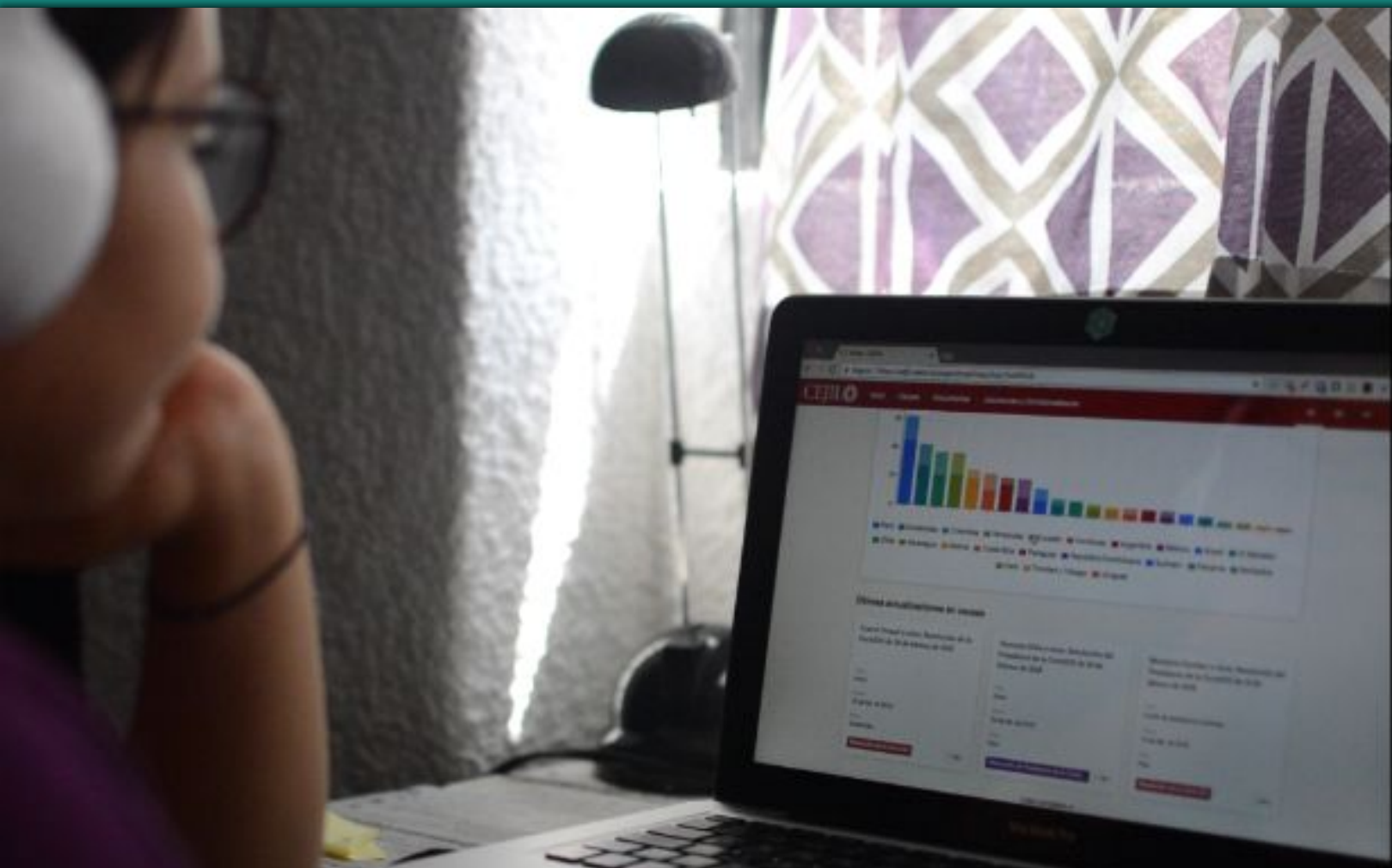# 2018

Annual Report

 HURIDOCS

At HURIDOCS, we work with human rights organisations to preserve documentation for memory, advance accountability for abuses, and make key information on human rights easily accessible. We do this by preparing human rights defenders to harness information and technology to advance their cause and achieve maximum impact.

In 2018, we proudly supported initiatives that furthered a wide range of human rights goals, including:
> to improve public policies to prevent and tackle discrimination and violence against transgender people in Europe,
> to advocate for Tibetan political prisoners by providing much needed information for human rights campaigners, researchers, journalists, policymakers and other change-makers,
> to help human rights defenders, governments, UN agencies and others learn about the issues affecting minority groups and how they can protect their rights, and
> to seek justice for the families of disappeared persons in Turkey.

These are examples of our work, but taking stock of 2018, we are proud to note these 7 key achievements:

We supported access to justice in 5 projects, making it easier to claim rights and access international institutions that provide support to victims of human rights violations.

We strengthened the capacity of 18 organisations to document and investigate human rights violations.

We reached over 450 human rights defenders to build their skills and deepen knowledge.

We continued the development of our flagship tool Uwazi in partnership with human rights organisations...

...and in collaboration with allies, we worked towards interoperability with other human rights tech tools.

We started to explore the use of database tools to monitor progress on realising economic, social, cultural rights.

We provided peace of mind to our partners by hosting the data of 75 human rights organisations.

We provide this support via 3 complementary and parallel work streams:

HURIDOCS Advise partners with defenders to design and implement technology-based information management strategies and practices that target their unique needs. We provide capacity building, technical assistance, research and documentation support, and security and resilience coaching.

HURIDOCS Exchange strengthens information practices of the growing community involved in human rights advocacy, documentation, and fact finding. We convene human rights practitioners, information wranglers, and technologists to share knowledge and tactics for tackling the challenges ahead.

HURIDOCS Design builds reusable, free and open-source software tools that give defenders swift, deep insight into their documents and data. We create breakthrough solutions for collecting, extracting, analysing, visualising, and preserving human rights information.

[Advise] We supported access to justice in 5 projects, making it easier to claim rights and access international institutions that provide support to victims of human rights violations.

In line with our strategic goal to improve access to human rights information, we are proud of how much more human rights information we and our global partners made truly open. Next to sustaining our flagship collaborations – the African Human Rights Case Law Analyser, SUMMA and RightDocs – we have launched **five document collections** in 2018 alone.

Together, existing Uwazi-supported collections cover **more than 10,000 documents** of precedent decisions, resolutions and reports. This information is used by advocates, students and lawyers across the globe to further human rights and strengthen access to justice.

1. The **Atlas of Torture** is a resource for States, civil society organisations, researchers and human rights defenders and the public at large to access information, learn, exchange and get involved in the fight against torture and ill-treatment. This comprehensive collection currently has over 1,000 documents. This initiative was financed in

part by a crowdfunding effort led by the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, our partner on this project.

2. **Action on Albinism** is a coordination platform for mobilising resources and organisations committed to the implementation of the first-ever regional mechanism to proactively address eradicating discrimination and violence against persons with albinism in Sub Saharan Africa. This initiative was developed in partnership with the UN Independent Expert on Albinism.

3. **Resourcing Rights** is a collection of judgements, UN documents, articles and commentary related to the "maximum available resources" (MAR) norm. The goal of this initiative is to advance research, and inform and support a more systematic approach for assessing this norm in practice. This research database is led by the Center for Economic Social Rights.

4. **The UN Forum on Minority Issues** database, built on Uwazi, was launched by the

Tom Lantos Institute and the Human Rights Consortium, University of London, in late 2018. This database is a collection of statements from the 2008-2016 session of the Forum on Minority Issues, as well as key minority rights standards, reports, and recommendations in the field of minority rights.

5. We started to work on the **CYRILLA Collaborative**, a global initiative that seeks to map and analyse the evolution and impacts of legal frameworks in digital environments by aggregating, organising, and visualising distributed legal data through open research methodologies, data models, taxonomies, and databases. Read more about this project in our blog post.

[Advise] We strengthened the capacity of eighteen partners to document and investigate human rights violations.

18
partners

that work in

30
countries

In 2018, we worked closely with 18 organisations and networks to strengthen their capacity to document and investigate human rights violations. Together, these organisations are documenting violations in 30 countries to advocate and litigate for justice for the victims, and push for policy change.

Much of this work is sensitive, but we are happy to share descriptions of a few of these partnerships:

In 2018, we completed our project with **Migrant Forum Asia (MFA)**, a network of more than 50 local organisations in Asia and the Gulf, on the Hamsa database and accompanying mobile application. This is a comprehensive solution for recording, managing, analysing, and sharing information on labour migration rights. Hamsa currently covers more than 4,500 cases, which were recorded by the MFA network. As a result, MFA has used its data to produce a report on the Nepali migrant workers in Malaysia to

support the network's evidence-based advocacy efforts.

We worked with **Transgender Europe (TGEU)** to create a [publicly accessible database](#) of over 1,000 cases of violations against trans people in 15 countries. TGEU's ProTrans network had collected this data over five years. By working together with LGBT and trans groups and NGOs, TGEU aims to provide systematic data needed to improve public policies to prevent and tackle discrimination and violence against trans people.

We worked with the **Tibetan Center for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD)** to develop the publicly accessible [Tibetan Political Prisoner Database (TPPD)](#). TCHRD monitors and documents human rights violations committed by the Chinese authorities in Tibet. The database contains verified and updated information on Tibetan political prisoners and serves as a useful resource not only for human rights campaigners and activists in their advocacy work but also for researchers, journalists, policymakers that are interested in learning more about the situation of Tibetan political prisoners.

We worked with the **Forum pour la Conscience et le Développement (FOCODE)** to create a new and enhanced public and private databases recording and reporting cases of enforced disappearances and other violations in Burundi. FOCODE has been documenting this information since October 2016 in an effort to achieve justice for the families with missing loved ones. This data is being used as the basis to engage the UN Working Group on Enforced Disappearances (WGED) and other institutions.

In 2019, we are excited to deepen these and more partnerships. Particularly, we look forward to working with our partners to co-create [Uwazi Reveal](#), a flexible and powerful tool that supports the next generation of human rights investigations.

[Exchange] We reached over 450 human rights defenders to strengthen skills and deepen discussion.

We believe we can support the human rights movement by facilitating exchange and learning opportunities through online and in-person activities. This expands our reach from in-depth partnerships, allows us to share knowledge we have gained through practice and elevates the voices of leaders in our communities.

We carried out **11 trainings** for over 150 human rights defenders on:

- methodologies, practices, and technologies that support the documentation of human rights violations (such as this workshop at FITS in Mexico),
- practical recommendations to improve digital security practices, and
- the practice of human rights documentation in exile and secure information transmission.

150+

people trained on human rights documentation

70+

people participated in discussions on the role of technology and human rights

We helped to facilitate **five discussions** on the role of technology in human rights work, such as:

- a side event at the UN Human Rights Council,
- an online discussion with the New Tactics in Human Rights community on machine learning and human rights, and
- a panel on improving access to human rights information at RightsCon.

We led **four live technology demonstrations** of Uwazi for more than 300 people:

- one online in English,
- one online in Spanish,
- one in-person demo at RightsCon in Canada, and
- one in-person demo in Nigeria.

300+

people viewed a live Uwazi demonstration

Indira, HURIDOCS Latin America Project Manager, facilitating a discussion at FITS in Mexico City.

Blog posts	At the Internet Freedom Festival we facilitated a discussion on tips and best practices for working in remote teams. We summarised the recommendations and useful resources in a blog post titled [So far, yet so close: working in healthy and successful remote teams]().
	We published a [summary of community discussion on documenting enforced disappearances]() including all four webinar recordings. **>> Spanish translation**: [Resumen de la discusión comunitaria: Documentando a lxs desaparecidxs]()
	We wrote a blog post to help human rights groups and organisations explore [resources and tools designed (or adapted) for human rights documentation](). **>> Spanish translation**: [Herramientas para la documentación de derechos humanos: nuestro recuento de 2018]()

Video Demo site User guide	We developed an [introductory video]() to Uwazi. We created an [Uwazi demo]() site so that potential users can try it out before they commit. We continue to expand and improve the [Uwazi user guide](). **>> Spanish translation**: [¿Qué es Uwazi?]()

Online discussion **Knowledge base**	We worked with the Martus team to host a series of calls and online discussions focused on the challenges facing the human rights documentation space. Online discussion topics include: user needs related to securing sensitive information, and how to carry out secure information collection offline. We have started to develop a documentation knowledge base where practitioners can find resources and tools for documenting and investigating human rights violations.

[Design] We continued the development of our flagship tool Uwazi in partnership with human rights organisations...

Investigations and discovery need a strong yet flexible tool - with Uwazi, we have made great progress in building just that. Since the launch of Uwazi v1.0 in late 2017, we have been working towards the launch of Uwazi v2.0, which we are calling Uwazi Reveal.

Uwazi Reveal will eventually replace OpenEvsys, as our flagship database tool for documenting and investigating human rights violations.

Uwazi Reveal will build on the innovative features of the already existing Uwazi platform. Combined with the ability to design rigorous and appropriate data models in a user-friendly way, defenders will be able to generate reliable conclusions from collected data. This new tool will support human rights

investigations managing large amounts of source documents and media to advance transitional justice efforts and evidence-based advocacy, all while meeting the pressing security needs of human rights organisations.

New features in Uwazi v1.4:

✅ Now Uwazi supports managing languages via the user interface
✅ Added support for Matomo web analytics

And there is more... Read our latest newsletter ➡

Document thumbnails

The technology stack we are using includes: Mongo DB, NodeJS, Elastic Search, Yarn, React. Learn more about these dependencies on Github.

Uwazi Reveal will make it easy to record connections between people, documents, and events in a way that speaks best to the logic of the investigating organisation.

Throughout 2018, our development team delivered many improvements and new features in our work towards launching Uwazi Reveal, including:
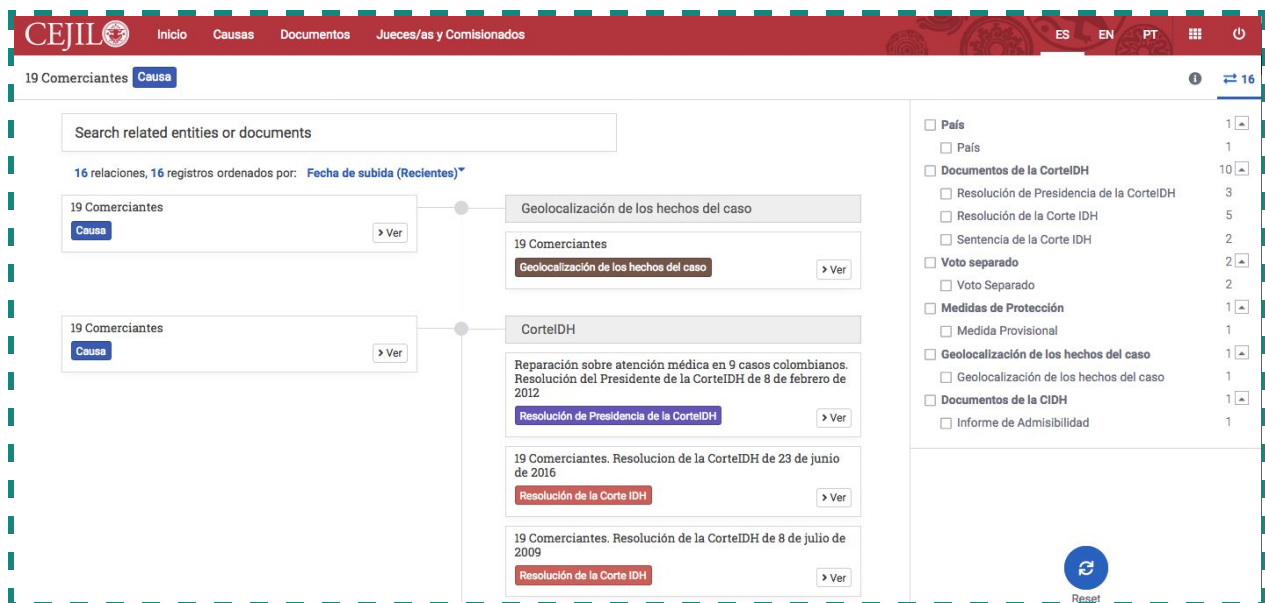
★ a new user interface for making meaningful connections between your data by using information hubs, enabling you to put several pieces of the puzzle together at the same time;
★ the option to make your Uwazi instance private so that only those with accounts can access all the information in your platform;
★ the components feature which lets the user embed data visualisations into any page or rich

text field, the ability to customise the user interface, improved translation user interface, and a new field type for data geolocation that supports the display of this information on a geographic map;
★ new field types for image and media support;
★ the ability to view a plain text version of documents, greatly improving accessibility and search engine optimization;
★ ability to run enhanced searches with query strings.

Our machine learning specialist, Natalie Widmann, received the Aaron Swartz Fellowship to continue her work on integrating automated metadata extraction using machine learning.

With the support of the DADI Foundation and other funders, and in close collaboration with our existing Uwazi and OpenEvsys users, we hope to launch Uwazi Reveal in 2019. You can see our agile development roadmap on our wiki.

Screenshot of the SUMMA database, designed and maintained by CEJIL.

[Design]...and in collaboration with allies, we worked towards interoperability with other human rights tech tools.

Supporting human rights documentation is a long-term endeavour. It requires us to adapt our solutions, and integrate new technologies and resources so we can protect information for as long as it takes to achieve accountability. The sunset of Martus, a widely used tool for documentation, has opened up the need for this sector of human rights technologists to have this conversation about interoperability and to urgently find new solutions for those affected as users of Martus.

We are so thrilled that it has brought us together with our peers to jointly create an ecosystem, where we can play to our respective strengths and more flexibly support diverse needs of human rights defenders working in their contexts. These peers so far include Meedan, Open Archive, Carnegie Mellon University Center for Human Rights Science, and the University of California at Berkeley Human Rights Center.

The goal is to make these tools interoperable with each other so that you can "snap" together the tools that you need to support your information goals and workflows. For example, we work with many organisations that would like to have a mobile app that can securely connect to their Uwazi database. Instead of HURIDOCS' creating that mobile app, we would prefer to build Uwazi so that it can connect to existing, trustworthy mobile apps such as Open Archive.

[Design] We started to explore the use of database tools to monitor progress on realising economic, social, cultural rights.

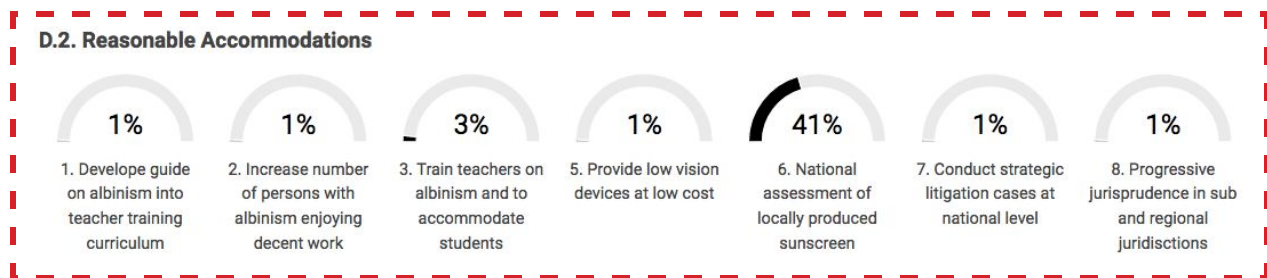We were excited to begin exploring a new area of work for HURIDOCS: monitoring progress (or lack of) on human rights responsibilities. This speaks to the concept of progressive realisation of human rights obligations. It is different from, but often

complementary to, the violations-based approach, which focuses on individual abuses. We had the opportunity to approach this idea from multiple perspectives: technical, design and methodological.

With the British Council, we developed an internal web-based application to automate a self-audit for their staff based in over 100 countries. The application allows the British Council to understand the results of the audit, prepare and update action plans, and compare implementation levels across countries and regions. It saves their large, global staff a significant amount of time by combining tasks that used to be tedious and confusing. This project helped us think through the technical

requirements to monitor progress on a certain indicator and then providing specific recommendations based on the analysis of this progress.

Action on Albinism is an initiative led by Ikponwosa Ero, the UN Independent Expert on Albinism. It is a coordination platform for mobilising resources and efforts of organisations committed to the implementation of the first-ever regional mechanism to proactively address eradicating discrimination and violence against persons with albinism. This partnership pushed us to find ways to communicate the progress for human rights defenders, international organisations, and States.

Screenshot from the Action on Albinism website displaying Uganda's implementation progress on "reasonable accommodations" for people with Albinism.

And lastly, we have started to design a partnership between HURIDOCS and the Center for Economic Social Rights (CESR) to build a **platform for the users of the CESR's OPERA framework** for monitoring economic, social and cultural rights. The OPERA framework provides human rights

defenders with a comprehensive methodology for holding governments and other duty-holders accountable on the basis of a broad range of quantitative and qualitative evidence. The platform would provide an easy way for defenders to store, organise, analyse, and share their research.

RightsCon panelists on improving access to human rights information: Kristin (HURIDOCS Director of Programmes), Brice (Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa), Lisa (International Justice and Resource Center and HURIDOCS Board member), Liliana (Center for Justice and International Law).

[Design] We provided peace of mind to our partners by hosting **100+** GB of data for 75 human rights organisations.

100+
GB of data

for

75
human rights groups

When we talk about our work, we often focus on the systems we've developed to solve information problems. But our work does not stop when the system is launched.

By providing hosting and maintenance services to our partners, we provide security and stability to organisations who want to own and protect their important human rights data but who don't have the technical resources to do it themselves. This is HURIDOCS' long-term commitment to these human rights organisations.

Financials

In 2018, HURIDOCS received valued support from the following institutional funders: Open Society Foundations, Oak Foundation, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, HIVOS Digital Defenders Partnership, The British Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

In addition to this, HURIDOCS has maintained a substantial and steady stream of earned income through mission-aligned service provision. It continues to be part of HURIDOCS strategy to strengthen this line of income.
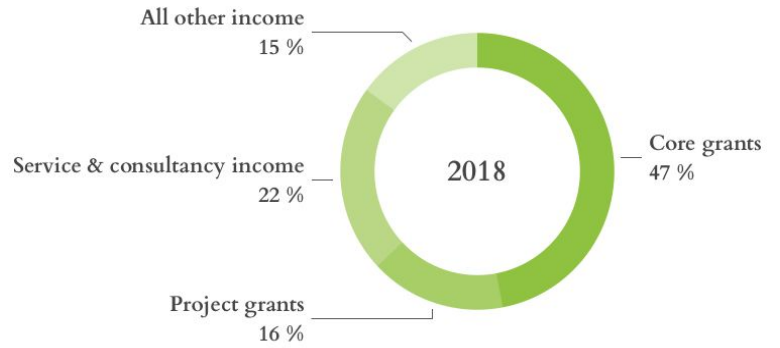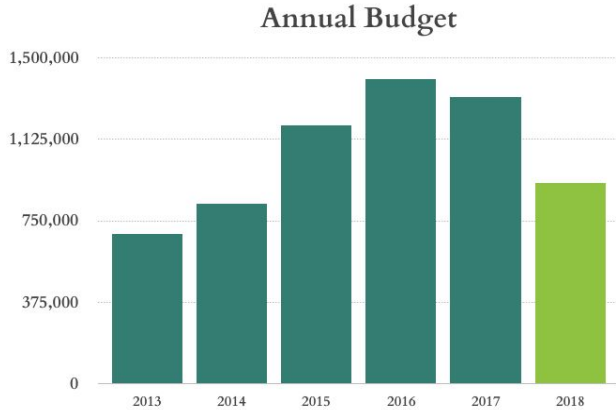
Overall, HURIDOCS has seen a substantial drop over its 2017 budget, which is mostly due to shifting priorities of two long-term funders: The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and The British Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Both remain appreciative of HURIDOCS work, but have shifted their own commitments; we remain an open dialogue to explore further partnerships in the future.

In addition to this, HURIDOCS has worked on a number of new funding relationships, which will begin in 2019 and result in the budget rising again to 2017 levels. We expect that this diversification will contribute to the long-term financial health of the organisation.

A summary of the 2018 financial information is provided on the following page.

2018 Breakdown of Income
(in CHF)

Annual Budget

All other income 15 %
Service & consultancy income 22 %
Core grants 47 %
Project grants 16 %
2018

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS IN CHF	2018	2017	2016	2015
Income				
Core grants	430,856	448,274	492,057	317,262
Project grants	150,619	538,823	707,274	785,012
Service & consulting income	202,178	215,777	200,876	84,725
Various other income	40,285	27,286	2,311	522
Contribution from reserve	98,123	89,310	0	0
Total income	922,061	1,319,470	1,402,518	1,187,521
Expenses				
Personnel & consultants	789,804	1,030,509	977,281	810,257
Travels, meetings & events	65,612	153,324	218,697	203,270
Office, financial & various other costs	66,334	135,635	93,267	90,337
Contribution to reserve	0	0	113,190	74,243
Total expenses	921,750	1,319,468	1,402,435	1,178,107
Profit	311	2	8	9,414

Thank you for your support

Since 1985, we have provided advice and resources to hundreds of organisations. More than 75 organisations use our customised solutions, empowering them to work better, safer, and smarter. In this year alone, we've built solutions to support transgender rights in Europe, advocate for political prisoners in Tibet, and seek justice for the families of disappeared persons in Turkey.

Join us in helping organisations maximise the power of human rights information to achieve justice and accountability. [Donate today.](#)

We want to thank all our partners for bringing drive and a sense of purpose into our work, and we are grateful to all our supporters, including the Oak Foundation, Open Society Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, UK Foreign Commonwealth Office and DADI Foundation, without whom we would not be able to continue this important work.