

Annual Report 2020-2021



**TAKING
PRIDE IN
COMMITMENT.**



OVERVIEW

The period under consideration in this annual report, running from April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021, was undeniably affected by the globally disruptive pandemic of COVID-19. Amidst the pandemic, the security context deteriorated and democracy declined in nearly all of our countries of intervention. But none of these setbacks stopped us in our work.

Given the wide geographical presence Lawyers Without Borders Canada (LWBC) has developed over the years, with astonishing teams and partners directly on site, we were able to pursue our work in the countries where LWBC is established. Throughout the world, our partners rolled up their sleeves and demonstrated courage and resilience, adapted, and continued their efforts to support vulnerable groups in exercising their rights and ultimately improve their situation.

We listened, we demonstrated our capacity to adapt and be creative. In short, we underwent considerable change and worked incredibly hard. New work strategies were developed, some leveraging information technologies. Like many of you, we widely enforced a working-from-home model, and learned how to increase cohesion within our teams worldwide in spite of geographical distance. This enabled us to reduce our carbon footprint, with some activities no longer requiring on-site participation, as virtual collaboration became the new normal. To make a long story short, we braved the storm, keeping our own borders open while the world's borders were closed.

We've grown a lot in the process, transforming challenges into opportunities. Without compromising our values and principles, we managed to strengthen our programs, our methodology, our policy and our organizational capabilities. What results did we yield? Despite the hostile conditions we faced this past year, once again we are glad to report exceptional results for the advancement of justice, human rights and development.

In Mali, the majorly LWBC-supported Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Committee (TJRC) contributed to peace by establishing the truth regarding conflicts and other episodes involving armed violence in Mali, and allowed victims—especially women—to participate actively in the transitional justice process. Despite the pandemic, despite terrorism and despite a coup d'état, the TJRC held public hearings, received more than 7,000 depositions and testimonies, and raised awareness among over 5,000 people. All of this contributed to stabilizing and increasing security in Mali, but also more widely in Africa, and globally.

In Colombia too, LWBC continued to support the peace and reconciliation process, in spite of unfavourable conditions resulting from a troubled political and health context. Thanks to a specific methodology developed with civil society organizations, LWBC enabled hundreds of women to become involved in transitional justice and to have an impact on its course.

Major milestones were reached regarding criminal punishment for human trafficking in Central America, as LWBC provided support in helping the specialized human trafficking courts in Guatemala get back on track, delivered training to prosecutors specialized in these cases, strengthened cooperation between institutions, and increased direct participation of victims in the exercise of their rights.

The outstanding victories which LWBC helped secure in collaboration with its partners before national and international courts deserve positive recognition. Such is the case in the area of sexual and reproductive rights, gender-based violence, and discrimination. The *Vicky Hernández* case, involving the murder of a transgender woman in 2009 in Honduras, was brought successfully before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and constitutes a step in the right direction for the LGBTI community on a global scale. In Cobán, Guatemala, the hearings relating to cases of sexual violence committed against girls in the school system shook the whole country and are bringing about important changes in policies and standards aimed at preventing further serious abuse. In Mali, legal proceedings were initiated to end to the practice of descent-based slavery (whereby a person is considered to be a slave based on their ancestors' status as slaves) forced the State to take action, including by reforming the country's Criminal Code. In Haiti, women who were raped during detention in a prison in Gonaïves were released.

Also in Haiti, the representatives of victims of the cholera epidemic, after 10 years of waiting, were finally given the opportunity to express themselves directly before the UN, thanks to LWBC's efforts. As the epidemic was caused by UN forces in Haiti, this dialogue is an essential requirement for the reparation of the harms endured by the victims.

The fight against corruption intensified, including in Haiti and in Honduras, where corruption practices are being called out and disclosed by organizations backed by LWBC.

In all of its countries of intervention, LWBC helped bring about profound changes in the practice of law by providing training to a new generation of legal professionals committed to human rights, through the LWBC internship program and partner law firms.

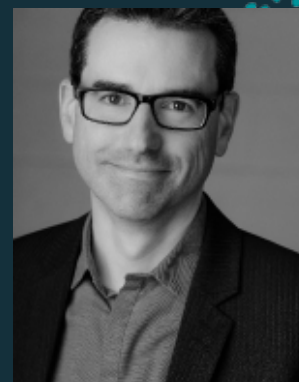
On the financial front, we practised caution as early as March 2020, substantially cutting the budget we had drawn up before the pandemic. This strategy proved successful in such a way that we managed to end the financial year keeping to the revised budget, which represents a 14% decrease in comparison to the previous year. As such, LWBC is now in the best position to resume healthy growth, provisions for which have already been made in the 2021-2022 budget. The first few months of 2021 already pointed towards increased growth, as 12 new projects were signed for a total value of more than \$45 million spanning several years.

The new strategic plan for 2021-24, which was adopted following a highly participatory process involving LWBC's international team, plans to leverage this momentum to consolidate LWBC's position as an indispensable actor in legal empowerment, in Canada and around the world. We will achieve this by continuing to leverage the law and legal mechanisms as instruments for change, to strengthen quality legal services and deliver tangible results to improve the lives of people in vulnerable situations.

Thank you to our partners, both in the field and within Canada, and to all those who support us and follow us in our mission!



Delia Cristea
*President of the
Board of Directors*



Pascal Paradis
Executive Director

LWBC IN FIGURES

FROM APRIL 1, 2020 TO MARCH 31, 2021

18

**international
cooperation
projects**

+8,700

victims supported

by LWBC or LWBC partners,
including through direct legal
aid and judicial assistance

+100

**high-profile
cases**

of human rights
violations brought before
international courts

109

**employees and
interns, and 23
volunteers deployed**

nationally and internationally,
including 91 women
and 41 men

7

**offices around
the world**

(Bamako, Bogota, Guatemala City,
Quebec City, Port-au-Prince, San
Salvador, and Tegucigalpa),
and 4 regional offices
(Medellin, Bucaramanga, and
Pasto in Colombia, and
Montreal in Canada)

+15,000

**people in vulnerable
situations,**

including human rights
defenders, benefited directly
from our activities or those
conducted by our partners

8

**countries
of intervention**

(Benin, Burkina Faso,
Colombia, Guatemala, Haiti,
Honduras, Mali,
El Salvador)

23

**nationalities
on our team**

Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Benin,
Bolivia, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia,
Ecuador, France, Guatemala, Guinea,
Haiti, Honduras, Mali, Mexico,
Peru, El Salvador, Serbia, Spain,
Switzerland, the United States,
and Venezuela

LWBC AROUND THE WORLD



COLOMBIA



Projects

- Transitional Justice for Women (JISTRAM) - Global Affairs Canada, Peace and Stabilization Operations Program (PSOPs)
- This project involved strengthening access to justice for demobilized women in Colombia, and came to a close in August 2020 - Ministry of International Relations and Francophonie, Québec International Development Program (PQDI)

Fighting impunity

The follow-up of the trial of former president **Álvaro Uribe, suspected of corruption**, was carried out by a coalition of international NGOs led by LWBC. This emblematic case is one of the most high-profile trials in the country's recent history, and the communication and explanations we provided via the international coalition's Twitter account on ongoing challenges contributed to increasing visibility for this case and promoting transparency on the judicial process and its validation by an audience of close to 17,000 followers.

Strengthening access to justice

A minor who suffered sexual violence was granted protection measures that were ordered by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in an emblematic case led by Corporación Justicia y Dignidad with support from LWBC. The protection measures also extended to his family.

Women from remote regions received information and participated in awareness-raising activities on exercising their rights during a pandemic and on the resources available to them to do so. Information cards were sent around on mobile devices through a widely used application. This innovative method sparked interest among police departments specialized in family affairs, who have since integrated the information cards into their work with vulnerable women.

Fifty demobilized women were guaranteed access to justice thanks to legal actions and advocacy initiatives led by LWBC and its partners, and thanks to the relations that were established with institutions.

Thirty managers of legal institutions participated in awareness-raising activities and agreed to review their strategies to comply with a gender-sensitive approach in order to offer more appropriate services for women, nurture a relationship and establish direct dialogue with them, and guarantee their effective participation in transitional justice mechanisms..

Building on the success of the process which they led together with LWBC, the demobilized women have taken matters into their own hands to participate in the peace process and public life—a sign of their long lost trust in the institutions and the justice system.

Combating gender-based violence

Emblematic cases involving gender-based violence committed against the LGBTI community during the armed conflict, and documented among 72 individuals, have been brought before the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, via the submission of a report called “Lo que perdimos” (in Spanish, literally “what we lost”) by our partner Caribe Afirmativo. Submitting this report enabled the Specialized Jurisdiction for Peace, for the first time, to take the acts of violence committed against the LGBTI population into account its analysis of crimes committed during the conflict in the region of Antioquia.

Women's organizations who have, since 2017, been involved in the *Re-Tejiendo Saberes* (building new knowledge) awareness-raising and training process (developed with LWBC) are contributing to the peace process and increasing the effects of the awareness raising and capacity strengthening workshops by organizing their own for other women. A workshop was also set up with women in Venezuela to highlight the importance of memory and reconciliation.

Twenty demobilized women designed and deployed two awareness raising campaigns on gender-based violence and on women's needs in the context of the COVID-19 crisis, reaching 1,699 people, including 663 women.

Women victims of acts of violence had access to better coordinated services thanks to dedicated psychosocial support networks set up following LWBC-led workshops and trainings.

Partners

- Agencia para la Reincorporación y Normalización
- Caribe Afirmativo
- Colectiva Justicia y Mujer
- Corporación 8 de marzo
- Corporación Guasimí
- Corporación Humanas Colombia
- Corporación Justicia y Dignidad
- Corporación para la vida Mujeres que Crean
- Defensoría del Pueblo Regional Putumayo
- Equipo Jurídico Pueblos
- Fundación Lazos de Dignidad
- Fondo de Solidaridad con los Jueces colombianos
- Organización Indígena Nacional de Colombia
- Ruta Pacífica
- Unidad Indígena del Pueblo Awá
- Universidad Industrial de Santander
- Jurisdicción Especial para la Paz
- Comisión de la Verdad

Project initiated in 2021

- No más trata: strengthening institutional capacities to fight human trafficking.

This project aims to strengthen the capacities of the Defensoría del Pueblo (Office of the Ombudsperson) and actors in the justice sector involved in the fight against human trafficking in Colombia.

GUATEMALA



Projects

- Women's Rights and Justice (DEMUJERES) Global Affairs Canada, in partnership with the Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI)
- Strengthening the protection of indigenous women's rights in Guatemala (PROMUJERES) – Ministry of International Relations and Francophonie, Québec International Development Program

Combating gender-based violence

Strategic litigation has curbed a specific form of gender-based violence. 22 indigenous girls from the administrative department of Alta Verapaz who were victims of sexual violence received representation by a specialized woman lawyer in the trial of the educational institution's teachers and employees accused of abusing the girls.

Thanks to this strategic litigation and to the advocacy efforts deployed by LWBC's partners, raising considerable media attention, the issue of sexual violence within the education system and absence of effective action to prevent it moved to the forefront of public debates. A directive of the Ministry of Education adopted at the end of 2020 now requires that teachers who have been reported or who are under investigation for sexual assault be suspended from teaching and that those who have received a sentence be dismissed.

With support from LWBC, 504 indigenous women and girls who were victims of sexual violence or gender-based violence received legal aid and judicial assistance.

92 indigenous women received legal support in 19 cases involving the violation of their collective rights, including their rights to land and to consultation, and the preservation of services intended for indigenous women.

Fighting impunity

132 persecuted human rights defenders and 22 persecuted civil society organizations (including judges, magistrates, prosecutors, analysts and lawyers) were able to pursue their work fighting corruption and impunity thanks to LWBC's protection program which includes, among other things, legal defense, psychosocial support, the provision of physical and online security, and support towards strategic communication. Thanks to LWBC's support, legal proceedings against five of these human rights defenders facing abusive criminalization for their participation in anti-corruption activities were dropped.

701 victims received support, including through direct legal aid and judicial assistance provided by LWBC partners.

Shaping the next generation of indigenous legal practitioners

Nine women law students who grew up in indigenous communities are on their way to officially becoming lawyers after completing an internship in one of LWBC's six partner organizations involved in defending the rights of women and indigenous peoples. One of the interns has reached the final stage of her training and successfully passed her professional exams.

35 law students participated in a legal writing contest on the topic of the hardships and challenges faced by indigenous women in exercising their rights in Guatemala. The competition provided an opportunity to give more visibility to these issues within the community of law students.

Publications

- Online journal: [The rights of indigenous women in Guatemala](#) (in Spanish)

Videos

- A message delivered in k'iche', a Mayan language spoken in Guatemala, condemning acts of violence against women. The video features Teresa Macario, a lawyer and also legal adviser on the LWBC team: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=beM23K3dw8U>
- An explanation of the complaints process in gender-based violence cases, with lawyers Ana Elisa Samayoa and Natalia Garavito, who are also legal advisers on the LWBC team (in Spanish) <https://twitter.com/i/status/1334995906517737472>
- Campaign for the prevention of violence in the administrative department of Alta Verapaz (in Spanish): <https://www.facebook.com/ceciguatemala/posts/2818983041702687>
- Campaign for the prevention of gender-based violence (in Spanish) : <https://www.facebook.com/ceciguatemala/posts/2570427456558248>

Social medias

- Discussion on international standards for access to justice by indigenous women (in Spanish): https://twitter.com/ASFC_CA/status/1369285486246825991

Partners

- Asociación Bufete Jurídico Popular de Rabinal
- Asociación de Abogadas Indígenas Chomija'
- Asociación de Justicia de Alta Verapaz
- Asociación Generando Equidad, Liderazgo y Oportunidades
- Bufete Jurídico de Derechos Humanos con Enfoque Feminista
- Consorcio de Asociaciones del Municipio de Santiago Atitlán
- Equipo de Estudios comunitarios y acción psicosocial
- La Asociación de Abogados y Notarios Mayas de Guatemala (Nim Ajpu)
- Unidad de Protección a defensoras y defensores de Derechos Humanos de Guatemala

Project initiated in 2021

- Fund for the protection of human rights in Guatemala (FPDDH)

This project aims to improve the security and the wellbeing of vulnerable Guatemalan human rights defenders, particularly women and members of indigenous communities.

NORTHERN TRIANGLE OF CENTRAL AMERICA



Project

- Strengthening Capacities for the Criminal Prevention of Cross-Border Crimes against Women, Girls and Other Vulnerable Persons – Global Affairs Canada, Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program (ACCBP)

Strengthening access to justice

The specialized tribunals dealing with human trafficking cases were able to resume their activities despite the pandemic, thanks in part to LWBC's support in allowing virtual hearings to take place.

Access to justice for victims of human trafficking increased following the adoption of new practices, including direct participation of victims in the exercise of their rights through the intervention of lawyers—also LWBC partners—who represent the victims as civil parties to the legal proceedings.

The judicial system in Guatemala has renewed its reparations policy for victims of human trafficking, in accordance with applicable international standards. The policy takes into account LWBC's recommendations on full and effective reparation for victims.

Cooperation between institutions

The network of prosecutors specialized in human trafficking cases took on its very first transnational matter. The combination of efforts provided by prosecutors in Guatemala, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, and Colombia led the interinstitutional collaboration to conduct an investigation into a network of human trafficking, with support from LWBC

More than 1,200 lawyers, judges, and other regional stakeholders in the justice sector have strengthened their capacities with regard to investigating, prosecuting, and punishing crimes involving trafficking in persons, through training and seminars provided by LWBC. These activities have resulted in new forms of cooperation between institutions.

Partners

In Guatemala :

- Asociación La Alianza
- Corte Suprema de Justicia
- Fundación Sobrevivientes
- Ministerio Público
- Refugio de la Niñez
- Secretaría contra la violencia sexual, explotación y trata de personas

In Honduras :

- Asociación Calidad de Vida
- Casa Alianza Honduras
- Comisión Interinstitucional contra la Explotación Sexual Comercial y Trata de Personas
- Comisión interinstitucional contra la Trata de Personas, Explotación Sexual Comercial y Tráfico Ilícito de Personas del Ministerio Público

In El Salvador :

- Consejo Nacional contra la trata de personas del Ministerio de Justicia y de Seguridad Pública
- Fiscalía General de la República
- Policía Nacional Civil de El Salvador

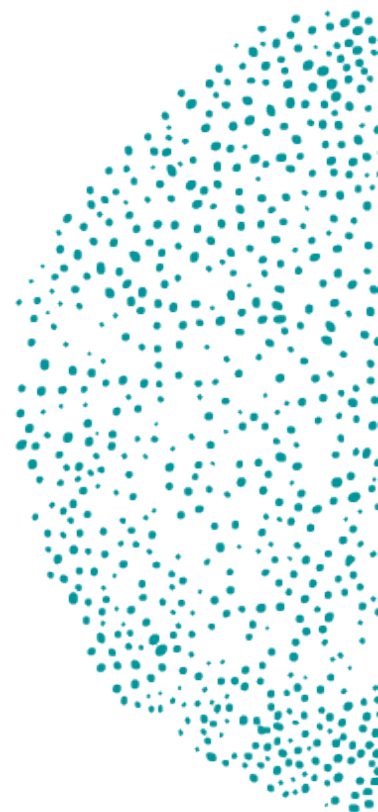
Regional partners :

- Coalición Regional Contra la Trata de Personas y Tráfico Ilícito de Migrantes
- Red Regional de Fiscales Especializados contra la Trata de Personas.

Project initiated in 2021

- UNID@S: better access to justice for victims of gender-based violence in El Salvador

The UNID@S project aims to increase access to justice for victims of gender-based violence in El Salvador, particularly for women and girls, by providing them with the means to enforce their rights in a more effective manner. The initiative builds on the mobilization within civil society, and among human rights lawyers in particular, as an essential factor for strengthening the role of justice in combatting gender-based violence.



HAITI



Projects

- Access to Justice and the Fight Against Impunity in Haiti (AJULIH) – Global Affairs Canada, bilateral program
- Femmes et filles debout avec dignité pour nos droits sexuels et reproductifs (literally, “women and girls rising up with dignity for their sexual and reproductive rights”) (carried out via a consortium between Care Canada and Santé Monde) – Global Affairs Canada

Strategic Litigation in Emblematic Cases

40 girls and women victims of assault, rape, and breach of trust were represented by LWBC-partner lawyers. The judicial proceedings led to the arrest of the respective perpetrators.

The Cabinet d'avocat.es spécialisé.es en litige stratégique de droits humains (CALSDH) secured 12 legal victories before the courts, obtaining maintenance allowances for two minors, the release of seven women who had been raped in a prison in Gonaïves, and paternity recognition for a boy by a former senator of Haiti. Such decisions, although regrettably rare until now, have shifted jurisprudence in favour of vulnerable groups and thus represent a considerable achievement.

Shaping the Next Generation of Legal Practitioners

A new generation of human rights lawyers from various regions in Haiti is emerging, following the participation of 15 young lawyers, including 7 women and 8 men, in LWBC trainings on strategic litigation.

Strengthening Access to Justice

417 people, including 252 women and 130 minors, received legal aid from LWBC partners.

129 women and 45 youth who were released from prison are now financially independent after participating in social reintegration programs offered by the organizations Kri Fanm Ayiti and Zanmi Timoun.

The population (including in the country's regions) has increased access to citizen protection services thanks to support from LWBC and the OPC (equivalent to a Human Rights Ombudsperson or Commission). Among other things, this support enabled the OPC to set up mobile assistance services on a regional level, taking a technological turn in offering citizens the possibility to file complaints remotely.

Individuals in a vulnerable situation were further protected thanks to awareness raising activities carried out among 13 communities on necessary protective measures in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and on ways to combat stigmatization of individuals suspected of carrying the virus.

Advocacy for Advancing Human Rights

Capacity strengthening activities among civil society organizations allowed advocacy actions to be carried out before the Haitian authorities, the UN, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). The main actions targeted the rights of people living with a disability, the protection of human rights defenders, respect for the rights of cholera survivors, and the fight against impunity.

Requests for protective measures were submitted to the IACHR following threats received by Haitian citizens and human rights defenders. An advocacy campaign to prevent abusive intervention by law enforcement in the neighbourhood of Village de Dieu contributed to the revision of a State decision that could have resulted in a conflict between heavily armed gangs and law enforcement.

Following the murder of bar chairman Monferrier Dorval on August 28, 2020, LWBC conducted advocacy campaigns, including a petition that gathered nearly 4,000 signatures, demanding an independent investigation to shed light on the matter.

After 10 years of waiting, the representatives of the victims of the cholera epidemic caused by the UN were finally granted the opportunity to address the UN directly, with the intervention of LWBC's good offices. At a commemoration organized by LWBC to mark the 10th anniversary of cholera striking Haiti, a dialogue was established for the first time between the victims, UN representatives, IACHR representatives, and representatives of civil society organizations. This dialogue is a crucial requirement for the reparation of the wrongs endured by the victims. The representative of the State of Haiti expressed the commitment of the Haitian authorities to providing support to the victims. Furthermore, the OPC (Ombudsperson equivalent) and the IACHR Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental rights publicly expressed their support for upholding the rights of victims of the cholera epidemic.

Combatting Gender-based Violence Through Art

The population of Haiti is now more aware of the challenges surrounding gender-based violence thanks to eight posters on sexual consent published to social media and widely shared as part of an awareness

raising campaign on the rights of women and girls led by the Fondasyon Konesans Ak Libète (FOKAL) and seven civil society organizations. These posts triggered some strong reactions and conversations, and were viewed more than 478,000 times on Facebook.

Graphic designers and visual artists were given the opportunity to express themselves on human rights issues raised by the COVID-19 pandemic by taking part in a contest organized by FOKAL called "Nos droits en temps crise" (literally, "our rights in times of crisis"). Five participants received prizes following reviews by both the public and a committee of experts. The posters they designed were widely disseminated throughout Haiti and abroad.

Murals on the theme of human rights were also created, and artistic performances were held in Port-au-Prince to denounce violence against women, the murder of journalists, and racial injustice.

Partners

Haitian partners:

- Cabinet d'avocat.e.s spécialisé.e.s en litige stratégique de droits humains
- Collectif Défenseurs Plus
- Combite pour la paix et le développement
- Ensemble contre la corruption
- Fanm Deside
- Fondasyon Konesans Ak Libète (FOKAL)
- Fondasyon Zanmi Timoun
- Groupe d'appui aux rapatriés et réfugiés (GARR)
- Héritage pour la protection des Droits Humains
- Kouraj Pou Pwoteje Dwa Moun
- Kri Fanm Ayiti (KRIFA)
- Mouvement des Femmes Haïtiennes pour l'Éducation et le Développement (MOUFHED)
- Office de la protection du citoyen et de la citoyenne (OPC)
- Réseau national de défense des droits humains (RNDDH)
- Solidarite Fanm Ayisyèn (SOFA)

Canadian partners:

- Le Protecteur du citoyen du Québec
- Éducaloi
- École du Barreau du Québec

HONDURAS



Project

- Justice, Governance and the Fight Against Impunity in Haiti (AJULIH) – Global Affairs Canada, bilateral program

Strengthening Access to Justice

5,872 victims, including 2,812 women and 12 members of the LGBTI community received representation or advice from four law firms supported by LWBC in collective and individual cases, including on the subject of gender-based violence, the fight against discrimination, and the protection of indigenous peoples' land rights.

Three rulings guaranteed and protected the human rights of more than 2,000 people, including 400 indigenous people. The cases focused on human rights such as the right to land, and were delivered thanks to the specialized legal representation services offered by LWBC's partners.

Combatting Gender-based Violence

Strategic litigation and advocacy carried out by LWBC-supported women's and LGBTI organizations in Honduras and El Salvador brought about major advances in the fight against gender-based violence and the protection of sexual and reproductive rights.

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR) ruled the State of Honduras responsible for the death of Vicky Hernández, a young transgender woman who was murdered in 2009. This was the first time a Member State of the IACtHR was indicted for acts of violence committed against the LGBTI community—a significant step in the right direction for the rights of LGBTI persons. For CATRACHAS, one of LWBC's partners in Honduras and a major actor in the case, this ruling puts an end to nearly 12 years of relentless fighting to obtain a proper investigation into the assassination of Vicky Hernández, for justice to be served, and for Hernández's family to obtain reparation.

With support from LWBC, partner organization CATRACHAS submitted a request to the Supreme Court of Honduras in the form of a proposal to reform the Constitution, which allegedly obstructs sexual and reproductive rights and equal marriage rights.

Strategic Litigation in Emblematic Cases

32 emblematic cases involving human rights violations were brought before competent jurisdictions.

Five cases were filed by LWBC-partner law firms with a view to protecting the rights of domestic workers, indigenous people, and street children, and put an end to the particularly precarious conditions these groups of people have found themselves in as a result of the pandemic.

3,600 members of the Tolupán indigenous people had their rights to food and health upheld following a ruling that summoned the local authorities to immediately provide them with food and medical assistance. The ruling also highlighted the discrimination faced by this population. As such, the decision symbolizes significant progress with regard to the recognition of the traditional rights of indigenous peoples.

Uniting Against Corruption

Corruption is being uncovered and called out by organizations supported by LWBC. Documentation and analyses produced by CESPAD on corruption practices within the electoral system and public institutions were consulted nearly half a million times over the past year. This human rights-based approach to the fight against corruption allows, among other things, victims of corruption to be heard by the justice system and is gradually being adopted by local organizations.

Shaping the Next Generation of Legal Practitioners

Through the LWBC internship program and partner law firms, LWBC helped bring profound changes in the exercise of the law by providing training to a new generation of legal professionals committed to human rights.

Partners

- Agrupación Ciudadana de El Salvador
- Asociación Calidad de vida
- Bufete Estudios por la Dignidad
- Bufete Justicia para los Pueblos
- Centro de Derechos de Mujeres
- Centro de Estudios de la Mujer
- Centro de Estudios para la Democracia
- Centro de Promoción en Salud y Asistencia Familiar
- Centro para el Desarrollo y la Cooperación LGTBI - Somos CDC
- Colectiva Hondureña de Mujeres
- Comité de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos en Honduras
- Comité por la Libre Expresión

- Equipo Jurídico de Derechos Humanos
- Red de Abogadas Defensoras de Derechos Humanos
- Red de Respuesta Lésbica Catrachas
- Somos Muchas

Publications

- Study on the role of an international mission in the organization and functioning of the anti-corruption criminal justice sub-system, comprising experience-based analyses and insights (in Spanish) (<https://asfcanada.ca/es/medias/el-rol-de-una-mision-internacional-en-la-estructuracion-y-funcionamiento-del-subsistema-penal-anticorrupcion-analisis-y-perspectivas-a-partir-de-la-experiencia-de-la-macch/>)

Videos

- Distribution of the amicus curiae prepared by the CIDDHU on the Gualcarque case to the indigenous committee of Rio Blanco and to the members of the COPINH: (https://twitter.com/ASFC_CA/status/1366484964838158337)
- “Voces de justicia”: promotion and presentation of the legal organizations that received LWBC training (in Spanish):
- (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W144NasVZTo&t=9s>)
- First edition of the LWBC internship program in Honduras (in Spanish):
- (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-T5KrUtFNY>)

Project Initiated in 2021:

- PRODERECHOS: civil society for the consolidation of human rights in Honduras

The PRODERECHOS project is Implemented in partnership with lead-organization Oxfam Intermón (Spain) and project aims to strengthen the capacities of the civil society organizations in Honduras to carry out awareness raising, advocacy and human rights monitoring activities, especially with regard to territorial conflict matters and corruption cases.

MALI



Project

- Stabilizing Mali through the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (SCVJR) – Global Affairs Canada, Peace and Stabilization Operations Program (PSOPs)

Legal and Judicial Services

647 victims received representation or advice in collective and individual cases involving, among other things, gender-based violence.

Strategic Litigation in Emblematic Cases

86 victims were represented before Malian courts, the Court of Justice of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights. The four emblematic cases of human rights violations involved instances of gender-based violence committed in the North of the country against civilians during the armed conflict, and on descent-based slavery (whereby a person is considered to be a slave based on their ancestors' status as slaves) in Kayes. The legal achievements in the latter area of litigation forced the State to take action and, among other things, reform the country's Criminal Code.

Peace and Reconciliation

Mali's Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC), supported in the most part by LWBC, actively contributed to the national dialogue on peace and reconciliation by establishing the truth surrounding the conflicts and other episodes of armed violence in Mali.

Light has been shed on the truth surrounding the causes and consequences of the conflict—a crucial factor for peace and reconciliation. This was achieved in part following three public LWBC-backed TJRC trials which allowed 39 victims to bring their testimony publicly before the State and to the whole country through TV and radio broadcasting. The three trials involved case of deprivation of liberty, violations of the right to life, and enforced disappearances. More than 7,000 victim depositions and testimonies were also analyzed and legally constituted according to international law standards.

An increased portion of Malian citizens participated in the peace and reconciliation process, with nearly 5,000 people informed directly on the mission and activities of the TJRC, and over one million people reached with communication campaigns, including through local radio channels and social media.

An important step towards obtaining reparations for victims of the conflict was achieved thanks to the reparation policy prepared by the TJRC with support from LWBC for victims of human rights violations.

Victims' psychological trauma is being addressed as most of the TJRC's activities in Bamako and in the regions most affected by the crisis now integrate psychological support.

Fighting Impunity

Investigations were carried out on eight emblematic cases of human rights violations committed since 1960, in preparation of the TJRC's final recommendations report. Among the cases is the Ogossagou massacre of March 23, 2019, which resulted in the death of 150 people—a terrible event that took place in the wider context of the intra- and intercommunity conflicts in the administrative region of Mopti.

Analyses of the consequences of the conflict on women and children have increased in quality, including thanks to an updated mapping of serious human rights violations in Mali.

Partners

- Association des juristes maliennes
- Association Temedt Mali
- Collectif Cri de Coeur
- Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme (CNDH)
- Commission vérité, justice et réconciliation
- Tribune des jeunes pour le droit au Mali
- Women in Law and Development in Africa

Publications

- « Le Mali à l'écoute des victimes : leçons apprises en matière d'organisation des audiences publiques », on lessons learned with regard to organizing public hearings in Mali (in French): <https://asfcanada.ca/medias/le-mali-a-lecoute-des-victimes-lecons-apprises-en-matiere-dorganisation-des-audiences-publiques/>
- « Pour une paix durable: la formulation de recommandations pour la non-répétition des violations des droits humains », on drafting recommendations to prevent the repetition of human rights violations as a means of achieving lasting peace (in French): <https://asfcanada.ca/medias/pour-une-paix-durable-formulation-de-recommandations-pour-la-non-repetition-des-violations-des-droits-humains-au-mali/>



Projects Initiated in 2021

- SLIM (Soutien à la lutte contre l'impunité au Mali): supporting the fight against impunity in Mali

The SLIM project is carried out by a consortium made up of the International Federation for Human Rights (IFHR) and Amnesty International. It aims to support civil society organizations in the fight against impunity through the documentation of international crimes, strategic litigation, and advocacy, with a view to improving respect for human rights and the rule of law by Malian authorities.

- PROPAJER (Promotion de la participation des jeunes pour la réconciliation): promoting the participation of youth to advance reconciliation

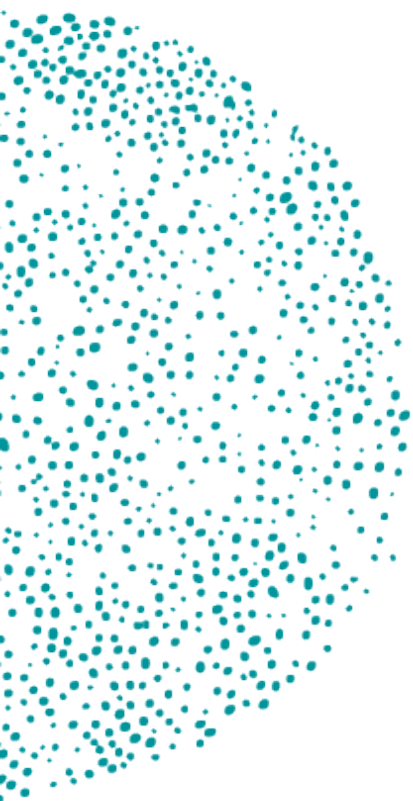
The PROPAJER project is carried out by a consortium between the United Nations' Children's Fund (UNICEF) and its development program (UNDP). It aims to support the participation of young women and men in the ongoing transitional justice process through two simultaneous actions: strengthening youth organizations to help them make their voices louder, and strengthening the institutions these same youth seek to reach.

- JUPAX (Appui à la justice et à la paix au Mali): support for justice and peace in Mali

The JUPAX project aims to strengthen the power of women, girls and other individuals in a vulnerable situation, to enable them to make their human rights a reality, with the ultimate objective of securing gender equality, a change in power dynamics, and peace and reconciliation in Mali. The project aims to facilitate constructive, participatory and inclusive dialogue between the various actors involved or otherwise affected by the conflict in 2012, on the acts of violence and human rights violations committed against civilians. The initiative draws on actors from civil society, the justice sector, and the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC), as well as on State-developed transitional justice mechanisms.

- Plurielles (Santé et droits des femmes, des adolescentes et des enfants): health and rights of women, girl adolescents and children

The Plurielles project aims to increase enjoyment of health-related rights by improving the quality of, access to, and demand for appropriate services in terms of health and sexual and reproductive rights for vulnerable and marginalized women and girl adolescents living in Benin, Burkina Faso, and Mali. Plurielles is a project implemented by a consortium made up of LWBC, CCISD, and SOCODEVI. It leverages a multidisciplinary approach, combining inclusive economic development, health, and human rights.



LWBC IN ACTION

Mali



Fighting sexual violence in Mali
(video in French)

This is a crucial resource for understanding the current situation in Mali and the challenges surrounding the truth, justice and reconciliation process initiated in the aftermath of the crisis in 2012.

Guatemala



The positive impact of voluntary cooperation in Guatemala
(English subtitles)

A look back on the volunteer assignment that contributed to securing justice for 15 women who were victims of sexual slavery during the armed conflict in Guatemala.

Haiti



The law as a means to empower women in Haiti (video in French)

The story of a feminist organization based in Haiti fighting to change the status of women.

Colombia



Defending human rights in Colombia (video in spanish)

A glimpse into the perilous day-to-day lives of the lawyers who strive to put a halt to impunity surrounding the serious violations committed during the armed conflict in Colombia.



Combatting human trafficking in Guatemala (video in spanish)

Delve into the work of human rights organizations in Guatemala investing their all into transforming their nation's future.

LWBC'S ACTIONS DURING THE PANDEMIC

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck globally, we joined forces with our partners to develop new ways to continue our work, and immediately intensified our advocacy and communication efforts for human rights in the context of the pandemic.

As such, as early as April 2, 2020, we released a statement on the importance of upholding the rule of law and human rights in times of crisis. In that statement, we recalled that while it is legitimate for States to implement restrictive measures to contain the effects of the pandemic on public health, States are not relieved of their obligation to respect and guarantee respect for human rights on their territory.

Our "State of Alert" series

We're continuing our work with our partners to ensure continued access to justice and protection of human rights during the pandemic: the right to health, gender equality, the fight against gender-based violence, the rights of LGBTI persons, the right to privacy, the rights of detainees, freedom of expression, the fight against human trafficking, and the protection of human rights defenders. Current challenges we're facing, and the legal principles that underpin our actions are described in our State of Alert series.

Special Report on "Access to Justice During a Pandemic"

All over the world, our teams and our partners have continued to fight for human rights and to make access to justice a reality. Several of our initiatives are highlighted in a special report on access to justice during the pandemic.

"Taking pride in commitment" Webinars

These initiatives also include a participatory component in the form of a series of webinars in three languages (English, French and Spanish), Taking pride in commitment, which features human rights defenders and highlights current challenges, including gender-based violence, the role of women in reconciliation and peace-making processes, human trafficking, and the crisis in Haiti.



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

EXCERPT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AUDITED BY MALETTE

Statement of operations

For the year ended March 31, 2021

	2021	2020
INCOME		
<i>Donor contributions to programs</i>	11 637 693 \$	14 065 201 \$
<i>Contributions in the form of services provided</i>	924 345	1 978 683
<i>Private funding</i>	237 225	165 434
<i>Public funding</i>	1 172 776	15 915
<i>Other</i>	14 236	43 069
	13 986 275	16 268 302
EXPENSES		
<i>Programs</i>	10 430 593	12 622 905
<i>Contributions in the form of services provided</i>	924 345	1 978 683
<i>Other projects and activities (development, awareness-raising and communication, administration)</i>	2 363 951	2 363 951
<i>Financing activities</i>	-	23 165
<i>Depreciation on fixed tangible assets</i>	14 444	9 422
	13 733 333	15 852 451
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	252 942 \$	



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

EXCERPT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AUDITED BY MALETTE

Balance Sheet

At March 31, 2021

	2021	2020
ASSETS		
Current assets	6 894 963 \$	6 564 669 \$
<i>Cash and cash equivalents</i>	<i>134 702</i>	<i>847 702</i>
<i>Debtors</i>	<i>473 752</i>	<i>547 996</i>
<i>Prepaid partner (project) expenses</i>	<i>433 787</i>	<i>26 435</i>
		7 986 802
FIXED TANGIBLE ASSETS	78 084	50 730
	7 608 263 \$	8 037 532 \$
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
<i>Operating liabilities</i>		<i>443 859</i>
<i>Deferred contributions</i>	<i>4 819 052</i>	<i>5 491 191</i>
	5 252 839	5 935 050
NET ASSETS	2 355 424	2 102 482
	7 608 263 \$	8 037 532 \$

Program partners



Partners without borders



Major partners



Sponsoring partners



Service partners

Work relations



Intellectual property



Legal information



Strategic planning



Brand identity



Communications and public relations



