



JUSTICE
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Justice Rapid Response
2012 Annual Report

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1. Introduction

The 2012 Annual Report is the first Justice Rapid Response (JRR) Annual Report prepared by the JRR Secretariat, in accordance with the *JRR Organizational Structure and Guidelines for Participation*, as approved by the Executive Board on 12 December 2011.

2012 was a landmark year for JRR, with an increase in operations and the establishment of a permanent Secretariat in Geneva, in response to a host country offer from Switzerland. In 2012 JRR quadrupled its training schedule bringing the total number of deployable experts on the JRR roster up to 332 from 87 countries. JRR continued to respond rapidly to inquiries for deployable experts, including to over a dozen inquiries for expertise to assist international investigations that resulted in deployments to assist with five new investigations.

2. Corporate issues

a) Executive Board and Group of Participants

On 2 April 2012, Uganda, took over, from Canada, the Chair of the JRR Executive Board (EB).

In accordance with JRR's Organizational Structure and Guidelines for Participation, the EB met twice in 2012, while the Group of Participants met once, at the end of 2012.

On 31 May 2012, the EB met in The Hague, to consider the draft budget for 2013 as well as the draft work plan for 2013. The EB further considered two amendments to the Guidelines relating to the participation in the EB and maintaining the status of EB member, as well as the introduction of a Vice-Chair. The EB met a second time on 17 November 2012 in The Hague, Netherlands, on the margins of the Eleventh Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the International Criminal Court (ICC-ASP). At the November meeting, the mandate of all members of the EB present at the meeting was renewed for another year. The EB agreed that the Chair extend an invitation to the Netherlands to join the EB and took note of Germany's resignation from the EB and its commitment to continued support to JRR. The EB approved the budget for 2013, with the understanding that the number and types of activities JRR will be able to hold in 2013 may vary and will correspond to the funds JRR is able to raise. The Secretariat briefed the EB on JRR's partnership with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the Institute for International Criminal Investigations (IICI), which in September 2012 trained the first 20 experts in investigating and documenting sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) as international crimes. Also presented was the need for the special UN Women/JRR SGBV roster within the JRR broader roster, to include in the roster a diverse range of expertise, such as trained interpreters, forensic doctors, psycho-social trauma counsellors, and witness protection specialists, on top of investigation and prosecution expertise.

The JRR Group of Participants meeting took place in The Hague, Netherlands, on 17 November 2012, on the margins of the Eleventh Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the International Criminal Court (ICC-ASP). The meeting was hosted by Uganda and Switzerland and held with the financial support of the government of Finland. It was convened to give an update to JRR participants and interested parties on the activities JRR has undertaken since the December 2011 GOP meeting in New York. The presentation of 2012 activities and the proposed plan of work for 2013 were followed by a Question and Answer session.

b) JRR Secretariat

On 1 July 2012, JRR opened its new offices in Geneva, Switzerland, in the vicinity of the United Nations, while maintaining a liaison office in New York. By the end of 2012, the JRR Secretariat comprised the Executive Director, the Program Manager, the Senior Project Officer and one Intern. All staff is seconded by Canada and Switzerland with an additional 50% Office Manager, and two consultants, employed by JRR.

In 2012, JRR continued implementing the JRR Executive Board decisions resulting from the strategic review conducted in 2011, which included the establishment of the JRR Association. The JRR Association was created for the sole purpose of allowing the JRR Secretariat to carry out activities requiring a legal personality¹. In order to ensure proper governance and oversight by the Executive Board, the JRR Association's membership is restricted to Executive Board members only. Switzerland and Canada became members of the JRR Association in the course of 2012, making them the two first States of the JRR Executive Board to become members since the establishment of the JRR Association as an international association under Swiss Law in December 2011.

At the meeting of the General Assembly of the JRR Association on 31 May 2012 the members unanimously approved the proposed changes to the Statutes, including amendments to article 1, 7 and 17 and the addition of articles 21 and 22.

c) Finances

JRR is funded by voluntary contributions. In 2012 all contributions came from States participating in JRR as members of the Executive Board and/or of the Group of Participants. In 2012, JRR expenditures totalled € 419,194.60, of which 57.3 % on training, 10.6 % on outreach and outreach related travel, 4.5 % for liaison, 4.8 % for roster management and 22.8 % on setting up and supporting the JRR offices.²

The 2012 financial report will be provided to the EB members in 2013, once the audit mandated by JRR has been completed.

3. Inquiries and Deployments

In 2012, several experts from the JRR roster were deployed at the request of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and UN Women to the Commission of Inquiry for Libya (Libya COI) and the Commission of Inquiry for Syria (Syria COI).

In October 2011, one of the experts on the JRR roster was contacted directly by OHCHR and joined the **Libya COI** as human rights investigative team leader. In December 2011 and in January 2012, at the request of OHCHR an Arabic-speaking forensic pathologist from the JRR roster joined the Libya COI for a two two-week mandate. In January 2012, at the request of UN Women, an expert in investigating sexual and gender-based violence joined the Libya COI for an eight-week assignment.

In February 2012, following a request for experts from OHCHR, JRR also contributed in providing a Forensic Image Expert to assist the **Syria COI** for a one month assignment.

¹ These include employing personnel, acquiring a bank account to receive contributions from donors, and signing contracts.

² Not included in these figures are "in kind" contributions such as the four officers seconded to the JRR Secretariat.

On 23 March 2012, following the extension of the mandate of the Syria COI, JRR continued to support the COI work by deploying, at the request of OHCHR, an Arabic-speaking Forensic Pathologist, as well as an Arabic-speaking expert in investigating sexual and gender-based violence, at the request of UN Women. In November 2012, in response to a further request from UN Women, JRR continued to support the work of the Syria COI (extended on 28 September 2012) with an expert in investigating sexual and gender-based violence.

In 2012 the number of inquiries for deployment received by JRR increased with respect to 2011. For further details, see “Annex A: Operational Progress and Achievement in Justice Rapid Response until 2012”.

4. Training

In 2012, JRR had a very full training schedule and certified 190 experts. All trainings were conducted in cooperation with JRR’s training partner, the Netherlands based IICI. While JRR’s main purpose is not capacity building, its activities, and in particular its training courses, have positive capacity building effects. Those active-duty professionals trained in Semarang took back the knowledge to their respective countries and employers, contributing to the development of criminal investigative capacities locally.

A full ten-day training course was held at the **Jakarta Center for Law Enforcement and Cooperation (JCLEC) in Semarang, Indonesia, in February 2012**. This course enabled JRR to certify a total of 27 experts, many from the Asia and Oceania regions.

JRR further held two certification workshops for staff of the **International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR)** in Arusha, Tanzania (April 2012) and three certification workshops for staff of the **International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)** in The Hague, Netherlands (October 2012). These workshops enabled JRR to roster a total of 125 professionals who have very valuable investigative and prosecutions expertise before the tribunals’ completion strategy is concluded and the expertise disperses.

In July 2012, JRR also held a certification workshop for forensic professionals in conjunction with the **22nd Congress of the International Academy of Legal Medicine (IALM), in Istanbul, Turkey**. This certification workshop was designed to provide medical experts with training on key aspects of international criminal justice-related work with a view to applying their expertise in JRR situations. The workshop enabled JRR to certify a total of 18 forensic experts to the JRR roster.

In September 2012, in The Hague (Netherlands), **JRR in collaboration with UN Women, held the first of two specialized training courses for experts in investigation of sexual and gender-based violence crimes**. The second training course will be held in Pretoria, South Africa, in January 2013. The courses are a collaborative project between UN Women, JRR and IICI. The purpose of this initiative is to increase the pool of experts, within the UN Women/JRR special SGBV sub-roster, that can be rapidly deployed to lead and participate in investigations into conflict-related gender-based crimes.

In addition, JRR also certified to the JRR roster several experts who successfully completed the International Investigators Course offered by the Institute for International Criminal

Investigations, which parallels the JRR training course and has a module on JRR type deployments.

At the end of 2012, the JRR roster had 332 deployable experts from 87 countries. Because JRR members participate in a sponsorship program to ensure that there is a geographic and linguistic balance in JRR, 43% of the experts come from the global South. JRR also endeavours to achieve gender balance and at the end of 2012 42% of experts in the roster were women. To meet the anticipated needs of international investigations, the JRR roster contains an increasingly broad list of expertise in addition to criminal and human rights investigators, such as forensics specialists, police and military analysts, experts on sexual violence and witness protection and support experts.

5. Outreach

At the end of 2012, 68 States and several inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations participate in JRR. The increase in States participation was mainly due to the participation of new States in the nomination of experts to the JRR training courses which were held in new regions of the world.

JRR engaged in extensive outreach activity to potential service users throughout the year, including the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the United Nations Department of Political Affairs (DPA); continuing engagement with OHCHR and the International Criminal Court (ICC); as well as the Assembly of States Parties Secretariat, and others. In this context, JRR has initiated consultations with several of its end-users to enter into Memoranda of Understandings in view of facilitating the use of JRR's services. An agreement is already in place with DPA.

In 2011, the UN Secretary-General requested UN Women to ensure that each Commission of Inquiry be provided with expertise on investigations of sexual and gender-based violence. In order to fulfil this call, and in order to ensure that an increasing number and variety of trained SGBV experts are available to the international community, UN Women has established a partnership with JRR, engaging the training expertise of the IICI. The goal of this partnership is to train, certify and make available on the UN Women/JRR special SGBV sub-roster a holistic group of experts from every part of the world, from investigation and prosecution to especially trained interpreters, forensic doctors, psycho-social trauma counsellors, and witness protection specialists. To capitalize on the early successes of this partnership, and responding to increasing demand, UN Women and JRR have put together a three-year programme. The programme will encompass at least two regional trainings on SGBV investigation per year (2013-2015) with a view to train from 200 to 250 rapidly deployable experts. Based on previous experience and current requests, UN Women and JRR expect that this partnership will be able to support at least 4 to 6 deployments per year, with the clear possibility of more deployments to assist specific States.

The experts on the **UN Women/JRR special SGBV sub-roster** are available for rapid deployment to all members of the international community. This includes support to States (national courts and other accountability mechanisms), as well as providing surge capacity to UN entities, such as the Team of Experts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on

Sexual Violence in Conflict, or the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the International Criminal Court (ICC) as well as commissions of inquiry, fact-finding bodies, international and hybrid courts, and other accountability mechanisms, such as truth commissions. In particular, JRR engaged with the Team of Experts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, in order to better identify and incorporate the expertise which is most needed in the fight of SGBV in the SGBV special roster.

JRR also engaged in exploring **areas of cooperation with the UK** in the fight against impunity in the area of conflict related sexual and gender based violence. Four UK nominated experts were selected to attend the training course on SGBV investigations, and be certified on the UN Women/JRR special SGBV sub-roster. In addition, about 20 experts from the UK PSVI roster, who have been trained by IICI on SGBV crimes investigations, have also been invited to apply for certification to the UN Women/JRR special SGBV sub-roster. Consultations are on-going with regard to projects of future cooperation.

As part of its outreach strategy, JRR also participates in the **CapMatch initiative**, a self-service online platform to strengthen and make more inclusive and transparent the ‘market place’ for civilian capacity. It serves to better match the demand and supply of specialized civilian capacities for countries emerging from conflict, through a more demand driven and efficient approach to post conflict assistance. CapMatch is owned and monitored by the UN Civilian Capacities Team, and was created following the Civilian Capacity (CIVCAP) process on how to improve the ways in which civilian expertise is provided in the aftermath of conflicts.

As a further aspect of its outreach strategy, JRR initiated the preparation of a re-launch of the JRR website, which is planned for early January 2013. Calls for nominations for JRR training courses will continue to be announced on the JRR website as well as key documents made available. Additional features are under consideration to facilitate the interaction between JRR and the experts on the JRR roster.

In 2012 JRR further continued its initiatives to engage with **ICC-Office of the Prosecutor** to cooperate together in the delivering of international criminal justice through complementarity initiatives. As the ICC-OTP is not mandated or equipped to assist States coming out of conflict in achieving complementary investigative capacity, mechanisms such as JRR, that are able to provide multilateral, professional, independent, impartial and rapid assistance could be used for this purpose. JRR is ready to assist the States parties to the ICC in this regard, thereby also making the work of the ICC-OTP easier and more effective.

JRR and IICI also worked with the **ICC Office of the Registrar** to prepare and present training courses for Registry staff and other professionals who will be coming into contact with victims and witnesses through their work with the ICC Registry. It is as important for these professionals to know how to interact with victims and witnesses as it is for OTP staff, in order to minimize the chance of inadvertently doing more harm.

Investigation of sexual and gender-based violence is one area of expertise through which JRR may be able to assist the ICC in the future. Experts from the ICC participated as presenters and observers in the first training course on “Investigating Cases of Sexual and Gender-based Violence as International Crimes”, being held in The Hague, from 10-14 September 2012. The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Mrs. Fatou Bensouda, officially opened the training on 10 September 2012.

Annex A: Operational Progress and Achievement in Justice Rapid Response (2009 to March 20, 2013)

From the start of its operations, Justice Rapid Response (JRR) has significantly increased its training, roster management and deployment capacity. The size of JRR's roster, as well as the representation within the roster of technical expertise; trained professionals from the global South; regional representation; and linguistic capability all grew. There is broad representation of nationalities and good gender balance. These achievements have resulted in an enhanced ability to provide the international community with a robust and varied on-call facility of expertise that can be deployed rapidly to investigate analyze and report on situations where serious human rights and international criminal violations have been reported. The following statistics reflect JRR's progress and achievement over its short operational history against its three lines of operations (training, roster management and the deployment of experts):

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013, as of 6. Feb.	Combined Totals for 2009-02/2013
1. Training:						
a. Number of training courses completed	2	3	2	8	1	16
b. Number of experts trained	34	47	54	190	23	348
2. JRR Roster:						
a. Total number of experts on the roster ³	34	81	143	332	352	
b. Roster composition by:						
• Representation from the Global South	14 (41.2%)	35 (43.3%)	68 (47.6%)	144 (43.4%)	149 (42.3%)	
• Gender (i.e. women)	14 (41.2%)	35 (42.2%)	52 (36.4%)	140 (42.2%)	159 (45.2%)	
• Number of languages in the roster	19	32	44	74	77	
• Number of nationalities on the roster	18	33	56	87	87	
• Number of distinct expertise on the roster	14	24	32	53	54	
3. Deployments:						
a. Number of inquiries received	1	8	14	18	4	45
b. Number of deployments undertaken	1	2	6	5	2	16
c. Number of experts deployed	1	7	6	5	2	21
d. Number of deployments in progress at report date					1	1
e. Number of inquiries in progress at report date					6	6

(Version 2013-1.0, 20 March, 2013)

³ For the JRR roster, the number of experts is cumulative. A few experts have joined the roster after having completed the IICI international investigations course containing a JRR module. This accounts for the greater number of experts in the roster.