

## ABOUT AVOCATS SANS FRONTIÈRES

### Our organisation

Avocats Sans Frontières (ASF) is a development aid non-governmental organization whose work focuses on giving access to justice and protecting the fundamental rights of the most marginalised people: women and children, people who are being illegally detained, human rights' advocates (lawyers, journalists, etc.), and victims of international crimes.

Our teams work in Africa and Asia, mainly in fragile and/or post-conflict countries.

The activities carried out in these countries mainly involve awareness-raising about people's rights, support of legal aid services, capacity building, strategic litigation, advocacy, and the implementation of a network of key stakeholders in the justice system.

Carried out in partnership with Bar associations, civil society associations and stakeholders from the justice sector, our activities are based on compliance with international legal standards and national, regional and international legislation.

### Our added value

1. **Our expertise:** ASF brings together and is supported by the most highly-qualified legal professionals. This technical expertise helps us to continuously develop innovative and effective solutions.
2. **Our experience on the ground/Our local foothold:** Over the years, our teams have built up relationships of trust with local people and organisations. This local foothold allows us to respond to the real requirements of the society and the beneficiaries.
3. **The ability to engineer changes from inside the justice system:** A change is only effective when it is generated and adopted from within. This is why ASF works with various stakeholders in the legal system, which particularly helps the adoption of standards in compliance with human rights.

Our added value is all the more relevant given goal 16 of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations, highlighting the importance of the access to justice.

### Our structure

ASF operates in a dozen countries<sup>1</sup>. We have permanent teams in the following countries: Burundi, Morocco, Uganda, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Chad, Tunisia and Zambia. We also work in Indonesia and Myanmar. Strategic coordination for South-East Asia is carried out from Bangkok.

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<sup>1</sup> In 2017; in the past, ASF has also worked in other countries such as Israel, the occupied Palestinian territories, Rwanda and East Timor.

The headquarters of ASF are situated in Brussels. This is where the organisation was created in 1992 by a group of Belgian and international lawyers.

ASF currently has around 80 employees of whom 80% are national employees working on the ground in the countries affected (*photo*). Moreover, ASF benefits from the expertise of the International Legal Network which it created in 2010. This innovative network is made up of almost 1,300 lawyers and legal professionals from around the world, volunteering their support to implement ASF's activities.

ASF's work is mainly funded by institutional donors (European Union, Belgian and UK Development Cooperation, etc.). In 2017, ASF's budget stands at €5,931,000.

**A team without borders**  
Project coordinators  
field offices and  
the team at the ASF head office  
gathered in Brussels in 2015

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