



**Franciscans International**  
A voice at the United Nations

# Franciscans International



**Annual Report 2012**




## **Our vision**

*A global community in which the dignity of every person is respected, resources are shared equitably, the environment is sustained, and nations and peoples live in peace.*

## **Our mission**

*We are the Franciscan voice at the UN protecting the vulnerable, the forgotten, and the wounded earth.*



»All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.«

*Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 1*

# Franciscans International Annual Report 2012



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# Introduction

## Letter from the President

The Confederation Bridge joins the Canadian provinces of Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, making travel throughout Eastern Canada easier and more convenient. The curved, 12.9 kilometre (8 mile) long bridge is the longest one in the world crossing ice-covered water. It is recognized as one of Canada's top engineering achievements of the 20th century, facilitating the flow of people, materials and information between the two provinces. Like this physical bridge, Franciscans International (FI) also acts as a bridge that facilitates the flow of people, materials and information between Franciscans working at the grassroots in different parts of the world and the various bodies of the United Nations



*The Confederation Bridge, Canada*

(UN). Also, like this physical bridge, FI facilitates the flow of ideas and challenges between vulnerable people and the leaders of the world at the United Nations, all the while endeavoring to build a global community based on Franciscan values.

During 2012, FI continued its extraordinary work with Franciscans in building a more peaceful world, caring for a fragile environment and addressing human rights violations. In support of this work, training was provided to Franciscans in different parts of the world on how to use international systems to support their work at the grassroots level. Special focus was given on the eradication of trafficking of human persons (including the abduction of babies and infants

for adoption), environmental justice, extreme poverty and the economic and sexual exploitation of people. In this context, a particular emphasis was placed on women and children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, displaced people and indigenous people. Regrettably, in today's world, people too often continue to be deprived of their rights to food and water, to land and sustainable agriculture, to education and health, and to peace and security. It is clear that, with the support of Franciscans International, Franciscans around the world are making a difference in addressing these important and difficult issues that face the global community.

In spite of this outstanding work, Franciscans International also experienced some significant structural changes during 2012, including a re-dimensioning of the organization to ensure that it remains effective and efficient in achieving its vision and mission at the UN. To ensure that FI could continue its important ministry in addressing injustices and in giving a voice to the most vulnerable, FI was restructured to better allocate its resources to program activity, to minimize administrative overhead and to enable the organization to be financially sustainable into the future. With a deep sense of gratitude, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the former Executive Director Sr. Denise Bolye as well as all those who have left FI and for the extraordinary contribution that they have made in support of the Franciscan Family's ministry at the United Nations.

On behalf of the Franciscans International Board of Directors, I also wish to extend my sincere thanks to all who have contributed to this ministry: the Franciscan Family itself; the current FI staff; generous donors and funding agencies; our partners Edmund Rice International (ERI) and the Marist International Solidarity Foundation (FMSI); as well as colleagues in other non-governmental organisations and at the UN. Together, we are making a real difference for the vulnerable people of the world and for the planet.

Sincerely,

**Doug Clorey, OFS**

*President, Franciscans International Board of Directors*





*Fr. Leonard Tarai,  
OFM, Papua New  
Guinea*

## About Franciscans International

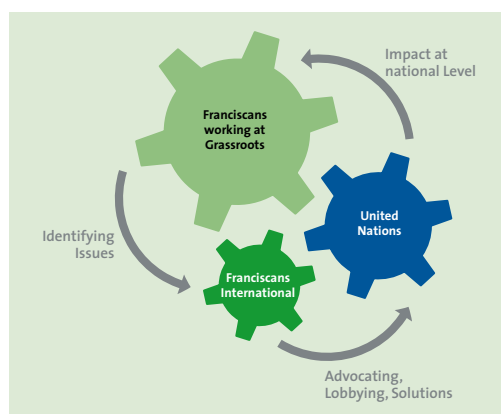
Franciscans International (FI) is an international non-governmental organisation (NGO) working for the promotion, protection, and respect of human and environmental rights. Since its establishment in 1989, FI uses advocacy as a tool to combat and curb human rights abuses. FI is inspired by Franciscan values envisioning a global community in which the dignity of every person is respected, the resources are shared equitably, the environment is sustained, and nations and peoples live in peace. In 1995 FI was granted the 'General Consultative Status' under ECOSOC which allows FI to address human rights and environmental issues to the United Nations (UN).

The Franciscan Family is composed of approximately 750'000 Franciscans who put into practice the principles of St Francis of Assisi. Franciscans include religious (men and women) and lay people (the majority) who are committed to justice and peace.

FI relies on a large network of Franciscans working with the most vulnerable sectors in approximately 160 countries throughout the world. Franciscans working at the grassroots level bring human and environmental issues to the attention of FI. In turn, FI addresses those concerns at the UN and other international and regional forums. FI also supports Franciscans and other local partners (religious and lay) through capacity-building, awareness-raising, and campaigning at the national and international levels.

### Advocacy: long-term solutions to address injustice

Advocacy is one of the most powerful means to ensure sustainable solutions and real change. Advocacy is the process that empowers people, including the most marginalised, to participate in decisions that affect their own or others' lives, and to find long-term solutions to their concerns. Whenever significant changes in policy are needed, advocacy has a role to play in influencing key leaders to make decisions that will improve the lives of millions of people over the long-term, through structural changes.



In order to achieve such changes and to enhance impact, FI addresses the root causes of injustice and the abuse of human rights through multifaceted advocacy strategies. In this regard, FI engages with UN human-rights mechanisms, takes part in international negotiations, reports human-rights violations, raises awareness of decision-makers, and builds the capacity of Franciscans and

partners working with the most vulnerable populations. Through the close collaboration of Franciscans working at the grassroots and the three regional offices, FI ensures that its activities have an impact at national, regional, and international levels.

The advocacy strategy of FI is built around two main pillars: the input of Franciscans working at the grassroots and the UN human rights policies, standards, and mechanisms. FI operates as a bridge between the two contexts. This strategy is carried out through a rights-based perspective in order to address the root causes of injustices and to find sustainable solutions to the violation of human rights. FI's main objective is to influence decision-making at the international level. This involves negotiations with the UN, diplomats, and the international community at large in order to raise awareness of and address critical human rights issues among political leadership.

FI operates on an integrated advocacy strategy through its three FI offices in Bangkok, Geneva, and New York. This strategy is driven mainly by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). This choice was due to the universal and innovative nature of this mechanism, which creates national momentum for tackling human rights. The UPR also legitimizes civil-society engagement with governments and creates space for negotiation and participation in the national decision-making process. FI's UPR-driven approach does not exclude involvement with other UN bodies and human rights mechanisms. In order to ensure a consistent follow-up of the outcome of the UPR (recommendations to the State under review), FI uses a wide range of UN bodies – based both in Geneva and in New York – to advocate on key recommendations accepted by the State examined in the UPR process. In this way, FI reinforces international human-rights obligations and facilitates concrete changes in legislation.

FI has developed a UPR national follow-up strategy based on close collaboration with Franciscans working at the national level. The follow-up scheme aims at prioritising UN recommendations, mapping viable solutions (turning UPR recommendations into concrete domestic measures), and elaborating road maps and action plans in conjunction with Franciscans working in-country.

With the support of FI, Franciscans working at the national level are involved in monitoring and advocating for their government's implementation of key recommendations. FI is now working to involve new actors in mainstreaming UPR recommendations with a particular emphasis on sustainable development following the 2012 Rio+20 Conference. This includes promoting a human-rights approach in the international development agenda (post-2015) and integrating environmental justice issues in UPR advocacy and other human rights mechanisms.

List of countries where FI worked in 2012



# Regional Strategies

## Africa

In collaboration with Franciscans and partners in Africa, FI worked throughout 2012 on several recurrent and multi-country issues including the eradication of trafficking in human beings, extreme poverty, and economic and sexual exploitation of children. In pursuit of our mission to protect the most vulnerable, FI has had a key focus on harmful practices perpetrated against children, including the issue of “witch children”.



Francesca Restifo in Benin

### Focus on: Benin

At the request of the Franciscans working at the grassroots level, FI brought the issue of **ritual infanticide of so-called “witch children”** to the attention of the international community through the submission of UPR reports, an alternative report to the Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (CESCR), written and oral statements to the Human Rights Council (HRC), a side-event at the UN on **harmful traditional practices**, and lobbying activities. As a result, a number of Member States in the UPR and the experts of the CESCR endorsed FI’s recommendations and forcefully called on the Government to take **concrete action to eradicate the practice**. In collaboration with Franciscans working at the grassroots level, FI organised an awareness-raising campaign in Benin with the participation of various stakeholders, including government representatives (the Ombudsman and representatives from the Ministry of Justice), the European Union, and UNICEF. The Beninese government cited this work as a good example of collaboration with civil society in its report for the second UPR (October 2012). As an immediate follow-up, Franciscans in Benin and FI will organise an **awareness-raising campaign** in the affected areas of the country aimed at having the practice of ritual infanticide criminalized in the national legislation.

### Participation in the UPRs of Benin, Burundi, Burkina Faso, and Cameroon

In coordination with the Franciscans and partners working at the grassroots, FI submitted UPR reports on the human rights situations in Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, and Cameroon. The reports included specific policy recommendations on extreme poverty and its impact on economic, social, and cultural rights of vulnerable groups, especially children. The report on Burundi addressed the consolidation of peace and security, land rights, and the right to education; the Burkina Faso report concentrated on the right to water and sanitation; and the Cameroon report highlighted issues related to economic and sexual exploitation of children (child trafficking, child labour, street children, and early and forced marriages). The Benin report raised the issue of ritual infanticide against so-called “witch children”. Along with a representative of the Franciscans working at the grassroots level in Benin, FI lobbied various permanent missions on this issue prior to the review. As a result, a considerable number of Member States raised the issue of ritual infanticide of so-called “witch children” and FI’s recommendations urging the government to take appropriate action.



## JANUARY

Regional workshop on the rights of indigenous peoples, Bangkok, Thailand

Central America meeting in Honduras

01

Lobby to UN Security Council on child soldiers in Uganda, New York



## Submission of mid-term UPR reports to monitor the implementation of the recommendations in African countries

Since 2011 FI has participated in the follow-up programme launched by UPR-info, a Geneva-based NGO promoting and monitoring the UPR process. FI is one of the main contributors to this programme, which coordinates the submission of mid-term reports assessing the implementation of UPR recommendations. In 2012 FI contributed with UPR mid-term reports for: Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Ivory Coast, and the Republic of Congo. The reports analysed the status of implementation of the recommendations that these countries received during the first cycle of the UPR.

## Report on the Rights of Women in Togo (CEDAW)

FI and national partners prepared a report documenting the situation of women's rights in Togo. The report was submitted to the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) for its 53rd session held in Geneva in October 2012. The report highlighted issues related to the trafficking of women and young girls and stressed the need for the Government to take concrete measures to eradicate this abuse.

## Focus on: Cameroon

FI called the attention of the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons and of the international community to the **widespread incidence of trafficking of new-borns and babies** in Cameroon. FI raised this concern through an oral statement delivered at the 20th session of the HRC, openly denouncing cases of **abductions of babies for purposes of illegal adoption**, and urging the Government to investigate and punish those responsible. FI's statement provoked a reaction of the Government of Cameroon, which asserted that the problem was limited to "isolated incidents" and highlighted the measures adopted in relation to trafficking in persons. On another front, FI and Franciscans in Cameroon collaborated with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food during his field visit to the country. Franciscans had the opportunity to meet with the UN expert and share their concerns and challenges in relation to the effective realisation of **the right to food** in their country and to put forward recommendations for the SR's consideration. This advocacy was successful and several of these concerns were reflected in the SR's mission report on Cameroon.

## Collaboration with the Special Procedures

In 2012, FI partnered with Franciscans working in-country to engage with different UN experts on several thematic issues in Africa. For Cameroon, FI collaborated with the Special Rapporteur (SR) on trafficking in persons to denounce practices and with the SR on the right to food around his mission to the country. FI also worked with the SR on displaced people during his mission to Ivory Coast. This collaboration helped to raise awareness of these UN experts about situations relevant to their mandates and strengthened the Franciscans' capacity to engage in advocacy activities at the local and national levels.

## FEBRUARY

Publication of lobbying brief on green economy, water, agro-ecology, and human rights for Rio+20 negotiations

Workshop : Addressing Human Rights Violations in the Post-conflict Situation in Sri Lanka

02

Participation in the global launch of the Declaration of Global Principles for Non-partisan Election Observation and Monitoring by Citizen Organizations at the United Nations, New York



## Additional advocacy at the Human Rights Council

FI delivered a written statement on trafficking in persons in the DRC and an oral statement on trafficking in Cameroon, with a particular focus on the abduction of babies and infants. The statements were delivered during the 20th session of the HRC in June 2012, in conjunction with the release of the report of the UN SR on Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children. They denounced the situation of human trafficking in both countries and called upon the two governments for immediate action to remedy the situation.



This advanced training session focused on the UN human rights mechanisms with a particular emphasis on the UPR. It took place from 5 to 9 March 2012, in conjunction with the 19th session of the UN Human Rights Council. The training was designed for Franciscans and other partners that are experienced human rights defenders and make use of the international human rights system in their work at the grassroots level. It aimed at deepening their understanding of the UN human rights system and getting them involved in various advocacy activities at the international level. In particular the training focused on improving their skills to draft reports and urgent appeals, conduct in-country follow-up activities, and report back to FI on the progress of their work. FI invited experts from other NGOs and from the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to speak with the participants, hear about their experience at the national level with in-country UN staff, and establish useful contacts for country-specific advocacy activities.

## Workshop on Human Rights Advocacy – Geneva

For the past three years, FI has conducted advanced training sessions on human rights advocacy in Geneva for Franciscans and partners from different regions of the world. In 2012, for the first time, FI conducted this workshop in French to accommodate participants coming from Francophone Africa. This workshop was a continuation of an ongoing strategy in Western and Central Africa to address human rights violations through international mechanisms, which has included previous advocacy activities and sub-regional trainings on the UN human rights mechanisms. Eleven participants attended the Geneva training, representing Franciscans and partners from Rwanda, Togo, Congo-Brazzaville, Burundi, DRC, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, and Chad.



## MARCH

Side event on combating impunity in the Philippines at UN Geneva

International consultation on West Papua

03

Roundtable on right to water in Rio+20, New York

Advanced workshop on human rights advocacy in Francophone Africa countries, Geneva

## Americas

In 2012, the Americas Programme through the New York office carried out several comprehensive country-specific advocacy strategies in response to pressing human rights concerns raised by the Franciscan network and local partners. This year was important for consolidating a broader Franciscan network in the region dedicated to engaging with the UN through FI.

### Participation in the UPRs for Brazil, Peru, and Colombia

In preparation for the 2012 UPR of Brazil, FI prepared a lobbying brief highlighting concerns related to the ministry of Franciscans in Brazil – the situation of human rights defenders, especially those working on issues related to land and indigenous peoples, and the human rights violations suffered by female inmates in federal and state detention facilities. These issues had been detailed in FI's written submission for the UPR and both were highlighted in the questions and recommendations made to Brazil in June 2012.

Following a workshop held in Peru in 2011, FI worked with a Peruvian NGO (Center for Ethnic Development) to research and draft a UPR report documenting discrimination against Afro-Peruvians in the areas of education and the right to an adequate standard of living. FI monitored the UPR of Peru in November 2012 and observed that the concerns raised in our joint report were conveyed in several official recommendations from the reviewing States.

In October 2012 FI submitted a joint report on the human rights situation in Colombia in preparation for its April 2013 review. The report was produced together with the national Franciscan Family's JPIC Commission, a local Franciscan NGO, and a peasants' movement. Our advocacy focuses on the issues of victims of forced disappearance, the situation of human rights defenders, and the negative impact of mining on minority communities and on the environment. The report also included a joint Franciscan statement on the ongoing peace negotiations with the guerrilla, with recommendations for achieving a meaningful, lasting, equitable peace.

#### Focus on: Mining in Peru

FI has partnered with the Sisters of Mercy and Vivat International to support religious and local NGOs in Cajamarca, Peru. There, a proposed expansion of the Conga mining project threatens the rights of the local community and the environment. FI has provided the groups with technical human-rights assistance and has raised these concerns through a written report and direct meeting with the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders.



APRIL

Youth Franciscans Workshop on Peace-building, Kampala, Uganda

UPR advocacy on human rights in Brazil, India, Indonesia, and Philippines

04

Latin American Forum on Rio+20, Rosario, Argentina





*Street children*

### Engaging other UN human rights mechanisms

FI conducted a series of interviews to collect and document the expertise of Franciscans and other religious in Jamaica on the obstacles impeding full implementation of children's right to highest attainable standard of health. In October FI presented this collective analysis, with recommendations, to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for consideration in their upcoming report on the subject.

### Capacity- and Network-building

To continue to strengthen our work in this region, FI participated in two key regional gatherings. In January, FI attended the OFM Conventuals in the Americas Commissions Meeting on North-South Partnerships in Tegucigalpa, Honduras and gave a presentation on FI's work to key Central American contacts. Central America will be a priority region for 2013.

FI also led three days of trainings, reflection and planning during the first Gathering of the Franciscan Families of Latin America, held in Bogotá, Colombia in June. The gathering was attended by leadership and JPIC representatives of the Franciscan Families of Colombia, Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Brazil, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Central America. This was an important moment for deepening the commitment to FI's mission of bringing Franciscan expertise in the Americas to the UN. FI led several sessions on the UN, human rights, environmental justice, and Catholic Social Teaching and left with action plans for 2013 the countries and sub-regions represented.

In August, FI worked with the inter-Franciscan Commission for Justice and Peace in Colombia to organise a national-level workshop in preparation for Colombia's UPR. Fifteen Franciscans and partners from across the country attended. On this occasion, we launched a comprehensive UPR strategy that resulted in a written report, animation materials, and follow-up activities scheduled for 2013.

MAY

Sub-regional workshop in Eastern Africa on Water and Sanitation, Nairobi, Kenya

05

20



## Asia Pacific

With close coordination between the Bangkok and Geneva offices, FI has served as an effective conduit for ever-increasing collaboration between Franciscans working at the grassroots in numerous Asia-Pacific countries and the UN human rights mechanisms. FI submitted three UPR reports for this region in 2012 and the UPR follow-up strategy remains an important focus. In 2012 FI broadened and strengthened its network of Franciscan partners in the Asia-Pacific region through several workshops, reinforcing a firm foundation for continued collaboration in 2013.

### Focus on: West Papua

FI has been engaged in a variety of activities addressing **human rights issues** affecting the people of West Papua, Indonesia. In March 2012, FI delivered statements on the widespread **use of torture by the Indonesian military**. These statements reported cases of torture documented by FI's partners on the ground and proposed recommendations for policy reforms to prevent such illegal practices. FI also hosted a side event at the 19th session of the HRC in collaboration with various NGO partners on the **implementation of UPR recommendations in Indonesia**, with a particular emphasis on the rule of law as a means of human rights protection. In November, FI invited a human rights defender from West Papua to Geneva to participate in a roundtable discussion on the current human rights situation with representatives from Member States' delegations and other NGOs and to **design effective strategies** to collaborate further in addressing human rights abuses in West Papua at the international level.

### Participation in the UPRs of Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Japan, and India

FI submitted reports for the UPR of Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and Japan. FI complemented these reports with lobbying throughout the year with representatives of diplomatic missions in Geneva to inform them of the human rights concerns of Franciscans working at the grassroots. Franciscans and partners from India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan came to Geneva to follow the reviews of their country, participate in side events at the HRC, and contribute to FI's lobbying initiatives.



*Regional Workshop on Indigenous People in Bangkok, Thailand*

## JUNE

Rio+20 Conference, two side events on Agro-ecological farming, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Side event: Human Rights-based Approach to Prosecuting Cases of Human Trafficking at the UN Geneva

06

Workshop for Latin American Franciscan Family leaders, Bogotá, Colombia

Lecture on UPR for international relations undergraduate students at Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand



## Workshops

In January 2012 FI organised a regional workshop on Indigenous peoples' rights in Asia Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand with representatives from India, Pakistan, Thailand, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Indonesia, Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea, and Australia. In preparation for the UPR submission for Sri Lanka, FI held a workshop to consult with Franciscans on the ground on critical human rights issues for inclusion in the UPR report. In October 2012, FI held workshops in Indonesia and three workshops in India as part of its UPR follow-up programme to monitor the implementation of UPR recommendations.



*Regional Workshop on Indigenous People in Bangkok, Thailand*

## International Collaboration

In March FI convened a meeting in Geneva of the Steering Committee of the Faith-Based Network on Papua and held an international consultation with NGOs and other stakeholders on the human rights situation in Papua. FI participated in the meeting of the Pakistan NGO Support Group in the Hague, the Netherlands in February 2012. This platform of NGOs from Europe, North America, and Pakistan work together with and in support of human rights organisations in Pakistan. FI also took part in a broad coalition of international NGOs working on human rights in Sri Lanka.

## Engaging UN Special Procedures

In 2012, FI sent two urgent appeals for issues arising in the Asia-Pacific Region: to the Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary and Arbitrary Executions in relation to the killing of a West Papuan politician; and to the Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples about an Australian judicial decision related to aboriginal human rights defenders. FI also signed a joint letter to the United States Congress calling for the immediate cessation of the sale of military helicopters to Indonesia in order to prevent their use against Papuan civilians who are the targets of sustained Indonesian military action.

JULY

**Workshop: Extractive Industries and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Geneva**

07



20

## Europe

### Participation in UPRs

In 2012 FI submitted reports for France, Germany, Romania, and the United Kingdom. The report for France covered several critical human rights issues including treatment of the elderly, human trafficking, religious freedom in prison, and the State's treatment of the *gens du voyage* (the travelling community). A range of human rights concerns were also raised in relation to Romania, including the right to an adequate standard of living, the right to health, the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS, the rights of persons with disabilities, the right to education, and trafficking in persons. Trafficking and prostitution were the main focus areas of the Germany report and the UK report highlighted the use of enforced destitution as a deliberate instrument of public policy in the treatment of asylum seekers.



### National Consultation in Romania

In August FI participated in the annual national meeting of the Inter-Franciscan Commission of Romania, in which about ninety Romanian religious and lay Franciscans participated. FI was invited to present its activities and projects for 2013 and explore possibilities to start collaborating in a more systematic way with the Franciscans in Romania. This meeting gave FI the opportunity to hear from Franciscans on the ground about the key human rights challenges they face in their work. Human trafficking as a result of extreme poverty, lack of employment for youth, and a high migration rate, mainly toward Western European countries, were highlighted as the key concerns of participants. Lack of proper education schemes and support for children of disadvantaged families were also identified as widespread issues of national concern.

## AUGUST

UPR advocacy on human rights in Sri Lanka, Zambia, Peru, Benin, Pakistan and Japan

Human rights advocacy training in Romania



### Environmental Justice

#### Rio+20: Sustainable Development and Human Rights

In 2012 environmental justice was adopted as the key focus of advocacy activities for the New York office and the Americas programme. FI conducted a strong advocacy strategy around the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development. FI monitored the preliminary inter-governmental negotiations in New York in January, March, April, and May. FI prepared a lobbying document with key commentary and proposed amendments to the negotiating text focusing on the concept of green economy, the importance of protecting water as a human right, and the need for sustainable agriculture projects. This document and lobbying was extraordinarily successful and the text that FI proposed was included into the official negotiating draft, bringing the concerns coming from Franciscans working at the grassroots to the forefront. During the March negotiations at the UN, FI held a NGO roundtable with more than 100 people in attendance to strategize about promoting and protecting the human right to water in the Rio+20 process. Also in preparation for the conference, FI was invited as an international expert to the Latin American Regional Forum in Preparation for Rio+20, in Rosario, Argentina, and gave a presentation on how civil society can engage in the Rio+20 processes.



In June FI representatives joined nearly 60 Franciscans representing the orders and congregations from all the regions of the world to attend the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and the parallel Peoples' Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. At the UN Conference, FI organised two official side events on sustainable agriculture. As a follow-up to this work, FI has co-authored with the Franciscan Center for Studies and Regional Development in Argentina an analysis of the results of Rio+20 in the area of sustainable agriculture with proposed ways forward for civil society. This paper was presented in the 8th Regional Conference on the Environment in Rosario and will be published in the academic journal *Revista Energieia*, of the Pontificate Catholic University.



## SEPTEMBER

Publication on handbook on contemporary forms of slavery  
"Modern Slavery in India: Cases of Bonded Labour"

09



Geneva advanced workshop on water and sanitation

20





*The President of Brazil, Dilma Rousseff*

### Water and Sanitation

Following the UN General Assembly decision to recognise access to water and sanitation as a human right in July 2010, FI initiated a long-term programme to help realise the right to water and sanitation by developing advocacy strategies at all levels. In this context, FI published the guidebook “The Right to Water and Sanitation” in 2011. As a follow-up, in 2012 FI implemented a specific sub-regional advocacy project for eight Anglophone Africa countries aimed at enhancing advocacy on right to water and sanitation using the FI guide as core material for thematic training workshops.

Franciscans from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, and South Africa participated in two training sessions held in Nairobi and Geneva. The first had a national and regional advocacy perspective and the latter was aimed at providing an international perspective of the right to water. In both workshops, participants and other stakeholders (NGO partners, experts, guest speakers, and UN representatives) had the opportunity to discuss the state of the right to water and sanitation in local communities, identify issues of concern, and examine possible solutions. The main issues raised in working groups were the denial of access to safe drinking water, childhood diseases resulting from unsafe water, lack of adequate infrastructure, governance and management problems, lack of a participatory approach in decision-making processes, discrimination against women, and hygiene education.

## OCTOBER

12

Submission of UPR on Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Colombia, and Germany

Workshop on UPR, Brussels, Belgium

10

Submission of report on women’s rights in Togo (CEDAW)

UPR follow-up workshops on CFS, IPs, and domestic migrant workers in India





*Open drain in Mukuru Slum,  
Nairobi, Kenya*

FI advocated at the UN with a view to influencing the international agenda to address the consequences of the inaccessibility of safe water. FI organised an international public debate in Geneva on “Confronting Poverty and Stigmatization by addressing Water and Sanitation Issues.” During the 21st session of the Human Rights Council, FI submitted a statement denouncing the denial of the right to water in Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Ethiopia, Uganda and Zimbabwe and urged governments to address this issue. Additionally, FI has been active in raising awareness on the negative effect of climate change and how it exacerbates poverty and adversely impacts particularly vulnerable groups.

Additionally, the workshops aimed to challenge religious leaders of local communities to address water issues as causes and consequences of extreme poverty. They also considered the capacity of the local communities to be mobilised and responsible for their future. In many of the cases discussed, greater participation of communities in the decision-making process was desired, particularly with regard to women. Customarily in many parts of Africa, women have the daily responsibility of providing safe water for their family and yet women are excluded from the management of water systems. The workshops emphasised the need to empower women in advocating for water rights at the local level.

## NOVEMBER



**Urgent Appeal on the situation of human rights defenders in Peru**

11

**In-country IP rights and UPR  
workshop in Jakarta, Indonesia**

## Contemporary Forms of Slavery

In 2012, the geographical focus of FI's Contemporary Forms of Slavery (CFS) Programme was the Asia Pacific region. In-depth consultation with Franciscans in India and extensive research by the FI Advocacy Team culminated in the publication of "Modern Slavery in India: Cases of Bonded Labour." This study examines issues related to child labour, prostitution, human trafficking, and forced and bonded labour in industrial and agricultural sectors, serving as a comprehensive introduction to the scourge of CFS. This publication has been widely circulated through the Franciscan network, the FI website, and at side events at the HRC. Throughout 2012 FI convened several side events on child marriage, bonded labour, and human trafficking at the HRC and raised these issues in numerous UPR reports, including Pakistan, Germany, Romania, India, and Cameroon.

In October and November FI held two workshops in India focused on bonded labour, human trafficking, and the situation of domestic workers. Participants included local Franciscans working on these issues in their communities, as well as representatives from other civil society organisations including Anti-Slavery International and the Global Alliance against Trafficking of Women. These workshops strengthened the local network of actors on these issues, forged closer ties for further collaboration, and established a plan of action to coordinate the collection of case studies for use in national and international advocacy in 2013. FI will continue to tackle human rights abuses related to CFS through the strengthening of our network of active and engaged partners working for justice on the ground.



DECEMBER

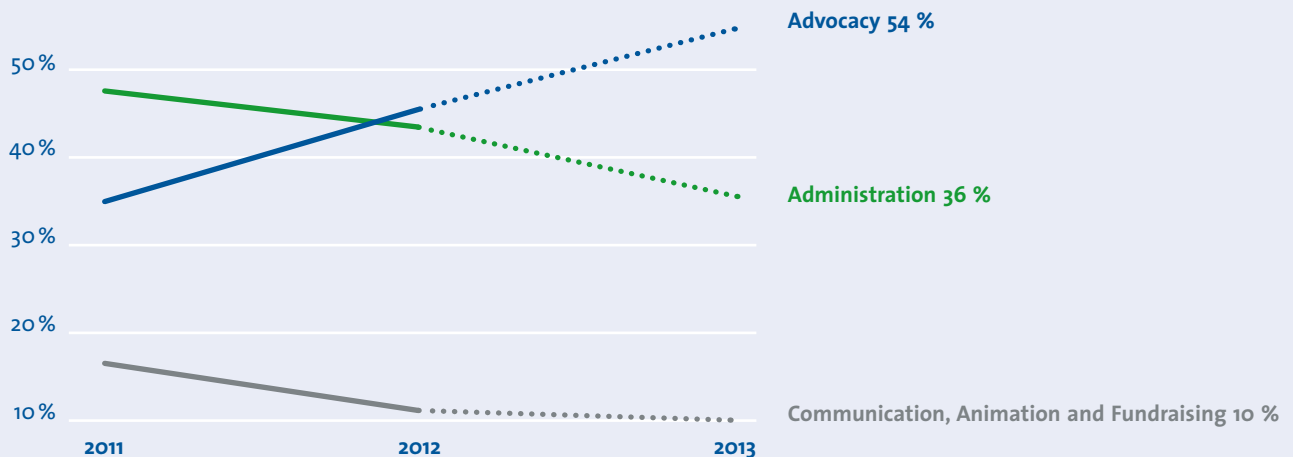


In 2012, FI intensified efforts to consolidate financial stability. Despite several financial challenges, FI was able to end the year with a balanced account. This was mainly thanks to the trust of its generous donors.

One of the main challenges that FI faced was the lack of income predictability, which represented an obstacle in planning activities. Stability in expected income is vital to ensure consistency in FI advocacy operations. In line with this, FI continued to pursue three-year pledges from Franciscan congregations and orders. This strategy undoubtedly helped FI achieve more predictable income in comparison to previous years. In 2013, FI intends to enhance income certainty through a long-term fundraising strategy and diversification of income sources. FI will also explore new avenues (public institutions, private donors and foundations) to increase financial support and sustainability.

Finally, FI was able to minimise administration costs and ensure that the income would turn around its main mission: to promote positive changes through advocacy at the UN.

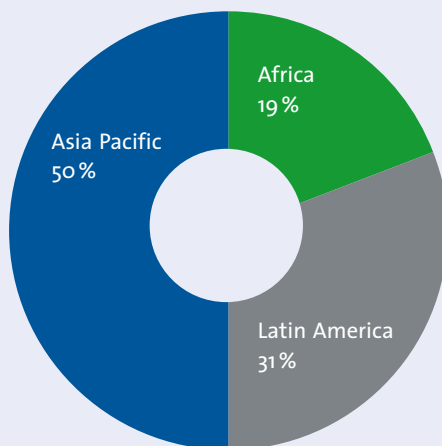
## Trends in Expenditure



## Financial Summary 2012

	CHF	Percentage
<b>Income</b>		
Franciscan Orders and Congregations	827,837.43	55 %
Funding Agencies and Foundations	602,113.96	40 %
Other Donations	67,128.26	5 %
<b>Total income</b>	<b>1,497,079.65</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>		
Advocacy	(675,278.15)	46 %
Communications, Animation and Fundraising	(155,294.19)	10 %
Administration	(647,902.40)	44 %
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>(1,478,474.74)</b>	
<b>Non-Operating Income and Expenses</b>		
Interest and bank charges	(7,056.92)	
Interests income	488.44	
Accumulated Foreign Exchange Loss	(12,940.30)	
	<b>(19,508.78)</b>	

### Advocacy Project Expenditure by Region



## STAFF 2013



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## THANK YOU

We would also like to thank our colleagues that left in 2012. We express deepest gratitude for their contribution to the achievement of the results showed in this report.

## Acronyms and Abbreviations

<b>CEDAW</b>	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
<b>CESCR</b>	Committee on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights
<b>CFS</b>	Contemporary Forms of Slavery
<b>DRC</b>	Democratic Republic of Congo
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FI</b>	Franciscans International
<b>HRC</b>	Human Rights Council
<b>IP</b>	Indigenous peoples
<b>JPIC</b>	Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organization
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>SR</b>	Special Rapporteur
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UPR</b>	Universal Periodic Review



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*In 2012 FI produced two publications:*

- *"Modern Slavery in India": cases of bonded labour*
- *"Seeking Justice through the United Nations": FI animation booklet*