



NORWEGIAN
HUMAN RIGHTS FUND

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Promoting human rights internationally by providing support to human rights defenders locally



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HUMAN RIGHTS FUND

The Norwegian Human Rights Fund (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 flexible and courageous actor that provides support to local and front line organisations and movements.

In 2022, the following organisations were members supporting the NHRF and serving on the Board: **Amnesty International Norway, the Atlas Alliance, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions, and the Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relations.**

Graphic Design and layout:
Willhemina Wahlin | Braenchild Collective

Front page photo: Sister Valarmathi, TNDWWT, Alamelu Bannan, RWDT, and Yashodha PH FEDINA, participating in a workshop on psychosocial support and well-being during the grantee partner seminar for India partners in Kathmandu, Nepal (Nabin Baral/ NHRF).

Back page photo: Women human rights and environmental defenders from Indonesia (NHRF).

All photos in the report are by the NHRF, unless otherwise accredited.

www.nhrf.no

ORDINARY PEOPLE DOING EXTRAORDINARY THINGS



Human rights defenders are ordinary people who do extraordinary things. They work peacefully for the rights of others and help build civil and just societies based on the rule of law."

– Mary Lawlor, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders

Word from the Chair and the Executive Director

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. It is a time to take stock of all the positive contributions of human rights defenders in the past and present, and a time to look to the future.

In this year's report we will share and celebrate ten human rights victories from the past year where our grantee partners have played a significant role in making positive change happen.

Human rights defenders are often portrayed by those in power as trouble-makers and negative forces in society. This is part of a deliberate strategy of delegitimizing them and their work. It makes human rights work more challenging and more dangerous.

Frontline Defenders' Global Analysis on the situation of human rights defenders at risk around the world, shows that more than 400 human rights defenders were killed in 2022. They were killed for carrying out work that is both legitimate and highly necessary to achieve more peaceful and just societies where human rights are protected and respected.

Why, when the situation is so grim, is it important for us to showcase stories of hope and success?

To create motivation for people to be engaged in human rights work, we need to remind each other that such work does bring positive change! Yes, we need to tell the stories of the murders, the impunity and the discrimination that we struggle against, but we also need to add stories of victories, progress and hope.

After reading this report, we hope that you will feel energised, motivated, and fired up to get involved in human rights work! We hope the report gives you confidence in our ability to support local human rights organisations in a flexible and courageous way. We also hope that you will consider donating to our work so that we can expand our support to even more organisations!

Thank you!

It "takes a village" to keep an organisation like ours going.

Big thanks to our growing number of donors, all our cooperation partners around the world, the UN special rapporteurs we work with, our governing board, our advisory boards, both globally

and in Colombia, and our followers and supporters for the support, solidarity, and encouragement in 2022 and beyond!

Finally, to all human rights defenders in our 125 grantee partner organisations globally: You are our main motivation, our inspiration and our heroes! If we ever lack motivation, one meeting with you will get us back on track and remind us of why we do what we do. We are proud and grateful to be working with you!



Ingeborg Moa
Executive Director
Norwegian Human Rights Fund (NHRF)



John Peder Egenæs
Chair of the Board
Amnesty International Norway

GLOBAL OVERVIEW

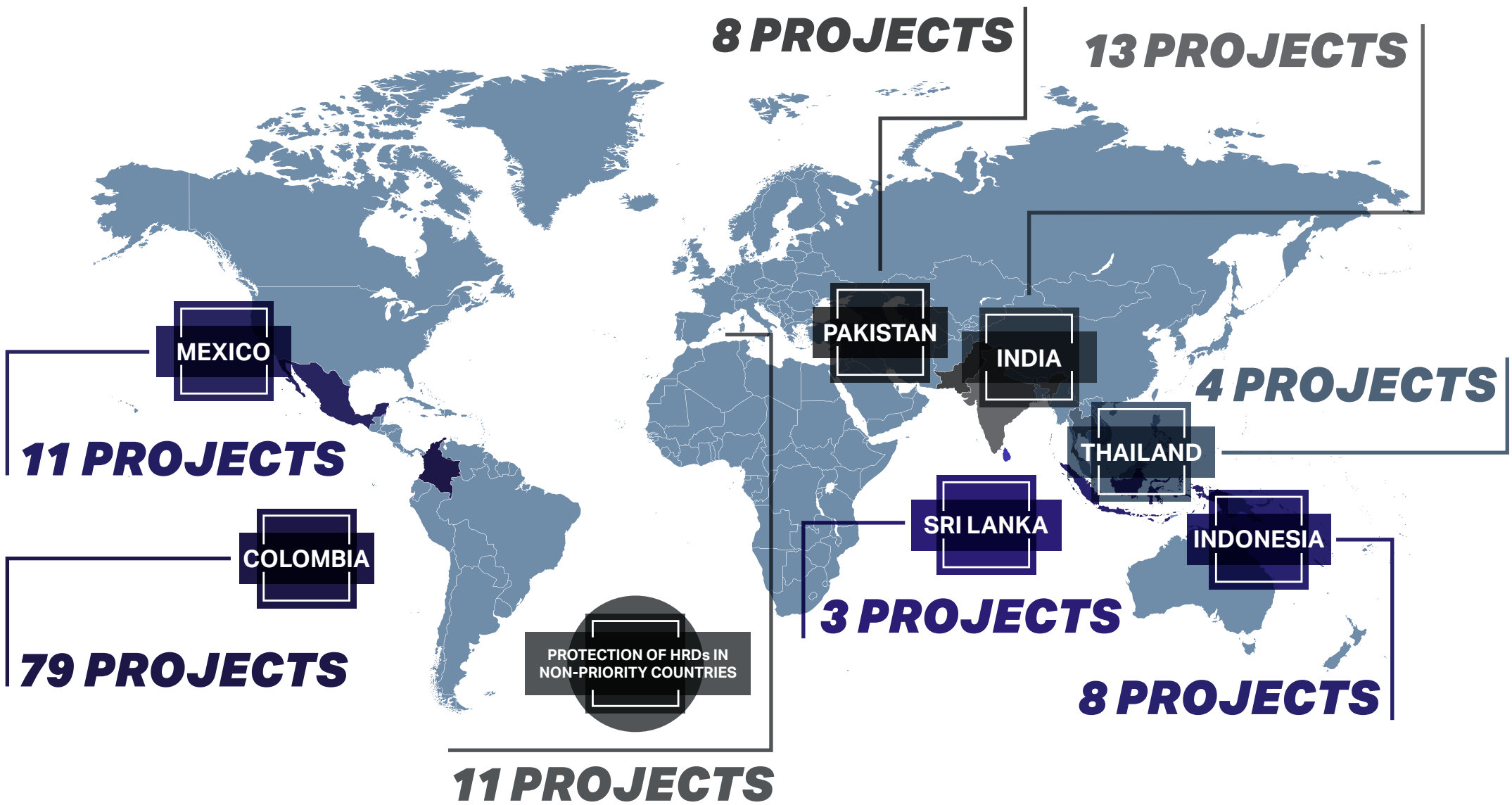
The Norwegian Human Rights Fund directs its support to human rights through three interlinked thematic areas:

- 1. Fight against impunity and for access to justice**
- 2. Dismantling discrimination, inequality and marginalisation; and**
- 3. Protecting human rights defenders (HRDs) and the right to defend rights.**

In each of our seven priority countries, we have more focused strategic lines and thematic areas that fit under these three global focus areas.



137
projects with
125
grantee partners
supported in 2022



2022 AT A GLANCE

125

NUMBER OF
ORGANISATIONS
SUPPORTED

74%

WOMEN-LED
ORGANISATIONS



96%

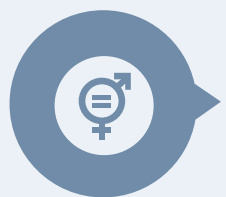
ORGANISATIONS
WITH WOMEN
IN LEADERSHIP
POSITIONS



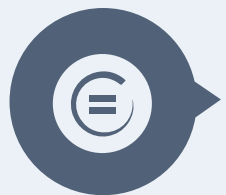
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HUMAN RIGHTS
DEFENDERS
SUPPORTED, OF WHICH
5341
WERE WOMEN HUMAN
RIGHTS DEFENDERS

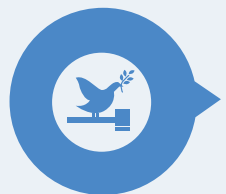
Our grantee partners' work aligns most with these four Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



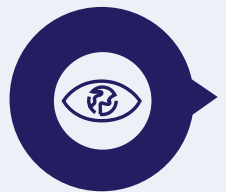
5
GENDER
EQUALITY



10
REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



16
PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



13
ACTION FOR
THE CLIMATE



The Martin Ennals Foundation has established a network of human rights defenders from the cohort of Martin Ennals Award laureates to promote engagement, mentoring, learning, and exchange with fellow laureates. In this photo, one of the three laureates from 2022, Dr. Daouda Diallo from Burkina Faso is receiving the Martin Ennals Award during the award ceremony.

Photo: Martin Ennals Foundation.

10 HUMAN RIGHTS VICTORIES FROM 2022



1

HUMAN RIGHTS WINS CAN BE SMALL OR LARGE

Human rights wins can be small or large, local or international, they can be more or less tangible, and sometimes they are difficult to spot. In a complex world, human rights work follows different timescales, is not linear, and is therefore hard to track. Nevertheless, here we make an attempt to capture what human rights wins can mean. As you will see from our ten stories, victory for us can mean prevention, institutional strengthening, and resilience in the face of challenging conditions. We celebrate these and all other victories.

FROM INTERNATIONAL IMPACTS

On 7 December of 2022, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Committee approved the application of the International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN) for UN accreditation. IDSN has been seeking this recognition since 2007, but since the application was first considered in 2008, it has been on hold for the last fifteen years. IDSN thus held the record for the longest pending application in the history of the UN NGO Committee. Obtaining this ECOSOC status will enable IDSN to strengthen the participation of Dalit human rights defenders internationally.



2

TO NATIONAL

Norway has one of the world's largest sovereign wealth funds. The Government Pension Fund Global, popularly referred to as the "Oil Fund", has a stake in more than 9,000 companies worldwide. On average, the fund holds 1.5 per cent in all listed companies in the world. In December 2022, the Norges Bank Investment Management (NBIM), which manages the assets of the Oil Fund, published an updated version of its **Human Rights Expectation** document. In this updated version, NBIM makes explicit reference to human rights defenders and recognises the companies' impact on them, including a potential increased risk. NBIM's expectation document sets out how companies in which the Government Pension Fund Global invests should manage various environmental and social matters. This is therefore a message to the more than 9,000 companies that the Oil Fund is invested in, that companies must ensure that their conduct does not put human rights defenders at risk.



3

The **Colombian** organisation Fundación Nydia Erika Bautista para los Derechos Humanos (FNEB) worked on the collective elaboration and submission of a draft law to protect the rights of women and persons searching for victims of enforced disappearances. In the past, the Colombian justice system has been unable to investigate the crimes committed against women relatives in the course of denouncing and searching for the disappeared, such as sexual violence, kidnappings, deprivation of liberty, economic extortion, threats, torture, forced recruitment of the children or siblings of the searchers. This draft law is the first of its kind in Latin America and the world, and is an important step towards bringing justice to those searching for the disappeared.



During the ratification of the draft law in the Colombian Congress. Photo: NHRF, Marcela Ruiz.



4

Indonesian President Joko Widodo has publicly acknowledged and expressed regret for the grave human rights violations in the country's history, including the mass persecutions of millions of suspected communist sympathisers in 1965-66 and the atrocities in West Papua. This statement followed a persistent campaign against impunity for past atrocities initiated by Indonesian human rights organisations and survivors' groups, including grantee partners IKOHI (Association of the Families of the Disappeared) and SKP HAM (the Solidarity of Victims of Human Rights Violations). The president also promised that the government would launch a reparations programme for the victims and review the judicial standstill.



Meeting between survivors and affected families from mass atrocities and the Presidential Non-Judicial Team (PPHAM) team in Palu, Indonesia. Photo: SKP HAM.



5

After more than 15 years of litigation, NHRF partner Asociación Colectivo Mujeres al Derecho (ASOCOLEMAD) won a ruling that allows 75 women in northern **Colombia** to reclaim 1,322 hectares of land. The women's group Asociación de Mujeres Productoras del Campo (Association of Rural Women Producers) reports that in 1996 they received land under a law designed to promote and consolidate peace and guarantee peasant and indigenous women the conditions and opportunities for equal participation in agricultural development plans. However, when they took possession of the land allocated to them, they were attacked by armed groups and forced out of their territory with various forms of violence. The sentence opens the way for gender justice in the country as it is litigation on the right to land with a gendered and intersectional approach.



Presentation of the roadmap for implementation of the sentence with National Director of Land Restitution Unit. Photo: ASOCOLEMAD.



6

All NHRF grantee partners in **Mexico** have psychosocial support and security for their own staff as well as for the target groups on their agenda. This includes reflection and action on both self-care and collective care. Our grantee partner Aluna Acompañamiento Psicosocial has supported many organisations and human rights defenders in the country with their model of psychosocial accompaniment, including several NHRF grantee partners. The fact that grantee partners are evaluating and strategically planning around these issues in the midst of a human rights crisis in Mexico is an important achievement.



7

TO LOCAL

In Tamil Nadu, **India**, a year-long signature campaign was launched by our grantee partner, Rural Women Development Trust (RWDT), to advocate for the formation of internal compliance committees in the garment and textile mills. Many women were mobilised and participated in campaign meetings, and their determination created pressure on the government that resulted in an order by the Directorate of Social Welfare & Women Empowerment Department to address sexual harassment in the workplace. The order instructs District Officers to follow certain reporting and monitoring procedures and to form internal compliance committees in the mills.



Women's meeting during the signature campaign. Photo: RWDT.

8

In September 2022 the city council of Oslo, **Norway**, announced that they would support the project of Oslo becoming a “Breathing Space City for human rights defenders” (Pusteromsby for menneskerettighetsforvarere). The city council allocated 1,5 million NOK over two years to a two-year pilot project, which will be led by several Norwegian human rights organisations with its secretariat at the NHRF. Standing up for human rights can be very demanding in today’s world. Some people put their lives in danger because of what they fight for. Many people live with constant fear and anxiety. It is important to give them a breathing space from a hard everyday life as human rights activists. As a Breathing Space City, Oslo will now offer a safe space for a select number of human rights defenders who need a break, solidarity and new motivation for their important work.

9

Our grantee partner, Hari Welfare Association (HWA), was able to provide important humanitarian assistance to peasants and labourers’ families in **Pakistan**’s Sindh province following the devastating flood disaster in 2022. In February 2023, HWA was awarded by the Sindh Commission on the Status of Women for carrying out their work for women and minorities during the flood. At the same time, the organisation continued with their efforts for bonded labourers in Sindh, with the aim of enforcing peasant rights and anti-bonded labour laws so that peasants can exercise their rights.



Distribution of emergency relief items to flood-affected peasants and labourers’ families. Photo: HWA.

10

The Human Rights Office in Kandy, **Sri Lanka**, has managed to provide successful legal aid and carry out litigation work despite an extremely challenging context with massive protests, hyperinflation and mass arrests of human rights defenders by the government. During 2022, they contributed, among other results, to 21 pre-trial detainees being released on bail and they submitted 9 cases to the appeal courts. They mobilised parents of prisoners and met with 22 families of prisoners on death row and prepared appeals to the prison authority to transfer prisoners with pre-trial detention appeals.

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022

COLOMBIA



The NHRF in Colombia, together with ACT Swedish Church and SWEFOR, held a 3-day regional meeting of women human rights defenders on “Building protection strategies” in October 2022 in Bogotá D.C. (Colombia). Three grantee partners from Colombia and one from Mexico participated.

Photo: Participants at the regional meeting_NHRF, Marcela Ruiz.



As part of its work to support local organisations, the NHRF in Colombia organised a **meeting** where 65 grantee partners from Colombia exchanged their knowledge and experiences in the defence of the territory, forests and human rights.

Photo: Reception at the residence of the Norwegian Ambassador to Colombia during the partner meeting_NHRF, Marcela Ruiz.

INDONESIA

Together with our grantee partner Indonesian Legal Aid Foundation Banda Aceh (LBH Banda Aceh), the NHRF made a field visit to the village Cot Mee in Aceh, Indonesia, to speak with civil society about the impacts of palm oil plantations in the region.

Photo: Field visit to Cot Mee-NHRF.



Photo: Sonia George holding a presentation at Fagforbundet's national congress. Screenshot from the live stream of Fagforbundet's national congress.

NORWAY

For the national congress of the Norwegian Union of Municipal and General Employees (Fagforbundet in Norwegian), in October 2022, two NHRF grantee partners attended the congress. Sonia George from the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA, India), and Khalid Ibrahim from the Gulf Centre for Human Rights (Lebanon/Middle East) attended the conference. During the congress, Sonia George spoke about the situation of women workers in India, particularly home-based workers and the challenges faced in the labour sector in India.



NEPAL

The NHRF hosted its first Women at Work conference in Kathmandu, Nepal as part of the Women at Work (WaW) programme that started in 2019. The conference brought together a diverse group of actors from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bangladesh. The Norwegian trade unions LO and Fagforbundet, as well as representatives from the Norwegian Embassies in India and Nepal, were also present.

Photos: Left: Panelists from Pakistan and India for the session on sexual and gender-based violence and harassment in the workplace and at home for the Women at Work conference-NHRF, Nabin Baral. Right: A session with the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, Tomoya Obokata, during the Women at Work conference-NHRF, Nabin Baral.

ADMINISTRATION

The Secretariat

By April 2023 the NHRF Secretariat in Oslo has ten staff members on full-time or part-time contracts: an Executive Director, a Head of Programmes, a Head of Finance, a Special Adviser, five Programme Advisers, and an Administration and Finance Adviser. The NHRF also works with five local consultants based in India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Thailand and Mexico. We also continued our internship agreement with the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights and had one intern from the NCHR in 2022.

Staff at the Oslo office at a two-day gathering for working with the NHRF's work plan and budget for 2023 and reflecting on the values of the NHRF. Photo: Group picture of Oslo staff at Utøya-NHRF.



ACCOUNTS

The NHRF would like to thank our member organisations and donors, among them, the Section for Human Rights, Democracy and Gender Equality in the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Bogotá, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), the Norwegian Union of Municipal and General Employees (Fagforbundet) and Jamette og Sverre Markussens Hjelpesfond for their generous support in 2022.

NHRF Colombia

The Colombia office is based in Bogotá. During 2022 the office had a team of 15 people: the Country Director, A Finance and administrative manager, a Finance officer and administrative assistant, a MELD Officer, a communications officer, a shared Program officer with part time strategic communications and advocacy, three Program officers working on peace and human rights, a Head of Forest and Environmental program with three program Officers working on the defense of the environment and forests.

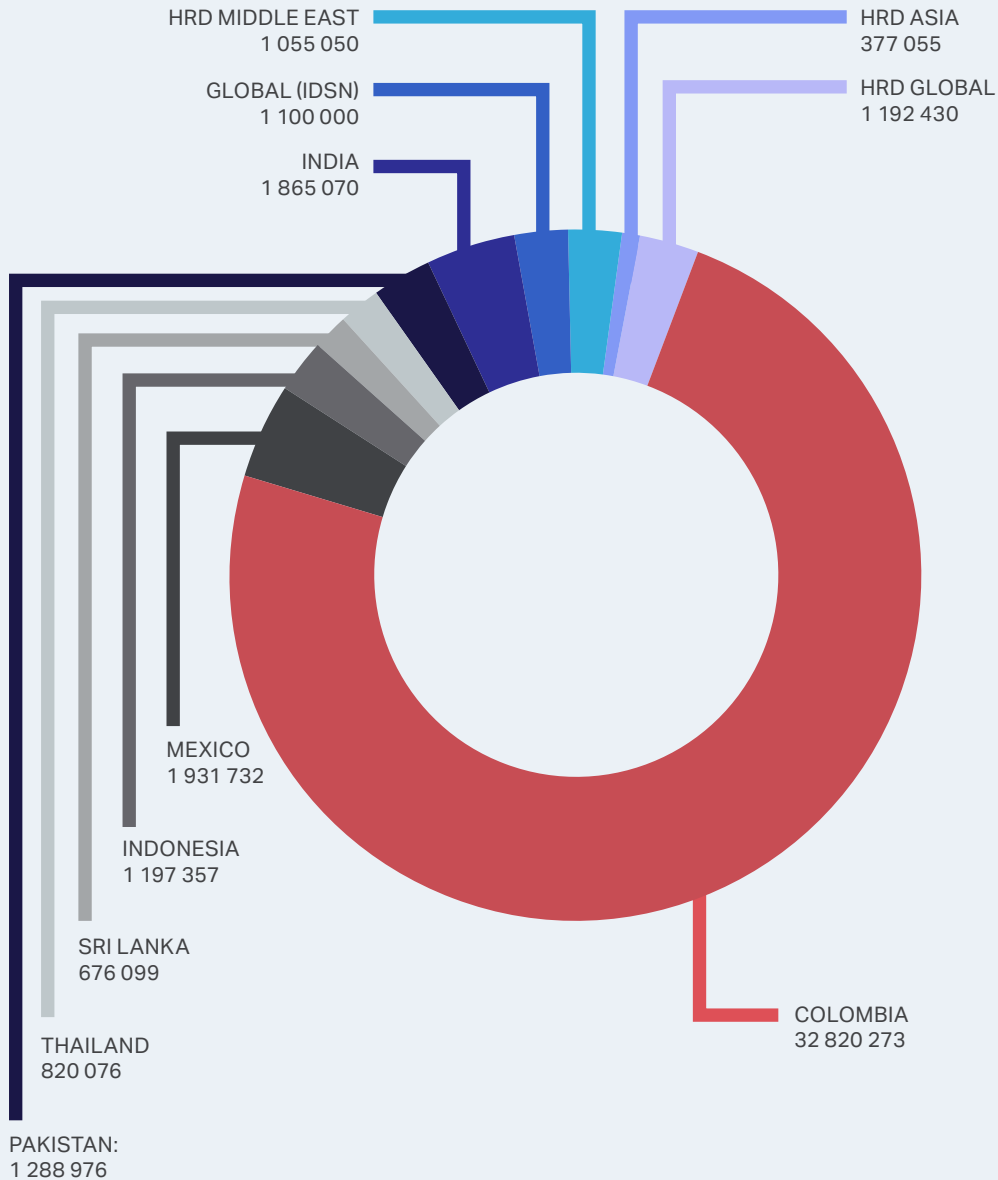
Staff from the Colombia office traveled to Guasca for a two-day meeting to do team building activities and work on the values of the NHRF. Photo: Group picture of Colombia staff-NHRF.





Funding per programme in 2022

(NOK – Norwegian Kroner)



Annual budget size for supported organisations

Budget size in US dollars	GRANTEES all countries
<50,000	21%
50,000-100,000	19%
100,000-150,000	11%
150,000-250,000	42%
>250,000	7%



Accounts and Distribution

Accounts in 2022	NOK	USD	%
Government institutional funds	55 296 016	5 266 287	93.65%
Member organisations	2 236 127	212 965	3.79%
Other income	1 512 135	144 013	2.56%
Total income	59 044 278	5 623 265	100%

Transfers to partners	42 272 943	4 025 995	71.9%
Project costs (excluding transfers)	2 089 102	198 962	3.6%
Communications	316 492	30 142	0.5%
Personnel cost (excluding admin personnel)	10 992 642	1 046 918	18.7%
Administration	3 120 046	297 147	5.3%
Fundraising	22 515	2 144	0.03%
Total	58 813 740	5 601 308	100%



Women environmental rights defenders play a crucial role in local communities in Indonesia. These women are leading their village's struggle against a mining company allegedly establishing themselves illegally on the land of the village. They face away from the camera due to fear of their safety should their identities be revealed.

Support human rights defenders!

Your support goes directly to front-line organisations fighting human rights all over the world.

Bank account
1506.38.02317 DNB Norway

IBAN: NO3415063802317. Please mark the donation with: "Support to Human Rights work"

SWIFT/BIC: DNBANOKKXXX

Vipps (Norway):
Give your donation to **562372**

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