

ACTION PLAN 2022



AVOCATS SANS FRONTIERES
France

Là où la défense n'a plus la parole

EDITO

Ambition and Innovation

Dear friends,

In order to best meet the needs of vulnerable populations, 2022 will be a year of innovation both in our approaches via the development of strategic partnerships to complement our expertise, and in our tools with the deployment of technological innovations in the service of fundamental rights. ASF France will continue to meet the global challenges of solidarity and to act to strengthen the rule of law by continuously evaluating the contexts in which it operates and by adapting its own actions to offer qualitative and innovative solutions.

In 2022, our priorities will again be to extend our support to civil society and to maximise the impact of solidarity for migrants, victims of sexual and gender-based violence, people deprived of their liberty, victims of torture, and environmental defenders who have been threatened, abducted or killed.



Vincent Fillola
Co-Chairman



Julien Pourquié Kessas
Co-Chairman

TESTIMONIES WITHOUT BORDERS

« The RESPECT project in Guinea has the particularity of combining applied research on fundamental rights through the production of thematic legal studies with complementary training activities for CSOs on issues of respect and protection of human rights and advocacy. These two components make it possible to accompany and better advise the beneficiaries of these trainings on specific aspects of advocacy, at a time when Guinea is undergoing a crucial political transition. »



Nordine Drici, Expert trainer for ASF France and Director of the expertise and consulting firm ND Consultance

« P2PR2P is a digital tool designed by the association Danaïdes specifically to optimise and secure the collective actions of civil society actors in complex or conflict zones. Its development is the result of field experiences, for example in Libya, Yemen and more recently in Chad. Beyond the promotion of human rights, for Danaïdes, the innovation lies in placing the rights and dignity of human beings at the centre of the design of this tool, which allows the technology to enhance their actions, without creating negative externalities. »



Stéphanie Lamy, co-Founder of Danaïdes

« The security crisis in Mali makes it all the more relevant to continue the fight against sexual violence. Victims are more exposed and need to be cared for, especially in regions affected by conflict. The aim of the JUGE project is to fight against the culture of impunity. In addition to legal assistance, it strongly advocates for the adoption of a specific text criminalising GBV, which is drastically lacking in the legislative arsenal. »



Françoise Bastien-Rabner, Magistrate and volunteer in charge of ASF France projects in Mali.

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL	PAGE 2
CONTENTS	PAGE 3
PRESENTATION	PAGE 4
OUR STORY	PAGE 5

OUR PROJECTS



NIGERIA

SAFE

Strengthening the national actor's capacities advocating for ending severe violations of human rights
PAGE 6

ProCAT

Fight against torture
PAGE 7



MALI

JUGE

Justice for survivors of gender-based violence
PAGE 8



CAMEROON

RECAJUD

Strengthening the capacity of Cameroonian civil society for access to justice for persons in detention
PAGE 9



GUINEA

PARAJ

Support project to strengthen access to justice for the most vulnerable people
PAGE 10

RESPECT

Reinforcing civil society capacities for an effective enforcement of human rights treaties and conventions
PAGE 11

FIGHT AGAINST GBV

PAGE 12



GUINEA AND IVORY COAST

IMPACT

Involvement of Digital Media for Active Prevention of Conflicts and Tensions
PAGE 13



GREECE

SAMOS LEGAL CENTRE

PAGE 14




HAITI

IMPLIC

Implication and participation of actors for the protection of detainees' rights
PAGE 15

PERSPECTIVES	PAGE 16
TRAINING COURSES THEY SUPPORT US	PAGE 17
ACT WITH US	PAGE 18
	PAGE 19



Created in 1998, Avocats Sans Frontières France (ASF France) is an international solidarity association that contributes to the respect of fundamental rights throughout the world, wherever it is useful and necessary. Our work is guided by 3 fundamental values which are at the heart of our actions: **Justice, Solidarity, Liberty**.

OUR 3 MISSIONS

PROMOTING access to law and fair justice for vulnerable people removed from it, arbitrarily detained or tortured;

DEFENDING anyone deprived of a free and independent defence as well as human rights defenders threatened or abused in the exercise of their functions;

STRENGTHENING the capacity to act and the autonomy of local actors in the defence and promotion of human rights (civil society and judicial actors).

OUR ACTION PLAN

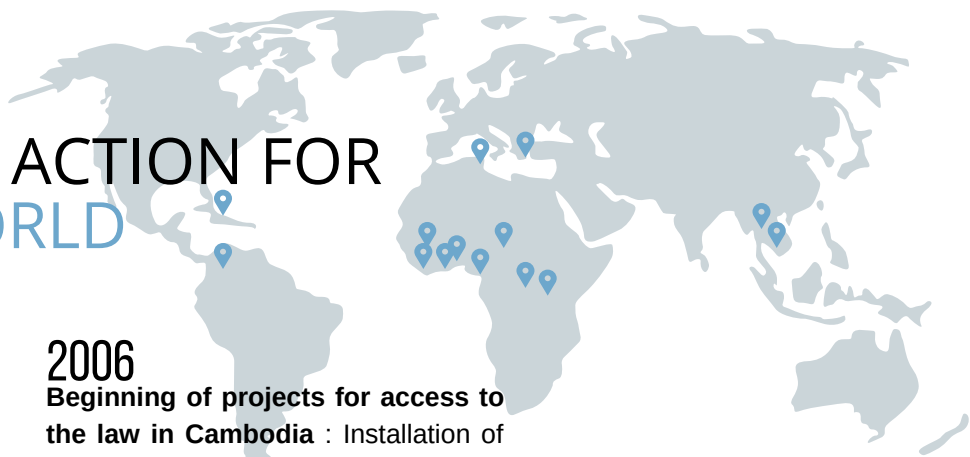
ASF France **defends, on a pro bono basis, any person whose fundamental rights are threatened and who is deprived of a free and independent defence**. We also intervene when a lawyer is subject to pressure related to his or her profession: threats, imprisonment, assassination. Beyond the lawyer's status, it is the citizen who is deprived of defence and therefore of justice.

ASF France aims to **promote the access to law**, which is why we participate in the implementation of legal aid and court systems. In this way, we work to provide the most vulnerable people with the protection of the law

where it does not exist: by providing legal services (itinerant or sedentary consultations), by reinforcing judicial systems, and by providing legal advice.

Finally, ASF France is committed to **strengthening the capacity to act and the autonomy of local actors** in the field of justice and the defence and promotion of human rights. To this end, we provide them with initial and ongoing training adapted to their needs and particular difficulties.

1998 - 2022: 23 YEARS OF ACTION FOR A FAIRER WORLD



1998

Creation of ASF France by François Cantier, attorney-at-law. Several lawyers, future members of ASF France, took part in the founding of the ASF France movement: "Justice for all in Rwanda", alongside ASF Belgium, by defending the accused and victims of the Rwandan genocide before the courts of that country.

1999

Legal aid project in Kosovo: defence of persons prosecuted for crimes against humanity or war crimes, and training of lawyers, judges and prosecutors on new international legal instruments.

2006

Beginning of projects for access to the law in Cambodia : Installation of lawyers in the country, training of judicial staff, access to justice for the citizens and defence of Khmer Rouge victims before the Extraordinary chambers in the Court of Cambodia (ECT).



2016

Two new projects : in Chad, for the defence of women and minors in prison and victims of ill-treatment; in Côte d'Ivoire for the support of human rights defenders, harassed or threatened because of their engagement.

2008

Beginning of collaboration with ASF Mali for the defence of unjustly detained persons, with training for actors in the penal chain on international human rights protection tools.



2004

Beginning of the intervention in Nigeria : fight against the death penalty and for the eradication of torture in places of detention. In 2020, ASF France would extend its intervention to the issues of extrajudicial executions and arbitrary detention.

2014

Project to combat homophobia in Cameroon, allowing for the sensitisation and training of the media, religious authorities and actors in the criminal justice system in the protection of the rights of LGBTI persons, while ensuring the defence of the latter before the national courts.

2018

Start of two projects dedicated specifically to women's rights and gender-based violence, first in the province of Battambang in Cambodia, then in 2019 in Mali.

2015

Defence of refugees rights in Calais. In 2019, ASF France creates the Samos Legal Centre in Greece, in order to guarantee the fundamental rights of asylum-seekers.

2021

Three missions are carried out in Iraqi Kurdistan and Rojava (Syrian Kurdistan) where nearly 200 French children and 80 French women are currently still detained. **ASF France starts activities in the Republic of Guinea** relating to access to law and support for civil society.



STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL ACTORS' CAPACITIES AND ADVOCATING FOR ENDING SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

PROJECT DURATION

3 years (2019-2022)

FUNDERS

European Union • Agence Française de Développement

Victims of death sentences and their families often expect a miracle from us. My experience of providing legal aid to people on death row is one of hope.

Angela Uwandu Uzoma-Iwuchukwu, Head of ASF France Office in Nigeria

CONTEXT

Torture, ill-treatment, arbitrary detention and extrajudicial executions are common practices by state officials in Nigeria. Police personnel regularly carry out summary executions of persons accused or suspected of crimes, use torture as a primary means of investigation, and carry out extortion on an almost systematic basis. In addition, state security agencies also resort to arbitrary detentions, often justified by the fight against Boko Haram, which are also used against human rights defenders, leaders of civil society organisations or journalists, in violation of the national Freedom of Information Act. Torture by police officers or other state security services is also a major problem and "torture chambers", special rooms where suspects are tortured during interrogation, have been identified in police sections in various states. The impunity of these actions leads to a lack of confidence by the Nigerian people in the ability of the police to protect them: they are seen as the enemy of the people.

OBJECTIVES

Strengthen the capacity of national actors to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish serious human rights violations committed by state security agencies.

Recognise the responsibility of state security agencies for serious human rights violations, and obtain redress for victims through the strengthening of the Nigerian Bar Association's pro bono legal aid programme.

Undertake advocacy to influence public policy, social attitudes and political processes regarding gross human rights violations by state security agencies.

ACTIONS IN 2022

Training of state security officers in better human rights practices.

Legal assistance by qualified lawyers to litigate cases of serious human rights violations committed by the police.

Petitions to international human rights bodies on symbolic cases.

Roundtables to propose solutions to serious human rights violations.

Consultation between the police and CSOs to define strategies to improve the respect of human rights by the police.

Advocacy with the heads of state security agencies and key actors in the judicial system.

Raising awareness of serious human rights violations committed by the police, the fight against impunity and the rights of victims.

TECHNICAL PARTNERS

The **Nigerian Bar Association** (NBA) is a professional association made up of all registered lawyers at the Nigerian Bar. It has an observer status at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and a partnership with many national and international NGOs concerned with human rights, rule of law and good governance in Nigeria and Africa in general.



The **Carmelite Prisoners' Interest Organisation** (CAPIO) was established in 1992 to defend the rights, needs and dignity of prisoners. It promotes true justice through advocacy and promotion to raise awareness of these issues among the general population.



PROCAT

FIGHT AGAINST TORTURE

PROJECT DURATION

1 year (2022)

FUNDERS

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture • German Federal Foreign Office

Even if ASF France obtains redress for victims, perpetrators must be prosecuted. The anti-torture law enacted in 2017, which provides for up to 14 years' imprisonment for security officers convicted of torture, has yet to be implemented, and the culture of impunity continues.

Angela Uwandu Uzoma-Iwuchukwu, Head of ASF France Office in Nigeria

CONTEXT

Although Nigeria ratified the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT) in 2001 and enacted a law prohibiting torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment at the end of 2017, there are many obstacles to its effective implementation. Torture is widespread in Nigeria and systematically used by security forces during interrogations.

This practice is made possible by a double shortcoming: access to justice on the one hand and impunity for the perpetrators on the other. Police violence, arbitrary or abusive detentions, and cruel sentences are not countered either by lawyers or by the population, which is poorly informed of its rights, poorly defended and distrustful of the judicial authorities.



OBJECTIVES

Contribute to the reduction of torture throughout the judicial chain.

Improve access to justice and legal services for victims of torture.

Strengthen the knowledge and skills of judicial authorities.

Promote a better knowledge and application of the principles of the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT).

ACTION IN 2022

Free legal aid for victims of torture or ill-treatment at various stages of the judicial process.

TECHNICAL PARTNERS

The **National Human Rights Commission** (NHRC) serves as an extrajudicial mechanism that protects the human rights of the Nigerian people. It monitors human rights compliance, assists victims of violations and supports the Nigerian government in the implementation of human rights policies.



The **Nigerian Bar Association** (NBA) is a professional association made up of all lawyers registered with the Nigerian Bar Association. It has an observer status at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and a partnership with many national and international NGOs concerned with human rights, rule of law and good governance in Nigeria and Africa in general.



JUGE

JUSTICE FOR SURVIVORS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

PROJECT DURATION

2 years (2020-2022)

FUNDERS

European Union • Agence Française de Développement

It is about helping minorities such as women and girls to get their rights. The school environment is very much affected by the phenomenon of rape. Often, boys rape girls collectively or alone. And even often, it is the teachers who abuse girls in exchange for good grades. I call on the authorities and parents to educate children in the sense of responsibility and respect.

Bengali Mahawa Guindo, WiLDAF paralegal and trainer during sensitisations in high schools

CONTEXT

Since January 2012, Mali has been affected by a multidimensional crisis that is political, institutional, security, humanitarian, identity-based, territorial and socio-cultural. In this disturbed and complex context, Mali has become a place where the law of the strongest has replaced the rule of law: integrity threatened, military coup and serious human rights violations. The security situation has deteriorated sharply, with a significant increase in serious human rights violations to the detriment of the most vulnerable populations. This observation echoes the fate of Malian women in the country, who are massively victims of physical violence committed in the domestic and public sphere, sexual violence in the form of assault, mutilation or forced marriage, and psychological violence. Gender-based violence (GBV) is systemic and culturally embedded in Mali. According to EDSM-VI 2018 (Enquête Démographique et de Santé-Mali, 2018), half of women (49%) aged 15-49 in union or in a broken union have experienced emotional, psychological, physical and sexual violence at any time in their lives.

OBJECTIVES

Support women survivors of GBV to benefit from a holistic and adequate management of their case, leading to the conviction of the alleged perpetrators and the reparation of their damages.

Conduct advocacy, monitoring and awareness-raising activities to influence public policies and social attitudes regarding the respect of women's rights and GBV.

ACTIONS IN 2022

Second capacity building session for ASF Mali and WiLDAF members in Ségou and Mopti on GBV training techniques.

Training of actors of the penal chain, doctors and training organisations on GBV and SGBV.

Holistic management of identified cases of GBV.

Promotion of pro bono assistance from lawyers.

Strengthening the legal knowledge of paralegals, journalists and community and religious leaders on GBV and SGBV.

Advocacy actions in order to strengthen the legal framework by adopting a text criminalising GBV, and to regulate the paralegal profession.

Raising awareness about GBV, particularly among women.

TECHNICAL PARTNERS

Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF) Mali, a member of a large pan-African network, is dedicated to promoting and strengthening strategies that link law to development in order to increase women's participation and influence for the emergence of a culture of exercise and respect of women's rights in Africa.



Avocats Sans Frontières Mali is a human rights association whose objective is to ensure the defence of public and private freedoms, human and people's rights and the defence of the moral interests and essential principles of the legal profession.



RECAJUD

CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE CAMEROONIAN CIVIL SOCIETY FOR DETAINEES' ACCESS TO JUSTICE

PROJECT DURATION

19 months (2020-2022)

FUNDERS

Crisis and Support Centre of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs • French Embassy in Cameroon

We encourage the government to sign the implementation decree on alternative sentencing. Our prisons are overcrowded, it is time for Cameroon to be a country of human rights. I am very satisfied with this training where we were able to share between actors of the penal chain. By evolving together, we can make Cameroon's justice system free of any vice.

Pauline MAFO BOUGANG, lawyer and member of ASF Cameroon

CONTEXT

Prison overcrowding is a major challenge in Cameroon. This worrying situation is linked to the narrowness of the premises, the high number of detainees, the slowness of procedures and the increased repression by the prosecuting authorities. In order to fight against prison overcrowding and poor detention conditions, Law 2016-7 of 12 July 2016 introduced alternative sentences in the Cameroonian Penal Code. The Minister of Justice, Laurent Esso, highlighted the role of alternative sentences in relieving prison overcrowding, but also in supporting prisoners towards reintegration and resocialisation. However, Article 26, relating to community service, refers the definition of the conditions of application to an additional text that has not yet been promulgated. The law is therefore unenforceable in practice. In this context, the situation of the most vulnerable - notably LGBTI persons, women and minors - is of concern. Indeed, these are the first categories of population to suffer the setbacks of prison overcrowding and difficult prison conditions. They are generally unaware of their rights and assume that their living conditions are in line with their status as prisoners.

OBJECTIVES

Provide appropriate legal assistance to prisoners, especially those in vulnerable situations, by adequately trained members of the penal chain.

Reopen the dialogue on the effective application of alternative sentences between the different actors involved in the protection of the rights of persons deprived of their liberty.

ACTIONS IN 2022

Legal assistance to the most vulnerable prisoners.

Advocacy for the application of alternative sentences with policy makers.



TECHNICAL PARTNERS

The **Réseau Camerounais des Organisations des Droits de l'Homme (RECODH)** works for the promotion and protection of human rights and governance. Its members work towards a single goal: the cultivation of human rights in Cameroon.



Avocats Sans Frontières Cameroon's mission is to contribute to the effective application of universally recognised human rights, to work wherever necessary for the establishment or restoration of the rule of law, the judicial institution and especially the right to a fair trial and an effective defence..





SUPPORT PROJECT TO STRENGTHEN ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE

PROJECT DURATION

30 months (2020-2023)

FUNDER

Delegation of the European Union to Guinea

It is a pleasure and an honour for us to work on the PARAJ project. We have a good knowledge of the field, especially of the judicial system as a whole and of court procedures. Working with large international institutions such as ASF France and COGINTA will help our organisation to grow further in project management.

Foromo Frédéric Loua, Executive Director of MDT in Conakry and lawyer at the Guinean Bar

CONTEXT

Three Legal Clinics (CJ) were set up by civil society, in particular the Guinean Organisation for the Defence of Human and Citizen's Rights (OGDH) and Les Mêmes Droits pour Tous (MDT), in Conakry and N'Zérékoré in 2015, and Kankan in 2017. Their mission is to provide free legal aid services and improve access to justice in these localities. However, due to a lack of human and material resources, these clinics are unable to meet the growing demand for legal aid from the increasingly overcrowded courts and prisons.

In addition, political instability and the COVID-19 pandemic have created additional pressure on prisons and vulnerable inmates.

Finally, there is no coordination between these Legal Clinics and the local justice actions of the Maisons de Justice (MJ) under the supervision of the Ministry of Justice. Thus, PARAJ aims to perpetuate the actions of the Legal Clinics and the Houses of Justice, and to strengthen their links, in order to guarantee a more effective, holistic and inclusive concept of community justice, and to allow for a greater geographical coverage.

OBJECTIVE

Support CSOs in consolidating the rule of law by strengthening access to justice for vulnerable people and combating impunity in the Republic of Guinea.

ACTIONS IN 2022

Training activities for local legal actors on the human rights necessary to support vulnerable people and mastering techniques for receiving the public.



TECHNICAL PARTNERS

COGINTA is an international organisation specialising in security and judicial governance, social cohesion and the rule of law.



The **Organisation Guinéenne de Défense des Droits de l'Homme et du Citoyen** (OGDH) provides judicial support to victims of serious human rights violations in Guinea, fights against impunity and for national reconciliation.



Mêmes Droits pour Tous (MDT) is an NGO for the defence and promotion of human rights that was founded in 2004 by Guinean lawyers and young legal professionals with the aim of fighting against human rights violations in Guinea.



RESPECT

REINFORCING CIVIL SOCIETY CAPACITIES FOR AN EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES AND CONVENTIONS

PROJECT DURATION

18 months (2021-2022)

FUNDER

Delegation of the European Union to Guinea

The project has the particularity of combining applied research on fundamental rights with complementary training activities on issues of respect and protection of human rights, and national, regional and international advocacy. At a time when Guinea is undergoing a crucial political transition with the rebuilding of state institutions and the rewriting of the Constitution, these two components of the project enable the beneficiaries, CSOs and media professionals, to be accompanied on specific aspects of advocacy in the field of fundamental rights.

Nordine Drici, Expert trainer for ASF France

CONTEXT

The RESPECT project is the result of a consultation carried out by ASF France with Guinean civil society and the partners supporting it, which made it possible to draw up a precise map of past and current actions, to analyse the expertise and needs of civil society organisations (CSOs) and thus to identify specific needs. This process led to the definition of an intervention strategy to allow a precise knowledge of the evolution of human rights and to support civil society and achieve significant changes in the respect of human rights by the State. This project also echoes a human rights agenda punctuated by heightened political tensions and Guinea's UPR, which began in January 2020. Through the establishment of joint trainings for CSOs acting in isolation, the CSO network will be strengthened in its technical skills, visibility and impact on the population and stakeholders.

OBJECTIVES

- Ensure** close monitoring of human rights violations in Guinea in a context weakened by a political crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Set up** a monitoring and analysis of the evolution of the human rights situation in Guinea aggravated by the pandemic.
- Strengthen** the capacities of Guinean civil society in research and advocacy with national, international and UN authorities.

ACTIONS IN 2022

- Capacity building of 125 human rights defenders** representing 63 civil society organisations.
- Accurate monitoring and documentation** of human rights developments in the country, including the dissemination and publication of specific studies and analyses.



LUTTE CONTRE LES VBG

PROJECT DURATION

6 months (2021-2022)

FUNDER

Department of Cooperation and Cultural Action (SCAC) of the French Embassy in Guinea

This project to combat violence against women focuses on legal support for victims of GBV, but will also be used to produce a diagnostic study. For our actions to promote women's rights to be successful, people must be equipped, informed and sensitised.

Alsensy Sall, OGDH spokesperson

CONTEXT

Worldwide, 35% of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence at least once from an intimate partner, or sexual violence from another person. This figure does not include sexual harassment (according to UN Women). In the Republic of Guinea, real progress has been made on women's rights and gender equality through programmes and projects implemented by the government, development partners, NGOs and feminist civil society organisations. However, these face many institutional and socio-cultural obstacles. The situation of women is still marked by limited access to social services and productive resources, limited participation in decision-making processes at all levels and little recognition of their rights. According to the 2017 National GBV Survey report, 80.2% of women aged 15-64 have experienced emotional, psychological, physical or sexual violence at least once at any time in their lives. Thus, the project to fight GBV in Guinea proposes capacity building and support to the two partner organizations to ensure the sustainability of their projects by allowing the actors of the penal chain as well as the NGOs for the protection of women's rights to put into practice the knowledge acquired during the trainings and to raise awareness in the media about women's rights issues

OBJECTIVE

Strengthen legal and judicial support for victims of GBV.

ACTIONS IN 2022

Training activity for women's rights NGOs and actors in the criminal justice system to combat sexual crimes and GBV.

Free legal consultations for victims of GBV and management of GBV cases.



TECHNICAL PARTNERS

The **Organisation Guinéenne de Défense des Droits de l'Homme et du Citoyen** (OGDH) provides judicial support to victims of serious human rights violations in Guinea, fights against impunity and for national reconciliation.



Mêmes Droits pour Tous (MDT) is an NGO for the defence and promotion of human rights that was founded in 2004 by Guinean lawyers and young legal professionals with the aim of fighting against human rights violations in Guinea.



IMPACT

INVOLVEMENT OF DIGITAL MEDIA FOR ACTIVE PREVENTION OF CONFLICTS AND TENSIONS

PROJECT DURATION

24 months (2022-2024)

FUNDER

Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) of the Delegation of the European Union to Senegal

Beyond being a vast network of change agents, AfricTivistes is convinced of the role and impact that the use of digital technologies can play in active conflict prevention in Africa.

Cheikh Fall, President of AfricTivistes

CONTEXT

The IMPACT project was born out of the need to strengthen the positive role of civil society in West Africa, including digital media, in conflict prevention in order to participate more globally in the consolidation of a sustainable peace. IMPACT supports civil society in maximising the potential of media (traditional, community, social) on conflict dynamics so that they contribute to building and consolidating sustainable peace in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea. In this sense, the project considers that civil society must be able to play a central role in conflict prevention and must benefit from capacity building to this end. The activities implemented are complementary and will aim to analyse the role of the media in the coverage of conflicts and encourage the creation of synergies to support exchange and experience, to strengthen the capacities of the media by equipping them with tools to maximise their potential, and finally to mobilise the media and civil society actors against hate speech and in favour of dialogue processes.

OBJECTIVE

Strengthen the positive role of civil society, including digital media, in conflict prevention.

ACTIONS IN 2022

Inventory of applicable standards, current practices and risks on the theme of "media and conflict prevention", followed by a workshop to share good practices.

Follow-up workshops to strengthen the exchange and synergies between partners.

Creation of a secure and collaborative platform to prevent conflicts generated on online media.

Capacity building activity for media on ethical, responsible and balanced conflict reporting.


Training for digital media on combating hate messages and misleading information.

Implementation of actions to promote fact-checking and media self-regulation


Training of citizen journalists in peri-urban areas.


Raising awareness of citizen journalists on hate and misleading information through multiform content.

TECHNICAL PARTNERS

Danaïdes is an NGO that develops communication tools and channels for the protection of civilians in danaïdes.org countries in conflict. 

AfricTivistes is a pan-African network of bloggers and web-activists whose ambition is to promote democratic values, human rights and good governance through digital media. 

The **Association des Blogueurs de Guinée (ABLOGUI)** federates Guinean bloggers and web activists in order to promote citizen participation in the building of democracy. 

The **Réseau des Professionnels de la Presse en Ligne de Côte d'Ivoire (REPPRELICI)** is an umbrella organisation for the Ivorian digital media that aims to promote the online press in Côte d'Ivoire. 



SAMOS LEGAL CENTRE

PROJECT DURATION

Since January 2019

FUNDERS

Choose Love • Yo et Anne-Marie Hamoud Foundation • Solidaritee • Antonis Schwartz/Good Move Initiatives • Endowment fund for the Paris Bar Association solidarity

I was given a warm welcome to your office and the way you spoke to me helped me to understand why my case was rejected. Something that I really appreciated was your honesty, you told me my chances were 50-50 and that you could not promise me anything. This helped me to stay in good mental health. Now that I received refugee status, my life has changed. I want to reunite with my beloved wife and my son. I want to provide the best for them. I have a job now and a house and I will start the procedure for family reunification.

N. (from Cameroon), project beneficiary

CONTEXT

Samos, an island in the Aegean Sea, is located opposite the Turkish coast. Its geographical location makes it one of the main entry points for asylum seekers travelling through Turkey to seek international protection in Europe. In response to the significant lack of legal assistance on the island, ASF France opened the Samos Legal Centre to provide legal support to asylum seekers who are geographically restricted in Samos.

With the opening of a new "controlled closed" camp in September 2021, the first of its kind in the EU, many organisations have left Samos, making the Samos Legal Centre one of the only independent legal actors on the island. The team of Greek lawyers and international and community volunteers works in cooperation with local actors and partners to ensure that access to justice and the right to seek asylum is protected.

OBJECTIVE

Protect the fundamental rights of asylum seekers by providing them with legal assistance.



@We Are One

ACTIONS IN 2022

Information and judicial advice on the asylum procedure and legal support throughout the different steps in the asylum process.

Interview preparation and accompaniment at the main asylum interview.

Drafting and submission of cases before appeals committees.

Identification and orientation for those with particular vulnerabilities.

Information and advice workshops about the asylum procedure.

Support with family reunification procedures.

Preparation and submission of applications for reconsideration.

Submission of requests for interim measures before the ECtHR for extremely vulnerable asylum seekers.

TECHNICAL PARTNERS

Samos Volunteers is a volunteer movement offering asylum seekers informal education, hygiene services and psychosocial support.



Refugee Law Clinic Berlin is a student association offering free and independent legal advice to migrants in Berlin and Samos.



The **International Rescue Committee** is an organisation that responds to the worst humanitarian crises and helps people to survive and rebuild their lives.



Human Rights Lawyer Project -founded in 2020 in Samos by humanitarian workers- has established a legal referral channel for asylum seekers and refugees who wish to file a complaint or seek legal assistance when they have been victims of a human rights violation.



IMPLIC

IMPLICATION AND PARTICIPATION OF ACTORS FOR THE PROTECTION OF DETAINEES' RIGHTS

PROJECT DURATION

28 months (2020-2023)

FUNDER

Delegation of the European Union to Haiti

The Haitian judicial system is not spared from the institutional weakness that characterises the Haitian public administration. Access to justice is a luxury and thousands of people are detained in irregular conditions, suffering the perverse and irreversible effects of prolonged pre-trial detention. There is also the problem of the quality of legal assistance available. This service is often provided by inexperienced lawyers with very limited resources.

Marc-Daly Joassaint, IMPLIC Project Manager

CONTEXT

Prison overcrowding in Haiti leads to inhumane conditions of detention. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, this is mainly due to the high number of arbitrary arrests and the frequent use of preventive detention. In 2021, prolonged pre-trial detention accounted for 82% of detainees at the national level. The legal framework has been enriched in recent years through the ratification of international conventions and treaties on the rights of detainees, the adoption of progressive laws on detention conditions, and the adoption by presidential decree of a new penal code and a new penal procedure code, which should come into force in June 2022. However, dysfunctions persist in the judicial system, notably due to the lack of knowledge and the non-application of the rules of law by the actors in the criminal chain and citizens.

The absence of checks and balances also undermines the establishment of a permanent rule of law: since January 2020, President Jovenel Moïse, who was assassinated in July 2021, has governed by decree. This event further disrupts the already extremely alarming security climate. The current situation of the Covid-19 pandemic has only made the situation worse. These crises are taking place against the backdrop of a growing security crisis. For several months, armed gangs have been taking over parts of the capital, preventing the population from moving around and enjoying their freedom of movement. Also subjecting the population to systemic violence that is beyond the reach of law enforcement and the interim government, insecurity continues to rage with kidnappings becoming more frequent. In addition, Haiti is regularly subject to natural disasters and suffered a particularly destructive earthquake in August 2021.



OBJECTIVES

Contribute to the strengthening of the rule of law and the respect of human rights in Haiti.

Contribute to the defence and protection of the rights of persons deprived of their liberty through the involvement and participation of national actors in Haiti

ACTIONS IN 2022

Training sessions for CSOs and human rights defenders on the defence and protection of the civil and political rights of persons deprived of their liberty.

Legal assistance activities for persons deprived of their liberty in order to promote access to the law and to justice for persons deprived of their liberty.

Training sessions for actors in the Haitian criminal justice system.

Production of awareness-raising tools for the general public with the creation of video clips, plays and artistic exhibitions on the rights of people deprived of their liberty.

Creation of a sustainable tool: a guide to good practice for legal assistance actors.

TECHNICAL PARTNER

The **Collectif d'Avocat-e-s Spécialisé-e-s en Litige Stratégique des Droits Humains (CALSDH)** is a Haitian organisation working for better protection of human rights in Haiti. It aims to bring emblematic cases before national and international courts that can have an impact on society.



PERSPECTIVES

HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The exercise of certain rights guaranteed by international, regional and national treaties and conventions can be compromised by environmental degradation and exposure to environmental risks.

On 8 October 2021, the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted a resolution recognising the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as an important human right.

Similarly, in the name of the right to a healthy environment, a European jurisprudence specifically dedicated to the violation of several articles of the ECHR, such as the right to property, the right to life, the prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment, or the right to liberty and security, seems to emerge.

Among these environmental human rights, the right of access to environmental justice has a special place.

At a time when the world is experiencing a climate crisis, will regional and/or international courts be able to force States to speed up the fight against climate change? What are the prospects for climate litigation?

The relationship between human rights and corporate litigation can be approached from two different angles: obtaining compensation from companies responsible for violating fundamental rights, for the violations suffered, or establishing disputes based on international human rights law requiring states to prevent and punish human rights violations.

What role for civil society? What responsibility of states? What responsibility of companies? Civil society organisations are in a unique position to achieve significant changes in the promotion and respect of human rights by companies and states.

In this context, ASF France wishes to support civil society and human rights and environmental defenders who work to protect the environment and defend minorities.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Covid-19 pandemic has not spared West Africa where many people have lost their livelihoods making them vulnerable to human trafficking. For example, in Nigeria, young people and children have been particularly affected: out of school and locked in their homes due to multiple confinements, they have spent more and more time on social networks making them prime targets for traffickers.

Indeed, modern communication technologies have had a considerable impact on the modus operandi of criminal groups involved in national and international human trafficking (including sexual exploitation, forced labour, organ removal, illegal child adoption and early marriages). Today, the Internet is used on a large scale by traffickers to disseminate false information and to recruit victims for exploitation.

In this context, ASF France wishes to engage with civil society and the authorities in order to prevent human trafficking on the one hand, and to achieve significant changes in the respect of human rights in Nigeria on the other.



TRAINING COURSES



OUR TRAINING DEPARTMENT

In the current context and in the face of the challenges posed to the defence of human rights, all the volunteer experts of ASF France are mobilised at your side to increase the power of action of civil society and actors in the judicial system and the promotion of human rights. Through training, we pass on our experience, our skills and our 20 years of practice in the defence of human rights.

Training courses are open to all: lawyers, legal practitioners, students, associations, institutions...

All profits are dedicated to the actions of ASF France.

All our training courses are in the process of being certified by Qualiopi and approved by the CNB and can be taken in charge in the framework of continuing education.

A UNIQUE NETWORK OF EXPERTS

Our training centre works in France with bar associations, training centres, law schools and also with international criminal courts such as the ICC. Our training courses are supported by the international cooperation of States and their organisations such as the UN and the EU.

Our trainers constitute a unique network of experts, field actors and legal practitioners, with a high level of technical and methodological skills. Thanks to the training they provide, they are able to finance the activities of ASF France.



6 MODULES TO DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS

The right to asylum	The rights of persons deprived of their liberty	The rights of women victims of gender-based violence (GBV)	Implementation of international and regional legal instruments for the protection of human rights	Defence before international and regional courts	Training of Trainers - Fundamentals and/or Reinforcement
---------------------	---	--	---	--	--

[Find the dates of the training courses on our website and our social medias](#)

Contact:
formations@avocatssansfrontières-france.org
05 34 31 17 83

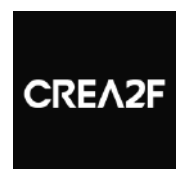
THEY SUPPORT US

The missions of ASF France would not exist without the constant support of our partners. We are particularly proud of our long-standing partners who have written the history of ASF France with us, but also of those who have joined us more recently: in addition to supporting us financially, they all share our vision and our values.

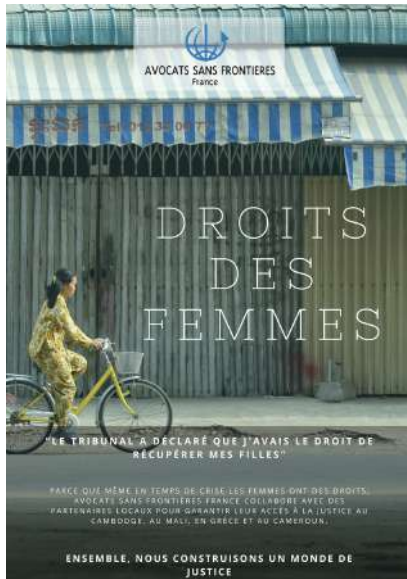
FUNDERS & INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS



PRIVATE PARTNERS & PATRONAGE



ACT WITH US



YOUR SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL FOR OUR ACTION!

Since its creation, ASF France and its partners have strengthened the effective application of human rights in 25 countries, and provided access to justice for more than 40,000 people. In 2021, the health crisis has become a social crisis, and inequalities are growing. **Help us to remain on the front line to support the most vulnerable!**

Your donations allow us to develop our projects, ensure emergency actions, strengthen our teams, perpetuate our actions, increase our visibility and extend our strategy. By supporting Avocats Sans Frontières France, you contribute to the protection of human rights throughout the world. **You give us the means to act. For all that you allow us to do, thank you!**

YOUR DONATIONS IN ACTION



50€

a refugee
receives legal
support
in Samos

800€

a day
of free legal
consultations in
a detention
centre

3000€

a woman
victim of GBV
receives legal
aid

8500€

20 local legal actors
are trained in
the promotion
and respect of
human rights

ARE YOU AN COMPANY, A FOUNDATION ?

You can commit to us in different ways, our team is at your disposal to define a personalized partnership with you.

Contact **Matthias Cougnaud**

05 34 31 17 83

developpement@

avocatssansfrontieres-france.org



Thanks to its support, ASF France has strengthened the effective implementation of human rights in 25 countries since 1998

Benin	Guinea	Peru
Burkina Faso	Greece	DRC
Burundi	Haiti	Russia
Cambodia	Kosovo	Rwanda
Cameroon	Laos	Senegal
Colombia	Libya	Tanzania
Congo	Mali	Chad
Ivory Coast	Nigeria	Tunisia
Gabon		

« Supporting ASF France, it is supporting the fight for the fair causes, those where not only freedom, but sometimes life itself is at stake » **ROBERT BADINTER**



TOGETHER, LET'S BUILD A WORLD OF JUSTICE!

I MAKE A DONATION TO ASF FRANCE



Did you know it ? By making a donation to ASF France, you can benefit of a tax relief. Thus : 66% of the amount of your donation can be reduced from your income tax, within the limit of the 20% taxable income.

I want to bring a one-time support

30 € 50 € 100 € Other amount :€

Please enclose a bank or postal check payable to ASF France

I want to provide regular support by direct debit

From the (JJ/MM/AAAA) I authorise ASF to debit my account:

Each Year : 30 € 50 € 100 € Other amount :€

Each month : 30 € 50 € 100 € Other amount :€

Please complete the direct debit authorisation form and return it to ASF France, enclosing a bank account number

Name of the holder to be debited.....

Name and address of the Bank :

BANK CODE	COUNTER CODE	N° OF THE ACCOUNT	RIB KEY
---	---	-----	---

First Name and Name or Name of the organism :

Address :

Postal Code:Town:

E-mail address :

Date :

Signature :

Please return this form to ASF France: 13 rue des Fleurs - 31000 TOULOUSE

CUT OUT



Avocats Sans Frontières France

13 rue des Fleurs

31000 Toulouse - France

Tel. +33 (0)5 34 31 17 83

www.avocatssansfrontieres-france.org

Keep up to date with our latest news!



AVOCATS SANS FRONTIERES
France

Là où la défense n'a plus la parole