

**TRIAL**  
International

# ACTIVITY REPORT 2017

**Short  
version**



## YES WE CAN (MAKE A CHANGE)!

We all know the saying that “change is the only constant in life”. But breaking patterns of impunity is one hard change to bring about: privilege and power seldom give way to justice easily.

Shifting these lines demands passion and stamina. Most importantly, it starts with our own belief that the status quo can be altered. In 2017, we have dared to dream up changes – and some of them have materialized.

None of these improvements could have been possible without TRIAL International’s partners and stakeholders. We work in widely different contexts but our objective is the same: making a real difference in the lives of survivors, and using the rule of law to help build lasting justice.

Internally too, TRIAL International is changing. 15 years into its making, the NGO has embarked on an in-depth organizational development process that will run until the end of 2018. Questioning our habits and work processes is proving hard. But we owe it to our partners, our supporters and above all to the victims, to make our action as efficient and durable as possible. And we are glad of the new perspectives this change will open up.

Thank you for your continuing support, we hope you will enjoy the read.

Philip Grant, Director



Read our full annual report online  
[trialinternational.org/2017](http://trialinternational.org/2017)

# 2017 AT A GLANCE



**Over 800**  
victims supported



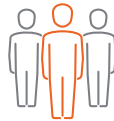
**40**  
new cases



**297**  
legal practitioners  
trained



**2'383'866** CHF  
annual budget



**38**  
staff  
members



**200'000**  
visits on  
our website



Join the fight against impunity!  
Your donation helps bring  
international justice forward.

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[www.trialinternational.org](http://www.trialinternational.org)

# INVESTIGATIONS AND CRIMINAL LAW

## Fighting impunity in a borderless world

In January, TRIAL International denounced former Gambian Minister Ousman Sonko for alleged torture. Sonko is detained and under investigation for crimes against humanity. TRIAL International has also joined the international campaign to bring to justice Sonko's superior, the former president of Gambia Yahya Jammeh himself.

In Switzerland, proceedings against Rifaat Al-Assad – the uncle of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad – are stalling. Suspected of war crimes, he has been under investigation for the last 4 years but no measurable progress has been made. TRIAL International has documented the alleged crimes extensively, hoping the evidence will prompt the authorities into action.



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## NEPAL

### New local structure and reinforced regional reach

Recognizing the need for a stronger in-field presence, TRIAL International established its first permanent structure in Kathmandu. Opened in April, the Human Rights and Justice Centre informs victims on their rights and offers them free legal representation in domestic and international litigation.

TRIAL International has also extended its activities outside of Kathmandu, launching a coaching program for lawyers in Biratnagar (Eastern region) and taking up cases of victims from remote areas.

# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

## Landmark cases rekindle hope despite political crisis

An unprecedented number of mass crimes trials opened in Eastern DRC in 2017. In the province of South Kivu alone, three major trials led to the conviction of a dozen criminals for mass crimes, and victims were awarded significant reparations. TRIAL International has been involved in most trials, coaching lawyers and ensuring victims received holistic support.

Moreover, the organization extended its training programs to new legal actors, including prosecutors, magistrates and activists, seeking to consolidate all judicial functions in Eastern DRC.



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# BURUNDI

## Building local know-how for international litigation

Burundi made the international headlines in November when the International Criminal Court (ICC) announced an investigation into alleged international crimes. This development, along with rampant domestic lawlessness, led TRIAL International to focus on international litigation and to reinforce its training programs on international standards and procedures, with a special focus on the ICC.

Using its insight into the dysfunctional domestic judiciary, TRIAL International was also able to provide first-hand information to the ICC on the difficulties victims faced in obtaining justice and reparation.

# BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

## Advocacy success for TRIAL International's longest-running program

Accessing reparations remains highly challenging for victims and wide discrepancies persist within the country. TRIAL International focused its advocacy efforts on improving and harmonizing practices, from the inclusion of compensation claims in criminal proceedings, to establishing criteria for adequate awards and enforcing rulings.

Making proceedings safer for vulnerable victims, including before civil courts, has constituted a second axis of advocacy. After a series of successful meetings, TRIAL International worked towards amending the Codes of Civil Procedure.



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**I long for the day I will find out the truth about my husband. Until then, I will keep on fighting, for him and for the thousands of others who are still missing.**



Ema Cekic, whose husband Salih was disappeared in 1992

# FINANCES

## Key figures

Subject to validation by TRIAL International's General Assembly.

### Income

**2'383'866 CHF**

+17% since 2016

**94%**

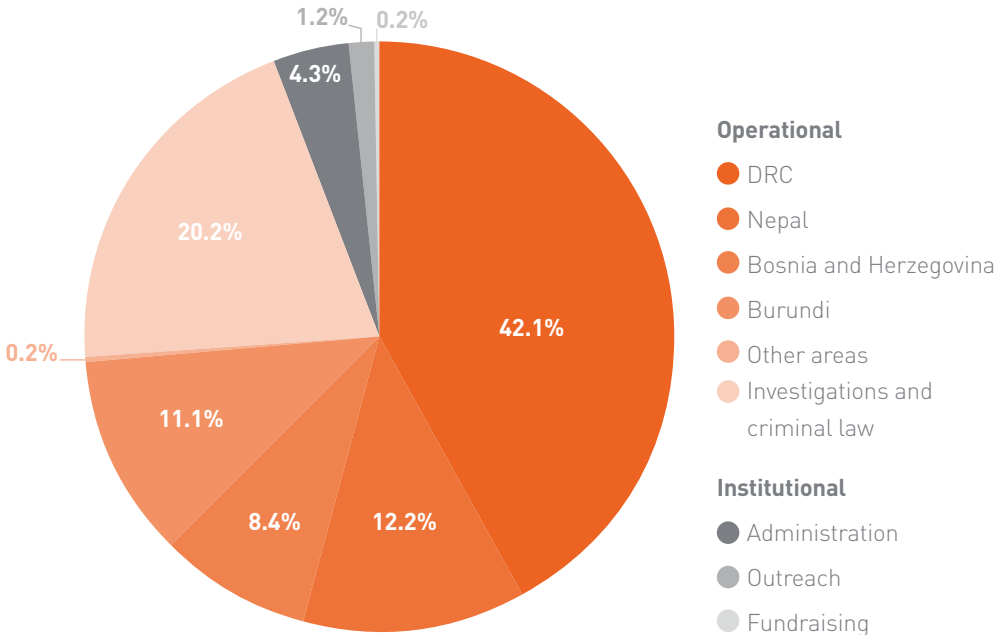
budget allocated to legal action

### Expenditures

**2'363'826 CHF**

+16% since 2016

## Expenditures breakdown





# DONORS' SUPPORT



300

members and private donors



35

institutional partners



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Amnesty International,  
Swiss section

Antenna Technologies  
Foundation

City of Carouge

City of Geneva

City of Lausanne

City of Meyrin

City of Onex

City of Vevey

Euro-Mediterranean

Foundation of Support to  
Human Rights Defenders

Federal Department  
of Foreign Affairs,  
Swiss Government

Federal Public Service of  
Foreign Affairs, Belgian  
Government

Fondation pour l'Égalité  
des Chances en Afrique

Foreign and  
Commonwealth Office,  
British Government

Jylag Foundation

Kvinna till Kvinna  
Foundation

MISEREOR Foundation

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Chêne-Bougeries

Municipality of  
Plan-les-Quates

Municipality of Troinex

Municipality of Veyrier

Oak Foundation

Open Society Foundations

Peace Nexus Foundation

Pluralisme Foundation

Pro Victimis Foundation

Republic and Canton  
of Geneva

Sigrid Rausing Trust

Taiwan Foundation  
for Democracy

United Nations

Development Programme

United Nations Voluntary  
Fund for Victims of Torture

**Thank you for your trust  
and commitment!**