

A young child with curly hair is looking over their shoulder towards the camera. The background shows a refugee camp with several people walking around. The child is wearing a brown jacket.

Annual report 2012/13

with accounts

Crisis Action

Helping organisations work
together to protect civilians
from armed conflict

Crisis Action

We work for and with organisations and individuals across civil society who act to protect civilians from armed conflict.

We are a catalyst and convenor of joint action, whose behind the scenes work enables coalitions to act quickly and effectively. As a coordinating body we seek no public profile or media spotlight; it is the voice of the coalition that matters.

We are an international organisation whose only agenda is the protection of civilians. We are open about our objectives, welcoming scrutiny from anyone who wishes to understand who we are and what we do.

Who we work with

Partners

Action Contre la Faim (ACF)
Aegis Trust
Africa Peace Forum
African Research and Resource Forum (ARRF)
Amnesty International
Arab Programme for Human Rights Activists (APHRA)
Arab Network of Human Rights Information (ANHRI)
Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC)
Broederlijk Delen
Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)
CARE International France
CARE International UK
Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD)
Christian Aid
Concordis International
Cordaid
Diakonia
Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (GCR2P)
Human Rights First
Human Rights Watch (HRW)
Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust (HART)
ICCO (Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation)
IKV Pax Christi
Institute for Security Studies (ISS)
International Alert
International Crisis Group
International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)
International Medical Corps UK
International Rescue Committee
Media in Cooperation and Transition (MICT)
medica mondiale

medico international
Mensen met een missie
Mercy Corps
Nobel Women's Initiative
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
Oxfam International
Permanent Peace Movement
Refugees International
Saferworld
Save the Children
Stichting Vluchteling (Netherlands Refugee Foundation)
Tearfund
The Elders
The Resolve LRA Crisis Initiative
Trócaire
Waging Peace
War Child
World Vision International

Network members

Amicus/Unite section
Anti-Slavery International
Arab Alternatives Forum
Arab Coalition for Darfur
Arab Reform Initiative
Article 36
Baptist Union
Britain's General Union (GMB)
British American Security Information Council (BASIS)
British Humanist Association (BHA)
British Muslim Forum (BMF)
British Refugee Council
Burma Campaign UK
Burma Initiative Asienhaus
Chatham House
Christian Solidarity Worldwide
Church of England International Office
Council for Arab British Understanding (CAABU)
Damascus Centre for Human Rights Studies
Darfur Consortium
Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR)
European Council on Foreign Relations
Foreign Policy Centre (FPC)
Friends of the Earth UK
Global Witness
Greenpeace
Hindu Council UK
Human Rights and Democracy Media Centre "SHAMS" / Palestine
Human Rights First Society (Saudi Arabia)
Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR)
International Action Network for Small Arms (IANSA)
International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)
International Centre for Policy and Conflict (ICPC)

International Refugee Rights Initiative (IRRI)
Iraq Body Count
MEDACT
Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP)
Methodist Church
Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MRDF)
Minority Rights Group International
Mothers' Union
Muslim Council of Britain (MCB)
National Union of Students (NUS)
National Union of Teachers (NUT)
New Israel Fund
Oxford Research Group
Pan-African Lawyers Union (PALU)
Parliamentarians Network for Conflict Prevention
PeaceDirect
People & Planet
Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA)
Quaker Peace and Social Witness (QPSW)
René Cassin
Responding to Conflict
The Church of Scotland
The Syrian American Medical Society
Three Faiths Forum
Trade Union Congress (TUC)
UNISON
UNITE the Union
United Nations Association (UK)
United Reform Church
Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC)
War on Want
Welfare Association
Women's Institute
Zimbabwe Europe Network

Chair's report



Crisis Action is often described as nimble, strategic and effective. Since becoming Chair, I have realised how apt and accurate this description is. I am deeply impressed at the ability of this small, dynamic team to jump into action and swiftly bring together the world's leading NGOs to fight for the protection of civilians under attack.

As UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, I had first-hand experience of conflict prevention and response at the highest levels. I witnessed NGOs have tremendous impact on policy when they were united and how this was lost when they failed to speak with one voice. I became Chair of Crisis Action to support its efforts to unlock the potential power of civil society in preventing atrocities and resolving conflict. I have witnessed how their model of collective action influences decision-making at the top – such as the UN Security Council calling for the delivery of humanitarian aid across Syria's national borders – which will mean the difference between life and death for thousands of innocent victims of conflict.

The tragic situation in Syria reminds us of the need for this kind of collective action; to expose and document the realities of conflict for civilians and to hold governments accountable for their response to what is undoubtedly the worst conflict in the world today.

As demonstrated by ongoing divisions between international leaders on the Syrian crisis, we must be able to focus engagement outside of western capitals. Crisis Action has invested in meticulous research to determine where they should position their geographical focus and I look forward to supporting their efforts to increase collaboration with Turkey, Brazil, South Africa, India and Indonesia. I congratulate the team on Crisis Action's pioneering work on influencing the BRICS countries on Syria. Likewise, on Sudan, this year's report documents the tangible impact that civil society has had through increasing engagement with the African Union.

It is for exactly these reasons that Crisis Action deservedly won the 2013 Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship.



I am proud to be Chair of this exciting organisation and help ensure that the tremendous potential that Crisis Action has to save lives and help prevent violence is realised. I take over from Nick Grono as Chair. Under his stewardship, Crisis Action transitioned from a small start-up into a leading international NGO. I thank him greatly for the exceptional contribution he has made to Crisis Action during his tenure. I also thank Lotte Leicht, who stepped down this year after long service on the Board, for her tremendous contribution to the organisation since its early days. She is succeeded by Mabel van Oranje who brings to the board world-class expertise and experience.

On behalf of the Board, I thank Crisis Action's partners and funders for their ongoing collaboration and support. Together, we are really making a difference where it matters.

Jan Egeland
Chair, Crisis Action

Executive Director's report



Over the last year, the Syrian conflict has intensified in the face of deepening political divisions. Over 100,000 innocent men, women and children are now dead and millions more have endured a painful exodus from their homes.

The level of atrocity we are witnessing is truly a scar on humanity. It is a situation that cannot be left to endure.

As this report shows, the political stalemate has pushed us to focus on getting aid to the people who need it most. It is essential that, together, we remain vigilant, vocal and dogged in our defence of the rights, needs and hopes of those people whose lives have been destroyed by this conflict. We have finally seen recognition from the Security Council of the need to get aid across Syria's borders, we have seen the BRICS speak out more forcefully and acknowledge that victims need and deserve help and we have seen increasing UN leadership. It is not enough and I am confident that with increased pressure from civil society, it can be a great deal more.

Even when the prognosis for systemic conflict is bleak, it is our role to shake off pessimism and locate the opportunities for progress that remain obscured. An integral part of our work is to ensure that the US and EU uphold the standards they demand of others and this is of particular importance in the Middle East. On the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, this approach has paid off over the last year. This report documents how evidence-based campaigning has led to closing loopholes in EU policies that sustain the very Israeli settlements in the West Bank that the EU has declared illegal and a barrier to peace. This includes the likely adoption of EU-wide labelling guidelines on products produced in Israeli settlements and tighter policies on benefits to settlement-based businesses and programmes. These outcomes are a powerful example of how civil society can hold their own governments accountable for inconsistencies between their foreign policy pronouncements and trade preferences.

On Sudan, we enabled Sudanese partners to engage directly with top officials in Africa. We were proud to organise a rare briefing of the African Union's Peace and Security Council (AU PSC) for Sudanese civil society. Ambassadors heard directly from local leaders who have seen conflict rob their communities of so many lives and livelihoods.

Their powerful account encouraged the AU to reconvene negotiations between the warring parties and reinvigorate demands for a ceasefire and greater humanitarian relief.

Similar commitment has been displayed in joint campaigning on the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), examples where Crisis Action helped partners to train focus on the implementation of action plans and mandates that we had previously helped to secure. In Mali, coordinated advocacy secured Security Council commitments to set new human rights standards in mandating peacekeepers. These are practical steps that can make a concrete difference for people on the ground.

On a personal note, while on maternity leave from September 2012 to February 2013, I missed my colleagues - within Crisis Action and among our partners - considerably. I would receive an update charting the incredible work that was being done by Crisis Action's partners and the impact it was having. I felt great pride and fortune be working alongside such exceptional people and with a group of such empowering donors.

During my leave, I handed over full executive responsibility to Andrew Hudson, oversight of our campaigns to Nicola Reindorp and internal management to Susanne Baumann. They ran the organisation brilliantly in my absence; not only keeping things on track but making significant improvements. I am delighted to be working with them now as a Senior Management Team on a permanent basis.

Gemma Mortensen
Executive Director, Crisis Action

Campaigns



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Since its government's brutal crackdown on popular protest in March 2011, Syria has descended into a civil war in which innocent civilians have repeatedly been the victims of unthinkable atrocities and war crimes have been perpetrated by both sides. In response to the worsening violence, Crisis Action supported partners to demand international action to end the conflict and deliver aid to Syria's suffering population.



▲ A boy walks past the burnt out hulk of a tank sitting next to some destroyed apartment blocks in Aleppo. Photo: Tom Pilston/Panos

In spring 2011, soon after the outbreak of civil unrest in Syria, Crisis Action launched an emergency campaign to call for international action to end the bloodshed. In 2012, amidst worsening violence, a growing refugee crisis and a deadlock between world powers over how to respond, Crisis Action supported partners to press for more robust relief efforts to reach those in need in the region.



An estimated seven million people in Syria and neighbouring countries are now in need of aid in a humanitarian crisis that the United Nations (UN) has described as the worst in the world today. During the last year, amidst mass displacement and the destruction of homes, markets and medical facilities, the Syrian regime has blocked relief agencies from providing assistance, leaving millions in need.

As divisions became more entrenched between powers choosing to back the Syrian regime and those in support of the armed opposition, Crisis Action focused its energies on supporting partners to highlight the growing humanitarian crisis in the region and push for scaled up relief efforts to meet the escalating need.

Crisis Action supported partners to:

- **Press the UN for more dynamic leadership and effective coordination of the humanitarian response** inside Syria and across the wider region.
- **Encourage Turkey to lift restrictions** on Syrian refugees entering the country and allow international NGOs to support its aid efforts.
- **Persuade Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - the 'BRICS' countries – to call on President Bashar al-Assad to permit the UN to deliver cross-border assistance** to Syrian civilians via its neighbouring countries.
- **Spur donors to increase their contributions to fund a more adequate response.**

“Crisis Action’s success stems from their unique ability to bring together a diverse and powerful coalition of actors - from internationally renowned experts to former politicians and civil society organisations from around the world. When we, as a humanitarian agency, were unable to raise an issue publicly, Crisis Action found powerful voices, who could speak on our behalf. This way we generated significant media coverage for our campaign and were able to influence Turkish public discourse leading to an improved operating environment for civil society in Turkey.”

Sema Genel Karaosmanoglu, Executive Director, Support to Life

“Crisis Action are nimble and efficient. It’s impressive to see how quickly they pull joint initiatives together at the moments we can have impact.”

Barbara Jackson, Humanitarian Director, CARE International

Harnessing high profile support

In August, Crisis Action brought together humanitarian partners, former heads of state and members of The Elders to sound the alarm that more than 1.5 million people inside Syria were internally displaced, having been driven from their homes by the violence.

The coalition delivered a powerful joint statement to the UN Security Council, which was cited as the top story in the UN’s internal media wire and helped generate global media coverage around the scale of the humanitarian crisis inside Syria. As a result:

- **The UN Deputy Secretary-General, Jan Eliasson, drew on the joint statement** when briefing a UN Security Council meeting on Syria and called on the Council to radically step up its response.
- **Baroness Valerie Amos, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, cited the coalition’s recommendations** in her meetings with key governments after a visit to Syria.



▲ Coverage of the campaign to persuade Turkey to accept greater support to assist Syrian refugees in Turkish media in November 2012.

As fighting intensified, insecurity combined with bureaucratic hurdles meant that adequate aid could not be effectively delivered across battle lines to people in need within Syria, especially in opposition-held areas. Crisis Action supported efforts to scale up the humanitarian effort and push the Syrian government to allow cross-border aid, such as:

- **An op-ed from Dr Hany El Banna, founder of Islamic Relief and Chairman of the Humanitarian Forum**, arguing that neutral nations should influence Russia and China – allies of the Syrian regime – to call on President Assad to lift restrictions on aid delivery to civilians.
- **A high-level meeting for partners to canvas support for NGO concerns from Lakhdar Brahimi**, joint Special Representative for the UN and Arab League.
- **A joint policy briefing by leading humanitarian organisations** – ahead of a major donor conference on Syria in Kuwait¹.
- **A media release calling on the world's richest countries to increase their support for humanitarian efforts in Syria**. Donors heeded the call and pledged \$1.5bn to the UN appeal, though difficulties with disbursement continue to hamper relief efforts.
- **Meetings for partners with senior officials of the European Commission's humanitarian aid department and the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, which resulted in progress unblocking funding for cross-border aid.

Increasing Turkish support for Syrian refugees

By the summer of 2012, Turkey had closed its borders to restrict the flow of Syrians into the country, citing capacity issues. This left thousands of people who were attempting to flee intensifying violence trapped at the border, enduring appalling conditions with limited access to shelter, water and sanitation.

Following discussions with Turkish and international partners, Crisis Action facilitated a campaign to persuade Turkey to accept greater international and NGO support to assist Syrian refugees. Activities included:

- **Facilitating an open letter to Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu from prominent figures from Turkey, Europe and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region**, urging the country to improve access for aid agencies. The appeal was picked up by a range of Turkish media, including the pro-government Zaman newspaper, which ran a supportive op-ed.
- **Securing agreements from key international policymakers** with influence in Turkey that they would further press the issue with the Turkish government.
- **Coordinating advocacy to urge the German government to discuss access for aid agencies and refugee entry restrictions** with the Turkish Foreign Minister during his visit to Berlin.

Partners confirmed that these activities had increased debate within Turkey on the role of NGOs in supporting efforts to host refugees. There have since been promising moves towards increased humanitarian operations in Turkey and the country has supported efforts to deliver assistance to civilians still inside Syria.

Securing BRICS support for increased humanitarian access

In March 2013, to maintain pressure on the Syrian government to grant the UN unimpeded access, Crisis Action facilitated targeted advocacy around the annual summit of the influential BRICS nations.

The campaign encouraged Brazil, India and South Africa to persuade Russia and China to agree to a joint public call on President Assad to grant unimpeded humanitarian access. In view of Russia's position as an ally and supplier of arms to the Syrian regime, a statement from this group would potentially be hugely influential.

“Crisis Action took the initiative to reach out to us to put Syria on the agenda of the BRICS summit. With their help, we persuaded BRICS to call on President Assad to grant humanitarian access across the country - a rare example of BRICS responding to civil society's demands on foreign policy. Crisis Action was invaluable in coordinating this action.”

Nicole Fritz, Executive Director, Southern Africa Litigation Centre



▲ Media coverage of campaign for BRICS countries to support increased humanitarian access.

In the run-up to the Summit, Crisis Action coordinated the following activities:

- **Lobbying by civil society partners in Brazil, South Africa and India** to press their respective governments to ensure the summit's outcomes included a call to all parties in the Syria conflict to allow full humanitarian access.
- **Op-eds in Brazilian, Indian and South African media**, including pieces by former Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Jan Egeland, former Deputy Executive of Human Rights Watch, KC Singh, an Indian Ambassador and Salman Shaikh, Director of Brookings Doha Center.
- **An open letter, signed by 27 prominent individuals from BRICS countries**, printed as a full page ad in The Mercury, a Durban Newspaper circulated in the Summit.
- **The creation, by renowned street artist Indigo, of a 60m² mural** on the wall of a Durban gallery depicting a Syrian child. This drove coverage in South African media, including a front page feature in leading paper the Daily News, as well as South African lifestyle magazine *Grazia*.
- **The launch by South African partners CIVICUS of an online petition** calling on BRICS officials to support humanitarian access in Syria, signed by more than 14,000 people.
- **A Twitter campaign putting further pressure on BRICS countries to take action**, which reached more than 13 million people.

“On Syria, Crisis Action coordinated the first global campaign to successfully target the BRICS. Without seeking the spotlight for themselves, Crisis Action supported local NGOs in South Africa, India and Brazil to persuade their own governments to call for unimpeded aid in Syria at the BRICS Summit. They've shown what effective engagement with emerging powers can look like.”

Steve Price-Thomas, G20/BRICSAM Strategy Manager, Oxfam International



▲ Mural by renowned street artist Indigo on the wall of a Durban gallery depicting a Syrian child. Photo: Alexia Webster

This work contributed to a major breakthrough in the BRICS position on humanitarian access in Syria. The summit's outcome document represented the group's strongest position to date, including a call for "all parties to allow and facilitate immediate, safe, full and unimpeded access to humanitarian organisations to all in need of assistance."

"At a critical juncture of the conflict in Syria, Crisis Action enabled me to meet with senior US government policymakers and journalists in Washington DC to report on the horrors I had witnessed taking place inside Syria. Their behind the scenes work is literally lifesaving."

Abdulkader Al Dhon, Journalist and Syrian activist

Maintaining pressure on the UN

Despite this progress, the UN Security Council remained divided over Syria. Crisis Action worked with partners to capitalise on the BRICS statement and to increase pressure on the Council to demand unimpeded humanitarian access, including across all Syria's borders, by:

- **Facilitating a powerful private letter to the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs**, Baroness Valerie Amos, in advance of her briefing to Council on Syria.
- **Organising advocacy meetings for partners with key Security Council members**, building support for unimpeded humanitarian access on the basis of the BRICS summit outcome document and Russia and China's support for the issue.
- **Assisting Syrian human rights activist Abdulkader Al Dhon to brief US policymakers.**



▲ An open letter, signed by 27 prominent individuals from BRICS countries, printed as a full page ad in The Mercury, a Durban Newspaper circulated in the Summit.

In a major breakthrough, the Security Council responded to this campaign. After two years of deadlock, Amos' appeal to the Council "to consider alternative forms of aid delivery" from Syria's neighbours was met with a rare show of unity when members agreed that aid should be delivered across borders.

Increasing the cost of doing business with Assad

Alongside campaigning on humanitarian issues, Crisis Action worked with partners to explore other innovative strategies that could help bring an end to the conflict.

In September 2012, ahead of a Friends of Syria meeting in the Netherlands, Crisis Action forged a campaign to persuade the US government to impose pre-emptive contract sanctions against Syria. This would mean declaring any new oil or arms contracts with the Assad regime illegitimate should a future, legitimate government choose to repudiate them.

Crisis Action assisted partners to engage the US government to explore these measures, as well as placing an op-ed by Charles Dunne, MENA Director at Freedom House, in the Huffington Post. Timed to coincide with the conclusion of the UN General Assembly, the piece drew greater attention to the issue, prompting US State Department officials to canvas European governments on the possibility of coordinated action on the issue.

"Crisis Action continues to prove that its model works and has impact. We repeatedly see that policymakers are more likely to take stronger and more effective action when NGOs coordinate and collaborate. Crisis Action helps make this happen."

Ken Roth, Executive Director, Human Rights Watch

Maintaining global pressure

At the end of another year's work on Syria, campaigning facilitated by Crisis Action has been partly responsible for some of the few signs of hope in an otherwise desperate outlook for the country, including a rare show of unity from the UN Security Council and a landmark statement from the BRICS countries, both on the issue of humanitarian access.

Despite this progress, the conflict in Syria continues to rage into its third year. As casualties and atrocities mount on all sides, there is a greater need than ever to sustain concerted pressure on the key players who can bring an end to the suffering.



▲ Syrians jump over barbed wire as they flee across the border into Turkey. Photo: Stringer/Reuters.

Almost a year after South Sudan declared independence from Sudan, the region remained highly volatile. With international mediation efforts focused on averting a return to war between the two countries, Crisis Action supported partners to direct international attention towards the need to stop the continuing conflict and humanitarian crisis inside Sudan.



▲ This man lost his eight-year-old daughter when the Sudanese Armed Forces dropped bombs on Benamayo in Blue Nile State. Photo: Amnesty International

Crisis Action began working on Sudan in 2006 with the aim of protecting civilians in Darfur. In 2010, it expanded its focus to preventing conflict around the referendum on South Sudan's independence. Since the outbreak of renewed violence in the border region in 2011, Crisis Action has supported efforts to raise awareness of the crisis in the wider region and encourage international engagement to address the root causes of the conflict – in particular within Sudan itself.



In the aftermath of secession, tensions had remained between Sudan and its new neighbour, South Sudan, with the two countries reaching the brink of war in April 2012.

Within Sudan, the situation was even worse. In response to continuing armed opposition from the Sudan People's Liberation Movement – North (SPLM-N) in the border states of South Kordofan and Blue Nile, the government of Sudan maintained a brutal campaign of almost daily, indiscriminate aerial bombardment.

Almost 200,000 people were forced to flee into camps in South Sudan and Ethiopia, while a growing number of displaced people remained trapped inside southern Sudan, prevented from tending their crops by daily violence. As food supplies dwindled, the government in Khartoum continued to block access to the two areas by relief agencies. The United Nations (UN) and African Union (AU) also criticised restrictions placed on humanitarian access by the SPLM-N.

Pressuring powerful alliances to act

In April 2012, the AU had produced a 'roadmap' for action by the leaders of Sudan and South Sudan to resolve the remaining disagreements between them. The UN Security Council was quick to back this plan in Resolution 2046 and threatened to consider sanctions should the parties fail to take the steps outlined.

Crucially – and in part as a result of sustained campaigning by Crisis Action and partners – both the AU's plan and the Security Council's resolution also included demands on the government in Khartoum for action to halt the conflict with the SPLM-N in Sudan and grant humanitarian access to allow life-saving aid to reach South Kordofan and Blue Nile (also referred to as 'the Two Areas'). Yet the Council demonstrated little readiness to follow through on its demand.

Throughout the year, Crisis Action worked with partners to highlight the dire humanitarian situation in the Two Areas and persuade the AU, UN and Arab League to maintain pressure on Khartoum and the SPLM-N to halt hostilities, allow humanitarian access and engage in talks as part of a comprehensive effort to address the underlying causes of Sudan's recurring and deadly internal conflicts.



▲ Photo based social media campaign using the Twitter hash-tag #ChoosePeace to target key international policymakers.

“Working in partnership with Crisis Action has ensured a more coherent approach in engaging the African Union on Sudan. Whether by joining coalition initiatives or working in tandem to facilitate high-level dialogue, our collaboration has enabled us to better inform the decisions of the AU Peace and Security Council to enhance civilian protection in Sudan.”

Jakkie Cilliers, Executive Director, Institute for Security Studies (ISS)

We Choose Peace

As the one-year anniversary of South Sudan's independence approached, Crisis Action built a global coalition to challenge claims by the Sudanese and South Sudanese that their people supported a return to war and increase pressure on the AU and UN to push for an end to hostilities. Activities included:

- **Releasing a joint statement from Archbishop Deng from Sudan and Archbishop Lukudu from South Sudan** articulating their demand for peace in the region. This was picked up by BBC TV's Sunday programme, Al Jazeera and the Guardian.

- **Coordinating a joint call for peace from more than 150 civil society and faith groups** from Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the US. This was supported by a social media campaign, visual stunts in London, Berlin and Washington DC and blog posts from Sudanese and South Sudanese writers. This story was widely covered by leading African and international media.

- **Running a photo-based social media campaign and using the Twitter hashtag #ChoosePeace** to target key international policymakers. This message reached more than two million people.

High-level advocacy with policymakers

As well as mobilising public support for peace in Sudan, Crisis Action facilitated contact with high-level policymakers from the African Union, key donor governments and UN Security Council members to press them to follow through on their commitments to demand compliance with the AU's plan of action. Activities included:

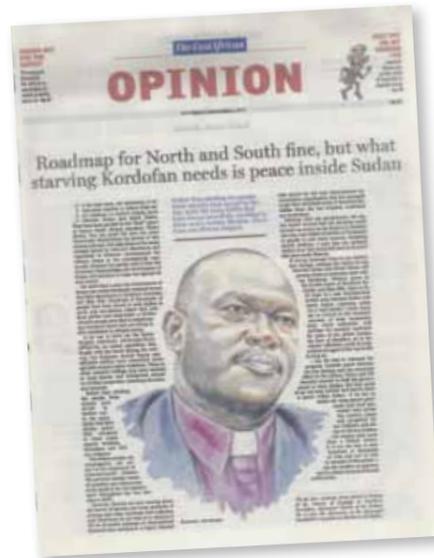
- **A seminar** for key AU officials with the Institute of Security Studies in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- **Roundtables** for partners with the EU and UK special representatives for Sudan and South Sudan.
- **Joint lobbying** of UN Security Council members.

At the AU Summit in July, there were signs of impact. The Chair of the AU Commission, Jean Ping, pushed for the roadmap on Sudan to be implemented without delay, linking the conflict in South Kordofan and Blue Nile with the wider hostilities between Sudan and South Sudan, and urging progress before 2 August.

In Europe, the EU's Foreign Affairs Council expressed in strong terms its support for Resolution 2046, including sanctions for non-compliance, while the chairs of the AU's Peace and Security Council for August and September – Egypt and Djibouti – committed to making Sudan a priority on the AU agenda.

“Through its ability to bring civil society leaders straight to decision makers, Crisis Action ensures that AU policy is better informed by the needs and experiences of those that are most affected by conflict.”

Dr. Ali Mustafa, Secretary-General of the African Council for Religious Leaders



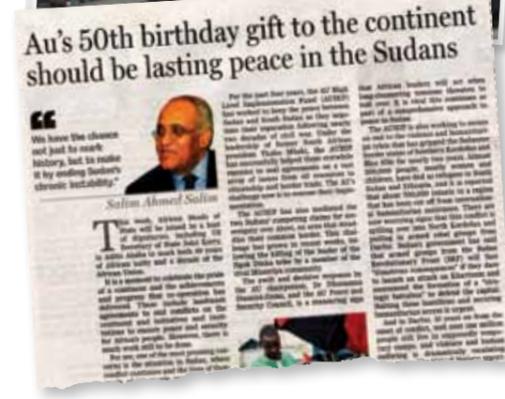
▲ Op-ed by Bishop Andudu of South Kordofan in the East African newspaper.

Engaging the AU on South Kordofan and Blue Nile

With the AU mediating in talks between Sudan and South Sudan, by September the two countries had made progress on key issues, such as sharing oil revenues, border demarcation and cross-border trade. However, within Sudan, tensions remained high between Khartoum and the SPLM-N.

With excellent advice and assistance from Oxfam Addis, Crisis Action supported African partners to ensure that the AU prioritised tackling the ongoing conflict in South Kordofan and Blue Nile. Activities included:

- **Bringing together 145 NGOs from across Africa** to issue public statements urging the new AU Commission chairperson, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, and the AU Peace and Security Council to focus on ending conflict in the Two Areas and insist on a schedule for progress.
- **Placing an op-ed by Bishop Andudu of South Kordofan in *The East African*** newspaper criticising the AU's inadequate response to the huge human cost of the conflict.



▲ The interfaith delegation at the African Union; Mukesh Kapila speaking at a press conference in Nairobi; and Salim Ahmed Salim calling for a comprehensive approach to conflict in Sudan.

“Through coordinating an interfaith delegation of Christian and Muslim leaders from South Kordofan and Blue Nile to brief the AU Peace and Security Council, Crisis Action made it possible for civilians to directly call on their leaders for action to halt the atrocities they and their communities are facing.”

Shara Josef, activist from Blue Nile

Ahead of the AU's January 2013 summit, Crisis Action convened:

- **An international press conference in Nairobi**, where Bishop Andudu, Sudanese activist Shara Josef and the former head of the UN in Sudan, Dr Mukesh Kapila, appealed to AU leaders to prioritise peace and humanitarian access in the Two Areas.
- **An appeal from 350 African NGOs for greater action on the crisis by the AU.**

As a result, the AU put unprecedented pressure on the conflicting parties, issuing deadlines for direct talks to begin and calling for a proposal to facilitate humanitarian access to the Two Areas. Crucially, African leaders also showed that they recognised the possibility of region-wide fallout from the conflict – and their potential role in preventing it.

However, mistrust between Khartoum and the SPLM-N thwarted any breakthrough on the ground and violence in the Two Areas continued, at a growing cost to the civilian population in the region.

As a result, the AU adopted some of the coalition's main recommendations in its October communiqué. Crisis Action and partners then continued to push for implementation of the AU's decisions by:

- **Sending an interfaith delegation of Christian and Muslim leaders** from South Kordofan and Blue Nile to Addis Ababa for high-level meetings with the AU Commission, ambassadors from Egypt, Nigeria, Uganda and the Arab League, and diplomats from the EU, US, Norway and Canada.
- **Arranging a private briefing of the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC)** by members of the interfaith delegation the day before the Council discussed next steps on Sudan and South Sudan - the first ever formal briefing of the AU PSC by an NGO.

“Crisis Action continues to lead savvy, well-targeted campaigns that, bringing together humanitarian agencies with other influential players, have a real impact for civilians on the ground.”

Jasmine Whitbread, Chief Executive, Save the Children International

Addressing the root causes of conflict

Despite the AU's enhanced leadership, in early 2013 the prospect of peace in the region was stymied by political impasse, as international players continued to adopt a piecemeal approach to the issues between Sudan and its neighbour. Crisis Action worked with partners to encourage key actors to address the broader issues underlying the conflict rather than trying to resolve individual concerns – such as oil revenues, border demarcation and insurgency – in isolation.

On the tenth anniversary of the start of violence in Darfur, Crisis Action coordinated a coalition of 98 politicians from the UK, US and Australia to issue a joint open letter demanding that their governments lead the Security Council's peacebuilding efforts and address the fundamental drivers of conflicts across Sudan, including in Darfur.



▲ A wounded boy waits at the UN camp to be transferred to another hospital for further treatment. Photo: Sven Torfinn/Panos

“Crisis Action’s work in mobilizing Arab and African NGOs to highlight the humanitarian crisis in the Sudanese states of South Kordofan and Blue Nile was very important and key to the international support that has subsequently developed for addressing the crisis.”

Ambassador Princeton Lyman, US Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan

As African leaders gathered for the AU's 50th anniversary summit in May, Crisis Action worked with partners to urge a rethink in the AU's approach to the crisis, by:

- **Coordinating a joint press statement from over 120 NGOs** across Africa and the Middle East warning about the deteriorating situation and calling on the AU to tackle the root causes of Sudan's chronic instability.

- **Amplifying this message by placing an op-ed by Dr Salim Ahmed Salim (former OAU Secretary-General and Prime Minister of Tanzania)** in leading newspapers across Kenya, Turkey, Germany and the Middle East.
- Forging agreement among a coalition of Sudanese and Arab experts on recommendations to the AU to adopt a comprehensive approach to ending Sudan's conflicts and arranging for coalition members to meet privately with key AU decision-makers on the issue.
- Spurring a joint appeal by US members of Congress to US Secretary of State, John Kerry urging him to promote a comprehensive approach to Sudan's conflicts at the AU Summit. Crisis Action also enabled Sudanese partners to meet with Donald Booth, US Ambassador to Ethiopia, at the start of Kerry's visit.

The AU and US responded to partners' call to action, publicly committing to addressing the fundamental drivers of conflict across Africa and highlighting the humanitarian situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile as a source of grave concern.

Harnessing Arab leverage on Sudan

Recognising that Arab states hold significant influence over the government in Khartoum, Crisis Action coordinated a strategy to convince these powers to press harder for a solution to the conflict. This included:

- **Supporting the Arab Coalition for Darfur (ACD) – an organisation that includes over 120 civil society organisations across 19 Arab countries** - to call on the Arab League to work towards a comprehensive political solution to conflict in Sudan.
- **Working with ACD and the Sudan Consortium – a coalition of more than 50 civil society groups** – to produce a joint briefing for participants at the Doha Donors Conference on Darfur. This made it clear that peace in Darfur would be impossible without parallel efforts to resolve the conflict in South Kordofan and Blue Nile.
- **Producing an op-ed with Dr Najeeb Bin Mohammed al-Naiumi, former Justice Minister for Qatar**, calling for his country to lead the way in fostering a comprehensive approach to Sudan's conflict. This piece was published in influential Arab newspaper Al Sharq Alawsat and included in the UN's daily e-newsletter.



▲ Three displaced women finding refuge under a tree in Somari, Blue Nile state, Sudan. Photo: Amnesty International

In April 2013 the Arab League released a public statement condemning attacks in North Kordofan and, for the first time, making the link between the peace process in Darfur and the conflict in the Two Areas.

Keeping the focus on humanitarian aid

Despite Sudan signing an agreement to facilitate humanitarian access in June 2012, and a pact being made between Sudan and SPLM-N in August, deadlock between the two forces on the ground prevented these agreements becoming a practical reality.

Crisis Action facilitated meetings with key policymakers for partners to underscore the severity and urgency of the humanitarian crisis and counter the government of Sudan's public insistence that the scale of the crisis had been exaggerated. This kept international attention on the need to get life-saving aid to the people of South Kordofan and Blue Nile. Following months of stalemate, this strong international pressure contributed to the start of AU-mediated talks between Sudan and the SPLM-N in April 2013, with humanitarian access as a top priority.

“Crisis Action is at the very forefront of engagement with Middle East and North Africa powers. Their work to support regional civil society to engage with Qatar on its role in addressing Sudan’s civil wars is strategic and distinct.”

Dr Najeeb Bin Mohammed al-Naiumi, former Justice Minister for Qatar and international human rights lawyer

A long road ahead

During the last year's campaigning on Sudan, Crisis Action has helped secure some major firsts, including recognition of the significance of the crisis from across the region and more decisive efforts to reach a solution by AU leaders. However, huge obstacles remain and the situation on the ground continues to be dire. Sustained international pressure and realistic and careful mediation between all parties is needed if sustainable peace within Sudan is to be achieved.

Israeli settlement expansion in the West Bank continued to accelerate throughout last year, accompanied by the demolition of Palestinian buildings. As hundreds of Palestinians lost their homes and conditions deteriorated, Crisis Action and partners stepped up their campaign to urge the European Union to move from condemnation of the settlements to taking practical action.



▲ Palestinians next to a settlement outside East Jerusalem. Photo: World Council of Churches (WCC) Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine & Israel (EAPPI)

Since 2007, Crisis Action has worked with partners to highlight the humanitarian impact of the Israeli blockade on Gaza. This year, Crisis Action has supported partners to push for EU action to end trade with illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank, which threaten the viability of a peaceful two-state solution to the conflict.



Despite being illegal under international law, Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory have continued to expand at an alarming rate. Since the Oslo Peace Accord was signed in 1993, the number of settlers has risen from 250,000 to 550,000, threatening the viability of a peaceful two-state solution to the conflict.

On the ground, settlement expansion has had a devastating impact on the Palestinian population. Settler infrastructure such as roads, checkpoints and Israel's controversial separation barrier has left Palestinians cut off from essential services and with limited access to vital resources such as water and farmland.



▲ Joint NGO report to raise awareness of how Europe helps sustain illegal Israeli settlements, October 2012.

In Europe, the European Union (EU) has clearly condemned the Israeli expansion, stating that: “settlements are illegal under international law, constitute an obstacle to peace and threaten to make a two-state solution impossible”. In practice, however, European policies and trade have simultaneously helped sustain the settlements.

In response to partners’ concerns, Crisis Action forged a powerful coalition to press member states to address key loopholes in EU policies which had enabled settlement trade with Europe to flourish.

“This groundbreaking report identifies concrete measures that the EU and its 27 member states should adopt to restore credibility to the EU’s positions and contain the settlement policy. At the highest level, they deserve serious consideration.”

Hans Van den Broek, former EU Commissioner for External Affairs (1993-1999)



▲ Coverage of the Trading Away Peace report in Le Monde, November 2012.

Trading away peace

A cornerstone of Crisis Action’s strategy on settlements was the release of the report ‘Trading Away Peace: How Europe helps sustain illegal Israeli settlements’, in October 2012. Authored by 22 NGOs from 11 European countries, it revealed that the EU imports goods worth 230 million euros from Israeli settlements every year – 15 times more than from Palestinian businesses.

In his foreword to the report, Hans van den Broek, former EU Commissioner for External Relations, identified settlement expansion as the “decisive” factor preventing the resumption of meaningful peace negotiations between Israel and Palestine. He went on to urge EU leaders to view the report’s recommendations as a crucial opportunity to preserve the two-state solution.

The report outlined a clear set of measures that the EU and member states should adopt to end European support to settlements. Key proposals included:

- **Requiring goods to be accurately labelled – in line with the EU’s own consumer protection law** – to prevent settlement products from being misleadingly labelled as “Made in Israel”.
- **Excluding settlement businesses from EU funding programmes**, cooperation agreements and public procurement processes.

Published in English, French and German, ‘Trading Away Peace’ received widespread media coverage, with more than 200 articles appearing across Europe, the Middle East and the US. Highlights included features in The Telegraph (UK), Der Spiegel (Germany), Le Monde (France) and Fox News (US). The report was also covered in several in-depth articles by leading European journalists for whom Crisis Action had organised visits to Israeli settlements. In addition, Crisis Action helped place follow-up opinion pieces by prominent figures.

Changing the debate

The report made an immediate impact, receiving swift responses from both the Israeli Foreign Ministry and the Palestinian Authority. The EU described it as “comprehensive” and acknowledged that it made an “important contribution to the ongoing debate”. Parliamentarians across Europe followed up on the report with questions to their own governments.

To capitalise on this momentum, Crisis Action facilitated a forum in Brussels with EU diplomats and officials to discuss how the report’s recommendations could be implemented in practice. Half a year since its publication, ‘Trading Away Peace’ and its findings continue to be frequently cited by the media, think-tanks, policymakers and parliamentarians across Europe.

“The report ‘Trading Away Peace’ is an important and powerful synopsis of issues surrounding the illegal settlements, which are an increasingly destructive element both in the lives of Palestinians and in relation to the very concept of a peace agreement in the Middle East.”

Eamon Gilmore, Irish Foreign Minister



▲ Dates on sale in the UK. In accordance with the labelling guidelines introduced by the UK government in 2009, the label clearly states that it is “Israeli settlement produce”. Photo: Quaker Peace and Social Witness

Throughout the year, Crisis Action continued to coordinate advocacy activities and information-sharing by the NGO coalition that produced the report. This included:

- Facilitating advocacy by influential experts such as Dr Phyllis Starkey in EU capital cities.
- Working with eminent figures to publish high profile op-eds in key media explaining the need for EU action on settlements. These pieces sparked significant public debate around the issue.
- Coordinating detailed policy papers to advise member states on the measures they must take to end trade with settlements.



▲ Palestinian family near an Israeli settlement at Um al-Kheir
Photo: Keren Manor/Activestills.org



▲ Widespread media coverage of the ‘Trading Away Peace’ report

Progress in EU policy

In parallel with the coalition’s work, support for EU action to tackle trade with illegal settlements has grown steadily throughout the past year.

At the beginning of 2012, the UK was the only member state to have adopted a labelling policy for settlement goods and the issue was not on the EU agenda. But by the spring of 2013, the political landscape had changed dramatically:

- The UK, France, the Netherlands, Austria, Spain, Denmark, Malta, Luxembourg, Belgium, Portugal, Finland, Ireland and Slovenia had all expressed support for correct labelling of settlement products.
- EU High Representative Catherine Ashton had asked all member states to ensure full compliance with existing European legislation on labelling and committed to developing Europe-wide labelling guidelines.
- The EU was working towards adoption of labelling guidelines which would apply to all member states, in line with existing consumer protection legislation.

“Brilliant report - sober, authoritative, shocking.”

Nick Witney, former Chief Executive of European Defense Agency

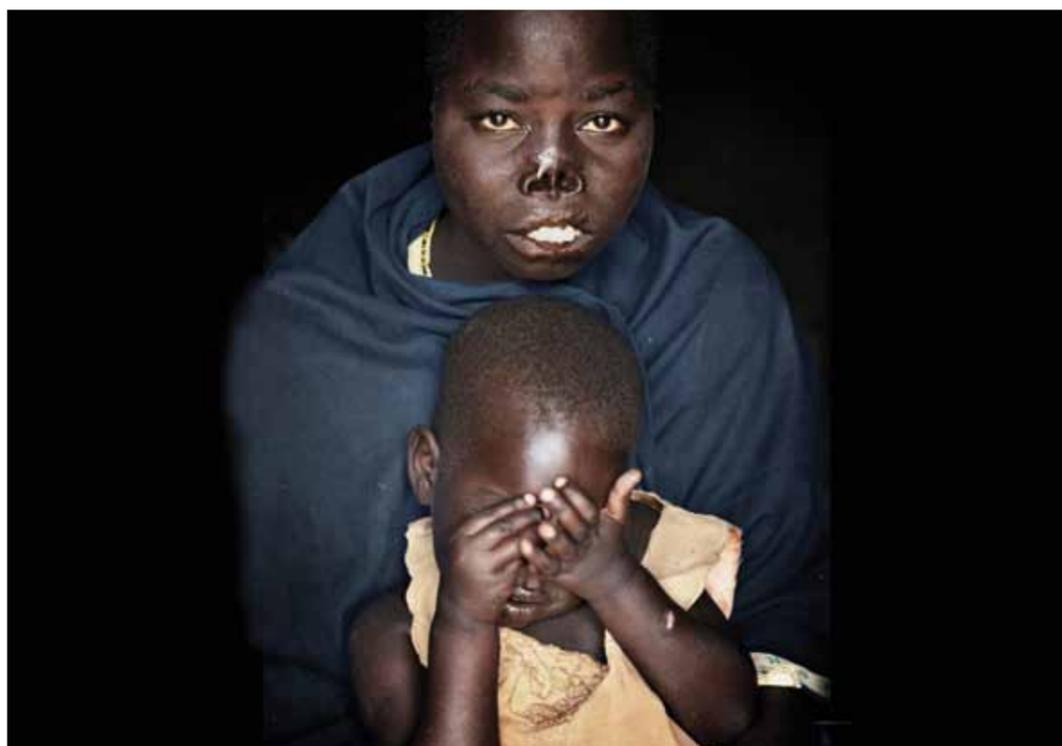
- New measures were to be introduced to exclude companies operating in illegal settlements from EU cooperation and funding programmes.
- The EU had committed to ensuring that all agreements with Israel applied only to its internationally recognised territory, within pre-1967 borders.

These moves represent progress against a politically complex backdrop. Ultimately, it is to be hoped that by increasing the cost of settlement expansion, these and further moves will contribute to a just and peaceful resolution of the conflict.

“The report represents an important contribution to the ongoing debate on this and other issues related to the Middle East peace process.”

EU delegation to Israel

During more than two decades of violence, abductions and mass displacement, communities across central Africa have suffered unspeakable atrocities at the hands of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Having coordinated a successful campaign for a comprehensive United Nations strategy on the LRA, Crisis Action mobilised partners to push for its swift implementation.



▲ A LRA victim in Uganda who's nose, lips and ears were cut off
Photo: Christian Bobst

Crisis Action began work on the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in 2010 to help partners deter another infamous 'Christmas massacre'. Subsequent collective work has pushed for strong leadership from the UN Security Council and the African Union to protect civilians from the LRA, culminating in the first ever UN strategy on the issue in 2012. Last year, Crisis Action supported partners to maintain pressure until this strategy was implemented.



Led by Joseph Kony, the LRA is one of the most feared rebel groups in Africa. Beginning in northern Uganda 26 years ago, its campaign of terror has since spread to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Central African Republic and South Sudan.

The group is infamous for abducting and killing children, or forcibly conscripting them into its ranks. Victims are often forced to carry out brutal acts against their own communities, leaving them too ashamed and traumatised to return. Thousands have lost their homes and livelihoods to LRA violence and many more still live in constant fear of attack.

In June 2012, following two years of targeted campaigning facilitated by Crisis Action, the United Nations Security Council received the Secretary-General's first ever strategy on the LRA.

This comprehensive plan fulfilled many of Crisis Action and partners' longstanding campaign aims, centering on issues that had been at the heart of the coalition's advocacy efforts. These included:

- UN support for an African Union (AU) military force to apprehend the LRA.
- Enhanced measures to protect civilians.
- Greater support for disarmament and demobilisation efforts.
- Long-term assistance to rebuild communities devastated by LRA attacks.

The power of firsthand testimony

To increase pressure on Security Council members to implement the UN strategy, Crisis Action brought two inspiring activists from DRC – Abbot Benoit Kinalegu and Sister Angelique Namaika – to the US and Europe to testify firsthand about the impact of LRA atrocities and make recommendations to international policymakers on the action needed to protect their communities.

- In New York, Crisis Action worked with Security Council diplomats to arrange a rare private and closed briefing of the Security Council from Abbot Benoit and Sister Angelique, alongside US-based partner The Resolve LRA Crisis Initiative. This marked the first time the Security Council had heard directly from communities suffering from LRA violence in North-East Congo.



▲ Top picture: Congolese activists testify before the UN Security Council. Bottom picture: Crisis Action partners, local activists, and United Nations and African Union officials hold a joint press conference on the LRA at UN headquarters in New York. Photo: Crisis Action

- In Washington DC, the activists briefed the US Congress, met with officials from the White House and the Departments of State and Defense. After the visit, a Congressional committee they briefed approved legislation enabling the US to pay a reward for the capture of Joseph Kony.
- In Paris and Brussels, Abbot Benoit and Sister Angelique met with key representatives of European Union member states and the European Parliament to push for stronger leadership on the LRA.

"Thanks to Crisis Action, I was able to testify firsthand to the UN Security Council, the US Congress, and European policymakers about the ravages of the LRA and about what steps they should take to help our communities. Working with Crisis Action and its partners has strengthened our community's voice greatly."

Abbot Benoit Kinalegu, Congolese activist

Crisis Action also organised a press conference at the UN which brought the Congolese activists, Human Rights Watch and The Resolve LRA Crisis Initiative together with UN and AU envoys in advance of the Security Council's formal consultations on the LRA. Days later, the Council issued a strong presidential statement on the LRA echoing the coalition's calls for the rapid implementation of the UN strategy and urging regional governments to work together to defeat the rebel group.

“Crisis Action played a central role in securing the UN’s first ever regional strategy on the LRA — after years of silence from the Security Council — and mobilized a powerful coalition of experts, NGOs and the affected community to ensure it would be effective. Their strategic guidance in NY and Europe helped us reach policymakers outside Washington who, as a direct result, are now implementing policies essential to counter LRA efforts.”

Michael Poffenberger, Executive Director, The Resolve LRA Crisis Initiative

Getting back on track

Despite the Security Council’s statement, by December 2012 it was clear that the UN was failing to deliver on its LRA strategy. A week before the Council was due to review progress on this work, Crisis Action facilitated the launch of a major report: ‘Getting Back on Track: Implementing the UN Regional Strategy on the LRA’.

Co-authored by a powerful international coalition, including organisations working in LRA-affected areas, the report raised the alarm that without aggressive diplomacy by the Security Council and the Secretary-General, the UN was at risk of failing LRA-afflicted communities.

Crisis Action garnered media coverage for the report in the US, Europe and Africa, including in Foreign Policy, on the BBC World Service and Radio France International. Crisis Action also secured targeted, high-level advocacy meetings for partners with UN policymakers from the Secretary-General’s office and the political, peacekeeping and humanitarian affairs departments, as well as key Security Council members.

As a result of this campaign, the Security Council issued an exceptionally strong statement criticising the UN’s progress to date and reflecting several of the report’s central recommendations, in particular:

- **Urging the four regionally affected governments** to fulfill their commitments as part of the AU’s military task force.
- **Calling for the expansion of early warning** and disarmament, demobilisation, repatriation, reintegration and resettlement (DDRRR) programmes.
- **Tasking the Secretariat with finding funding** for projects in support of the strategy.

Feedback from Council members made it clear that this would not have been achieved without the pressure created by the coalition’s report and the proposals it offered for a way forward. This kick-started genuine implementation of the strategy on the ground.



▲ A joint NGO report highlighting the UN’s failure to implement their regional strategy on the Lords Resistance Army.

“Getting Back on Track” enhanced the Security Council’s debate on how to respond to the Lord’s Resistance Army. The report enabled the Council to deliver a statement far stronger than would have otherwise been possible. Without effective NGO coalitions of the kind that Crisis Action forges, the plight of populations affected by the LRA could easily drop off the international agenda.”

Sir Mark Lyall Grant, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, UK Mission to the United Nations

After months of bitter fighting between the government of Mali and rival rebel groups, armed Islamic insurgents gained control in the north of the country. With the United Nations Security Council considering military intervention, Crisis Action worked with partners to influence the force’s mandate to ensure that any deployment made a positive contribution to the protection of civilians on the ground.



▲ Displaced children who have escaped the violence in the rebel-controlled north of the country take refuge in a family’s home in Sikasso town, Mali. Photo: Save the Children

Crisis Action began work on Mali in October 2012, when a violent insurgency left civilians in grave danger. As the United Nations prepared to sanction military intervention, Crisis Action and partners lobbied to ensure that any internationally co-ordinated response would hold the safety and interests of Mali’s people as a top priority.





▲ Meeting for partners with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Mali, November 2012. Photo: UN Photos

In October 2012, when the United Nations (UN) began to consider options for military intervention in northern Mali to wrest control from armed Islamic groups, partners sought Crisis Action's support to ensure that the already dire situation for civilians in this vast area was not exacerbated by UN action.

Crisis Action responded by helping to devise an emergency strategy for collective advocacy to secure agreements over the remit of any UN-authorized force sent to Mali. The campaign aimed to ensure that any military deployment was directed to prioritise civilian protection and that the troops deployed did not include soldiers guilty of grave human rights violations.

Influencing the UN Secretary-General

In November, with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon due to make a report on Mali to the Security Council, Crisis Action and partners sought to influence his position. The coalition's aim was to ensure the Secretary-General stressed to member states that any international military response must protect Mali's people, while minimising the risk of human rights abuses or breaches of international humanitarian law during its deployment.

Crisis Action coordinated two private complementary briefs to the Secretary-General setting out partners' concerns about the adverse impact a military operation in Mali could have on civilians. Recognising that the Security Council was under significant political pressure to take action to end the insurgency, the briefs also called on the Secretary-General to ensure that any UN-sanctioned military deployment to Mali would:

- **Receive training on international human rights and humanitarian law** ahead of their deployment and adhere to these standards.

- **Provide the Council with regular, public reports of steps taken to minimise harm** to civilians and their property, paying particular attention to protection measures for women and children.
- **Strictly apply the procedures outlined in the UN's Human Rights Due Diligence Policy** to vet all peacekeepers and reject anyone with a track record of grave human rights abuses.
- **Be accompanied by a strong and well-resourced team of UN human rights monitors**, who would regularly and publicly report back on findings from the ground.
- **Cooperate fully with any investigation launched in relation to Mali** by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The coalition also urged Ban Ki-moon to warn member states that neither the suffering of Mali's people nor the country's political crisis would be resolved solely through a military response. It stressed the need to prioritise support for a peaceful political process alongside any UN deployment.

To reinforce these messages, Crisis Action facilitated follow-up advocacy meetings for partners with the UN Secretary-General, as well as other senior UN figures. As a result, Ban Ki-moon's report to the Security Council incorporated all of the coalition's points, with the exception of the reference to the ICC.

"Crisis Action brought together a powerful coalition of leading human rights and humanitarian organizations that convinced the UN Security Council to pass a resolution on Mali that set crucial human rights safeguards in authorizing military intervention."

Philippe Bolopion, UN Director, Human Rights Watch

Influencing Security Council members

Buoyed by the strong support of Ban Ki-moon, Crisis Action helped partners turn their focus towards the decisions of Council members in response to the Secretary-General's recommendations. This involved facilitating joint meetings with key Security Council ambassadors to secure commitments on specific language around mitigating harm to civilians in the operational outline for an African-led international force.

Then, in December, just before the Council was due to adopt a resolution on Mali, Crisis Action worked with ten humanitarian partners operating in Mali to produce a joint media release designed to keep the pressure up.

The result of these collective efforts was Resolution 2085, which reflected almost all of the campaign's recommendations. In particular, it stated that:

Any military operation would be linked to a series of benchmarks, including: progress on a political solution and training for international and Malian troops in their obligations under international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law.

"Time and again, Crisis Action spots the opportunities to boost our advocacy impact by drawing us into timely, effective collective efforts to influence key decision-makers and achieve positive changes in how refugees and internally displaced people are protected."

Michel Gabaudan, President, Refugees International

- The Secretary-General would be required to report to the Council every 90 days about the mission's activities, focusing on: the situation for the Malian people; any violations of international law; and mitigating any adverse impact of military operations on civilians.
- The mission would include civilian-led delivery of humanitarian assistance in accordance with international humanitarian law.
- The mission should support the ICC in its investigations of human rights violations.

Partners subsequently built on the campaign's success to ensure that the Security Council upheld these commitments when, in April 2013, they eventually mandated a UN stabilisation force for Mali, following in the wake of an unexpected French-led military intervention that was launched in January 2013.



▲ Women attend a protest urging Mali and France to retake the Kadal region of far Northern Mali in Gao. Photo: Stringer/Reuters

When M23 rebels mounted a surprise takeover of Goma, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, in November 2012, violence forced tens of thousands of people from their homes. Crisis Action quickly mobilised an emergency response to put the protection of civilians at the top of the international community's efforts to address the crisis.



▲ A 17-year old girl sits in a hut in a displacement camp near Goma. Her and her family were displaced from their home in Sake to a camp near Goma when the conflict started in November 2012. Photo: Save the Children

DRC was a campaign priority for Crisis Action from 2008-2012, with joint advocacy focused on: better UN protection for civilians, the arrest of militia leaders living overseas, accountability for sexual violence and reform of the DRC military. Having substantially influenced a new UN peacekeeping mandate for DRC in mid-2012, Crisis Action concluded long-term work on DRC. However, renewed violence in Goma at the end of 2012 spurred Crisis Action to launch a high-level emergency response.



A year of intensive campaigning by Crisis Action's partners on the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in 2011-12 had yielded significant results. In June 2012, the UN passed a resolution with a new mandate for MONUSCO, its peacekeeping mission in DRC, incorporating key recommendations from the joint NGO report facilitated by Crisis Action, 'Taking a Stand on Security Sector Reform'.

With this new mandate in place, Crisis Action concluded work on DRC as a long-term priority campaign but continued to monitor the situation. When violence erupted in Goma in November, Crisis Action swiftly responded, facilitating a round of high-level briefings with key United Nations' officials and Security Council members. These meetings gave partners the opportunity to articulate the scale of the humanitarian need arising from the conflict and raise concerns about civilian protection.

Crisis Action also supported 15 leading international advocacy organisations to highlight Rwanda's support for the M23 insurgency and call on President Barack Obama to support a range of initiatives to strengthen the international response to the crisis. These included:

- **Appointing a presidential envoy** to lead a coordinated US response to the crisis.
- **Supporting the appointment of a high-level UN envoy** to the Great Lakes region to work with the AU to broker durable political agreements between regional governments with the aim of stemming recurrent attacks across DRC's borders.
- **Supporting the imposition of robust sanctions** against violators of the UN arms embargo on DRC, as recommended by the UN Panel of Experts on the DRC.
- **Cutting all military assistance and suspending other non-humanitarian aid** to Rwanda while publicly condemning the Rwandan government for its support of the M23 insurgency.

Proposals for a UN-appointed Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region were supported by the US Government and others, and Mary Robinson took up the post in late March 2013. It is hoped that through her role she will help the African Union and other key players, to address the causes of the cycle of violence in the region and find a route towards a lasting peace.



▲ Top: Troops from MONUSCO patrol the streets of Goma in armoured vehicles to protect residents of the city. Middle: Members of the M23 withdraw from the North Kivu provincial capital of Goma. Bottom: DRC police officers arrive in the North Kivu provincial capital of Goma after the M23 withdrawal. Photo: UN Photos

"Crisis Action harnesses the combined power of different NGOs, thus helping us at critical moments to be more than the sum of our parts, decision-makers are more likely to listen to us if we act in unison"

Salil Shetty, Secretary General, Amnesty International

Statement of activities for the year ended 31 May 2013

	2013	2012	2013	2012
	£	£	\$	\$
INCOME				
Funders & Donations	1,308,434 ¹	1,441,468	1,984,109 ¹	2,343,683
Prior year adjustment ²		458,654		745,726
Partners	101,051	85,766	153,234	139,447
Interest	13,928	3,870	21,120	6,292
TOTAL	1,423,413	1,989,758	2,158,463	3,235,148
EXPENDITURE				
Salaries & Related Costs	1,233,810	1,005,233	1,870,949	1,634,408
Occupancy	136,882	76,638	207,568	124,606
Travel & Travel Related Costs	125,044	107,382	189,617	174,592
IT, Comms & Office Supplies	86,227	46,506	130,755	75,614
Publications	40,055	25,525	60,739	41,501
Events	8,303	7,720	12,591	12,552
Professional Fees	70,113	60,995	106,319	99,172
Asset Write-Off	37,405	13,486	56,721	21,927
Finance Charges	1,619	(3,916)	2,455	(6,367)
TOTAL	1,739,458	1,339,569	2,637,714	2,178,005
(Deficit)/Surplus For Year Excluding Restricted Funds	(316,045)³	650,189	(479,251)³	1,057,143
RESTRICTED FUNDS⁴				
Received	284,232	105,612	431,009	171,715
Expended	(259,419)	(30,498)	(393,383)	(49,587)
TOTAL	24,813	75,114	37,626	122,128
(Deficit)/Surplus Before Taxation	(291,232)	725,303 ²	(441,625)	1,179,271 ²
Taxation	(2,795)	(774)	(4,238)	(1,258)
(Deficit)/Surplus After Taxation	(294,027)	724,529	(445,863)	1,178,013
Total funds brought forward	1,235,264	510,735	1,873,154*	830,404
Total funds carried forward	941,237	1,235,264	1,427,291	2,008,417
Exchange rate at 31st May 2013	1.5164			
Exchange rate at 31st May 2012	1.6259			

* The opening USD reserves have been revalued using the May 2013 USD / GBP exchange rate.

Balance sheet as at 31 May 2013

	2013	2012	2013	2012
	£	£	\$	\$
Fixed Assets	27,810		42,171	
Debtors	63,887	14,656	96,878	23,829
Cash at Bank	1,288,769	1,318,167	1,954,289	2,143,208
Creditors	(439,226)	(97,556)	(666,042)	(158,616)
Net Assets	941,240	1,235,267	1,427,296	2,008,421
Capital & Reserves				
Operating Overhead Reserve	770,000	560,000	1,167,628	910,504
Restricted Funds ⁴	125,456	100,643	190,241	163,635
Unrestricted Funds ⁵	45,784	574,624	69,427	934,282
Capital & Reserves	941,240	1,235,267	1,427,296	2,008,421

1 Due to a change in the way Crisis Action recognises income and the timing of the grants received in the year, the calculation of income has changed. This change has resulted in deferred income of £334,425 (\$507,122) in this year's financial statements. This has resulted in a deficit for the financial year to 31 May 2013.

2 The prior year adjustment related to a one off award in 2012 that had previously been deferred in the 2012 financial statements but was not in accordance with the income recognition policy.

3 This deficit is due to the income calculation changes in the two notes above. In cash terms, Crisis Action made a surplus for 2012/13 and expenditure was on budget.

4 These funds were entrusted to Crisis Action by donors and specifically designated to support joint NGO advocacy and campaign activities for particular country situations. Use of some of the funds requires authorisation from a donor and as such does not form part of Crisis Action's operations and is accounted for separately.

5 Unrestricted funds includes three shares with a nominal value of £1. These shares are owned by the directors and do not earn dividends.

Philanthropic partners and supporters

Crisis Action would like to thank the following organisations and individuals for their generous support:

Adessium Foundation*	Pears Foundation*
Cordaid	Reuben Foundation
Danish Church Aid	Rockefeller Brothers Fund*
Humanity United*	Roddick Foundation
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	Sigrid Rausing Trust*
MacArthur Foundation*	Skoll Foundation*
Nduna Foundation	Tatiana Maxwell
Oak Foundation*	Tinsley Foundation
Open Society Foundations*	

* Crisis Action is especially grateful to its core philanthropic partners for providing us with multi-year, general operating support.

International



Gemma Mortensen
Executive Director
gemma.mortensen@crisisaction.org



Andrew Hudson
Deputy Executive Director
andrew.hudson@crisisaction.org



Susanne Baumann
Chief of Staff
susanne.baumann@crisisaction.org



Nicola Reindorp
Campaigns Director
nicola.reindorp@crisisaction.org



Pranjali Acharya
Development Manager
pranjali.acharya@crisisaction.org



Tim Catherall
Finance and Operations Director
tim.catherall@crisisaction.org



James Denselow
Media and Campaigns Officer
james.denselow@crisisaction.org



Holly Kilroy
Emerging Powers Coordinator
holly.kilroy@crisisaction.org



Valerie Rogers
Finance Manager
valerie.rogers@crisisaction.org



Terence Sammy
Finance Officer
terence.sammy@crisisaction.org



Helen Standley
Executive Assistant
helen.standley@crisisaction.org

Berlin



Sacha de Wijs
Acting Germany Director
sacha.dewijs@crisisaction.org



Anne Isakowitsch
Advocacy and Campaigns Manager
anne.isakowitsch@crisisaction.org



Eva Kuprella
Administrative Assistant
eva.kuprella@crisisaction.org

Brussels



Martin Konecny
Brussels Director
martin.konecny@crisisaction.org



Christina Hawley
Political Analyst and Advocacy Manager
christina.hawley@crisisaction.org

MENA



Nirvana Shawky
MENA Director
nirvana.shawky@crisisaction.org



Jamie Balfour-Paul
Advocacy and Campaigns Manager
jamie.balfour@crisisaction.org



Padraic McCluskey
Research and Administration Officer
padraic.mccluskey@crisisaction.org

London



Sophie Sutcliffe
UK Director
sophie.sutcliffe@crisisaction.org



Mariam Kemple
Advocacy and Campaigns Manager
mariam.kemple@crisisaction.org

Nairobi



Martha Bakwesegha-Osula
Nairobi Director
bakwesegha-osula@crisisaction.org



Mary King'ori
Office Manager
mary.kingori@crisisaction.org

New York



Vanessa Jackson
Acting New York Director
vanessa.jackson@crisisaction.org



Jake Goodman
Advocacy and Campaigns Manager
jake.goodman@crisisaction.org



Jamie Pleydell-Bouverie
Advocacy Associate
jamie.pb@crisisaction.org

Paris



Elodie Andrault
Paris Director
elodie.andrault@crisisaction.org



Anouck Bronee
Advocacy and Campaigns Manager
anouck.bronee@crisisaction.org



Gaud Luneau
Office Manager
gaud.luneau@crisisaction.org

Washington DC



Catherine Read
Washington DC Director
catherine.read@crisisaction.org

We have a board of independent, unpaid directors:



Jan Egeland (Chair) is Secretary General of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and was previously Deputy Executive Director of Human Rights Watch and Director of its European Operations. As UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs from 2003 to 2006, Egeland helped reform the global humanitarian system. He organised the international responses to the Asian Tsunami and crises in Darfur, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Lebanon. In 2006, Time magazine named him one of the 100 "people who shape our world."



Mabel van Oranje was until recently the Chief Executive Officer of The Elders. A global advocate on peace and justice issues, van Oranje has been involved in the development of War Child (Netherlands), 'Publish What You Pay' and 'Girls Not Brides: the Global Partnership to End Child Marriage'. She is a founder and Co-Chair of the European Council on Foreign Relations. From 1997 to 2008 she held a number of senior positions with the Open Society Institute and is a member of the Global Board of Open Society Foundations



Nick Grono is Chief Executive Officer of Walk Free, an international human rights organisation fighting to end modern slavery. He was previously Deputy President and COO at the International Crisis Group. He is a lawyer by background and also previously worked for the Australian government as Chief of Staff to the Attorney-General.



Salman Shaikh is Director of the Brookings Doha Center and fellow at the Saban Center for Middle East Policy. He focuses on mediation and conflict resolution issues facing the Middle East and South Asia. He has held posts at the United Nations and the Office of Her Highness Sheikhha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned in Qatar.



Fiona Napier until recently was the Associate Director of Campaigns at Global Witness. Prior to that she was the International Advocacy Director with the Open Society Foundations and spent 15 years with Save the Children in a variety of roles including Global Advisor and Programme Director in South Africa. She is based in Nairobi.

Other contributors:

We would like to thank the following for their contribution to Crisis Action's work over the past year: Agnieszka Abec, Marina Angeloni, Ellie Bates, Simon Blackburn, Geoff Broadhurst, Anaïs Deprade, Eden Desta Lawall, Mignonne Fowles, Doris Friedrich, Anna Fritzsche, Uli Hellman, Miriam Hempel, Severin Huber, Kellee Jacobs, Leni Kinzli, Lucie Lecacheur, Lucie Lecarpentier, Philippa Lewis, My Lo, Davis Makori, Isabel Martins, Bethan Mathias, Peter Meiring, Constanze Müller, Jitixa Patel, Karim Rashad, Mathias de Roeck, Jennifer Sanderson, Natalie Schorr, Dima Shehadeh, Dominik Steinmeir, Elizabeth Teoman, Vanessa Ullrich, Jack Wakefield.

Crisis Action welcomes enquiries from organisations that share our objectives and are interested in collaborating with us.

Office Locations:

Berlin
Tucholskystraße 37, D-10117, Berlin, Germany
T: +49 30 45 305 282

Brussels
Avenue des Gaulois 7, 1040 Brussels, Belgium
T: +32 2 737 1491

MENA
padraic.mccluskey@crisisaction.org

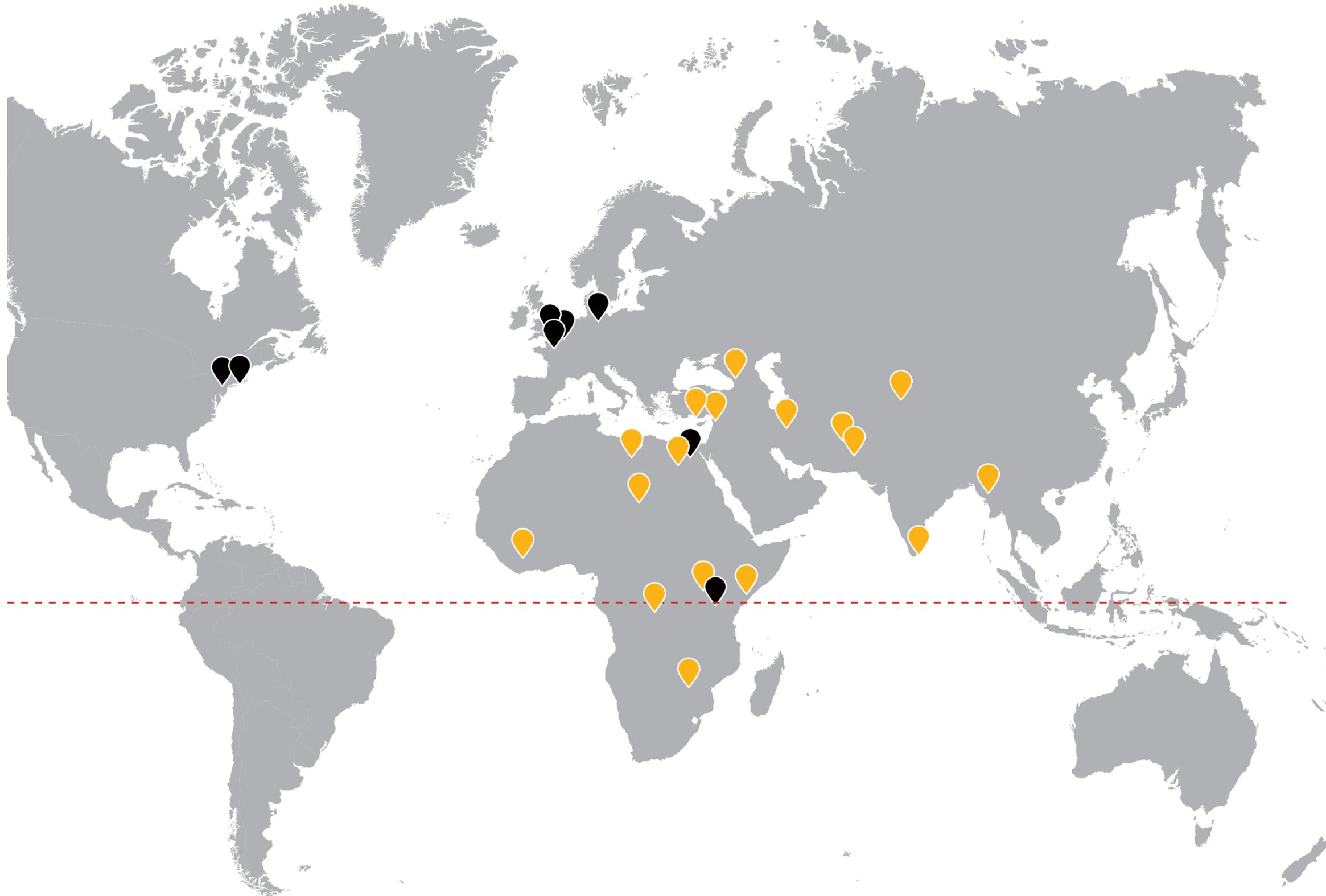
London
Audrey House, 16-20 Ely Place,
London, EC1N 6SN, UK
T: +44 207 269 9450
Registered in the UK
Company Registration No: 04932380

Nairobi
P.O Box 1965, 00606, Nairobi, Kenya
T: +254 20 262 8304 / T: +254 20 262 8303

New York
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 4018,
New York, NY 10017, USA
T: + 1 646 233 1652
A public charity and tax-exempt organisation
in the United States under section 501(c)(3)
of the Internal Revenue Code

Paris
142 rue Montmartre, 75002 Paris, France
T: +33 1 46 07 24 13

Washington DC
1156 15 Street, NW Suite 1001,
Washington D.C. 20005, USA
T: + 1 202 885 9093



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