



TRIAL
International

Activity Report 2019

A YEAR OF MATURITY AND STABILITY

Dear friends,

In recent years, TRIAL International has scaled up its activities rapidly, exploring new contexts and reaching the 3 million CHF-income mark in 2019.

We are proud of this development, which has permitted us to make a real difference for many beneficiaries, but we are also weary of the challenges it poses. Growth cannot happen at the expense of sustainability, and expansion must be balanced with phases of consolidation.

TRIAL International is committed to having a durable impact: our combat at the side of victims requires endurance.

2019 has been a year of maturity for our organization. Renouncing the siren of unsustainable growth, we have concentrated on reinforcing our operational and organizational capacity to effectively carry out our social mission. Our wide network of donors and partners has provided invaluable support in this respect.

The coronavirus pandemic has put – and is still putting – our resilience to the test. While its effects are undeniable, our roots are deep enough to face it head on.

With your continuing support as our anchor, we can keep making a difference for the thousands of individuals still yearning for justice.

With all our gratitude,

Philip Grant
Executive Director



Daniel Bolomey
President



TRIAL INTERNATIONAL'S IMPACT IN 2019

989

VICTIMS SUPPORTED



of which **826** were represented in legal proceedings, and **163** were advised or otherwise supported

484

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS TRAINED



of which **39%** were women

14

PERPETRATORS CONVICTED



of which **7** in Europe, and **7** in the African Great Lakes

40

STAFF MEMBERS



of which **40%** were in field offices

TRIAL International is a non-governmental organization fighting impunity for international crimes and supporting victims in their quest for justice.

Created in 2002, it has offices in [Switzerland](#), [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) and the [African Great Lakes region](#), as well as a local structure in [Nepal](#). It also conducts investigations, litigation and advocacy in several other countries including [The Gambia](#) and [Mexico](#).

Cooperation is key to TRIAL International's work. In 2019, we joined forces with **over 80 local and international partners** worldwide to challenge impunity.

Our collaborative approach is also reflected in the diversity of our income sources. **We are thankful to our 40 institutional donors and 307 individual donors for their trust and support in 2019.**

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

- 6 PERPETRATORS CONVICTED
- 24 ONGOING CASES AT DOMESTIC LEVEL
- 234'232 CHF ANNUAL EXPENSES



© TRIAL International

“Three generations have tasted the poison of hatred”

On 5 November 2019, TRIAL International had the rare privilege to address the United Nations Security Council. In a vibrant speech, Head of Program Selma Korjenic described the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina:

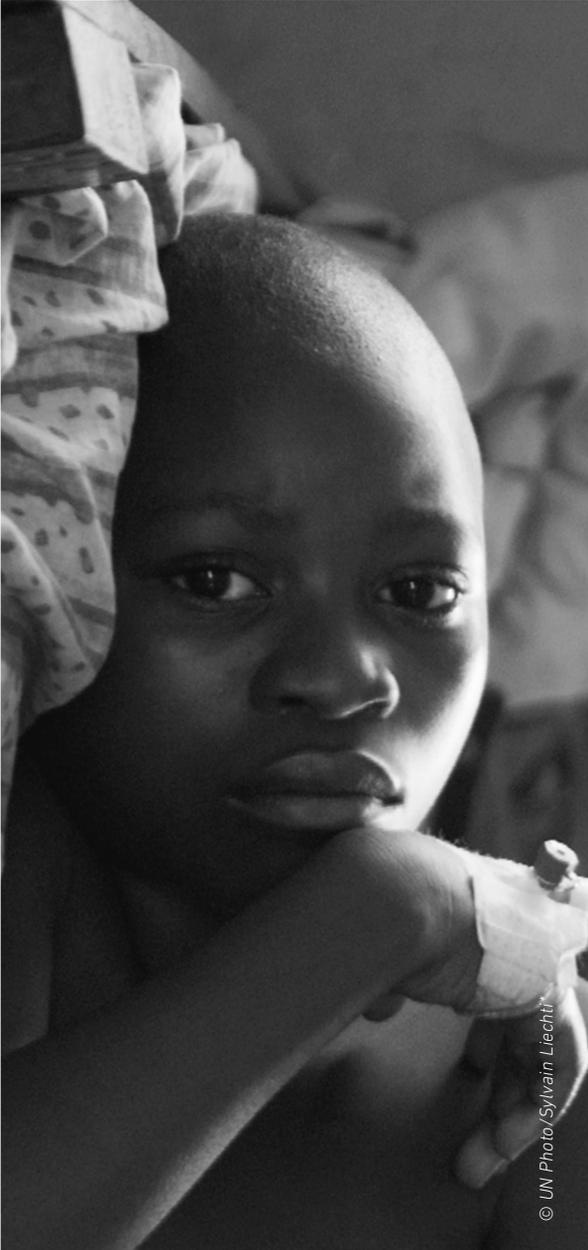
“Our everyday life is profoundly affected by the war, which ended 24 years ago. Bringing war criminals to justice, satisfying the needs of victims and their families, reconciling communities: many of these complicated issues are not handled in a satisfactory manner. (...) Peace-building and reconciliation are not main concerns for most politicians and, tragically, for many politically inclined media.

(...) Three generations have now tasted the poison of hatred. Very little is done to prevent the same fate happening to the next. Without a concerted effort to fight denial of past crimes and nationalistic rhetoric, Bosnia and Herzegovina will continue to be a ticking time bomb.”

[Read more](#)

AFRICAN GREAT LAKES

- 405 VICTIMS OBTAINED JUSTICE
- 216 LEGAL PRACTITIONERS TRAINED
- 1'525'740 CHF ANNUAL EXPENSES



© UN Photo/Sylvain Liechti*

An infamous warlord behind bars, 350 victims finally recognized

On 19 November 2019, the warlord Kokodikoko and his accomplices were found guilty of crimes against humanity in South Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo. They each received heavy prison sentences and 350 victims – most of whom had suffered sexual violence – were awarded reparations.

Despite the fact that the accused were part of a non-State armed group, the Congolese State was also found liable for failing to protect its civilian population. As such, it was ordered to compensate the victims should the culprits be unable to do so.

TRIAL International's investigative expertise helped establish the link between apparently unrelated crimes: all had actually been committed by the same militia, led by Kokodikoko. TRIAL International's support to the victims' lawyers continued throughout the proceedings. Post-verdict, and to this day, the organization remains involved to ensure the promised reparations are duly paid to victims.

[Read more](#)

- 192 LEGAL PRACTITIONERS TRAINED
- 6 DOCUMENTATION MISSIONS ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE
- 244'139 CHF ANNUAL EXPENSES



© Sabrina Dangol/TRIAL International*

Groundbreaking decision recognizes the long-term trauma of sexual violence

On 29 May 2019, the United Nations Human Rights Committee rendered a crucial decision in a case filed by TRIAL International. The victim, Fulmati, was 14 years old when she was raped, tortured and subjected to forced labor.

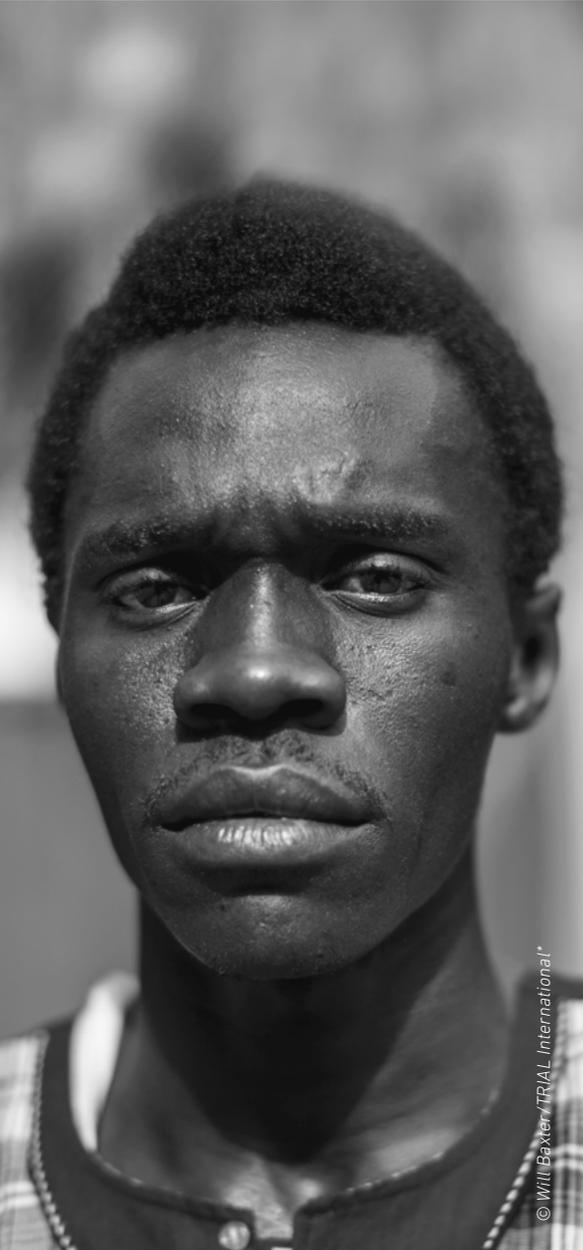
Notably, the UN decision adopted a holistic approach to conflict-related sexual violence, recognizing not just the crime, but also the durable impact on the victim's life. Siding with TRIAL International's argument, it factored in the stigmatization, marginalization and shame endured years later by Fulmati. *"I am very happy that my case was heard. It's like someone has finally listened to me,"* Fulmati told TRIAL International.

Nepal must now investigate the case, bring the suspects to justice and compensate Fulmati. *"I want a proper investigation into my case,"* she concluded. *"I want to feel as I used to feel before what happened to me."*

[Read more](#)

INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS AND LITIGATION

- 8 CASES SUBMITTED
- 19 VICTIMS REPRESENTED
- 621'514 CHF ANNUAL EXPENSES



© Will Baxter/Trial International

From The Gambia to Switzerland, unveiling Yahya Jammeh's decades-long crimes

The case against Gambian former Minister of Interior Ousman Sonko is building up in Switzerland. Thanks to the principle of universal jurisdiction, he is under investigation there for crimes against humanity. TRIAL International contributed to Sonko's arrest in 2017 and, thanks to its local network and knowledge of the context, continues to support the investigation of the Office of the Attorney General.

[Read more](#)

TRIAL International and its partners also carried out three preliminary investigations against other Gambian suspects located outside of The Gambia.

In parallel, TRIAL International and Human Rights Watch interviewed three women accusing the former president Yahya Jammeh of sexual violence. Bravely speaking up, Toufah, Anta and Bintu denounced coercive and violent actions by Jammeh and his aides, and retaliation against them if they refused Jammeh's advances. Their testimony could help demonstrate widespread sexual abuse by the president.

[Read more](#)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TRUST!

Private and institutional donors make TRIAL International's vision a reality. We are grateful for and honored by their continued support. Thank you!

3'116'739

TOTAL INCOME (CHF)

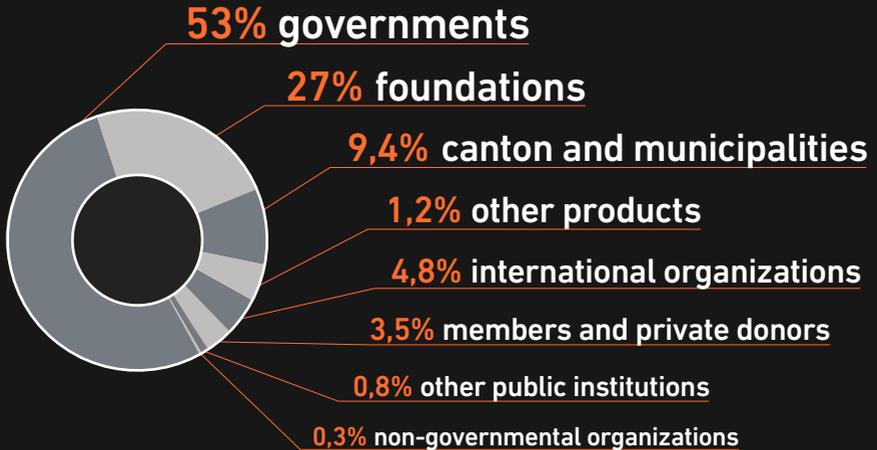
3'106'726

TOTAL EXPENSES (CHF)

7,8%

GROWTH SINCE 2018

DONORS' CONTRIBUTIONS (in income percentage)



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STAY IN TOUCH

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TRIAL
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*The photos marked with a * feature models to protect the security and dignity of the victims supported by TRIAL International.*

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