



ANNUAL REPORT

2015



DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL DCI
DÉFENSE DES ENFANTS INTERNATIONALE DEI
DEFENSA DE NIÑAS Y NIÑOS INTERNACIONAL DNI

the worldwide movement for children's rights

**DEFENCE FOR
CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2015**

KEY FACTS

WE EMPOWERED AND/OR PROVIDED DIRECT SOCIO-LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO MORE THAN **100'000 CHILDREN** IN **46 COUNTRIES** ACROSS THE GLOBE



We submitted **12 statements** to the **United Nations**



We (co-)organised **10 panel discussions** at international level



We continued to lead the **NGO Panel for the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty**



We contributed to **4 key documents** of the **United Nations**



We submitted **5 stakeholders' reports** to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Universal Periodic Review

WE STRENGTHENED THE CAPACITIES OF **MORE THAN 2'000 PROFESSIONALS** WORKING WITH CHILDREN, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, COMMUNITY LEADERS, AND OTHER ACTORS INVOLVED IN THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

WE PRODUCED
**CRUCIAL RESEARCH
 AND MONITORING
 REPORTS BASED ON
 FIELD-BASED DATA
 COLLECTION
 & DEVELOPED
 PRACTICAL TOOLS
 FOR ACTION**

- Juvenile justice in Latin America
- The impact of war on Gaza’s children
- Child rights in the MENA region
- Gender-based violence (GBV) and access to education in Sierra Leone
- Family migration policies in Europe
- Child participation in juvenile justice systems in Europe

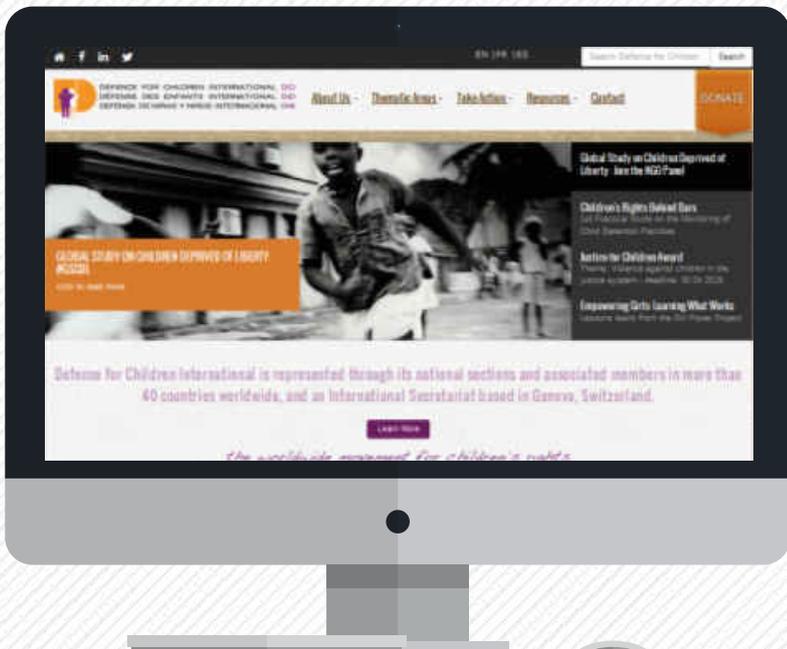
- Practical guide on the monitoring of child detention facilities
- Manual on the legal and political framework to counter violence against children in Costa Rica
- Handbook on the implementation of article 12 CRC Guiding principle on respecting the views of the child

WE ENACTED OUR OWN **CODE OF ETHICS AND GENDER POLICY** AND BECAME ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE NETWORK

ONLINE PRESENCE

A brand new **website** was launched in **April 2015**, available in **English, French and Spanish!**

www.defenceforchildren.org



Facebook  **2,514**

Twitter  **768**

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FOREWORD

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Since the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989, the international community has reaffirmed on many occasions its obligation to do everything in its power to enable all children to survive and thrive, learn and grow, have their voices heard and reach their full potential.

With the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015, the promise that “no child is left behind” has been made. If we want to fulfil this promise, we must particularly turn our attention to a group of children that has often been overlooked or even forgotten: children deprived of liberty.

Children caught up in the justice system often fail to elicit the same degree of empathy, interest and concern as those who have not come into contact with the law. Their situation has always been, and still is, one of the most difficult challenges for securing compliance with standards set in the UN Convention. Moreover, today, thousands of children languish in immigration detention centres, mental health institutions and other settings, without having their most basic human rights fully guaranteed. Renewed efforts are necessary to ensure that recourse to deprivation of liberty is truly a measure of last resort and imposed for the shortest time possible, and hence that alternatives to detention prevail.

The issue of children deprived of liberty is overwhelmingly complex and inherently interconnected with other child rights issues. Over the past three decades, Defence for Children International has grown to become the go-to non-governmental organisation for leadership, experience and technical expertise on justice for children, and is currently co-convening the NGO Panel for the upcoming UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty.

More importantly, as an international grassroots movement, DCI conducts complementary, multi-level and coordinated actions to better promote and protect the rights of children. DCI directly assists and empowers children, trains professionals working with them and re-ignites governments’ will to achieve progress through on-going, evidence-based advocacy initiatives at local, national, regional and international levels.

Since joining hands in June 2015 to form DCI’s very first Advisory Committee, we have advised and guided the International Executive Council on matters related to DCI’s international advocacy strategy and lobbying actions aimed at promoting and safeguarding children’s rights worldwide. We review and propose recommendations on institutional priorities and help in the advancement of DCI’s goals and mission. With our commitment we act as ambassadors, ambassadors of a worldwide Movement that contributes daily to bringing justice to children. It is then our hope that your own commitment and support will help us ensure that no child is left behind.

INTRODUCTION

Benoit van Keirsbilck, President &
Ileana Bello, Executive Director

DCI-International Secretariat

In September 2015, member States of the United Nations unanimously adopted the new global agenda, which puts in place 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved by 2030. Many NGOs were very pleased to see a more human rights based agenda (as opposed to the previous Millennium Development Goals - MDGs), with even an explicit target addressing children (SDG #16.2: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children). Despite the fact that the SDGs create an important framework to monitor States' accountability (especially if looking through a child rights lens), human rights are still far from being effectively on top of political will and agendas. In fact, in some cases, we are witnessing regressive situations, despite the progress made in the past. Defence for Children International (DCI) remains vigilant of these negative trends and threats, and continues at all levels (local, national, regional, continental and global) to monitor, report and provide protection to children rights.

In this context DCI, in 2015, worked through its national, regional & international presence to:

- Speak-up against the lowering of the age of criminal majority from 18 to 16 in Brazil, denounce ill-treatments against juvenile detainees in Uruguay and the "carding" of young people by police forces in Canada, and take a strong stand against the detention and abuse against Palestinian children in the Israeli military detention system;
- Provide direct socio-legal assistance (e.g. legal aid, psycho-social support and rehabilitation, family reunification) to children in conflict the law, children of incarcerated parents, and child victims of violence, including 3,405 in Sierra Leone, 1'050 in the Netherlands, 517 in Morocco, 491 in Palestine, 217 in Egypt, 215 in Burkina Faso, 211 in Mauritania, and 199 in Costa Rica, inter alia;
- Successfully lobby the Obuasi local government in Ghana to offer free medical check-ups and reports for girl victims of violence, and conduct sensitization campaigns on gender-based violence and traditional harmful practices, such as child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM), in Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea, Tunisia, inter alia;
- Provide psycho-social support to more than 30'000 children and families affected by the Ebola crisis, support child protection mechanisms in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea, and present an analysis of the efficacy of social protection programmes in restoring the human rights of children affected by Ebola in Sierra Leone before the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;
- Provide food assistance to 3,696 refugee families and implement psychosocial activities for 309 refugee children through the Incredible Me module in Lebanon, establish child-friendly places for internally displaced children in Somalia, and empower children on the move at risk of trafficking and exploitation in Italy and other EU countries by reinforcing the capacities of professionals working with children;
- Advocate for children to be taken into account in the Colombian peace talks and research and raise awareness on the effects of the armed conflicts on children in Yemen and Palestine;

- Empower children by supporting child participation and youth-led initiatives, including the Children's Parliament in Yemen, more than 16,000 child members of youth brigades in Bolivia, the establishment and support to the National Children and Youth Advisory Board in Liberia and other child rights clubs in Africa, and the organisation of the National Youth and COP21 simulation conference in Mauritius;
- Lobby for the adoption of the third Optional Protocol to the UNCRC on a communication procedure in France;

These are just a few of the many activities conducted by DCI. Here are other specific activities worth highlighting:

- Ground-breaking work carried out in Latin America, through the Regional Observatory on Juvenile Justice, which culminated with the publication of a monitoring report, also presented before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR);
- The consolidation of the relationship with the League of Arab States (LAS), with the inclusion in the Arab Childhood Committee of the League and the launch of the report on the situation of Children's Rights in 10 Arab countries;
- The development of European projects and activities aimed at monitoring the implementation of article 12 of the UNCRC in juvenile justice systems, and researching on the conditions and treatment of children deprived of liberty in order to develop a practical tool on the effective, child-sensitive monitoring of child detention facilities;
- The formation of strategic alliances in West Africa to combat child trafficking and exploitation.

Last but not least, DCI continues its endless lobbying to make sure that the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty becomes a reality and that it is realised to the best extent possible.



ACRONYMS

AC : Advisory Committee

ACERWC : African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

ACPF : African Child Policy Forum

ACRWC : African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

ANCED : Associação Nacional dos Centros de Defesa de Direitos de Criança e Adolescente (in Brazil)

COA : Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (in the Netherlands)

COP21 : 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference

CEDECA : Centro de Defesa dos Direitos da Criança e do Adolescente (in Brazil)

CRC : Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRC Committee - Committee on the Rights of the Child

CSO : Civil Society Organisation

DCI : Defence for Children International

DCI-IS : Defence for Children International – International Secretariat

EVD : Ebola Virus Disease

FGM : Female Genital Mutilation

GBV : Gender-based violence

GC : General Comment

GSCDL : Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty

HRW : Human Rights Watch

IACHR : Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

ILO : International Labour Organization

ISS : International Social Service

ITDR : Identification, Documentation, Tracing and Reinsertion

MDG : Millennium Development Goals

MENA : Middle East and North Africa

MoU : Memorandum of Understanding

MRU : Mano River Union

NCYAB : National Children and Youth Advisory Board

NGO : Non-Governmental Organisation

OHCHR : Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

OMCT : World Organization against Torture

OP3 : Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure

SIRPA : Sistema de Responsabilidad Penal Adolescentes (in Uruguay)

SDG : Sustainable Development Goals

SR : Special Rapporteur

SRSG : Special Representative of the Secretary General

UNCRC : United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

UNICEF : United Nations Children's Fund

UNODC : United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

UPR : Universal Periodic Review

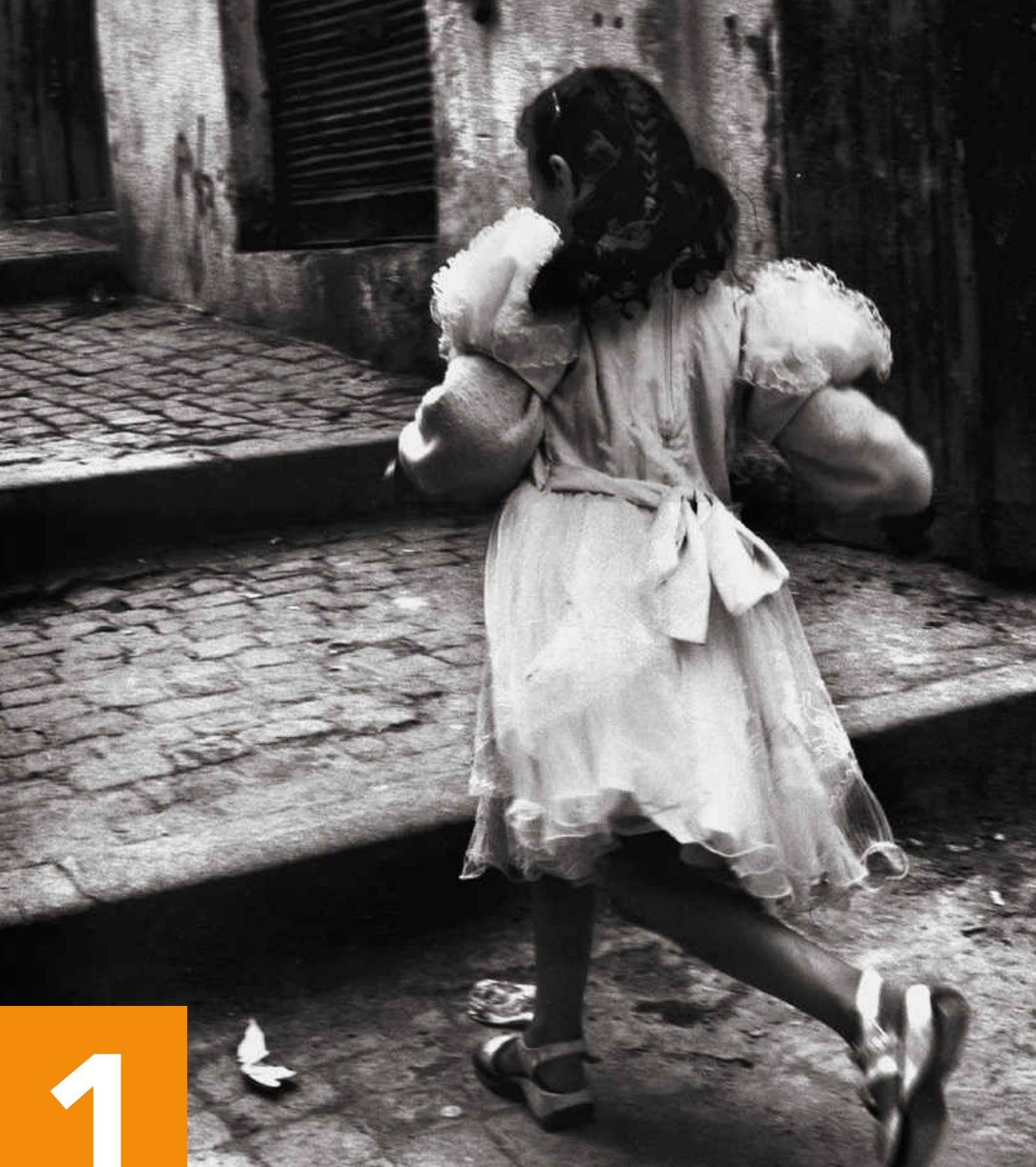
VAC : Violence Against Children

WACPS : Women and Children Protection Section

WAN : West African Network

WG : Working Group

WIG : World Indigenous Games



1

Actors for Justice, Advocates for Rights

DCI AT GLANCE

ABOUT US

Defence for Children international (DCI) is a leading **child rights focused and membership based grassroots Movement** placing all members on equal footing. Created during the International Year of the Child (1979), DCI coordinated the NGO input for the drafting of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) - the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history.

DCI's mandate is to **ensure ongoing, practical, systematic and concerted action directed towards effective implementation of the human rights codified in the UNCRC**, by means of effective coordination between different levels (national, regional, continental and international) and active membership within key networks and fora.



VISION

Children, as fully fledged human beings, must enjoy and exercise their human rights – with dignity – in a just and responsible society.

FOCUS & EXPERTISE

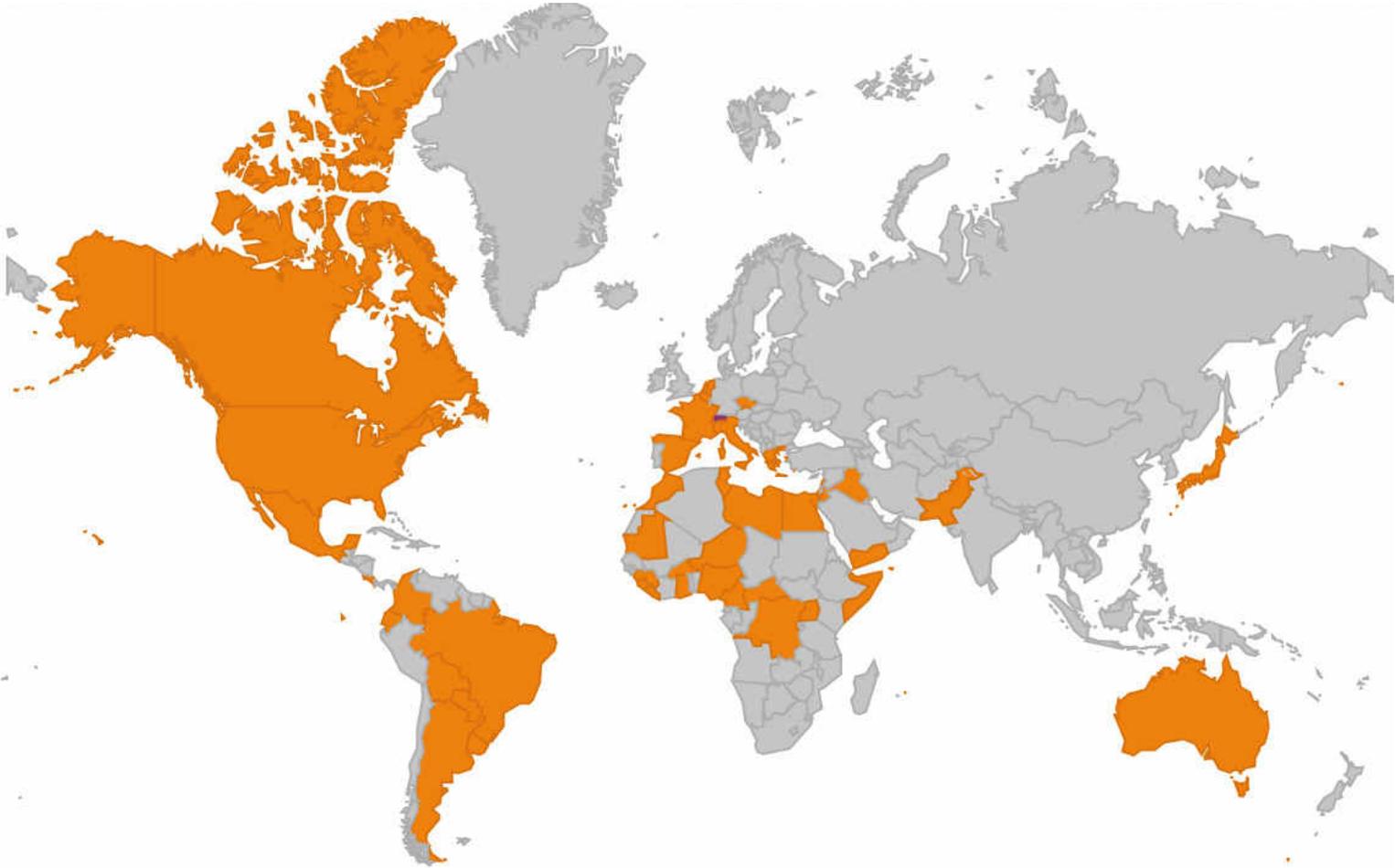
JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN

The overarching thematic focus of the DCI Movement is Justice for Children. Through our persistent work on the issue over the last three decades – from the contribution to the drafting of the UN Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (1985), to the follow-up to the UNCRC's General Comment No.10 on Juvenile Justice, and up to the leading and coordination of the campaign to call for a UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty (GSCDL), we have grown to become the "go-to" NGO for leadership, experience and technical expertise on Justice for Children. This thematic focus is particularly challenging as the level of political will necessary to ensure compliance remains scarce. To this end, our presence and systematic advocacy within the United Nations, regional mechanisms, national and local institutions prove essential.

We also engage in several other child rights domains, including:

- Violence against children
- Children affected by armed conflicts
- Child trafficking
- Children on the move
- Child labour
- Child participation

OUR MOVEMENT



4 Regional Desks: Africa, Americas, Europe and Middle East and North Africa

1 International Secretariat based in Geneva, Switzerland, with special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

46 National Sections: grass-roots, independent, local entities accounting for over 300 trained and specialised local staff

AFRICA

1. Burkina Faso
2. Cameroon
3. Central African Republic
4. Democratic Republic of Congo
5. Egypt
6. Ghana
7. Guinea Conakry
8. Liberia
9. Libya
10. Mauritania
11. Morocco
12. Mauritius
13. Niger
14. Nigeria
15. Somalia
16. Sierra Leone
17. Tunisia
18. Uganda

AMERICAS

19. Argentina
20. Bolivia
21. Brazil
22. Canada
23. Colombia
24. Costa Rica
25. Ecuador
26. Mexico (associated member)
27. Paraguay
28. United States of America
29. Uruguay

ASIA/OCEANIA

30. Australia
31. Iraq
32. Israel
33. Lebanon
34. Japan
35. Jordan (associated member)
36. Palestine
37. Pakistan (associated member)
38. Yemen

EUROPE

39. Belgium
40. Czech republic
41. France
42. Greece
43. Italy
44. The Netherlands
45. Spain
46. Switzerland

WORLDWIDE MOVEMENT, EQUITABLE GOVERNANCE

WORLDWIDE MOVEMENT, EQUITABLE GOVERNANCE

NATIONAL SECTIONS

DCI's National Sections are the "Backbone of the Movement" and constitute the **International General Assembly (IGA)**. The IGA meets every 4 years and decides priorities, strategies and position.

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (IEC)

7 elected members, with regional & gender balance; Governs in the interim between IGAs

REGIONAL DESKS

Africa, Americas, Europe & MENA; Regional Coordination & Support to National Sections

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

"Heart" of the Movement; Representation before the United Nations

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

5 Child Rights Experts; Provides Guidance to the IEC & IGA

DCI BRANCH IN BRUSSELS

Representation before European Institutions; Support to National Sections

The DCI Movement is guided institutionally by its Statutes, Code of Ethics and Gender Policy. DCI is also an associate member of the Keeping Children Safe network (Child Protection Policy).

THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	MS. ILEANA BELLO
ADVOCACY OFFICER	MS. ANNA D. TOMASI
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER	MS. DANIËLLE DE JONG (UNTIL JUNE)
PROGRAMME ASSISTANT	MR. JOHAN VIGNE (FROM MAY)
INTERNS AND SHORT-TERM STAFF	MS. SARAH CERDAN MR. LEONEL HAMMEL MS. MONYA KARAKOTLY MS. LEANNA KATZ MS. OLGA MONTERO MS. CECILE PILOT MS. KYRSTEN PONTURO MR. PIERRE-GILLES STHIOUL MS. ELSA VALDIVIELSO MS. MARIALAVIA ZACCARINI

THE INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

PRESIDENT	MR. BENOIT VAN KEIRSBILCK (DCI-BELGIUM)
TREASURER/VICE PRESIDENT EUROPE	MR. ALOYS VAN REST (DCI-NETHERLANDS)
VICE PRESIDENT AFRICA	MR. ABDUL M. KEMOKAI (DCI-SIERRA LEONE)
VICE PRESIDENT ASIA AND OCEANIA	MR. RIFAT ODEH KASSIS (DCI-PALESTINE)
VICE PRESIDENT AMERICAS	MR. JUAN PEDRO FUMEIRO (DCI-URUGUAY)
MEMBER AT LARGE	MS. VILMA GÓMEZ (DCI-COLOMBIA)
MEMBER AT LARGE	MR. DÉSIÉRO AROGA (DCI-CAMEROON)

NEW IN 2016

DCI Advisory Committee

On 22 June 2015, DCI announced the creation of the DCI Advisory Committee (DCI - AC). The DCI - AC is composed by renowned experts and advocates of children's rights who provide and guide DCI with their expertise and sound knowledge. The Advisory Committee guides and supports the IEC in its role to define DCI's advocacy strategy and lobbying actions and is thus a crucial organ that helps ensure the success of DCI's activities and programmes at local, national, regional and international levels.

The DCI - AC is composed of six members, who have been officially appointed for an initial term of two years (renewable):

- Ms Akila Aggoune: she assumed various high-level judicial and governmental functions in Burkina Faso and was Member and Chair of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (1991-1997). She also actively contributed to the development of programmes, strategies and training materials on the Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) when programming for children, while assuming progressively technical and managerial functions at UNICEF.
- Mr Nigel Cantwell: he founded DCI in 1979 and remained with the organisation for 15 years. He then took on various roles with UNICEF and has been working as an international consultant on child protection policy since 2003, with a special focus on safeguarding the rights of children in relation to alternative care and intercountry adoption.
- Ms. Sally Christine Cornwell: former executive of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and subsequently consultant for various international organizations on evaluation, programming and development cooperation. Ms. Cornwell was a member of the International Board of Trustees and of the Administrative Council of the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF), and was the ACPF representative in Geneva from 2003 to 2012.
- Mr Jaap Doek: former member and Chairperson of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (1999 – 2007), he was also the General Rapporteur of the Third World Congress on Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents (2008) and member of the Editorial Board for the UN Study on Violence against Children (2003-2006). He was involved in the creation of DCI and established DCI's national Dutch section in 1984.

- Ms Moushira Khattab: a career diplomat, Ms Khattab served as Egypt's first Ambassador to Nelson Mandela's South Africa and to Czechoslovakia during its peaceful separation. Dedicated to defending the rights of children and women, Ms Khattab served as Secretary General of the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood and Minister of Family and Population, and was also member and Vice-Chair of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (2002-2010).

- Ms. Rosa Maria Ortiz*: A Paraguayan citizen, Ms Ortiz has been working for the promotion and protection of children and human rights for over 30 years. She has been former member and vice-president of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (2003 -2011), member and vice-president of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights - IACHR (2012-2015), and adviser on human rights and cultural diversity for the Paraguayan Presidency's National Secretariat of Culture (2010-2011). *Ms Ortiz officially joined the Advisory Committee in 2016, after concluding her mandate as Special Rapporteur on Children's Rights with the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights.





2

GLOBAL STUDY ON CHILDREN DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY

In March 2014, fully aware of the lack of due attention to the issue, DCI launched a formal campaign calling for a **Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty** (GSCDL).

The Study's objective would be to **collect sorely needed data and statistics** from across regions on the number and situation of children in detention, as well as share good practices, and formulate recommendations for effective measures to prevent human rights violations against children in detention; and ultimately reduce the number of children deprived of liberty.

As a scope, the Study would take into account deprivation of liberty in all its forms, including: children in conflict with the law (or other local norms and customs); children confined due to physical or mental disabilities or drug use; children detained with their parents or other relatives; immigration detention (refugee, asylum seeker, and irregular migrant children); children detained for their protection (e.g. street children, girls vulnerable to honour crimes, etc.); detention for national security reasons (e.g. children suspected of participation in armed conflict).

Since the launch of the campaign, **over 90 non-governmental organisations** from around the world have joined the campaign, forming an apposite **NGO Panel for the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty**, which is now convened by DCI together with Human Rights Watch.

The campaign proved successful with a formal request coming through the UN General Assembly Resolution on the Rights of the Child (Res/69/157 para. 51.d). The following timeline gives an overview of the main advocacy and lobby activities in 2015.



TIMELINE GSCDL

2015

WWW.CHILDRENDEPRIVEDOFLIBERTY.INFO

JANUARY

1st World Congress on Juvenile Justice: support for the GSCDL discussed throughout the Congress and formalized in its final declaration.

MARCH

GSDCL formally supported in the annual reports to the HRC of the SRSs on Violence against Children and on Children and Armed Conflicts; and the SR on Torture. A side-event organized by DCI, including the participation of the aforementioned experts, and members of the NGO Panel (DCI, World Organization against Torture - OMCT, and Human Rights Watch - HRW).

JUNE

References made to the GSCDL through DCI oral statement on the implementation of juvenile justice standards and side-event on "Girls in Detention" at the UN Human Rights Council.

APRIL

Meetings with Member States and side-event organized at the time of UNODC's XIII Crime Congress in Doha, Qatar. GSCDL formally mentioned in the final outcome document of the Congress ("Doha Declaration").

SEPTEMBER

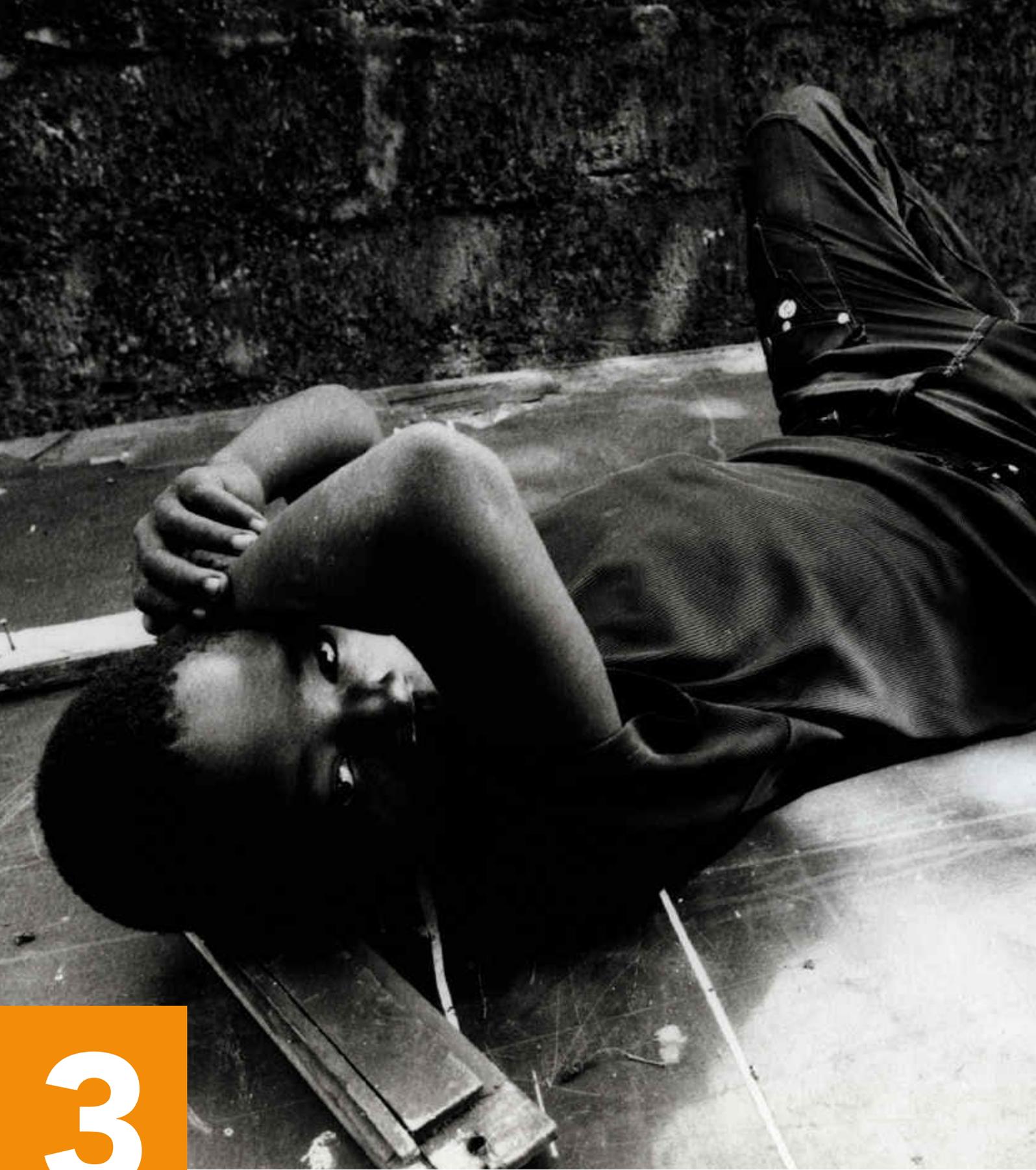
References made to the GSCDL through DCI oral statement on arbitrary detention and side-event on "Violence against Children in Detention" at the UN Human Rights Council.

NOVEMBER

On the occasion of Universal Children's Day (20 November), UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, delivered a statement in which he expressed full support for the GSCDL and informed of its initial coordination, encouraging member States to support its concrete advancement.

ON-GOING

Since launching the campaign, the NGO Panel has been **calling for the appointment of an Independent Expert** to impartially guide the Study and correctly broker coordination among all relevant UN agencies and stakeholders to be involved in its implementation.



3

**ADVOCATING, LOBBYING AND RAISING
AWARENESS ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS**

In addition to the campaign for the GSCDL, DCI conducted various advocacy and lobby initiatives at the international level. This timeline recaps major direct interactions with UN Human Rights mechanisms, UN Member States and other international actors throughout 2015.

INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

	HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL	UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW	CRC COMMITTEE	OTHERS
JANUARY			<p>CRC68:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCI-Switzerland attends, after submitting a stakeholders' report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCI actively participates in the 1st World Congress on Juvenile Justice
MARCH	<p>HRC28:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 statements (Israeli military's grave violations of children's rights / UPR 3rd cycle) • 3 side-events (GSCDL / VAC and 2030 Agenda / ACERWC's GC1 on children of incarcerated parents) • Contribution to the report of the SR on Torture on children deprived of liberty 	<p>UPR23:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCI-Mauritania submits stakeholders' report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCI-Brazil submits a joint stakeholders' report on the Juvenile Justice System for CRC70 	
APRIL				<p>UNODC XIII Crime Congress (Qatar):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement and meeting on the GSCDL Meeting on child-friendly justice in Latin America and the MENA region
MAY			<p>CRC69:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCI-Netherlands attends review, after submitting stakeholders' report for CRC in 2014 	
JUNE	<p>HRC29:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 statements (Girls' right to education / School-related GBV / Implementation of international juvenile justice standards) • 2 side-events (Girls in Detention / Girls' right to education in West-Africa) • 1 roundtable discussion on VAC and 2030 Agenda • Contribution to the annual report of the SR on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, and HRC Resolution on the Protection of the Family 	<p>UPR24:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCI-Belgium and Sierra Leone submit stakeholders' reports 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint call to support Shafqat Hussein's mercy petition in Pakistan • Joint call on the government of Brazil to reject the lowering of the age of criminal majority

**HUMAN RIGHTS
COUNCIL**

**UNIVERSAL
PERIODIC
REVIEW**

CRC COMMITTEE

OTHERS

SEPTEMBER



HRC30:

- 5 statements (Arbitrary detention of children / Brazil and the minimum age of criminal responsibility / Rights of indigenous girls / Israeli military's grave violations of children's rights / Investment in children)
- 2 side-events (VAC in Detention / Accountability and Monitoring of VAC related goals and targets in 2030 Agenda) Contribution to the WG on Arbitrary Detention's Basic Principles and Guidelines on remedies and procedures on the right of anyone deprived of their liberty to bring proceedings before a court (esp. Principle 18)

CRC70:

- DCI-Brazil attends, after submitting 2 stakeholders' reports on children's rights (individual) and on juvenile justice (joint)

- DCI becomes member of the Inter-Agency Working Group to end Child Immigration Detention Adoption of the Sustainable Development Agenda and Goals

OCTOBER



UPR23 pre-session:

- DCI-Mauritania participates and presents its recommendations

- Task force on the rights of the child and family environment gives input for OHCHR report on the "Protection of the family" to re-affirm children's rights

NOVEMBER



- Joint statement on "minorities in the criminal justice system" delivered at 8th session of the UN Forum on Minority Issues

DECEMBER



UPR24 pre-session:

- DCI-Belgium and Sierra Leone participate and present their recommendations

REGIONAL LEVEL

AFRICA

- Established a partnership with the International Social Service (ISS), the West African Network (WAN) and the Mano River Union (MRU) to develop a sub-regional policy on child protection, particularly aiming to protect children on the move.
- Renewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF), with which DCI drafted the “Guidelines on Action for Children in the Justice system in Africa” in 2011.
- Officially applied to obtain Observer Status to the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC).



MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA (MENA)

Continued working with the League of Arab States (LAS) and became the NGO representative within its Arab Childhood Committee on matters related to justice for children. The link with the LAS was formed as part of the “Maa’n for Adala – Together for Justice” programme, which aims at reinforcing regional and cross-national cooperation in the promotion of child-friendly justice systems within the MENA Region.



EUROPE

- Lobby and advocacy initiatives were conducted with key **Europeans actors** (Council of Europe, European Union, inter alia) as part of the implementation of regional projects, including the **Separated Children in Europe Programme**, the **SafeGuard** project (appointment and qualification of guardians for children on the move), the **TWELVE** initiative (child participation in the juvenile justice system) and the **Children's Rights Behind Bars** project (monitoring child detention facilities).

- In September 2015, DCI-IS launched the **Justice for Children Award**, together with the World Organisation against Torture (OMCT), with the aim to raise awareness and encourage academic **research within European Universities** on **violence against children** in justice systems. The winner will be announced in May 2016.



LATIN AMERICA

- Engaged with the **Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)** and the **UN SRSG on Violence against Children** by holding meetings to present the 2015 report of DCI **Regional Observatory on juvenile justice**, and encourage the use of its important data in the drafting of reports and formulation of specific, evidence-based recommendations to States

- Continued to collaborate in **key regional networks**, including the Latin American and Caribbean Chapter of the Global Movement for Children (MMI-CLAC), Red Latinoamericana y caribeña por la defensa de los derechos de los niños, niñas y adolescents (REDLAMYC), Red de Coaliciones Sur and Niñ@Sur, as well as the sub-regional platform on child labour in **Central America** (through DCI-Costa Rica).



NATIONAL LEVEL

JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN

CANADA

Letter published in the Toronto Star to oppose the **"carding" of young people** by Toronto police forces – stopping them without cause and asking for information about their activities and friends

- **LOBBY SUCCESS:** Internal procedure opened by the Police Oversight Committee to consider and review this issue

COLOMBIA

Forum to expose and increase the public visibility of the situation of children held in detention facilities

- **70 children & 10 public institutions representatives**
- **3 fact sheets** on the detention of children

URUGUAY

Workshops and numerous interactions with officials of the National Juvenile Justice System (SIRPA) to promote alternatives to detention
Statements and interventions on public television, radio and in the press regarding grave violations of human rights and **allegations of torture in juvenile detention centres**

- **IMPACT: 27 prison staff members prosecuted for torture and/or ill-treatment**, which marked the first time that prison officials were prosecuted for such crimes

BRAZIL

Public statement and interventions regarding **degrading living conditions** and allegations of **physical violence** against teenagers held in the Palmas Socio-educational Centre

FRANCE

Open letter sent to the French government, calling on parliamentarians to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure (OP3) without any reservation or interpretative declaration
Lobbying before the CRC Committee on this issue from the pre-session in June 2015 to the session in January 2016

- **LOBBY SUCCESS:** Ratification of OP3 without reservations or interpretive declarations in January 2016

BELGIUM

Press statement reiterating the need for the enactment of an explicit national law **prohibiting all forms of corporal punishment of children**
Draft bill presented to a group of Parliamentarians

- **LOBBY SUCCESS:** one member of the Parliament officially submitted the draft bill proposal (to be reviewed by the Parliament)



JUVENILE JUSTICE IN BRAZIL

Brazil has long been a pioneer country with regard to children's rights in Latin America and considered exemplary in setting the **age of criminal majority** at 18 (art. 228 of the Brazilian Constitution).

However, in March 2015, a **draft constitutional reform bill** (n°171/1993) aiming to **lower the age of criminal majority from 18 to 16** for certain crimes was submitted to the national Congress for approval. The approval of the bill would entail children being sent to the ordinary court system and tried as adults.¹

"[the adoption of such a bill] would constitute a serious regression and a violation of fundamental human rights of adolescents, as it would infringe the guarantee of adolescents being subjected to a specialized juvenile justice system" - IACHR

In Brazil, **ANCED/DCI-Brazil** participated in several **protests and public consultations** to voice their opposition to the bill, and sent an official letter to the government.

On 3 June, DCI and partner NGOs publicly **called** on the government of Brazil to refrain from adopting the bill. Despite all the efforts, the bill was accepted on 2 July by the lower house of the national Congress.

In September, representatives of DCI-Brazil travelled to Geneva for the review of Brazil by the UN CRC Committee, having submitted a **joint stakeholders' report on the specific issue of juvenile justice** (earlier in 2015). DCI-Brazil lobbied Committee members on the specific issue and successfully managed to obtain CRC Concluding Observations addressing the constitutional reform bill, as well as the lack of application of alternative measures to detention; arbitrary detention of children; and the living conditions of places where children are deprived of liberty.

DCI's lobbying proved successful, not only because the UN CRC Committee included concerns raised in its Concluding Observations, but more importantly since the government of Brazil finally **restrained from adopting the proposed constitutional amendment**.

Unfortunately, Brazil's step in the right direction was hindered by the passage of another bill (n°333/15), which increased **the maximum length of prison sentences for children from 3 to 10 years**. Consequently, DCI will continue in 2016 to lobby and advocate for the effective adoption and implementation of international juvenile justice standards at the domestic level.

¹The lowering of the age of criminal majority is not an issue that strictly concerns Brazil, as similar legislative actions have taken place in countries like India or the Philippines. .

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

TUNISIA

1,000 children and **500 parents** participated in interactive workshops to **express their views** and **share their experiences** on how to best protect children from **sexual violence**

LEBANON

13 sensitization sessions in refugee camps



MAURITANIA

5,783 people reached through **6 awareness-raising campaigns** on violence against children in Nouakchott

Sensitization seminar on **sexual violence** against women and girls

- o **15 women Parliamentarians**
- o **30 women's rights unionists**
- o **15 women journalists**

• **Impact: Public demonstration** before the Parliament and **day of reflexion** organized to address the issue of sexual violence

• **Impact: Draft bill** submitted by the 15 Parliamentarians and **passed** by the Parliament in **March 2016**

In the Ghanaian municipality of Obuasi, **DCI-Ghana's** lobbying efforts paid off when local authorities agreed to provide **free medical check-up and report** for **women and girls victims of sexual violence**. Prior to this legislative amendment, victims of violence often could not afford the cost of a medical report, and the inability to prove their allegations resulted in high rates of impunity. During the 3-year lobbying process, DCI established a **Sub-Committee within the National Child Protection Network Platform** and had continuous exchanges with health specialists and police forces to gather their support. In 2016, DCI-Ghana will aim to achieve similar aches in other Ghanaian provinces.

BRAZIL

Right to Life initiative:
2 days of action in São Leopoldo, where DCI members **performed a play**, held **discussions** with participants and **distributed awareness-raising materials** on violence against children

CAMEROON

Over **500 children, school officials and local community members** across **10 regions** reached by a sensitization campaign on **child marriage**

Initial drafting of a **booklet** on how to fight child marriages; to be published and disseminated in 2016

GUINEA

1.050 children (540 girls, 510 boys) sensitized on **abuse, violence and exploitation**

Solidarity campaign in **5 prefectures and 27 villages** to fight the violence and stigmatisation of **child survivors of Ebola**.



From May 2014 to June 2015, **DCI-Netherlands** coordinated the project **“Reducing Violence against Children”**, which specifically focused on **sexual exploitation of children and child sex tourism** across 30 countries. **DCI-Ghana, Sierra Leone and Liberia** contributed to awareness-raising activities, in parallel to the Girl Power programme. Overall, the DCI-Netherlands-led project produced over **297.000 information materials and 27 online campaigns**, while **84 referral protocols** were established.

CHILD LABOUR

MOROCCO



Public art exhibition and theatrical performance to raise awareness on the realities of child labour, on the occasion of World Day against Child Labour (12 June)

Convention signed with the Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs to coordinate the fight against child labour

INDIGENOUS CHILDREN

COLOMBIA

30 public “knowledge dialogues”
10 meetings with public institutions to monitor and follow-up on the situation of indigenous children across the country
First national colloquium on indigenous children
550 participants, including government officials and
50 indigenous children



CHILDREN’S RIGHTS & PARTICIPATION

CZECH REPUBLIC

Annual National Conference on the implementation of the CRC

- o **Final declaration**, including outcome document prepared by participating children, sent to the Parliament’s Petition Committee for review

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Public event in Kinshasa, on the occasion of the **International Day of the Girl Child** (11 October), to promote **girls’ rights and emancipation** and raise awareness on the issue of **early pregnancies**

FRANCE

Public conference on **children’s freedom of speech** (article 13 CRC), divided into 3 modules: freedom of speech in the family, freedom of speech in schools and freedom of speech in the city (public space)

CHILDREN & ARMED CONFLICT

COLOMBIA

2 national colloquiums to which children, adolescents, Congress and other Government Representatives participated

24 meetings with government representatives

Toolkit on child protection

Video **"Vamos a reconstruir el amor"** produced with children affected by the conflict and sent to negotiation teams



STOP ISREALI MILITARY DETENTION OF PALESTINIAN CHILDREN

In Palestine, DCI continued to take a strong stand against the detention and abuses against Palestinian children in the Israeli military detention system. In October 2015 alone, DCI-Palestine recorded **307 detained Palestinian children** in military detention facilities, the highest number recorded in the past five years.

The video *Detaining Dreams* was released to raise awareness on the conditions of Palestinian children held in Israeli military detention. The video particularly insisted on **ill-treatment** at the hands of Israeli forces, on the absence of a lawyer and/or a legal representative during interrogation and on **prosecution in military courts**.

While the video highlighted the case of 4 young Palestinians, DCI-Palestine conducted **80 prison visits** and **monitored the situation of 249 children** held in the Israeli military detention system in 2015.

DCI-Palestine reported that **every 3 out of 4 children experienced ill-treatment or torture during arrest, interrogation and trial:**

- **57** children were **hand tied** and **5** were **blindfolded** in military or civil courts
- **47** were **verbally abused** and/or humiliated
- **45** suffered **from physical violence**
- **13** were held in **solitary confinement**

In collaboration with the American Friends Service Committee, DCI-Palestine launched the **No Way to Treat a Child** campaign in the United States of America (<http://nwtac.dci-palestine.org/>). A briefing session on the situation of Palestinian children held in Israeli military detention was organized, for which 100 attendees from at least 30 different congressional offices gathered together.

"Each year, the Israeli military arrests and prosecutes around 700 children"

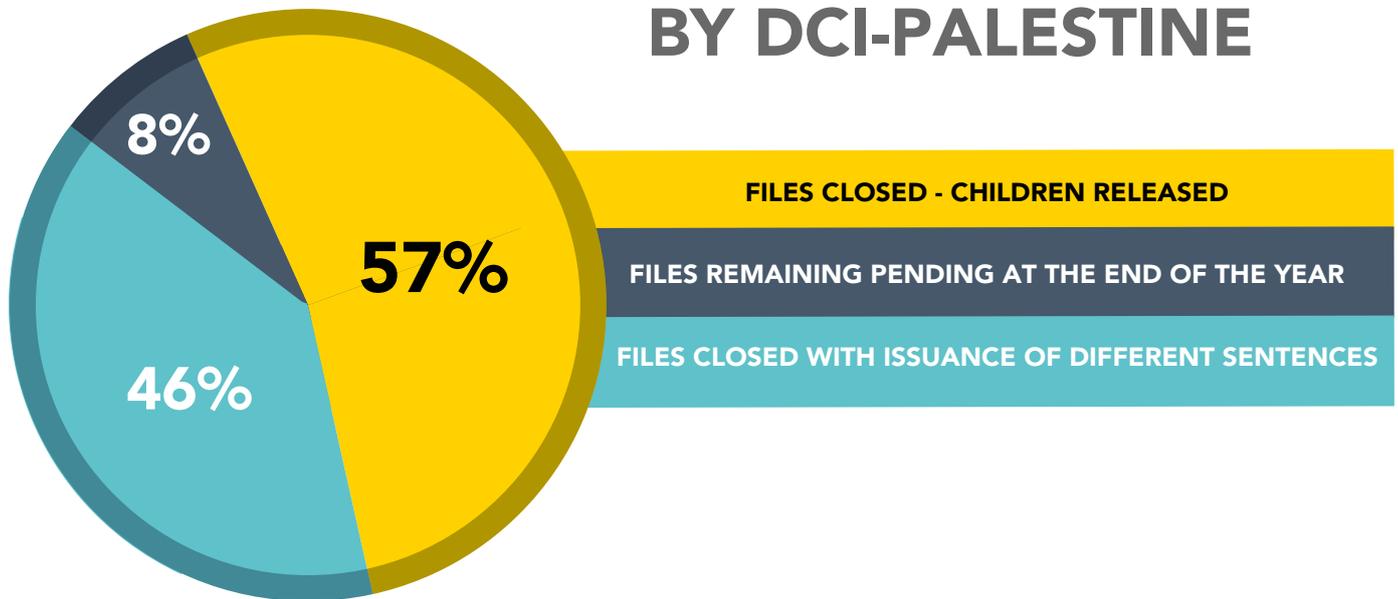


In June, **19 members of the US Congress sent a letter to Secretary of State, John Kerry**, urging him to prioritize this issue. The letter, initiated by Representative **Betty McCollum** (D-MN), noted that **"Israel's military detention system targeting children is an anomaly in the world"**, and that UNICEF has found ill-treatment of Palestinian children is **"widespread, and systematic institutionalized"** throughout the detention process. The lawmakers urged "the Department of State to elevate the human rights of Palestinian children to a priority status in [the U.S.'s] bilateral relationship with the Government of Israel."

On the ground, DCI-Palestine continued to act for Palestinian children. **Seventeen Know Your Rights sessions** were conducted, with the aim to empower and educate Palestinian children on their human rights during arrest, interrogation, and detention. Thirteen sessions took place in schools in the northern West Bank, two sessions in Hebron, and two sessions in Al-Aroub refugee camp.

DCI-Palestine also **assisted children in Israeli courts**, provided them with **legal advice and filed complaints on their behalf**. In 2015, on **111 files** concerning military courts received:

CASES TREATED BY DCI-PALESTINE



DCI-Palestine also filed complaints on behalf of two children to the Israeli Military Police Criminal Investigation Division. The two boys, aged 15 and 17, suffered ill-treatment inflicted by the Israeli forces when arrested. DCI-Palestine urged Israel to initiate prompt, transparent and impartial investigations.

In May 2016, the UN Committee against Torture will review the report of the State of Israel. In this regard, DCI-Palestine, together with the World Organization against Torture (OMCT), is preparing a stakeholders' report on the specific situation of Palestinian children held in the Israeli military detention system.



4

DIRECT INTERVENTIONS



JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN

SIERRA LEONE

Children in contact with the law

- **1,553 children** benefited from DCI's socio-legal services

- **IMPACT: 81% avoided pre-trial detention.** DCI's socio-legal support, including legal aid and tracing of families of children, allowed for most cases to be ended at pre-trial level through diversion or settlement such as restitution

- **IMPACT: 95% of cases closed** (acquittal, discharge, release) – only 75 children (5%) received a custodial sentence

Child victims of abuse

- **1,852 children** received socio-legal assistance (legal advice, medical support, shelter, inter alia), which represents 73% of all cases reported to the Family Support Unit of the Sierra Leonean police in 2015

- **IMPACT: More than 50% of cases reported by DCI resulted in a prosecution (the highest prosecution rate ever recorded by the Sierra Leonean police) and 212 cases of sexual and gender-based violence resulted in the conviction of offenders** (cases closed in 2015)

NETHERLANDS

Child Rights Helpdesk:

- **1,050 cases** – support to children, parents, lawyers and other professionals:

- **578 cases** concerning **migration-related** issues (family reunification, immigration detention, and asylum-seeking)

- **24 cases** on **sexual and commercial exploitation** of children

- **448 cases** concerning **children in contact with the law, child abuse and family law**



In early July 2015, DCI-Netherlands' helpdesk telephone kept ringing. Calls were all coming from children living in **Almelo asylum seekers'** centre. The **52 children** had just been informed that, in order to accommodate newly-arrived asylum seekers, they would have to be transferred to another centre. A **forced transfer** put them at risk of losing the environment they had accustomed to, the social network they had developed and the access to education they had ensured. DCI-Netherlands stood beside these children through 3 **court proceedings**, making sure they could be present for each session and securing **an lawyer to represent them**. While the court voted in favour of the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA), and therefore authorized the transfer, DCI remained in constant contact with the municipal council of Almelo and the children's primary school to ensure their access to school and lessen the impact of the move on their well-being. In addition, DCI appealed the court's decision, which is currently under review. Based on this case, DCI-Netherlands actively engaged with the Dutch government and the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA), to ensure that any action taken concerning children seeking asylum in the Netherlands guarantees and respects the best interests of the child.

COSTA RICA

Children in contact with the law:

- Workshops for **62 teenagers deprived of their liberty** (self-esteem, social and professional skills) to facilitate **reintegration** after release from Zurqui juvenile detention centre, as part of the Clic a la Esperanza project
- **16 teenagers** in risk of, or in, contact with the law received personalized assistance to help them shape their future, as part of the Pasos para la Inclusión Juvenil project
 - **IMPACT:** 2 teenagers stopped their drug consumption, 3 enrolled in vocational training programs and 7 other reintegrated the educational system
- Encourage and support interactions between **121 children and 71 incarcerated parents**

In Liberia, DCI provided direct **socio-legal assistance and psychological support to 8 teenage girls**, aged 12-18, who were raped by the same perpetrator. After working closely with the police to ensure that proper investigations were conducted, it was later confirmed that the man had been indicted. DCI-Liberia now works closely with police forces to ensure arrest and prosecution of perpetrators and has become a **go-to organization** to provide socio-legal services and psychosocial counselling to victims.

PALESTINE

Children in contact with the law (Palestinian courts):

- **340 court sessions** attended
- **300 consultations** to the families of the children in contact with the law
- **77 children** (74 boys and 3 girls) represented before Palestinian courts
 - **IMPACT: 44 files** concerning 49 children **closed**
- **48 monitoring visits** to juvenile detention and rehabilitation centres

Violence:

- **40 victims** and/or family members provided with socio-legal assistance and referred to relevant institutions

EGYPT

Children in contact with the law

- **217 children** (177 boys and 40 girls) assisted, especially **street children** arrested for status offences (i.e. their homelessness and begging activities)
- **Monitoring detention conditions:** 81 cases of verbal abuse; 40 cases of detention with adults; 38 cases in which children prohibited contact with family members; 14 cases of lacking medical care; and 3 cases of sexual abuse



MAURITANIA

Children in contact with the law:

- **91 children** (87 boys and 4 girls) assisted
 - **IMPACT: 15 cases closed** (26 children), alternatives to detention (socio-educative centre) for **11 cases** (31 children)

Violence – El Wafa Centre:

- **120 victims of sexual violence** and **2 victims of child marriage** provided with medical (free medical exams, HIV/AIDS screening, emergency contraception pills, pregnancy monitoring) and psychological support.
 - **IMPACT: 54 perpetrators indicted, 8 cases** solved through **mediation**

Children's Rights Helpline:

- 358 serious calls received, 102 followed up:
 - **IMPACT: 9 cases** of domestic violence solved through **mediation, 35 birth registrations** completed, **2 street children** sent back to **school**

MOROCCO

Vulnerable children:

- **577 children**, aged 6-17, in vulnerable (55%) or exclusion (45%) situations (especially street children) assisted
- **149 home visits**
- **50 social/family investigations**
- **40 family mediations**
- **2 DCI-run youth shelters** to facilitate children's psycho-social rehabilitation process when family reunification/mediation was not possible

BURKINA FASO

Street children:

- **15 street children** in contact with the law assisted
- **22 family reunification**
- **48 street children provided with health care services**
- **3 HIV/AIDS screening sessions**
- Collaborated with partner organizations to address the specific needs of **188 more street children**

GUINEA

Violence:

- **16 children** (10 boys, 6 girls) provided with socio-legal assistance

Vulnerable children (Ebola programme):

- **10,000 children and their families** in 30 districts received **psychosocial support** (individual support, group and community dialogue, recreational activities)



CHILDREN ON THE MOVE

LEBANON

Refugee children:

- **Psychosocial support** activities for 309 refugee children (189 girls, 120 boys), as part of the Incredible Me project (psychotherapeutic movement through yoga; emotional expression; and social interaction)
- Food assistance to **3.696 families** living in refugee camps and settlements
 - o **275 children** able to remain in school through distribution of school materials and clothing

TUNISIA

Refugee children:

- 1,000 Libyan child refugees provided with accommodation, food and health services, and ensured access to education and leisure activities, through the establishment of a network between public institutions and civil society organizations (CSOs)

SOMALIA

Internally displaced children:

- Half-dozen recreational, child-friendly places for internally displaced children created in the city of Mogadishu

I sleep better now... I don't get nightmares as often ..."

- Ayah, a 9-year-old Syrian girl who lives in Shatila Camp in Beirut, Lebanon, and benefited from DCI-Lebanon's Incredible Me project.



DCI-Liberia and DCI-Sierra Leone collaborated on a case concerning the kidnapping of 3 Sierra Leonean children, and provided assistance to the mother who was living in Sierra Leone. Collaboration with police forces in both countries led to the arrest of the perpetrator and the return of the 3 children to their home. Since then, DCI-Sierra Leone provided psychosocial counselling to the 3 children and facilitated their return to school.

CHILD LABOUR



COSTA RICA

Adolescent workers:

- 128 adolescents working in the tobacco industry assisted and able to finish secondary education, and trained to improve their employability outside of the tobacco industry
- 25 adolescents engaged in the informal sector participated in seminars to develop entrepreneurial ideas and to be made aware of their human rights as adolescent workers

CHILD PARTICIPATION: FOR CHILDREN, BY CHILDREN

For many years, DCI national sections have created and supported youth initiatives such as the Children's Parliament in Yemen, Youth Brigades in Bolivia or Child and Girls Clubs in West Africa.

YEMEN

Children's Parliament:

- 2 monitoring visits to detention and socio-educational centres in Sana'a, accompanied by staff members of DCI-Yemen, and football, volley-ball and basket-ball matches as well as artistic workshops were organized for the children being detained
- Meetings with prison staff members and justice officials to ensure that the rights of children are upheld at all times



BOLIVIA

Youth Brigades:

o **16,079 children** (8,481 boys and 7,598 girls) trained by members of the Youth Brigades and DCI staff on how to have their voices heard in the public sphere

BURKINA FASO

More than 50 Child Rights Defenders Clubs created in schools in the cities of Ouagadougou, Kaya and Dori

LIBERIA

National Children and Youth Advisory Board (NCYAB) established with the support of DCI

- 10 press conferences were organized to bring attention to cases of sexual, gender-based, and/or physical violence
- 4 child rights campaigns reaching over 25'000 people from Grand Cape Mount to Bomi County
- Anti-Rape campaign brought together and gathered the support of: civil society organizations; the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection; local authorities; community leaders; traditional elders; men, women and children.

In November 2015, Abraham Keita, a 17-year-old boy from Liberia, was awarded the International Children's Peace Prize. At age 9, Abraham became a member of the Liberian Children's Parliament. Thanks to his efforts, a Children's Law was adopted by the national parliament. He also initiated petitions, organized multiple peaceful demonstrations to advocate for children's rights and launched a campaign against the sexual abuse of children. In recent years, he was actively involved in DCI-Liberia's anti-Ebola programme, particularly focusing on the impact of the Ebola epidemic on children. After being awarded the prize, Abraham received high praises from Mr. Foday Kawah, Executive Director of DCI-Liberia: "We are proud of him. We have been greatly involved with him in our programmes and mentored him in advocacy. [...] He is a great example of youth empowerment."



Jimena is 16 years old. Her teachers say that she is a silent leader dreaming of a world with equal opportunities between men and women. But more than a dream, it is a cause that she is fighting for. To make her voice heard, she decided to join Voces Juveniles Coripateñas, a child participation initiative supported by DCI-Bolivia. With her "brigade", Jimena is now promoting the rights of children and raising awareness on violence against children in the municipality of Coripata. Jimena has also become the representative of Voces Juveniles Coripateñas in her school's student union.

MAURITIUS

National Youth Rally:

- **50 young people** from 10 different regions gathered together in 3 youth centres to discuss youth's involvement in the **2030 Sustainable Agenda**
- **COP 21 (twenty-first Conference of Parties) simulation conference:**
- **30 young people** addressed issues relating to climate change (consequences of climate change on oceans, ecosystems and wildlife and the reduction of the ozone layer)
- **Recommendations** on how to educate citizens on climate change and how to promote recycling

COSTA RICA

Jóvenes en Acción project:

- **25 adolescents** involved in sessions on how to reduce early school dropout and **become agents of change**

Redes Comunitarias project:

- **151 adolescents** involved in the establishment and functioning of a community protection system to detect and **prevent sexual exploitation of children**



PALESTINE

Community mobilization:

- **5,705 children** (1,992 boys and 3,713 girls) contributed to the promotion of **child-friendly environments and the rights to play and education**

BRAZIL

End child sexual abuse and exploitation project:

- **110 children**, aged 6 to 17, from 59 cities participated in workshops in Viçosa and Parelhas to **better identify situations of abuse** and to pass this knowledge on to other children

SIERRA LEONE, LIBERIA AND GHANA

Defence for Girls Initiative:

- **16,525 children** (12,195 girls and 4,330 boys) directly involved, through Child Rights Clubs, in sensitization activities aiming to **eliminate all forms of violence against girls and young women**



GIRL POWER:

SIERRA LEONIAN GIRLS TAKE A STAND AGAINST SLOW GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO FLOODS

In September 2015, heavy rains hit Freetown and the Western part of Sierra Leone and costed the lives of dozens of Sierra Leoneans. Those who survived, particularly those living in slum communities, saw their homes being partially or completely destroyed and were given shelter in two football stadiums. In this context, girls involved in the DCI supported Defence for Girls and Girl Hope groups, held a press conference to raise concerns over the government's inadequate response.

"As a local advocacy body, we would like to first extend our sympathy to all the affected persons and thank the government and partners for their response so far. We would however raise the following concerns as a group:

- *The intervention of the government and most partners have only targeted displaced persons residing in the stadiums, forgetting about the majority of victims who are still living in the most affected communities;*
- *We, children living in these communities, are unable to attend school at the moment as we have lost everything including our school supplies;*
- *Girls and young women in these communities have become even more vulnerable and men are now taking advantage of the situation to abuse them, and many may end up becoming pregnant if their vulnerability is not addressed;*
- *The stadiums are becoming overcrowded and we have seen up to 15 or more people including our members forced to live under one tent. They are at high risk of Ebola infection and other potential contagious diseases;*
- *Our injured colleagues have not yet received any medical help;*
- *Gender stereotype roles remain, putting women and girls more at risk – in fact, these are often at higher risk of death when crises arise. From our own observation, most of the deaths were women and girls because they were at home doing domestic work when the flood took place.*

On this note, we would like to recommend that the government and relevant partners address the following:

- *Create a joint emergency program in order to effectively address the immediate needs of all the affected persons, particularly in the worst affected communities. This program must follow a gender approach, otherwise it will not work well;*
- *Provide emergency relief and school supplies to affected children and their families within the shortest possible time so that the children can return to school immediately. We have already missed out on several months of school, due to the Ebola outbreak and we would not like a repetition of that;*
- *Work on a plan to provide permanent solutions to the flooding problem, by addressing shelter inadequacy and improving drainage systems, particularly for citizens living in the affected areas and other high-risk communities. We need a safer place to live and note that we have right to life, shelter, and good health;*
- *Educate communities about environmental management and disaster response.*

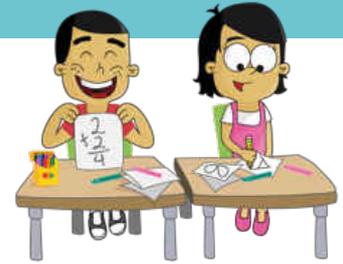
Please note that we are not the problem neither the cause of the problem. We are rather the solution to the problem and thus recommend that you should consider our involvement in the response process as actors and not just as victims."





5

CAPACITY BUILDING



JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN

MOROCCO

2 workshops for judges, representatives of the Ministry of Youth and Sports and members of civil society organizations on the theme “justice for children and the best interests of the child”



MAURITANIA

Capacity-building sessions and monthly follow-up sessions on sexual violence

- **62 judges and lawyers**
- **36 police officers**
- **32 doctors and midwives**
- **23 NGO members**

TUNISIA

Training sessions on how to prevent **sexual violence**

- **400 teachers, 60** of which became trainers

LIBERIA

Seminar on the role of law enforcement officials to ensure the fair treatment of children in the juvenile justice system

- **10 magistrates**
- **72 police officers** of the Women and Children Protection Section (WACPS)
 - **IMPACT:** since the end of the training, police forces and magistrates contacted DCI-Liberia to help with **157 judicial cases** involving children

COSTA RICA

Training seminars on family law and how to respond to **domestic violence**

- **35 public officers**

Training on prevention of commercial sexual exploitation of children

- **250 community members**

- **IMPACT:** **community-based protection mechanisms** established in 5 cities (Rincón Grande de Pavas, Manuel De Jesús Jiménez, Aserrí, Coronado and San Sebastián)



EGYPT

Multiple capacity-building sessions for **social workers, psychologists, members of the Ministry of Social Affairs, teachers and school officials**, on the effective implementation of **Child Protection Sub-Committees** (Egyptian Child Law, 1996)

COLOMBIA

- **2 workshops** to identify synergies and strengthen common actions directed at improving the lives of children in **situations of risk**
- **24 professionals from 12 civil society organizations**

SIERRA LEONE, LIBERIA AND GHANA

Defence for Girls Initiative:

- Seminars on **child protection**, in particular on how to protect girls and young women from violence
- **220 government officials**

BELGIUM

The Caravan of Children's Rights:
week-long training session to strengthen the capacity of **professionals working with children** in Europe

National seminars on children's rights and child protection mechanisms

- **500 Belgian professionals**
- New **pedagogical tools** produced



CAMEROON

2 workshops in Yaoundé and Obala, on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC)

- Representatives of **64 NGOs**
- **25 local councillors**
- **5 parliamentarians**

Training on how to **establish Child Rights Clubs and Girls Clubs** in schools

- **100 school teachers**

GUINEA

National Response Plan to the Ebola crisis: support to the prefectures of Boké, Boffa, Coyah, Dubréka, Forécariah, N'Zérékoré and Beyla in strengthening **child protection mechanisms** and training government officials and social workers

- 100 child protection officers
- 30 educators who later trained over **200 social workers** on psychosocial care and the **Identification, Documentation, Tracing and Reinsertion (ITDR) mechanism**

- **IMPACT:** establishment of a **referral system** to identify and register all children and families in vulnerable situations

CHILDREN ON THE MOVE

LEBANON

2 workshops for judges, representatives of the Ministry of Youth and Sports and members of civil society organizations on the theme "justice for children and the best interests of the child"

EUROPE
(THROUGH
DCI-ITALY)

RESILAND project: Building the capacities of child protection professionals on how to empower children on the move at risk of trafficking and exploitation

- **30 participants** from 18 EU countries
- **Training manual** produced: *"Orientations for Professionals and Officials working with Children on the Move"*

SafeGuard project: definition of a model on the appointment of guardians for children arriving in Europe

MAINSTREAMING GENDER EQUITY WITHIN THE DCI MOVEMENT

In January 2015, DCI formally adopted its **Code of Ethics and Gender Policy**. As part of its implementation, DCI-IS organized a training session on **"mainstreaming gender equity within the DCI Movement"**, in which **22 child rights advocates of 14 DCI national sections** took part. The aim of the training session was to raise awareness and strengthen the capacity of DCI representatives on issues relevant to gender equity and on the existing international human rights standards and mechanisms focusing on the reduction of inequalities between men and women. The training session was organized during the June session of the HRC, which addresses women's rights specifically. Three days of training - following a practical hands-on, participatory and interactive format - included a two-day session with experts on gender issues, and a one-day interactive workshop with an expert on gender mainstreaming to help guide the internal discussion aimed at implementing the DCI Gender Policy.





6

RESEARCH & MONITORING

DCI advocacy and lobbying initiatives are backed by evidence and data collected through intense research and monitoring activities at all levels.



JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN



Within the scope of its campaign for the **Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty**, the IS conducted extensive research on international legal standards and on the various forms of deprivation of liberty: children in conflict with the law (or other local norms and customs); children confined due to physical or mental disabilities or drug use; children detained with their parents or other relatives; immigration detention (refugee, asylum seeker, and irregular migrant children); children detained for their protection (e.g. street children, girls vulnerable to honour crimes, etc.); and detention for national security reasons (e.g. children suspected of participation in armed conflict).

In **Latin America**, 8 of DCI's national sections continued to monitor and research on the situation of children deprived of liberty. Our **Regional Observatory on Juvenile Justice**, which is funded by the European Union, presented its 2015 monitoring report before members of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in October in Washington, USA. The Observatory showed that **27'417 children were deprived of their liberty, including 7'653 held in pre-trial detention**. The report also warned about the negative influence and impacts that drug and security policies have on juvenile justice systems, falling in line with the upcoming UN General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem (April, 2016). Finally, the report also offered a gender perspective analysis, by specifically looking at the **situation of teenage women victims of institutional violence**. In addition to providing crucial, up-to-date information to the IACHR, DCI-Americas also met with Marta Santos País, SRSG on Violence against Children, on the specific issue of adolescent girls in contact with the law.

In **Europe**, the project "**Children's Rights Behind Bars**" - led by DCI-Belgium and in collaboration, inter-alia, with DCI France, Italy and Netherlands - continued to research on the conditions and treatment of children deprived of liberty and the existing work of monitoring bodies. The project aimed at producing the **first European Practical Guide on the monitoring of places where children are deprived of liberty**. The Guide will be presented at the final conference of the project, to be held in Brussels, Belgium (February, 2016).

Under the leadership of DCI-Italy, DCI-Belgium and DCI-Spain were also partners in the European project **TWELVE**, aiming to monitor the implementation of article 12 of the CRC. Article 12 guarantees the **right of every child to express his or her views**, in particular in judicial and administrative proceedings. Each DCI national section produced **country reports** to provide information on relevant legislation and practical implementation of article 12 at national level. Project members also worked together with professionals and adolescents in contact with the juvenile justice system to produce a handbook on theories and good practices. The handbook, which will be released in early 2016, will provide a crucial **child-rights based, know-how approach** aiming to make children's participation in the juvenile justice system more effective and meaningful.

Under the leadership of the regional desk, all 10 national sections of DCI in the MENA region – **Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen** – contributed to the report **“The situation of child rights in Arab Countries”**. This report gave an overview of the main **challenges** that children face in upholding their rights in their respective countries. The report demonstrated how children living in Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Palestine, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen are particularly vulnerable to **grave human rights violations** - such as killing and maiming, recruitment and use, sexual violence, and abduction - due to on-going conflicts. In countries affected by armed conflicts or other situations of violence, many children faced the sad reality of a drastic reduction in terms of places providing child-friendly environments. **In Iraq**, many children could not receive education, as **over 2.000 schools** across the country were **used to host internally displaced persons**, not taking into account schools destroyed by armed factions. In **Libya**, violence prevented over **1.2 million children from attending school**. In addition, the DCI report showed that many Arab countries were still grappling with **social norms** that view early child marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM), child labour, and other forms of violence against children as acceptable. In **Lebanon**, it was reported that **1 in 10 Syrian refugee children** were engaged in a form of **child labour**. **In Mauritania, 54% of girls** were subject to **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)** and child marriages accounted for over 35% of all marriages in the country. On the ground, DCI national sections continued to conduct activities both to prevent and protect children against these various forms of severe human rights violation.

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN



DCI-Costa Rica conducted extensive **research on the existing national legal and political framework** guaranteeing children to be free from any form of violence. DCI worked together with members of the Costa Rican working group on violence against children (which it founded in 2010), to evaluate the **implementation of the recommendations made in the UN Study on violence against children (2006)**. DCI launched the new report during a public conference in which various State representatives and relevant professionals participated.

In **Sierra Leone**, DCI co-produced with Ms Barbara Robinson, researcher of the Human Rights Centre of the University of Essex, the report *“A Mountain to Climb: Gender-Based Violence and Girls’ Right to Education in Sierra Leone”*. The report examined how different forms of **gender-based** violence, including harmful cultural practices such as early marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM), **affected girls’ ability to access and remain in secondary and higher education**. The report particularly exposed: girls’ perspectives and experiences of the educational system in Sierra Leone; the cultural, social and financial barriers to girls’ right to further education; an insight into the impact of the 2014/15 Ebola epidemic on girls’ experiences of school and their wider lives; and the role of the State, civil society and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Sierra Leone in addressing these issues.

CHILDREN & ARMED CONFLICT



DCI-Palestine published the report “Operation Protective Edge: A War Waged on Gaza’s Children”, detailing the high price paid by children during Israel’s assault on Gaza in summer 2014. DCI-Palestine independently verified the deaths of 547 Palestinian children, 535 of them as a direct result of Israeli attacks including 164 by drone strikes. Nearly 68 percent of children killed by Israeli forces were 12 years old or younger. For those who managed to escape physical injury, the psychological effects have been severe and resounding. In light of this report, our Palestinian section urged the international community to hold Israeli forces and officials accountable for grave human rights violations against Palestinian children and to end impunity. It also urged the Government of Israel to conduct impartial and independent investigations into alleged violations and to fully cooperate with the UN-mandated Independent Commission of Inquiry on the 2014 Gaza Conflict.

CHILDREN ON THE MOVE

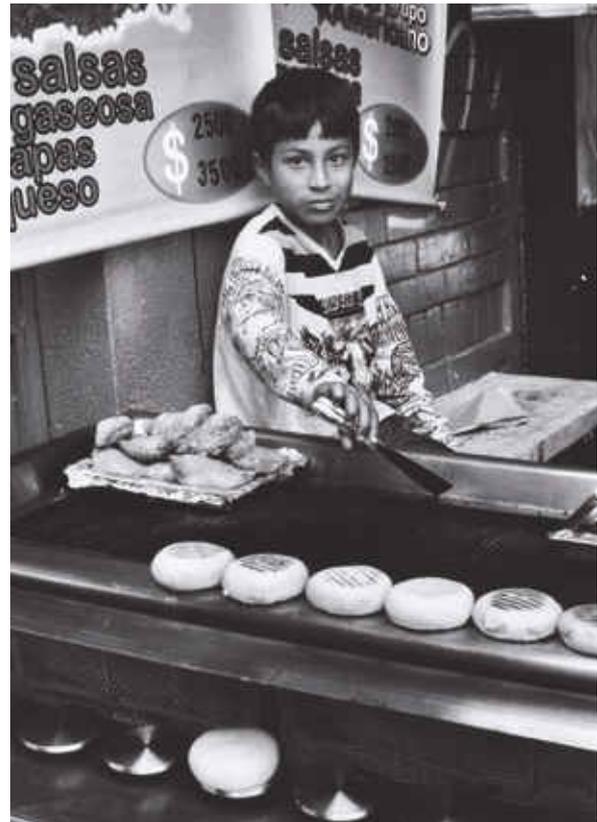


DCI-Netherlands contributed to an analysis of the best interests of the child in **family migration policies**. With estimated **10.000 children** remaining or becoming separated from their parents by governments due to current family migration policies; researchers asked the following question: in what way should the concept ‘primary consideration’ from Article 3 CRC be construed in the family migration policy? The report looked at the applicable normative framework and provided **practical illustrations** through cases that occurred in the Netherlands.

In **Somalia**, DCI conducted a needs assessment of **internally displaced children** in Mogadishu. Through interviews with children and community and camp leaders, DCI’s child protection team noted that **psychological distress**, the absence of **recreational and educational activities** for children, the lack of appropriate **services for disabled children** and the risk to be forced into child labour situations were major areas of concerns. This baseline study was instrumental in order to help DCI-Somalia adapt and expand its activities with internally displaced children.

INDIGENOUS CHILDREN

In light of the World Indigenous Games (WIG) held in October in Palmas, Brazil, the Centro de Defesa da Criança e do Adolescente (CEDECA) Glória de Ivone, member of **ANCED/DCI-Brazil**, published a report on the situation of children's rights in the region. The report called upon public authorities to ensure **better allocation of public resources**, particularly in prioritizing investments in currently-deficient **social protection and education systems**, rather than promoting and dictating a commercial logic, best displayed by massive investments in the organization of the WIG.



EBOLA CRISIS



Throughout the recent **Ebola** crisis, **DCI-Sierra Leone** played a crucial role in addressing **the needs of affected children** and communities but noted that most interventions lacked long-term planning and perspectives. In this regard, DCI conducted research and exposed critical concerns over the future of children orphaned by Ebola, child survivors and children of adult survivors. A research paper on the **"Efficacy of Social Protection Programme in restoring the**

human rights of children affected by the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)" was presented before the ACERWC in Addis Ababa (November 2015). The paper promoted a **child-sensitive social protection programme** that will benefit children, their families and communities and thus contribute to overall national development. The aim of this research paper was to demonstrate how social protection can **trigger policy response, economic recovery** for families and **increase access to services** for both children affected by Ebola and children in vulnerable situations.

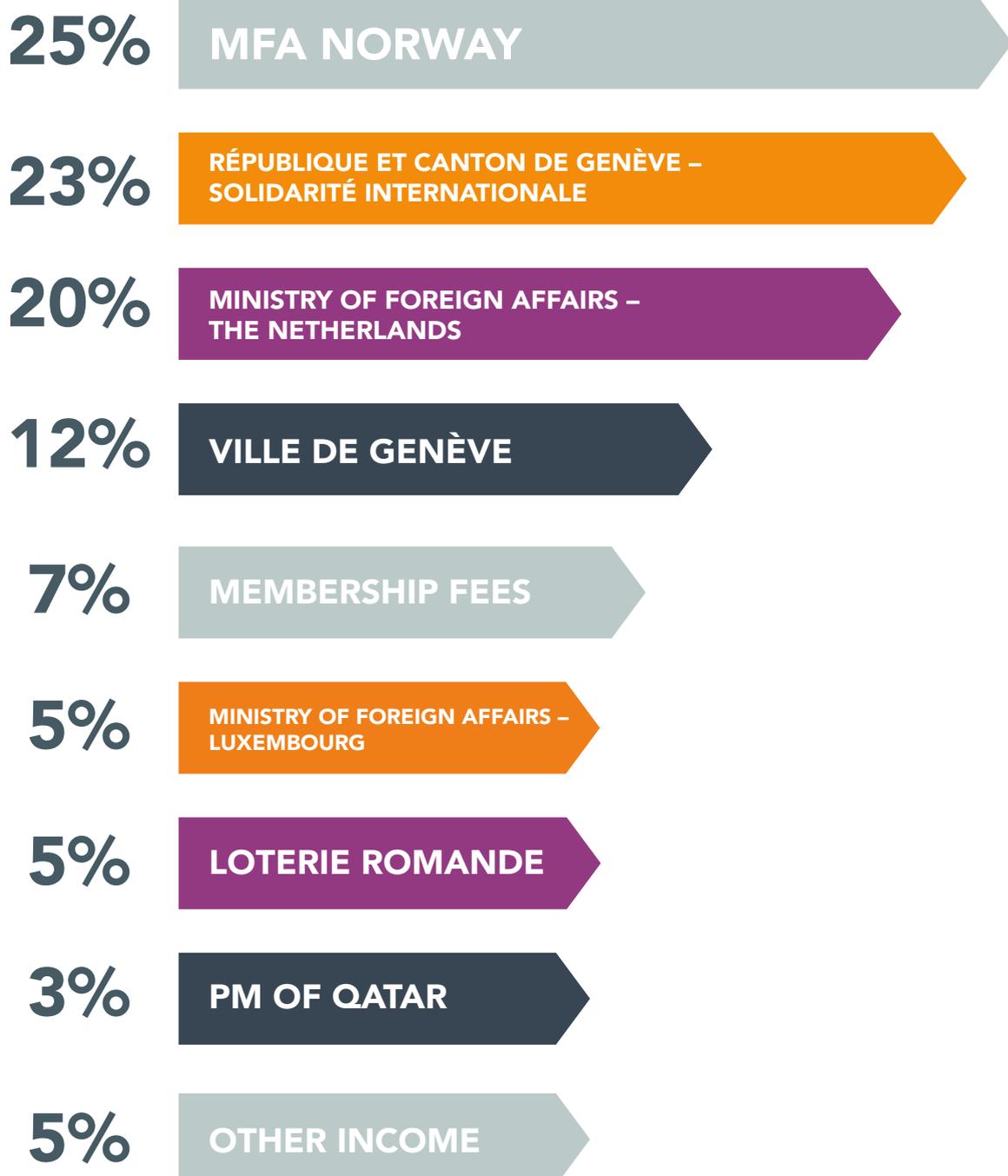


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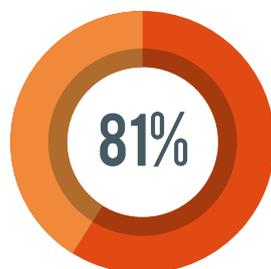
FINANCIAL FACTS

"We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all our donors and partners. Your contributions enable us to achieve important steps towards the realisation of children's rights worldwide."

WHERE DO THE DONATIONS COME FROM?



INVESTMENT RATIO



PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES



PROGRAMME SUPPORT

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2015

INCOME

Currency CHF

Contributions	291'782
Contributions IPJJ	24'061
Donations	30'435
Funds IntCo	23'998
Other income	939
Membership fees	31'639
Exchange rate	1'925
Sub-renting	44'567
TOTAL	449'346

EXPENSES

Project activities

Project staff	162'449
Sensitization	13'740
Capacity building	42'044
Lobbying & Advocacy	17'165
Contributions to partners	63'004
Expenses IntCo	8'026
Expenses IPJJ	20'289
Other direct costs	919
Overheads	34'665
SUB-TOTAL	362'301
Project support	84'202
GRAND TOTAL	446'503

Excess of income	2'842.51
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BALANCE SHEET 2014

ASSETS

TOTAL ASSETS

Currency CHF

147'908

LIABILITIES

Payables

11'006

Funding IPJJ to be used following year

3'772

Advanced donations

96'977

Accrued expenses

1'940

SUB -TOTAL

113'695

EQUITY

Capital as of 1st January

31'370

Excess of income

2'843

SUB -TOTAL

34'213

GRAND TOTAL

147'908

AUDITOR'S STATEMENT

The financial statements of Defence for Children International Secretariat are established in accordance with the Statutes of the organisation and the applicable provisions of the Swiss Code of Obligations. The financial statements include the accounts of the Swiss based organisation Defence for Children International (DCI). They do not include the accounts of DCI national sections or projects conducted by partners, who are independent from DCI. According to the DCI Statutes, the International Executive Council (IEC) has the competence to approve the accounts for the previous year in-between International General Assemblies (AGI) taking place every four years. Our accounts have been checked and audited by the Trust company "Wuarin & Chatton", from Geneva (Switzerland). A copy of the report and the financial statements can be requested to our financial department.

Report of the Auditor on annual accounts

In accordance with the mandate received, we have audited the accounting and financial statements (balance sheet and statement of Income and Expenditures) of the **DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN - INTERNATIONAL, Geneva**, for the year ending December 31st, 2015.

The Treasurer is responsible for these financial statements. Our responsibility is to perform a limited examination on these financial statements. We confirm that we meet the licensing and independence requirements as stipulated by Swiss law.

We conducted our examination in accordance with the Swiss standard on the limited statutory examination. This standard requires that we plan and perform a limited statutory examination to identify material misstatements in the financial statements. A limited statutory examination consists primarily of inquiries of foundation personnel and analytical procedures as well as detailed tests of foundation documents as considered necessary in the circumstances. However, the testing of operational processes and the internal control system, as well as inquiries and further testing procedures to detect fraud or other legal violations, are not within the scope of the examination.

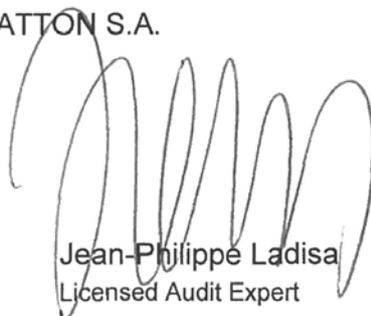
Based on our limited statutory examination, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not comply with the statutes and the Swiss law.

Geneva, Mai 17st, 2016

FIDUCIAIRE WUARIN & CHATTON S.A.



Patrick Ciocco
Licensed Audit Expert
Auditor in charge



Jean-Philippe Ladisa
Licensed Audit Expert

Enclosures :

Financial statements :

- Balance sheet
- Statement of Income and Expenditures
- Annex



8

PRIORITIES FOR 2016



PUTTING CHILDREN FIRST

- Continue to provide socio-legal assistance and other direct services
- Lead and support empowerment initiatives
- Run coordinated awareness-raising and advocacy initiatives at all levels (local, national, regional and international)
- Build and reinforce the capacities of professionals working directly with children



GLOBAL STUDY ON CHILDREN DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY

- Co-convene the NGO Panel for the GSCDL
- Lobby for the appointment of an independent expert to lead the Study.
- Bolster additional support from UN Member States and strengthen the collaboration with UN agencies such as UNICEF, OHCHR and UNODC.
- Involve DCI national sections and regional desks that will play a major role in the implementation phase of the Study, in particular for the collection of data.



INTERNAL CAPACITIES AND STRATEGY

- Workshops with DCI national sections on access to justice and organizational management
- Regional meetings and discussions in preparation of the 13th International General Assembly (IGA) of the DCI Movement, in order to define the new strategic plan of action for 2017-2020



FIND US

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Defence for Children International



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Defence for Children International – International Secretariat

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