



CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDERS IMPACT REPORT 2023

Submitted by

CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDERS

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IMPACT REPORT 2023

How does the work of Civil Rights Defenders influence the development of civil and political rights?

A full overview of the Civil Rights Defenders' activities during 2023 can be found in the [Annual Report](#). This Impact Report provides an overview of Civil Rights Defenders strategy, new from 2023, as well as an in-depth example of Civil Rights Defenders work under the four strategic areas of accountability, capacity, engagement and security.

Civil Rights Defenders is an international, non-profit, human rights organisation that is politically and religiously independent. For over 40 years, Civil Rights Defenders has been working to defend and promote people's civil and political rights and empower human rights defenders at risk around the world. We engage in advocacy activities and legal processes, work with security and capacity building, and provide information on and create engagement for the situations concerning human rights.

We are a global organisation with a presence on four continents. In 2023, Civil Rights Defenders continued its efforts to support human rights defenders in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Eurasia, and Europe. With a long-term perspective, Civil Rights Defenders collaborates with more than 300 human rights organisations in over 50 countries. Together with the human rights defenders in our network, we jointly champion a world of democratic societies where we all enjoy fundamental rights and freedoms.

CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDERS' VISION AND MISSION

Vision: A world of democratic societies in which we all enjoy our civil and political rights.

Mission: Our mission is to defend civil and political rights together with human rights defenders and to increase their security, capacity, and access to justice. We work as a part of a global movement of human rights defenders and partner with those at risk. Through legal means and public advocacy, we hold states, individuals, and non-state actors accountable for human rights violations. We advocate for the norms and values of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other relevant human rights standards, as we encourage people to use these rights to promote democratic societies.

STRATEGY AND THEORY OF CHANGE

In 2023, Civil Rights Defenders launched its new strategy for the coming eight years. The [Strategy 2023-2030](#) outlines the vision, mission, core values, and strategic goals of Civil Rights Defenders for the period 2023-2030. The strategy emphasises the importance of defending civil and political rights in collaboration with human rights defenders, increasing their security, capacity, and access to justice.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The strategy highlights the decline of democracy and human rights globally, with human rights defenders facing various challenges such as regulatory and legal pressure, discrimination, violence, imprisonment, and public ostracism. Civil Rights Defenders conducted a future trends analysis in 2022, concluding that the decline of democracy and human rights will likely continue and accelerate. The strategy aims to strengthen the global movement for democracy and human rights through collaboration with partners and innovative approaches.

THEORY OF CHANGE

Civil Rights Defenders' Theory of Change outlines how we aim to achieve our vision of a world where everyone enjoys civil and political rights. The strategy is built on the premise that strong civil societies are essential for democratic societies, and human rights defenders play a crucial role in this process.

The Theory of Change focuses on improving the security and capacity of human rights defenders, enabling them to work effectively and safely. This involves providing tools, support, and training in areas such as human rights, security, legal matters, digitalisation, and good governance. By enhancing the capabilities of human rights defenders, Civil Rights Defenders aims to create a resilient human rights movement that can engage stakeholders and mobilise communities to advocate for human rights and hold violators accountable.

The approach includes legal advocacy through strategic litigation and court cases, as well as political and public advocacy through campaigns and media presence. The goal is to shift the power balance from autocrats to democratic actors, ensuring that decision-makers take action to improve respect for human rights and that duty bearers are held accountable.

STRATEGIC GOALS

The strategic goals for 2023-2030 are built on Civil Rights Defenders' theory of change and include:

1. **Security:** Ensuring human rights defenders are secure and have the capacity to minimize security risks and mitigate the effects of human rights violations.
2. **Capacity:** Providing innovative, flexible, and defender-centric partner support, and ensuring Civil Rights Defenders is a resilient and sustainable organization.
3. **Engagement:** Expanding decision-makers' narratives in favour of human rights and democracy and creating clear pathways for stakeholders to get involved.
4. **Accountability:** Developing clear and efficient tools and methods to hold duty bearers accountable, ensuring those affected by human rights violations have access to justice.

Strategic goals and objectives



ORGANISATIONAL CAPABILITIES

To deliver on our strategic goals, Civil Rights Defenders aims to develop our organisational capabilities through focus areas that address specific needs. Progress on these focus areas will be tracked quarterly, and new focus areas will be developed as needed.

2023 marked the first year of the strategy for 2023-2030, focusing on diversified funding, organisational capacity, and measuring human rights results. The first two areas progressed throughout the year, while the third will resume in 2024.

CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDERS AND OUR RESOURCES

ORGANISATION

Civil Rights Defenders has an independent, non-profit board of recognised human rights experts. The members of the board are elected during the Annual Meeting, which is the organisation's supreme decision-making body.

The organisation has a secretariat led by the Executive Director, whose task it is to implement the decisions of the board and to handle the day-to-day operation of the organisation. By the end of 2023, Civil Rights Defenders had 102 staff members stationed across the organisation's head office in Stockholm and our regional offices in Asia, Africa, Belgrade, Bogotá, Brussels, Istanbul, Juba, Pristina, Sarajevo, Tbilisi and Tirana. Country programmes are managed and coordinated by five regional departments: Africa, Asia, Eurasia & MENA, Europe, and Latin America. The organisation has two thematic departments: the Legal Department, and the Security and Innovation Department in addition to departments for Communications, Fundraising and Partnerships, and Finance and HR.

PARTNERS

We cooperate with more than 350 human rights organisations across East and Horn of Africa, Europe, Eurasia, Latin America, Southeast Asia, and Sweden. We believe that local forces are best placed to be driving human rights work due to their permanent presence and closeness to those who face human rights violations. Civil Rights Defenders works with different partners, which can be organisations or individuals with whom we engage in activity-based or contractual collaborations. This may refer to grant partners or collaborative partners within a legally binding or otherwise established project. These partners are referred to as our Activity Partners. Civil Rights Defenders also engages on regular basis with organisations and individuals for the purpose of sharing information, insights, analysis, cooperation, to strengthen our activities and advocacy. These may include similar non-governmental organisations, networks, umbrella organisations or other trusted contacts within formal bodies institutions. These partners are referred to as our Strategic Partners. In the regions where Civil Rights Defenders works to increase the security and capacity of human rights defenders, we primarily engage with Activity and Strategic Partners that:

- Are human rights defenders or part of human rights-based organisations and communities.
- Are affected by and/or at risk due to policies and practices, which affect their civil and political rights.
- Have limited capacity to perform human rights work and/or formal structures – or partners that represent such actors.
- Have, or that have the potential to, impact on the human rights situation in the local or regional context

In both the Defenders' Days programme and the Emergency Fund, described further in this Impact Report, Civil Rights Defenders work closely with our partners, but also provide support beyond the already established partner networks of the organisation.

RESOURCES AND FUNDING

Civil Rights Defenders is a registered Swedish non-profit organisation with no religious and political affiliation. Our work is financed by governmental organisations and private funders, including foundations, corporate partnerships, and contributions from the general public. The support is essential to ensure our flexibility and ability to act quickly and to target actions where the need is greatest.

Public Grants

In 2023, Civil Rights Defenders' income from grants from public bodies amounted to SEK 108,166 thousand. This represents a decrease of SEK 13,010 thousand or approximately 10.7% compared to the previous year. The largest grant-awarding bodies were the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), followed by the Swedish Institute (SI) and the Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society (MUCF). Grants from state actors are of great importance for maintaining long-term engagement, both in Sweden and globally.

The reduction is mainly due to the lack of support from the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and reduced funding from the Swedish Inheritance Fund.

Foundations and Organisations

Foundations and organisations are an important source of funding for Civil Rights Defenders. With SEK 30,418 thousand in income in 2023, we note an increase of 4%. The biggest contributions in 2023 came from the Open Society Foundations, National Endowment for Democracy, Civicus, and the Gerald and Monica Nagler Foundation.

Funds Raised from the General Public

During the year, Civil Rights Defenders raised SEK 9,129 thousand from individuals, compared with SEK 9,692 thousand in 2022, which is a fall of 6%. At the same time, income from inheritance and wills increased from SEK 50 thousand in 2022 to SEK 866 thousand in 2023, resulting in a total increase from the segment of approximately 3%.

Companies

During the year, companies and organisations contributed SEK 26,910 thousand to Civil Rights Defenders, either through long-term partnerships or by making a one-off donation. In 2022, the corresponding income from companies was SEK 21,743 thousand, which represents an increase during 2023 of 24 per cent.

Donations and grants from companies are of great importance for our ability to meet the challenges ahead, and the organisation will continue to focus on strengthening its partnerships with companies and organisations. Since 2013, Civil Rights Defenders is a beneficiary of the Swedish Postcode Lottery, and in 2023 the organisation received SEK 10,000 thousand. Other important partners that supported our operations included, among others, META, Neptunia Invest AB, and Microsoft.

WHY IS CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDERS' WORK NEEDED?

Based on the principle of equal rights and dignity for all, Civil Rights Defenders works toward a world of democratic societies in which we can all enjoy civil and political rights. Conflicts and human rights violations increasingly pervade our world, and we believe that a well-functioning, strong, and local civil society is more important than ever.

Civil Rights Defenders aims to contribute towards the expansion the space for human rights defenders by improving their security and capacity, and by increasing stakeholders' engagement for and accountability in relation to civil and political rights. This report will take an in-depth look at particular actions – highlights - supported under the four strategic goals - capacity, accountability, engagement and security.

CAPACITY

Civil Rights Defenders believes that it is only through a powerful and resilient global human rights movement based on strong civil societies that we can build a democratic world. We are committed to helping human rights defenders manage their work effectively and increase their organisational capacity so that they can make long-term positive change in their countries. We provide human rights defenders in more than 50 countries with innovative, flexible, and defender-centric partner support. Support can take many forms: expert advice, security training, skill and organisational development, as well as long-term financial support. As support is always based on organisations' specific needs, it can look different in different regions.

Some examples include organising a European Union advocacy workshop for our partners in Latin America; providing financial health consultations for our partners in Asia; leading capacity training for administrative and financial staff for our partners in Africa; and organising a "Leadership and Motivation" course to equip leaders of partner organisations in Eurasia with modern methods and tools for team motivation and development. We also provide forums for human rights defenders to safely meet and share their knowledge and experiences. For example, we established an experience sharing mission between the South Sudanese Human Rights Defenders Network and other East African partners to share expertise and best practices on governance, advocacy, protection, and the role of human rights defenders during elections.

Civil Rights Defenders opened an office in South Sudan to support the local human rights movement. The office will help partners build capacity, improve staff security, engage the community, and promote accountability. The organisation also participated in Pride marches in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and Serbia, with Belgrade Pride seeing over 10,000 participants. Internally, the organisation strengthened its HR infrastructure, launched a digital training programme on diversity and discrimination, and initiated a global salary review process.

Highlight: The Defenders' Days Bootcamp

The Defenders' Days Bootcamp strengthens the organisational capacities, supports cooperation, and creates opportunities for networking and exchange of knowledge among human rights defenders and organisations. Initiated by Civil Rights Defenders in 2020, the Bootcamp started as an online capacity-building and networking program. The concept was developed to connect human rights defenders from different contexts and regions who face similar challenges and experiences, recognizing the importance of meeting, networking, collaborating, and exchanging knowledge and experience with colleagues both within and outside their own regions.

In 2023, the Sustainable Activism Training Program was developed within the Bootcamp concept, focusing on the psychosocial aspects of the stress that human rights defenders face daily. This program is aimed at the Defenders' Days global community and offers skill-sharing events, as well as in-person and remote training opportunities, with the goal of advancing networking opportunities and well-being among human rights defenders. The Sustainable Activism Training Program also provides individual support, including security consultations, digital security measures, and psychological support based on needs assessments.

One participant, Karen Mukwasi, shared their experience: “The programme was not only an all-round learning experience for me, but it was also re-energizing because meeting defenders from some of the hottest spots in the world gave me hope. These colleagues showed that despite all the evil in the world, there are people committed to working hard and making a difference.”

SECURITY

In recent years, being a human rights defender has become increasingly dangerous. Many on the frontlines face daily threats to their lives and safety. Persecution, surveillance, harassment, smear campaigns, arbitrary arrests, disappearances, attacks on offices, and interrogations by the security services – the list of risks faced by human rights defenders is long. Living and working in a hostile environment is often detrimental to both their physical and mental health. Civil Rights Defenders works with a combination of protection, emergency support, provision of security tools, and a comprehensive programme of preventive security trainings for human rights defenders. This way, we ensure that our partners are equipped with the necessary knowledge and tools to improve both their physical, digital and psychosocial security. The synergies created by a combination of different measures are essential to strengthening their overall security. In 2023, Civil Rights Defenders supported over 350 human rights defenders and journalists in Ukraine with security support, included providing first aid kits, flak jackets, insurance, medical equipment, mobile power plants, satellite internet, psychosocial support, and urgent evacuation.

Highlight: Emergency Fund

This highlight analyses the flexible, rapid response granting initiative: Emergency Fund. In many parts of the world, defending human rights is becoming increasingly dangerous. Many human rights defenders experience risks and threats daily. Civil Rights Defenders' global Emergency Fund provides rapid support and assistance to human rights defenders and their families at risk. The Emergency Fund programme facilitates reactive and preventive measures such as temporary relocation, psychosocial support, legal aid, medical aid, support to family members, capacity building, and humanitarian support to defenders and organisations at risk.

The Emergency Fund has seen and reacted to the continuous global backsliding of democracy and emerging conflicts in 2023. During 2023, we received the highest number of applications for support since the Emergency Fund was established in 2012. We provided support to a total of 1,351 human rights defenders and/or members of their families in 39 countries across 5 regions. This constitutes a 10 per cent increase of emergency support, compared to 2022. Since 2012, we have in total supported 7,110 human rights defenders worldwide. The war in Ukraine, the aftermath of the military coup in Burma, the backlash for human rights defenders in Uganda, the increase in conflict-related violence in Colombia, and the constant attacks on civil society through “foreign agent” laws in various countries such as Nicaragua and Venezuela, are just some of the events that have continued to worsen the security situation for human rights defenders during 2023.

In the past year, we received a large influx of applications from journalists, media outlets and human rights defenders working with freedom of expression in Burma and Ukraine. Particularly, the Emergency Fund extended support to a total of 500 human rights defenders in Ukraine. Many of these have been independent journalists covering the war from the frontlines, lawyers documenting war crimes, and LGBTI+ activists working in some of the most

vulnerable areas of the country. Emergency support has, for example, been used for insurance, medical equipment, protective vests and helmets, mobile power plants and satellite internet, urgent evacuations, office relocations of staff and psychosocial support – all with a focus on making it easier for them to stay in Ukraine and continue their important work.

In Colombia, we have witnessed an intensification of violence in many parts of the country, especially in rural areas of the Pacific region and along the Colombian-Venezuelan border where armed groups compete for territorial control. Human rights defenders, particularly those working on the implementation of the peace agreement in rural areas and the protection of the land and environment, often become targets for armed groups. Many face violence and death threats, making Colombia one of the most dangerous places in the world for human rights defenders.

Emergency Fund 2023: Spotlight on Latin America and the Caribbean

In Colombia, the Asociación de Mujeres Campesinas de Argelia (AMAR) has faced significant threats and violence. This women-led organization, based in Argelia, Cauca, continues to work on empowering and protecting the rights of rural women through peacebuilding, social and cultural development, and gender equality.

"Thanks to the Emergency Fund, we can now support rural women in Colombia and their families to stay safe," shared a woman human rights defender from AMAR. The grant has helped them enhance their digital security, allowing them to continue their work safely.

In 2023, the Emergency Fund provided support to 254 human rights defenders and their families in five countries in Latin America and the Caribbean through 47 grants. This assistance has been crucial in improving the security of defenders, enabling them to continue their important work.



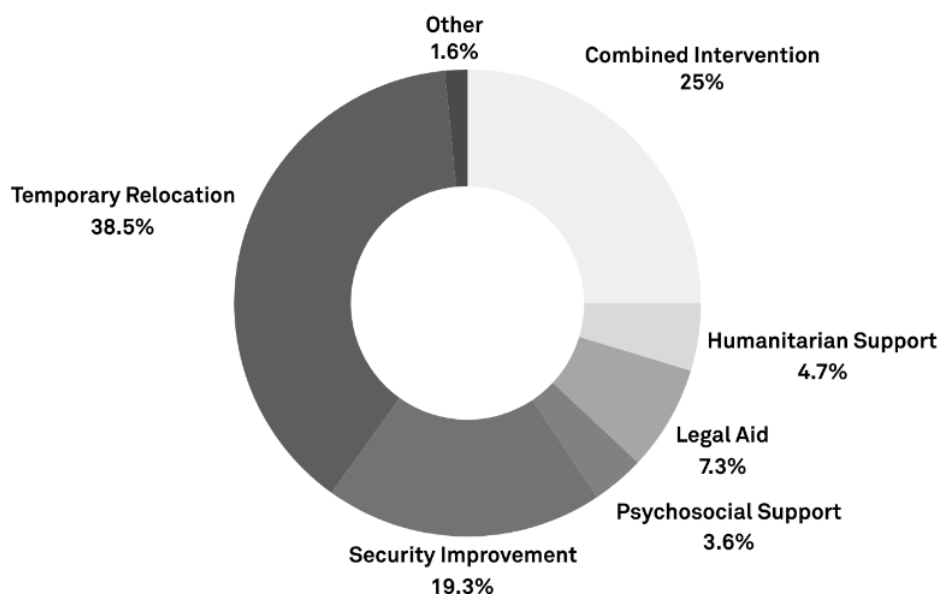
Find a full report on our work in the Emergency Fund during 2023 [here](#).

Type of support

Temporary relocations remained the most requested type of support. The primary goal of a temporary relocation is to provide human rights defenders with the possibility to relocate for a short period of time, within their country or abroad, while the threat level de-escalates enough for them to return and continue their human rights work. This year, however, we have seen that for the majority of relocated defenders, return is no longer possible as violence and threats remain and even continue to increase. This is particularly the case for human rights defenders from Burma, Afghanistan and Nicaragua, who might face detentions, imprisonment and even torture upon return. Many defenders also face additional risks in the country of relocation, as many governments around the world continue to apply restrictive migration policies, making it hard to relocate or settle in a safe place. These situations increase the need for longer and additional support for defenders and their families.

This year we have also witnessed a surge in requests for humanitarian support from both human rights defenders and their families, mainly because of the war in Ukraine, and other conflict-related violence. Requests for psychosocial support and legal aid have also increased due to the heightened trend of arbitrary arrests, imprisonment, harassment, and persecution.

DISTRIBUTION BY TYPE OF SUPPORT



ACCOUNTABILITY:

In 2023, Civil Rights Defenders made significant strides in their accountability work, focusing on holding states, individuals, and non-state actors accountable for human rights violations.

Governments and those in power must be held accountable when human rights are violated. We work independently and with partners to ensure legal decisions, legislation, and practices respect civil and political rights globally. We initiate legal proceedings to provide justice and redress for victims.

We help human rights defenders bring accountability cases to international bodies. In 2023, we participated in hearings on freedom of expression in Cuba, facilitated EU advocacy visits for partners from Jordan and Burma, and organized an ICC side event for Venezuelan victims. We also conducted training in investigation and documentation with partners in East Africa, Syria, and Venezuela to improve their ability to document crimes and prosecute perpetrators.

Civil Rights Defenders engaged in legal advocacy through strategic litigation, lawsuits, and court cases to hold perpetrators of human rights violations accountable. One of the most notable achievements was the issuance of arrest warrants against Syria's President Bashar al-Assad and three of his associates for their involvement in war crimes and crimes against humanity. See more below.

Example: Arrest Warrant Syria - Legal department

Civil Rights Defenders and its partners played a crucial role in the investigation and issuance of arrest warrants against Syria's President Bashar al-Assad and his associates in 2023.

In November 2023, French criminal investigative judges issued arrest warrants for Syria's President Bashar al-Assad and three of his associates for their involvement in war crimes and crimes against humanity. These charges stem from the use of banned chemical weapons against civilians in Syria. The investigation focused on two chemical weapons attacks that occurred in August 2013.

The investigation was initiated in response to a criminal complaint filed by the Civil Rights Defenders partner the Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression and Syrian victims. Civil Rights Defenders, along with several partners, joined the investigation as civil parties in 2023. The complaint was supported by extensive first-hand testimonies from numerous victims, a thorough analysis of the Syrian military chains of command, the Syrian government's chemical weapons program, and hundreds of items of documentary evidence, including photos and videos. Their involvement was pivotal in gathering and presenting evidence to support the criminal complaint. Civil Rights Defenders worked closely with survivors of the sarin gas attacks and other organisations to advance investigations in Sweden, Germany, and France.

The arrest warrants were issued for President Bashar al-Assad, his brother Maher al-Assad, General Ghassan Abbas, and General Bassam al-Hassan. The charges include complicity in crimes against humanity and war crimes.

This decision by the French judiciary is seen as a significant step towards holding high-ranking officials accountable for their actions and ensuring that the horrific crimes committed during the Syrian conflict do not go unpunished. It also highlights the importance of international cooperation and the role of organisations like Civil Rights Defenders in advancing justice and accountability for human rights violations.

ENGAGEMENT

Governments worldwide are creating narratives that undermine human rights and democracy. We counteract this by raising public awareness and engaging individuals, civil society, decision-makers, and corporations to act. Together, we promote human rights, challenge oppressive practices, and influence national and international decision-makers. We initiate public debates, run campaigns, and highlight key issues through media, seminars, and reports. We also amplify our partners' voices when it is too dangerous for them to speak out.

For example, we launched the 'Exprésate: libres por derecho' urban art exhibition in Geneva, Miami, Washington, and Bogota, where artists depicted their feelings after interacting with political prisoners in Cuba. This project raised awareness about the risks faced by those fighting for human rights in Cuba.

In April 2023, we published the report "Environmental Racism and Europe's Roma," highlighting how Romani communities across Europe are banished to desolate locations without infrastructure, public transport, or services.

We also support journalists in bringing attention to human rights issues. For instance, we collaborated with women media professionals in Ethiopia to establish regional chapters, expanding their network and ability to highlight human rights abuses in the country.

The Civil Rights Defender of the Year Award 2023 was given to the organisation Foro Penal in Venezuela, raising global awareness of and engagement for human rights violations. In 2023,

Civil Rights Defenders received the National Award for the Protection of Freedom of Speech from the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine.

Highlight: Belgrade Pride

Belgrade Pride has evolved significantly since its inception in 2001, when participants faced attacks from right-wing extremists. Over the years, it has become a symbol of resilience and resistance for the LGBTI+ community in Serbia. In 2023, Belgrade Pride took place under the slogan "We're Not Even Close," highlighting the ongoing challenges and discrimination faced by the LGBTI+ community in Serbia. The Pride Week included over 50 events such as a human rights conference, a theatre festival, exhibitions, and community talks. The Pride March itself gathered over 10,000 participants, making it the largest march in Belgrade Pride's history. This event was a significant step towards achieving equal rights for the LGBTI+ community in the country.

Civil Rights Defenders was actively involved in organising and leading some of the most important parts and events of the Pride Week. Here are some key contributions:

1. **Human Rights Conference:** On September 7, 2023, as part of Belgrade Pride 2023, Civil Rights Defenders hosted the Human Rights Conference titled "The Need for The Legal Protection of The Trans, Intersex and Gender-Variant Communities." This conference served as a platform for discussions, expert insights, and collaborative efforts aimed at advancing the rights and well-being of transgender, intersex, and gender-variant individuals around the world
2. **Pride Forum:** On September 8, 2023, Civil Rights Defenders organised the Pride Forum, which included discussions on media and online activism, support of companies for LGBTI+ causes, and conversations with these years and former performers of Belgrade Pride concerts about the importance of participating in Prides
3. **Support and Advocacy:** Civil Rights Defenders has been a long-time supporter of LGBTI+ rights and local Prides across the Western Balkans region, including Belgrade Pride. Their involvement has been crucial in ensuring the safety and success of these events, as well as in raising awareness about the challenges faced by the LGBTI+ community in Serbia
4. **Public Awareness and Engagement:** Civil Rights Defenders efforts in organising and participating in events like the Human Rights Conference and Pride Forum have helped to raise public awareness and engage various stakeholders in the fight for LGBTI+ rights. Their work has contributed to changing negative narratives and promoting a more inclusive and accepting society.

THE COSTS OF CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDERS' OPERATIONS

In 2023, Civil Rights Defenders' total operating costs amounted to SEK 177,667,110. This includes project expenses of SEK 159,283,282, fundraising expenses of SEK 9,311,477, and administrative expenses of SEK 9,072,351. Project expenses cover costs directly associated

with fulfilling the organisation's purpose, such as personnel, opinion-shaping, information activities, monitoring, reporting, and auditing. Fundraising expenses are intended to generate external income from donations and grants, while administrative expenses are necessary for managing and running the organisation, i.e. expenses not related to projects or fundraising are classified as administrative expenses.

LESSONS LEARNED AND HOW CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDERS MEASURE ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Civil Rights Defenders various programmes have different built-in reporting and evaluation systems. Overall, Civil Rights Defenders employs a comprehensive approach to measure results and outcomes, primarily using a Results-Based Management (RBM) framework. This approach involves several key elements:

1. **Identifying Clear and Measurable Objectives:** Civil Rights Defenders sets specific goals that they aim to achieve through their activities. These objectives are clearly defined and measurable to ensure that progress can be tracked effectively
2. **Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E):** Civil Rights Defenders outlines how monitoring and evaluation activities will be carried out and the types of indicators that will be used to measure performance. This includes both internal and external evaluations, which are systematic studies using research methods to address specific questions about the program's performance
3. **Outcome Mapping:** This is a key part of our strategy, where we map out the expected outcomes and track progress towards these goals
4. **Custom Indicators:** In addition to standard indicators, Civil Rights Defenders encourages the use of custom output and outcome indicators tailored to the program logic and measures progress toward program objectives

Example: The Emergency Fund

To measure results within the Emergency Fund, Civil Rights Defenders employs a systematic approach that includes several key components:

1. **Verification and Due Diligence:** Each application for emergency support undergoes a thorough verification and due diligence process to ensure the legitimacy and urgency of the request
2. **Tailor-Made Risk Assessment:** Civil Rights Defenders conducts a risk assessment for each case to tailor the support based on the specific needs and threats faced by the human rights defenders
3. **Outcome Reporting:** Beneficiaries of the Emergency Fund are required to submit a narrative report and a financial report detailing the outcomes of the support received. This includes information on how the support improved their security situation and enabled them to continue their work

4. **Impact Indicators:** Civil Rights Defenders tracks the number of human rights defenders (HRDs), and women human rights defenders (WHRDs) supported through the Emergency Fund within the calendar year. This helps in assessing the reach and effectiveness of the fund
5. **Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation:** Civil Rights Defenders continuously monitors and evaluates the impact of the Emergency Fund through various tools and methods, including feedback from beneficiaries and regular reviews of the support provided

These measures ensure that the Emergency Fund is effectively supporting human rights defenders in need and that the results are systematically documented and analysed for continuous improvement.