



 *Fight for
Humanity*

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2025**

Fight for Humanity

Fight for Humanity is a Swiss non-profit association duly registered with the Geneva Commercial Register.

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FOREWORD

The year 2025 unfolded against a particularly challenging global backdrop. Armed conflicts continued to devastate communities across multiple regions, while growing geopolitical tensions, shrinking humanitarian space, and increasing disregard for international norms further undermined the protection of civilians. At the same time, significant reductions in international aid funding placed additional pressure on humanitarian and human rights organizations, forcing many actors to scale back activities despite rising needs.

In this context, it would be easy to focus only on the setbacks. Yet 2025 also demonstrated the resilience of communities, civil society organizations, and local partners working tirelessly to protect human dignity in the most difficult circumstances. Their commitment reminds us that even in times of uncertainty, progress remains possible.

Throughout the year, Fight for Humanity continued to support initiatives promoting child protection, women's rights, cultural heritage protection, social cohesion, and peaceful coexistence. From supporting vulnerable children and youth in Northeast Syria, to protecting cultural heritage in Sudan, strengthening reconciliation efforts in Colombia, fostering social cohesion through heritage restoration in Lebanon, and contributing to international research on harm and need and the drivers of compliance and restraint in conflict, children's access to essential services, and gender norms and protection, our work remained guided by the conviction that sustainable peace depends on the protection of both people and the rights that unite them.

This report reflects not only the activities and achievements of the past year, but also the determination of our partners, donors, colleagues, and communities to continue building bridges in increasingly polarized environments. While the challenges ahead remain considerable, we remain convinced that dialogue, respect for human dignity, and collective action continue to offer pathways toward more peaceful, inclusive, and resilient societies.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all those who contributed to this work throughout 2025 and look ahead to the future with both realism and hope.

Mehmet Balci
Co-Director



Anki Sjöberg
Co-Director



OUR MISSION

Fight for Humanity is a non-partisan, impartial, and independent NGO that works to protect human dignity, advance human rights, and contribute to sustainable peace in contexts affected by armed conflict, violence, and social divisions.

Fight for Humanity believes that stronger social cohesion and lasting peace depend on the protection and promotion of fundamental rights. The organization therefore focuses on four interconnected areas: children's rights, the rights of women and girls, cultural rights and heritage protection, and the right to a healthy environment. Through these priorities, Fight for Humanity seeks to foster more inclusive, resilient, and peaceful societies.



OUR TOOLS

DIALOGUE

Engaging with conflict actors to strengthen respect for human rights, humanitarian norms, and good practices, while fostering dialogue within conflict-affected communities.

ADVOCACY

Mobilizing national and international stakeholders to promote greater respect for fundamental rights and strengthen the protection of vulnerable populations affected by conflict and violence.

TRAINING

Building the capacities of NGOs, civil society organizations, public authorities, and conflict actors on human rights, relevant international legal frameworks, and their practical implementation.

AWARENESS- RAISING

Promoting respect for human rights through targeted awareness campaigns and communication initiatives adapted to local contexts and audiences.

RESEARCH

Producing evidence-based and operationally relevant research to better understand the behaviour of armed and political actors, assess existing practices, and inform policies and interventions aimed at strengthening human rights protection.

COMMUNITY PROTECTION

Where relevant, supporting concrete protection and resilience measures that respond to the needs of conflict-affected populations and help translate policy, advocacy, and research efforts into tangible outcomes for communities.



2025

HIGHLIGHTS

Contributed to child protection in Northeast Syria, supporting 200 at-risk and demobilized children and building the capacities of security and civil authorities.

Advanced the protection of Sudan's cultural heritage, contributing to the safeguarding of artefacts and securing commitments from conflict parties to respect and protect cultural property.

Promoted social cohesion and youth empowerment in Lebanon through heritage restoration and skills development initiatives benefiting vulnerable young women and men.

Generated evidence to strengthen civilian protection, humanitarian access, and peacebuilding efforts through research conducted across multiple conflict-affected contexts.

FIGHT FOR HUMANITY'S 2025

GLOBAL IMPACT



COLOMBIA

Strengthening Local Communities' Capacities in Dialogue, Coexistence, and Reconciliation

Research: Building Evidence on Promoting Positive Change by Armed Actors



SWITZERLAND

Fight for Humanity's Geneva Headquarters

SYRIA

Preventing child recruitment and supporting the reintegration of at-risk and demobilized children in Northeast Syria.

Strengthening child protection for vulnerable children and youth

Research : Building Evidence on Promoting Positive Change by Armed Actors

LEBANON

Strengthening social cohesion and youth opportunities through cultural heritage restoration in Tripoli

Occupied Palestinian Territory

Research: Strengthening Humanitarian Access for Children in Conflict

SUDAN

Strengthening the protection of cultural heritage threatened by conflict

Yemen

Research: Building Evidence on Promoting Positive Change by Armed Actors



LEBANON

Strengthening Social Cohesion
through Cultural Heritage

ROOTING FOR THE FUTURE

RESTORING HERITAGE, BUILDING SOCIAL COHESION IN LEBANON

MARCH 2025 - JUNE 2026

CONTEXT

Lebanon continues to face the combined effects of longstanding social divisions, economic hardship, and regional instability. Decades after the civil war, many communities remain socially segregated, while economic challenges and recurring security tensions continue to strain social cohesion, particularly among youth. At the same time, limited resources for heritage preservation place important cultural sites at risk, reducing their potential contribution to local development, employment, and community engagement.

ACTION

In partnership with the Kofi Annan Foundation, IECD Lebanon, Distruct Solutions, Permanent Peace Movement, and the Directorate General of Antiquities, Fight for Humanity contributes to the restoration of the Citadel of Tripoli while supporting youth empowerment and social cohesion. Through a worksite-school approach, vulnerable young women and men receive hands-on training in heritage conservation alongside life skills and employability support. The project also promotes dialogue and youth-led initiatives that use cultural heritage as a platform for building trust and strengthening social cohesion across communities.

ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2025, Fight for Humanity

- Advanced the restoration of the Citadel of Tripoli through the consolidation of vulnerable structures, vegetation removal, stabilization works, and preparatory interventions on the Northern Tower and water management systems.
- Trained 20 vulnerable young women and men through a worksite-school programme combining practical heritage conservation skills, health and safety standards, and employability training.
- Strengthened participants' employability through life skills training covering communication, self-awareness, teamwork, and professional development.
- Contributed to broader project efforts to promote social cohesion, including 26 dialogue sessions and four youth-led seed grant initiatives using cultural heritage as a platform for cooperation, community engagement, and peacebuilding.

SYRIA

Protecting Vulnerable Children



RESILIENT FUTURES

PROTECTION AND EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN NORTHEAST SYRIA

NOVEMBER 2024 - APRIL 2026

CONTEXT

Following the collapse of the al-Assad regime in late 2024, Northeast Syria remained affected by political transition, insecurity, and humanitarian needs throughout 2025. Children and youth faced significant protection risks, including detention, recruitment into armed groups, gender-based violence, child labour, and limited access to essential services. Vulnerabilities were particularly acute among children detained in or returning from Al-Hol and Al-Roj camps.

ACTION

Through the Resilient Futures programme, implemented alongside War Child and The Women's Center, Fight for Humanity worked to strengthen the protection of vulnerable children and youth in Northeast Syria. The organization led advocacy and engagement efforts with security actors and local authorities, including awareness-raising sessions, training activities, and the development of child protection materials aimed at improving the protection of children affected by detention and association with armed actors.

ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2025, Fight for Humanity:

- Strengthened coordination on child protection through workshops with authorities from camps, rehabilitation centres, and key institutions, promoting more child-sensitive approaches to detention, release, and reintegration.
- Reviewed seven existing policies and procedures affecting children and developed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), practical tools, and policy recommendations to support child protection, release, transfer, and reintegration processes.
- Conducted 15 high-level meetings with local authorities, camp authorities, and senior decision-makers, strengthening cooperation and advancing discussions on child protection and reintegration.
- Supported the practical adoption of child protection tools and procedures by local authorities, contributing to more coherent and child-sensitive responses for children in camps and rehabilitation centres.
- Advanced advocacy efforts for the protection and release of detained children through sustained engagement with authorities and key stakeholders.

CHILDREN BELONG IN SCHOOL NOT WAR

PREVENTING CHILD RECRUITMENT IN NORTH EAST SYRIA

FEBRUARY 2024 - APRIL 2025

CONTEXT

On 29 June 2019, the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and the Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (DAANES) signed an Action Plan with the United Nations, committing to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children under 18 and to identify and separate children already associated with armed forces or groups. Following Syria's political transition in 2025, the operating environment in Northeast Syria continues to evolve. While progress has been made, child recruitment and broader child protection concerns remain significant challenges, requiring sustained engagement with authorities, communities, and civil society actors.

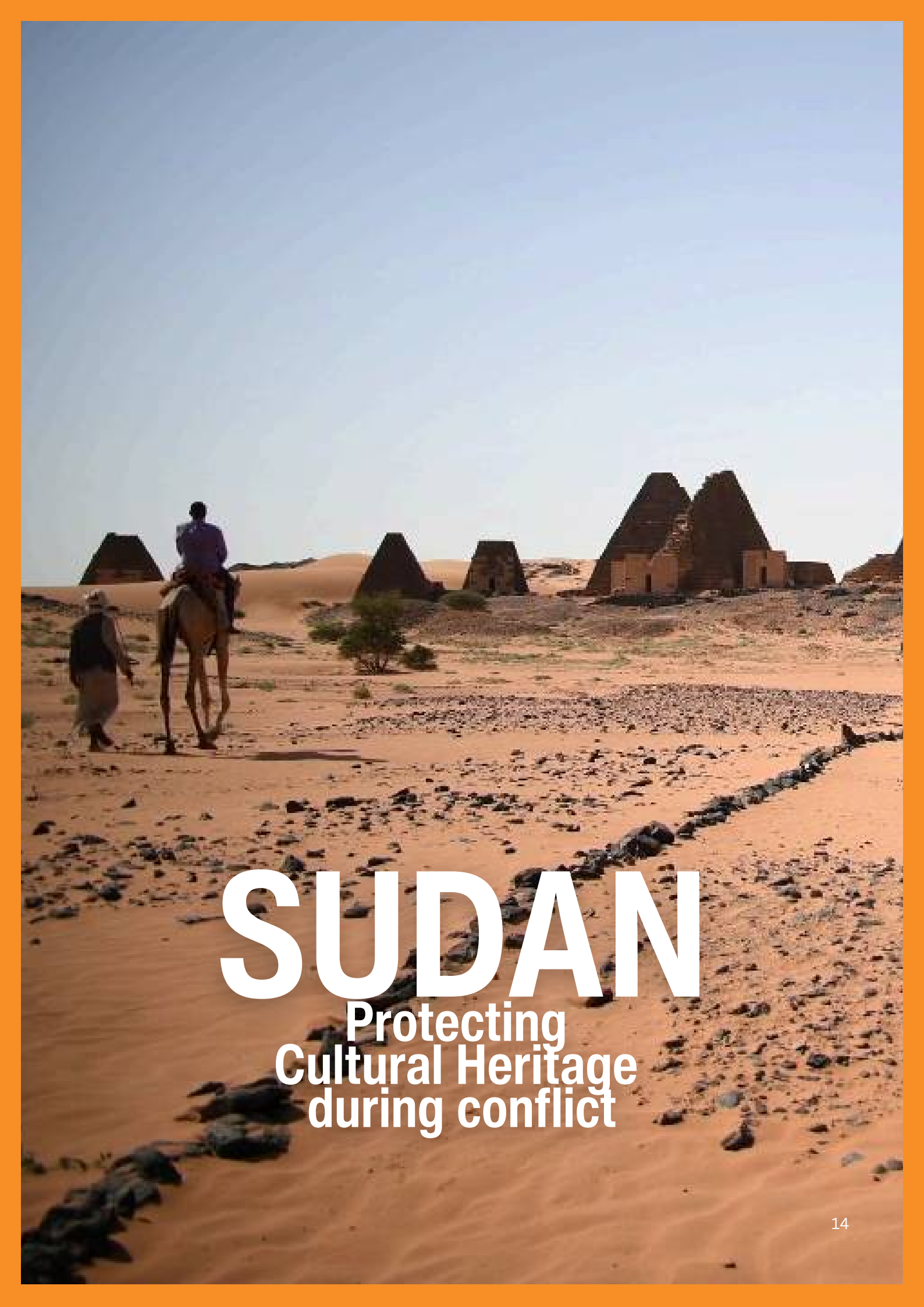
ACTION

Since December 2019, Fight for Humanity, as an implementing partner of UNICEF, has supported the implementation of the Action Plan in coordination with local authorities, security actors, and civil society organizations. Through training, awareness-raising, and direct engagement with local authorities, Fight for Humanity promotes respect for children's rights and the prevention of child recruitment. Alongside its local partner, The Women's Center, the organization also supports at-risk and demobilized youth through financial assistance, vocational training, and life-skills development to strengthen their resilience and reduce the risk of recruitment.

ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2025, Fight for Humanity:

- Provided individualized case management and tailored support to 200 at-risk and demobilized children, helping address protection concerns and strengthen their well-being and resilience.
- Delivered Training of Trainers sessions to 29 local authority personnel on child rights, child protection standards, the Action Plan, and age-screening procedures.
- Conducted high-level advocacy and engagement with local authorities representatives to support the implementation of child protection commitments and the prevention of child recruitment.
- Produced awareness-raising materials on child labour and early marriage and developed an evidence-based analysis of the drivers of child recruitment in Northeast Syria to inform future advocacy and programming.

A photograph of the Great Pyramids of Giza in Egypt. In the foreground, a person is riding a camel, and a guide is walking alongside them. The pyramids are visible in the background under a clear sky.

SUDAN

Protecting
Cultural Heritage
during conflict

CULTURAL HERITAGE

PROTECTING SUDAN'S HERITAGE IN CONFLICT

SEPTEMBER 2024 - MAY 2025

CONTEXT

Since the outbreak of war in Sudan in April 2023, cultural heritage sites, museums, and collections have faced increasing risks and damages from hostilities, looting, and vandalism. As the conflict expanded into Northern and River Nile states in 2025, concerns grew over the safety of key cultural sites, including the World Heritage Sites of Gebel Barkal and Meroe. The war has also disrupted cultural practices and forced many heritage professionals, cultural practitioners, and bearers of traditional knowledge to flee their communities.

ACTION

In partnership with the Centre on Armed Groups and Sudanese heritage professionals, Fight for Humanity worked with the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) to strengthen the protection of cultural heritage during the ongoing conflict. Activities focused on high-level dialogue, advocacy, and awareness-raising on the protection of cultural property under International Humanitarian Law. The project also promoted practical measures to reduce risks to museums, collections, archaeological sites, and World Heritage properties threatened by military operations.

ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2025 Fight for Humanity:

- Established sustained engagement with senior SAF and RSF representatives, creating one of the first dedicated dialogues on cultural heritage protection since the outbreak of the conflict.
- Contributed to the protection of cultural heritage at immediate risk by supporting the safe relocation of 132 archaeological artefacts and advocating for the withdrawal of SAF military presence from the vicinity of the World Heritage Site of Meroe.
- Advocated for the adoption of an RSF standing order instructing forces to protect museums, heritage sites, and cultural institutions, while prohibiting actions that could expose cultural property to damage during military operations.
- Secured commitments from conflict parties to engage further on cultural heritage protection and facilitated access discussions for expert assessments of museums located in conflict-affected areas.

A close-up portrait of an older man with a mustache, wearing a yellow polo shirt. He is holding a small, clear plastic photo of a person in a military uniform. The photo is slightly tilted and shows a person in a camouflage uniform. The man's expression is serious. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. The overall tone is somber and reflective.

COLOMBIA

Gestures of Peace

GESTURES OF PEACE

TRUTH, DIALOGUE, AND RECONCILIATION IN COLOMBIA

JUNE 2024 - MAY 2026

CONTEXT

Despite the 2016 Peace Agreement between the Colombian Government and the FARC-EP, many regions of Colombia continue to face violence linked to the presence of armed groups, weak state institutions, and persistent social inequalities. While the government's Paz Total policy sought to advance dialogue and negotiated solutions with armed actors, insecurity remains widespread in several regions, including the department of Cauca. Communities in Popayán, Sotará, and La Sierra continue to be affected by forced displacement, child recruitment, illicit economies, and attacks against social leaders, highlighting the need for locally driven peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts.

ACTION

Building on a pilot project implemented in 2023, Fight for Humanity and its local partner Gestos de Paz work to strengthen dialogue, coexistence, and reconciliation in three municipalities of the Cauca department. The project promotes the social appropriation of the Truth Commission's recommendations through community dialogue processes, collective reflection on local conflict dynamics, and the development of community peace agendas. These efforts aim to strengthen local capacities for peacebuilding and support community-led initiatives that foster reconciliation and social cohesion.

ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2025, Fight for Humanity:

- Conducted 13 community workshops across Popayán, Sotará, and La Sierra, engaging local stakeholders in discussions on the Truth Commission's findings, local conflict dynamics, and pathways to peace and reconciliation.
- Produced a stakeholder mapping and conflict analysis for the three municipalities, identifying key actors, local power dynamics, and drivers of violence to inform peacebuilding efforts.
- Developed the methodology for the creation of Community Peace Agendas, laying the foundation for collective action plans and locally owned peacebuilding initiatives.
- Strengthened community engagement around dialogue, coexistence, and non-violent conflict resolution, while promoting continued reflection on the legacy and recommendations of Colombia's Truth Commission.

RESEARCH PROJECTS



BEYOND COMPLIANCE

RESEARCHING PATHWAYS TO ARMED ACTOR RESTRAINT

FEBRUARY 2024 - FEBRUARY 2027

CONTEXT

Civilians continue to bear the brunt of contemporary armed conflicts despite the existence of international legal and normative frameworks designed to protect them. Understanding why armed actors comply with, or deviate from, norms intended to reduce civilian harm remains a critical challenge for policymakers, humanitarian actors, and researchers. In response, the Beyond Compliance Consortium, led by the University of York and bringing together nine universities and humanitarian NGOs, seeks to generate evidence on the factors influencing the behaviour of armed actors and the experiences of civilians affected by conflict across nine countries.

ACTION

Fight for Humanity contributes to the Beyond Compliance Consortium amongst other by conducting research aimed at identifying effective strategies to promote restraint among armed actors and reduce civilian suffering. Through country-specific case studies, the project combines qualitative and quantitative research methods to analyse patterns of harm, civilian experiences, and the drivers of compliance and restraint. Findings from the research are used to inform operational practices, humanitarian programming, and policy recommendations to better prevent and mitigate civilian harm in armed conflicts.

ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2025 Fight for Humanity:

- Led data collection in Colombia, Yemen and Syria, conducting 130 semi-structured interviews with community members, international stakeholders, and armed actors, as well as 8 focus group discussions.
- Co-authored research and policy publications as part of the Beyond Compliance Consortium, including [The What, Who and How of Compliance and Restraint by Non-State Armed Groups](#), [Legal Frameworks by Non-State Armed Groups in Syria: Drivers or Constraints of Harm to Children?](#), and [Beyond the State: The Role of Armed and Political Movements in Implementing the Women, Peace and Security Framework in Yemen](#).
- Completed the preliminary analysis of qualitative and quantitative data, identifying emerging findings on restraint, compliance, and civilian harm in conflict settings.

This project is implemented through the Beyond Compliance Consortium, led by the University of York and funded by UK International Development from the UK Government.

RESEARCH

CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO HUMANITARIAN SERVICES IN CONFLICT SETTINGS

OCTOBER 2024 - JUNE 2026

CONTEXT

Despite the near-universal recognition of children's rights, many children living in conflict-affected settings continue to face significant barriers to accessing essential humanitarian services. These challenges are particularly acute in areas controlled by non-state armed groups and de facto authorities, where insecurity, restrictions, and governance dynamics often limit access to assistance. As conflicts become increasingly protracted and complex, important gaps persist despite international commitments aimed at safeguarding children's rights and well-being.

ACTION

Since October 2024, this global initiative, in partnership with the Centre on Armed Groups, has sought to improve children's access to essential services by understanding and addressing the causes of Denials of Humanitarian Access (DHA) by state and non-state actors. Through consultations with armed actors and other key stakeholders, the project generates evidence and practical recommendations to strengthen humanitarian access and child protection. Fight for Humanity leads the case study research component in Yemen and the Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt), combining field-based analysis with operational and policy recommendations to improve access to services and protection for children affected by conflict.

ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2025 Fight for Humanity:

- Conducted field research in Yemen and the Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt), carrying out interviews and consultations with non-state armed groups and de facto authorities, humanitarian actors, community representatives, and other key stakeholders to better understand barriers to children's access to essential services.
- Completed data collection and analysis for the Yemen and oPt case studies, generating evidence on the drivers and impacts of DHA.
- Drafted and finalized the case study research reports, providing operational and policy recommendations to improve humanitarian access and strengthen the protection of conflict-affected children.



CONSULTANCIES PUBLICATIONS AND OUTREACH

CONSULTANCIES

Working with the Overseas Development Institute, Fight for Humanity started conducting research on protection risks and gender norms in different types of conflicts and contexts, considering how humanitarian and other civilian-centred protection actors understand gendered risks and roles in conflict. At a time when gender-sensitive analyses are deprioritised, Fight for Humanity examined how gendered risks shapes civilians' experiences of armed conflict and affects their positionalities through interviews with key informants.

EVENTS

- In May, as part of the ALIPH Foundation's event "Protecting Heritage: From Crisis to Peace", co-Director **Mehmet Balci presented Fight for Humanity's cultural heritage project in Syria** on saving and storing artefacts that were damaged or stolen during the armed conflict.
- At Geneva Peace Week 2025, **Fight for Humanity co-organized a panel discussion** attended by over 100 participants with researchers from the Beyond Compliance Consortium. Moderated by co-Director Anki Sjöberg, the panel shared emerging findings on their research on strengthening the protection of civilians in armed conflict.

MEDIA

- In July, Fight for Humanity's Head of Development **Nicolas Sion was invited by the Swiss television channel Léman Bleu**. He talked about the cultural heritage project in Syria and emphasized the importance of protecting historical artefacts for peace and social cohesion.
- Fight for Humanity was also quoted in an article of ***The Art Newspaper***, 'Revealed: how a secret rescue operation helped preserve Syria's heritage'.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Throughout 2025, Fight for Humanity maintained an active presence on Facebook, X, LinkedIn, and YouTube, engaging more than 3,000 followers through regular updates on its projects and activities. Additional content was shared through the organization's website and newsletter. On Facebook, the organization's profile recorded over 15,000 views during the year across more than 30 publications, both profile visits and followers increased compared to 2024. From June to December, Fight for Humanity's LinkedIn profile generated more than 14,000 impressions across over 20 posts. Fight for Humanity also remained active on X, sharing updates and project-related information through more than 30 posts during the reporting period.

FINANCIALS

In its sixth year of operation, Fight for Humanity recorded an income of CHF 995,214, representing a 13% increase compared to CHF 884,268 in 2024. This growth reflects the organization's continued ability to secure and implement high-quality projects in partnership with likeminded actors and a diverse range of institutional and philanthropic donors.

The 2025 financial year closed with a deficit of CHF 16,527. This result was primarily attributable to exchange rate fluctuations and does not reflect a deterioration in the organization's operational performance. Despite a challenging funding environment for humanitarian and development actors, Fight for Humanity successfully expanded its portfolio, strengthened existing partnerships, and launched new initiatives across several countries.

In 2026, the organization will continue to strengthen existing partnerships and pursue new opportunities to advance its mission.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS (CHF)

	2025	2024
Contributions & other income	995,214	884,268
Programme expenditures	(896,841)	(558,497)
Administrative expenditures	(61,479)	(76,086)
Net operating result	36,894	249,685
Financial result	(34,035)	958
Result for the year	(16,527)	20,793



The financial statements were audited by Mazars SA, and the full audit report can be consulted [here](#).

OPERATIONAL TEAM

Anki Sjöberg

Co-Director

Mehmet Balci

Co-Director

Beytul Gorkem

Head of Operations

Nicolas Sion

Head of Development

Zeyna Erdemoglu

Fundraising, Communications & Admin

OUR COMMITTEE

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INNA CRUZ

TREASURER

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JULIE WARD

FLEUR RAVENSBERGEN

ANNYSSA BELLAL

TARA STEIMER

NATHALIE PROUVEZ

FIGHT FOR HUMANITY IN 2026

LOOKING AHEAD



The year ahead is likely to remain challenging for the humanitarian and human rights sector. While humanitarian needs continue to grow across many conflict-affected contexts, available resources are increasingly constrained, creating a widening gap between needs and funding. In this environment, there is a growing imperative to ensure that humanitarian action not only responds to the consequences of conflict, but also contributes to reducing harm, strengthening resilience, and supporting pathways toward peace.

Fight for Humanity remains convinced that sustainable change is best achieved through constructive engagement, practical solutions, and collaboration with those directly affected by conflict. Whether supporting local actors, restoring shared cultural heritage, promoting social cohesion, or generating evidence on civilian protection and restraint, the organization seeks to build on existing capacities and promote dialogue rather than focusing solely on shortcomings. In 2026, Fight for Humanity will continue to invest in concrete, locally driven initiatives that protect civilians, strengthen communities, and demonstrate that even in challenging contexts, positive action can contribute to a more peaceful future.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Fight for Humanity would like to express its sincere gratitude to all the individuals and organizations that contributed to its work in 2025.

Institutional Donors and Partners

Fight for Humanity's work in 2025 was made possible through the support and collaboration of ALIPH Foundation, Centre on Armed Groups, Kofi Annan Foundation, ODI Global, Save the Children Netherlands, UNICEF, the United Kingdom through the University of York, Ville de Genève, and War Child.

Country Partners

Gestos de Paz and Indepaz in Colombia; the Directorate General of Antiquities, Distruct Solutions, IECD, and the Permanent Peace Movement in Lebanon; Orient Association, Women Center, and IMPACT in Syria; and Yemen Policy Center in Yemen

Financial Management Partner

Beyond Number SA in Geneva and its team in Manila for their financial and administrative support.

Governance and Advisory Bodies

The members of the Board, Committee, and Advisory Council for their guidance, expertise, and commitment to the organization's mission.

Staff and Contributors

All staff members, consultants, interns, volunteers, and collaborators whose dedication and professionalism made the organization's work possible throughout the year.

PHOTO CREDITS

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