

Annual Report 2025



human security collective

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Foreword

Dear Reader,

In 2025, the context in which civil society operated became more complex and, in some areas, more constrained. Humanitarian crises, armed conflicts, and human rights challenges persisted across regions, while international cooperation showed increasing strain and a stronger focus on national interests and security priorities.

This was also reflected in how resources were prioritized. Military spending continued to rise at the expense of development and humanitarian support. As a result, civil society faced a deepening funding crisis at a time when its role was more important than ever. Many state donor agencies redirected support towards defense, security, and trade priorities, making it harder for organisations to sustain their core work and increasing the risk of being drawn into agendas that are not grounded in community needs.

Yet it is precisely in this context that civil society plays a critical role. It responds to needs that are often overlooked and helps build trust where it is fragile or absent. It creates space for dialogue in polarized environments and supports communities to shape solutions to the challenges they face.

Our work at Human Security Collective is grounded in this understanding. Throughout 2025, we focused on strengthening participation, building trust, and ensuring that local perspectives inform decision-making at national, regional, and global levels.

Through the Civic Horizons programme, we supported dialogue between community members and locally driven initiatives on topics of resilience, youth engagement, and environmental priorities. In the Great Lakes region, our involvement on the Peace Project strengthened collaboration between local partners and communities to address tensions linked to conflict. In the Netherlands, Move 4 Human Rights and Time 4 Your Future demonstrated how participatory approaches can connect human rights learning with civic engagement among young people.

At policy level, HSC continued to co-lead efforts to ensure that countering the financing terrorism measures set by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) are implemented in a way that supports, rather than constrains, the operating environment of civil society. As co-chair of the Global NPO Coalition on FATF, we work with partners across regions to address unintended impacts of these frameworks and to promote more proportionate approaches. In an environment of tightening EU anti money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism regulations and sanctions, our trisector dialogues to secure financial access for CSOs are more essential than ever.

In a year marked by shifting priorities and constrained resources, the importance of inclusive, locally grounded approaches has become even clearer. Civil society remains a vital bridge between communities and decision-makers. Through our work, HSC continues to support this role. This report reflects the commitment of partners and communities operating in complex and often challenging environments. We are grateful for their collaboration, as well as for the continued trust and support of our donors and Supervisory Board members.



Who we are

Human Security Collective (HSC) works for people to be heard, be secure and have agency. We ensure that communities play an active role in shaping the decisions that affect their daily lives.

We facilitate conversations between civil society, policy shapers and other actors to collectively advocate for alternative approaches to security that prioritize human rights and community well-being.

At the heart of our work is a simple but persistent question: how can security approaches strengthen, rather than constrain, the ability of people and communities to organise, speak, and participate freely and fearlessly?





Inclusive Leadership for Human Security

We envision a world where people, regardless of their background or circumstances, can take part in shaping their communities. Our work focuses on creating the conditions for this to happen, by opening spaces where young people, and others who are often excluded can share their perspectives and contribute to addressing the challenges they face. By bringing communities, civil society, and decision-makers into dialogue, we help ensure that local experiences are better reflected in how decisions are made. In 2025, this approach guided HSC's work across different contexts, with a focus on strengthening participation, building trust, and supporting more inclusive forms of collaboration.

Across the Middle East and North Africa, civil society operates in environments shaped by repression and violence. Limited trust between communities and institutions makes it difficult for people to influence decisions that affect their lives. Through the [Civic Horizons](#) programme, HSC worked with civil society actors in Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon to address locally identified priorities in marginalized communities and to strengthen the resilience of civil society. Throughout the programme, a [participatory approach](#) created space for dialogue and collaboration on shared concerns, leading to locally driven initiatives addressing issues such as women's safety, pollution, unemployment, and stigma.

In 2025, as the programme drew to a close, the final activities built on and deepened these participatory approaches. This included a [series of environmental stories](#) created by children and teenagers from Tunisia, Libya, Lebanon, and Iraq. Drawing on storytelling traditions, young people explored environmental challenges in their communities and imagined more sustainable futures.



Environmental stories created through the Civic Horizons programme by children from Tunisia, Libya, Lebanon, and Iraq.

HSC also worked with civil society organisations to reflect on the conditions shaping their work and their relationships with communities, governments, donors, and banks. These insights are captured in the report [Operating in Unsettling Times](#), highlighting how organisations navigate overlapping pressures while remaining connected and accountable to communities.

In response to ongoing violence and instability, sessions on "healing in times of violence" created space for participating civil society actors to reflect on loss, resilience, and the need for safe spaces for dialogue and connection.

"For the first time, I saw the community unite around a shared idea without anyone seeking personal spotlights –because everyone felt the pain of the issue we sought to address and wanted to help solve it."

Civil society actor from Jordan, Civic Horizons Programme



Since 2024, we have contributed to the **Peace Project** in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Uganda, and South Sudan, where many communities continue to face the long-term effects of violence.

Within this work, HSC brings a human security approach that centers community perspectives in shaping how security challenges are understood and addressed. Working with local partners, this includes supporting dialogue between communities and authorities and ensuring that local experiences inform how responses are designed.

In 2025, this work helped partners move from individual country perspectives towards a more shared regional understanding of conflict drivers and possible avenues for cooperation, including addressing hate narratives, strengthening social cohesion, and supporting more coordinated peacebuilding responses.



Partners from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi engaging in joint conflict analysis to better understand regional dynamics and shared challenges.



Young person designing a participatory action research aimed at contributing to a shared Plan of Action on preventing violent extremism.

The challenge of ensuring that local realities inform regional decision-making is also evident in prevention efforts in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

In 2025, HSC supported local actors and regional authorities to strengthen collaboration and better align local perspectives with prevention of violent extremism (PVE) strategies. This resulted in the development of a shared Plan of Action, shaped by the lived experiences of communities in Ranya, Chamchamal, and Halabja.

A follow-up workshop on participatory action research in these three cities brought members of the PVE committee together with young people to gather insights directly from the ground and translate them into concrete, actionable recommendations. This ensured that youth perspectives were meaningfully reflected in shaping the broader strategy.

These efforts are part of HSC's broader engagement across the Sahel, North Africa, East Africa, and the Middle East, working with national authorities and local actors to strengthen whole-of-society approaches to preventing violent extremism, an engagement that continued through 2025.

Closer to home, HSC's work in the Netherlands focuses on creating opportunities for young people to actively engage with human rights in their communities. While many young people are motivated to engage with these issues, they are not always in a position to do so in practice. Through the [Move 4 Human Rights](#) and [Time 4 Your Future](#) programmes, we work to address this by connecting human rights learning with practice.

Across the programmes, participants work on real-world human rights questions through participatory action research, engaging directly with communities and local stakeholders. This enables them to move beyond theory and apply human rights in practice, while strengthening skills in collaboration, critical thinking, and civic engagement. It also strengthens their sense of agency to act within their own communities.

In 2025, over 190 young people participated in these programmes, exploring solutions to human rights challenges in their own communities, including student housing crisis, education inequality, and safety and gender-based violence.



The Move 4 Human Rights Summer Edition, organized 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.



Students Kalina, Ruxanda, Lena, and Dóra explored the issue of harassment in the city, creating space for women to share their experiences and coping strategies.

"The programme enabled me to connect with a diverse group of participants and speakers, increasing my knowledge and interest in Human Rights"

Participant from M4HR Summer Edition



Following the successful 2024 Move 4 Human Rights Summer Edition, HSC along with consortium partners organized a second two-week programme in 2025, bringing together young people from diverse backgrounds for collective learning, exchange, and applied work on human rights issues. The programme provided opportunities to gain practical experience, interact with experts in the field, collaborate with peers, and engage in hands-on learning. The Move 4 Human Rights programme is set to continue until 2026.

Impact of Countering the Financing of Terrorism Measures on Civil Society

Measures to counter the financing of terrorism (CFT), shaped by global standards set by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), are designed to protect financial systems from abuse. In practice, however, they can also affect how civil society organisations operate. In many countries, non-profit organisations are still seen as higher risk, even where there is little evidence of misuse. This can result in heavy reporting requirements, banking restrictions, and reduced access to financial services, making it harder for organisations to deliver humanitarian and development work and protect civic space.

In response, HSC co-founded and co-chairs the Global NPO Coalition on FATF to address these impacts and bring civil society perspectives into policy discussions with banks, regulators, and standard-setters.

HSC works to ensure civil society is meaningfully included in discussions on CFT/AML measures and to protect an enabling operating space for nonprofits. In this context, we convene regional workshops with civil society to bring lived experience into these debates. During one workshop with ASEAN civil society organisations, Jazmin "Minet" Aguisanda-Jerusalem shared her experience.

Minet has spent years working alongside communities in Tacloban, in the Philippines, helping them prepare for and recover from typhoons. As executive director of the Leyte Center for Development (LCDe), she supported the response to Typhoon Haiyan in 2013, when her hometown was devastated and thousands of families were left without support.

In 2024, her work came to an abrupt stop. LCDe's bank accounts were frozen following allegations of terrorism financing, leaving Jazmin and her team unable to access funds. Emergency activities were suspended, and staff could no longer be paid.

To this date, financial restrictions remain. For Jazmin, it meant watching communities face recurring disasters without the support they had come to rely on.



This case reflects a broader pattern linked to the FATF greylisting of the Philippines. As authorities moved to strengthen compliance and exit the grey list, nonprofit organisations faced increased scrutiny, disrupting legitimate civil society work. Minet's experience illustrates how FATF measures, when applied disproportionately, can lead to suppression and financial exclusion.

In 2025, HSC brought such cases into **global policy discussions**, advocating for approaches that safeguard both financial integrity and civic space.

One key space for this engagement was the **Private Sector Collaborative Forum in Mumbai**, where civil society was represented across multiple panels, contributing to discussions on how financial regulations affect non-profits in practice, especially in contexts where humanitarian support and peace building are a life-line for communities. This marks an important outcome of the Global NPO Coalition's long-standing engagement with FATF, strengthening the inclusion of civil society perspectives in financial integrity discussions with the aim to keep the financial system safe from abuse from money laundering and terrorism financing.



Similarly, our engagement at the **No Money for Terror Ministerial Conference** in Munich provided space to highlight how financial integrity measures affect access to financial services for civil society organizations, and the importance of proportionate and risk-based approaches instead of blanket measures.

Throughout the year, HSC also engaged through broader coalitions and networks, including the UN CSO Coalition on Human Rights and Counter-Terrorism, the European Banking Authority, the Wolfsberg Group, the Dutch, Nigerian and International Roundtables on Financial Access for NPOs and other multi-stakeholder platforms, helping ensure that civil society perspectives are reflected in financial integrity and targeted financial sanctions discussions globally.

At **regional level**, HSC works with intergovernmental bodies and regulatory networks to support more consistent interpretation of FATF standards and reduce fragmentation in their application across countries.

In 2025, this included technical engagement with Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA), the Eurasian Group (EAG), and The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), supporting cross-country learning and more proportionate implementation of FATF standards. In the ASEAN context, this work contributed to the development of a practical handbook to support more consistent application of the standards across member states, to be published in 2026.



© EU Global Facility on AML/CFT

Exchange between NPO and government representatives from EAG member states at a regional workshop on safeguarding civic space.



Civil society and regulatory representatives in Sri Lanka during discussions on how national processes can better reflect lived realities and support proportionate risk assessment for non-profit organisations.

At **country level**, HSC engaged with civil society, regulators, and financial authorities to support a more proportionate and context-sensitive implementation of the standard.

In The Gambia, HSC contributed to exchanges on how risk in the non-profit sector can be understood in a way that is grounded in national realities and supported by evidence. This helped reinforce the importance of building approaches that are proportionate from the outset and that include civil society perspectives in their design.

Work in Sri Lanka focused on how national processes are designed and who is included in them. Where engagement between civil society and regulators remained limited, dialogue helped strengthen understanding of how risk assessments can better reflect lived realities and avoid overly broad approaches affecting non-profit organisations, contributing to greater openness in ongoing national discussions.

In South Africa, engagement focused on how established systems apply global financial integrity standards in practice. Bringing together regulators, financial institutions, and civil society, discussions highlighted the complexity of translating global rules into diverse institutional settings. HSC's role supported reflection on how to maintain strong financial safeguards while avoiding unintended barriers for organisations working directly with communities.

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EU AML/CFT
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Financial result and operating statement

Income

	Actual 2025	Actual 2024	Budgeted 2025
Contribution to HSC	1.001.954	1.070.264	1.180.858
Interest	14.657	21.344	21.344
Other Income	36.612	44.362	30.000
	1.135.971	1.135.970	1.232.202

Expenditures

Staff costs	675.320	705.477	679.270
Organisation Expenses	64.388	17.679	61.512
General Expenses	13.681	21.121	20.560
Housing Costs	23.927	21.783	24.000
Services	799	685	900
ICT	18.007	20.219	21.000
Project Charges	244.883	336.210	548.519
	1.041.004	1.123.174	1.355.761
Results Financial Year	12.219	12.796	-123.559



Balance as per 31 December 2025

Assets

	31-12-2025	31-12-2024
Current Assets		
Accounts receivable	27.108	26.556
Current account	1.865.862	1.216.555
Projects receivables	105.142	13.234
	1.998.112	1.256.345

Liabilities

Equity		
General reserve	587.640	581.942
Reserve professional development	49.940	43.419
	637.580	625.361
Current liabilities/accounts payable	829.074	75.270
Projects: In advanced received contributions	531.458	555.714
	1.998.112	1.256.345





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