



GIJTR

Global Initiative for Justice,
Truth & Reconciliation

TRANSFORMING TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE:

A DECADE OF CHANGE, GROWTH & SUSTAINED IMPACT

2014-2024





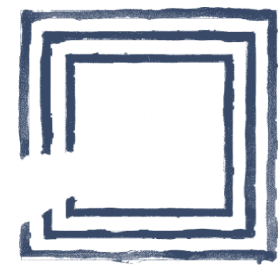
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Truth & Reconciliation

Transforming Transitional Justice: A Decade of Change, Growth & Sustained Impact

2014–2024

Written by Simon Robins



International Coalition of
SITES of CONSCIENCE

About the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

The International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC) is a global network of museums, historic sites and grassroots initiatives dedicated to building a more just and peaceful future through engaging communities in remembering struggles for human rights and addressing their modern repercussions. Founded in 1999, ICSC now includes more than 370 Sites of Conscience members in 80 countries. ICSC supports these members through seven regional networks that encourage collaboration and international exchange of knowledge and best practices. The Global Initiative for Justice, Truth and Reconciliation is a flagship program of ICSC.

Learn more at www.sitesofconscience.org

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CONTENT

ABOUT THIS REPORT 6

Executive Summary and Selected Key Impacts 8

- Survivors and Conflict-affected Communities 10
- Civil Society 13
- GIJTR Consortium Partners 16
- State Authorities and Mechanisms 17
- International and Global Entities 18
- The Transitional Justice Field 19

ABOUT GIJTR 20

Before GIJTR—

Transforming Traditional Transitional Justice Processes.... 24

The Founding of GIJTR—

Equipping Communities to Drive Change..... 28

How GIJTR Works—

From the Ground Up: Primary Takeaways and Tools for Transformation 30

- Victim-centered 31
- Context-informed..... 34
- Locally Driven 36
- Non-prescriptive 38
- Gender-responsive..... 41
- Trauma-informed 44

What Do GIJTR Programs Look Like? 46

- Country-based Projects 46
- Capacity-building Academies..... 48
- Thematically Focused, Rapid Response Projects 49

IMPACTS 51

Overview—Evaluation Frameworks, Challenges and Results 50

- The Impact Study 50
- Theory of Change Evaluation 54
- DAC Criteria..... 55
- Survey Results 59

Survivors and Conflict-Affected Communities.....	64
Civil Society	68
Networking	72
Capacity Building	75
GIJTR Consortium Partners.....	80
State Authorities and Mechanisms	82
International and Global Impacts.....	85
The Field of Transitional Justice	88
Memorialization as a 5th Pillar of Transitional Justice....	89
Transitional Justice and Atrocity Prevention.....	91
New Frontiers in the Documentation of Human Rights Violations	92
Mainstreaming Psychosocial Support in Transitional Justice.....	95
Art as a Tool of Transitional Justice.....	98
The Global South as a Site for Transitional Justice Knowledge Production.....	100

Learning by Doing: Small Projects as a Method.....	103
Rapid Response and Transitional Justice	104
Democratizing Forensic Science	105

CONCLUSION.....108

ANNEXES.....110

Annex 1: GIJTR Objectives.....	110
Annex 2: Project Outputs and Outcomes	112
Annex 3: GIJTR Consortium Partners.....	138
Annex 4: GIJTR Programmatic Approaches	140
Annex 5: Respondents Interviewed for the Impact Study.....	142
Annex 6: Survey for GIJTR Local and International Partners	144
Annex 7: GIJTR Publications.....	145
GIJTR as Knowledge Producer	145
Selected Publications and Resources	147

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Founded in 2014, the Global Initiative for Justice, Truth and Reconciliation (GIJTR, or the Consortium) is a Consortium of nine global organizations that works alongside communities to amplify the voices of survivors and inspire collective action in countries struggling to confront human rights violations. By addressing past trauma, it seeks to change the future.

On the eve of its tenth anniversary, GIJTR worked with evaluation consultant Simon Robins to examine the depth and breadth of GIJTR's impact in its first decade of programming. This final report, *Transforming Transitional Justice: A Decade of Change, Growth and Sustained Impact*, highlights the many, often intersecting, ways that GIJTR revolutionizes traditional approaches to transitional justice through its flexible and context-specific lens—one that prioritizes the experiences and expertise of survivors and post-conflict communities by building their capacity to lead local and national initiatives that demand accountability, secure rights for all and foster more peaceful and just societies.

Participants at GIJTR's international summit "Building Community Initiatives: Strengthening Sustaining Peace and Guarantees of Non-Recurrence in the Asia Pacific Region," held in Bangkok in October 2023.

The summit was attended by more than 150 representatives and served as a platform for theoretical discussion, experience-sharing and partnership-building related to human rights documentation, truth-telling, accountability and memorialization across the region.

As evidenced in this report, GIJTR’s holistic, innovative methodology has a cascading and overlapping effect in terms of impacts. For instance, it reimagines and actualizes new approaches in the field of transitional justice at the same time that it forges meaningful engagements with a wide range of stakeholders. As a result, impacts in the report are often intertwined with detailed descriptions of GIJTR’s methodologies, project activities and insights from local partners. For clarity’s sake, the report opens with an Executive Summary that details selected key impacts before elucidating its extensive findings about GIJTR’s objectives, methodologies, audiences and impacts. **A shorter publication, summarizing this full report, is also available by using the QR code printed on this page. ►**

While GIJTR’s work is intentionally designed to meet the different needs of local settings, this report points to common impacts across GIJTR’s programs that have transformed the lives of tens of thousands affected by conflict worldwide as well as individuals and organizations seeking to support them. It is GIJTR’s hope that this report will assist practitioners, civil society organizations, policymakers, donors and others in the fields of transitional justice, peacebuilding and violence prevention in designing and supporting similar methodologies and mechanisms in the future.



TRANSFORMING TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE:

**A DECADE OF
CHANGE, GROWTH &
SUSTAINED IMPACT**

2014–2024
**SUMMARY
REPORT**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND SELECTED KEY IMPACTS

GIJTR brings together nine global organizations with a wide range of expertise and experience across multiple disciplines relevant to transitional justice. This allows GIJTR to develop holistic interventions in response to local needs and maintain the flexibility to evolve in often volatile contexts. GIJTR's primary funding mechanism commits resources over multiple years that enables a long-term engagement, permitting multi-phase programming and a long-term capacity-building approach with local civil society partners.

GIJTR's methodologies can be seen as an effort to avoid the prefabricated, but often ineffective, solutions that internationally supported transitional justice interventions frequently adopt. It seeks to avoid those problematic dynamics by committing to a set of approaches that ensure all action is: victim-centered, context-informed, locally driven, non-prescriptive, gender-responsive and trauma-informed. These approaches act as **tools for transformation** in driving change at both the state and civil society levels. GIJTR's commitment to long-term

financing facilitates sustained capacity building. It enhances sustainability, with projects made more relevant and effective through co-design with local partners. GIJTR, as a network of global actors, opens up new spaces for action, both geographically and thematically, and challenges the hegemony of the Global North and traditional centers of expertise, enabling and amplifying South-South collaboration. Finally, the research and lesson learning capacity of GIJTR makes it a major source of knowledge production in the field.

GIJTR's work takes a number of forms, including: country-based projects; capacity-building training programs (known as "Academies"); shorter thematic-focused projects centered on research and practice-driven innovation; and rapid response initiatives that deliver rapid impacts in urgently evolving situations, which is a new concept in transitional justice. In its decade of operation, GIJTR has engaged with people from 80 countries; worked with over 800 civil society organizations (CSOs); supported more than 500 community-driven projects; and enabled the collection of more than 8,000 testimonies of human rights violations.

The impacts of GIJTR are measured through multiple methods. This includes a study of GIJTR's documentation, qualitative interviews and a survey of partners, alongside a theory of change evaluation and measurements from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECS-DAC) evaluation criteria (the "DAC criteria"). **The latter shows that GIJTR's impacts are extremely significant and positive across all contexts where it works with victims, conflict-affected populations and civil society organizations (CSOs).** The impact on states and state-led processes is somewhat less, due both to the CSO-oriented modality of GIJTR, and the political challenges in many contexts.

This evaluation summarizes GIJTR's impacts on six primary groups:

Survivors and Conflict-affected
Communities

Civil Society

GIJTR Consortium Partners

State Authorities and Mechanisms

International and Global Entities

The Transitional Justice Field

Survivors and Conflict-affected Communities

GIJTR impacts victims and communities affected by violence directly, through support of CSO-led programming that engages them, and indirectly by supporting CSO and state action in which they participate. Every country project begins with an assessment of the needs of various victim groups and communities, targeted through the small projects that define capacity-building support in all programming. A key part of the engagement with victims is mental health and psychosocial services (MHPSS), which is a mainstay of GIJTR projects, enabling trauma-informed engagement between CSOs and victims.



GIJTR-trained women collecting oral histories about people's experiences of the Colombian conflict in marginalized communities.

GIJTR's **holistic and innovative approach** to memorialization, as well as its mainstreaming of Mental Health and Psychosocial Services (MHPSS), **complements formal transitional justice processes**—which can only engage a limited number of survivors—**by providing otherwise excluded survivors and affected communities with new and varied platforms to effectively advocate for new policies and practices** that meet their post-conflict needs.

In The Gambia, for example, GIJTR local partner, Women in Liberation and Leadership (WILL) organizes “listening circles” at the community level for women to share their experiences of violations committed during the country’s 22-year-long dictatorship. During The Gambia’s Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC) (2017-2021), WILL conveyed these stories to the TRRC through reporting and intervened with ministers to ensure that reparations were extended to those who had not testified to the TRRC. As a result of GIJTR’s support to WILL, a greater number of victims received reparations and material support, significantly impacting their well-being and creating a foundation for a more peaceful future in the country.



A tour guide at The Gambia’s Memory House in June 2022. The site is the first museum and memorial focused on the Jammeh dictatorship in the country. It began as a GIJTR-supported traveling exhibition.

GIJTR programming equips survivors and affected communities with **new skills and connections to achieve acknowledgment, accountability and justice, including reparations and memory laws.** In this way, it ensures that the voices of those who were often previously excluded from transitional justice processes are not only amplified but profoundly influential.



A GIJTR-facilitated art exhibit in a Rohingya refugee camp in Bangladesh in March 2022. The artworks were created by refugees themselves based on their memories and their hopes for the future.

GIJTR’s expertise in memorialization equips survivors and affected communities with **new capacities to share their experiences of conflict through public exhibitions, podcasts, memorials and memory sites,** among other programs, resulting in **reduced stigma, increased empathy and deepened allyship.** In this way, memorialization activities serve as a form of symbolic reparations, allowing victims to gain recognition and impact advocacy efforts on their own behalf.

Beyond such country-based work, many of GIJTR's knowledge-based and capacity-building programs (such as its Transitional Justice Academies) also impact victims in multiple countries as they are a primary recipient of GIJTR-supported pilot projects, which are designed and implemented by GIJTR's programming participants to demonstrate their learning. Many examples are outlined in the impact study.



A Cambodian survivor shares his experience with a group of South Sudanese activists during a GIJTR-sponsored exchange trip for a documentation project in South Sudan.

Grounded in its strength as a **global, trauma-informed Consortium**, GIJTR **transforms service provisions for victims** through the establishment of referral networks that provide survivors and affected communities with **a range of supports from physical and mental healthcare to microcredit financing.**



An image from the Herstories Archive, an ICSC member and GIJTR local partner that collected the personal narratives of mothers from different regions in Sri Lanka after the civil war there (1983-2009).
Photo credit: The Herstories Archive

By incorporating **atrocious prevention and social cohesion** into its programming, specifically by making visible root causes of past violence as the foundation for prevention of recurrence, GIJTR's **responsive, context-specific work reduces violence and promotes peacebuilding.**

Civil Society

Local civil society organizations, often referred to here as “GIJTR local partners,” are the main instrument of GIJTR action. With financial and technical support, they co-create programming with GIJTR Consortium partners to advance truth and justice in their contexts, using the long-term and flexible funding of the mechanism to build the capacity of even the most inexperienced CSOs. **The survey of local partners showed that a large majority believe that their work with GIJTR has significant impact across all DAC criteria, particularly on victims, affected communities and CSOs.**



Participants in GIJTR's African Youth Transitional Justice Academy engage in a dialogue facilitation exercise conducted during a capacity-building workshop in Rwanda in July 2019. The Academy brought together youth activists and civil society actors from seven countries in Africa to raise awareness of issues related to truth, justice and reconciliation.

A Note on Terms:

In this Summary, GIJTR Consortium partners refer to the nine core organizations that help facilitate all GIJTR programmings. Local civil society partners, or local partners, refer to community organizations that operate within a particular context and with whom GIJTR partners to facilitate individual projects.

GIJTR builds the technical and administrative capacities of civil society organizations in 80 countries, **equipping communities with new skills and strategies to shape and engage in both formal and informal transitional justice processes.** Through new capacities developed in GIJTR programs, local civil society organizations can secure a range of new funding and other supports that lead to sustained impact over the long term. **Since its founding, GIJTR has partnered with over 800 CSOs, conducting approximately 700 capacity-building workshops and 58 learning exchanges that reached over 42,000 participants.**

For example, in Guinea—where CSOs were inexperienced and for whom transitional justice was entirely new—GIJTR's work effectively strengthens the capacity of CSOs to work on advocacy and on transitional justice. Further, it supported the creation of a network of CSOs working on transitional justice known as CONAREG (National Coalition in Support of Reconciliation in Guinea), which now successfully advocates for survivor-centered policies at local and national levels.



Members of the National Coalition to Support Reconciliation in Guinea (CONAREG) gather at a GIJTR workshop on gender justice and psychosocial support in May 2022. GIJTR supported the creation of CONAREG, which advocates for a holistic national reconciliation process in Guinea.

Through GIJTR's long-term, multi-phased approach grounded in mutual trust and collaboration, **10 new networks have been formed comprising 145 civil society organizations in 23 countries.** This has significantly expanded civil society capacity and space for peer-to-peer support and complementary programming. It also has produced a range of effective **new initiatives advocating for transitional justice processes, new survivor-centered legislation, and public memorials to honor victims and survivors,** among many other concrete impacts.



Local partners in Guinea during a GIJTR capacity-building workshop in Conakry.

Through direct **financial and programmatic support** to participants, GIJTR catalyzes grassroots projects that provide **hands-on training for new cadres of civil society actors, resulting in dynamic new initiatives** that directly serve the needs of previously marginalized communities affected by conflict. **To date, GIJTR has supported over 500 such projects, including software to support the identification of victims, dialogues with refugees about justice and accountability and public performances aimed at preventing recurrences of violence.** These projects initially serve as proof of concept for untested ideas that—once developed with robust support and seed funding from GIJTR—effectively attract new funding and are positioned for sustained impact in the long term.



Participants in a GIJTR training on digital archiving for civil society organizations.

Through its robust, **gender-focused documentation** efforts, which center on training local documenters, who are often survivors themselves, to collect other survivors' testimonies, GIJTR ensures that **the experiences of historically marginalized groups, including women and racial and ethnic minorities, are preserved in the public record and accessible for future accountability purposes** even during times of active conflict. This use of local documenters, who are generally more trusted in their communities than international actors, results in **more accurate and detailed testimonies that ensures often overlooked violations, including conflict-related sexual violence, are addressed** and that victims receive mental health and psychosocial services so they can begin to heal.

GIJTR Consortium Partners

GIJTR also enables GIJTR Consortium Partners to grow in ways that were unimaginable in its absence. Its impact is particularly strong on Consortium Partners in the Global South, including the Forensics Anthropology Foundation of Guatemala (FAFG), Asia Justice and Rights (AJAR, Indonesia) and the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSV, South Africa), who reported that before GIJTR, they simply did not have platforms to operate internationally. Additionally, through GIJTR, the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC), GIJTR's founding Consortium Partner, has become a major actor in transitional justice around the world, with its recommendations and practices cited by numerous international entities.



GIJTR Consortium and local partners tour the Museo Casa de la Memoria de Medellín as part of their 2023 annual meeting held in Colombia.

By creating a Consortium of locally based organizations that are thematically and geographically diverse, GIJTR **enhances the capacity and reach of its core partner organizations. It does this by creating financial and programmatic opportunities for them to grow and sustain their programs, to make new connections that expand their understanding of the field and serve as global ambassadors for issues pertaining to truth and justice.**

State Authorities and Mechanisms

While few GIJTR projects seek to have direct impacts on formal state mechanisms, almost all effectively influence the environment and support CSOs to impact them. In some cases, they do so indirectly through training. For example, GIJTR builds the capacity of journalists and activists in transitional justice and advocacy in order to influence policy, as in Guinea and Sri Lanka. In several long-term, country-specific projects, GIJTR works more directly as a conduit between civil society actors and state authorities and mechanisms in order to amplify and more effectively meet the needs of victims and affected communities.



Dario Colmenares Millán, a GIJTR Program Director, speaking at a meeting of Mexican CSOs in Mexico City in February 2023. GIJTR is building the capacities of Mexican CSOs to effectively participate in the activities of the country's Truth Commission—including collecting documentation to inform the Commission's findings—and ultimately implement its recommendations.

By supporting the full engagement of a knowledgeable civil society rooted in local communities, GIJTR enhances the quality of formal transitional justice processes by both ensuring that state processes are informed by victims and their representatives, and that CSOs are themselves equipped with the skills to hold states accountable.



A memorialization initiative developed by the National Association of Relatives of Kidnapped, Detained and Disappeared of Peru, a local partner in GIJTR's "Indigenous Communities and Transitional Justice" project, which offers solutions for how formal transitional justice processes can better collaborate with Indigenous mechanisms that regularly incorporate restoration and retributive justice dimensions.

With its unique attention to **violence prevention** and its embrace of **informal truth and justice initiatives**, GIJTR demonstrates that **the tools of transitional justice can be used outside of formal settings** and, often, *before* political transitions begin or conflicts end, providing practitioners **new methods and guidelines** for supporting affected communities to quell violence and advance peace.

International and Global Entities

A wide range of organizations working globally on transitional justice rely on the learnings of GIJTR and incorporate their findings into their own working practices. The innovative practice of integrating MHPSS into transitional justice, led by CSVR, is a significant example of impact, most notably being the African Union's (AU's) integration of MHPSS into its transitional justice policy.



Through its work with GIJTR, Consortium partner the Forensic Anthropology Foundation of Guatemala has become a pioneer in transitional justice, ensuring the families of the missing and disappeared are centered in forensics investigations worldwide. Other GIJTR Consortium partners are also located in the Global South, including Indonesia and South Africa.

By **amplifying the experiences and expertise of communities in the Global South**, GIJTR shifts the **traditional power dynamics around who creates knowledge on behalf of whom**, correcting a major weakness and significant historic oversight in the transitional justice field, which for decades has been criticized for promoting exclusively Western approaches to transitional justice processes in contexts around the world. By **catalyzing and amplifying expertise in the Global South**, GIJTR supports a **robust new cohort of diverse practitioners and scholars who can inform the wider field based on their own learned and lived experiences**.

The Transitional Justice Field

GIJTR pioneers new approaches to contexts engaging with human rights violations by challenging formulaic transitional justice practices in multiple areas. These approaches include memorialization and art, atrocity prevention, documentation of human rights violations, forensics and MHPSS. GIJTR practices also demonstrate that the Global South is a site for transitional justice knowledge production and should be treated as such.



Rita Izsák-Ndiaye, Senior Advisor on Anti-Racism at the United Nations Development Programme, speaking at GIJTR's *State of Truth in the World Report* Launch at the National Museum of African American History and Culture in October 2023.

The groundbreaking report, written largely by local civil society actors with a diversity of lived experience and expertise, offers holistic, survivor-centered analysis of the access to and protection of historical truths in 18 countries worldwide. It is, in Izsák-Ndiaye's words, "a testimony to resilience and community struggles against all odds."

By producing **over 50 publications, including toolkits and policy briefs, in addition to social media campaigns, podcasts, newsletters** and other **knowledge-sharing activities**, GIJTR has **transformed the field of transitional justice** through its groundbreaking practices, findings and recommendations—particularly in terms of the necessity of centering civil society in all interventions developed to meet post-conflict needs. Further, GIJTR has foregrounded the essential role of memory in effective truth and justice initiatives; **communicated the importance of carrying out informal transitional justice processes alongside formal ones in order to effectively build trust among and engage as many members of civil society as possible in sustaining peace**; and shown the necessity of mainstreaming MHPSS, which is now considered standard practice, with GIJTR's work regularly cited by national and international entities including the African Union and the United Nations.

ABOUT THE GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR JUSTICE, TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Driving Global Change One Community at a Time

GIJTR is a Consortium of nine global organizations with expertise in a range of fields from psychosocial support (PSS) and documentation, to forensics and law. This framework and expertise supports GIJTR's efforts to build the capacity of CSOs in their efforts to support survivors and inspire collective action, in countries struggling to confront human rights violations, around the globe.

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

Founded in 1999, ICSC is a global network of sites devoted to connecting past struggles to their contemporary legacies. Its membership encompasses well-known sites like Ellis Island in New York City to burgeoning memory initiatives in more volatile countries from Ukraine to Yemen. One of the key advantages of having ICSC as a founding partner is that it equips GIJTR with a cadre of trusted local partners around the world, with whom ICSC already has deep relations.

In countries coming to terms with violent pasts, true peace cannot take hold unless all facets of society—particularly marginalized groups such as women, minorities and survivors—play a central role in rebuilding their countries. To date, however, many transitional justice models have failed to actively involve these key voices, preferring instead top-down procedures that prioritize the experiences and opinions of those in power. To correct this, GIJTR was founded in 2014 by the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience ICSC, a global network of historic sites, museums and memory initiatives that connects past injustices to their contemporary legacies. Up to that point, ICSC members had increasingly expressed the need for grassroots truth, justice and reconciliation efforts to support national transitional justice processes. With its own expertise in memory and memorialization, ICSC responded by bringing together eight additional global organizations committed to promoting just and sustainable peace in countries in transition by engaging local civil society organizations, survivors and governments in a participatory, inclusive and holistic manner. Selected for their geographic diversity as well as a wide range of expertise, these organizations form what is now GIJTR.

GIJTR Consortium Partners bring a range of expertise and a breadth of experience across multiple domains and disciplines, including memory and memorialization, documentation of rights violations—including through the use of digital databases, law and legal interventions, MHPSS and forensic anthropology. The skills of GIJTR Consortium Partners¹ permit GIJTR to develop holistic interventions in response to the local needs articulated in any context. Not only can a highly contextualized intervention be developed and implemented, but GIJTR maintains extreme flexibility. This flexibility permits its engagement to evolve in often volatile contexts as the political space and scale of armed conflict fluctuates. This is aided by the fact that, in contrast with conventional program-based funding, GIJTR’s resources were committed over multiple years, which enabled a long-term engagement with a context, permitting multi-phase programming that enabled a gradual capacity-building approach in even the lowest capacity context.

This combination of skills, flexibility and long-term funding support has enabled GIJTR to realize its goals of driving approaches to legacies of human rights violations that are victim-centered, context-informed, locally driven, non-prescriptive, gender-responsive and trauma-informed. One partner described the value of GIJTR in these terms: “They provided timely funding for us, they were very flexible and they trusted our judgment, and that is really gold in a partnership.”

GIJTR Partners

From its onset GIJTR was designed to be geographically and programmatically diverse, encompassing the following organizations:

- The American Bar Association Rule of Law, United States of America
- Asia Justice and Rights, Indonesia
- Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, South Africa
- Documentation Center of Cambodia
- Due Process of Law Foundation, United States of America
- Forensic Anthropology Foundation of Guatemala
- Humanitarian Law Center, Serbia
- The International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, United States of America
- Public International Law and Policy Group, United States of America

GIJTR's principal modality is to work with national and local CSOs. While transitional justice is often state-driven, GIJTR advocates for a more holistic approach, one that supports additional transitional justice mechanisms that are community-based and led by CSOs. The latter is necessary to ensure a state-based process is responsive to, and understands the needs of, victims and affected communities. As a result, while impacting formal state transitional justice mechanisms is a clear goal, this is typically done through empowering local civil society to advocate and influence such processes, rather than directly intervening in the national process. To execute this approach, a key focus of all GIJTR projects is to build the capacity of local civil society actors to lead truth and justice initiatives in their communities. In contexts where civil society needs such support—such as in The Gambia, where almost no active human rights actors were able to function during Yahya Jammeh's 22-year dictatorship (1996-2017)—this necessitates supporting new civil society actors or emerging victims' and survivors' groups. In multiple contexts, GIJTR programming facilitates the strengthening of, and long-term support to, civil society to equip it to fulfill a substantial role in advancing traditional justice processes and preventing renewed conflict or political backsliding.

Over its lifetime, GIJTR has received over \$45 million, USD, demonstrating the capacity of GIJTR to attract new funding, to the sector. Its projects include seven large, multiphase individual country projects, focused on either broad transitional justice processes or particular elements of them, notably on documentation, a five-phase forensic training program addressing enforced disappearance and a three-phase Middle East and North Africa Transitional Justice Academy (MENA TJ Academy). It has conducted 34 thematically focused rapid response projects that span globally focused thematic action, training workshops with a regional and/or thematic focus and projects targeting a particular context and mechanism or process. These were driven by the desire to develop and implement projects over a short timescale that also advance innovation, representing the systematization of a unique approach to urgent programming in transitional justice.²



An image from a social media campaign to support GIJTR's 2021 "Reintegration and Transitional Justice Project", which focused on the experiences and biopsychosocial impacts of conflict and sexual violence on women, girls and children born of war. The social media campaign reached over 160,000 people.

GIJTR programs engage not only with the symptoms of violence and injustice, but also address their root causes. They do this by elevating the impact of both formal and informal processes through partnerships with communities, who understand these underlying causes best and are therefore crucial drivers of lasting social change and catalysts for justice.

Since its founding, GIJTR has:



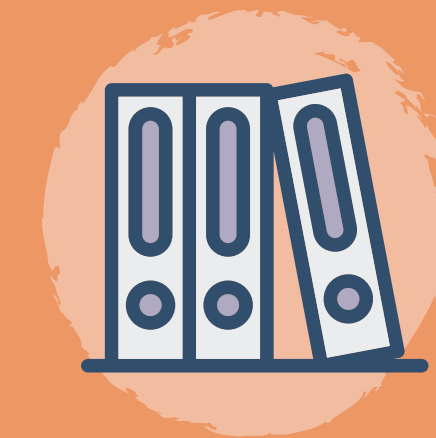
Worked with
people from **80**
countries



Partnered with over
800
civil society
organizations



Supported over
500
community driven
projects



Produced over
50
publications
and policy papers



Collected over
8000
narratives of
human rights violation

HOW GIJTR WORKS

Before GIJTR— Transforming Traditional Transitional Justice Processes

GIJTR emerged at a time when transitional justice practice had become increasingly prescriptive, backward-looking and defined by the precedent of perceived past successes. Thematically, practice was driven by an understanding of the “four pillars” of transitional justice, with a strong focus on the centrality of criminal accountability. The narrowness of approaches taken to engaging with histories of violence globally was reinforced by the fact that funding for such work came largely from a narrow pool of state donors in Europe and North America. This in turn reinforced a global dynamic of transitional justice that largely unfolded in states of the Global South, but whose practitioners and expertise were found chiefly in the Global North.



In 2020, GIJTR worked with ICSC member and local partner the Liberation War Museum in Bangladesh on a quilting exhibit that shared the experiences of Rohingya women survivors through panels embroidered by the women themselves.

The prescriptive tendency of internationally led and funded process was heightened by the “projectification” of interventions after conflict and authoritarianism. Resources were typically delivered as part of relatively short, fixed-term projects. Those projects’ parameters—including goals and modalities—were determined externally by experts linked to donors and implementing agencies, rather than by affected communities and survivors. Critiques of the global transitional justice “industry” that powered such approaches resonated with a deeper contemporary unease that scholars were articulating about transitional justice as both theory and practice.

This “critical turn” was summarized as:

“transitional justice does too little to disturb the post-conflict status quo, treating symptoms rather than causes; that it remains oblivious to multiple forms of economic, structural, cultural, everyday and gender-based violence; that it marginalizes local or Indigenous traditions of peace and justice; that it clumsily applies the same thinking and tools across a range of contexts and transition types as if they were the same thing.”³

While GIJTR was not created explicitly to address these critiques, it emerged when such conversations were prevalent and was an effort to address some of the shortcomings identified.

Today, GIJTR approaches can be seen as an effort to avoid the traps that internationally supported transitional justice interventions historically had fallen into. Prescription is challenged by a commitment to a context-informed, locally driven and victim-centered approach. **Although these have long been acknowledged as worthy principles by almost all actors in the sector, GIJTR represents perhaps the first time that a mechanism and modality, developed with the support of a major donor, truly enables these grassroots approaches.** To create a process that is driven by the context, rather than by external understandings of it, demands both a long-term engagement with that context and the capacity to provide funding on the basis of the needs articulated, rather than proposals drawn up elsewhere. As a funding mechanism, GIJTR enables

both, by committing resources over extended multi-phase projects and centering programming to be driven by local partners.

The need for a long-term approach focusing on capacity building becomes even more important when the actors one seeks to work with are marginalized, as victims and survivors are likely to be. GIJTR’s approach of building deep relationships with local partners in civil society, who in turn have close connections to victims and affected communities, can effectively drive programming that can engage not just with the symptoms of violence and injustice, but also with their root causes. Centering local actors yields the possibility of effectively acknowledging “economic, structural, cultural, everyday and gender-based violence.”⁴ It ensures that projects address their social impacts. . . or are at least cognizant of them.

A final element of GIJTR that liberates it from many of the constraints of past approaches, is its understanding that transitional justice does not consist solely of state-led process. It also demonstrates that informal mechanisms are a crucial element of driving the social change that catalyzes justice. Thanks in part to the experience of ICSC and its work with memory and memorialization, typically led by non-state actors, GIJTR is comfortable engaging primarily with civil society. In many contexts this ensures that GIJTR has a significant impact on formal, state-led mechanisms. However this also allows GIJTR to work in atypical contexts, including those where the “transition paradigm”⁵ may simply not be relevant. This gives GIJTR opportunities to work in contexts even as political transition fails and conflict reemerges, or where the political space for transitional justice—as conventionally understood—has shrunk to almost zero. This, in turn, creates the space for additional innovation in how the practice of truth and justice after violence can be understood and made a reality.



GIJTR favors “learning through doing,” and provides financial and programmatic support so local partners can gain practical experience through developing their own pilot projects. In the bottom image, GIJTR participants work on a community mural in a Rohingya refugee camp in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh. Often local partners then move on to mentor other local partners through South-South exchanges arranged by GIJTR. In the above photo, a Colombian organization trains Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh on visually collecting the stories of survivors as part of a GIJTR documentation project.

The Founding of GIJTR— Equipping Communities to Drive Change

GIJTR was established in 2014, creating a novel mechanism whose structure enables innovative approaches to addressing rights violations globally. GIJTR's enjoys several unique characteristics:

- It challenges the traditional fixed and often short-term approach typified by most interventions in the sector. Its long-term and rolling funding allows it to conduct multi-phase, multi-year projects and sustain engagement in context, and with the support of, local civil society actors who lead GIJTR actions. This facilitates profound capacity building of a quality and scale that is largely unprecedented which enhances sustainability.
- Its funding structure also permits project proposals to be developed with local partners in an elicitive rather than prescriptive way, and prior to a significant engagement in context (as is often the case). This ability to conduct greater analysis on the ground before designing programs challenges prescription and enhances contextualization, which in turn makes projects more relevant and effective.
- A rapid response approach introduces the concept of urgent response to the transitional justice space.



In 2017, GIJTR facilitated seven truth-telling projects in rural communities throughout Colombia. One, from El Castillo, brought together a group of women who had lost loved ones in the conflict to craft dolls in their honor. Inside each doll was a recording of the woman's memories of the victim. The dolls were then displayed on traveling exhibits throughout the country, helping to foster empathy and understanding through the arts.

- GIJTR is composed of a range of organizations with a breadth of experience addressing all elements required to comprehensively engage with histories of violations, including, among others, PSS, documentation, law and forensics. Given this, it supports unique environments for the development of novel approaches to truth and justice, including the creation of innovative synergies that drive highly original programming.
- The global reach of GIJTR enables it to bring together justice actors from multiple contexts (Côte d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Indonesia, Serbia and Syria, to name just a few), including in capacity-building “Academies” where victims, CSOs and others are exposed to new knowledge and share their own experience and expertise.

GIJTR represents the creation of a network of global actors, including several from the Global South, that bring relevant approaches and expertise to address the challenges of histories of violence, and permits the co-creation of programs across multiple skill sets and experience. The synergies between these actors open up new spaces for action, both geographically and



A participant in “Building Community Initiatives: Strengthening Sustaining Peace and Guarantees of Non-Recurrence in the Asia Pacific Region,” a GIJTR summit held in Bangkok in October 2023. The summit featured an exhibit of artworks made by survivors in GIJTR programs, including these two embroidered pieces made by Rohingya refugees.

thematically. This demonstrates that disciplines and approaches such as documentation and forensic work, or criminal trials and psychological support, are naturally complementary when a victim-centered approach to addressing legacies of violations is taken.

The field of transitional justice is fragmented, with organizations typically having a single narrow disciplinary focus. GIJTR counters this by engaging across multiple disciplines to address all the needs of a particular context. The global reach of GIJTR, combined with its breadth of expertise, as well as ICSC's large network, allows experiences and lessons from one context to inform others. Such contextualized learning is both method and impact for GIJTR, as CSOs develop expertise through training, support and practice. They also frequently share their learnings through GIJTR-supported toolkits that enable other civil society actors to replicate the work in their own context and beyond. A "learning through doing" modality, typified by the funding of modest projects by small grants to local partners, is a part of every GIJTR country project and every training Academy, permitting CSOs to develop their own ideas in a practical way. A key part is challenging the hegemony of the Global North and traditional centers of expertise, enabling South-South cooperation in which lessons and experience transfer directly between civil society actors.

GIJTR operates at multiple levels, working with local civil society actors to engage victims and affected communities where they are, while also effectively engaging states when doing so advances its local action. This enables GIJTR to link states, CSOs and victims, nationally, regionally and globally. Further, GIJTR's research and lesson learning capacity makes it a major source of knowledge production in the field, creating practical tools and other resources that steer others' approaches to transitional justice.

How GIJTR Works—From the Ground Up: Primary Takeaways and Tools for Transformation

GIJTR's approaches drive change in the lives of those affected by human rights violations in ways that address both the root causes and legacies of those violations, and ensure they are not repeated. These approaches represent tools for transformation that drive change at the levels of state and society through support to sustainable civil society actors working with communities. This section of the study draws on data collected through document review and interviews.

GIJTR has six primary approaches to supporting transitional justice processes—both formal and informal. In the past, transitional justice was heavily influenced by an international professional and donor network, rather than by locally rooted movements. A critique of this framework is that it brings a state-centric focus to violence that discourages the engagement of affected populations.⁶ GIJTR's approaches and its focus on supporting local civil society provide a framework for creating capacity in communities affected by violence, to articulate their own needs and seek routes to address them.

The six programmatic approaches are presented here as independent lenses through which to view GIJTR's work.⁷ In practice, however, they intersect. For instance, GIJTR's victim-centered approach is also always context-informed and locally driven because victims seek to shape any process according to how they see the world. In other words, all GIJTR approaches are mutually reinforcing. The following examples from GIJTR's programs demonstrate how these approaches help local actors shape and drive transformative change.

GIJTR Objectives

At its founding, GIJTR defined six objectives that drive its engagement with post-conflict contexts, and in particular with civil society in those contexts:

- **capacity building**
- **innovation**
- **programming tools to advance sustainability**
- **growth and development of the field in terms of transitional justice innovations**
- **rapid deployment of interventions**
- **holistic approaches**

For more information on each objective, visit [Annex 1](#).

Victim-centered

Significant scholarship on victim-centered approaches to transitional justice has emerged over the last decade,⁸ seeking to challenge processes—like criminal trials—that have been perceived as perpetrator- and institution-focused. This is in response to the widespread understanding that victims’ agendas were not prioritized in multiple processes, with international resources focused on accountability rather than addressing victims’ needs. This led to an academic and practical emphasis on advancing victim-centered processes. Despite this, there is no widely accepted understanding of what the term “victim-centered” means. One scholar defined it as “a transitional justice process or mechanism that arises as a response to the explicit needs of victims, as defined by victims themselves.”⁹ While a rhetorical commitment to victim-centered approaches is now common in transitional justice work, there has been little effort to systematize it. The unique impact of GIJTR’s approach is that it represents the true operationalization of a victim-centered approach. This requires understanding that addressing the legacies of violations that impact survivors and affected communities demands centering and empowering communities as participants. The goals of any process must align with the individual and collective interests of affected communities. Programming should incarnate routes to accountability to victims and survivors at every stage.

Centering Victims: Atrocity Prevention and Healing in Guinea

Since independence, Guinea has experienced ongoing cycles of violence characterized by massive human rights violations, violent transitions of power as well as ethnic and political tensions exacerbated by a failure to hold perpetrators accountable. Notably, on September 28, 2009, state forces opened fire on a group of peaceful protestors leading to the killing of 156 civilians and the rape of more than 100 women and girls by security forces. The organization of elections in 2010 led to renewed calls for accountability and reparations for survivors, in the hopes of building a more just and stable future. Since 2017, GIJTR has worked to bring together local, national and international actors to support truth and reconciliation efforts in Guinea.

In GIJTR’s work in Guinea, a common element to all small projects conducted by local partners is the identification of victims of various systematic and state-led violent events throughout the history of Guinea. This represents an explicit effort to ensure the most inclusive understanding of who victims and survivors are. This, combined with a focus on the most marginalized and most vulnerable (mainly women, youth and survivors), was perceived by stakeholders and participants in activities as appropriate and correct.

A victim-centered approach demands understanding—and responding to—the needs of victims. By consistently taking into account the needs of participants, the Guinea project allowed individuals to express their needs related to transitional justice, and to elaborate on their expectations. For example, in mid-2017, local partners held interviews and focus groups to assess the needs of communities in Conakry and Forested Guinea, permitting them to identify several areas of need that programming might not otherwise have been able to engage.

An essential component of a victim-centered approach is creating spaces and ways of engagement that are safe for victims. This demands a focus on PSS, integral to all GIJTR country projects. In Guinea, PSS was indeed among the most appreciated activities of the project.

Practicing a victim-centered approach means establishing a relationship with the victim that prioritizes their psychosocial and physical safety, builds trust, and helps them to restore some control over their life. Putting the victim or survivor at the center of the process promotes their recovery, reduces the risk of further harm and reinforces their agency and self-determination. At the same time, the guiding principle in working with victims is to do no harm. A victim-centered approach is applied through four principles: confidentiality, safety, respect and nondiscrimination.

“As a victim, this is the first time that I am engaged on an important issue like this. I have never been involved in such discussions that gave me an opportunity to say how I feel... This is important to me and makes me feel like a part of the entire transitional justice process.”

PARTICIPANT IN A COMMUNITY DIALOGUE ON REPARATIONS LED BY WILL, THE GAMBIA



ANEKED founder Nana-Jo Ndow stands before an image of her missing father at “The Duty to Remember,” a traveling exhibition funded by GIJTR that later inspired Memory House, the first memorial to victims of Jammeh’s regime in The Gambia (which can be seen in the accompanying picture). Photo credit for Nana-Jo Ndow: Jason Florio

In practice, a victim-centered approach necessitates a close partnership between GIJTR and victims: this is a driver of programming that sees civil society, including victim-led organizations, leading implementation. ICSC's leadership of GIJTR enables this approach, allowing it to access ICSC's extensive global network to connect with local CSOs. Local civil society is best situated to work for, and with, victims, survivors and their communities, as well as provide a link to state-led mechanisms. GIJTR programming is eliciting empowerment of local civil society partners to understand victims' needs and develop approaches addressing these needs and engaging victims. GIJTR documented its experience and approach in a guidebook on a victim-centered approach to transitional justice.¹⁰

"I remember participating in a conference or workshop where, for the first time, you also heard victims' voices and that's unusual because you usually have organizations who either parade victims or speak themselves for victims, and here they were speaking for themselves. ... GIJTR has tried to be exactly that, a space where the voices of victims can be heard. I would say that that's been quite revolutionary really."

— GLOBAL EXPERT

Centering Victims: WILL's "Listening Circles"

In The Gambia, local CSO partner, Women in Liberation and Leadership (WILL) developed a unique approach to amplifying the voices and stories of women who might otherwise have been excluded from the transitional justice process, through "listening circles": intimate meetings of peers where women could share their experiences. This modality emerged from a concern that the formal mechanism of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC) was not accessible to many women nor did it use a trauma-informed approach to allow women to feel comfortable telling their story. A WILL staff member reported:

"Fear was going to prevent so many women from speaking. So we came together and tried to see how can we support women in this process to share their experiences, either directly with the truth commission or indirectly. Through the listening circles, we were able to incorporate psychosocial support, and some of the victims after a while felt confident enough to come out and share their experiences of violence including [sexual and gender-based violence]. So through the listening circles, we were able to support women to go formally to the TRRC and give statements, and some of these women actually testified. But also for some women who felt that they were not comfortable enough to take that route, they were able to give us their statements which we documented and used and produced a shadow report to the TRRC report, which showed the collective experiences of Gambian women during Jammeh's dictatorship."

This represents WILL finding their own way to address the needs in communities, articulated by victims and survivors and guided technically and supported financially by GIJTR. The impacts of this intervention included both that the stories of women who would otherwise not have been heard were recorded and that WILL was able to facilitate women's access to the TRRC. Some 60-80% of all women who gave testimony to the TRRC came through WILL.

Context-Informed

GIJTR works in a broad range of contexts, both geographic and situational. These include settings where conflict or authoritarianism is over and there is political space for a comprehensive transitional justice process. They also include contexts where a political transition has occurred, but the political space remains constrained, or is actively shrinking in ways that can threaten human rights defenders. In some contexts, conflict has been ongoing throughout GIJTR’s engagement, or has rapidly escalated during an implementation phase. In some projects, GIJTR can only work with refugees outside their country, addressing needs where they are or creating foundations for a process when conditions change.

Given the range of environments in which GIJTR works, its programming must be contextually informed, framing the principles of its action in ways that are relevant to a particular situation. This demands an understanding of the unique historical, social, political and cultural context of a particular society when designing and implementing programs. This emphasizes the need to understand and address the underlying causes and dynamics of conflict or repression. More than this, it must be understood—particularly in deeply divided societies emerging from conflict—that within a single country context there will be parallel histories and conflictual dynamics that must be incorporated in addressing the legacies of conflict. This demonstrates the importance of truth-telling and memory in providing a foundation for justice and drives GIJTR’s centering of such approaches. A context-informed approach demands comprehensive analysis, stakeholder engagement, local ownership, adaptability and a holistic approach.



Participants in a GIJTR 2023 roundtable on global racism visit the Valongo Wharf Archeological Site in Rio de Janeiro, where more than 900,000 enslaved Africans are estimated to have entered the Americas.

GIJTR's programming enables civil society-led initiatives because they, in turn, enable contextualized approaches, embodied by local people who know their history and community best. Not only do civil society actors and the community representatives with whom they engage represent vital stakeholders in any truth and justice process, but they enable local ownership of that process and constitute a resource that can serve the community in the long term.

Context-informed Psychosocial Support

Psychosocial support (PSS) must always be contextualized, not only in terms of the idioms of distress and local coping approaches, but whether one works at an individual or collective level in the community. This was summarized by one of the CSVR psychosocial support experts as follows:

“We do not come up with a clearly defined method of addressing trauma and traumatization for specific individuals, families, communities and societies. We don't have a one-size-fits-all to addressing trauma and facilitating healing at multiple levels: we hit at individual, family, community and societal levels. But we build in the contextual realities, the contextual resources and networks of support that victims may have in their daily lives. Some victims, for instance, may believe in certain rituals that for them speak to or facilitate their healing, and that is okay. Some victims may use religious methodologies towards building their resistance, their resilience and healing. And that is also okay. And some people will say, ‘Okay, I just want trauma counseling,’ and they go through that process, and it's okay.”

But we really try as much as possible to look at different methods and methodologies of coping that are available for each individual, for communities, for families, and build upon those...different layers that are needed for sustainable healing and restoration of the normal functioning of those who have been traumatized.... So you may find that in country A, we are using different methodologies. In country B, we are using another methodology altogether because of the contextual realities and the need to build upon the resilience of that country and the resources available to specific victims.

Locally Driven

Agency is at the heart of addressing legacies of human rights violations, not least because empowerment is seen as challenging the legacy of victimization. Despite this, transitional justice in practice has often struggled to see processes developed and implemented based on local needs and priorities. GIJTR's programming challenges a transitional justice framework that originated in remote capitals in the Global North and was implemented solely in formal institutions led by the state.

The multi-phase projects enabled under GIJTR's funding mechanism also support locally driven approaches. Since long-term financing is available, partners develop projects in partnership with local civil society actors, rather than creating a proposal for a donor before being present in the context. Almost all country-based projects begin with a needs assessment, often combined with initial capacity building of civil society, so local partners know the potential of a transitional justice engagement. Local partners are supported in engaging with relevant constituencies, including victims, in appropriate ways that ensure they drive the development of the longer-term project. Traditional power relations that marginalize certain parts of the community are challenged by emphasizing that groups such as women, who struggle to be heard, are incorporated into such processes.

Locally Driven Practice in Guatemala: Working with Indigenous Understandings of the World

A project working in a number of contexts with survivors of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) sought to support a group of Indigenous women in the Ixil region of Guatemala who were victims of the conflict in the early 1980s. While all of GIJTR's work is rooted in human rights norms that emerge from a very Western tradition, this project demonstrated that GIJTR practice could accommodate very different world views.

The Center for Legal Action on Human Rights (CALDH), which has accompanied these women for decades, sought to implement a project to generate a space of containment and healing for survivors. To be relevant to women survivors, it needed to be framed by the Mayan cosmovision. This meant referencing Indigenous spirituality, astronomy, medicine and philosophy, as well as their own forms of organization and the Network of Life from the vision of the Mayan peoples. The goal was that survivors of sexual violence regain their energy, their power, their individual and collective light. Further, they needed to regain their essence in the search for justice, dignified reparation and self-determination—thus identifying and strengthening the elements of the Mayan cosmovision in the individual and collective healing process.

For processes to be locally driven demands a centering of the norms and frameworks most relevant for victims. GIJTR demonstrates, in this Guatemalan project and elsewhere, that as long as victims and survivors are given agency in driving the goals and forms of justice programming, projects will use the language and approaches that are most relevant for them.

“[GIJTR] starts at the bottom before getting to the top. For me that’s its particularity, to the extent that the Consortium starts first with bringing together the victims, bringing in people defending human rights, bringing together journalists, to first present small problems within the communities. That’s a particularity, because ignoring these problems at the lowest part of the social ladder, and addressing them with politicians only, can sometimes be a mistake. So, we can organize events at the highest level of the state, but if these events don’t take into consideration the victims’ problems, for example, in terms of justice, in terms of access to care, in terms of remembrance, the risk is it won’t really be a process that will succeed. So, for me, [GIJTR] does special work because it attacks society’s problems at the base.”

— GUINEAN PARTNER, 2019

Such informal action has great potential in telling truths and creating environments that enable the reintegration of victims and the healing of broader society. In contexts where a national state-led transitional justice process is underway, continued capacity building can support civil society to engage with that process in positive ways. In several contexts (e.g. The Gambia, Guinea) CSOs supported by GIJTR have profound impacts on the direction and performance of transitional justice mechanisms while acting as a conduit between the mechanisms, victims and their communities.

Atrocity Prevention as Context-informed Transitional Justice in Sri Lanka

Around the world GIJTR undertakes work labeled as “atrocity prevention” or “social cohesion,” an explicit engagement with non-repetition of violations that is often considered beyond the realm of transitional justice. This has typically arisen in GIJTR’s programming as a response to a context where the political space prevents an engagement with past violations and there is a risk of ongoing polarization and renewed violence. One example is Sri Lanka, where GIJTR’s primary local partner summarized the importance of addressing the past in order to prevent further violence, in this way:

“The idea is, of course, that if we don’t address the violence in the past, and these rifts between different communities will be exacerbated. Given the failure to really have a holistic transitional justice process to reckon with the violence that’s taken place, it’s likely that violence will recur in some form in the future. There’s a recognition among Sri Lankan partners that there isn’t going to be this formal transitional justice process at the moment but, because of the risk for further violence, especially during moments of heightened tensions around elections, and those sorts of things, we still ask communities about are the tensions that they’re facing on the ground in the moment. We recognize that many of those likely stem from this failure to address past violence then consider what practical or realistic solutions can be put in place at this moment. Consequently, when tensions are high, when incidents happen, we’re in a better place to respond because we have a sense of which groups are vulnerable and how to help deescalate potentially violent situations.”

This led to the development of community-based groups in villages, where individuals could intervene when situations arose that threatened violence or act pre-emptively to avoid such situations. An example of this type of programming, aimed at conflict prevention, was an effort to sensitize tuk tuk drivers—often mobilized by politicians as a tool of ethnic violence—to be aware of the dangers of such tensions.

Non-prescriptive

Transitional justice practice has long been accused of being overly prescriptive as global institutions have increasingly defined its goals and mechanisms. GIJTR challenges prescription in several ways. First, it perceives its programming as elicitive in nature, i.e. local stakeholders drive the goals and modalities of its action, rather than those linked to global transitional justice communities. Second, it sees truth, justice and reconciliation as constructed in and by communities and not exclusively through state-led mechanisms. Third, it seeks to innovate rather than imitate in its practice, typically in ways driven by local actors enabling highly contextualized approaches. This is a rearticulation of the principles of victim-centered, contextualized and locally driven practice that most effectively defies prescription.

Practically, since this permits greater analysis on the ground before projects are finalized, and flexibility once implementation is underway, this approach effectively challenges prescription. This flexibility emerges from the structure of GIJTR. The range of expertise available through its international partners allows global leaders in relevant fields to be brought in at any point in a project where and when that support is required. The financial flexibility enabled by funding that is committed for the long term allows emphasis and strategy changes within a country's context as the situation evolves. This was summarized by a GIJTR partner as follows:



GIJTR Consortium partners and local partners gather at a capacity building workshop held for youth on atrocity prevention in Bali in November 2022.

“[GIJTR] does a great job of walking the line between sharing what they think would be helpful and could be seen as priorities in a specific context, and being responsive to what the local partners say and how they respond to those priorities ... sometimes when you’re a grant recipient organization you can get constrained within what you’ve originally proposed and if that doesn’t necessarily line up with local objectives, which can happen sometimes because, you’re proposing something 12 months before implementation and a lot can change on the ground in that period of time ... where that flexibility comes in, it has the ability to be responsive.”

— GUINEAN PARTNER

GIJTR’s track record represents a challenge to a transitional justice practice that has long been framed by a set of state-led mechanisms that unfold in a period of post-conflict or post-authoritarian political transition. Indeed, one non-prescriptive approach has been precisely to engage in contexts that diverge from those traditionally understood as “transitional,” i.e. a transition to a new political system or the end of a conflict or authoritarian regime. GIJTR seeks to engage with truth, justice and reconciliation in whatever ways are possible, given the constraints of the many different—and often challenging—environments in which it works. While the four pillars of transitional justice remain a point of reference for GIJTR, they are not a constraint. Through ICSC’s leadership, memory and memorialization are an explicit focus, creating a “fifth pillar.” The work of GIJTR also challenges the traditional emphasis on criminal accountability in



GIJTR builds the capacity of Rohingya women to document, in both written and visual ways, the woefully underreported challenges faced by women in the camps, including economic disparities and sexual and gender-based violence, to ensure accountability in the future and challenge patriarchal norms more generally.

transitional justice, simply because in many of the contexts there is no political space to imagine it in the short term. Despite this, GIJTR’s work around accountability is impactful, for example, as seen in support for the justice sector in The Gambia to prosecute international crimes. Another example is the establishment of a relationship with the Ukrainian Prosecutor General’s office to support accountability for crimes committed during the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

GIJTR pursues truth and justice after legacies of violations in myriad ways, even in contexts where there is little prospect of state engagement with violations in the near future. Examples include Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and South Sudan—in both contexts GIJTR built the capacity of civil society to document violations. For example, it supported data storage for future use—including genetic reference samples—potentially preserving accountability. Elsewhere, GIJTR develops innovative, context-specific approaches to truth and memory, that demonstrate the potential for approaches that go beyond conventional practice.

Memory and Cultural Preservation with Rohingya Refugee Communities

The idea of memory as a “fifth pillar” of transitional justice is seen in GIJTR’s work with Rohingya refugees. This includes an oral history archive, developed with refugees in a number of countries, and a film project with Rohingya in camps in Bangladesh. It also includes a Truth Telling and Arts Project, explicitly linking traditional Rohingya culture with the violations to which they have been subject.

Community storytellers produce tangible material objects of Rohingya culture, engaging with their context and their past, articulating the idea of “art against genocide” and providing pushback against the effort to destroy Rohingya communities. This began with the creation of safe spaces to share the stories: dozens of women in the Cox’s Bazar refugee camps participated in workshops to create textiles representing their experiences, expectations and hopes for the future. The capacity of such handcrafted arts to offer both the makers and the users a sense of a shared experience contributes to individual and social healing, thus often playing an important role in the reconstruction of the social fabric. Such work sparks the interest of silent victims to get involved in the process of sharing their stories, as well as providing a route to engage with the lives in Myanmar that refugees have left behind.

Gender-responsive

Traditional gender relations challenge women’s full participation in transitional justice process, and women have different needs in such processes. A gender-responsive approach to programming not only meets the different and specific needs of both men and women but addresses broader gender-based inequity and exclusion. This lens permits GIJTR to address rights violations from a gendered perspective—specifically, inequality in the access to, or the inclusion in, relevant processes as well as the gendered dimensions of social inequality. This emerges naturally from a locally driven approach, where women articulate their range of needs, including those that arise, for example, from traditional discriminatory social practices.

All such interventions are characterized by an empowerment perspective: engaging with any of the gendered justice demands of victims leads to approaches that educate women and enlarge their role in both the transitional justice process and society in general. GIJTR’s projects enable women-led CSOs to develop approaches that lead to effective and empowering gender-responsive programming. Examples include the “listening circles” by WILL referenced earlier, which is a safe space for women to discuss their experiences, including sexual violence and female genital mutilation. In Guinea, focusing on engaging with marginalized communities, there was an explicit push for full gender equality in project activities. Partners conceived specific workshops to achieve this, linking together psychosocial support and advocacy, and creating safer and more effective opportunities for women’s participation.

Through the Rohingya documentation work, GIJTR engages in an environment where women’s roles are significantly different from men, and women are largely absent from leadership positions. There, GIJTR and partners prioritize women in leadership roles and in documenter



Images from a GIJTR visit to Rohingya refugee camps in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh in August 2019.

recruitment. Ultimately, almost all documenters are women, which itself enables certain approaches in the collection of testimony. One documenter reports: “I work with women especially. Women have so much to say and before never had a chance to express themselves to anyone.”

“Women should have the freedom to make decisions about their lives so that they may at least maintain their dignity, and we realized that we need to educate our community members about gender equality and [gender-based violence].”

—— ROHINGYA REFUGEE PARTICIPANT IN COX’S BAZAR, BANGLADESH

“After learning from ICSC of anonymization examples in community truth-telling, I understood that there are many ways in which Rohingya women can share their voices and stories without fear. This workshop gave me many tools and ideas for sharing women’s stories of resistance with the community and with the world.”

—— PARTICIPANT IN A MEMORIALIZATION TRAINING IN THE ROHINGYA REFUGEE CAMPS IN COX’S BAZAR, BANGLADESH, MARCH 2023

Acknowledging gender as a factor in violations also permits GIJTR to see the impact of projects as being transformative, in the sense of changing gender relations that enable many violations. A local partner in The Gambia reports:

“Gambian women were especially vulnerable to violations because we already had existing sociocultural norms that were harmful to women ... So, we cannot talk about human rights and justice and addressing gender-based violence without addressing those structural issues.”

—— INTERVIEW WITH CSO LEADER, SEPTEMBER 23, 2022

Any approach grounded in the needs and everyday experiences of women forces engagement with such norms. For example, discussions with Gambian women about reparations led to petitions for women in the community to be permitted to own land, a transformative demand. A global actor saw work in The Gambia as indicative of how transitional justice practice is enriched by such an approach:

“The other is also the discrimination issue, the question of equality, the question of equal access to justice. And I think that that’s where [GIJTR] in these conversations is beginning to really unpack what does that transformative approach actually mean in the lexicon of transitional justice? And what does it mean practically? ... [The] Gambia really has begun to change the discourse.”

—— GLOBAL EXPERT

A gender-responsive approach also holds the promise of rooting practice in a feminist analysis and going beyond stereotypes of women as victims and men as perpetrators.

Trauma-informed

“A trauma-informed approach recognizes signs of trauma and responds by integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, practices and settings.”¹¹

— SAMHSA’S CONCEPT OF TRAUMA AND GUIDANCE FOR A TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH,” US DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

At the start of GIJTR, MHPSS played a limited role in transitional justice. It was included in mechanisms to support victims. It had become standard practice, for example, that those testifying before a truth commission or during a trial would be given counselling as part of that process. Through its work, GIJTR demonstrates and operationalizes an approach that goes beyond offering services. It implements PSS into all programs with consideration of both the experience of violence and the well-being of all concerned. Such a trauma-informed approach ensures that all elements of an approach to transitional justice appreciate trauma not simply as a past event but as a formative one that will contribute to an individual’s current state or circumstances. A trauma-informed approach is a natural consequence of centering survivors. And this goes beyond simply supporting them during a process, to designing all elements of a process with an awareness of the trauma.

This approach is derived from the basic principle of do no harm. This includes doing no harm to victims, witnesses, intermediaries, local communities, colleagues and others involved in addressing human rights violations, including those leading an intervention. It demands paying attention to trauma throughout the life cycle of any engagement to address legacies of violations. In contrast to simply adding PSS to any static intervention or transitional justice process, a trauma-informed approach ensures that trauma is considered throughout the design and implementation of any process. As a part of GIJTR, CSVN pioneered a novel trauma-informed practice in the sector by bringing together its experience working with torture survivors to GIJTR’s work in transitional justice.

“It’s not just in the workspace: people have translated it to their lives. They’ve translated it to their families, which is what the trauma-informed approach is about. It’s about increasing connections ... it’s reconnecting the individual who was feeling isolated as a result of the trauma. The skills people will apply and people have been applying, and they’ve been lessons that they’ve been sharing with others in different spaces.”

— CSVR STAFF MEMBER

CSVr work with civil society actors to train them to offer MHPSS typifies a facet of GIJTR’s trauma-informed approach. When training people, many of whom are themselves victims, the starting point will always be their own trauma. Supporting someone in becoming aware of their own trauma and how it impacts them, supports their own healing and sets them on a journey, providing an understanding of why they need to heal. One of CSVr’s psychosocial specialists defined this process as follows:

“I see a trauma-informed approach as the vehicle for ensuring that healing happens, because a lot of transitional justice processes and mechanisms are seeking to bring about some form of healing. There [are] different ways of healing and people define healing differently, but for me healing is very subjective, it’s a very individualized process. So when you have a trauma-informed approach that is not focused on services, it allows you to engage in a way that advances healing.”

— CSVR STAFF MEMBER

A practical impact of a trauma-informed approach is that all GIJTR activities consider how to address the psychosocial implications of their actions. This means that all projects include support elements around MHPSS, both to support those involved and ensure they had the requisite skills to engage appropriately with others in their work.

What Do GIJTR Programs Look Like?

Flexible Programming for Fluid Contexts

GIJTR projects take a number of forms, the primary three being:

1. country-based projects;
2. capacity-building training “Academies”; and
3. shorter thematically focused, rapid response projects that deliver fast impacts in quickly evolving situations.

Country Projects

Country-based projects are typically multi-year engagements that focus on long-term support to, and capacity building of, civil society actors to enable sustainable social change. This includes contexts such as Colombia, The Gambia and Guinea, where state-led formal transitional justice processes are unfolding. In such contexts GIJTR works with CSOs, building local capacities to both impact ongoing formal process and complement it by creating resources that can sustain locally driven efforts to engage with past violations in the long-term. These projects impact affected populations, through direct support by CSOs, as well as through survivor and community

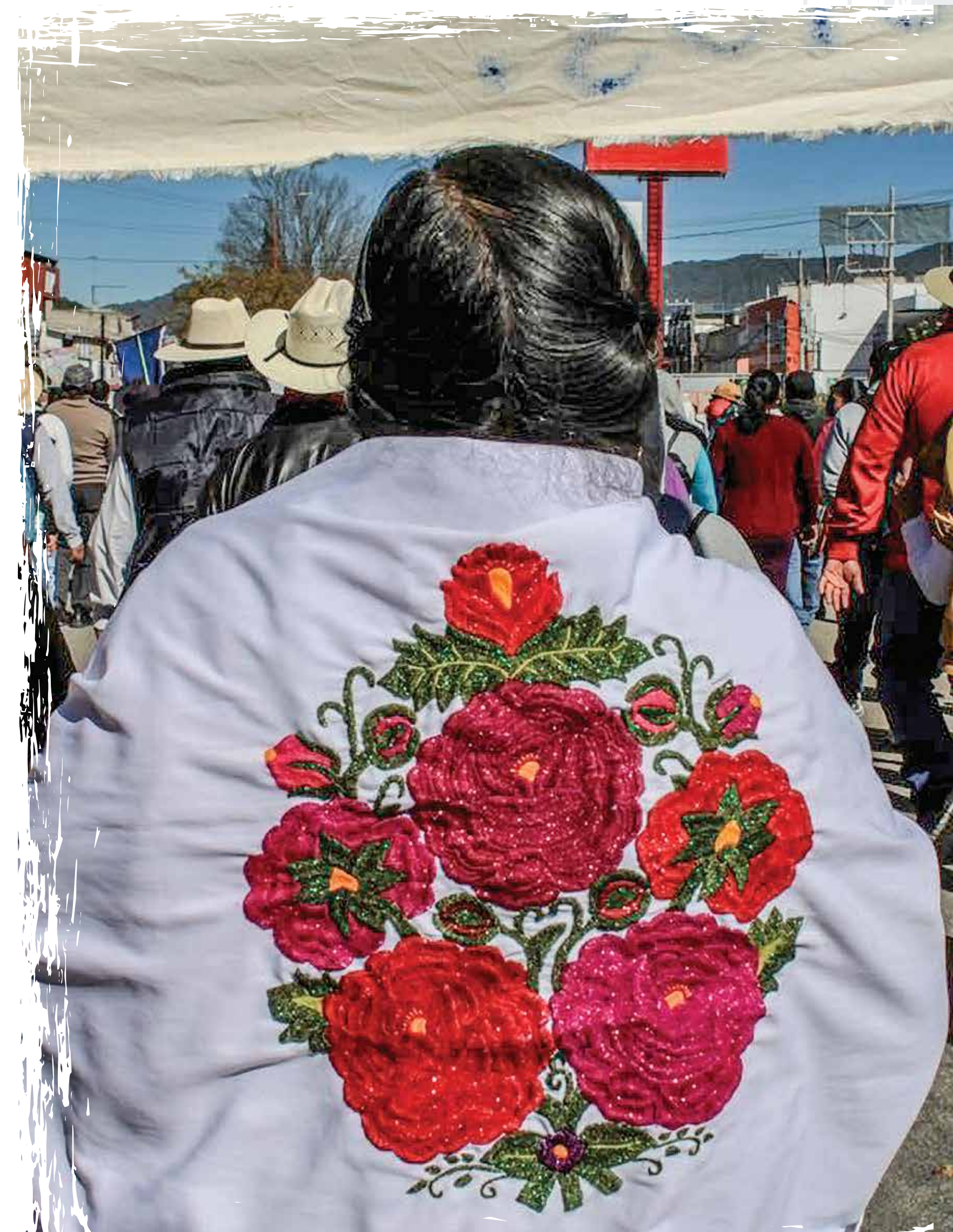


Colombian Truth Commissioner Lucia Gonzalez (center) visits a GIJTR truth-telling session in July 2019.

engagement with formal processes. These impacts are typically delivered through the transformation of civil society. For example in contexts such as The Gambia and Guinea, GIJTR supports the creation of networks of CSOs that bring entirely new capacities.

The flexibility of GIJTR as a mechanism is demonstrated by its work in contexts where the political or security space to address past violations is rapidly changing. For example, in both Sri Lanka and Sudan, GIJTR began working at a time when there was an expectation of formal state-led process moving ahead. In Sri Lanka this is challenged by the shrinking of political space to address historic violence and in Sudan by the reemergence of a devastating civil war. In both contexts, however, GIJTR continues working with long-term partners in ways that remain relevant to needs on the ground. In Sri Lanka the project—conducted over nine years—pivoted away from a direct engagement with conflict-era violations toward social cohesion and an effort to work at the grassroots level to prevent future violence. In Sudan, GIJTR continues to work with a coalition of CSOs it has supported for several years, while emphasizing documentation of human rights violations committed in the context of the war, with many local partners forced into exile by the conflict.

In South Sudan, political will to move ahead with formal transitional justice mechanisms remains limited and conflict continues. Within that context, GIJTR supported a network of documenters over eight years. This is a route to comprehensive locally led human rights documentation, working both in South Sudan and with refugee communities in Kenya and Uganda, that can potentially inform both domestic and international processes. In Bangladesh, in working with Rohingya refugee communities who fled genocide in Myanmar, GIJTR demonstrates how locally driven documentation supports both efforts toward future criminal accountability and locally relevant processes that engage with the everyday lives of refugee communities.



An image shared by Frayba Derechos Humanos, a GIJTR local partner based in Chiapas that provides community spaces to address human rights violations in Mexico.

GIJTR Academies

With capacity building central to all GIJTR projects, GIJTR Academies are explicit training programs. They include both classroom-style learning led by global experts and experienced practitioners as well as the implementation of practical projects in attendees' own contexts.

- GIJTR's Forensic Academy led by FAFG, builds the technical capacity of CSOs from Africa, Asia and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in the area of forensic investigations. It provides a holistic framework for supporting and meeting the specific needs of families of victims. FAFG is now able to share its experience, expertise, and lessons learned in Guatemala with the world. Even where there is no prospect of exhumations and identification in the short term, the Forensic Academy allows people to work on the issue in the event there is space to address these issues in the future.



Participants in the Forensics Academy during a workshop in Guatemala in 2019.

- The MENA Transitional Justice Academy provides the skills and funds for activists, academics, practitioners, survivors and other non-traditional actors to design and implement transitional justice programs in local communities across the region. These programs aim to increase awareness of these processes among the public, and ensure their voices are included within them.
- The Media & Transitional Justice Academy builds the capacity of journalists and media personnel to support transitional justice and atrocity prevention efforts in conflict and post-conflict contexts. It offers a holistic training program for journalists from multiple contexts and produced guidelines for media workers.
- The African Youth Transitional Justice Academy (AYTJA) gathers young civil society activists working with youth in Africa with the goal of increasing their capacity to undertake interventions to advance justice, truth and reconciliation.

Thematic Focus and Rapid Response Projects

The most numerous GIJTR projects are shorter, thematic projects that advance partners' work in a particular area and create knowledge products leveraging this experience that can then be shared more widely. These projects cover an enormous range of topics in transitional justice, including the following:

- forced migration;
- memorialization;
- digital archiving;
- engaging Indigenous communities;
- understanding the roles and responsibilities of private sector actors;
- constitution-drafting;
- economic, social and cultural rights;
- truth-telling;
- curriculum reform;
- peace processes;
- conflict-related sexual violence;
- racial justice, including its links to atrocity prevention; and
- emergency mental health for survivors of torture and gross human rights violations.

Such projects typically engage local partners in several contexts and permit GIJTR to explore innovation and novel approaches in ways that examine the latest thinking in addressing legacies of violations. At the same time, it does so in a concrete way and led by an experienced actor with that context. These projects allow GIJTR to most effectively contribute to both their practice—and that of their local partners—as well as to global approaches to histories of violence. Examples include pioneering work using transitional justice tools to address radicalism and violent extremism and reviewing global experience of reparations in the light of the adoption of the *UN Basic Principles*.

The idea of rapid response was integral to the development of GIJTR, challenging the strict temporal approach that had previously governed transitional justice—namely that action followed political transition or the end of conflict. All of GIJTR’s projects confront this assumption, and rapid response is ultimately largely integrated into projects where GIJTR and its partners have a long-term presence on the ground and can respond in real time to developments.

IMPACTS

Overview of Evaluation Frameworks

The Impact Study

The Impact Study summarizes the multi-level impacts of GIJTR and the change driven by its work. This includes transformation in the lives of victims and communities across multiple contexts, evolution of expertise and practice of local partners, capacity growth of GIJTR Consortium Partners, and the informing of global practice in transitional justice.

Impact measurement comprises the following four evaluation frameworks:

- A Theory of Change (ToC) based impact evaluation, measuring impacts on victims and affected communities, partner CSOs and state mechanisms. This is identified in terms of the causal effects of program activities.
- Criteria from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECS-DAC)¹², which evaluates the relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness, impact



Participants visiting a local site in Rio de Janeiro connected to the transatlantic slave trade during a three-day GIJTR roundtable on global racism in Rio de Janeiro in December 2023. The gathering brought together nearly fifty policy makers and civil society representatives from 14 countries to discuss how racism is a risk factor for atrocity crimes.

and sustainability of projects and is a standard evaluation approach in development interventions and beyond. DAC criteria has been used in all previous external evaluations of individual GIJTR projects.

- A survey of 82 individuals affiliated with GIJTR's nine Consortium Partners and local partners worldwide.
- A qualitative evaluation of GIJTR's archives, documents, previous external evaluations and interviews conducted with GIJTR Consortium Partners, local partners and participants in GIJTR programming (including victims and affected community members).¹³

Quantitative data gathered through the above frameworks is also summarized in the project-based list of GIJTR outcomes and outputs.¹⁴

Impact Challenges

Challenges Faced by GIJTR

In addition to the significant impacts outlined here, GIJTR also overcame several challenges. First, because the bulk of its funding came from a single donor in the United States that dedicates funds to projects outside of the U.S., GIJTR was limited in the scope of work it could undertake. For instance, it could not engage with emerging transitional justice activity in the United States. Secondly, GIJTR's primary funder impacted the types of local partnerships that GIJTR could make with certain CSOs in Latin America and MENA that hesitate to work with an organization primarily funded by the a U.S. entity.

To offset these obstacles, GIJTR pursued and received other funding, including some private foundation support. That said, the support was relatively minimal with several potential donors, who were more focused on quick-impact projects and hesitant about providing long-term funding, which is required for much of GIJTR's programming.

Challenges Faced in the Evaluation of GIJTR's Impact

There are a number of challenges in evaluating the impact of GIJTR, an initiative that is not only ambitious but multifaceted. For instance, in almost all GIJTR projects, the desired long-term results are defined in terms of peace and justice, but these goals are understood to be delivered on timescales beyond that of external evaluations and this ten-year impact report. Additionally, in many projects, assessing how successful the outputs of a peacebuilding process have been, can be both complex and contested.¹⁵ Dedicated, long-term data collection must take place to develop qualitative indications, which are most useful in this context. Quantitative indications are helpful in assessing whether an outcome has been achieved, but tend to contribute little to impact measurement. To offset these challenges, in several cases, this evaluation measures short-term project results to look for evidence that the conditions for long-term results are in place. Additionally, it focuses extensively on GIJTR's multi-phase country projects, which have taken place over multiple years, and demonstrate clear impacts that enhance the environment for effective transitional justice.

Theory of Change Evaluation

GIJTR's Theory of Change (ToC) is as follows:

GIJTR utilizes a victim-centered, context-informed, locally driven, non-prescriptive, gender-responsive approach to facilitate skills transfer and strategy development. At the same time, it promotes spaces for dialogue among different actors (with a particular focus on CSOs), documenting lessons learned, and sharing knowledge across fields. As a result, GIJTR strengthens local transitional justice processes and thereby contributes to sustainable peace.

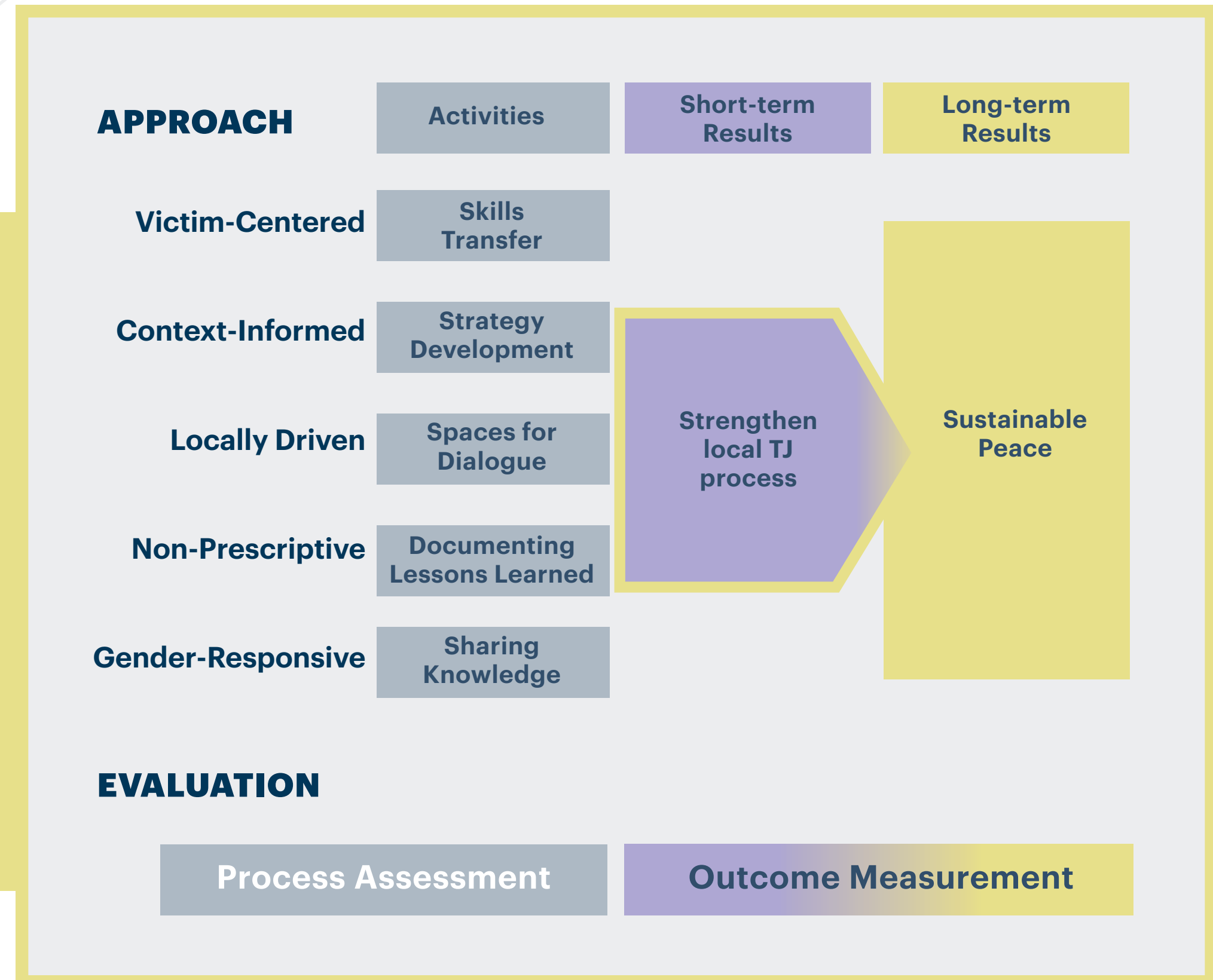


FIGURE 1. GIJTR Theory of Change

Figure 1 represents this ToC and drives some of the approaches to measurement in this study. In practice, every project has its own specific ToC, but this diagram demonstrates the causal pathways through which GIJTR's projects create impact.

DAC Criteria

The OECD-DAC Network on Development Evaluation has defined six evaluation criteria (“DAC criteria”)—relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability—that have become a standard evaluation approach in development interventions and have been used in all external evaluations of GIJTR’s projects.¹⁷ Table 1 articulates the definitions of each of the DAC criteria. In the context of the themes and modalities of GIJTR’s projects, and particularly in light of its approaches, the DAC criteria can be understood in particular ways.

Relevance	
Is the intervention doing the right things?	In the context of GIJTR the “right things” means seeking outcomes that resonate with the needs of victims and communities. Relevance becomes a measure of the extent to which GIJTR action is victim-centered, and locally led. It can also measure the extent to which target constituencies have agency over driving GIJTR’s projects.
Coherence	
How well does the intervention fit?	Coherence concerns both the internal consistency of GIJTR action (i.e. how different elements complement each other), and the extent to which the action supports and complements other interventions. In practice, this means seeking to be complementary to broader civil society action and, where this is relevant, to any formal process, and resonates with the context-informed approach.
Efficiency	
How well are resources being used?	Efficiency references the extent to which the intervention delivers, or is likely to deliver, results in an economic and timely way. It is most readily measured by identifying alternative interventions, or ways of intervening, that could deliver the same impact with fewer resources.

Effectiveness

Is the intervention achieving its objectives?

Effectiveness is a measure of the extent to which the intervention achieved, or is expected to achieve, its objectives and its results (including any differential results across groups). This includes the extent to which outcomes and short-term results are achieved and is included in the general understanding of “impact” used in this document.

Impact

What difference does the intervention make?

Impact is the extent to which higher order or longer-term results are achieved. The desired long-term results of GIJTR projects—typically justice and significant social change results—are often not visible in the lifetime of those projects, and as such this understanding of impact is not prioritized here.¹⁸

Sustainability

Will the benefits last?

Sustainability is a measure of the extent to which the effects of the project will continue beyond the life of the project. In the context of GIJTR’s action, this often concerns the extent to which target CSOs (and where relevant—formal processes) maintain their capacity to act effectively in the future.

In each category, a value of 1 (low) to 3 (high) is assigned as a quantitative measure of the impact which reflects the qualitative external evaluations where modest impact is one (1), moderate impact is two (2), and high impact is three (3). It should be noted that in the complex and evolving environments in which GIJTR’s projects were implemented, low impact does not necessarily imply projects were poorly planned or implemented. Often, low impact results were due to external constraints, such as limited political space or inability to be physically present in a country due an outbreak of violence.

An example table of DAC evaluation in The Gambia is shown in Table 2.

Table 2. DAC Criteria: Truth, Justice and Accountability in The Gambia: Phases 1-4

Scale / Criterion	Victims / Affected Populations	CSOs	States
Relevance	3	3	2
Coherence	3	3	3
Efficiency	3	2	3
Effectiveness	3	3	2
Sustainability	3	3	2

[Caption:] 3=High Impact, 2= Moderate Impact , 1= Low Impact

Up Close: **Two GIJTR Projects, Two Theories of Change**

In the following examples, two GIJTR project-specific Theories of Change are studied to demonstrate how GIJTR forges positive change in societies in transition or emerging from violence. In each case, the ToC outlines how activities drive outputs and create impacts. Externally evaluated projects also provide significant data on project impact.

Truth, Justice and Accountability in The Gambia, Phases 1 and 2

The ToC method is most relevant for GIJTR's country projects, where multi-phase and multi-year engagements drive significant pathways to change that strengthen transitional justice process.

[Read more ►](#)

The African Youth Transitional Justice Academy (AYTJA)

Theories of Change are also beneficial in evaluating GIJTR's capacity building programs, including its Transitional Justice Academies, which emphasizes research and knowledge sharing globally.

[Read more ►](#)

Survey Results

For this study, GIJTR project impacts were investigated through a survey of GIJTR and local partners to understand how they perceived the impacts. The survey was online, available in four languages (Arabic, English, French and Spanish) and received 82 responses. The results are summarized here.¹⁹

Impact in Terms of DAC criteria

In general, the impact is high for CSOs, moderate for victims and affected communities and low for states. The latter reflects both that in many places GIJTR works, the state is not a target of GIJTR's action and that the political environment is not conducive to such impact. How partners perceive GIJTR's impact across a range of targets, such as victims and affected communities, CSOs, and states are summarized in terms of relevance, coherence and efficiency in Figure 4 and in terms of effectiveness and sustainability in Figure 5.

Impact in Terms of Approach

As part of the survey, partners were asked which of GIJTR’s approaches were used in their project. The vast majority saw all approaches used, with 72 out of 80 respondents (90%) perceiving their project as significantly victim-centered, as shown in Table 3.

Table 3. GIJTR Approaches Used, According to GIJTR Partners

GIJTR Approach / Use	Did Not Use This Approach	Used This Approach to Some Extent	Significantly Used This Approach
Victim-centered	0	8	72
Context-informed	1	13	66
Locally Driven	1	21	58
Non-prescriptive	1	23	55
Gender-responsive	4	23	53

Note: There were 82 responses. Not all rows equal 82 as not all respondents answered all questions.

Impact in Terms of Objectives Met

Partners were also asked whether GIJTR projects met objectives. Responses indicate that the vast majority are met, with capacity building extensively met in 83% of projects (75 out of 93). When you add respondents who

said capacity-building objectives were at least partly met the total rises to 98% (91 out 93) of projects, as shown in Table 4. This is particularly impressive, given that external constraints challenged many projects' ability to meet objectives. These results demonstrate significant GIJTR impact on local CSO partners, notably in terms of the connected areas of capacity building and sustainability

Table 4. GIJTR Projects That Met Their Objectives

Objective	Did Not Meet This Objective	Partly Met This Objective	Extensively Met This Objective
Capacity Building	2	16	75
Innovation	1	24	55
Programming Tools to Advance Sustainability	2	23	73
Growth and Development of the Field in Terms of Transitional Justice Innovations	0	22	58
Rapid Deployment of Interventions	6	25	49
Holistic Approaches	7	24	49

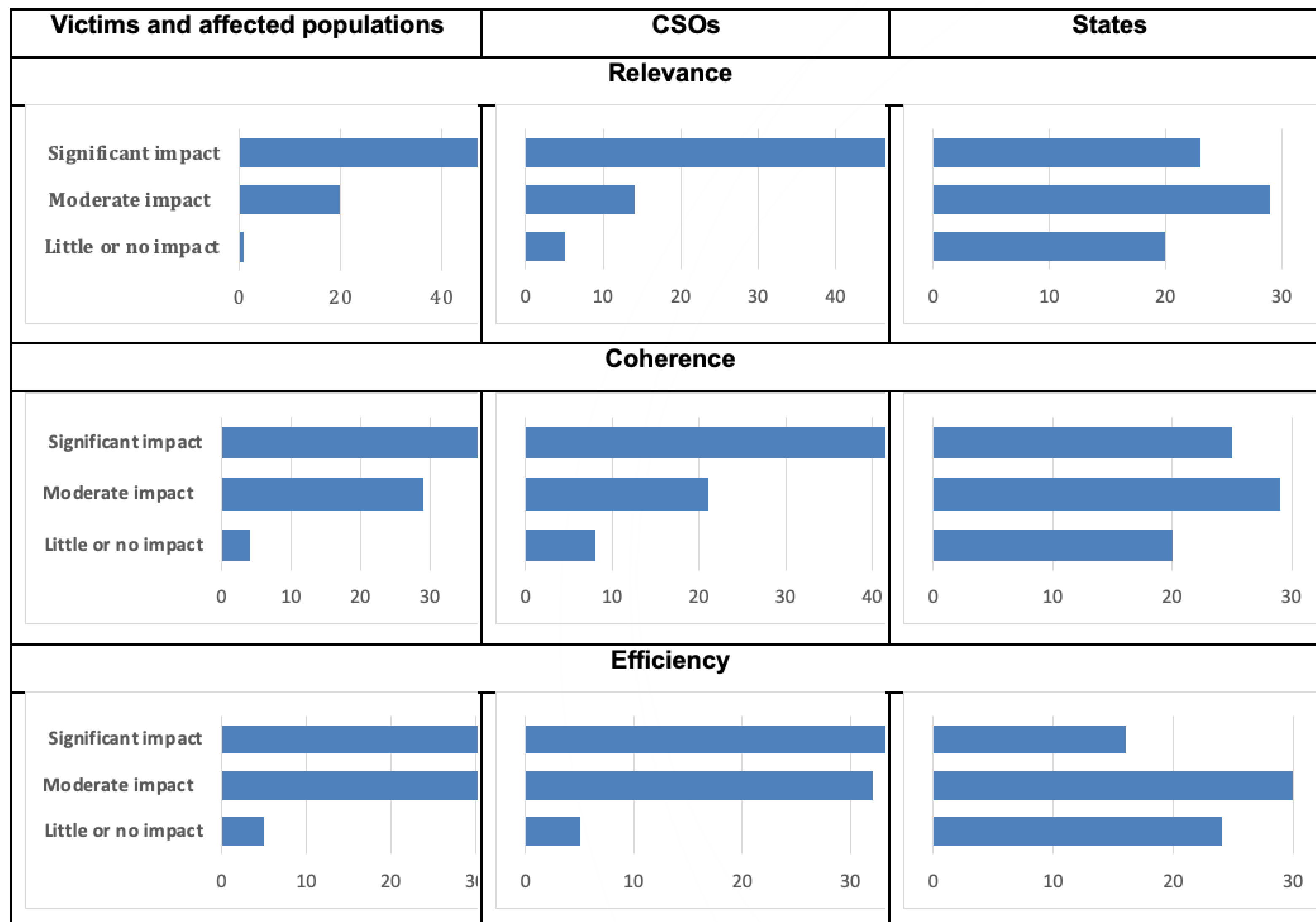


FIGURE 4. Perceived impact of GIJTR’s projects on various target populations, in terms of relevance, coherence and efficiency.

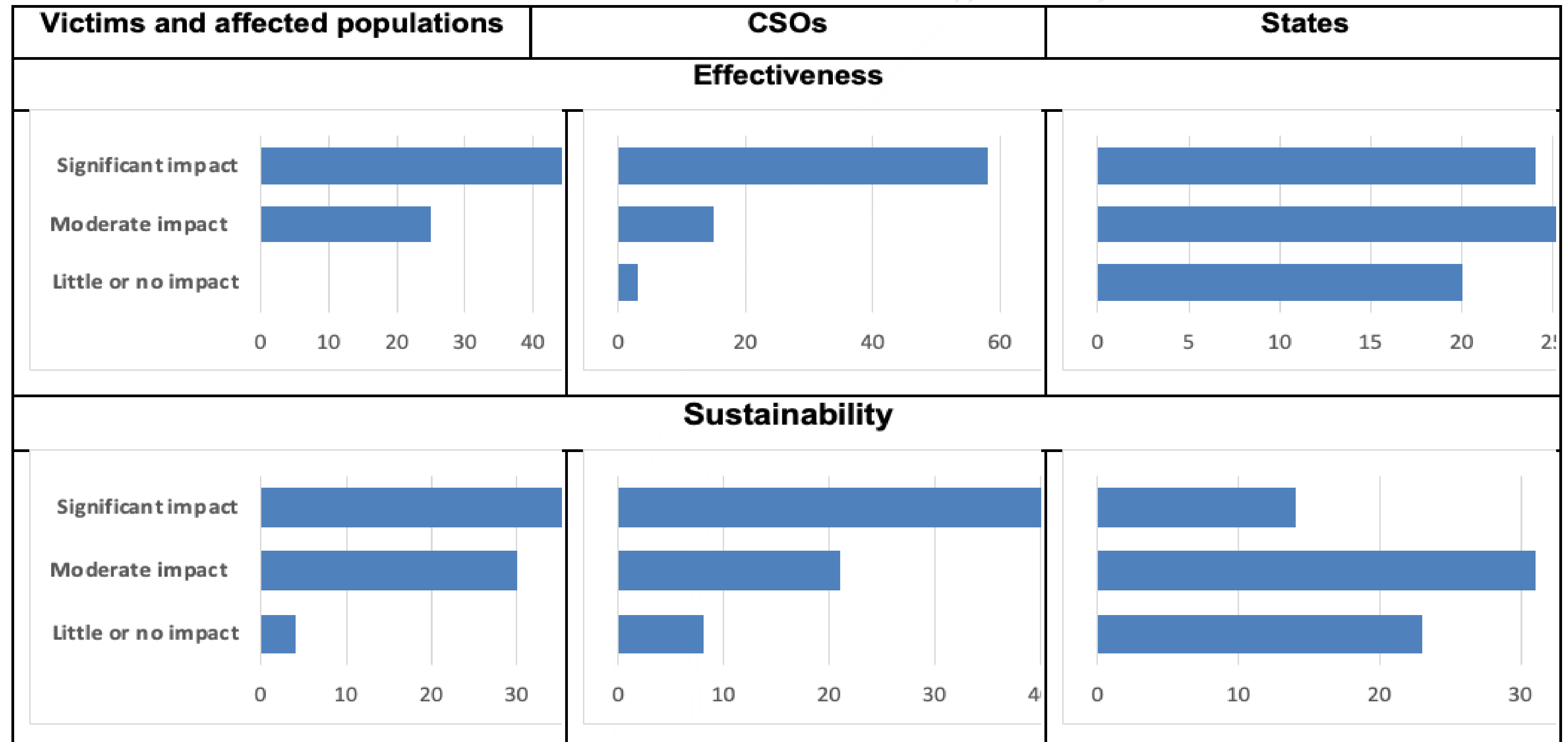


FIGURE 5. Perceived impact of GIJTR’S programs on various target populations, in terms of effectiveness and sustainability.

IMPACTS

Findings on GIJTR's Impact on Specific Communities

Survivors and Conflict-affected Communities

GIJTR directly impacts victims and communities affected by violence through programming led by CSOs that engage with them, and by supporting CSO and state action in which victims participate.

Assessment of the needs of victim groups and communities is a principal element of every country project. Many projects include elements of awareness raising. This enhances survivors' knowledge of transitional justice alongside truth-telling and acknowledgement by creating storytelling space.

“The podcast project with ICSC helped to share the voices of Palenque. People who did not dare to speak about the conflict. This project gave a voice to those who had no voice in the community, those who hadn't had the opportunity to share the feelings that they had buried in silence deep inside their soul.”

— PROJECT PARTICIPANT, COLOMBIA

In Guinea, GIJTR extended psychosocial interventions to create a support center where victims can see their stories reflected as well as access services.

“One of the main achievements of the project was the liberation of speech and the disappearance of pessimism that had possessed the victims.”

—— GUINEAN SURVIVOR AND WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT/SUB-GRANT RECIPIENT

In The Gambia, victims articulated the impacts of PSS services:

“The organization that helped me is WILL. They provided a space where I can open up about the trauma I went through and how I can get back into the society from all the discrimination and the stigmatization.”

—— FEMALE VICTIM FROM SINTET, THE GAMBIA

“The safe spaces have helped me a lot; being among other women who have gone through the same experience as me and being able to share my story without being judged helps me free my mind and go on with my life easier.”

— FEMALE VICTIM FROM FATOTO, THE GAMBIA

In South Sudan, a network project focused on documenting violations supported CSOs through a psychosocial wellness program. This program acknowledged the trauma CSO staff themselves experienced and allowed them to heal their own traumas before embarking on a healing journey with the community. The initiative also led to the creation of a referral network where unmet needs could be addressed. Additionally, after conflict returned, these CSOs could work autonomously within the refugee camps to support victims.

In Sri Lanka, when initially it seemed a state-led transitional justice process would advance, GIJTR undertook a comprehensive needs assessment to identify relevant stakeholders, assess existing initiatives from both government and civil society and understand stakeholders’ priorities. Participatory workshops on transitional justice were conducted throughout the country to provide a comprehensive understanding of the range of issues facing communities.



South Sudanese refugees in Uganda, 2014. Photo credit: EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid / CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 DEED

“In The Gambia, GIJTR partner WILL organized community “listening circles” for women to share their experiences. Through this, stories were also able to be shared with the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission.”

— TRRC

WILL helped prepare rural sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) victims who wanted to participate in the formal TRRC process. Notably, in The Gambia, WILL’s work with government ministers resulted in reparations being extended to those who had not testified before the TRRC: extending this to a greater number of victims had a significant impact, especially given the importance attached to reparation and material support in those communities.

Beyond these country projects, the many knowledge-based and capacity-building projects, such as the Transitional Justice Academies, also impacted victims. For example, a participant in the MENA TJ Academy from Algeria further developed her initial academy project, which focused on working with families of the disappeared, providing psychological support for family members. For the Forensics Academy, the Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression implemented a small project where they developed software to assist members of the Caesar Families Association locate and identify victims among the Caesar photos.²⁰



Image of participants in GIJTR’s MENA Transitional Justice Academy, which builds the capacity of activists and practitioners in the region.

Civil Society

“I haven’t seen another funding mechanism that prioritizes local partners the way that GIJTR does.”

— GIJTR CONSORTIUM PARTNER

Local CSO partners are the main instrument of GIJTR action, collaborating with GIJTR Consortium Partners to co-create programming that can advance truth and justice globally. GIJTR identifies local partners that can benefit from for capacity building, creating sustainable resources that can support transitional justice in the long term, in whatever shape or form the context requires. In some places, this demands advocating to the state and formal mechanisms, in others it is acting as a conduit between victims and those processes. In still others, where political space is constrained or conflict continues, CSOs can lead informal processes with victims and communities while building capacity for engagement when more is possible.

GIJTR and its partners develop ways of working with CSOs which are rooted in mutual trust, supporting this work through a long-term and flexible funding mechanism, building capacity of even



For GIJTR’s multi-phased project in Guinea, 12 CSO representatives—including survivors and journalists—participated in an exchange program in South Africa with additional participants from across the continent to learn about the successes and challenges of the Truth Commission in South Africa and gain exposure to regional approaches to advocacy, memorialization and truth-telling processes.

the most inexperienced CSOs. In The Gambia, for example, where civil society was devastated by years of dictatorship, GIJTR worked with entirely new organizations, nurturing them over several years until they were effective and self-sustaining:

“[The project represented] local participation at its finest because it’s almost like they are paving the way and helping with things that are necessary, but also at the time not being overly bureaucratic. ... It’s almost like they trust the project and the person and the organization running it so much that they really do give you the lead ... you have a lot of young people that are so ambitious and passionate about a lot of things, but are not equipped with the know-how, the techniques or the skills of negotiating funding for the projects that they want to do. ... So in terms of being new in the field, you know, it’s very difficult to have an opportunity to be trusted. Every donor or organization wants you to prove 10 years of work ... And all of that meant so much because it created the springboard for almost everything that the organization does right now.”

— GIJTR LOCAL PARTNER, THE GAMBIA

After significant engagement from GIJTR, The Gambia is now home to a group of CSOs with a focus on transitional justice and a track record of working through a victim-centered lens. These CSOs are now highly sustainable, with a stable of donors who can support them as GIJTR support is reduced.

Similarly in Guinea, GIJTR found a context where victim associations and CSOs were inexperienced and for most of whom transitional justice was entirely new. The project effectively strengthened the capacity of CSOs to work on advocacy and on transitional justice, significantly empowering CSOs, as evidenced in local partners starting to implement autonomous activities. A major success of the project was the inclusion of marginalized groups who had not previously been involved in civil society activities.

Perhaps the most impactful result of GIJTR action has been the creation of a network of CSOs working on transitional justice in Guinea, CONAREG (National Coalition in Support of Reconciliation in Guinea). CONAREG has created regional focus points who are connecting with relevant actors, such as journalists and religious leaders, and sharing awareness both of transitional justice and the importance of violence prevention.

“The project allowed for a synergy of action between peace actors who were operating in scattered roles. Local civil society organizations and local practitioners working on issues of social cohesion found a catalyst in this project for joint action in favor of peace and reconciliation.”

— GUINEAN SURVIVOR AND WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT

CONAREG continues to advocate with state authorities, and the leaders of two local project partners have been named to the National Commission for Reconciliation in Guinea (Assises Nationales). GIJTR’s experience in other contexts has also benefitted CONAREG, where lessons learned from monitoring the TRRC in The Gambia were helpful to their efforts to monitor the Stadium Massacre trial. The very existence of the trial process, some 13 years after violations were committed, is a testament to the dedication, persistence and courage of the local project partners, who have advocated tirelessly for justice.

“Before GIJTR came to Guinea we were working with some other partners. But to be honest, what we have learned from GIJTR is more ... The time they took to learn and to share with us, no other international organization has done that before. ... The main difference is that GIJTR strategy was to make us independent, not to depend on them. They want to give us the tools, the materials, and to help us to realize our objectives.”

— CSO PARTNER, GUINEA

In other contexts GIJTR works with more established CSOs. For example, in Sri Lanka, GIJTR leveraged the long-term relationship of ICSC with the Institute of Social Development (ISD). ISD, as an experienced and widely trusted actor, negotiated the multi-phase GIJTR project through a difficult political environment which, following the bomb attacks of 2019, threatened the security of human rights defenders. As state transitional justice mechanisms have faltered, ISD has led decentralized district-based coalitions of CSOs, through the coalition of the Truth and Reconciliation Forum (TRF). The TRF led an approach reframing GIJTR action in terms of social cohesion and atrocity prevention. The impact of GIJTR in Sri Lanka is visible in the robust alliance of CSOs across the nation with both a deep understanding of transitional justice and a commitment to reconciliation and coexistence on the island.

“Because they’ve had the experience administering funds through GIJTR I think those are important technical elements of sustainability that are less substantive but still support long-term viability for NGOs. For NGOs that are working in this space I think GIJTR does an incredible job through their [work] with local partners to help them navigate funding administration processes in a way that really build skills and that other NGOs maybe wouldn’t take the time to do.”

— GIJTR PARTNER

Networking

“In terms of creating sustainable networks that’s also something that GIJTR does that’s very unique, like these annual meetings or the centering of local partners and processes. This goes a long way toward creating sustainable networks. There are partnerships that have been created through GIJTR that never would have come into existence otherwise.”

— GIJTR PARTNER

As with CONAREG in Guinea, a principal impact of GIJTR’s work is the creation of new networks of actors.

“The creation of networks and coalitions allows us to act together and to engage in a common struggle, which is very important to achieve a synergy of action.”

— CSO LEADER, GUINEA

Coordinating transitional justice work in The Gambia is challenging, not the least of which is due to a culture of distrust among CSOs arising from the era of dictatorship. One positive impact of the project and its activities, particularly the training workshops, is bringing CSOs together to build connections and trust:



Members of the Truth and Reconciliation Forum at a press conference in 2016.

“Those legacies continue to affect us as civil society even today, but you know, when we had these projects, these little activities or workshops, it...made us have these honest conversations with one another.”

— CSO LEADER, THE GAMBIA

In Sri Lanka, the TRF includes building a multi-lingual and multi-ethnic national network of district-based civil society actors working for justice and violence prevention throughout the island. In recent years, the TRF’s network has expanded through the development of the Village Solidarity Forum (VSF). Each VSF, based in cities and villages where the TRF works, is composed of 15 members—trained women, youth and community leaders dedicated to advancing TRF’s work at the grassroots level. Working together, the TRF and VSF can bridge the gap between central authorities and communities, keeping communities informed of national justice processes and authorities aware of community needs. This ensures a locally rooted approach to advocacy that can keep pressure on the authorities in the long term. The TRF can also create informal process, for example, reconciliation actions and documentation, that can to some extent substitute for the failure of central process, while seeking to prevent violence at the local level. All of GIJTR’s training activities brought together stakeholders from different contexts, including the Transitional Justice Academies, created valuable networks. Interactions between participants have permitted learning from other contexts and seeking models for action to duplicate. For example, those who participated in the MENA TJ Academy have seen sustained engagement and solidarity between activists, maintained partly through WhatsApp groups. This includes sharing opportunities for funding and, when different things are happening in different countries, they check in with each other.



A member of the Truth and Reconciliation Forum hands out information about truth and justice initiatives in Sri Lanka.

“This exchange was very beneficial for us, personally and collectively. Visiting a country that has been through extreme violence, specifically apartheid, and that has initiated a transitional justice process to bring healing to the population has been of great help to us Guineans who want to end the ongoing violence in Guinea. I know that this discovery will help us to rectify and fill the gaps in the reconciliation process initiated by the Guinean authorities.”

— GUINEAN PARTNER FOLLOWING SOUTH AFRICA EXCHANGE, 2018

One global expert described the impact of GIJTR on networking among transitional justice actors as follows:

“I certainly found that it’s important for victims from one side of the world to meet with victims from another side and for organizations working in the same area to share expertise and experiences. This didn’t really happen before and that’s something that the Consortium has also brought to the table.”

— GLOBAL EXPERT

The networks of GIJTR itself are hugely important in terms of building connections and long-term working relationships among international CSOs, with GIJTR partners now working together in many ways beyond GIJTR.

Capacity Building

“Me alone, I can’t do anything. But now I have people to walk with.”

— AFRICAN YOUTH TJ ACADEMY PARTICIPANT, SOUTH SUDAN

At the heart of GIJTR action is building capacity in civil society to advance truth and justice. It’s ability to maintain long-term relationships within any given context allows it to support grassroots groups and victims’ organizations as they grow to become important actors at the national, and sometimes international, level. Capacity building supports CSOs working with formal processes and at the community level, and—wherever possible—to link the two:

“That memory can be a part of the TJ process—this is completely absent in Côte d’Ivoire—and that work can be done in communities, not only by the state.”

— AFRICAN YOUTH TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE ACADEMY PARTICIPANT, CÔTE D’IVOIRE

GIJTR’s Transitional Justice Academies (TJ Academies) include the African Youth TJ Academy, the MENA TJ Academy as well as the longstanding Forensic Academy. They have included a total of 123 participants over GIJTR’s lifetime, as shown in Table 5. This represents a global cadre of networked civil society activists who are a resource for the contexts in which they work and globally. This number also includes those from state institutions seeking to advance national processes.

Table 5. Participants in GIJTR Academies

Academy	Number of Phases	Total Participants
Media and TJ Academy	1	8
African Youth TJ Academy	1	10
MENA TJ Academy	3	47
Forensic Academy	5	58

The MENA TJ Academy strengthened the capacity of regional activists, academics, practitioners and non-traditional actors to design and implement transitional justice programs rooted in local contexts. This is an effective model for broadening participants’ knowledge of transitional justice tools, creating a peer-learning network and encouraging community participation in defining transitional justice based on local needs. The sharing of experiences and challenges, as well as the interactions between practitioners from different countries, is highly valued. Participants from Syria and Yemen found the comparative approach and knowledge-sharing to be particularly beneficial because these participants are more likely to be able to influence their transitional justice processes, some of which are in the early stages. A Yemeni participant secured funding to continue working on transitional justice through a project that explicitly uses new concepts he learned at the MENA TJ Academy.

“Since the truth commission stopped, it is the partners of GIJTR that have continued to be a support point for victims. And this is possible because for a lot of CSOs, our capacity was built by [a] GIJTR team. [W]e were able to anticipate certain things and how to respond and how to prepare for when the TRRC closes its doors ... the impact for us is that GIJTR built our capacity, built our confidence, our CSOs.”

— GAMBIAN PARTNER

The Forensic Academy was led by the Forensics Anthropology Foundation of Guatemala (FAFG) over five phases, with the objective of bringing civil society actors and practitioners from around the world to Guatemala to strengthen their ability to work with the disappeared. Specifically FAFG targets documentation, advocacy, search and recovery and ultimately, the identification of victims. The academy provides context-specific training in memorialization, truth-telling and forensic applications such as forensic anthropology, archaeology and genetic methodologies. FAFG’s participation in GIJTR’s Consortium and the Forensic Academy specifically, opened the door for FAFG to share with the world its experience, expertise and lessons learned in Guatemala. Even where there is no prospect of exhumations and identification in the short term, the Forensic Academy allows people to find ways to work on these issues.

Central to GIJTR’s approach to capacity building is the use of **small projects** to accompany and reinforce learning. The preparation of a proposal for a modest project by participants not only operationalizes “doing as learning” but creates grassroots activities that have real impact.



An image from the Maidan Museum in Kyiv, Ukraine, a long-time member of GIJTR Consortium partner ICSC. Photo credit: The Maidan Museum

“We know for sure that contexts around the world are different, and we know that we have our own contexts in Sudan. But we will definitely benefit, and we have already benefited a lot from the other experiences in other regions and in other countries, particularly through the studies and the training workshops and the mutual work with GIJTR ... we learned from GIJTR that it is very important for us and for the communities themselves to be included and to be engaged because we have learned that the communities and the society itself can play a very important role in any transitional justice process.”

—— SUDANESE PARTNER

The network of documenters in South Sudan is representative of what is achieved by GIJTR’s model in a challenging, insecure and low resource context. While the political environment makes accountability for decades of violence unlikely in the short-term, a coalition of CSOs, working in-country and with refugee communities in neighboring states, developed the skills to document violations to an international standard and thus offer a path to accountability in the future. A member of the network summarizes their progress:

“When we were small, GIJTR stood with us. We are now 8-10 years working on transitional justice. At the start we did not know transitional justice. This process and training...has enabled us to be aware of transitional justice and how to support it. As a result, we have trained staff with expertise on forensics, database and data analysis as well as documentation. As a result of the project we are known and trusted.”

—— CSO ACTOR, SOUTH SUDAN

One goal of capacity building is to create sustainable organizations, and, in this respect, GIJTR country projects are remarkable successes. In The Gambia, CSO partners used GIJTR projects as a platform to move in new directions, develop new skills and new routes to external support. Notwithstanding the likely shrinking of available funding to transitional justice in The Gambia in the near future, such agencies are very well placed to both continue to receive funding and to be able to show the flexibility to survive in a post-transition environment.

In Guinea, CONAREG in particular represents a key step that enhances the probability that future project impacts are sustainable. The inclusion of new actors, advances in knowledge and understanding of transitional justice and the empowerment of local civil society are all sustainable results. In South Sudan, a GIJTR partner echoed this, reporting that the capacity of member CSOs has grown in recent years. They are now able to engage with members of the international community in Juba in ways they might not have been able to without GIJTR's training and support. It is precisely this engagement, and the capacity they build, that enables continuing support beyond GIJTR.



A representative from Constitution Hill, an ICSC member in South Africa, leading a tour of the historic site during a GIJTR exchange with local partners from Guinea.

GIJTR Consortium Partners

GIJTR also enables its partners to grow in ways that were unimaginable in its absence. Part of this was the interaction across disciplinary boundaries that defines GIJTR, with all agencies exposed to different ways of working and different lenses on truth and justice.

For FAFG, GIJTR came at a time when FAFG needed a push to start working internationally, working as a part of over 30 projects. Its executive director has said that: “FAFG would not be the same organization without GIJTR: through it we learned how to work internationally.” The Forensic Academy gave FAFG the opportunity to strengthen strategic relationships with its partners and global stakeholders as well as the many participants from the MENA region, Africa and Asia.

Public Law and Policy Group (PILPG) was able to engage with a broader range of perspectives than they would have otherwise. As an organization of lawyers, the variety of expertise within GIJTR allowed PILPG to focus on the legal elements while partners led on implementing other parts. As such, GIJTR allowed everyone to play to their strengths. Due Process of Law Foundation (DPLF) saw GIJTR as a way of extending their work on



Guests at the launch of GIJTR's State of Truth in the World Report held at the National Museum of African American History and Culture in October 2023. In an address at the event, Lonnie Bunch, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, said, "There is nothing more powerful than a people steeped in their history. There is nothing more dangerous than a community that doesn't know or is prevented from knowing its history."

transitional justice beyond a narrow focus on justice and accountability. They also extended their work into new areas, becoming experts on how the private sector interface with transitional justice as well as sexual and gender-based violence.

Like FAFG, CSVr was given global access through participation in GIJTR: up to that point, CSVr's work was focused on Africa. However, GIJTR saw it lead programming in Asia, Europe and the Middle East. Most importantly—for CSVr, GIJTR and the broader sector—GIJTR created the space where CSVr could meld its long-term expertise in MHPSS with broader transitional justice. GIJTR has pioneered mainstreaming MHPSS into all transitional justice programming, a new standard which the sector is adopting. Humanitarian Law Center (HLC) has grown with GIJTR and changed as an organization, improving its expertise, expanding its areas of operations and establishing it as a global leader in the provision of databases for human right documentation.

For ICSC, GIJTR transformed the organization's impact and reach. ICSC has strengthened its capacity to work internationally and to manage multi-partner, multi-year projects, developing a global profile as a leader and innovator in the field. This includes the capacity to respond to the needs of local partners as they arise in crisis situations and the integration of atrocity prevention work into transitional justice.

GIJTR partners also built networks and relationships among themselves that will be sustained, forged through close work across joint projects. One partner reported:

“I don't know that HLC and FAFG and CSVr ever would have come together on projects before this Consortium existed and now they're linked, and they will likely remain linked regardless of the future of GIJTR. That comes from years of sustained collaboration.”

—— GIJTR PARTNER

State Authorities and Mechanisms

While few GIJTR projects prioritize direct impacts on formal state mechanisms, almost all work to influence the environment and support CSOs to impact them. The substantive presence of GIJTR and its partners in transitional contexts assures that those working with GIJTR will necessarily be a factor in any formal transitional justice process.

In Colombia, GIJTR offered significant support to the work of the transitional justice process by providing recommendations to access state security archives for truth telling purposes, for both the Truth Commission and the search unit. ICSC methodologies drove work with communities, developing truth telling programs. The Truth Commission used a GIJTR toolkit with that methodology, training their staff and regional units to work with communities and in the development of community truth-telling projects. A group of Colombian senators and representatives, together with CSOs and the Colombian Network of Sites of Memory, an ICSC member site, formed a working group for the development of a victim-centered law of memory. In coordination with the Truth Commission, they developed an action plan to implement community projects under GIJTR. ICSC also played a pivotal role supporting CSOs collaboration, empowering them to be active in the transitional justice process, as an example of how working with CSOs can complement and support formal truth-telling. The role of GIJTR has been acknowledged by commissioners:



In addition to directly supporting communities, GIJTR advised the Truth Commission in Colombia on the best tools for collecting, documenting and sharing the stories of the conflict's survivors—an integral step to ensuring lasting peace in the country.

“Throughout the mandate of our Truth Commission, GIJTR has been one of the most constant cooperation organizations, helping with the development of community methodologies in the first months of the commission, mapping the archives of civil society [organizations] and developing their capacities to prepare digital archives for us, and sharing the successful experience of Latin America in participatory truth-seeking.”

— **LUCIA GONZALEZ, COMMISSIONER OF THE COLOMBIAN TRUTH COMMISSION**



Policy makers, government officials and civil society actors gather in Brazil at GIJTR’s 2023 roundtable on global racism.

In The Gambia, CSOs produced shadow TRRC reports informing the Gambian government’s white paper and calling on the authorities to address SGBV. Their recommendations, particularly those concerning reparations, were reflected in the white paper, demonstrating significant policy impact. A significant direct benefit for victims was WILL’s engagements with government ministers that saw reparations extended to victims who had not testified to the TRRC. The Gambian CSOs are now seen as continental leaders and invited to support other states in their transitional justice processes.

“We were training participants from South Sudan and we’ve had their ministries and people working on their transitional justice come to The Gambia to learn. We had a one to one meeting with: the Minister of Justice and Minister of Gender and their CSOs.”

— GAMBIAN PARTNER

In Mexico, GIJTR ensured that the Truth Commission was in effective dialogue with CSOs, supporting them as they informed the Truth Commission’s research process. A Mexican official praised the role of the ICSC in this process:

“We particularly value the contribution of GIJTR and their Latin American partners in the process of discussing the law of memory for Mexico and in bringing experiences from the region for the participatory process of the Truth Commission.”

— ALEJANDRO ENCINAS, UNDERSECRETARY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE SECRETARÍA DE GOBERNACIÓN OF MEXICO, FEBRUARY 2023

International and Global Impacts

GIJTR is internationally impactful both through its contributions to policy and dissemination of its practical learning in ways that have impacted global practice.

Impacting Global Practice

“When you look at the first 20 years of what was happening in the sector, you had the very big international non-governmental organizations ... and in many ways, I think what they controlled was what the discussion would be in many countries around the laws that set up these transitional justice mechanisms. They would also be doing all the training and to some extent directing where money should go and whose voices should be heard. And I think that by [GIJTR] including organizations from many different countries who have a specific expertise, either working with survivors, working with victims of torture and sexual violence, that has opened the space up a lot. And what that has meant is that you don't have the dominance of the hegemon and that what you have are a conglomerate of organizations who kind of use the Consortium to actually get their voices heard.”

— GLOBAL EXPERT

A wide range of organizations working globally on transitional justice have incorporated the learning of GIJTR into their own working practices and broader guidelines. The innovative practice of integrating MHPSS into transitional justice, led by CSV, is particularly impactful. CSV led

the integration of MHPSS into the African Union’s compiled transitional justice policy. As a result, and as a direct consequence of CSVR’s work with GIJTR, the continental reference of note now includes the importance of psychosocial support at multiple points.²¹ In response, the executive director of CSVR commented:

“[I]t’s a big win for us for PSS to be even included and now we can shape it through practice and we are looking at actually doing a guideline on MHPSS and so forth ... [This is] a policy that was transformational in nature.”

— CSVR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The UN Secretary General’s 2023 guidance on transitional justice²² makes a strong reference to the importance of PSS, drawing on a 2021 transitional justice report²³ that references CSVR’s work in The Gambia.

Other references to GIJTR in global practice include:

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Women’s 2022 guidance on *Women’s Meaningful Participation in Transitional Justice*, to which ICSC staff contributed through interviews on the work of GIJTR and transitional justice broadly, references several GIJTR publications.²⁴

Driving a global commitment to addressing conflict-related sexual violence

GIJTR centers an effort to both develop new approaches to prevent, and directly address the impacts of, conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). It also catalyzes policies and funding practices that can help advance a holistic, multidisciplinary approach to supporting survivors. This highlights GIJTR’s capacity to use its programming experience to advocate on a global stage.

In collaboration with global leaders on CRSV, including the Global Survivors Fund, Synergy for Justice, Institute for International Criminal Investigations and The Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation, a GIJTR project has mapped approaches to pursuing justice and accountability for CRSV. Further, it created a self-assessment tool to analyze gaps and opportunities for CSO programming on truth, justice and healing for CRSV. This tool has been piloted in Central African Republic and Colombia. The project also supported innovation and growth among CSOs and survivor networks through small grants in six contexts, providing concrete case studies of best practices.

A roundtable in November 2023 with survivors, survivor advocates, civil society representatives, policymakers, government representatives and donors allowed discussion of the challenges they face in supporting survivors of CRSV. Best practices and recommendations identified at the meeting were compiled into a detailed report that will inform GIJTR’s future programming in support of survivors of CRSV. It will also inform the US Department of State’s Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor’s (DRL’s) ongoing programming on CRSV, including a new global fund that DRL plans to launch for organizations providing CRSV documentation and integrated direct services in 2024. The roundtable was an opportunity for GIJTR to highlight strategies and best practices developed across its country-specific programs to support survivors of CRSV. This included working with women leaders to identify and address root causes of CRSV and promote gender justice in The Gambia and Guinea; engaging survivors in participatory truth-telling and healing initiatives in Colombia and Sri Lanka; and raising awareness among CRSV survivors in Syria on their rights when engaging in documentation efforts.

This explicit use of GIJTR experience to influence actors who set global agendas in the sector represents the impact of GIJTR’s partners, contacts and technical expertise.

- The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) have used material concerning Syria produced by GIJTR's Transitional Justice and Migration project.
- GIJTR's Ukraine project hosted an event at the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation meeting in Warsaw, Europe's largest annual human rights conference.
- A GIJTR local Sri Lankan partner produced a report that informed the June 2021 European Parliament resolution on Sri Lanka, which could serve as an important tool to hold perpetrators accountable for their abuses against women.
- The UN's special rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence attended a GIJTR event led by DPLF. At the event it was noted that there is a scholarly gap around how states can finance reparations. As a result, the special rapporteur is now working on a report on this issue.
- A recent report by the special rapporteur²⁵ cites from GIJTR's report *Private Sector Actors in Transitional Justice*, highlighting a finding discussing prosecutions of senior officials in the Ford company over corporate participation in crimes against humanity in Argentina.

GIJTR research driving agendas: the Ethiopia survey

As Ethiopia emerges from a devastating conflict in its north, the need for a comprehensive reckoning with the nation's histories of violence has become clear. The Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI), in collaboration with ICSC and the local partner in Ethiopia Partnership for Pastoralists Development (PAPDA), has conducted a nationwide participatory survey of the population in affected communities. The findings will help inform policy and programming to promote peace and atrocity prevention efforts in Ethiopia, as well as transitional justice efforts.

A GIJTR team worked alongside the Transitional Justice Working Group of Experts (TJWGE), established by Ethiopia's Ministry of Justice and charged with crafting a comprehensive national transitional justice policy, to ensure that the survey complemented their own consultations. PAPDA and HHI also supported the TJWGE's own analysis and data management thanks to the flexibility of the funding approach offered by GIJTR's mechanism.

At the conclusion of data collection, PAPDA and HHI presented initial data to a range of key actors in the context, including the Canadian and German governments, representatives of the European Union and the US Department of State, among others, as well as briefing the incoming US Ambassador to Ethiopia. The British Embassy requested a dedicated briefing from PAPDA and HHI researchers. Results were also presented in New York at a side event of the UN General Assembly, organized by the Group of Friends on the Responsibility to Protect.

The project has produced a piece of highly visible research that puts a victim-centered perspective on Ethiopia's transitional justice process. In addition, the high-level outreach it has achieved has allowed it to drive agendas around Ethiopia's transition at both national and international levels, feeding directly into policy discussions with the British, Canadian, Ethiopian and US governments.

The Field of Transitional Justice

GIJTR is a pioneer of new approaches to engaging with human rights violations: in so doing GIJTR challenges established transitional justice practice to continue to grow and evolve.

“Many of the organizations in [GIJTR] are beginning to question those sorts of paradigms and that is helping to create a new discourse. Because transitional justice became quite moribund by sticking to the notion of mechanisms and not beginning to think about what are they, what are you actually aiming at? What’s the end goal? ... And instead we are having conversations about how this field is not just about mechanisms, but this field actually has to produce transformative change in the lives of ordinary people. And yes, the state is an actor, but the state is not the only actor.”

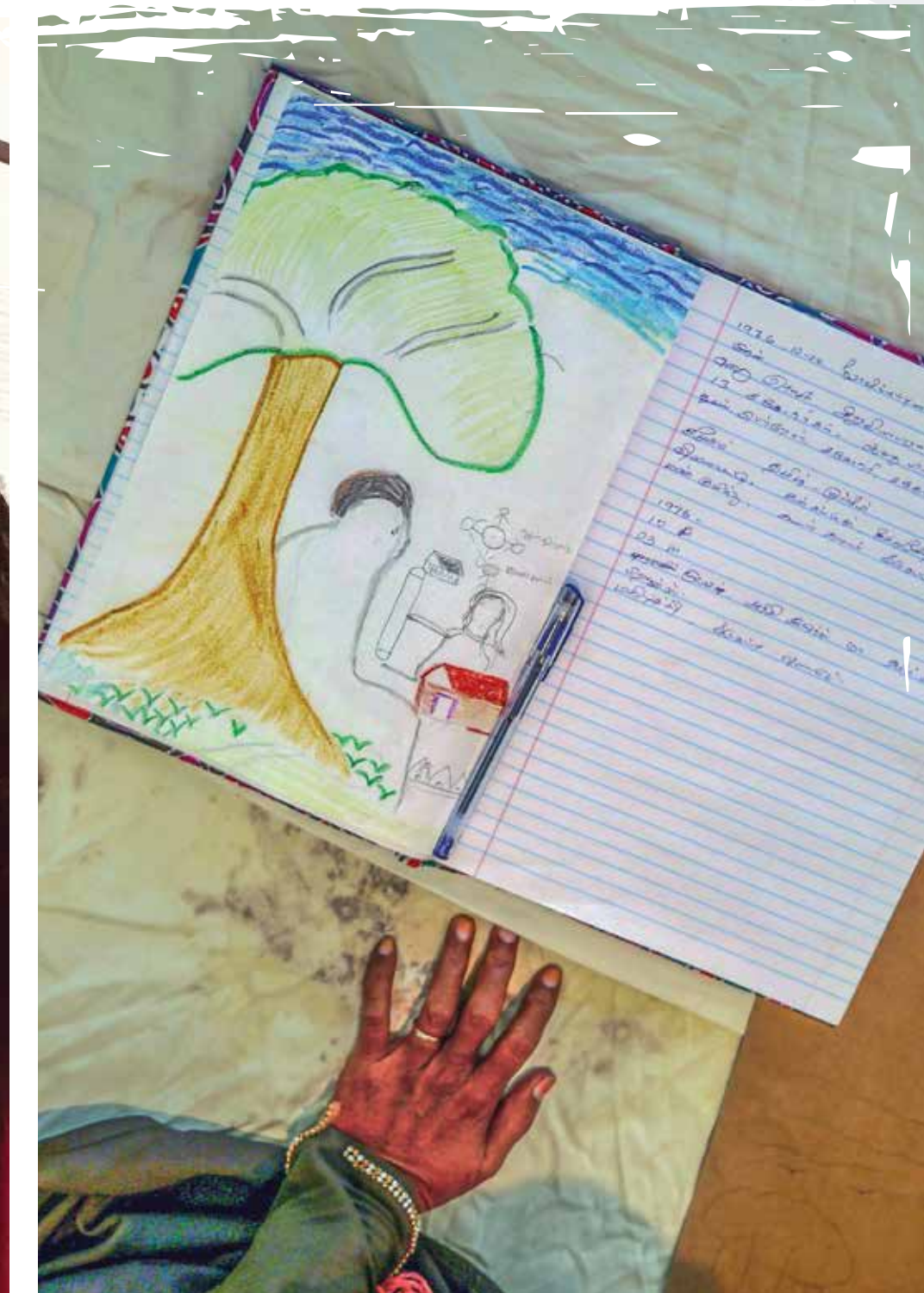
— GLOBAL EXPERT

Through the following range of themes GIJTR has made conceptual or practical innovations in transitional justice.

Memorialization as a Fifth Pillar of Transitional Justice

Through ICSC’s leadership of GIJTR, memory has a place in programming alongside the four more traditional pillars of transitional justice. This is particularly important given GIJTR’s focus on civil society and informal action, where many of its projects demonstrate the power of community-based approaches to memory.

Memorialization can often use minimal resources and engage a large group of people from different communities. While memorialization is considered a “soft” issue in transitional justice, it has the potential to raise deep questions around accountability and justice. Memorialization, as well as being key to truth-telling, can also be considered as a form of reparation, since it acknowledges the stories of victims. In many of the contexts that GIJTR works, including insecure environments where local partners are surveilled and harassed, memorialization is a way to begin to engage issues of justice and accountability. For example, as a “soft” issue, it allows communities from both sides of a conflict to come together in a non-threatening space to start talking about issues related to truth, justice and reconciliation. A staff member of ANEKED notes that memory can be a driver of reconciliation:



Images from GIJTR’s 2017 bodymapping workshop and exhibition in Colombo, Sri Lanka. “If whole communities did this,” one participant said, “reconciliation would come.”

“If we set up memorialization initiatives in communities that are not only communities that are considered to be victim communities, but other communities that were largely unaffected, they will be a form of bringing people together because victims will now feel less traumatized, and less stigmatized, because they know people believe them and people are in a space where they know these things really happened.”

— ANEKED, LOCAL PARTNER, THE GAMBIA

The work of GIJTR also sees memory work linked to atrocity prevention, as sharing facts and personal stories about past violence, is part of the process of education to prevent repetition. ANEKED’S Memory House is an example of this, as summarized by one student visitor:

“I will make sure when I go home, I will try to teach especially the young people around my environment some of the basic education and the basic human rights I’ve been learning from school, and what I’ve had from Memory House. Because if we start understanding some of these things like I’ve learned in Memory House when we are young, when we get to a position of power, we’ll make sure that these things don’t occur.”

— STUDENT VISITOR TO ANEKED’S MEMORY HOUSE

Transitional Justice and Atrocity Prevention

While transitional justice has long been implicitly considered a tool of violence prevention, usually by referencing the language of non-repetition, GIJTR pioneers an explicit connection, seeing its work as directly advancing atrocity prevention. In particular, such approaches, using the tools of transitional justice, are developed in contexts where the political environment prevents formal mechanisms or an engagement with accountability. An example is Sri Lanka, where GIJTR partners built a national network of district level actors through the Truth and Reconciliation Forum that enables a deep engagement at the community level, to enhance community cohesion across ethnic boundaries in ways which undercut efforts to provoke tension. Innovative GIJTR programming sees tuk tuk drivers targeted for sensitization, as a constituency that is often exploited by political actors to drive violence.

“This revised program will strengthen the capacity of civil society actors to engage in rapid-response human rights documentation to collect, preserve and analyze evidence of serious human rights violations for use in future accountability efforts. Project partners will continue to work on finalizing planning for these programmatic changes and implementing them in the upcoming program periods.”

— SRI LANKAN PARTNER

In Guinea, where there are similar constraints on formal action to address violations, GIJTR’s work is labeled as “violence prevention,” and the main facilitator is CONAREG. The project unfolded when political violence remained a threat in Guinea. As a result, CONAREG has targeted youth on issues of truth, justice and reconciliation, and harnesses the potential of the arts, journalism and innovative forms of media to promote social cohesion. Programming includes opportunities for youth to gain a nuanced understanding of human rights violations in their country. It does this in a way that promotes empathy over hatred and raises awareness about the importance of transitional justice mechanisms in building a just

and stable society. It also aims to create spaces for dialogue, truth-telling, remembrance and critical reflection on the relationship between past and present. It does so aiming to encourage the sharing of resources and lessons learned on violence prevention between CSOs, community leaders, educators, youth and survivors.

GIJTR's innovation in this area is supplemented by dedicated projects, including one to investigate links between transitional justice and atrocity prevention with a focus on youth. This focus recognizes the preventative potential of social media and other communication technologies in times of heightened tension. Such case study-driven projects with knowledge production goals both allow for new forms of social cohesion work and for GIJTR to share the lessons learned across a wide network of global and local partners. GIJTR's linking of transitional justice to atrocity prevention catalyzes entirely new approaches using the tools of transitional justice.

New Frontiers in the Documentation of Human Rights Violations

Documentation is central to many GIJTR projects, a result of reframing methods and approaches. These are characterized as: ensuring the agency of survivors and affected communities in data collection; documentation in environments where violence is ongoing; and the integration of genetic reference sample collection into documentation processes.

In the context of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar living in Bangladesh, GIJTR entered a space where a number of international agencies made short missions to collect limited data in ways that did not always prioritize ethical considerations and then disappeared as the issue faded from

Global Racism: Understanding Racism as an Atrocity Crime

Racism is linked to human rights violations globally and can be understood as a widespread cause and consequence of local and state conflict, authoritarian rule and histories of colonialism. This project examined racism in five contexts to develop an assessment tool to analyze racism as an atrocity crime. This is an innovation in transitional justice in two respects: first, in acknowledging that racism is the main cause of mass atrocities such as the Namibian and Rwandan genocides, and second, in analyzing human rights violations through the lens of such discrimination.

The study, which examined Brazil, Colombia, Namibia, South Africa and Sri Lanka, showed that the inequality and structural violence driven by racism leads not only to acts of violence against populations but also social, economic, and cultural rights violations. The project also highlighted racism as the foundation of historic crimes such as slavery and colonialism, as well as apartheid, in South Africa.

The indicators and case studies the project compiled in an assessment toolkit highlight the “what” and “how” of when racism can lead to the commission of atrocity crimes. The toolkit can thus be utilized by state actors and affected communities to assess risk, understand how race plays a central role in patterns of violence directed against particular populations, and advocate for response and reforms in policies and practices. In addition to the Indicators and Assessment Tool on Racism and Atrocity Crimes that the project produced, it shared a set of recommendations for actors at international and national levels, to deal with racism and its potential to drive atrocity crimes.

public view. In the years since, GIJTR created a team of Rohingya documenters with the skills, as well as the trust of their fellow refugees, to collect the testimony of those who have suffered terrible violence. Documenters received dedicated PSS training to support both their own self-care and ethical engagement with those sharing their stories. A GIJTR partner described the impact of this data in creating new standards for documentation, not only in the Rohingya context but more broadly:

“The fact that this evidence is being gathered and these statements are being stored has really sort of moved the bar in terms of the baseline for data collection in such contexts [for people] working in this space ... there is this increased impetus to gather this information because there is this expectation that it will be used at some point, which I think maybe wasn't the case 10 years ago. GIJTR has proven that such data collection is feasible and has set a new standard.”

—— PILPG STAFF MEMBER

While the collected data is being stored for future accountability, current ongoing relevance to the refugee community is also a part of the project. These include arts and crafts created by refugees that document their lives in ways that can inform future generations. and a joint Rohingya-Bangladeshi film production team began making films to document the experience of life in the camps. This represents a new paradigm of human rights documentation that centers those affected by violations, ensures their agency in the documentation process and produces outputs that serve communities now. The sustainable capacity created by this GIJTR project represents a resource that can continue to serve the refugee community in the long term.

The latest innovation of the GIJTR Rohingya project is the collection of DNA reference samples from those whose loved ones died or are missing due to the genocide. There is no short-term route to accessing human remains that can be identified on the basis of these samples. However, this pre-emptive approach addresses the need of Rohingya families to know that their loved ones can potentially be identified.

While the documentation of ongoing crimes has long been seen as driven by accountability needs, GIJTR pioneers the collection of such data for broader purposes linked to transitional justice goals, notably of truth-telling. In Ukraine, GIJTR supports civil society actors documenting ongoing violations being committed by Russian forces. Civil society documentation complements that being done by the Ukrainian state since it is carried out in communities recovering from violence by those who know the survivors. More than this, however, the goals of such documentation go beyond accountability, as noted by a staff member at Truth Hounds, a Ukrainian NGO partner working with GIJTR:

“Contemporary documentation is a tool to fight contemporary and anticipated revisionism. Generally speaking, denial is a process that goes in parallel with the documentation here in Ukraine. Unlike in other conflicts like WWII or the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, where denial came years later ... in Ukraine we have indeed this parallel process of denial together with fact establishment. So that is connected with the ongoing information warfare that the Russian Federation is financing and is sponsoring.”

— A STAFF MEMBER AT TRUTH HOUNDS, A UKRAINIAN NGO PARTNER

This shows how truth-telling, a transitional justice tool, is part of the crucial establishment of narratives around the ongoing conflict and to which documentation is essential.

Complementing these innovations in documentation practice is HLC’s development of database technologies through which documenters can store their data. As a GIJTR partner, HLC developed this software themselves, which means they own the code and it can be deployed across GIJTR projects. HLC can analyze the context where organizations work and their needs, and on that basis, create a system which best supports them. As a result, GIJTR can provide a solution that is both effective but easily implemented by local partners.

Mainstreaming Psychosocial Support in Transitional Justice

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support is the lubricant to make everything else go well. ... CSVR became very much focused on mental health mainstreaming, MHPSS mainstreaming, across all programming, and that was exciting.

— CSVR STAFF

GIJTR has, during the ten years of its operation, made MHPSS an essential part of all its action. While limited support to individuals at key moments, such as when giving public testimony, had long been standard in transitional justice, GIJTR serves as an example of the mainstreaming of PSS. In response, major institutions and bodies that shape policy and practice are mandating such an approach throughout the sector. GIJTR standardized MHPSS work as a part of transitional justice and now it raises ethical questions when projects do not include this.

GIJTR provides the space for CSVR to integrate its long MHPSS experience, gained through working with torture victims, into its broader transitional justice action. Through GIJTR, CSVR now tailors its practice to the range of contexts where it works with it. While CSVR's initial experience was offering on-to-one counselling to victims, a group support approach emerged in GIJTR contexts such as South Sudan, allowing them to engage communities and groups of survivors. The limitation of a traditional Western approach to MHPSS became apparent in such contexts: not only was individual support strange to those cultures, but the almost complete absence of professional psychologists meant that such support was not sustainable. This led CSVR to develop capacity-building approaches, in which civil society actors are trained to both only support victims and also ensure their own self-care. As a result of this approach there are now 48 well-trained individuals in South Sudan who can support victims of violence, whereas when GIJTR entered the context, there was only one trained psychologist in the entire country. The sustainability of this approach is enhanced by the provision of "training of trainers" support, such that there is now domestic capacity to provide training. This approach has been duplicated successfully in multiple contexts, creating a cadre of MHPSS support persons who can mobilize local, context-specific understanding, framed by the deep experience of CSVR, to support all elements of an engagement with histories of violence.

“The psychosocial wellness program helped staff from targeted CSOs to internally heal existent traumas before embarking on a healing journey with the community. Staff were able to provide containment for the victims and survivors of conflict they were assisting. This was significant because it led to a response for a referral network, needs which were previously ignored and overlooked could now receive treatment from an ambit of organizations that could provide differing services.”

— SOUTH SUDAN DOCUMENTATION NETWORK PARTNER

In The Gambia, GIJTR supported the TRRC in its engagement with survivors, while building capacity in several CSOs who were working with victims and communities. As in other contexts, the legacy of the GIJTR’s work in The Gambia is a set of sustainable structures that can deliver PSS to all victims of violence, whether linked to the political transition or not.

The integration of PSS throughout GIJTR action, however, goes beyond this, with PSS included in all training as part of a trauma-informed approach. GIJTR operationalizes MHPSS as an integral element of all programming. This goes beyond a standard effort to ensure the well-being of those engaged with processes—whether formal or informal—as it acknowledges that psychological and psychosocial impacts are inextricably linked to non-repetition and peacebuilding. This was summarized by the executive director of CSV:

“When communities and societies don’t heal from the brutal past then you come to apartheid in South Africa, the Red Terror in Ethiopia, and genocide in Rwanda, just to mention a few where we have seen brutalization and gross human rights violations. If we try and sweep those occurrences and the trauma associated with that under the carpet, and we frog march everyone forward and say let’s let bygones be bygones, let’s forget about the past, let’s build a future that is more peaceful without actually addressing the trauma at different levels—the individual, the collective trauma, and the societal trauma—it’s akin to literally bandaging a wound and letting it fester inside the bandage and hoping that healing will happen automatically.”

— EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CSV

A reason for prioritizing PSS is that it is a crucial part of individual and collective healing, and as such is an integral part of transitional justice in ensuring that cycles of violence end.

“Given the decline of human rights and democratic practices that is further exacerbated by the pandemic, many survivors and victims are beginning to show signs of re-traumatization and emotional fatigue. ICSC and local partners’ integrated approach to addressing human rights violations and working with survivors has proved useful in this context. By providing ongoing psychosocial support to survivors, local partners are attempting to break cycles of re-traumatization while also building resilience within survivor communities.”

— GIJTR REPORTING

Art as a Tool of Transitional Justice

Art and culture can help shape perceptions of the past and imagine a better future, and as a result play an important role in movements seeking to tell truths about past atrocities and demand change.²⁸ Technical and institutional approaches alone can rarely fully express people's suffering and resistance to oppression: art and culture offer more accessible routes to both, articulating memory of past violations and hopes for the future. GIJTR plays a crucial role in showing how cultural and artistic projects can open up spaces for new thinking, possibilities and action in transitional societies. It also develops community arts memorialization processes, allowing participants to voice their claims, raise awareness and strengthen their identity.

Body mapping is an arts-based documentation process through which survivors share their stories of suffering through life-sized drawings of their own bodies, that encompass representations of trauma as well as sources of strength and hopes for the future, for themselves and their country. Body mapping can be transformative for the concerned individual, offering an arts-based route to both healing and reconciliation across the divide of conflict in the mixed workshop groups that are typically used. Completed body maps can be exhibited, both helping survivors



GIJTR supports over 85 Guinean CSO representatives, survivors, religious leaders and journalists, and has funded several high-impact memorialization projects, including survivor databases; oral histories; and portraits depicting human rights abuses committed against young people during pro-democracy protests, among others.

Resources that emerged from these projects are stored in an online archive, ensuring a digital repository is accessible to students, researchers, survivors and CSOs interested in transitional justice issues in Guinea.

achieve broader community recognition and contributing to community-wide healing and reconciliation. A participant in GIJTR’s body mapping workshops in East Africa remarked, “If this methodology could be encouraged, it will contribute [to] the process of reconciling individuals [and thus] groups.”

GIJTR’s work and focus on memory and memorialization as a pillar of transitional justice supports a number of projects with a specific focus on cultural representations of the past. The “Mapping Commemorative Cultures” project, for example, globally tracked a range of innovative approaches using art and culture to recall and confront the tragedy of past violence. As a part of the program in The Gambia, the stories of survivors under the dictatorship have been portrayed using various arts-based methods. GIJTR’s partner ANEKED opened Memory House as The Gambia’s first permanent victim-led memorialization initiative in 2021. It displayed exhibits which allowed victims to tell their own stories in a visual form, and featured the work of young women who used their mobile phones to capture images and stories of fellow Gambians. Memory House also hosted an exhibition of 27 body maps, exposing the life stories of Gambians beyond the narrow identity of “victim” and revealing the fullness of an individual’s life story.

In Guinea, GIJTR trained a group of 18 artists and journalists on media, culture and transitional justice including ICSC partners from Haiti, Kenya and Sierra Leone, to share their experiences using arts- and media-based approaches to advancing transitional justice goals. Small projects using the techniques developed were supported following the workshop, which included: a participatory theatre production aimed at promoting social cohesion among different ethnic groups, a slam production and music video on the need for unity among Guineans.³¹

In Colombia, communities in the Llanos region developed symbolic representations of missing and lost family members through rag dolls containing MP3 recordings of voices of victims and

Rohingya Refugees as Filmmakers

One of the most ambitious efforts of GIJTR to support sustainable cultural production is the creation of a film production company focused on telling the stories of Rohingya refugees.

This project grew from the Colombian experience of *Histórias en Kilómetros*,²⁹ which had been supporting Colombian community filmmaking, including around the Truth Commission process. This represents GIJTR’s capacity to learn from and repeat impactful projects in an effective South-to-South knowledge transfer. The goal with Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh was to understand the refugee reality and convey that in a visually compelling way. The production company is a mix of Bangladeshi and Rohingya filmmakers, which also allows them to engage with issues of peace and relationship building between host and refugee communities. The film is being shown globally—while the point was not to cater to an external or international audience it demonstrates to the Rohingya community that they are able to say, “we’re filmmakers.”

The process required months of technical capacity building from *Histórias en Kilómetros* trainers—much of it done online—however the production and the shooting in the camp had to be done by the team themselves. The final film was edited with the technical support of a Colombian filmmaker but all decisions were made by the Bangladeshi-Rohingya production team: at every single step, it was a question of how they wanted to represent themselves. For the participating Rohingya communities, the goal of the film, entitled *Life Happens Still*, was for future generations to see and understand what those in exile lived through. When their children and grandchildren ask, “How was life in camp?”, this is the movie they need to see.³⁰

The transfer of experience and expertise from Colombia to Bangladesh is exemplified in the Rohingya film to demonstrate that communities in struggle, who are documenting their lives in film, have allies around the world.

family members.³² In Bangladesh, communities at the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox´ s Bazar represented embroidered scenes from their daily lives in Myanmar as a mechanism to rescue stories from their previous lives and stimulate the recovery of stories from recent history.³³

In areas emerging from conflict and years of repression or authoritarianism, GIJTR projects show how journalism and the arts foster empathy within divided communities and promote justice, truth-telling and remembrance. Through the arts, the use of symbolic language and thoughtful and sensitive reporting of survivors´ stories, journalists and artists working in various mediums demonstrate the potential to help individuals see beyond a singular perspective.

The Global South as a Site for Transitional Justice Knowledge Production

Transitional justice emerged from activism against military dictatorships in Latin America in the 1980s, but in the decades since, the field has largely been molded by institutions in the Global North. The epistemic community leading this includes governments and academics in Europe and North America, United Nations agencies and NGOs based in the Global North but often largely working in the South. This has led to a “‘dominant script’ of transitional justice [which] continues the imbalances and even violence of relations between the Global North and the Global South.”³⁴

GIJTR represents an effort to create knowledge and processes driven by communities and stakeholders in and of the Global South, in contexts most impacted by histories of violence. This begins with the fact that GIJTR partners, CSV, FAFG and AJAR, are from the Global South. As a CSV staff member reported, following a workshop in Ukraine:

“People in the Global North go, well, you know, what do these people know? They don’t look like experts. And then, when you actually break down that prejudice, they say, well, these people are the experts, precisely because they’ve lived it. [..] And that suggests that the Global South is a site of huge expertise, because you’ve lived much more of this stuff that’s relevant.”

— STAFF MEMBER, CSVR

GIJTR enables South-South practice-based learning through several programmatic elements. While its funding comes from a traditional center of knowledge production, its processes and approaches seek to enable the agency of local partners in driving both the form and goals of projects. First, all work is rooted in capacity building that uses lessons from other contexts and global frameworks to support CSOs in finding their own approaches to address the issues they and the communities they represent prioritize. Second, GIJTR accesses a huge reservoir of experience and expertise in both its Consortium partners and local partners globally. Third, all activities bring CSOs together across contexts to share lessons that permit the exchange of experience. This is a contextualized leveraging of global experience that challenges the established—and highly prescriptive—transitional justice knowledge transfer. The impact of this was summarized by a Sudanese partner:

“We know for sure that contexts around the world are different, and we know that we have our own contexts in Sudan. But we will definitely benefit, and we have already benefited a lot from the other experiences in other regions and in other countries, particularly through the studies and the training workshops and the mutual work with GIJTR.”

— SUDANESE PARTNER

The global reach of GIJTR, combined with the breadth of expertise it brings, allows experiences and lessons from one context to inform GIJTR and standalone partner programs in others. The first ten years of GIJTR's experience is full of stories of CSOs seeking to replicate and contextualize something they learned from GIJTR partners elsewhere. Experience in Colombia alone, for example, has informed projects in different contexts:

- digitization of archives in Mexico;
- a toolkit on truth-telling that has been used in contexts as diverse as the Balkans by the RECOM network;
- preparation of artists in Bangladesh for work in community truth-telling programs with Rohingya communities; and
- filmmaking by Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

This is replicated across all projects and contexts of GIJTR, unleashing a wave of context relevant innovation. GIJTR's methods of a victim-centered, context-informed and non-prescriptive approach to addressing histories of violence represents a dramatic challenge to traditional knowledge production in transitional justice and most of these novel approaches have come from the Global South.



A protest walk in Washington, D.C. in September 2006 in support of Ethiopian political prisoners. Photo credit: Elvert Barnes. Licensed under CC BY 2.0

Learning By Doing: Small Projects as a Method

Almost all GIJTR projects, including country and thematic projects as well as the didactically focused Academies, use small projects to enhance learning and support implementation. As mentioned earlier, a small grant is provided to trainees to deepen their learning by implementing a relevant project in their context. Projects are “small” in financial terms, often as little as \$1,000 USD, but are planned through proposals to which input can be given. Projects span the entire thematic breadth of the work of GIJTR, from community dialogues to PSS interventions, advocacy products and beyond.

The AYTJA is an interesting example, because in addition to implementing small projects, participants were also asked to evaluate them. This took the form of qualitative measures of impact—their own and stakeholder perceptions of the project—and was steered by an evaluation toolkit shared with and customized by participants. While all projects were small, they demonstrated a “ripple effect.” The direct impact on more than 1,300 participants across the 10 projects was amplified by the impact those participants can have on their communities.

African Youth Transitional Justice Academy: Small Project Impact in Gambia

As part of the AYTJA a small project was implemented by a participant at a time when the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC) was about to begin public hearings in communities. The AYTJA participant decided to work in a community close to where the former dictator, Yahya Jammeh, came from and where he retained significant support. Prior to the intervention a large group of local youth were seeking to defend Jammeh’s legacy and initially threatened violence against the interveners thinking they were from the TRRC. Following the small project’s community dialogues they had a different view of the TRRC and no longer considered it an attack on their tribe and region. This was the first time anyone had spoken to them about the Commission and the transitional justice process: previously they had been dependent upon social media for information, where inflammatory claims were made. One participant commented:

When I heard about this activity I didn’t want to come, but my friend talked me into coming and said if we did not attend they will be talking bad about us the jola. So I had to go and defend my people. But as the day went on I realized that your people are here to educate and reunite. Because I know the fabrics of our community are broken. Before today many of the boys you see here who use to be my friends we don’t talk anymore or hang out anymore. Our elders are also divided and do not give advice to the young ones anymore. We don’t socialize even at ceremonies and our parents choose who and which family we should interact with. But today after spending all day with you and listening I now understand that we have made a big mistake and we need to sort our community out. The things I learnt today I will take back to my community and I will engage all my friends in rebuilding our community. I wish someone had given me this information before.

After the dialogues, the TRRC came to the region to hold public hearings, and those who had been trained by the AYTJA-supported project were able to assist the statement-taking process, by aiding in translation to English. The idea of such community dialogues emerged from the workshops and was enabled by the AYTJA training and support.

Rapid Response and Transitional Justice

GIJTR has a rapid response component, and this took a variety of forms as the work developed. The idea of rapid response in transitional justice is relatively novel, presuming that there are urgent actions to be taken before “transition” has occurred. This became most evident for GIJTR in its innovative documentation work in active conflict, in contexts such as Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan and Ukraine. One example of urgent response to an ongoing situation was in Ukraine, where GIJTR led an investigation to determine the nature and origin of the bodies in a mass grave.

Another example of GIJTR’s rapid response mechanism is the work undertaken in Ethiopia in response to the November 2020 outbreak of violence. Under the rapid response mechanism three short-term projects were deployed to the region. One project, *Creating Possibilities for Transitional Justice in Ethiopia*, undertook a series of initiatives to preserve and protect human remains that were retrieved from the Setit River in 2021, believed to be a spillover of the conflict which began in November 2020 in Ethiopia, to promote further forensic investigation, accountability and other forms of transitional justice. A second project, *Capacity Assessment and Foundational Analysis of Atrocity Crimes in Ethiopia*, undertook training and capacity building of human rights defenders (HRDs) to collect and preserve evidence of atrocity crimes for potential use in future legal proceedings. The third project, *Survey of Perceptions of Transitional Justice in Ethiopia*, undertook a formal, national survey related to public perceptions of transitional justice so that actors could better understand the opportunities for engagement and priorities of the population. This approach typifies GIJTR’s multi-prong engagement on issues of transitional justice and demonstrates the multi-sectoral impact rapid response projects can have.

GIJTR also uses the rapid response approach to develop fast, short projects to address issues of urgent interest in the field. These projects come from proposals brought by partners to its annual meeting and voted on, ensuring broad interest. In practice, this means that a large range of issues are investigated in multiple contexts by GIJTR that otherwise would not have been funded. This enables work that is often research oriented, focusing on specific issues and themes in transitional justice, while rooted in the everyday experience and needs of CSOs working with communities.

Democratizing Forensic Science

Missing and Disappeared persons are a consequence of all contemporary conflict which ensures a central place for forensic science in transitional justice practice. However, the role for forensics has been traditionally highly constrained. Forensic science is typically engaged only when a state-sanctioned process to exhume and identify the bodies of the unknown dead is underway. More than this, it is an expert practice in which the families of the missing are encouraged to participate, but broader social engagement is minimal. GIJTR broadens both the scope for and access to forensic investigations, notably by supporting capacity building for civil society actors. GIJTR develops novel approaches to the use of forensics; pioneering a preemptive approach to the collection of genetic reference samples in a context where short-term prospects for retrieval of human remains is slim.

The presence of the Forensic Anthropology Foundation in Guatemala (FAFG) among GIJTR partners ensures that world-leading forensic expertise is available to GIJTR, as well as access to the illustrative context of Guatemala. Both resources were used in the flagship forensic project, the Forensic Academy, which exposed civil society actors from around the world to the theory and practice of forensic identification. Over five phases, both online and in-person, the Forensic Academy gave activists access to the expertise and experience of FAFG, supported by field visits to meet families and visit gravesites, and small projects implemented in participants' home contexts. The Forensic Academy's impacts at individual, community and organizational levels (as well as on GIJTR itself) are significant. The knowledge and capacity developed in those who took part will enable them to drive more inclusive forensic practices, representing an essential element of ensuring that families and communities can take the lead in documenting the truth about past violence. The Forensic Academy will continue beyond GIJTR as a standalone project.

GIJTR's forensic work also highlights the value of South-South knowledge transfer. The FAFG, bringing its long experience of the Guatemalan context, has worked in Colombia since 2017 at a crucial stage of their transitional justice process. This included regional workshops with hundreds of participants, including from the state Search Commission, the Unit for the Search of Disappeared Persons (Unidad de Búsqueda de Personas Desaparecidas, "UBPD"). These workshops are an opportunity for CSO representatives, family members and UBPD staff to share their concerns, expectations and doubts about the work being carried out to locate and identify the disappeared:

"Another milestone is that the UBPD new staff could learn from the experience of the work that has been carried out in Guatemala for over 25 years and learn about the multidisciplinary approach of FAFG's forensic work. In addition, the director of the UBPD had access to the information collected in the story circles with family members and CSOs during the workshops. This was an opportunity to transfer concerns and expectations from the family members in each of the regions to the central institution for them to take into consideration when carrying out their work. By carrying out the workshops, FAFG was able to provide a safe and neutral space to family members and CSO representatives to voice their requests directly to the UBPD."

— GIJTR PARTNER

Most innovatively, in Bangladesh, GIJTR led by FAFG, collected genetic reference samples from Rohingya refugee families missing loved ones due to the violence of the genocide that drove them from Myanmar. This leveraged the teams of documenters trained over previous years as well as the longstanding relationship with Bangladeshi authorities. Sixty reference samples per month are now being collected, offering the prospect of identifying the dead, and bringing hope to families. The novelty of this project is that while GIJTR alone cannot deliver the desperately needed answers to Rohingya families, it shows that it can act as a catalyst, opening up new spaces for action. By creating a database of genetic reference samples, GIJTR made visible—as a human rights issue—the identification of the Rohingya dead. This reflects the priority of GIJTR, in forensics as in other areas, of enhancing the access of survivors to both discourses and tools that can support their search for justice.

CONCLUSION

Documenting the impacts of the first 10 years of GIJTR is challenging, given its scale and the wide range of its work. This impact study summarizes the work of those 463 projects, the impacts on a wide range of actors, and how the practice of transitional justice is reimagined by GIJTR's innovation. The data demonstrate how a broad collection of stakeholders are impacted. These stakeholders include victims and survivors, communities impacted by authoritarianism and violence, local CSOs on four continents, and GIJTR's partners themselves—all transformed through GIJTR's work.

GIJTR is composed of nine international organizations with expertise in memorialization, psychosocial support, forensic science, documentation and legal intervention. This range of expertise and experience across multiple disciplines permits GIJTR to tailor goals and modalities of projects to address the needs in any particular context. As the environment changes, and windows of opportunity open and close, GIJTR can dynamically adjust its programming. A significant factor in the success of GIJTR is its challenge to the traditional ways international funding has supported transitional justice. In contrast to short, fixed-term projects, GIJTR implements multi-year engagements within many contexts, building strong partnerships with local civil society actors, enabling local priorities and needs to drive the work.

GIJTR approaches—victim-centered, context-informed, locally driven, non-prescriptive, gender-responsive and trauma-informed—are not abstract slogans, but rather principles to be operationalized. GIJTR demonstrates how an international Consortium can bring a range of expertise, across disciplines and regions: not to prescribe practice to local stakeholders but to support them however can best address needs in their context. The result is an explosion of learning across cultures and continents, and the development of a whole range of practices that both deepen and expand how civil society contributes to truth and justice around the world. This has built upon GIJTR’s commitment to partnering with civil society as key catalysts for social change, which in turn serves as the foundation for capacity-building and sustainability. Challenging a narrow view of transitional justice as largely a formal, state-led process, enables GIJTR to demonstrate the enormous potential of informal spaces to promote change and deliver truth and justice. GIJTR-driven change takes place at the individual, community and civil society levels, as well as contributes to the development of national process.

Having a focus beyond formal process enables GIJTR to work in contexts that are far from the traditional understanding of “transitional.” In contexts where the political space has narrowed, GIJTR’s local partners are able to continue working on truth and justice. In those contexts where conflict has never stopped or violence has re-emerged, GIJTR-supported civil society actors are well equipped—thanks to long-term capacity building—to conduct whatever activities are possible. For example, they are documenting rights violations in active conflict, or working at the community level to build social cohesion and prevent violence.

GIJTR is a laboratory of innovation, due to its work in numerous contexts, across multiple disciplines and from dedicated research based on real world case studies. It has changed how international donors can engage with transitional justice processes, creating the space for local actors to learn from global experience and be empowered to develop solutions to their own needs for truth, justice and reconciliation.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: GIJTR Objectives

GIJTR seeks to achieve six key objectives, each of which is defined below:

Capacity Building. Build the capacity and effectiveness of civil society actors and organizations to protect and advance a holistic approach to transitional justice. This is accomplished by bolstering societies' capacity to address legacies of human rights abuses, including accountability for gross human rights violations, and rebuilding just, inclusive and peaceful societies in the aftermath of mass atrocity. While GIJTR focuses on CSOs as agents of change, its projects also serve to enhance state capacity to address histories of violations and, where relevant, also be engaged in the study.

Innovation. Advance innovation in programming that addresses relevant issues, in part through utilizing a multidisciplinary approach that draws on the regional and thematic expertise of all GIJTR partners. In particular, focus on programmatic innovation in terms of approaches that are not widely used beyond GIJTR and have been demonstrated to be effective across multiple contexts and projects.

Programming Tools to Advance Sustainability. Support programming tools that go beyond knowledge transfer through training and promoting sustainable solutions grounded in the capacity of local actors. This will primarily focus on tools that enhance sustainability of CSOs but, where relevant, will also look at sustainability in state responses advanced by GIJTR.

Growth and Development of the Field in Terms of Transitional Justice Innovation.

Contribute to the growth and development of the field of transitional justice by utilizing GIJTR to feed into broader questions critical to the field. GIJTR accomplishes this by providing a platform for local experts and new voices to share emerging practices, and articulating the various relationships among transitional justice processes, memory and atrocity prevention.

Rapid Deployment of Interventions. Rapidly deploy a broad range of interventions in response to evolving opportunities and threats, by using a range of restorative and retributive transitional justice tools. While this will focus on the rapid response projects, it will also consider the fast implementation of other relevant approaches in other projects. In addition, it will seek to understand which factors enhance the effectiveness of fast turnaround approaches.

Holistic Approaches. Connect community-led initiatives to state institutions and policymakers in post-conflict environments, thereby promoting context-specific, community-driven approaches to truth, justice and reconciliation programs. This will be an explicit investigation of the extent to which project approaches are “joined-up” and ensure that impacts are maximized beyond the direct beneficiary (such as a CSO) and also benefit victims, communities and the state, where relevant.

ANNEX 2: Project Outputs and Outcomes

The following list summarizes the breadth and impact of GIJTR’s individual projects, dividing them into two categories: country-based, multi-phased projects; and thematic focus or rapid response projects. For the country-based, multi-phased projects, all five of the relevant DAC criteria are considered. For the others, efficiency and coherence are less relevant due to the abbreviated timelines of these projects. Therefore, only relevance, effectiveness and sustainability from the DAC criteria are considered.³⁵ Those projects that were subject to an external evaluation are also featured in a table quantifying those impacts according to the DAC criteria. These evaluations are made on the basis of the qualitative data in external evaluation reports, for each of three categories: victims and affected populations, CSOs and states. For more information, this process is discussed in Section 3.2.

Country-Based, Flagship and Multi-Phase Projects

Project	Project Outputs and Outcomes	
	Quantitative	Qualitative
<p>Bangladesh-Rohingya Documentation Program: Phases 1-4</p> <p>A project to support creation of local documentation teams to collect testimony from Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, later expanded to include both art and cultural elements and the collection of genetic reference data to aid identification of the dead of the genocide.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trained 20 Rohingya documenters, making 80 interviews per month • Collected 400 interview statements • Almost 2,000 genetic samples collected • The project webpage received 900 unique visitors • Over 3,000 clicks to links / downloads of materials from the project webpage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to the camps and to documenters despite a challenging regulatory framework • A structured, civil society-led documentation effort is underway • An informed Rohingya voice exists to engage with transitional justice processes • A mixed Rohingya / Bangladeshi film production team has been created who have made their first film in and about the camps

DAC Criteria			
Scale / Criterion	Victims / Affected Populations	CSOs	States
Relevance	3	3	1
Coherence	2	3	1
Efficiency	3	3	1
Effectiveness	3	3	1
Sustainability	2	2	1

Country-Based, Flagship and Multi-Phase Projects

Project	Project Outputs and Outcomes	
	Quantitative	Qualitative
<p>Supporting Truth, Justice and Reconciliation in Colombia: Phases 1-5</p> <p>Following assessment of the ongoing transitional justice process, GIJTR has supported local processes and connected them to the Truth Commission, as well as supporting CSOs and the Commission in truth-seeking and documentation efforts. Forensic training has targeted families of the missing, CSOs and the state Search Commission.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 20 trainings made with CSOs and family associations in forensics, the search process and working with families • Seventy life stories of survivors recorded and transmitted on radio 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methodologies created to work with communities to develop truth telling programs, also used by the Truth Commission • CSOs supported to come together, empowering them to be active in the transitional justice process • Strengthened capacities of CSOs working in outlying areas to advocate on behalf of the families of the disappeared • Community podcasts developed solely by communities • A group of senators and representatives, together with CSOs developed a workgroup for the development of a victim-centered law of memory.
<p>Forensic training program: building capacity to address the rights of families of enforced disappearances: Phases 1-5 (Forensic Academy)</p> <p>GIJTR's Forensic Academy builds the technical capacity of CSOs from Africa, Asia and the MENA region in the area of forensics investigations and provides a holistic framework for supporting and meeting the specific needs of families of victims.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fifty-eight CSO activists trained in all aspects of approaches to address the issue of missing and disappeared persons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South-based activists, academics and practitioners have significantly increased their understanding of forensic sciences • The Forensic Academy has begun to be recognized among organizations in Asia, the MENA region and the Middle East • Participants expressed how the Academy changed their life and the way they see things and that they had new projects in mind to develop back home as an outcome of their participation. • A wide range of small projects implemented by participants, many focused on creating documentaries and museums with the testimonies of family members of victims of enforced disappearance

Country-Based, Flagship and Multi-Phase Projects

Project	Project Outputs and Outcomes	
	Quantitative	Qualitative
<p>Truth, Justice and Accountability in The Gambia: Phases 1-4</p> <p>A comprehensive program of support to the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC) through staff training and supporting CSOs to critically engage with it. The project sought to: identify, support and build the capacity of CSOs (including to engage with the TRRC); raise awareness of transitional justice in the country; and aid survivors to both engage with the process and through psychosocial support (PSS).</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported the emergence of sustainable new Gambian CSOs with a focus on transitional justice and a track record of working in a victim-centered way • Creation of first victim-led memorial in The Gambia (Memory House) • WILL’s listening circles: a unique approach to hearing the voices of women who might otherwise have been excluded from the process • Creation of significant PSS capacity in two civil society organizations • Creation of effective CSO network • Intervention with ministers to extend reparations extended to those who had not testified to the TRRC (WILL) • Shadow TRRC report recommendations reflected in government white paper

DAC Criteria			
Scale / Criterion	Victims / Affected Populations	CSOs	States
Relevance	3	3	2
Coherence	3	3	3
Efficiency	3	2	3
Effectiveness	3	3	2
Sustainability	3	3	2

Country-Based, Flagship and Multi-Phase Projects

Project	Project Outputs and Outcomes	
	Quantitative	Qualitative
<p>Violence Prevention and Community Consultations in Guinea: Phases 1-5</p> <p>GIJTR has provided technical, programmatic and financial support to CSOs and survivors in Guinea to strengthen local truth, justice and reconciliation initiatives. The project focused on training and networking to collectively advocate for a holistic national reconciliation process through the lens of the September 28, 2009 Stadium Massacre and the recommendations of the Provisional National Commission on Reconciliation (CPRN).</p>	<p>Ten Guinean activists graduated from a multi-year PSS training program in May 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of CONAREG, a formal network of six CSOs working on TJ: regional antennas gaining recognition • CSOs have enhanced capacity and been empowered: able to conduct autonomous activities • Vulnerable and marginalized groups effectively engaged by CSOs • PSS support delivered by CSOs, including through creation of victim support center • Leaders of two of the local project partners appointed to national reconciliation commission • CSOs effectively monitoring the Stadium Massacre trial • Effective violence prevention action conducted by CONAREG • Effective outreach by CONAREG to journalists, educators, youth, women etc.

DAC Criteria			
Scale / Criterion	Victims / Affected Populations	CSOs	States
Relevance	3	3	3
Coherence	3	3	3
Efficiency	3	3	3
Effectiveness	3	3	2
Sustainability	3	3	2

Country-Based, Flagship and Multi-Phase Projects

Project	Project Outputs and Outcomes	
	Quantitative	Qualitative
<p>Network of Documenters in South Sudan: Phases 1-8</p> <p>This project aims to advance human rights documentation in a context where conflict continues and has successfully assembled an effective coalition of CSOs and built their capacity to document violations. This locally led approach appears to be the only route to effective and comprehensive human rights documentation, working both in South Sudan and refugee communities in Kenya and Uganda.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trained 130 documenters and 70 database managers • Collected more than 8,200 statements throughout South Sudan and from refugee communities in Kenya and Uganda by 84 member agencies • Implemented over 100 short-term network member-designed projects of memorialization, oral history and community dialogues in communities • Forty-six CBOs involved with psychosocial support were trained on the Psychosocial Wellness Program from Phases 1–5, and over 157 participants directly trained in PSS • In 2022, 10 community-led Psychosocial projects implemented by nine organizations, to increase healing and reconciliation in Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established a governance structure and a Secretariat to act as an executive body to manage the network and data collected • Collected and stored documentation data concerning human rights violations in South Sudan, using a standardized methodology and appropriate ethical approaches. • Effectively integrated PSS for documenters and for interviewees, as well as supporting PSS networks in communities with which they work • Some of the small projects developed under the program had significant impact in their communities, and donors such as USAID and IDRC expanded their implementation • Technical committee members informing the establishment of South Sudan’s Commission on Truth, Reconciliation and Healing (CTRH) were trained on trauma-informed approach by network members

DAC Criteria

Scale / Criterion	Victims / Affected Populations	CSOs	States
Relevance	2	3	2
Coherence	2	3	1
Efficiency	2	3	2
Effectiveness	2	3	1
Sustainability	1	2	1

Country-Based, Flagship and Multi-Phase Projects

Project	Project Outputs and Outcomes	
	Quantitative	Qualitative
<p>Promoting Social Cohesion, Justice and Violence Prevention in Sri Lanka: Phases 1-9</p> <p>Over the lifetime of GIJTR, it has engaged with both formal and informal transitional justice processes in Sri Lanka, supporting CSO action and networking. In an environment that has remained challenging, GIJTR has sought to promote sustainable peace and contribute to CSO justice efforts by ensuring that multiple stakeholders, particularly vulnerable groups, have the tools to develop resilience strategies and contribute to local-level violence prevention and justice efforts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Truth & Reconciliation Forum active in all 25 districts • Village-level programs (Village Solidarity Forums) created to address co-existence and reconciliation at a grassroots level across 13 districts (56 total) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported the creation of a national civil society network (Truth & Reconciliation Forum) across ethnic and religious divides, to advance local-level transitional justice and violence prevention activities, and to engage with government bodies. • Built the capacity of civil society and state transitional justice bodies • A local Sri Lankan partner’s documentation report informed the June 2021 European Parliament resolution on Sri Lanka • Risk and resilience security training to partners permitted them to continue working despite a challenging political environment • Evolved from supporting a formal Transitional Justice process to prioritizing atrocity prevention and social cohesion in response to the changing political environment, including at grassroots level • Rapid response documentation mechanism developed to observe, document and report on current and ongoing violence and human rights violations

DAC Criteria			
Scale / Criterion	Victims / Affected Populations	CSOs	States
Relevance	3	3	1
Coherence	3	3	1
Efficiency	2	2	2
Effectiveness	3	3	2
Sustainability	2	3	1

Country-Based, Flagship and Multi-Phase Projects

Project	Project Outputs and Outcomes	
	Quantitative	Qualitative
<p>Amplifying Survivor Voices in the Transitional Justice Process in Sudan: Phases 1-4</p> <p>GIJTR has worked with a core group of 20 grassroots organizations throughout Sudan, providing training and supporting community projects. As the situation evolved politically, GIJTR focused on supporting the documentation of ongoing violations in light of the current conflict and bolstering the MHPSS referral network.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 30 local organizations have been engaged with the program since 2020 • Seventeen organizations have been involved in documentation missions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created a coalition of CSOs working with GIJTR and provided them with knowledge in transitional justice, documentation and MHPSS support that has deepened their work in specific aspects of transitional justice • Strengthened capacity for systematic gathering of evidence of past and ongoing violations and facilitated database storage of the data • Documentation activities contributed to information/evidence preservation that can be used for legal redress/accountability/truth-telling processes. • Long standing relationships with partners and the technical, structural and financial support allowed continuity across the time of the coup • Upon outbreak of conflict, project has pivoted to documentation of human rights violations committed in the context of the war, as many partners have been forced into exile
<p>Middle East and North Africa Transitional Justice Academy: Phases 1-3</p> <p>The MENA TJ Academy provides activists, academics, practitioners, survivors and other non-traditional actors with the skills and funds to design and implement transitional justice programs in local communities across the region. The goal was to increase awareness of these processes among the public, and ensure their voices are included in them.</p>	<p>Completed three phases of MENA TJ Academy, totaling 47 participants from ?? contexts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadened participants’ knowledge of transitional justice tools, created a peer-learning network and encouraged community participation in defining transitional justice options based on local needs. • Developed a multidisciplinary curriculum on transitional justice mechanisms • Refined an effective training and exchange program model • Built a recognized regional network of transitional justice practitioners • Small projects both enhanced learning and had concrete impacts in their contexts

Thematic Focus / Rapid Response Projects

Project	Project Outputs and Outcomes	
	Quantitative	Qualitative
<p>Strengthening Religious and Faith-based Actors' Engagement with Transitional Justice</p> <p>The project sought to construct a nuanced and contextually adaptable contribution to the understanding of religious and faith-based actors (RFBA) role and their potential contributions to transitional justice. Design of the project was based on research on the extent to which they can strengthen transitional justice processes and how best practitioners should engage such actors in formal or non-formal roles in transitional justice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project webpage had 127 unique visitors • Over 400 clicks to links / downloads of materials from the project webpage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressed an important gap in research on the role played by faith-based actors in transitional justice: defined the role of RFBA in transitional justice • Six case studies conducted to analyze faith-based actors' engagement with transitional justice processes • Contextually adaptable, first-of-its kind assessment tool produced for transition justice stakeholders to determine how RFBA's participation could undermine or add legitimacy to transition justice processes: considered extremely useful to assess how RFBA can strengthen transition justice processes

DAC Criteria

Scale / Criterion	Victims / Affected Populations	CSOs	States
Relevance	3	3	3
Effectiveness	3	3	3
Sustainability	3	3	3

Thematic Focus / Rapid Response Projects

Project	Project Outputs and Outcomes	
	Quantitative	Qualitative
<p>Forced Migration and Transitional Justice: Phases 1-2</p> <p>This project aimed at integrating forced migration as a focus area in transitional justice and addressing the role of stakeholders working at the nexus of transitional justice and forced migration. Local partners and displaced communities led the development of guidelines and practical tools for those working with refugees, individual developmental plans (IDPs) and asylum seekers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project webpage had 230 unique visitors • Over 800 clicks to links / downloads of materials from the project webpage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toolkit produced, from partners' experience, that can steer global engagement with migrants and transitional justice • Added to the core experience of project partners, in terms of integrating work with forced migrants into transitional justice • Brought organizations working with displaced groups, from four different contexts together

Thematic Focus / Rapid Response Projects

Project	Project Outputs and Outcomes	
	Quantitative	Qualitative
<p>Centering Young Activist Voices in Atrocity Prevention: Phases 1-2</p> <p>The goal of this project was to center youth voices in atrocity prevention efforts by building their capacities as active agents of peace and security in their communities. In addition, the project drew on their expertise to develop youth-driven strategies for youth engagement in atrocity prevention efforts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Phase One cohort of activists engaged over 150 direct beneficiaries and over 150,000 people across all social media platforms through their projects • In Phase Two, 3,000 individuals were directly and indirectly engaged through small projects that participants implemented • Project webpage had 165 unique visitors • Over 500 clicks to links / downloads of materials from the project webpage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interrogated – for the first time - the linkages between transitional justice and atrocity prevention: • These findings are summarized in a toolkit and have informed other GIJTR programming • Built the capacity of young activists to engage in atrocity prevention efforts • Recognized the preventative potential of social media and information communication technologies in times of heightened tension
<p>Mapping Commemorative Cultures, Best Practices and Lessons Learned</p> <p>This project compares experiences from contexts around the ways in past conflicts and atrocities, as well as peace treaties and truces, have been commemorated in state narratives versus alternative victim-survivor narratives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project webpage received over 1,000 unique visitors • Over 3,000 clicks to links / downloads of materials from the project webpage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collected and mapped global best practice on commemoration, to ensure that GIJTR's local partners and any interested actor can benefit from this experience • The paper produced by the project has been widely downloaded
<p>Supporting CSOs in Digital Archiving: Phases 1-2</p> <p>This project aids civil society actors in creating and utilizing digital archives to support transitional justice mechanisms and advance the broader goals of truth-telling, justice and accountability, memorialization and non-recurrence. The ultimate aim is a comprehensive, illustrated manual on digital archiving that will highlight practical examples and best practices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eighty-three individuals from over 60 organizations registered for virtual exchange, which featured simultaneous interpretation in Arabic, English, French and Spanish • Project webpage received over 950 unique visitors • Over 3,000 clicks to links / downloads of materials from the project webpage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaps in existing resources on digital archiving were identified and digital archiving needs of CSOs and other key stakeholders assessed • Existing knowledge on digital archiving has been expanded by identifying current best practices • A virtual resource on digital archiving has been created • Virtual exchange held on supporting CSOs in digital archiving

Thematic Focus / Rapid Response Projects

Project	Project Outputs and Outcomes	
	Quantitative	Qualitative
<p>Enhancing Sustainability of CSO Digital Archives: Promoting the Work of Civil Society Organizations Involved in Digital Archiving Projects (A follow-up to the previous project)</p> <p>A project to further develop the reach and impact and the added value of promoting the work of organizations involved in digital archiving networks. The project aims to contribute to the sustainability of CSOs' work in digital archiving,</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided an online Wiki manual to support an informal network of CSOs engaged in digital archiving • Held an international roundtable of CSOs and created a series of support videos on digital archiving to build the capacity of CSOs to promote community-based documentation programs and develop digital archive projects
<p>Engaging Indigenous Communities in Transitional Justice Processes: Phases 1-2</p> <p>The project sought to examine ways of engaging Indigenous communities in transitional justice processes rooted in traditional cultures and practices of Indigenous communities across the world. The project explored ways in which these Indigenous communities could advocate for truth, justice and reconciliation processes based on violations that they have suffered and produced a widely shared report.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created multiple case studies: 12 in Africa, 4 in Asia-Pacific, and 8 in Latin America, • There were 56 participants from Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America who took part in two roundtables on best practices and lessons learned 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comparative study produced that examines the approaches and responses to transitional justice processes in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America that incorporated mechanisms to engage Indigenous communities, offering reference and analytical documents in an area where information is scarce • Regional reports produced for Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America about engaging Indigenous communities in transitional justice processes • Results, findings and recommendations have been widely shared across the globe.

Thematic Focus / Rapid Response Projects

Project	Project Outputs and Outcomes	
	Quantitative	Qualitative
<p>Media & Transitional Justice Academy</p> <p>This project built the capacity of journalists and media personnel to support transitional justice and atrocity prevention efforts in conflict and post-conflict contexts. The academy offered a holistic training program for journalists from multiple contexts and produced guidelines for media workers.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built the capacity of journalists and media personnel on the role of journalism in relation to remembrance, justice, truth-telling and social cohesion • Supported a diverse cohort of journalists, through targeted trainings and sub-grants, to pilot innovative media projects • Encouraged exchange and learning between journalists from different regions on best practices in relation to sharing survivors’ stories and monitoring transitional justice processes
<p>The Roles and Responsibilities of Private Sector Actors in Transitional Justice Processes: Phases 1-2</p> <p>This project sought to better understand the role of the private sector in transitional justice, through an interregional workshop and a set of case studies on multiple continents. It produced a briefing paper collecting these experiences as a practical guide for future action.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This project initiated broader interest in private sector actors in transitional justice: Consortium Partners and publications resulting from this project triggered wide interest in the sector. Others were very interested in learning from the methodology GIJTR developed, including in analyzing litigation taking place in Latin America and elsewhere • The UN Special Rapporteur on transitional justice is now working on a report on the topic, at least partly due to this project • The project developed 10 case studies involving emblematic litigation focused on the role of the private sector in transitional justice contexts in Africa and Latin America. • A virtual roundtable and training was held and 10 community projects initiated in Africa and Latin America • A webinar series was held to disseminate community projects and launch a summary report

Thematic Focus / Rapid Response Projects

Project	Project Outputs and Outcomes	
	Quantitative	Qualitative
<p>Enhancing The Synergy Between Transitional Justice and Constitution-Drafting</p> <p>A project to establish robust, implementable transitional justice and constitutional frameworks that are responsive to the needs of the affected society. In particular the project focused on victims' perspectives, through research at the intersection between transitional justice and post-conflict constitutions. The goal was designing a framework for best practices and a menu of options for stakeholders engaging in these processes.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created practical guidance on the incorporation of transitional justice as a key aspect of peace processes, specifically post-conflict constitution drafting or reform processes • Evaluated previous post-conflict and post-authoritarianism constitution-drafting processes and transitional justice processes, using both secondary sources and case studies, to identify learnings and shortcomings • Brought together 31 experts in past or ongoing constitutional-drafting and transitional justice processes to exchange lessons learned from their experiences within these processes • Created the resources and the tools, and enhanced the knowledge of partner staff, to enable GIJTR to respond to needs for support incorporating transitional justice into constitution drafting
<p>Victim-centered Approach to Transitional Justice</p> <p>A project designed to aid civil society actors who work directly with victims by providing training to further their current skills and exchange to learn and connect with CSOs working in different contexts. The project produced a guidebook on a victim-centered approach to transitional justice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project webpage received almost 400 unique visitors • Almost 1,300 clicks to links / downloads of materials from the project webpage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produced a practical manual titled: Guidebook on a Victim-Centered Approach to Transitional Justice based on seven global case studies and offering a range of practical strategies and recommendations for working with victims • Enabled discussion among global proponents of a victim-centered approach to transitional justice in two separate roundtables to share lessons learned • The guidebook has been widely disseminated and used as resource for subsequent GIJTR projects

Thematic Focus / Rapid Response Projects

Project	Project Outputs and Outcomes	
	Quantitative	Qualitative
<p>Support to the Gambian Justice Sector to Pursue Justice and Accountability</p> <p>This project provided technical support to the Gambian Ministry of Justice to implement the accountability-linked recommendations of the TRRC, and to build the expertise of the judiciary to effectively handle cases on international crimes.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aided drafting of the white paper on the TRRC report, (which accepted 95% of the Commission’s recommendations) and the Reparations Bill • Enhanced the technical capacity of the Ministry of Justice to fulfill its justice and accountability mandate in the post-TRRC period • Built the expertise of the judiciary to handle international crimes • Technical assistance to develop a prosecution strategy for the government based on the TRRC report
<p>Strengthening civil society participation in the implementation of the Mexican Truth Commission</p> <p>A project to target Mexican CSOs with focused trainings, specialized workgroups and local projects supported by small grants and technical assistance from GIJTR’s partners, to provide the Truth Commission and Mexican CSOs with valuable tools and materials to develop a more comprehensive and robust participatory process.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mexican CSOs have been supported to prepare documentation to inform the Truth Commission’s research process • The Truth Commission research team has increased its capacity to collect and center documentation from CSOs and institutions • CSOs have increased their capacities to continue memorialization and documentation efforts beyond the mandate of the Truth Commission. • The development of a comprehensive law of memory for Mexico has been informed by an analysis of the role and methods of participatory memorialization and documentation in transitional justice processes

Thematic Focus / Rapid Response Projects

Project	Project Outputs and Outcomes		
	Quantitative	Qualitative	
<p>African Youth Transitional Justice Academy</p> <p>The African Youth Transitional Justice Academy (AYTJA) brought together ten young civil society activists working with youth in Africa with the goal of increasing their capacity to undertake interventions to advance justice, truth and reconciliation in their contexts. The AYTJA delivered to participants a multidisciplinary curriculum that leveraged the broad experience of GIJTR’s partners</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ten young civil society activists working with youth in Africa were exposed to a multidisciplinary curriculum over two workshops that leveraged the broad experience of GIJTR’s partners and supported this with expert mentoring and a small project that participants implemented in their own countries • The AYTJA exceeded its objectives, with participants learning not only from facilitators but from each other, seeing the workshops as “an expertise exchange” • The AYTJA has established new networks among participants in general. Additionally, it has established networks between participants and GIJTR partners, that can serve to support their work in the future • Young participants have visible potential to impact the search for justice and reconciliation in their countries 	
DAC Criteria			
Scale / Criterion	Victims / Affected Populations	CSOs	States
Relevance	3	3	2
Effectiveness	3	3	2
Sustainability	2	3	2

Thematic Focus / Rapid Response Projects

Project	Project Outputs and Outcomes		
	Quantitative	Qualitative	
<p>Understanding and Addressing Violations of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Transitional Justice</p> <p>This project aimed to promote the inclusion and integration of violations of economic, social and cultural rights in transitional justice processes, using a case study approach. It produced an assessment tool for understanding and addressing violations of ESC rights.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed a toolkit for mainstreaming transitional justice interventions for addressing the unique needs of women victims of CRSV, to serve as a best practice model for practitioners and transitional justice mechanisms • Expanded the knowledge base on issues around reintegration of female survivors of CRSV on the basis of five case studies covering Bosnia, Cambodia, Herzegovina, Rwanda, Timor Leste, and Uganda, secondary research and a four-day virtual roundtable 	
DAC Criteria			
Scale / Criterion	Victims / Affected Populations	CSOs	States
Relevance	3	3	3
Effectiveness	3	3	3
Sustainability	3	3	2
<p>Global Reparations Summit: Phase 1-2</p> <p>An effort to evaluate the international framework for reparations for victims of gross human rights violations and its impact on implemented reparation programs. The project assessed the successes and challenges of such programs as well as identifying opportunities and strategies for enhancing existing reparation programs, and ways in which the international framework can be improved.</p>	<p>Global Reparations Summit held in Belgrade, Serbia, with more than 100 participants from more than 30 countries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiated first-time gathering of victims’ representatives from all over the world to discuss the state of reparations more than 10 years since the adoption of the UN Basic Principles. • Provided first comprehensive feedback on the application and effects of adoption of Basic Principles, on the basis of a set of global case studies • Evaluated the international framework for reparations for victims of gross human rights violations and its impact, if any, on implemented reparation programs 	

Thematic Focus / Rapid Response Projects

Project	Project Outputs and Outcomes	
	Quantitative	Qualitative
<p>Assessment Mission to Address Mass Graves Situation in Eastern Ukraine</p> <p>A rapid response project to secure and investigate a mass grave in eastern Ukraine. An expert assessment team visited the site.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An expert assessment was made as a rapid response to secure and document mass graves left by Russian forces in 2014 as they retreated from previously occupied Ukrainian territory, working with Ukrainian authorities, international organizations and civil society • The assessment produced a first report on the challenges of linking persons known to be missing to gravesites and the capacities of Ukrainian authorities to address the issue • It was confirmed that these graves were not linked to the armed conflict • Recommendations were made concerning the capacity of the Ukrainian authorities and a need for centralized data collection
<p>Transitional Justice Tools to Address Radicalism and Violent Extremism</p> <p>This project aimed to examine how transitional justice tools can be harnessed to address aspects of the threat of violent extremism across three regions (Africa, Asia and the Balkan region). GIJTR’s partners conducted participatory research within affected communities and explored the utility of non-securitized, transitional justice-based tools to address radicalization and violent extremism.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produced six ground-breaking case studies that identify the root causes of violent extremism and highlight transitional justice tools that communities are using to address this threat, representing one of the first empirical studies of links between violent extremism and transitional justice. • Generated data exploring the utility of non-securitized, transitional justice-based tools to address radicalization and violent extremism • Explored existing best practices in communities and civil society, and raised awareness of existing and new tools drawn from transitional justice processes, that can address the threat of radicalization and violent extremism

Thematic Focus / Rapid Response Projects

Project	Project Outputs and Outcomes	
	Quantitative	Qualitative
<p>Ensuring Accountability for International Crimes and Grave Human Rights Abuses Committed by the Russian Armed Forces and its Proxies on the Territory of Ukraine</p> <p>A project to promote coordinated civil society action to investigate, document and ensure accountability for international crimes and gross human rights abuses perpetrated during Russia’s ongoing aggressive war in Ukraine, including with respect to conflict-related sexual violence and to enhance civil society capacity in this regard.</p>	<p>Lawyers and documenters that participated in GIJTR training demonstrated an average improvement of 15% in their ability to document international crimes effectively.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoted coordinated civil society action to investigate, document and ensure accountability for international crimes and gross human rights abuses perpetrated during Russia’s ongoing aggressive war in Ukraine and pioneered the civil society led collection of data concerning international crimes in ongoing conflict • Partners have coordinated their work with the Ukrainian state and established a relationship with the Ukrainian prosecutor general’s office and others. • Partners provide an alternative to international processes to Ukrainian civil society and the Ukrainian government for engagement with witnesses.
<p>Truth Telling Through Digital Narratives</p> <p>This project supported digital memory activism to establish alternative platforms for dealing with systematic human rights violations and ensure that human rights documentation actively informs the public’s understanding of the past rather than remaining tucked away in NGO archives. This project provided the broader public with tools and resources to tackle public discourse and empower critical parts of society to take the lead in alternative dealing with the past and reconciliation processes.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created a methodology for sharing civil society archives as accessible and appealing interactive online presentations. • Encouraged sharing of approaches to digital narratives across eight CSOs in a range of contexts • Practical guidelines prepared on digital narratives in a transitional justice context prepared in the form of a toolkit, based on CSO experience during the project.

Thematic Focus / Rapid Response Projects

Project	Project Outputs and Outcomes	
	Quantitative	Qualitative
<p>Advancing a Holistic Approach to Justice and Accountability for CRSV Survivors</p> <p>A project to CRSV survivors’ access to justice and accountability and encourage the development of holistic programs that address survivors’ diverse needs for truth, individual and collective reparations, healing and solidarity throughout legal accountability processes.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assembled a CRSV justice and accountability assessment team, composed of experts from diverse geographic and professional backgrounds • Produced a standard assessment tool that can be used in the aftermath of CRSV. The tool can evaluate gaps and opportunities specifically in relation to justice and accountability and support CSOs and survivor networks to develop or expand innovative programs supporting survivors.
<p>Curriculum Reform and Transitional Justice</p> <p>A project to examine the ways in which curriculum reform can contribute to breaking cross-generational cycles of trauma and cultures of violence while contributing to durable peace and social cohesion, through the development of context-specific case studies and a global, virtual exchange. The research culminated in the development of a paper on key findings and recommendations on curriculum reform and transitional justice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project webpage received 110 unique visitors • Almost 360 clicks to links / downloads of materials from the project webpage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of 20 context-specific case studies to share strategies to shift curricula away from divisive narratives that encourage hatred and the silencing of survivors. Seeks more inclusive, nuanced approaches to the examination of past human rights violations • A global, virtual exchange to share experience on curriculum reform and transitional justice • Publication of a paper sharing the 20 case studies and making recommendations for curriculum reform

Thematic Focus / Rapid Response Projects

Project	Project Outputs and Outcomes	
	Quantitative	Qualitative
<p>Peace Processes and Transitional Justice</p> <p>A project designed to research the lack of linkages between peace processes and transitional justice, and design a framework for best practices as well as a menu of options for stakeholders to a peace process. The project aims to improve the ability of peace processes to establish robust, implementable transitional justice frameworks that are responsive to the needs of the conflict-affected society, particularly victims who are female and other marginalized perspectives.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learned from previous peace processes in an effort to strengthen future processes, and encouraged sharing of lessons across regions for their relevance to transitional justice processes • Practical guidance prepared on opportunities for the incorporation of transitional justice as a key aspect of a peace process, including a menu of options for transitional justice provisions • Enhanced stakeholders' understanding and ability to integrate victim-centered transitional justice into a peace process through a workshop with 27 attendees
<p>Victims' Participation in Hybrid War Crimes Tribunals</p> <p>This project sought to evaluate and identify key concerns and needs of victims and victim representatives in hybrid tribunals and produce guidelines on best practices. The project convened relevant stakeholders at a global workshop to strengthen victims' participation and civil society-court cooperation.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened capacities of CSOs to participate in the process of establishing hybrid criminal tribunals for war crimes in four contexts • Developed guidelines for strengthening victims' participation in hybrid courts in terms of national and international policies, based on the experience of CSOs in these contexts

Thematic Focus / Rapid Response Projects

Project	Project Outputs and Outcomes		
	Quantitative	Qualitative	
<p>Strengthening Capacity for Education on Mass Atrocity</p> <p>The project sought to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of participating educational organizations in terms of context-specific public education on history, mass atrocities and violence prevention. Educators were exposed to new methodologies and tools, and then developed and implemented their own individual projects which were then expanded through the educators' work in each country.</p>	<p>Participants included 95 educators from across three contexts (Cambodia, Guatemala and Timor-Leste)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased participants' capacities around education on mass atrocities—including new teaching methods • Provided educators with spaces for cooperation and exchanges of best practices through two international workshops • Produced replicable education tools and practices, with participants who are now confident that they can teach history more effectively • In Cambodia, the publication will also be used by state partners as supplementary educational material for teaching the Khmer Rouge history. 	
DAC Criteria			
Scale / Criterion	Victims / Affected Populations	CSOs	States
Relevance	3	3	3
Effectiveness	3	3	3
Sustainability	3	3	3
<p>Best Practices of Non-judicial Search Mechanisms in Asia and Latin America Project</p> <p>A structured research project in multiple contexts to investigate the structure and functions of existing state-led mechanisms that search for people disappeared in contexts of past political violence. The project produced a detailed report outlining respective responses.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience and best practices exchanged among search commissions in Asia and Latin America, with civil society and experts from the former Yugoslavia • Research document compiling lessons learned, best practices, and recommendations for search mechanisms disseminated • Advocacy made with the Inter American Commission and Human Rights hearing on search mechanisms in Latin America and brought the research to the attention of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of non-Recurrence 	

DAC Criteria			
Scale / Criterion	Victims / Affected Populations	CSOs	States
Relevance	3	3	3
Effectiveness	2	2	2
Sustainability	n/a	n/a	n/a

Thematic Focus / Rapid Response Projects

Project	Project Outputs and Outcomes	
	Quantitative	Qualitative
<p>Reintegration and Transitional Justice Rapid Response Project</p> <p>A research project to promote greater recognition of the unique societal reintegration needs of survivors of CSRV and children born of war and highlight the importance of addressing the needs of these survivors within formal transitional justice processes and grassroots, community-based reintegration initiatives. A toolkit or practitioners in the field summarizes lessons learned.</p>	<p>A social media campaign to disseminate the project's outputs reached 175,000 users with 2,500 involved in direct interactions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed a toolkit for mainstreaming transitional justice interventions for addressing the unique needs of women victims of CRSV, to serve as a best practice model for practitioners and transitional justice mechanisms Expanded the knowledge base on issues around reintegration of female survivors of CRSV on the basis of five case studies covering Bosnia, Cambodia, Herzegovina, Rwanda, Timor Leste, and Uganda, secondary research and a four-day virtual roundtable

DAC Criteria			
Scale / Criterion	Victims / Affected Populations	CSOs	States
Relevance	3	3	3
Effectiveness	3	3	3
Sustainability	n/a	n/a	n/a

Thematic Focus / Rapid Response Projects

Project	Project Outputs and Outcomes	
	Quantitative	Qualitative
<p>Survey of Perceptions of Transitional justice in Ethiopia</p> <p>A survey on the ground to gather respondents’ experiences during the conflict, and their perceptions of potential peacebuilding and atrocity prevention mechanisms, with a goal of understanding perceptions around the core pillars of transitional justice. The findings will help inform policy and programming to promote peace and atrocity prevention efforts in Ethiopia, as well as transitional justice efforts.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The survey represents a first comprehensive effort since the Tigray conflict to understand what Ethiopians want from a transitional justice process • GIJTR/PAPDA/HHI team worked alongside the transitional justice working group of experts to ensure that the survey complemented their own consultations and also supported the TJWGE’s own analysis and data management • PAPDA/HHI has presented the data to key actors in the context, feeding directly into policy discussions with British, Canadian, Ethiopian and US governments. • Results have been presented widely.
<p>Building a Learning Community: Sharing Models and Lessons Learned from the Global Initiative for Justice, Truth and Reconciliation</p> <p>This project reflects the GIJTR’s emphasis on learning and the resulting publication targeted practitioners, policymakers and academics working in conflict and post-conflict contexts. It aims to highlight new and innovative approaches in the transitional justice field, as well as examining the short-term impact of the GIJTR’s work.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This publication targeted practitioners, policymakers and academics to highlight new and innovative approaches in the transitional justice field being pioneered by GIJTR, as well as to share its project models and examine the short-term impact of the its work. • In Colombia, CSO participants valued the project as a timely initiative with high potential for overseeing early implementation of transitional justice mechanisms. Several state institutions were interested in receiving feedback from a multidisciplinary expert group, and many hoped that recommendations could help develop more effective instruments. • The manual provided external audiences with important information about the value and utility of the GIJTR model and gave its partners time and space to reflect on the work. • The manual has been referenced in a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) South Sudan transitional justice study.

Thematic Focus / Rapid Response Projects

Project	Project Outputs and Outcomes	
	Quantitative	Qualitative
<p>Emergency Mental Health for Survivors of Torture and Gross Human Rights Violations</p> <p>A rapid response collaboration with The Center for Victims of Torture (CVT) for the emergency mobilization and provision of MHPSS for survivors of torture and other gross human rights violations.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survivors oriented to CVT services and provided with basic psychoeducation and emergency mental health resources Survivors screened and additional support services provided as needed and robust referrals ensured
<p>Red Line Initiative: Production of Accessibility Features of their Guidebook and Website</p> <p>Created a guidebook that compiled applicable international law and standards relevant to CRSV as a comprehensive resource, in collaboration with the Red Line Initiative launched by the Mukwege Foundation.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created an online guidebook which compiles all the applicable international law and standards relevant to CRSV as a comprehensive resource through a user-friendly website Compilation of the guidebook was supported by networks of survivors Guidebook launched in Geneva and New York

Promoting Women's Leadership in Peacebuilding and Development

A project to bring women from Forested Guinea together to exchange experiences related to violence prevention and development. Goals included increased understanding of transitional justice, analysis of obstacles, concrete proposals to advance gender justice and attention of authorities regarding women's will and capacity to contribute to sustainable development, transitional justice and social cohesion within Guinea.

Twenty-seven women and girls from the nine communities living in the town of N'Zérékoré were brought together to promote the full participation of women in sustainable development, peacebuilding, transitional justice and violence prevention

- Local partner met local authorities to build institutional support
- Two capacity-building workshops organized with 27 peace actors and nine community leaders to develop training modules and peace message
- Advocacy carried out in the community and a peace march held
- A women's leadership fair and a gala event, both held to promote women's leadership

ANNEX 3: GIJTR Consortium Partners

American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI), United States. ABA ROLI promotes justice, economic opportunity and human dignity through the rule of law. It partners with justice sector actors in more than 50 countries to strengthen legal institutions and support legal professionals; to foster respect for human rights and access to justice; to support transitional justice and peacebuilding; and to advance inclusive and sustainable economic development.



Asia Justice and Rights (AJAR), Indonesia. AJAR works to strengthen accountability and human rights in the Asia-Pacific region. Focusing on countries involved in transition from a context of mass human rights violations to democracy, AJAR strives to build cultures based on accountability, justice and a willingness to learn from the root causes of mass human rights violations.



Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR), South Africa. Founded in 1989, CSVR aims to understand and prevent root causes of violence in all its forms and address its consequences in order to build sustainable peace and reconciliation in South Africa and across the African continent. CSVR's work addresses a wide range of forms of violence and conflict—past and present—including criminal, political, collective, and domestic and gender violence, as well as violence against children.



Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam), Cambodia. DC-Cam is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to documenting the genocide undertaken by the Khmer Rouge regime. DC-Cam preserves materials in support of those seeking accountability and undertakes transitional justice activities throughout Cambodia. Specifically, it has taken a lead role in supplying the ECCC with evidentiary documents and testimonial accounts of survivors of the Khmer Rouge era.



Due Process of Law Foundation (DPLF), United States. DPLF is a regional organization based in Washington, D.C., composed of a multinational group of professionals whose mandate is to promote the rule of law and respect for human rights in Latin America. DPLF’s work focuses on strengthening judicial independence, the fight against impunity and respect for fundamental rights in the context of natural resources extraction, as these are some of the most challenging issues today for the region’s national justice systems.



Forensic Anthropology Foundation of Guatemala (FAFG), Guatemala. FAFG applies forensic scientific methodologies to investigations into the circumstances, whereabouts and identity of missing and disappeared persons to provide truth to victims and their families, assist in the search for justice and redress and strengthen the rule of law. FAFG carries out investigations using a victim-centered, locally based approach in areas such as transitional justice, missing migrants, disaster victim identification and citizen security.



Humanitarian Law Center (HLC), Serbia. HLC has been documenting war crimes and human rights violations committed during the former Yugoslavia conflicts since 1992, and today, is the largest documentation center of crimes committed during these wars. HLC’s War Crimes and Past Human Rights Violations Database preserves over 100,000 digitalized sources, documentation that has been used by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and courts in the region in numerous cases.



International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC), United States. ICSC is the only worldwide network dedicated to transforming places that preserve the past into spaces that promote civic action. With more than 350 Sites of Conscience in 65 countries, ICSC engages tens of millions of people every year in using the lessons of history to take action on challenges to democracy and human rights today.



Public International Law & Policy Group (PILPG), United States. PILPG, a 2005 Nobel Peace Prize nominee, is a global pro bono law firm providing legal assistance to governments, sub-state entities and civil society groups worldwide on peace negotiations, post-conflict constitution drafting and transitional justice. To facilitate the utilization of this legal assistance, PILPG also provides policy formulation advice and training on matters related to conflict resolution.



ANNEX 4: GIJTR Programmatic Approaches

GIJTR's Theory of Change (ToC) emphasizes that change is driven through the following approaches, which summarize the orientation of its work as contextualized, relevant and people-driven, in contrast to prescriptive, top-down and normatively steered transitional justice programming that has defined much of the sector. In the absence of any formal GIJTR understating of how these concepts are interpreted, these definitions have been developed as a part of the study.

Victim-centered. Prioritizes and supports the individual and collective needs, perspectives, empowerment, respect and security of victims throughout the program life cycle to ensure the program's accountability to victims and survivors. Transitional justice programming is victim-centered when program funders and implementers prioritize the individual and collective interests of different groups of victims and survivors. Programmatic decisions should be accountable to victims and survivors, and driven and shaped by their perspectives and needs at every stage. This includes needs assessment, design, activity planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and feedback. Programming should intentionally provide opportunities and tools for victims to meaningfully engage, to the degree and in the ways they choose. Resilience, skill-building and empowerment should be emphasized. Trauma-informed approaches should be employed to prioritize victims' and survivors' active and informed consent, privacy and agency as well as their physical and emotional safety. The outcomes ought to reflect the priorities and needs of victim and survivors.³⁷

Context-informed. Recognizes the importance of understanding the unique historical, social, political and cultural context of a particular society when designing and implementing programs. Acknowledges that each society has its own specific dynamics and challenges, and rejects prescription, emphasizing the need to understand and address the underlying causes and dynamics of conflict or repression. A context-informed approach demands comprehensive analysis, stakeholder engagement, local ownership, flexibility and adaptability and a holistic approach.

Locally Driven. Prioritizes local interest and needs as central to program approaches, activities and outcomes to promote local ownership and sustainability over transitional justice processes. Locally owned programming is centered around the input, needs and priorities of local actors. This includes victims, survivors, civil society, community members, media and government officials, among others. Local actors drive the program design, implementation, and outcomes through co-creation, regular channels for feedback and input at all stages of implementation, and by being at the forefront of transitional justice initiatives. This approach places local participation, authority and power at its core.

Non-prescriptive. Recognizes the importance of flexibility and the tailoring of programmatic approaches to the specific needs and context of a society. It emphasizes the need for local ownership, participation and the adaptation of program processes to the unique circumstances of each society. As such, it resonates with a *context-informed* approach (above).

Gender-responsive. Includes specific action to try and reduce gender inequalities within communities, acknowledging the position of women in particular.³⁸ Programming is designed and adapted to meet the different and specific needs of both men and women as they arise during the course of the project. In transitional justice programming this can include both inequality in access to or inclusion in relevant mechanisms and processes, as well as addressing broader gender-based inequity and exclusion.

Trauma-informed. Recognizes signs of trauma and responds by integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, practices and settings. Such an approach to legacies of violence integrates emotional wellbeing of all people involved, including survivors and those working with them, into all approaches and maintains a consistent integration of trauma awareness and trauma-informed care throughout the engagement.

ANNEX 5: Respondents Interviewed for the Impact Study

For information about those who were interviewed for this impact study, please reach out to: gijtr@sitesofconscience.org.

Affiliation	Date of Interview
International Partners	
PILPG	Aug. 8, 2023
AJAR	Aug.7, 2023
ICSC	Aug. 6, 2023
PILPG	
DRL/ Formerly PILPG	
PILPG/ICSC Consultant	Sept, 5, 2023
HLC	Sept, 11, 2023
FAFG	
CSVR	Sept. 27, 2023
CSVR	Nov.6, 2023
Formerly CSVR	Oct. 11, 2023
Sites	Oct. 4, 2023
Sites	
Sites	Oct. 13, 2023
Sites	Nov. 2, 2023
Sites / Migration & TJ	Oct. 10, 2023
DPLF	Sept. 10, 2023

ABA ROLI	
Formerly ABA ROLI	Sept. 27, 2023
PILPG	
ABA ROLA	Oct. 24, 2023
Formerly ABA ROLI	Sept. 28, 2023
Local Partners	
ISD, Sri Lanka,	Sept. 28, 2023
Guinea	
Historias en Kilometros, Colombia	Oct. 2023
South Sudan	
ROWL, South Sudan	Sept. 22, 2023
The Balkan Investigative Reporting Network Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH – BIRN, Bosnia)	Oct. 2023
WILL / Gambia	
HHI	
SAVE	Sept 2023
SAVE	Oct. 4 2023
South Sudanese Coimmunity Based Organisation (SSCBO, South Sudan)	Oct. 6, 2023
Others	
DRL	Sept. 20, 2023
DRL	Sept. 23, 2023
Member of the Africa Transitional Justice Network and lecturer, Kofi Annan Institute for Conflict Transformation, University of Liberia	Oct. 18, 2023
GSN	Oct. 24, 2023
Executive Director, Foundation for Human Rights	Oct. 19, 2023

ANNEX 6: Survey for GIJTR Local and International Partners

GIJTR Impact survey - test2

1. Do you work with a GIJTR Consortium (i.e. one of the 9 international partners) partner or a local, country-based partner?

Consortium partner
 Local partner

2. Which context(s) or theme(s) do you work in with GIJTR? e.g. 'The Gambia', 'Africa', 'Reparation'.

3. How would you grade the impact GIJTR projects had in each of these categories, for these three types of stakeholders, where impact is graded from 1 to 3:
1 - little or no impact
2 - some / moderate impact
3 - significant impact

	Victims and affected populations	CSOs	State authorities
Relevance: The extent to which the project objectives and design respond to needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coherence: The extent to which the project supports other interventions and vice versa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Efficiency: The extent to which the project delivers results in an economic and timely way.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effectiveness: The extent to which the project achieved its objectives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustainability: The extent to which the net benefits of the project continue or are likely to continue.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Please grade the extent to which GIJTR used each of the following approaches

	Did not use this approach	Used this approach to some extent	Significantly used this approach
Victim-centered: Prioritize and support the needs,	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

GIJTR Impact survey - test2

1. Do you work with a GIJTR Consortium (i.e. one of the 9 international partners) partner or a local, country-based partner?

Consortium partner
 Local partner

2. Which context(s) or theme(s) do you work in with GIJTR? e.g. 'The Gambia', 'Africa', 'Reparation'.

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	Victims and affected populations	CSOs	State authorities
Relevance: The extent to which the project objectives and design respond to needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coherence: The extent to which the project supports other interventions and vice versa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Efficiency: The extent to which the project delivers results in an economic and timely way.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effectiveness: The extent to which the project achieved its objectives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustainability: The extent to which the net benefits of the project continue or are likely to continue.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Please grade the extent to which GIJTR used each of the following approaches

	Did not use this approach	Used this approach to some extent	Significantly used this approach
Victim-centered: Prioritize and support the needs,	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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	Victims and affected populations	CSOs	State authorities
Relevance: The extent to which the project objectives and design respond to needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coherence: The extent to which the project supports other interventions and vice versa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Efficiency: The extent to which the project delivers results in an economic and timely way.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effectiveness: The extent to which the project achieved its objectives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustainability: The extent to which the net benefits of the project continue or are likely to continue.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Please grade the extent to which GIJTR used each of the following approaches

	Did not use this approach	Used this approach to some extent	Significantly used this approach
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GIJTR Impact survey - test2

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Relevance: The extent to which the project objectives and design respond to needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coherence: The extent to which the project supports other interventions and vice versa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Victim-centered: Prioritize and support the needs,	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

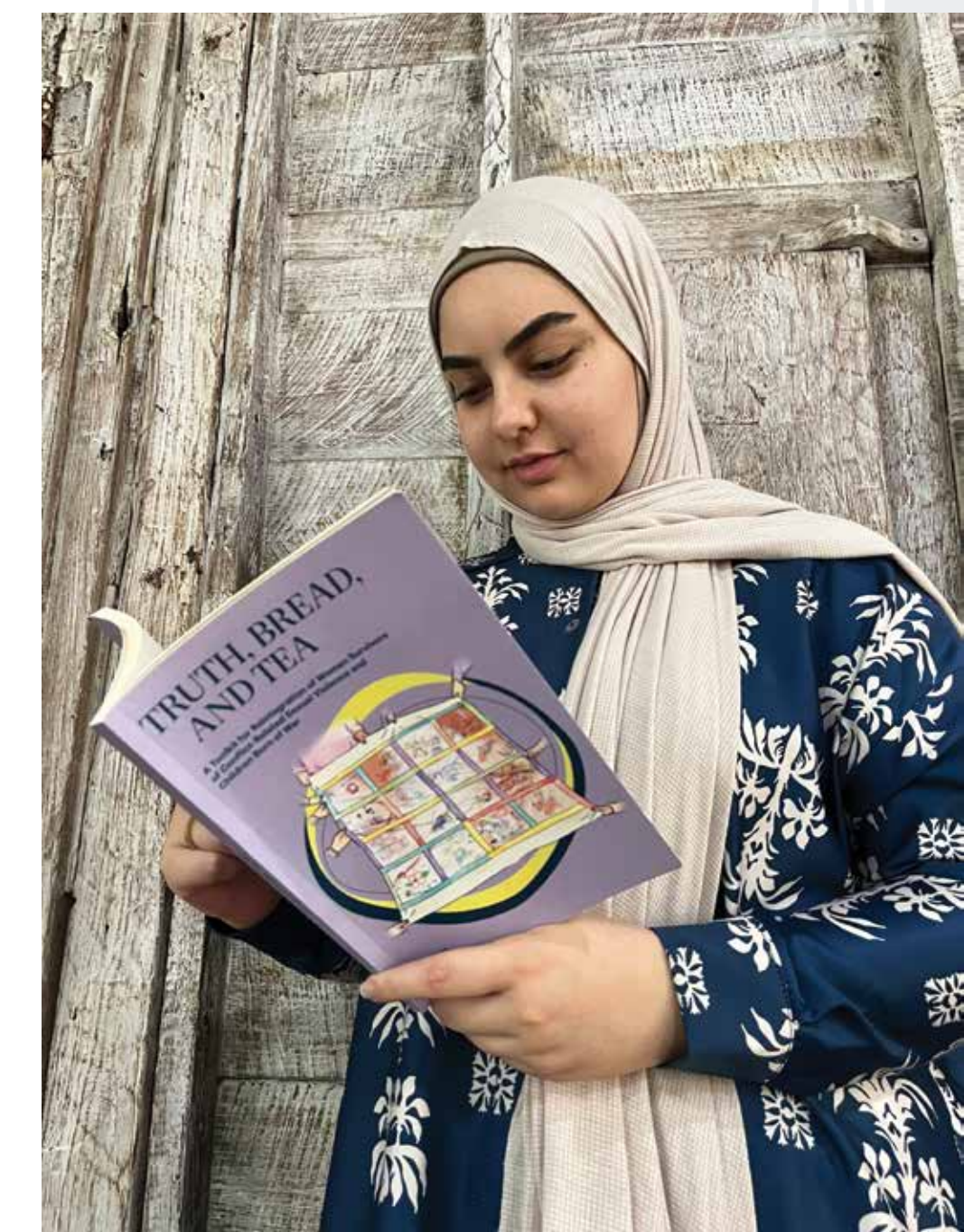
ANNEX 7: GIJTR Publications

GIJTR AS KNOWLEDGE PRODUCER

Case Studies, Policy Briefs & Toolkits

GIJTR generates a significant volume of knowledge through its work and makes every effort to disseminate this as widely as possible. This includes innovation in a range of technical areas, as well as the many research-oriented projects that generate lessons learned more broadly. Practical learning is internalized by GIJTR partners who use its projects to both enhance the range and depth of approaches in their work and explore entirely new directions. Local CSO partners working with GIJTR use the experience to enhance their capacity and sustainability, by developing new skills and expertise, and strengthening their institutional capabilities. This is clearly seen through the small projects that link learning to implementation. Sharing of this knowledge is systematized through a broad range of knowledge products that summarize this learning so that it is accessible for others. These have taken the following forms: ²⁶

- **Policy briefs** examine experience of multiple real-world GIJTR projects as well as research projects typically involving case studies implemented by partners in several contexts.



A participant in GIJTR's project "Centering Young Activist Voices in Atrocity Prevention" reads a GIJTR publication on the reintegration of victims of conflict-related sexual violence during a capacity-building workshop in Bali in November 2022.

- **Toolkits** explore how to investigate or implement certain approaches to truth and justice. These are typically based on practical projects implemented by GIJTR and often supplemented by multi-site research. The goal is that other actors, and in particular CSOs, can pick up these toolkits and develop their own approaches to using the methodologies outlined in them. They are usually available in multiple languages.
- **Videos** and **podcasts** were produced, including those made by the Rohingya / Bangladeshi production team in Cox's Bazaar.
- GIJTR has a significant following on **X** (formerly Twitter) and **Instagram**, with over 1200 and 740 followers, respectively.

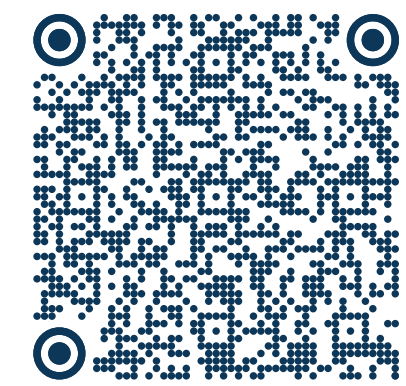
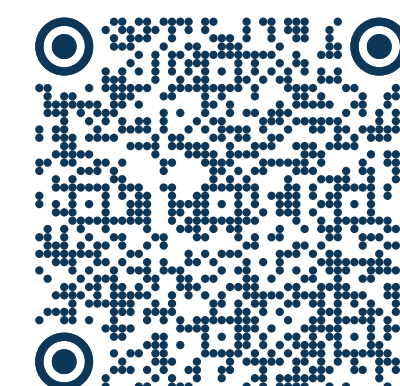
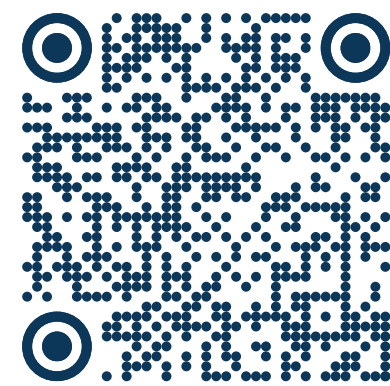
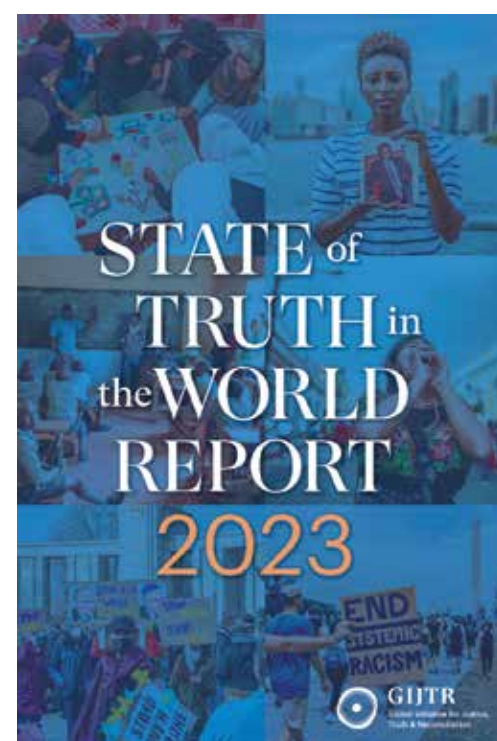
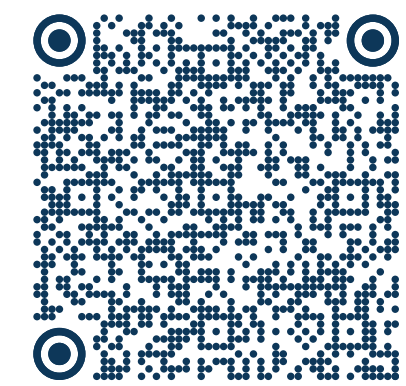
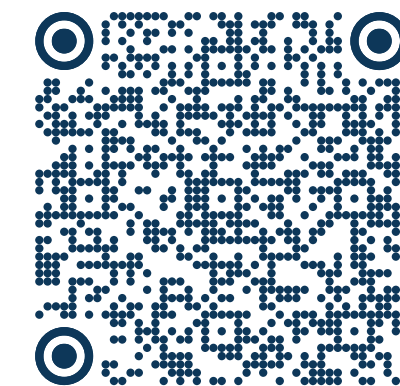
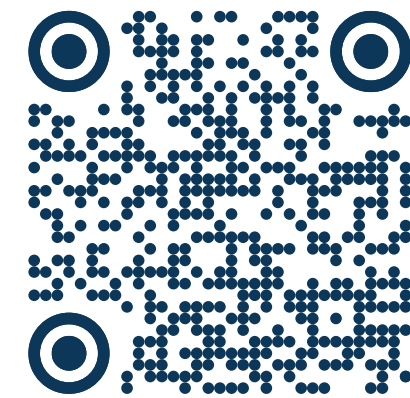
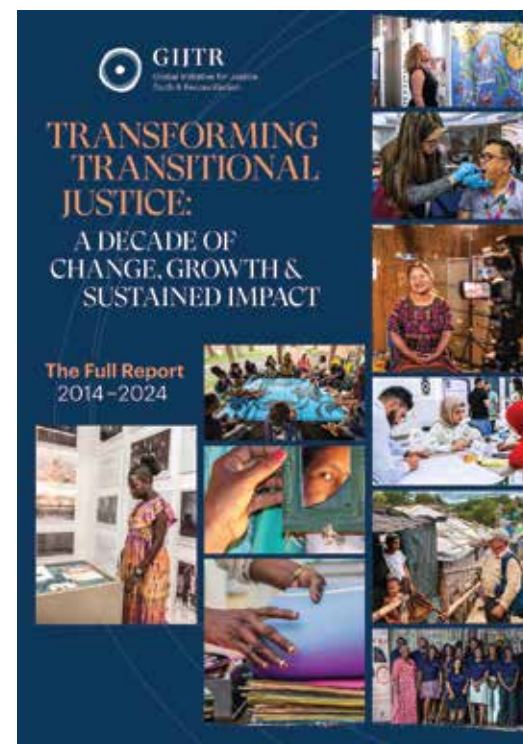
GIJTR reaches thousands through advocacy initiatives such as the 2021 collaboration with *Amplifier*.

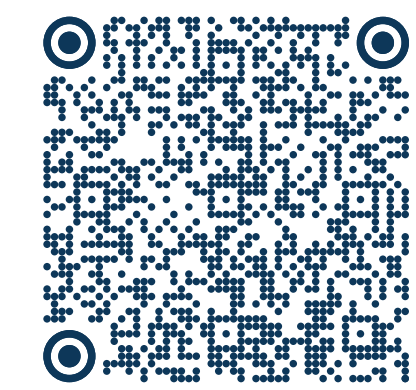
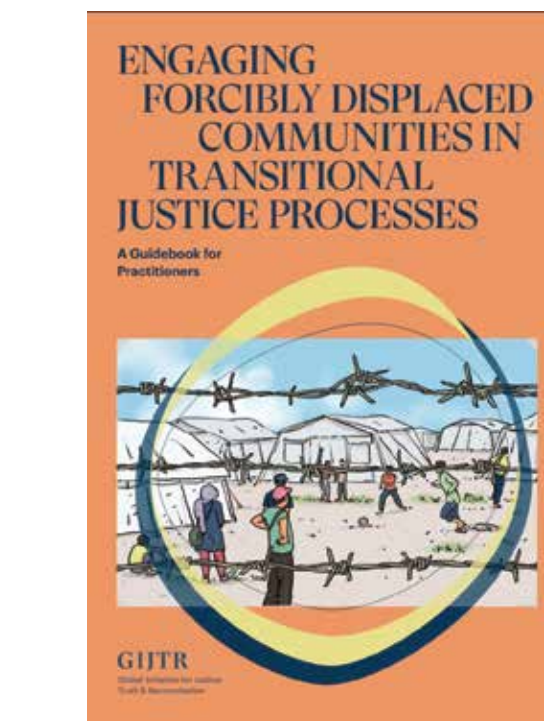
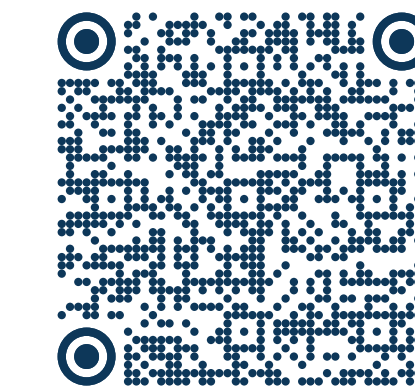
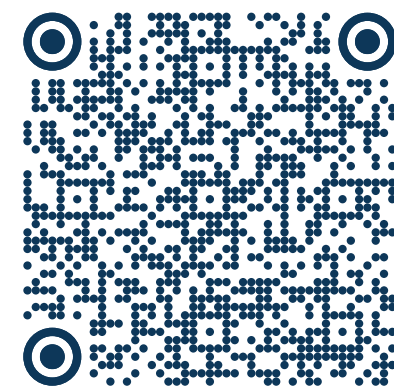
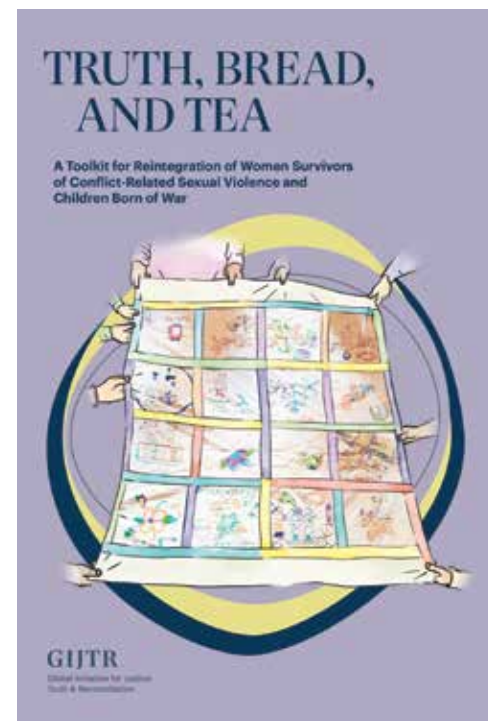
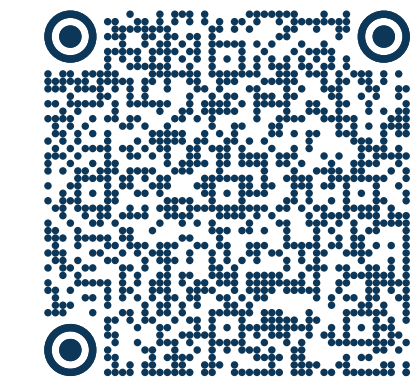
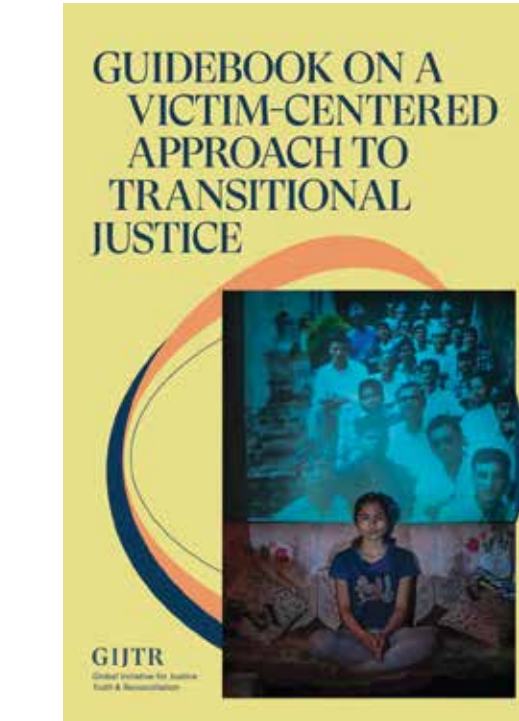
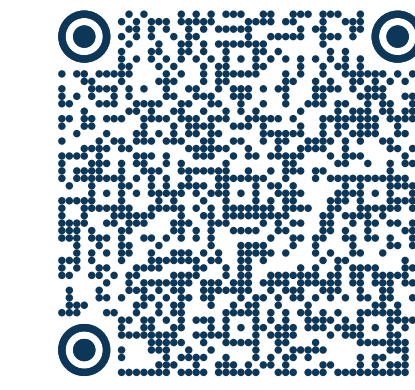
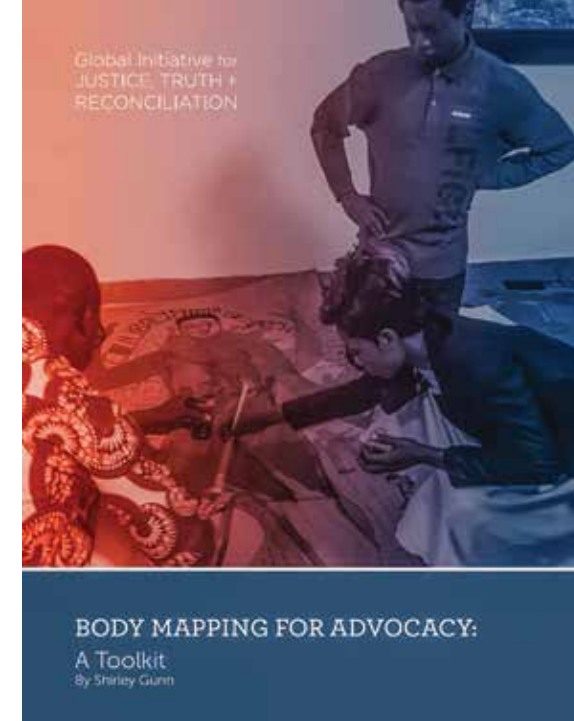
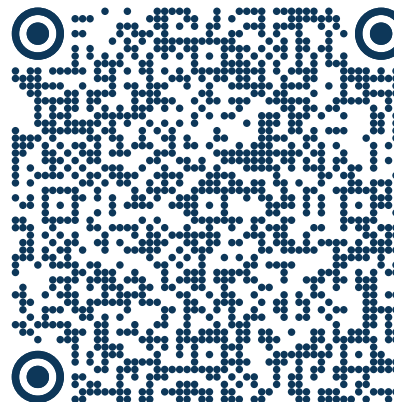
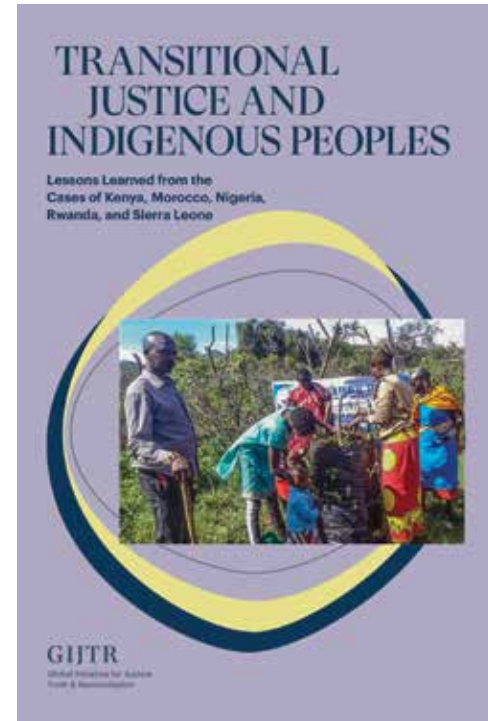
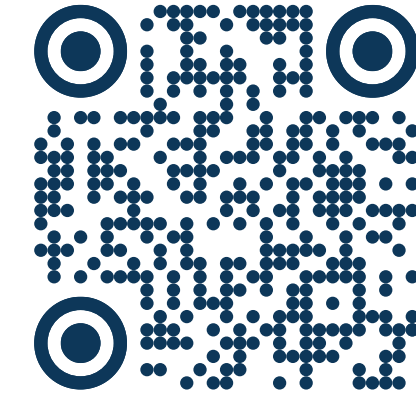
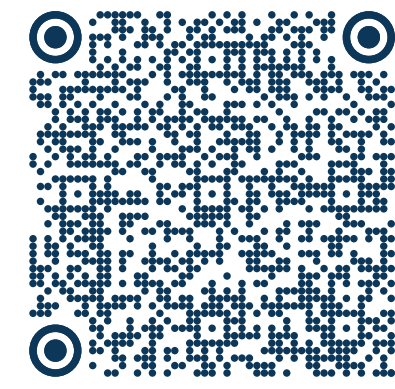
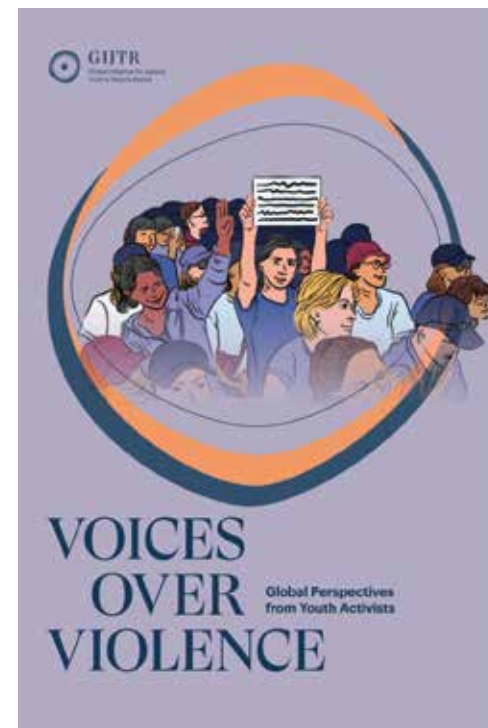
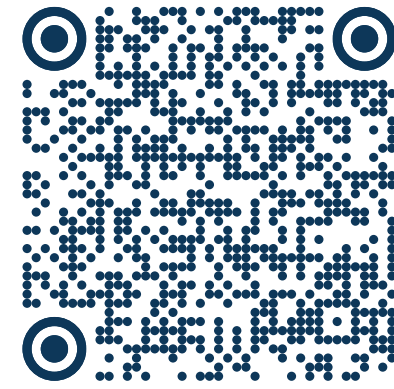
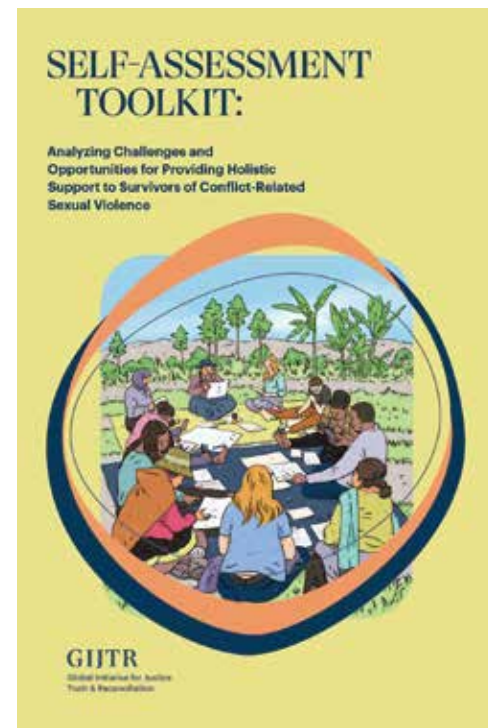
GIJTR staff have written articles for, or been referenced in, several international publications, including *Al Jazeera*, *National Public Radio*, *Politico* and *The Washington Post*,

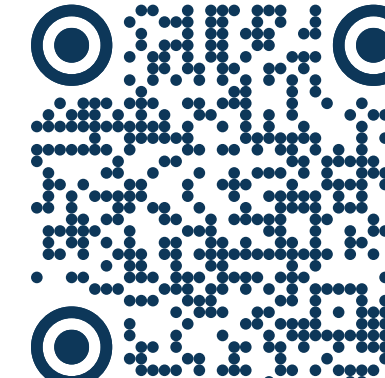
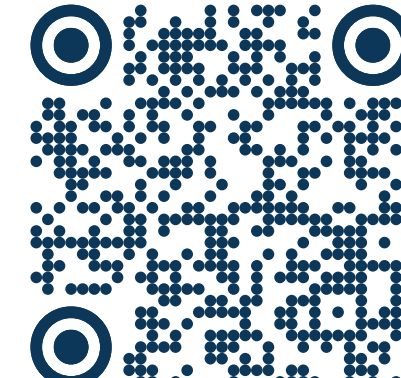
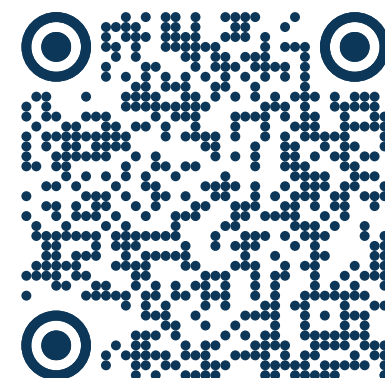
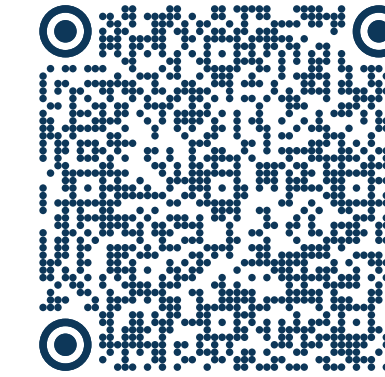
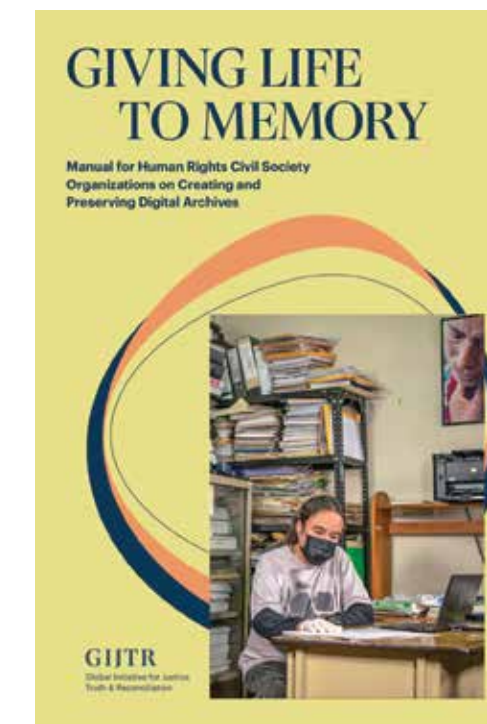
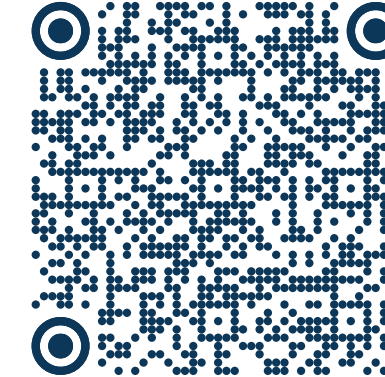
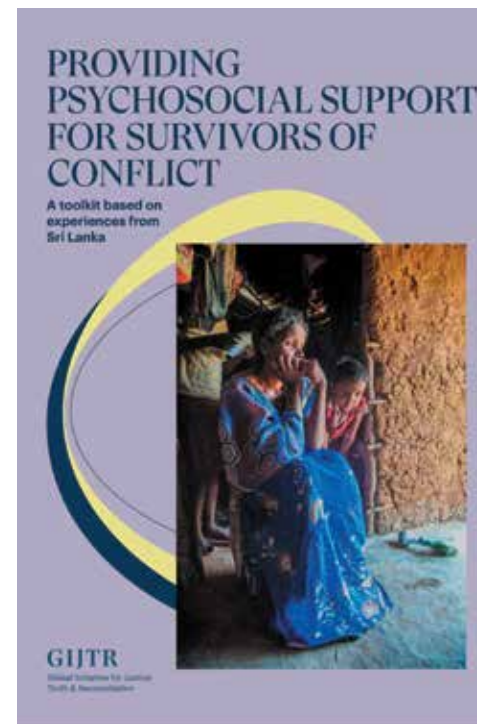
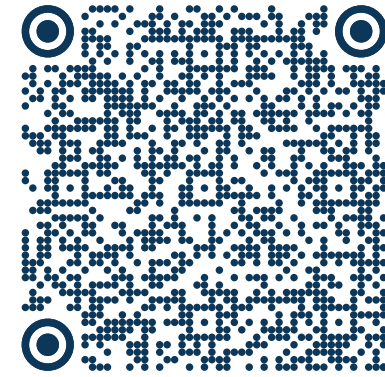
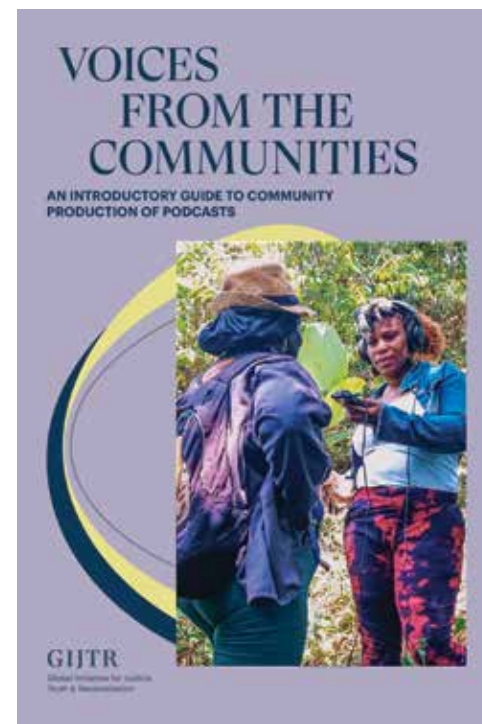
All these products are available online and drive significant traffic to GIJTR's website: the average number of visits is more than 1,500 per month. The most visited page is GIJTR's **Advocacy Hub**,²⁷ which contains downloadable artwork and has had more than 22,000 visits. Toolkits have been downloaded over 5,000 times, as well as thousands of visits to other GIJTR pages and downloads of the knowledge products discussed here.

These resources, which total over 50 items, include toolkits, policy briefs and podcasts, and are available at www.gijtr.org and on GIJTR's social media platforms. A selection is also available here.

SELECT PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES







GIJTR staff regularly publish articles in international publications, including *The Washington Post*, *Al Jazeera*, *Politico* and *National Public Radio*. Through its website, social media channels and communications partnerships, GIJTR has reached well over 200,000 people.

CASE STUDIES

Project	Country
Curriculum Reform and TJ	
Asia Justice and Rights,	Timor-Leste
Fond B92,	Serbia
Caminos de la Memoria,	Peru
Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation,	South Africa
Citoyenne Engagée pour le Leadership et la Démocratie,	Côte d'Ivoire
Constitution Hill and Human Rights Media Center,	South Africa
District Six Museum,	South Africa
Documentation Center of Cambodia,	Cambodia
Gernika Gogoratuz,	Spain
Humanitarian Law Center	
Liberation War Museum,	Bangladesh
Memorial para la Concordia,	Guatemala
Museo de la Palabra e Imagen,	El Salvador
Museo de la Memoria Rosario,	Argentina
Museo de la Memoria y los Derechos Humanos,	Chile

Núcleo de Preservação da Memória Política,	Brazil
Trust for Indigenous Culture and Health (TICAH),	Kenya
Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum,	Cambodia
Forced Migration and TJ	The Gambia
	Syria
	Sudan
	Northern Syrian
Mapping Commemorative Cultures	Algeria
	Bosnia and Herzegovina
	Croatia
	El Salvador
	Guatemala
	Haiti
	Indonesia
	Lebanon
	Peru
	Philippines
	South Africa
	Timor-Leste
Turkey	

CASE STUDIES

Understanding Racism as a Risk Factor in Atrocity Crimes	Brazil
	Colombia
	Namibia
	South Africa
	Sri Lanka
Identifying Best Practices During the Political Regression of Transitional Justice Processes	Iraq
	Sri Lanka
	Syria
	Victim-Centered Approach
	Albania
	Egypt
	The Gambia
	Iraq
	Nepal
	Yemen

Violent Extremism/Radicalism and TJ	Bosnia and Herzegovina
	Burkina Faso
	Mali
	Niger
	Serbia
	Sri Lanka
	Faith-Based Actors
	Guatemala
	Northern Ireland
	South Africa
	Sri Lanka
	Tibet
	Tunisia

CASE STUDIES

CRSV Holistic Approach	Bosnia and Herzegovina
	Burma
	Colombia
	Democratic Republic of the Congo + Central African Republic
	Sri Lanka
	Syria
	Uganda
Peace Processes & Transitional Justice	Balkans
	Bosnia
	El Salvador
	The Gambia
	Indonesia
	Libya
	Nepal
	South Africa
	Sudan
	Sudan
	Uganda

Constitution-Drafting & TJ	Bosnia
	The Gambia
	Libya
	South Africa
	Sudan
Enhancing Community Participation in TJ	Bosnia
	The Gambia
	Libya
	South Africa
	Sudan
Economic Social and Cultural Rights & TJ	Indonesia
	Liberia
	Morocco
	Northern Ireland
	South Africa
	Timor-Leste
	Yugoslavia

POLICY BRIEFS

Lessons Learned from Armed Conflicts in Colombia and Guatemala to Prevent Violence Against Girls and Women

Wounded Leaders and Wounded Leadership

The Role of Archives in Atrocity Prevention

The Role of Psychosocial Support in Building Healthy, Resilient Communities in Africa

Media and Transitional Justice

Arts and Transitional Justice

Racism, Ethnicity and Transitional Justice

From "Gender Sensitive" Transitional Justice to Gender Inclusivity

Mapping Commemorative Cultures, Best Practices and Lessons Learned

Forced Migration and Transitional Justice

Religious Leaders and Transitional Justice

Guidelines for Journalists from the Media and TJ Academy

Global Recommendations: Curriculum reform and TJ

Transitional Justice Tools to Address Radicalism and Violent Extremism

Ukraine Accountability Policy Paper

Global Racism and Atrocity Prevention Policy Paper

Reparations, Restitution and Return Policy Paper

Reparations, Memorialization and a Right to Remedy Policy Paper

Psychosocial Support as a Right to Remedy

Ethiopia Peace and Justice Survey

Practice Brief: Civil Society and Transitional Justice in The Gambia

Infographic: Mapping the Role of Various Stakeholders within an Accountability Process (The Gambia)

Fact Sheet: CSO and Victim Participation in an Accountability Process.

Referral Pathways Booklet, The Gambia (internal to The Gambia)

Policy Brief: Political Regression and Transitional Justice (forthcoming March 2024)

TOOLKITS

Year	Toolkit Name	Languages ⁴¹
	Pathways of Innovation: Civil Society Advancing Transitional Justice	E, F
	Understanding and Addressing Violations of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Transitional Justice: An Assessment Tool	A, E
	Body Mapping for Advocacy (Human Rights Media Centre, South Africa)	E
	Building a Learning Community: Lessons for a Holistic and Sustainable Approach to Transitional Justice	E, F
	Creating Channels of Trust: Community Truth-Telling in Outlying Regions in Colombia	A, E, F
	From Memory to Action: A Toolkit for Memorialization	A, E, F
	Violence Prevention and Dialogue Toolkit	A, E, F
	Women and Transitional Justice	E
	Transitional Justice and Violence Prevention	E, F
	Health, Mental Health and Legal Services, Sri Lanka	E
	Guide for CSOs	E, F
	Strengthening Participation in Local Level and National Transitional Justice Processes: A Guide for Practitioners	E, F
	PILPG DRL Toolkit	E
	Supporting Grassroots Organizations through Small Grants: Models for Local Ownership and Innovation	A, E, F
	Body Mapping with Survivors of Human Rights Violations: The Experience of Kenya's Nyayo House Survivors and Lessons for Others	E

	Transitional Justice and Indigenous Peoples: Lessons Learned from the Cases of Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Sierra Leone	E
	Memory Will Teach Us Something	E, F
	Strengthening Transitional Justice through Engagement with Religious and Faith-based Actors: An Assessment Toolkit	E
	Guidelines: Strengthening Transitional Justice through Engagement with Religious and Faith-based Actors	E
	Living Archives: An Introductory Toolkit for CSOs in the Creation of Human Rights Oral Archives and Organizing Their Documentation	E
	Transitional Justice and Indigenous Peoples: Lessons Learned from the Case Study of Colombia, Guatemala, and Peru	E
	Make It New: Using Media to Advance Advocacy	A, E, F
	Providing Psychosocial Support for Survivors of Conflict: A Toolkit Based on the Experiences of Sri Lanka	A, E, F
2021	Creating an Advocacy Campaign: A Toolkit for Memory Practitioners	A, E, F
2021	Truth, Bread and Tea: A Toolkit for Reintegration of Women Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and Children Born of War	E
2021	Negotiating Justice: Peace Processes as Vehicles for Transitional Justice	E
2021	Locating Peace Within the Justice Agenda: The Case of the African Union Transitional Justice Policy	E
2021	Roles and Responsibilities of the Private Sector in Transitional Justice Processes in Latin America: The Cases of Argentina, Colombia, and Guatemala	E, S
	The Roles and Responsibilities of Private Sector Actors in Transitional Justice in Africa and Latin America: A Briefing Paper	E, F, S
	The Role of the Private Sector in Transitional Justice Processes in Africa: Regional Report	E, F, S
2023	The Roles and Responsibilities of Private Sector Actors in Transitional Justice in Africa and Latin America: Summary Report Phase II	E, F

2022	Voices over Violence: Global Perspectives from Youth Activists	A, E, F
2021	Curriculum Reform and Transitional Justice Global Recommendations	A, E, F
2022	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support: A Field Guide by the CSVR	E, F
2023	Forced Migration and TJ	A, E, F
2023	Podcast Guide for Local Communities	E, F, S
2023	Victim-Centered approach to TJ	A, E
2023	Digital Archiving Guide	E, F, S
2023	State of Truth in the World Report	E
	Giving Life to Memory	E, F, S
	Digital Narratives Technical Toolkit	E
	Documentation Toolkit - Field Guide	E
	Compendium on Political Regression and TJ 2024 (forthcoming)	A, E, F, S
	Indicator and Assessment Tool on Racism as a Risk Factor in Atrocity Crimes (forthcoming)	E, F, S

Endnotes

- Note that throughout this report local CSO partners working with GIJTR are called “local partners,” while the international GIJTR partners are called “partners.”
- A list of projects, and their impacts, is shown in Annex 2. A brief description of all GIJTR Consortium partners is available in [Annex 3](#).
- Dustin N. Sharp, “What Would Satisfy Us? Taking Stock of Critical Approaches to Transitional Justice,” *International Journal of Transitional Justice*, no.13 (July 2019): 570-571. https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3358489
- Ibid.*
- Thomas Carothers, “The End of the Transition Paradigm,” *Journal of Democracy*, no. 1 (January 2002): 5. <https://www.journalofdemocracy.org/articles/the-end-of-the-transition-paradigm/>
- Paul Gready and Simon Robins, “From Transitional to Transformative Justice: A New Agenda for Practice,” *International Journal of Transitional Justice*, no. 8(3), (2014): 339-361. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ijtj/iju013>
- The six GIJTR programmatic approaches are defined in [Annex 4](#).
- e.g. Brandon Hamber and Patricia Lundy, “. (2020). Lessons from Transitional Justice? Toward a New Framing of a Victim-Centered Approach in the Case of Historical Institutional Abuse,” *Victims & Offenders*, no.15(6), (2020): 744-770. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15564886.2020.1743803>; See also Simon Robins, “Challenging the Therapeutic Ethic: A Victim-Centered Evaluation of Transitional Justice Process in Timor-Leste,” *International Journal of Transitional Justice*, no. 6(1), (2012): 83-105. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jifr.12153>
- Simon Robins, “Towards Victim-Centered Transitional Justice: Understanding the Needs of Families of the Disappeared in Post Conflict Nepal,” *International Journal of Transitional Justice*, no. 5(1), (2011): 75-98. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ijtj/ijq027>.
- Amina Mwaikambo and Tsholofelo Nakedi. “Guidebook on a Victim-Centered Approach to Transitional Justice,” *Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation* (June 14, 2023). <https://www.csvr.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Guidebook-on-VCA-to-TJ-Toolkit-6x9-EN-final-single-pages-1-1.pdf>
- “SAMHSA’s Concept of Trauma and Guidance for a Trauma-Informed Approach,” US Department of Health and Human Services, July 2014, <https://store.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/sma14-4884.pdf>.
- “Better Criteria for Better Evaluation: Revised and Updated Evaluation Criteria,” *Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Development Assistance Committee*, (2020), Archived at <https://web.archive.org/2020-04-20/551220-evaluation-criteria-flyer-2020.pdf>, accessed March 9, 2024.
- The full *Impact Report* details each of these evaluation methodologies in greater detail and includes summaries of previous external evaluations of individual GIJTR projects. To access this longer report, please use the QR code at the back of this summary.
- The qualitative data is summarized in the project list in [Annex 2](#).
- e.g. an OECD recommendation that proposes additional and modified DAC evaluation criteria for conflict prevention and peacebuilding interventions. “Encouraging Effective Evaluation of Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Activities: Towards DAC Guidance,” *OECD Journal of Development*, no. 8(3): (2007). <https://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/39660852.pdf>
- Figure 2 also demonstrates this under the short-term results section.
- “Better Criteria for Better Evaluation: Revised and Updated Evaluation Criteria,” *Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Development Assistance Committee*, (February 2020), archived at <https://web.archive.org/2020-04-20/551220-evaluation-criteria-flyer-2020.pdf>, Accessed March 7, 2024.
- Impact is excluded from the tables addressing individual projects in [Annex 2](#), for example, and effectiveness used to measure the extent to which outcomes and objectives are achieved.
- A full copy of the survey can be found in [Annex 6](#).
- The Caesar photos refers to those photos included in an impactful report which details the torture and killing of detainees under the Syrian regime. The information and photos that form the basis of the report were leaked by an individual identified only as “Caesar.” “A Report into the Credibility of Certain Evidence with Regard to Torture and Execution of Persons Incarcerated by the Current Syrian Regime,” Carter-Ruck and Co. Solicitors, London (January 2014). https://www.carter-ruck.com/images/uploads/documents/Syria_Report-January_2014.pdf
- Transitional Justice Policy*, African Union (2019): 13-22, https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/36541-doc-au_tj_policy_eng_web.pdf.
- “Transitional Justice: A Strategic Tool for People, Prevention and Peace”, *Guidance Note of the Secretary General, United Nations*, (2023) New York:UN https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/transitionaljustice/sg-guidance-note/2023_07_guidance_note_transitional_justice_en.pdf
- Brandon Hamber, “Transitional Justice, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support: Renewing the United Nations Approach to Transitional Justice,” New York: UN, (2021), <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/transitionaljustice/sg-guidance-note/SG-GuidanceNote-TJ-Mental-Health-digital.pdf>
- “Women’s Meaningful Participation in Transitional Justice: Advancing Gender Equality and Building Sustainable Peace,” (2022) New York: UN Women/UNDP, <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/Research-paper-Womens-meaningful-participation-in-transitional-justice-en.pdf>
- Fabián Salvioli, “Role and Responsibilities of Non-State Actors in Transitional Justice Processes: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of Non-Recurrence,” No. A/HRC/51/34 (2022). <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/ahrc5134-role-and-responsibilities-non-state-actors-transitional-justice>
- Policy briefs, published case studies and toolkits are listed in [Annex 7](#).
- “Advocacy Hub,” Global Initiative for Justice, Truth and Reconciliation (website), <https://gijtr.org/advocacy-hub/>.
- e.g. Sanja Bahun, “*Transitional Justice and the Arts: Reflections on the Field*,” *Theorizing Transitional Justice*. Ed. Claudio Corradetti, and Nirs Eisikovits, Routledge, (2015): 153 - 166. ISBN 9781472418296.
- Histórias en Kilómetros (website), <https://historiasenkilometros.com/>
- “Life Happens Still,” Vimeo. <https://vimeo.com/857458074>
- “Esprit Nomade & Mariama Ma Unité,” National Coalition to Support Reconciliation in Guinea (website) https://www.conareg.org/histoires_de_surviva/esprit-nomade-avec-mariama-ma-unite/, Accessed March 8, 2024.
- Darío Colmenares Millán, “Creating Channels of Trust: Community Truth-Telling in Outlying Regions in Colombia,” *The International Coalition of Sites of Conscience*, (2019). <https://www.sitesofconscience.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Colombia-Toolkit-ENGLISH-final.pdf>.
- [Image of Rohingya refugees looking at embroidered scenes.] <https://gijtr.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Photo-7-2048x1536.jpg>
- Briony Jones and Ulrike Lühe, eds., *Knowledge for Peace: Transitional Justice and the Politics of Knowledge in Theory and Practice*, Edward Elgar Publishing Limited, Cheltenham (2021):1. <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781789905359.00007>
- In some rapid response projects evaluations did not engage with sustainability and so it has not been possible to quantify this.
- Guidebook on a Victim-Centered Approach to Transitional Justice*, <https://gijtr.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Guidebook-on-VCA-to-TJ-Toolkit-6x9-EN-final-single-pages.pdf>
- This definition is taken from the Encompass Principle based evaluation of the DRL Transitional Justice Portfolio.
- UNFPA has defined *gender-responsive* approaches as lying between those that are gender sensitive, meaning they recognize different needs of women and acknowledge gender power dynamics but do not address them, and gender transformative programming, seeking to address root causes of gender inequality. “Joint Evaluation of the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme
- on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation: Accelerating Change Phase III (2018-2021),” *UNFPA-UNICEF*, (2021).
- https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/admin-resource/thematic%20note%201_gender_final.pdf
- A—Arabic, E—English, F—French, S—Spanish: some of these were also printed in other languages of relevance to the project or participating partners.



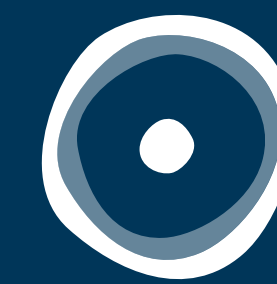
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