

Annual Report 2024



human security collective

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Foreword

Dear Reader,

The year 2024 marked a pivotal juncture in global politics and international cooperation. With over 60 countries heading to the polls, the world witnessed a surge in right-wing populism, driven by public frustration with establishment politics and a growing disconnect between political elites and the everyday realities of citizens.

It was also the year of the fracturing of the world order. As wars continued in Gaza and Ukraine, the selective application of international law by major powers became increasingly visible. Many of the same countries imposing sanctions on Russia were simultaneously providing arms to Israel during its genocidal war against Gaza, exposing troubling double standards and weakening the legitimacy of the post-World War II international order. A move to a multipolar world order is currently underway with uncertainty about the significance of the geopolitical shakeout for human security across the globe.

In terms of the nonprofit sector that we work in, populist governments are typically inward looking, and we see the result in cuts to international aid budgets. The pace, scale, and scope of these reductions have been deeply destabilizing, particularly for smaller and local civil society organizations. While a critical rethinking of the aid system is long overdue, the abruptness of these changes has left many organizations—and the communities they serve—without lifelines.

At Human Security Collective, these evolving realities have only reinforced the urgency of our work. In 2024, our Inclusive Leadership Programme, as part of the Civic Horizons initiative, engaged young people in Jordan, Libya, Tunisia, Lebanon, Morocco, and Iraq in dialogue and action on human security in increasingly volatile contexts. In the Netherlands, under the Move 4 Human Rights, and Time 4 Your Future (Maatschappelijke Diensttijd) projects, students from applied sciences universities explored pressing societal issues such as polarization, migration, and security, using participatory action research to connect policy to community experience. These efforts aim not only to build awareness, but also to amplify youth voices in shaping inclusive national and municipal security policies.

We have begun gathering results from our work under the Stability Partnership Programme with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Through this initiative, we addressed the root causes of violent conflict and extremism in several countries across Africa and the Middle East. Together with our partners, we supported the development of preventive strategies in multi-stakeholder settings—bringing together communities, civil society, and security actors.

Looking ahead, a new long-term Peace and Security project, led by the Dutch INGO Mensen met een Missie, provides us with a valuable opportunity to deepen this work. We will collaborate with community-based and civil society organizations in Eastern Congo, Burundi, South Sudan, and Uganda—countries that have experienced long-standing and deeply rooted domestic and regional conflicts.

At the global policy level, HSC continues to co-lead efforts to safeguard the operating space of civil society. Our work on the counter-terrorism financing standards set by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)—standards that profoundly impact nonprofit regulation, access to finance, and operational legitimacy—remains a central pillar of our mission. As co-chair of the Global NPO Coalition on FATF, we partner with organizations worldwide to counter the misuse and misapplication of FATF standards, which continue to shrink civic space under the guise of financial integrity. Through research and advocacy, and multi-stakeholder dialogue, HSC engages governments, financial institutions, FATF-style regional bodies, and regulators to ensure that financial integrity frameworks do not undermine human rights, peacebuilding, and humanitarian action. These efforts are especially urgent in light of the increasing use of targeted financial sanctions which often impede legitimate nonprofit activity.

In a time of profound global transformation—marked by war, shifting power dynamics, the climate crisis, and the rapid evolution of artificial intelligence—HSC remains committed to its mission: to strengthen human security and promote a more just and inclusive world. We are honoured to work alongside partners and communities who are confronting the most entrenched challenges of our time with courage and resilience. Their leadership and voices guide our efforts every day. We are also thankful for the support of our donors and supervisory board members for their continued and strong commitment to our work.



Who we are



Human Security Collective (HSC) is a foundation based in The Hague, dedicated to addressing development, security, and citizen engagement in communities. At HSC, our work is guided by the concept of Human Security, a holistic framework that prioritizes the well-being of individuals, fosters strong relationships within communities, and addresses the root causes of insecurity.

We facilitate conversations between civil society, policy makers and other actors to collectively advocate for alternative approaches to security that prioritize human rights and community well-being. Our goal is to foster a safer, more inclusive world in which people are able to speak, connect, associate and assemble freely and fearlessly.

Inclusive Leadership for Human Security



In our pursuit of Inclusive Leadership for Human Security, we envision a world where all individuals, regardless of their background or circumstances, have the opportunity to actively participate in shaping resilient and safe communities. Our commitment extends to fostering safe spaces where women, youth, and marginalized groups can explore their potential and contribute meaningfully to addressing complex social challenges. Through collaboration and dialogue, these individuals are empowered to play an integral role in identifying and implementing innovative solutions to pressing human security issues. Additionally, we strive to connect them with key stakeholders and policy makers across society to generate innovative ideas for addressing evolving social issues. Our efforts aim to cultivate inclusive leadership that embraces diversity and promotes collective action for a safer and more secure world.

In 2024, HSC continued its commitment to strengthening civic space through the **Civic Horizons** program. This project aims to cultivate an enabling civic space in Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon. Through facilitation and support, we have created spaces for civil society organisations and local communities to collaborate on addressing human security challenges through participatory action research and community-led initiatives.

At the heart of our mission in this program is the belief that local communities must be at the forefront of driving change. In 2024, this approach led to the successful implementation of 16 initiatives across the region, each designed to address human security challenges while promoting greater civic engagement, human rights awareness, and resilience.

Building on participatory research conducted in 2023, communities and civil society actors co-developed and launched 16 initiatives across the region in 2024. These initiatives translated research insights into tangible solutions, tackling issues such as environmental sustainability, youth empowerment, and the protection of cultural heritage.



Farmers in Mosul transforming animal waste into organic fertilizer as part of a Civic Horizons initiative, promoting sustainable farming practices.

From the empowerment of youth in Saida, Tunisia, through the creation of a youth-led scout regiment, to the revitalization of public spaces in Mohammedia, Morocco, and the promotion of environmental security in Mosul, Iraq, the program has seen a diverse range of initiatives that reflect the unique challenges and needs of each community. The adaptability of these initiatives, particularly in response to the evolving crises such as the Israel-Lebanon war, highlights the resilience of local communities.

As the Civic Horizons program moves towards its conclusion in early 2025, HSC remains committed to supporting local communities and civil society organisations in their efforts to drive positive, transformative change.



Community members in Fakiha, Lebanon, learning traditional food production as part of the Civic Horizons program, empowering youth and women while preserving cultural heritage.

In 2024, HSC launched the **Move 4 Human Rights** program as part of the Maatschappelijke Dienst Tijd (MDT) initiative, in collaboration with leading human rights organisations Justice & Peace Netherlands, Stichting Our Bodies Our Voice, and Human Rights in the Picture, along with educational institutions including Erasmus University College, The Hague University of Applied Sciences, and the University of Twente. The program offers young people the opportunity to apply academic theory to real-world human rights challenges while developing skills in critical thinking, advocacy, and social justice.

Throughout the year, HSC co-created five minors with educational partners for over 100 young people to explore pressing human rights and security issues in the Netherlands through participatory action research. Guided by HSC, participants built essential skills in collaboration and creative problem-solving, working closely with community members and local stakeholders. Their research covered topics such as housing insecurity, discrimination in education, civil servants' rights to protest and safety in nightlife. The outcomes were shared in innovative formats, including podcasts, infographics, short films, artwork, interactive workshops and gameboards.

In the summer, HSC together with the human rights partner organisations organised the Summer Edition, a two-week immersive program that brought together over 45 young people to deepen their engagement with human rights issues. The program provided opportunities to gain practical experience, interact with experts in the field, collaborate with peers, and engage in hands-on learning. Following the success of the first edition, another Summer Edition will be hosted in the upcoming year. The Move 4 Human Rights program is set to continue until 2026.



Students from Erasmus University College in action during their final presentations, sharing research-driven solutions to real-world human rights challenges.

The Move 4 Human Rights Summer Edition, organised by Human Security Collective, Justice & Peace Netherlands, Stichting Our Bodies Our Voice, and Human Rights in the Picture united over 40 young changemakers to explore and address pressing human rights issues.



Through the MDT **Time 4 Your Future**, a coalition comprising HSC, Participe, ROC Mondriaan, and Plans & Pixels, we remained dedicated to promoting voluntary social service among youth in the Netherlands. As part of this programme, we lead Action Research trajectories, equipping students with the skills needed to analyze and design innovative solutions to address issues they are passionate about.

In 2024, we successfully concluded five trajectories with students from the Applied Sciences Universities of Leiden and The Hague, enrolled in Minors and Honor classes including Applied Psychology, Children's Rights, Global Citizenship, and Wellbeing. Students carried out research around themes such as environmental awareness through local street and beach cleanups, cultural diversity and inclusion in Dutch education, gender discrimination, among others. These projects demonstrate the students' dedication and creativity in addressing pressing societal issues through practical research and innovative solutions.



Students from the minor in Global Citizenship at The Hague University of Applied Sciences receiving their MDT certificates after successfully completing the program.

In 2024, **The Peace Project** launched, an eight-year, conflict transformation and peace building initiative led by Mensen met een Missie and implemented in collaboration with 23 partners across the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Uganda, and South Sudan. The program aims to promote peace by addressing harmful convictions, strengthening community connections, and improving the conditions for sustainable peace.

As part of the project, HSC is focusing on strengthening the capacity of partners and relevant stakeholders in the four countries in areas such as human security, conflict analysis and sensitivity, as well as international lobbying and advocacy on security agendas. These efforts aim to ensure that community needs are reflected in both local and international peacebuilding strategies. HSC joined all partners for the kick-off meetings held in Kampala (for Uganda and South Sudan), Bujumbura (for Burundi), and Goma and Bukavu (for the DRC), where priorities and plans for the first phase of The Peace Project were jointly developed.



HSC and partners gather during the Peace Project kick-off event in Bujumbura, Burundi.



Masterclasses on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) in Ghana.

In collaboration with the Government of the Netherlands, we facilitated a **Masterclass on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE)** in Accra, Ghana. The Accra Masterclass brought together policymakers, security officials, community leaders, and civil society representatives to discuss the evolving dynamics of violent extremism in Ghana and explore pathways for conflict transformation. Speakers highlighted the need for a coordinated, multi-stakeholder approach bringing together government, NGOs, academics, and religious leaders to tackle the root causes of conflict. A key takeaway was the importance of grounding national PCVE strategies in the specific needs and contexts of local communities.

In August 2024, we carried out a preparatory visit to the cities of Ranya, Chamchamal, and Halabja in anticipation of the Masterclass on PCVE, scheduled to take place early 2025 in Erbil. During the visit, we met with PVE Committees, local government officials, and mayors in each city. The discussions focused on identifying the most pressing local issues related to PVE. Based on these conversations, we compiled an overview of key challenges per city and assigned each committee preparatory tasks to support meaningful engagement during the upcoming Masterclass.

As part of its ongoing support to the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, HSC facilitated a workshop on **Conflict Sensitivity and Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE)** for partners of the Netherlands Embassy and the Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) in Jordan. Held in Amman, the training brought together local and international organisations, alongside Embassy staff, to strengthen understanding of conflict dynamics and integrate a conflict-sensitive and PVE-informed approach into their programming.

Through interactive sessions, participants analyzed conflict drivers, stakeholder relationships, and program risks, while identifying opportunities to strengthen local resilience and prevent violence. Discussions were grounded in practical experience, with participants sharing challenges, lessons learned, and best practices for embedding conflict sensitivity into their work.



HSC visited the cities of Ranya, Chamchamal, and Halabja to meet with PVE Committees and local authorities ahead of the 2025 Masterclass on PCVE.

Impact of countering the financing of terrorism (CFT) measures on civil society



The aftermath of 9/11 two decades ago reshaped the global counter-terrorism landscape, prompting multilateral bodies like the United Nations (UN) and Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to enact sanctions and regulations against terrorism and its financing. These measures, supplemented by national and regional laws, have imposed significant burdens on non-profit organisations (NPOs) worldwide.

Despite limited evidence, NPOs have often been stigmatized as potential channels for terrorism financing, resulting in stringent registration, reporting, and funding restrictions. This has raised the operational barriers for NPOs, restricting their freedom of operation. Recognizing these challenges, HSC collaborated with partner organisations to establish the Global NPO Coalition on FATF. This coalition advocates for mitigating the unintended consequences of counterterrorism financing measures on the nonprofit sector.



HSC joined a panel at the 2024 PSCF in Vienna, discussing FATF's R8 and its impact on nonprofits with key stakeholders.

HSC continued its **engagement at global policy platforms**, advocating for an enabling environment for civil society and working to mitigate the unintended consequences of CFT regulations.

At the annual **Private Sector Consultative Forum** held in Vienna, HSC and members of the Global NPO Coalition on FATF actively contributed to discussions addressing the challenges posed by FATF's Recommendation 8 (R8). HSC, along with Coalition members, CSN and ECNL, was part of a panel with the World Bank and HSBC Bank, exploring the effectiveness of recent changes to R8 and their impact on nonprofit organisations. The Coalition also convened a well-attended side event that brought together Member States, financial institutions, multilateral organisations, and other stakeholders to reflect on the operational barriers nonprofits face in complex environments due to CFT measures.

HSC also attended the 2024 **Wolfsberg Group** global meeting, a gathering of major international banks, financial regulators, government actors, and civil society to discuss evolving approaches to managing financial crime risks. At the meeting, HSC shared its work on facilitating multistakeholder roundtables focused on the implementation of FATF standards, with an emphasis on preventing unintended consequences, such as the debanking of civil society organisations.

In the Netherlands, HSC contributed to a multistakeholder dialogue led by the Dutch Banking Association, which resulted in the development of a risk-based standard for working with non-profit organisations. The standard, created in collaboration with banks, NGO networks, regulators, and HSC, follows the principle of 'less if possible, more if necessary.'

HSC's involvement extends to the European Banking Authority's (EBA) work through the **Banking Stakeholder Group** (BSG), which advises the EBA on regulatory affairs and the implementation of technical standards and recommendations. The BSG consists of 30 members, selected by the EBA's Board of Supervisors through an open selection process. In July 2024, HSC's Sangeeta Goswami was appointed to this group for a two-year term, representing the constituency of banking service users. Sangeeta also co-chairs the AML/CFT technical working group of the BSG.



At the 2024 Wolfsberg Group meeting, HSC showcased its work on FATF standards and the Netherlands' new risk-based standard for NPOs.

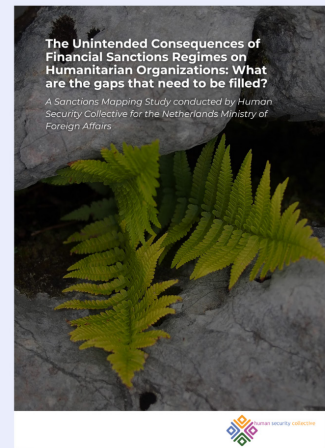
Throughout the year, HSC conducted **research** on the impact of CFT regulations and sanctions on civil society, aiming to inform policy discussions by identifying key challenges nonprofits face and providing recommendations to safeguard their operational space in an increasingly complex regulatory environment.

HSC published a ***foresight piece on the Future of FATF Recommendation 8*** (R8), exploring whether removing R8 could alleviate the overregulation, financial exclusion, and suppression faced by nonprofits. Drawing on stakeholder interviews, the report presents two approaches: an 'evolutionary' one, refining R8 to protect civil society, and a 'revolutionary' approach, reimagining nonprofit oversight within the FATF framework. It examines these perspectives through the lens of the Recommendation itself, the national context, and the market, while addressing FATF's accountability, transparency, and broader impact, concluding with key takeaways and areas for further research.

Accompanying the report is HSC's podcast Risky Business, where the authors dive deeper into the findings and challenges nonprofits face under FATF's CFT framework. The podcast explores whether an evolutionary or revolutionary approach best protects civil society's operational space and addresses the broader challenges nonprofits encounter in the complex web of financial crime regulations.



Behind the mic of Risky Business, HSC's podcast exploring the impact of FATF R8 on nonprofits.



HSC's Sanctions Mapping Study explores challenges faced by organisations like the Dutch Relief Alliance and offers recommendations to ensure aid reaches those in need.

In response to concerns about the impact of international and EU sanctions on humanitarian efforts, HSC conducted a mapping study commissioned by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The study, ***The Unintended Consequences of Financial Sanctions Regimes on Humanitarian Organisations***, explores the challenges faced by organisations like the Dutch Relief Alliance in navigating complex sanctions and financial de-risking processes.

The study highlights how sanctions disrupt humanitarian aid delivery, with financial institutions often refusing or delaying transactions due to overlapping sanctions and anti-money laundering regulations. While UN Security Council Resolution 2664 offers some exemptions, its inconsistent implementation remains a challenge.

HSC's recommendations include policy harmonization, clearer guidelines for financial institutions, and improved collaboration between governments, banks, and NGOs. The findings were presented at the RELEX Sanctions Working Group in November 2024, sparking discussions on how to protect humanitarian operations under evolving sanctions.



HSC led a multistakeholder meeting in Kenya to develop a risk-based oversight system, focusing on FATF compliance and the new PBO Act.

As co-chair of the Global NPO Coalition on FATF, HSC partners with organizations worldwide to counter the misuse of FATF standards that shrink civic space under the guise of financial integrity. In 2024, HSC focused on strengthening civil society's capacity to navigate FATF R8 through **country-level engagements**, collaborating with local organizations, governments, and regulators.

In 2024, HSC continued its work strengthening civil society's capacity to engage with the implementation of FATF R8 in various countries. In **Ghana**, HSC supported Coalition member Spaces 4 Change in convening a workshop with key stakeholders, including the NGO Secretariat, Financial Intelligence Unit, and NPOs. The workshop focused on moving towards a risk-based regulatory approach for nonprofit oversight. In **Kenya**, HSC built on 2023's work by engaging in a multistakeholder meeting with the Public Benefit Organisations Regulatory Authority, National Counterterrorism Centre, Financial Reporting Centre, and NPOs. The focus was on shaping a risk-based oversight system, informed by the sectoral TF Risk Assessment and the recent enactment of the 2013 PBO Act.

HSC also facilitated a workshop in Lusaka, Zambia, with over 30 participants from **Zambia, Malawi, and Botswana**, including officials from Financial Intelligence Units and NPO regulators. The workshop addressed FATF R8 compliance and the development of effective regulatory frameworks for the nonprofit sector.

In **Tunisia**, HSC co-organised a meeting with local partner KADEM to review Tunisia's success in achieving a Compliant rating on FATF R8 through constructive civil society engagement. The discussion also addressed upcoming sectoral Risk Assessments amidst political shifts and challenges like bank derisking.

HSC's engagement in **South Africa** continued throughout 2024, where the country is reimagining its regulatory system due to its status on the FATF greylist. HSC provided support through virtual meetings with civil society, government departments, and stakeholders to ensure the system is proportionate and effective in addressing FATF R8.



HSC facilitated a workshop focused on FATF R8 compliance in Zambia that brought together over 30 stakeholders from Zambia, Malawi, and Botswana.



HSC supported Trinidad and Tobago's efforts to address R8 non-compliance and improve NPO regulation following a sector risk assessment.

Continuing on from engagement in the previous year, HSC was in the **Trinidad and Tobago** in July 2024 as part of the EU Global AML/CFT Facility's engagement with the country. Found Non-Compliant on R8 in the last round of Mutual Evaluations, the country has conducted a Risk Assessment of the sector and is trying to bring about changes in its NPO regulatory and oversight system.

A multistakeholder Working Group set up for R8, which includes NPOs, discussed proposed legislative and regulatory changes in light of the revisions made to the Recommendation in 2023. An action plan for the coming time was developed. There was also an outreach and engagement session organised by government (with the assistance of Cropper Foundation) with a large group of NPOs from across the country, where the findings of the Risk Assessment were discussed, as was the regulatory environment. NPOs were forthright about the challenges they were facing in terms of burdensome regulations as well as financial access/derisking. HSC and the Facility team also met with the FATF-Style Regional Body, CFATF, while in country.

HSC also participated in the **Southeast Asia** Regional Seminar on EU Engagement in Counter Terrorism and P/CVE, hosted by the Indonesian Government and the EU. The event brought together government delegates, law enforcement, academics, and nonprofits to discuss EU engagement in countering extremism and terrorism in Southeast Asia. HSC's presentation focused on the risks posed to charities and communities in the context of terrorism financing, emphasizing how over-regulation can unintentionally suppress nonprofit activities. The session highlighted the work of the Global NPO Coalition on FATF and the Asia Pacific Group's commitment to ensuring that regulations are focused, proportionate, and effective.

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EU AML/CFT
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Financial result and operating statement

Income

	Actual 2024	Actual 2023	Budgeted 2024
Contribution to HSC	1.070.265	1.222.386	1.421.056
Interest	21.344	11.847	10.850
Other Income	44.362	100.109	75.000
	1.135.971	1.334.342	1.506.905

Expenditures

Staff costs	705.478	741.367	730.050
Organisation Expenses	17.678	33.043	24.845
General Expenses	21.120	29.132	20.920
Housing Costs	21.783	18.314	24.000
Services	685	351	500
ICT	20.219	17.062	23.080
Project Charges	336.209	593.445	566.127
	1.123.172	1.432.714	1.389.522
Results Financial Year	12.799	-98.372	117.382

Balance as per 31 December 2024

Assets

	31-12-2024	31-12-2023
Current Assets		
Accounts receivable	26.557	49.904
Current account	1.216.555	1.575.614
Projects receivables	13.234	92.404
	1.256.347	1.717.922

Liabilities

Equity		
General reserve	581.946	572.027
Reserve professional development	43.418	40.538
	625.364	612.565
Current liabilities/accounts payable	75.270	97.631
Projects: In advanced received contributions	555.713	1.007.725
	1.256.347	1.717.922





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