Smart collective action can save lives. It can also protect democracies.

**Digital Action**

Complex problems cannot be resolved by any single organisation acting alone. That’s why Crisis Action builds powerful coalitions from a global network of inspirational organisations and individuals. We seek no public profile so we can be the honest broker for our partners, focused only on what makes civilians safer. The power of this behind-the-scenes, strategic convening model could apply not only to saving civilians in conflicts, but to other global issues like climate change, education and digital threats to democracy.

In 2019, people’s struggle for human rights, equality and representation around the world was partially enabled by, and played out on, digital platforms. Peaceful protests were met by violence and digital blackouts, including in India, Hong Kong, Zimbabwe and Sudan. It is timely, therefore, that Crisis Action has helped to form a new organisation, Digital Action, to use our model of creative coalitions to tackle digital threats to democracy.

With support from the Ford Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, Luminate and Open Society Foundation, Digital Action will replicate the Crisis Action way of working to unlock ambitious collective action and drive change that strengthens democratic rights in a digital age. Digital Action will work to push back against digital threats to democracy, such as the weaponisation of digital platforms to destabilise and radicalise society, and irresponsible data gathering and inscrutable algorithms.

Find out more at [digitalaction.co](http://digitalaction.co) and read about the Crisis Action model at [creativecoalitions.org](http://creativecoalitions.org).

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SUMMARY OF IMPACT

In the past twelve months, Crisis Action has coordinated coalitions and campaigns that have helped drive meaningful change for civilians caught up in conflict. With our partners and allies, we:

YEMEN
- Helped prevent an attack on the vital lifeline of Hodeidah port that enabled aid to continue to flow to millions of people, by driving global media and political attention about an attack’s dire implications for civilians.
- Helped spur a breakthrough ceasefire agreement for Hodeidah and a consequent 68% reduction in local fatalities.
- Coordinated targeted media coverage and advocacy to demand an end to United States (US) backing for the war in Yemen, with the result that for the first time the US Congress invoked the War Powers Act and voted to cut off US support for the war.
- Encouraged the governments of the US, France and the United Kingdom (UK) to stop selling arms to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), given their use in killing Yemeni civilians.
- Enabled a large increase in the coverage of Russia’s role in fuelling the Syrian conflict in independent Russian media, which contradicted the Russian government line, provoked public debate in Russia and stoked Russian public opposition to the war.
- Helped forestall a full-scale attack on the city of Idlib by keeping a spotlight on the suffering of trapped civilians and the potentially disastrous implications of an attack.
- Helped prevent a ‘normalisation’ of relations between Syria and the West, including by highlighting the plight of people detained, ‘disappeared’ and tortured by the Assad regime.
- Helped spur a breakthrough power-sharing deal between the military and civilians, by encouraging the African Union (AU) to take strong measures against those opposing the transition to civilian-led government.

SOUTH SUDAN
- Helped bring about a new power-sharing agreement by supporting civil society involvement in peace talks.
- Successfully campaigned for the United Nations (UN) Security Council to renew its arms embargo and targeted sanctions on South Sudanese leaders.
- Helped to cut off the illicit supply of money to South Sudan from neighbouring countries, which enables the war to flourish, by sparking a crackdown on money laundering by the Kenyan Central Bank, closure of suspicious South Sudanese bank accounts and a ban on illegal logging.

SYRIA
- Enabled a large increase in the coverage of Russia’s role in fuelling the Syrian conflict in independent Russian media, which contradicted the Russian government line, provoked public debate in Russia and stoked Russian public opposition to the war.
- Helped forestal a full-scale attack on the city of Idlib by keeping a spotlight on the suffering of trapped civilians and the potentially disastrous implications of an attack.
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SUDAN
- Helped spur a breakthrough power-sharing deal between the military and civilians, by encouraging the African Union (AU) to take strong measures against those opposing the transition to civilian-led government.

STATEMENT
FROM BOARD CHAIR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2019 marks Crisis Action’s 15th anniversary. In that time, we have grown from one person to a truly global team of 50, based in more than 10 countries. From 14 founding partner Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) in 2004, we now work with over 150 partners and our budget has grown to over $5 million. We pay tribute to Crisis Action’s previous Executive Directors – Guy Hughes, Brendan Cox and Gemma Mortensen – and Board Chairs – Paul Ingram, Nick Grono and Jan Egeland – who helped us get here. You can read more about the highlights of our 15 years on pages 6-7.

This report covers our work from July 2018 to July 2019. It has been a year where the world has seemed to fracture, and the multilateral system has faced existential threats. Yet, at the same time, we saw growing interest in the power of collective action. And a seemingly forgotten war in Yemen became the primary foreign policy concern of key western powers, in part thanks to civil society campaigning.

We are incredibly proud that for the first time, Crisis Action’s unique model has been replicated and a new organisation – Digital Action – has been created. You can read more about that on page 2.

From empowering inspirational activists to push back against closing civic space in Sudan, to working with brave Russian journalists to tell stories about war crimes in Syria that their government wanted to suppress, much of what Crisis Action does is about enabling amazing individuals to have maximum impact. At the same time, Crisis Action also helps change the system and uphold the rule of law: from highlighting the role of the finance sector in perpetuating the conflict in South Sudan, to working with Parliaments and Congress in the UK, France and the US to hold governments to account.

Thank you to everyone in our global network that enables us to continue to build innovative collaborations to save lives.
At Crisis Action, we have a mantra of “unreasonable optimism”. Over 15 exciting years, Crisis Action has demonstrated unreasonable optimism in the face of some of the world’s most dire conflicts. We have convened powerful collective action to change high-level policy in over 30 different war zones. Some highlights of the impressive collective impact from the last decade and a half include:

**2007**
Prevented President Mugabe from torturing civilians by stopping the supply of bank note paper to the Zimbabwean regime.

**2010**
Built a powerful NGO coalition in response to the mass rape of between 300 and 1000 women and children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) by security forces, which led the UN to launch an investigation that publicly named the perpetrators and resulted in the prosecution and imprisonment of key commanders.

**2010-11**
Helped ensure the secession of South Sudan from Sudan was largely peaceful via a year-long global mobilization campaign called Sudan365, which included a music video featuring Pink Floyd, The Police and Radiohead that made the top 10 in many countries, was downloaded millions of times, and featured on the home pages of YouTube and MTV.

**2011**
Brought together 200 Arab organizations from 18 countries in the Middle East to support the Arab League’s unanimous and unprecedented request for a no-fly zone, which prevented massacres in Benghazi, Libya.

**2011**
Mounted a global public response through the #WithSyria campaign to get UN cross-border aid convoys to reach three million starving Syrians. This was the first time the UN had delivered aid from outside any country and this cross-border aid continues today.

**2012**
Helped secure the UN’s first coordinated regional strategy to stop the havoc being wreaked by the feared Lord’s Resistance Army; consequently, casualties fell by over 90%.

**2012**
Drove a landmark EU decision to close settlement policy loopholes, which helped revive peace talks between Israel and Palestine.

**2013**
Built an unprecedented platform of Christian and Muslim religious leaders from Central African Republic; who convinced the UN to deploy peacekeeping forces to the country. This stopped ethnic cleansing from spiraling out of control and saved thousands of lives.

**2013**
Contributed to the successful negotiation of a political agreement in the DRC that significantly reduced deaths by ensuring that Sudanese women and young people were directly involved in peace talks and pressuring the UN to impose, for the first time, targeted sanctions and an arms embargo.

**2016-19**
Prevented a massacre in South Sudan that significantly reduced deaths by ensuring that South Sudanese women and young people were directly involved in peace talks and pressuring the UN to impose, for the first time, targeted sanctions and an arms embargo.

**2018**
Helped procure a ceasefire agreement in South Sudan that significantly reduced deaths by ensuring that South Sudanese women and young people were directly involved in peace talks and pressuring the UN to impose, for the first time, targeted sanctions and an arms embargo.
Once a forgotten conflict, Yemen has now become a hot political issue, debated by the US Congress and US presidential candidates, the subject of rulings in the UK High Court and parliamentary investigations in France, and a source of tension between co-belligerents Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Steadfast and strategic campaigning by Crisis Action and our Yemeni and international partners has pushed the conflict into the headlines and in front of policymakers and kept it there. We have also amplified Yemeni voices in the debate and made it increasingly hard for the warring parties and their backers to continue on the same course.

Keeping the vital Hodeidah port open...

Last year’s annual report recounted how an international outcry in July 2018 forestalled an expected UAE-led attack on the vital port city of Hodeidah that could have killed up to 250,000 people. In the months that followed, Crisis Action and partners continued to sound the alarm and UN officials have now confirmed that the threat has receded, meaning this vital supply line for food, fuel and medicine for millions of Yemeni civilians remains open.

The UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen, Lise Grande, told Crisis Action and our partners: “Crisis Action has changed the way that people with decision-making power see the crisis in Yemen,” and said the campaigning we coordinated with partners was the most successful she had seen in her 25-year career.

... And supporting a breakthrough ceasefire

The Hodeidah crisis moved Yemen up the political and media agenda, and against this backdrop of increased attention, the UN Special Envoy for Yemen launched new ceasefire talks. In December 2018, the parties to the conflict met in Sweden for the first serious negotiations in more than two years, and agreed a ceasefire for Hodeidah. In the following months, local casualties fell by 68%.

The Stockholm Agreement represented the biggest breakthrough in more than four years of war, and a UN contact told us they had “never seen humanitarian advocacy so successfully support a peace process.”

In the end, the international response to the threatened assault on Hodeidah was so severe that the UAE not only decided to abandon the attack, but also announced in July 2019 that they would withdraw the majority of their troops from Yemen.

Pressure over arms sales

In the past year, Crisis Action has helped shift political and public perceptions of the legality and morality of weapons sales to Saudi Arabia and the UAE for use in Yemen. The UK, US, France and Germany have all come under pressure to suspend arms sales to both governments.

In June 2019, our partner, Campaign Against the Arms Trade, won a huge victory when the UK High Court ruled that British arms sales to Saudi Arabia were unlawful. The government is appealing the ruling, but in the meantime has suspended the issue of further export licences.
In France, Crisis Action helped support and inform a ground-breaking parliamentary fact-finding mission on arms exports. We also worked to amplify media reports that highlighted how French-sold weapons were being used in Yemen, contrary to government assertions. In the wake of this coverage, dockworkers refused to load a ship with weapons bound for Saudi Arabia.

In Germany, Crisis Action coordinated an open letter from leading NGOs, which helped persuade the government to extend a moratorium on arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

Rising Opposition by US Congress

Perhaps the biggest political change on Yemen has been in the US, where for the first time both houses of Congress have voted repeatedly and across party lines to end US military support for the Saudi/UAE intervention in Yemen.

The initial vote came in the wake of a huge campaign coordinated by Crisis Action, which included joint messaging from CEOs of leading aid agencies, widespread media coverage in the most influential outlets (including CNN, The New York Times, The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal), synchronised engagement by NGO partners with congressional offices, ads by partner NGOs in local newspapers of key senators and members of Congress, and high-profile visits by Yemeni human rights advocates to Washington.

Our partnership with Crisis Action is truly priceless, and the way they work is so clever. Reducing the suffering caused by conflict takes collaboration, intelligence, creativity, and sharp focus on impact – and that’s exactly what Crisis Action brings.

Abdulrasheed Al-Faqih, Co-founder and Executive Director, Mwatana for Human Rights

Crisis Action supported Radhya Almutawakel, co-founder of Mwatana for Human Rights, to become the first-ever Yemeni woman to testify before Congress. She was also selected as one of Time magazine’s 100 most influential people of 2019, following a Crisis Action nomination, and her work with Mwatana was cited by Bernie Sanders in a speech to Congress.

Revealing the extent of his support for the Saudi and Emirati regimes, President Trump chose to veto not only the congressional resolution under the War Powers Act that would have ended US support for the war, but also three subsequent congressional resolutions that would have halted the sales of tens of thousands of US bombs to Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Steady pressure from US Congress was key to de-escalating conflict and jumpstarting negotiations.

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Abdulrasheed Al-Faqih, Co-founder and Executive Director, Mwatana for Human Rights
In September 2018, seven years after the world’s youngest country gained its independence from Sudan, and five years after the outbreak of civil war, the warring parties in South Sudan signed another peace deal in place of earlier efforts that had collapsed. This time, violence fell by an estimated 60%.

The deal, signed in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, was mediated by Sudan, Uganda, and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). Crisis Action supported civil society – particularly women – to participate in the talks, and an IGAD official subsequently said this was critical for helping to secure the deal.

Since then, Crisis Action has focused on promoting implementation of the agreement, including by continuing to help South Sudanese civil society voices to be heard, campaigning for targeted sanctions and a UN arms embargo to be renewed, and addressing the underlying drivers of the conflict.

Incentives for peace

In May 2019, in the run-up to a critical UN vote on the renewal of targeted sanctions and an arms embargo, Crisis Action coordinated a concerted global campaign with partners and allies in support of renewal. A particular focus of the campaign was persuading African UN Security Council members, South Africa, Equatorial Guinea and Côte d’Ivoire to not obstruct the vote. Alongside joint letters and a social media campaign, we helped mobilise local campaigners to place nearly 100 calls to these governments, both in New York and in national capitals, asking them not to block the vote.

We also supported two inspiring South Sudanese women leaders to travel to the US to meet policymakers at the UN and in Washington, DC. They gave first-hand accounts of continued human suffering, including sexual and gender-based violence, and spoke powerfully about the need for sustained diplomatic and political pressure on South Sudan.

The Security Council voted in favour of renewal, in spite of tough lobbying from South Sudan, and the African members of the Council abstained rather than voting against renewal. Several UN diplomats thanked Crisis Action for all the work that went into getting the critical vote over the line.

Addressing the drivers of conflict

A highlight of Crisis Action’s work on South Sudan in the past year was our collaboration with filmmaker John Allan Namu from Africa Uncensored on his documentary, The Profiteers. The film – viewed over 260,000 times on YouTube in the fortnight following its release, and also screened on Ugandan TV – exposes how South Sudan’s elite are plundering their country and laundering the proceeds through banks in Kenya and Uganda. It highlights the complicity of members of the Kenyan and Ugandan elite, and the risks posed to those countries’ financial systems.

Crisis Action worked closely with the filmmaker, helping to identify and link him to expert sources. Once the film was launched, we supported its widespread dissemination. We worked with partners to organise screenings in Kampala, Berlin, Brussels, Nairobi, London and Washington, and with the Institute of Economic Affairs in Kenya to publish a policy brief with technical recommendations, which argued that reducing illicit financial flows was in Kenya and Uganda’s interests.

Civil society is increasingly harassed, oppressed and intimidated in South Sudan. Crisis Action’s support enabled us to work with our brothers and sisters in the region and successfully lobby for the renewal of sanctions and the arms embargo at the UN.

Coumba Toure and Muhammed Lamin Saidykhan, Movement Coordinators, Africans Rising

SOUTH SUDAN
The documentary sparked public debate in the East African Community, generated widespread media coverage and social media engagement, and led to protests on the streets of Nairobi. South Sudan’s President, Salva Kiir, and General Paul Malong, who featured in the film, rapidly responded to the documentary on national TV.

The impact was remarkable: the Kenyan Central Bank ordered banks to enforce Kenyan anti-money-laundering laws and took measures to close loopholes, some suspicious South Sudanese bank accounts were closed, and the Kenya Bankers Association issued a statement, promising to help “ensure the perpetrators of economic crimes are brought to task.” The governor of the River State was fired for his role in looting South Sudan’s natural resources, Ugandan individuals exposed in the film were involved in the illegal timber trade are being investigated by the police, and Ugandan and South Sudanese authorities agreed to enact measures to ban illegal forest logging and trade along their common borders.

Africa Uncensored was the deserved recipient of the TRACE Prize for Investigative Reporting for The Profiteers. The judges called the documentary “a triumph that any mainstream newsroom would envy.” John Allan Namu also won the Journalist of the Year award at the Annual Journalism Excellence Awards hosted by the Media Council of Kenya, where his colleagues Samuel Munia Wakah and Bilal Keny were also feted.

This work demonstrates the effectiveness of creative and bold tactics, unusual collaborations, targeting the financial sector to drive high-level change and the power of film.

The testimonies of South Sudanese civil society leaders at the UN were an important part of getting targeted sanctions renewed. It’s this combination of compelling local partners and global geopolitical understanding that makes Crisis Action so effective.

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Eight years after a peaceful uprising opposing his rule, President Assad has reasserted control over the majority of the country. The costs of this conflict are sky-high: hundreds of thousands of people are dead, and millions more displaced. Swathes of the country have been reduced to rubble, and international laws and norms have been trampled.

In the past year, Crisis Action has focused on helping to prevent a humanitarian crisis in Idlib, changing the narrative on the conflict in the Russian media, and preventing a ‘normalisation’ of relations with the Syrian regime.

**Idlib: preventing a humanitarian disaster**

As regime forces have battled the armed opposition and other groups, an estimated 2.5 million people – some rebels, but the vast majority civilians – have ended up sheltering in the province of Idlib in the northwest of the country. With the Turkish border closed, this is the last refuge available to them. Crisis Action has worked to focus attention on the plight of civilians.

We supported Syrian doctors to travel to Europe and New York to tell policymakers about targeted attacks on their hospitals, and also helped facilitate a briefing of the UN Security Council by Susannah Sirkin of Physicians for Human Rights in July 2019. These interventions helped convince the UN Secretary-General to open an investigation into the bombing of hospitals and contributed to the (brief) renewal of the ceasefire by Russia.

In the same month, Crisis Action coordinated a partner campaign calling on Pope Francis to use his influence with Russian President Putin, which reached almost seven million people on Twitter and was covered by media in Russia, Italy, Germany, France and the Middle East. The Pope sent a letter to Putin asking him for concrete initiatives on behalf of the Syrian population, including the protection of civilians in Idlib.

Changing the narrative in Russia

Crisis Action continued its efforts started last year to facilitate informed reporting by independent Russian journalists. This helped counter the Kremlin’s propaganda about its involvement in Syria’s war and put pressure on President Putin to back peace.

In February and March, Crisis Action helped organise trips by Russian human rights defenders and journalists to Lebanon, Turkey and Europe where they met and interviewed Syrian victims and witnesses of war crimes and human rights violations. Following one of these trips, key independent newspaper Novaya Gazeta published an extensive front-page report – the first in a series – arguing that Russia’s support for the Assad regime was untenable and should end.
June

World Refugee Day: Crisis Action launched a global petition urging world leaders to stop using tools like “safe third countries” to torture and deny asylum to refugees in and around Syria.

In March, Crisis Action organised a forum in Berlin for over 40 activists, experts and opinion-shapers from Russia, Syria and Europe. Novaya Gazeta journalist, Olga Bobrova, told us afterwards that the forum discussions “allowed us to look at the people about whom we talked only in abstract before [and see them] as alive, active, working hard for peace and justice.”

Crisis Action’s efforts to build personal connections with the independent Russian media have enabled valuable partnerships based in personal trust and respect. This work has allowed us to humanise Russia’s involvement in Syria, showing the Russian public to see ordinary Syrians not as abstract entities, but as living, breathing people working hard for peace and justice.

Olga Bobrova, Journalist, Novaya Gazeta

When I fled the war in Syria four years ago, I never thought I would become the first person with a disability to address the United Nations Security Council. But thanks to Crisis Action, I was able to tell the international community ‘nothing about us without us’.

Nujeen Mustafa, Syrian Activist

Dr. Hala Al Ghawi and Amina Khoulani briefing the UN Security Council. Behind them is Crisis Action’s UN Director, Gareth Sweeney.

Crisis Action has also worked in the past year to prevent a resumption of normal diplomatic relations between Syria and other countries in the absence of a political transition.

In September 2018, in advance of a key meeting on Syria at the UN, we supported a group of eminent jurists to issue a set of ten principles donors must uphold under international law should they consider support for reconstruction. Feedback from diplomats confirmed that the principles were influential in convincing them not to provide unconditional reconstruction funding, and in June 2019, the statement won the University of Essex’s 2019 Best International Research Impact award.

Crisis Action has also focused attention on the plight of detainees, in recognition that the security state in Syria is the greatest obstacle to refugees returning to Syria and should be used to deter western governments from resuming diplomatic relations.

Ahead of a donor conference in Brussels in February 2019, Crisis Action supported Syrian and international organisations to brief diplomats, parliamentarians and the media. The conference declaration upheld their recommendations by urging the Syrian government “to free those arbitrarily detained, reveal the whereabouts of the disappeared, and allow access to detention facilities.”

In August 2019, for the first time ever, two former Syrian detainees – Amina Khoulani and Dr. Hala Al Ghawi from Families for Freedom – briefed the UN Security Council on their experiences. Crisis Action supported the women and ensured their briefing received considerable media attention, including in The Washington Post, The New York Times and Al-Arabiya. We also supported Amina and Hala to meet privately with high-level decision makers to push for a UN resolution on detainees.

No normalisation

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In August 2019, for the first time ever, two former Syrian detainees – Amina Khoulani and Dr. Hala Al Ghawi from Families for Freedom – briefed the UN Security Council on their experiences. Crisis Action supported the women and ensured their briefing received considerable media attention, including in The Washington Post, The New York Times and Al-Arabiya. We also supported Amina and Hala to meet privately with high-level decision makers to push for a UN resolution on detainees.

No normalisation

Crisis Action has also worked in the past year to prevent a resumption of normal diplomatic relations between Syria and other countries in the absence of a political transition.

In September 2018, in advance of a key meeting on Syria at the UN, we supported a group of eminent jurists to issue a set of ten principles donors must uphold under international law should they consider support for reconstruction. Feedback from diplomats confirmed that the principles were influential in convincing them not to provide unconditional reconstruction funding, and in June 2019, the statement won the University of Essex’s 2019 Best International Research Impact award.

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In addition to our core campaigns, Crisis Action retains capacity to scale up quickly to help prevent or rapidly respond to new or escalating conflicts.

In the wake of months of anti-government protests, which culminated in the overthrow of long-time President Omar al-Bashir, Crisis Action launched an emergency response on Sudan in April 2019 to urge a peaceful transition to civilian rule.

We focused efforts on encouraging the AU to listen to Sudanese civil society and insist that the military hand power to civilians.

Crisis Action facilitated three separate civil society statements, the demands of which were reflected in two strong statements from the AU, calling for a transition to civilian rule and setting a deadline for the handover. We also supported partners to produce two shadow reports to the AU on the progress towards transition.

We arranged for four Sudanese civil society delegates to brief the AU Commission, members of the Peace and Security Council, and diplomatic missions in Addis Ababa. Their testimony was hugely influential, with one ambassador telling us that he “could not betray” the delegates when voting to suspend Sudan from the AU.

Behind the scenes, Crisis Action facilitated a private letter to the AU Peace and Security Council from eight eminent Africans, and spurred leading business people to telephone AU officials and ministers on the eve of a critical vote and privately appeal for action to save lives.

On June 6, the AU suspended Sudan from the organisation and indicated its willingness to impose targeted sanctions. In July 2019, the Sudanese military agreed to form a civilian-led transitional government, which was the original objective of Crisis Action’s emergency response.
Venezuela

In March 2019, following a partner consultation, Crisis Action launched an emergency response on the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, where over seven million people are in need of urgent assistance, and from which four million people have already fled.

This was Crisis Action’s first initiative on Latin America and our goal was to get aid to those in need. We supported partners to urge the UN to scale up its response, and to ask key governments to use their influence with Venezuela to get them to accept international humanitarian assistance.

We coordinated a private letter to members of the European-led International Contact Group on Venezuela, urging them to demand greater humanitarian access and a scaled-up response. The letter was well received and soon afterward, the group issued a joint statement including strong demands to tackle the humanitarian crisis. The aim of the campaign was to get incumbent President Paul Biya and Anglophone separatist leaders to engage in a mediated dialogue.

A significant achievement of this short action was our bringing together of Anglophone and Francophone civil society organisations to co-strategise and work together towards promoting peace.

Cameroon

In the lead-up to the Cameroonian elections in October 2018, Crisis Action launched an emergency response to the escalating conflict, which had seen horrific levels of violence and widespread displacement of civilians. The aim of the campaign was to get incumbent President Paul Biya and Anglophone separatist leaders to engage in a mediated dialogue.

A significant achievement of this short action was our bringing together of Anglophone and Francophone civil society organisations to co-strategise and work together towards promoting peace.

EMERGENCY RESPONSES

In addition to our core campaigns, Crisis Action retains capacity to scale up quickly to help prevent or rapidly respond to new or escalating conflicts.

WORKING WITH CRISIS ACTION

Reem Abbas is an award-winning Sudanese journalist, blogger and campaigner on issues including human rights and gender equality.

Women were at the heart of the protests that ousted Sudan’s President Omar al-Bashir from office. But then we were sidelined in the talks that followed with the Transitional Military Council who took over from the President. So I knew when I was invited to join a delegation to the AU to call for a peaceful transition of power, it was an opportunity I had to take.

The prospect of meeting dignitaries from the AU and neighbouring nations was daunting. I communicate with thousands of people every day in my work as a journalist and blogger, but the thought of public speaking and high-level political meetings terrified me.

Crisis Action’s Director in Addis Ababa was really helpful. She briefed me and my fellow delegates about who we would meet and the different roles we could play. We were encouraged to speak from the heart, having lived through the years of oppression and seen people’s suffering. We transformed from three individuals into a powerful team.

As we prepared, the situation on the streets of Khartoum got worse, with peaceful protests met with violent crackdowns by the rapid support forces. The Sudan Doctors’ Committee documented 70 cases of rape on one clay alone, and sexual harassment and violence against female protesters was rife.

Crisis Action was able to get meetings with all the right people and to get results. Those we met expressed deep gratitude for the information we shared. We insisted the AU had to act in support of peace in Sudan and that any peace worth the name had to recognise the rights and leadership of women.

Seeing AU ambassadors and other officials act on our briefings and push Sudan towards a peaceful transition of power – at a time when things could so easily have gone the other way – was hugely rewarding.

Of course, peace and gender equality are by no means guaranteed. But with a new Prime Minister in place, the prospects are better than they have been for decades. I will continue to hold the new Prime Minister and government to account through my journalism, and use my new-found presentation skills to reach new audiences on YouTube. I’m also going to write a book about the uprising. And if necessary, I will go back to the front line and protest for peace, for my fellow women, and for the Sudanese people.

An article by high-level Francophone and Anglophone Cameroonian voices calling for both sides to engage in peace talks, as coordinated by Crisis Action.
Dr. Anna Neistat
Senior Director for Research, Amnesty International
An independent consultant on organisational development and human rights and an expert on Eritrea. She co-founded the Arab Human Rights Fund and Fund for Global Human Rights. 

Mona Younis
An independent consultant on organisational development and human rights and an expert on the Middle East. Mona co-founded the Arab Human Rights Fund and Fund for Global Human Rights. 

Arnold Tsunga (Chair)
One of Africa’s leading human rights lawyers and Africa Director for the International Commission of Jurists. Previously, he was Executive Director of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights. 

Regan E. Ralph
President and CEO of the Fund for Global Human Rights. Previously, Vice President for Health and Reproductive Rights at the National Women’s Law Center and Director of the Women’s Rights Division of HRW. 

Paul Fletcher (Treasurer)
Chair of Teach for All and LindenQuest. Board member of Systems4africa and CIC. Paul has a wealth of experience in financial services, emerging markets and the private equity industry. 

Regan E. Ralph

Paul Fletcher (Treasurer)

Khaled Mansour
An independent consultant on communications and human rights. Previously, he was Executive Director of the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights. 

Donors and Philanthropic Partners

Crisis Action’s financial support comes from a range of foundations, governments and private individuals, many of which provide unrestricted multi-year funding. In addition, all of Crisis Action’s core partners make an annual financial contribution, with the exception of those located in the Global South. To ensure the organization’s financial viability and safeguard its integrity and independence, we are continuously expanding and diversifying our donor base.

Thank you to all of our donors, who appear below, for making our work possible.

Foundations and Individuals

- Berghof Foundation
- Catherine Zennstrom
- Eagle Fund
- Gender Equality Community Foundation (Sustainable Impact Fund)
- Greenbaum Foundation
- Henry Berl Foundation
- Joseph Brown-Charles Trust
- Kerkhoff Foundation
- Lise Leclerc Foundation
- MacArthur Foundation
- Nduna Foundation
- New Venture Fund
- Oak Foundation
- Open Society Foundations
- Paulson Foundation
- Robert Bosch Stiftung
- Robert-Maury-Ratzenberger-Fund
- Sigrid Rausing Trust
- Silicon Valley Community Foundation
- Skoll Foundation
- Stanley and Marion Bergman Family Charitable Fund
- Susan Glick
- * Crisis Action is especially grateful to these donors for providing us with unrestricted multi-year support

Governments

- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland (Stability Fund)
- European Court and European Federal Office as part of the Syria Peace Initiative, implemented by the GIZ
- Global Affairs Canada
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands
- Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Thank you to all of our donors, who appear below, for making our work possible.
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2019

INCOME

Funders & Donations 3,764,284 3,218,348 4,747,214 4,614,096
Partners 129,707 97,181 163,576 129,707
Interest 5,309 7,721 6,665 10,286

TOTAL 3,999,300 3,423,260 4,917,485 4,844,167

EXPENDITURE

Salaries & Related Costs 2,065,611 2,432,035 2,279,480 2,225,701
Occupancy 232,672 246,797 310,800 208,351
Travel & Travel Related Costs 458,587 380,944 576,233 372,783
IT, General & Office Supplies 160,877 156,627 216,235 200,737
Publications 78,744 20,803 99,306 27,677
Events 24,135 103,332 30,438 136,614
Professional Fees 99,821 89,883 120,866 119,983
Asset Write Off 16,075 18,159 20,725 24,837
Finance Charges 9,263 90,883 11,782 120,915
Depreciation 9,521 6,555 6,975 6,031

TOTAL 2,710,396 3,443,224 4,645,560 4,541,037

(In/Deficit)/Surplus Before Taxation 183,004 (19,045) 237,925 (26,545)
Taxation (1,005) (1,460) (1,578) (1,993)

(In/Deficit)/Surplus After Taxation 182,999 (20,505) 236,347 (28,538)

Total funds brought forward 1,118,379 1,138,831 1,410,410 1,516,462
Total funds carried forward 1,301,274 1,138,831 1,410,410 1,487,947

Exchange rate at 31st May 2019 (£) 1.26112
Exchange rate at 31st May 2018 (£) 1.3305

INCOME 2018/2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Source</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
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<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
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<td>67.2%</td>
<td>£2,338,034</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
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Human Rights Information and Training Center
Human Rights Watch
Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust - UK
Humanyty and Inclusion
Instituto Jonn von Tetsch (IHT) (Humanitarian Relief Foundation)
Institute for Security Studies (ISS)
International Center for Policy and Conflict (IPC)
International Crisis Group (ICG)
International Medical Corps UK
International Safeguard Rights Initiative (ISR)
International Rescue Committee
Izidareib Worldwide
KontraS
Mensen met een Missie
Merry Corps
Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) 
Office Internationale des Droits de l’homme (OMIDH)
SAFEX
Permanent Peace Movement
People for Human Rights (PHR)
Refugees International
Safeworlrd
Save the Children - UK
Save the Children - US
Shifting Vantage
Support To Life
Terre des Hommes
Trócaire
Veiligheid en Humanitaire Ondersteuning (VHO)
Women International Peace Centre

CAMPAIGN PARTNERS

Acción Solidaria
Action Des Chrétiens Pour L’Abolition De La Torture (ACAT)
Adapt & Revolution
Altruisms Romania
Alliance Internationale pour la défense des droits et libertés (AIDL)
Articulação SUL
Assistance Mission for Africa (AMA)
Asociación de Evangélicos en América Latina (AMLA)
Baytuna Syria
Bridging World Campaign
Center for Democracy and Development
Center for Civilians in Conflict
Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL)
Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue
Centro de Justicia y Paz (CEJP)
Children’s Rights Center
China Human Rights Defenders
CIA
diaspora
Dialogue and Research Initiative (DRI)
End Impunity Organization (EIO)
Enough Project
Euromed Rights – Euro-Mediterranean Network For Human Rights
EvE Organization
Families for Freedom
Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA)
FIDH
Freedom Network
Ghanaian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA)
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Women International Peace Centre

International Medical Corps USA
International Youth for Africa (IFA)
I melodies international
Médecins du Monde Organisation for Human Rights
Migration Network
National Security Action
Observatoire des Armes
Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU)
Peace Coalition for South Sudan (PECOSS)
People in Need (PIN)
Relief & Reconciliation for Syria
Refugee
Seifers
Salam for Yemen
Sawas Day Center for Strategic Studies
Sawas Association for Development and Aid
Search for Common Ground
South Sudan Action Network on Small Arms (SSANSA)
South Sudan Women’s Empowerment Network (SSWEN)
South Sudan Food Point Europe
Syria Bright Future
Syria Relief
Syria Relief & Development (SRD)
Syrian American Medical Society
The Sentry
The Syria Campaign
The Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)
Union des Organisations de Secours et Soins Médicaux (UOSSM)
United States Institute of Peace (USIP)
Violations Documentation Center in Syria (VDC)
Win Without War
Wogood for Human Security
Women Now for Development
Yemen Solidarity Network
OUR NETWORK

CORE PARTNERS, CAMPAIGN PARTNERS & NETWORK MEMBERS

CRISIS ACTION OFFICE LOCATIONS
Our Staff:


We would like to thank the following consultants, interns and former employees for their contribution to Crisis Action’s work over the past year:

Abir Ahmad, Anna Derake, Amy Barry, Baroum Kabaki, Carolin Davila, Cara Priestley, Catherine Penda, Chelangat Rutto, Clare Alvarez, Conor O’Loughlin, Dalia Dheemat, Ebony Ross, Dina Solaim, Erebel Gerlach, Jennifer Dheemat, Jessica Dourad, John Knieph, Jana Kuparin, Kelly Pettis, Lawrence Robinson, Lena Cohrs, Mala Gebremeded, Morga Schue, Maria-Charts Mertz, Marianne Tessa, Maxwolchard, Mayetire Kiroshche, Morgan Cronin-Webb, Nada Ismail, Nicole Maloba, Nick Martlew, Nour Zargouni, Rhythm Me, Olivia Njoroge, Divena Adipo Sabong, Rebecca Gibbons, Richard Alam, Robert Schupp, Ruth Price, Shilpa Venigandla, Sonya Firth, Stefanie Barczy, Susanne Baumann, Tamara Bazih, Yasmine Fawaz.
Syrian children play in a camp for internally displaced people in northern Idlib on the eve of Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan.

Photo by AAREF WATAD/AFP/Getty Images