



TRIAL
International



2022 Activity Report

TRIAL INTERNATIONAL'S IMPACT IN 2022

We supported **1,544** victims. **93%** of whom were represented in legal proceedings, including:

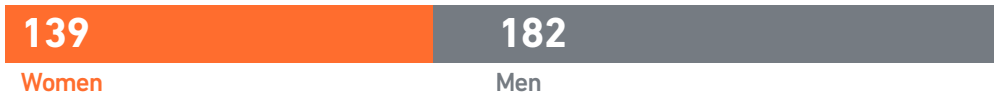


697
women



261
victims of sexual
violence

We trained **321** people, including lawyers, human rights defenders, judicial actors and various members of civic society:



We brought **11** new cases, both independently and jointly:



272
victims obtained
favorable decisions



10
perpetrators of
crimes convicted



99
ongoing
proceedings,
79 at the national
level and 20 at the
international level



6
verdicts at
national level
and 4 favorable
decisions at
international level



9
reparation
decisions

CUMULATIVE IMPACT SINCE 2002

8,120 victims supported,
including 1,550 survivors
of sexual violence

2,734 practitioners
trained

459 cases opened
or partners
supported

NOW MORE THAN EVER, LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR WORLD ATROCITIES

Dear friends,

2022 will leave deep marks and scars: the Russian army sweeping over Ukraine, the crime of aggression committed in broad daylight, bringing with it unspeakable violations. Like the rest of the world, we watched in shock and helplessness as the horrors were perpetrated almost before our eyes. And this question: "How do we respond?"

Given the magnitude of the crimes committed, the question of justice will still arise in ten, twenty years or more. It is difficult for an organization of our size to deploy expertise in an emergency, but we must be prepared to do so. Since March 2022, we have been reflecting on how to accompany Ukrainian organizations documenting crimes, and how to support victims and survivors, in order to open legal fronts outside Ukraine, notably by resorting to universal jurisdiction.

Universal jurisdiction is a tool that we hear increasingly about, especially in contexts where there is no other legal recourse. Last year, one of "our" trials involving a suspected member of a Gambian death squad opened in Germany. In the United States and France, investigations are progressing, as other defendants are awaiting trials in which we have also intervened.

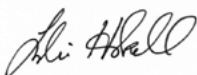
In Switzerland too, winds of change appear to be blowing through the Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland, with the arrival of a new Attorney General, who publicly stated that one or several indictments should be announced before the end of 2022. At the end of 2022, however, we were still waiting for news of upcoming trials and progress in other ongoing cases. One piece of good news, however: the opening of a third criminal investigation against a Swiss economic actor in a looting case.

In the field, TRIAL International withdrew from Nepal last year after thirteen years, leaving behind a local structure, *the Human Rights and Justice Center*, to continue the work. In Bosnia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, there has been a succession of decisions and trials: from the official recognition of children born of rape, to the conviction of numerous perpetrators of atrocities, multiple successes can be celebrated.

In the face of world atrocities, our mission remains more important than ever. With your help and support, we will continue to open up new paths to justice.

Thank you to each and every one of you!

Leslie Haskell
President



Philip Grant
Executive Director



THE AFRICAN GREAT LAKES

- 12 NEW CASES
- 5 PROCEEDINGS IN DRC
- 1 NEW OFFICE IN KASAI

Nine Kamuina Nsapu militiamen convicted of war crimes and crimes against humanity in a groundbreaking trial. Environmental crimes sanctioned in South Kivu.

The Kasai region of the DRC is infamous for the violent conflict between Kamuina Nsapu's armed insurgency and government forces between 2016 and 2019. The civilian population, caught between armed factions, has been subjected to mass crimes, most of which still go unpunished. In 2022, TRIAL International opened an office in Kananga to further its support for Congolese justice in the region.

In April 2022, the Kananga Military Court held a mobile court hearing in the village of Bana Ba Ntumba, where atrocities had been committed in 2017. More than 250 victims participated in the trial and were represented by a collective of lawyers supported by TRIAL International. The nine defendants, belonging to the Kamuina Nsapu militia, were convicted of war crimes and crimes against humanity. The court awarded financial compensations to the victims.

According to Daniele Perissi, TRIAL International's Program Manager for the Great Lakes Program, *"this trial shows that the fight against impunity is moving in the right direction in the Kasai region. We hope that other cases of crimes committed by state forces during the conflict will soon lead to more long-awaited trials."*

In the east of the country, appeal proceedings were held over crimes committed in Kahuzi-Biega National Park by the Chance Mihonya armed group. The court upheld a life sentence against the militia leader, including for violation of protected natural areas. This decision sets an important judicial precedent concerning liability for environmental crimes related to natural resources exploitation.



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

- **2 VERDICTS OF COMPENSATION AWARDED IN FIRST INSTANCE**
- **14 SURVIVORS BENEFITED FROM FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE**
- **19 JUDICIAL ACTORS TRAINED**



Children born as a result of wartime rape receive first legal recognition

After years of struggle by TRIAL International and its local partners in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), children born of wartime rape have finally been recognized as civilian victims of war for the first time. On 14 July 2022, the Brčko District, one of the three administrative units of BiH, took the first significant step to grant them such status within the context of the newly adopted Law on Civilian Victims of War.

For years, the rights of children born of rape during the 1992-1995 war was a subject that was often avoided and ignored in BiH. The indifference and the taboo around this subject led many of them to feel abandoned. There is no official data on the exact number of these children: no records were kept of the nature of their births, which only further highlights the lack of systematic support and the long-lasting impact on their lives.

Although a step forward, this law is not without flaws: it does not provide any additional rights for these children, such as support in obtaining education or help with tuition fees. The remaining administrative units in BiH, the Republika Srpska and the Federation of BiH, must now also ensure that children born of war are given a status of civilian victim of war, while addressing the issues left unresolved by the Brčko District law.

"We welcome this significant step forward, the value of which is primarily reflected in the symbolic act of the legal and social recognition of children born as a result of wartime rape as a special category of civilian victims of war. This is a precedent for BiH and the region. It also represents one of the three examples of recognition of this kind in the world." said Adrijana Hanušić Bećirović, Senior Legal Advisor of TRIAL International.

INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS AND LITIGATION

- **17 CASES PENDING BEFORE PROSECUTING AUTHORITIES**
- **4 COUNTRIES IN WHICH PROCEEDINGS ARE UNDERWAY**
- **4 NEW COMPLAINTS FILED**

Economic actors and international crimes: running out of places to hide

The number of legal proceedings involving the responsibility of economic actors suspected of involvement in the commission of international crimes has increased in recent years. This trend was confirmed in 2022: around ten investigations are underway in France, Sweden and Switzerland against companies, their senior executives and/or individuals from the business community. These promising applications of universal and extraterritorial jurisdiction are possible thanks to the sustained efforts of civil society to hold perpetrators of these crimes, whoever they may be, criminally accountable.

In 2022, TRIAL International learned of the formal opening of two investigations by the Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland, after having filed criminal complaints a few years earlier against Swiss economic actors linked to alleged war crimes of plundering diesel in Libya and rosewood in Senegal. Since 2018, another investigation has been underway against a Swiss businessman whom TRIAL International denounced in 2016 for his alleged involvement in the looting of minerals in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

TRIAL International has been investigating the crime of looting for many years, a major issue in Switzerland, where many companies involved in the trade of raw materials from conflict zones have their headquarters. Our efforts seem to have borne fruit, as the Attorney General of Switzerland stated last summer that he would investigate such cases more actively.



UKRAINE AND GAMBIA



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A crucial trial made possible thanks to universal jurisdiction

Gambia

Crimes committed during the era of Yahya Jammeh, former president of The Gambia (1994-2017), will not go unpunished. The work of the Gambian Truth Commission and the mobilization of civil society to denounce these crimes have made it possible to hold unprecedented trials. In 2022, the first trial for crimes against humanity involving Bai Lowe, a former alleged member of the "Junglers", a Gambian death squad, opened in Celle (Germany). Victims and witnesses were heard, and other trials are expected to be held soon in Switzerland and the United States.

According to Vony Rambolamanana, Senior Legal Advisor of the International Procedures and Investigations program, "*the holding of such trials underlines the importance of universal jurisdiction to give voice to the survivors.*"

National jurisdictions: a key tool to prosecute the perpetrators of crimes committed

Ukraine

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, international justice has been put to the test: does it have a role to play in times of conflict? TRIAL is convinced it does.

In collaboration with Ukrainian organizations, field missions have begun to lay the groundwork for a long-term effort to bring cases before various national jurisdictions.

A first illustration of the role of international justice could concern the serious crimes committed against the civilian population of the Chernihiv region during the Russian occupation at the beginning of the conflict. Many victims fled and now live in countries where universal or extraterritorial jurisdiction can be used. As a first step on the road to justice, in cooperation with the investigators and prosecutors of the States concerned, this is where the first denunciations and complaints will be dealt with.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED TRUST AND SUPPORT!

TRIAL International works with **more than 90 local and international partners, 34 institutional donors and 250 individual donors** to combat impunity.

We are immensely grateful for your trust, your collaboration and your support which, once again this year, have enabled us to accompany victims of international crimes in their quest for justice. **Thank you!**

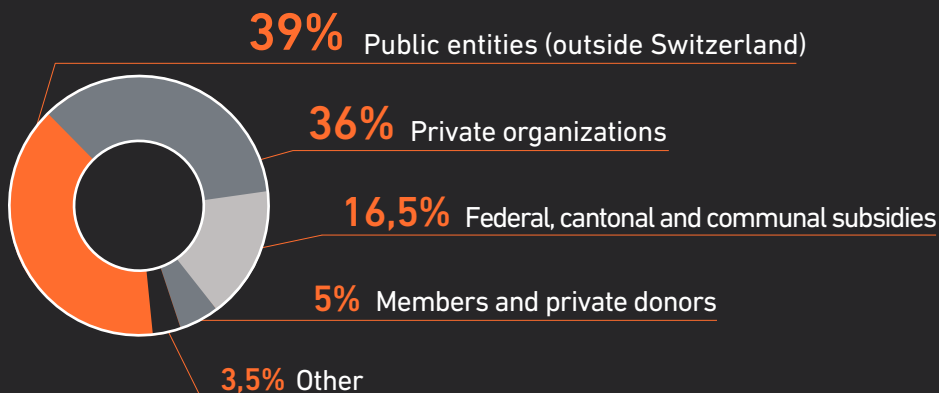
CHF 3,697,996

TOTAL REVENUE

CHF 3,676,221

TOTAL EXPENSES

DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS (as percentage of revenue)



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To protect the safety and dignity of victims supported by TRIAL International, photos marked with an are not those of the victim.*

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