DEFENSA DE NIÑAS Y NIÑOS INTERNACIONAL DNI
DEFENSE DES ENFANTS INTERNATIONAL DEI
DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL DCI
the worldwide movement for children's rights

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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DEFENSE DES ENFANTS INTERNATIONAL DEI
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Key Facts

MORE THAN

29,300

CHILDREN RECEIVED DIRECT SOCIO-LEGAL SUPPORT AND/ OR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

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

30
Position Statements Delivered

11
Stakeholders' Reports Submitted To The United Nations Human Rights Mechanisms

Key Facts

MORE THAN

28,000

CHILDREN, PROFESSIONALS WORKING WITH CHILDREN, COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND OTHER KEY STAKEHOLDERS DIRECTLY PARTICIPATED IN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES TO REINFORCE THEIR CAPACITIES

5
Public Events (Co-) Organised

Contributions To
11
Key Documents Of The United Nations

Co-Convening the NGO Panel for the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty

Introduction

Benoit van Keirsbilck,
President of the DCI Movement

Alex Kamarotos,
Executive Director of DCI-International Secretariat

Fifteen years ago, Defence for Children International decided to make of Justice for Children the priority of the Movement. If, as a first step focus was particularly put on children in conflict with the law, it has gradually developed to encompass all situations where children come in contact with the justice system.

Observations made on a daily basis by the DCI national sections, regional desks and International Secretariat demonstrate that justice systems remain all too incapable of adequately addressing the needs of children, whether they are suspected of having committed offences, are victims demanding redress, are the object of a procedure taking place between adults (parents, adoptive parents, guardian) or are simply demanding that their rights be respected. Children are often subjected to the violence of a system that has not been thought out with them in mind and where there seems to be no suitable space for them. In some cases, justice systems end up breaking them and jeopardising their futures, instead of leading to prospects of reintegration, restauration and respect of rights. Recent events provide a sad illustration of this reality. The Philippines is considering lowering the age from which a child can be judged by a criminal court from 15 to 9 years old (yes, 9 years old!); Brazil, India and many others are debating lowering the age of criminal responsibility, thus sending children of 16 years of age to adult courts; Iran and Saudi Arabia are continuing, despite condemnation by the international community, to apply the death penalty for acts committed by children; Israel confines more and more children in military prisons. And so many countries, too many indeed, carry out abuses linked to the deprivation of liberty, which is generally carried out under harsh conditions which amount to inhumane or degrading treatment.

The collective proceedings that result in these convictions are more often than not highly questionable – confessions obtained under torture, threats, violence, secret detentions, the absence of appropriately trained lawyers, the absence of an interpreter, the use of language which is incomprehensible to children, the absence of parents or of a trusted third party. In this context, DCI develops actions at different levels. DCI national sections provide concrete assistance to children confronted by justice systems, through operation of their socio-legal defence centres, which includes making information available in child-friendly language, maintaining family contacts, obtaining free-of-charge legal aid and representation, and ensuring the participation of children in all proceedings concerning them. But it doesn't stop there. Beyond dealing with individual cases, it is a matter of raising awareness and training stakeholders, encouraging networking, seeking out more appropriate solutions and above all changing the system, the law and other apparatus, so that all children are treated more fairly. This is where the advocacy dimension fully comes into its own.

To increase the impact of our actions, we work in networks, create and lead coalitions and interact with international and regional human rights mechanisms. This is where the structure of our Movement comes into play. The International Secretariat, based in Geneva, acts as a 'sounding board' for the international community, and relay relevant information and decisions to galvanise actions at the national level. The International Secretariat and the International Executive Council are both responsible for promoting communication between the sections and for maintaining a high degree of coherence between the work carried out by the different stakeholders who comprise the Movement, all the while representing it in all places where our presence can make a difference.

In this way, DCI intends to have an impact and influence on decision-makers, so that they ultimately prioritise the situation of children and reflect on the best way to implement the commitments that they made by ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its three protocols. This activity report demonstrates the tireless actions of the Movement, its accomplishments but also the difficulties to which we are confronted to. 2016 has seen the long-awaited appointment of Professor Manfred Nowak as Independent Expert to carry out the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, for which DCI coordinates the NGO Panel to ensure the participation of civil society in the Study. There could be no better choice for someone to take on this role. Finally, the work begins! And it is not without pride that we are now seeing, justly rewarded, all the efforts made. Challenges are certainly on the way, but we will reinforce our action and support to the Study, so that it becomes a landmark achievement and reference point towards the improvement of the situation of children deprived of liberty.

For DCI, 2016 is also a notable year as Ileana Bello, who was head of the International Secretariat for almost seven years, has decided to take on other challenges. She led the movement with an unfailing commitment, an absolute determination and an unyielding investment, and participated in maintaining and developing a high level of credibility. We would like to express our gratitude and our sincerest thanks for the work which has been accomplished.

As Ileana's replacement, we are very lucky to welcome Alex Kamarotos, who has accepted the daunting task of leading the International Secretariat at this crucial time, just a few months away from the International General Assembly when the Movement must equip itself with a new strategy for the next four years. We must also thank Alex for agreeing to make of his skills and his rich and varied experience available to DCI.

We sincerely hope that you enjoy reading this report.

DCI at a glance:
Actors for Justice, Advocates for Rights

Defence for Children International (DCI) is a leading child rights focused and membership-based grassroots Movement placing all members on equal footing.

DCI'S MANDATE IS TO ENSURE ONGOING, PRACTICAL, SYSTEMATIC AND CONCERTED ACTION DIRECTED TOWARDS EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS CODIFIED IN THE UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (UNCRC), BY MEANS OF EFFECTIVE COORDINATION BETWEEN DIFFERENT LEVELS (NATIONAL, REGIONAL, CONTINENTAL AND INTERNATIONAL) AND ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP WITHIN KEY NETWORKS AND FORA.

AWARENESS: RAISING & ADVOCACY

DCI conducts strategic and evidence-based advocacy and lobby initiatives at local, national, regional and international levels to bring about necessary policy and practice changes

EXPERTISE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

DCI intervenes in various fora to share its expertise on child rights issues and strives to strengthen the capacities of professionals working with children

PROTECTION AND EMPOWERMENT OF CHILDREN

DCI National Sections provide direct services to children through their Socio-Legal Defence Centres (SLDCs) and empower them to thrive and become actors of change

PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR ACTION

DCI produces crucial research and monitoring reports based on field data collection and develops practical tools for action

Focus and Expertise:
Justice for Children

While working on several child rights issues, such as children in migration situations, violence against children, children and armed conflicts, or education, the overarching thematic focus of the DCI Movement is Justice for Children.

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

Through its National Sections worldwide, DCI has found that **Socio-Legal Defence Centres (SLDCs)** are effective in providing boys and girls with the opportunity to effectively access justice and obtain remedies. SLDCs pro-actively promote, and reactively protect, the human rights of the child as codified in the UNCRC, particularly its fundamental principles: **non-discrimination; best interests of the child; right to life, survival and development; and child participation.**

The work of SLDCs consists in actively offering children in conflict with the law, child victims and witnesses, as well as adults confronted with child rights violations direct access to justice and **corresponding quality social-legal support**, which includes: information provision, referrals to other service providers, psychosocial counselling and free-of-charge legal advice and representation – including in court.

SOCIO-LEGAL DEFENCE CENTRES (SLDCs)

also take a proactive approach in reaching out to children in vulnerable situations, marginalized groups and rural areas.

Best-interests principle

Defining the best interests of the child remains subjective as with each child variables depend on internal (physical and psychological) and external factors (lifestyle and personal family circumstances). SLDCs provide a holistic framework to help ensure that the best interests of the child are taken into account by decision-making bodies and authorities. Deciding the best interests of the child involves a process of evaluating and balancing elements with the support of the SLDC multidisciplinary team and direct child participation.

Inclusionary principle

The inclusionary, or participatory principle, involves considering the child as an active subject and rights-holder and not merely an indirect recipient. The level of participation is determined according to the child's capacities. Article 12 of the UNCRC states the right of the child to 'express views freely in all matters'. This right to be heard entails the obligation to listen, which the SLDC model ensures, along with facilitating the child's active and adequate participation, which ultimately leads to further empowerment and ownership of his/her rights.

Case advocacy (individual level)

SLDCs receive individual complaints from children, or adults reporting child rights violations. SLDCs act as an important reference-point for the national judicial system, as adequate legal / social services are often lacking in many countries. SLDCs follow a 'child-in-context' approach, with case management going beyond the legal sphere (social, educational, etc.). The multidisciplinary team at the SLDC proves crucial in gaining more holistic knowledge of the child and applying the best-interests and inclusionary principles to build a just case and empower the child.

Social advocacy (collective level)

As a centralized and child-focused service, SLDCs are in the best position to inform and educate government and the general public (children and adults alike) on children's rights. SLDCs advocate for the general improvement of policies, laws and practices inherent to child protection, identify violations (policy advocacy), and lobby for non-existent services and entities that are required (systematic advocacy).

Children First

Children presenting key recommendations on violence against children to the Dutch government

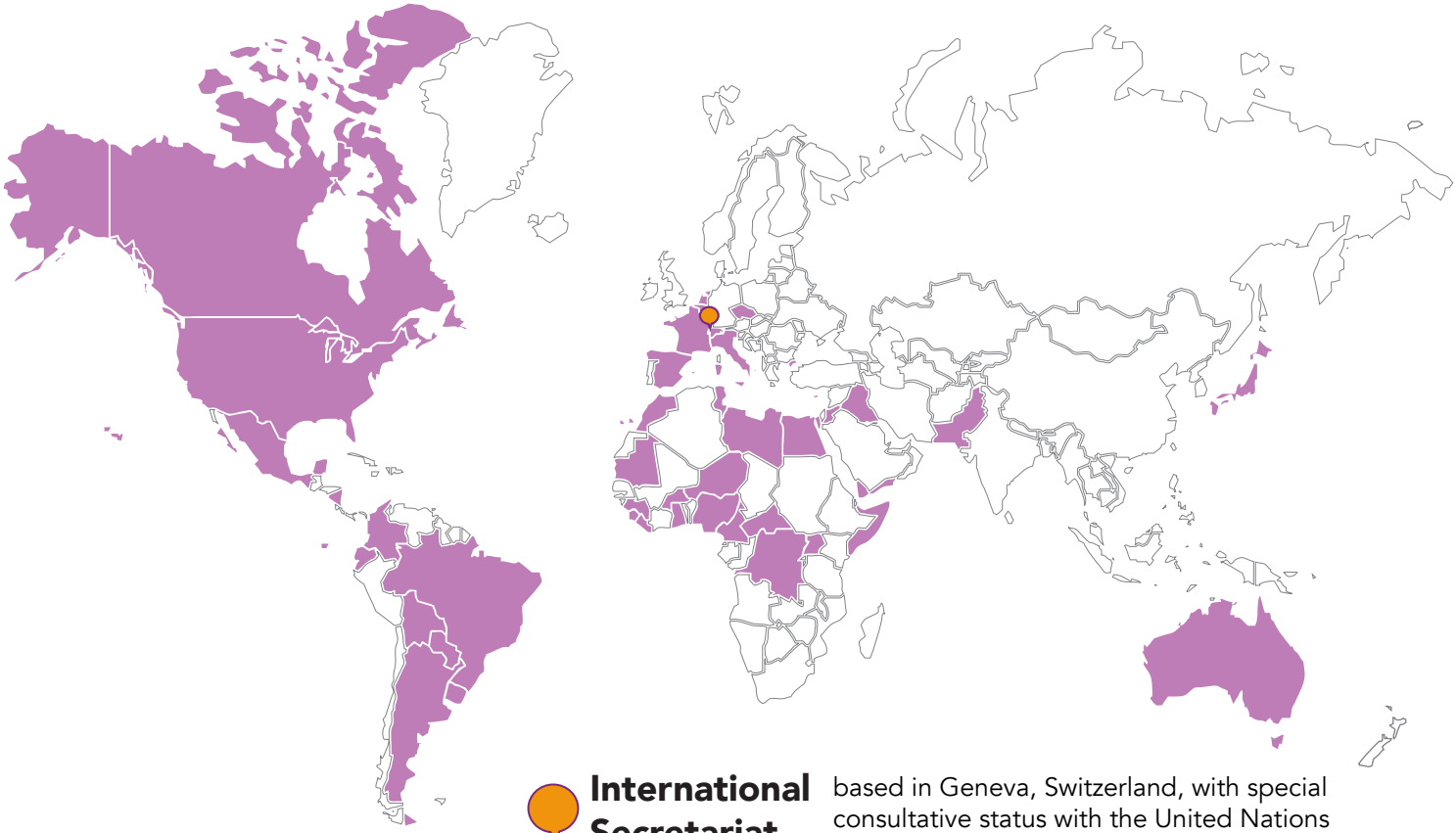
DCI strives to ensure a child-first, participatory approach in all its actions so that children are able exercise their rights, express their view and organise themselves to become actors of change.

Throughout its interventions, **DCI works with children as partners and supports child- and youth-led initiatives**, such as the Children's Parliament in Yemen or Girls' Rights Club across West and Central Africa, **to ensure that their voices are part of decision-making processes**.

> **"It means a lot to actually be that person standing there advocating for millions of other young girls and young boys. It is actually a tremendous job. A lot of young human right advocates in Sierra Leone do not have the self-confidence to go out there and do the talking. They have the passion, the want to do it, but when it's time to face the crowd and say what's on their minds that's when the real issue comes up."**
>
> *– Ayesha, young DCI: supported human rights defender from Sierra Leone*

Worldwide Movement, Participatory Governance

In March 2017, DCI will hold its 12th International General Assembly, where a new board (IEC) will be elected and the new strategic framework for 2017-2021 will be adopted



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

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

AFRICA

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

AMERICAS

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

ASIA/OCEANIA

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

EUROPE

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

Composition of the International Executive Council (IEC), 2012-2016

President – **Benoit van Keirsbilck (DCI-Belgium)**
Treasurer/Vice President Europe – **Aloys van Rest (DCI-Netherlands)**
Vice President Africa – **Abdul M. Kemokai (DCI-Sierra Leone)**
Vice President Asia and Oceania – **Rifat Odeh Kassis (DCI-Palestine)**
Vice President Americas – **Juan Pedro Fumeiro (DCI-Uruguay)**
Member at large – **Vilma Gómez (DCI-Colombia)**
Member at large – **Désiré Aroga (DCI-Cameroon)**

Composition of the Advisory Committee, 2016

Sally Christine Cornwell
Akila Aggoune
Moushira Khattab
Rosa María Ortiz
Jaap Doek
Nigel Cantwell

Staff at the International Secretariat, 2016

Executive Director: **Ileana Bello (until Oct. 2016) ; Alex Kamarotos (since Nov. 2016)**
Advocacy Coordinator: **Anna D. Tomasi**
Project Officer: **Johan Vigne**
Advocacy Officer (from Dec. 2016): **Isabell Meenen**
Interns and short-term staff: **Sarah Cerdan, Marialavia Zaccarini, Camille Castiel, Anne McDonough, Yukyung Oh, Nour Kharma, Basil Farraj, Nerissa Morales Cordoba, Irene Ceccanti, Laure Salamolard, Estefania Vélez**

2

Influencing Policy and Practice at the International and Regional Level

Engaging with Key Partners and Networks

DCI engages in various advocacy initiatives at the international and regional level to influence policy and practice change.

DCI PLACES GREAT EMPHASIS ON REGIONAL ADVOCACY AND LOBBY INITIATIVES, WHICH COMPLEMENT THE VARIOUS EFFORTS MADE AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL.

EUROPE

In Europe, DCI works closely with the European Union Commission and the Council of Europe to influence their respective agenda and strategies related to the rights of the child, and leads key research and monitoring, and capacity-building projects.

AMERICAS

DCI engages with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), coordinates the sub regional platform on child labour in Central America, and collaborates in key regional networks, such MMI-CLAC, REDLAMYC and Niño-Sur.

AFRICA

DCI works closely with the African Union's African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) and is currently applying to obtain Observer Status. DCI also drives the development of a sub-regional child protection policy for children on the move together with the Secretariat of the Mano River Union (MRU).

MIDDLE-EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

DCI collaborates with the League of Arab States (LAS) and acts as regional expert for the promotion and protection of children's rights. In 2016, DCI-MENA regional desk was commissioned by the Arab Consulting Committee on Children's Rights to conduct a Regional Study on Child Justice in the Arab World.

International Advocacy Initiatives

At the international level, DCI raises awareness on key child rights issues

30 position statements delivered

5 public events (co-)organised

and contributes to key UN documents

4 Resolutions of the Human Rights Council and General Assembly

3 Reports of the Office of the High-Commissioner for Human Rights

3 General Comments of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

1 Principles to guide actions on children on the move adopted by the UN Committee on Migrant Workers

Engaging in country - specific advocacy with UN Human Rights mechanisms

DCI SUBMITTED A TOTAL OF 11 STAKEHOLDERS' REPORTS

1

to the Committee against Torture (Israel)

6

to the Universal Periodic Review (Belgium, Sierra Leone, Mauritania, Morocco, Brazil and the Netherlands)

4

to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (France, Sierra Leone, Cameroon and Central African Republic)

When reporting to the different UN Human Rights mechanisms, DCI ensures that the concerns and recommendations of children were taken into account.

Ensuring child participation

In addition to supporting children in submitting their own stakeholders' report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, DCI-Cameroon and its partners from the national Child Rights Coalition made sure that **child representatives** were able to attend the CRC Committee's 75th pre-session and **share their concerns and recommendations with the members of the Committee.**

Working closely with the Committee on the Rights of the Child

In addition to being actively involved in the State-party review processes of the Committee, DCI also shared its experience and expertise with Committee members on a regular basis.

In 2016, the Committee held technical meetings with DCI and partner NGOs to discuss about key child rights issues, including the **protection of children's rights in the context of migration and in regard to the world drug problem.**

> **"It is extremely important for the Committee of the Rights of the Child to have trustworthy partners like Defence for Children International to provide accurate, neutral and unbiased information about the situation of children in the Member States.**
>
> **Equally important for the Committee, as well as for children worldwide, is DCI's on-going research, evaluation and monitoring of the situation of children's rights and its constant advocacy to support children as active rights holders, a crucial aspect to further develop strategies aiming to protect and enhance children and their best interests.**
>
> **In my capacity as vice-president of the CRC Committee, I would like to stress the importance that DCI continues working on our sides!"**
>
> *Justice Renate Winter,*
> *Vice-president of the CRC Committee*

Moreover, DCI actively contributed to the elaboration of 3 General Comments of the Committee on:

- Public Budgeting for the Realisationof Children's Rights
- The Rights of the Child during Adolescence
- Street Children (Forthcoming)

In parallel to the close collaboration with the CRC Committee, **DCI national sections play a crucial role in raising awareness on the Convention and monitoring its implementation** in their respective countries. **In Spain**, DCI conducts training on the Convention with multi-disciplinary teams of professionals working with children, while **DCI-France** played an instrumental role in the ratification of the CRC **third optional protocol (OP3) on a communications procedure** by the French Government in January 2016. In France, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Mauritania and many other countries, DCI contributed to the establishment of and/or holds a leading role in **national child rights coalitions.**

DCI and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The **17 Sustainable Development goals** and 169 targets contained in the 2030 Agenda are aimed at realizing the human rights of all and provide new opportunities to ensure the realization of the rights of all children. Defence for Children International has committed to intensify its work with all key actors, including civil society organisations, UN agencies and Governments, and **bolster the use of the accountability mechanisms of the international human rights system to make of the full and effective implementation of the SDGs a reality.**

THE SDGs WILL ONLY BE REALIZED IF STATES PUT FAIR FINANCING BEHIND THE 2030 AGENDA AND ITS VISION OF A WORLD WHICH INVEST IN ITS CHILDREN.

Among the 17 SDGs, DCI particularly focuses on targets related to:

Justice for children – Target 16.3. "Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all"

Violence against children – Targets 16.2 "End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children" & 5.3. "Eliminating all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation"

In July 2016, DCI officially became member of the **Global Partnership to End Violence against Children**

End Violence Against Children

MEMBER of the Global Partnership

Gender equality – Goal 5. "Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls"

Child Participation – Target 16.7. "Ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels"

At the end of 2016, DCI contributed to the report of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on the "Protection of the Rights of the Child and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and provided key inputs for the related Child Rights Resolution that will be adopted at the 34th session of the UN Human Rights Council in March 2017.

NGO Panel for the

Global Study on
Children Deprived of Liberty

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Leading civil society's engagement in the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty

After launching the call for a **UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty**, DCI currently co-convenes the **NGO Panel** for the Study, which has been set up to coordinate joint advocacy and lobbying efforts towards the launch, completion and follow-up of the Study. At the end of 2016, **more than 100 civil society organisations had joined the NGO Panel.**

The Study, which officially starts in 2017, will include the following thematic clusters:

- Criminal justice / juvenile justice / administrative detention
- Migration / asylum seeking
- Children in detention with their parents
- Protection / associated with disability, health or substance abuse
- Association with armed groups and/or national security

> **"Deprivation of liberty means any form of detention or imprisonment or the placement of a person under the age of 18 in a public or private custodial setting, from which this person is not permitted to leave at will, by order of any judicial, administrative or other public authority."**
>
> *UN Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty (Havana Rules – 1990)*

JANUARY

The Council of Europe integrates the Global Study in its strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021).

MARCH

31st session of the Human Rights Council

Side-event to the 31st regular session of the Human Rights Council co-organized with OHCHR, SRSGs on Violence against Children and Children and Armed Conflict, SR on Torture, UNODC and UNICEF; with the support of the Permanent Missions of Switzerland, Norway, Algeria and Uruguay.

> **"Children who are deprived of liberty fall into a statistical vacuum, with numbers of these children potentially ranging anywhere from the tens of thousands to the millions."**
>
> *Jan Eliasson, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General*

A statement was also delivered by DCI on behalf of the NGO Panel.

MARCH and APRIL

UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on the World Drug Problem

After the attending the Preparatory Session in Vienna, DCI was in New York to lobby around UNGASS' **outcome document** (A/S-30/L.1), in order to ensure the rights of the child were positively addressed. To this end, a joint statement was delivered and a **roundtable** organized with key players working on the issue of children and drugs.
In addition, DCI successfully lobbied the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child to join a **statement** together with other United Nations mechanisms addressing the world drug problem.

SEPTEMBER

High-Level Plenary meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants.

The NGO Panel published a calling upon member States to put an end to the immigration detention of children, and to support the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, which will include a specific thematic cluster on children in immigration detention.

OCTOBER

Manfred Nowak appointed to lead the Study

The NGO Panel released a **press statement** to welcome the appointment of Prof. Manfred Nowak as Independent Expert to lead the GSCDL. DCI has lobbied for the appointment of an Independent Expert since the start of the campaign in 2014.

> **"Without Defence for Children International, there would simply be no Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty"**
>
> *Prof. Manfred Nowak, Independent Expert leading the Global Study*

3

From protection to empowerment: highlights from 2016

MORE THAN

29,300

CHILDREN RECEIVED DIRECT SOCIO-LEGAL SUPPORT AND OR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.

MORE THAN

28,000

CHILDREN, PROFESSIONALS WORKING WITH CHILDREN, COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND OTHER KEY STAKEHOLDERS DIRECTLY PARTICIPATED IN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES TO REINFORCE THEIR CAPACITIES.

Justice for Children

DCI's expertise and role as a go-to NGO in regard to Justice for Children only expanded in 2016. DCI leads the NGO Panel for the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty and is active member in key advocacy networks such as the Child Justice Advocacy Group and Child Rights Connect's Working Group and Children and Violence. DCI provided inputs for key UN resolution such as the UNGA Resolution on the Administration of Justice, including Juvenile Justice, and UN reports. On the ground, DCI national sections reinforced the capacities of professionals working with children in conflict and in contact with the law and provided direct support, such as legal aid and representation, psychosocial counselling, mediation, family tracing and reunification, to children and their families through their **Socio-Legal Defence Centres.**

Adolescent in a juvenile detention centre in Belgium

Improving the situation of children deprived of liberty in Europe

In Europe, DCI has become a go-to organisation to provide expertise and strengthen the capacities of professionals working with children, in particular on justice for children. Under the leadership of **DCI-Belgium**, and the involvement of other European sections of DCI (Italy, France and the Netherlands), DCI published the first **European practical guide on the monitoring of places where children are deprived of liberty.**

Referred to as the **"Swiss-army knife of monitoring"** by Jean Zermatten, former Chair of the CRC Committee, the final outcome of the Children's Rights Behind Bars project has been presented to the CRC Committee, the Human Rights Council, the UN Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture, the European Commission, the Committee on the Prevention of Torture of the Council of Europe, and National Prevention Mechanisms in France and Mauritania, inter alia.

The guide is now being used as training manual in Canada, Belgium, Switzerland and France.

From 2017 on, the guide will be widely disseminated and used to train professionals as well as children deprived of liberty not only to improve the monitoring processes but also to promote alternatives to detention and further investment in rehabilitation and reintegration processes.

As part of the **TWELVE initiative**, led by **DCI-Italy** and involving our Belgian and Spanish sections, DCI produced a handbook to guide States in implementing c**hildren's right to participation (art. 12 CRC) within national juvenile justice systems.**

> **"Children have the right to express their views on all matters affecting them"**
>
> *(art. 12 CRC)*

In the Italian region of Lombardy, 11 judges and officials were trained on the paths for meaningful child participation, and the outcomes of the project were later officially presented to the Italian Ministry of Justice in Rome.

From 2014 to 2016, **DCI-Netherlands** partnered with Terre des Hommes Kosovo to improve the **child protection system in Kosovo**. Through close collaboration with the Kosovan government, **DCI led the drafting process of a bill** aiming to define the duties, responsibilities and methods of cooperation between national and local actors involved in child protection, which was officially approved on 20 May 2016. A Working Protocol was established and a handbook developed to **train professionals** working with children and ensure the full and effective implementation of the new law.

Regional Observatories on Justice for Children

In the **MENA region**, DCI regional desk facilitated the establishment of a **Regional Observatory on Justice for Children**, in the form of a searchable online database. The database is continuously filled with data gathered by the 10 DCI national sections in the region (Egypt, Palestine, Tunisia, Morocco, Iraq, Yemen, Mauritania, Libya, Lebanon and Jordan) and includes: documented cases of children in conflict with the law and child victims of violence and abuse as well as information regarding the minimum age of criminal responsibility, fair trial procedures, detention conditions, alternative measures to detention, rehabilitation and follow up processes, child and family participation and trends of child rights violations in the region.

The database and upcoming monitoring reports will serve as a crucial source of information for governments, civil society actors and other key stakeholders, as well as for the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty.

In Latin America, DCI continued to lead the Regional Observatory on Juvenile Justice and provided up-to-date information on the situation of children deprived of liberty within the region.

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the juvenile justice law in Costa Rica, DCI presented a publication highlighting its key contributions, including the development of jurisprudence regarding children's right to privacy within the justice system and the promotion of socio-educational measures as alternatives to detention. Practical examples from Costa Rica were also presented in Uruguay to support DCI advocacy initiatives in the country.

Promoting child-friendly and restorative justice

DCI-Uruguay continued to work closely with national judicial institutions to **promote the use of non-custodial, socio-educational alternatives for children in conflict with the law.** As a direct result, **45 adolescents** benefited from such measures and were referred to DCI, mandated organisation to monitor and support their non-institutional rehabilitation.

In Colombia, DCI was mandated by the municipality of Bogotá to lead a pilot project on **restorative justice**, which benefited to **49 adolescents** in conflict with the law.

In Northern Uganda, DCI **trained 150 justice and law enforcement officials** on child-friendly and restorative justice, and conducted joint monitoring visits in police custody facilities, remand homes and adult prisons. After DCI's intervention, over **200 children** benefited from diversion or non-custodial measures.

Monitoring detention places

Through the **monitoring of juvenile detention facilities in Ghana**, DCI raised concerns over the specific situation of 15 children and worked closely with the Commission on Human rights and Administrative Justice towards the improvement of their **conditions in detention.**

In Somalia, DCI conducted monitoring visits in detention centres where they **identified 45 children being held in adult prisons**. In addition to providing assistance to these children, DCI-Somalia held various meetings with government representatives to **promote diversion and non-custodial measures** for children in conflict with law. As noted by Leila Zerrougui, SRSG on Children and Armed Conflict, "the lack of due process for children deprived of their liberty in Somalia has been an acute concern".

Training professionals

In Yemen, DCI **trained 120 fourth-year students of the Police Academy** on child-friendly justice and conducted sensitisation campaigns in schools, reaching out to 1150 children.

In Morocco, DCI conducted **6 national seminars on child-friendly justice and trained 120 professionals** working with children in conflict with the law on key international standards pertaining to juvenile justice and on the mental and psychological well-being of children. DCI also supported the **creation of a database to monitor the situation of children in custodial and non-custodial settings** and provided subsequent training.

Championing child-friendly justice in Palestine

The adoption, in February 2016, of the **Juvenile Protection Law**, which was **drafted by DCI-Palestine and other members of the National Committee for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ)**, marked a crucial step forward for the promotion and protection of the rights of Palestinian children. In keeping with the UNCRC, the Juvenile Protection Law recognizes all those under the age of 18 as children in need of unique protections, and adopts a rehabilitative rather than punitive framework.

> **"Justice is child care, protection, and rehabilitation, not child detention."**
>
> *Khaled Quzmar, Director of DCI-Palestine*

To ensure the full and effective implementation of the new law, **DCI-Palestine and the NCJJ have set out a five-year plan to establish a common structure and standardize procedures**, and will be piloting on-the-ground training sessions to ensure the program's success.

Overall, DCI-Palestine has become the **go-to organisation in regard to juvenile justice**. In 2016 alone, DCI organised **99 consultations with juvenile prosecutors** and provided **legal advice to child protection professionals more than 160 times**. DCI also held a workshop with 55 child justice professionals to discuss the practical implementation of restorative justice measures, the outcomes of which were shared with the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Attorney General's Office and the Supreme Judicial Council. Last but not least, **DCI-Palestine provided free-of-charge legal aid and representation to 210 children in conflict with the law, with 90 cases being closed over the course of 2016.**

Taking the lead in Sierra Leone

DCI-Sierra Leone operates 5 Socio-Legal Defence Centres (SLDCs) across the country to provide psychosocial support, legal education, advice and representation for children, and other essential services such as family tracing and reunification.

DCI-Sierra Leone works closely with the Family Support Unit of the Police, the Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children's Affairs (MSWGCA), public hospitals and key NGO service providers, which makes the referral work of the SLDCs largely successful.

In 2016, DCI-Sierra Leone provided **direct socio-legal support to 787 children in conflict with the law and 532 child victims of violence**, representing ¾ of the total number of cases handled by the Family Support Unit of the Sierra Leone police across the country.

Children in conflict with the law

67% prevented from pre-trial detention

95% were acquitted, discharged or received a non-custodial sentence

Child victims of violence

60% of cases resulted in police/FSU investigation and prosecution of perpetrators

Violence against Children

DCI's Socio-Legal Defence Centres provide direct assistance to children victims of violence, abuse and exploitation, as well as to children at risk and/or in vulnerable situations. DCI national sections also engage with key stakeholders to put in place prevention and protection mechanisms to ensure that no child is left behind and becomes a victim of violence.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE, EXPLOITATION, TRAFFICKING

Within the frame of the Reducing Sexual Violence against Children project, **DCI-Netherlands** partnered with CSOs in 25 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East to **improve responses to sexual abuse and exploitation of children, especially in travel and tourism**.

More than 1**2,000 child victims benefited from medical, psychosocial and/or legal support** and 59 children were rescued out of brothels and other places of sexual exploitation through extensive collaboration with law enforcement agencies. In Ghana, DCI ensured the **family reunification and reintegration of 157 child victims of internal trafficking**.

Children were also supported to raise their voices and become actors of change, with 5'300 of them taking part in child-led advocacy campaigns.

In parallel, **DCI and its partners engaged with 580 travel and tourism companies that adopted the Child Protection Cod**e, a self-regulatory mechanism of the travel industry to protect children from sexual exploitation, and trained more than 6'500 staff members.

EXPLOITATION

In Australia, DCI strives to **combat illegal adoption and international commercial surrogacy**, both of which involve grave child rights violations. In collaboration with La Trobe University and other key partners, DCI-Australia produced key research documents to highlight trends and potential responses on rather understudied, yet expanding, issues.

Ending violence against children in Mauritania

In Mauritania, DCI played a major role in national efforts to end violence against children.

Direct assistance

DCI provided **shelter, medical care and socio-legal services to 148 victims of sexual abuse and violence and 39 girls' victims of child marriage.** DCI also offered psychosocial support and legal advice to more than 170 children and families through their child helpline.

Raising awareness

DCI conducted **sensitization campaigns** on sexual and gender-based violence in school and communities, reaching out to more than 11,000 children and adults

Sharing expertise

In the Dakhlet Nouadhibou Region, DCI reinforced the capacities of local CSOs and supported **the establishment of a child protection network**, which has already benefited 3,560 children and adults.

Influencing agendas

DCI led the drafting process of the national bill on ending gender-based violence, which is currently under review by the Parliament, and worked with key government agencies to ensure that violence against children becomes a key priority in the national implementation plan of the SDGs.

With the support of DCI-International Secretariat, DCI-Mauritania was able to **influence the outcomes of the Universal Periodic Review of Mauritania**[1], with more than 20 recommendations directly relating to VAC and GBV.

Mauritanian girls sharing recommendations on how to end gender-based violence

1. The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a State-driven process, under the auspices of the Human Rights Council, which provides the opportunity for each State to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to fulfil their human rights obligations. As one of the main features of the Council, the UPR is designed to ensure equal treatment for every country when their human rights situations are assessed.

Children in vulnerable situations/at risk

In Morocco, a programme run by DCI aims to facilitate the **socio-economic reintegration of children in vulnerable situations**, taking into account their specific individual needs. In 2016 alone, 387 children were assisted with 101 completing a degree in information technologies, 238 engaging in non-formal education and vocational training programmes, and 18 finding employment.

In Burkina Faso, DCI continued to partner with SAMU Social to identify children living on the streets and in other vulnerable situations. In 2016, DCI provided **direct support to 418 children**, referring 114 of them to specific healthcare and psychosocial structures and facilitating **5 family reunifications**.

In Costa Rica, DCI strives to support **adolescents in vulnerable situations** and provide them with opportunities to turn their lives around. In the city of San José, 100 adolescents benefited from DCI's interventions that included **group therapy, legal aid and life skills training sessions**. Moreover, through the use of an individualised approach, DCI helped adolescents find and design their own life plan and subsequently provided them with the necessary support to engage in educational and/or vocational activities.

Girls' Rights

Since the adoption of its **Gender Policy** in 2015, DCI strives to ensure the full and effective implementation of a gender perspective both at the institutional and programmatic levels. DCI advocates at all levels to ensure that the specific needs of girls and young women are always taken into consideration.

In Colombia, indigenous girls continue to face various forms of discrimination and violence. Through its project **Las Hijas del Sol,** DCI-Colombia empowered 100 indigenous girls through socio-cultural activities and life-skills training sessions. Girls were supported also supported to advocate for their rights and reached out to an additional 850 indigenous girls through socio-cultural events.

In Africa, DCI ran the Girl Power Programme from 2011 to 2015, and currently implements the **Girls Advocacy Alliance (GAA).**

Girls Advocacy Alliance: ending gender-based violence and empowering girls

As part of the **Girls Advocacy Alliance (GAA)** – a 5-year project launched in 2016 and coordinated by the DCI-Netherlands, Plan Netherlands and Terre des Hommes Netherlands – DCI national sections in Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, the Netherlands and the International Secretariat in Geneva play a crucial role in the fight to **end gender-based violence and promote the (economic) empowerment of girls and young women.**

Empowering Gender Champions

In Ghana, DCI supported **72 child rights clubs** and **trained 292 men, boys, girls and women to become leaders and publicly stand up for the rights of girls**. In Sierra Leone and Liberia, DCI conducted similar activities aimed at empowering young human rights defenders.

"DCI, in its Girls Advocacy Alliance project, has a special segment wherein communities and schools work hand-in-hand with young girls who are advocates, giving them the platform to identify their issues and to seek out solutions to these issues. This allows young girls to build their capacity, to build their confidence level, to identify their weaknesses and to build their strengths. It also creates professionalism because they have the support of key players in their schools and their communities so they are actually taken seriously. The trainers are the young girls, the advocates, who are out there advocating; what they need is more supervision, more training from these people good impacts that we get from good achievers."

Ayesha, a DCI-supported girls' rights defender at the UN Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, held in Geneva on 21-22 November 2016.

Influencing Policy Change

In Sierra Leone, DCI raised concerns over the **Customary Marriage and Divorce Act, which allows for children to be married through parental consen**t. DCI actively advocated for the amendment of the law and its harmonisation with the Child Rights Act in order to ensure that child marriage is strictly prohibited and criminalized. After submitting recommendations, DCI-Sierra Leone was invited by the Law Reform Commission to **become a member of the Technical Working Group that will lead the law reform process**.

In Ghana, DCI became member of the Technical Committee for the Implementation of the Child and Family Welfare Policy and has regularly been invited to share its expertise with the National Child Protection Committee, the Child Labour Steering Committee and the Trafficking in Persons Unit of the Ministry of Interior. As a result, **the issues of child marriage and sexual abuse, violence and exploitation have gradually been put on the agendas on the above-mentioned government bodies.**

From Local to Global

On the occasion of the r**eview of Sierra Leone by the CRC Committee**, DCI-International Secretariat supported DCI-Sierra Leone to submit a stakeholders' report and facilitated meetings with Committee members to share GAA-related concerns and key recommendations. As a result, **¾ of DCI's recommendations were echoed in the Committee's Concluding Observations**.

Children on the Move

Meeting with French President F. Hollande on the situation of children on the move in Calais.

In light of increased violations of the rights of children on the move in 2016, DCI recalled that the human rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking children are to be guaranteed at all times, including by providing **key inputs to the newly adopted UN Committee on Migrant Workers' principles aimed at guiding actions concerning children on the move and other children affected by migration**. DCI-International Secretariat, as member of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Ending Child Immigration Detention, relentlessly advocated to end this practice while national sections in Greece, France, the Netherlands and many other countries monitored the situation of children on the move and worked closely with their respective governments and other key stakeholders to bring about necessary changes.

Protecting children on the move in West Africa

In West Africa, DCI-Sierra Leone, DCI-Liberia and DCI-Guinea continued to work closely with the **Mano River Union** and other key stakeholders to design a **sub-regional child protection policy**, particularly aiming at **protecting children on the move and combatting cross-border child trafficking**.

In 2016, DCI conducted awareness-raising campaigns, reaching out to over 2'000 children and members of border communities. DCI also trained more than 160 security officials, civil society representatives and local community actors on the issue of child trafficking and facilitated **new collaborative, multi-stakeholders' initiatives**.

DCI's intervention sparked security forces of the three countries' decision to add the issue of cross-border child trafficking to the agenda of their monthly joint, inter-country security meeting. Moreover, security forces gathered with over 500 community leaders and other key stakeholders to discuss collaboration opportunities and reinforce the effectiveness of their actions.

The Bike Riders Association of Sierra Leone has implemented an informal policy that obliges all drivers to ask a series of questions whenever a child is requiring their services. In addition, their network allows for the rapid dissemination of information regarding suspected or confirmed cases of child trafficking, which is in turn shared with security services and other actors reached by DCI.

Meeting with communities and government representatives at the Guinea-Sierra Leone border.

Children's play on child trafficking.

Unaccompanied children – Safer with a Guardian

The **SafeGuard project**, led by **DCI-Italy**, aimed to **promote qualified guardianship services for unaccompanied children on the move**, particularly to protect them from violence, exploitation and trafficking. Unaccompanied children directly participated in the vast research and monitoring phase pf the projects, for which the results were presented both in Brussels and at country-level.

In 2016 alone, DCI-Italy conducted training sessions for 79 guardians and citizens willing to become guardians.

Providing Direct Assistance to Children on the Move

Above: Refugee children in the Lebanon

Left: Children sharing their concerns with Dutch government representatives, as part of DCI-Netherlands' "Ik Blijf Hier" (I stay here) campaign

Providing Direct Assistance to Children on the Move

Refugee children / humanitarian assistance; education

In North Lebanon, DCI provided food items and hygiene kits to over **1800 refugee children and their families**, and helped **283 out-of-school refugee children reintegrate the formal education system**. In Beirut, DCI provided educational activities and life-skills training for 1800 Syrian refugee children and supported the enrolment of another 200 in vocational training courses.

Through the **emergency response programme led by DCI-Tunisia**, over **500 refugee and migrant children** were provided with accommodation, healthcare, and access to formal and non-formal education, and leisure activities.

Family Tracing and Reunification

In Guinea, DCI's 6 regional socio-legal defence centres provided direct support to **345 children on the move**, with a majority of children being returned to Guinea after finding themselves in vulnerable situations in neighbouring countries such as Mali, Senegal and Sierra Leone. DCI-Guinea facilitated the **family reunification of more than 200 of them**, while many other were placed in educational and/or vocational training programmes to facilitate their reintegration. DCI-Guinea partnered with local CSOs to conduct follow-up activities up to 2 years after the reunification in order to ensure the full and effective reintegration of children. In remote, difficult-to-access areas, DCI established a **SMS follow-up system in partnership with local Child Welfare Committees**.

Advocacy

Among the **1,144 cases treated by DCI-Netherlands Child Rights Helpdesk**, 650 concerned immigration-related issues. Despite living in the country for years, speaking Dutch and going to school, **many foreign children are not granted a residency permit**. Over the 29 permits granted in 2016 – with more than 1'000 applications – only 1 was issued in 2016. DCI-Netherlands took on the media to raise awareness on this grave issue and will continue to work closely with the government from 2017 on to bring about the necessary changes in legislation.

In Canada, DCI intervened to protect the rights of **Canadian-born children of undocumented migrants at risk of being deported**. The case of the Ochoa family was one of them: after living and working in Toronto for 11 years, the Ochoa family received a deportation order, not taking into account that their 3 children were born and raised in Canada. Thanks to DCI-Canada's intervention, an appeal hearing will take place in March 2017.

Building the resilience of Refugee Children in Lebanon

Above: Syrian refugee boy in a classroom in Lebanon

Through its **Incredible Me project**, **DCI-Lebanon** trained 44 facilitators that provided **psychological support to 450 refugee girls and boys** from the age of six to sixteen.

The Incredible Me package is a set of creative physical, mental and artistic activities that allows children to explore emotions, reduce anxiety and negative feelings, realize personal limitations and build resilience.

85% have increased self-confidence

78% have improved school performance

75% enjoy better social and family relationship

60% have improved their problem-solving skills

Children Affected by Conflicts

Conflicts affect every aspects of a child's development. DCI provides direct assistance both to refugee children in Greece, Lebanon and other countries, and to children in conflict-ridden areas.

In the **Central African Republic**, DCI-CAR is involved in the establishment of community-based child protection systems and has provided direct psychosocial support to more than **350 former child soldiers**.

Above: A young girl formerly associated with armed forces engaged in vocational training in the Central African Republic.

The socio-economic situation of **95 child mothers** has improved after they received quality vocational training in sewing and IT provided by DCI.

In the **occupied Palestinian territories**, **DCI-Palestine** continuously monitors child rights violations committed both by the Israeli military and settlers.

DCI-Palestine reported that Israeli forces and security guards killed 32 Palestinian children in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in 2016, making it the **deadliest year of the past decade for West Bank children**.

> **"Israeli forces have increasingly used excessive force to squash demonstrations since 2014. Intentional lethal force now appears to be routinely used by Israeli forces, even in unjustified situations, with no accountability, putting more and more children at risk."**
>
> *Ayed Abu Eqtaish, Accountability Program Director at DCI-Palestine*

Right: Palestinian girl in Aida refugee camp

Palestinian children continued to be held in the **Israeli military detention** system. From the moment of arrest, Palestinian children encounter ill-treatment and torture at the hands of Israeli forces. Three out of four experience physical violence during arrest or interrogation. Israel is the only country in the world to automatically prosecute children in military courts that lack basic safeguards for a fair trial.

In this context, DCI-Palestine provided **legal assistance and representation** to Palestinian children before military courts in the West Bank and civil courts in East Jerusalem.

DCI-Palestine helped close **90 of the 156 cases** received in 2016

In parallel, DCI-Palestine conducted **29 "Know your Rights"** campaigns to inform more than 1260 children in the West Bank on their rights, and engaged in advocacy and lobby campaigns in the United States and before the United Nations and the European Union to hold Israel accountable for its actions.

Education

Education is a multiplier right that empowers children in claiming their rights and to participate fully in the making of decisions that shape society. DCI strives to ensure that all children can access quality education and study in safe, accessible and non-discriminatory school environments.

Left: Distribution of school kits in the Central African Republic

In Pakistan, DCI associated member collaborated with **60 schools** in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to **introduce a complaint mechanism to monitor rights violations** and trained 142 teachers on how to make classroom environments more child-friendly and **eradicate corporal punishment**. DCI associated member also convinced local legislators to raise the issue of corporal punishment at the Provincial Assembly, with the final aim of presenting a bill banning corporal punishment.

In Bombali and Kenema districts, DCI-Sierra Leone runs a programme in rural Junior Secondary (post-primary) schools to facilitate the **access to quality education for 2'400 children**. Shortened schooling hours, insufficient and inadequate facilities, as well as a lack of qualified and/or recognized teachers contravene these children's right to education. As a consequence, a vast majority of students either drop out or simply do not pass the national Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE), therefore abruptly ending their access to secondary school. DCI-Sierra Leone supported teachers in improving their pedagogical skills and reached an agreement with them to give two extra hours of lessons per day, focusing mainly on key topics such as Mathematics and English. In addition, DCI contributed to the amelioration of study facilities, for example by creating study centres, child rights clubs and facilitating extra-curricular activities.

As a result, school attendance and success rates have sharply increased, with 63% of children passing the BECE exam in 2016. The work of DCI-Sierra Leone gained official recognition from the Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MEST), the Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children's Affairs (MSWGCA) and the District Councils of Bombali and Kenema.

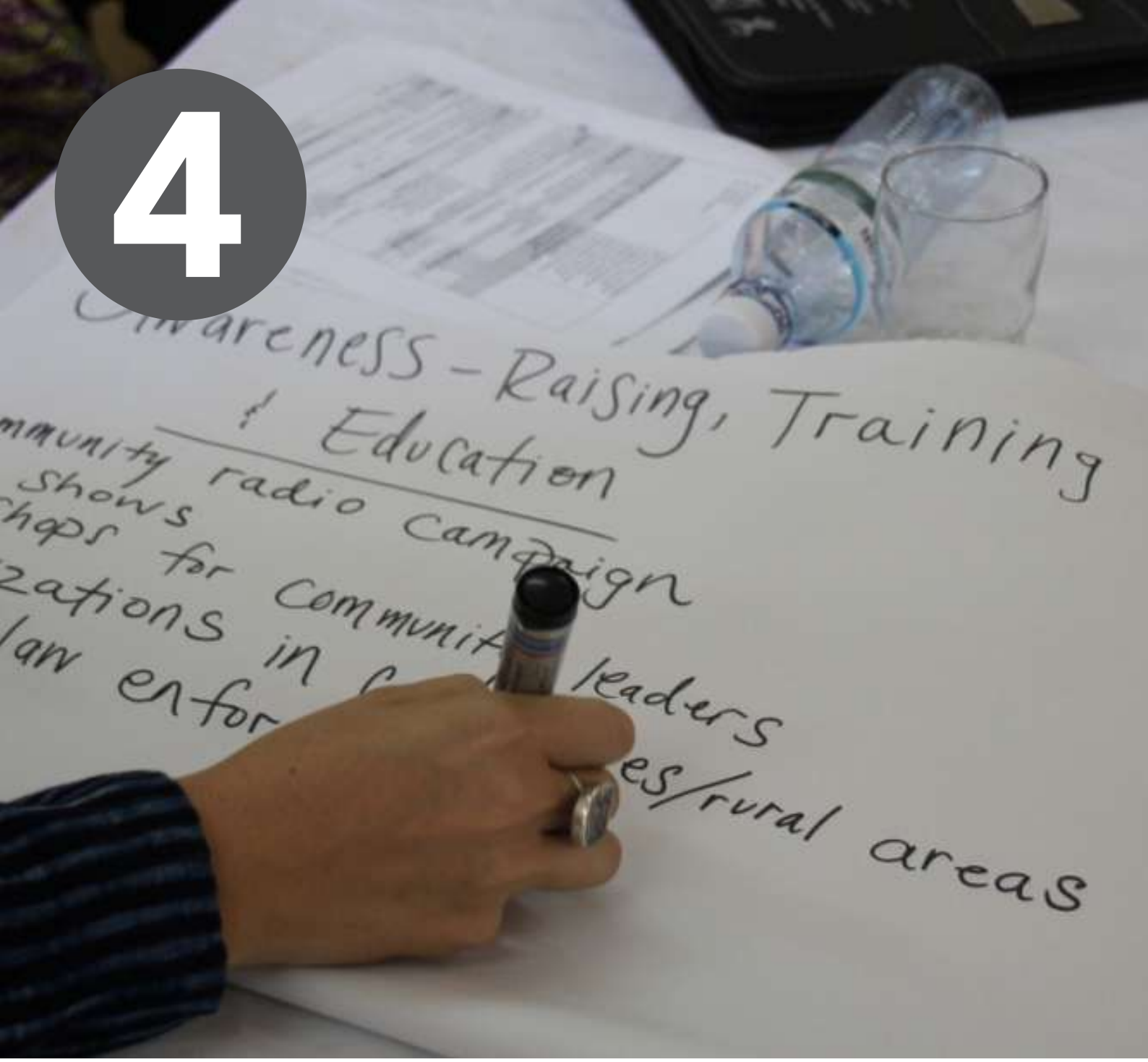
In parallel, DCI associated member cooperated with National Database and Registration Authority to **provide 504 children with birth certificates, allowing them to access education.**

Left: DCI-supported secondary school in Sierra Leone

As coordinator of the sub regional platform on child labour in Central America, **DCI-Costa Rica** leads a 6-year project in San José la Máquina, Guatemala to ensure that all adolescents working and/or living in tobacco production areas can finish secondary school and have access to vocational training opportunities. DCI provided direct school **support to 74 children** and reached out to another 38 through the newly-established Telesecundaria Institute (telesecundaria is a learning system that involves the use of television and other communications means to facilitate access to education in rural areas).

DCI's very own curriculum model and Telesecundaira Institute received the support of the Ministry of Education, tobacco companies and community leaders, and all these actors are now actively involved in its long-term implementation.

Left: Recreational activities for children in Costa Rica



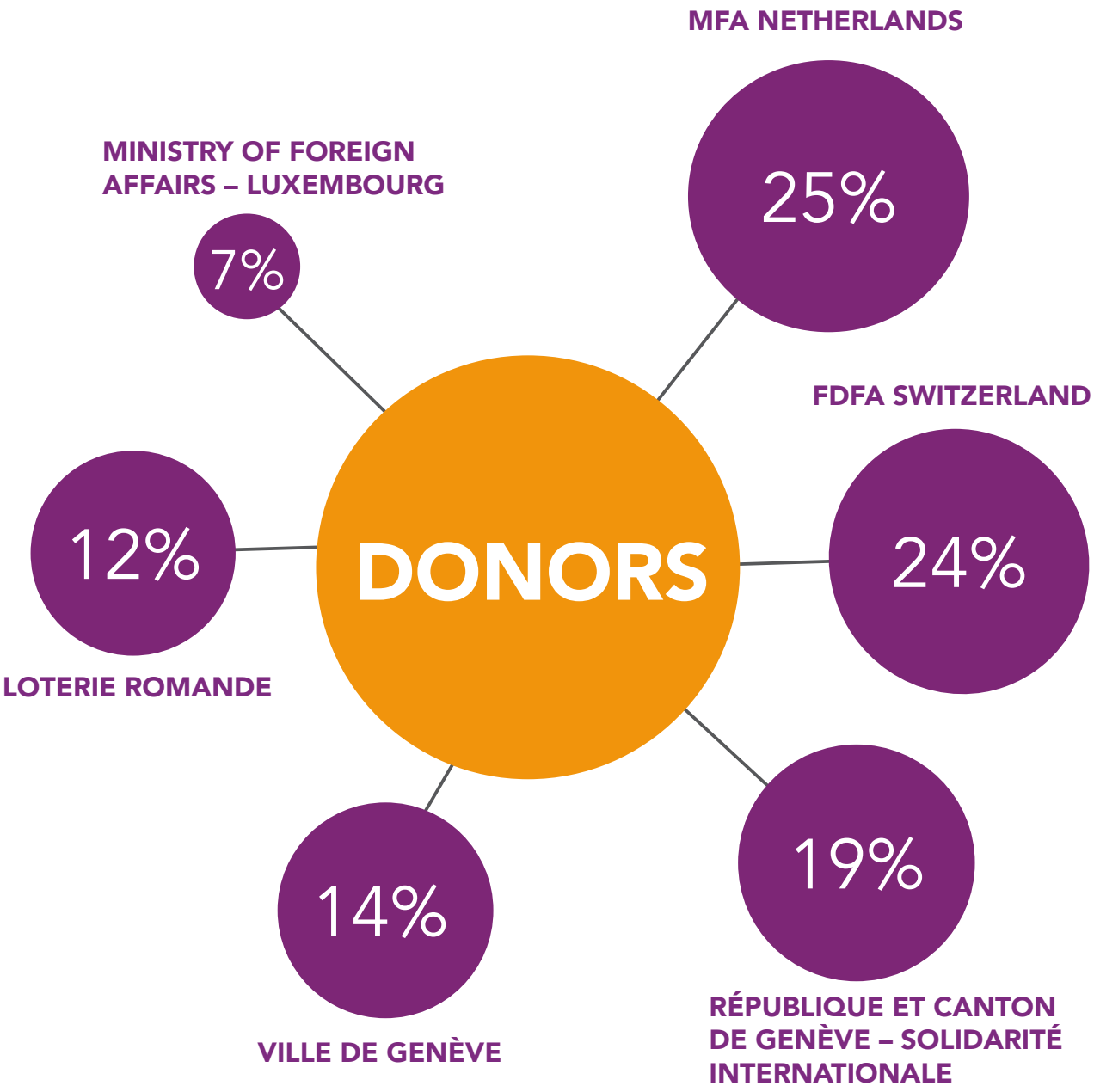
Financial Facts

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PRESENTED HERE INCLUDE THE ACCOUNTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL (DCI), BASED IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND.

INCOME	2016 CHF	2015 CHF
Contributions	408,313	315,780
Contributions IPJJ	---	24,061
Donations	4,111	30,435
Other contributions	889	---
Sub-renting	45,449	44,567
Other income	219	939
Membership fees	43,597	31,639
Exchange rate	329	1,925
Total income	**503,125**	**449,346**
EXPENDITURE		
Salaries and social charges	235,160	238,004
Consultants	18,974	5,967
Projects activities	91,402	101,694
Office rent	56,167	56,050
Expenses International Executive Council	15,384	5,355
Admin expenses	66,105	39,434
Total expenditure	**483,193**	**446,503**
Surplus/Deficit	19,933	2,843

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

WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE TO ALL OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS. YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ENABLE US TO ACHIEVE IMPORTANT STEPS TOWARDS THE REALISATION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS WORLDWIDE.



5

Perspectives for 2017

PUTTING CHILDREN FIRST

CONTINUING TO PROVIDE **SOCIO-LEGAL ASSISTANCE** AND OTHER DIRECT SERVICES

LEADING AND SUPPORTING **EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVES**

CONDUCTING COORDINATED **AWARENESS-RAISING AND ADVOCACY INITIATIVES** AT ALL LEVELS (LOCAL, NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL)

BUILDING AND REINFORCING THE **CAPACITIES** OF PROFESSIONALS WORKING WITH CHILDREN

GLOBAL STUDY ON CHILDREN DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY

CO-CONVENING THE NGO PANEL FOR THE GSCDL

BOLSTERING ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM UN MEMBER STATES AND STRENGTHEN THE COLLABORATION WITH UN AGENCIES SUCH AS UNICEF, OHCHR AND UNODC.

INVOLVING DCI NATIONAL SECTIONS AND REGIONAL DESKS THAT WILL PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN THE **IMPLEMENTATION PHASE OF THE STUDY**, IN PARTICULAR FOR THE **COLLECTION OF DATA.**

NEW STRATEGY

HOLDING THE **12TH INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY (IGA)** OF THE DCI MOVEMENT, WHERE THE NEW STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR 2017-2021 WILL BE ADOPTED

Acronyms

AC - ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ACERWC - AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD

ACRWC - AFRICAN CHARTER ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD

CIP - CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS

CRC - CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

CRC COMMITTEE - COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

CSO - CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATION

DCI - DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL

DCI-IS – DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL – INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

GAA - GIRLS ADVOCACY ALLIANCE

GBV - GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

GC - GENERAL COMMENT

GSCDL - GLOBAL STUDY ON CHILDREN DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY

IACHR - INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

IEC - INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

IGA - INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ILO - INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

MENA - MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

MOU - MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

MRU - MANO RIVER UNION

NGO - NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION

OHCHR - OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

OP3 - OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD ON A COMMUNICATIONS PROCEDURE

SDG - SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SLDC - SOCIO-LEGAL DEFENCE CENTRE

DEFENSA DE NIÑAS Y NIÑOS INTERNACIONAL DNI
DEFENSE DES ENFANTS INTERNATIONAL DEI
DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL DCI
the worldwide movement for children's rights

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