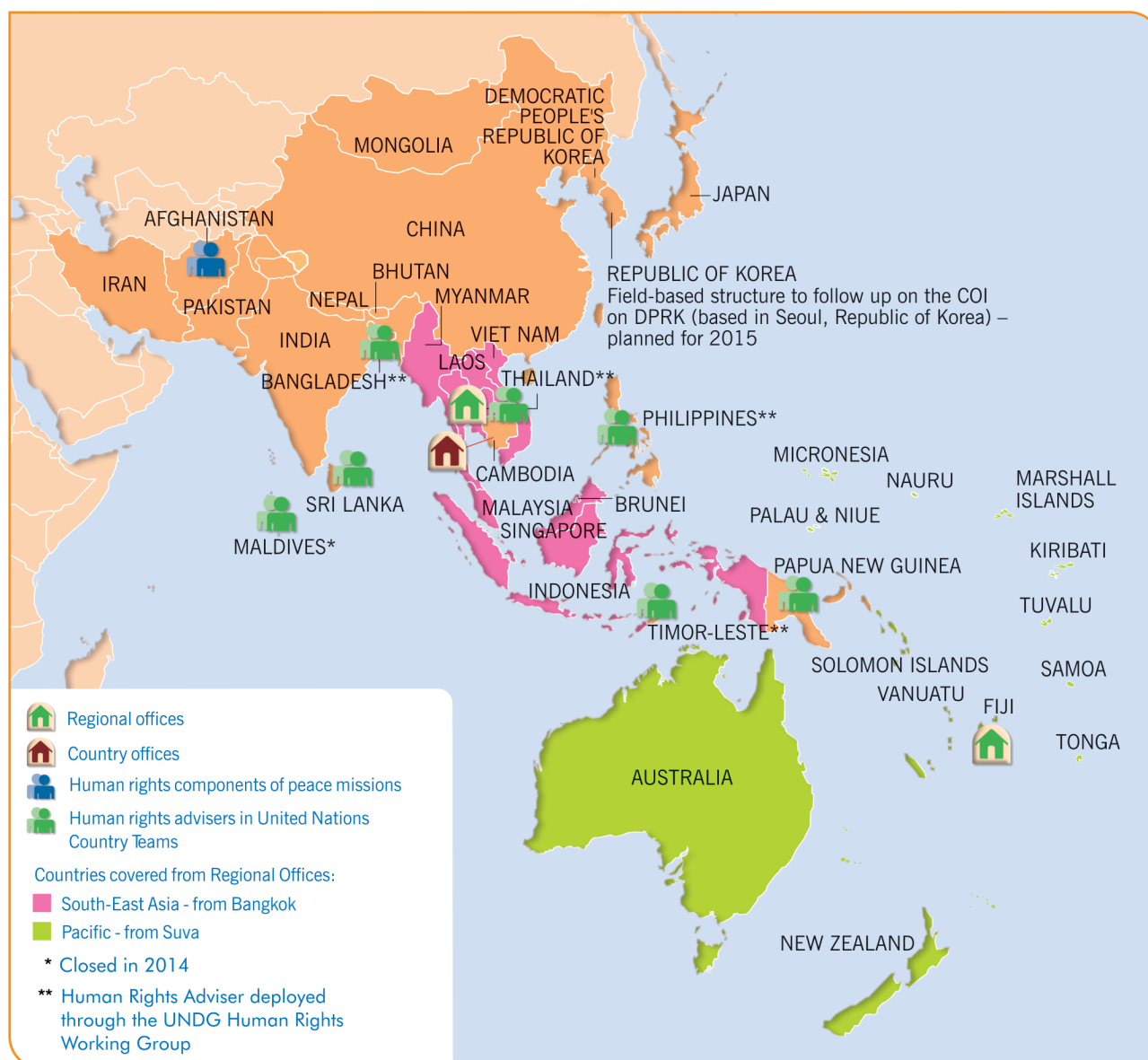


OHCHR in the field: Asia and the Pacific



Type of presence	Location
Country office	● Cambodia
Regional offices	● Pacific (Suva, Fiji) ● South-East Asia (Bangkok, Thailand)
Human rights component in UN Peace Mission	● Afghanistan (UNAMA)
Human rights advisers in United Nations Country Teams	● Bangladesh** ● Maldives* ● Papua New Guinea ● Philippines** ● Sri Lanka ● Thailand (UNDG Regional Human Rights Adviser for Asia-Pacific)** ● Timor-Leste**

* Closed in 2014

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

In 2014, OHCHR actively worked towards the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asia-Pacific region. A number of significant human rights challenges were present in several countries, including the protracted human rights crisis in Rakhine state in Myanmar; mass demonstrations in Cambodia and Hong Kong; the military coup and its aftermath in Thailand; the increasing toll on civilian lives resulting from the conflict in Afghanistan and terrorist and sectarian violence in Pakistan; and unresolved issues of accountability for past abuses in Nepal and Sri Lanka. Elections were successfully held in Fiji, ending nearly a decade of military government and a national unity government emerged in Afghanistan. Several countries introduced restrictions to the application

of the death penalty, but the number of executions increased in other countries. In many instances, governmental attempts to stem the cross-regional movement of irregular migrants and asylum-seekers included refoulement, detention and offshore processing schemes, particularly in Australia and the Pacific.

OHCHR supported the special procedures country mandates established by the Human Rights Council on Cambodia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Iran and Myanmar. A major focus was placed on the follow-up to the Commission of Inquiry on human rights in the DPRK, which reported to the Human Rights Council in March, and its recommendation for the establishment of a field-based structure for ongoing work on the DPRK. The structure will be opened in Seoul, Republic of Korea, in 2015. The situation in the DPRK was discussed for the first time in the Security Council in December. Furthermore, OHCHR initiated an investigation on past violations in Sri Lanka as mandated by the Human Rights Council in March and continued its existing activities to provide follow-up to the recommendations made in previous reports of the Council.

OHCHR maintained 11 field presences in Asia and the Pacific: two regional offices (the Pacific and South-East Asia); one country office (Cambodia); seven human rights advisers within United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) (Bangladesh⁴, Maldives⁴, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines⁴, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste⁴ and a United Nations Development Group (UNDG) regional human rights adviser for Asia-Pacific based in Bangkok⁴); and one human rights component within a UN peace mission (Afghanistan). Although the post of Human Rights Adviser in the Maldives was discontinued during 2014, OHCHR provided increased support to UNCTs in the region, including through the deployment of new human rights advisers and ongoing assistance extended to the UNCT in Nepal on human rights mainstreaming. OHCHR also prepared the ground for the establishment of the field-based structure in Seoul and undertook long-term mission deployments of field staff in Myanmar and the Philippines (as part of the humanitarian response to Typhoon Haiyan).

The Deputy High Commissioner visited Cambodia in May.

Country Office

Cambodia

Year established	1993
Staff as of 31 December 2014	26
Expenditure in 2014	US\$2,321,892

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and at least one other individual communications procedure ratified (EA 2)*
In 2014, the Government accepted a number of recommendations issued by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Nonetheless, the interministerial working group in charge of preparing for the ratification did not convene during the year.
- ▶ *The Cambodian Human Rights Committee coordinates the implementation of the 2014 UPR and the 2015 Human Rights Committee recommendations (EA 6)*
In November, the Cambodian Human Rights Committee and OHCHR convened a national workshop to disseminate the UPR recommendations among governmental entities, members of the UNCT and NGOs. At the workshop, the Committee led a process whereby responsible government entities were identified for the implementation of each recommendation.
- ▶ *Civil society organizations and UN entities, in particular UN Women and UNICEF, submit reports to treaty bodies, including the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Committee against Torture, and use the individual complaints procedure of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (EA 7)*
For the first time, the UNCT made a joint submission to a treaty body, namely the Human Rights Committee, in anticipation of the adoption of the list of issues related to Cambodia's second periodic report. The submission was prepared by the newly established Human Rights Theme Group, which is currently chaired by OHCHR. At least eight submissions were also made to

⁴ Deployed through the UNDG Human Rights Working Group.

the Human Rights Committee by civil society organizations.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

► *All prisons under the authority of the Ministry of Interior improve compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

During monitoring visits to several prisons, OHCHR witnessed an improvement in the treatment of prisoners. In partnership with the General Department of Prisons, OHCHR contributed to the improvement of detention conditions through, inter alia, the upgrading of water and sanitation infrastructure and the distribution of hygiene supplies. The General Department of Prisons and OHCHR also worked together to ensure better respect for the right to health of prisoners, including through the creation of secure rooms in several provincial hospitals. Furthermore, the General Department of Prisons adopted a five-year Strategic Plan for 2014-2018 which incorporated OHCHR's comments.

► *Improved compliance of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Criminal Code, the Law on the Bar Association and the Juvenile Justice Law with international human rights standards relating to legislation (EA 1)*

Despite sustained advocacy undertaken by OHCHR, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia, the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges, development partners and civil society organizations, the Government did not make public the final drafts of the three fundamental laws on the judiciary until they were presented to the National Assembly, which adopted them in May. Some of the comments submitted by OHCHR were incorporated in the final draft of the law on the organization of courts. Little progress was made on the revision of the Law on the Bar Association as the Working Group only convened once, in July. On the Code of Criminal Procedure, OHCHR and the Ministry of Justice organized a series of five round-tables with judges, prosecutors and lawyers in various provinces and collected inputs for possible amendments. The Ministry of Justice made sustained efforts to reform the pre-trial detention process, most notably by requiring judges to provide reasoning in decisions when defendants are remanded to pre-trial detention. Most judges and prosecutors, both in Phnom Penh and the provinces, are now familiar with this new requirement.

► *The Lawyers Training Centre and the Cambodia Royal Academy for Judicial Professions include a human rights training module focusing on fair*

trial rights (EA 1)

OHCHR, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and the Bar Association collaborated to develop a compulsory human rights course for all trainee lawyers. In November, the course was delivered to the 2014 class of trainee lawyers by OHCHR, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute and trainers from the Lawyers Training Centre. With regard to the Cambodia Royal Academy for Judicial Professions, the President of the Academy agreed that OHCHR and the Institute could organize a human rights course for the next group of trainee judges which will be recruited in the summer of 2015. He suggested that the same course could be organized for a group of current judges from all courts in the spring of 2015.

► *A National Preventive Mechanism against torture is established and functioning to monitor places of detention in compliance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (EA 3)*

Following advocacy undertaken by OHCHR and the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture during their visit in December 2013, the Government of Cambodia recognized the shortcomings in the current governmental body in charge of preventing torture. Nevertheless, it has not committed to establishing an independent mechanism in accordance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT). In fact, most recommendations pertaining to such a mechanism were deferred by the Government during the second cycle of the UPR in relation to Cambodia.

► *Allegations of torture and ill-treatment by the police, including military police, are promptly investigated and where confirmed, appropriate action is taken by police chiefs and prosecutors (EA 3)*

Following a series of targeted training sessions and the dissemination of materials, prosecutors and police officers, especially in north-west provinces, are now aware of international standards on torture and ill-treatment. A number of prosecutors, together with OHCHR, conducted their first visits to district police stations and conducted regular visits to prisons in all provinces of Cambodia. Allegations of torture and ill-treatment by the police, however, are not systematically taken up by prosecutors. In one case involving three men who had allegedly been ill-treated by the police following their arrest, OHCHR contacted a lawyer who was willing to take the case to court and followed up with the



OHCHR staff members visit an indigenous group in Areng Valley, Koh Kong Province, Cambodia.

Prosecutor. The case was prosecuted and the relevant police officers were eventually found guilty, although on less serious charges. This is an important breakthrough which will hopefully lead to the prosecution of more cases.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *Relevant institutions, namely the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Rural Development, apply human rights principles and standards in handling land issues (EA 1)*

The Government established two joint working groups to coordinate efforts between different ministries in relation to issues of law enforcement on economic land concessions, natural resource management and the creation of a State land database. Together with development partners and civil society organizations, the Office has advocated for many years on the increased coordination of government institutions on these issues. While the issuing of land titles was not consistently implemented by the Government in 2014, the working groups are a positive step in

dealing with problems related to economic land concessions and the alleged illegal occupation of State land. In addition, a new National Housing Policy was adopted in 2014 which focused on providing tenure security and adequate housing for poor and middle-income families. The Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction established a General Department on Housing to work with the Ministry of Interior to implement the policy. Through its participation in the Technical Working Group on Land, OHCHR worked with different ministries to advocate for compliance with international human rights standards in the design and implementation of policies and programmes on land, housing and natural resources. It also advocated for holding ministries to account on the Joint Monitoring Indicators in accordance with the National Strategic Development Plan.

- *Existing dispute resolution mechanisms, including the courts, improve their compliance with human rights standards in handling land issues (EA 3)*
- The existing dispute resolution mechanisms, including the courts, were inconsistent in their handling of land issues and operated without transparency and with limited accountability. The courts generally prioritized claims filed by

influential business owners and large companies involved in land disputes over those filed at the same time by poor communities. Those claims were routinely ignored. Land rights activists faced physical threats, intimidation and imprisonment and there was an increase in the number of violent forced evictions of individuals, families and communities in 2014. OHCHR monitored and intervened in demonstrations and protests related to land and housing in order to prevent violence, seek a negotiated outcome and secure the release of individuals who had been arbitrarily detained. OHCHR also engaged in the facilitation of dialogue, court monitoring and provision of legal advice to communities.

- ▶ *Rights-holders meaningfully participate in the design of public policy related to land and housing and the management of natural resources (EA 5)*
With the support of OHCHR, minority groups, including representatives of indigenous and informal communities from urban and rural areas, participated in two public consultation workshops on the new draft law on environmental impact assessment. The Office also worked to improve the participation of women in selected public processes and promote women's rights to land, tenure security and adequate housing. In November, OHCHR distributed the Khmer language translation of the OHCHR publication, entitled *Women and the Right to Adequate Housing*. In December, OHCHR organized a regional workshop on women's human rights defenders working on land-related human rights issues and collaborated with UN Women to consult with female housing rights activists and victims of forced evictions on women's right to adequate housing. OHCHR also provided indigenous communities with technical assistance on achieving communal land titles and joined advocacy efforts for the promotion of indigenous land rights. In March, an indigenous Por community filed its application for communal land title with the General Department of Cadastre and Geography and in April, three indigenous Suoy communities filed applications for communal land titles. For more than two years, OHCHR worked with the communities, the Ministry of Rural Development, the Ministry of Interior, the ILO and civil society partners to complete the various stages of legal registration and develop the community applications for communal land titles.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *Improved compliance with international human rights standards of legislation in the areas of freedom of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association (EA 1)*

OHCHR participated in a number of meetings on the draft trade union law and advocated with the Ministry of Labour, in coordination with ILO, for the revision of the draft to ensure its compliance with international human rights standards on freedom of association. A new draft has not yet been released.

- ▶ *Subnational government use of human rights standards and principles in applying the Law on peaceful demonstrations (EA 1)*

Subnational authorities are increasingly aware of their duties under the Law on peaceful demonstrations. OHCHR and the Ministry of Interior co-published a pocket-sized information card that was widely distributed. Furthermore, OHCHR and the Ministry of Interior agreed to co-organize a series of provincial dialogues between subnational authorities and civil society organizations on the freedoms of assembly and expression. The first dialogue took place in Monduliri in December. During 2014, OHCHR monitored demonstrations throughout the country to ensure that the Law on peaceful demonstrations was applied in accordance with international standards.

- ▶ *Civil society organizations substantially reinforce their own protection system (EA 3)*

Civil society organizations in Cambodia are well organized and work closely with OHCHR on a number of issues. On several occasions, OHCHR helped coordinate their interventions to address specific situations, increased the capacity of new organizations working on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons and of journalists by training them on human rights monitoring and fact-finding.

Cambodia: Expenditure in 2014

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	1,058,411	407,405
Consultants	-	67,094
Official travel	5,200	62,762
Contractual services	4,988	131,380
General operating expenses	141,335	13,480
Supplies and materials	41,297	94,020
Seminars, grants and contributions	2,900	168,780
Subtotal	1,254,130	944,922
Programme support costs	-	122,840
GRAND TOTAL	1,254,130	1,067,762

For nearly two months, a group of eight Vietnamese Montagnards had been living in the forest of north-eastern Cambodia. When approached by OHCHR to determine why they had crossed the border into Cambodia, one of the individuals responded, "To apply for asylum. We are treated badly for practicing our religion." They also indicated they were in hiding because they were afraid of being arrested and deported back to Viet Nam. Montagnards are a loose denomination of approximately 30 ethnic tribes facing persecution in Viet Nam because of their religious beliefs.

The journey to find the Montagnards was a long and complicated process that required considerable diplomatic assistance as well as physical stamina. OHCHR and colleagues from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees spent weeks trying to negotiate with central and provincial authorities who insisted that the joint mission to find the group required special authorization to enter the area in

question. Local security forces also created obstacles for the mission, including by blocking the roads leading into the woods where the group was believed to be hiding, preventing them from being found. After many delays, a meeting finally took place with a provincial governor who continued to insist that the mission required authorization in order to proceed. At the same time, sources were reporting that the health situation was becoming precarious for many members of the group, including due to the possible contraction of dengue fever and malaria. The police roadblock was also limiting their ability to obtain food from nearby villages.

Despite these setbacks, OHCHR and officials from the Cambodian Ministry of the Interior stayed on. They let it be known through the media, NGOs and villagers that the team was ready to assist the Montagnards if they presented themselves. Through an anonymous phone call, they learned that the first group of eight would come

forward at a certain time and place. The second group of five took longer since they had been apprehended by the provincial police and were being held at a police station. They were eventually turned over to the joint team. The Montagnards are now with the Refugee Department of the Ministry of Interior and UNHCR has made arrangements for their accommodation.

When the OHCHR representative was asked why it had taken so much time and effort to retrieve 13 people from the forest in Cambodia, she responded that there was a real fear for their safety if they were deported back to Viet Nam. The representative also noted that the situation provides a concrete example for provincial officials who may be tempted to deport asylum-seekers before fully understanding their intentions, which happens from time to time. It therefore also serves to remind provincial officials that they too must abide by international human rights law.

Regional Offices

Regional Office for South-East Asia (Bangkok, Thailand)

Year established	2002
Staff as of 31 December 2014	16
Expenditure in 2014	US\$1,774,700

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment by Indonesia and Thailand; and of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman*

or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights or the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by Myanmar (EA 2)

In preparation for Thailand's first review under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), the Regional Office provided technical support to the Government. The review of Thailand's initial report by the Committee against Torture was successfully conducted and a number of key issues were raised by Committee experts, including ratification of the Optional Protocol to CAT (OP-CAT).

On 28 November, the National Assembly of Viet Nam decided to ratify CAT and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Viet Nam is now party to seven core international human rights treaties and has one of the highest rates of treaty ratification in the subregion. OHCHR contributed to this result through its advocacy for more ratification



An OHCHR team visits a Trang community in Thailand to discuss their human rights in relation to land and housing, November 2014.

by countries of the subregion.

In January, the Government of Myanmar informed OHCHR of its intention to ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), CAT and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (OP-CRC-AC). OHCHR contributed to the enhanced awareness of government authorities and parliamentarians on the ratification of core treaties, notably through discussions with Members of Parliament, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC). In particular, a treaty ratification workshop was organized, in July, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on CAT, ICESCR and the OP-CRC-AC.

- ▶ *Increased engagement with special procedures by civil society actors in Brunei Darussalam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Myanmar and Singapore (EA 7)*
The Regional Office for South-East Asia held two training sessions on the UN human rights mechanisms for civil society in Lao PDR, both of which included the participation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As a result, civil society actors enhanced their knowledge of the mechanisms and were encouraged to increase their level of engagement. For example, at the 2010 Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Lao PDR, only one of the 14 submissions received from civil society organizations came from an organization based in Lao PDR. Yet in the preparation for the second

cycle of the UPR, scheduled to take place in 2015, 17 submissions came from civil society organizations, including four joint submissions which involved 41 organizations from Lao PDR.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- ▶ *Legislation and policies are increasingly in compliance with international standards relating to discrimination against women and racial and religious minorities in Myanmar (EA 4)*
OHCHR advocated with legislative and executive authorities to contribute to an increased understanding within the Government and Parliament in Myanmar regarding the need to adopt legislation in compliance with international standards. As part of the United Nations Country Team, the Office supported technical analysis and developed advocacy strategies on four proposed bills relating to religious conversion, interfaith marriage, monogamy and population. All four bills were made publically available at the end of the year and are expected to be tabled in Parliament in 2015.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Countries in the region abolish the death penalty or increase the compliance of relevant legislation and policies with international standards, particularly in relation to the reduction in the number and scope of the crimes covered (EA 1)*
The Office continued to document mandatory

death penalty cases in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Viet Nam. In Malaysia, in response to the imminent execution of two individuals, the Regional Office sent two letters to the Government requesting that the executions be halted. Both executions were temporarily halted and no executions took place in 2014. The Attorney General's Chambers in Malaysia is conducting research on the application of the mandatory death penalty which could form the basis for the development of appropriate policy on this issue.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *Human rights issues related to land and natural resources, along with recommendations for increased compliance with international standards in Southeast Asia, are raised in international fora (EA 10)*

The Regional Office increased its capacity to engage on land and human rights issues, including through the preparation of a region-wide publication, which will contribute to related advocacy in 2015-2017.

- ▶ *UN entities apply a human rights-based approach to programmes in Myanmar (EA 11)*

The United Nations Development Group Asia-Pacific agreed to postpone the next United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) cycle for Myanmar until 2017 and the UNCT developed a Repositioning Strategy for the interim period, which was finalized in November. OHCHR advocated for the integration of human rights in UN programmes and participated in UNCT meetings, resulting in the identification of human rights as one of the four pillars for the Repositioning Strategy. OHCHR also chaired the UNCT's Human Rights Theme Group and actively participated in the Humanitarian Country Team through which the Office increased the awareness of UNCT members on human rights principles and standards.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *Legislation on the registration of associations and freedom of assembly and on the media, notably in relation to printing and publishing, is brought into compliance with international human rights standards in Myanmar (EA 1)*

Following advocacy efforts undertaken by OHCHR, the Law on the Right to Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession was amended in June. While prison sentences related to unauthorized demonstrations were reduced, concerns remain regarding the de facto requirement to obtain permission from authorities for the holding of an assembly as well as other

aspects of the Law. OHCHR prepared a briefing note with recommendations which will be shared with the authorities in 2015 in order to encourage further dialogue on the matter. On 20 July, the President signed a new Law relating to the Registration of Associations/Organizations. Although the new Law is less problematic than the Law on the Right to Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession, areas of concern remain and are in need of revision. The drafting process, which OHCHR advocated for and contributed to was acknowledged as one of the most consultative processes in Myanmar's legislative history.

- ▶ *A new, independent national human rights institution (NHRI) is established and progressively working in conformity with international standards in Myanmar (EA 1)*

On 28 March, the Law on the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission was adopted by the Union Parliament and signed by the President and on 5 April, the Law was published. The new Law provides the MNHRC with a broad mandate to undertake promotion and protection activities, although it could be improved with provisions to ensure that the selection and appointment of commissioners is a more open and transparent process. OHCHR contributed to the drafting of the Law and supported efforts by civil society and other partners to promote compliance with the Paris Principles. The Office also facilitated training on international human rights protection mechanisms for all new staff members of the MNHRC and engaged all staff members in its capacity-development trainings for civil society in order to create better synergies between national stakeholders.

- ▶ *Human rights defenders in the subregion use national protection systems to initiate credible State investigations and prosecutions, particularly*



Workshop on human rights treaty bodies jointly organized by OHCHR, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ombudsman's Office in Myanmar, July 2014.

in emblematic cases or for the release of human rights defenders from custody (EA 5)

In Viet Nam, the Regional Office collected and verified information about human rights defenders at risk, which resulted in three communications that were sent by the special procedures and a press release that was issued by the Office.

In both Malaysia and the Philippines, the Regional Office documented cases of violence against human rights defenders. The Office issued press releases on these cases and the special procedures sent an urgent appeal to the Government of Malaysia and three communications to the Government of the Philippines.

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

- *UN entities in the region apply a human rights-based approach to policing and prosecution of sexual violence; humanitarian operations and international responses to situations of violence and conflict (EA 11)*

As part of the response to Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, the Office advocated for the integration of human rights and protection issues and standards in the UN and the Government's responses to the natural disaster, including in relation to housing and land rights, arbitrary detention and indigenous peoples. OHCHR also cooperated with the Commission on Human Rights to address the loss of detainee records during the typhoon. The Office was a prominent member of the Protection Cluster and co-led the Cluster in two locations.

Regional Office for South-East Asia (Bangkok, Thailand): Expenditure in 2014

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	798,675	569,110
Consultants	-	20,136
Official travel	14,427	58,972
Contractual services	198	18,299
General operating expenses	64,494	23,512
Supplies and materials	14,782	34,104
Seminars, grants and contributions	3,738	53,200
Subtotal	896,314	777,332
Programme support costs	-	101,053
GRAND TOTAL	896,314	878,386

On 8 November 2013, Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippines, impacting the lives of almost 10 million people. Since then, OHCHR has deployed 10 staff members to support the UN's response.

The administration of justice is an issue that is often overlooked in the aftermath of a natural disaster. In this regard, OHCHR and the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHRP) have been working together to highlight this important issue. For example, court buildings and places of detention were severely hit in a number of cities. Courtrooms, offices, files and equipment were destroyed, impacting on the right to a speedy and fair trial. After the destruction of a number of prisons, some inmates were moved to different jails without adequate access to their families, lawyers or medical care. In other instances, files were destroyed or lost and individuals who had been arrested or detained before the typhoon could not be properly processed.

In an attempt to deal with these problems, OHCHR and the CHRP organized a round-table, at the end of April 2014, focusing on the administration of justice. Participants included representatives of the judiciary, the police, the Public Attorney's Office and the Office of the Prosecutor, the Bureau of Jail and Penology Management and the Warden of Leyte province. They discussed the impact of the typhoon on the administration of justice and proposed recommendations that would reduce the likelihood of similarly devastating consequences in the future. Specific recommendations were made in relation to case backlogs, including the situation of 12 inmates, who have been held in police detention since the typhoon struck in November 2013.

As a result of this joint effort, the legal limbo was ended for detainees with lost or destroyed records. If the records of a detainee were not found, and no new charges were laid against that person, that person was released. A new regulation was also adopted that provides guidelines on rewarding the good conduct of persons in detention during natural disasters and calamities.

Regional Office for the Pacific (Suva, Fiji)

Year established	2005
Staff as of 31 December 2014	7
Expenditure in 2014	US\$842,924

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Increased engagement with international human rights mechanisms, including through the establishment of national coordination bodies to support national reporting and the implementation of recommendations, the use of a common core document approach, participation in the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review and acceptance of visit requests by special procedures mandate-holders (EA 6)*

In relation to the establishment of national coordination bodies, some positive developments were reported in the region. In Palau, a Reporting Committee was established in May. The Committee is composed of Ministers and supported by a Human Rights Working Group and other relevant stakeholders and is mandated to ensure compliance with reporting obligations. In Vanuatu, the National Human Rights Committee was established in June and includes representatives of the Government and civil society organizations. The Committee is tasked with advising the Government on the ratification of treaties and the compliance and reporting obligations related to ratified treaties. A national human rights coordination committee was established in Kiribati which is mandated to assist with the mainstreaming of human rights standards within Government ministries.

At the invitation of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), the Regional Office for the Pacific participated in a training seminar that was held in February for governmental human rights focal points from five Pacific countries. The Regional Office and UN Women delivered a joint presentation on common core documents and as a result, participating countries began drafting their common core documents, some of which will soon be ready for submission. Regarding the Universal Periodic Review, OHCHR organized five consultations in partnership with the PIFS and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in Kiribati, Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru and Solomon Islands. The participating governments were consequently more prepared for the second cycle of the UPR. In addition, the

Government of Kiribati undertook a commitment to draft its report instead of hiring an external consultant as previously planned. Another significant development was the launch of Vanuatu's National Implementation Plan for the implementation of the recommendations issued during the second cycle of the UPR.

In relation to visits undertaken by special procedures mandate-holders, the Human Rights Adviser in Papua New Guinea (PNG) worked closely with the PNG Department of Foreign Affairs to facilitate the official visit of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions in March. The Regional Office for the Pacific supported the visit in March of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention to New Zealand while the Working Group's visit to Nauru was postponed at the request of the Government.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Abolishment or moratorium on the death penalty in Papua New Guinea (EA 1)*

On 13 November, the Human Rights Adviser in PNG participated in a public forum on the death penalty hosted by the Constitutional Law Reform Commission. This represented the first opportunity for public discussion on the issue following the 2013 legal reforms. The Adviser distributed a briefing note on the UN's position on the death penalty and subsequently submitted a briefing note to the Constitutional Law Reform Commission on the death penalty and PNG's relevant international human rights commitments and obligations. In addition, the Human Rights Adviser worked with the Resident Coordinator on the release of two media statements calling for the abolition of the death penalty. The statements were referenced in an opinion piece of one of the major newspapers in PNG.

- *Emblematic sorcery-related killings in Papua New Guinea are thoroughly investigated and addressed through due legal processes (EA 3)*

The National Action Plan on Sorcery Accusation-Related Violence was finalized in December and the Department of Justice and Attorney General will submit the Plan to Cabinet in 2015. The Human Rights Adviser in PNG contributed to the Plan's development by engaging with the Committee Against Sorcery Accusation-Related Violence, which is led by the Department of Justice and Attorney General and includes representatives of NGOs and academic institutions. The Human Rights Adviser monitored key cases of violence related to allegations of sorcery and provided advice to victims. Two cases were filed and are being investigated by judicial authorities.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *Residents in certain informal settlements increase the level and quality of their participation in government decisions affecting their right to adequate housing in Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu (EA 5)*

In PNG, the Human Rights Adviser received representatives of settlements in Port Moresby who are facing forced eviction and referred the cases, where possible, to national actors. The Adviser also coordinated the extension of support to these communities with UN-Habitat.

Widening the democratic space

- *A Paris Principles-compliant national human rights institution is established in Fiji, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu (EA 1)*

In PNG, constitutional amendments related to the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) were submitted in October by the Office of the State Solicitor to the National Executive Council for endorsement. Work on the draft law is underway. Throughout the year, the Human Rights Adviser advocated for the establishment of the NHRC during bilateral and multilateral meetings with the Government, through civil society contacts and in ongoing collaborations with the Ombudsman Commission of Papua New Guinea.

Vanuatu took initial steps towards the establishment of a national human rights institution through the creation of a National Human Rights Committee in June, to which OHCHR provided technical assistance.

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

- *National Disaster Management Offices and/or relevant ministries, particularly in Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu and the Pacific Humanitarian Team, integrate human rights into their disaster preparedness and response efforts (EA 11)*

As co-lead of the Pacific Humanitarian Protection Cluster (PHPC) with UNHCR, OHCHR deployed a protection expert to support humanitarian

responses to national disasters who participated in initial assessments in natural disasters in Tonga, in February, and in the Solomon Islands, in May. These missions supported national-led efforts, integrated a protection perspective in Humanitarian Action Plans and strengthened the capacities of national authorities and civil society partners. The PHPC contributed to the adaptation of available tools for use at the national level and provided support to national Clusters and partners in Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

- *Support to United Nations Country Teams for the development of a country-level human rights strategy in Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Samoa (EA 11)*

OHCHR participated in the development of the two-year extension of Papua New Guinea's United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2015-2017, including by leading the Human Rights Task Team and providing technical advice on the integration of human rights in other Clusters. This led to an increased integration of human rights concerns and enhanced the understanding of members of the United Nations Country Team as to how particular human rights issues could be integrated into their programmes.

Regional Office for the Pacific (Suva, Fiji): Expenditure in 2014

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	599,324
Consultants	-	6,060
Official travel	-	58,319
Contractual services	-	103
General operating expenses	-	51,154
Supplies and materials	-	12,862
Seminars, grants and contributions	-	18,139
Subtotal	-	745,963
Programme support costs	-	96,962
GRAND TOTAL	-	842,924

In February 2013, a 20-year-old woman, Kepari Leniata, was publicly tortured and murdered in a crowded market in Mount Hagen, in Western Highlands Province, Papua New Guinea. The torture and killing occurred following accusations that the woman had killed a young boy using sorcery. The killing was widely reported by national and international media and led to a national outcry.

Since the killing, OHCHR has been closely collaborating with national actors to address violence against individuals who are accused of sorcery and witchcraft. Together with Oxfam and government actors, OHCHR provided training to local human rights defenders who are taking steps to protect individuals at risk. The Office also participated in a working group that was led by national actors to develop a National Action Plan to combat sorcery-related violence. The Plan was finalized in December 2014.

Although no one has been held accountable for the killing of Kepari Leniata, an independent inquiry has been established to investigate the case. It is hoped that the inquiry will also encourage significant changes to the way that sorcery-related violence is addressed, including by extending assistance to victims and their families to enable them to rebuild their lives, ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable and requiring that State actors act with due diligence in such cases.



human rights treaty bodies has marginally improved. With the support of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), some progress was made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in its preparations for the initial report of Afghanistan to the Committee against Torture, due to be submitted in early 2015. In January 2014, Afghanistan participated in the Universal Periodic Review and accepted 189 of the 224 recommendations issued by the UPR. In light of the political instability and rising insecurity, however, progress in relation to the implementation of Afghanistan's treaty obligations has been slow. UNAMA will continue to engage with the Government to push for the implementation of these recommendations in 2015.

Human Rights Components in UN Peace Missions

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

Year established	2002
Staff as of 31 December 2014	92

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Submission of pending periodic reports to the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee on the Rights of the Child (EA 6)*
The capacity of the Government to meet its State reporting obligations under the international

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *National police, National Directorate of Security and the Ministry of Interior Affairs observe due process and procedural guarantees for detainees and implement oversight and accountability procedures to prevent the use of torture in their places of detention (EA 1)*

During 2014, UNAMA's monitoring activities were primarily focused on the implementation of Presidential Decree No. 129, issued in 2013, which ordered the National Directorate of Security, the Attorney General's Office, the Ministry of Interior Affairs, the Ministry of Justice and the Supreme Court to investigate allegations of torture, prosecute alleged perpetrators and increase access to defence lawyers and medical personnel by detainees to prevent torture and ensure accountability. UNAMA findings indicate that despite the Decree, torture and ill-treatment of detainees persists in some detention facilities and few allegations of torture have been

investigated, prosecuted or resulted in disciplinary action. Measures taken by the Government, such as the undertaking of internal investigations and the establishment of a team of human rights officers in the National Directorate of Security, have not been robust enough to prevent torture.

- ▶ *Transitional justice mechanisms established and operating in accordance with international human rights standards and good practices (EA 3)* Throughout 2014, UNAMA supported the Afghan People's Dialogue on Peace initiative. The initiative promotes a rights-based approach to peace and reconciliation efforts by enabling ordinary Afghans to express their views on prospects for peace, reconciliation, security, economic development, human rights, justice and the rule of law. UNAMA played a facilitation role and supported the civil society leadership in the process. As an integral part of the initiative, 34 provincial road maps were completed and are now being used as advocacy tools by local civil society groups. UNAMA also assisted with the release of a report on the second phase of the People's Dialogue which summarizes the views of the 4,648 participating Afghan women, men and youth from all 34 provinces and contains a 10-point national road map for peace based on the outcome.

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

- ▶ *Provincial authorities, law enforcement and prosecutors work together to support victims and improve investigations of cases of violence against women to facilitate prosecution. Indicators on the elimination of violence against women are incorporated into the Tokyo Accountability Framework and National Priority Programmes (EA 1)*

UNAMA monitored, reported and advocated on issues related to violence against women and girls. As of November, 302 cases of alleged violence against women had been documented across the country. The data documented ensured the credibility and effectiveness of advocacy efforts and technical assistance vis-à-vis State authorities and was used to emphasize the importance of developing mediation guidelines. Following UNAMA's advocacy, the Government initiated discussions on the use of mediation in cases of violence against women. Furthermore, with the technical support of UNAMA, the Ministry of Women's Affairs held a national conference, in September, which resulted in the establishment of a drafting committee charged with developing detailed instructions for conducting mediations. If implemented, these outputs will strengthen the operationalization



of the Law on Elimination of Violence against Women.

- ▶ *Government policies and regulations related to the protection of civilians, child protection and civilian casualty mitigation are formulated and implemented by all forces in line with national, international humanitarian law and international human rights standards (EA 3)* According to statistics gathered by UNAMA from January to November 2014, the number of civilian deaths and injuries from conflict-related violence increased by 19 per cent compared to the same period in 2013. As a result of this increase, 2014 was marked as the year with more civilian casualties than any other year since UNAMA began compiling statistics in 2008. UNAMA's 2014 Mid-Year Protection of Civilians report received substantial press coverage and helped draw attention to the recommendations which, if implemented, will have a positive impact on the protection of civilians. In addition, as a result of UNAMA's civilian casualty tracking and its subsequent advocacy, the policy of the International Security Assistance Force on the clearance of explosive remnants of war was brought in line with the requirements of international humanitarian law.
- ▶ *UN support to national institutions is in compliance with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (EA 11)* In January, the Minister of Interior Affairs endorsed a Strategy for the integration of women in the police force which focused on creating a protective environment for women employed in the Afghan National Police. Following UNAMA's contribution, the Strategy incorporated the provision of a comprehensive definition of sexual harassment and reinforced its prohibition. Moreover, in March,

UNAMA provided technical assistance to an interministerial commission on the drafting of an action plan to implement the Strategy. Adopted by the Minister of Interior Affairs in August, the action plan outlines measures to improve the participation, protection and professionalization of women in the Afghan National Police. Due to UNAMA's advocacy, the plan includes the establishment of an independent and effective complaints and monitoring unit to investigate misconduct and abuse.

Human Rights Advisers to United Nations Country Teams

Bangladesh

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2014	1

Results

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *Increased use by the United Nations Country Teams of a human rights-based approach to programming (EA 11)*
Following the engagement with the Human Rights Adviser, UNDP applied a human rights-based approach to undertake an internal review of its projects. This approach, coupled with a gender perspective, will also be used at the upcoming United Nations Development Assistance Framework evaluation.

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

- *Increased integration of human rights standards and principles, including the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on UN support to non-UN security forces, into the UN's security policies and programmes (EA 11)*
A standard operating procedure (SOP) on human rights was developed by the Human Rights Adviser and subsequently adopted by the United Nations Country Team. The purpose of the SOP, which includes references to the Due Diligence Policy, is to establish a coherent UNCT approach to human rights.

Republic of the Maldives

Year established	2012
Staff as of 31 December 2014	- (The field presence closed in 2014)

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Implementation of Universal Periodic Review recommendations by the Government (EA 6)*
In January, the Human Rights Coordination Mechanism was established within the Attorney General's Office and in July, was subsequently relocated to the newly created Ministry of Law and Gender. While the Ministry of Foreign Affairs coordinated the submission of the report to the Universal Periodic Review, the Ministry of Law and Gender was mandated to lead the collection of substantive inputs through the identification of human rights focal points in all concerned ministries. In September, the Human Rights Adviser contributed to building the capacity of the staff of the Ministry of Law and Gender by facilitating a training session on the UN human rights mechanisms, including reporting modalities under the second cycle of the UPR.
- *Enhanced systematic engagement by civil society with international human rights mechanisms (EA 7)*
Civil society organizations and the national human rights institution submitted a total of six stakeholder reports for the UPR's second cycle review of the Maldives. The Human Rights Adviser facilitated a workshop for these actors on the UPR process, including on the preparation of stakeholder submissions and the implementation of UPR recommendations. The Adviser also distributed key human rights documents in the local language, including the Practical Guide for Civil Society on the UPR.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Abolition of the death penalty and/or pending abolition, increased compliance with relevant international human rights norms and standards (EA 1)*
In April, the President of the Maldives ratified a regulation that essentially suspends the moratorium on the death penalty, including for minors, which has been in effect for 60 years. The Human Rights Adviser provided regular advice to support the advocacy of the United Nations Country Team regarding the retention

of the moratorium. Furthermore, in support of UNICEF's advocacy activities, the Human Rights Adviser prepared an analytical paper reviewing the obligations of the Maldives under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and highlighted the incompatibility of the regulation with those obligations.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *Increased use by the UNCTs of a human rights-based approach to programming (EA 11)*

The Human Rights Adviser collaborated with the UNCT to support the formulation of the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework by training 25 UN staff, in cooperation with UNEP and UN Women, on the human rights-based approach and its application in development work. The Human Rights Adviser also provided comments to the Common Country Analysis for the 2016-2020 UNDAF which emphasizes the root causes of vulnerabilities and indicates the added value of the response of the UN to the needs of marginalized groups.

Sri Lanka

Year established	2004
Staff as of 31 December 2014	3

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, civil society organizations, human rights defenders and United Nations agencies actively engage with special procedures and follow up on recommendations issued by human rights mechanisms (EA 7)*

The work to promote the increased engagement of NGOs with the UN human rights mechanisms could not be thoroughly implemented, as was the case with most of the activities planned for 2014, since the request to extend the visa of the Human Rights Adviser was denied at the end of March. While some inputs were received from NGOs, it was reported that many of those NGOs in Sri Lanka, who have regularly worked with OHCHR, were under increased surveillance and had received threats in relation to their engagement with the international community on human rights matters. The environment in Sri Lanka

has changed significantly since the elections in January 2015 with an increased interest on the redeployment of a Human Rights Adviser to support the UNCT through 2015.

Timor-Leste

Year established	2013
Staff as of 31 December 2014	1

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Increased engagement with the international human rights mechanisms through the adoption and partial implementation of a national human rights action plan; and the submission of reports to the Universal Periodic Review, the Committee against Torture and other treaty bodies in conformity with reporting guidelines (EA 6)*

Preparations for a national human rights action plan progressed with the establishment in August of a National Directive Commission which was tasked to draft the action plan. The Commission was led by the Ministry of Justice and included representatives from five different ministries and Secretariats of State, the national human rights institution, civil society, religious organizations and the private sector. The Human Rights Adviser, who participates in the Commission as an observer, provided technical assistance regarding its establishment, including membership, as well as on the functioning of the Commission. The Government of Timor-Leste, led by the Ministry of Justice's National Directorate for Human Rights and Citizenship, used the reporting guidelines to prepare its draft initial report under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. As a result of two training sessions conducted by the Human Rights Adviser in February and March, a total of 62 Ministry officials and governmental human rights focal points gained knowledge about the reporting guidelines. In addition, a series of consultations took place as part of the preparations for the report, which included the participation of over 200 government officials, representatives of the NHRI and civil society actors. OHCHR provided technical and financial support for these consultations. The Ministry of Justice has not shared the draft report with the Human Rights Adviser, therefore, it is not known

if the draft is in full compliance with the reporting guidelines.

- *Increased number of substantive submissions to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, special procedures and the Human Rights Council by the NHRI, civil society, individuals and UN entities (EA 7)*

Draft alternative reports were prepared by two NGOs and will be submitted to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 2015. The Human Rights Adviser commented on an initial draft of the alternative report for the CRC while UN Women supported the NGO preparing the report for CEDAW. The Human Rights Adviser also facilitated a number of training sessions on the UN human rights system and the reporting guidelines for representatives of civil society and the NHRI. The Adviser also contributed to a joint submission with ILO and IOM for the Committee on Migrant Workers and suggested questions for its list of issues in relation to Timor-Leste's initial report under the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Human rights, including women's rights and gender equality, have been substantially integrated into law enforcement and defence trainings (EA 1)*

The NHRI launched a manual on human rights for police recruits and officers on Human Rights Day. At the request of the NHRI, the Human Rights Adviser drafted two chapters on the role of police and human rights and on human rights during arrest and detention. The manual was finalized after two workshops, with the participation of the Human Rights Adviser. During the workshops, comments were provided by national police trainers from the Police Training Centre as well as district commanders and other police officers.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *A human rights-based approach is substantially applied by the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (EA 11)*

The 2015-2019 United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which is still awaiting approval, has a strong focus on the inclusion of vulnerable groups and the realization of their rights. In addition, UNDP integrated human

rights analysis, as well as recommendations issued by the UN human rights mechanisms, in a draft document to support the national police. UNDP also made reference to human rights and a human rights-based approach in a proposal for the creation of a governmental land valuation and acquisition mechanism. OHCHR contributed to these outcomes through training and advisory activities. For instance, as a result of a two-day training programme facilitated by the Human Rights Adviser in July, 36 staff members from 10 UN agencies in Timor-Leste gained knowledge about the international human rights system and how to apply a human rights-based approach to programming.

Widening the democratic space

- *Human rights, including women's rights and gender equality, have been substantially integrated into educational curriculum (EA 1)*

Curricula, lesson plans and teaching materials on social sciences for grades 1 and 2 now integrate human rights concerns and approaches, including on gender, disability, respect for diversity, non-discrimination and the protection of children and encourage participatory methods of teaching. At the request of the Ministry of Education, the Human Rights Adviser provided advice on draft lesson plans and teaching materials.

- *The Provedoria (Timor-Leste's National Human Rights Institution) maintains its 'A' status (EA 1)*
- The Provedoria maintained its 'A' status in 2014. With OHCHR support, staff members of the Provedoria increased their knowledge of international human rights standards and enhanced their skills to conduct research on and monitoring of the human rights situation in Timor-Leste. The Human Rights Adviser conducted two training sessions on torture and on economic, social and cultural rights for 47 Provedoria staff members (22 of whom were women). Together with UNDP, the Human Rights Adviser also produced a human rights handbook for the Provedoria and facilitated training sessions on research and data gathering methodologies as well as on the drafting of reports.

Moreover, the Parliament adopted a Law on the media which included several provisions that are not in line with international standards. The United Nations Country Team, with the support of the Human Rights Adviser, prepared and submitted its suggestions on the draft and contributed to the increased awareness of the Parliament and the Office of the President on the international standards relating to freedom of expression.