

ANNUAL REPORT

Bridges of Solidarity

2025



NORWEGIAN
HUMAN RIGHTS FUND

A Message from the Executive Director and the Chair of the Board

2025 was a year marked by many setbacks: declining global funding for human rights work, a further decline in respect for human rights, and a continued rise in authoritarianism. In times such as these, at the Norwegian Human Rights Fund (NHRF), we take it upon ourselves to continue to act in solidarity and support those on the frontlines of human rights defence.

While being a challenging year, 2025 also demonstrated the resilience of grassroots organisations and human rights defenders who continue to organise, resist, and create change, despite increasing pressure. In a shifting global and political landscape, local leadership, strong organisations and active human rights communities are essential to counter these setbacks. Thus, funding grassroots initiatives and standing in solidarity with those most affected remain central to the defence of human rights.

For the NHRF, solidarity means building bridges between people, across borders, and finding common ground rooted in shared values. This is why solidarity is the theme of this year's annual report. This commitment becomes tangible in the work of our partners, such as the accompaniment of strategic partner Asociación Ambiente y Sociedad to grantee partner ACADESAN in Colombia, which strengthened the protection of the territorial rights and the right to free, prior, and informed consultation of 72 Afro-descendant communities, in the creation of a protected area within their collective territory. This process demonstrated how solidarity and collaboration among organisations strengthen community leadership and the protection of human rights.

If you are able to support our work, please turn to the last page of this report to see how you can donate to the great work done by human rights defenders around the world!

Ingeborg Moa
Executive Director

Marit Sørheim
Chair of the Board

The NHRF Team in Oslo and in Colombia



In 2025, the NHRF Secretariat in Oslo consisted of a team of 13 staff members, while the NHRF office in Colombia operated with a team of 16. In addition, the NHRF works with local consultants in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand, and Mexico.

Through our ongoing internship agreement with the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, we also hosted two interns in Oslo during the year.

2025 at a glance

153 projects with 131 grantee partners supported in 2025. 73% of our grantee partners are women-led organisations

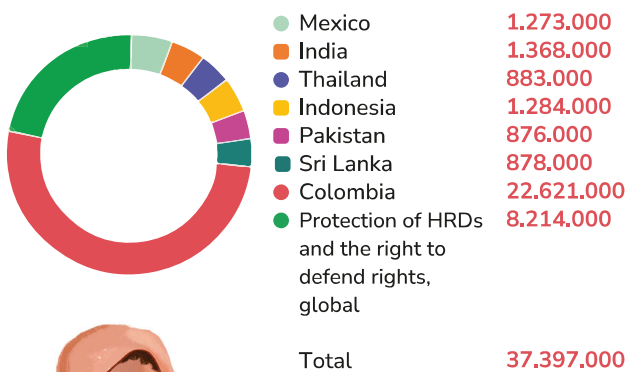


9.791 human rights defenders supported of which at least 64% were women human rights defenders.

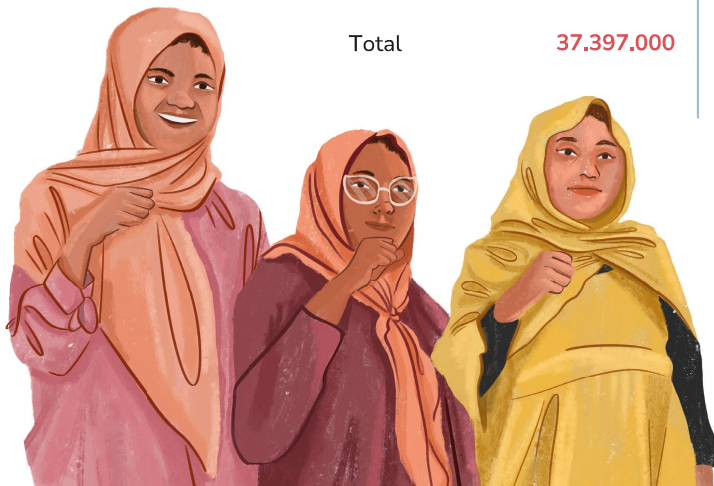
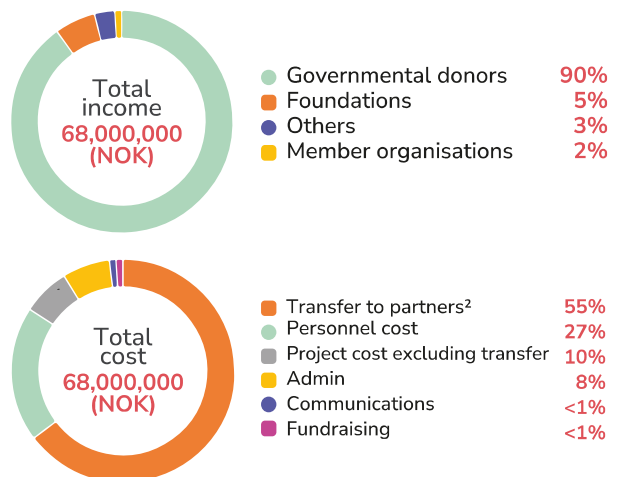
Accounts¹

The NHRF would like to thank our member organisations and donors, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norad - The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Bogotá, Amnesty International Norway, The Council of Churches in Norway, The Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions (LO), the Atlas Alliance, the Norwegian Union of Municipal and General Employees (Fagforbundet), the Municipality of Oslo, Fritt Ord, Jamette og Sverre Markussens Hjelpfond, the KrissLee festival, and others for their generous support in 2025.

Funding to grantee partners per programme (NOK - Norwegian Kroner)



Accounts and distribution



¹ Not audited numbers.

² The proportion of transfers to partners declined compared with 2024, as several projects entered their final year of implementation.

Bridges of *Solidarity*:

Standing Together for Human Rights

Colombia

In Colombia, the **Fundación Nydia Erika Bautista (FNEB)** advanced implementation of Law 2364 of 2024, which recognises and protects women searching for victims of enforced disappearance. By 2025, women searchers strengthened their leadership through constitutional recognition before the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, participation in national policy processes, and joint work on regulatory proposals. Their efforts led to the issuing of the law's implementing decree, marking a historic achievement for justice, protection, and recognition of their role as peacebuilders, and setting an important precedent for international law on victims' rights and enforced disappearance.

For the past five years, the NHRF have walked alongside FNEB and its director, Yanette Bautista, supporting their courageous struggle for truth, justice, and reparation. In 2025, with profound sorrow, we said goodbye to Yanette after her passing. Her unwavering dedication and compassion continue to inspire us.

We reaffirm our heartfelt commitment to the grantee partner organization and to the women searchers in Colombia, honoring Yanette's legacy by standing firmly with them.



Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka, our grantee partner **INFORM** demonstrated the power of solidarity by building alliances with other groups, such as the Centre for Monitoring Election Violence. Through this collaboration, they jointly monitored elections, held regular consultations with the Election Commission, and advocated for timely, peaceful polls. Working together amplified their influence beyond what they could achieve alone. Their collective effort contributed to securing long-delayed local elections in May 2025 and helped reduce electoral violence, showcasing the strength of united civil society action.



Pakistan

Through coordination with labour departments and awareness sessions, our grantee partner **Encourage Human Development** successfully supported women workers in home-based and other informal labour to get labour cards and official recognition of their employment status. For many women, this was the first time they were officially recognised as workers rather than unpaid family helpers. This not only improved their income security but also enhanced their dignity, protection and decision-making role within their households.

India

In 2025, a significant success from **Jeeva's** work was the transformation of mental health access for transgender and queer communities in Karnataka, India. They released a state-level report on the implementation of the Mental Health Care Act, grounded in community experiences. The report was shared with government mental health officials and widely covered by the media, bringing long-ignored concerns into formal policy spaces. As a direct result, the State Mental Health Programme began including LGBTQIA+ communities in its awareness initiatives and incorporated issues related to gender and sexual minorities into its mental health orientation curriculum.

For many community members, this marked the first time their mental health needs were acknowledged within public systems.



Thailand

Our grantee partner **Center for Protection and Revival of Local Community Rights**, along with other civil society organisations, played a key role in drafting and advocating for Thailand's first-ever law on ethnic communities. This historic law, officially promulgated in September 2025, guarantees the protection of the rights and cultural practices of ethnic groups, including the preservation of indigenous knowledge, protection against discrimination, and empowerment of communities and their ways of life.



Oslo as a Breathing Space City for Human Rights Defenders

The Breathing Space City programme was launched in 2023 by Amnesty International Norway, the Human Rights House Foundation, the Norwegian Helsinki Committee, the Rafto Foundation, and the NHRF, which serves as the secretariat. It is financed and supported by the City of Oslo and other donors.



Mexico

After a 25-year long legal battle led by our Mexican grantee partner **Consultoría Técnica Comunitaria**, an Odami community located in Guadalupe y Calvo, Chihuahua, received land titles for more than 3,000 hectares of ancestral land that families from this community have inhabited for generations.

In addition, this community has tirelessly reported illegal logging and fought to prevent the destruction of the forest for decades, despite the presence of armed criminal groups in the area and the resulting risks. The granting of land titles is an important step in their struggle towards continued respect for their rights.



Indonesia

Our grantee partner **Indonesian Association of Families of the Disappeared (IKOHI)**, working on access to justice for victims and survivors of past atrocities, advocated for a mechanism to distribute cash assistance to survivors and victim families of past atrocities through direct bank transfers. This helped ease the previous need to queue at the post office to collect cash assistance benefiting around 57 individuals from victim families. IKOHI also assisted 11 survivors/victim family members in obtaining certificates as a victim of human rights violations by the National Human Rights Commission of the Republic of Indonesia to access recovery and reparation schemes.



In 2025, the programme welcomed three new human rights defenders. Their work spans diverse areas, including women's rights, LGBTQIA+ rights, and legal assistance. All three were in need of a safe space to rest, reflect, and regain energy, something the programme in Oslo was able to provide. Ekaterine, who attended the programme during spring round of 2025, expressed that:

“ This programme offers something rare and essential: a space for rest, reflection, and recovery. It offers more than comfort - it offers care rooted in solidarity. ”

Looking ahead, in 2026, we will continue our commitment to ensuring that Oslo remains a breathing space city for human rights defenders.

Scan the QR code in the back to read more about the defenders and the programme!



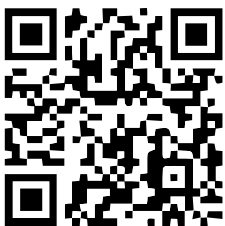
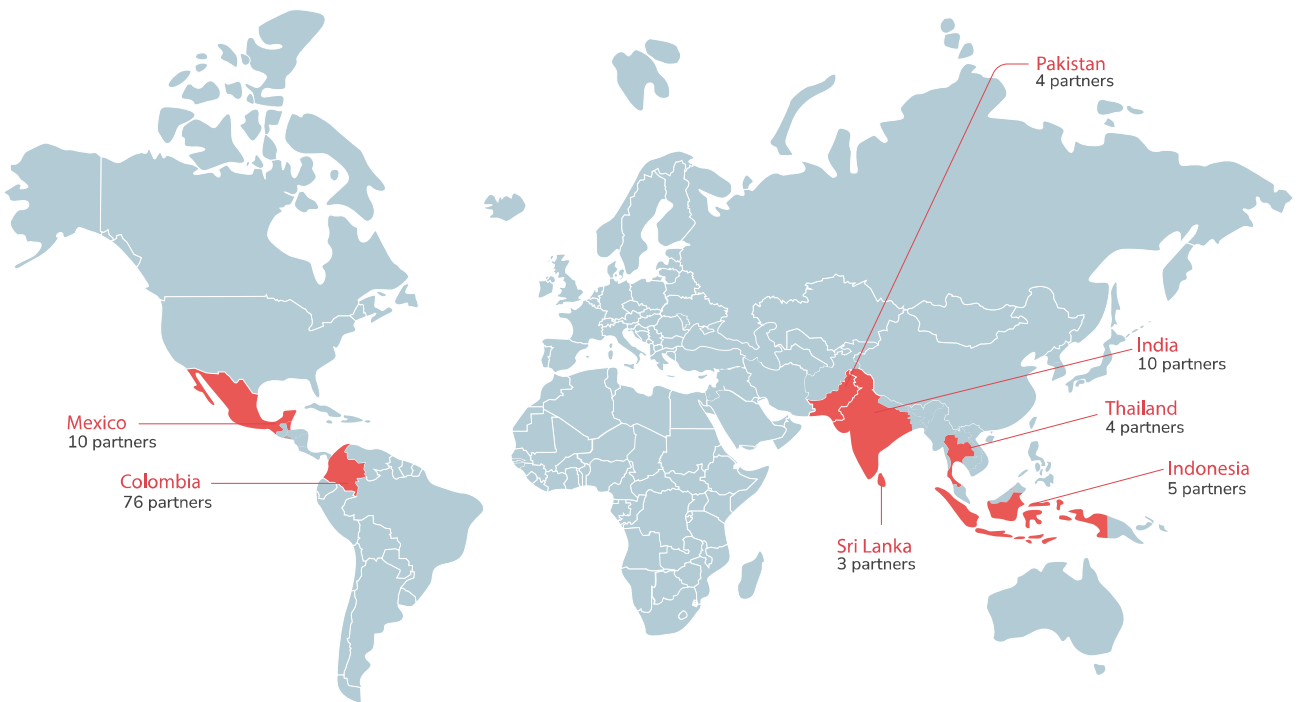
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The (NHRF) was founded in 1988 by Norwegian civil society, academia, and workers' unions. Our mandate is to protect and promote human rights internationally by being a courageous and flexible donor and partner, acting in solidarity with grassroots human rights organisations and human rights defenders around the world.

In 2025, the following organisations continue to support the NHRF through their representation on the board: The Atlas Alliance, the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions, Amnesty International Norway, and the Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relations, along with an independent board member. The updated list of board members is available on our website.

We work in **7** priority countries

In addition, we support organisations and projects focused on the protection of human rights defenders and the right to defend rights outside of our priority countries (**19 grantee partners**).



Support human rights defenders and **Follow our work!**

