



Annual Report

2024-2025

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This annual report contains information for IDC’s financial year July 2024 – June 2025.



ABOUT IDC

International Detention Coalition is the world’s leading movement dedicated to ending immigration detention.

We are a global movement, uniting civil society organisations, community groups and individuals behind a clear purpose: to end immigration detention and promote alternatives.

There are fairer, cheaper and more effective ways to approach migration governance. We believe people should be able to live freely while they await the outcome of their immigration case, and we advocate for the human rights and dignity of everyone impacted by immigration detention.

IDC works on multiple fronts to end immigration detention – we strengthen the global movement, generate evidence, work to change laws and policies, and promote practical alternatives to detention.

Ultimately, we want to get people out of immigration detention and into a life within the community, where they can be with loved ones, contribute to society and benefit from education, healthcare, employment and more.



ALFA NET / SHUTTERSTOCK

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Carolina Gottardo

Executive Director



Kaajal Ramjathan-Keogh

Chairperson

Defending the rights of migrants and refugees has never been more urgent. This past year, we have witnessed an alarming escalation in hostility towards people on the move.

In 2025, different governments around the world took increasingly aggressive measures against migrants and refugees. The rise of populism has increased the criminalisation of migrants and migration, resulting in migration policies based on politics rather than evidence and in migrants being scapegoated for political gain.

Immigration detention is one of the symptoms of the criminalisation of migration. These trends have been particularly alarming in the United States, resulting in the expansion of detention, bilateral agreements with third countries for detention and deportation, and enforced disappearances.

We are also seeing an escalation in the use of immigration detention in many countries and a variety of new policy initiatives – including the new Asylum and Migration Pact in Europe and the proposed EU Return Regulation – which threaten to expand immigration detention even further.

At the same time, multilateralism is under attack and we are experiencing unprecedented cuts in funding. The dismantling of aid by the Trump administration and the reallocation of budgets by other governments has delivered devastating blows to humanitarian support and human rights initiatives, cutting off lifelines for communities already living in crisis.

IDC was seriously affected by the cuts and we lost all the funding for one of our most impactful programmes in the Central America–Mexico–US corridor. This forced us to drastically reduce our programme, which had been strengthening legal protections for migrant children and their families and advocating for the end of detention for people seeking asylum in Mexico. That loss was felt immediately and profoundly by those already facing uncertain futures.

We must be clear: this is an extraordinarily challenging moment for human rights and humanity as a whole. Yet it is precisely in these moments that resilience matters most. While many organisations have been forced to scale back significantly or close their doors entirely, IDC has been able to persist and continue to deliver impact. Together with our members, people with lived experience, governments, UN agencies, allies and civil society partners, we have ensured that human rights-based migration governance and community-based alternatives to detention (ATD) remain visible, viable and achievable.

This year, despite enormous challenges, our impact continues to be strong and we achieved the following:



In Africa, we launched the SADC Regional Network on Alternatives to Detention and supported South-to-South peer learning on alternatives to detention in Southern Africa and Western Africa, which has supported migration governance reform.

In the Americas, we secured government endorsement of a pioneering regional vulnerability screening tool to prevent detention, while also strengthening child protection systems in Mexico through community-based alternatives.



In the Asia Pacific, we supported major policy reforms in Thailand, which have resulted in over 2,000 children avoiding immigration detention since 2019 and have created momentum in Malaysia to expand alternatives to detention. We have also advanced regional frameworks and published the evaluation on IDC and the Asia Dialogue on Forced Migration, Asia Pacific Peer Learning Platform. This has resulted in tangible impact in terms of national reform, government-civil society partnerships, regional momentum and the identification of policy champions.

In Europe, we supported Belgium's leadership in ending child detention, promoting government-civil society partnerships, and advancing alternatives and emerging initiatives in Spain, Italy and Czechia, while shaping EU-level discussions on ATD.





In the Middle East and North Africa, we partnered with UNICEF on a landmark regional report and co-led global forums to elevate child-sensitive, community-based approaches even amid conflict and shrinking civic space.

Globally, we continue co-leading the UN Network on Migration workstream on ATD, organised government peer learning, helped secure new Global Compact indicators on ending child detention and advanced pioneering research on gender and the responsible use of digital technologies in migration governance.



These are not small wins. They are proof that even in the darkest times, progress is possible. They show what's at stake, and also what's possible when determination meets solidarity.

Despite the upheaval, IDC remains unwavering in our commitment to work towards a world without immigration detention, where migrants are not criminalised. Now more than ever, we stand resolute alongside the communities we serve.

With the strength of our members in 75 countries, the leadership of people with lived experience, the commitment of our funders, the expertise of our civil society partners and the invaluable contributions of individual supporters worldwide, we will continue working towards a future where human rights are respected regardless of immigration status.



DAVID PEINADO ROMERO / SHUTTERSTOCK



AFRICA

Throughout this period, IDC continued to advance rights-based ATD and strengthen regional advocacy efforts across Africa. Activities focused on building coalitions, engagement with governments and regional mechanisms, developing capacity, amplifying promising practices and supporting evidence-based advocacy through research. A major milestone was the launch of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Network on Alternatives to Detention in August 2024 in Johannesburg, co-convened by IDC and Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR). The network brings together NGOs, human rights defenders and people with lived experience of immigration detention from Southern African countries to foster collaboration, share promising practices and engage policymakers.

Following the launch, IDC and LHR facilitated a capacity-building workshop on lived experience leadership, case management and ATD. The network also co-hosted a side event during the 77th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR).

Building Government Capacity and Cooperation

IDC continued to work constructively with governments across the continent and to support capacity building when required. In Mozambique, IDC conducted training for national prosecutors on international detention standards and ATD implementation, helping to identify existing national programmes that could be formalised under an ATD framework.

In December 2024, IDC supported an ATD workshop working with IOM Southern Africa and the Government of Zimbabwe. IDC facilitated the participation of the governments of Colombia and Belgium to talk about non-detention approaches and casework respectively. The workshop gathered 40 public officials – including senior representatives from key ministries, Zimbabwe's Minister of Home Affairs and IOM's Director General – and catalysed political will to advance ATD initiatives nationally and regionally. Following the workshop, Zimbabwe enhanced its efforts to promote ATD as one of its priority areas for policy development.

IDC co-facilitated another peer learning initiative in June 2025 – the Regional Peer-Learning Exchange on ATD: Fostering South-South Cooperation – held in Dakar, Senegal. The exchange brought together government representatives from Mauritania, Senegal and The Gambia, jointly with the governments of Colombia and Zimbabwe, to share experiences and promising practices on the promotion of ATD. This initiative was developed in collaboration with IOM West Africa, OHCHR and UNODC.

Finally, IDC also supported the Government of Malawi with the development of their National Implementation Plan for the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), and contributed to a peer learning workshop on GCM implementation with the governments of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and Uganda, alongside Malawi and Tanzania.

Engaging with Human Rights Mechanisms

During this period, IDC deepened engagement with regional human rights mechanisms. Jointly with LHR and the Scalabrini Centre, IDC submitted a statement to the ACHPR Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, highlighting issues of missing migrants and the importance of informing families about deprivation of liberty.

IDC also co-developed and delivered formal statements on immigration detention and ATD at the 81st and 82nd Sessions of the ACHPR and – together with LHR and the African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum – presented recommendations on ATD implementation during the 2024 session in Banjul.

IDC participated in the 83rd session of the ACHPR in May 2025 and delivered a statement on the need to reconsider immigration detention as an enforcement tool and to promote ATD. IDC also participated at the Africa Regional Freedom from Slavery Forum in July 2024, addressing the intersection of migration, vulnerability and exploitation.

IDC maintained active participation in key regional migration governance processes. At the Africa Regional Review of the GCM in Ethiopia, IDC co-organised a side event on ending child immigration detention with LHR and the SADC Network and presented in one of the main panels.

At the Global UN Civil Society Conference in Nairobi in September 2024, IDC and partners advocated for the inclusion of humane migration governance and ATD in the Pact for the Future.

Supporting Legal Reform and Policy Development

IDC contributed to policy reform in South Africa by joining Amnesty International and the Global Strategic Litigation Council as amicus curiae in a landmark case – filed by the Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town and LHR – challenging recent provisions in the South African Refugees Act and accompanying regulations.

In May 2025, the Western Cape High Court issued a landmark judgment declaring the challenged provisions unconstitutional and invalid. The Court further acknowledged the amicus submissions as providing valuable insights on international law.

IDC engaged directly with South Africa's legislative process by submitting written and oral statements to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs on the Immigration Amendment Bill in February 2025.

IDC contributed to evidence-based advocacy in partnership with the Network of Legal Experts on Migration (NoLEM) by producing an article for the publication Analysing Migrant Detention Legal Frameworks: Perspectives from West and Central Africa, offering comparative insights on global and African ATD practices. IDC also participated in a capacity-building session about the topic with IOM and NoLEM in Dakar, Senegal, during the launch of this publication.

IDC's work in Africa over the past year has strengthened partnerships, built momentum for rights-based ATD and deepened engagement with governments, regional bodies and civil society to create lasting spaces for dialogue, collaboration and capacity building on the continent.



THE LAUNCH OF THE SADC

AMERICAS

In 2024–2025, IDC’s Americas programme led significant initiatives to prevent immigration detention, while contributing to stronger protection for people on the move in critical transit zones. This was achieved despite IDC losing its funding in the region halfway through the financial year due to cuts by the US administration. These cuts forced us to reduce the capacity of our team and explore how best to continue our work in the face of increased needs and challenging circumstances.

Despite this landscape, IDC led new regional initiatives to prevent detention this year and contributed to strengthening the protection of people on the move in critical transit zones.

Regional Advocacy and Protection Frameworks

As Technical Secretariat of the Civil Society Regional Network (RRCOM), IDC continued to advocate for stronger cross-border protection frameworks and to operationalise high-level regional commitments.

A key achievement this year was obtaining member state endorsement for the development of a regional vulnerability screening tool within the framework of the government-led Regional Migration Conference (RMC). The tool, also endorsed by the UN-led Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS), is designed to prevent detention by identifying vulnerabilities early in the migration process. IDC facilitated two pilot programmes for its implementation, accompanied by a comprehensive training programme for states, including a dedicated course for frontline border officials.

IDC also made strategic technical submissions to regional and international human rights bodies, including the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (on promising practices at borders), the Cartagena +40 Initiative (on progress and challenges), the Global Compact for Migration Regional Review, and nationally, to the Committee on Migrant Workers (Mexico’s 4th Convention review) and the UN Human Rights Council (Panama’s 4th Universal

Periodic Review). These submissions were reflected in the recommendations of these bodies, reinforcing IDC’s influence at multiple levels.

IDC joined the Observatorio Darién, a civil society watchdog monitoring human rights violations in the Darién Gap. Through this initiative, IDC contributed to joint advocacy calling on states to respect international law obligations and protect people affected by forced removals.

IDC remained active in convening spaces for dialogue with civil society organisations across the Americas, focusing on emerging challenges such as border externalisation and the punitive nature of immigration enforcement.

National Advocacy in Mexico

At the national level, IDC led the Action Group to End Detention in Mexico, advancing advocacy to end detention for people seeking asylum. IDC co-published a dossier on detention and ATD, and contributed to a key technical brief outlining opportunities and proposals for the incoming administration’s migration policy.

Through close engagement with government transition teams and new congressional staff, IDC ensured that ATD was included in Mexico’s policy agenda.

To amplify advocacy efforts, IDC coordinated several Spanish-language social media campaigns. This included the 14th anniversary of Mexico’s Refugee Law, highlighting the urgent need for reform to prohibit immigration detention for people seeking asylum, and World Refugee Day, with messages focused on border vulnerability screening and civil society participation in legislative dialogues.

IDC also published research on the severe consequences of detention on individual and community mental health. Together with GMIES (El Salvador), IDC developed a campaign in Central America for World Mental Health Day, stressing freedom as the first step toward healing.

To consolidate these efforts, IDC launched the Action Group’s dedicated webpage, providing public information about its positions and advocacy. This platform strengthened the group’s influence nationally and regionally, serving as a good practice model for Central America.

Child Rights and Protection

Protecting the rights of migrant and refugee children remained a cornerstone of IDC’s work in the Americas. Building on its long-term commitment, IDC collaborated with state and local authorities in Mexico to ensure that children are never detained and can access community-based reception and care.

In partnership with Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) – and initially with the support from the US Department of State Bureau of Population and Refugees (PRM) – IDC provided technical assistance and capacity building to federal, state and local child protection authorities.

This programme focused on implementing Mexico's National Protocol for the Protection of Migrant Children in the key states of Tabasco, Chiapas and Veracruz. IDC's contributions were acknowledged during the first sitting of the new federal commission, highlighting our role in developing state-level protocols, strategic plans and institutional strengthening for alternative care.

Peer learning exchanges continued to be a highly effective approach. IDC convened child protection authorities and social assistance centres to discuss regulatory improvements, resource allocation and promising practices. A flagship two-day event was held in Tabasco, with a further forum for over 50 social assistance staff in Veracruz. Together with KIND and SIPINNA, IDC co-hosted the first forum on the right to live in a family for children and adolescents in situations of mobility.

IDC also launched a nationwide virtual training course – in partnership with the National System for Integral Family Development (DIF) and civil society organisations – designed for frontline officials involved in reception and care. In Veracruz, IDC co-produced training materials on children's rights and the child protection protocol, supporting municipal officers in their critical role of safeguarding children on the move.

Lastly, an independent impact evaluation in 2024 commended IDC's Americas programme, highlighting its expertise, constructive engagement and positive contribution to national child protection systems. Despite this, IDC's funding for this programme was lost. We have been working hard on fundraising efforts for the Americas region, which needs additional resources and support more than ever as a result of the negative policy changes in the first half of 2025.



REGIONAL REVIEW OF THE PACT SIDE EVENT

HUMPHERY / SHUTTERSTOCK



ASIA-PACIFIC

In the Asia Pacific region, IDC has continued to play a central role in advancing rights-based migration governance through sustained government engagement, strengthening civil society coalitions and facilitating peer learning at national and regional levels.

The team's efforts have contributed to concrete policy developments in Thailand and Malaysia, while also shaping regional and global dialogues on ATD and broader migration reform.

Thailand

In Thailand, IDC remains a trusted partner to the government, UN agencies, the diplomatic community, academia and civil society stakeholders in scaling up ATD and broader migration policy reform.

A significant achievement during this period was the revision of the Memorandum of Understanding on ATD Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and the Rohingya Children Care Plan, developed with the Department of Children and Youth (DCY), UNICEF and HOST International. Once adopted, these policies will enable larger groups of migrant and refugee children and their caregivers to be released into community-based care.

IDC also supported research on ATD costing analysis, embedding evidence into policy dialogue. In parallel, IDC assisted the Immigration Bureau in designing and facilitating the National Screening Mechanism (NSM) Annual Review to improve the implementation of Thailand's asylum screening system. IDC leveraged these efforts with the UN Network on Migration (UNMN) to align global and regional standards with Thailand's context and feed local lessons into international policy.

Recognising the importance of lived experience leadership, IDC, DCY, UNICEF and HOST International co-organised two Children and Youth-led Advocacy Workshops to elevate the participation of young people impacted by migration in shaping the policies that affect them.

At the parliamentary level, IDC coordinated the Parliament Committee on National Security and the Parliament Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights in producing three reports on sustainable solutions for migrants and refugees in Thailand, which the Parliament Assembly adopted in August 2024.

IDC also worked with the committees and stakeholders to amend the Immigration Act and Foreign Workers Decree, bringing key stakeholders together to address migration issues such as access to education for migrant children and reductions in US aid.

The team also provided technical input to the Royal Thai Armed Forces on Myanmar migration policies and border response planning. Advocacy extended to Uyghur detainees and cross-border trafficking, strengthening Thailand's policy response through evidence and collaboration.

Malaysia

In Malaysia, despite a challenging political and social context, IDC worked closely with the government and civil society partners to create a more open policy environment on ATD and detention reform.

In partnership with SUKA Society, Yayasan Chow Kit and UNICEF, IDC submitted a strategic proposal on ATD to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA), which was later presented to MOHA, the Ministry of Women, Family, and Community Development, the National Security Council, the Immigration Department and the Social Welfare Department. IDC has since participated in consultations convened by MOHA to develop draft Standard Operating Procedures for an ATD pilot for children in immigration detention.

Under a consultancy with AmerBON and UNICEF, IDC also supported proposed amendments to the Immigration Act to prohibit the detention of children, in line with international law.

IDC is also collaborating with MPs and civil society organisations to develop processes to prevent refoulement and wrongful deportation, and has been providing technical expertise on screening mechanisms to ensure ATD is embedded in broader migration governance frameworks.

Regional Collaboration

Through its convening role in the End Detention Network (EDN), IDC facilitated a strategy meeting in March 2025 to take stock of achievements and challenges and set a renewed advocacy agenda, focusing on ATD, immigration reform and access to health. IDC also supported media engagement, including a World Refugee Day press briefing with refugee voices, which resulted in increased coverage informed by lived experience.

At the regional level, IDC and the Asia Dialogue on Forced Migration (ADFM) co-organised the eighth Regional Peer Learning Platform on Alternative Care Arrangements for Children in Sydney in February 2025. This convened governments, civil society, academia and international organisations to share strategies to move away from child detention.

IDC and ADFM also launched Learning Together: Advancing Alternatives for Children, reflecting on five years of work and what the Regional Platform has achieved. This report illustrates key areas of progress since setting up the Regional Platform in 2019, including momentum on national reform, progress at the regional level, increased government-civil society engagement and the identification and support of government champions.

IDC is advancing the development of ASEAN ATD Guidelines, with drafting and stakeholder engagement ongoing despite funding delays. IDC also co-organised a four-part webinar series with the Global Strategic Litigation Council, chaired Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network's Immigration Detention Working Group, and played a vital role in the Second Asia-Pacific Regional Review of the Global Compact for Migration in Bangkok. IDC continues to co-chair the UNMN Regional Workstream on ATD and actively participates in the Workstream on Strategic Litigation.

Despite global challenges, IDC's work in the Asia Pacific has sustained significant progress in embedding ATD and rights-based approaches into migration governance, in close collaboration with members, partners, lived experience communities and governments.



ATTENDEES WORKSHOP AT THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH FORUM

GABRIEL PREDA RO / SHUTTERSTOCK

EUROPE

European immigration detention practices have grown increasingly restrictive and less transparent over the past year. A shift toward the expansion of detention across Europe is evident across multiple countries, demonstrating concerning trends in migration governance.

The expansion of the detention state, including child detention, is largely driven by the adoption of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, which provides the legal framework for restrictive policies across EU member states. This has been accompanied by an increase in populism, which continues to politicise migration in many countries in the region.

As member states work towards the Pact's full implementation by mid-2026 and continue to work on the proposed EU Returns Regulation, IDC and our partners have intensified advocacy efforts for community-centred alternatives to detention, demonstrating that rights-based national policies can and must advance, even within a challenging regional framework. Our national-level advocacy approach of building multi-stakeholder coalitions and facilitating government-to-government peer learning has been successful.

National-Level Advocacy

IDC has also been influential at the regional policy level. We played a key role in a workshop with the European Migration Network (EMN) and the Belgian government in Brussels, which brought together representatives from eighteen member states.

The forum focused on the practical implementation of ATD in the context of the new EU Pact. IDC highlighted evidence from successful case management models, the implications of the use of digital technology on detention and ATD, and also facilitated the participation of our national partners – JRS Belgium and Cepaim. IDC is also collaborating with the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute to develop research that challenges assumptions

driving detention policies, with a particular focus on the risk of absconding and with focus countries including Austria and Italy. The partnership aims to generate concrete evidence that promotes the use of alternatives.

IDC is also working to establish a government and civil society peer learning platform for Europe, with its first convening taking place in early 2026. This initiative will bring together practitioners, policymakers and civil society to exchange strategies and advance ATD across the region.

Strengthening the civil society networks that drive this work has been a core priority. In 2024, IDC published *Pathways to Change* – an in-depth impact study of the European ATD Network (EATDN) that codified the network's successful methods, including its solutions-based advocacy and government-CSO partnerships. During this period, IDC also coordinated the EATDN's meeting in Madrid, which strategised on joint advocacy for ATD, documentation, monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) and communications, as well as advocacy within the context of the new Pact.

IDC also partnered with A&M Consultants – a firm led by people with lived experience of migration and detention – to develop a guide and deliver training to embed lived experience leadership across the EATDN members' structures and programming. This initiative reinforces the principle that those directly affected by detention must be central to shaping alternatives.

Through our dedicated work in Europe, IDC continues to provide targeted engagement and champion rights-based, community-centred solutions. By fostering national progress, strengthening networks and connecting practitioners with policymakers, we are demonstrating that even in a difficult political climate, case management and community engagement offer a humane and effective path forward for migration governance.



MENA

The migration and displacement landscape in MENA has grown increasingly fragile, marked by political instability, shrinking civic space and the securitisation of migration governance. Protection conditions – particularly in North Africa – have deteriorated, while European border externalisation policies have intensified pressure on states in the region, leading to increased detention, forced returns and limited access to rights and services for people on the move.

Armed conflicts and crises have compounded this instability, resulting in millions being displaced, widespread human rights violations and the collapse of protection infrastructures in several areas.

National-Level Advocacy

The migration and displacement landscape in MENA has grown increasingly fragile, marked by political instability, shrinking civic space and the securitisation of migration governance. Protection conditions – particularly in North Africa – have deteriorated, while European border externalisation policies have intensified pressure on states in the region, leading to increased detention, forced returns and limited access to rights and services for people on the move.

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Regional Research

During this period, IDC and UNICEF published a regional report entitled Promising Practices and Opportunities Towards a Continuum of Rights, Protection and Care for Refugee and Migrant Children on the Move in the MENA Region. The report includes country profiles and relevant policy analysis for nine countries in the

region, examining immigration detention trends and promising practices on ATD. This builds on IDC's ongoing mapping of immigration detention trends across the region and the protection of children on the move. The launch event took place in October 2024, with the participation of different stakeholders – including governments, UN agencies and civil society.

Regional Engagement

IDC continued to engage with national and regional partners to build momentum on capacity building, strategic advocacy and peer learning. High-level meetings were held with officials from Türkiye, Libya and Egypt to explore potential bilateral learning exchanges and to discuss expanding government participation in IDC's forthcoming cross-regional peer learning platform.

IDC also engaged in key convenings, including the IDAC consultation on child protection and migration in Rabat, workshops with OHCHR and with OMCT. IDC is part of the stakeholder group on the GCM for the Arab region and actively participated in the GCM Arab Regional Review.

Additionally, IDC led national workshops on ATD in Türkiye. During the Global Week Against Torture, IDC participated in a webinar hosted by the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), presenting links between torture and immigration detention and promoting ATD as a solution to mitigate the inhumane treatment of migrants. These engagements reinforced IDC's position as a trusted convener and technical resource for both civil society and government actors.

Despite the highly challenging landscape, IDC's presence in the MENA region has ensured that rights-based, child-sensitive and community-led approaches remain visible and accessible to governments, civil society and international actors.



THE IOM WESTERN BALKAN WORKSHOP ON ATD

GLOBAL

Throughout this period, IDC continued to play a leading role in global advocacy to promote ATD and rights-based approaches and pathways. Through national, regional and global engagement and strategic advocacy, IDC strengthened its position as a key stakeholder influencing global migration governance.

Advocacy in the Context of the UN Network on Migration

During this period, IDC continued co-leading the UN Network on Migration (UNNM) Workstream on Alternatives to Detention – alongside UNICEF and the Migration Youth and Children Platform (MYCP) and with the support of UNHCR – in preparation for the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF).

IDC also co-organised the second Global Youth Consultation on Ending Child Immigration Detention, alongside MYCP, UNICEF and UNHCR, under the auspices of the UNNM. The consultations gathered over 80 young people from diverse regions and backgrounds, generating meaningful inputs into the broader migration governance dialogue.

IDC played a pivotal role in co-organising two global peer learning events, which convened more than 35 governments and the European Union. These events created vital opportunities for States to share experiences, explore promising practices and build capacity for implementing rights-based ATD models.

Moreover, IDC successfully advocated – together with UNICEF and UNHCR – for the inclusion of new indicators on ending child immigration detention under Objective 13 of the GCM.

IDC also actively participated in the GCM Regional Reviews in Europe, the Arab States, Africa, MENA and Asia Pacific, playing a leadership role in most as speakers and civil society representatives across multiple regions. This illustrates our added value in ensuring coherence across migration governance processes at different levels.

The Global Forum on Migration and Development

IDC was active in preparations for the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), which was chaired by Colombia. While the GFMD Summit was postponed from June to September 2025, IDC remained thoroughly engaged in the preparations for the event, having participated in the GFMD Global Preparations Meetings in Geneva in November 2024 and in February 2025, as well as in organisational meetings for two side events on ATD and on gender and migration co-designed by IDC.

IDC was the CSO co-chair for one of the six thematic issues of the GFMD, focusing on children's rights, alongside MYCP. This included organising broad consultations on children's rights with civil society from different regions.

Promoting Non-Detention and ATD Approaches

IDC has facilitated south-to-south peer learning and promoted non-detention approaches, engaging with different governments. This included collaboration with IOM Southern Africa for a workshop that took place in Zimbabwe in December 2024. This involved the governments of Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi, and IDC facilitated the participation of the governments of Colombia and Belgium. This workshop was highly successful and helped increase momentum in Zimbabwe for advancing ATD.

IDC also participated as both a speaker and co-designer of a regional South-to-South peer learning exchange with the governments of Senegal, The Gambia, Mauritania, Colombia and Zimbabwe. The exchange took place in Dakar, Senegal in June 2025 and was co-hosted with IOM West Africa, OHCHR, UNODC and the Network on Legal Experts on Migration (NoLEM).

Other Global Initiatives

In collaboration with UNHCR, UNICEF, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and the Government of Colombia, IDC co-sponsored a landmark event at the Human Rights Council on ending the detention of people seeking asylum.

IDC has actively participated in reporting and follow-up activities for UNHCR's Global Refugee Forum Multi-stakeholder Pledges. In December 2024 in Geneva, IDC participated as a speaker at the Global Conference on Children Deprived of their Liberty, and subsequently contributed to the 2025–2030 Roadmap for Children Deprived of Liberty. IDC drafted the migration-related detention chapter and identified eight key action areas to guide international efforts.

Furthermore, IDC participated in the OHCHR-organised event on migration in transit contexts and co-hosted a satellite event at the World Congress on Justice with Children, alongside Fundación Cepaim, UNICEF and MYCP. During this period, IDC shared expertise through the International Institute of Humanitarian Law (IIHL) online course on Protection in Mixed Movements. We submitted input to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants (SR Migrants) on enforced disappearances and to the OHCHR study on human rights monitoring in the context of migration.

IDC also contributed to the Special Rapporteur of Migrants’ report on externalisation and to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and the Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW), providing evidence and participating in regional and global expert consultations for their Joint General Comment on xenophobia and migrants’ rights.

IDC continues to engage in strategic meetings and initiatives with Permanent Missions and UN agencies in Geneva, ensuring continued momentum on rights-based ATD, protection and pathways and strengthening a community of practice. This has included closely working with Permanent Missions from different regions.

IDC has also enhanced its work and joint initiatives with different UN agencies, including UNICEF, UNHCR, IOM, OHCHR and UN Women, both at headquarters and regional levels.

Novel Global Work

IDC initiated the implementation of Pathways to Protection, a joint project with the Danish Refugee Council and the Danish Red Cross, focusing on route-based approaches, protection, rights and pathways alongside the Central, Eastern and Western Mediterranean routes. This period marked the inception phase of the programme. IDC’s role focuses on targeted advocacy and establishing a cross-regional peer learning platform alongside the route.

IDC collaborated with the Kaldor Centre at the University of New South Wales in Australia and the Refugee Law Lab in Canada to organise eight regional and global consultations for an upcoming research project focused on digital technologies, immigration detention and ATD, which will be published in September 2025.

IDC also deepened its work on gender. We collaborated with UN Women on a policy brief focused on gender, immigration detention and ATD, which will be launched in the second half of 2025. IDC was part of the FeMig project with Wilfrid Laurier University and the Women in Migration Network (WIMN), focusing on developing a feminist migration policy from the grassroots, including co-planning and facilitating workshops on gender and migration in Thailand and Colombia.

Across all initiatives, IDC leveraged partnerships and deepened its influence with governments, UN agencies and civil society to push for concrete change. Our work this year has underscored the critical role of multi-stakeholder collaboration in transforming migration systems, promoting accountability and centring dignity and rights in migration governance.

SIDE EVENT AT THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Human rights
transcend all borders

IDC is the world’s leading
movement to end immigration
detention.

And we are focused on solutions. There are fairer, cheaper and more effective ways to approach migration governance – that’s why we’re working to deliver

COMMUNICATIONS, DEVELOPMENT AND ORGANISATIONAL LEARNING

This year, IDC invested in strengthening our communications, fundraising and learning strategies to support the sustainability of the movement and ensure our collective impact.

Communications

During this period, IDC’s communications function continued to grow as a powerful tool to amplify our mission and strengthen our global impact. Building on the foundation of last year’s rebrand, we further refined our voice and messaging to ensure our work resonates with diverse audiences, from policymakers and civil society partners to affected communities and the wider public.

IDC worked in partnership with the Detention Forum to publish a human-centred multimedia storytelling piece, which ultimately became our most widely read article ever. The piece recounts the experiences of a woman inside UK immigration detention and was co-created in close collaboration with the individual featured and guided by IDC’s ethical storytelling principles.

During this period, IDC led on several communications initiatives including the launch of the MENA regional mapping report on child immigration detention, produced jointly with UNICEF, the launch of the SADC regional network in Southern Africa and the publication of the Learning Together report, which illustrates the impact of IDC and the Asia Dialogue on Forced Migration’s peer learning platform in the Asia Pacific.

IDC developed strong connections with communicators and campaigners via the Communications Network and we continued to develop our expertise and knowledge of best practice by engaging with the Resource Alliance. IDC produced nineteen communications publications on our website during the reporting period, including a social video on mental health and detention, a critical response to US funding cuts and a migrant art project,

produced in collaboration with Amnesty Malaysia. We also ran campaigns centred on key international days, with the goal of expanding our visibility and engagement among new audiences.

IDC launched a Spanish-language version of our website, significantly improving accessibility for Spanish-speaking partners and reinforcing IDC's commitment to inclusivity. IDC's social media presence has also continued to grow during this period.

Development

This year has been a challenging period for most civil society organisations across the world as a result of extensive funding cuts, and IDC was no exception. IDC lost funding for our Americas programme, which impacted the work and our team at a time of enhanced need for people on the move. Nonetheless we have been resilient and continue to prioritise fundraising across the organisation. We have also secured new grants during this year, including a grant from DANIDA, in partnership with the Danish Refugee Council and the Danish Red Cross, for our joint programme, Pathways to Protection, as well as funding from UMCOR and other funders.

At the same time, this year has been foundational for IDC's Development work, marked by expanding and diversifying funding opportunities in a challenging time for most civil society organisations, strengthening internal systems and launching IDC's first individual giving programme. A new Development Officer joined the team in March 2025, bringing renewed focus to resource mobilisation during a time of significant change across international philanthropy.

While IDC has historically relied on institutional funding, the development of an individual donor stream reflects a strategic shift towards diversification and public engagement. By broadening participation and generating flexible funding, IDC aims to strengthen its resilience in the face of the shifting institutional landscape.

To reach broader audiences, IDC piloted approaches that combined communications and fundraising, including storytelling initiatives that emphasised lived experience leadership and community-based alternatives. In the year ahead, IDC will continue to expand outreach to new and existing institutional funders, enhance our partnership and collaboration work, grow the individual giving programme and strengthen coordination between fundraising, programmes and communications.

Organisational Learning

IDC recognises that lasting change requires ongoing reflection, adaptation and capacity development. This year, we prioritised strengthening our organisational learning systems to ensure that our strategies remain responsive and effective in a rapidly changing global context.

Building on previous years' investments, IDC refined its internal monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) frameworks to better capture the outcomes of our advocacy, community engagement and capacity-building work. We placed particular emphasis on documenting lessons from our regional platforms, peer learning initiatives and partnerships with people with lived experience of detention. These insights informed both our internal planning and our external advocacy, helping to position IDC as a trusted knowledge broker in the field.

Team development was another key priority. Cross-regional exchanges and team reflection sessions allowed personnel to share knowledge and strengthen collaboration across diverse contexts. These processes deepened collective learning and reinforced IDC's organisational culture of solidarity and care.

Together, these efforts reinforced IDC's institutional foundations, enabling us to accompany members and partners more effectively in the shared goal of ending immigration detention.



NEW PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH



Promising practices and opportunities: Towards a continuum of rights, protection and care for refugee and migrant children moving in the MENA region

The detention of child refugees and migrants based on their migration status is a critical protection issue globally and in the MENA region. This report, produced alongside UNICEF, maps the situation of child immigration detention and identifies promising child-sensitive alternatives across eight countries in the MENA region: Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Sudan.

Available Languages: English, Arabic



Learning Together: Advancing Alternatives for Children

This report reflects on five years of the Regional Peer Learning Platform and Program of Action on Alternatives to Child Detention in the Context of Migration in the Asia Pacific. The publication serves as both a reflection tool for participants and a resource for those interested in replicating this model in other contexts.

Available Languages: English, Thai, Malay, Indonesian



An Assessment of Reception and Care Centres

This assessment aims to provide an overview of public and private Social Assistance Centres (CAS) in Mexico. It provides information on the features and needs of these shelters for migrant children and adolescents and provides data that can be used for advocacy purposes and to support the design of legal frameworks, public policies, guidelines and care models that respect the rights of migrant children and adolescents.

Available Languages: English

IDC also contributed to the following publications and resources this year:

- [Nurturing Childhoods in Freedom](#)
- [Ending immigration detention for refugees in Mexico](#)
- [Immigration detention affects people's physical, psychological and social wellbeing](#)
- [IDC Statement on Proposed Common European System for Returns 2025](#)
- [Curriculum Community Leadership for migrant children and adolescents](#)
- [The Protection of Health in Administrative Detention Centres](#)
- [Submission to the UN CERD-CMW joint general comment / recommendation](#)
- [Analysing Migrant Detention Legal Frameworks: Perspectives from West and Central Africa](#)

Communications Content

- [Feature: Mama Stella's Story: One woman's fight for justice inside the UK's immigration system](#)
- [Feature: Invisible scars: immigration detention and mental health](#)
- [Feature: Mythbusting immigration detention](#)
- [Feature: Grave human rights violations following mass expulsions from the United States](#)
- [Feature: Human rights under threat: IDC on U.S. immigration detention and aid cuts](#)
- [Multimedia: Immigration detention in art](#)
- [Multimedia: Immigration detention and mental health](#)
- [Policy Insight: Peer learning: five years of change](#)
- [Policy Insight: Towards ending immigration detention for refugees in Mexico](#)
- [Policy Insight: Digital technology, detention and alternatives](#)
- [Policy Insight: Combatting xenophobia and creating social cohesion](#)
- [Policy Insight: Belgium bans child immigration detention amidst broader legislation](#)
- [Policy Insight: Externalisation of Migration and its Human Rights Impacts](#)
- [Policy Insight: A step backwards for rights: IDC on the EU returns regulation](#)

Through these and other resources, IDC continues to shape narratives, build evidence, amplify lessons from practice and equip governments, civil society and allies with practical tools to reimagine migration governance beyond detention.



OUR COMMUNITY

IDC’s strength lies in the power of our global community. Together, members, partners, advisory committees, team members and leadership drive the shared vision of a world without immigration detention.

During the 2024–2025 reporting year, IDC’s committee members included:

IDC Committee

- Kaajal Ramjathan–Keogh, Chairperson
- Evan Jones, Deputy Chairperson
- Anne Harrison, Treasurer
- Hayat Akbari, Committee Member
- Claudia Lotzwig, Committee Member since November 2024
- Nabeelah Mia, Committee Member since November 2024
- Alwalid Musa, Committee Member since November 2024
- Dr. Alice Nah, Committee Member until November 2024
- Sebastiaan Van Der Zwan, Committee Member until November 2024

International Advisory Committee

- Eleanor Acer
- Hasan Al–Akraa
- Jenny Collins–White
- Oktay Durukan
- Gretchen Kuhner
- Alejandra Macias Delgadillo
- Dr. Alice Nah
- Dr. Melissa Phillips
- Mishka Pillay
- Anderson Selvasegaram
- Melanie Teff

Funders

Most importantly, we thank our funders who continue to share our vision of a world where immigration detention no longer exists and people who migrate live with rights and dignity: [DANIDA](#), [Danish Refugee Council \(DRC\)](#), [European Programme for Integration and Migration \(EPIM\)](#), [IOM Thailand](#), [Oak Foundation](#), [Porticus Foundation](#), [Robert Bosch Foundation \(RBF\)](#), [The Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration \(PRM\)](#), [United Methodist Committee on Relief \(UMCOR\)](#), [UNICEF Malaysia](#), [UNICEF MENA](#), [UNHCR Mexico](#), [Wilfrid Laurier University](#), [The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit \(GIZ\)](#) and [Act for Peace](#), along with donations from private individuals and from staff members who participate in conferences.

Our Team

During the 2024–2025 reporting year, IDC team members included:



Elizabeth Alvares
Americas Programme Support Officer (until March 2025)



Luisa V Barbosa
Consultant – Global Advocacy



Emily Bender
Development Officer



Gisele Bonnici
Americas Regional Manager



Mia–lia Boua Kiernan
Operations and Development Manager



Carolina Carreño Nigenda
Americas Childhood Project Officer (until March 2025)



Chawaratt Chawarangkul
Southeast Asia Programme Manager



Mary Cruse
Chief Communications Officer



Marie Dias
Bookkeeper (maternity cover until September 2025)



Celia Finch
Asia Pacific Regional Manager (until February 2025)



Carolina Gottardo
Executive Director



Hannah Jambunathan
Asia Pacific Programme Officer



Bogdan Krasic
Europe Regional Manager



Laura Kubeil Webb
Finance and Administration Officer



Diana Martínez
Americas Programme Officer



Claudia Martínez
Americas Training and Communication Project Officer



Asma Nairi
MENA Regional Manager



Nataliya Novakova
Europe Regional Manager (until November 2024)



Lilian Obiye
Africa Regional Manager (until October 2024)



Rana Refahi
Europe Programme Officer



Pia Solf
Finance and Administration Coordinator



Dome Sooktawee
Thailand Project Coordinator

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 JUN 2025

	NOTE	2025 \$	2024 \$
Revenue	3	1,532,542	1,758,452
Interest income		9,253	3,700
Other income	3	42,007	39,327
Employee benefits expense		(1,310,066)	(1,287,880)
Depreciation expense		(2,897)	(417,530)
Other expenses		(278,747)	(417,530)
Net foreign exchange gains/(losses)	4	144,916	(52,819)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		137,008	39,131

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	NOTE	2025 \$	2024 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents		2,073,884	1,741,385
Trade and other receivables	5	45,984	543,032
Other assets	7	49,675	18,683
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		2,169,543	2,303,100
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Propert, plant and equipment	6	1,440	3,687
Other assets	7	7,117	51,848
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		8,557	55,535
TOTAL ASSETS		2,178,100	2,358,635
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	8	26,860	22,326
Other liabilities	9	964,213	1,279,623
Employee benefits	10	135,186	141,853
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,126,259	1,443,802
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,126,259	1,443,802
NET ASSETS		1,051,841	914,833
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus		1,051,841	914,833
TOTAL EQUITY		1,051,841	914,833

GET INVOLVED

The progress achieved in 2024–2025 would not have been possible without the commitment of our supporters, members and partners around the world. IDC's work is sustained through the generosity of institutional donors, philanthropic foundations and individual allies who share our vision of a world without immigration detention.

You can support IDC by joining our community as a supporter, member or donor. Every contribution helps strengthen the mission to make immigration detention history.

DONATE

Your gift will help us to change laws and policies, change minds and free more people from immigration detention. Together, we can end immigration detention for good.

[Support IDC's work to make immigration detention history](#)

STAY IN TOUCH

IDC's public newsletter is a rich resource filled with compelling news, inspiring stories and dynamic multimedia content. Each edition is designed to keep you informed and connected to the global movement to end immigration detention.

[Subscribe to our public newsletter](#)

MEMBERSHIP

IDC membership is open to civil society organisations, grassroots groups, practitioners, academics, people with lived experience and individuals working to reduce and ultimately end immigration detention.

[Find out more about how to become an IDC member](#)

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

 [@idcoalition.bsky.social](#)  [@intldetentioncoalition](#)  [@International Detention Coalition](#)

