
	<u>44.290</u>	<u>8.010</u>

4 Cash and cash equivalents

ING Bank N.V.	10.002	-
Other banks	6.036	168.146
Cash	<u>672</u>	<u>814</u>
	<u>16.710</u>	<u>168.960</u>

Liabilities

	<u>31-12-2018</u>	<u>31-12-2017</u>
	EUR	EUR

5 Equity

Legal and statutory reserves	97.000	97.000
General reserve	<u>(101.412)</u>	<u>(51.018)</u>
	<u>(4.412)</u>	<u>45.982</u>

Equity

Movements in equity were as follows:

	Share capital paid called up	Legal and statutory reserves	General re- serve	Total
	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
Balance as at 1 January 2018	-	97.000	(51.018)	45.982
Appropriation of result	-	-	(50.394)	(50.394)
Balance as at 31 December 2018	<u>-</u>	<u>97.000</u>	<u>(101.412)</u>	<u>(4.412)</u>

	<u>31-12-2018</u>	<u>31-12-2017</u>
	EUR	EUR
Legal and statutory reserves		
Appropriated reserve	<u>97.000</u>	<u>97.000</u>
6 Short-term liabilities		
Payables to banks	7.292	16.682
Trade payables	4.553	19.757
Payables relating to taxes and social security contributions	32.350	20.934
Other liabilities and accrued expenses	<u>29.641</u>	<u>85.160</u>
	<u>73.836</u>	<u>142.533</u>
Payables to banks		
Payables to banks	<u>7.292</u>	<u>16.682</u>
Trade payables		
Trade creditors	<u>4.553</u>	<u>19.757</u>
Payables relating to taxes and social security contributions		
Wage tax	<u>32.350</u>	<u>20.934</u>
Other liabilities and accrued expenses		
Net wages	3.699	508
Audit and consultancy costs	23.125	-
Other payables	2.818	-
Other accruals and deferred income	<u>(1)</u>	<u>84.652</u>
	<u>29.641</u>	<u>85.160</u>

Notes to the statement of income and expenses

	2018	2017
	EUR	EUR
7 Net Turnover		
Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs	90.000	103.167
Anonymous Funding	84.654	142.223
FCO DRC (July 2018 through March 2019)	83.538	-
UK/DFID	82.442	339.683
King Bedouin Foundation (Planethood)	38.370	-
Swiss (through April 2018)	22.259	-
FCO Uganda	18.286	-
Other (Wellspring/Planethood/Global Giving)	4.136	-
Global Giving	3.520	-
Embassy of Korea	3.000	5.000
Sigrid Raust Trust Funding	-	117.432
FCO	-	146.906
New Zealand Embassy	-	5.000
	<u>430.205</u>	<u>859.411</u>

8 Cost of sales

Cost of sales	<u>340.529</u>	<u>636.936</u>
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Cost of sales

Labour	209.725	-
Democratic Republic of Congo	85.370	349.512
Uganda	35.854	124.663
Publications and printing	4.358	18.483
Strategic Events	2.849	4.867
Legal advocacy and trials	1.928	61.327
ICC Monitoring / ASP	445	35.264
Cote D'Ivoire	-	3.376
Website	-	14.685
Mali	-	3.195
Central African Republic	-	182
Libya	-	21.382
	<u>340.529</u>	<u>636.936</u>

Specification on the programmes in 2017 and 2018:

Total other

Grant	133.680
Labour costs	(90.061)
Democratic Republic of Congo	(3.522)
Strategic Events	(2.849)
Uganda	(1.714)
Legal (Advocacy, Research & Monitoring)	(1.248)
Total	<u>34.286</u>

Total FCO Uganda

Grant	18.286
Uganda	(16.823)
Labour costs	(1.230)
Total	<u>233</u>

Total FCO DRC

Grant	83.538
Labour costs	(42.438)
Democratic Republic of Congo	(31.666)
Total	<u>9.434</u>

UK FCO PSVI

Grant	82.442
Labour costs	(28.390)
Uganda	(8.014)
Democratic Republic of Congo	(33.708)
Legal (Advocacy, Research & Monitoring)	(441)
Total	<u>11.889</u>

Institutional

Democratic Republic of Congo	(637)
Legal (Advocacy, Research & Monitoring)	(10)
Total	<u>(647)</u>

Total Swiss (through April 2018)

Grant	22.259
Labour costs	(16.301)
Uganda	(1.658)
Democratic Republic of Congo	(565)
Legal (Advocacy, Research & Monitoring)	(229)
Total	<u>3.506</u>

Total Swiss (through January 2019)

Grant	90.000
Labour costs	(57.121)
Uganda	(7.645)
Democratic Republic of Congo	(11.786)
Publications and printing	<u>(4.358)</u>
Total	<u>9.090</u>

<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
EUR	EUR

9 Expenses of employee benefits

Social security premiums and pensions cost	45.640	27.068
Other expenses of employee benefits	34.390	23.337
Wages and salaries	<u>(39.895)</u>	<u>6.930</u>
	<u>40.135</u>	<u>57.335</u>

Wages and salaries

Salary	195.646	254.226
Charged to program expenses	<u>(235.541)</u>	<u>(247.296)</u>
	<u>(39.895)</u>	<u>6.930</u>

Social security premiums and pensions cost

Social security charges	31.446	23.275
Addition pension provision for scheme	9.501	-
Sick pay insurance	<u>4.693</u>	<u>3.793</u>
	<u>45.640</u>	<u>27.068</u>

Other expenses of employee benefits

Contractors	34.307	23.119
Other staff expenses WKR	83	-
Arbo services	<u>-</u>	<u>218</u>
	<u>34.390</u>	<u>23.337</u>

10 AFSCHRIJVINGEN OP IMMATERIËLE, MATERIËLE VASTE ACTIVA EN VASTGOEDBELEGGINGEN

Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	<u>1.121</u>	<u>1.570</u>
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11 OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES

Housing expenses	27.586	37.207
Selling expenses	25.737	31.729
Office expenses	18.275	56.010
General expenses	<u>27.216</u>	<u>28.576</u>
	<u>98.814</u>	<u>153.522</u>

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
	EUR	EUR
Housing expenses		
Rent expenses	22.048	24.913
Utilities	3.643	10.014
Cleaning expenses	<u>1.895</u>	<u>2.280</u>
	<u><u>27.586</u></u>	<u><u>37.207</u></u>
Selling expenses		
Travelling and hotel expenses	25.147	12.285
Board meetings (2/years)	590	14.218
Board expenses (travel)	<u>-</u>	<u>5.226</u>
	<u><u>25.737</u></u>	<u><u>31.729</u></u>
Office expenses		
Bookkeeping	8.055	34.228
Repair & maintenance	5.485	13.070
Telephone and fax expenses	2.943	4.491
Office supplies	1.367	2.887
Insurance premium	357	1.320
Postage expenses	<u>68</u>	<u>14</u>
	<u><u>18.275</u></u>	<u><u>56.010</u></u>
General expenses		
Audit costs, other audit assignments	23.384	16.500
Bank expenses	2.675	4.822
Miscellaneous	2.030	51
Monitoring & Evaluation (institutional)	225	5.941
Other general expenses	108	(1)
General expenses	99	-
Currency translation differences	<u>(1.305)</u>	<u>1.263</u>
	<u><u>27.216</u></u>	<u><u>28.576</u></u>

Den Haag,

Stichting Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice



Melinda Reed
Director