

DISPATCHES

*"At the beginning we felt like a thread.
We found each other and we started to join
our threads, our stories. That makes us feel
part of a new canvas the colour of hope."*

**WHRD Juanita Jiménez, Director of Movimiento Autónomo
de Mujeres, Nicaragua**

Front cover images *Top photo:* Front Line Defenders take action during an all staff gathering calling for the release of Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja.

Bottom photo: HRDs during a visit to Tanzania as part of a project support Indigenous human rights defenders.

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**f FRONT LINE
DEFENDERS**

WELCOME

2023 has had its fair share of challenges, to say the least. It continues to be an extremely difficult environment for Human Rights Defenders and the human rights movement. Adding to multiple on-going crises around the world, such as Afghanistan, Myanmar, and Ukraine, the escalation of civil war in Sudan and the human rights catastrophe in the Occupied Palestinian Territory paint a bleak picture for human rights defence. The anti-gender movement continues to gather strength, with repressive laws stripping away the rights of LGBTIQ+ people being introduced across the world, most notably in Uganda and Russia.

In many countries, risks for human rights defenders (HRDs) are increasing. HRDs have expressed to us their utter dismay at the blatant double standards and failure of the international community to stand up for the human rights of everyone, particularly in Gaza. This occurred in a year in which we 'celebrated' the 75th anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, demonstrating the very damaging gap between governments' and international institutions' eloquent statements and lip-service, and their actual willingness to follow through with concerted political action and resources.

However, despite the worsening situation, HRDs continue to courageously stand up and tackle some of the world's most pressing challenges. It remains a huge privilege for all of us at Front Line Defenders to work and support HRDs carrying out their work despite the huge backlash. HRDs like Front Line Defenders' 2023 Award Winner Hala Ahed, who in her defence for women's rights face digital attacks, hate speech and online violence. And Segundo Ordoñez, an Afro-descendent HRD



Olive Moore, Interim Executive Director, with Maryam al-Khawaja, campaigning for the release of her father, Bahraini human rights defender Abdulhadi al-Khawaja.

from Ecuador campaigning against modern slavery in his community, who has faced legal challenges and harassment because of his work, increasingly from non-state actors like businesses.

In September, I joined WHRD Maryam Al-Khawaja in her attempt to travel to Bahrain to visit her father Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja, an imprisoned HRD and also a former employee of Front Line Defenders. We were deeply concerned for his health, and that of other Bahraini HRDs who were on hunger strike protesting appalling prison conditions. Maryam herself undertook this trip at great personal risk, facing the very real possibility of further arrest, detention and torture, as she has previously experienced at the hands of the Bahrain Authorities. We were denied access

WELCOME

to our flight to Bahrain on the instruction of the Bahrain government. Their callous refusal to allow us to visit stood in sharp contrast to the dignity and conviction of Maryam and her father. Once again I saw the remarkable power and conviction of HRDs, and the importance of our role as Front Line Defenders to stand with HRDs, and to advocate fiercely for them to be able to carry out their essential human rights work without reprisals.

As this report shows, Front Line Defenders has continued to be a leading voice for the protection of human rights defenders, providing practical, urgent support whilst also contributing to building a longer-term supportive environment for HRDs. Overall, we continued to expand our reach and provided support to 2,413 HRDs and 647 organisations, communities, and collectives in 130 countries. We are encouraged by the fact that 83% of HRDs reported that they could continue their human rights work following receipt of our support.

I believe this shows the critical support that Front Line Defenders is able to provide to HRDs globally as well as the impact we can achieve. We continue to learn and grow, listening to the needs of HRDs, adjusting our work accordingly, and ensuring that their voices are at the centre of all that we do. This work wouldn't be possible without the support of a global community of allies, including our donors.

Whilst 2024 looks set to bring its fair share of challenges, we hope that we can continue to work towards a world where human rights are upheld and HRDs are able to do their work freely. After several years of growth, 2023 was a year of consolidation for us as we expanded support

teams to ensure we had the capacity to respond to growth as well as an increasingly challenging context. We look forward to welcoming a new Executive Director this year and the opportunity this presents to further strengthen our work.

Finally, I would like to share some words from Iranian WHRD Narges Mohammadi in her inspiring acceptance speech for the Nobel Peace Prize. Narges invited Front Line Defenders to attend the Nobel Ceremony in Oslo. The privilege of being part of the auspicious ceremony recognising the important work of Narges, and of WHRDs generally, was however wholly diminished by the fact that Narges herself was not there. She remained in the notorious Elvin prison, detained yet again for her relentless work advocating for human rights. Undeterred, Narges made sure that while she was not there in person her power and spirit and that of WHRDs in Iran and globally certainly was.

"With hope and eagerness, and alongside the resilient and courageous women and men of Iran, I extend my hand to all forces, movements, and individuals that focus on peace, the global covenant of human rights, and on democracy. I am confident that the light of freedom and justice will shine brightly."



Olive Moore
Interim Executive Director

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CONTEXT

The situation for HRDs around the world is extremely challenging and they face wide-ranging threats that jeopardise the continuation of their work.

In 2023, some of the **key threats** facing HRDs were:

The **multiplication of conflict and crisis situations** in a number of world regions, pushing HRDs to work in increasingly difficult and unsafe contexts. In Gaza, HRDs including journalists and healthcare workers have been killed, injured or had their homes destroyed, and Palestinian HRDs risked their lives to report and document the situation. The escalation of conflict in Sudan led to a high number of HRDs facing increased risk and in need of relocation. Meanwhile in places like Myanmar, Kashmir, Ukraine and Afghanistan, ongoing crises make long term solutions for protection of HRDs more challenging.

Physical violence, including killings as a direct result of their work, from both non-state and state actors. In 2023, the Human Rights Memorial, coordinated by Front Line Defenders, registered 300 killings of HRDs around the world. Colombia continued to have the highest number of HRD killings, with almost 50% (142) of the total global number. Indigenous, Environmental and Land Rights defenders were again those most at risk of being killed, representing almost one third of all HRDs killed as a result of their work.

16% of all HRDs killed were women, and 5% were working on LGBTIQ+ rights.

Ever more **sophisticated digital threats**, including surveillance. Targeted by smear campaigns, doxxing and online harassment, in 2023, HRDs reported experiencing elevated stress, paranoia and fear impacting their mental, physical and financial well-being. Front Line Defenders has also documented an increase in cases of online defamation against Women HRDs.

The **continued criminalisation and silencing** of HRDs and organisations, including under the pretext of counter-terrorism. Criminalisation remains the most common risk faced by HRDs as reported to Front Line Defenders in Asia-Pacific, Europe and Central Asia and the Middle East and North Africa, and is in the top five risks reported by HRDs in the Americas and sub-Saharan Africa. The continued use of national security charges and anti-terrorism legislation against defenders, and the smearing of them as terrorists or spies, not only opens the door to lengthy prison sentences but also undermines their support base. New foreign agent-type laws were introduced in Hungary, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan while in Sri Lanka an Anti-Terrorism Act was tabled which, according to the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights, if passed would “grant excessive powers to the executive to restrict

CONTEXT



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rights, with limited or no safeguards against abuse of such powers”.

Restrictions on the right to protest, with HRDs frequently criminalised for exercising their right to peacefully protest against environmental harms and human rights abuses. In the year following the Woman Life Freedom protests in Iran, Front Line Defenders monitored the situation of 200 HRDs who were subjected to arrest, arbitrary detention and legal actions due to their involvement. Indigenous defenders were routinely criminalised in the context of their peaceful defence of ancestral territory, which often involves protest and occupation. Similarly, in Brazil, landless worker human rights defenders who peacefully occupy estates to push for land reform were

Portraits of Baloch missing persons are displayed by their family members at a sit-in protest camp in Islamabad, Pakistan Monday, Dec. 25, 2023.

subjected to attacks, including killings. The right to protest is also at risk in Europe, a fact which has been increasingly apparent in the treatment of climate defenders. This was reflected in the proliferation of laws used to restrict freedom of assembly and the heavy handed policing of peaceful protests including in Austria, France, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Spain and the UK.

Furthermore, **marginalised groups** continued to face multiple, intersecting challenges in carrying out their human rights activities:

Globally, there have been a number of very concerning developments including

CONTEXT



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state-sponsored crack downs on **LGBTIQ+ defenders**. Events through 2023 in East Africa have made it extremely difficult for LGBTIQ+ defenders in region to continue to operate, facing physical violence and threats as well as online harassment. Another region where we are seeing increasing threats is **Eastern Europe and Central Asia**, with LGBTIQ+ defenders targeted amongst a general tightening of civil society space and crackdown on human rights.

In 2023, there was an evident pattern of criminalisation of Indigenous, **Environmental and Land Rights** defenders resisting

Lima, Peru. 06th Mar, 2024. Indigenous men and women protesting in front of the Peruvian Congress, for the recent modifications to the forestry law that would facilitate the deforestation of the Amazon and illegal logging

dispossession by extractive industries and denouncing the militarisation of their territories, while their legitimate defence of their land, environment and collective rights was frequently labelled as “acts of terrorism”. **Indigenous peoples’ rights defenders** specifically are targeted for defending their communities’ rights to access natural resources and advocating for the recognition of customary land ownership.

OUR ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT

STRATEGIC GOALS 2023-2027

As part of its Strategic Plan 2023-2027, Front Line Defenders has developed a results framework with three key goals that are key for achieving the overarching organisational objective: **that human rights defenders (HRDs) are recognised and supported as essential actors in defending and advancing human rights, and bringing about positive change in society.**



OUR ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT

Front Line Defenders provides rapid and practical support to human rights defenders at risk through:

1. RAPID RESPONSE including a 24/7 hotline for HRDs, urgent appeals, and protection grants. Protection Grants provide rapid and practical financial support to HRDs at risk. They can be delivered in 48h in cases of emergency, and can be used for, amongst other things: emergency relocations; equipment to improve physical or digital security; and legal or medical support.

2. CAPACITY BUILDING consultations, workshops and resource materials to promote HRDs' holistic protection, addressing physical, digital and psychosocial security. We also offer Rest and Respite opportunities for defenders to recuperate from the challenges of their work/environment.

3. ADVOCACY at national and international level, through UN and regional mechanisms, including tailored advocacy for HRDs and input on key regional and international policy developments.

IN 2023, FRONT LINE DEFENDERS SUPPORTED:

2,413 Human Rights Defenders at Risk

and

647 organisations in 130 countries.

83% of HRDs reported being able to continue their work following support from the organisation.

Below is an overview of the work that Front Line Defenders carried out in these areas in 2023.

GOAL 1 – RAPID RESPONSE

INCREASED PROTECTION THROUGH RAPID, PRACTICAL AND INTERSECTIONAL SUPPORT

"It is a great source of strength that you are here."

[Quote from WHRD in Honduras](#)

Front Line Defenders expanded and strengthened its network of contacts with HRDs at risk

In 2023, Front Line Defenders strengthened accessibility and outreach and expanded its network of HRDs at risk, adding 1,824 HRDs and 227 organisations/groups to its database.

During 2023, Front Line Defenders conducted 89 outreach visits, a significant increase on 2022 when 58 visits were carried out. A priority has been to increase outreach to those most at risk and marginalised.

Front Line Defenders' Protection Coordinators play a key role in the organisation in documenting the needs of HRDs and coordinating protection support. In 2023, the protection team carried out over 1,246 consultations. During these consultations, Protection Coordinators refer HRDs to specific support programmes at Front Line Defenders. The top three referral types recorded in 2023 were grants, digital protection and global advocacy. This is evidence of the role of these consultations as a first point of contact and the effective referral to provide holistic, appropriate and timely support.

842 women HRDs

50 HRDs who are trans/
gender non conforming

47 HRDs on the Move (HRDs outside
home country/refugee HRDs or
HRDs in exile)

27 HRDs living with
disability

29 Indigenous communities and
260 HRDs working on Land/
Environment/Indigenous Rights

130 HRDs working
on LGBTIQ+ rights

GOAL 1 – RAPID RESPONSE



An example of **Front Line Defenders’ holistic support** is with an organisation working on **LGBTIQ+** rights in **Kenya**. The Protection Coordinator from the region held a consultation with members of the organisation who had faced threats and harassment. Following the consultation, the Protection Coordinator arranged for an urgent consultation with Front Line Defenders’ Security Advisor, as well as supporting an emergency grant application process. The Physical Security advisor held several consultations with the organisation to develop plans to respond to increasing attacks following the rise in anti-LGBTIQ+ rhetoric in the country. The Security Advisor also organised a workshop for their security team to ensure that any protection measures available were being implemented. The grant application was also approved and covered office security and temporary relocation for staff.

RAPID SUPPORT TO HRDS IN CRISIS CONTEXTS

Front Line Defenders has continued to respond to HRDs operating in a range of conflict settings, rolling out flexible support adapted to their various and rapidly changing needs. Learning from previous conflict contexts has been reflected in how Front Line Defenders has responded to crisis situations in 2023.

CRISIS RESPONSE IN SUDAN

Front Line Defenders’ response was immediate, with a coordination group forming and the dedicated Sudanese Protection Officer leading on outreach to HRDs. Front Line Defenders provided **154 grants for a total of €449,732**. There were also two grants to support local protection initiatives, including to a women’s shelter to ensure access for WHRDs in the country and a media organisation to investigate and highlight the continued and increasing threats faced by WHRDs.

The Global Advocacy team has also ensured that HRDs are given access to advocacy spaces and that cases of targeting and killing of HRDs are highlighted, such as the killing of three human rights defenders in June, the killing of human rights defender **Ahmed Mohamed Abdella**, and the killing of WHRD **Bahjaa Abdelaa Abdelaa** in October.

The Digital Protection team, Physical Security team, and Capacity Building teams have also engaged in supporting HRDs who have relocated to Kampala, the major destination for HRDs who have left Sudan.

GOAL 1 – RAPID RESPONSE

CRISIS RESPONSE IN EAST AFRICA

In 2023, Front Line Defenders provided **37 grants to LGBTIQ+ HRDs**, including 17 protection grants to organisations and 20 grants to individuals (7 to men, 3 to women, 1 to a gender non-conforming individual, and 2 to trans women).

Front Line Defenders continued to support LGBTIQ+ defenders across Africa, providing consultations to **4 HRDs in South Africa, Namibia, Tanzania, and Uganda**. Front Line Defenders' Physical Security Advisor conducted **12 consultations with HROs across sub-Saharan Africa working on LGBTIQ+ rights**, benefiting a total of 28 HRDs.

Front Line Defenders' response to this crisis in East Africa is an example of how the organisation responds not just to crisis caused by conflicts, but also crises that see the systematic targeting of specific groups.

CRISIS RESPONSE GAZA

Responding to the needs of HRDs in such a context has been extremely complicated. Front Line Defenders' response has focused on the following:

- ▶ Providing **protection grants to HRDs** where possible (e.g. grants for safe IT equipment to document violations, and for support for internal relocation). The grants that were provided were mainly to organisations to continue their work. However, grants have been limited given the difficulty in sending money to Gaza
- ▶ **Advocating for the international community** to support HRDs in Gaza, in a context where support to HRDs by the international community has been very limited. This has included supporting HRDs to meet decision makers, and advocating to restore funding, including for protection, for Palestinian HRDs following donors' decisions to review or freeze funding.
- ▶ Supporting HRDs with **digital security** and ways to communicate safely externally in a context of communications blackouts and surveillance.

Additional support has also been provided to HRDs in the West Bank facing increased risks linked primarily to settlers' violence, as well as doxxing, defamation, death threats, defunding, funding freezing and censorship, and to HRDs in Israel who have been facing attacks and harassment.

GOAL 1 – RAPID RESPONSE

FINANCIAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT FOR HRDS

In 2023, Front Line Defenders awarded **1,248 protection grants** to HRDs at risk in **98 countries** to a total value of €3,297,378. Of these, **141 were emergency grants** and 49% were approved within 48hrs.

99% of HRDs* reported increased security following receipt of a grant**

50% reported: "This grant has made not only me more secure, but also my colleagues and/or family"

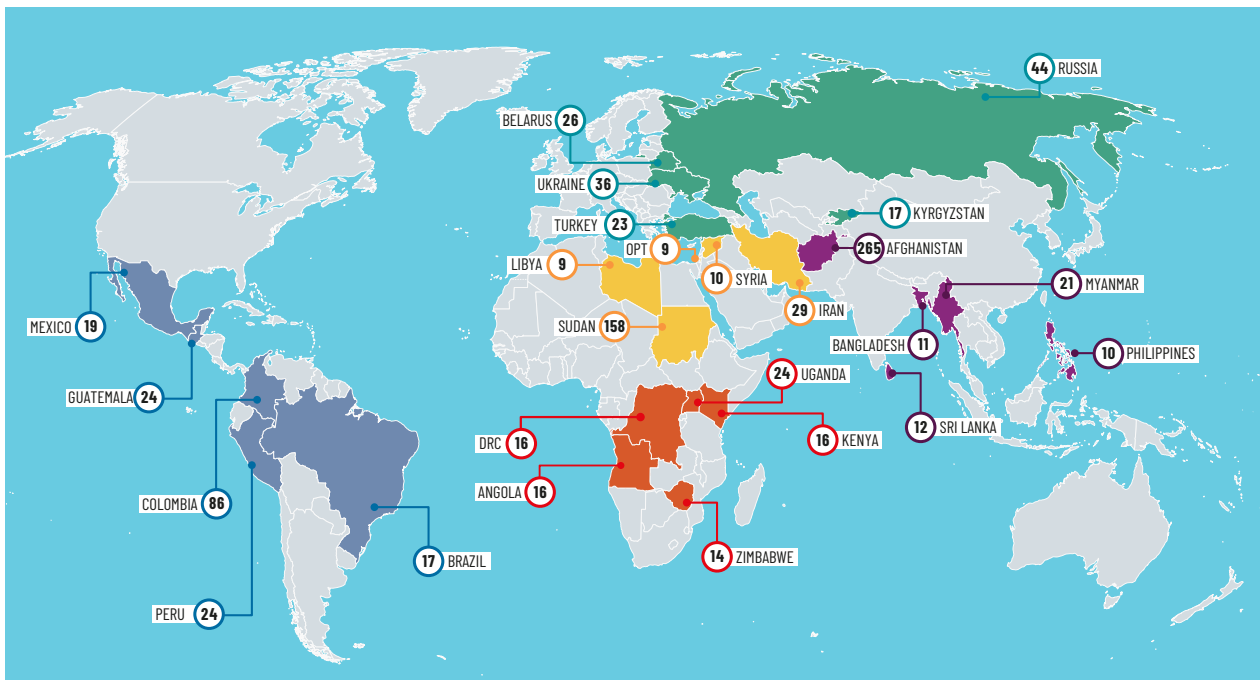
35% reported "I feel secure as a result of receiving this grant"

14% reported that the grant "slightly improved" their security.

* Target 100%.

** 98%men/ 99%women/ 100%GNC/ 100% organisations

TOP 5 COUNTRIES FOR GRANT APPROVALS PER REGION



GOAL 1 – RAPID RESPONSE

HRDS SUPPORTED

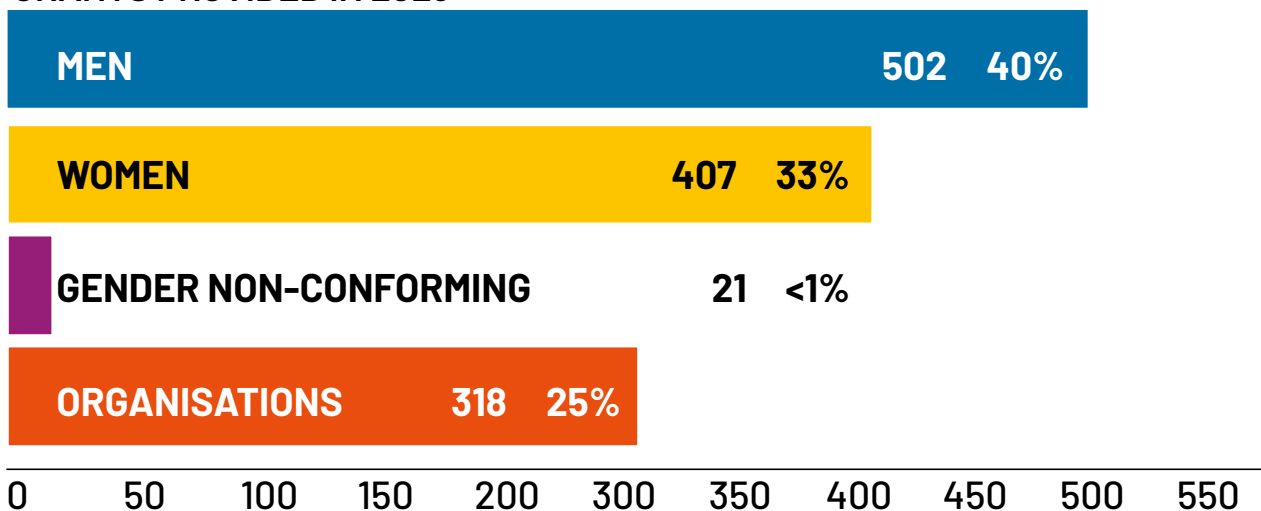
"These contributions have had a great impact on my personal security and have reduced the threats to some extent. And I was able to use this help in the right way that had a direct positive impact on my life."

HRD from Afghanistan who received protection grant for temporary relocation

Similarly to 2022, the highest number of grants in 2023 were provided to HRDs working on **Afghanistan**, with **265 (22%) grants totalling €584,194**. The second highest number of grants was to HRDs working on **Sudan** with **158 (13%) grants, totalling €460,572**. This has underlined a similar trend to previous years with regards to increased grant provision to HRDs in crisis contexts.

A large proportion of grants were provided to support temporary relocation (38%) and permanent relocation (13%); many of these to HRDs in crisis situations.

GRANTS PROVIDED IN 2023



GOAL 1 – RAPID RESPONSE

THE MAIN ISSUES THAT GRANT RECIPIENTS WORKED ON



GOAL 1 – RAPID RESPONSE

EXAMPLES OF GRANTS TO COLOMBIA

A grant was provided to an organisation set up to help women victims of gender-based violence and armed conflict in Colombia to exercise their rights and economic independence through alternative income such as traditional crafts. They had received threatening phone calls and an attempted office break-in as a result of their work. They requested security cameras for their offices, mobile phones and costs of internet and calls to improve communication and connection and enable them to inform of any incidents immediately. The organisation received a protection grant of €2,500 and reported that they could resume work with a few limitations and that the grant improved their security.

Another grant was provided to an environmental defender working with communities to protect their territory and river from extractivist multinational companies who are protected by illegal armed groups. He has received many death threats and fled the country. The grant covered temporary relocation for his family.

PARAGUAY

Grant to indigenous organisation in eastern Paraguay leading the community's efforts to safeguard and protect sacred territory from extractive companies. In October 2022, two members of their community, known for their work defending the territory, were killed in their home. This occurred in the wider context of decade-long militarisation of the zone by law enforcement agencies and the military due to the presence of an illegal armed group.

Front Line Defenders has been offering holistic support to the community as a result of the extreme risks they face due to marginalisation, extractive industries, agrobusiness, the drug trade (mainly groups from Brazil) and the militarisation and conflict in the zone. This affects their ability to move around, communicate with each other and the future of their community and ancestral territory. A collective protection grant for the community of €5,100 covered psychological support for three months, telephone communication system for the community, secure transport for 6 visits to a community, temporary relocation for 6 members of community at particular risk due to death threats from illegal armed groups and secure meetings to socialise collective protection measures with community leaders and members.

GOAL 1 – RAPID RESPONSE

ACTION TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO URGENT HRD CASES

"I wanted to thank you so much for what you have done, not only for me, but also for Nicaragua. Right now we are exiled, with nothing. But here we find generous hands. Just like you who are fighting for a better world, a democracy. This is just the beginning, that door is opening. Thank you for your struggle, for your dedication, for helping us, for continuing to defend and not abandoning this struggle for human rights. Such beautiful work."

Quote from HRD from Nicaragua after Front Line Defenders released an Urgent Appeal about his case

Front Line Defenders issued **257 urgent actions for HRDs in 65 countries**. Of the urgent actions,

31% were regarding organisations

and the rest were regarding individual HRDs:

27% Women

41% Men

1% GNC

Urgent Actions are urgent appeals, statements and public and private letters responding to cases of HRDs facing immediate risks.

The most commonly reported violations in cases taken up in urgent actions during the reporting period included: legal action, arbitrary arrest/detention, physical attack, raid/break-in/theft, disappearance, and threats and harassment. In 2023 Front

MOST COMMONLY REPORTED VIOLATIONS

4% THREATS AND HARASSMENT

5% DISAPPEARANCE

6% RAID/BREAK-IN/THEFT

7% PHYSICAL ATTACK

23% ARBITRARY ARREST/DETENTION

24% LEGAL ACTION

Line Defenders took up 11 urgent actions responding to the killings of 16 HRDs, representing 3% of urgent actions taken. Front Line Defenders also issued 135 urgent appeals, statement and updates on behalf of HRDs facing detention or a risk of detention.

GOAL 2 – CAPACITY BUILDING

Of the urgent actions, **66 (32%) recorded positive outcomes** in 28 countries including in a number of countries with very challenging contexts for HRDs, including those working on **Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Iran, and China** where limited positive outcomes are possible.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Our capacity building work aims to strengthen HRDs, their communities and civil society resilience and capacity to manage their protection in the longer-term. This work provides training and consultations in a variety of areas, including risk and protection planning, digital security, physical security, visibility for protection, and well-being support.

2023 saw a substantial growth in the work of Front Line Defenders' Capacity Building team, delivering more workshops and support throughout its main areas. The teams (Capacity Building, Digital Security, and Physical Security) supported a total of 1,188 HRDs in 2023 (compared to 992 HRDs in 2022) and 198 organisations/groups (compared to 200 in 2022). This reflects the increased demands within the sector for greater capacity to respond to the complex threats that HRDs are facing.

Front Line Defenders continued to have evidence of increased capacity at national level to respond to protection needs of HRDs at risk with 94% of local champions – HRDs trained to cascade protection knowledge to

their local communities – providing support in their local contexts. Front Line Defenders also continued to implement local protection initiatives: grants or activities to strengthen local or regional protection mechanisms, with 100% of local protection initiatives demonstrating improved capacity following Front Line Defenders' support.

THE OUTCOMES OF THIS WORK REMAINED STRONG:

94% of HRDs reported they are implementing strategies/ drafted plans following Risk Analysis & Protection Planning support (93%M/ 95%W/50% GNC);

96% of HRDs reported they are still applying tactics, skills, behavioural changes that were recommended during digital protection support (92%M/98%W/100%GNC);

79% of HRDs reported strengthened security following support from Security Advisor (85%M/77%W).

100% of HRDs supported through the Rest & Respite programme and Well-being retreats reported improved well-being.

46% of HRDs reported developing well-being plans following retreats

54% of HRDs reported adopting two new well-being strategies following retreats.

GOAL 2 – CAPACITY BUILDING

CAPACITY BUILDING SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

96% of HRDs reported that trainings and support provided by the Capacity Building team, the Digital Protection team, and the Physical security team led to **improved capacity**.

1,188 HRDs received this tailored capacity building support (491 men, 663 women, and 34 GNC) and 198 organisations.

ID cards were also sent to 478 HRDs around the world (225 HRDs including 1 trans man, 231 WHRDs including 5 trans women, 2 GNC)

Capacity building continued to be supported by the development, updating, and translation of several resources, including:

▶ The Americas well-being handbook translated into [Portuguese](#) and updated with new areas of support in [Spanish](#);

- ▶ Updated [Security in a Box](#), Front Line Defenders' Digital Protection Toolkit, translated in Chinese, Farsi, Portuguese, and Russian;
- ▶ A guide on [digital protection for Sex Worker Rights Defenders](#);
- ▶ Guidelines on two way radios;
- ▶ A guidance note on de-escalation strategies for HRDs in Greece.

GOAL 2 – CAPACITY BUILDING

VISIBILITY FOR PROTECTION FOR INDIGENOUS HRDS

“My take home is that visibility goes hand in hand with protection. As much as we want to put ourselves out there, we have to be careful about the message. One day you are putting out information, the next day you are shot dead.”

Throughout the year, Front Line Defenders continued to pilot a programme focused on protection for indigenous HRDs in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. During the project, a key learning was that in indigenous communities, women, especially younger women, have less space to speak out – and when they do so, they may face greater threats than men. The Capacity Building team felt that mixed gender spaces were not fully bringing out the WHRD voice, and therefore ran a workshop exclusively for women, focusing on:

- ▶ Risk analysis and protection planning to confront narratives that carry risks and threats against defenders and organisations (defamation, smear campaigns, hate speech, delegitimisation of movements or leadership, etc.).
- ▶ Changing the prevailing narratives: proactive strategic communication initiatives to raise public awareness, while protecting the human rights defenders from targeting.
- ▶ Visibility for Protection: protection planning in cases of public overexposure (press conferences, campaigns, events, interaction with journalists, etc.).



From the top: Indigenous HRDs from East Africa take part in a workshop on visibility for protection

GOAL 2 – CAPACITY BUILDING

WELL-BEING AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

“The workshop was a wonderful opportunity to discover fresh information about self-love and how to deal with stress and challenges. I thoroughly loved the workshop’s sessions. I had the chance to listen to others’ opinions and to voice mine. It felt like such a secure place to be.”

148 HRDs (103W/44M/1GNC) and **13 organisations** were supported through **well-being activities**. This included **well-being retreats for 35 HRDs** in the ECA and Americas regions, as well as **six workshops** with HRDs from Asia, MENA and ECA regions reaching **65 HRDs**.

Well-being Consultations were conducted with **19 individual HRDs** and **5 organisations**.

Front Line Defenders provided well-being support to **29 individual HRDs** and seven groups (organisations and families) through its **rest & respite programme**.

Front Line Defenders also continued to be influential within the ecosystem for HRD relocation programmes. Front Line Defenders is an active member of the **EU Temporary Relocation Platform**. Staff members continued to sit on the Advisory Board of **the Centre for Applied Human Rights at York University** on their Protective Fellowships for Human Rights Defenders and the Steering Committee of the **University of Dundee’s Scottish Human Rights Defenders Fellowship**.

SUPPORTING LOCAL PROTECTION CAPACITY

88 HRDs (50W, 36M, 2 undetermined) were supported through **Training of Trainers** (ToTs) workshops/sessions or as support to local champions. This included the delivery of 7 ToTs, including 4 in physical security and 3 in Risk Assessment and Protection Planning (RAPP). The RAPP ToT workshops were conducted in **Turkey, Kazakhstan** and the **Dominican Republic** and reached a total of 41 participants (27W/14M). Physical security ToTs were provided in **Kenya, Sri Lanka**, and **Sudan** to 3 HRDs (1M, 2W). Front Line Defenders capacity builders continued to offer mentorship to those that had received training with 94% of local champions then providing support in their local contexts.

The Digital Protection team provided support to 42 local champions (21m, 21w), which decreased the risks to HRDs of the work whilst expanding the network of HRDs that Front Line Defenders is able to reach.

In 2023, **17 local protection initiatives/networks** (working at national and regional

GOAL 2 – CAPACITY BUILDING

level) were supported through strategic funding (5 grants) and additional capacity and networking support. The countries and regions where specific support was provided to LPIs in 2023 included: **India, Sri Lanka,**

Colombia, Bangladesh, East Asia, Malawi, Ukraine, Russia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Mozambique, Namibia, Eswatini, West Africa, and **Sudan. 100% of local protection initiatives demonstrated increased capacity due to this support.**

SUPPORT TO WEST AFRICAN HRD NETWORK

Since 2021, Front Line Defenders (FLD) has been actively engaged in bolstering the West African Human Rights Defenders Network (WAHRDN) as part of a comprehensive initiative aimed at empowering HRDs in Western and Central Africa. This started with comprehensive support to the network that covered a range of areas, including governance, technical and protection support. It was delivered through a range of activities, including mentorship, in-person meetings and trainings, and grants for activities to be delivered.

It remained a priority within the Protection Coordinator's work for the region reflecting that.

A review of this in 2023 highlighted several positive outcomes from this support, particularly how that has strengthened the network's capacities in security management and has helped fostering a security culture within the network. They stated that the network has been able to better embed security into their day-to-day activities and has helped them support HRDs at risk without doing more harm.



Members of the West African HRD Network

GOAL 2 – CAPACITY BUILDING

EXPERIENCE SHARING AND LEARNING

Front Line Defenders delivered **2 cross-regional events in 2023** - a well-being training with defenders from North Africa

and the Middle East and a Training of Trainers in the Dominican Republic with participants from South and Central America.

REGIONAL TOT IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

In June 2023, a cross-regional three-day ToT was organised in the Dominican Republic with HRDs from across the Americas. The training was attended by 15 HRDs from 13 countries. The goal of the ToT was to share and increase participants' knowledge and skills so that they have more tools to help them train other HRDs in RAPP, through strategies based on security, intersectionality and human rights approaches. As a cross-regional ToT, the Protection Coordinators and Digital Protection Coordinators that cover both South America and Central America, as well as the Regional Capacity Builder facilitated the training, allowing for a more holistic approach.

At the end of the three days, there were a number of important takeaways that were applicable across the regions and different contexts, including: the importance of integrating intersectionality into accompaniment; viewing well-being in an intersectional way so as to design wellbeing protocols that are implemented on a daily basis; the importance of digital security in daily life; and that it is imperative to have political conversations around security. Another important point that was spoken



HRDs from across South America take part in a training of trainers in the Dominican Republic

about extensively was that often HRDs find it difficult to recognise when they are at risk. Finally, the focus on well-being in the session helped underline the importance of such spaces.

GOAL 2 – CAPACITY BUILDING

VISIBILITY AND COMMUNICATION

Overall, Front Line Defenders' Communications and Events team supported 39 HRDs (12 men, 22 women, and 1 GQNC) through the Annual Front Line Defenders Award (an award to 5 HRDs making outstanding contributions to the promotion and protection of the human rights of others, often at great personal risk to themselves), podcasts, photo exhibitions, and other events. In addition, 60 HRDs/ organisations were supported with visibility

on their cases through the website or social media.

Front Line Defenders continued to create a range of visibility products highlighting the significant threats that HRDs are facing. This included 5 podcasts, 12 videos, 7 social media campaigns (for example, a campaign on the International Day for the Disappeared), 1 photo booklet on the Award Winners, and 1 interactive timeline on the the Black Fraternal Organization of Honduras.

FRONT LINE DEFENDERS HELD ITS **ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY ON 26 MAY IN DUBLIN. THE FOLLOWING WERE RECIPIENTS OF THE AWARD:**

AFRICA

OLIVIER BAHEMUKE NDOOLE, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Olivier is a Congolese environmental rights defender and lawyer from North Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo. He has dedicated his life's work to advocating for environmental rights, land rights and land justice.

AMERICAS

SEGUNDO ORDÓÑEZ, ECUADOR

Segundo is an Afro-descendant human rights defender from Esmeraldas, Ecuador. He has campaigned extensively on the issue of modern

slavery with the abacaleros (rural workers who harvest Manila hemp), who united after years of discrimination and took the company implicated in this modern slavery and the State of Ecuador to court.

ASIA

JEANY 'ROSE' HAYAHAY, PHILIPPINES

Jeany Rose Hayahay is an indigenous woman human rights defender based in Mindanao, Philippines. She advocates for indigenous peoples' rights, focusing on children's right to education.

GOAL 2 – CAPACITY BUILDING



Front Line Defenders Award Winners celebrate after receiving their awards in Dublin. From left: Segundo Ordóñez, Jeany 'Rose' Hayahay, Hala Ahed, Vita Volodovska (DSLJ) and Olivier Bahemuke Ndoole. © Conor McCabe

EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA **DIGITAL SECURITY LAB UKRAINE,** **UKRAINE**

DSLJ was established in 2017 to address digital security concerns of HRDs and organisations in Ukraine. Since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion, DSLJ has been pivotal in providing much needed support to HRDs.

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA **HALA AHED, JORDAN**

Hala has conducted significant work in the human rights landscape in Jordan, and is well recognised in civil society as a trusted leader and ally. The focus of her work has been women's rights, but within the political context of Jordan, she has also worked across freedom of opinion and expression, labour rights, and trade union freedoms.

GOAL 2 – CAPACITY BUILDING

DUBLIN HUMAN RIGHTS FESTIVAL



Over the course of 10 days in Dublin, Front Line Defenders organised, with principal partners Smashing Times and a range of other NGO partners, the Dublin Arts and Human Rights Festival. Some of the main events included:

- ▶ **Memorial Monologues:** a live outdoor storytelling performance at the HRD Memorial Monument in the Iveagh Gardens, featuring stories based on the lives and work of some of the Human Rights Defenders featured at the monument, performed live by actors. A video of the performance can be found [here](#).
- ▶ **Ukraine: War, Film, and Human Rights:** A panel discussion with organisers of Docudays UA, a

Ukrainian International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival on presenting a festival while at war, followed by a tribute to Ukrainian writer and WHRD Victoria Amelina, who was killed by a Russian strike in Kramatorsk.

- ▶ **Remembering the Defenders: A Photo Exhibition:** An exhibition showcasing 10 human rights defenders from around the world who have done outstanding work protecting human rights.
- ▶ **An Open mic night** featuring poetry and music relating to themes of social issues, human rights, social justice, and solidarity.

GOAL 3 – ADVOCACY

TAILORED ADVOCACY ON SPECIFIC HRD CASES

"This is truly a result of your efforts. I am very happy and thank you with all my heart for facilitating communication with them ... you played a big role in this release."

Egyptian HRD Ahmed Gamal Ziada, whose father was released from prison on 19 September after Front Line Defenders supported the HRD in engaging relevant EU actors.

"Hello, this message is giving me hope again. I thank you for your very humane involvement in the case of our family."

HRD's daughter after hearing that Front Line Defenders is engaging diplomatic actors in Algeria on the case of a jailed human rights defender.

In 2023, Front Line Defenders continued to provide rapid, practical and effective advocacy support to human rights defenders at risk. Front Line Defenders also provided more sustained advocacy support on cases of HRDs facing long-term protection risks (see case study of Narges Mohammadi).

Over the course of 2023, the Global Advocacy team conducted **advocacy for 153 Human Rights Defenders** (including **51 Women Human Rights Defenders**) over **97 different cases in 46 different countries**. The number surpasses Front Line Defenders' annual target of 150 cases raised, and reflects increased capacity in the team - 2023 was the first full calendar year during which Front

Line Defenders had two advocacy officers covering different regions allowing for more proactivity in casework.

Despite the space for international advocacy decreasing, with more actors being increasingly cautious to engage on human rights issues, Front Line Defenders continues to benefit from very strong working relationships with key stakeholders. Over 93% of the cases raised by Front Line Defenders led to a positive response by advocacy targets, such as agreeing to follow the proposed course of action, asking for more information or a follow up meeting, or otherwise cooperating to respond to the case of a HRD.

GOAL 3 – ADVOCACY

Analysis showed that in only 29% of the cases taken up by Front Line Defenders in 2023 there was a positive outcome for the HRD in question, lower than the annual target of 40%. Front Line Defenders believes this was because the team conducted a lot of case work on countries such as **China, Hong Kong**, and **Ukraine** and its territories temporarily occupied by **Russia** (including Crimea), whose contexts are extremely challenging for human rights defenders and have limited opportunities for positive outcomes.

Examples of positive outcomes that were secured thanks in part to Front Line Defenders' advocacy (it is important to acknowledge that much of Front Line Defenders' advocacy is done in collaboration with partners and allies) included:

- ▶ Front Line Defenders' advocacy work supported several HRDs to relocate safely despite

acute security risks, including HRD **Alaa Abu Qashesh**, WHRD **Shadia Al-Taata (Syria)**, and HRD **Zaki Hannache (Algeria)**, as well as a number of confidential cases of HRDs.

- ▶ Advocacy efforts on a number of cases led to the HRDs or their family members being released from prison, such as **Egyptian HRD Ahmed Gamal Ziada's** father being released from prison, or WHRDs **Klara Sooronkulova, Gulnara Dzhurabayeva, Asya Sasykbayeva** and **Rita Karazartova** (all **Kyrgyzstan**) being released into home arrest.

- ▶ Several HRDs undergoing judicial harassment were acquitted following advocacy by Front Line Defenders, including WHRD **Fatia Maulidiyanti**, HRD **Haris Azhar** (both **Indonesia**), WHRD **Vanessa Mendoza Cortés (Andorra)** and HRD **Jose Vargas (Brazil)**.

GOAL 3 – ADVOCACY

NARGES MOHAMMADI

Narges Mohammadi is a woman human rights defender, and deputy director and spokesperson of the Defenders of Human Rights Centre (DHRC) in Iran. She has advocated for the abolition of the death penalty in Iran, as well as for prisoners' rights.

On 18 May 2016, the Revolutionary Court sentenced Narges to 16 years' imprisonment on charges that stemmed from her human rights work. She was released on 8 October 2020, after serving 4 years of her sentence, following the ratification of a law reducing prison sentences for political prisoners. She maintained her human rights activities for prisoners rights while in prison and upon her release she intensified her actions, lending her support to a campaign against "white torture", a psychological torture technique employed by the

Iranian authorities which includes the use of solitary confinement and complete sensory deprivation for prisoners in Iran. However, she was re-arrested shortly after and remains in prison today.

Throughout this time, Front Line Defenders has supported Narges continuously, consistently raising her case with various advocacy targets, especially the EEAS and European Parliament. The team have also created opportunities for Narges' husband Taghi Rahmani to speak on her behalf at various events, including a screening of the 'White Torture' documentary, co-organised with 2 MEPs.

Narges won the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize for her ["fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedom for all."](#)



"We will not give up until then! One day, we'll chant victory songs together with joy and delight. Until that day I send you my best wishes."

Narges Mohammadi,
in a [message recorded for Front Line Defenders in 2022.](#)

Empty chair for Narges Mohammadi during Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony.

GOAL 3 – ADVOCACY

STRENGTHENED ENGAGEMENT OF KEY ALLIES ON HRD PROTECTION

Whilst the EU and its Member States, the UN and US remained key advocacy targets, Front Line Defenders took on a more global outlook, and continued steps to target other actors.

In 2023, the Global Advocacy team held **214 meetings with key actors** and **13 advocacy rounds**.

As well as strengthening engagement with long-standing advocacy targets, Front Line Defenders also found new channels to advocate for increased protection for HRDs, including with OSCE (notably the delegations of Ireland, the United States and the European Union), ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights and engaged in more

focused advocacy on business and human rights legislation, including organising meetings between Award winner Segundo Ordóñez, a survivor of modern slavery, and leading members of the European Parliament on the files of corporate sustainability due diligence and forced labour.

Front Line Defenders has always worked very closely with the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights Defenders, continuing to provide a rolling internship to the Office, as well as regularly raising cases of HRDs at risk worldwide. In 2023, Front Line Defenders strengthened its engagement with other UN Special Rapporteurs, contributing to the Report of the Special Rapporteur for



Award Winner Segundo Ordóñez speaking to MEP Salima Yenbou during advocacy rounds.

GOAL 3 – ADVOCACY



CEO Olive Moore speaking at special event on Capitol Hill to mark 25th anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

Counterterrorism and Human Rights, and opening dialogue with thematic mandates, such as Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, and the Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers; and geographical mandates, such as Myanmar and Russia. This is part of a wider effort to encourage Special Rapporteurs to adopt a human rights defenders perspective into their mandates.

Advances were made in the US, including co-organising a special event held on 17 October to mark the 25th Anniversary of the UN Declaration on HRDs. This allowed Front Line Defenders to further raise HRD protection with policymakers in Washington, D.C., including from the US State Department, USAID, Congress and the White House.

ADVOCACY ROUNDS

Front Line Defenders organised two rounds of advocacy for Ukrainian CSO Media Initiative for Human Rights (MIHR), which has since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine carried out extensive work documenting war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other human rights violations. As a result of the first round and follow up advocacy carried out by Front Line Defenders towards the various political groups in the European Parliament, the Human Rights Subcommittee (DROI) held a hearing on 1 March on Ukrainian civilian hostages held by Russia in the newly-occupied territories.

Front Line Defenders organised a second advocacy round in Vienna with OSCE actors including the Irish and American delegations to the OSCE. At the same time MIHR launched their report 'Vanished Under Occupation', on Ukrainian civilian hostages held by Russia. As a result of this round, the EU and several like-minded states included the names of some of the cases Front Line Defenders is working on in their weekly OSCE Permanent Council statements, and in early 2024 triggered a Moscow Mechanism on the issue of civilian hostages with strong language on human rights defenders. Front Line Defenders is continuing to engage with the appointed experts to ensure a strong Moscow Mechanism report.

"We deeply appreciate you and your organisation's hard work that was done to make this happen [...] and hope we can rely on your support in the future."

MIHR staff member

GOAL 3 – ADVOCACY

INPUT ON KEY REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL POLICY DEVELOPMENTS AND PROCESSES

The Global advocacy team continued to aim to influence the development of regional and international policies, processes and practices for the protection of HRDs. Core to this is the release of country UPRs and policy submissions. The advocacy team released **7 UPR submissions** on **Cameroon, Jordan, Bangladesh, Russia, China, Mexico,** and **Vietnam**, and Front Line Defenders' recommendations were mentioned a total of 14 times in the official summaries of stakeholder submissions prepared by OHCHR (some official summaries have not been made public yet). Front Line Defenders also delivered **63 policy submissions**.

Evidence of stronger policies/laws in place for the protection of HRDs as a result of these inputs included:

- ▶ The most notable advances in 2023 were in the **Recognition of Visas as a tool for HRD protection** and particularly securing support from the European Commission and some member states to include reference to visas for HRDs as a special category in the EU visa handbook (see case study below for more details).
- ▶ The European Council adopting Council Conclusions on the application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights: The role of the civic space in protecting and promoting

fundamental rights in the EU. The Council Conclusions reflect long term advocacy calls of Front Line Defenders and other organisations.

- ▶ The European Parliament adopting a resolution on the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders, (2021/2204(INI)). The report provides confirmation of the role of the guidelines, how they are used and makes key recommendations. It draws on some of the key recommendations from Front Line Defenders especially around practical improvements and the recommendations on visas as a tool for protection.
- ▶ The EU's newly proposed legislative package on 'Defending European Democracy'. The package includes a number of proposals, again drawing on long term advocacy of Front Line Defenders and other civil society organisations to create a more enabling environment for civil society in the EU.
- ▶ Front Line Defenders worked to build the public profile of 6 priority Iranian WHRDs in the EU context, and particularly within the European Parliament. In addition to several other instances throughout the year, the 6 WHRDs were mentioned at the very top of the Parliament President's speech in September marking the one year anniversary of the 'Women Life Freedom' protests, and in an urgency resolution in November.

GOAL 3 – ADVOCACY

▶ The *Global Voices of Freedom Act*, new legislation designed to improve the U.S. government's ability to support human rights defenders and to help prevent, mitigate, and respond to retaliatory attacks against those who stand up to against the backsliding of

democracy and for basic human dignity, was introduced on the floor of the U.S. Senate. Front Line Defenders, along with peer organisations Amnesty International USA, Oxfam and Earth Rights International, played a key role in drafting and advising on the legislation.

VISAS FOR PROTECTION

Together with ProtectDefenders.eu Front Line Defenders is a lead part of a campaign to improve access to visas including:

- ▶ recognition of campaign objectives reflected in EP report on the HRD guidelines and report on the protection of HRDs by the EU Fundamental Rights Agency;
- ▶ HRDs reflected in the EU visa handbook with a long-term objective of a directive on the protection of HRDs;
- ▶ member state temporary protection schemes for HRDs expanded and set up in more EU member states

In 2023, the advocacy team participated in roundtable meetings with EU member states, FRA, European Parliament and European Commission to provide inputs on visas as a tool for the protection of HRDs – including engagement with the Spanish Presidency to shape the agenda of October's Presidency Conference on visas.

Front Line Defenders' efforts have elevated discussion around the topic at the EU level and led already to some positive outcomes such as



Participants at conference on Visas as an EU tool for protection for human rights defenders at risk.

securing support from the European Commission and some member states to include reference to visas for HRDs as a special category in the EU visa handbook. The handbook is still under consideration and due to be finalised soon. In October, Front Line Defenders participated in a closed EU Member State seminar on the topic together with ProtectDefenders.EU and the Spanish Presidency of the EU. The objective of this meeting was to create a platform for the exchange of expertise while investigating potential strategies for replicating and enhancing the protection and mobility framework for HRDs within the EU. Subsequently Front Line Defenders was invited to Madrid in November to present on the topic to the EU's human rights working group (COHOM).

ORGANISATIONAL UPDATES

LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

Andrew Anderson resigned as Executive Director in 2023, with Olive Moore stepping in as interim Executive Director. The Board of Directors announced the appointment of the new Executive Director Alan Glasgow in May 2024.

GOVERNANCE

In March 2024, Denis O'Brien (chairman) and David Sykes (Treasurer), stepped down from the board. Kieran Mulvey and Dr. Roja Fazaeli are taking on the role of chair and deputy chair, respectively. Two new board members are joining the board: Dermot Hayes (Treasurer) and Eamon Gilmore.

Dermot Hayes is an accomplished chartered accountant and Investment Director at Island Capital. Eamon Gilmore has extensive experience in international diplomacy and human rights, including in his most recent role as European Union Special Representative for Human Rights.

In 2023, Regan Ralph joined the board of Front Line USA Foundation, a separate 501c3 entity, based in New York. Regan served as the founding president and CEO of the Fund for Global Human Rights from 2002-2022. Joan Carrol and Vincent McGee stepped down from the board at the end of their term.

STAFFING

In 2023, Front Line Defenders had 72 staff, excluding fellows and short term consultants (82 staff in total). Front Line Defenders' work is carried out by staff based in offices in Dublin and Brussels, as well as staff stationed globally. At the end of 2023, 38 staff were based in Dublin, 6 in Brussels, and the remainder in 23 countries globally. Front Line Defenders is an international organisation with its 72 staff representing over 36 nationalities.

POLICIES

Front Line Defenders is currently in the process of developing an **environmental policy** for the organisation. This process is in response to the increased need to be more conscious and proactive about Front Line Defenders' environmental impact as an organisation and the increased risk to human rights defenders and our work as a result of the climate crisis. In 2023, data collection on the organisation's carbon footprint was carried out, using a carbon calculator developed under the umbrella of the Sustainable Supply Chain Alliance. A survey was completed with all staff and two learning sessions facilitated. The framework for the policy was developed which focuses on (1) Protection support to environmental defenders, (2) the impact of Front Line Defenders' operations on the environment (3) the impact of the climate crisis on Front Line Defenders' operations.

ORGANISATIONAL UPDATES

Front Line Defenders also launched a **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)** review, which initially focused on DEI practices internally. This review, carried out by an external DEI expert, will provide concrete recommendations for a DEI action plan for the current strategic plan period. The process included a range of meetings with fellows, staff and the board, as well as an all staff session in Dublin, a survey and focus

groups discussions. Recommendations have been discussed with all staff in March 2024.

In 2023, a number of other organisational policies were also updated or created including: Volunteer policy; Staff Privacy Policy; Data Retention Policy; Fellows Policy; Financial Policies and Procedures Manual; IT Security Policy; Anti-Harassment Policy; Child Protection Policy; Sick leave policy; and Probation policy.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

[Audited Accounts](#) are available on Front Line Defenders' website.

EXPENDITURE:

2023 total expenditure was €10,946,142. This is a slight decrease compared to 2022 expenditure (€11,038,468).

75% OF FRONT LINE DEFENDERS' 2023 BUDGET WAS SPENT ON DELIVERING ITS THREE MAIN OUTCOMES:

GOAL 1

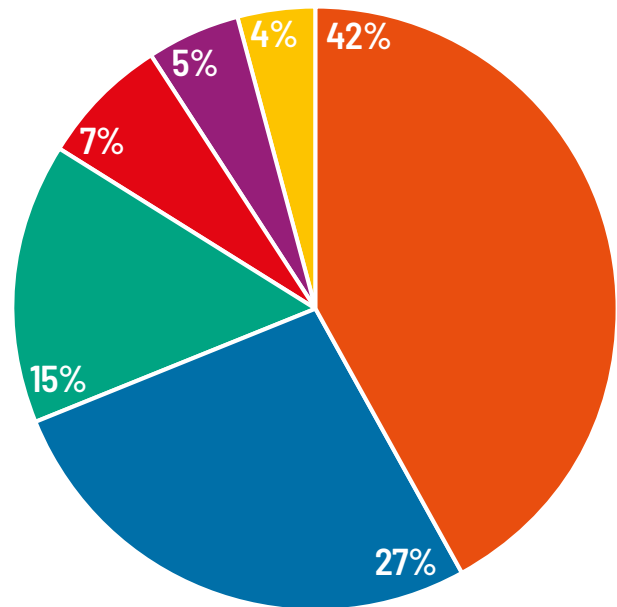
RAPID SUPPORT AMOUNTED TO €4.5 MILLION (42%)

GOAL 2

CAPACITY BUILDING AMOUNTED TO €2.9 MILLION (27%)

GOAL 3

ADVOCACY AMOUNTED TO €578,724 (5%)



- 42% Objective 1 – Rapid Support
- 27% Objective 2 – Capacity Building
- 15% Programme Quality
- 7% Admin, Overheads and Fundraising
- 5% Objective 3 – Advocacy
- 4% Visibility and Promotion

The remainder of the budget (25%) covered institutional strengthening and programme quality (€1.6 million – 15%), visibility and promotion (€408,279 – 4%), and overheads and administration (€700,268 – 7%). Front Line Defenders spent €240,398 on fundraising in 2023 (included in “overheads and administration costs”).

FRONT LINE DEFENDERS WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL ITS DONORS IN 2023:

11th Hour Project

American Jewish World Service

Bread for the World

Channel Foundation

Environmental Defenders Collaborative

European Commission

Ford Foundation

German Foreign Office

Global Affairs Canada

Goldman Environmental Prize

Google

Hivos International

Humanity United

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Irish Aid

Iris O'Brien Foundation

Lifeline Embattled CSO Assistance Fund

Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs Luxembourg

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark

Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Netherlands

Misereor

Oak Foundation

Open Society Foundations

Robert Bosch Stiftung Foundation

Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

Swedish Postcode Lottery

Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Taiwan Foundation for Democracy

The Christensen Fund

United Nations Development Programme (Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund)

Wellspring Philanthropic Fund

DISPATCHES

Front Line Defenders would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support to our work and dedication to the protection of human rights defenders. Without this support our work would not be possible and HRDs would be facing even greater risk in conducting their vital work.

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