



# The DATA in the FIGHT AGAINST IMPUNITY (DFI) PROJECT

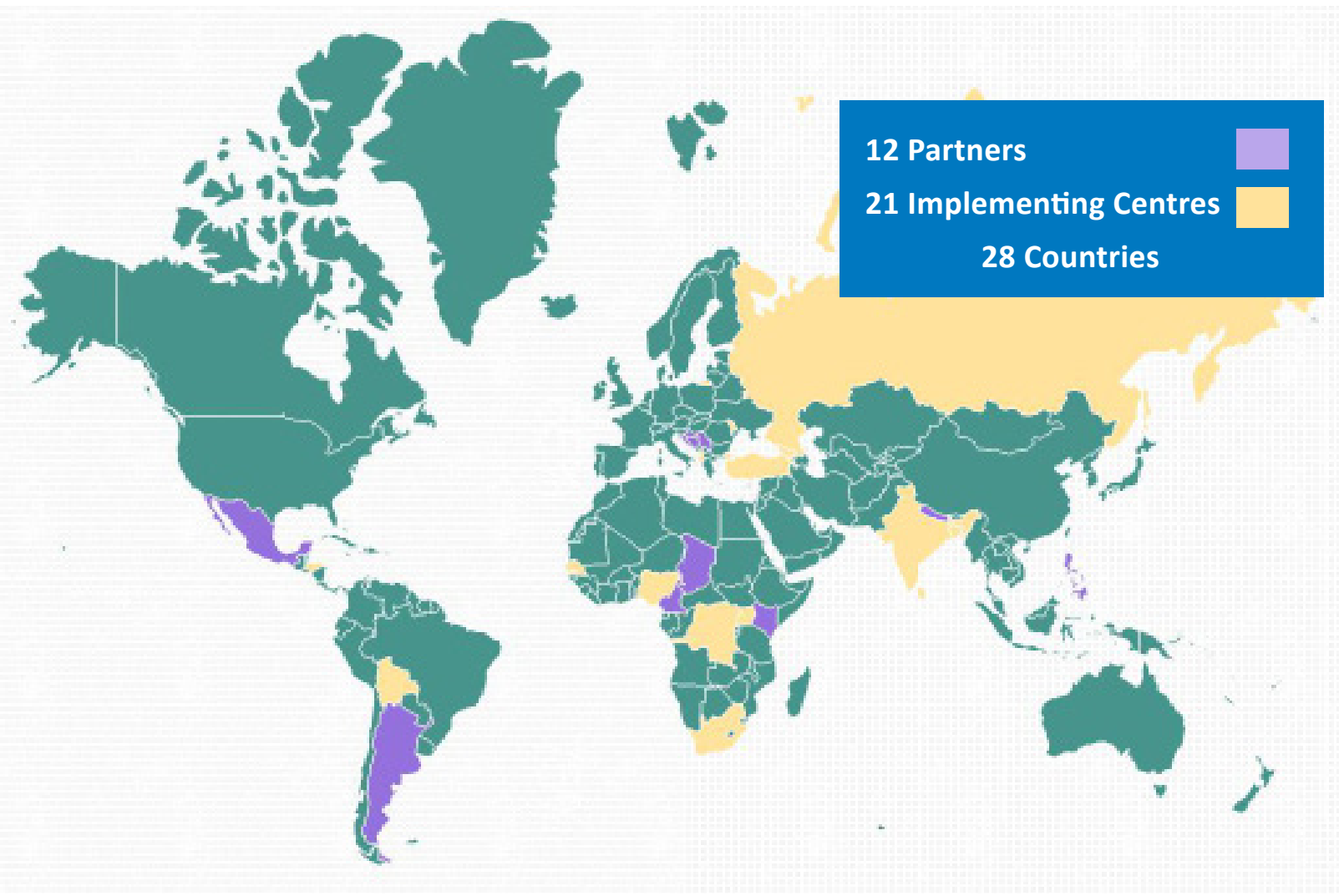


**irct**  
**International  
Rehabilitation  
Council for  
Torture Victims**

Funded by the European Union



And the governments of Denmark, Norway, Sweden, the Lauritzen Fonden and the OAK Foundation



## Overall aim of project

To contribute to the fight against impunity by using data gathered from survivors of torture to support accountability, prevention, and rehabilitation of survivors.

## Specific objective

To strengthen and harmonise the capacity of rehabilitation centres to collect clinical data and use it to produce human rights outputs to support anti-impunity work.

## 33 centres in 28 countries

**Partners:** Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, Chad, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Philippines, Serbia and associate partner in Croatia

**Implementing centres:** Albania, Armenia, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Georgia, Honduras, India, Kenya, Lebanon, Moldova, Nigeria, Russia, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Turkey and Uganda



Central to the development of the sector's ability to evidence its work, is the collection of appropriate, consistent and comparable clinical information. The DFI Project is a system-wide response to creating this ability. DFI is based on building expertise through partners and ensuring that it is shared. The IRCT member centres piloting the project were selected on the basis of regional balance and capacity to represent the full range of rehabilitation practices across the movement and their ability to provide leadership and sustainability in the development of the project into a longstanding programme of work. Over the course of three years, ending in 2017, it will have put in place a standardized clinical record-keeping system in 33 member centres around the world. In the final phase of the project, energy will be focused on sharing the database and associated training with the global movement to maximize impact.

### The DFI system provides the basis for:

1. Information and evidence about where torture takes place, who its victims are, to hold perpetrators to account and to contribute to the end to impunity.
  2. Human rights reporting to drive government to account, and at the global level to report to treaty bodies and thematic mechanisms.
  3. Survivor narratives and thematic stories to increase understanding of torture and its survivors.
  4. Informing clinical work as well as the foundation for a system-wide tool. This will enable the sector to establish the basis for demanding resources and ensuring that the survivor's right to rehabilitation is recognised, respected and fulfilled.
  5. As the database develops, researchers will be linked to the member centres to strengthen the research capacity of the global rehabilitation sector and to focus on key research questions in human rights clinical matters.
- themes for research and advocacy and communications outputs and developed criteria for adding other rehabilitation centres to widen the scope of data collection.
  - **Selection of 21 new implementing centres** from the five participating regions.
  - In February 2015 **the database** was launched, with a new and improved version being introduced in December 2016 based on feedback from 33 centres' experiences using the original database.
  - **Regional Meetings** held in Europe, Asia, Africa and jointly for Latin America and Middle East and North Africa for the new implementing centres and partners. The partners trained the implementing centres on how to use the clinical database. They were also trained on advocacy and communication and planned how to use the data in the fight against impunity.
  - **Communicating for change:** Survivor stories form an important aspect of building an understanding of who is tortured, the effect it has on them, their families and communities and to show who perpetrates torture and needs to be held to account. These stories form the basis for a number of IRCT external communications.
  - Sexual torture was identified as a prevalent theme using DFI generated data. Consequently, the DFI community collaborated on publishing a thematic report on sexual torture.
  - **Advocacy based on our findings:** Centres harnessed DFI data to support National Strategic Plans and evidence to

### Key milestones in the first two years:

- **Grounding our work at the local level:** During an intensive workshop, partners developed the project framework and clinical data capture approach based on a baseline questionnaire; agreed reporting and financial procedures; received training on using clinical data for human rights outputs, communications and advocacy.
- **Building the database:** During a five-day workshop, the partners chose the most appropriate data system option and agreed on a detailed set of data elements and reporting structure; identified



government on the need to end impunity. DFI partners from Serbia and Nepal used DFI data to advocate that the Committee Against Torture and Universal Periodic Review issue recommendations aligned with their respective national priorities. A documentation mission was also completed in Bolivia under the auspices of DFI.

- Input outside of the project team has been essential. For example, a working session between IRCT, UN Committee against Torture (CAT), representatives from the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture was held in November 2016. Discussions generated a number of concrete proposals on how best to capture the experiences of victims.
- A comprehensive external **midterm project evaluation** was completed to launch the final phase of the project and to guide plans for its sustainability.
- The DFI was well represented at the IRCT Scientific Symposium in Mexico, December 2016, where interested parties participated in live demonstrations of the database. DFI centres also had the opportunity to discuss their experiences with one another face to face.

## Building a foundation for the future

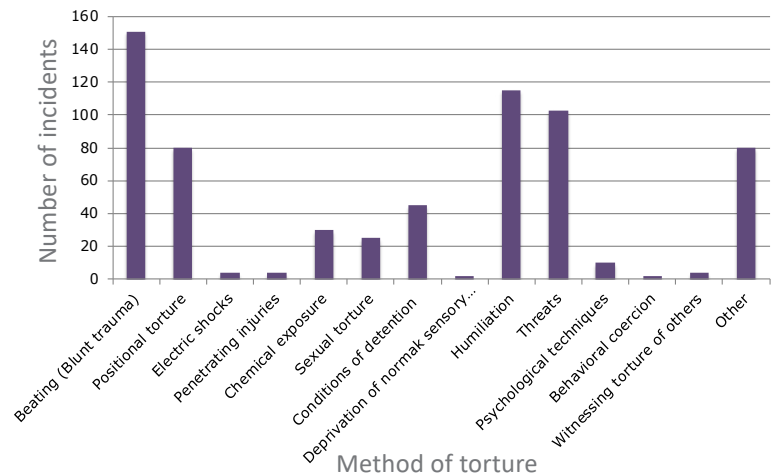
Having reliable data and information as the basis for claims made by the rehabilitation sector for the rehabilitation of torture survivors and the evidence to hold perpetrators to account is at the heart of the DFI project.

The first phase of the project built our information base and agreed on how to report about the trends and patterns we see through our rehabilitation work with survivors globally.

The database built by IRCT members is laying the foundation for a movement-wide ability to gather information and data to evidence torture and its consequences. In the final year, the project will be expanded and torture rehabilitation centres from across the IRCT movement will be invited to adopt the database to their practices. Significant developments will be made in the sector's ability to generate thematic, regional and global reports based on what is learned from survivors during the work done to support them on their torture rehabilitation journey.

The DFI project is part of the core programme of work of the IRCT movement in the 2015 to 2020 Strategic Plan. It will provide a foundation for the global programme of developing an understanding of the clinical interventions, as the source of information for anti impunity work and as the basis for the claims made of governments to prevent torture and provide rehabilitation to survivors.

### Example of DFI data collected by a partner centre on the location of torture incidents



### Partners

EATIP, Argentina	TPO Nepal, Nepal
CTV, Bosnia & Herzegovina	TRC Palestine, Occupied
TCC, Cameroon	Palestinian Territories
AJPNV, Chad	MAG, Philippines
MATESO, Kenya	BALAY, Philippines
CCTI, Mexico	IAN, Serbia
RCT Zagreb, Croatia (Associate Partner)	

### Implementing Centres

ARCT, Albania	KHIAM, Lebanon
FAVL, Armenia	RCTV MEMORIA, Moldova
CRTS, Bangladesh	PRAWA, Nigeria
ITEI, Bolivia	CPT, Russia
SAVE CONGO, DRC	CAPREC, Senegal
RCT/EMPATHY, Georgia	TCSVT, South Africa
CPTRT, Honduras	SURASO, Sri Lanka
CORE – H2H, India	FRCSL, Sri Lanka
SOSRAC, India	HRFT, Turkey
CLDH-Centre Nassim, Lebanon	ACTV, Uganda
CAT, Kenya	

### DFI Project Team

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