



**TRIAL**  
International

# Activity Report 2020



# ADVANCING HOPE AND JUSTICE DESPITE COVID-19

Dear friends,

The year 2020 has turned our lives upside down, imposing on us a new reality that could be there for the long term.

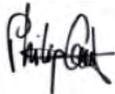
Since the beginning of the pandemic, TRIAL International has taken all necessary measures to ensure the protection of its staff, partners and beneficiaries. At the height of the crisis, our organization was also swift to highlight the dangers the pandemic posed to global human rights, and to access to justice in particular.

By rapidly adapting our working methods, and thanks to the loyalty of our donors, we were able to navigate this difficult year. Concentrating our energy and resources on the essential, we have contributed to structural improvements to advance justice. Our latest Universal Jurisdiction Annual Review shows that the prosecution of the worst criminals did not stop with the sanitary crisis, either.

**Most importantly, we have continued to make an impact on the lives of mass crimes survivors: in 2020, we supported more victims than ever before.**

Thank you to each and every one of you, and stay safe,

**Philip Grant**  
*Executive Director*



**Daniel Bolomey**  
*President*



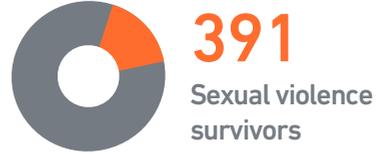
**TRIAL International is a non-governmental organization fighting impunity for international crimes and supporting victims in their quest for justice.**

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.

# TRIAL INTERNATIONAL'S IMPACT IN 2020

We supported **2'054** victims – more than ever before.

**96%** were represented in legal proceedings free of charge. Among those, there were:



We trained **304** legal and para-legal professionals:



We submitted or co-submitted **29** new cases:



**188**

victims obtained favorable decisions



**21**

perpetrators convicted



**13**

trials held



**15**

convictions and favorable decisions



**6**

reparations decisions

## CUMULATIVE IMPACT SINCE 2002

**5'093** victims supported

**1'968** practitioners trained

**394** initiated cases

# GREAT LAKES

- 20 NEW CASES INITIATED
- 18 PERPETRATORS CONVICTED
- 1'601'898 CHF ANNUAL EXPENSES

VOIR JUDICIA  
jugeons nos sembl



## No more impunity for infamous Congolese warlord

Two years after its opening, the case against the warlord Ntabo Ntaberi alias Sheka and his accomplice Lionceau came to an end on 23 November 2020. The former militiamen were condemned to life imprisonment for the war crimes they inflicted on civilians in North Kivu.

In the Sheka case, TRIAL International worked in close collaboration with the victims' lawyers, collecting and analyzing over 3'000 pages of evidence. The organization also consolidated the legal strategy to prove the widespread and systematic nature of the crimes; and supported local actors working directly with the victims to prepare them for the hearings.

[Read more](#)

## Impact of Covid-19

As they were in most of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, hearings in this case were suspended from March to June 2020. There were fears that the already lengthy trial would be delayed endlessly. However, hearings resumed in the summer and the verdict, though long-expected, gave satisfaction to the victims.

# BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

- 103 PRACTITIONERS TRAINED
- 21 VICTIMS SUPPORTED
- 207'706 CHF ANNUAL EXPENSES



## Two men convicted for wartime rape in Foča

After nearly 28 years, Ana (a pseudonym), a survivor of a rape committed during the Bosnian war, finally saw her two attackers convicted in the first instance. On 3 December 2020, the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina sentenced them for crimes against humanity, and awarded the victim compensation.

TRIAL International supported Ana in her fight for justice by offering her free legal support, and helped the authorities to identify and prosecute those responsible. *"We are glad to see that one more flagrant case of impunity meets justice, even 28 years after the crime had happened"*, said Selma Korjenić, Head of Program in Sarajevo.

[Read more](#)

## Impact of Covid-19

The beginning of 2020 was marked in Bosnia and Herzegovina by uncertainty about the capacity of the judicial system to prosecute these types of cases. *"The verdict in this case is a clear sign that with perseverance, it is possible to obtain justice even in times of pandemic"*, said Selma Korjenić.

# NEPAL

- 6 NEW INTERNATIONAL REPORTS
- 21 PRACTITIONERS TRAINED
- 128'194 CHF ANNUAL EXPENSES

## The Human Rights Committee must do more against torture and sexual violence

Nepal has a poor record of implementing international human rights decisions, but the United Nations Human Rights Committee (HRC) could also do more to follow up on its own recommendations. Oftentimes, victims and their families feel betrayed by the fact that the HRC does not prompt follow-up dialogue and remains silent on the lack of implementation of the measures it recommended.

For this reason, TRIAL International deployed a new advocacy strategy in 2020. As representant of six Nepalese victims, TRIAL International called on the HRC to establish a “joint follow-up procedure” on all its cases concerning Nepal, making this a pioneering “country case study”.

[Read more](#)

## Impact of Covid-19

While the pandemic monopolizes international attention, UN mechanisms must not let States get away with human rights abuse. “*The fight against impunity cannot wait until after the crisis. Justice has a unique, vital role to play right now, for the protection of all, and especially the most vulnerable*”, said Executive Director Philip Grant.



# INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS AND LITIGATION

- 7 NEW CASES SELECTED FOR INVESTIGATION
- 25 VICTIMS REPRESENTED
- 452'844 CHF ANNUAL EXPENSES



## Swiss trader denounced for smuggling Libyan gasoil

On 21 May 2020, TRIAL International filed a criminal denunciation in Switzerland for acts of alleged complicity in pillage by Kolmar Group AG. Pillage is a war crime under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court as well as under Swiss criminal law.

An investigation conducted by TRIAL International and its partner retraced the transnational network of subsidized gasoil smuggling from Libya. The fuel was diverted from Libyan tanks with the complicity of an armed group, transhipped from Libyan fishing boats to larger vessels chartered by two Maltese businessmen in international waters, and finally transported to Malta. Switzerland-based Kolmar Group AG allegedly purchased more than 50'000 tons of gasoil in Malta between 2014 and 2015. The company denies the claim.

[Read more](#)

## Impact of Covid-19

The Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland has been criticized in the past for its inaction on politically sensitive cases. While the pandemic impacted the functioning of judiciaries across the globe, this must not be used as an excuse to delay investigations and prosecution, be it against suspected individuals or companies.

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR TRUST!

TRIAL International joins forces with over **90 local and international partners, 45 institutional donors and 276 individual donors** to challenge impunity.

We are grateful for their trust and flexibility during the pandemic, allowing us to stay agile and reactive. **Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!**

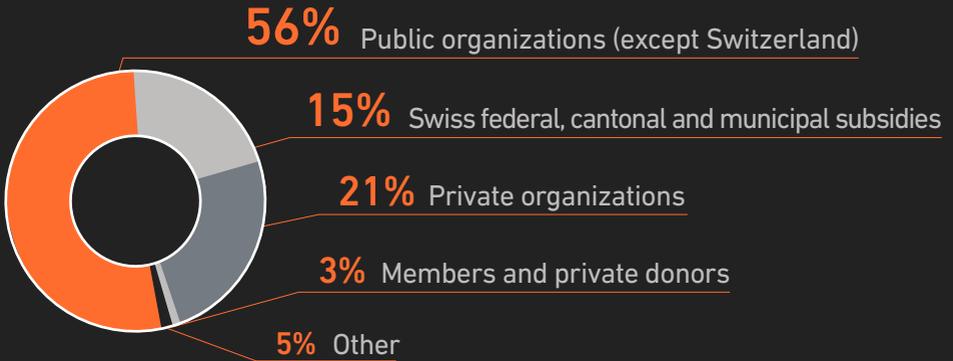
**2'953'315 CHF**

**TOTAL INCOME**

**2'963'128 CHF**

**TOTAL EXPENSES**

## Donors' contributions (in income percentage)



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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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