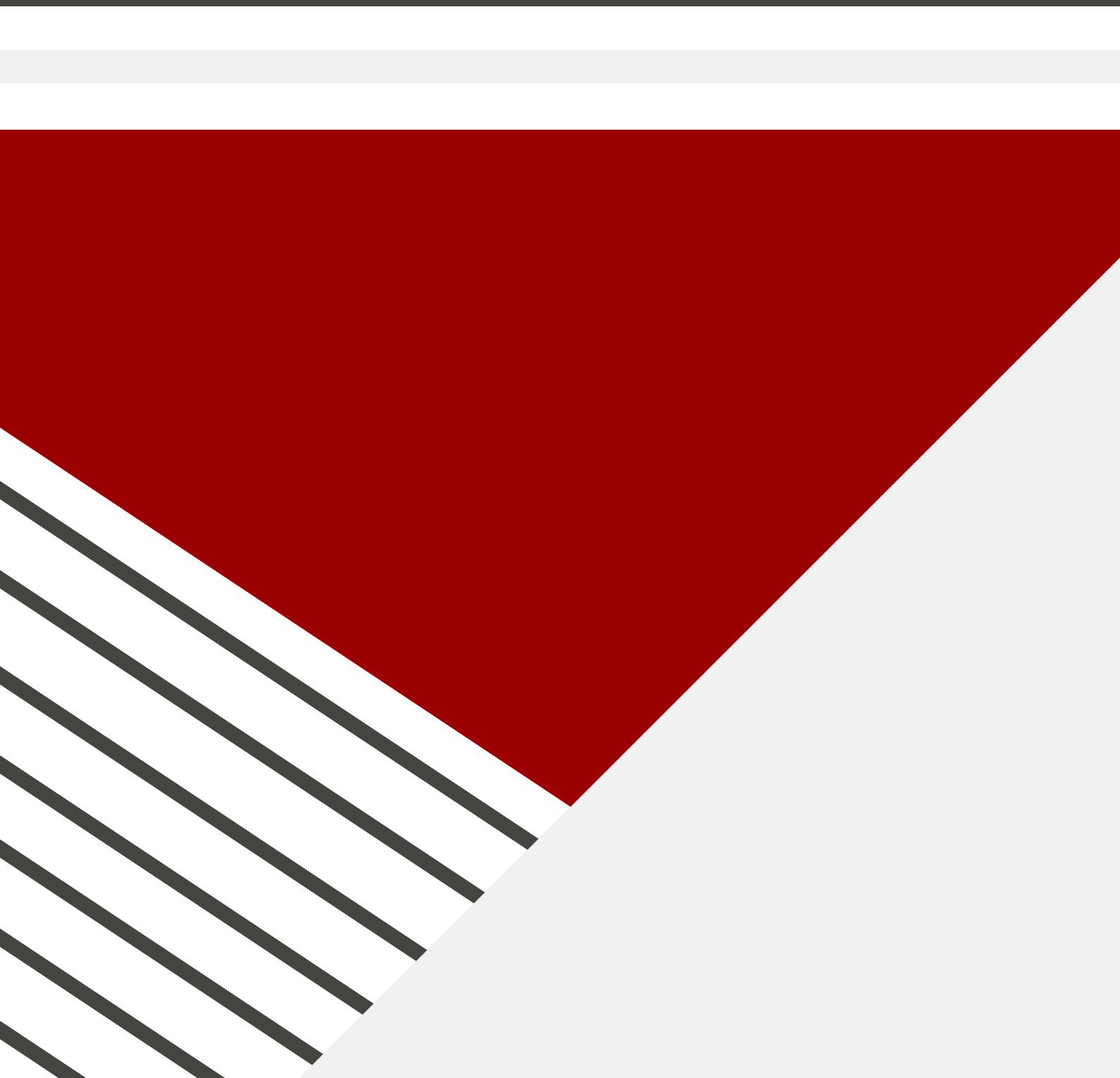


ANNUAL REPORT

2025

CIFAR



OVERVIEW

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

BERLIN, MARCH 2025

We began 2025 with a mixed picture at CiFAR – on the one hand, we had CiFAR's first core funding confirmed thanks to the support of the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), on the other, the global funding situation took a dramatic hit following the change in US administration, which impacted our work through the reduction in funding to our supporter of many years, the NED. The overall operating context also changed rapidly, with increasing geopolitical tensions, changing priorities of development partners, and shrinking civic space across the world challenging our work.

While these factors had the potential to drastically impact our work, we were able to come through this in a stronger position and with a more diversified funding base, albeit within a context that will see ongoing uncertainties for us and our partner CSOs in the coming years. Indeed, at the end of 2025, CiFAR was in a very positive position, with many new development partners coming on board and funding secured for our key priorities.

Despite the uncertainties 2025 held for us, we were able to advance in our substantive work in a meaningful way. Over the year we developed new research and thinking around two topics that have been high on the civil society agenda for many years: victim inclusion and civil society monitoring of asset recovery.

Support for global and national legal and policy reforms continued to attract significant attention. We were able to influence policy debates in multiple international forums to advance civil society asset recovery principles, including notably around the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and African Union processes.



OVERVIEW

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

We also began engagement in new venues, notably providing policy review during the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development process and at the Human Rights Council. We supported legislative and policy reform with partners at the national level, with the work we have done on Common African Position on Asset Recovery (CAPAR) leading to new institutions being created.

We had impactful work around transparency in asset recovery. We advocated commitments on greater data publication and saw notable moves from key states to begin making data available and accessible. We also worked with other civil society organisations (CSOs) from across the globe to identify for the first time the scope of data publication in 15 jurisdictions.

Finally, we continued supporting the networks we are part of, and helped civil society to work collectively across borders for more accountable, transparent and participatory asset recovery.

We are proud of our achievements in 2025 and look forward to a successful 2026!

Laila Martin Garcia (Chair)

Pedro Gomez Pereira

Vaclav Prusa

Dr. Bridget Onochie



2025 SNAPSHOT

3 IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

CAPAR assessments drive meaningful reform

In 2024 we developed a first-of-its-kind methodology to assess implementation of the Common African Position on Asset Recovery and supported five CSOs to conduct national assessments. In 2025, these assessments helped our partner in Cote d'Ivoire to begin a new cooperation with the Financial Intelligence Unit and Asset Recovery Agency for asset recovery reform, and our partner in Morocco to successfully advocate for the creation a new asset recovery agency.

Securing civil society space and advocating for social reuse

Sustained engagement with African Union institutions, particularly the AU-ABC and advocacy at the first African Union Asset Recovery Practitioners Forum led to the formal inclusion of civil society in this new regional platform – important in making the platform transparent and enabling the voices of corruption victims to be heard. We also secured the agreement of officials in the Working Group on Asset Management to look at the social reuse of assets and concrete transparency measures within the plans of the Forum.

Putting asset recovery data transparency on the global agenda

Asset recovery data publication internationally and at the national level has long been a challenge, with few countries publishing consistent information about cases and fewer publishing statistics. In 2025, we worked with the UK on a data transparency project, published a survey with the UNCAC Coalition on data availability, supported a TI France project on data transmission to the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative database, and co-organised an event on asset recovery data transparency at the UNCAC CoSP. This approach paid off, with several countries agreeing to explore how to publish data more consistently by the end of the year.

2025 SNAPSHOT

2025 IN NUMBERS

FIGURES HIGHLIGHTING SOME OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2025

SETTING STANDARDS

New international and regional level standards and CSO-led principles, reports and best practice recommendations on asset recovery policy are developed and promoted



4

New reports

Four new reports launched: one on victim inclusion in asset recovery and three on real estate and illicit finance



18,000

Visitors

Sanctions Watch increased to 18k visitors for the year, up from 12k in 2024. The Platform was also regularly quoted and described in academic papers and expert analysis.

IMPLEMENTING REFORMS

Best practices and international standards on asset recovery are implemented at the national, regional and global levels



19

CSO partners supported

19 CSO partners supported in advocating for legal and policy reform in 2025



25

CSO staff trained

237

Persons trained in EG

25 CSO staff from CSOs in Latin America trained on asset recovery, 237 women and youth and 11 CSO members trained through Equatorial Guinea partners



8

Policy submissions

8 submissions or policy documents commented on at the international and regional levels promoting civil society asset recovery principles

2025 SNAPSHOT

ADVANCING TRANSPARENCY

More information on asset recovery is made publicly available through investigations, data gathering and reporting by investigative journalists and CSOs



15

Jurisdictions

15 jurisdictions data transparency frameworks assessed in a new paper together with the UNCAC Coalition



6

Commitments

Six governments committed to discuss grand corruption data publication through a joint project that we were substantially involved in

NETWORKS FOR CHANGE

Stronger CSO and journalist cross-border networks with CiFAR as a global and regional hub for asset recovery



5

Networks

Two civil society networks that we chair or provide secretariat for and three case-based CSO coalitions that we are part of



10

Meetings

10 meetings organised throughout the year for the networks

SETTING STANDARDS

1

ACTIVITY SUMMARY

In 2025 we built on our previous successes in advancing new ideas around asset recovery and developed new research to help civil society advocate more effectively into the future.

Civil society and **victim engagement in returns** was a priority for us this year. A highlight in May was the launch of a new report - Victim Inclusion in Asset Recovery. This report discussed the international human rights law obligations relevant for victim participation in asset recovery, both pre-and post-return. It highlighted the importance of early and sustained victim community inclusion to comply with human rights norms.

The four sets of **civil society principles** continued to be a focus of our work this year. While overall these principles frame the work we do, we specifically worked with them:

- to call for greater victim inclusion in asset recovery in a statement of the CAPAR Civil Society Network for African Anti-Corruption Day in July
- as the basis for our engagement at a conference on victims and asset recovery organised by our partner CIP in Mozambique in June.
- for input into global policy documents and engagement at key international and regional events, including the comments provided on UNCAC CoSP resolutions, on the G20 High Level Principles on Asset Management and the Financing for Development Outcome Statement.

HIGHLIGHTS

A new report developed on victim inclusion in asset recovery brought new insights into the human rights obligations of states involved in asset recovery

Three new reports on the role of real estate agents as enablers enabled us to bring new insights into Kenya's fight against illicit financial flows

Our continued work to update and promote Sanctions Watch saw active users reach 18,000, up from 12,000 in 2024

SETTING STANDARDS

1

Understanding and providing information about the role of **anti-corruption sanctions** continued to also be a priority for us. We had two updates to our Sanctions Watch web platform in 2025, each one with an accompanying blog and increased active users to 18k for the year, up from 12k in 2024. The Platform was also regularly quoted and described in academic papers and expert analysis.

Finally, we continued our work to advance discussions around the **role of enablers** in transnational corruption. Between September and December, we launched three new reports on the real estate sector in Kenya, alongside blogs summarising the results. These reports for the first time identified the ecosystem which enables illicit finance to enter the real estate sector, alongside the legal obligations on key actors in the sector and the challenges the ecosystem faces in preventing the influx of illicit finance. This work was already presented to officials in Kenya and will be the basis for engaged next year on reforms.

“ Over the last decade, our partnership with CiFAR has significantly enhanced our efforts in promoting transparency, accountability and recovery of stolen public assets. CiFAR's global expertise, combined with a clear understanding of our local context, has helped shape our strategies and expand our influence both nationally and internationally

*Auwal Rafansjani, Executive Director,
Civil Society Legislative Advocacy
Centre (CISLAC), Nigeria*

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IMPLEMENTING REFORMS

2

ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Our **international engagement** in 2025 included both the build-up and participation in the UNCAC Conference of States Parties (CoSP) in December in Doha, and several other platforms. The UNCAC CoSP was an opportunity for us to promote priorities and engage with governments about needed reforms. We conducted outreach to several governments around potential resolutions throughout the year, including attending the Asset Recovery Working Group meeting in September to promote engagement. A large focus of our work was ensuring a meaningful asset recovery resolution and events at the Conference. Through this engagement, we were able to provide support to governments in their negotiations around a resolution. We were also able to organise side events and bilateral meetings with governments and international organisations and support CSO partners from the UNCAC Coalition to promote civil society positions at the Conference.

We further engaged with the **G20 process** during the year, providing comments on draft principles on asset management to governments, which were adopted in the autumn. Finally at the international level, we ensured the inclusion of transparency commitments in asset recovery into the Outcome Document of the Financing for Development Conference in June.

HIGHLIGHTS

Effective engagement with governments enabled us to promote the inclusion of CSO positions on transparency, victims and social reuse of assets in policy documents at the UNCAC CoSP, G20 and Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4) processes

Advocacy at the first African Union Asset Recovery Practitioners Forum led to the formal inclusion of civil society in this new regional platform and to the agreement of officials in the Working Group on Asset Management to include the social reuse of assets and concrete transparency measures within the plans of the Forum

Our CAPAR assessment methodology helped partners in Cote d'Ivoire to cooperate with the Financial Intelligence Unit and Asset Recovery Agency on asset recovery reform, and in Morocco to successfully advocate for the creation a new asset recovery agency

IMPLEMENTING REFORMS

2

Our regional engagement on **asset recovery reforms in Africa** was again a priority this year, with a focus on ensuring CSO principles and priorities were included in regional discussions. In April, we were invited as one of only two CSOs to the first African Union Asset Recovery Practitioners Forum, where we spoke to over 90 official delegates about the role of civil society. Our efforts led to the formal inclusion of civil society in this new regional platform and to the agreement of officials in the Working Group on Asset Management to include social reuse of assets and concrete transparency measures in the plans of the Forum. We were also invited as the CSO representative at UNODC's Regional Workshop of the East Africa Platform in November, where our recommendations on new indicators for victim compensation and the social reuse of assets were adopted by the platform. Our work with the African Union Advisory Board against Corruption (AU-ABC) remained important, with several collaborations around events, including the joint submission and organisation of an UNCAC CoSP Side Event on asset recovery transparency, discussed in the next section.



"Data Transparency in Asset Recovery and Return" by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, CC BY 4.0

In April, the Kenyan Department Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs took note of submissions made together with other CSOs in Kenya and accepted a submission informed by our recommendation on the real estate sector on the omnibus amendments in the Anti-Money Laundering and Combating of Terrorism Financing Laws (Amendment) Bill 2025. The Civil Society Parliamentary Network (CSPEN) had reached out to us to support and contribute to the drafting of the submission.

IMPLEMENTING REFORMS

2

We continued our work to support effective **implementation of the Common Africa Position on Asset Recovery** (CAPAR) throughout the year. Alongside providing the secretariat for the CAPAR Civil Society Network, we supported its members to press for national reforms. In June, we helped Transparency International Madagascar to hold a webinar highlighting the importance of CAPAR and supported TI Cote d'Ivoire in a national advocacy workshop with the Financial Intelligence Unit and Asset Recovery Agency, which led to a strengthened partnership between our partners and public agencies on asset recovery reform.

Our **on-demand and reactive support** for legislative reform for civil society was taken up several times over the year. This included: organising a three day asset recovery strategy building webinar in May for civil society from Peru, Colombia and Venezuela, which led to Transparency International Peru and Colombia beginning work on asset recovery; supporting civil society work on Equatorial Guinea on promoting and protecting human rights, and its links to good governance and report; supporting the NGO INRAV in its work to create a fund for Venezuelan confiscated assets in the U.S.; and engaging in civil society-led discussions for proposals to the upcoming 2026 UK Illicit Finance Summit. In Kenya, where we focus more on national reform directly, highlights include being invited to speak on anti-corruption, anti-money laundering and asset recovery as part of the IMF Governance Diagnostic Mission in June. A particular focus in Kenya was also strengthening our engagement with the Assets Recovery Agency.

Finally, in May, we were officially confirmed as a **member of the Uzbek Vision 2030 Fund Civil Society Advisory Committee** (CSAC). The Fund manages the return of the proceeds of corruption confiscated from Gulnara Karimova from Switzerland to Uzbekistan, with the CSAC playing an important consultative role both on the strategic direction and in the implementation of projects funded by the return. Being part of this Committee enables us to support the return and provides important insights for future returns.

COSP 11 AND CIFAR'S WORK

A priority for CiFAR in 2025 was to ensure effective CSO participation in asset recovery discussions and strong asset recovery language at the UNCAC Conference of States Parties, in Doha, Qatar.

Without a specific asset recovery resolution, our focus on the outcomes of the CoSP was on ensuring that the resolution Enhancing interagency cooperation between anti-corruption bodies and financial intelligence units for effective anti-corruption and asset recovery action did not roll back previous commitments and advanced asset recovery transparency. Both in the months leading up to the CoSP and during the Conference itself, we engaged with supportive governments, providing advice and backing towards these goals, which were achieved in the final document.

Coupled with this, we focussed on meaningful civil society action on asset recovery at the CoSP. This entailed, together with Transparency International France, our co-chair of the Asset Recovery Working Group and the Global Society Coalition for the UNCAC (formerly UNCAC Coalition):

- Leading civil society advocacy preparation around asset recovery during the CSO preparatory day
- Convening a meeting of the Working Group during the CoSP
- Preparing a CSO submission and a statement on behalf of the Working Group during the plenary.

It also resulted in us co-organising two well-attended Side Events: one on transparency and asset recovery, and one on the victim participation in asset recovery.

ADVANCING TRANSPARENCY

3

ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Advancing **data transparency in asset recovery** was an important theme for us this year. A particular focus was engaging with the UK Home Office to promote asset recovery statistical gathering and publication in other jurisdictions. Supporting the development of a project document early in the year, in September, we were invited by the UK on the margins of the UNCAC Asset Recovery Working Group to introduce the project to potentially interested States. At CoSP 11 in Doha, the UK announced that Angola, Malaysia, Norway, Switzerland, and Ukraine had agreed to join the project and would jointly be working to improve grand corruption data transparency, with Kenya signalling its intention to join.

At the CoSP we also co-organised an event on asset recovery transparency. Originally proposed together with the AU-ABC, this was later incorporated into the programme of the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative's morning and run in collaboration with them and Transparency International France.

Alongside this, we organised a survey of members of the UNCAC Coalition Asset Recovery Working Group in June and published the results in September. The report - [Information and data availability in asset recovery](#) - details asset recovery data availability across 15 jurisdictions, covering both statistics on confiscations and returns, and publication of agreements, policies and laws.

HIGHLIGHTS

Collaboration with UK authorities to kick off a multi-country initiative on grand corruption data collection and publication

Publication of survey data from fifteen jurisdictions on asset recovery data availability

Support to civil society partners to push for greater national transparency in Brazil, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya and Nigeria

INFORMATION AND DATA AVAILABILITY IN ASSET RECOVERY

BRIEFING PAPER
UNCAC COALITION ASSET
RECOVERY WORKING GROUP
SEPTEMBER 2025

ADVANCING TRANSPARENCY

3

As the first publication of its kind, it equips CSOs and CiFAR with a comparative advocacy tool to advance data transparency across key jurisdictions, highlighting country-level shortcomings and setting out concrete recommendations for reform.

Another focus in this strategy area was on **support to civil society for greater national transparency** in asset recovery. This included, among others: in Kenya working to support 11 organisations in submitting proposals on amendments to the AML/CFT Act of 2025 to align with FATF recommendations, including on beneficial ownership transparency. The submission was then adopted by the Department Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs; supporting Transparency Brazil to reach experts in Switzerland to put together information about returns between Switzerland and Brazil; contributing to an assessment by Transparency International France of reporting to the StAR Asset Recovery Watch Database; and supporting Nigerian CSO partners in submitting a public statement on Nigerian cases at CoSP.

Our **work on Equatorial Guinea** also continued apace this year. Primarily focussing on human rights work, we spoke about the situation in Equatorial Guinea during Universal Periodic Review events in March and September in Geneva, which received strong levels of attention from the media and prompted government reaction, and organised trainings for civil society activists, youth and women directly and through our partners.

“ Our experience with CiFAR has been insightful and transformative. We have deepened our understanding of the crucial role of asset recovery plays in the public interest. This collaboration strengthened our commitment to protecting the public resources and combating financial corruption

Maeva Kanto Ramamonjisoa, Legal Assistant, Transparency International Initiative Madagascar

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NETWORKS FOR CHANGE

4

ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Together with Transparency International France, we continued in our role as co-chair of the **UNCAC Coalition Asset Recovery Working Group** this year. Across both virtual and physical meetings, we brought together civil society members with expert speakers to discuss developments and prepare for the UNCAC CoSP in Doha. A highlight this year was a presentation by INTERPOL on the new Silver Notice and FATF on its draft guidance and best practices on asset recovery. [FATF's guidance](#) was published in November and specifically referenced the importance of involving civil society, citing CiFAR as a good example.

Our secretariat support to the **CAPAR Civil Society Network** also continued, with meetings held online throughout the year and members supported in individual work they are doing through the CAPAR network. Four new members from African civil society joined the network. We also supported the onboarding of a new chair and the establishment of a new steering committee structure for the network, aiming at strengthening membership and participation.

Our **fundraising efforts** took substantial resources in 2025. Given the challenging global funding situation, we were pleased to start the year with our first core funding in place – supported by the Swiss Development Cooperation for the next five years and were able to secure further funding over the year.

HIGHLIGHTS

Facilitating cross-border civil society collaboration, including supporting the CAPAR CSO Network and co-chairing the UNCAC Coalition Asset Recovery Working Group

Strengthening our internal structures to help CiFAR better respond to global changes

Financial stability: Securing income for 2026 that will be higher than 2025 thanks to two new donors coming on board

CiFAR Finances 2025	
Total available budget 2025	EUR 317,553.90
Cash in hand at year begin	EUR 16,557.12
Income 2025	EUR 300,996.78
Expenses 2025	EUR 214,025.29
Balance 2025	EUR 103,528.61

NETWORKS FOR CHANGE

4

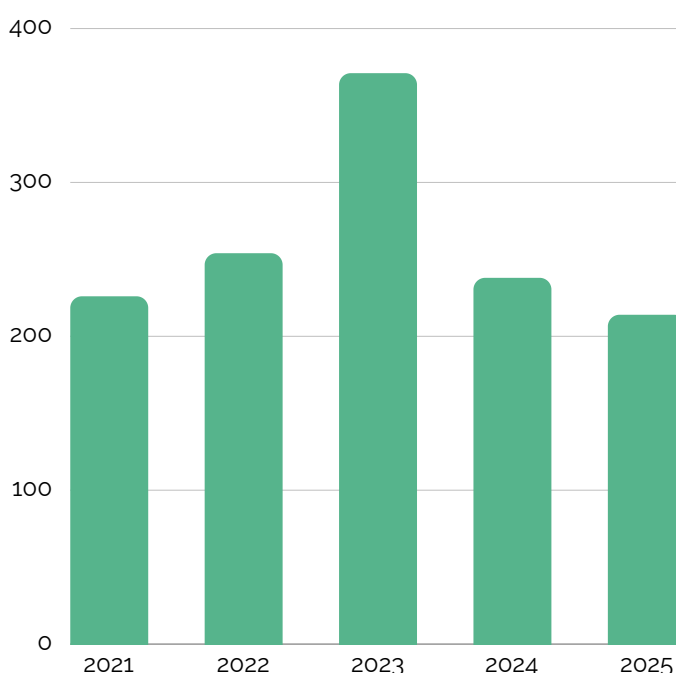
This included a 3-year project supported by the European Commission for work on Equatorial Guinea and an 18-month project supported by Expertise France and the European Commission supported asset recovery in West Africa.

We also used 2025 to further strengthen our **internal structures**. Our first organisational audit took place in 2025, successfully reviewing our 2024 accounts, and we began work to revamp our website and visual identify with an external designer, the fruits of which will be launched to coincide with our 10-year anniversary in 2026. We also managed to improve the board structure, aligning the international board with the German entity, and strengthening the board members' strategic advice in different areas.

We would like to thank our development partners for their support in 2025:

- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) (core support)
- European Commission
- Expertise France / SecFin
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- National Endowment for Democracy
- UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) / GI ACE Programme

CiFAR annual budget per year (2021 - 2025), in thousands of EUR.



WWW.CIFAR.EU

