

Violence and insecurity

Protecting human rights in situations of violence and insecurity

Background

Situations of violence, conflict and insecurity were alarmingly widespread in 2013. The crises in the Syrian Arab Republic, South Sudan, Mali and the Central African Republic provided stark reminders of the suffering to which entire populations may be subjected by State and non-State actors and the need for the United Nations to take action to mitigate or facilitate an end to the crisis.

Far too many countries in the world are experiencing some form of violence or conflict. Human rights violations are often the first signs of potential larger-scale violence. Thus, early warning and early action are the underpinnings of the “Rights Up Front” Action Plan, which was launched by the Secretary-General in December 2013 to address the need for better organizational preparedness by the UN to deal with evolving crisis situations, including by emphasizing preventive action to ensure respect for human rights.

This approach can be equally effective in situations where social and criminal violence exposes populations to widespread human rights violations. Criminal violence has resulted in loss of life, torture and ill-treatment, disappearances and arbitrary detentions on a massive scale and has prevented people from accessing medical care, disrupted education and prevented the functioning of the justice system.

Natural disasters are another source of insecurity, as people often find themselves without homes and limited possibilities to earn a living. In such situations, pre-existing human rights concerns (i.e., discrimination) may be exacerbated while new ones frequently emerge.





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An holistic approach that is based on a human rights analysis of a particular situation can help identify early responses and prevent the deterioration of the situation. Another element of this strategy is to empower affected communities by providing them with knowledge about their human rights, building their capacity to demand redress for violations of those rights and ensuring that they are consulted and involved in decision-making processes that will impact on their lives in the context of situations of violence and insecurity, including natural disasters. In practice, this means enabling affected persons to participate in the immediate response to a crisis, early recovery actions and the search for durable solutions to the problems affecting their society. These solutions must be based on multifaceted policies, strategies and actions that strengthen the rule of law, fight impunity and address the root causes of exclusion, including discrimination, that contribute to an environment of insecurity and violence.

OHCHR's role

In 2013, OHCHR prioritized work on human rights issues that were related to situations of international or internal armed conflict; humanitarian crises, including those in the aftermath of man-made or natural disasters; and situations with a prevalence of social, economic and criminal violence. OHCHR

focused its efforts in countries lacking an appropriate State response to violence and where there was an environment of insecurity. OHCHR cooperated with States and civil society to formulate responses to existing threats and vulnerabilities to: ensure the protection of entire populations against violence and insecurity; prevent repressive responses which could engender further violations; and ensure that measures taken would address the root causes of insecurity and were firmly rooted in human rights principles and standards. The framework of international human rights law provides the basis on which action should be undertaken, primarily in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity, including natural disasters. Therefore, OHCHR's strategy to protect human rights in situations of violence and insecurity continues to include supporting the compliance of States with human rights obligations, raising awareness about these obligations at the national level, empowering local actors and building their capacity.

OHCHR also focused on the rights of those most affected by situations of violence and insecurity, in particular victims of sexual and gender-based violence and other segments of the population with heightened vulnerabilities and who are facing a risk of exclusion, marginalization or not being protected, including women, internally displaced persons (IDPs), children, refugees, migrants, the elderly, the urban and rural poor, persons with disabilities, persons living with HIV/AIDS, persons belonging to minorities and indigenous peoples.



Women demanding the end of violence during the commemoration of Women's Day in Senegal.

International action, whether undertaken by the UN, regional organizations or the wider international community, has proven to be crucial to the prevention and resolution of crises. A second aspect of OHCHR's strategy, therefore, has been to ensure that the international community responds to crisis situations and that the UN system is equipped with the appropriate human rights knowledge and tools to deal with those situations.

Respect for human rights and justice are essential to achieving political stability and sustainable peace and in response to crime or the provision of humanitarian assistance. Much of the advocacy conducted by the Office has been directed at countering outdated perceptions that human rights and, in particular accountability for human rights violations, were obstacles on the road to peace and stability and to protection against terrorism and crime.

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

State institutions (particularly the judiciary, the security sector and national human rights institutions) increasingly comply with international human rights standards in the area of the prevention and effective responses to individual human rights violations

In 2013, OHCHR monitored, investigated and reported on cases, events and situations and informed decision-makers; fostered dialogue between governments and civil society and advocated for the incorporation of human rights in legislation, policies, practices and protocols of intervention; supported institution-building, especially the creation and functioning of mechanisms to protect human rights defenders and journalists; and implemented technical cooperation projects.

OHCHR also contributed to improving the level of responsiveness and accountability of State institutions vis-à-vis individual human rights violations in several countries. In Mexico, OHCHR provided technical assistance in the drafting of legislation and lobbied federal and state congresses to ensure the compliance with international standards of legislation on: the protection of victims; the protection of journalists and human rights defenders; military jurisdiction; making crimes against journalists a federal offence; enforced disappearances; “*arraigo*” (pre-charge detention); and states of emergency. Most of these laws incorporated international human rights standards and in some cases, included



The Deputy High Commissioner inaugurates a police station in Mambassa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, which houses a special unit for the protection of women and children, August 2013.

international recommendations issued by human rights mechanisms, as well as a gender approach. In each instance, OHCHR-Mexico followed up on the parliamentary process; reviewed the bill proposals; submitted legal briefs to promote the incorporation of international human rights standards; encouraged the respective congresses to approve the legislation; and facilitated direct communication between special procedures and members of the treaty bodies with key legislators.

In Afghanistan, the May 2012 establishment of the Civilian Casualties Tracking Team in the Presidential Information Coordination Centre resulted in more accurate information on casualties. In the first 11 months of 2013, civilian deaths and injuries increased by 10 per cent compared to the same period in 2012. The rise in civilian casualties reflects a return to the number of civilian deaths and injuries recorded in 2011; the year in which the highest number of civilian casualties was recorded by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). This is due to the increasingly indiscriminate use of improvised explosive devices and more engagements on the ground between Afghan forces and anti-Government elements, particularly in civilian populated areas. Ground engagements were the second leading cause of civilian deaths and injuries, a new and troubling trend in 2013. OHCHR also monitored the implementation of the Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Human rights mechanisms also contributed to this expected accomplishment. For example, with OHCHR's support, the Working Group on the



Civilians fleeing fighting in South Sudan seeking refuge in a compound of the UN Mission in South Sudan.

use of mercenaries researched national legislation regulating private military and security companies (PMSCs) on a regional basis. The first phase of the research focused on several English-speaking countries in Africa and informed the Working Group's thematic report to the 24th session of the Human Rights Council in September 2013. The research demonstrated that some countries failed to consider criminal or disciplinary records or reports of human rights violations committed by potential security personnel.

With regard to the establishment of specific mechanisms or policies to protect human rights defenders and journalists in Colombia, the Inspector General of the national police issued specific directives to all police units to make the protection of human rights defenders one of their priorities. In 2012, the National Protection Unit (NPU) became operational. With OHCHR's assistance, the Unit adopted a new approach in the analysis of risk and protection measures which takes into account the specificities of individuals and groups, in particular the unique needs of women defenders, indigenous leaders and leaders of minority groups. The NPU and OHCHR established a mechanism through which the two organizations meet on a monthly basis to follow-up on and update all cases submitted by the Office.

Citizen security policies and legislation, as well as State entities dealing with citizen security issues, increasingly comply with international human rights standards

In Ecuador, two courses, developed with the technical support of the Human Rights Adviser (HRA), have been institutionalized in the armed forces. The first is a basic course on human rights targeted to the armed forces operating along the northern border and the second is on collective rights. The HRA also supported the Human Rights Unit of the Ministry of Defence to develop and implement a protocol for documenting and processing reports of human rights violations allegedly committed by armed forces personnel.

In Guatemala, although public security policies and strategies have largely failed to comply with international human rights standards and recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms in a number of relevant areas, particularly regarding the increased role of the military in citizen security tasks, continuous engagement with the Government resulted in limited changes in key security policies and helped avoiding setbacks in the decisions of public authorities. OHCHR-Guatemala took an active part in cases related to the role of the police and military

performing citizen security functions; states of emergency and conditions of detainees. The Office monitored judicial proceedings and conditions of detention and provided technical assistance to the relevant authorities.

In Colombia, as part of its engagement with the police, OHCHR carried out visits to 12 departmental police stations to monitor, inter alia, the implementation of five oversight mechanisms related to accountability and the prevention of human rights violations. The objective of the visits was to identify good practices and the challenges being faced by the police in the implementation of human rights standards. OHCHR concluded a two-year project with the Ministry of Defence to analyse and make recommendations on 7 out of 15 measures adopted to prevent and investigate human rights violations. The Office also participated in the extensive review of the armed forces' protocol on sexual violence. It furthermore prepared an in-depth report for the Ministry of Defence and the armed forces on the legal framework applicable to cases of occupation of civilian objects by military forces. Through the analysis of these cases, the General Command issued reminders to all forces concerning the State's human rights obligations.

In Papua New Guinea, a human rights assessment of the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary was completed in 2012. Discussions were then held in 2013 to outline and implement the relevant recommendations on pre- and in-service training for police in 2014.

In Somalia, the Human Rights Unit of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) /United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) contributed to mainstreaming human rights in the security and justice sector reforms through advocacy and collaboration with other components of the Mission. This resulted, among others things, in the adoption of the Somalia Justice Sector Action Plan 2013-2015. UNSOM also advocated for the mainstreaming of human rights in the national programme for disengaging combatants in Somalia that seeks to disarm, demobilize and rehabilitate former Al-Shabaab combatants. The national programme presents a number of human rights challenges, including related to the death penalty, access to justice, administrative detention, handing over of detainees by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the proper handling of children in the programme.

In Libya, the advice provided by the Human Rights Division (HRD) of the United Nations Support

Mission to Libya (UNSMIL) to the Government and the General National Congress (GNC) generally improved the quality of legislative drafts. In April 2013, the GNC, supported by the Human Rights Division, adopted a law withdrawing the jurisdiction of military courts over civilians and another law criminalizing torture, enforced disappearances, unlawful killings and discrimination. The HRD also provided advice on a law on victims of sexual violence, which had not been adopted as of the end of 2013. To reduce the risk of discrimination, the HRD advocated for the establishment of an independent commission on missing persons under the previous regime and during the 2011 conflict. Legislation on the establishment of such a commission was adopted at the end of 2013.

In Guinea-Bissau, in November, the Human Rights Section of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) and the Centre for Judicial Training launched the first phase of training on human rights in the administration of justice for lawyers, prosecutors, judges, judiciary police investigators and representatives of the Centres of Access to Justice. The training, which will continue in 2014, is the first time that representatives from all sectors of the judiciary have been brought together for shared learning. The participants expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to reinforce their roles as human rights defenders throughout the case management process.

Improved impact of cases selected for individual advocacy, in the creation or revival of justice and accountability mechanisms

In Colombia, national institutions showed an improvement in their responses to human rights violations cases raised by OHCHR at the national and regional levels, in particular the National Protection Unit, the national police, the armed forces, the Ministry of Defence, the Attorney General's Office, the Victims Unit, the Land Restitution Unit, municipal governments and local ombudspersons. In a great majority of these cases, action was undertaken to address OHCHR's concerns. For example, in the department of Antioquia, 100 per cent of the cases raised by OHCHR with law enforcement entities were positively addressed. Of these, 86 per cent related to the implementation of protection measures in favour of human rights defenders. In addition, all cases of children at risk of recruitment by armed groups in the municipality of Itüango were positively addressed by the Colombian Institute for Family Issues, as were 72 per cent of cases raised by OHCHR with the NPU. In the community

of Riachuelo-Charalá (Santander), after receiving numerous complaints regarding victims of forced displacement, OHCHR promoted the creation of a coordination working group with the active participation of the Victims Unit, the regional Ombudsman, the local Ombudsman and civil society organizations, which led to the adoption of a strategy to implement collective reparation measures for the community.

In Darfur, Sudan, following extensive interaction between the Human Rights Section of the African Union/United Nations Hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID) with relevant authorities, a Justice, Truth and Reconciliation Commission was established in March 2013 to, inter alia, address issues of impunity and build a culture of confidence, peace and reconciliation. The Commission has sub-offices in Darfur states and most of its 25 appointed members are judges, lawyers and legal advisers. In November 2013, the Commission informed that it would carry out a survey to assess the conflict.

Addressing the concerns of internally displaced persons in Darfur

As part of its regular human rights monitoring work, the Human Rights Section of UNAMID carried out visits to IDP camps to assess the security and human rights situation, including in return areas. In West Darfur state, for instance, a primary concern reported by returnees in multiple locations was insecurity and continued harassment by members of Arab tribes from neighbouring settlements, which resulted in the unsustainability of many returns. As a result of the intervention of the Human Rights Section, local authorities mediated with the returnees, along with community leaders from the Arab tribes, promising to bring to justice the perpetrators of serious crimes to ensure judicial redress and protection to the returnees.

In Uganda, authorities responded positively to complaints raised by OHCHR, with a total of 117 complaints responded to out of 275 in 2012 and 77 out of 150 in 2013. A positive response was considered to be one which resulted in the expressed commitment of an authority to investigate a complaint and initiate an inquiry into the case and provide feedback to OHCHR on actions taken, the findings of the investigation and the way forward. This was achieved through continued efforts with the police and military, capacity-building and targeted training. OHCHR worked closely with the Uganda Human Rights Commission on sharing and transferring case information.

In Iraq, the Ministry of Human Rights launched investigations into all claims of human rights violations and the Ministry of Justice was active in investigating allegations of abuse, ill-treatment or torture in prisons and places of detention under its authority. The Human Rights Office of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) undertook monitoring of all prisons and places of detention under the authority of the Ministry of Justice and made recommendations directly to the Minister on ways to improve respect for due process and fair trial standards.

Access to justice and basic services (EA 4)

Increased number of successful prosecutions and percentage of victims of sexual violence that receive reparation in accordance with international standards

Access to justice is an essential component of the rule of law and a means for women to actively claim their rights. In practice, discriminatory laws and discrimination within justice systems pose challenges to women's full access to justice. Promoting access to justice and accountability for women is a priority for OHCHR and the fight against impunity underpins many of its activities. In 2013, OHCHR worked towards improving access to justice for victims of violence in countries such as Afghanistan, Bolivia, Central African Republic (CAR), Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Haiti, Mali, Nepal, Senegal and Sudan as well as countries in the Great Lakes region and West Africa. Progress was noted in a number of countries as exemplified below.

The Office provided support to Bolivia, where new legislation was adopted in March 2013 on guaranteeing women a life free from violence. The Law typifies gender-motivated killings of women as a specific crime (femicide) and adopts a comprehensive approach to combating violence against women, including through prevention, care of victims and prosecution of offenders.

OHCHR has been involved in strengthening the capacities of law enforcement officials and the judiciary in many countries. In the DRC, the Office provided support to mobile courts dealing with sexual violence cases and the so-called "Joint Investigation Teams," provided immediate, technical support to military prosecutors to enable the investigation of serious and credible allegations of sexual violence in remote areas. The Office supported the establishment of legal clinics to

ensure that legal aid is available to survivors of sexual violence. Training for military judges and prosecutors also took place in the DRC. In Latin America, a Protocol was developed in partnership with UN Women on the investigation of gender-related killings of women.

In Côte d'Ivoire, in January 2012, the Ministry of Women, Family and Children developed a five-year national strategy to combat sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and a plan of action was finalized in July 2012. As of the end of December 2013, the document was still awaiting final approval by the Government. The Human Rights Division of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) regularly participated in the coordination mechanisms established for the review of the national strategy. It also provided the mechanisms with strategic, technical and policy advice in order to strengthen the national legal framework and the capacities of relevant stakeholders to prevent sexual violence and better protect and appropriately respond to the needs of victims.

In Sierra Leone, there was an increase in the number of reports filed by victims of sexual and gender-based violence. Family Support Units are well equipped to deal with SGBV and access to services for victims of SGBV has improved. OHCHR provided financial and technical support to the National Committee on Gender-Based Violence and to NGOs working on the issue.

In Guinea-Bissau, the technical and financial support provided to the specialized Parliamentary Committee on Women and Children resulted in the adoption on 18 July 2013 of a domestic violence bill by the National Assembly. The legislation is not yet in force as it has not been promulgated by the President. Nonetheless, sensitization and dissemination activities have begun. Support was given to the National Committee for the Abandonment of Harmful Practices in their efforts to raise public awareness about the need to fight female genital mutilation and sexual and gender-based violence. Following a wide-ranging dialogue with women's organizations, human rights defenders, civil society organizations and UNDP partners and with the support of UNIOGBIS and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), a National Plan to End Gender-Based Violence (2014-2017) was finalized in November and adopted on 23 December 2013. The Plan identifies three pillars to combat gender-based violence, namely prevention; promotion of an integrated system of victim support; and institutional and organizational

capacity development. The approval of an effective and enforceable action plan against gender-based violence represents an important step for the eradication of GBV in Guinea-Bissau.

In Darfur, Sudan, although cooperation with law enforcement officials on the issue of sexual violence seemed to be difficult at times, much progress was noted. In South Darfur, in September 2013, the Governor issued a decree for the operationalization of the Joint Committee for Combating Gender-Based Violence which is tasked with: analysing gender-based violence; ensuring that all victims have access to health facilities; and following up on trials of alleged perpetrators. The Government endorsed a five-year national strategic plan to combat violence against women (2012-2016) in August 2013. Policy decisions undertaken at the federal level called for the full implementation of the five-year plan across Sudan.

OHCHR increased its efforts to strengthen women's access to reparations as an essential component of the right to an effective remedy. The Office held consultations with survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in the DRC, Uganda and Kosovo⁹ and issued recommendations to inform their respective reparation efforts. In eastern DRC, OHCHR worked to encourage broader reparation efforts, including by providing grants to five local organizations for the implementation of five pilot projects focused on supporting and assisting survivors of sexual violence. A guidance note on reparations for victims of conflict-related sexual violence was jointly prepared by OHCHR and UN Women and will be issued in June 2014. It aims to provide policy and operational guidance for United Nations engagement in the area of reparations for victims of conflict-related sexual violence to ensure that their specific needs are taken into account in the design, implementation and delivery of reparation programmes.

In 2014, OHCHR and UN Women will promote the national adaptation and implementation of the Model Protocol in at least two countries, including through the joint programme on access to justice for women.

⁹ All references to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

Strengthening capacities of prosecutors in Latin America to investigate gender-related killings of women

In several countries in Latin America, especially in Central America, alarming and increasing rates of violence against women, including gender-related killings (also called feminicide or femicide), have been reported. In some instances, extreme cruelty has been associated with the murders (including sexual violence and mutilations).

Both the international human rights system and the Inter-American human rights system have expressed concerns over the high levels of impunity for the killings of women in the region. Regional and international human rights protection systems have suggested that this impunity is largely due to the inadequacy of criminal investigations, including insufficient contextualization of the cases; the heavy reliance on the testimonies of witnesses rather than on other types of evidence; the erroneous legal qualifications or requalification of the crimes; and the use of mitigating circumstances to shorten prison sentences.

To this end, OHCHR and UN Women decided to draft a Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women in Latin America. The objective is to provide authorities in charge of investigations with



Image of one of the validation workshops of the Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women in Latin America.

practical guidance on how to fully comply with their due diligence obligations. The draft was developed through expert group consultations with judges, prosecutors, lawyers, representatives of police institutions and civil society organizations and with the support of criminologists, forensic experts and academics with extensive experience on the investigation of gender-based violence. The Protocol provides practical guidance on the integration of a gender perspective in the investigation and prosecution of cases, including elements to be kept in mind and the types of evidence to be gathered in the context of the autopsy and the analysis of the crime scene; the circumstances surrounding the death; and the profiles of the victims and the suspect(s). It also provides detailed

guidance concerning the rights of victims.

The draft was validated through various regional and national workshops and supported by the Conference of State Parties to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará) on 18 November 2013 and the General Assembly of the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors on 19 November 2013. The Council of Ministers of Women in Central America recognized the Model Protocol as a valuable tool and the Human Rights Council, at its June 2013 session, adopted resolution 23/25 which recognizes the Model Protocol as a good and promising practice (OP 19).

Participation (EA 5)

Increased participation of rights-holders, especially those groups most at risk, in elections and the design and implementation of policies and legislation concerning violence and insecurity and their increased use of national protection systems

As a means of promoting stability, OHCHR has long supported the active participation of rights-holders in claiming their rights in Afghanistan. After the 2012 Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan, a Civil Society Joint Working Group was created. Civil society also engaged in the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States initiative that seeks to

find a general consensus on joint priorities between the State and civil society. The Office continued to support the Afghan People's Dialogue on Peace initiative.

In Togo, legislative elections that were scheduled for 2012 and postponed until July 2013 took place in an essentially peaceful environment, with 66 per cent of registered voters casting a vote. OHCHR-Togo significantly contributed to the participation of voters through a comprehensive programme of the promotion of human rights and a parallel monitoring project, parts of which were co-funded by UNDP. OHCHR-Togo's electoral project included the involvement of civil society organizations

in the promotion and monitoring of respect for human rights. In anticipation of the elections, 600 human rights observers were deployed to Togo's 35 prefectures and Lomé's five communes to monitor the observance of key civil and political rights related to elections and basic principles of independence and impartiality. The Office trained and coordinated the observers by deploying staff members to the five administrative regions. This enabled OHCHR to remain informed about problems encountered, undertake advocacy interventions as needed and liaise with the State and electoral authorities which showed a high degree of cooperation and good will.

In Madagascar, CSOs worked closely with the Independent National Electoral Commission of the Transition by conducting large sensitization campaigns on the elections processes, informed the Commission of any existing or potential impediments to transparent elections, served as observers and reported irregularities. Prior to the elections, OHCHR organized a series of capacity-building workshops to enhance the human rights monitoring expertise of CSOs and journalists. As a result, journalists played an important role in the elections processes by supporting education and sensitization activities and providing fair media coverage for all candidates. CSOs and journalists reported and published the results of their monitoring.

In the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, OHCHR ensured that consultations with affected communities informed its work, particularly in its advocacy with national and international humanitarian actors to ensure that the responses reflected the needs of the concerned populations. Through its daily work with the affected communities, OHCHR was able to identify their protection concerns, particularly those relating to security, relocation, selection and allocation of temporary and permanent housing solutions. OHCHR also worked to ensure that affected communities were involved in decision-making processes that related to their lives. Ensuring that the local authorities provided them with accessible and comprehensive information was prioritized by OHCHR to promote transparency, participation and accountability.

Responsiveness of the international community (EA 10)

In the context of violence and insecurity, the international community, in particular the Security Council, General Assembly, Human Rights Council and donors, increasingly responds in a timely and effective manner to chronic and urgent human rights situations and issues

One of OHCHR's key objectives is to prompt rapid, informed and strategic responses by the international community to urgent and chronic human rights crises. In this regard, the Office prioritized efforts for the development and implementation of the "Rights Up Front" Action Plan, launched in December 2013 and ensured that the UN Operations and Crisis Centre (UNOCC) was fully appraised of potential, emerging and continuing human rights crises. In addition, OHCHR field presences in, inter alia, Haiti, Mauritania, the State of Palestine and Yemen integrated human rights analysis and considerations in the development of humanitarian response plans and appeals to donors prepared by the Humanitarian Country Teams (HCTs) based in those countries. At the global level, OHCHR engaged with donors as part of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's (IASC) Emergency Directors Group, including in relation to the Transformative Agenda (TA) and country-specific situations.

In Myanmar, OHCHR's engagement with national, regional and international partners in Rakhine state ensured that human rights concerns were mainstreamed into responses to the deteriorating situation, including in relation to the Rohingya community. In the context of the Syrian Arab Republic, OHCHR's work contributed to efforts, analysis and decision-making undertaken by the IASC and other inter-agency task forces on Syria. For example, OHCHR reported on casualty figures which helped provide indicators of the devastating scope of the human rights and humanitarian crisis and related challenges in the country. The monitoring team that was based in the region provided the High Commissioner with the information needed to brief the Security Council and the Human Rights Council. OHCHR also contributed to enhancing the engagement of the special procedures and the treaty bodies through the verification of allegations of human rights violations.

The High Commissioner continued her engagement in situations of protracted conflict, including in Europe. In this context, human rights principles were incorporated into the ongoing Geneva International Discussions on the Conflict in Georgia, which were launched following the August 2008 conflict between Georgia and the Russian Federation.

The “Rights Up Front” Action Plan

The 2012 *Report of the Secretary-General’s Internal Review Panel on United Nations Action in Sri Lanka* assessed the UN’s action in the final stages of the armed conflict in Sri Lanka as a “systemic failure.” In recognition of the need for the UN to draw the appropriate lessons from the experience, the Secretary-General launched a process of follow-up to the recommendations of the Report which led to the formulation of the Rights Up Front Action Plan. The Action Plan builds on the lessons learned in Sri Lanka and proposes concrete actions that can make a qualitative difference in the way the UN meets its human rights responsibilities.

The Rights Up Front Action Plan is a UN internal process aimed at enhancing the UN’s prevention and response efforts to situations where people are at risk of or are subject to serious violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law. It emphasizes the need to place prevention and the protection of human rights at the centre of future United Nations crisis prevention and response actions. This approach is based on a deliberate use of the full range of UN resources, mandates and skills. The Action Plan requires the application of different methods, the reprioritization of existing resources, facilitating effective changes in the UN institutional culture and a recommitment to the founding purposes of the Organization, especially human rights.



Charles Petrie, Head of the Independent Review Panel on Sri Lanka, hands over the Panel’s report to Secretary-General, November 2012.

OHCHR has the lead responsibility on key areas of the Action Plan, including: the development of mandatory training for all UN staff; facilitating the establishment of a UN common information management system on violations of international human rights and humanitarian law; providing greater support, guidance and training to Resident Coordinators/Humanitarian Coordinators and UNCT/HCTs; and providing systematic human rights analysis and ensuring deployments of human rights staff when required. For OHCHR, this implies that in addition to timelier and more predictable operational responses, emphasis must be placed on the development of tools and methodology to support those responses. During 2013, much of OHCHR’s work to implement the Action Plan was undertaken by reprioritizing current resources. For example, in CAR and South Sudan,

which the Deputy Secretary-General identified as crisis countries, OHCHR provided in-depth human rights analyses of the situations, including following the deployment of a rapid response mission to CAR. Additional capacity will be required for OHCHR to respond more quickly to crises and ensure that staff has the adequate skills and tools to do so successfully.

OHCHR established a task force to coordinate the implementation of its actions undertaken in response to the Rights Up Front Action Plan. The Task Force reports to the Deputy High Commissioner and an OHCHR Rights Up Front focal point has been appointed to work with the UN system-wide network of focal points. OHCHR also seconded a part-time staff member to the Rights Up Front team in the Office of the Deputy Secretary-General, which is coordinating system-wide implementation of the Plan.

The High Commissioner’s sustained advocacy is a powerful tool in ensuring that critical human rights situations do not become forgotten crises. The combination of her advocacy, reports to the Human Rights Council and visit to Sri Lanka in August 2013 increased the awareness of the international community about long-standing human rights issues in the country and resulted in the provision of support to victims of human rights abuses and their families seeking justice and

redress. Visits to different countries by the Deputy High Commissioner and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights also ensured that human rights considerations were central to crisis responses.

Throughout the year, OHCHR carried out targeted and timely interventions, including through the High Commissioners’ briefings and reports to the Human Rights Council, the General Assembly and the Security Council. At the Human Rights Council,

the conflict in Syria remained high on the agenda as evidenced by the holding of an urgent debate in June 2013; a further extension of the mandate of the Commission of Inquiry (CoI), established in August 2011, until March 2014; and the submission of regular reports on the human rights situation in the country. As a result, regular recommendations were issued in relation to appropriate responses undertaken by the UN and the international community. During its March 2013 session, the Council mandated by consensus a Commission of Inquiry on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). During 2013, OHCHR supported the work of the CoI on DPRK, which included a series of public hearings with victims in Japan and the Republic of Korea. Also in 2013, the Central African Republic and Somalia requested that the Council address the ongoing and deteriorating human rights situations in their respective countries. This was the first time a request of this nature was made and in response, the Council held two Stand-Alone High-Level Interactive Dialogues. Both interventions were attended by Member State dignitaries and elicited pledges of support and interest from a significant number of Member and Observer States as well as from civil society. Two resolutions on Promoting Reconciliation and Accountability in Sri Lanka were adopted in the March 2012 and 2013 sessions.

Over the past three years, OHCHR's engagement with the Security Council increased substantially. In 2013, the High Commissioner was invited to provide formal briefings to the Council on thematic and

country-specific concerns, including on the Central African Republic, Syria, the protection of civilians and on women, peace and security, and to provide briefings in informal consultations on CAR and Syria. The Office also undertook informal expert briefings on Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea-Bissau and an Arria-Formula briefing on the CAR. The Office participated in meetings of the Security Council's informal expert group on the protection of civilians which provided it with further opportunities to highlight human rights issues in the context of the creation or renewal of mandates for peace missions. In addition, the Office was increasingly consulted by Security Council members involved in bilateral discussions seeking technical guidance on the wording of relevant provisions of draft resolutions, including on CAR, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Haiti, Liberia, Mali, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Western Sahara. This regular and strategic interaction with the Security Council reflects a growing recognition by Member States and the UN system that human rights challenges underpin many peace and security-related crises and enabled the Security Council to receive timely, relevant human rights-related information to inform its discussions. This has in turn been directly reflected in the inclusion of more comprehensive human rights language and references to special procedures mandates in the Council's resolutions, such as the UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP).

OHCHR increased its advocacy and awareness-raising efforts with intergovernmental mechanisms by briefing the General Assembly's Special Committee on

The Commission of Inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

OHCHR's continuous focus on the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) helped contribute to the establishment of the Commission of Inquiry. On 3 December 2012, survivors of DPRK political prison camps, Shin Dong-Huyk and Kim Hye Sook, met with the High Commissioner to discuss their experiences of human rights violations. The High Commissioner issued a press statement calling for an international investigation into possible crimes against humanity in the DPRK, including the torture and execution of political prisoners and the detention of large numbers of citizens in prison camps under very



Michael Kirby, Chairperson of the Commission of Inquiry on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, speaks at a press conference in Geneva, July 2013.

poor living conditions. Building on the work of the Special Rapporteur on the DPRK, OHCHR undertook further monitoring and investigations and engaged the international community on DPRK-related violations. On 21 March 2013, the Human Rights Council established

a Commission of Inquiry on human rights in the DPRK to investigate the systematic, widespread and grave violations of human rights in the country, with a view to ensuring full accountability, in particular for human rights violations which may amount to crimes against humanity.



A human rights officer of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali meets with leaders of the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad after their release from prison.

Peacekeeping Operations (C-34) on conflict-related sexual violence and on preventive and responsive processes and tools. The Office provided advice to Security Council members regarding the human rights

aspects of peacekeeping mandates and strategies and to delegates of the Fifth Committee regarding the key role of the protection of human rights in achieving the primary objectives of peacekeeping operations. The Office also provided information during the negotiations on a number of country-specific resolutions during the General Assembly's Third Committee at the request of Member States.

Furthermore, the Office encouraged the inclusion of gender and women's human rights perspectives in the work of the Security Council; supported the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1888 and 1960, in particular through the roll out of Women Protection Advisers (WPAs); and by providing inputs to policy documents for mission set-ups, language for Security Council country-specific resolutions for mission renewals and the development of generic terms of reference and interviews for possible deployments of WPAs to

Promoting women's rights in conflict and post-conflict situations

In Burkina Faso, Gambia and Kosovo, OHCHR provided technical advice and financial support for the development of national actions to implement Security Council resolutions 1325 and 1820. In several countries, including Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, South Sudan and Sudan, OHCHR undertook capacity-building and awareness-raising activities to promote access to justice by providing: support for legislative reform; assistance to governments in the development of national policies and plans; training for judges and lawyers; guidance from forensic experts; and assistance to NGOs that offer free legal advice. OHCHR also advocated for gender-sensitive reparations in the context of transitional justice processes. The Office and UN Women finalized a Guidance Note on Reparations for Victims of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence that will be launched in 2014. In Kosovo, OHCHR supported a study on access to reparations for victims of sexual violence during the 1999 conflict and Kosovo will work on follow-up to some of the recommendations of the study,

particularly in relation to ensuring the establishment and functioning of an adequate legal framework. In DRC, the Office implemented five pilot reparation projects that provided legal, medical, psychological and schooling support to survivors of sexual violence.

The Office's leadership in engaging with UN partners, particularly the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE), the UN Trust Fund on Violence against Women and the UN Action Network against Sexual Violence, ensured the inclusion of a human rights perspective in their work. This engagement also led to stronger partnerships and the elaboration of cooperation agreements, including with UN Women and UNFPA. The IANWGE's project on mapping women's access to justice fed into the development of the UN Joint Programme on Women's Access to Justice by UN Women, UNDP and OHCHR. These activities specifically focused on gender and women's rights and, where appropriate, took into consideration the impact on women, girls, men and boys.

The Office also continued to strengthen its cooperation with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict, established under Security Council resolution 1888. OHCHR, as a co-lead entity of the Team of Experts, assigned a staff member from the New York Office to serve as an expert and to ensure the full integration of human rights in State responses to conflict-related sexual violence. This was accomplished in relation to national-level justice processes in Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC and Conakry, Guinea and laid the foundation for similar efforts in CAR and Somalia. This also ensured the inclusion of relevant information on conflict-related sexual violence in recommendations issued by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to States Parties. Efforts were undertaken to ensure that the impact of sexual violence on women, girls, men and boys was noted in the work of the Team of Experts.

Violence against women in Iraq

Women in Iraq face a range of specific gender-based violations of human rights. Domestic violence is widespread, with a deep-rooted tradition of honour-related killings and induced suicide. The regional government in northern Iraq has adopted proactive legislation and policies to combat gender-based violence but implementation of the new norms has been slow. Women's rights activists work under frequent threat of reprisals. Although a specialized police directorate has been set up to combat domestic violence and more women report such crimes, women who take action against abuse are at risk of killings and may need to seek refuge in shelters or asylum abroad.

A team of Human Rights Officers from the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq's Human Rights Office in the northern Kurdistan region drew on their joint experience while working to address gender-based violations in the country. The team, comprised of one Swedish and two Iraqi nationals, travelled across the region to monitor, advise and conduct trainings for a range of actors, including police officers, shelter managers and women survivors of domestic violence and

honour-related crimes. Because the team is seen as independent, it has been able to build trust and thus gain access in circumstances that are sensitive, such as attending mediation sessions between aggrieved family members or being invited to monitor allegations of violations in shelters.

Jamila's story

My name is Jamila Salih. I work as a human rights officer in the Human Rights Office (HRO) of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI).

I was born in a refugee camp near the city of Sinna on the Iraq-Iran border. When an amnesty was declared by the Iraqi Government for my father, I went to the southern city of Najaf in Iraq. At the age of 12, while enjoying my school summer holidays, our family received visitors and a party was held. Some time later, I found that my birth date had been "revised" to reflect me as being 13 and I realised that I was now a married woman.

My life changed drastically: I could no longer attend school, was taken away from my family and made

to take over the chores of a big household as well as work in the fields. By the age of 22, I had given birth to four children.

I negotiated with my husband and his family to be allowed to study. The condition was that I had to continue all work in the house. My brother supported me by providing me with books and materials and I studied late at night. I finished high school with good marks and got accepted to a political science college in Mosul. My husband told me that if I moved, I would have to take care of all expenses of the children and the home. I worked three jobs while studying and graduated in the top three of my class. After two years, I used my savings to build my own house, continued studying and completed a Masters in Business Administration with honors.

I feel the pain of children who are not allowed to have a childhood or suffer injustice. This drew me to work as a human rights officer. I joined the Office in 2012 and am the focal point on minority rights, disability and migrant workers.

peace missions. OHCHR also worked to improve the capacities of peace missions to monitor and investigate conflict-related sexual violence, including through the delivery of specialized training in DRC in December 2013 and the provision of enhanced guidance and support.

In addition, the Office provided human rights analysis to the wider UN system with respect to a number of countries not on the Security Council's agenda, including through inputs to reports to the General Assembly, statements of the Secretary-General, inputs to internal briefings for senior UN officials as well as updates to the Secretary-General and to the Deputy Secretary-General regarding the inclusion of human rights perspectives in the context of ongoing political processes. These contributions assisted

the UN system in developing more comprehensive responses to addressing country situations by systematically raising human rights concerns alongside political, humanitarian and development issues. This was particularly effective with respect to UN responses in a number of electoral processes, including in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Kenya, the Maldives and Nepal. The Office worked closely with UN departments, including the Office of the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Myanmar, to ensure human rights concerns were brought to their attention and addressed as part of UN system-wide engagement. The Special Adviser in turn raised human rights concerns related to the situation in Rakhine with the UN system and key government interlocutors and in his report to the General Assembly.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

In the context of violence and insecurity, increased integration of human rights standards and principles into the UN system for humanitarian action, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and security policies and programmes

The Office conducts analyses and provides early warning regarding potential or emerging situations leading to violence and insecurity, with a view to promoting timely interventions from OHCHR field presences and other parts of the UN human rights and humanitarian systems and conducts training and other activities to ensure all UN programmes are in line with international standards.

OHCHR has prioritized the integration of human rights in UN peacekeeping operations and special political missions in implementing the 2011 OHCHR/DPKO/DPA/DFS Policy on Human Rights in United Nations Peace Operations and Political Missions. This work focused on providing strategic policy, planning and recruitment support to DPA and DPKO and to the human rights components of 15 peace missions (Afghanistan, Burundi, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Iraq, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan). In particular, the Office contributed to the establishment of human rights components in new peace missions in Mali and Somalia; contingency planning for possible peace operations; and the review and reconfiguration of existing missions to ensure they include strong and appropriate mandates to support human rights components. OHCHR participated in DPKO/DPA Technical Assessment Missions to the Central African Republic, Mali and Somalia to ensure that human rights were mainstreamed into mission planning processes. The Office also supported human rights components in peace missions by incorporating specific considerations for human rights protection in UN policies related to conflict and post-conflict situations. In 2013, OHCHR coordinated the recruitment and selection of four Heads of human rights components for deployment to peace missions and worked with the Department of Field Support to assess over 570 candidates for deployment to human rights components of peacekeeping operations.

In the DRC, peacekeepers deployed to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) who were based in eastern DRC received training on a human rights approach to protection. During missions undertaken by the Joint Protection Team (JPT), MONUSCO's military, which had participated

in the training, showed an increased level of understanding and commitment during and after the training with regard to the protection of civilians. Following training, Community Liaison Assistants were better positioned to interact on a daily basis with local communities, were more proactive on protection issues, improved their reporting capacities and strengthened their roles as early warning agents. Protection assessments and missions in the eastern DRC ensured a more accurate analysis of the security situation and the early identification of protection threats.

OHCHR and DPKO continued to co-chair the inter-agency Review Group on the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on UN Support to non-UN Security Forces. The Review Group was established by the Secretary-General to guide coherent implementation of the Policy by the UN system and periodically review experience. In July 2012 and September 2013, the Review Group conducted annual reviews of implementation of the Policy based on reports from a number of UN field presences in mission and non-mission settings. The reviews indicated that significant progress had been achieved in dissemination and implementation, underlined that UN entities providing support required more support and highlighted the need to strengthen implementation efforts by UNCTs, outside of peacekeeping operations. OHCHR led the preparations for the reviews and provided advice and support to UN field presences, peace operations and UN agencies at headquarters to implement the HRDDP, including through the elaboration and dissemination of a comprehensive draft HRDDP Guidance Note. UN entities have applied the Policy in a number of specific situations, developed guidelines and operating procedures at headquarters and in the field and increasingly requested advice and support from OHCHR on policy implementation. Advocacy and promotion activities around the Policy resulted in its placement at the centre of planning and reflections on UN strategies regarding military and peacekeeping operations, including UN-supported regional operations in Mali and Somalia. Following the transmission by the Secretary-General of the policy to the Security Council and General Assembly in February 2013, the HRDDP was referred to in most Security Council resolutions which established or extended the mandates of peacekeeping or special political missions and recalled Member States' acceptance of the Policy and recognition of its value in guiding UN action in the field. In the context of HRDDP implementation efforts, human rights mainstreaming is more frequently understood to be both an obligation to comply with a set of norms and principles and

a tool to improve the impact and credibility of UN programmes and activities.

In Côte d'Ivoire, in 2013, UNOCI and UN agencies implemented the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy with the technical and substantive assistance of the Mission's Human Rights Division. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire adopted a standard operating procedure detailing the implementation framework of the Policy and an HRDDP Sub-Committee was created to provide advice to the Senior Management Group on requests for support from non-UN security forces. The HRD serves as the Secretariat to the Sub-Committee.

OHCHR and the UN Office of Human Resources co-chaired the Secretariat Working Group on the implementation of the Secretary-General's Policy on Human Rights Screening of United Nations Personnel. The Office also co-led the implementation of the Policy's pilot phase and organized briefings for Member States and NGOs.

OHCHR continued working towards the increased integration of all human rights standards and principles in humanitarian action by contributing to the work of the Global Protection Cluster (GPC) and ensuring that human rights considerations and approaches were integrated in IASC policies, strategies and operational decisions and processes, including the Transformative Agenda Protocols and its implementation in Level-3 crises, such as in Syria, the Philippines and the CAR. As a result of its continued engagement, OHCHR assumed the role of co-chair of the GPC Task Team, which includes facilitating, among other things, the development of an IASC policy on protection.

The Office's role and engagement in humanitarian action in 2012 was largely focused on working with the humanitarian community to strengthen the integration of the findings of the United Nations Internal Review Panel on United Nations Action in Sri Lanka and the ensuing Rights Up Front Action Plan (see box page 82), in its policy and operational frameworks. In this way, and through concerted OHCHR efforts and engagement, particularly at the senior level and with the IASC, the protection of the rights of persons affected by humanitarian crises was increasingly placed at the centre of humanitarian policy and decision-making. Recognition of this fact resulted in the IASC adopting protection as one of its priorities for 2014-2015, emphasizing that humanitarian action must be undertaken in a manner that prevents and responds to ongoing or potential situations of international human



A women asking for peace during the Secretary-General's visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, May 2013.

rights and humanitarian law violations. IASC Principals endorsed a statement on the centrality of protection in humanitarian action and affirmed their commitment to implementing this vision.

In the same vein, the revised IASC terms of reference now specifically include the "protection of the rights of affected people" as a core element of IASC's overall objective to improve the delivery of humanitarian assistance. IASC's key role in advocating for the full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and spirit of relevant human rights and humanitarian law provisions was also added to the terms of reference as one of IASC's principal objectives.

OHCHR's efforts with the Global Protection Cluster were strengthened throughout 2013. OHCHR coordinated with the GPC to bring the relevant findings of the Internal Review Panel report to the attention of the humanitarian community, which resulted in a recognition of the essential role that may be played in furthering key protection activities, such as human rights monitoring, reporting and advocacy, by OHCHR, its field presences and the UN human rights machinery. OHCHR also cooperated with the GPC to support the Protection Cluster's engagement with United Nations peacekeeping and political missions, for example, by undertaking a joint inter-agency mission to Mali in August 2013. The report on the joint mission provided concrete recommendations to the Protection Cluster and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) on a number of issues, including strengthening their mutual engagement; protection strategies and risk assessments; information management; risk mitigation; and IDP return. The mission was welcomed as timely and useful

and discussions held with relevant stakeholders in Mali were viewed as a helpful catalyst to putting key issues on the table for discussion. One of the report's recommendations, that the OHCHR operate under the auspices of the Cluster to establish a Working Group on Access to Justice and Rule of Law, was implemented in January 2014.

OHCHR continues to lead Protection Clusters in Haiti and the State of Palestine and co-leads the Pacific Regional Protection Cluster with UNHCR. Since 2012, OHCHR has taken on the lead of the Protection Cluster in Mauritania and two Protection Cluster subregional hubs in the Philippines (see box page 89). The Office has also been involved in a number of rapid deployments specific to its role in humanitarian action. These include the deployment of three human rights officers to Rakhine state, Myanmar to support the Protection Cluster and the Humanitarian Country Team and the deployment, in March 2013, of three human rights officers to Lebanon to collect information on violations of international human rights and humanitarian law in Syria.

In terms of individual examples of the integration of human rights standards into the work of the UN, in Mali, OHCHR dispatched a human rights officer to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)/African Union (AU)/UN military planning mission in 2012. As a result, a reference to the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy was integrated in the Concept of Operations for the deployment of the "African-led International Support Mission to Mali" (AFISMA). In response to the large-scale humanitarian disaster in the Philippines following Typhoon Haiyan, OHCHR staff were deployed to ensure that human rights were fully mainstreamed into the humanitarian response and to strengthen the work of the Protection Cluster.

Women and girls continue to be particularly impacted by conflict, natural disasters and other situations of insecurity and violence. These situations exacerbate pre-existing patterns of gender-based discrimination and expose them to a heightened risk of sexual, physical and psychological violence. OHCHR, UN Women and UNDP have developed a global programme to increase women's access to justice through law and justice reforms with a specific focus in five areas, namely: (i) ensuring de jure gender-equality through constitutional and legal reform; (ii) ensuring gender responsive judicial decision-making; (iii) ensuring gender sensitive justice service delivery; (iv) promoting non-discriminatory informal justice systems; and (v) improving women's agency and leadership in claiming their rights.

Challenges and lessons learned

The Internal Review Panel on United Nations Action in Sri Lanka and the Rights Up Front Plan of Action have resulted in an increased recognition within the United Nations and the humanitarian community that UN action, including humanitarian action, must take into consideration human rights concerns if its responses are to effectively protect the affected people, including with a view to preventing and responding to violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

In the *OHCHR Report 2012*, it was noted that "a significant challenge for OHCHR will be to engage with the UN and the broader humanitarian community to ensure that human rights and humanitarian responses are seen as co-existing and mutually reinforcing rather than the former hindering the latter and that the protection of human rights is placed at the centre of humanitarian action." Protection in humanitarian crises was designated as an IASC priority for 2014 and 2015. This represents a turning point for OHCHR as it takes steps to more effectively mainstream human rights into the UN and broader humanitarian system. In 2013, OHCHR devoted a great deal of effort in achieving this result under the auspices of the IASC and the Global Protection Cluster. The IASC Principals endorsed a statement on the centrality of protection in humanitarian crises which was then circulated by the Emergency Relief Coordinator to all Humanitarian Coordinators. While recognizing that considerable progress has been achieved in integrating human rights as a critical element in humanitarian action, much needs to be done to better ensure that the protection of the rights of affected persons is systematically integrated as a central tenet in humanitarian action. The next phase of these efforts will include the IASC system-wide review of protection in accordance with the IASC Protection Priority and the development of an IASC policy on protection in humanitarian crises.

The successful implementation of landmark policies such as the HRDDP and the Secretary-General's Policy on Human Rights Screening of United Nations Personnel requires relevant human rights information and analyses on issues that are not necessarily the object of systematic monitoring across OHCHR and therefore calls for additional efforts in this regard. Synergies have emerged, from initial HRDDP advocacy and promotion activities, between the UN system and other political and development actors which have adopted - or are considering adopting - similar policies, to promote more responsible ways to support security forces and military operations around the world.

The Philippines emergency

On 8 November 2013, typhoon Haiyan swept through a number of islands (the Visayas) of the Philippines. It killed 6,201 people, displaced 4.1 million people, left 1,785 persons missing and damaged 1.1 million houses. Large sections of coastal and hinterland areas were destroyed, impacting on the affected population's means of livelihood (in particular fishing and coconut tree farming). The lives of 14.1 million people were shattered and uprooted.

Following the IASC Level-3 declaration in the aftermath of typhoon Haiyan, OHCHR deployed four human rights officers to the Philippines (Manila, Roxas, Borongan and Tacloban) to: 1) co-lead two Protection Cluster hubs and contribute to the overall efforts of the Protection Cluster and the humanitarian community more broadly; 2) integrate human rights in the humanitarian response; and 3) accompany and provide support to the protection work of national partners, including national authorities, the Commission on Human Rights and civil society. OHCHR maintained a presence of three human rights officers throughout its deployment.

The priority areas of focus for OHCHR included:

- Human rights documentation and advocacy with the affected communities;
- Liaising and undertaking interventions with local, provincial and national authorities;
- Protection through presence by holding discussions and following-up with traumatized communities on reported concerns;
- Issues related to the security of individuals, including trafficking of persons for sexual and labour exploitation;
- Providing technical support to national and international partners on the development of practical guidance related to the humanitarian response to be included in national policies and guidance notes, for example on housing, land and property rights;
- Designing and delivering training/orientation sessions on protection of IDPs for police officers, civil authorities and the armed forces;
- Establishing a referral mechanism for individuals seeking to raise human rights concerns and redress or access to public services, to ensure accountability to the affected population;
- Focusing on the protection concerns of certain groups that are particularly vulnerable, such as pregnant women, separated and unaccompanied children, older persons, indigenous peoples, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons, single-headed households, persons with disabilities, communities in rural locations and neglected communities;
- Awareness-raising and consultations with affected communities and local government on access to information, participation and inclusion in decision-making on the rehabilitation process;
- Addressing concerns related to fundamental problems with the administration of justice, in particular excessive pre-trial detention and lost case files;
- Ensuring non-discrimination on political, ethnic and gender discrimination grounds in the delivery of humanitarian aid; and
- Responding to additional natural disasters that compound the impact of typhoon Haiyan (i.e., Pontevedra, Capiz Province and Guiuan, Samar Province).



Debates continued in 2013 in relation to the illicit narcotics trade and how to curb the activities of transnational crime, which has held whole populations hostage and subjected them to widespread violations of human rights, limiting their development and their right to lead dignified lives free from fear. Nonetheless, a global consensus among international actors has

not been reached. The UN is now promoting a more coherent, multifaceted response which is centred on the rights of those affected. As entire communities begin to claim their rights to a life free from violence, it is imperative that effective responses be found and implemented by the UN system as a whole, which have at their core the protection of human rights.