



PROTECTION
INTERNATIONAL

Impact Report **2025**





S T A N D

F O R D E F E N S E



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Foreword: building on our collective power

The year 2025 was one of significant transitions for Protection International (PI), marked by both crucial leadership changes and a rapidly shifting global environment. With such change comes both opportunities and the need for clarity and adaptability. As we stepped into our roles as new Chair (from February) and new Executive Director (from November), we were inspired by **the remarkable dedication and warmth of this small but mighty organisation**. PI plays a key role in supporting human rights defenders (HRDs) as architects and guardians of a more just world. This **close-to-the-ground work, based on deep relationships and strong shared values**, is a model we respect, admire, and are committed to nourishing alongside the team.

This past year has also been a period where we committed to fundamental structural work to **ensure PI's resilience and sustainability for the future**. The board and management have focused on simplifying systems, deepening our partnerships, and ensuring that responsibility and power are fully shared across our global offices so that our PI network strengthens its valuable contributions to the ecosystem in which we work.

Simultaneously, **the year 2025 has been a testing one** for the right to defend human rights (RDHR). We have witnessed a continuing crisis of democratic institutions, escalating criminalisation, and the steady narrowing of civic space. Yet, **where there is repression, there is also hope**, defiance, creativity, courage and persistence.

Despite these headwinds, PI achieved meaningful impact. **We reached 4,994 defenders directly and conducted 262 trainings globally**. Our work focused on turning the tide against Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs), which are too often used to silence critical voices. For example, in **Thailand**, our two-year accompaniment of an anti-potash mining collective resulted in the dismissal of a defamation case brought by a local mayor; a win that sets a vital precedent for citizens' voices over corporate interests. We also forged new ties with HRDs in post-conflict region Aceh, **Indonesia**, strengthening local capacity on security and protection, particularly for women and environmental defenders.

We have also continued to pioneer protection for those at the intersections of marginalisation. In **Africa**, the #DefendersBeyondLimits campaign featured 16 HRDs with disabilities, challenging negative narratives and fostering positive recognition. In **Colombia**, as we wrapped up our three-year "Amazonian Women" programme, one participant shared how the project "transforms not only the lives of women but also those of their daughters, friends, and community members," proving that collective wellbeing is a cornerstone of sustainable resistance.

One of our greatest systemic achievements this year was in **Guatemala**, where, after more than a decade of persistent advocacy, the **national policy for the protection of HRDs** was finally approved. This victory is a testament to Protection International's consistent, collective work in a highly complex political environment.

Before looking ahead, we wish to express deep appreciation to Nathalie Bollen, who steered this organisation with steady hands as interim Executive Director throughout the turbulence of 2025. On behalf of the Board, the Chair thanks Nathalie for her leadership, which provided the stability that allowed us to achieve these meaningful impacts.

What gives us hope for 2026 is the "internal collective power" we see within our team. We know that systemic change does not happen overnight. But as we join our voices and pool our resources, we are building a society where the right to defend human rights is not just a declaration, but a celebrated and resilient pillar of democracy.

In solidarity and determination,



Sandra Peterson
Chair Protection
International Board



Antonia Potter Prentice
Executive Director,
Protection International

WHERE WE WORK

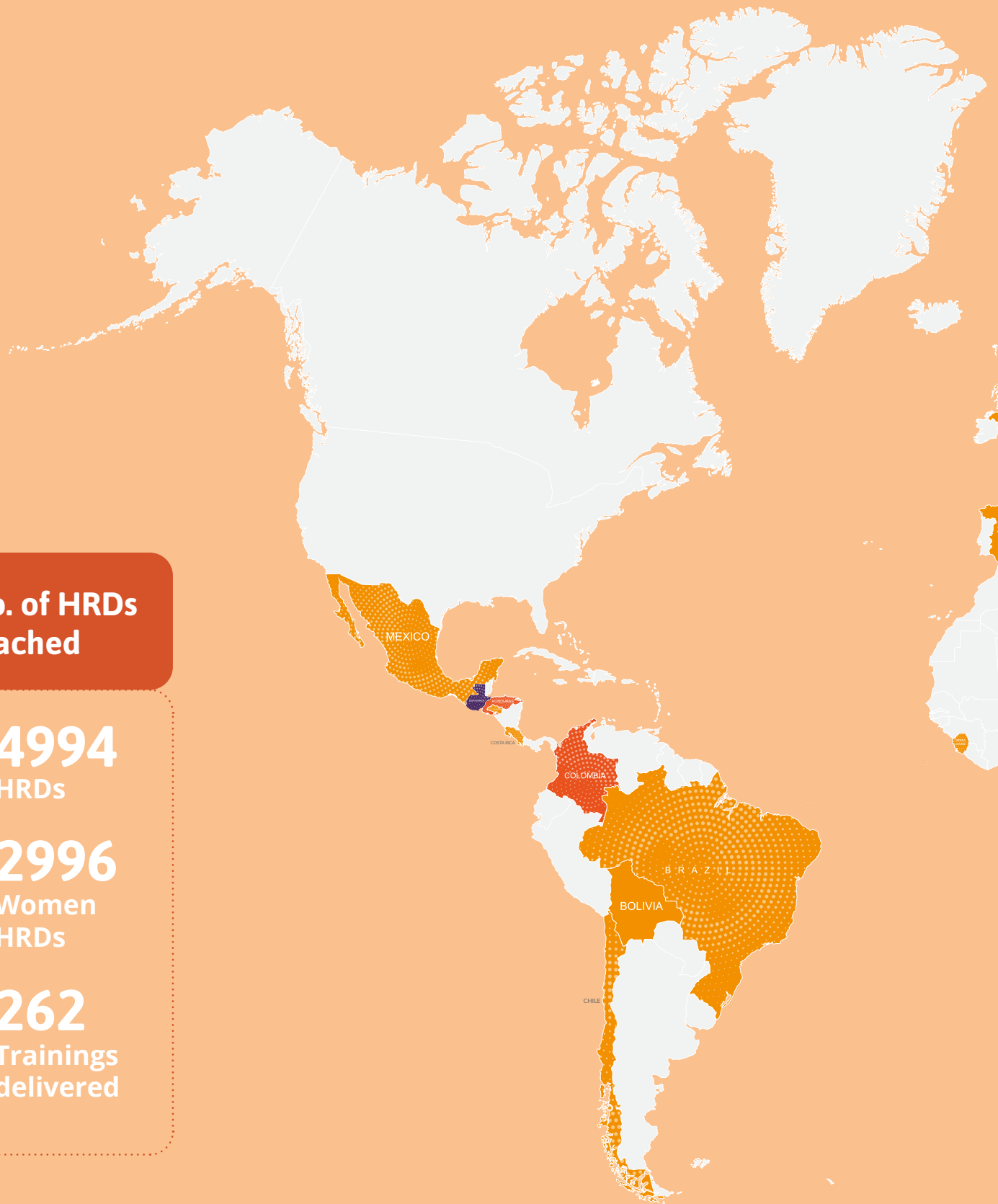
No. of HRDs reached

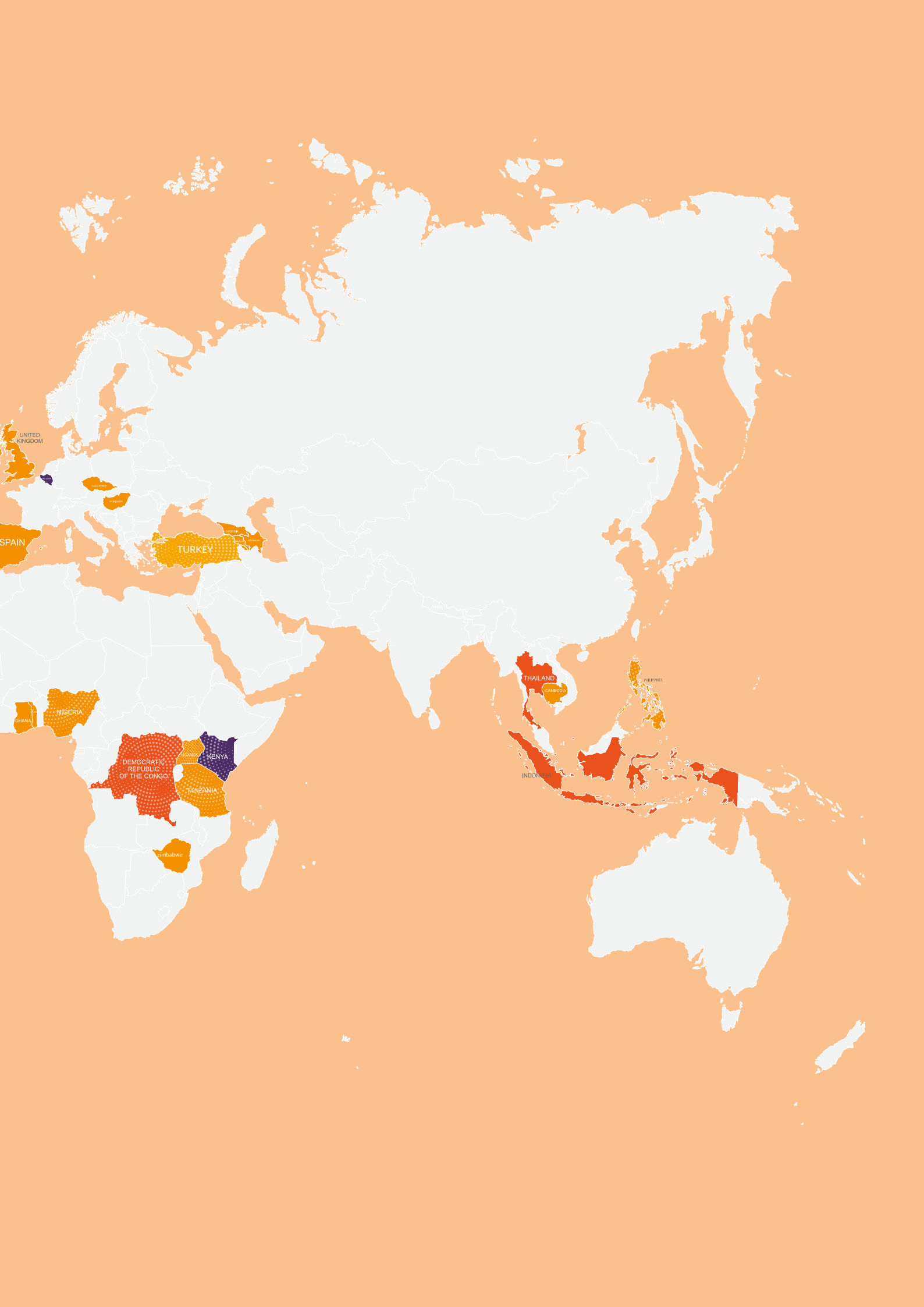
➤ **4994**
HRDs

➤ **2996**
Women
HRDs

➤ **262**
Trainings
delivered

- Embedded presence
- Light presence
- Finance and capacity building support
- Global Team & Hubs





Strategic Objective

1



THAILAND



Strategic Objective One - HRDs and their collectives have the agency to defend human rights safely

☀️ Thailand: the winning formula - being loud, proud and peaceful in collective resistance



Since 2013, the **Khon Rak Ban Kerd Dan Khun Thot group** (People Who Love Their Home) in Nakhon Ratchasima province of **Northeastern Thailand** has opposed potash mining. The community has raised concerns over land and water salinisation, loss of livelihoods, lack of meaningful participation, and the absence of remedy caused by potash mining. Protection International (PI) Thailand has long supported these Human Rights Defenders (HRDs), primarily women, in their **peaceful resistance to extractivism**.

In 2025, the community decided to **grow the visibility of their campaign**. Over 160 villagers, the majority women, **mobilised peacefully through protest actions and parliamentary engagement**, calling for a halt to new mining shafts, ecosystem restoration, fair compensation, and greater accountability from corporate actors.

Stand-out actions in 2025 were the protest **'We Will Block Before Our Homes Blow Up'**, and the symbolic **'fuse-cutting ceremony'** to halt the first planned potash mine explosion. PI Thailand supported these mobilisations to be **safer, more coordinated, and more strategic**. Through risk analysis, protection planning, advocacy, and visibility efforts, **PI Thailand enabled the safe participation of community members** despite surveillance and legal threats. In parallel, **PI Thailand raised concerns over judicial harassment**, including lawsuits against women defenders, and **documented acts of intimidation during protests** to parliamentary committees and the National Human Rights Commission.



Peaceful opposition has brought the grassroots HRDs onto some challenging paths, but it has also bore **fruits of change and celebration**. Take the **intimidatory SLAPP lawsuit** launched against six of the group's HRDs, four of them women, by a pro-mining local mayor. **PI Thailand mobilised a legal and civil society network behind the HRDs** to help tackle this unjust legal attack, which resulted in the Sikhio Provincial Court (Pak Chong) throwing out the defamation case.

For these communities, the struggle is not only against a mine; it is a defence of dignity, participation, and the right to protect home and ecosystem. The **Khon Rak Ban Kerd Dan Khun Thot group is a powerful example of how peaceful resistance triumphs**, and PI Thailand is proud to partner with them.

“Thanks to PI's support, what we feel when we come together is hope, power, and connection. We are not alone, we have a network, and we are ready to move forward together.”

Rural Woman HRD from Thailand



☀ Indonesia: gender and the environment - the most pressing issues for post-conflict Aceh's HRDs



Aceh, the westernmost province of Indonesia, is a post-conflict zone still grappling with the legacy of armed struggle which continues to influence civic space and the right to defend human rights. While the peace agreement in 2005 ended hostilities, two decades later **Aceh's Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) face significant challenges**, including a lack of government protection, high risks (particularly in remote areas), and pervasive gender-based violence. Compounding these challenges is the **ever-increasing environmental degradation from extractive industries**.

In 2025 **Protection International (PI) Indonesia travelled to the region to support and strengthen the capacity of Aceh's human and environmental rights movement**. The first entry was alongside WALHI (Friends of the Earth Indonesia) for a series of workshops, adapting our risk analysis and protection management expertise to meet the needs of **30 HRDs, including women HRDs**. Participants collectively agreed on the urgency of conducting joint risk assessments and developing shared security protocols, recognising the **heightened risks for women and rural defenders**.

PI Indonesia's second trip was dedicated to **environmental HRDs from Yayasan Apple Green Aceh, an organisation campaigning against extractive industries**, like the Nagan Raya coal-fired power plant, and the palm oil plantations in the Tripa peat swamp – an ecosystem that is one of humanity's best allies in sequestering carbon.

Standing up to extractive industries carries significant risk, both mentally and physically. Responding to Yayasan Apple Green Aceh's request, **PI Indonesia organised a security management training**, equipping the environmental HRDs with **practical risk analysis skills and integrated sessions on psychosocial wellbeing**. After two days of training, **Yayasan Apple Green Aceh developed its own security protocol**, a practical tool to prevent and respond to threats in their critical work of environmental defence.

Both trips to Aceh forged **new relationships that PI Indonesia** will nurture over the long-term, with the hope that the right to defend human rights will be protected, especially for the region's women and environmental defenders.



INDONESIA



Indonesia is the world's top producer of nickel, a metal under high demand for Electric Vehicle (EV) batteries. However, the **consequences** of this booming industry are **wide-spread contamination and impoverishment** for those who live in the shadows of such destructive mining. Improving security and protection has been a crucial need for Indonesia's Environmental HRDs standing up against the mining industry, some of the biggest polluters in the country.

Together with WALHI Southeast Sulawesi and Satya Bumi, PI Indonesia actively supported the **Save Kabaena campaign, to protect this small island and its inhabitants from destructive nickel mining**. PI Indonesia joined dozens of environmental HRDs in Kabaena, climbing one of the island's mountains, **raising the campaign's message to the skies!**



Photo Credit: Satya Bumi / WALHI Southeast Sulawesi

Kenya: adapting protection to the needs of defenders with disabilities



In 2025, Protection International Africa (PIA) organised a **specialised protection training**, centring inclusion and accessibility for **Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) with disabilities**. Recognising the **double layer of risk they face**, the training brought together **15 HRDs** from various movements. To ensure full participation, the programme included two sign-language interpreters and four personal assistants. The training focused on protection strategies, risk analysis, and collective safety planning, **exploring how disability shapes threats**.

Materials were adapted, sessions paced, and facilitators trained to ensure that the needs of each defender were met. Logistics, including transport and accommodation, were carefully planned to ensure no one was excluded. The HRDs shared how their **human rights work intersects with their lived experiences of disability**, often facing vulnerability and **being overlooked in traditional protection programs**. By the end of PIA's training, participants confirmed that they felt **strengthened and equipped to assess risks and develop protection plans**.

The training generated important lessons for PIA: inclusion requires intentional planning and resources, and **defenders with disabilities are experts in identifying inclusive protection strategies**. Their insights enriched discussions and broadened the understanding of risk.

For PIA, the commitment to strengthening the protection of HRDs with disabilities has shown that **inclusive spaces strengthen the entire human rights movement**. By investing in inclusive training approaches, PIA continues to ensure that no defender is left behind, and that protection frameworks reflect the realities of all those working courageously to advance human rights across Africa.

“Thanks to the Protection International Africa training, I now have the capacity to conduct risk assessments and create a risk management plan for myself and my organisation. The digital security training was highly impactful, especially for those of us who are not tech-savvy; I learned how to enhance my security through tools like 2 Factor Authentication and ways of detecting surveillance.”

Kenyan HRD with a disability

Mesoamerica: a holistic and intersectional approach to protection across Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador



For Protection International (PI), one area of Human Rights Defender (HRD) protection cannot be isolated from the other. This principle shapes PI's **holistic and intersectional approach to capacity building** which Protection International Mesoamerica pioneers in. Across **Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras**, the **collective protection workshops** of PI Mesoamerica integrate not only physical risk and security management, but also communication and psychosocial needs.

Take the example of the **community radio movement (CRM) in Guatemala**. PI Mesoamerica's protection officers adapted their collective protection training programme to include elements of both **strategic communication and digital security**. For several days, members of the CRM learned about digital security from inside a computer, **using hard drives as a shield** for sensitive information, and how **VPNs** can serve to prevent hackers from following **their digital tracks**.

PI Mesoamerica's **psychosocial accompaniment** and training with **Indigenous Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) in Northern Guatemala** highlights how this style of support brings about a **profound transformation for women defenders**. This accompaniment is continuous throughout the year, allowing the WHRDs to develop their knowledge about **rights, stress management, and leadership** in their communities.

Despite facing **obstacles like misogyny and criminalisation**, these women defenders continue to actively participate in the defence of their communities, demonstrating that **power** does not mean imposing authority over others, but rather **exercising their rights, promoting equality, and working collectively** for community well-being.



Finally, a memorable 2025 activity was PI Mesoamerica's **regional gathering on criminalisation and psychosocial attention** with defenders from Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. Bringing together **more than 20 HRDs** in Guatemala's capital, the event aimed to identify and discuss **regional patterns of criminalisation and threats against HRDs** and their collectives. They also addressed the psychological impacts of these threats, sharing approaches for self-care. A **powerful outcome** was the collective agreement to establish a **regional platform against political persecution**, modelled on the Guatemalan platform.



“ Thanks to the Protection International Mesoamerica’s psychosocial workshop, I learned that I also have the right to speak and voice my opinion, and not just men. I now have the tools to face difficult situations, such as my criminalisation, and I understand that my internal well-being strengthens me to support other women. ”

Indigenous Woman HRD from Guatemala

Honduras: mapping risk analysis and connecting Indigenous defence



Risk analysis is a practice that Protection International (PI) carries out with communities of Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) wherever we are present, and the work that PI Mesoamerica carries out in Honduras is a great example. **Mapping exercises** are frequently used by PI's protection officers in risk analysis, so HRDs can **visualise risk, security and protection**. Using maps in risk analysis is a **practical tool** for HRDs to **reveal patterns behind threats**, and strategise more securely.

Some of the most powerful outcomes from the mapping exercises are when the **defenders recognise that individual concerns are often shared**, breaking isolation between defenders, and **highlighting systematic patterns of aggression**.

 *My struggle in the south is the same for other defenders in the north, and now we feel unified in our actions and goals.* 

Honduran HRD who participated in the mapping risk analysis workshops.





The defence of **Indigenous rights in Honduras** is a cause close to the heart of PI Mesoamerica. For many years PI Mesoamerica has accompanied the **Lenca Indigenous people**, who are organised around defending their ancestral customs and mother nature. Their actions, deeply rooted in Honduras' grassroots struggles, shaped a PI Mesoamerica workshop to help the Lenca community strategise on a national level. The participants highlighted the importance of integrating Indigenous territorial struggles into the national dialogue, given that Honduras is home to more than 2,000 Indigenous and Afro-descendent communities. PI Mesoamerica supported the Lenca community HRDs to design their new strategy, connecting with other local Indigenous campaigns across Honduras, as well as with national level civil society.



Colombia: providing the tools for Indigenous resilience



In Colombia's far-East Vichada department, Protection International (PI) Colombia supported **the Sikuani and Cuiba Indigenous communities** of the La Pascua Reserve in developing their **Plan de Vida - Life Plan**. Over four years, PI Colombia accompanied **the Indigenous communities' collective assembly work**, which culminated in their **Plan de Vida, a strategic document** that serves as a **vital tool for territorial protection** and ethnic preservation against the threat of cultural extinction. Securing territorial control and strengthening the social fabric of communities are **key tenets of PI Colombia's collective protection approach**. The plan reflects on the communities' **past, present, and future aspirations**, establishing formal agreements on territorial governance, traditional justice, and collective management.

Indigenous women played a fundamental role in this process, overcoming participation barriers to strengthen their individual and collective agency. Supported by Brot für die Welt and the European Union, the initiative gave the Sikuani and Cuiba communities a **framework to safeguard their cultural identity and rights to health and education**. As frequent victims of displacement, their **Plan de Vida aspires to build a secure environment** for defending their territories and ensuring long-term community wellbeing.



 ***The Protection International Colombia 'Plan de Vida' project has been an example that we have brought into our homes; it transformed not only our lives, but also those of our daughters, friends, and fellow community members.*** 

Indigenous Woman HRD of the
La Pascua Reserve

Protection International's work with ProtectDefenders.eu in 2025

The **Protect Defenders Consortium**, created in 2015 by the European Union (EU), coordinates actions to protect Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) worldwide. Protection International (PI) is one of its 12 partners, focusing on preventative protection through accompaniment, training and re-granting. In 2025 **PI supported 10 new partners**, representing a diverse group of HRDs worldwide.



In Tanzania, the work of the **Tanzania Epilepsy Organisation (TEO)** stood out, considering PI's prioritisation to support **disability rights**. TEO campaigns to break the stigma faced by individuals with epilepsy through its project, "Speaking Up, Standing Strong". They **train mothers of children with disabilities and youth to defend disability rights through communications and advocacy**, bringing epilepsy rights into the public eye. Witnessing the **transformation in each mother and young person through TEO's project**, PI is so glad to have chosen TEO as a re-granting partner this year.



In Uganda, PI partnered with **Integrated Disabled Women Activities (IDIWA)** to strengthen the physical, digital, and mental resilience of **women human rights defenders (WHRDs) with disabilities**. These WHRDs often face a **double burden of discrimination**, firstly for being women, and secondly for living with a disability. PI worked with IDIWA to develop a **disability-focused protection handbook for WHRDs**, and **mapped out their protection network**, ensuring that they know how to mobilise their allies to strengthen their activism. The WHRDs shared how they have **transitioned from targets to change agents**, and now lead community awareness campaigns, ensuring the **rights of women defenders with disabilities** are both recognised and protected.



Staying in **Uganda**, the story of PI's partner **Friends of Zoka (FoZ)** is remarkable. Established to protect the Zoka Central Forest Reserve from **illegal deforestation**, the organisation and its Environmental HRDs have faced severe retaliation from state actors. Supported by PI, FoZ launched a **six-month campaign to move from reactive defence toward community-led protection**. **Key actions** focused on digital and physical safety, grassroots digital monitoring of human rights abuses, stakeholder dialogues, and emergency support. This project has achieved a significant shift in the local political climate: once a target of state oppression, **FoZ has successfully harmonised its legitimate defence of the environment with local authorities**. Today, **the environmental defenders of FoZ speak with newfound courage**, backed by both international networks and local leadership to protect their environment and their rights.



On the other side of the world, the **Philippines** remains the most dangerous country in Asia for environmental defenders. To tackle this climate of fear, PI supported **Alliance for Environment and Community Rights Inc (AECRI)**, by implementing a comprehensive **security and risk plan for 165 environmental HRDs**. Key to this plan was supporting AECRI to establish a **province-wide protection network**, battling community action isolation. For example, HRDs in Nueva Vizcaya utilised the protection network to mount physical barricades against the entry of corporations into their land. Even when facing arrest, local **HRDs re-affirmed their conviction** to defending their land and environment:

I am not embarrassed to be seen handcuffed because I am fighting for life, livelihood, the environment, and the future of my children and grandchildren.

Strategic Objective

2

Strategic Objective Two - Power holders take all necessary actions to create and uphold enabling environments for the RDHR

Advocacy is a cornerstone of Protection International's (PI) work under Strategic Objective Two: to influence the policies and decisions of powerholders so that human rights defenders (HRDs) can fully exercise the right to defend human rights (RDHR). As this work spans national, regional, and international arenas, including key engagement with the European Union and the United Nations, selecting which actions to highlight is always a careful task. Some of our favourite snapshots from 2025 follow.

European Union Advocacy



CREDIT: Mickael Franci

Protection International (PI) partnered with **Cordaid** to conceptualise, design, and moderate a panel at the “**Pathways to Stability: Rethinking the European Union’s Role in the Great Lakes Region**” conference hosted by EurAc and the Just Future Consortium. The panel focused on strengthening EU responses to civic space threats and HRD protection in the Great Lakes region. **PI moderated the discussion**, which featured **two women HRDs and two male HRDs from the DR Congo and Burundi**, as well as a European Union (EU) representative. Discussions addressed ways to **improve the DRC’s national law on HRD protection** (law 23/027) and explored broader regional challenges, including the conflict in eastern DRC and the need for greater support and recognition of women HRDs. Read the final report of the conference [here](#).

2025 was a tough year for European civil society, with **coordinated disinformation attacks** coming from far-right Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) who reduced activities by independent civil society organisations (CSOs) to lobbying. Led by **Civil Society Europe**, PI joined forces with **over 570 civil society organisations from 40 countries**, including all EU Member States, calling out this blatant attack which pushed a false narrative on how civil society uses and obtains funding. The statement **calls for the European Parliament to defend civil society** as a fundamental part of **European democracy**, acting as a counter-balance to the reactionary strategies of Europe’s far-right parties.

As an active member of Brussels-based civil society networks, Protection International was deeply involved in sustained advocacy for structural protection, focusing on key issues like developing an **EU protection mechanism**, enhancing **HRD relocation programmes**, improving **HRD visa access**, and addressing challenges faced by **HRDs in exile**, especially **transnational repression** (TNR). These efforts culminated in a **high-level expert event in Brussels in December**. The workshop was convened jointly by the **UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR)**, the **European External Action Service (EEAS)**, and the **European Parliament (EP)**. Its purpose was to map TNR trends and develop improved, coordinated EU and international responses to address major accountability and protection gaps. As a participant, **Protection International facilitated one of the discussion groups** on this urgent matter.

On the international stage **Protection International added its voice to calls for the European Union to defend the ICC**, after the US President Donald Trump issued an **executive order** on 6 February, 2025, authorising the use of asset freezes and entry bans on ICC officials and others supporting the Court's work. PI concluded, alongside 58 nongovernmental groups, that **such attacks could undermine justice for victims of serious international crimes around the world, and threaten the right to defend human rights**.



Finally, in December 2025, PI was present at the **Sakharov Prize ceremony**, the European Union's highest tribute to human rights work. Finalists included the **Serbian student movement**, and **journalists and humanitarian aid workers in Palestine** and all conflict zones, represented by the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate, the Red Crescent, and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). The chosen laureates were **two journalists**; Belarusian **Andrzej Poczobut** and Georgian **Mzia Amaglobeli**. For PI, the **event affirmed a long-standing demand - the recognition of HRD collectives and organisations in human rights prizes**. Beyond recognition, PI stresses the need for a long-term, structural commitment to protection and support for HRDs and their collectives, especially once they are out of the spotlight. This commitment is reflected in **PI's advocacy for public policies for the protection of HRDs**.

United Nations Advocacy

☀️ A new UN resolution for HRDs: recognising the impact of digital technologies

A significant United Nations resolution on the protection of Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) was adopted in 2025: *Human rights defenders and new and emerging technologies: protecting human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, in the digital age*.

Every three years Norway leads the process for a new resolution on HRDs, in response to the ever-changing human rights landscape. **Protection International (PI) actively contributed to the drafts of this latest resolution**, as well as co-sponsoring a side-event at the 58th session of the UN Human Rights Council on this issue. The 1998 Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, 25 years later, **does not consider the challenges from digital technologies on the right to defend human rights**, so this resolution is an **important step** in bolstering the right to defend human rights. PI will continue to promote for States to integrate this resolution on the national level, so that **whether online or offline, the Right to Defend Human Rights (RDHR) is better protected**.

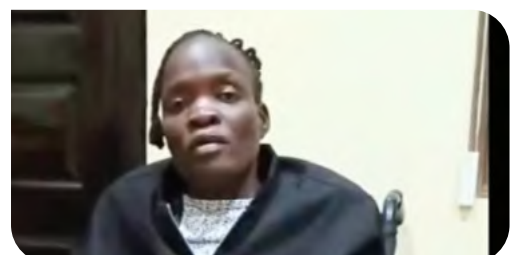


☀️ Supporting HRDs with disabilities to make Kenya's UPR fit for purpose

PI Africa (PIA) saw an important opportunity to consider **the right to defend disability rights within Kenya's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process**. Over a 3-day event, PIA brought together partners and HRDs with disabilities to **unpack Kenya's 4th UPR cycle, strategise on implementation, and build monitoring mechanisms**. Key outcomes included the development of a **Civil Society Organisation (CSO) UPR implementation framework**, which clustered recommendations into seven themes across political participation, economic empowerment, and protection from violence. Furthermore, **the HRDs with disabilities improved their understanding of monitoring UPR implementation at the local level, and established a working group platform to facilitate ongoing engagement** and solidarity among HRDs. Going forward, the working group of HRDs with disabilities and partners aim to **engage with the Kenyan government on how it can uphold its UPR commitments related to disabilities and inclusion**.



Watch Emily's full testimony [here](#):



“Before this training, I had no idea what the UPR document was and how it was helping us as people with disabilities.”

Emily Juma, participating HRD with a disability.

☀️ Centring grassroots feminist voices: Thai WHRDs make history at CEDAW91

A **historic moment** occurred at the United Nation's 91st Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) review when **two rural Thai Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) addressed the committee in their native Thai language**, a first for CEDAW in Geneva. **Protection International (PI) Thailand accompanied and supported the interventions** from WHRDs **Jutamas Srihutthaphadungkit (Ying)** and **Jongdee Meelhunthod (Aoy)**. Ying coordinates the Campaign for Public Policy on Mineral Resources (PPM), working with rural women resisting mining and corporate impunity, while Aoy is a farmer and WHRD from Khon Rak Baan Koed Dan Khun Thot Group, leading nonviolent resistance to destructive potash mining.

The testimonies from each WHRD ensured that the **CEDAW Committee addressed judicial harassment and the gendered impacts of extractivism** in its observations. Their participation powerfully demonstrated how justice can be shaped by those most impacted. **PI Thailand transcribed and translated the session for their communities back home**, who responded with a sense of pride and renewed confidence.



👉 **Now we know international advocacy belongs to us, too.** 🍷

Thai rural HRD from the Khon Rak Baan Koed Dan Khun Thot Group.

As the session closed, Protection International Thailand's representative Pranom Somwong took the floor saying: *"Justice cannot be buried beneath potash mines. Listen with radical empathy. Our women defenders are not the disruption - they are the future."*

Read PI Thailand's shadow report to the CEDAW committee:

Shadow Report: [INT/CEDAW/CSS/THA/63452](https://int.cedaw/css/tha/63452)

Regional Advocacy

☀️ Strengthening protection frameworks: the Basque conference on African HRDs

In line with Protection International's (PI) commitment to fostering enabling environments, **PI played a pivotal role in the Basque Conference on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) in African countries**, held on 6–7 May 2025 in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain.

PI's involvement began in late 2024, serving as specialised advisors to **eLankidetza** (the Basque Agency for Development Cooperation), **ensuring the conference reflected the most pressing protection needs for HRDs on the African continent**. This included producing a **comprehensive framework document** that outlined the African human rights landscape and ensured regional HRD protection mechanisms and local grassroots voices, especially women HRDs, were central to the dialogue. **Phanice Odhacha, PI Africa's Regional Director represented PI**, contributing to roundtables and networking sessions, sharing her expertise and insight into the lived reality of African HRDs.

The conference culminated in the Vitoria Declaration which significantly emphasised the specific risks faced by African defenders among Spanish and regional NGOs. Furthermore, it served as a **strategic platform to connect organisations like PI with partners interested in expanding HRD protection mechanisms in Africa**. **By fostering these alliances, PI continues to promote the protection of African HRDs as a priority on the international cooperation agenda.**



“African HRDs face hostile environments of criminalisation, shrinking civic space, surveillance, and restrictive legal frameworks designed to silence dissent. However, they demonstrate extraordinary resilience, solidarity, and courage in sustaining their movements. The Basque Conference affirmed the urgent need for holistic HRD protection, including sustained resources for legal and psychosocial care, digital security, and collective protection. Relocation must become holistic, and accountability mechanisms must be strengthened to ensure enabling environments for the right to defend human rights.”

Phanice Odhacha,
PI Africa's Regional Director

☀️ A historic victory: Guatemala's public policy for the protection of HRDs



The adoption of **Guatemala's Public Policy for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (HRDs)** on 13 November 2025, marked a **genuinely historic turning point**, finally beginning to settle a decades-long debt to its defenders. This public policy is the **direct result of a landmark international ruling**, the Human Rights Defender and Others v. Guatemala case before the **Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR)**, which stemmed from the 2004 murder of HRD Florentín Gudiel.

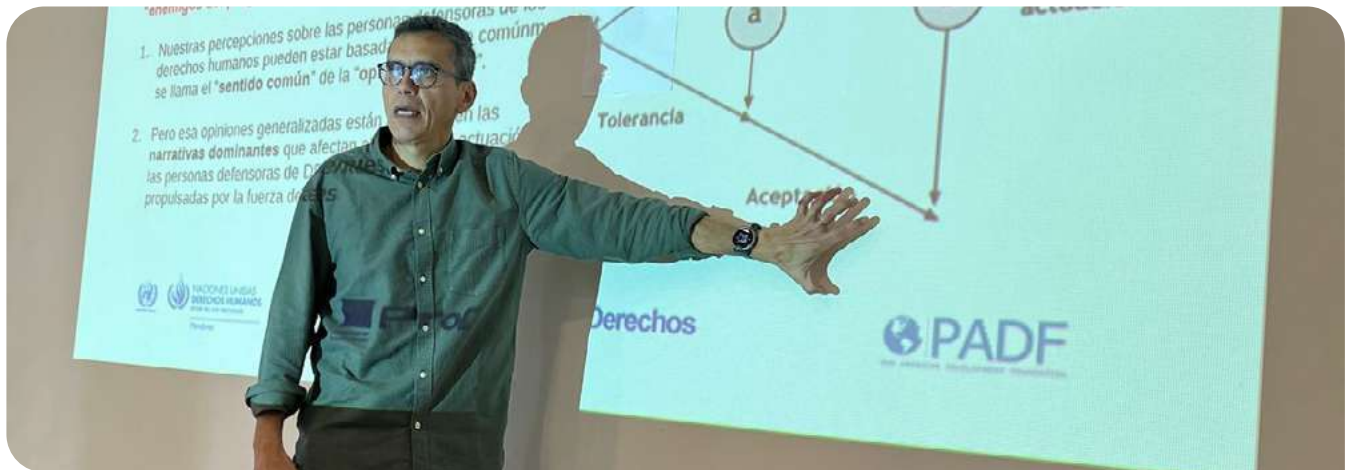
Protection International's (PI) expert contributions, including reports by HRD protection expert **Enrique Eguren**, were instrumental in shaping the IACHR's jurisprudence that mandated this **policy**. In parallel, **Protection International Mesoamerica facilitated numerous key discussions** between HRDs, civil society and decision makers to ensure the policy reflects the needs of the most vulnerable HRDs, particularly rural Indigenous communities.

The **public policy** establishes the **core pillars of Prevention, Care and Protection, and Access to Justice**, aiming to move beyond reactive measures to a comprehensive institutional framework that protects people and communities in their right to defend human rights. Yet its effectiveness hinges on **adequate resources and implementation**.

For this reason, going forward the PI Mesoamerica team is assessing the legal framework and identifying clear avenues to engage with authorities to ensure they uphold the right to defend human rights. This includes the **adoption of a protection mechanism for journalists, which is missing in the policy**.

Find the full text (in Spanish) of the Guatemalan Public Policy for Human Rights Defenders at this link: <https://mingob.gob.gt/politica-publica-de-proteccion-de-personas-defensoras-de-los-derechos-humanos-en-guatemala-2025-2035/>

Honduras: Protection International strengthens the national protection mechanism



In February 2025, **Protection International's (PI) Head of Policy, Advocacy and Research Mauricio Angel** undertook a strategic mission to Honduras. **Working with PI Honduras Country Representative Evelina Vargas**, the mission partnered with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR-Honduras) **to build the capacity of officials within the National Protection Mechanism (NPM) for Human Rights Defenders (HRDs).**

The joint initiative addressed a critical institutional gap caused by high staff turnover, which left **new NPM officials lacking experience in civil society engagement or international protection frameworks.** **PI conducted in-person training** on international standards, the UN Declaration on HRDs, and Fact Sheet 29.

Crucially, dialogues with NPM unit leaders revealed a need to **overhaul their rigid, quantitative risk analysis methodologies.** Officials expressed a desire to transition toward a qualitative risk analysis methodology that **integrates a collective protection approach.** To support this, the initial in-person mission was **extended into a comprehensive hybrid capacity-strengthening program**, combining onsite training with subsequent online learning sessions in March and April.

This joint intervention **successfully trained over 20 NPM officials**, significantly improving their core skills in threat analysis and management. The collaboration also **established PI as a trusted technical advisor for building qualitative risk analysis tools and collective protection templates.** This effort introduced a more comprehensive, qualitative framework to better safeguard Honduran human rights defenders.



Networks & Coalitions

Coalitions and networks of civil society organisations make the protection of Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) a strong and collective effort. Over 2025, Protection International continued to engage in a number of thematic and regional networks:

Regional



Thematic



In addition, Protection International maintains strong relationships with strategic allies, including civil society partners like European Network Against Racism (ENAR), ProtectDefenders.eu, EU SEE consortium, Peace Brigades International (PBI), and Centre for Justice and International Law (CEJIL). We also collaborate with academic partners like the University of York (Centre for Applied Human Rights) and the University of Durham.

Narratives

Promoting positive narratives for the Right to Defend Human Rights (RHDR) has been central to PI's Strategic Objective two: to influence the policies and decisions of powerholders so that human rights defenders can fully exercise the right to defend human rights. Here are two examples from 2025:

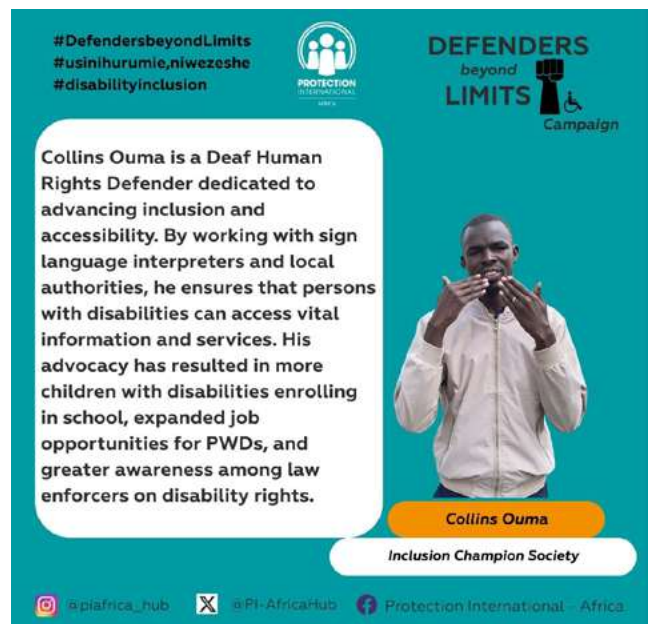
☀️ **#DefendersBeyondLimits campaign: promoting online positive narratives for defenders with disabilities.**



Protection International's (PI) research has highlighted how **Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) with disabilities in Africa face barriers** to engage in civic space and protection mechanisms while also **dealing with discrimination on a day to day basis**. To counter this, Protection International Africa (PIA) launched the month-long **#DefendersBeyondLimits online campaign** (29th July - 15th August).

As part of PIA's commitment to inclusive programming, the campaign used **digital storytelling and advocacy to shift the narrative, championing the resilience, leadership, and strength these defenders bring to social justice**.

The campaign **profiled 16 HRDs with disabilities**, highlighting how they carry out the right to defend human rights as people with disabilities. By promoting their commitment to social justice **across Kenya the campaign reached 3,535 accounts across X and Facebook**.



Positive narratives through visual story-telling in Colombia



In Colombia, Protection International's (PI) **Nuevas Narrativas - New Narratives** project, backed by the European Union, has become a cornerstone in the fight against the disinformation and stigmatisation targeting human rights defenders (HRDs) in Colombia. These **negative narratives against HRDs, frequently pushed by the media, politicians and armed groups**, have been analysed and fact-checked through the **Verifico platform**, a joint project with Verdad Abierta, serving as an ally for HRDs in Colombia.

A key part of the project was training HRD communities on **the power of narratives and story-telling as a tool for protection**. As Nuevas Narrativas came to a close in 2025, participating HRD communities channelled these new skills in narratives and story-telling into creating a series of **communicative products**. Some examples include:

- **Montes de María and Córdoba:** Using diverse storytelling formats to fight local disinformation and reclaim her community's narrative, the female Governor of the Zenú Tierra Santa Indigenous Council challenges barriers to female leadership.
- **Huila:** The Nasa Indigenous people developed photo-reports and videos to challenge external prejudices that target their gender, age, and sacred spiritual traditions, often originating from outside their territory.
- **Norte de Santander:** In the Catatumbo region, community radio stations developed a podcast series. The podcasts outline how community radio is a powerful tool against stigmatization, highlighting the strength and creativity of communities in this complex department of Colombia.

Protection International Colombia finally carried out an **evaluation session of Nuevas Narrativas with participating defenders**, who highlighted how the Verifico platform doesn't just reveal the risks of negative narratives but **provides the practical tools needed to counter them**. By fostering these positive narratives, PI hopes to create a safer environment for HRDs across Colombia.



Strategic Objective

3

Strategic Objective Three - PI is a resilient, sustainable, responsive and transparent organisation

☀️ We thrive when solidarity thrives: the 2025 global seminar in Brussels



In November 2025, Protection International (PI) convened its **Global Seminar in Brussels**, bringing together **37 staff members from across Africa, South East Asia, Mesoamerica, South America, and the Belgium based Global Team**. Against the backdrop of a worsening global human rights landscape and tightened funding, this gathering served as **a vital moment to assess PI's trajectory** and the **Global Strategic Framework 2024-2028**.

While **celebrating achievements**, such as **pioneering the protection of disability rights defenders in East Africa and enhanced collective protection methodologies in Latin America**, the teams also addressed challenges. Colleagues identified how the **global shift against human rights is making the world a more dangerous place for HRDs, compounded by funding constraints** which are straining PI's goals and operational capacity.

To meet these challenges, the PI teams collectively **established priorities for 2026 and beyond**:

- *Decentralisation & Governance*: Moving towards a Pilot Global Leadership Team and a clear Decision-Making Matrix to empower regional voices.
- *Operational Excellence*: Designing a "minimal quality checklist" for country operations and rolling out a unified MEAL framework to improve evidence-based learning.
- *Narrative Power*: Prioritising storytelling as a core function for both advocacy and resource mobilisation.
- *Strategic Resilience*: Updating PI's fundraising roadmap to explore innovative funding models.

Throughout the week, colleagues listened and learned from each other, bringing **new stories of wins and struggles**. They reflected on how to adapt PI's mission to the needs on the ground. They strategised to plan for the future, and **made space for joy, humour, and connection**, because care is political, and **solidarity is the backbone of long-term resistance**.

The five days together **affirmed that PI's mission is more needed than ever, and that by working together PI can challenge this new wave of global injustice**.

The teams left Brussels with assurance of PI's mission: to stand shoulder to shoulder with HRDs everywhere, to defend their right to defend human rights, and **to face down global injustice with the power of solidarity.**

“We’ve set priorities and we’ll stick to them. We’re going to face down the challenges with courage, focus and smarter collaboration - guided by the HRDs we partner with.”

Antonia Potter Prentice, Executive Director of Protection International

“We thrive when solidarity thrives, when we stand firm with HRDs and advocate for the right to defend human rights.”

Pranom Somwong, Protection International's Thailand representative



Interview with Carolina Beghelli, MEAL expert

In 2025, Protection International (PI) worked with the monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL) expert, Carolina Beghelli. Carolina brought a rich experience and practical approach to this partnership, which she details below.



How did you develop your expertise in MEAL for international organisations?

I developed my MEAL expertise through practice, working with movements, litigation, and philanthropic portfolios. I consistently saw that organisations doing complex, high-risk work struggled to clearly demonstrate change or adapt strategies. In HRD protection, inadequate monitoring can increase risk. I combined qualitative methods like outcome harvesting and contribution analysis with strategic decision-making. My focus is making evidence usable for people operating under pressure, not just tools.

Tell us about your time as a MEAL expert with PI

PI's challenge and strength lies in working across dynamic, high-risk contexts where change doesn't fit standard indicators. Learning was fragmented, so the focus became building a system to hold this

complexity without losing local nuance. This involved developing rubric-based assessments, establishing learning cycles like roundups and advocacy tracking, and aligning teams around shared learning questions. The key highlight was shifting from "reporting results" to "interpreting change," which PI's open culture made possible. This positions PI strongly for the future by actively using captured learning.

Why do MEAL processes contribute to an organisation's resilience, sustainability and responsiveness?

Without structured MEAL, organisations rely on fragmented intuition. MEAL turns individual observations into collective evidence, informing long-term strategy. Resilience comes from systematic analysis, allowing organisations to know which outcomes are durable under pressure. Sustainability is about justifying and prioritising decisions, not just funder reporting. Responsiveness requires MEAL to be timely and flexible; rigidity makes it irrelevant in fast-moving human rights work. Ultimately, MEAL asks better questions, enables collective sensemaking, and supports timely decisions, a direction PI is successfully pursuing.

What message would you like to share with organisations that work for the right to defend human rights?

- *Be honest about knowledge gaps: stronger strategies stem from acknowledging what you don't know and using it for learning, despite pressures to present certainty.*
- *Onvest in learning over visibility: impact communication must be grounded in a clear understanding of what is changing and why.*
- *Keep ownership of learning: MEAL systems must be embedded in the organization's daily thinking and decision-making to be effective.*
- *Treat complexity with clarity: since human rights work is messy, it's vital to articulate assumptions, test them, and build evidence over time.*

" Organisations like Protection International prove that treating learning as part of the work, not an add-on, is possible with honesty and rigour."

Interview with Perpetua Senkoro, disability and protection expert



In 2025, Protection International (PI) worked with an expert in disability and inclusion. Perpetua Senkoro accompanied PI in a journey to mainstream disability perspectives across programming and internal operations. Hear about her experience, and what led her to work with PI in this crucial area of protection.

What journey led you to becoming an expert in disability, inclusion and protection?

My journey shifted from human rights law to practical protection implementation. Early legal advocacy revealed a gap: protection systems were not designed with everyone in mind. Working with Human Rights Defender (HRD) protection organisations like the Tanzania Human rights defenders Coalition and Protection International (PI) highlighted a gap; risk assessments, emergency responses, and security planning typically assume a “standard” defender.

My specialization deepened by recognizing that disability changes the entire protection equation. Defenders with disabilities face unique exposure to threats, different constraints, and dependencies rarely

captured in conventional models. This realization, combined with hands-on work adapting tools and approaches, shaped my focus on disability, inclusion, and protection as an integrated field.

What stood out to you during your time with PI as the disability and protection expert?

PI has already taken concrete, practice-oriented steps toward disability inclusion, notably in three key areas:

1. Development of a guide on the protection of HRDs with disabilities

This is significant because it translates inclusion into operational guidance. It moves beyond principles and provides a framework for how protection actors should think about disability in risk analysis and response.

2. Security trainings for HRDs with disabilities

These trainings demonstrate an effort to adapt protection knowledge to different realities. They acknowledge that standard security strategies may not be applicable without modification.

3. Subgranting to OPDs

Supporting organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) through small grants is a strategic investment. It strengthens local capacity and recognises OPDs as actors in protection, not just recipients.

At the same time, these efforts are not yet fully embedded across the entire organisation. They tend to operate as strong initiatives, but not always as standard practice. For example: the guidance developed is not always systematically applied across all programmes; and inclusion still depends on specific teams or projects rather than being uniformly applied. PI now has the opportunity to scale these deep initiatives

consistently throughout the organisation.

How can organisations like PI improve mainstreaming disability perspectives in their programming?

For PI, the priority is consolidating and institutionalising existing initiatives, not launching new ones.

First, embed the guide on protection of HRDs with disabilities into core workflows. This means making it a mandatory reference in risk assessments, integrating components into SOPs, and using it for staff training.

Second, use insights from security trainings to refine organisational tools. Recurring challenges (e.g., communication barriers, accessibility constraints) must be translated into standard risk indicators.

Third, leverage the subgranting model to OPDs for co-creation. PI should systematically capture learning from grantees and involve OPDs in programme design and evaluation to refine protection strategies.

Fourth, disability inclusion needs to be reflected in MEAL systems. Without tracking who is reached and intervention effectiveness, inclusion is difficult to measure.

Finally, PI must define minimum organisational standards for accessibility and inclusion, ensuring all offices apply a consistent baseline regardless of context. In essence, the building blocks are already in place; the next step is ensuring they shape the organisation as a whole.



In a global landscape marked by rising repression and shrinking civic space, Protection International (PI) remains a steadfast partner to those on the front lines of social change. Beyond permanent country and regional presence, PI's **specialised training services aim to improve safety and capacity for Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) worldwide.**

Leveraging over 30 years of hands-on experience, **PI delivers pragmatic, high-quality support to a broad spectrum of partners**, including international NGOs, cooperation agencies, and socially responsible enterprises. PI's **methodology is anchored in a profound understanding of risk**, moving beyond generic solutions to offer highly customised interventions that reflect the unique operational needs and local contexts of our partners. PI recognizes that security threats are deeply contextual; therefore, **PI tailors every intervention to ensure that protection measures are practical, sustainable, and integrated into daily work.**

In 2025 PI closed a comprehensive **three-year service partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) NL**. This programme focused on building the self-protection mechanisms of **environmental human rights defenders (EHRDs) across Uganda, Ghana, Indonesia, and the Philippines**. Key **achievements** from this collaboration include **PI's facilitation of tailored security plans and organisational policies for 14 organisations and 33 local communities.**

By **combining physical, digital, and psychosocial security tools**, PI trained **defenders** to identify vulnerabilities and mitigate risks independently, **fostering a holistic approach to security management**. Furthermore, **training modules were continuously refined** to respond to dynamic political environments, such as addressing the **'red-tagging' of defenders** in the Philippines or navigating the influence of traditional power structures in Ghana.

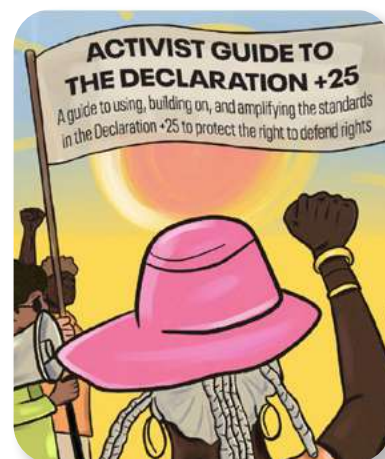
PI's ultimate goal is to transfer knowledge and skills to HRDs and their supporting organisations. By fostering an institutional security culture, PI ensures that HRDs gain the vital skills to establish **self-sufficient protection systems**. These **services reinforce the indispensable work of defenders**, ensuring their efforts to guarantee the right to defend human rights can continue securely, amidst a challenging global landscape.

Publications

Activist Guide to the Declaration +25

English, Spanish, French, and Chinese

The Activist Guide to the Declaration +25 is the **latest outcome from the Declaration +25 project**, a document marking the 25th anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. Developed by **18 organisations, including Protection International**, this guide is available in English, Spanish, French, and Chinese, offering **actionable strategies for HRDs and civil society organisations to bring HRD protection up to speed** into the first quarter of the 21st century.



Monitoring Report of the Situation of Environmental Human Rights Defenders in Indonesia

January – June 2025. *Bahasa, executive summary in English*

This report is a **collaboration between Protection International (PI) Indonesia and Satya Bumi, monitoring violence against Environmental human rights defenders (EHRDs) in Indonesia**.

Covering January - June 2025, the report records 29 cases of attacks, threats, and criminalisation against EHRDs; double the amount in comparison to 2024. The report includes details on the **nature of threats, perpetrators and recommendations** for national, regional and international actors.



Patrones de estigmatización y estereotipos hacia las personas defensoras de derechos humanos, sus colectivos y comunicadores/as comunitarios/as. Impactos en la protección y en el Derecho a Defender Derechos.

/ Patterns of Stigmatization and Stereotyping Targeting Human Rights Defenders, their Organizations, and Community Journalists. Impacts on Protection and the Right to Defend Human Rights - Spanish/Castellano.

This research project from **Protection International (PI) Colombia** **analyses the relationship between several phenomena: disinformation, stigmatisation, and violence against human rights defenders (HRDs) and their collectives**. **Qualitative insights** were collected from participating HRDs, human rights organisations and community media groups from **five departments of the country (Norte de Santander, Vichada, Bolívar, Cauca, Huila, and Putumayo)** and the Montes de María region. It offers **recommendations to mitigate** or counteract these phenomena, particularly through the development and dissemination of **new narratives** from the affected communities.

Later, this research was translated into the three native Indigenous languages of the participating Indigenous HRDs: Inga, Nasa Yuwe, and Sikuani.





Finally, **the research served as the roadmap to develop the work guides titled ‘Healing Paths’** (Senderos de Sanación), a **four-module toolkit** designed as a practical roadmap for HRDs and community journalists to reclaim their legitimacy and heal the collective emotional wounds caused by systemic stigmatisation.



Periodismo comunitario en Guatemala: Informe del Grupo de Observación de la Libertad de Prensa en Centroamérica

Community Journalism in Guatemala: Report by the Central American Press Freedom Monitoring Group: *Spanish/Castellano*

In 2025, a coalition of international organisations, including Protection International (PI) Mesoamerica, published this **comprehensive report on the state of community journalism in Guatemala**.

This report highlights the critical role of community journalists as the ‘heart of democratic processes’ in marginalised regions, while documenting the escalating threats they face under a climate of structural discrimination.

To counter this, the **report recommends that the Guatemalan State formally recognise community radios**, implement differentiated protection mechanisms, and halt the instrumentalisation of the judiciary against the press.



Cartilla: Hablemos sobre primeros auxilios psicosociales para y desde mujeres defensoras / Toolkit: Let's Talk About Psychosocial First Aid for and by Women Human Rights Defenders.- *Spanish/Castellano*

In 2025, **Protection International (PI) Colombia in collaboration with Oxfam Colombia** developed this **specialised toolkit** which integrates lessons from **capacity-building workshops with Afro-descendant and peasant women Human Rights Defenders (HRDs)** from Valle del Cauca and Cauca.

Focusing on the **intersection of protection, collective care, and spiritual resistance**, the toolkit advocates for a psychosocial lens in risk management, arguing that emotional well-being is inseparable from physical security.



Cartilla: Herramientas básicas para la protección con un enfoque colectivo, preventivo y de género / Toolkit: Basic tools for protection with a collective, preventive, and gender-sensitive approach - *Spanish/Castellano*

A second toolkit from the partnership between **Protection International (PI) Colombia and Oxfam Colombia** that draws on PI's rich experience accompanying collectives of grassroots human rights defenders (HRDs) in Colombia and Brazil. It aims to enhance risk management for HRDs working in complex environments marked by intersecting violences related to race, class, and gender.

It introduces **six pedagogical tools designed to help collectives systematically evaluate their security**, and emphasises that effective protection must be collective. Furthermore, it highlights the importance of the '**legal footprint**'; ensuring all threats are documented in writing with legal support to demand state accountability.



Staying uplifted in 2025 - words of hope from Protection International's teams

2025 was a year that many were unable to predict. The attacks on solidarity, peace and human rights defenders (HRDs) were blatant, and the consequences of shifting global priorities will continue to be felt in the years to come. Protection International (PI) has witnessed the direct impact of this new international order on the ground, on those most vulnerable and marginalised, and on the right to defend human rights. **Despite this challenging arena of closing civic space and increased threats, PI found hope in its partnership with communities of human rights defenders.** Here are words of hope from each team, to collectively lift spirits into 2026 and beyond.



PI Colombia

A primary source of hope in 2025 was the tangible impact of PI Colombia's work on the protection and resilience of human rights defenders. Despite a challenging context, seeing these individuals strengthen their own safety and transform their territories drives our mission forward.

Luz Marina Quintero, *Protection Officer at Protection International Colombia.*



PI Africa

In the face of pressure and uncertainty, my team chose solidarity - and that is what gave me hope. They created space for difficult conversations and helped us navigate hard decisions with respect and care. They remained ready to serve, attentive to one another's wellbeing, and grounded in our shared values. Their commitment reminded me that we are building more than programmes; we are building a culture of care.

Phanice Odhacha, *Regional Director at Protection International Africa.*



PI Thailand

In a context where defenders face ongoing risks, what sustains hope is not a single victory, but the continuity of collective energy, the sense that "we go on together," with trust, courage, and imagination. One particularly powerful moment was during our March convening of grassroots HRDs collective across Thailand. What stood out was not only the strength of the analysis, but the shift in consciousness from isolated struggles to a shared political understanding.

Pranom Somwong, *Country Representative at Protection International Thailand.*



PI Indonesia

Over 2025 we received something meaningful; we were shaped by every defender we stand with. Their courage under risk, their persistence through uncertainty, and their steady commitment to defend their rights and their dignity became a source of strength for us to keep going and continue this work forward with hope.

Amsa Saefudin, *Country Representative at Protection International Indonesia.*



PI Mesoamerica

Working closely with the individuals and communities who are defending rights is probably the main source of hope for the PI Mesoamerica team: feeling useful to their collectives, complementary to their struggles, and sharing the dream that, one day, there will be a safe and enabling environment for the defence of human rights in this region.

Anabella Sibrian, *Regional Director at Protection International Mesoamerica.*



PI Democratic Republic of Congo

Despite the worsening conditions in DRC, being in exile and operating within a challenging security context; we found the strength and hope needed to pursue our work through the enduring trust of local HRDs and key partners; heartwarming global solidarity from the entire PI network; invitations to shape HRD legislation in the DRC; vital psychological support from PI Global; and precious, morale-boosting visits from our families.

Balzac Ntazongwa, *Country Representative at Protection International Democratic Republic of the Congo.*



PI Global

2025 was an exceptionally challenging year for Protection International, as the global trend of drastically reduced funding for human rights defenders pushed our team to its limit. For 2026, our primary objective is to reorganise PI's operations to ensure long-term sustainability. Crucially, the Global Team will be rolling out and consolidating its support to Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) through regranting, a key step in ensuring they hold their ground and continue exercising their right to defend human rights. Additionally, we hold great hope in maintaining our support for HRDs across Europe, where defenders are increasingly subject to threats, attacks, criminalisation, and Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs).

Mauricio Angel, *Head of Policy, Research & Training, Global Team (Belgium).*



PI Global Board

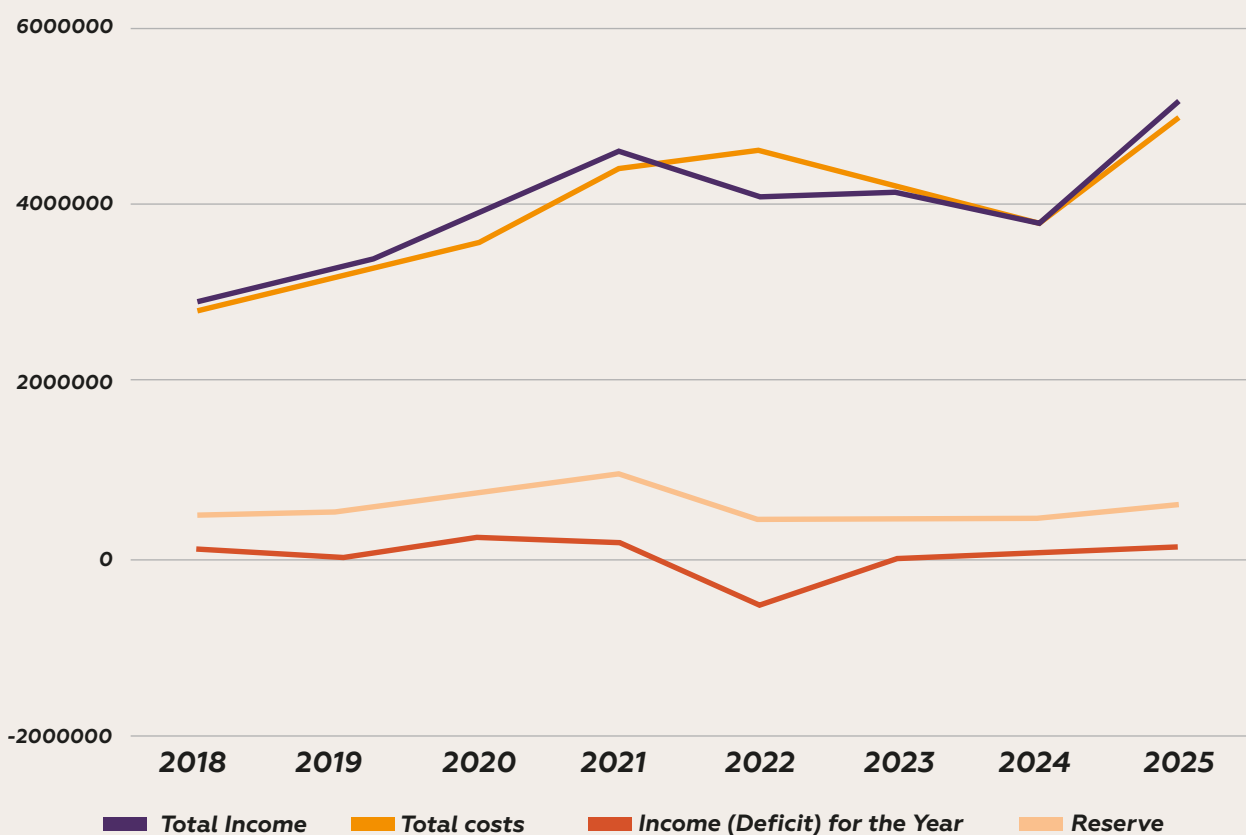
Hope in 2025 stems from witnessing the resilience and commitment of PI at every level. Even through difficult transitions, we strengthened our leadership and advanced our governance reform: piloting a new Advisory Group in Latin America, bringing PI Africa Board members into our General Assembly, and adding strong new members with deep experience in the Asian region. I'm grateful to work with an exceptional Board of Directors. Our deeply committed staff and strengthened governance give me confidence that we will navigate a deeply challenging context alongside our supporters and the human rights defenders PI works with every day.

Sandra Petersen, *Chair of the Global Board.*

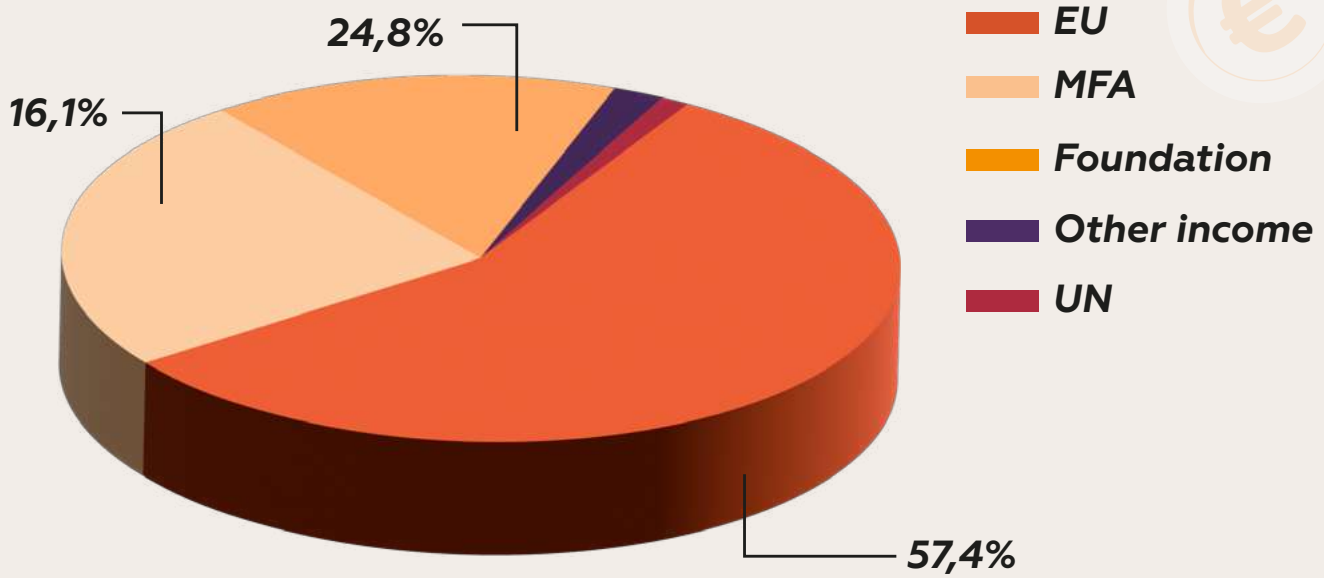
Financial report

PI AISBL PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT EVOLUTION 2018-2025 (€)

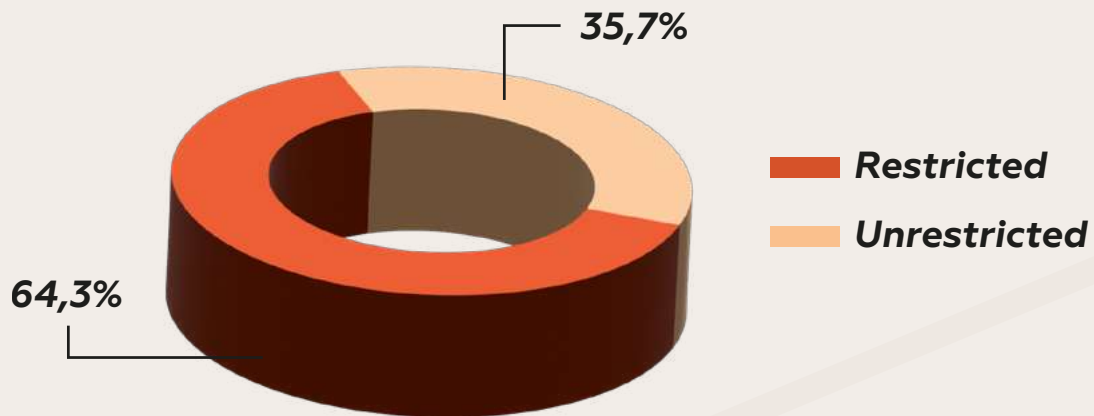
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total Income	2,884,791	3,227,012	3,825,004	4,597,612	4,091,750	4,124,866	3,820,991	5,169,129
Total costs	2,790,475	3,194,404	3,569,336	4,393,661	4,615,397	4,133,326	3,787,109	5,019,369
Surplus/(Deficit) For the Year	94,316	32,608	255,668	203,951	(523,647)	(8,460)	33,882	149,760
Total Assets & Liabilities	1,539,773	1,127,017	1,559,105	2,515,634	1,832,294	2,306,398	5,265,090	3,336,215
Reserve	491,145	513,969	752,937	955,703	432,055	423,595	457,477	607,237



Source of Funding 2025



Income 2025



Partners & donors

A special thanks to our donors.

We deeply appreciate our donors and partners whose generous support has been instrumental in our mission to support Human Rights Defenders (HRDs), uphold the Right to Defend Human Rights (RDHR), and safeguard civic space. Our supporters' unwavering commitment enables us to confront the growing challenges in a world increasingly shaped by inequalities, racial discrimination, authoritarianism, conflicts, insecurity, and the proliferation of misinformation about the critical work of HRDs.

Amid these complexities, we call on our donors to embrace adaptable and forward-thinking strategies that address the dynamic and often urgent needs of HRDs and their collectives. To this end, we highlight the importance of:

- Providing flexible core funding that allows human rights organisations to respond effectively to shifting contexts and priorities.
- Recognising defenders as key partners in the grant-making process, ensuring their voices and lived experiences guide funding strategies.
- Implementing defender-centric and risk-based approaches, including secure and confidential communication channels when engaging with human rights actors.
- Reducing administrative burdens on defenders, enabling them to dedicate more time and resources to advancing human rights rather than meeting excessive reporting requirements.
- Embedding and centring care and psychosocial support for defenders.

Your support continues to play a vital role in ensuring holistic support for HRD protection and strengthening global efforts to promote, respect, and protect the right to defend human rights.







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PROTECTION
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