

Bridges/2021-2022

Biennial Report International Bridges to Justice



International
Bridges to
Justice



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Message from the CEO

Now entering its third decade working to defend human rights and protect access to justice for all, International Bridges to Justice (IBJ), thanks to all of you, has evolved into a preeminent legal rights defender organization. Since 2000 when I first brought together a small but passionate group of advocates and lawyers, IBJ has grown to develop 12 country programs, train tens of thousands of defenders, support 99 JusticeMakers in 53 countries, and reach over 38 million global citizens through legal rights awareness campaigns. I am proud of the progress we have made-- but it is only a start.

After uniting to survive the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the world triumphantly proclaimed that things had gotten “back to normal” by 2022. While this is certainly encouraging in many ways, in many others “normal” is synonymous with “oppressive,” “abusive,” even “unjust.” IBJ’s mission has always been to fight the criminal justice status quo, whether by confronting the practices of arbitrary arrest and malicious prosecution or by creating networks of empowered defenders who strive to give voice to the world’s most disadvantaged. We are glad to be back to “normal” at work, but IBJ will not accept the “normal” human rights abuses endemic to criminal justice systems around the world.

In the spirit of constant progress and growth, IBJ’s rights awareness campaigns have skyrocketed in the last two years, proving that the world shutting down does not have to put the education and empowerment of marginalized communities on hold. In China, for example, IBJ launched a new project in 2021 designed to assist marginalized groups, including religious and ethnic minorities and indigent accused, in recognizing their legal rights. A similar “Know Your Rights” campaign spearheaded by IBJ Myanmar provided virtual and traditional group discussion programs designed to empower the accused and their families as they navigate the justice system. Perhaps the most publicized of IBJ’s recent campaigns was a 2022 program led by IBJ Turkey aimed at empowering and educating Syrian refugees and women. The campaign included a regular radio show in Syria which reached 1.2 million refugees and gave on-air advice to 65 callers, and a live interview with an IBJ JusticeMaker on one of Syria’s most-watched networks.

2021 and 2022 also saw IBJ and its partners overcome political and social threats to their mission, values, and belief systems. For example, despite a military coup, IBJ teams in Myanmar represented nearly 400 clients in 2021 and 2022, many of whom were detained and charged solely for political reasons. In another example, IBJ Indonesia protected the rights of detained women who are frequently and systemically subjected to violence, sexual harassment, and severe overcrowding while imprisoned; in 2022 alone, defenders represented 440 such clients, even when doing so exposed them to threats of lawsuits, retribution, and even physical violence. These threats are not isolated nor unique; deprivations of the right to justice affect lawyers and other defenders who spend every day striving to provide basic legal representation to those being accused, detained, or prosecuted. This problem becomes increasingly oppressive and severe as the world sees more nationalist movements, autocratic regimes, and discriminatory policing which threaten democracy everywhere.

IBJ recognizes that promoting tomorrow’s justice starts today. Toward that end, IBJ fully appreciates the power of young people to act as a powerful catalyst to achieve change. IBJ has therefore mobilized a network of young people, its Youth for Youth Justice Initiative (Y4Y), to focus on the issues that matter most to the next generation. In 73 countries, children can still be sentenced to life in prison, often as young as 8 years old. The Y4Y initiative, launched in 2019, connects and integrates young people throughout the world, including over 400 youth across five continents, in a unified effort to improve juvenile access to justice and mass incarceration of children. This powerful and impassioned effort to combat injustice has already resulted in the provision of psychological, social, and legal support to hundreds of minors, as well as gaining the release of many child detainees.

IBJ will not rest until life as “normal” includes access to justice, equal legal rights, and unconditional freedoms of expression and belief for every global citizen. We are proud of the work we accomplished over the last two years, and we are determined to continue to strive for justice in every corner of the world. None of this would be possible without the hard work and dedication of our global community of advocates and allies. As much as the world has changed in the past

two years, your dedication has not wavered. I continue to be inspired by your solidarity and hope.

With gratitude for your support,



Karen Tse

Founder and CEO



Executive Summary

Since the last biennial report, the world has changed so much. We've seen the irreversible effects of a mass pandemic pervade every aspect of our daily lives, we've watched armed conflicts begin and end, and we've struggled with perpetual tragedy and fear.

But despite these threats to our peace, democracy and freedom – the very values we hold most dear – we have also seen the world overcome its challenges, grow more resilient, and come together to create lasting change for the future. For every tragedy we have survived, we have also championed cooperation, unity, and compassion a dozen times over. The past two years have proven that there is hope.

As we have learned these past two years, lasting change doesn't happen overnight. We defeated COVID-19 not with one broad stroke, but rather with a steady and focused effort to change our entire approach to global health. What began with essential workers bravely combatting each critical case that entered their hospitals soon became a worldwide movement to prioritize social distancing and protective masks. Eventually, because of the cooperation and dedication of the entire global community, the curve flattened and our leaders were able to focus on a vaccine, on returning to normalcy, on prevention rather than remedy.

Our work at IBJ has the same goal. The same way the world responded to a pandemic by changing the entire public health system, we strive to respond to mass injustice by changing the entire criminal justice systems in which we work. Our systems change methodology is also about evolving from successful remedy to systemic prevention.

I am proud of how far we have already come, and I am excited about the continued change we will make for the future.

Our work in Cambodia, a country programme I have personally seen in action first-hand, is but one example of our dedicated, passionate defenders moving the needle toward widespread progress and permanent change to the way an entire country approaches access to justice.

resembling a justice system in place to help them, let alone lawyers to represent the indigent.

By 2005, Cambodia Bridges to Justice (CBJ) had trained a new class of legal aid lawyers and successfully advocated for the construction of a consultation room for clients and their defenders in the newly built courthouse. A year later, we opened our first Defender Resource Center, a ground-breaking legal aid office for vulnerable, rural communities to access localized legal advice. Slowly, we were able to take on cases, represent clients, and remedy the injustices perpetrated against individuals in Cambodian prisons.

But mere remedy isn't enough. With the continued commitment of our team of defenders on the ground, CBJ became such a trusted organization that in 2012 we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Justice, a bilateral commitment to IBJ's mission. In twelve short years, we were able to progress from case-by-case legal aid toward a more long-term relationship with the very institution we had begun by challenging.

Today, Cambodia Bridges to Justice has Defender Resource Centers in six provinces of the country, agreed with the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia to train defenders, and continues to shift the consciousness of Cambodian authorities to proactively protect human rights. Where there were once only ten lawyers in the entire country, there are now 800 Cambodia advocates trained in criminal defense, 1,700 justice officials collaborating to protect access to justice, and 12,000 Cambodians whose lives have been forever impacted by pro bono legal aid.

In only two decades, Cambodia Bridges to Justice has been fundamental in creating institutionalized systems change, a state-sponsored legal aid scheme through the Bar Association. I am honored to have been a part of this enduring success.

But our progress in Cambodia is not an isolated victory. IBJ Myanmar was able to establish a network of five justice centers staffed by trained justice stakeholders which perpetuates IBJ's model and has

model and has produced ongoing change in spite of a recent military coup. Even once the Burmese government began to detain and torture political dissidents, judges across Myanmar were still seeking out the entrenched community of IBJ defenders to represent these prisoners. This speaks volumes about the systemic impact of our mission and the long-term changes we are capable of.

This sort of democratic systems change is a key part of IBJ's mission, and one which I am proud to see our teams make around the world. From our African Access to Justice network of women defenders changing the landscape of criminal defense in sub-Saharan Africa, to our JusticeMakers in Indonesia and Turkey fighting every day for justice for vulnerable communities, to our IBJ Youth Movement proving that tomorrow's changemakers can start today – I am inspired by the incredible progress we have already made and the inspiring possibility of what is yet to come.

None of this would be possible without the hard work and dedication of our global community of advocates and allies. I recognize that IBJ's successes would not be possible without all of our charitable supporters and institutional partners, whose faith in IBJ inspires hope in each and every one of our defenders, volunteers, and --- most importantly---the people we serve.

Thank you for striving for a better world, and for believing in the power of progress.

Sincerely,

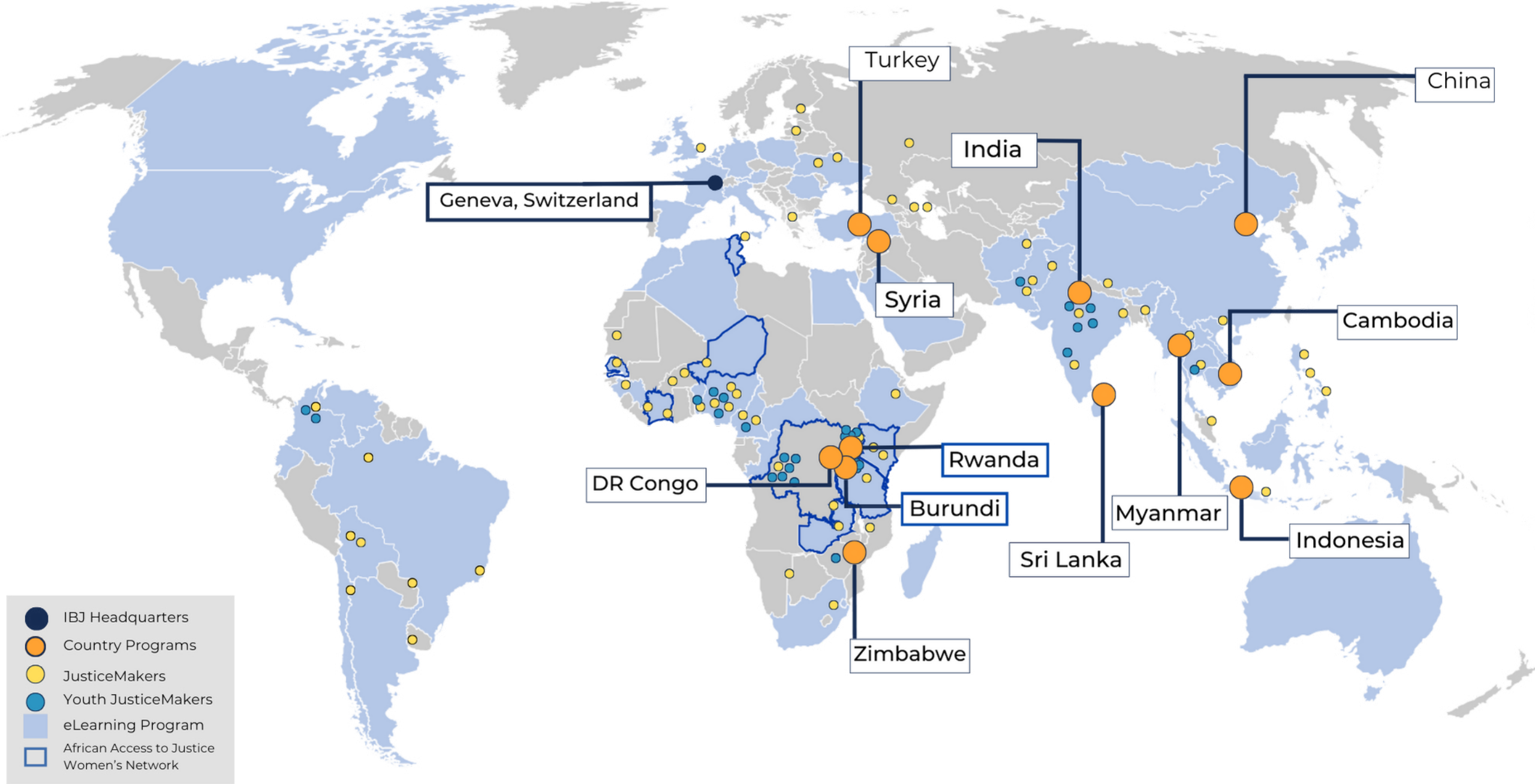


Daniel Fung,

Chairman of the Board



IBJ Global Operations



Current Trends

In today's world, IBJ's work is more critical than ever. The surge of nationalist movements and autocratic regimes, along with increased migration due to people fleeing conflicts and droughts, are among the key factors that have intensified inequalities worldwide. This has left billions of people vulnerable to human rights violations, urgently necessitating legal protection.

Repression in many states is expressed in laws that restrict rights and criminalize the exercise of fundamental freedoms, such as freedom of expression, association, and assembly. Arbitrary arrests, malicious prosecution, and judicial harassment often deter citizens and human rights defenders from exercising these fundamental rights.

IBJ defends human rights and protects citizens, activists, and human rights defenders against the use of criminal law as a weapon to restrict fundamental freedoms. What sets us apart from other human rights organizations is our focus on addressing the underlying causes of human rights violations and the structural factors within legal systems that make such abuses possible. We tackle systemic injustices within the penal system that foment abuses, promote discrimination, and worsen the marginalization of vulnerable populations. For more than two decades, we have worked to safeguard and provide legal defense to those who are often targeted for abuse, such as people living in poverty, racial, ethnic, and sexual minorities, pro-democracy activists, and human rights defenders.

By ensuring that decisions made within the criminal justice system are based on objective evidence, free from biases, prejudices, and discrimination, we work to build fair and equitable criminal justice systems worldwide. We promote greater transparency and accountability in the penal system to prevent and end human rights violations, guarantee equal protection of the law for everyone, and ensure access to justice for all.

Going forward, IBJ will continue to fight against injustices and inequalities within criminal justice systems -- learning, adapting, and evolving in response to the challenges posed by a rapidly changing world.

Persistence of torture and other human rights abuses in the criminal justice system

Torture and arbitrary and excessive detention are not a relic of the past -- their routine use persists in many countries and is likely to increase given current trends. Looking to the future, IBJ will increase its work to put an end to investigative torture and other abuses that plague the criminal justice systems in countries across the world.



Threats to democracy and rule of law

History has demonstrated the strong correlation between democratic governance and the rule of law. IBJ anticipates an increased struggle to counter the worldwide rise in authoritarianism and its adverse impact on the rule of law. Working in Myanmar, Syria, Burundi and elsewhere, IBJ has gained valuable experience that will help push back these influences.



Shrinking of civic space and fundamental freedoms

Authoritarian governance shrinks the civic space available to disseminate ideas and express dissent. This diminishing of the civic space can manifest itself in many ways, including in police suppression of peaceful demonstrations, banning of opposition-led internet sites, passing laws that put burdensome restrictions on CSOs, and government targeting of human rights defenders. IBJ has seen these examples in its work in many of its country programs, including in Myanmar, where the military government has reduced civic space through a brutal clampdown on nonviolent demonstrations, targeting of lawyers, and stringent laws that restrict the operation of NGOs - all obvious attempts to intimidate opponents of the regime.



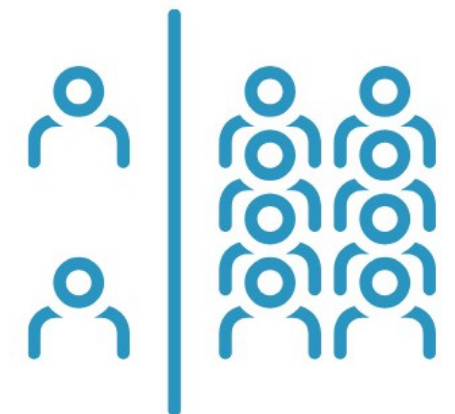
Criminalization of poverty

In the countries where IBJ has worked, there are two criminal justice systems: one for the rich and one for the poor. Some countries pass and enforce laws more harshly against the poor, sometimes as a way of demonstrating their commitment to "law and order." Other countries restrict vending of services or items in the street or open markets -- often the only available means of livelihood for economically vulnerable groups. Representation of the poor and marginalized is IBJ's highest priority.



Criminalization of Women and Minorities

Women are often treated punitively by patriarchal legal systems. National laws may discriminate against women or disproportionately impact them. In many countries, law enforcement and criminal justice systems treat racial minorities and LGBTQI+ persons with brutality. Political trends suggest that there may be an increase in these abusive trends as a result of democratic backsliding worldwide. Protracted conflicts in both Myanmar and Syria are in large part rooted in racial and religious division. IBJ will continue to make representation of women and minorities a critical focus.





Inadequate criminal justice resources and capacity

In many countries, criminal justice actors and human rights defenders are hampered by a lack of resources and poor capacity. IBJ's well established training programs, justice roundtables and other methodologies increase capacity and advocate for systemic reforms to meet the challenges of changing social and political landscapes. Moving forward, IBJ's JusticeHub platform will greatly augment our capacity building and advocacy work, harnessing the power of technology.

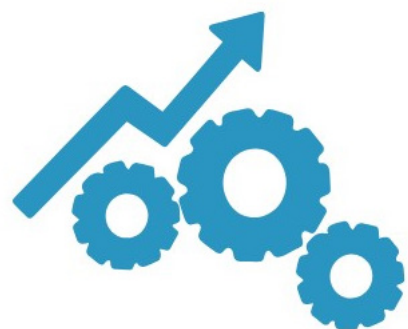
Climate crisis and its impact on human rights

Climate experts make dire predictions of continued disruptions to the lives of people in the Global South due to climate change. Already, the changing climate has resulted in migration of "climate refugees" from areas that climate change has rendered inhospitable. This trend, combined with rising authoritarianism, foments discrimination and xenophobia and creates hurdles to basic human rights for displaced persons. IBJ has considerable experience tackling these hurdles in Syria, Turkey, Myanmar, and elsewhere.



Double-edged sword of technology

The artificial intelligence (AI) revolution has shown its potential to exponentially improve advances made in digital communications and knowledge sharing. At the same time, social media has created new reasons for governments to harass, arrest, and abuse political opponents and ethnic and other minorities. These positive and negative impacts of technology will impact IBJ's work profoundly in the future. While the technological revolution will allow IBJ to better convene individuals and organizations committed to human rights and the rule of law via its JusticeHub platform, IBJ will also need greater resources to serve and protect its clients who are negatively impacted by technology in an era of increasingly repressive government action.



The IBJ Model

Every day, throughout the world, thousands of individuals are arbitrarily detained, tortured and denied access to legal counsel. Many never receive a fair trial. Many languish in prison for months, sometimes years, before they even appear before a judge. Children are often detained with adults where they are at risk of predatory harm. Trained defense attorneys are the key to stopping this systematic abuse of human rights suffered by millions of individuals – a colossal injustice hidden in plain sight.

“
Injustice anywhere is a threat
to justice everywhere.
- Martin Luther King

MISSION

In recognition of the fundamental principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Bridges to Justice (IBJ) is dedicated to protecting the basic legal rights of ordinary individuals, particularly in the Global South. Specifically, IBJ works to guarantee everyone early access to competent legal representation, the right to be protected from cruel and unusual punishment, and the right to a fair trial. .

IBJ's mission is global in scope, marshalling a worldwide community of legal rights advocates to support the work of defense attorneys in the Global South. In each of its country programs, IBJ works at the national level, influencing decision-makers to institute system-wide reforms, conducting justice roundtables and rights awareness campaigns. IBJ also works at the local level, fostering grassroots transformation through training of lawyers, police and penitentiary officials, and providing continuous legal defense of indigent accused through its Defender Resource Centers.

SYSTEM CHANGE

Structured and sustained implementation of due process as the new normal requires system-wide change. IBJ believes that systemic justice problems need systemic justice solutions. The responsibility of upholding rule of law and ensuring due process should not and cannot fall upon the shoulders of defense counsel alone. For an approach to be systemic, it must include all justice stakeholders, as they each have a part to play – be it a prosecutor who exercises discretion by dropping a case with insufficient evidence, or a judge who excludes evidence illegally obtained through torture. Involvement and investment in IBJ's programs by relevant authorities and the broader justice power structure is critical not only to short term impact, but also to long-term sustainability.

SDG 16

“
Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
”



Innovative Justice

For over 20 years, IBJ has been a global leader in advancing transnational justice reform. With the innovative and proven IBJ model, thousands of individuals have received life-changing legal advocacy. Yet this success and growth are outstripping IBJ's ability to manage new opportunities. We are increasingly forced to turn away other institutions and individuals since managing a vast and "capillary" community is exponentially resource-heavy. The only way to scale operations efficiently is to take our solutions and give them a digital home, a platform that systematically activates the power of the networks we have built.

In 2021 and 2022, IBJ took bold steps to create and distribute novel technological solutions that allowed our organization to increase its impact in the regions we operate in. Through the flagship software JusticeHub and other programs, IBJ has expanded the effectiveness of our four main goals: community building, defender capacity, systematic early access, and political will.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Current global development efforts have demonstrated the power of collaborative community structures to create long-lasting and sustainable impacts on a large scale. IBJ has increased the size of the

JusticeHub to create an open platform that allows all "access to justice" stakeholders to connect, interact, and cooperate, enabling information-gathering and collaboration around the world in real-time. Just as Wikipedia devised a way to enable anyone to contribute information to the world's stock of knowledge, and JusticeHub lets teams of people find each other and work together to create and improve open-software, so too JusticeHub has become a central coordination for an ecosystem for access to justice.

In 2021 and 2022, IBJ's use of technology to build communities of support in the developing world expanded the legal services provided to vulnerable individuals and improved support for justice stakeholders in their efforts to promote human rights. JusticeHub has grown to service over 700 individuals and 200 organizations across 19 countries. As this usage of JusticeHub becomes more ubiquitous and the community of justice stakeholders grows, the IBJ ethos spreads with it. This network effect was on display in the effect of the African Access to Justice (AA2J) Program which utilized JusticeHub to connect over 100 female defense lawyers across 10 African countries. AA2J Fellows used the software as a means of supporting one another as they worked to provide pro bono legal services to an entire community of vulnerable women and girls. AA2J is an excellent case study for how effective a technologically-enabled community of defenders can be at advancing legal rights in the Global South.

DEFENDER CAPACITY

There is a huge inequity in the standard of pro bono legal representation available to the world's poor, marginalized, and vulnerable populations. Often highly-trained lawyers elect to practice commercial and civil matters, while those that do represent clients pro bono have severely underdeveloped legal tools and resources at their disposal. IBJ's time-tested model identifies this as an issue and over the past 20+ years, IBJ has trained thousands of lawyers to close this justice gap.

IBJ now seeks to expand access to these high-quality legal services through JusticeHub. The software will act as an educational reference platform for legal practitioners by automatically generating data-informed resources. By drawing on partners within the hub, such as international law firms and university law schools, the program is a self-populating database and a valuable tool for practitioners. Over the past 2 years, IBJ has integrated our preexisting legal tools, like the DefenseWiki and eLearning, into JusticeHub to extend our reach to new defenders.

The expansive network built by IBJ and its partners has reached thousands of individuals. In 2022, the eLearning platform and its practical learning modules, has been accessed by nearly 3,000 people across the globe and saw a roughly 25% increase in the past two years. The network-based DefenseWiki, which has been accessed by 18.5 million people, includes legal information on 130 countries and 29 pressing legal concepts, and has articles written in English, Arabic, French, Spanish, Mandarin, and Russian. Additional expert-made Criminal Defense Manuals are available for 13 of the countries that IBJ is active in and are distributed online around the world.

Additionally, the educational model IBJ has used for decades was translated into a virtual format to continue to impact our beneficiaries despite the global shocks of COVID-19. While our normal trainings are in-person a number of participants in the virtual trainings noted the format enabled more lawyers from diverse regions to come together to engage in the trainings and discussions. This success proves the versatility of the IBJ model and provides a promising case for future online expansion.

SYSTEMIC EARLY ACCESS

The most critical time for legal intervention is within the first 10 hours of arrest. If lawyers are able to access clients within that timeframe, safeguards can be upheld before they are violated. Unfortunately, there is a severe lack of lawyers committed to representing impoverished people pro bono, especially outside the capital cities. The ones that are do not coordinate among themselves resulting in a haphazard approach and coverage. Torture and other abuses thrive in the gaps and delays caused by this lack of availability and coordination. Over the past two years, IBJ has taken bold steps to address this representation gap and more quickly provide legal services to vulnerable individuals.

In 2021 and 2022, IBJ had many successful technological initiatives that connected lawyers and beneficiaries, and nowhere is this more clear than in Rwanda. This pioneering pilot project adapted and improved IBJ's access to justice app, the "JusticeHub App" to assist Rwanda's most vulnerable accused. For the first time in Rwanda's history, an app was used to support legal defenders and streamline access to justice for those seeking legal protection. This initiative to leverage technology for justice serves as a critical inflection point for Rwanda's legal system. Overall, 200+ detainees in Rwanda received free legal aid through the JusticeHub App.

The JusticeHub app has also grown around the world. In total, the App has been downloaded 5,000+ times on Google Play Store and 3,000+ on IOS. IBJ used the increase in technology reach and adoption due to the Covid-19 pandemic as a springboard to grow this impactful software.

POLITICAL WILL

Since 2000, IBJ has worked to improve legal rights in the world's most desperate places. With a network of 430+ partner institutions in 40 countries on five continents IBJ works at the senior political level through its partnerships with global organizations and national host governments. IBJ's goal is to ultimately use this high-level advocacy to transform the criminal justice system so that all stakeholders benefit.

IBJ took advantages of opportunities in 2021 and 2022 to expand this work even with disruptions to in-person meetings. This new virtual advocacy served as an effective catalyst for building new communities in the areas we operate. IBJ was able to advance political will through inventive and effective technologically enabled roundtables and other forms of political will building.

Over the past two years, IBJ has utilized technology across the globe to engage in substantive and beneficial activities. In Indonesia, IBJ held multiple virtual roundtable meetings that connected numerous local justice stakeholders. These roundtable discussions were both an opportunity to innovate on the success model of roundtable discussions that IBJ has developed over the years and served as an opportunity to continue IBJ's mission despite pandemic restrictions.

In 2021 and 2022, IBJ also used our projects involving technology to create new connections with influential policymakers. For example, in Rwanda, IBJ used the expansion of the JusticeHub app to establish new relationships with local government and prison officials to increase the program's effectiveness.

LOOKING AHEAD

It is clear that the technological products IBJ produces are in high demand. The success of our initiatives in 2021 and 2022 serves as a clear indication that the IBJ model of advancing access to justice with technology has tremendous potential. Moving forward, IBJ will not only seek to expand access to and resources within our pre-existing solutions (JusticeHub, DefenseWiki, etc.) but will also pioneer new solutions.

IBJ understands that in this age of information, data is a key tool for creating change. Sadly, a reliable and exhaustive set of criminal justice data does not exist. As IBJ looks to the future, we see our organization taking steps to create the world's first holistic justice database. IBJ will expand our scope to include the creation and publishing of insights, derived through Artificial Intelligence to better inform justice stakeholders about the state of criminal justice across the globe.

The past two years have been exciting and innovative for IBJ. Our organization is prepared and energized to continue to serve as a global thought and practice leader for justice reform and in no field is this more clear than that of technology. IBJ will continue to lead the way as we are now poised for the next step of technologically enhanced criminal justice reform.

Global Programs: Youth Justice Initiative

Youth are emerging as a powerful force in the global justice movement; despite this, they are consistently underutilized. The inaugural 2020 Youth for Youth Justice competition invited young people around the world to submit innovative projects that improve juvenile justice in their community.

In the sphere of justice, youth participation stands as an indispensable force. IBJ fully embraces the profound energy, passion, and creativity that young individuals bring to our mission with a fresh perspective in shaping the justice landscape. Despite their immense potential, youth often find themselves relegated to the sidelines of impactful work. However, it is essential to recognize that youth participation, from the inception of groundbreaking concepts to the unwavering determination required for their execution, possesses the ability to bring about societal transformation while personally empowering these young individuals.

We firmly uphold the belief that youth symbolize not just the future but the driving force of change in the present, thus, we wholeheartedly champion the cause of youth participation. IBJ's commitment lies in nurturing their potential to serve as catalysts for enduring change.

IBJ, through its Youth for Youth Justice competition in 2020, took a momentous step towards rectifying this. We invited young minds from across the globe to submit projects aimed at improving juvenile justice in their communities. Hailing from 3 continents and 10 countries: Burundi, Cameroon, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, Togo, and Zimbabwe, these youth continue to enact change across schools, community groups, and justice systems around the world.



Youth Justice Initiative Impact since 2020 258 minors provided with psychological, social, and legal support

31

youth clubs in 12 countries

36

workshops and conferences

5k+

youth reached in Rights Awareness
Campaigns

43

child detainees freed

IBJ also incentivized hundreds of young people to launch projects, such as grassroots fundraisers, online awareness campaigns, peace vigils, and other innovative ideas to further IBJ's mission.



Fieldnote: **rights awareness** in DR Congo



In DR Congo, Youth Justice Champions forged partnerships with schools and universities for awareness-raising efforts touching hundreds of young lives in South Kivu. In 2022, Youth Justice Champions Floribert Nasekwa and Divin Fakage promoted rights awareness to hundreds of children in South Kivu.

With the support of the city of Versoix, DR Congo Youth Champions also produced 500 comic strips as a source of education and awareness, and distributed these in schools, reaching at least 1,000 children. These champions are beacons of hope in a world yearning for justice and change.



Cameroon: Justice for Etienne

In some countries, children are arrested for what many would consider to be minor or unjust reasons, ranging from petty theft to acts driven by homophobic attitudes. Such was the case for a 17-year-old boy imprisoned on the grounds of his sexual orientation. Having suffered behind bars for a year without legal representation and enduring harassment from fellow inmates, his plight caught the attention of Gaelle, an IBJ lawyer. Gaelle, no stranger to homophobic persecution herself, used her experience as a catalyst to champion the boy's cause. Within a mere two months, she not only secured his release but also guided him to a safe haven at a local children's shelter after his family rejected him over his gender identity.



Global Programs: JusticeMakers

Through our JusticeMakers program, IBJ activates the world's finest criminal justice lawyers to share their intellectual capital in ways that make a concrete difference. IBJ JusticeMakers are a special category of defenders who compete for small grants to put into practice their criminal justice solutions in the countries where they live and work. They are empowered to join IBJ's global community of defenders to collaborate on improving access to justice across the world. In 2021 and 2022, 15 JusticeMakers joined the IBJ network. The 2021-22 IBJ JusticeMakers Fellows spanned three distinct programs based in Africa, Indonesia, and Turkey

Justicemakers network

99
JusticeMakers

53
Countries

In 2021 - 2022,
15 Justicemakers joined the
IBJ network

“ The IBJ JusticeMaker Network has allowed members to exchange ideas and reflect together on improving practices to better defend the interests of our clients . ”
- Joelle Kagabambe, Rwanda AA2J fellow

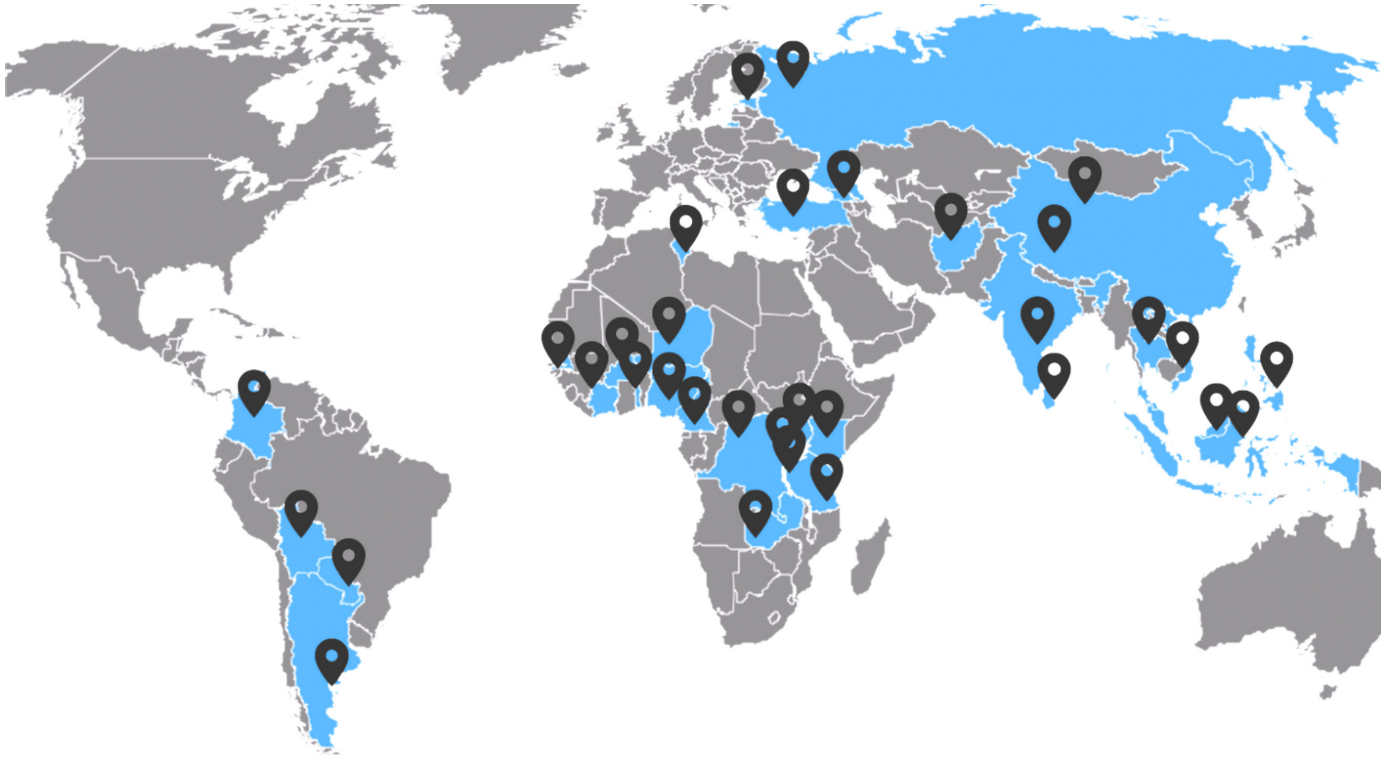
For the 2022 JusticeMakers Fellowship, which was part of the EU-funded Advancing Justice for Syrians in Turkey program, 5 JusticeMakers were selected from Kilis, Gaziantep, and Sanliurfa. These three cities have high populations of ethnic minorities, including Syrians, Kurds, and Armenians. The Fellows' legal work largely centers around refugee advocacy, with each of them using their unique professional backgrounds in criminal defense, women's rights, children's rights, and legal education to further the project's goals.



“ I am grateful for the legal aid that I received from the IBJ JusticeMaker Fellow. I will certainly direct others in need to the program. ”
- Client in Turkey

Women in Justice

In response to the widening justice gap faced by women globally, IBJ has sparked a worldwide movement to protect women caught up in criminal justice systems. This includes training for women lawyers, building female defender networks, providing pro bono defense for detained women, convening justice sector roundtables to seek justice solutions for women, and raising public awareness on gender-specific justice issues. In 2021 and 2022, IBJ worked with over 100 female defenders, providing professional training and building a global community of women lawyers. IBJ has also provided legal assistance to numerous vulnerable women in conflict with the law.



IBJ Indonesia’s 2021 JusticeMakers competition awarded 10 female defense lawyers and human rights defenders with a fellowship to support innovative methods to help the Indonesian justice system mitigate the challenges that have arisen due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of the EU-sponsored project “Advancing Access to Justice for Women in Indonesia,” the Fellows’ projects focus on assisting and advancing access to justice for women in conflict with the law. Launched with support from the European Union, the Advancing Justice for Women in Indonesia Initiative (AJWI) plays an important role in reversing patriarchal attitudes towards women in justice, encouraging revisions of sections of the criminal code that discriminate against women..

Indonesia Impact

67
national policy change
recommendations

21M
people informed of their rights

912 women received
assistance

A group photograph of ten Indonesian women. Some are wearing hijabs in various colors (blue, red, white, grey). They are all looking towards the camera with neutral to smiling expressions.

The 2021 Women JusticeMakers Competition in Africa recognized dedicated female lawyers and human rights defenders. IBJ awarded 10 women grants to advance access to justice in their communities. These women, the African Access to Justice Fellows, are based in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, Tunisia, Tanzania, Senegal, Rwanda, Niger, Kenya, Côte d’Ivoire, and Burundi. The 2021 JusticeMakers Competition was financed by Swedish Postcode Foundation. implementation plan to provide continued training. With each Fellow working with a hand-selected cohort of local defenders, the AA2J network has emerged into a pan-African community of over 100 women legal defenders all connected via JusticeHub — IBJ’s digital home for the global access to justice community.



“There is no greater joy than to use one’s knowledge in the service of those who need it most.”
– Carine Oupoh, Ivory Coast
AA2J Fellow

AA2J Impact

105
women legal defenders

800+
detained women and girls received
legal support

86% positive outcome of
the legal interventions

Justice in Burundi

In Burundi, Joy* was assisted by an AA2J Defender after being detained with her infant child for the criminal offense of failing to pay a debt. However, the reason Joy was unable to pay was because she had been the victim of a burglary. The AA2J Defender argued that this fact transformed the criminal charge into a civil one and she assisted with the charge reclassification. Legal representation by the AA2J fellow resulted in early release of the woman as well as preventing her of having a criminal record. Joy promised to pay the debt within two months and was released.



Women in Syria

In collaboration with the Women’s International League of Peace and Freedom, IBJ Syria has launched its Feminist Movement for Change project. Working towards a peaceful post-conflict Syria, IBJ strives to build a gender-responsive justice system where women and girls do not have to fear advocating for their rights. Movement activities include empowering women lawyers through leadership development and training and promoting an empowering environment for women’s enhanced participation in the legal community and policy advocacy arenas.



Country Programs: **Burundi** Ending human rights abuses in detention facilities

Burundi Bridges to Justice—one of the few human rights NGOs still allowed in the country—has sustained its presence in Burundi for over a decade. Thanks to close work with a wide range of partners, our soft-governance and non-confrontational approach has enabled BBJ to have a real impact on the lives of detainees, prisoners and their family members. Over the 2021-2022 period, we have been relentless in our pursuit of concrete action. BBJ lawyers are well-known for pioneering early access to the accused through routine visits to holding cells at police stations to identify newly detained individuals in need of protection and secure immediate freedom for those held for unduly long periods of time.

Legal Protection: With a wealth of experience in the field, providing legal assistance is at the heart of BBJ action. In 2021, BBJ lawyers provided legal protection to 737 persons, including 126 adult female detainees and 101 children (85 boys and 16 girls). BBJ attorneys are committed to representing every child they encounter during weekly monitoring visits of police lock-ups, known locally as cachots or “dungeons”. These efforts have resulted in the immediate release of more than 100 detainees. In 2022, BBJ lawyers provided legal assistance to 369 arrestees (including 14% cases of adult women and 21.8% of children both boys and girls under 18) and detained in cells in Bujumbura police stations and the Judicial Police Head Office. A team of seven lawyers (four women and three men) provided detainees with legal assistance, as always, focusing their efforts on the detainees most at risk of harm— children, women, elderly individuals.

Training and Mentoring: Upstream training for lawyers is essential to ensuring that the rights of detainees are properly defended and that the greatest number of prisoners have access to legal representation. BBJ has provided mentoring to both new and local attorneys. In 2021, BBJ trained 24 junior attorneys, more than 50% of whom were women. All trainees were committed to providing free legal protection to victims of torture. BBJ also held case mentoring sessions attended by 31 lawyers. Trainings focused on elements of a fair trial and rights of the accused. The goals of these meetings were for participants to develop legal skills, share obstacles they faced while representing clients, develop strategies for building trust with clients, and share best practices for providing effective legal assistance in the earliest moments after arrest. BBJ also hosted a two-day training colloquium on ‘The Role of Criminal Justice Stakeholders in Preventing Prison Overpopulation,’ which brought together 38 criminal justice stakeholders, including judges and even representatives of the Ministry of Justice.



Young boy freed from prison by BBJ lawyers



In 2022, BBJ senior lawyers continued providing mentoring sessions, which included training 60 junior criminal defense lawyers and lawyers from the Bujumbura Bar Association. In May, criminal defense lawyers gathered at the BBJ Office to discuss the fundamental aspects of a fair trial, rights of detainees, and the role of lawyers in enforcing due process rights. Some lawyers shared the obstacles they faced when trying to consult their clients or make a copy of their client’s file. They also addressed the disrespect from the police of the lawyer’s role and the problems arising from the exorbitant legal powers vested in the prosecutor. To address these issues, participants recommended advocating for a separation between the power of investigating and prosecuting a crime from the power of executing the decision of the court as currently both powers are under the prosecutor’s jurisdiction.

Monitoring Detention Facilities and Police Lock-Up Cells: When power is left unchecked behind prison walls, human rights abuses occur frequently. As such, BBJ visits are crucial in ensuring that the rights of prisoners are respected. These visits are meant to monitor prison and police cell practices and to ensure the release of arbitrarily detained inmates. In 2021, BBJ visited 16 different police stations in Bujumbura, securing the immediate release of 124 detainees, including 33 women and 24 children, who had been

Arbitrarily Arrested and Detained girl is Freed

‘Natalie’ is 15 years old and works as a maid. After she helped her friend “Lauren” find work, Lauren stole \$500 USD from her employer and disappeared. Because she was believed to be involved in the theft, Natalie was arbitrarily arrested by ordinary citizens, without knowing why. This arrest occurred even though the Burundi Code of Criminal Procedure stipulates that only the police have the power to arrest people. Fortunately, a BBJ Taskforce lawyer found Natalie in detention and secured her release based on a lack of evidence. Our lawyer successfully argued that Natalie’s friendship and assistance to Lauren was not evidence of her involvement in the theft.

“
BBJ’s work is highly important for the criminal justice system in Burundi as they support us with their training skills and necessary human rights materials.
”
– CP. Tharcisse YAMUREMYE, Former Commissioner General of Training at Burundi National Police.

victims of arbitrary arrests. During these visits, 465 detainees received legal advice from BBJ taskforce lawyers. In 2022, BBJ, accompanied by senior police officers from Judicial Police headquarters, monitored 20 police stations and interviewed 2,049 detainees, 445 of whom had been subject to arbitrary detention. They achieved the immediate release of 121 individuals. BBJ also conducted a Legal Rights Awareness campaign through a BBJ-produced radio show called ‘Legal Procedure of Arrest’ which was broadcast twice a day over a one-week period, reaching a total of over 2 million people.

Burundi Impact 2021-2022

2,7k+
people received
legal representation

85
lawyers trained

70+
Justice Officials trained

2.3M
reached with rights awareness



Country Programs: Cambodia Advancing access to justice

In Cambodia, 2021 and 2022, Cambodia Bridges to Justice (CBJ) developed innovative methods to both rescue and protect citizens from mistreatment in the justice system. These include legal representation, multimedia rights awareness campaigns, and dialogue between justice officials, lawyers, and NGOs.

Transforming Justice: Just a few decades ago, after the regime of the Khmer Rouge, Cambodia faced a severe shortage of legal professionals, with merely 10 lawyers available for over 10 million people. To address this, IBJ set out to reform Cambodia's criminal justice system. IBJ formed key strategic partnerships with government entities such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Interior, among others. These efforts allowed IBJ to extend its reach, fostering strong relationships with legal and governmental bodies and embedding its mission of ensuring early access to legal representation deep within Cambodia's justice framework. IBJ's work expanded to provide legal protection across 20 of Cambodia's 25 provinces, introducing the novel approach of placing lawyers in courthouses in distant provinces. Legal aid effort has now become an accepted part of Cambodia's justice system.

Legal Assistance and Representation: Currently, CBJ lawyers work on legal assistance in six provinces: Kandal, Battambang, Prey Veng, Takeo, Ratanakiri, and Kampong Thom. In 2021 and 2022, CBJ provided legal representation to 852 vulnerable people. In addition to legal representation, CBJ lawyers continued to respond to continuous requests for legal advice. CBJ receives phone calls from friends and relatives of previous clients asking for legal assistance. These individuals typically inquire about land issues, criminal law, and civil contracts. For the most part, these conversations result in the connection with a CBJ lawyer who is able to represent them in these cases.

Bringing legal awareness to people: CBJ continued to use radio as a medium to inform the public about their due process and fair trial rights. CBJ Country Director Ouk Vandeth collaborated with the Cambodian Center for Human Rights to host a national radio show on April 26, 2022. The program focused on forest protection, which is an issue in Cambodia as many do not know cutting down trees is illegal.

Deforestation threatens not only the environment but also the livelihoods of those who rely on the forest as a source of income. Mr. Vandeth spoke about the laws and rights of the accused during the show. Five radio channels broadcasted the message, reaching Phnom Penh, Sihanoukville, Siem Reap, Battambang, Kratié, and Pursat.

Building the capacity of lawyers: Mr. Vandeth met with the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia to discuss the importance of early access to counsel and future training strategies for lawyers. The Bar Association, which is implementing its province-wise legal aid scheme, wanted to understand the challenges that CBJ lawyers face. Mr. Vandeth reiterated the importance of early access to a lawyer because, according to Cambodian law, a suspect has access to a lawyer only 24 hours after arrest. CBJ also discussed with the Bar Association the need to improve legal and investigation skills of lawyers who are providing legal aid. CBJ is committed to have competent lawyers accessing the arrested persons at the earliest possible time to prevent rights violations including investigative torture, wrongful arrests, wrongful charges being brought and wrongful detention.

Cambodia Impact 2021-2022

400+
people received
legal representation

5k+
reached with rights awareness

Access to Justice winner 2022 World Justice Challenge

On 2 June 2022, Cambodia Bridges to Justice (CBJ) was awarded the Access to Justice Prize for its high-impact work in Cambodia's Courts of Appeal at the World Justice Forum.

The World Justice Forum is the premier international event for the rule of law. As part of the Forum, the World Justice Challenge is a global competition to identify, recognise and promote good practice and high-impact projects that protect and advance the rule of law. Selected from a pool of 305 applicants from 118 countries, CBJ was invited to showcase its project, Championing Access to Justice: Improving Cambodia's Courts of Appeal system at the Forum. At the Closing Plenary of the World Justice Forum, the winners of the Challenge were announced and CBJ was awarded the prize for Access to Justice.

The Cambodian appeals process is riddled with problems and people are often deprived of due process within a reasonable time. Lengthy delays in access to justice are the result of a large number of cases and low number of judges, prosecutors and lawyers. Poor governance processes exacerbate these challenges.

CBJ began its Appeals Court project in 2012. It works on a triage basis, targeting high-priority injustices, while addressing broader systemic access to justice challenges. To date, the project has provided legal support to over 650 people on appeal. More broadly the project works to decrease torture, reduce caseloads, and alleviate overcrowding. As the best-in-class initiative for Access to Justice, the award is a powerful recognition of the importance of defending people in the most vulnerable places.

“

CBJ: Fostering Change

It is an honour to be awarded the Access to Justice prize. This has been an important platform that has helped us tell our story and the story of access to justice in Cambodia. I am proud of our dedicated team working in difficult circumstances providing legal aid for people suffering real injustice. ”

– Mr Ouk Vandeth, Country Director, Cambodia Bridges to Justice



15-year-old boy freed from prison

Kosal is a 15-year old boy who was arrested with two of his friends on the 8th of June this year. They were accused of stealing parts of a motorcycle. There was no evidence of the crime, but two policemen took Kosal with them in their car. Kosal was scared and had no understanding of his rights. He did not even know what a lawyer was. Contrary to the law regarding minors, the police immediately started interrogating the boy without a lawyer or a guardian present. When he would not admit to the theft, the two policemen beat him.

Kosal was then taken to a women and juvenile correctional centre in Phnom Penh. His parents were not informed about his arrest until one day later. Through his parents, Kosal was introduced to CBJ lawyer Mr. Vandeth, who took up his case. Kosal waited for his trial in prison.

“*I spent two months in a prison cell with about 140 other prisoners.*

– Kosal

During the day the boy had nothing to do, because even for the many juveniles in prison, there was no education or exercise. Kosal had to sleep on the floor and had no access to showers or healthcare, which caused him to catch an infectious skin disease. The prison also did not provide enough food; Kosals family visited him regularly and brought him more food.

Our lawyer Mr. Vandeth pleaded to the judge to release Kosal on bail, while waiting for the trial date to be set up. He argued that Kosal is just 15 years old, and that he needs to continue his education. The request for bail was denied at first, but our lawyer’s appeal request was finally granted.

Kosal was relieved to be out of prison and to be reunited with his family. Incarceration should be a last resort for youth. It has devastating consequences

for their education and mental health. In Cambodia, however, the system is punitive even for juveniles and our young client could spend years in prison for a theft that he did not commit. Mr. Vandeth expects, however, that he will be able to get the judge to dismiss the boy, because there is insufficient evidence that he committed any crime.

Because of the dire shortage of lawyers in Cambodia, courts tend to appoint a lawyer at the last moment, even for juveniles. The lawyer is often unable to meet the young offender before the trial and cannot prevent his rights from being violated. CBJ’s work is fundamental to protect youth in conflict with the law.



Country Programs: China Two Decades of Impact (2001-2021)

In 2021, IBJ marked two decades of training and supporting Chinese lawyers. Since launching in 2001, IBJ China has partnered with national and regional bar associations, justice bureaus, law firms, prominent universities and law schools, and key civil society organizations to train 31,000 defense lawyers, provide legal representation to 124,000 accused individuals, and reach 11.6 million people through rights awareness campaigns. Together, we have made tremendous strides in raising up the next generation of defenders.

We continued to build on this important work through several key initiatives during the 2021-2022 period. We launched our online Inspiring Through Success: Storytelling project which gained over 75,000 views. This collection of 20 real-life success stories from Chinese lawyers raised awareness about the need for better procedural protections for defendants, a well-supported juvenile justice system, and combatting discrimination against women in the justice system. As one lawyer who viewed the platform said, “these stories strengthened my determination to provide a more professional and comprehensive defense for criminal defendants.” We also created new online training courses for lawyers on technical skills such as forensics sciences, as well as timely topics such as how to conduct remote advocacy in an era of online hearings.

Finally, the year 2021 served as a useful marker to reflect on two decades of work, note the changes that have occurred over time in the Chinese criminal justice system, and celebrate IBJ’s contributions to some of these significant advances. Below are but three highlights selected from among the many and varied activities IBJ has conducted over the years.

Creation of the Appropriate Adult Scheme: When IBJ first began work in China in 2001, nearly all juvenile cases were unrepresented. A child accused of a crime rarely had legal counsel, knowledge of their rights, or even a trusted adult to ensure their case

was handled appropriately. In response, IBJ launched a Juvenile Justice Project in 2006, partnering with local legal aid centers and bar associations in multiple provinces and large cities to train lawyers on defending young people.

In January 2007, IBJ brokered a landmark agreement between the Tianjin prosecutor’s office and the Tianjin legal aid center to have the prosecutor’s office assign legal aid to all juvenile suspects, and require the presence of a lawyer or guardian at all juvenile interrogations. As a result, Tianjin saw a rapid rise in the number of cases assigned in the pre-trial stage. Outreach in the following years and news of IBJ’s successes attracted attention from other jurisdictions.

In 2010, a nationwide movement advocating for an Appropriate Adults (AA) system gained momentum. The system aimed to provide accused juveniles with a trusted adult, whether a lawyer, social worker, or individual with juvenile development expertise, to oversee their case. IBJ played a pivotal role in this movement, hosting a Juvenile Justice Roundtable in 2010 and implementing an AA pilot project in Xi’an in partnership with a local district procuratorate. In this pilot, the AAs created social background investigation reports for submission to court, drafted rehabilitation plans, and helped juveniles reintegrate into society. IBJ provided training to AAs and created a manual on conducting social background reports.

The movement eventually led to the introduction of an AA system at the national level through the 2012 revision of the Criminal Procedure Law (CPL). Art. 270 (later revised to Art. 281 in the 2018 CPL) allows for adult family members or adults from the juvenile’s school, workplace, residential community, or child protective social agencies to step in when their legal representative cannot be present. These AAs are permitted as early as the first interrogation.

“*IBJ’s trainings not only gave me the skills to use, but also gave me the spirit of persistence to fight for the interests of my clients.*

– Lawyer



This revision of the CPL also mandated notifying and assigning a legal aid lawyer whenever a juvenile suspect is unrepresented (Art. 278). Once these ideas were enshrined in law, IBJ helped organize volunteer AAs at the invitation of local justice bureaus and prosecutor's offices.

Criminal Record Sealing for Juveniles: IBJ also played a crucial role in promoting rehabilitation for juveniles. Oftentimes, bias against juveniles with a criminal record hinders their ability to re-enter society after completing their sentences, pushing these vulnerable youth into even more challenging circumstances.

In spring 2009, IBJ partnered with a leading law professor and expert on juvenile justice from Peking University to conduct multiple juvenile justice pilot projects in Shandong Province. One such project focused on sealing juvenile criminal records, ensuring that these records remain confidential when juveniles reach adulthood, giving them a better chance at rehabilitation without social stigma. Guidelines were drafted outlining the conditions for record sealing, and these guidelines were then used to select test cases for record sealing.

In October 2009, IBJ and the China Juvenile Delinquency Research Center organized the Qingdao Juvenile Criminal Records Sealing Training to highlight the juvenile record sealing pilot project and further its impact. Subsequently, courts in Qingdao and Shandong provinces adopted the model, and further advocacy continued with an even higher profile in the years after as IBJ hosted multiple trainings across the country on the topic.

Partly as a result of this IBJ-led outreach, record sealing gained traction across Chinese courts, culminating in a major revision to the Criminal Procedure Law in 2013. The revised law mandated the sealing of records for juveniles sentenced to less than five years in prison (Article 286 in the 2018 CPL). In 2022, the Implementation Measures for the Sealing of Juveniles' Criminal Records further refined the process, ensuring proper labeling and prompt sealing within three days of case conclusion.

Duty Lawyers: Many countries with developed legal systems use a duty lawyer scheme to provide immediate legal representation at the first police

interrogation to those unable to afford it. Though highly effective for decreasing rights violations, unnecessarily lengthy pre-trial custody, and wrongful convictions, no such system existed in China in 2001. At the time, police and prosecutors rarely faced defense lawyers at such an early stage. Recognizing this gap, IBJ implemented a Pre-Trial Investigation and Discovery Project in Shijiazhuang in 2006. In cooperation with the local bureau of justice, IBJ trained and mentored defense attorneys as they were given access to cases in the pretrial stage, resulting in a 300% increase in cases assigned in the pre-trial stage.

Building on this success, IBJ launched a Duty Lawyer Pilot Project in 2010 in Xi'an to station lawyers at detention centers or assign lawyers at the investigation stage. IBJ trained the duty lawyers, who then took on cases in this early investigation stage. According to the office of the local prosecutor, the period of pre-trial custody fell sharply as a result of duty lawyers' advocacy, and more cases resulted in dismissals or mitigated sentences. During the course of the pilot, the defense representation rate for the district rose astoundingly from 15% in 2010 to 65% in 2011.

This early pilot provided effective proof for the introduction of a nationwide duty lawyer scheme in 2018. According to Article 36 of the revised Criminal Procedure Law, legal aid institutions can station duty lawyers in courts and detention centers, representing suspects at the earliest stages of the investigation when a private lawyer or legal aid lawyer has not yet been retained. Having worked on this issue for over a decade, IBJ was well positioned to support these new duty lawyers. IBJ staff immediately created an eLearning training module on "The Role and Responsibilities of a Duty Lawyer." IBJ has transitioned from launching a single-city pilot to nationwide institutionalization, and now to widespread public awareness of the duty lawyer system.

Country Programs: The Democratic Republic of Congo

Democratizing the Criminal Justice System

IBJ operates in the Democratic Republic of Congo through DR Congo Bridges to Justice (DRCBJ). The main challenge faced by DRCBJ in 2021 and 2022 was a lack of funding for new projects and events, compounded by the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, despite these constraints, DRCBJ successfully maintained its objectives. The lawyers continued to provide legal representation, conduct regular visits to detention centers, and promote rights awareness campaigns across the country.



Legal Protection: Operating in various provinces of DR Congo, DRCBJ protects due process and fair trial rights of vulnerable individuals subjected to arrests and detention. By conducting advocacy initiatives centered around visits to police holding cells, awareness campaigns, and roundtable discussions, DRCBJ provided legal protection to 1,232 individuals. Notably, 178 individuals had their charges dismissed, 25 were acquitted, and 60 inmates secured reduced sentences. The Justice Center's lawyers are based in South Kivu, Bukavu, Kabre, Uvira, and Kamituga.

Monitoring Detention Centers: With support from the Public Prosecutor's Offices in Kabre and Bukavu, DRCBJ monitors detention facilities in rural areas. Through these inspections, DRCBJ lawyers have successfully obtained early or immediate release for over half the unlawfully detained individuals and posted rights awareness campaign posters around the jails. The program's effectiveness in connecting lawyers with clients is significantly enhanced by DRCBJ's access to a substantial number of detainees.

DRCBJ: Impacting Lives

“Keep DRCBJ and the public prosecutor’s office coming regularly to our entities, because you reduce the rigor of the OPJs against the vulnerable in their police station. Thank you for your intervention, which has enabled me to leave the dungeon.”

- Unnamed Beneficiary

Spotlight: DRCBJ held two justice roundtable discussions with the aim of drafting policy recommendations for reforming the criminal justice system. These discussions also focused on guaranteeing due process rights, reducing sexual and gender-based violence, improving prison conditions, and decreasing pre-trial detention rates. The combined efforts of the NED and DRCBJ ultimately achieved systematic changes in criminal justice procedures. The DR Congo justice system has fully implemented three of these proposed reforms: disciplinary sanction for failure to comply with judicial procedure, recruitment of new magistrates, and regular hierarchical control across jurisdictions.

Building capacity of women lawyers: A coalition of 25 female lawyers in DR Congo meets on a monthly basis to discuss the defense of detained women. This group has a specific focus on improving access to justice for victims of gender-based violence. With 38 female jurists currently working in the court system, the DRCBJ women’s network wants to establish a task force of three women to ensure the presence and permanence of female defenders in court. In 2022, members utilized International Women’s Month to raise public awareness of their initiatives.



Zarah’s Story

In July 2022, Zarah was arrested for the offense of public insults. She got into an argument with her neighbor, calling him a witch in public. Subsequently, she was arrested but without the required summons or warrant. As a mother of two with no husband or family in the area and no resources to hire a lawyer or pay the fines, Zarah was lost and traumatized. DRCBJ’s lawyer, Mr. Aganze found out about Zarah’s case and demonstrated to the Judicial Police Officer the reality of her situation. Mr. Aganze was also able to obtain her release, highlighting the fact that she had her two-month-old baby with her in custody. Ultimately, after two days in detention, Zarah was granted her freedom.

28 wrongfully detained freed

Imprisonment can be life-threatening in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Prisons are often overcrowded with many reaching over 200 per cent over capacity. As a result, detainees are faced with food shortages, neglected sanitation systems, and widespread violence.

In 2022, Democratic Republic of Congo Bridges to Justice lawyers traveled to prisons in rural areas, far away from the main courts. During the visits to these rural prisons, our lawyers found 16 people who were illegally detained, including 4 women, 10 men, and 2 children. Most of them did not even know why they had been arrested. While law in the Democratic Republic of Congo prohibits arbitrary arrest and detention, state security forces routinely arrest and detain citizens without giving reason. Detainees who cannot pay for a lawyer are rarely able to access legal counsel. Moreover, it is estimated that between 70 and 80 percent of the prison population is in pre-trial detention. Our lawyers took on the cases of these 16 people and obtained their release. They are now reunited with their families.

Our lawyers’ work was not done. During the same period, they traveled to Kalehe Central Prison to inform prisoners on their rights while detained. 58 people - 44 men, 8 children and 6 women (two of whom were pregnant) - attended the awareness session. While it is protocol for authorities to inform those arrested of their rights and the reason for their arrest, security officials routinely violate these requirements. Our lawyers inform detainees that they have the right to be treated with dignity and respect, and that being imprisoned does not negate their basic human rights. Knowing the essential elements of their legal rights empowers prisoners to better defend themselves while incarcerated.

After the session, 20 prisoners immediately requested aid from the DRCBJ lawyers for their case. Without delay, our lawyers retrieved their documents from the courts, and requested further review. They were able to prove that 12 of the prisoners were illegally detained, and obtained their release.

IBJ reclaims justice for mother

The last month of pregnancy can be one of the most difficult and vulnerable moments in a woman’s life. Grace, 35 from the D.R.C, was eight months pregnant when she was falsely accused of stealing plates. Police searched her home, but did not find any stolen items. Despite the absence of any evidence, they threw her into their car and took her straight to the police station. She was denied access to a lawyer during her interrogation and was transferred to Bukavu Central Prison, more than 45 km away from her home. She gave birth in the most horrific and unsanitary conditions imaginable. Miraculously, both she and the baby survived. She was forgotten for 6 months in that cell, all the while keeping her new-born alive.

While she was in prison, she discovered that her husband, the sole caregiver for her other children, had died unexpectedly. Her other children were orphaned and Grace was helpless to be able to support or care for them after their father’s death. She was also prohibited from attending his funeral. When IBJ learned about Grace’s story, we immediately took action. The DRCBJ lawyers learned that, because of the false testimony of the young boy, she had been charged with a crime punishable by death. DRCBJ’s lawyer won the case, demonstrating Grace’s innocence and the injustice of her conviction.



Country Programs: India

Collaborating with justice stakeholders

IBJ India's work is of critical importance to many who don't have competent legal representation and are wrongfully detained within the Indian criminal justice system. Incorporating a multifaceted approach, IBJ India continues to protect human rights and strengthen its relations with a wide range of actors, from judicial sector stakeholders and governmental bodies to ordinary citizens. Since IBJ India's founding, IBJ lawyers have provided legal protection to 52,461 persons, legal advice to 1,649 and reaching hundreds through awareness campaigns.

Legal Protection: In 2022, IBJ increased access to legal advice and representation given specifically to women in India. Working closely with inmates in prison, IBJ carries out rights awareness campaigns and offers representation via a skilled and committed network of lawyers. A total of 924 detainees sought legal advice from IBJ, 446 of whom were female inmates in the Mandoli and Tihar prisons. Another 120 female detainees were also given advice in two smaller Tihar prisons, and 300 people benefited from legal advice during the legal aid camp organized by IBJ India in five additional detention centers.



Work in Prisons and Robust Prison Reform: IBJ has a robust network of judicial actors working to protect the rights of inmates in Tihar Jail (Asia's largest prison). In Quarter 1 of 2022, 50 female inmates received legal advice in Tihar, and 14 different cases were given legal assistance at different levels of the law: 2 cases in the Supreme Court of India, 9 cases in the Delhi High Court, and 3 cases in the Trial Court/ District Court.

India Impact 2021-2022

5.9k+

people received
legal representation

5

lawyers trained

1.3k+

reached with rights awareness

IBJ India has also prepared and submitted a report on Prison Conditions to the Supreme Court of India, drafted a proposal for National Programs on Prison Reform, and prepared an agenda on a training program for legal aid lawyers across 10 states in India. Given the increasing need for prison reforms across the justice system, IBJ India along with other core members of the National Forum for Prison Reform organized the National Consultation on Strategies to Litigation on Prison Reforms.



Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19:

When in-person visitation at prisons were halted due to COVID restrictions, IBJ India continued to assist inmates with their cases via video-conferencing and electronically filed bail petitions. IBJ India also organized an online seminar for over 800 lawyers to advise them on how to file bail applications under the laws regulating COVID-19. Additionally, through an impact litigation case filed by IBJ's India Country Director, over 50,000 prisoners were released early in a government effort to decongest prisons to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Victim of domestic abuse released

"Ms. O" a Nigerian national living in Delhi, suffered for months because of her husband's domestic abuse and drinking habits. Out of self-defense, Ms. O injured her husband with a knife during an argument. Although she immediately brought him to the hospital, he died from the injury. Ms. O was brought into custody by the police on domestic violence charges and taken to Tihar Jail. Without access to legal assistance, she was held in pre-trial detention for five years. In 2022, the IBJ India Director Mr Ajay Verma found and assisted her, successfully securing her release on bail in 2022. Ms. O now manages her own clothing line and food business in Uttam Nagar, Delhi.

Innocent Man Freed from Prison

IBJ India filed a habeas corpus petition on behalf of the wife of a man named "Asif" in order to grant him a fair trial and release him from illegal detention. Subsequently, the Delhi High Court granted the habeas corpus petition, finding that Asif had been detained without any legal cause or justification. Following IBJ India's petition, the court directed for Asif's immediate release and he is now a free man.

IBJ lawyer Mr. Verma also brought the deplorable state of the Detention Centre in Delhi to the attention of the Honorable Court. The facility is not only overcrowded but also fails to provide detainees (primarily foreigners awaiting deportation) with basic necessities. Issues such as inadequate food, insufficient sanitary facilities, lack of clean drinking water, and proper bedding were emphasized by Mr. Verma and are currently under review by the Honorable Delhi High Court.



Country Programs: Indonesia

Advancing justice for vulnerable women

Launched in 2020, the IBJ Indonesia program has made enormous progress in advancing women's access to justice. In addition to providing hundreds of women with free legal assistance, IBJ Indonesia has launched a multi-faceted rights awareness campaign which has reached almost 21 million people on social media and over the radio. Forums and roundtable discussions have promoted valuable justice reforms that seek to protect women defenders and the accused.

Legal Protection for Women: IBJ Indonesia has provided free legal representation to over Indonesia is not unusual among countries across the globe for having a plethora of laws on the books that discriminate against or criminalize women and even womanhood. These local and national statutes number more than 300 in Indonesia; they run the gamut from laws restricting reproductive rights and adultery to matters of sexual orientation, gender identity, domestic violence and responsibility for children. with many more receiving free legal consultations. Insights from a recent IBJ Indonesia justice roundtable revealed that often women in conflict with the law are unaware of their due process rights and especially right to counsel. To raise awareness of how women can access free legal services, IBJ and its partners have launched four videos as part of a social media campaign. The campaign has been viewed over 56,091 times thus far.

Increasing Access to Justice via JusticeMaker Fellows: Ten Women JusticeMakers Fellows in six locations have developed strategic partnerships by signing eight MoUs with detention facilities, regional offices of the Ministry of Law and Human rights, and police forces, to ensure that lawyers have increased access to clients. JusticeMakers Fellows in Indonesia have conducted numerous activities over 2021 and 2022, including live radio rights awareness events, paralegal training to extend legal outreach to rural communities, convening justice sector stakeholders, and legal consultations in detention centers. IBJ Indonesia also conducted community and legal skills-building training to empower lawyers to actively contribute towards system change towards early access to justice to the accused.



JusticeMaker Siti Nur Faida gives legal counsel at the Makassar police detention facility show

Indonesia Impact 2021-2022

1K+
people received
legal representation

181
lawyers trained

297
Justice Officials trained

21M+
reached with rights awareness

Justice Roundtables: IBJ Indonesia has convened justice sector stakeholder roundtables especially aimed at ensuring early access to justice for female detainees. In a series of ten roundtables spanning from South Sulawesi to East Nusa Tenggara, a total of 286 justice sector stakeholders from over 70 institutions discussed the policy and legislative changes as well as practice changes needed to improve early access to legal services to protect due process rights of women in conflict with the law. These roundtable discussions generated 67 practical recommendations that were shared between relevant regional and national governmental authorities.

Spotlight: The National Networking Forum and National Round Table events were convened to share best practices and build collegial, collaborative and constructive environments between justice stakeholders and defenders. These best practices were specifically aimed at putting systems in place to protect women from gender-based violence (GBV) in the Indonesian criminal justice system. These events also aimed at uplifting leadership and convening power of female human rights defenders striving to eradicate GBV. Eighty-six stakeholders from all branches of the justice sector, including the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, the Supreme Court, regional and national police, prison officials, and lawyers attended the NNF and NRT to review recommendations to overcome barriers preventing access to justice in Indonesia. Topics of discussion included the criminalization of women and victims of GBV, regulations in place to protect women in conflict with the law, and issues preventing protection of rights of the accused in detention facilities by defenders.

Birth Registration Rights of Refugee Children

Joan Riwu Kahlo (Puput) - As a direct result of her JM project, Puput has managed to acquire birth registration rights for the children of refugees based in Kupang – this is something that is currently only done in two provinces in Indonesia (Aceh and Kalimantan) and gives children of refugees the same legal rights as Indonesian citizens. There are a large number of refugees in Kupang and Joan is often contacted to represent their cases, but until she began advocating for their rights, unless the refugees held an Indonesian ID or birth certificate they had no legal rights. From her efforts there is now a collaborations taking place between LBH APIK NTT, UNHCR and the regional government to advocate for this successful pilot scheme to be implemented regionally and nationally.



Country Programs: Myanmar Upholding Rule of Law in the face of crisis

During 2021 and 2022, IBJ-Myanmar (“IBJ-M”) dealt with dual crises, a February 2021 military coup d’état, and a Covid-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, IBJ Myanmar has continued unabated in its efforts to create transformative change in the country’s criminal justice landscape. Prosecutive patterns have shifted with the coup, and laws were changed to make it easier to suppress pro-democracy activists. Despite challenges, IBJ Myanmar justice center and pro bono network lawyers represented 326 political cases in 2021 and 550 in 2022. They represented 863 non-political cases in 2021] and 959 in 2022 . Justice Center Lawyers have also delivered essentials, medicine, and food to defendants.

Myanmar Impact 2021-2022

2,2k+

people received
legal representation

945

lawyers trained

150

Justice Officials trained

6,2k+

reached with rights awareness

Leading Access to Justice: The IBJ-M Justice Centers have emerged as leading legal service providers, quickly adapting to changing conditions in the criminal justice system. IBJ-M has taken the lead among Myanmar legal aid organizations in providing representation in the many politically motivated cases brought under the coup-imposed regime. A highlight of this effort was IBJ-M’s courageous representation of the former Bago province prime minister who was facing trumped up charges during 2021-22, representation that created security risks for the lawyers involved.

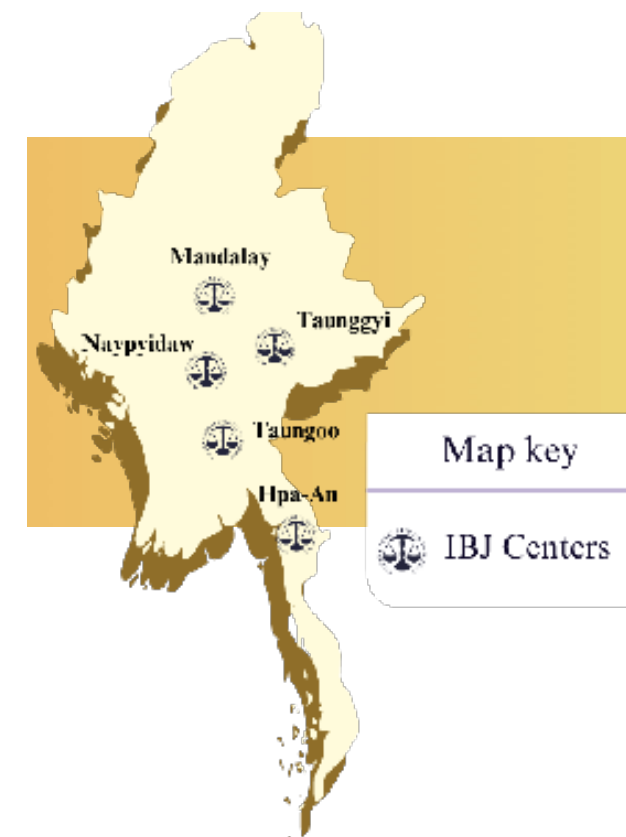
A flagship component of IBJ-M’s work has been its development of an extensive pro-bono network that has augmented its geographical reach and increased access to justice. IBJ-M also established lawyer-operated, user-friendly legal helplines in all its justice centers. IBJ Myanmar reached 5759 individuals with their public awareness campaigns, such as the “Know Your Rights” events, conducted both digitally and in-person.



Overcoming obstacles: During 2021 and 2022, courthouses and other public buildings are threatened by bombings. Traveling was often hazardous. Lawyers who antagonized the government through zealous client representation were threatened with arrest and sometimes had to relocate as a result. IBJ-M has aggressively monitored the security situation and has developed security protocols for reacting to specific security risks. IBJ-M’s staff have frequently called emergency sessions to deal with individual security

“It is highly imperative to engage in cooperation with other government and non-government organisations, such as IBJ Justice Centers, to enhance the legal awareness of both children and their family members. We are working towards achieving restorative justice and holistic legal aid for juveniles in conflict with the criminal justice system both at the grassroots and national level.”

-Daw Khin May Nu, the Deputy Director of the
Ministry of Social Welfare



issues. IBJ has led the way in the important area of security for legal professionals.

Enhancing the Capacity of Legal Defenders and Outreach to the Public: IBJ-M’s staff have conducted training and mentoring for its justice center lawyers, its network lawyers, and for lawyers outside the IBJ family. During 2021, IBJ-M conducted a series of trainings on Myanmar’s drug laws. Drug cases are the largest single class of criminal cases in Myanmar. Myanmar’s drug laws and its drug law enforcement practices are draconian. The training discussed how to introduce a less punitive and more public health-based orientation to drug prosecution in Myanmar. It was open to lawyers outside of the IBJ network and reached over 180 attendees. Since its creation, IBJ-M has consistently challenged the unjust application and interpretation of drug laws, contributing to systemic change in Myanmar’s criminal justice. In 2022, drug cases accounted for 50% of appeals and requests filed with the court. Thanks to IBJ trainings, the number of successful appeals in drug cases has increased.



Other training and mentoring subjects dealt with in 2021-22 have included attacking involuntary confessions, training that was needed to combat Myanmar's atrocious rate of torture-induced confessions. Lawyers also received training and mentoring on other subjects, including searches and seizures, homicide and the death penalty, evidentiary matters, plea bargaining, and juvenile justice. IBJ-M staff, in partnership with Lexis-Nexis, developed a draft of a publication titled "Practice Tips for Representing Women detainees", which was released in 2023.

In addition, in cooperation with IBJ headquarters in Geneva, IBJ-M developed an App aimed at assisting Myanmar lawyers in their practices and increasing lawyers' interface with the public. The App, once fully developed, will be multifunctional, facilitating lawyer referral, lawyer training, legal research, and public information, and will be available free of charge. The App will coordinate with IBJ's Justice Hub, which will permit even wider access to IBJ's legal and training materials.

In 2022, IBJ Myanmar provided legal defenders with more than 25 communities of practice (CoP) peer-led learning sessions, discussing subjects ranging from legal defense strategies to managing legal challenges faced by defense lawyers. IBJ-M also conducted legal skills training on pretrial diversion and litigation strategies. IBJ organized justice roundtables with lawyers across Myanmar to share challenges, security concerns, and case defense strategies in political cases. Along with this capacity-building, the justice centers have continued one-on-one advocacy meetings with relevant justice stakeholders, promoting mutual trust with these stakeholders and influencing policy,



even under the current challenging conditions. In September 2022, IBJ-Myanmar also conducted two sessions in Laos during the 11th Asia Pro Bono Conference.

Strengthening Gender-Responsive Criminal Justice: IBJ Myanmar has continued its work in protecting vulnerable women. It has lobbied justice sector actors to better uphold gender equality. IBJ-M's Myanmar-based leadership is predominantly composed of women, which is highly significant in Myanmar's traditionally patriarchal legal system. Since the coup, women, who are particularly vulnerable to abuse by authorities when detained, have frequently been arrested for participating in protests. In 2022, IBJ organized a webinar-roundtable on the "The Role of Defense Lawyers in Strengthening a Gender Responsive Criminal Justice in Myanmar." The discussion raised awareness of the vulnerabilities women face in the criminal system, such as being deliberately denied sanitary kits and other needs specific to women prisoners.

Inclusion of Marginalized Groups: In Myanmar, justice is often denied to many marginalized groups, such as women, racial and ethnic minorities, LGBTQi persons, and persons with disabilities. These persons are often mistreated by the public, police, and prison officials. They may even be targeted by the legal system. IBJ focuses in particular on assisting the poor, women detainees, LGBTQi persons, drug users, persons with disabilities, and minorities.

IBJ-M provided diverse forms of material assistance to pre-trial and post-trial clients, including food, personal items, medicine, and/or transportation. These services have been of immense importance to poor and marginalized groups.



Country Programs: Rwanda Empowering Communities for Justice

With over a decade of field presence, Rwanda Bridges to Justice (RBJ) remains of critical importance in the Rwandan judicial system. Thanks to its multifaceted approach, RBJ has continued improving human rights protection and strengthening its relations with a wide range of actors, including justice sector stakeholders, governmental bodies, and citizens. Proof of its willingness to enhance international partnerships, RBJ signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Commission for Human Rights in May 2022. Over the 2021-2022 period, a strong Task Force of over 125 RBJ lawyers have tirelessly assisted the detainees, handling a total of 686 cases.

Rights Awareness in Prisons: Access to counsel alone is not useful if the population does not know that they have a right to seek legal aid. In many legal systems, citizens have no knowledge of rights education resources. Consequently, RBJ conducted rights awareness campaigns in 2022 within the Nyarugenge and Huye Correctional Facilities. These campaigns informed prisoners on how, where, and when to seek pro bono services.

Multi-Sector Professional Training: RBJ has adopted a comprehensive approach to training and sensitizing all justice system stakeholders, which has proven to be the most effective way to protect accused, detainees and prisoners. In August 2021, RBJ conducted a two-day training session for prosecutors from the

Rwanda National Public Prosecution Authority to raise awareness of international and national human rights legal frameworks and provide legal skills to build on investigation techniques. Amongst other roundtables with legal professionals, judges, and academics, RBJ hosted its biannual Legal Professionals' Discussion Roundtable titled Access to Justice through Technology in Rwanda: Potentials, Limits, and Alternatives. The discussion included representatives from the Ministry of Justice, Judiciary, Rwanda Bar Association, Rwanda Investigation Bureau, Rwanda Correctional Service, National Public Prosecution Authority, and the University of Rwanda's School of Law. In 2022, RBJ and the National Commission for Human Rights trained bailiffs and legal professionals on effective executions of judgments. This is because most justice stakeholders believe that justice ends at the pronouncement of judgment. For example, if a detainee is acquitted after the trial, the system needs to make sure of their release without any delay. Finally, in a roundtable held in May 2022, RBJ invited justice stakeholders and CSOs to provide their recommendations to the Ministry of Justice to improve the criminal justice sector especially in safeguarding due process and fair trial rights. Furthermore, RBJ conducted three-day training at Rwamagana Rwanda Correctional Service Training school in a bid to promote professional correctional practice for 30 RCS staff. The staff were 18 males, 12 females who were Legal Officers, Human Rights Officers as well as psychologists from all the prisons in the country. RBJ was also joined by trainers from Penal Reform International, National Commission for Human Rights and Rwanda Correctional Service.

Rwanda Impact 2021-2022

940+
people received
legal representation

250+
lawyers trained

110+
Justice Officials trained

1M+
reached with rights awareness



“Thanks to the RBJ lawyer I was freed from prison. Usually people go to heaven after they die, but it felt like I am in heaven now.”

- RBJ Beneficiary

Engaging youth in justice: Over the 2021-2022 period, RBJ strived to unlock the changemaker potential of young people to support access to justice. In 2022, RBJ provided mentoring to enhance the knowledge of young lawyers so that they can fully develop their skills and apply them effectively to protect rights of the accused. RBJ believes that youth activism is key to sustain and advance early access to justice in Rwanda. Under this program, youth justice champions reached out to schools and created 5 justice clubs in 5 schools in 5 provinces of Rwanda in order to curb crime by informing the students about basic punitive laws in bid to reduce youth incarceration in the country. They were also educated on due process rights, including right to counsel at the earliest possible time after arrest and right to a fair trial.

Empowering Women: In Rwanda, female lawyers remain underrepresented in the judicial system while female detainees are vulnerable to abuse and gender-based violence. As such, enhancing the capacity of women defenders is central to RBJ’s mission. As an active member of IBJ’s Africa Access 2 Justice Women Lawyer Network, the RBJ Women Lawyers Network (WLN) held its 17th mentoring session, which featured the Council for the Rwanda Bar Association Secretary Maitre Moise Nkundabarashi. RBJ also hosted Afghan women’s rights leader Shabana Basij-Rasikh, who shared practical advice on female leadership. In 2022, RBJ WLN held a meeting for women lawyers with Deputy Commissioner of RCS Rose Muhisoni. The group also held a conference for International Women’s Day with the theme, “Leadership: A Tool for the Development of our Society,” which was attended by Madame Rose Rwabuhiri, head of the Gender Monitoring Office of the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion. Finally, senior RBJ lawyers trained 315 female law students from the University of Rwanda on leadership, due process rights and fair trial rights. These events aimed to give Rwandan women lawyers motivation to tackle the challenges they face in providing legal assistance to vulnerable accused persons.



Country Programs: Sri Lanka Building an equitable justice system

In 2021 and 2022 IBJ affiliated lawyers in Sri Lanka continued to provide legal representation to the most vulnerable individuals, especially women and children. They have done this selfless work without any resources as the funding for the project has ended. Anuradha Rasnayake, IBJ’s regional liaison in Kandy said, “Poor people know about IBJ through our past rights awareness events and they keep coming to me for help. And I cannot simply turn them away, so even though our funding has ended, I continue to provide legal representation free of charge as I see that it is my moral responsibility to assist them.” Subsequently, with a modest financial support from a private foundation in Sweden, IBJ managed to provide limited support to three regional liaisons, including Anuradha in Kandy, Prasha Uthayakumar in Trincomalee and Harshi Perera in Panadura to support their continued commitment to advance access to justice to the most vulnerable. These important initiatives by three committed women lawyers continued in a context of the declining economy and unstable political climate.

Filling Gaps in the Criminal System: In Sri Lanka, criminal defendants do not receive adequate legal representation although there are legal aid mechanisms set up through the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka. Investigative torture by the police is widespread and often the poor and socially non affluent become common victims. IBJ, through its efforts since 2017, tried to prioritize criminal legal aid. In collaboration with the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, Kandy Bar Association, and Jaffna Bar Association, IBJ has trained over 300 defense lawyers who provide direct legal aid to IBJ clients.

Supplying Lawyers with Resources: During the 2022 Aragalaya (Struggle) protests, young lawyers came to the forefront to defend protesters who were arrested. The Bar Association of Sri Lanka and lawyers providing legal representation to the arrested protesters requested copies of IBJ’s Defender Resources Manual, which is the first such comprehensive resource handbook for lawyers in Sri Lanka, available in Tamil, Sinhala and English.

We are pleased that such resources are continued to be used by lawyers in defending the accused, including protesters who were arrested and detained. After the protest movement ended, the subsequent efforts to silence the dissenting voices, intimidation and arrests of persons who were part of that movement, demanded continued pro-bono criminal legal aid in Sri Lanka.

Farmer Released

Kumar, a 57-year-old cattle farmer with four children was arrested in November 2022 due to a personal vendetta someone had against him, and then tortured in custody. IBJ assisted lawyers were first informed of the case within a few days and then provided legal representation to Kumar. They were able to obtain bail for Kumar.



IBJ lawyer Harshi Perera reviewing a case at her office in Panadura in Kalutara District

Sri Lanka Impact 2021-2022

210+
people received
legal representation

150+
lawyers trained

Country Programs: Syria

Strengthening justice for women

IBJ Syria was launched in 2017 with the establishment of a Defender Resource Center in Aleppo. In the context of war, access to justice is often made more difficult and many regions of Syria are without systemic legal aid, leaving many vulnerable Syrians deprived of legal protections. By strengthening the capacity of Syrian lawyers to provide early legal protection to the mostly displaced and traumatized population, IBJ Syria helps to ensure that those accused of crimes are judged fairly in a court of law in Northwest Syria. Working in a conflict environment, IBJ plays a catalytic role through its defenders by ensuring the implementation of the rule of law within the criminal justice system.

Syria's First Network of Women Defenders: Despite the ongoing demand for legal aid lawyers in Syria, women defenders face unmatched risks when practicing law. In 2017 when IBJ began working in Syria, there were very few women lawyers to represent criminal defendants. To combat this inequity, IBJ has organized a women's lawyer network in Northwest Syria. This community of practice allows ten women lawyers to collaborate and support one another as they together strive to improve the landscape of justice for women in Syria. More importantly, IBJ focused on building these women's leadership skills to become the future leaders. Thanks to IBJ efforts, there are now ten well-supported and well-trained Syrian women advocating on behalf of detainees in Northwest Syria. As a result of IBJ's focus on women leadership, in 2022 three of these women were selected as judges for the Syrian Interim Government.

Improving Justice for Women and Children: Throughout 2021, IBJ convened several women lawyers and local justice system stakeholders to devise a set of comprehensive recommendations about improving access to justice for women and children in Syria.

In October 2021, ten lawyers met with the President of the Aleppo Bar Association to discuss legal representation for vulnerable populations.

During the Revolution we stopped working as lawyers for several years; our work as a team has restored our role as lawyers.

- Zena, lawyer with IBJ Syria's women's lawyers network

Culminating in a workshop entitled "Seizure, Confiscation and Expropriation and its Link to Criminal Charges," these talks resulted in twelve recommendations for the Bar Association.

Similar events in November and December saw IBJ Syria's women defenders discuss strategies for having the Civil Registry recognize marriage and divorce filings by women, improving documentation of violence against detainees released by the regime, and facilitating more opportunities for Syrian women to work in law enforcement and judicial positions.

Covid-19 Response: In order to best implement its systems change programming, IBJ Syria works closely with local institutions in Aleppo, where its Defender Resource Center is located. Starting late in 2020, for instance, IBJ Syria began working closely with the Syrian Interim Minister of Justice to establish and convene a task force for tailored response to the COVID-19 pandemic within the criminal justice system.



The Defender TaskForce with thirty local lawyers takes on a number of issues most pressing to Syria's vulnerable communities, including fighting police violations of multiple human rights in detention centers. Some of the programs established by the task force included a 24/7 duty schedule, allowing IBJ lawyers to provide emergency consultations and bail applications, sensibilization programs alongside Aleppo University's Faculties of Medicine and Pharmacies, and coordinating with local judges to set special hearing schedules to shorten proceedings and increase bail grants.

Institutional Collaboration: In July 2022, IBJ held a town hall meeting in collaboration with the International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC) to host a group of prominent Syrian lawyers to discuss the ILAC Rule of Law Assessment for the 2017-2021 period. IBJ's lawyers, along with representatives from the Aleppo Bar Association and other local law offices, provided a series of recommendations to ILAC on how to better support Syrian lawyers to advance the rule of law in the country. In addition to a partnership with ILAC, IBJ Syria also works with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) on Housing, Land and Property, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), and the Local Development Organization (LDO).

Syria Impact 2021-2022

1,1k+
people received
legal representation

50
Justice Officials trained

From Lawyer to Judge

In a region where the presence of women in the judiciary remains notably low, Souria al-Bakri's story marks a significant achievement. At 35, she transitioned from being a lawyer supported by IBJ to becoming a judge at the Afrin Criminal Court of First Instance. This change reflects not only her determination but also the effectiveness of IBJ's support mechanisms,

including leadership training and strategic networking, which played a crucial role in her career development

When IBJ began its operations in Syria, there were only a handful of women lawyers, working in the northwest part of the country. Today, that number has increased to around 30. This growth is attributed to IBJ's focused efforts on training female lawyers and fostering a supportive community among them, contributing to the increasing number of female lawyers joining the bar.

Souria's appointment as a judge represents a collective advancement for women in the legal field. It signals a progressive shift towards gender equality in the judiciary and challenges the traditional perceptions of gender roles within the profession. Her journey and the support from IBJ illuminate the potential for more balanced representation on the bench,

17-year old girl released on bail

In the IBJ Syria Program, lawyer Ahmad Rashid represented a 17-year-old girl accused of drug abuse and detained. Rashid conducted a detailed investigation and discovered that the girl, out of economic necessity, had been trying to support her family. Unfortunately, she fell prey to dealers who exploited her situation by offering financial assistance with ulterior motives.

Rashid argued in court that the girl was more a victim of her circumstances, including poverty, than a criminal. He suggested that instead of imprisonment, she should be given an opportunity for rehabilitation and a chance to pursue education for a better future. The judge, convinced by Rashid's argument, decided to release the girl on bail, allowing her the possibility to start anew.

This case highlights the effectiveness of IBJ's work in providing access to justice and competent legal representation. Ahmad Rashid's success with this case underscores the impact of legal advocacy in changing lives by focusing on rehabilitation over punishment.

Country Programs: Türkiye

Pioneering Legal Protections for Syrian Refugees

International Bridges to Justice continues its mission to advance access to justice by expanding its Syria program to aid Syrian refugees in Türkiye. IBJ's work was crucial especially with prejudices and discriminatory attitudes and practices affecting refugees in Türkiye often resulting in criminal accusations, wrongful detention and convictions, and deportations. IBJ's program seeks to counter these challenges by offering legal protection to Syrians in Türkiye through a committed group of Turkish lawyers.

IBJ began work in Türkiye in March 2021 with the support of the European Union. Over the course of the project, in collaboration with three key bar associations in Gaziantep, Sanliurfa and Kilis, IBJ trained 446 Turkish lawyers on due process rights and criminal justice advocacy to protect Syrian refugees in conflict with the law. IBJ Türkiye affiliated lawyers have provided legal protection to over 500 vulnerable members of the Syrian community, ensuring protection of their due process rights and the right to a fair trial. IBJ has also promoted rights awareness among over half a million Syrian refugees, many of whom are working-class women with limited understanding of their rights.

Training of Young Defenders: IBJ partnered with the Sanliurfa Bar Association (SBA) to conduct a training on December 4, 2021, on refugee rights and the rights of the accused. Lawyers were trained on the rights of refugees according to national and international laws, and learned how to submit motions for their clients' release when they are at risk of deportation in detention. The training was a huge success, with 286 lawyers in attendance – 52% of whom were women.



Meeting with Key Stakeholders: In December, 2021, IBJ International Program Director Sanjeeva Liyanage met with key justice stakeholders and government officials in the push for rights-based reforms for Syrian refugees. He met with the President of the Judicial Commission in Gaziantep, the Director of the Gaziantep Immigration Department, the President of the City Council, the President of the Bar Association and its board members and the Bar Association in Kilis.



JusticeMakers for Refugees: In an effort to create a community of practice, IBJ Türkiye initiated a fellowship program for defenders from Türkiye striving to protect Syrian refugees in December 2021. These committed JusticeMakers fellows defended hundreds of vulnerable Syrian refugees. Through examples of their unbiased attitude, diligent defense and care, they were an example to look up to for the rest of the Turkish legal community.

They work relentlessly to provide much needed legal protection to refugees, protecting them from discrimination, arbitrary detention, and deportation. Five JusticeMaker fellows provided pro-bono legal representation to over 500 Syrian Refugees under temporary protection and were at-risk of being deported. Thanks to the hard work of our JusticeMakers fellows, IBJ's clients have seen an 80% exoneration rate. Through the courageous efforts of these lawyers in Türkiye, we were able to protect hundreds of refugees from ill-treatment, abuse, and refolement.

Rights Awareness on the Radio: In collaboration with Rozana Radio IBJ Türkiye produced a rights awareness radio program. From August to October 2021 IBJ produced 13 episodes to increase legal awareness among the public. Competent legal professionals provided much needed legal awareness through these programs live on Facebook and on the radio. Each episode aimed to raise awareness among Syrian refugees, particularly Syrian women, about the legal rights guaranteed to them in Türkiye. Other topics raised by callers and listeners messaging with questions included the legal status of Syrians in Türkiye, the rights of the accused in Turkish prisons, how to be protected against unlawful detention and many more.



Know Your Rights Fairs: IBJ helped organize three legal fairs in Gaziantep, Kilis, and Sanliurfa in cooperation with Onder, LDO, and a host of other international and local NGOs to educate refugees under temporary protection of their rights under Turkish Law to ensure their due process rights in criminal proceedings.

IBJ's success in this project unveils stories of resilience, victories for justice, and the profound impact of IBJ's commitment to restoring human dignity within the complexities of the region's challenges.



Free Legal Consultations: In 2022 and 2023, IBJ's dedicated hotline extended vital legal assistance to 1,331 Syrian refugees in Türkiye. A notable 48% sought guidance on legal status and temporary protection. Criminal concerns followed at 18%, with personal status and civil matters accounting for 13% and 9% respectively. Our hotline also seamlessly connected refugees to a dedicated Arabic-speaking Turkish legal expert to offer free legal advice on the most pressing issues facing refugees in Türkiye..

For those requiring representation, IBJ's five JusticeMakers in Kilis, Urfa, and Gaziantep offered free legal aid, bridging the gap between refugees and justice. Expanding accessibility, consultations extended via WhatsApp and the IBJ mobile application "JusticeHub."



Conducting a Comprehensive Legal Needs

Assessment for Syrian Refugees in Türkiye: IBJ conducted a comprehensive Legal Needs Assessment (LNA) to identify critical challenges facing Syrian refugees in Gaziantep, Kilis, and Sanliurfa provinces. Findings highlighted gaps in lawyer training on refugee rights, inequities in treatment, interpreter shortages, deportation risks, and limited support for juvenile offenders. The LNA informed IBJ program in Türkiye so we tailored interventions and advocacy efforts to address these pressing concerns.

Roundtables: International Bridges to Justice (IBJ) held influential roundtable discussions in Kilis, Gaziantep, and Sanliurfa to foster collaboration and drive rights-based reforms for minority groups. These sessions, involving government officials and civil society, focused on the challenges faced by Syrian refugees under temporary protection. Key outcomes included strategic policy recommendations and enhanced awareness for minority rights protection.

Key recommendations emerged from these roundtable discussions, highlighting crucial areas of focus:

- **Building Relationships and Advocacy for Rights:** The Sanliurfa Roundtable emphasized the importance of establishing strong relationships with the Syrian refugee community to eliminate distrust and prejudice. Advocating for refugees' legal rights and empowering them to demand legal representation emerged as pivotal strategies.
- **Clarifying Immigration Policy:** The Kilis Roundtable emphasized the need to clarify the uncertainty surrounding Türkiye's migration strategy. This clarification was seen as instrumental in better protecting refugee rights, advocating for refugees, and developing strategies to prevent deportation.
- **System Changes and Collaboration:** The Gaziantep roundtable highlighted the need for systemic changes in legislation to address gaps faced by refugees. Collaboration with justice partners, in-service training for law enforcement, and specialized judges and prosecutors for refugee cases were proposed to ensure fair trials and combat corruption.

- **Strengthening Access to Representation:** The Sanliurfa Roundtable stressed the importance of advocating for refugees' right to legal representation and educating them about their right to remain silent when arrested.
- **Legal Training for Lawyers:** Ongoing challenges in providing civil law support to Syrian citizens led to a call for more comprehensive legal training for lawyers advocating for human rights, particularly in addressing matters such as voluntary and involuntary deportation applications.

These recommendations were compacted into one leaflet in Turkish, printed and mailed to key decision makers in southern Türkiye in an effort to drive a positive change for refugees.



“
We will continue to help lawyers even if we do not receive funding, and we will carry on helping people in need, providing legal assistance.
”
- IBJ lawyer in Turkey

Protecting Karim from Deportation

“Karim”, a sixteen-year-old boy, went out to collect waste. The young boy and his friend were caught on camera breaking a cable of a shop refrigerator left on the street to sell.

The police arrested Karim. After his family got in touch with our JusticeMaker, Serhat Hicri, our fellow went to talk to the young man and inform him about the video footage showing the misdemeanor. With JusticeMaker Hicri's help and defence, Karim made a statement admitting his wrongdoing and agreeing to fix the damage. As a result of JusticeMaker Hicri's effective legal representation, Karim was released. This young man's story highlights the severe economic problems that Syrian refugees face in Türkiye, exposing the vulnerabilities facing children, who, like Karim, collect rubbish to earn a living rather than going to school and being provided for. In this case, Karim, like many other young individuals, became a target of the criminal justice system and faced the risk of deportation rather than being sent back to school.



IBJ frees Syrian journalist



IBJ Justicemaker Esra (left) with her client Safa (middle) after being released from police custody.

Safa is a young Syrian journalist living in Turkey, where she, her father and siblings currently reside after fleeing the persecution they faced in their old home of Deir ez-Zor, Syria. Now settled in the Turkish city of Sanliurfa, Safa works with Syrian newspapers to provide her community with reliable, accurate information about the ongoing civil war. A supporter of Syrian president Bashar al-Assad contacted Safa on Facebook upon discovering her work. Shortly afterwards, Safa was charged with threatening and insulting this pro-Assad supporter on social media. She was arrested alongside three of friends who were charged with the same crime. Safa knew of the International Bridges to Justice's JusticeMakers program and contacted them while in police custody. JusticeMaker Fellow Esra Yurum came to her aid. She helped explain to the police that the claims made against Safa were falsified; as well as provide authorities with evidence proving the innocence of her client. Thanks to Esra's legal assistance, Safa, as well as two of her friends were released the day of their arrest. Free once more, Safa aims to continue her work as a journalist to raise awareness for the JusticeMakers. With Safa's influence and the hard work of the many lawyers in the program, Justice makers will be able to reach more Syrian refugees in Turkey and provide them with free legal aid.

Finance Report

Despite demanding challenges including operating under COVID 19, IBJ increased its funding in 2021-2022 over 2019-2020. This was largely due to the powerful commitments of partners and investors. We are grateful for their belief in IBJ’s ability to defend the legal rights of vulnerable individuals worldwide. We will mention some of their efforts.

The Swedish Postcode Foundation funded our African Access to Justice Women’s Network. As a result, IBJ supported fellows and surpassed its goals for providing free legal aid.

The Skoll Foundation’s generous funding enabled IBJ to respond to COVID-19 and develop game-changing programs such as JusticeHub. This in-depth country specific resource equips defenders with the tools necessary to defend clients in need.

Funding from EuropeAID Turkey funding enabled IBJ to advance justice for Syrians in Turkey. IBJ team members combated deportation and coerced returns, aided Syrian refugees, and provided impactful representation. Moreover, through funding from EuropeAID Syria, IBJ protected human rights in Syria by training police and prison officers.

The ongoing military coup in Myanmar makes it a particularly onerous place to operate. Nonetheless, funding from British Council Myanmar allows IBJ to intervene, protect the rule of law from further erosion, and minimize long term damage to democratic institutions.

A technology-led training grant from the US State Department allows us to operate in East-Asia despite security concerns. Over the long-term this will enable us to improve systems so that lawyers can practice more effectively.

Funding from the EU in Indonesia enabled IBJ to set up systems that protect women from being unfairly criminalized, especially in the context of domestic abuse. We are proud of the progress we have made and look forward to deeper cooperation with the EU in the region.

As an NGO, IBJ depends entirely on grants and donations to support its country programs as well as cover global programming and indirect costs of program management at its Geneva headquarters. Last year, only 10% of our funding was allocated to headquarters expenses. This limited our ability to support cross-cutting global initiatives and prepare for long-term growth. A priority this year will be

increasing funding for core sustainability.

Finally, we want to thank all our donors for their confidence in our ability to protect the rights of the most vulnerable people on the planet.

USD ‘000	2021	2022
Revenues		
Donor-unrestricted contributions	239	262
Donor-unrestricted contributions for specific projects	2,773	2,437
In-kind donations	1,901	2,017
Other income	1	0
Total Revenue	4,914	4,716
Expenses		
In-country expenses	4130	4,420
Salaries and social charges	171	488
Professional fees	67	101
General office expenses	41	24
Meetings and Conferences	1	4
Other Costs	-1	6
Total project and Admin Costs	4,409	5,043
Exchange rates (gains)/losses	27	-9
(Gain)/loss on investment	-4	1
Total financial costs	23	-8
Total expenses	4,432	5,035
Surplus (deficit) for the year	482	-319

USD ‘000	2021	2022
Assets		
Cash	799	689
Other current assets	212	331
Total current assets	1,011	1,020
Total non-current assets	56	54
Total Assets	1,067	1,074
Liabilities		
Short-term liabilities	58	343
Long-term liabilities	196	0
Profit/(loss) brought forward	813	731
Total Liabilities	1,067	1,074

IBJ Governance

Board of Directors

Christine Cervenak
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Lwin Lwin Maw
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Khin Thandar Myo
Daw Su Lwin Myint
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IBJ Partners

International

NGO and Foundation Partners
ABA ROLI

Action pour la Promotion et la
Défense des Droits des Personnes
Défavorisées (APRODEPED)

Advocacy Forum, Nepal

Afghanistan Human Rights
Organization, Afghanistan
(AHRO)

African Democracy Forum

African HIV in Prisons Partnership
Network

Agence suédoise de coopération
internationale au développement
(ASDI)

AIDS Law Project

AIDSPortal	Inter-American Development Bank Solidarity Program
Alliance of Independent Journalists	International Business Leaders Forum
Ashoka	International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC)
Asian Philanthropy Forum	International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC), Sweden
Aspen Institute	Justice for All, Myanmar
Assistance Program	Justicia Penal Ecuador
Association of NGOs Against Trafficking of Persons in Central Asia	KARAPATAN, The Philippines
AVERT	Kyrgyz Committee for Human Rights
Bahrain Center for Human Rights	LACU
Bangladesh Institute of Human Rights	LBH Masyarakat: Community Legal Aid Institute, Indonesia
Be in Vision Pakistan	Legal Rights Forum
Center for Professional Training of Justice (CFPJ)	Milken Institute
Centro Latinoamericano de Administración para el Desarrollo (CILIC)	MINBYUN, South Korea
CIVICUS	MOPGEL
Collectif des Associations contre l'impunité au Togo (CACIT)	Mubashir Bhutta Human Rights
Committee for Social Justice	NABUUR - The Global Neighbor Network
Community Legal Education Center (CLEC)	One Focus International
Conférence Internationale des Barreaux (CIB)	Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation: Tajikistan
Congolese National Radio-TV-Bukavu	Pakistan Lawyers Foundation
East Africa Law Society	Palestinian Centre for Human Rights
EDUCAF Cameroon	Peace & Collaborative Development Network
Egyptian Center for Women's Rights	Penal Reform International, Central Asia Office
Equitas - International Centre for Human Rights Education	Pine Tree
Foster Goodwill	Preda Foundation
Global Action Network	Prison Reform Trust
Global Youth Action Network	Prisoners Assistance Nepal
Herz Jesu-Kirche, Davos	Proyecto ACCESO
Howard League for Penal Reform	Public Interest Law Institute
Human Rights Education Institute of Burma	Radio Maendeleo
Human Rights XXI Century - Azerbaijan Foundation, Azerbaijan	Red Argentina para la Cooperación Internacional
Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation	Search for Common Ground
i-Genius	Social Edge
IDB Solidarity Program	Southeast Asia Media Defence Legal Network
Important Gift, Inc.	Southern Africa Litigation Centre
Independent Thought	Trauma Healing and Reconciliation Services (THARS)

TRIAL International
Uganda Management Assistance Program
WIN Conference
Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET)
Women's Foundation of Nepal
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)
World Justice Project
World Vision
 Corporate Partners
Abusua Foundation
All Souls Church
American Express Travel Services
Apax Foundation
Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)
BBVA Compass
Belmatech SA
Bertram Pohl Foundation
Book Aid International
Bridgeway Foundation
Broadwell Foundation
Canyon Capital Advisors
China Business Forum, Inc. (CLC)
Clifford Chance Foundation
Computer Aid International
Conrad Hilton Foundation
Cordes Family Foundation
Cottier Donzé Foundation
Coveni Inc.
Czech holdings
Dell
Drummond-Berk Family Trust
East Bay Community Foundation
Echoing Green Foundation
Emmanuel Church, Geneva
Eurasia Partnership Foundation, Georgia
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
First Unitarian Church, Omaha
First Unitarian Church, Portland
Ford Foundation

Foundation de France
French Embassy, Beijing
Global Giving
Global Inc.
Goldman Sachs Matching Gifts
Google Foundation
Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for Peace (GHFP)
Hampshire Foundation
Hemet Properties
HILL Think Piece.
Holthues Trust
HP Company Foundation
I Do Foundation
Infinity Foundation
International Bar Association Charitable Trust
International Senior Lawyers Project
Justice Ventures International
Leaders' Quest Ltd
Leidar
Levi Strauss Foundation
Lexis Nexis
Li Lu Humanitarian Foundation
Lien Foundation
MacArthur Foundation
Mandel-Anthony Family Trust
Marshall Foundation
Matrix Chambers Causes Fund
Microsoft Matching Gifts
National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
Network for Good
OAK Foundation
Open Society Justice Initiative
Pakistan Lawyers Foundation
Peery Foundation
Porticus Asia Ltd.
Pro Victimis Foundation
Qadir Foundation
River Star Foundation
Role UK (Rule of Law Expertise)
SEB Institutioner Stiftelser
Shapeable

Skoll Foundation
Socental AG
Sorrell foundation
Sphaera
Steinhardt Management LLC
Stichting Oranje fonds
Sunny Vista Realty, Inc.
Svenska Handelsbanken
Swedish Postcode Foundation
T. Rowe Price
Taiwan Fund for Democracy
Taxe CO2
The David Geffen Foundation
The Good Chocolate Company
Toronto-Dominion Bank
TrustLaw (Thompson Reuters Foundation)
UBS Fund management
Un monde pour tous
Unitarian Universalist
Association of Congregations (Boston)
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
United Parcel Service of America, Inc. (UPS)
US China Legal Cooperation Fund
Venable Foundation Inc.
Wachovia Foundation
West Foundation
WISE Partnership
 Institutional Partners
African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP Group)
Afghanistan Independent Bar Association (AIBA)
Aleppo Bar Association
American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative - Ecuador and Mexico
Australian Embassy, Beijing
Bar Association of Jaffna (Sri Lanka)
British Embassy, Beijing
British High Commission, Singapore

Bukavu Bar Association
Bukavu Central Prison
Bukavu United Nations
Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI)
Canada Ministry Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD)
CIB - Conference Internationale des Barreaux
City of Carouge
City of Geneva
Development Programme (UNDP)
EIDG. Bern
Embassy of Spain, Singapore
Etat de Gèneve, Switzerland
EuropeAID, European Union, Belgium
European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)
Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland
Global Affairs Canada, Canada
Hispanic National Bar Association
Israel Bar Association
Lahore High Court Bar Association, Pakistan
Netherlands - Ministry of Development Cooperation
South Kivu Ministry of Justice, Civil Service and Human Rights
Swiss Development Cooperation
The Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL) - United States of America State Department
United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF)
United Nations Joint Human Rights Office (UNJHRO), DRC
United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT)
US Bureau of South and Central Asia
 Law Firms
Allen & Gledhill LLP
Allen & Overy

Ashurst
Clifford Chance LLP
David Geffen Foundation
Dechert
DLA Piper
Greenberg Traurig
Herbert Smith Freehills
Hogan Lovells
Jones Day
K&L Gates
King & Spalding
Linklaters
Matrix Chambers Causes Fund
Meschures Campeas Thompson
Snyder Pocras & Levin LLP
Olswang
Paul Hastings LLP
Providence Law
RHTLaw Taylor Wessing
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher &
Flom LLP, Paris, France
VDA Vieira de Almeida
Vitt & Rattigan
Universities
Boston University
Columbia Law School
CUNY School of Law
Graduate Institute Geneva
Harvard University
Hugh Wooding Law School,
Trinidad and Tobago
Northeastern University
Payap University, Institute of
Religion, Culture, and Peace,
The Faculty of Law of the Catholic
University of Bukavu
Universidad de Chile, Centro de
Derechos Humanos
Universidad Nacional de Asunción
University of Montana, Maureen
and Mike Mansfield Center
University of the Pacific
William and Mary Law School

Burundi

Institutions

Belgian Technical Cooperation in
Burundi
Burundi Bar Association
Dutch Embassy
Ministry of Interior
Ministry of Justice
Ministry of Solidarity, Human
Rights and Gender
National Independent Human
Rights Commission (NIHRC)

NGOs

Association Burundaise pour la
Défense des droits des Prisonniers
(ABDP)
Association des Femmes Juristes du
Burundi
Association des Juristes
Catholiques du Burundi (AJCB)
Avocats Sans Frontières (ASF)
Commission Episcopale Justice et
Paix (CEPJ)
International Rescue Committee
(IRC)
L’Action des Chrétiens pour
l’Abolition de la Torture (ACAT)
Burundi
L’Association Burundaise pour
la Protection des Droits Hu-
mains et des Personnes Détenues
(APRODH)
L’Association des Femmes Juristes
du Burundi
La Maison Shalom
Ligue Iteka
Observatoire Ineza pour la
Protection des Droits de l’enfant au
Burundi (OIDEB)
RCN Justice et Démocratie
Solidarité de la Jeunesse
Chrétienne pour la Paix et
l’Enfance (SOJPAE)
Terre des Hommes (TdH)
Unissons nous pour la Promotion
des Batwas (UNIPROBA)

Cambodia

Institutions

Bar Association,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Interior, General
Department of Prisons

Ministry of Justice
United Nations Office of the High
Commissioner for Human Rights
Cambodian Center for Human
Rights (CCHR)
Cambodian Human Rights Action
Committee (CHRAC)
Cambodian Human Rights
and Development Association
(ADHOC)
Cambodian League for the
Promotion and Defense of Human
Rights (LICADHO)
Cambodian Women’s Crisis Center
(CWCC)
Committee for Free and Fair
Elections in Cambodia (Comfrel)
Cooperation Committee for
Cambodia (CCC)
East-West Management Institute
(EWMI)
Equitable Cambodia
Khmer HIV/ AIDS NGO Alliance
(KHANA)
Legal Aid of Cambodia (LAC)
Legal Support for Children and
Women (LSWC)
NGO Forum,

Protection of Juvenile Justice (PJJ)
Samreth Law Group
Vigilance
Vishnu Law Group

China

Institutions

All China Lawyers Association
China Police University, Chenyan
China Law Society
Dalian Lawyers Association
Embassy of France, Beijing
Heilongjiang Administrative Cadre
Institute
Hongshan District Bureau of
Justice
Hubei Lawyers Association
(Criminal Law Division)
Juvenile Protection Bar Association
of Hubei Province
Lanzhou Institute of Business

Liaocheng Public Security Bureau
Liaoyuan Municipal Justice Bureau
National Legal Aid Centre,
Ministry of Justice
Office of the Yanta Procuratorate
Rizhao Legal Aid Center
Shaanxi Bar Association
Shaanxi Lawyers Association
Shaanxi Provincial Legal Aid
Center
Shijiazhuan Procutorate
Shenzhen Lawyers Association
Sichuan Legal Aid, Migrant
Workers Station
Wuhan City Bureau of Justice
Xiamen Legal Aid Bureau
Xincheng District Procuratorate
Yulin City Bar Association

Universities

Beifang Minorities University
China Academy of Social Sciences
(CASS)
China University of Political
Science & Law
Donghu University
Fuzhou University
Guilin University of Electronic
Technology
Hankou University
Hebei United University
Hengping Institute
Lanzhou University of Finance and
Economics
Nanyang Institute of Technology
Northeast Agricultural University
Northwest University of Political
Science & Law, Xi’an
Peking University School of Law
Qinghai University of Minorities
Renming (People’s) University
Shenzhen University
Southeast University Law School
The University of Hong Kong,
Faculty of Law
Tsing Hua University Law School,
Beijing

Wuhan University of Science and
Technology
Wuhan University School of Law
Xiamen University Law School
Yangzhou University School of Law
Yulin College
Zhejiang University Law School
Law firms

Beijing Shangquan Law Firm
Dacheng Law Firm
Dianheng Law Firm
Fada Law Firm
Fengrui Law Firm, Xian
Funeng Law Firm
Gao Jin Law Firm
Gonghe Law Firm
Guanghe Law Firm
Jilin Jincheng Law Firm
Jintian Law Firm

Jinwei Law Firm

Kangda Law Firm

Keli Law Firm

Lianyu Law Firm

RDDS Law Firm

Shaanxi Boshuo Law Firm

Shaanxi Fazhi Law Firm

Shaanxi Fengrui Law Firm

Shaanxi Gengmin Law Firm

Shaanxi Qiyi Law Firm

Shaanxi Shangwen Law Firm

Shaanxi Yunde Law Firm

Shaanxi Zhenli Law Firm

Shaanxi Zhiblen Law Firm

Shaanxi Zhongbang Law Firm

India

Institutions

Commonwealth Human Rights
Initiative (CHRI)
Delhi High Court Legal Services
Authority
Delhi Legal Services Authority
Delhi Prisons (Tihar Prison)
Rajasthan Prisons
Rajasthan State Legal Services
Authority (RSLSA)

NGOs

Beijing Migrant Workers Legal Aid
Beijing Zhongze Women’s Legal
Consulting Services Center
Center for Protection of the Rights
of Disadvantaged Citizens, Wuhan
China Criminal Clinical Legal
Educators (CCCLE)
Hubei Province Women’s
Federation
Legal Aid Center for Migrant-
Worker Foundation of Yunnan
Province
Little Bird
Migrant Workers Community
Center in Pincun Village
Panlong Youth Justice Pilot Project
Public Interest and Development
Law Institute (PIDLI), Wuhan
Shaanxi Female Legal Worker’s
Association
Shaanxi Provincial Women’s
Federation
Suoma Flower Foundation
Wei Ni Ban (“Defend for You”)
lawyer’s network
Yi Women and Children
Development Center
Corporate Partners
Ma Kechang Foundation, Wuhan
Union Territories of Pondicherry
Legal Services Authority
(UTPLSA)
West Bengal Correctional Services
NGOs
MASUM, West Bengal

Universities

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University (NLSIU), Bangalore
National Law University, Delhi
WB National University of Juridical
Sciences (NUJS) India

Indonesia	Changi Prison	Yenice Immigrant Health Center	Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum
<i>Institutions</i>	Clifford Chance	Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants (ASAM)	Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association
Commission to End Violence Against Women and Children (KOMNAS PEREMPUAN)	Economic Development Board	Union Of Medical Relief and Care Organizations (UOSSM)	
Witness and Victim Protection Agency (LPSK)	Embassy of Spain	Hayat Nisa Association	
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Regional Office of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights Papua	National Youth Council (NYC)	Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS)	
Supreme Court Working Group for women and children	Singapore Cooperation Program, Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Shafak Association	
EU Delegation to Indonesia and Brunei	NGOs	Syrian Expatriates Medical Association (SEMA)	
	Association of Criminal Lawyers	Human Appeal	
	Lien Centre for Social Innovation	Journalist For Human Rights Association	
	LAWASIA	<i>Governmental Institutions:</i>	
NGO's	Singapore Council of Women's Organisations (SWO)	The Red Crescent Community Center	
LBH APIK Jakarta	Law Firms	Provincial Directorate of Family, Labour, and Social Services	
Yayasan Embun Pelangi Batam	Clifford Chance LLP	PDMM Harmonization and Communication Department	
LBH APIK NTT	Drew & Napier LLC	Gaziantep Immigration Department	
LBH APIK Sulsel	Fountain Advocates		
Women's Crisis Center Jombang	KhattarWong		
LBH Masyarakat	Kind Exchange		
Remotivi	Latham & Watkins LLP		
LBH Surabaya	Rodyk & Davidson LLP		
SAPA Foundation	Shearman & Sterling LLP	<i>Universities:</i>	
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	National University of Singapore, Lee Kwan Yew School of Public Policy	Hasan Kalyoncu University	
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University of Indonesia	American Chamber of Commerce in Singapore	Local Development Organization	
	ApVenture	<i>MoUs signed with:</i>	
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<i>Institutions</i>	Ranches at Bell Creek	Gaziantep Bar Association	
Kigali (Rwanda) Bar Association	SingTel	Kilis Bar Association	
Ministry of Justice		Zimbabwe	
US Embassy, Rwanda		<i>Institutions</i>	
NGOs	Turkey:	Legal Aid Directorate of the Ministry of Justice	
Legal Aid Forum	NGOs:	Law Society of Zimbabwe	
Intra Legal Aid Services (INALAS)	Concern Worldwide	The Zimbabwe Young Lawyers Network	
Lawyers of Hope	Goal	NGOs	
Young Lawyers Association of Rwanda	Hayrat Foundation	Care at the Core of Humanity Trust (CATCH)	
Singapore	AAR Japan	Legal Resources Foundation	
<i>Institutions</i>	Rizk	Zimbabwe Association for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of the Offender (ZACRO)	
British High Commission	Sanliurfa Legal Clinic		



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