

Theory of Change: Human Rights Defenders

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| <i>(Overall impact)</i> | <i>(Human rights are respected, protected and fulfilled)</i> | | | | | |
| Portfolio objective | Human rights defenders are protected, and their work is strengthened | | | | | |
| Portfolio outcomes | Ensured protection and emergency support ...focusing on ensuring immediate and practical protection for HRDs at risk, as well as their families and communities | | Strengthened systems and institutions ...focusing on building and improving the structural and institutional frameworks that provide long-term protection for HRDs | | Increased mobilisation, visibility and advocacy ...focusing on building communities, creating alliances, and raising awareness of the situation of HRDs both nationally and internationally | |
| Key crosscutting assumptions | HRDs drive human rights progress: Supporting HRDs strengthens rights for all and accelerates positive change at every level of society. | HRDs face complex and intersectional risks: Protection strategies must be tailored and holistic to address varied and intersecting vulnerabilities. | Collective action is essential: Multi-actor and multi-level engagement is required to create an enabling environment and hold duty-bearers accountable. | Strong laws and institutions are essential: Prioritising legal and institutional strengthening lays the groundwork for justice and sustainable impact. | Visibility and solidarity increase protection: Mobilisation, documentation, and public awareness generate solidarity and pressure for positive change. | Flexible, sustained support ensures resilience: Sustainable funding and capacity-building foster resilience, enabling HRDs to continue their work despite ongoing risks. |
| Relevant actors | States, the multilateral system, civil society, the private sector, research institutions | | | | | |