

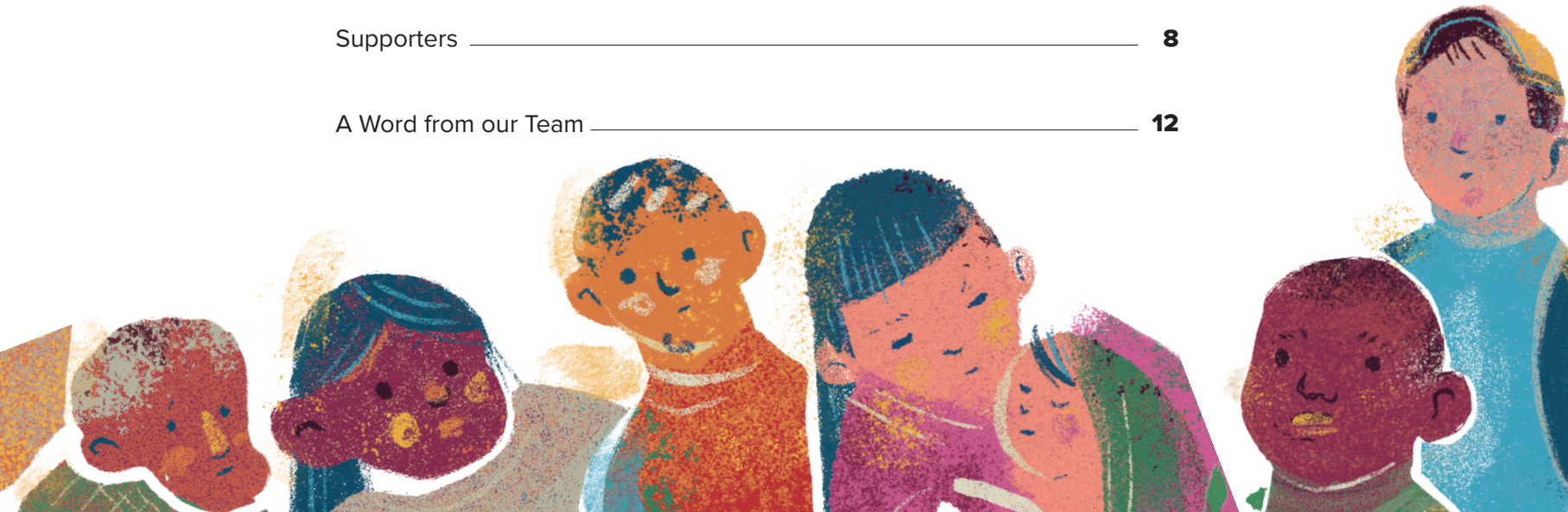


A Year of Defiant Hope

2022 Impact Report

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Dear friends of **Cristosal**

Human rights work is about hope. Human rights are a radical vision of a more just and peaceful world that has not yet been, but toward which generations have struggled. The challenge of producing annual reports in the human rights field is that we are unable to produce historic change in yearly program cycles. As we present this year's report, we see evidence of change in the persistence of individuals and communities, in the small ways their hope chips away at the heavy legacy of the past.

In human rights work we often find ourselves in a critical position, denouncing, shining a light on, and confronting realities that, in the words of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "shock the conscience" of humanity. Because of our advocacy around these issues, human rights defenders are easily labeled pessimists in our assessments. It is not, however, a negative world view that sustains the human rights movement, rather it is an undeterrable restlessness about the world that ought to be.

At Cristosal, we have the privilege of working side by side with displaced people whose lives have been turned upside down and remade one small step at time. We catch the spirit of resilience and resistance every time we interact with the victims, survivors, and communities that suffered through horrific massacres in the Salvadoran civil war. We learn amazing things from the people who participate in our education programs with victims, community leaders and human rights defenders in Central America and the world. Our research teams are closely connected to the victims who share their stories and place their trust in us.

In this report, and in our regular communications with you, our supporters, and friends, we want to keep sharing the stories that give us hope. You are a part of those stories even when you aren't with us every day in our work. Your support and encouragement are essential to this work. Our team of dedicated human rights defenders are not about to give up the fight, so thank you for believing in us and in a world where every person counts and where justice and peace are possible.

In gratitude and solidarity,



Noah Bullock | **Executive Director**



The Rev. Mike Angell | **Board President**



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Honoring and giving thanks to Audrey Denney, Scott Pentzer, Elmer Romero, and Kathy Veit.

They faithfully contributed their thoughtfulness, expertise, enthusiasm, time, generosity, and advocacy for human rights in their board leadership to Cristosal. We will miss you and we know that our friendship will continue – Thank you!

Staff Leadership 2022-2023

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- Noelia Merino
Regional Political Office
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Director of Research
- David Morales
Chief Legal Officer, Transitional Justice
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- Mauricio Quijano
Director of Protection
- Jeanne Rikkers
Director Resource Development and Outreach
- Flor de María Salazar
Guatemala Country Coordinator
- Karen Valladares
Honduras Country Coordinator

A Special Note of Gratitude

We wish to acknowledge and thank our teams in each country, our interns, volunteers and the Cristosal Advocates for your talents and dedication to the cause of human rights in Central America and the world.

Credits

Art by Andrea Altamirano
Design by Patricia Quezada

In Memory



Glen Mitchell

A steadfast supporter of Cristosal and the cause of human rights died on June 29, 2022. Glen cared deeply about the people of El Salvador and Central America and believed firmly in walking with them in their struggles and learning together how to build democracy, communities, and protect human rights. His advocacy for human rights and life in the Anglican church showed us to integrate faith and action.



Charles "Chuck" Call

A generous supporter and visionary board member of Cristosal died on November 12, 2022. He dedicated his life to researching and advocating for conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and ending impunity across Latin America and beyond. His passion for justice, kindness of spirit and unbreakable determination were reflected in each of the many governmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions he worked with over the years.

We are grateful to the individuals who gave gifts in honor and memory of Chuck.

- John Copenhaver
- Gary Cozette
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- Roger & Crisy Jones
- Karen Konigsberg
- Jason Lewis-Berry
- Beth McFadyen
- Vic Rivera
- The Rock Creek Group
- Susan Shepler
- Joanna Spear
- Alex Wilde

Our Work

Our Legal Teams

● Anti Corruption

Filed **26 cases** of grande corruption including a criminal case with Attorney General's Office for possible fraud with the ChivoWallet, against the Ministry of Health for failing to compensate family members of frontline workers who died due to Covid-19, against the Court of Accounts for refusing to investigate the alleged use of public funds to hire the services of the Pegasus spyware.

● Rule of Law

Through analysis, monitoring and careful attention to the testimony of victims, the team produced **5 reports on human rights violations** during the state of exception in El Salvador.

This information was presented in international forums:

- **IACHR hearings on arbitrary detentions** and the situation of people detained during the state of exception, the human rights situation and the rule of law in El Salvador, and the situation of judicial independence in El Salvador.
- **The U.S. Congressional hearings:** Noah Bullock gave testimony to the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission of the U.S. Congress.
- The team also presented their report before the United Nations Committee Against Torture in Geneva on the situation of torture, the deterioration of the rule of law and human rights violations in El Salvador during the last years and specifically under the state of exception.

● Transitional Justice

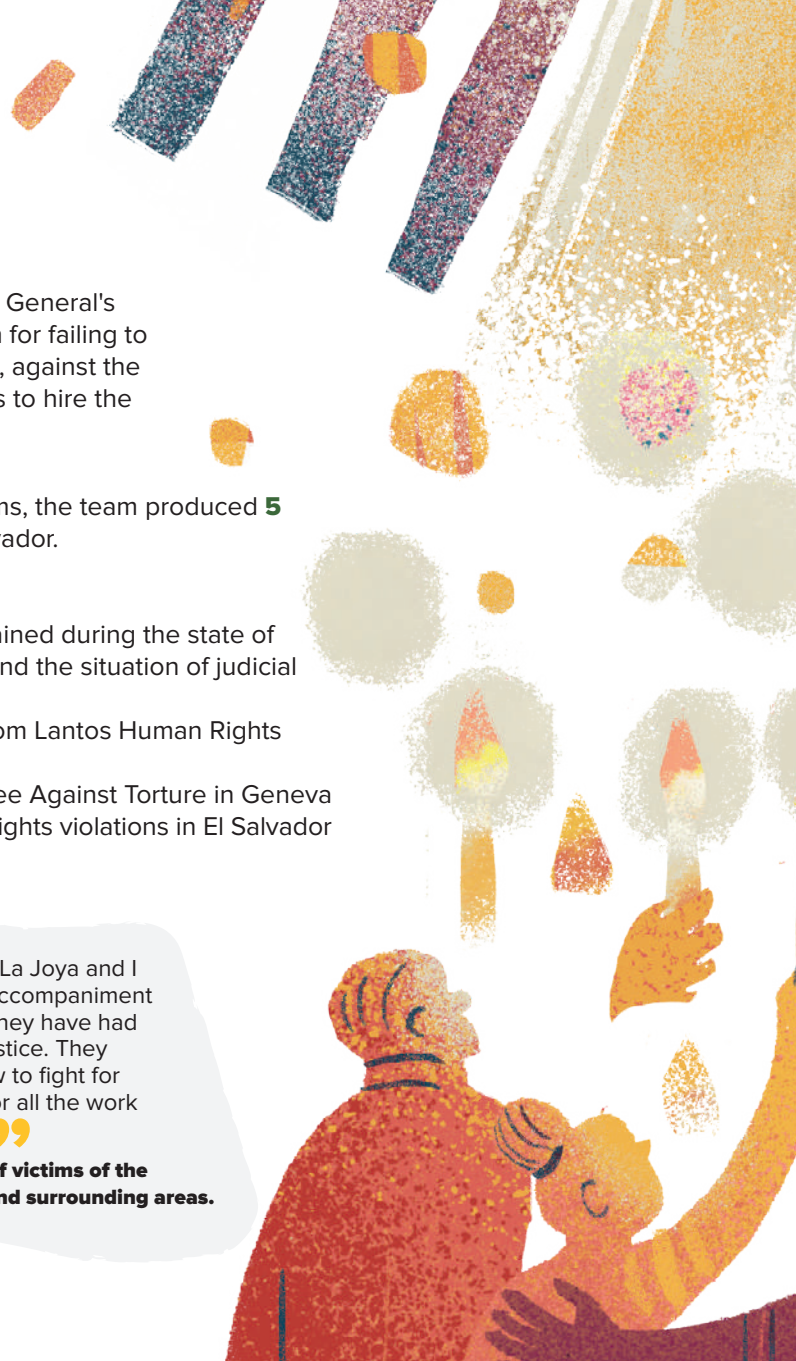
The team is currently litigating four emblematic cases of war crimes and crimes against humanity from the civil war in El Salvador:

- **The massacres of El Mozote** and surrounding areas, El Calabozo and surrounding areas, and San Andrés, and;
- **The case of forced disappearance** by war-time era paramilitary death squads of three members of the Guzmán Orellana family.

“

I am from the village of La Joya and I am so grateful for the accompaniment of the Cristosal team. They have had our back as we seek justice. They have oriented us in how to fight for our rights. Thank you for all the work you do for the victims.”

Member of association of victims of the massacre at El Mozote and surrounding areas.



Our Education Team

- Brought together **703 people in dialogue about democracy**, human rights and the state of exception.
- Supported **447 victims of human rights violations** who organized to receive support as a group from our legal team.
- Trained **293 people throughout the region from local human rights protection teams**, community leaders, and technical staff from local NGOs. Both in person and virtual workshops strengthened their skills as human rights defenders on transitional justice, forensic investigation, and forced displacement.
- Led our internal professional training with **90 staff members in our Leadership School**.

The Global School for Human Rights 2022

We launched our pilot seminar in Guatemala after a long recess during the pandemic. The learning experience brought together 14 participants from Guatemala and the United States working on defending the rights of the LGBTIQ+ community. All three participants in our internship for trans/non-binary people participated.

“

The Cristosal staff and interns were so generous in sharing from their own experience. So, if we were talking about healthcare, for example, almost everyone in the room ended up wanting to share a personal story, which really gave us a sense of this isn't just an idea, this notion of protecting human rights, it's not just an abstract theoretical concept. These are real, brilliant, beautiful, strong, articulate, smart people who are not able to access adequate health care because of their identity or because of how they present to the world, because of all kinds of discrimination. I felt like the generosity that everyone who worked with Cristosal brought in terms of sharing their personal stories and really making these issues real for us as supporters and allies and advocates alongside them, was really quite remarkable. ”

Global School participant and supporter of the TransLives project





Our Research Team

- Our **case register on the abuses suffered under the state of exception in El Salvador** has been cited in hundreds of news stories, academic papers and in reports to the Universal and Interamerican Human Rights systems. Without this critical data, the truth of the impacts on human rights would be ignored
- Conducted **45 studies in El Salvador** including cases of durable solutions for people displaced after deportation, impacts of Covid-19, human rights violations under the state of exception, documentation of political violence, fight against impunity and disappearances.
- **Processed 3,086 complaints of human rights violations** under the state of exception in El Salvador.
 - Referred **1,244 of these cases to the Rule of Law team** for further verification.

Our Protection Team

“

When I came to Cristosal I didn't believe in myself, not even my own shadow. But, it's a beautiful thing when you meet someone who will extend a hand to you. I am no longer that woman who felt defeated. Every day I have new aspirations and I will always be thankful, first to God, and to Cristosal.”

Participant in Protection program, Honduras

Cristosal provided crisis humanitarian assistance to **3,023 people who were forcibly displaced** (including those displaced by climate change and violence).



1,118 in El Salvador



175 in Guatemala



1,730 in Honduras

Nearly **500 people in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador** have been accompanied in seeking a durable solution to the ways in which forced displacement disrupted their lives. This support includes psychosocial assistance, support for the restoration of livelihoods and linkage to services to further restore their fundamental rights.

The protection team provided care in 41 municipalities in northern Central America.



Guatemala

- **Humanitarian aid:** 635 people in 10 of 22 departments that make up the country who were displaced due to tropical storms Eta and Iota or private and/or state violence.
- **Durable Solutions:** 23 family groups, concentrated in the eastern area; 80% were affected by violence and 20% due to climate change. Three cases involved displacement of LGBTIQ+ people.



Honduras

- **Humanitarian aid:** 2,300 people in 14 of the country's 18 departments displaced due to violence and the impacts of tropical storms Eta and Iota storms.
- **Durable Solutions:** 37 family groups, mostly in the Sula Valley region and the metropolitan area of the Capital; 49% displaced due to violence and 51% due to climate change. Three cases involved displacement of LGBTIQ+ people. The team developed baseline data for durable solutions and human rights in 35 communities with recommendations to local governments to promote environments favorable to human rights for the families relocated there.



El Salvador

- **Humanitarian aid:** 2,300 people in 13 of the country's 14 departments displaced due to violence and the impacts of tropical storms Amanda and Cristobal.
- **Durable Solutions:** 63 family groups from around the country in 22 different municipalities; 97% were displaced due to violence and 3% by other causes. This includes seven cases of displacement of LGBTIQ+ people and 14 cases affected by the state of exception. The team developed baseline data for durable solutions and human rights in 35 communities with recommendations to local governments to promote environments favorable to human rights for the families relocated there.



Revenue and Expense

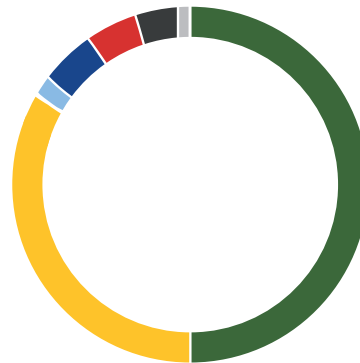
For the year ending, December 31, 2022








Revenue	2022
Grants	\$3,524,632
Households	\$343,874
Other Income	\$163,601
Faith Communities	\$54,610
Total Revenue	\$4,086,717

Expenses	2022
Program	\$3,228,817
Management/General	\$266,302
Resource Development	\$222,086
Total Expenses	\$3,717,205

Allocation of Program Expenses

The information presented above is drawn from Cristosal's financial statements. They are available upon request or at cristosal.org.



-  Protection
-  Strategic Litigation
-  Human Rights Education
-  Human Rights Research
-  Communications
-  Strategy and Monitoring
-  TransLives Internships

Our Supporters

The following pages acknowledge our generous donors who contributed to Cristosal in 2022. We are especially grateful to those individuals and faith communities who have contributed in each of the **past five consecutive years (names in bold)** and those who count among our **Monthly Sustainers (indicated by *)**. We also thank the donors who have preferred to remain anonymous.

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- Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
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- International Organization for Migrations/U.S. Agency for International Development
- Inter-American Foundation
- Milbar Construction and Roofing Inc
- National Endowment for Democracy
- Open Society Institute
- Oxfam International
- Rock Creek Group
- Rockefeller Brothers Fund
- Spanish Agency of International Cooperation and Development
- The Global Fund for Human Rights
- Workers' Welfare Association (Germany)
- World Bank Group*

Faith Communities

- **St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Phoenixville, PA**
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Thank you for your exceptionally **loyal support!**

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The heart and soul of Cristosal is our community of staff and interns.

We work hard every day to stand with the victims of human rights violations. Our countries have long histories of violence and injustice, and human rights defenders often face grave risks. But, our countries also have rich histories of resilience, resistance, and defiant hope.

Our team is a beautiful collage of different generations, backgrounds, genders, and beliefs. But, what we all have in common is the vision of a world where the full rights of every person are protected and everyone's voice is heard.

“ I have deep conviction that we are on the right side of history, where we belong, as Saint Romero used to say. We are on the side of the victims...the people who have suffered and continue to suffer attacks, disparagement, rejection and lack of justice. It is a privilege to accompany all these brave people in their search for truth, justice and reparation. The young people on the team motivate me too. We are a team made up of “senior” lawyers and the other part is made up of very young lawyers. We all learn a lot because litigating these cases is not only about knowing the law or history, but also about learning all the new tools and putting them at the service of this search for justice. ”

Guadalupe, Human Rights Defender with Cristosal

“ I am moved by my hope to see a change in the country, by continuing to work together and by the sacrifice that the victims have been making for many years. We have demanded justice from the previous governments and for the most part they have turned their backs on the victims, but at some point there will be justice, there will be truth, there will be reparation and there will be hope, that is what keeps me going. ”

Irene, Human Rights Defender with Cristosal

There are days when our work can feel incredibly difficult or even dangerous. The support of our families, colleagues, and people who walk in solidarity with us is vitally important. What keeps us going are the people we serve, our communities, our countries. The complexity of the issues we take on can seem overwhelming, but knowing we have a task, a purpose, and a place to act makes all the difference.

Guadalupe and Irene are just two of many human rights defenders who work tirelessly to make the world a better place. By supporting Cristosal, our donors and advocates become an important part of this vital work. Together we can make a difference and create a world where human rights are respected and protected for all.

Thank you!





Cristosal


P.O. Box 4424
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2022 Impact Report


General Information

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