

OHCHR in the field: Americas



Type of presence	Location
Country offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bolivia ● Colombia ● Guatemala ● Mexico
Regional offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Central America (Panama City, Panama) ● South America (Santiago, Chile)
Human rights component in UN Peace Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Haiti (MINUSTAH)
Human rights advisers in United Nations Country Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dominican Republic** ● Ecuador* ● Honduras ● Jamaica** ● Panama (UNDG Regional Human Rights Adviser for Latin America and the Caribbean)** ● Paraguay

* Discontinued in 2014

** Human Rights Adviser deployed through the UNDG Human Rights Working Group

OHCHR continued to engage with countries of the American continent from headquarters in Geneva, the New York Office and through its 13 field presences. These presences included two regional offices (Panama City and Santiago de Chile); four country offices (Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico); six human rights advisers (Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Jamaica, Paraguay and to the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Regional Team for Latin America and the Caribbean based in Panama); and one human rights component in a peace mission (Haiti), where OHCHR continued to lead the Protection Cluster in the context of the humanitarian response. In addition, a Human Rights Officer in Barbados provided support to the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), the Government

and civil society on the implementation of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations. At the end of the year, the post of Human Rights Adviser in Ecuador was discontinued. The presence was closed on 31 March 2015 and Ecuador came under the responsibility of the Regional Office for South America.

The work of OHCHR in the Americas was undertaken against a backdrop of consolidated democracies, solid legal frameworks and engaged civil societies. In Colombia, hopes for peace increased as the peace dialogue advanced in 2014 between the Government and the FARC-EP. This represented a unique opportunity to significantly improve the human rights situation in the country. The negotiations were remarkable for the inclusion of the perspectives and opinions of victims of both sides. In several countries, progress was registered in the reduction of extreme poverty, malnutrition and infant mortality, yet high inequality persisted, particularly affecting indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants. Demands for greater participation, transparency and access to rights, especially economic, social and cultural rights, took place in several countries. The economic boom in the extractive and manufacturing industries continued to raise human rights concerns, especially in relation to indigenous peoples, and a number of countries reported consequential incidents of violence and human rights violations.

OHCHR continued to prioritize strengthening the rule of law and ending impunity in the Americas. Field presences continued to work on issues of transitional justice, impunity, the functioning of the justice system, harmonization of legislation and jurisprudence with human rights standards, freedom of expression and situations of violence, conflict and insecurity. The Office also focused on protection mechanisms for journalists and human rights defenders, especially in Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico, to ensure that laws and policies relating to public security adhered to human rights standards. Citizen security remained one of the major concerns for rights-holders in the region due to serious and ongoing acts of social violence, organized crime and human trafficking. Consequently, it was the focus of the work of several field presences. Furthermore, a

Latin American model protocol was launched as a tool for judicial systems to investigate the increasing number of gender-motivated killings of women.

Between October 2013 and September 2014, United States immigration officials apprehended more than 60,000 unaccompanied children at the border between Mexico and the United States. The majority of these children came from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras and had undertaken perilous journeys to flee gang violence and poverty in their countries of origin. OHCHR closely followed the situation and participated in efforts in Central America to address the root causes of the migration and provide support to returnees.

Throughout 2014, OHCHR promoted wider engagement with the UN human rights mechanisms in the Americas, particularly in the Caribbean and the United States where ratification rates are lower and few national human rights institutions (NHRIs) operate in compliance with the Paris Principles. Partnerships that were established in recent years with UNCTs in the Caribbean were strengthened and resulted in greater collaboration on human rights issues, especially in Barbados and Jamaica. In addition, OHCHR supported the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti, who carried out his second mission to the country, and the work of other special procedures mandate-holders who visited the continent.

In order to advance human rights in the region, OHCHR worked in close contact with regional organizations, in particular the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), as well as with UN departments and agencies, governmental institutions, NHRIs, parliaments, civil society organizations, academia and human rights defenders. In November, a joint declaration was signed to foster collaboration between OHCHR and the IACHR. Cooperation continued to take place between subregional organizations, such as the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) and the Central American Integration System (SICA).

In 2014, the Deputy High Commissioner visited Canada and Guatemala.

Country Offices

Bolivia

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2014	22
Expenditure in 2014	US\$1,370,430

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *A national coordinating body to report to treaty bodies, reply to individual communications and enquiries and ensure regular follow-up to recommendations of all international mechanisms is established and effectively functioning (EA 6)*

During the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review in October, the Government committed to creating a national body to coordinate reporting to the human rights mechanisms and the follow-up to their recommendations. OHCHR consistently advocated for the establishment of such a body, including with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice and other governmental entities, particularly in light of the problems faced by the Ministry of Justice in coordinating the preparation of State reports to the human rights mechanisms.

The Office provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice for the drafting of the State's report for the second cycle of the UPR. Out of the 193 recommendations resulting from the first cycle of the UPR, Bolivia accepted 47, rejected 15 and identified 131 as already implemented or in the process of implementation. Furthermore, OHCHR organized an event, together with the Attorney General's Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and civil society organizations, to watch the live broadcast of the presentation of the State report to the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council. The event was attended by approximately 150 representatives from State entities and civil society.

- *A national human rights action plan integrating follow-up to selected recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms is adopted and a participative coordination mechanism is in place for its implementation (EA 6)*

In August, the Ministry of Justice presented a final proposal for a national human rights action plan for 2014-2018. The plan integrates the recommendations from the international human



The Head of the OHCHR office in Bolivia participates at an event on the strengthening of the independence of the judiciary.

rights mechanisms and contains six strategic areas (civil and political rights, social and cultural rights, the rights of indigenous peoples, women's rights, the rights of populations in vulnerable situations and the management of rights), all of which have indicators to measure their progress. The Ministry of Justice sent the proposal to the Government's Human Rights Committee and OHCHR for feedback. OHCHR noted that a human rights-based approach was not fully taken into account in the actions and indicators. The Government subsequently decided to create a commission to review the proposed plan and discuss the development of a public policy. OHCHR attended the two meetings of the commission in 2014 but as of the end of the year, the revised action plan had not been finalized.

Enhanced equality and countering discrimination

- *The National Committee against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination effectively advises organizations of discriminated groups and monitors the implementation of the Action Plan (EA 4)*

The National Committee against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination adopted a system to monitor the implementation of the 17 programmes included in the National Action Plan against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination. The Committee held a regular session in May, during which the Vice Minister of Decolonization presented information on the implementation of the Plan, noting with concern that some State entities had expressed limited support for its implementation. The Office advised on the development of a system to monitor the implementation of the Plan which contains indicators to enable the assessment of results achieved against the planned goals.

- *UN agencies implement the Guidance Note of the Secretary-General on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the Guidelines for the Protection of Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact (EA 11)*

The Office disseminated the Guidelines to UN agencies that are part of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) Intercultural Thematic Group. The Guidelines were also used by UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO to strengthen the Indigenous Peoples Network and the Network of Indigenous Women from the Pando Amazonian region.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *The Council of Magistrates, the Plurinational Constitutional Tribunal, the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Ministry of Justice improve the compliance with human rights standards of their policies and programmes in relation to judicial independence, access to justice, institutional transparency and the criminal justice system (EA 1)*

According to assessments undertaken by the Government and OHCHR, the functioning of justice institutions is still facing serious difficulties. The Government announced that another referendum will be held related to the reform of the administration of justice.

- *The School for Judges, the School for Public Prosecutors and the Plurinational Academy of Constitutional Studies incorporate international human rights law into their curricula (EA 1)*
- The School of Judges incorporated a human rights course in its training curricula and launched the first course in December. A human rights course for prosecutors was also developed by the School for Public Prosecutors. The Office designed both courses in collaboration with the two schools. Furthermore, the Office developed a database that enables judges and prosecutors to easily consult the international human rights treaties that relate to constitutional norms.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *State institutions increasingly incorporate a human rights-based approach into their annual plans, policies and budgets, including the use of human rights indicators, and apply the right to free, prior and informed consent (EA 1)*
- Based on a methodology established and validated in 2012, and with the support of OHCHR, the Ministry of Justice and the National Institute of Statistics led the process of establishing human rights indicators. After a review of the indicators developed in previous years, approximately 400 indicators were defined

in relation to six prioritized rights, namely food, education, health, employment, housing and the right of women to live a life free of violence. The development of indicators is underway for the right to live a life free of trafficking, the right to water and sanitation and the right of access to justice and a fair trial. Three new technical committees were established, with representatives from different State institutions, which will apply the same methodology mentioned above. The technical committees working on the right of access to justice and a fair trial and on the right to live a life free of trafficking defined a set of proposed indicators before the end of 2014.

- *Indigenous organizations meaningfully participate in consultation processes (EA 5)*
- Three indigenous peoples' communities participated in a consultation process, launched by the Office, on the design and monitoring of public policies, budgets and development projects that have an impact on the enjoyment of their rights. The participants have a better understanding of the normative framework that is needed to protect their rights and about the available mechanisms for restitution and redress for possible violations, in accordance with international standards. In 2014, OHCHR conducted three studies, founded on a participatory process, regarding the decision-making systems of three communities of indigenous peoples, namely the Jach'a Karanga Nation of Oruro Department; the Capitanía del Alto Parapeti of Santa Cruz Department; and the Organization of the Mosaic Indigenous Peoples of the La Paz Department. The studies enabled the indigenous communities to reflect on their organizational structures and review their decision-making processes. It was noted that decisions within these communities were taken in partial compliance with their laws and customs. The results of the studies were validated by the three communities and will be published in 2015.

Widening the democratic space

- *Significant improvement in the compliance with relevant international standards of legislation on freedom of opinion and of expression and the right to information (EA 1)*
- The Plurinational Legislative Assembly did not work on the draft law on transparency and access to public information during the year. Law 351 (2013), which regulates the work of NGOs, is reported as an issue of major concern for NGOs that note its application fosters self-censorship. Nonetheless, OHCHR did not document any case of violation of human rights in 2014 based on the implementation of the Law. At the

request of some NGOs, the Office monitored the administrative processes in place to review the legal status of NGOs in the country. According to the information collected, the processes have been slow and cumbersome. As of the end of 2014, only 17 out of hundreds of organizations have been able to confirm their legal status.

► *Human rights defenders seek restitution and/or redress for violations of the rights of indigenous peoples (EA 5)*

A bill on the right of indigenous peoples to consultation was developed by indigenous peoples' organizations and other stakeholders, with the support of OHCHR, and submitted to the Plurinational Legislative Assembly. The former Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, James Anaya, provided technical advice on the content of the draft. The Office facilitated training activities for indigenous peoples designed to increase their understanding of their rights. As an example, in coordination with the ILO and the Guarani University, 35 Guarani village leaders (including nine women) received training on cultural diversity and legal anthropology. This training is now offered by the University as part of its permanent academic courses. The Office also monitored the process of legal recognition of two minority groups and the national elections in two departments to ensure compliance with the right to political participation and the representation of indigenous peoples.

Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity

► *State institutions implement effective policies and measures to foster gender equality and combat sexual and gender-based violence, in line with recommendations issued by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Police officers increasingly apply international human rights norms and standards, in particular those relating to the protection of victims or persons at risk of becoming victims of human trafficking and sexual and gender-based violence (EA 1)*

In the context of the implementation of Law 243 against the harassment of women and political violence against women and Law 348 guaranteeing women a life free of violence, the Office supported the Ministry of Justice and the police in developing a proposal for a manual on the investigation of crimes of femicide, based on the Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation and prosecution of gender-related killings of women, developed by the OHCHR Regional Office for Central America and UN

Women. Moreover, the Office assisted in the development of models of courts and prosecutors' offices that are specialized in combating violence against women. Both the manual on the investigation of crimes of femicide documents and the models of courts and prosecutors' offices were applied in various national departments following consultation with and approval by judges, prosecutors, medical-forensic experts and other professionals working in the field.

Bolivia: Expenditure in 2014

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	1,021,399
Consultants	-	-
Official travel	-	29,938
Contractual services	-	21,451
General operating expenses	-	101,490
Supplies and materials	-	7,331
Seminars, grants and contributions	-	31,161
Subtotal	-	1,212,770
Programme support costs	-	157,660
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,370,430

Colombia

Year established	1997
Staff as of 31 December 2014	67
Expenditure in 2014	US\$8,955,163

Results

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

► *Increased implementation of anti-discrimination legislation and governmental initiatives and compliance with anti-discrimination standards by selected institutions (EA 4)*

The Government informed the Office that it will promote a policy against discrimination in the framework of the Decade for People of African Descent, starting in 2015. OHCHR supported the elaboration of an agenda for this initiative, including methodologies to combat discrimination. OHCHR monitored the

implementation of protection measures for indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples in line with the commitments made by the Government under the Durban Declaration and Plan of Action. In this regard, the Colombian Constitutional Court ordered the implementation of an ethnic protection road map for the protection of their rights to territory and to make choices in relation to their own way of life. Within this framework, the Office worked with the Arhuacos (Sierra Nevada), Wayuu (Guajira), Uwa (Santander) and Awa (Pasto) indigenous peoples and the Afro-Colombian communities of Cocomopoca (Chocó) and Juan y Medio (Guajira), in order to increase their capacity to make claims for the enhanced protection of their rights. Significant progress, however, has not been reported in the implementation of the existing protection petitions made by the indigenous and Afro-descendant communities.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Decisions of the national justice system, including ordinary, indigenous and special jurisdictions (military justice), increasingly conform to human rights standards, norms and principles (EA 1)*
The Attorney General's Office has decided to place all cases of threats against human rights defenders under its jurisdiction, dedicate specific prosecutors to analyze the cases and identify patterns based on regional parameters, types of persons and organizations attacked and potential criminal structures behind the attacks and threats. To achieve better results in the investigations, OHCHR will provide methodologies and the analyses resulting from its monitoring and investigations. Additionally, OHCHR analysed information related to the so-called "false positives" extrajudicial executions and the identification of patterns, practices and linkages to support prosecutorial efforts. This information has been the basis for the delivery of technical assistance and advocacy vis-à-vis the Attorney General's Office. At the local level, the cooperation with the Attorney General's Office has facilitated the prioritization of cases of attacks against human rights defenders. Through a strengthened dialogue and technical assistance provided to the Supreme Judiciary Council, this entity adopted new criteria to decide on cases of conflict of jurisdiction between ordinary and military courts. As a result, the number of cases of extrajudicial executions that were transferred to military courts decreased from 47 in 2013 to zero in 2014.
- ▶ *Transitional justice mechanisms, including accountability, truth, reconciliation and*



A human rights officer conducting a workshop with indigenous children in Colombia.

reparation mechanisms, allowing for the active participation of victims, established and/or functioning in accordance with international standards (EA 3)

With regard to reparation mechanisms, the Office contributed, through technical advice, to increase the capacity of the Victims' and Land Restitution Units to implement reparations as foreseen in Law 1448. Based on its monitoring activities, the Office also helped in the identification of challenges in the implementation of the Law at the local level. Furthermore, in three cases (land restitution in Cesar, Córdoba and Magdalena; return process to Alto Andágueda in Chocó; humanitarian situation of indigenous Hitnu peoples in Arauca), OHCHR helped to foster the functioning of inter-institutional coordination mechanisms between the Units and other relevant institutions. With regard to reconciliation mechanisms, OHCHR was actively involved in supporting the participation of victims in the negotiation process between the Government and the FARC-EP. In 2014, the Office moderated working groups in the context of events for victims at the regional and national levels and was involved in the team that selected 60 victims to participate in hearings held by the delegations of the Government and the FARC-EP to the peace talks.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *Increased compliance with economic, social and cultural rights standards by the Administrative Department for Social Prosperity and the Ministries of Health and Education (EA 1)*
The Administrative Department for Social Prosperity is increasingly aware of the need to enhance its compliance with international standards on economic, social and cultural

rights. The Office prepared a report, which was shared with the Department, on the results of its monitoring of the living conditions in some communities in Colombia. The report contains recommendations on how to improve institutional efforts aimed at overcoming poverty and guaranteeing the social inclusion of people in vulnerable conditions. OHCHR also contributed to the empowerment of vulnerable communities by involving them in the evaluation of the implementation of the recommendations included in the report and by providing advice on filing claims with the Department. The Ministry of Health increased its efforts to guarantee the right to health in some communities, especially in the Chocó Department. Following advocacy undertaken by the Office, the Ministry agreed to review the implementation of the Riosucio Health Centre project (addressed to Afro-Colombian and indigenous inhabitants in the Chocó Department) to ensure it includes an ethnic perspective and further engages with the communities on this issue.

► *Increased integration of human rights standards into business operations (EA 3)*

In 2014, the Presidential Programme on Human Rights launched the national guidelines on business and human rights, which would serve as the basis for the elaboration of a public policy on the subject. OHCHR contributed to the elaboration and approval of two guidelines aimed at promoting the adoption by private companies of due diligence principles to prevent human rights violations. Furthermore, prioritized companies increased the integration of human rights principles into their policies, guidelines and operations. In 2014, for instance, a mining company incorporated human rights principles into its business plan and social responsibility projects as a result of support provided by the Office.

► *Increased use of national protection systems to ensure free, prior and informed consent (EA 5)*

As a result of capacity-building activities on the right to free, prior and informed consent, indigenous communities working with the Office elaborated consultation protocols which reflect their views on how consultations must take place in their communities. The black communities of northern Cauca are already using their protocol in the consultation process related to the management plan of the Salvajina dam in the municipality of Suarez.

Widening the democratic space

- *National human rights institution functioning in accordance with the Paris Principles (EA 1)*
During 2014, the Office strengthened its collaboration with the Ombudsman's Office,

which is reported to be working in compliance with the Paris Principles. Coordination in the field with the Ombudsman's Office was of significant importance to OHCHR's monitoring and advocacy work. In this respect, high-level joint missions were undertaken between both organizations and joint press statements were released on a number of issues of concern.

► *A human rights education programme, with a focus on youth, effectively institutionalized (EA 1)*

The technical Secretariat of the National Human Rights System, under the coordination of the Ministry of Education, engaged in discussions with the National Planning Department on a policy document to initiate the implementation of the public policy on human rights education. The Office provided technical assistance for the drafting of the document. Furthermore, with OHCHR's assistance, the Ministry of Education integrated a human rights-based approach and international standards on the right to education in its training of teachers and educational authorities; and contributed to the increased capacity of teachers from some educational entities on the use of human rights education methodologies and their incorporation in the curricula. The Office has also developed a pilot project with children and adolescents in schools across the country to gather their views and proposals on human rights and peace. The information collected will serve as input for a communication strategy on peace and human rights to be developed in 2015.

► *Effective mechanisms and measures are in place to protect civil society actors, including human rights defenders (EA 3)*

The National Protection Unit improved its capacity to protect human rights defenders. The Office contributed to this result through the regular exchange of information with the Unit in order to identify and address challenges related to the protection of human rights defenders. Training



Awareness-raising activity with indigenous children in Colombia.

sessions were also delivered to increase the Unit's awareness of and compliance with human rights standards.

Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity

- *Policies and regulatory frameworks applied by the national police and the armed forces in relation to security and the use of force, including in the context of demonstrations, increasingly comply with human rights standards (EA 1)*

Following a request made by the Inspector General, OHCHR produced draft regulations on the use of force for the national police. The draft regulations contain protocols and procedures applicable to anti-riot police in the context of public demonstrations. At the field level, OHCHR's engagement with security forces contributed to confidence building between these forces and the Office. For instance, in Barranquilla, Bucaramanga, Cali, Medellín and Pasto, regular meetings were held with security forces to address and follow-up on specific cases of concern. As a result, OHCHR provided relevant information to authorities and proposed recommendations on how to improve prevention and follow-up to cases of human rights violations.

- *Regional and municipal governments, the national police, the National Protection Unit, the Ombudsman's Office and the Municipal Ombudspersons (Personeros) proactively prevent and respond to human rights violations (EA 1)*

With the support of the Office, the national police progressed in the implementation of a citizen security policy that incorporated a human rights-based approach, following the implementation of a joint project on the subject. OHCHR also maintained close contacts with security forces at the field level. For example, the engagement of OHCHR with the armed forces in Medellín resulted in a decision to move a military base from Ituango to another location, thereby reducing the danger to civilians. In the Cauca region, the armed forces closed military camps located within inhabited areas in Tacueyó and Miranda.

- *Mechanisms for dialogue and negotiation are in place to enable the Government and civil society organizations to resolve disputes and avoid an escalation of violence, including in the event of a peace agreement (EA 3)*

In 2014, a positive change was perceived in the relationship between social movements and the Government. In some cases of conflict, the Office played a mediation role to promote dialogue and ensure that agreements were respected by both

parties. For example, the Office participated in the dialogue process between the Government and the Agrarian Negotiating Platform (including peasants, Afro-descendants and indigenous communities). This allowed for the discussion of subjects of great political importance, including in relation to the ongoing peace process. This national dialogue has also been mirrored at the regional and departmental levels with discussions and negotiations which are supported by OHCHR. In Cauca, OHCHR helped support communities led by Afro-descendant women in their discussions on the impact of illegal mining that was taking place without prior consultation.

- *Preparedness, response and recovery policies, protocols and mechanisms of the United Nations to deal with national disasters, conflict and other situations of violence and insecurity comply with human rights standards (EA 11)*

In 2014, OHCHR-Colombia contributed to the increased alignment of the United Nations Country Team's policies, plans and protocols with international human rights standards. As a part of the Humanitarian Country Team, OHCHR participated in the drafting process of the 2015 Strategic Response Plan to ensure the integration of a human rights-based approach. One of the Plan's priorities is addressing human rights violations and breaches of international humanitarian law that persist in conflict-affected communities with limited institutional and response capacities. Specific attention will be given to the needs of affected populations, particularly women, children and adolescents, people with disabilities and the elderly.

Colombia: Expenditure in 2014

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	5,597,445
Consultants	-	649,341
Official travel	-	495,910
Contractual services	-	162,581
General operating expenses	-	656,650
Supplies and materials	-	229,825
Seminars, grants and contributions	-	133,170
Subtotal	-	7,924,923
Programme support costs	-	1,030,240
GRAND TOTAL	-	8,955,163

On 27 March 2007, Kemel Mauricio and Andrés Fabian Garzón, a craftsman and an assistant mechanic, were chatting with friends in a bar in the city of El Yopal, Colombia, when they were illegally detained by members of the army. Approximately three hours later, they were reported to have been gang members that were killed in combat in a rural area within the municipality of Maní, 821 kilometres from El Yopal.

It was not until 2010 that their families were informed of their whereabouts, when the Military Criminal Court of the 44th Infantry Battalion carried out a photographic reconstruction of the corpses. Although the families recognized the photographs of their relatives, their bodies were not recovered. A judge of the Military Criminal Court ordered a search of the cemetery in Maní in search of their remains, with negative results. This was extremely difficult for the families, especially as it was members of the army who conducted the search.

The families and representatives of the victims began to relentlessly campaign for answers. Another exhumation of the cemetery in Maní was attempted. Again, the results were negative. On 20 May 2014, as a result of the ongoing campaign which benefited from momentum generated by the Office, another exhumation took place, this time with the participation of relatives, prosecutors, investigators, representatives of the victims and the Office. Since the families were

involved in all stages of the process, the Office ensured the availability of psychosocial support before and during the exhumation, worked to ensure the fulfilment of their rights of participation and attempted to keep their expectations realistic.

After much hard work, the remains of a man were discovered. Immediately, a woman cried: "That's my son! That's Andrés!" The information from the exhumation was compared with the autopsy report of those who were reportedly buried in the same place in 2007, but it did not correspond with the victims being searched for. After taking into account the fact that the dental card dating from 2007 was poorly constructed, and given that the mother of one of the victims insisted that her son had all his dental parts and identified a distinctive mark on the body, experts concluded there was a high probability of identifying the remains.

The mother of the other victim, Kemel, was similarly anxious to know if remains could be found that corresponded to her son. The search continued and another coffin was found containing remains covered in plastic. The skull was partly destroyed. Those present knew that Kemel's skull had been partially damaged by a firearm, so the probability that the remains were his was high. The time spent waiting for the results seemed endless to the 70-year-old woman.

Legally speaking, a person is considered disappeared until it is



A human rights officer monitors the exhumation procedure of the remains of Kemel.

scientifically proven with 99.999 per cent accuracy that a correlation exists between the mitochondria cells of the relatives and the samples extracted from the human remains. On 7 December 2014, the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences sent the results to the Attorney General's Office which indicated that the identity of the two disappeared men corresponded to the human remains that were found.

In agreement with the families, the Attorney General's Office immediately released the human remains to their relatives. The release of Kemel's remains took place on 15 December at the Historical Memory Centre of Bogota. The Attorney General's Office provided forensic and psychological assistance to the family and was also in charge of the subsequent judicial proceeding, with the support of the Office. OHCHR issued a press release which highlighted the importance of this search and recovery process. It also called for the need to speed up investigations and the search for persons who have been disappeared or extrajudicially executed.

Guatemala

Year established	2005
Staff as of 31 December 2014	26
Expenditure in 2014	US\$3,729,246

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *State institutions are coordinated to achieve integrated reporting and implementation of recommendations (EA 6)*

The Office contributed to the improvement of Government reports to UN human rights mechanisms and their compliance with reporting guidelines. The Office provided comments to the draft proposal for the creation of an inter-institutional commission to better coordinate and harmonize reporting to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Additionally, the Office provided technical assistance to the Government for the classification of the more than 1,000 recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms. OHCHR worked with the Presidential Commission for Human Rights to update its database of recommendations to include information on the State institutions responsible for their implementation. The Presidential Commission indicated that once the database was updated, it would be made available online to allow public access but this has not yet happened.

- *Civil society and the national human rights institution make more use of individual complaints mechanisms of the treaty bodies or treaty body/Universal Periodic Review follow-up procedures (EA 7)*

Based on technical assistance provided by the Office, civil society organizations contributed to the preparation of communications on individual cases sent to the special procedures on the independence of judges and lawyers, on violence against women, on water and sanitation and on the situation of human rights defenders. OHCHR also trained civil society organizations to assist them in developing plans to follow-up on recommendations emanating from the Universal Periodic Review. As a result, the Forum of International NGOs developed an agreement with the national human rights institution (NHRI) to systematically monitor the implementation of recommendations.

- *UN agency plans and programmes deriving from the 2015-2019 United Nations Development Assistance Framework serve to systematically follow-up recommendations issued by UN human rights mechanisms (EA 11)*

In October, the UNCT and the Government signed the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2015-2019, which includes an annex with all of the recommendations made to Guatemala by human rights mechanisms that are relevant to the five programmatic areas to be implemented by the UNCT. The document also includes the indicators proposed by OHCHR to measure the effectiveness of the UNDAF in the areas of citizen security, transitional justice and the participation of indigenous peoples in development. To contribute to this result, OHCHR worked closely with the Resident Coordinator's Office on the final draft of the UNDAF and advocated with UN agencies for the mainstreaming of key human rights elements. Once the UNDAF was signed, OHCHR worked with the Resident Coordinator to develop a matrix to determine which UN agencies will follow which recommendations and how they will contribute to their implementation. As a result, all five Inter-Agency Working Groups on the UNDAF's programmatic areas (Multicultural Diversity, Justice, Security, Social Development and Sustainable Development) will be responsible for following up on recommendations made by UN human rights mechanisms. A trilateral Government/UNCT/civil society committee will be tasked with reviewing the progress made.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Selected State institutions with potential impact on the situation of indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities and other discriminated groups (older persons, youth, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender*



Representatives of OHCHR and the Ombudsman's Office during a joint monitoring mission to San Juan Sacatepéquez, Guatemala.



Members of the Maya-Q'echí communities brief OHCHR officers on the legal case they presented in the context of the Maya Programme.

and intersex persons) increasingly incorporate human rights standards in their policies and practices (EA 4)

OHCHR provided technical assistance to the National Council for the Care of Persons with Disabilities and the Special Congressional Commission on Disabilities in order to harmonize the National Law on the Care of Persons with Disabilities and related public policies with international standards. The Office provided support to civil society organizations in the implementation of an observatory on the rights of persons with disabilities.

- *Indigenous organizations and traditional authorities and communities use litigation as a channel to demand recognition of their rights (EA 5)*

In the context of the second phase of the Maya Programme in 2014, 12 cases presented by indigenous organizations were selected to receive support from the Programme. The thematic areas of the cases include land and territory, right to prior consultation, right to water, transitional justice, indigenous women's rights, freedom of speech and cultural rights. Additionally, legal and communications assistance was provided to cases that remain active from the first phase of the Programme.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *The Attorney General's Office, the Office of the Public Defender, the judiciary and the Constitutional Court increasingly incorporate human rights norms and standards in their policies and decisions; use standards relative to the rights of indigenous peoples in court proceedings and decisions and coordinate more effectively with indigenous justice systems (EA 1)*

Through a series of activities undertaken by the Office, including capacity-building on the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights and the rights of indigenous peoples, judges, prosecutors and legal clerks strengthened their knowledge regarding international human rights standards. OHCHR provided technical advice on several laws, including the Law on Public Order, the Law to Implement the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Civil Code to raise the legal age for marriage. While OHCHR's comments were often taken into account, the draft reform to the Civil Code maintains an exception for marriage at the age of 16, contrary to international standards. The Attorney General's Office strengthened its capacity regarding access to justice for indigenous peoples and developed an action plan to implement necessary structural changes with the support of OHCHR.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *Selected policies related to the exploitation of natural resources and rural and local development incorporate human rights standards in their design and implementation. State institutions take into account the traditional authorities and specific forms of organization of indigenous peoples when discussing selected legislation and policies affecting them (EA 1)*

An agricultural policy was adopted by the Government in October. The Office provided technical assistance on the issue and prepared and distributed a paper on relevant international human rights standards. The Office was able to influence the design of policies on environmental issues through the organization of several workshops with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. The Ministry also committed to preparing a guidance document for consultation with indigenous peoples during the development of environmental impact studies related to the exploitation of natural resources. Furthermore, a dialogue was initiated between the Vice Ministry of Sustainable Development and indigenous communities affected by the exploitation of natural resources.

- *The Labour Inspectorate adopts and increasingly implements a policy to monitor the fulfilment of the rights of land workers (EA 1)*

In 2014, the Office finalized the *Manual for the inspection and verification of the rights of agricultural workers*, which will be used by the Labour Ministry. To prepare the Manual, OHCHR carried out a large number of consultations with stakeholders across the country. The Office also conducted several missions to monitor the situation of agricultural workers in different plantations, with special attention given to children, youth and women. It also accompanied the Labour Inspectorate during its inspections.

- *A national network of economic, social and cultural rights NGOs monitors the implementation of public policies (including budgets) related to the rights to food, land and housing and engages with government institutions in these areas (EA 5)*

A national network of NGOs working on economic, social and cultural rights issues was established, held regular meetings to exchange information and drafted a shadow report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Office supported the preparation of the report and the participation of the network in the session where the Committee reviewed the report of Guatemala. Several of the issues mentioned in the report of the network were incorporated into the Committee's final recommendations.

Widening the democratic space

- *The NHRI fulfils its mandate in accordance with international human rights standards in investigating human rights abuses (EA 1)*

Through the technical assistance provided by the Office, including the elaboration of a protocol for investigations, the NHRI strengthened its capacity to investigate human rights violations. The Office and the NHRI continued to conduct joint monitoring missions and exchanged information on particular cases of concern, such as the protests at La Puya (following the launch of a mining project), in order to strengthen the NHRI's monitoring and protection capacities.

- *Strengthened protection mechanisms for human rights defenders working in accordance with international standards (EA 3)*

The Office held meetings at the local and national levels with the Attorney General's Office to share information on cases relating to human rights defenders. This information was then shared with relevant State institutions and actions

were implemented to protect the human rights defenders who suffered threats and attacks.

Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity

- *Public policies in the area of security incorporate human rights standards (EA 1)*

At the end of 2014, the amended Law on the state of emergency was submitted to the Security and Justice Commission of the Congress. The Office contributed to an increased understanding among parliamentarians regarding the need to adopt the amendments to align the Law with international standards.

- *State policies and practices increasingly address sexual and gender-based violence, including through the application of national legislation by the judiciary (EA 1)*

In coordination with the School of Judicial Studies and the Supreme Court of Justice, OHCHR launched an analytical study on the sentences handed down by tribunals in cases involving femicide and other types of violence against women, as well as an evaluation of the degree to which the curricula reflects a gender perspective. The objective of the study is to analyze the integration in tribunal judgments of human rights standards on gender and the impact of gender training programmes. Once completed in early 2015, the study will support several follow-up actions, including the dissemination of the results to judges based in different cities.

Guatemala: Expenditure in 2014

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	2,758,048
Consultants	-	112,079
Official travel	-	58,259
Contractual services	-	30,074
General operating expenses	-	205,048
Supplies and materials	-	29,946
Seminars, grants and contributions	-	106,764
Subtotal	-	3,300,218
Programme support costs	-	429,028
GRAND TOTAL	-	3,729,246

Sexual violence was used as weapon of war during the internal armed conflict in Guatemala. Demencia Yat was one of the many victims of this conflict. After the disappearance of her husband, she was forced to work at the military base of Sepur Zarco for six years. “The soldiers broke my marriage. They burned everything we had. We had nowhere to go. When we finished our shifts at the base, we were forced to provide food for the soldiers, to make tortillas and wash uniforms. For six years,” she said.

The soldiers ordered Ms. Yat and other women from her community to remain silent. Nevertheless, she and others began to come forward and in 2010, Ms. Yat gave her testimony, even though she had little hope that the justice system would listen to her case. The Attorney General’s Office undertook an investigation and initial testimonies were delivered in court. At the same time, OHCHR began providing technical assistance to the civil society organizations that were acting as additional plaintiffs, as well as to judges who would be hearing the case. During her visit in 2014, the Deputy High Commissioner met with Ms. Yat and after listening to her testimony, included the issue of women victims of sexual violence as a key message in her press statement. A few days later, Judge Miguel Angel Galvez read the Deputy High Commissioner’s press statement during a hearing and requested that the Attorney General hand over the results of their investigation to determine if arrest warrants could be issued. One week later, two arrest warrants were issued.

On 14 October, Judge Galvez declared that the case would be going to trial and quoted Ms. Yat’s testimony: “I was so disturbed that even if I was dead, I could not heal. You cannot build a society if you let so many injustices pass.” When Ms. Yat was asked how she felt about the case going to trial, she responded, “I feel it is the first time that I believe things can change; this judge gives me confidence and we can finally have some peace.” The trial is expected to take place in 2015. Ms. Yat is the current president of Jalok Uc, an organization that coordinates support for other women victims of sexual violence.

Mexico

Year established	2002
Staff as of 31 December 2014	20
Expenditure in 2014	US\$2,399,663

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *The competence of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on Enforced Disappearances to receive and consider individual communications is recognized and reservations or interpretative declarations to international human rights treaties are withdrawn (EA 2)*
In October 2013, the President submitted two bills to the Senate in relation to the withdrawal of reservations to seven international treaties. The bills were approved by the Congress of the Union in February and are now in force. OHCHR advocated for the withdrawal of the reservations, including by mapping the status of all reservations and interpretative declarations made by Mexico and sharing the results with relevant authorities.
- *The National Programme for Human Rights and respective local and sectorial programmes are elaborated in compliance with international human rights principles and standards (EA 6)*
As a result of a joint initiative by OHCHR and the Ministry of Interior, three human rights programmes were developed in Jalisco, Oaxaca and Baja California through a participatory process involving local authorities, civil society organizations and academics. In 2015, the Office will provide technical assistance for the implementation of these programmes and follow up on the evaluation of the national human rights programmes and the five local human rights programmes. OHCHR followed the implementation of the human rights programmes in Coahuila and Mexico City and was involved in discussions regarding the implementation of the National Programme for Human Rights, its institutionalization mechanism, the establishment of human rights indicators and the creation of a follow-up mechanism.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Human rights-compliant legislation adopted on anti-discrimination issues and/or same-sex marriages and/or sexual and reproductive rights (EA 4)*

On 1 September, a law recognizing same-sex marriage was passed by the Congress of Coahuila, making it the first Mexican state to approve such a law. At the beginning of the year, OHCHR proposed the legislation reform to the Governor. Since its approval, OHCHR has organized four events in different regions of Coahuila on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons. The events were attended by LGBTI individuals, civil servants, journalists and human rights activists, among others. The Office also actively collaborated with Mexico's National Council for the Prevention of Discrimination in the development of the National Programme for Equality and Anti-Discrimination, which was issued in April. In relation to maternal mortality and morbidity, OHCHR worked in the state of Jalisco to promote the implementation of the *Technical guidance on the application of a human rights-based approach to the implementation of policies and programmes to reduce preventable maternal morbidity and mortality*. The Office provided inputs on the right to health and women's rights and participated in discussions regarding a relevant policy.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Paradigmatic cases, especially those before the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation, to which OHCHR has submitted legal briefs, are resolved in compliance with international standards (EA 1)*
Judicial authorities have increasingly incorporated international human rights standards in their rulings. Since the 2011 constitutional reform on human rights, OHCHR has submitted five compilations of relevant international norms and standards to the Supreme Court and other tribunals on relevant issues, including violence against women; due process; the right to defend human rights; the right to water; and the scope of military criminal jurisdiction. In collaboration with the Supreme Court, the Office upgraded the human rights legal search system, launched in 2013, which now includes information on international human rights law and standards, specifically on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
- *An increasing number of judicial institutions and universities formally incorporate human rights in their curricula (EA 1)*
The local tribunals in Tamaulipas and Nayarit and



Launch of the Free & Equal campaign in Mexico, September 2014.

the University in Jalisco formally incorporated human rights into their training curricula. OHCHR worked on different capacity-building activities in relation to *ReformaDH*, a human rights training programme that was developed and is being implemented by OHCHR in collaboration with the Supreme Court and Mexico City's Human Rights Commission.

- *Human rights indicators are adopted by an increasing number of federal and local institutions to evaluate the impact of public programmes and the level of implementation of recommendations of international human rights mechanisms (EA 1)*

The implementation of fair trial indicators is mandatory for tribunals in the 32 states of Mexico. During the year, OHCHR trained relevant staff in all tribunals on the development of indicators and more than 20 have taken steps to define and integrate the indicators into their work. The Office also supported the development of 105 indicators on citizen security by the Ministry of Public Security of the Federal District and the OHCHR Human Rights Indicators Framework was incorporated in the National Programme for Human Rights 2014-2018, launched in June. Furthermore, OHCHR participated in the definition of indicators for the post-2015 development agenda, specifically a set of indicators for the peace, security and justice component, following an invitation issued by the Mexican Government. As a result of the Office's technical advice, the Government decided to produce indicators with human rights and equality perspectives and promote the disaggregation of data by sex, age, ethnic origin and various vulnerability factors. Indicators are also being implemented in the states of Coahuila, Oaxaca and Queretaro to monitor the advancement of human rights issues.

- *An increasing number of local states have eliminated the figure of arraigo from legislation and the federal law and the laws of an increasing number of states include the definition of enforced disappearance and torture in accordance with international standards (EA 1)*

In March, the Supreme Court declared that any appeal against the figure of *arraigo* in Mexican states must be directly accepted by federal judges and that rulings must recognize *arraigo* as unconstitutional. OHCHR submitted an opinion paper to the Supreme Court on the international human rights standards applicable to the subject, which were taken into account in the Court's judgment. Since the adoption of federal legislation criminalizing enforced disappearance in 2002, 26 of Mexico's 32 states have adopted similar legislation in their criminal codes. Out of the six states that have not yet amended their criminal codes, Baja California Sur is working on a new penal code which includes enforced disappearance in line with international standards. OHCHR is providing ongoing advice to these states through key government officials.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *Legislation in compliance with international human rights standards adopted on the right to consultation of indigenous peoples; and the rights to food and water (EA 1)*

OHCHR provided a legal brief to the Supreme Court in an emblematic case related to the right to water. Elements of the brief were included in an historical sentence which indicated the minimum quantity of water a person needs in order to enjoy her or his right to water. The ruling added to the general debate on the importance of a general law on the right to water. Regarding the federal law on the right of indigenous peoples to consultation, the Office engaged with the Commission for Dialogue with Indigenous Peoples at the Ministry of the Interior, which is in charge of preparing a draft law on this right and has provided examples of similar laws from countries in the region.

- *Paradigmatic human rights cases raised by OHCHR, including those relating to violations of economic, social and cultural rights, and the right of indigenous peoples to consultation and free, prior and informed consent, receive a positive response from authorities (EA 3)*

Through its monitoring work, OHCHR documented 12 cases of violations of economic, social and cultural rights, including violations to the right to free, prior and informed consent. Authorities provided a positive response in six of those cases.

The cases focused on the right to consultation and consent regarding the development of projects which require the use of water, exploitation of gas and the building of waste disposal sites. In all of the cases, OHCHR met with community actors, including indigenous peoples, as well as government authorities, to document the cases and raise human rights concerns.

Widening the democratic space

- *Legislation on freedom of expression adopted in compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

In 2014, four Mexican states amended their criminal codes to remove honour offences. In addition, OHCHR conducted several missions to these states to meet with local stakeholders in order to advocate for legal reforms to promote freedom of expression.

- *Paradigmatic human rights cases raised by OHCHR result in the implementation of protection measures by the Protection Mechanism's Governing Board, when relevant (EA 3)*

Although the National Protection Mechanism had received 131 requests for protection measures as of the beginning of the year, its Governing Board, on which OHCHR sits as a guest with a voice but no vote, had only dealt with 40 cases due to structural problems. The NGO Freedom House subsequently presented a proposal to help overcome delays, mostly related to risk analysis. When the proposal was implemented at the end of November, the delays were reduced and the National Protection Mechanism was able to analyze more than 120 cases and approve security measures for journalists and human rights defenders. OHCHR supported Freedom House with information on the workings of the Mechanism and suggestions.



OHCHR staff meet with relatives of disappeared persons in Ayotzinapa, Mexico.

Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity

- *Legislation on the use of force, military jurisdiction, victims' rights and asylum-seekers adopted in compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

In June, a significant amendment to the Military Justice Code was approved to reduce the scope of military jurisdiction. The bill removed all human rights violations against civilians allegedly perpetrated by military personnel from military jurisdiction. Although the amendment did not fully comply with international human rights standards (since human rights violations committed against military personnel by military personnel continue to be under military jurisdiction), it was an important step in respecting the right to a fair trial and combating impunity. OHCHR was closely involved in the amendment and met with key congressmen, participated in hearings, provided technical advice and submitted legal briefs on relevant human rights standards. The bill on asylum-seekers has been pending since the Human Rights Constitutional Reform in 2011. OHCHR and UNHCR met with key parliamentarians and prepared a brief on international standards related to refugees and asylum-seekers. While the Senate approved the bill, taking into account the recommendations submitted by OHCHR and UNHCR, the Chamber of Deputies has not taken any action since it received the draft in 2013.

- *Establishment of a national mechanism to search for disappeared and missing persons (EA 3)*
As of the end of 2014, a national mechanism to search for disappeared and missing persons had not been established, a comprehensive national register of disappeared persons was not in place and the National Protocol for the Search of Missing Persons was still under construction. OHCHR provided authorities with technical assistance on how to typify the crime of enforced disappearance and in order to promote the establishment of search mechanisms. The Office also undertook numerous efforts to publically raise the issue of enforced disappearance, including through press releases, declarations in the media, participation in fora and commemorative activities and the elaboration and dissemination of relevant materials. The year was also marked by emblematic cases of grave human rights violations in Mexico, namely the

disappearance of 43 students from Ayotzinapa, Guerrero and extrajudicial killings that occurred during a military operation in Tlatlaya, Mexico. OHCHR engaged with Mexican authorities who swiftly responded to requests for information and access to detainees.

Mexico: Expenditure in 2014

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	1,740,930
Consultants	-	29,912
Official travel	-	97,775
Contractual services	-	22,570
General operating expenses	-	135,126
Supplies and materials	-	87,630
Seminars, grants and contributions	-	9,653
Subtotal	-	2,123,596
Programme support costs	-	276,067
GRAND TOTAL	-	2,399,663

According to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, each State Party shall take appropriate steps to address the legal situation of disappeared persons, whose fate has not been clarified, and that of their relatives, including in relation to social welfare, financial matters, family law and property rights. In Mexico, without particular provisions to address the practical consequences of a person's disappearance, the disappeared persons and their relatives are left in legal limbo and often a presumption of death provision is applied. This imposes a burden on relatives.

To remedy this situation in the state of Coahuila, families of victims, NGOs and authorities came together in an unprecedented exercise to develop the necessary legal tools to combat the terrible scourge of forced disappearances in their state. Following a series of workshops, fora and discussions, and with technical support from OHCHR, the *Declaration of absence due to enforced disappearance*, was approved.

Regional Offices

Regional Office for Central America (Panama City, Panama)

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2014	8
Expenditure in 2014	US\$1,014,560

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Increased ratification of international human rights instruments, especially the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and an increased number of declarations under article 14 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EA 2)*
In May, Costa Rica ratified the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Regional Office had advocated for many years with both the executive and legislative branches regarding its ratification.
- *Establish fully functioning participatory standing national coordinating bodies in some of the countries covered by the Regional Office and strengthening the existing bodies in Costa Rica and Panama to report/reply to individual communications and enquiries; integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms (EA 6)*
In Belize, the Government decided that because the ad hoc collaboration between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other Ministries to follow up on recommendations of international mechanisms was working well, a new inter-institutional mechanism was unnecessary. In El Salvador, the Regional Office advocated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the establishment of an inter-institutional coordinating mechanism, with the participation of civil society, in accordance with two recommendations received by El Salvador during its second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review. The mechanism has not been established. In Costa Rica and Panama, following the 2014 elections, the Regional Office coordinated with the new authorities to support the inter-institutional mechanisms in both countries.



The OHCHR Representative for Central America presents the Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women to the Attorney General of Panama.

- *Increased number of civil society organizations, national human rights institutions and UN entities making substantial submissions to the international human rights mechanisms (EA 7)*
In El Salvador, out of the 12 submissions made by NGOs to the second cycle of the UPR, four were from NGOs trained by OHCHR. Furthermore, the representatives of LGBTI persons that attended the OHCHR training participated in advocacy trips to Geneva prior to the UPR session. The Office also facilitated the formation of thematic alliances between civil society organizations that had not previously worked together in relation to the submission of parallel reports to three treaty bodies in 2014, namely the Committee on Migrant Workers, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The organizations included those working on migrant rights, Afro-descendant organizations, representatives of indigenous peoples, organizations working on land and water issues, women's organizations and LGBTI associations. In Panama, as a result of trainings delivered by the Regional Office to UN agencies and a wide range of NGOs, several individual and joint contributions were submitted for the second cycle of the UPR, including the first contribution from indigenous authorities. In addition, two communications were sent to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Three national human rights institutions in the region have units or programmes to combat racial discrimination in compliance with international standards (EA 4)*
In El Salvador and Nicaragua, the Regional Office worked to strengthen the capacities of

the national human rights institutions (NHRIs) to address cases of racism and racial discrimination by training more than 50 NHRI officers on how to implement the intervention protocol for cases of racial discrimination. The Regional Office developed the protocol in collaboration with the NHRIs.

► *Enhanced engagement of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants in mechanisms and fora for political dialogue in the region (EA 5)*

In 2014, the dialogue processes between indigenous peoples and the Governments of Costa Rica and Panama were temporarily postponed due to the presidential elections and subsequent change in government in both countries. In Costa Rica, the new Government proposed to revive the round-table established in 2013 and initiate a more inclusive dialogue with all 24 indigenous communities in the country, in line with OHCHR's recommendation. As a first step in facilitating dialogue between indigenous peoples and the new authorities, the Regional Office organized two workshops around the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples during which indigenous peoples had the opportunity to express their concerns to the Vice Minister of the Presidency, responsible for indigenous issues. In the second workshop, indigenous peoples and government authorities established their priorities and agreed on the need to re-launch the dialogue process.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

► *Increased number of consultation processes between States and indigenous peoples in order to obtain the latter's free, prior and informed consent in line with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EA 5)*

As part of its efforts related to ensuring the fulfilment of the rights of indigenous peoples to consultation and free, prior and informed consent, OHCHR increased its engagement with the private sector, particularly as emerging conflicts between the States and indigenous peoples in the region are primarily due to the exploitation of natural resources on the traditional lands of indigenous communities in violation of their rights to consultation and consent. As a result, the Regional Office and the ILO collaborated to launch a pilot project to promote awareness among private companies operating in Central America about the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and ILO Convention No. 169 Concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries. A pilot activity was carried out in Nicaragua with the Private Enterprise Council and



A human rights officer facilitates a workshop with indigenous women of Panama.

similar activities will be implemented in Costa Rica and Panama in 2015.

► *The United Nations Development Group Team for Latin America and Caribbean integrates a human rights-based approach in its support to countries in the context of the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda and implements the Rights Up Front plan of action (EA 11)*

During 2014, the Regional Office and the Regional Human Rights Adviser continued to engage with the Regional United Nations Development Group Team for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNDG LAC) to ensure the integration of human rights in its programmes and activities, including in discussions on the post-2015 development agenda. OHCHR and the Regional Human Rights Adviser also provided support to the elaboration of Common Country Assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (CCA/UNDAFs) in the region, delivering training sessions on the human rights-based approach to members of the Peer Support Group and UNDAF focal points from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Panama and Uruguay.

Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity

► *Measures taken to combat gender-based violence, in particular through the use of the Latin American Model Protocol for the Investigation and Prosecution of Gender-Related Killings of Women (EA 1)*

The Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women, developed by OHCHR and UN Women, was officially released in August. The Model Protocol is a technical and practical instrument aimed at

providing justice officials with guidelines for the effective criminal investigation of violent deaths of women, based on gender, in accordance with the international obligations of States. The Model Protocol was presented by OHCHR at a number of events and meetings in the region with different audiences and these efforts led to the gradual incorporation of the Model Protocol into the curriculum of the Public Ministries and medico-legal departments of forensic medicine in the region. In El Salvador, OHCHR provided technical advice to the Deputy Attorney General and key prosecutors to ensure the appropriate use of the Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-motivated killings of women.

Regional Office for Central America (Panama City, Panama): Expenditure in 2014		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	591,906	189,800
Consultants	13,900	555
Official travel	32,930	16,759
Contractual services	1,963	309
General operating expenses	69,441	28,204
Supplies and materials	5,775	2,000
Seminars, grants and contributions	25,682	3,933
Subtotal	741,597	241,560
Programme support costs	-	31,403
GRAND TOTAL	741,597	272,963

Karla Avelar (38 years old) is a transgendered person from El Salvador. She believes that the organizations focused on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and those focused on human rights in El Salvador need to unite their efforts and bridge the gaps that separate them. "It is necessary," she says, "to strengthen civil society in order to achieve fundamental changes."

Karla is enthusiastic and lives her beliefs by actively participating in discussions about how to document cases of discrimination and violence according to international human rights instruments. Karla knows how important it is to report cases that affect her community. As a transgendered human rights activist, she has come a long way despite her previous experiences of violence and discrimination. Although she once felt that she had no rights, she now defends those rights with passion. At the age 9, she suffered her first rape at the hands of a family member. At 10, she was threatened with death and forced to abandon school. She experienced extreme poverty, sexual exploitation,

abuse and threats from gangs and financially sustained herself as a sex worker. One day, tired of the outrageous actions to which she had been subjected for many years, she decided to defend herself. She vented her rage and ended up in jail. "In 1998, I was shot nine times for refusing to pay the rent to the gangs," essentially an extortion payment. Her injuries required that she be hospitalized. When she woke up from a coma, she was told that she was HIV positive. Shocked and afraid, she refused to accept the diagnosis.

In 2000, she was sentenced to serve out a prison term, during which she was raped, beaten and humiliated. When she was freed, nearly dying due to her illness, she decided it was time to change. That was when she began a personal process of transformation which gave rise to an activist and human rights advocate for the rights of transgender persons. "It helped lay the foundations for the NGO Aspidh Arcoiris, a local organization that works for the defence of the rights of the transgendered." She also joined forces with two other transgendered women and created an association

of transgender persons who live with HIV. "I never imagined achieving everything I have done. I have friends, a healthier lifestyle, I travel. I never thought I would fight to defend my rights and have them respected," she says. Despite the experiences in my life, there are people who believe in me. Today's change is real and I work doing what I love to do," she added.

In 2014, a new era began for Karla. She began working closely with the OHCHR Regional Office for Central America and took part in several of the Office's activities in El Salvador. "Collaborating with OHCHR opens up opportunities; it provides recognition for the work done and challenges faced by grassroots organizations." Karla was one of the most prominent figures of the local Free & Equal campaign in El Salvador that was launched on 10 December 2014. The campaign was a joint collaborative effort by OHCHR, the national human rights institution and the UN system in El Salvador. She also actively participated in the human rights training focused on documentation that was organized by OHCHR, the NHRI and civil society organizations.

Regional Office for South America (Santiago, Chile)

Year established	2009
Staff as of 31 December 2014	10
Expenditure in 2014	US\$1,430,217

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *At least one international human rights treaty and five optional protocols are ratified (EA 2)*

In October, the Argentine Senate approved the ratification of the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure. The Regional Office for South America issued a fact sheet on the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and held high-level meetings in Chile and trainings on gender and human rights to promote its ratification. The National Congress of Chile is considering ratification.

- *Improved timely submission of treaty bodies and national reports to the Universal Periodic Review in compliance with the reporting guidelines (EA 6)*

As a result of two regional workshops organized by the OHCHR Regional Office in Argentina and Peru for the Directors of Human Rights from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice and Human Rights, new strategies and methodologies are being developed in relation to the implementation of recommendations issued by the Universal Periodic Review. OHCHR also elaborated, in partnership with the Chilean NHRI, a set of human rights indicators to monitor Chile's compliance with the recommendations emanating from the Human Rights Committee regarding Chile's most recent periodic report to the Committee. The Regional Office held several meetings with representatives of the Government to discuss the indicators and with civil society representatives for the validation of the indicators.

- *Civil society organizations and national human rights institutions, when applicable, make substantive submissions to the human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela (EA 7)*

As part of its efforts to promote the use of the individual complaints procedures, the Regional Office compiled the views adopted by the treaty bodies on cases related to the six countries covered by the Office. This compilation will



The Secretary-General, together with the President of Peru, launched Peru's National Plan of Action for Human Rights Education, December 2014.

be published on the website of the Office. The Office also held workshops to promote the use of individual complaints procedures by NGOs and civil society organizations in Argentina and Brazil. Furthermore, trainings addressed to vulnerable groups (i.e., indigenous peoples in Chile and Argentina; persons with disabilities in Chile; migrants in Peru) included information on strategic litigation and the use of international human rights mechanisms to denounce human rights violations.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Improved legislative and policy anti-discrimination frameworks in all countries in the region (EA 4)*

In Peru, high-level meetings were held with Peruvian officials to discuss the reasons for the removal of the section related to the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons in the National Human Rights Plan and to advocate for the promotion and protection of their rights.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Official curricula for the judiciary incorporates the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights in at least three countries (EA 1)*

For the third consecutive year, the Regional Office helped to organize human rights courses for students at the Judicial Academy of Chile and for judges from all regions in Chile. The courses included modules on the application of international human rights standards, the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights, as well as other topics. The Judicial Academy agreed to integrate the substance of

the courses into the official curricula for future judges. In Peru, although the Regional Office has held several courses for students of the Judicial Academy, the Academy has not reviewed the curricula to ensure the inclusion of a permanent human rights component.

- ▶ *National Preventive Mechanisms against torture are functioning in conformity with international human rights standards in at least three countries (EA 3)*

The Regional Office actively promoted the establishment and functioning of National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) in accordance with international human rights standards in all countries of the region that have ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. It has done so by undertaking a variety of activities, including issuing a publication on NPMs in Latin America with the Association for the Prevention of Torture. The publication provides a comparative analysis of NPMs from the region as well as information on their structure, composition and coordination with civil society actors. The publication was widely distributed to relevant State officials, NPMs and civil society actors from the region during a regional seminar convened in October by the Association for the Prevention of Torture in Panama. Since September, the Regional Office collaborated with various entities in Chile, including the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of the Presidency, the NHRI and the University of Chile, to hold working group discussions on the establishment of an NPM. In Argentina and Brazil, the Office enhanced the capacity of NPMs at the State and federal levels to function in compliance with international human rights standards by undertaking country missions to meet with relevant authorities and civil society members. In Peru, the Congress passed legislation designating the NHRI as the NPM in December. The Regional Office previously advocated for the adoption of the draft law through various high-level meetings, seminars and in letters and position papers addressed to the Congress. At the request of the Congress, the Regional Office provided legal advice on the draft law.

Integrating Human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela incorporate a human rights-based approach (EA 11)*

In Chile, the Government signed the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2015-2018. The UNDAF applied the main principles of a human rights-based approach and included some UPR recommendations as clear goals and indicators of various outcomes. The UNDAF also included an annex with the main recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms relating to each specific national priority. This represents the first UNDAF in the region which explicitly included the recommendations issued by human rights mechanisms as a part of the main document signed by the Government. The Regional Office actively participated in its drafting and advised the United Nations Country Team on the human rights-based approach.

Regional Office for South America (Santiago, Chile): Expenditure in 2014		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	712,441	232,503
Consultants	-	100,697
Official travel	10,200	85,603
Contractual services	-	14,866
General operating expenses	119,500	25,864
Supplies and materials	8,400	26,374
Seminars, grants and contributions	30,600	-
Subtotal	881,141	485,908
Programme support costs	-	63,168
GRAND TOTAL	881,141	549,076



Members of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice meet with the President of Chile.

Human Rights Component in a UN Peace Mission

United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

Year established	2004
Staff as of 31 December 2014	44

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Fully functioning and effective participatory standing national coordinating body on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms (EA 6)*

Through its participation in the Interministerial Committee for Human Rights, the Human Rights Section (HRS) of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) contributed to the finalization and submission of the State Party report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which also took into consideration the views of civil society. In addition, the Universal Periodic Review midterm report was prepared in consultation with civil society at a national workshop supported by the HRS and was subsequently submitted to the Human Rights Council in May. A number of UPR recommendations were implemented in 2014, including the entry into force of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the signing of the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance and the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance in June; and the promulgation of the Laws on Trafficking in Persons and on Paternity, Maternity and Filiation.

- *Positive response to requests of special procedures mandate-holders to visit the country (EA 6)*
- In 2014, the Government of Haiti accepted two requests for visits by special procedures mandate-holders. The Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons visited Haiti from 29 June to 5 July and the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti visited the country from 15 to 22 July.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Increased openness to recognizing equal treatment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and to discussing legislation for the recognition of their rights (EA 1)*

Members of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) groups in several regions approached the HRS with cases of alleged violations of their rights, leading to reporting and advocacy activities undertaken by the Office. Earlier in the year, the HRS initiated collaboration programmes with NGOs working on the rights of LGBTI persons to increase their capacity in relation to monitoring, investigating and reporting human rights violations. The HRS also facilitated contacts between LGBTI persons and national human rights actors, including the Minister Delegate for Human Rights, the Interministerial Committee for Human Rights and with police and justice representatives. This contributed to the beginning of a dialogue between Government and LGBTI representatives.

- *Protection measures for persons living with disabilities enshrined in national legislation (EA 4)*

On 4 April, the Government established an interministerial monitoring committee with regard to disabilities. The committee will work to ensure coordination and harmonization of and follow-up to public policies in support of the full integration of persons with disabilities. The HRS collaborated with the Office of the Secretary of State for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities on the drafting of two bills: one for the establishment of a solidarity fund for persons with disabilities and another related to the amendment of the Labor Code to incorporate provisions on the integration of persons with disabilities. The bills have not yet been submitted to Parliament.



Human rights publications distributed during a public event organized by MINUSTAH to mark Human Rights Day in Port-au-Prince, December 2014.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *The next Integrated Strategic Framework or United Nations Development Assistance Framework fully integrates human rights standards and principles (EA 11)*

The Integrated Strategic Framework (ISF) underwent a thorough revision in 2014. Its matrix for 2015-2016 was revised with the support of the HRS through its participation in the regular meetings of the United Nations Country Team. As of the end of 2014, the draft ISF was nearly ready for sharing with the Government. The HRS was part of ongoing discussions on the transition of the UN presence in Haiti from a large peacekeeping mission to a smaller office, including through the transfer of key programme responsibilities to the Government, UNCT and civil society.

Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity

- *Humanitarian and human rights protection is mainstreamed into the response of the Department for Protection of Civilians to natural disasters so that potential access to aid is commensurate and adapted to the specific vulnerabilities of victims/beneficiaries (EA 3)*

The 2014 flooding showed that although appropriate protection mechanisms are in place in Haiti, there is also a need to institutionalize the functions of the departmental protection focal points, who currently belong to several public institutions and contribute to the protection work on a voluntary basis. With the support of the HRS, the Global Protection Cluster conducted a week-long training in September on coordinating tools for focal points from nine of Haiti's 10 departments. The HRS also carried out two-day consultations with protection focal points in nine departments and ensured that the rights of persons with disabilities were integrated into their work plans.

- *Protection efforts of the UN and international NGOs are well coordinated following the transition from the Protection Cluster system (EA 11)*

As a result of coordination within the Protection Cluster, an agreement was reached between the National Identification Office, the IOM and the Organization of American States to ensure mobile voter registration units were functioning in the most populated internally displaced persons camps to promote greater participation in the next elections. Special consultation meetings were held with the Humanitarian Country Team and Cluster members on the closure of the Protection Cluster in December.

- *Special UN Security Operations planning increasingly takes human rights and rule of law concerns into account (EA 11)*

OHCHR took part in a UN mission deployed to MINUSTAH in May to review existing mechanisms that are in place to share information on alleged human rights abuses between MINUSTAH components and for the implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy. Following the mission, standard operating procedures for the military, police and human rights components of MINUSTAH regarding information sharing and actions to prevent and respond to human rights violations were signed and issued by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in Haiti in December. They will be rolled out to all UN military and police units in 2015.

In October 2014, Haiti made its first appearance before the Human Rights Committee. The Government ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 1991, but its first report was not submitted until 2012. A nine-member delegation, led by the Minister Delegate for Human Rights and the Fight against Extreme Poverty, made the trip to Geneva to attend the Committee's session on 9 and 10 October. A key part of the reporting process is the participation of civil society, however, in many cases, representatives are unable to attend the meetings as a result of financial limitations. In this regard, and as part of an overall objective to increase civil society's engagement with the international human rights treaty bodies, OHCHR approached embassies in Port-au-Prince, seeking support for NGO representatives to travel to Geneva. As a result of positive responses from Switzerland and the United Kingdom, four NGO leaders received funding to spend an intensive week of learning in Geneva. They joined two other NGO representatives who were supported by the Centre for Civil and Political Rights and together, the six representatives made a robust delegation. In Geneva, they met with Committee members for a short briefing session and also attended the official hearing. According to one of the participants, "NGO participation in Geneva was crucial to understanding the examination process and to see the reaction of the Committee members and the Haitian delegation. [...] The presence of NGOs surprised the Haitian delegation and they were obliged to take our attendance into account, which we believe had an impact on their answers to the Committee."

Human Rights Advisers in United Nations Country Teams

Dominican Republic

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2014	1

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Establishment of a participatory standing national coordinating body on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms (EA 6)*

In February, State institutions and civil society organizations from the Dominican Republic participated in the country's second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review. OHCHR and UNDP enabled the participation of civil society organizations by providing advice and facilitating training. Many of these organizations also submitted individual and joint reports. Furthermore, the Human Rights Adviser, who arrived in August 2014, collaborated with key civil society organizations to create a permanent coordination mechanism in late 2014. The objective of the mechanism is to strengthen the capacities of civil society organizations and improve their coordination, including with different UN agencies and the Government, in order to facilitate the implementation of recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms. In addition, a mechanism was launched on 10 December to engage the Government and civil society organizations in dialogue related to the development of a national human rights plan.



Commemoration of Human Rights Day in the Dominican Republic, December 2014.

Ecuador

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2014	- (The field presence closed in March 2015)

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Mechanism for integrated reporting and implementation of recommendations is in place and functioning (EA 6)*

In 2014, the Human Rights Adviser (HRA) promoted the establishment of a coordinating body during meetings with the Ministry of Justice and advised on the human and financial resources needed for the mechanism, including other actors such as the Office of the Ombudsman and civil society representatives. The HRA contributed to the development of an information system (SIDERECHOS), launched on 10 December, which contains a search engine of constitutional and international standards applicable to the 73 rights guaranteed in the Constitution; maintains national human rights reports dating back to 1971; facilitates information sharing for the preparation of State reports for regional and international human rights mechanisms; and facilitates the monitoring of the implementation of recommendations received by Ecuador.

- *Increased number of substantive submissions to international human rights mechanisms by civil society actors (EA 7)*

The HRA facilitated the participation of civil society organizations in the drafting process of two State Party reports for the Committee on Enforced Disappearances and the Committee against Torture. The HRA also held a number of training activities to increase the interaction of these organizations with the human rights mechanisms.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *The National Human Rights Institution, Ministries of Health and Education, the Constitutional Court, the judiciary and the National Assembly developed policies in compliance with human rights standards to protect the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (EA 4)*
- A public policy on the rights of LGBTI persons was developed by an interministerial task force and its approval and implementation is planned for 2015. The HRA supported the drafting process by conducting an analysis of the normative framework on LGBTI rights and designing and

implementing a methodology to enhance the participation of civil society organizations in the development of the policy. As a member of the task force, the HRA supported the development of an online training course on LGBTI rights addressed to public servants. In addition, OHCHR launched UN's Free & Equal campaign through an event co-organized with the UNCT, the Ministries of Public Health and of Justice, Human Rights and Religious Affairs, the Office of the Ombudsman, the Quito Municipality and various civil society organizations. Representatives of the above-mentioned institutions signed a joint declaration that called on each signing party to strengthen its efforts to eradicate discrimination and violence faced by LGTBI persons.

- *The National Human Rights Institution, the Ministry of Defence, the national police, the judiciary and the Constitutional Court improved their compliance with international human rights standards (EA 4)*

The HRA worked with the Ministry of Environment, staff of the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD) and NGOs for the inclusion of the right to free, prior and informed consent as part of the domestic regulations to approve REDD+ projects in Ecuador (i.e., projects working on deforestation and forest degradation issues, including the sustainable management of forests).

In coordination with the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Religious Affairs, the HRA produced a manual for training on collective rights addressed to the NHRI, the national police and the armed forces. The validation and implementation of the manual is planned for 2015.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *Public policies on economic, social and cultural rights are formulated, monitored and evaluated in line with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

In keeping with advice provided by the HRA, the Strategy for Inclusion and Equality in relation to the policy on Superior Education included international human rights standards on education, disabilities, gender and collective rights. Training modules were designed to facilitate the implementation of the policy and will be implemented in 2015.

- *UNCT substantially incorporates a human rights-based approach into the analysis, design, implementation and monitoring of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (EA 11)*

The UNDAF 2014-2017, signed by the Government, includes work on sensitive human rights issues such as civil society participation, violence against women and countering discrimination. The HRA was part of the UNDAF reference group and provided technical assistance on a human rights-based approach throughout the drafting process.

Honduras

Year established	2010
Staff as of 31 December 2014	1

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Increased number of substantive submissions to the human rights mechanisms by national human rights institutions and civil society organizations (EA 7)*

In 2014, two parallel reports were submitted by two Afro-Honduran organizations to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Furthermore, the HRA delivered a training session, in June, to representatives of 17 civil society organizations on the elaboration of stakeholder reports for the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review. In total, 18 UPR reports from local NGOs and the national human rights institution were submitted to the Human Rights Council.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *A National Plan against Racial Discrimination is in place and implemented by the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Hondurans (EA 4)*
- After conducting a second round of consultations with the nine indigenous and Afro-Honduran communities of the country, the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Hondurans finalized the draft national policy against racism and racial discrimination and presented it on the occasion of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples on 9 August. The Government has not yet considered the Policy for its approval.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Human rights included in the curricula of training programmes for judges, prosecutors and penitentiary personnel (EA 1)*

A total of 90 judges, prosecutors and public defenders successfully completed the Diploma on Human Rights and National and International Protection Mechanisms, delivered by the HRA in cooperation with the University for Peace. In addition, a total of 173 people completed the Diploma on the Prevention of Torture and Protection of Human Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty, designed by the HRA. This included individuals from the Attorney General's Office, the National Penitentiary Institute, the Transition Commission for the Penitentiary System, the Ombudsman's Office, the National Preventive Mechanism and civil society organizations.

Widening the democratic space

- *A protection mechanism for human rights defenders and journalists is in place (EA 3)*
The National Congress reviewed the bill on the protection of human rights defenders, journalists, social communicators and justice operators, but its final approval is on hold until financial resources are identified and allocated for the creation of a protection mechanism. The HRA provided advice to and advocated with the National Congress on the proposed bill.

Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity

- *Special Attorney's Office for Women duly investigates cases of sexual and gender-based violence in compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)*
The HRA, in cooperation with UNDP, designed and delivered a manual on conducting investigations to the Special Attorney's Office for Women. Training of prosecutors is still needed in order to ensure that the manual is efficiently used.
- *Human rights included in the curricula of training programmes for public security forces (EA 1)*
While the academic programme of a diploma in human rights and international humanitarian law was designed by the HRA for the Honduras Defence University, its implementation did not take place before the end of the year.

Jamaica

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2014	1

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Establishment of a participatory standing national coordinating body on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms and timely submission of reports to treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review (EA 6)*
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade agreed to establish a database to systematically follow-up on the recommendations issued by the UPR, human rights treaty bodies and special procedures. With the support of the HRA, a project to work on a pilot database will be implemented in 2015.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Human rights-based approach incorporated into the National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS (EA 4)*
The HRA was deployed during the final stages of discussion on the Integrated Sexual Reproductive Health and HIV Programme (2014-2019). Nevertheless, through UNAIDS and UNDP, the HRA provided comments to the version that was made available in September. The Programme has not yet been adopted by the Ministry of Health.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *Common country programming documents, namely the 2012-2016 and 2017-2021 United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, developed and implemented in line with a human rights-based approach (EA 11)*
At the meeting of the UNDAF Steering Committee, the Resident Coordinator announced the creation of a UN joint programme on human rights that will be implemented in 2015. In addition, the HRA contributed to the increased knowledge of members of the UNCT by facilitating two training activities that focused on the Human Rights Up Front initiative, a human rights-based approach and human rights indicators.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *Action plan prepared for the establishment of a national human rights institution (EA 1)*

The UNCT implemented a programme to support the creation of a national human rights institution. The HRA provided guidance to the UNCT on the international standards in relation to NHRIs.

Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity

- ▶ *Commission of inquiry is established and functioning in line with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

The Commission of Inquiry held the first public hearings on 1 December. Additional hearings will be held until April 2015. The HRA was involved in the preparation of UNDP's project on Citizen Security and Social Cohesion in Jamaica, provided assistance to the Commission of Inquiry and submitted inputs in relation to the Commission's strategy document. Moreover, the HRA participated in the organization of a workshop in October that was targeted to the media and outlined a communication strategy to disseminate information on the work, processes and results of the Commission.

Paraguay

Year established	2010
Staff as of 31 December 2014	2

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Increased compliance and engagement of the State in the follow-up to international recommendations (EA 6)*

With the technical support of the HRA, the executive, legislative and judicial branches, the Attorney General and the Ombudsman collaborated to develop an inter-institutional mechanism to follow up, monitor and report on the recommendations issued by the regional and international human rights mechanisms in relation to Paraguay. As a result of this process, an online recommendations reporting system (SIMORE) was developed to allow for the uploading of recommendations received by Paraguay and to provide information on follow-up to their implementation, including on State institutions in charge of implementation, relevant policies and programmes and related actions, indicators and challenges. SIMORE was previously used by the Government to prepare and submit a midterm report to the UPR and a State Party report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.



Judges participate at an OHCHR workshop for the development of fair trial indicators in Paraguay, July 2014.

- ▶ *Civil society supports participatory mechanisms to enhance equality and counter discrimination, particularly against indigenous peoples, women, persons with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (EA 7)*
In 2014, at least 11 reports were submitted by NGOs to the human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR, representing a significant increase over 2013 when seven reports were submitted. In addition, a shadow report was submitted to the Committee on Enforced Disappearances by the Coordinator for Human Rights in Paraguay (CODEHUPY), a national network of human rights organizations. The HRA provided assistance to the network with the preparation of their submission and to other NGOs in their submissions to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The HRA carried out several training activities for NGOs on various human rights topics, including the use of regional and international human rights mechanisms. It should also be noted that SIMORE was used by NGOs as a reference tool to evaluate the State's implementation of its international commitments and in particular by CODEHUPY for the preparation of its annual report regarding the human rights situation in Paraguay.
- ▶ *Enhanced systematic engagement by the United Nations Country Team with international human rights mechanisms (EA 11)*
Under the coordination of the HRA, the UNCT prepared and submitted a report to CESCR in the context of the country's review by the Committee. The UNCT approved its 2014 work plan, which prioritized advocacy on and follow-up to the implementation of recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms. The HRA also assisted with the integration of a human rights-based approach in the UNDAF 2015-2019, which was subsequently approved by the Government.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- ▶ *Legislation and policies against all forms of discrimination increasingly comply with international standards, particularly in relation to women, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (EA 4)*
The UNCT and the HRA advocated for the approval of legislation prohibiting all forms of discrimination. Although the draft was rejected by the Parliament, the holding of a public discussion on the issue after many years of drafting could be considered as a positive step.
- ▶ *Civil society supports participatory mechanisms to enhance equality and counter discrimination,*

particularly against indigenous peoples, women, persons with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (EA 5)
With the technical advice of the HRA, CODEHUPY and Panambi, an NGO working on the rights of transgender persons, prepared collaborative work plans and awareness-raising campaigns on issues relating to discrimination and human rights. The Adviser also provided support to Panambi in preparing a draft law on gender identity. Furthermore, the HRA worked with the UNCT and civil society organizations to launch the campaign, *DH, desde 1948. Son para protegerte (Human Rights, since 1948. They are there to protect you)*. The campaign partnered with the art, fashion and human rights communities in order to widely promote a culture of human rights among the population. Clothing products, featuring designs related to 13 human rights, were produced by well-known local artists and distributed to more than 4,000 persons who took short human rights tests at the itinerant stores that were opened for the campaign. The initiative was widely broadcast in the local media.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Functioning protection and accountability mechanisms to prevent and monitor the investigation of allegations of torture and ill-treatment and violations of the rights of persons deprived of their liberty (EA 3)*
Advice was provided by OHCHR for the design of a tool to compile information on the situation of persons deprived of their liberty, following a specific recommendation from the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The tool has not yet been reviewed or approved by the relevant authorities.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *Policies, particularly of the National Secretariat for the human rights of people with disabilities, the Paraguay Indigenous Institute and the Ministry of Education increasingly respect, protect and guarantee human rights standards (EA 1)*
In coordination with the Paraguay Indigenous Institute, the HRA organized a series of meetings with indigenous leaders from 19 communities to discuss and agree on proposals relating to land, governance and free, prior and informed consultation. The proposals were subsequently shared with relevant State authorities. Additionally, the first public policy on the rights of persons with disabilities is under development, in consultation with civil society and persons

with disabilities and with the technical support of OHCHR.

► *Increased participation in public life of women and discriminated groups, particularly indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities (EA 5)*

With the technical support of the HRA, women and discriminated groups increased their participation in policy design and public life. For example, as a result of discussions held with the Paraguay Indigenous Institute, indigenous leaders presented State authorities with proposals

on land, free, prior and informed consultation and governance. These interactions also led to the design of a protocol to ensure their full and active participation in the implementation of social policies on poverty eradication that have been approved by the Secretary for Social Action. Furthermore, as members of the National Commission on Disabilities, persons with disabilities are now fully involved in the preparation of the country's first public policy on the rights of persons with disabilities.

Many people in Paraguay are unaware of the general concept of human rights. To overcome this obstacle, OHCHR paired up with a number of civil society organizations and launched a creative awareness-raising campaign called *DH, desde 1948. Son para protegerte (Human Rights, since 1948. They are there to protect you)* that combined art, fashion and human rights messages.

More specifically, the campaign kicked off with the release of a limited collection of clothing products that featured designs related to human rights issues that were created by

well-known local artists. The clothes were on display at a pop-up store and on a webpage that was specifically designed for the campaign (available at derechoshumanos.org.py), but were not for sale. Instead, they were distributed to approximately 4,000 individuals who participated in short human rights tests.

Television and radio spots and social media postings were also used to promote the campaign. The spots highlighted the personal experiences of various individuals who had claimed their rights, including in relation to the right to a fair trial for

victims of gender-based violence, the right to freedom of expression and the right to education. In addition, local celebrities, artists and journalists joined the campaign to help disseminate the human rights messages through the media and their social networks. After Human Rights Day, when all of the clothing had been distributed, the campaign released a final spot with the message: *El stock es limitado, pero tus derechos son para siempre* (The stock is limited, but your rights are forever).



Promotional material developed for the awareness-raising campaign.