

# OHCHR's approach to field work

## Background

Supporting the work of human rights field presences is one of the main functions of OHCHR's Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division (FOTCD). The Division, in cooperation with other parts of the Office, oversees activities relating to field operations, including advisory services and technical cooperation.

OHCHR's country-level activities are based on dialogue with national counterparts and focus on the promotion and protection of human rights. To this end, OHCHR works to strengthen national protection systems and supports the implementation of effective remedies to overcome obstacles to the realization of human rights. In particular, OHCHR participates in efforts to establish or strengthen justice and accountability mechanisms at the national level, including through effective monitoring and investigation to ensure the provision of redress for victims of human rights violations. Equally, when OHCHR is required to respond to deteriorating human rights situations, the Office ensures the rapid deployment of monitoring missions or extends additional surge capacity to lend human rights assistance to UN operations on the ground.

As of the end of 2014, OHCHR was running or supporting 66 field presences and providing support to other members of the UN family through rapid deployments. The Human Rights Advisers to United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) in Ecuador, Maldives and Niger were discontinued during 2014 and the field presences in Kosovo<sup>1</sup> and Togo are expected to be closed in 2015. The peace mission in Burundi completed its Security Council mandate and closed down on 31 December 2014. OHCHR intends to open a stand-alone office in Burundi at the request of the local government.

## Types of field presences

OHCHR maintains two types of field presences: stand-alone presences and collaborative arrangements. The first category is composed of country and regional offices which are under the direct supervision of OHCHR. The second category consists of field presences with double reporting

<sup>1</sup> Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.



© UN Photo/Albert González Farran

A group of women in the Kalma IDP camp, South Darfur.

lines, namely human rights components of peace or political missions who report to the Head of the mission and the High Commissioner and human rights advisers who report to the Resident Coordinator and the High Commissioner.

## Country and Stand-alone Offices

OHCHR country and stand-alone offices are established on the basis of a standard agreement between OHCHR and a host government. A mandate typically includes human rights monitoring, protection, technical cooperation activities and public reporting and is tailored to a specific country situation. These offices are primarily funded through voluntary contributions.

OHCHR has 13 country or stand-alone offices which are comprised of 12 country offices in Bolivia, Cambodia, Colombia, Guatemala, Guinea, Mauritania, Mexico, the State of Palestine<sup>2</sup>, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and Yemen and one stand-alone office in Kosovo.

## Regional Offices and Centres

Regional offices are similarly established on the basis of an agreement with a host government and in consultation with other countries in the region. These offices focus on cross-cutting regional human rights issues and support governments in their engagement with the UN human rights mechanisms, including the human rights treaty bodies, the special procedures and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The capacities of the regional offices have been strengthened in order to support efforts undertaken to engage and work with these mechanisms, particularly the treaty monitoring bodies. The regional offices work closely with regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations and civil society. They also complement the expertise of OHCHR country offices by providing support on institutional and thematic issues. In addition to the regional offices, OHCHR has regional centres that are established in accordance with a General Assembly resolution and imbued with a specific mandate. Regional offices and centres are funded by the UN regular budget and voluntary contributions.

OHCHR has 13 regional presences which are comprised of 11 regional offices in East Africa (Addis

Ababa), Southern Africa (Pretoria), West Africa (Dakar), South-East Asia (Bangkok), the Pacific (Suva), the Middle East (Beirut), North Africa (Beirut), Central Asia (Bishkek), Europe (Brussels), Central America (Panama City) and South America (Santiago de Chile), a subregional centre for human rights and democracy for Central Africa (Yaoundé) and a Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha).

## Human Rights Components of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and Special Political Missions

In 2014, as part of its responsibilities to support human rights integration in United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions, OHCHR collaborated with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) and the Department of Field Support (DFS) to work on the mandate reviews, assessments of strategic priorities and mission restructuring exercises of a number of missions. OHCHR also contributed to the conceptualization, planning and staffing of the human rights component of the new peace mission in the Central African Republic and continued to support the strengthening of the UN's human rights capacity to implement peace mission mandates.

OHCHR invested significant efforts regarding the crisis in the Central African Republic and to the transition from a special political mission to a full-fledged peacekeeping operation while also deploying human rights protection and monitoring capacity during the start-up phase of the operation. OHCHR advised on the drafting of the mandate to ensure that protection of human rights was at the core of the priorities of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic. It also worked jointly with DPKO and DFS to plan the operationalization of the mandate and supported the development of the mission strategy on the protection of civilians. OHCHR participated in the mission reconfiguration for the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and in the closure of the United Nations Office in Burundi. Moreover, OHCHR engaged in the DFS-led civilian staffing reviews exercise mandated by Member States for the human rights components of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, MONUSCO and the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and provided assistance with the mandate reviews for MINUSTAH, the United Nations Multidimensional

<sup>2</sup> Reference to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19.

Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), MONUSCO, the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei.

OHCHR contributed to briefings on South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) for Security Council Members of the Informal Expert Group on Protection of Civilians and provided advice on the development or revision of protection of civilian strategies and operations to the United Nations Mission in Liberia, the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, MINUSMA and the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan.

In the course of 2014, 14 UN peace missions maintained a human rights component and incorporated human rights promotion and protection into their mandated work, namely Afghanistan, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Iraq, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan (Darfur). The peace mission in Burundi completed its Security Council mandate and was discontinued on 31 December.

### Human Rights Advisers in United Nations Country Teams

Human rights advisers are deployed at the request of Resident Coordinators on behalf of the United Nations Country Teams or at the request of Regional Teams of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG). Advisers assist the Resident Coordinators, Heads of UN agencies and members of UNCTs to integrate and implement human rights through their programming strategies and their implementation and help build and strengthen national human rights capacities. Other functions include advising and providing training to independent national human rights institutions and other stakeholders; advising State actors on the promotion and protection of human rights and other UN norms and standards; building networks with and providing practical support to civil society actors; providing operational support to human rights training and/or national capacity-building activities; promoting engagement with the international human rights mechanisms; and advising on integrating human rights in humanitarian response and post-crisis recovery processes as applicable.

Human rights advisers are funded through extrabudgetary contributions. In some past instances, cost-sharing agreements were concluded with UNDP or relevant UNCTs and other UN entities at the country level. In 2014, new deployments were

funded through a multi-donor trust fund established under the UNDG's Human Rights Working Group, chaired by OHCHR, to support the implementation of the 2012 UNDG strategy for the deployment of new human rights advisers.

As of 31 December 2014, OHCHR had deployed 26 human rights advisers in Bangladesh<sup>3</sup>, Chad, Dominican Republic<sup>3</sup>, Honduras, Jamaica<sup>3</sup>, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi<sup>3</sup>, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, the Philippines<sup>3</sup>, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Serbia, Sierra Leone<sup>3</sup>, the Southern Caucasus (based in Tbilisi and covering Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia), Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Tanzania<sup>3</sup>, Timor-Leste<sup>3</sup>, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and Zambia<sup>3</sup> as well as for UNDG regional teams in Bangkok<sup>3</sup> and Panama<sup>3</sup>. The posts of Human Rights Adviser in Ecuador, Maldives<sup>3</sup> and Niger were discontinued during 2014.

### Engagement in Humanitarian Action

The Office sustained strong engagement in humanitarian action at the global and field level. This ensured that the protection of human rights was maintained as a central tenet of humanitarian action in line with the UN's Human Rights Up Front Action Plan and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's (IASC) Centrality of Protection in Humanitarian Action agenda.

To this end, OHCHR engaged with relevant policy, strategy, decision-making and operational fora, particularly at the global level, through consistent dialogue with and contribution to the IASC Principals, Working Group and Emergency Directors Group, as well as with Humanitarian Coordinators, Humanitarian Country Teams and Protection Clusters at the field level. Furthermore, OHCHR placed 26 human rights officers at the disposal of the Inter-Agency Rapid Response Mechanism to strengthen the system's operational protection capacity to respond to major crises. With InterAction, OHCHR maintained its co-chair role of the Global Protection Cluster Task Team responsible for facilitating implementation of the IASC Protection Priority, thereby contributing to the roll out of an independent whole-of-system review of protection in humanitarian crises. A key element of the implementation of the OHCHR strategy on engagement in this field included the training of 24 additional staff members on OHCHR's

<sup>3</sup> Deployed through the UNDG Human Rights Working Group.

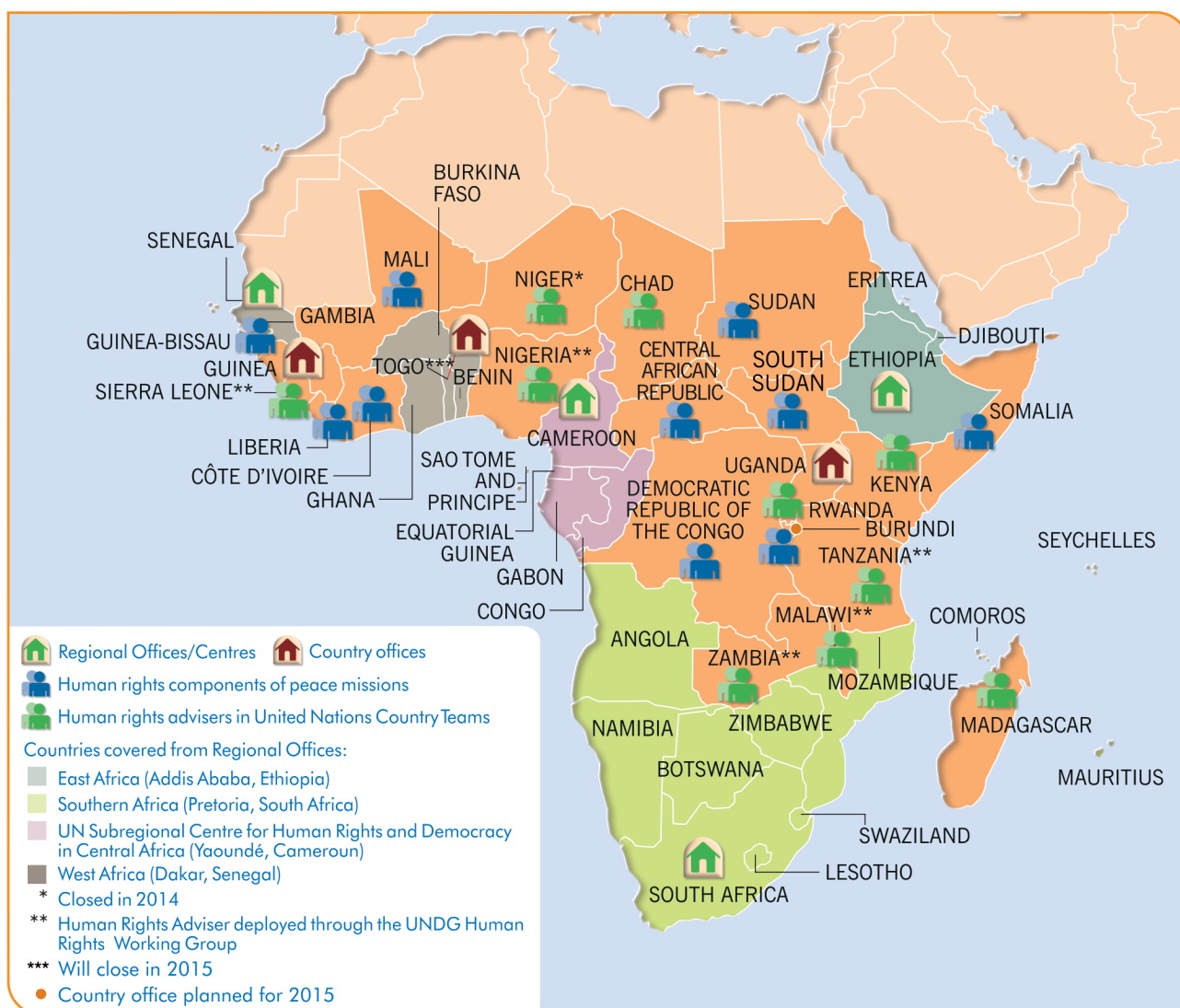
role in humanitarian preparedness and response efforts. A lessons-learned exercise was also initiated to review and build on OHCHR's engagement in the Philippines in the immediate aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan.

The Office's rapid and surge deployments in the context of humanitarian action increased exponentially in 2014, including through missions dispatched to: the Philippines following Typhoon Haiyan; Rakhine State in Myanmar; the Central African Republic in the context of the declaration of the Level 3 crisis; Gaza following the upsurge of conflict in July; Ukraine in support of OHCHR's role as co-chair of the protection sector and its broader engagement in humanitarian efforts; Mauritania in

support of OHCHR's lead role of the protection sector; and Lebanon in support of OHCHR's protection engagement relevant to the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic. In addition to maintaining its Protection Cluster lead role in Haiti, Palestine, and the Pacific (as co-lead with UNHCR), OHCHR maintained leadership of two regional Protection Clusters in the Philippines in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan and in Liberia in the context of the Ebola crisis. In 2014, OHCHR accessed humanitarian pooled funds (i.e., the Central Emergency Response Fund and the Emergency Response Fund) for engagement in Mauritania, Myanmar, Ukraine and Yemen; and obtained funding from bilateral sources for its engagement in humanitarian action in Palestine and Syria.



# OHCHR in the field: Africa



Type of presence	Location
Country offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guinea</li> <li>Togo***</li> <li>Uganda</li> </ul>
Regional offices and centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central Africa (Yaoundé, Cameroon)</li> <li>East Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)</li> <li>Southern Africa (Pretoria, South Africa)</li> <li>West Africa (Dakar, Senegal)</li> </ul>
Human rights components in UN Peace Missions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Burundi (BNUB)*</li> <li>Central African Republic (MINUSCA)</li> <li>Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI)</li> <li>Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)</li> <li>Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS)</li> <li>Liberia (UNMIL)</li> <li>Mali (MINUSMA)</li> <li>Somalia (UNSOM)</li> <li>South Sudan (UNMISS)</li> <li>Sudan (UNAMID)</li> </ul>
Human rights advisers in United Nations Country Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chad</li> <li>Kenya</li> <li>Madagascar</li> <li>Malawi**</li> <li>Niger*</li> <li>Nigeria**</li> <li>Rwanda</li> <li>Sierra Leone**</li> <li>Tanzania**</li> <li>Zambia**</li> </ul>

\* Closed in 2014

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

\*\*\* Will close in 2015

In 2014, Africa saw continued political and social change, coupled with steady economic growth in many parts of the continent. The African Union (AU) continued to play an active role most notably in peacekeeping in the Central African Republic, Darfur and Somalia. Africa also faced numerous challenges in 2014, including the Ebola outbreak which dominated regional and international attention and necessitated immediate response. In addition to the death and human suffering caused, the outbreak severely disrupted key economic sectors and significantly slowed economic growth in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Some countries continued their transition towards democracy, post-conflict reconciliation and State reconstruction. These processes were at times marked by serious violations of human rights and violence, including against women in the context of persistent or emerging armed conflicts, for instance in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan. Certain countries in the region also attempted to

change and revise national constitutions with the aim of preventing democratic political change.

The region also saw an emergence or intensification of local/national conflicts over natural resources, including in relation to the extractive industries as well as land disputes. In some parts of the continent, there was increased concern regarding acts of terrorism, piracy and criminality which often had a regional and transnational impact. Economic, social and human rights factors contributed to increased migration and a growing number of migrants and asylum-seekers lost their lives while trying to cross the Sahara, the Gulf of Aden and the Mediterranean Sea.

In this context, OHCHR continued to support governments, civil society and other actors in their responses to threats to the enjoyment of human rights. One of these efforts included taking steps to increase awareness about the human rights challenges faced by persons with albinism and providing support to civil society organizations to enable their more effective engagement with international and regional human rights mechanisms. As a result, in November 2014, the United Nations General Assembly (upon recommendation of the Human Rights Council) proclaimed 13 June as International Albinism Awareness Day. OHCHR continued to work closely with the AU in the context of peace operations, prevention of conflicts over natural resources and on issues related to business and human rights.

Governments maintained their engagement with OHCHR and the human rights treaty body system. In total, 11 African countries were examined under the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), resulting in more requests for support from governments, United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) and civil society actors.

OHCHR maintained 27 field presences in Africa: four regional offices (Central, East, Southern and West Africa); three country offices (Guinea, Togo and Uganda); 10 human rights advisers within UNCTs (Chad, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Zambia); and 10 human rights components within UN peace missions (Burundi, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan). The post of Human Rights Adviser in Niger was discontinued in 2014 and the peace mission in Burundi completed its Security Council mandate and closed down on 31 December 2014. Human rights work in Burundi will continue through the establishment of a stand-alone human rights office in 2015.

OHCHR deployed human rights officers to contribute to the establishment of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali and is working to reinforce the role of the human rights component based in the Central African Republic to help respond to the crisis. OHCHR also contributed to the design of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel. In 2014, the Security Council created the commissions of inquiry on the Central African Republic and Eritrea, which are supported by OHCHR. Furthermore, OHCHR supports the work of the Independent Experts on the human rights situations in the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Somalia and Sudan, as well as the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea.

The High Commissioner visited the Central African Republic and Nigeria (March) and, at the request of the Secretary-General, South Sudan (April) after the mass killings in Bentiu and Bor. The Deputy High Commissioner visited Togo (February) and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights visited South Sudan (January) and Burundi (June).

## Country Offices

### Guinea (Conakry)

Year established	2010
Staff as of 31 December 2014	16
Expenditure in 2014	US\$2,429,881

## Results

### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms; and submission of reports to treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review (EA 6)*

An interministerial committee for the elaboration of State reports was established and its report to the UPR was prepared and submitted in 2014. OHCHR assisted in the drafting process and provided members of the committee with relevant human rights documentation.



A representative of Guinea's Ministry of Human Rights and Public Liberties speaks at the opening ceremony of an OHCHR event on human rights in the response to the Ebola crisis, December 2014.

### Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Formal learning institutions for gendarmerie and police include a programme for human rights training (EA 1)*

The training modules on human rights for the gendarmerie and the police were drafted and are currently being validated. Their dissemination and institutionalization should take place in 2015.

- *National consultations on transitional justice result in the establishment of accountability mechanisms in compliance with international human rights standards (EA 3)*

The provisional national reconciliation commission was inaugurated by the Head of State and eight regional offices of the commission were established and are almost fully staffed. The Office drafted the terms of reference for the staff of the regional offices and participated in the recruitment process. It also conducted several activities to raise the awareness of the general population on transitional justice issues.

### Widening the democratic space

- *Law establishing an independent national human rights institution is promulgated and the institution is established and functioning in accordance with international standards (EA 1)*
- The Supreme Court declared the Law establishing the National Human Rights Institution to be in conformity with the Constitution. As the Law does not fully comply with the Paris Principles, OHCHR continued its advocacy with the Government to ensure its full compliance.

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

- *National civilian and democratic oversight mechanism for defence and security forces established to prevent and provide remedies for human rights violations in compliance with international standards (EA 3)*

The oversight mechanism was established and is functioning. The Office contributed to its increased capacity through several training sessions. In addition, security forces, especially the gendarmerie and the police, improved the implementation of international human rights standards in their everyday work. OHCHR noted some improvement in relation to their compliance with international standards on detention, resulting in a decrease of cases of ill-treatment and torture.

- *Integration of international human rights standards, including selected recommendations issued by the UPR, in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2013-2017, through its midterm review and in the UN Contingency Plan and UN Protection Clusters, particularly concerning the forest region (EA 11)*
- As a result of the Office's advocacy and technical support provided to the United Nations Country Team, some UN agencies are now integrating a human rights based-approach in their activities. For instance, the Office supported the drafting of a project on the prevention of conflict in mining areas. In the context of the Ebola crisis, UN agencies and civil society organizations integrated human rights concerns in their responses to the crisis.

### Guinea: Expenditure in 2014

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	1,662,339
Consultants	-	-
Official travel	-	27,797
Contractual services	-	6,171
General operating expenses	-	211,923
Supplies and materials	-	143,030
Seminars, grants and contributions	-	99,076
Subtotal	-	2,150,337
Programme support costs	-	279,544
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	-	<b>2,429,881</b>

## Togo

Year established	2006
Staff as of 31 December 2014	6
Expenditure in 2014	US\$1,573,827

## Results

### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

► *Two international conventions/optional protocols ratified (EA 2)*

In July, Togo ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Among other advocacy and training activities, OHCHR organized an information session for members of the National Assembly which aimed at empowering them on basic human rights issues and encouraging their integration in legislative tasks.

► *A permanent mechanism for integrated reporting and follow-up is fully institutionalized and the national plan of action to implement recommendations of international human rights mechanisms is adopted and being implemented (EA 6)*

OHCHR provided significant technical support to the Ministry of Human Rights in its work on the National Plan of Action for the implementation of treaty body and UPR recommendations. The Plan was not officially adopted by the Council of Ministers before the end of the year. During the June session of the Human Rights Council, Togo submitted its voluntary midterm review report on the implementation of the accepted UPR recommendations. OHCHR provided technical assistance during the drafting process, primarily on the nature and type of data required.

### Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

► *The draft criminal code and criminal procedure code and the prison and detention policy are adopted in compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

Some positive steps were taken to this end and it is anticipated that the codes, which are in line with international standards, will be adopted in 2015. OHCHR provided expert advice to the Ministry of Justice and the National Assembly regarding limits to life imprisonment and the inclusion of provisions and terminology of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) in the draft penal code. Members of Parliament also developed a better understanding

of the UN human rights system through a training session that was facilitated by OHCHR which focused on how to harmonize national legislation with international standards.

► *Magistrates and criminal investigation police effectively apply human rights norms (EA 1)*

Committed to the modernization of the justice authorities, the Ministry of Justice held a series of training sessions on the use of information technology for magistrates, investigating judges and court clerks. In this context, with the financial and technical support of OHCHR, investigating judges and clerks of the Appeal Court of Kara received training on the use of information technology for the proper maintenance of monthly records on the status of pending cases. A similar workshop was also held in Lomé with OHCHR support.

As part of its monitoring activities, which included visits to prisons throughout the country, the Office regularly raised its concerns with the Minister of Justice and respective prosecutors on issues such as the conditions of detention and the treatment and state of health of detainees. In at least two cases, OHCHR's intervention resulted in detainees receiving timely medical treatment.

► *The draft organic law of the National Human Rights Commission, compliant with the Paris Principles and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, becomes law and effectively starts implementing its mandate as the National Preventive Mechanism against torture (EA 3)*

As of the end of 2014, the new organic law on the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), which is intended to fully comply with the Paris Principles and integrate the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) pursuant to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT), was not yet adopted by the Council of Ministers. Beginning in February, OHCHR submitted numerous observations on the latest draft of the proposed law to the Ministry of Human Rights, including suggestions to incorporate a gender criterion in the nomination process of commissioners, clarifications regarding internal procedural modalities in dealing with individual complaints and a proposal to extend immunity to commissioners for decisions taken or opinions voiced in the framework of their functions. The delay in the approval of the law means that the NPM is not yet in place and that the NHRC's ability to efficiently perform its mission remains significantly impaired.





The Deputy High Commissioner inaugurates a human rights and peace resource centre in Sokodé, Togo, February 2014.

- ▶ *Follow-up mechanism for the implementation of Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission recommendations established and functioning according to transitional justice principles (EA 3)*  
In early April, the Council of Ministers took up the suggestion of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (CVJR) and formally adopted the White Paper, a document that provides a road map for the operationalization of the implementation of the CVJR recommendations. OHCHR provided the Ministry of Human Rights with comments and technical guidance related to the elaboration of the Paper, with the objective of ensuring the compliance of Togo's transitional justice process with human rights principles of participation and accountability. OHCHR also funded the reproduction of 20,000 copies of the White Paper and the Government officially launched the dissemination campaign in June. Copies were also prepared in local languages. In April, the Council of Ministers adopted a presidential decree which formally created the High Commissioner for National Reconciliation and the Strengthening of National Unity, in compliance with a CVJR recommendation. The three members were appointed at the end of December.

### **Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere**

- ▶ *Increased use of a human rights-based approach in the implementation and review of the Development and Employment Strategy, particularly in relation to the health sector and the health policy (EA 1)*  
A human rights-based approach (HRBA) was substantially applied in the work of several ministries, particularly the Ministry of Prospective and Public Policy Evaluation (MPPPE) and the Ministry of Planning and Development (MPD). The MPPPE, which evaluates public policies and

is developing the "Vision Togo 2030" programme that will guide public policies during the next 15 years opted to use a HRBA as a basic tool for its work. The MPD also integrates a HRBA in the implementation and evaluation of Togo's Second Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP II). In this context, OHCHR organized or contributed to various training exercises on a HRBA for the technical staff of both ministries as well as representatives of other State institutions such as the NHRC, the National Statistics Department and civil society organizations. As an example, during a four-day training course in August, 35 participants, including eight women, acquired comprehensive knowledge of how to apply a human rights-based approach to the monitoring and evaluation of the PRSP II, particularly regarding economic, social and cultural rights, with a focus on the right to health. The participants adopted a series of recommendations, some of which are currently being implemented, including the drafting of a guide to public policy that takes a HRBA into account and the establishment of an interministerial commission tasked with overseeing the integration of a HRBA in public policies.

- ▶ *The United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2014-2018 is implemented, monitored and evaluated in line with a human rights-based approach (EA 11)*

The first year of implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), which primarily aims to support the implementation of the PRSP II, was completed with limited results. OHCHR and UNDP worked together to support the Ministry of Human Rights with various tasks, including the drafting of the National Action Plan for the implementation of treaty body and UPR recommendations as well as legal reforms, particularly the organic law governing the creation and functioning of the NHRC. The NHRC received limited support due to delays in the adoption of the amended organic law which integrates the function of a National Preventive Mechanism in the NHRC.

### **Widening the democratic space**

- ▶ *National law has been amended to allow the Administrative Chamber of the High Court to consider appeals against the administrative prohibition of peaceful assemblies and ensure the effective independence of the Haute Autorité de l'Audiovisuel et de la Communication (EA 1)*  
In working on the revision of its organic law, the Supreme Court followed OHCHR's recommendation to explicitly ensure access to emergency hearings by its Administrative



Chamber in appeals against the prohibition of public peaceful assemblies, outlined in the 2011 Law on public gatherings and demonstrations. The Office advocated for this revision with the Heads of the Supreme Court and its Administrative Chamber and organized a three-day workshop on the issue in August. As of the end of the year, the final draft was not yet formally adopted by the Council of Ministers.

► *Increased participation of women in decision-making processes (EA 5)*

Although OHCHR worked with the Ministry of Social Action and Women's Promotion on strategies to effectively implement gender parity in Togo, no substantial progress was achieved in this area. The cooperation between OHCHR and the Ministry, however, led to the establishment of a service centre providing counselling to women in a variety of areas, including entrepreneurship and assistance for victims of violence. The Ministry took over ownership of this initiative, which is currently being implemented in cooperation with UNFPA and a Togolese women's rights NGO. The Office also contributed to the increased understanding of civil society organizations about gender parity and women's engagement in democracies through their participation in workshops and related events. For instance, OHCHR staff focused on women's rights during an IOM training session on the essential elements of the management of migrations and highlighted the importance of the active and significant participation of women in such processes.

#### Togo: Expenditure in 2014

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	975,557
Consultants	-	2,309
Official travel	-	34,589
Contractual services	-	34,801
General operating expenses	-	155,573
Supplies and materials	-	34,053
Seminars, grants and contributions	-	155,884
Subtotal	-	1,392,767
Programme support costs	-	181,060
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,573,827</b>

## Uganda

Year established	2005
Staff as of 31 December 2014	30
Expenditure in 2014	US\$3,718,164

## Results

### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

► *National institutional mechanisms are in place and functioning to increase engagement with international human rights mechanisms, namely the National Human Rights Action Plan and the National Human Rights Education Plan (EA 6)*

During the year, the Steering Committee for the National Human Rights Action Plan became increasingly institutionalized and most entities ensured that one fixed focal point was continuously represented on the Committee. As a result of OHCHR's advocacy, other entities that were not previously engaged, such as the Ministry of Education, took a formal decision to designate a focal point to the Committee. The Steering Committee agreed that the National Human Rights Action Plan should have a clear framework to enable institutionalizing mechanisms to respond to human rights mechanisms. This will be carried out through the interministerial committee on human rights, which is composed of the same members as the Steering Committee for the National Human Rights Action Plan. OHCHR supported the process of developing the Action Plan and carried out several capacity-building activities for the Steering Committee on topics such as a human rights-based approach and good practices in developing national action plans. In terms of engagement with UN human rights mechanisms, challenges remain as a result of the absence of a functional structure for the preparation of State reports. One of the objectives of the Action Plan is to establish a formalized system to address the reporting backlog and have the capacity to report and respond to issues arising from the human rights mechanisms in a systematic manner.

### Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

► *Traditional justice authorities are increasingly respecting human rights standards when solving conflicts in their communities (EA 1)*

Traditional justice authorities increasingly apply human rights standards when solving conflicts in their communities. This was evident through their recognition of the different roles that various



A human rights officer meets with representatives of the Ik community in Uganda.

actors play in the administration of justice and their willingness to transfer cases to the formal justice system. OHCHR organized 13 training sessions in northern Uganda for 210 traditional leaders and elders from Moroto, Kotido and Napak districts who received training on human right standards and their role in supporting the modern justice system. A round-table meeting was also organized for key traditional leaders and formal justice system representatives from the three districts to improve their working relationships. Based on the skills the traditional leaders acquired, the leaders requested the modern justice institutions to recognize the role of the traditional leaders in the administration of justice. Some traditional leaders referred and transferred criminal cases to the police or the courts, an indicator that they could now discern that criminal cases could be tried fairly by a competent modern court instead of in traditional courts. Additional engagement is required to determine how the traditional leaders applied the standard on non-discrimination in relation to women and girls and other human right standards when arbitrating justice in their communities.

- ▶ *Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces, the Uganda Police Force and the Uganda Prisons Service increasingly comply with international standards on the use of force, arrest, detention and treatment of persons in custody, including in events of counter-terrorism, treason charges and rebellion (EA 1)*

In Karamoja, the Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces (UPDF) and the Uganda Police Force

(UPF) showed progress in their responses to human rights violations. For instance, in 2014, 95 complaints of violations were reported against the UPDF and the UPF compared to 125 in 2013. The UPF consolidated the UPF Human Rights and Legal Services Directorate with the deployment of 22 police human rights and legal officers to different regions. In September, OHCHR and the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) trained 21 of these officers on human rights concepts, protection, the UN Code of Conduct for law enforcement officers and human rights monitoring and reporting. In Northern Uganda, OHCHR conducted two similar trainings for 30 police officers in Gulu District and held advocacy meetings with police commanders from Gulu, Nwoya and Amuru in relation to cases of torture. Furthermore, between 2013 and 2014, OHCHR noted a significant reduction in the number of complaints of incommunicado detention and torture by the Chieftaincy of Military Intelligence (CMI). The Office organized two trainings for the CMI on human rights standards relating to the use of force and firearms.

- ▶ *Increased integration of human rights standards, including economic, social and cultural rights in the curriculum of the Judicial Studies Institute of Uganda (EA 1)*

In cooperation with the Judicial Studies Institute of Uganda (JSI), OHCHR designed a curriculum on economic, social and cultural rights. The draft curriculum was validated at the JSI Judicial Dialogue on the enforceability of economic, social and cultural rights, held in Kampala in December.

- *Justice, Law and Order Sector and other relevant stakeholders increasingly apply human rights standards in the development and implementation of transitional justice policies, legislation and programmes (EA 3)*

The draft national transitional justice policy is pending approval. The delay in its approval is largely due to a long consultative process during which stakeholders sought to incorporate additional input. OHCHR participated in several policy meetings to discuss the draft transitional justice policy framework, including bilateral meetings with the Justice, Law and Order Sector's Transitional Justice Working Group and a high-level conference organized by the International Centre for Transitional Justice in October. The conference brought together policymakers, parliamentarians, civil society, development partners and victims' groups to discuss the draft.

- *Networks of civil society organizations increasingly advocate for and litigate to claim their economic, social and cultural rights (EA 5)*
- Local communities undertook advocacy activities with the Acholi Parliamentary Group in relation to forced evictions that were taking place, resulting in the halting of the evictions. The communities also pursued legal remedies with regards to the status of the disputed area. OHCHR was instrumental in strengthening the capacity of the local communities to achieve this result. In Gulu, the Lakanga and Apaa communities increasingly approached the Office to register complaints regarding forced evictions, arbitrary arrest and detention, as well as degrading treatment. OHCHR held a series of sensitization meetings with the affected communities on land, housing and property rights.

### **Enhancing equality and countering discrimination**

- *Legislation, policies and institutional practices substantively comply with non-discrimination and equality standards, particularly on gender, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, persons with disabilities and persons living with HIV/AIDS (EA 4)*

The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development agreed to promote a two-year media gender mainstreaming strategy to provide the media with guidance on how to integrate a gender perspective in their programming and reporting. The strategy is in line with the 2010 recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and was developed by OHCHR in collaboration with the Uganda Media Women's Association. The plight of discriminated ethnic minorities

was addressed in Karamoja. Local government authorities committed to increasing the number of Ik community members who participate in the planning of programmes that are to be implemented in the sub-county of Kamion during the financial year 2015-2016. The local government and the UPDF took responsibility to ensure that the insecurity faced by this ethnic minority group was curbed. OHCHR contributed to this result by undertaking an assessment of the human rights situation of the Ik community and producing a documentary which revealed discriminatory practices against the group.

### **Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere**

- *Increased compliance of national, sector and local government development plans with international human rights standards and principles (EA 1)*
- OHCHR, in collaboration with the UHRC and the German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation, rolled out training on a human rights-based approach to ministries, departments and agencies, national planning authorities and district local governments in relation to the preparation for the Second National Development Plan (NDP II). As a result, the NDP II, which is in its final stages of completion, maintains a stronger human rights perspective than the NDP I. It also incorporates human rights indicators, reviewed by OHCHR, to guide stakeholders in monitoring the Government's compliance with its human rights commitments. The NDP II also prioritized implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan.
- *UNCT and UN agencies programmes and funds increasingly incorporate a human rights-based approach in their interventions (EA 11)*
- Uganda's UNDAF is in its final stages of completion and maintains a stronger human rights content than the previous version. OHCHR contributed to this result through the delivery of training on a human rights-based approach to the UNCT's Programme Management and Monitoring and Evaluation Teams.

### **Widening the democratic space**

- *Legal frameworks, legislation, regulations and policies increasingly respect and protect public freedoms (freedom of association, assembly, expression and opinion and of the press) and democratic principles, and government actors (UPDF, UPF, ministry and local government) increasingly respect them (EA 1)*

A reduction of human rights violations related to restrictions to public freedoms was reported. Police officers now tend to engage more in



dialogue with organizers of demonstrations and assemblies. OHCHR focused on capacity-building of the Human Rights Offices recently created by the UPF, the UPDF and the CMI. In 2014, law enforcement agencies increased their institutional awareness about human rights and their responses to complaints received, partially due to the creation of the abovementioned Human Rights Offices. OHCHR, in cooperation with the UHRC, also trained 21 officers (six of whom were women) from the UPF Directorate of Human Rights and Legal Affairs regarding human rights, mechanisms for human rights protection, the UN Code of Conduct for law enforcement officers, human rights standards to public freedoms and monitoring and reporting. In November, the Directorate was publicly acknowledged by civil society organizations for its rapid interventions to solve cases of human rights violations perpetrated by police officers against lesbian, gay, bisexual transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons. Additionally, OHCHR supported the UPF in finalizing the revision of the standard operating procedures (SOPs) which regulate police conduct in the execution of law enforcement functions, with a view to ensuring the integration of human rights standards. The Office provided technical advice on human rights standards applicable to policing which were successfully incorporated in the revised SOPs, particularly on the rights of suspects and principles on the human treatment of suspects, the prohibition of torture and restrictions on the use of firearms as well as responsibilities with respect to public order management. The SOPs are awaiting approval from the Police Council.

- *The Uganda Human Rights Commission increasingly implements its constitutional mandate in accordance with the Paris Principles, monitors and handles cases of human rights violations and undertakes human rights promotion interventions (EA 1)*

There has been a progressive increase in the capacity of UHRC staff members to monitor, advocate on critical human rights issues with State authorities and report on and handle cases dealing with human rights violations. In 2014, OHCHR supported and facilitated eight training workshops in Kampala aimed at building the capacity of UHRC staff members in different thematic areas, including investigations and monitoring, economic, social and cultural rights and a human rights-based approach, among others. Additionally, OHCHR involved the UHRC in the joint organization and facilitation of most of the advocacy actions and capacity-building activities addressed to civil society organizations, journalists, police

officers and community members. Moreover, the coordination and joint implementation of activities between the UHRC and OHCHR improved. In Karamoja, for instance, the increased lobbying and advocacy with the regional office of the UHRC, as well as the undertaking of investigation missions, led to a marked increase in the number of cases being handled by the UHRC tribunals. Nevertheless, OHCHR observed that the UHRC faced a number of challenges in fulfilling its mandate in accordance with the Paris Principles, including issues in relation to its budget and human resources.

- *The Human Rights Defenders Coalition and other networks of civil society organizations increasingly defend and claim their rights, including in northern Uganda and Karamoja (EA 7)*

The capacity of Ugandan civil society organization networks to monitor and report on, advocate for and claim human rights is progressively increasing. This improvement is evident in different actions that were taken by the networks in 2014. For instance, based on training provided by OHCHR, the National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders was able to compile reports about the human rights situation all over the country, which were in turn used to inform the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. In November, the Civil Society Coalition on Human Rights and Constitutional Law, which had been trained by OHCHR, published a report on violations based on gender identity and sexual orientation, which shows a qualitative improvement in the capacity of this coalition to report on human rights violations against LGBTI persons.

#### Uganda: Expenditure in 2014

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	1,878,791
Consultants	-	58,735
Official travel	-	82,432
Contractual services	-	122,302
General operating expenses	-	429,457
Supplies and materials	-	182,433
Seminars, grants and contributions	-	536,261
Subtotal	-	3,290,411
Programme support costs	-	427,753
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,718,164</b>

## Regional Offices and Centres

### United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa/OHCHR Central Africa Regional Office (Yaoundé, Cameroon)

Year established	2001
Staff as of 31 December 2014	12
Expenditure in 2014	US\$1,590,827

## Results

### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Increased ratification of international human rights instruments with a focus on the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and their respective optional protocols, as well as on the optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tomé and Príncipe (EA 2)*

Gabon ratified the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Republic of Congo and the Republic of Sao Tomé and Príncipe ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. OHCHR has unceasingly advocated for these ratifications since 2013.

- *Increased compliance and engagement of Member States with international human rights mechanisms (EA 6)*

In June, the Government of Cameroon extended a standing invitation to the UN special procedures mandate-holders in response to a recommendation issued by the Universal Periodic Review. The invitation also followed advocacy undertaken by the former High Commissioner during her visit to Cameroon in 2013 and the ongoing follow-up by OHCHR.

### Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *Increased participation in policy design and monitoring of compliance of human rights standards relating to business (EA 5)*

Significant improvement was reported in the capacity of rights-holders to claim their rights in relation to the activities of businesses. This is due in part to the efforts of media and civil society actors who received training from OHCHR on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. In Gabon, civil society organizations are monitoring the Government's compliance with the Principles within the framework of its social and economic development plan. In Congo, OHCHR-trained media professionals are undertaking important sensitization campaigns.

### United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa/OHCHR Central Africa Regional Office (Yaoundé, Cameroon): Expenditure in 2014

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	699,453	109,019
Consultants	-	-
Official travel	25,853	39,057
Contractual services	3,749	24,661
General operating expenses	121,110	98,921
Supplies and materials	11,950	88,078
Seminars, grants and contributions	116,648	181,914
Subtotal	978,762	541,650
Programme support costs	-	70,415
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>978,762</b>	<b>612,065</b>



Inspired by training they had taken with OHCHR, a group of journalists visited the Lom Pangar hydroelectricity dam project in Cameroon. The purpose of the trip was to observe the human rights compliance of the project in light of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Immediately following the trip, the journalists produced reports and documentaries based on their findings, which in turn led the Chairperson of the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms to make a public statement criticizing the human rights record of the project and call for reforms. The firm responsible for the hydroelectricity dam project eventually made a public statement acknowledging the human rights concerns and presented a plan designed to improve the situation.

Similarly, OHCHR organized a field visit to the project sites and neighbouring communities of a rubber exploitation company. As a result, the company carried out significant housing projects to improve the living conditions of those affected by its activities.

## Regional Office for East Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

Year established	2002
Staff as of 31 December 2014	9
Expenditure in 2014	US\$903,523

## Results

### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Civil society organizations contribute to all sessions of United Nations treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review. In addition, an increased number of communications will be sent to special procedures by Djibouti and Ethiopia (EA 7)*  
Following a training that was organized by the Regional Office, the Human Rights Commission and UNDP, civil society organizations in Djibouti committed to establishing a framework to help ensure their participation in the process of reporting to the treaty bodies. The Office contributed to the enhanced knowledge of these organizations with respect to using international

and regional human rights mechanisms.

In Ethiopia, the Office provided technical and financial support to two Ethiopian civil society organizations to facilitate their engagement in Ethiopia's second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review. Both organizations participated in the session at which Ethiopia's report was reviewed.

### Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Strategies and resolutions adopted by the Commission of the African Union and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights on truth and reconciliation in specific country situations are informed by relevant international human rights standards (EA 8)*

OHCHR followed up on developments related to the African Union's (AU) draft African Transitional Justice Policy Framework. In August, OHCHR participated in a workshop organized by the AU to validate the policy and provided technical inputs aimed at its alignment with international human rights standards. The policy was validated at the end of the workshop.

### Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *The strategy on the post-2015 development agenda of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the AU systematically integrates vulnerable and disadvantaged groups (EA 11)*  
The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the AU collaborated to play a pivotal role in developing the African common position on the post-2015 development agenda. In November, the Regional Office trained the UNCT on a human rights-based approach to facilitate the integration of human rights, in particular those related to vulnerable groups, into the UNECA/AU strategy on the post-2015 development agenda. The Regional Office also worked with the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, UNECA and the AU to organize the first African Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights, which was held in September. Moreover, the Regional Forum helped to advance the dialogue on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in the African context and the Office explored potential areas of cooperation with the African Union as a follow-up to the event.

Regional Office for East Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia): Expenditure in 2014		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	605,420
Consultants	-	-
Official travel	-	55,385
Contractual services	-	10,431
General operating expenses	-	70,041
Supplies and materials	-	9,042
Seminars, grants and contributions	-	49,289
Subtotal	-	799,607
Programme support costs	-	103,916
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	-	<b>903,523</b>

In April 2014, the OHCHR Regional Representative for East Africa undertook a mission to Djibouti. While there, he met with Djiboutian authorities to advocate for the release of 266 Eritrean refugees and asylum-seekers who had been held in detention at the Negad Police Academy, some for five years. Following a meeting with the Minister of Interior, the OHCHR Regional Representative, a representative from UNHCR and the Chair of the National Human Rights Commission of Djibouti conducted a joint visit to the Negad Police Academy. The representatives met with some of the refugees and asylum-seekers, who explained why they had left their country, and subsequently requested their release. Following the visit, on 13 April 2014, the Eritrean refugees and asylum-seekers were released and relocated to refugee camps.

## Regional Office for Southern Africa (Pretoria, South Africa)

Year established	1998
Staff as of 31 December 2014	6
Expenditure in 2014	US\$931,117

## Results

### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Ratification by Angola of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination or the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; by Comoros of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; by South Africa of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and by Zimbabwe of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment or the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (EA 2)*

Angola acceded to the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol on 19 May and signed the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance on 24 September. Mozambique acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment on 1 July. Madagascar signed the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families on 24 September. The Regional Office advocated for the ratification



Participants at an OHCHR meeting on indigenous peoples for national human rights institutions in Southern Africa.

of the human rights treaties during each of its missions to the countries of the subregion.

- ▶ *Standing invitation to special procedures issued by Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius and Namibia (EA 6)*

After a number of years without visits by special procedures mandate-holders, Botswana accepted a visit by the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights in November and the Government is engaged in discussions related to possible dates in 2015 for a visit by the Special Rapporteur on minority issues. The Regional Office will continue to advocate for the issuing of a standing invitation.

### **Enhancing equality and countering discrimination**

- ▶ *National human rights institutions address the issues of equality and non-discrimination in line with international standards in Botswana and Zimbabwe (EA 4)*

At a workshop organized by OHCHR, in collaboration with UNDP, Commissioners of the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission increased their knowledge and capacity to resolve complaints and developed a complaints admissions tool. Furthermore, the Commissioners established priorities for the immediate work of the Commission.

### **Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere**

- ▶ *Mechanisms and/or policies on business and human rights, including with regard to an effective remedy, established in Mozambique (EA 3)*

The Government of Mozambique announced its commitment to develop a national action plan on business and human rights at the National Conference on Business and Human Rights. The Conference took place in August and was organized by the Mozambican Human Rights League in partnership with the Ministry of Justice and with support from OHCHR. In addition, the Government and civil society agreed to establish a platform for dialogue on and the monitoring of the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The Regional Office contributed to the increased awareness of Government counterparts on the importance of developing a policy on business and human rights through other activities, including a mission to Maputo with an OHCHR expert on business and human rights from 22-24 July.

- ▶ *Human rights-based approach in the next United Nations Development Assistance Framework/ United Nations Partnership Framework and selected other UN programmes in Botswana,*

*Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe (EA 11)*

The United Nations Country Teams in Zambia and Zimbabwe completed the United Nations Development Assistance Framework preparation process in 2014 and the Regional Office carried out missions to these countries to provide technical assistance on the human rights-based approach.

### **Widening the democratic space**

- ▶ *National human rights institutions established and/or functioning in compliance with the Paris Principles in Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Mozambique and Zimbabwe (EA 1)*

In Botswana, the Government agreed to hold a national consultation to engage with all relevant stakeholders on the process of creating a national human rights institution (NHRI). The consultation was tentatively scheduled for mid-2014, but was postponed to 2015 due to the national elections. The Mozambique Human Rights Commission visited prisons and detention centres in the provinces, marking its first systematic monitoring undertaken in its capacity as a National Preventive Mechanism. In December 2013, the Office and UNDP collaborated to provide training to the Commission on the role of NHRIs operating as a NPM and on human rights monitoring. During a subregional event organized in June, NHRIs from Angola, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania and Zimbabwe participated in a training designed to better equip them in their work on the rights of indigenous peoples. The training included the launch of a manual, entitled *The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: A Manual for National Human Rights Institutions*.

- ▶ *Civil society, in particular youth and women, increasingly advocate for and claim their rights; and protect themselves more effectively from reprisals (EA 5)*

On 30 July, the Regional Office launched the Human Rights Resource Centre at the Library of the School of Law in South Africa. OHCHR, the United Nations Information Centre and UNAIDS contributed publications to establish the Resource Centre. In an effort to raise awareness about human rights, the Resource Centre provides free access to OHCHR publications to law professors, students, civil society and other stakeholders.

### Regional Office for Southern Africa (Pretoria, South Africa): Expenditure in 2014

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	625,298
Consultants	-	-
Official travel	-	31,731
Contractual services	-	13,807
General operating expenses	-	60,222
Supplies and materials	-	14,161
Seminars, grants and contributions	-	78,779
Subtotal	-	823,997
Programme support costs	-	107,120
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	-	<b>931,117</b>

### Regional Office for West Africa (Dakar, Senegal)

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2014	11
Expenditure in 2014	US\$1,263,264

## Results

### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Cape Verde ratifies the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol; the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (EA 2)*

In 2014, Cape Verde ratified the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. OHCHR contributed to this result through capacity-building and advocacy initiatives vis-à-vis national authorities.

- *Fully functioning participatory standing national coordinating bodies are established for reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms; and an increased number of reports submitted by Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, the Gambia and Senegal (EA 6)*

In Benin, the National Action Plan on Human Rights was validated with the support of the Regional Office. The Regional Office also advocated for the strengthening of the national coordination mechanism in charge of reporting to the human rights mechanisms and monitoring the implementation of their recommendations. The three ministries in Burkina Faso that are in charge of State reporting harmonized their procedures with OHCHR's support. The Office also provided technical support to the preparation of all reports drafted in 2014, including to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on Enforced Disappearances. The Government of the Gambia elaborated its national report to the Universal Periodic Review, although with limited consultation with civil society. In Senegal, OHCHR and UNICEF supported the establishment and functioning of a technical committee to review the National Human Rights Action Plan in



The Deputy Representative of the OHCHR Regional Office for Southern Africa speaks at the opening ceremony of a human rights resource centre at the University of Venda in South Africa.

On 30 July 2014, the OHCHR Regional Office for Southern Africa opened a human rights resource centre at the Library of the School of Law at the University of Venda. Located in Thohoyandou in the Limpopo Province of South Africa, the University's new resource centre will provide free access to human rights publications for students, academics, researchers, representatives of civil society and the public at large. It will also serve as a de facto reference library for official OHCHR publications. To support the development of the resource centre, OHCHR donated more than 400 copies of publications and the former High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, donated part of her personal collection of law books. The establishment of the resource centre is part of a larger project being undertaken by the Regional Office to establish similar centres in each country that it covers. South Africa already hosts two centres and others have been established in Malawi and Mozambique.



Since 2013, displaced communities in the Mozambican province of Tete have been struggling to make their concerns known to the Government, local courts and the mining company whose operations have forced them to move far away from their livelihoods, homes and lands and settle in makeshift shelters without water, medical services or schools.

In 2014, OHCHR and UNDP organized a conference to validate the country's first human rights research study on the impact of business on human rights. The conference provided a platform for these communities to share their experiences and stories. As the community representatives reported, their living situations have markedly deteriorated since the arrival of the mining company.

The event brought together 80 representatives from the Government, business enterprises, civil society and development partners and helped promote dialogue among the stakeholders. It also provided an opportunity to emphasize the need for human rights due diligence in the context of Mozambique's growing extractive industry so that risks to vulnerable groups or communities are taken into account before work is undertaken.

Based on the findings of the study and following the discussions at the conference, an important recommendation was made that the Government should continue developing accountability measures and remedies to address the negative impacts of business activities. This recommendation, and others, will be included in a national action plan that will be developed to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

line with UPR recommendations. Moreover, the Office supported the Ministry of Justice during the validation process of the initial report due under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

- *National human rights institutions and civil society organizations in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, the Gambia and Senegal increasingly engage with international and regional human rights mechanisms (EA 7)*

Frequent collaboration and exchange of information between OHCHR and civil society organizations in the Gambia led to their increased use of international human rights mechanisms. For instance, 14 submissions were made in anticipation of the second cycle of the UPR.



Press briefing after a monitoring visit to the prison in Diourbel, Senegal, jointly undertaken by OHCHR and Senegal's National Observer of Places of Deprivation of Liberty.

## Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *National laws have been harmonized with regional and international standards on non-discrimination and equality in Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, the Gambia and Senegal (EA 4)*  
The Ministry for the Family in Benin requested OHCHR's support to initiate an analytical study for the harmonization of national laws on the rights of women and of children with international standards and the recommendations of human rights mechanisms. In Cape Verde, the National Action Plan to Combat Gender-Based Violence was revised to integrate anti-discriminatory and equality provisions as a result of technical advice and inputs provided by OHCHR and UN Women. With the support of OHCHR, the Senegalese Ministry of Health is drafting a law for the harmonization of provisions on reproductive health with regional and international human rights standards.
- *Judicial procedures in Senegal are simplified to improve access to justice for women and discriminated groups (in particular migrants, persons with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons) (EA 4)*  
In 2014, the National Assembly of Senegal adopted the revised Penal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure. The Regional Office followed up on their implementation and supported the national human rights institution and civil society organizations in their development of an advocacy document for parliamentarians in order to ensure the compliance of the two codes with international standards.

## Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) incorporates a human rights-based approach in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, the Gambia and Senegal (EA 11)*  
In Benin, as a result of support provided by OHCHR during the UNDAF planning session for 2015, members of the United Nations Country



Team increased their awareness of the need to integrate human rights into the planning cycle and implement the UPR recommendations. Similarly, based on the advice provided by OHCHR, the UNCT in Cape Verde is more familiar with human rights principles and took steps for their integration into the UNDAF midterm review process. In both Burkina Faso and the Gambia, the Regional Office was actively involved in the midterm review of the UNDAFs and provided technical expertise on human rights principles and standards.

### Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *A national human rights institution has been established and works in conformity with international standards in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, the Gambia and Senegal (EA 1)*  
In Cape Verde, the revision of the Law of the National Human Rights Commission was delayed in 2014 and the Regional Office maintained its advocacy for a strong institution that is operating in accordance with the Paris Principles. In Burkina Faso, OHCHR collaborated with the Association Francophone des Commissions Nationales des Droits de l'Homme and UNDP to support capacity-building initiatives for the members of the NHRI and is currently contributing to the elaboration of the NHRI's strategic plan and action plan. In the Gambia, a draft NHRI law, which is slightly more compliant with the Paris Principles, integrated OHCHR recommendations.
- ▶ *Increased participation of women in political life, specifically in Parliaments and local institutions in Benin and Senegal (EA 5)*  
In Senegal, the President of the National Assembly and the President of the Human Rights Commission and Laws expressed their commitment to implement Senegalese human rights commitments in the framework of their mandates, particularly in relation to women's rights. A committee was subsequently established by the President of the National Assembly

to work on this issue. The Regional Office elaborated a guide on human rights and gender for parliamentarians and supported the National Observatory of Parity in its reform of the National Assembly's rules of procedure to ensure their conformity with international standards.

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

- ▶ *Timely response to human rights issues in the context of early warning efforts, mainly in relation to the Sabel crisis, by the Human Rights Council and the Economic Community of West African States (EA 10)*

OHCHR elaborated a guidance note on the integration of human rights and a gender perspective in the fight against the Ebola virus disease. The note, which was shared with UN Resident Coordinators, State entities and other development actors in the subregion, is a result of OHCHR's monitoring of the crisis.

Regional Office for West Africa (Dakar, Senegal): Expenditure in 2014		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	757,666	103,226
Consultants	-	13,569
Official travel	7,774	28,638
Contractual services	5,591	21,313
General operating expenses	23,486	26,856
Supplies and materials	29,503	111,023
Seminars, grants and contributions	17,645	68,472
Subtotal	841,665	373,097
Programme support costs	-	48,503
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>841,665</b>	<b>421,599</b>



Images of awareness-raising events organized by the OHCHR Regional Office for West Africa.

## Human Rights Components in UN Peace Missions

### United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi

Year established	1995 (since 2006 as part of the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi)
Staff as of 31 December 2014	17

### Results

#### Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *The status and recruitment process of magistrates comply with international standards and the High Judicial Council is able to perform its constitutional duties and contribute to the consolidation of judicial independence (EA 1)*

In March 2014, the Office supported the development of the first formal examination for the recruitment of magistrates in Burundi's history. At the end of the process, 66 magistrates had been recruited, including 20 women, in a fair and transparent process. The Office also supported the reform of the Law on the High Judicial Council, but the Ministry of Justice has yet to submit it to the Parliament for its review.

- *A credible and independent Truth and Reconciliation Commission is established and is functioning in compliance with international standards (EA 3)*

The Law on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was adopted in April and promulgated by the President of the Republic in May. The ad hoc commission that was tasked with the pre-selection of the members of the TRC was established in August and transmitted its report to the National Assembly in December. The President of the Republic formally nominated the members of the TRC on 8 December. The UN, including OHCHR, provided advocacy and technical support which contributed to the establishment of the TRC.

#### Widening the democratic space

- *The Independent National Human Rights Commission is fully functioning in accordance with the Paris Principles (EA 1)*

The National Independent Human Rights Commission (NIHRC) improved its work and is progressively reinforcing its status as an

independent and credible mechanism for the promotion and protection of human rights. In 2014, it retained its 'A' status and is consequently recognized to be playing an important role at the national level. It is, however, important to note that the NIHRC has limited resources which prevent it from effectively monitoring cases of human rights violations, in particular relating to sexual and gender-based violence.

- *A draft law for the protection of human rights defenders is adopted and a basket fund for the National Human Rights Commission is established (EA 1)*

The NIHRC prepared a draft law on the protection of human defenders, with the support of OHCHR, which was validated during a meeting with civil society organizations. The draft law has not yet been submitted to the Government for its review. The Office provided the NIHRC with technical and financial support for the organization of four regional workshops for State and non-State actors on the role of human rights defenders and the need for the creation of a national mechanism for their protection.

### United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

Year established	2000
Staff as of 31 December 2014	84

### Results

#### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Government ratifies outstanding core human rights instruments, in particular the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (EA 2)*

In 2014, the Government of the Central African Republic established a national ratification committee to identify the international human rights treaties that have not been ratified and to work towards their ratification. The Human Rights and Justice Section (HRJS) of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) is assisting the Government with the ratification process.

#### Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *A comprehensive transitional justice strategy is adopted and implemented (EA 3)*



The Chief of the Human Rights and Justice Section of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic meets with local Muslim leaders in Bangui.

Guidelines for the Urgent Temporary Measures to address impunity were drafted, with the support of the HRJS, and signed by the Government. In addition, MINUSCA and the Ministry of National Reconciliation, Political Dialogue and Promotion of Civic Culture co-organized a workshop on human rights and transitional justice for representatives of the Government, civil society organizations, the Bangui Bar Association and other national institutions to familiarize participants with the principles and pillars of transitional justice.

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

- ▶ *National mechanisms ensure greater accountability for human rights violations (EA 3)*  
A National Committee for Genocide Prevention was activated with the financial support and technical advice of MINUSCA. The National Committee has begun its work to prevent genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity at the national and regional levels.
- ▶ *Human rights based-approaches incorporated into the Humanitarian Country Team's overall efforts and the work of MINUSCA's components and peacebuilding policies and programmes (EA 11)*  
In 2014, the UN recorded 3,498 violations affecting the civilian population, many of which occurred in Bangui. In order to reduce the number of these violations, the HRJS organized training for security sector institutions, State authorities and civil society on human rights principles, international humanitarian and human rights law and the United Nations Human Rights

Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces.

#### United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

Year established	2004
Staff as of 31 December 2014	64

#### Results

##### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Improved engagement with the international human rights mechanisms by the Government through the establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms and the timely submission of reports to treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review (EA 6)*  
With assistance from the Human Rights Division (HRD) of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), the Government prepared its report to the Human Rights Committee. No progress was made, however, in the submission of overdue reports to other treaty bodies.
- ▶ *Improved engagement of non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions or individuals with treaty bodies and special procedures, especially in relation to women's and children's rights (EA 7)*



In relation to the 2009 review of Côte d'Ivoire during the first cycle of the Universal Periodic Review, only seven submissions were made by national NGOs. A total of 13 submissions were made by NGOs for the second cycle in 2014. In addition, during the country visits of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire (11-13 February) and the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons (16-20 June), the HRD organized information sharing meetings with NGOs during which they provided the experts with first-hand information on the human rights situation.

### Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *A comprehensive transitional justice strategy is implemented and key recommendations of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission are implemented (EA 3)*

After three years, the mandate of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission expired on 28 September. The Commission presented its final report to the President of the Republic on 15 December in a public ceremony that was attended by authorities and representatives of the international community. At the ceremony, the President confirmed his intention of setting up a special fund on reparations for victims of the conflict.

### Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *The National Human Rights Commission improves its compliance with the Paris Principles (EA 1)*
- In 2014, the HRD supported the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) through a variety of activities, including a May workshop aimed at



A human rights officer facilitating an awareness-raising activity with 600 ex-combatants in Bouake, Côte d'Ivoire.

providing the NHRC with technical advice for the drafting of its planning documents. After the workshop, the NHRC drafted its strategic plan which is currently pending adoption.

On 20 June, following advocacy undertaken by HRD-supported civil society organizations, the Government adopted the Law on the promotion and protection of human rights defenders. The Law outlines the rights and duties of human rights defenders and defines the obligations of the State in terms of the promotion and protection of the rights of these actors.

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

- ▶ *A National Strategy to fight gender-based violence and its National Action Plan implemented (EA 1)*
- In July 2013, the Government adopted the National Strategy to Combat Gender-Based Violence. The Strategy was elaborated over a



Commemoration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities in Côte d'Ivoire, December 2014.

four-year period and was coordinated by UNFPA, with the support of the UN in Côte d'Ivoire. On 5 September 2014, the Minister for Solidarity, Family, Women and Children officially launched the Strategy. It is anticipated that the institutional capacity in Côte d'Ivoire to respond to sexual and gender-based violence will improve. Limited resources, however, will be a significant challenge as the implementation of the Strategy is heavily dependent on donor contributions.

From 27 February to 8 March 2014, a pilot project was implemented by Côte d'Ivoire's Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (DTRC) to collect testimonies from victims living in eight localities across the country. An evaluation of the pilot project revealed very low participation rates of children and women (less than 10 per cent) who were afraid of being seen going to "testimony collection centres" and due to disinformation about the work of the DTRC.

To address these issues, the Human Rights Division (HRD) of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) developed a strategy to mobilize different actors that would encourage women and children to engage with the DTRC. For example, the HRD worked with Radio UNOCI to deliver messages that informed the public about the work of the DTRC. It was proposed that the DTRC create mobile centres so that testimonies could be collected where victims lived and NGOs were active in reassuring victims about the process. The United Nations Police was also mobilized to provide security to victims. In addition, outreach efforts were carried out to involve other UN agencies in the process. UN Women, for instance, supported the establishment of a female team to collect testimonies from women, including victims of sexual violence.

Due to these efforts, the overall participation rate of women and children increased to nearly 40 per cent. By the end of its term, the DTRC had collected 72,483 testimonies, 28,064 of which were from women and 757 of which were given by children.



Participants at a workshop on human rights organized by UNAMID in El Fasher, North Darfur.

## African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2014	134

### Results

#### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

##### ► *Standing invitation issued to special procedures (EA 6)*

In February and June, the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan visited Darfur and met with various individuals and entities to share insights on the human rights and humanitarian situation in Darfur, including state governors, the Head of the Darfur Regional Authority, the Special Prosecutor for crimes in Darfur, members of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission, the AU-UN Special Representative for Darfur and the Joint AU-UN Chief Mediator for Darfur.

#### Widening the democratic space

##### ► *Establishment of an enabling environment conducive to dialogue and respect for human rights, including the implementation of peace agreements (EA 5)*

The members of the Darfur Regional Authority's Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission were appointed and took an oath on 27 June. The Commission was established in line with article 58 of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur.

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

##### ► *Establishment of frameworks, policies, mechanisms and initiatives to prevent and respond to human rights violations by State and non-State actors in the*



*context of conflict, violence and insecurity (EA 3)*

Despite the acknowledgement by judicial authorities of the need to eradicate gender-based violence, judicial redress for sexual and gender-based violence remains inadequate across Darfur states. Out of 71 cases reported to governmental authorities, only 24 were investigated which led to 19 arrests and 4 trials. Following sustained advocacy by the Human Rights Section (HRS) of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), the West Darfur Minister of Social Affairs issued a decree on 11 February establishing a High Committee to Support Homeless Children. Furthermore, a State Committee on Gender-Based Violence for East Darfur was established by the Governor, in line with similar structures in place in the four other states of Darfur. As a result of engagement between community leaders of internally displaced persons (IDPs) at the Kalma, Kass, Manawashe and Mershing IDP camps in South Darfur, there has been increased cooperation between IDP community leaders and UNAMID. This has in turn helped UNAMID diffuse tensions between IDPs and governmental authorities.

- ▶ *Human rights considerations are integrated into the policies and programmes of the United Nations Country Team in Darfur with respect to humanitarian action, early recovery and security (EA 11)*

The HRS carried out various activities in cooperation with UN agencies which contributed to mainstreaming human rights into the work of the UNCT. To enhance the capacity of UN personnel to monitor and report on cases of conflict-related sexual violence and to foster coordination between UNAMID and the UNCT on preventing and addressing conflict-related sexual violence, the HRS conducted a three-day training for 14 United Nations personnel from 27 to 29 May.



The Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Sudan visits a prison in Zalingei, Central Darfur, as part of his official visit to Sudan.

## United Nations Joint Human Rights Office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Year established	1996 (as a stand-alone office) and 2008 (integration with the Human Rights Division of DPKO)
Staff as of 31 December 2014	110

### Results

#### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Timely submission of reports to treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review (EA 6)*

The State reports for the Universal Periodic Review and the Human Rights Committee were drafted in 2014. The UPR report was submitted on time and the report for the Human Rights Committee is pending approval of the Government before being submitted. For the elaboration of the two reports, the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (UNJHRO) provided technical support and financial assistance.

#### Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Increased number of convictions for human rights violations referring to international human rights law (EA 1)*

During the period from January to December, UNJHRO reported a total of 225 convictions for human rights violations in all 11 provinces of the DRC. In the absence of a comprehensive national judicial data reporting system, UNJHRO monitors and reports, on a monthly basis, on judicial activity, including convictions of State agents and members of armed groups who are convicted of crimes related to violations of human rights or humanitarian law. A substantial number of these convictions result from UNJHRO's advocacy at provincial levels with military prosecutors to open judicial investigations after violations are reported to UNJHRO. UNJHRO shared information on cases with prosecutors, supported judicial investigations or the holding of court hearings and monitored the investigations and trials.

- ▶ *Development of a nationally-owned holistic framework for transitional justice (EA 3)*

In May, the Minister of Justice presented legislation to the Parliament that attempted to address some of the challenges relating to a lack of independence within the country's



Trial of senior officers of the Congolese armed forces in the village of Kalehe, South Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

military justice system by transferring jurisdiction for grave crimes committed during conflict to the Specialized Chambers of the Court of Appeal. The Bill, however, was rejected by the Parliament, as it was in 2011. To promote support for improved measures of accountability for grave crimes, each of the UNJHRO field offices in Goma, Bukavu, Lubumbashi, Bunia and Kisangani organized one-day workshops in June and July to sensitize civil society organizations in eastern DRC about reform proposals in the area of transitional justice. The workshops were designed to inform civil society organizations in the regions most affected by conflict so that they would be empowered to advocate with Members of Parliament from their regions on the importance of the proposed reforms. Following the workshops, participants from all five regions issued collective letters to their regional parliamentarians.

#### Widening the democratic space

- *Adoption of the draft bill for the protection of human rights defenders and establishment of five functional protection networks operating at the provincial and national levels (EA 3)*  
One new human rights protection network was established in Kalemie, Katanga province, however, a second one was not as a result of the unavailability of resources. In addition, the protection strategy, programmes and activities of all the networks were reviewed, together with local and international partners, with a focus on enhancing their efficiency and empowering them to become autonomous.

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

- *Increased number of human rights violations cases investigated and brought to justice by Joint Investigation Teams (EA 3)*

In 2014, the UNJHRO supported the work of nine Joint Investigation Teams and two mobile court hearings for grave human rights violations. The human rights violations that were investigated and tried included war crimes, crimes against humanity, murder and sexual violence, including rape and torture. Three additional Joint Teams and two mobile court hearings are in advanced planning stages and will be implemented in early 2015.

#### United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau

Year established	1999 (as the Human Rights Section of UNOGBIS; as an integrated mission since 2010)
Staff as of 31 December 2014	13

#### Results

##### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *At least four additional core international instruments, including optional protocols, are ratified (EA 2)*  
The transitional authorities were committed to the ratification of all outstanding conventions and optional protocols by the end of 2014, however, the election process and installation of the new Government diverted the attention of national actors to other priorities. Nevertheless, the Government ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in February and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict in September.
- *Positive response to requests of special procedures mandate-holders to visit the country (EA 6)*  
The Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights visited the country from February to March and made very specific and targeted recommendations, particularly with regard to increasing women's economic, social and political participation.

##### Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Human rights are an integral part of the training programmes of the Bar Association, refresher*

*courses for judges and recruitment training for security forces (army and police) and corrections personnel (EA 1)*

The Human Rights Section (HRS) of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) conducted a technical review of the draft Internal Procedures of the Ministry of Justice. Following the review, the Internal Procedures were validated by the Ministry in December. Additionally, the Human Rights Training of Trainers Guide for the Armed Forces, prepared by the HRS in consultation with the armed forces, was validated by the Ministry of Defence. It is currently being printed.

- *An international commission of inquiry established to investigate past gross human rights violations (EA 10)*

Given the concerns regarding the progress made in the fight against impunity, the HRS continued strengthening its advocacy work through meetings with ministerial focal points and trainings in December with newly elected Members of Parliament to share information about the international legal parameters related to the granting of amnesties.

### **Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere**

- *Improved participation of marginalized and vulnerable groups in the design and implementation of programmes and policies relating to poverty reduction and more specifically, education and health (EA 5)*

Throughout 2013 and at the beginning of 2014, an increase in human rights violations was reported in relation to logging, including land expropriation, threats, intimidation and violence against land owners, deprivation of the means of subsistence and unsafe work practices. In response to these claims, the HRS coordinated with UNDP, civil society and NGOs to undertake monitoring missions to affected regions, engaged with community members and advocated with relevant actors, particularly regional governors. The Government issued a moratorium on logging and undertook to review and regulate the exploitation of natural resources, with an emphasis on community consultation.

### **Widening the democratic space**

- *A nationwide human rights network established and fully functioning (EA 5)*

The identification and training of human rights focal points, which began in 2013, continued in 2014 and resulted in the creation of a nationwide network. A total of 60 human rights activists and civil society members (22 of whom were

women) took part in the training workshops that were organized by the HRS. As a result of the training and mentoring provided, focal points in Bafata and Sao Domingos were better able to identify human rights violations and felt confident reporting them to the HRS.

## **United Nations Mission in Liberia**

Year established	2003
Staff as of 31 December 2014	15

## **Results**

### **Strengthening international human rights mechanisms**

- *Establishment and functioning of a national body to coordinate human rights treaty body reporting. Identify and invite special procedures mandate-holders and ensure systematic follow-up of treaty and Universal Periodic Review recommendations (EA 6)*

In an attempt to establish a sustainable mechanism for the fulfilment of treaty body obligations, the Ministry of Justice collaborated with other ministries, the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) and civil society organizations and drafted a national strategy, in March, on treaty obligations. The strategy seeks to establish a Government-led coordination mechanism that will systematically focus on international human rights obligations, including ratification, reporting and implementation of recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms. The strategy is pending Cabinet's approval. The Human Rights and Protection Section (HRPS) of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), provided technical advice during the drafting process and facilitated working sessions with State partners, INCHR and civil society actors to improve coordination on treaty body reporting and follow-up to UPR recommendations.

### **Enhancing equality and countering discrimination**

- *Indicators to monitor the participation of women and persons with disabilities used in key sectors (EA 5)*

OHCHR contributed to the development of the national strategy for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its related monitoring tool, indicators and scorecards. Technical assistance was also provided to the Human Rights and





A human rights officer facilitating a training session on the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy to staff of UNPOL and the Liberia National Police.

Disability Task Force for the roll out and monitoring of the strategy.

### Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Constitutional amendments provide greater protection for a wide range of human rights and strengthened protection against discrimination and commitment to genuine equality (EA 1)*  
A forum for civil society and INCHR representatives, organized with the support of the HRPS, took place to discuss the potential consideration of a human rights agenda in the constitutional review process. Further to this event, a document was submitted to the Government with 25 recommendations regarding the integration of human rights in the review process and a content analysis of the Constitution. HRPS is working with the INCHR to advocate for the inclusion of the recommendations in the final document.

### Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *One Programme periodic and final reviews indicate that human rights have been mainstreamed in the majority of UN programmes and are based on a human rights friendly monitoring and evaluation framework (EA 11)*  
UN programmes and reports progressively incorporated human rights standards and principles and a human rights-based approach was integrated as a cross-cutting principle in the monitoring and evaluation framework of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)/One Programme

2013-2017. The HRPS contributed to these results by providing technical assistance to the UN Inter-Agency Programming Team and advocating for the integration of human rights into the work of UN agencies and UNMIL.

### Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *Ministry of Education/UNICEF transformative education programme fully incorporates lessons learned and strengthens its human rights component (EA 1)*  
Some progress was achieved in this area with, for instance, the strengthening of human rights clubs in schools through joint efforts undertaken by OHCHR, INCHR and civil society. The education sector, however, was seriously affected by the Ebola crisis and schools remained closed from June onwards. As a result, no significant activities could be carried out.
- ▶ *The National Human Rights Commission increases its compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)*  
In deploying 11 additional monitors, the INCHR increased its outreach from five to eight counties. HRPS engaged with the INCHR in joint human rights monitoring, education and advocacy. In addition, the INCHR participated in the Steering Committee of the National Human Rights Action Plan which monitored the implementation of the Plan and agreed with the National Council of Civil Society Organizations to conduct regular meetings to discuss pertinent human rights issues. Despite these positive developments, the INCHR has not functioned in an optimal manner due to its inadequate resources, the lack of a strategic



plan and delays in establishing a human rights complaint mechanism, among other limitations.

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

- *Effective sexual and gender-based violence and female genital mutilation prevention strategy with impact assessment tools is in place. The reform of the traditional justice system ensures its full compliance with human rights (EA 1)*

The Ministry of Internal Affairs issued a guideline condemning all forms of forcible initiation into secret society, noting instead the need to “uphold and protect the rights of citizens and to move and live freely.” Throughout 2014, HRPS advocated with State authorities for the reform of the justice system to bring it in line with international standards.

- *Substantial integration of UN human rights policy and tools into the work of all UNMIL components (EA 11)*

In relation to the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces and following the work of HRPS, a standard operating procedure was finalized in April and was included as part of the induction training of UNMIL security forces. HRPS also engaged with the UNCT to sensitize approximately 200 UN staff members working in various UN agencies on the Human Rights Up Front (HRUF) initiative.

In the context of the Ebola crisis, OHCHR led the Protection Cluster established in Liberia as part of the UN response to the crisis. The Cluster brought together representatives of the Government, the UN, civil society and other partners to discuss protection issues which helped to identify gaps and mobilize resources in a coordinated manner. Protection working groups were also established in all counties in Liberia, involving all humanitarian partners in the respective counties.

## United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali

Year established	2013
Staff as of 31 December 2014	68

### Results

#### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *An interministerial participatory standing national coordinating body on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries is in place and a plan of action on Universal Periodic Review recommendations is elaborated and implemented (EA 6)*

During 2014, the Human Rights Division (HRD) of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) advocated with authorities, civil society and other relevant actors on the necessity of implementing Universal Periodic Review recommendations. The authorities have taken no action since Mali's second UPR review in 2013. Although a pilot UPR Committee was established in 2013 under the Ministry of Justice to work on UPR reports, the Committee remains inactive. The HRD intends to work with the Ministry to reactivate the Committee and promote the follow-up to UPR recommendations.

In August, the HRD organized a workshop aimed at increasing the capacity of the interministerial committee in charge of drafting reports for the treaty bodies. Following the training and supplementary technical advice provided by the HRD, the Government is in the final stages of drafting its overdue reports to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.



© MINUSMA/Marco Dormino

Ceremony for victims of torture and sexual violence organized in Gao, Mali, by a local NGO in collaboration with the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and the Human Rights Section of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali.

- *Positive responses to requests for country visits from special procedures mandate-holders (EA 6)*  
In 2014, the Independent Expert on the human rights situation in Mali carried out two visits to the country (February and October). During the visits, the Independent Expert was able to travel to the regions affected by the conflict and met with high-level authorities, including the President of Mali and line ministries, the National Human Rights Commission, civil society organizations and victims of human rights violations.

### **Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law**

- *A credible and independent truth and reconciliation commission is functioning, like other transitional justice mechanisms, in compliance with international standards (EA 3)*  
In March, the Malian State established a Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission. The mandate of the Commission addresses some of the gaps identified by the HRD with respect to the previous transitional justice body, although it does not fully meet international standards. Modest progress was achieved in terms of the functioning of the institution, primarily due to the ongoing peace negotiations. The HRD provided inputs regarding the definition of the mandate and advocated for its establishment and functioning in line with international standards. Prosecution of the human rights violations committed in the course of the conflict remained slow and most cases are still at the preliminary investigation phase. The HRD closely monitored these cases and the situation of conflict-related detainees.

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

- *The number of sexual and gender-based violence cases brought to the attention of judicial authorities and effectively processed by judicial authorities is doubled (EA 1)*  
Although several complaints related to sexual and gender-based violence have been filed with the justice system, no case has reached the stage of sentencing. Through monitoring and regular reporting on human rights violations, the HRD advocated with national authorities for the prosecution of alleged perpetrators. The HRD also cooperated with national organizations to establish a trust fund to enable victims to participate in legal proceedings. In addition, the HRD worked with other parts of MINUSMA and the United Nations Country Team to carry out a number of activities and seminars for parties to the conflict in order to sensitize them about

prohibited conduct and legal responsibility arising from violations.

- *Integration of human rights policies and tools into UN responses to humanitarian crises, especially the Protection Working Group and the Protection Cluster (EA 11)*

The United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2015-2019 is grounded in human rights-based language and the HRD actively participated in the drafting process.

- *The Human Rights Due Diligence Policy is effectively implemented by MINUSMA (EA 11)*  
As a result of the technical and advocacy work conducted by the HRD in December, MINUSMA adopted standard operating procedures (SOP) to implement the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy in relation to MINUSMA's support to non-UN security forces. The SOP draws on the risk assessment conducted by the HRD in cooperation with protection actors. The HRD also mainstreamed the policy into other MINUSMA programmes and mechanisms, including agreements with the Malian State in the area of security sector as well as peace and confidence building projects. The HRDDP is now also part of the induction package for all military and civilian staff.

## **United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia**

Year established	2013
Staff as of 31 December 2014	20

## **Results**

### **Strengthening international human rights mechanisms**

- *The national report for the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review is submitted on time (EA 6)*  
Progress was made in enhancing the capacity of the Government, national human rights institutions and civil society actors to contribute to the implementation of Universal Periodic Review recommendations and the preparation of the second cycle report. Through the organization of a series of workshops, the Human Rights Section (HRS) of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) provided support and guidance to stakeholders on their reporting obligations under the UPR. For instance, the HRS provided technical support to the Ministry of Human Rights and Women's Affairs for the finalization of the Human Rights Road Map and held a stakeholder consultation workshop



in November. The outcome of the workshop contributed to the process of documenting the UPR recommendations that have been implemented and identifying steps needed to advance the implementation of the remaining recommendations. The HRS provided technical support to the Government to draft the related action plan which will support the process leading up to the Government's submission of its second UPR report.

### Widening the democratic space

- *Legislation for the establishment of a NHRI and on the media adopted in compliance with human rights standards (EA 1)*

The Human Rights Commission Bill was submitted to Parliament in early December and later that month it was returned to the Committee on Human Rights and Women's Rights after passing a second reading. Some of the amended provisions are inconsistent with the Paris Principles and could compromise the independence of the Commission, particularly in the areas of financial autonomy and procedures for the appointment of Commissioners. The HRS provided consistent input to the Ministry of Human Rights on the draft. On 27 November, the Puntland Office of the Human Rights Defender (OHRD) was established, following the appointment by Parliament of the Human Rights Defender. Throughout 2014, the HRS advocated for the establishment of the Office and engaged with it once it was established. The HRS also organized a forum with civil society to discuss the roles and responsibilities of the OHRD as well as possible opportunities for civil society organizations to engage with it.



Participants at the national consultation workshop on the Post-transition Human Rights Road Map for Somalia facilitated by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, November 2014.

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

- *Human rights are included in the standard training of African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) Security Forces (EA 10)*

Important progress was made towards the incorporation of human rights in the standard training of AMISOM. A comprehensive training package for AMISOM was developed following the participation of the HRS in a three-day curriculum development workshop organized by the United Nations Political Office for Somalia. In March, the AMISOM police component invited UNSOM to inform the in-country police training programme. As a result, throughout 2014, the HRS facilitated 12 pre-deployment training sessions for 540 AMISOM commanders. In addition, the HRS provided two in-country refresher training sessions for 386 AMISOM police officers. Moreover, the HRS trained 8,615 Somali national army officers who are expected to be part of the joint operations with AMISOM.

- *Security Council and Human Rights Council resolutions take into account human rights concerns (EA 10)*

The quarterly reports to the Security Council, as well as other UNSOM documents, are informed by human rights analysis. The HRS contributes to the development of the documents and consistently advocates for the inclusion of specific human rights language. The HRS also contributes human rights analysis to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Early Warning Reports and the Security Council's Informal Expert Group on Protection of Civilians.



A human rights officer facilitating a workshop on human rights for members of the Somali National Army in Mogadishu, Somalia.

## United Nations Mission in South Sudan

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2014	112

### Results

#### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Ratification of 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, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and their related protocols, without reservations, including the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (EA 2)*

The National Legislative Assembly adopted the ratification bills and the President signed the accession to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol; and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Since the instruments of accession for these treaties have not been deposited with the Secretary-General, they cannot be considered as acceded to/ratified by South Sudan.

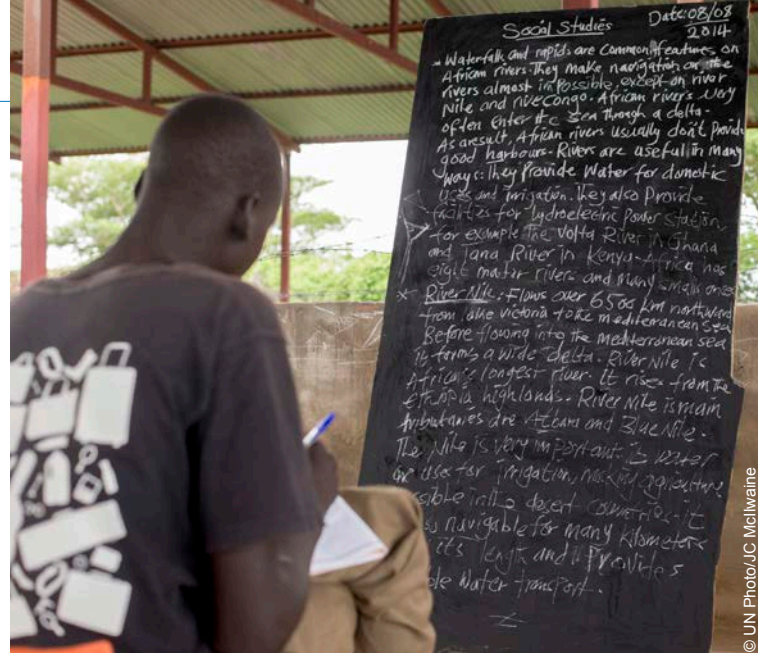
- *Common core document and at least two initial reports submitted (EA 6)*

As the international human rights instruments were not ratified, no State Party reports were submitted.

#### Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Legislation, policies and practices increasingly comply with anti-discrimination and equality standards (EA 4)*

Women and girls in South Sudan continue to face discrimination and abuse, including domestic violence, forced marriages and sexual violence. In spite of the Government's stated commitment to the empowerment of women, discrimination remains endemic and widespread as they are routinely deprived of their basic rights. These



A school at the protection of civilians site of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan in Juba.

violations have been investigated and publicly reported by the Human Right Division (HRD) of the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS).

- *Participation of civil society organizations, women, youth, persons with disabilities and faith-based groups in the constitutional and law review processes (EA 5)*

The Constitutional review process did not take place as planned due to the ongoing crisis. The HRD nevertheless contributed to the increased awareness of the general public about their rights through community outreach activities, including International Women's Day, 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence and International Human Rights Day.

#### Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Human rights included in academies for the judiciary, military, police and prison staff (EA 1)*

Limited progress was achieved in relation to this expected result due to the crisis that erupted in South Sudan at the end of 2013. In addition, the new mandate of the HRD required the reprioritization of its activities.

#### Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *The Constitution, laws and policies increasingly comply with human rights standards in relation to development, especially in the context of the exploitation of natural resources and the application of non-discrimination and gender equality to land and housing rights (EA 1)*

No progress was achieved in relation to this expected result due to the crisis that erupted in South Sudan at the end of 2013. In addition, the new mandate of the HRD required the reprioritization of its activities.



- ▶ *Human rights principles form the bedrock of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework; UN guidelines on incorporating human rights-based approaches have been applied by at least three UN entities in their specific programmes; and an inter-agency human rights theme group on land issues is in place and functioning (EA 11)*

UNMISS and the United Nations Country Team worked closely on areas of common priority, notably conflict prevention, peace and reconciliation. A United Nations-wide effort was initiated to lay the foundations for durable solutions for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returning refugees. In this regard, UNMISS is working to ensure that the necessary security conditions are in place and the UNCT is supporting the planning capacity of Government institutions for the return and reintegration of IDPs, including by setting up national information management systems related to IDP profiling. UNMISS also established mechanisms to monitor and ensure that all activities are carried out in compliance with the UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.

### Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *The Constitution, laws and polices increasingly comply with human rights standards in relation to freedoms of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly, association, conscience, religion and belief, decriminalization of all forms of defamation and prohibition of incitement to hatred (EA 1)*

The Media Bills, in overall compliance with international standards, were adopted by Parliament in 2013 and promulgated into laws in October 2014. The continued existence of criminal sanctions in the Penal Code Act of 2008, however, and the passage of the National Security Service Bill in 2014, yet to be endorsed by the President, somewhat compromise the realization of freedom of expression and the development of South Sudan's media.

- ▶ *Human rights included in the curricula of formal education (EA 1)*

Limited progress was achieved in relation to this expected result due to the crisis that erupted in South Sudan at the end of 2013. In addition, the new mandate of the HRD required the reprioritization of its activities.

- ▶ *A South Sudan Human Rights Commission, accredited to the International Coordinating Committee, with 10 state offices and effectively monitoring human rights violations (EA 1)*

The South Sudan Human Rights Commission (SSHRC) was not accredited and its operations were interrupted in all 10 states due to the conflict

that erupted in December 2013. The SSHRC did, however, conduct field missions to the states in order to monitor and investigate human rights violations. By mid-2014, the SSHRC managed to reopen some of its field offices, such as in Jonglei and Central Equatoria. In March, the Commission released a public report on the internal conflict in South Sudan that began on 15 December 2013.

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

- ▶ *The Constitution, laws and polices increasingly comply with human rights standards in relation to the justice system, namely the Criminal Procedure Law; the police and security laws; instructions, directives and codes of conduct for the army, the police, prisons and the judiciary; juvenile justice and legal aid (EA 1)*

There is no evidence of laws or policies put in place to increase human rights protection in situations of violence and insecurity. On the contrary, the severity of the crisis that erupted in December 2013 demonstrates the Government's lack of capacity to protect human rights in such situations.

- ▶ *State institutions increasingly engage in conflict prevention, conflict mitigation/reconciliation and violence reduction. Measures are taken to provide for redress for serious human rights violations (EA 1)*

Limited progress was achieved in relation to this expected result. Since 15 December 2013, South Sudan has been fully immersed in a severe crisis triggered by an internal political conflict within the ruling Sudan People's Liberation Movement. The conflict resulted in the loss of thousands of innocent lives, the destruction of major towns and the displacement of more than one million people. State institutions are partially disintegrated and their legitimacy is being eroded by the human rights violations allegedly committed by their personnel.

- ▶ *Oversight bodies and accountability mechanisms established or strengthened for the army, the police and prisons (EA 3)*

No tangible accountability measures were observed to address the human rights violations committed in connection with the 2013 conflict. In January 2014, the President appointed a Human Rights Investigation Committee to investigate human rights abuses allegedly committed by security agents and opposition forces. Although the HRD was informed that the work of the Committee was complete and that its findings were presented to the President on 2 December, its results are still unknown. In relation to violations of international humanitarian and human rights law committed by non-State actors, neither the Government nor these actors

made significant efforts to identify or hold accountable those responsible for the violations. The lack of accountability from national actors further reinforces the need for international accountability measures. One important step in this regard was taken through the establishment of the African Union Commission of Inquiry on South Sudan, which completed its work in September and presented its report to the African Union's Peace and Security Council in October. UNMISS frequently liaised with the Government and opposition leadership in relation to accountability measures.

## Human Rights Advisers in United Nations Country Teams

### Chad

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2014	3

### Results

#### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *The Interministerial Committee on the elaboration of reports under the international and regional*

*human rights instruments is operational and half of Chad's overdue reports are submitted (EA 6)*

The Human Rights Adviser (HRA) supported the Interministerial Committee on the elaboration of reports to the treaties bodies, although limited progress was made due to the restructuring of the Ministry of Justice. The HRA's support primarily focused on providing training to Committee members regarding the drafting of reports under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

- *Civil society organizations increasingly submit alternative reports to UN and regional human rights mechanisms (EA 7)*

In 2014, several civil society organizations collaborated and submitted a joint report to the Human Rights Committee, with the technical support of the HRA.

#### Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Cases submitted to the National Human Rights Commission, including on land issues, are increasingly addressed (EA 1)*

The Government and the UN Resident Coordinator agreed to adopt a road map to establish a national human rights commission. The HRA supported the Resident Coordinator in its engagement with national authorities on this issue.

- *National prosecutions of the alleged perpetrators of international crimes under Hissène Habré's ruling are conducted in compliance with international human rights standards and a rights-based victims'*



Women at a refugee camp in Chad.

*reparation programme is functioning (EA 3)*

In April, the Extraordinary African Chambers in the Courts of Senegal, responsible for judging Hissene Habré's case, decided to extend the investigations for a period of eight months. OHCHR is following up on the developments related to this case.

### **Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere**

- *Recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms are integrated into the programmes and activities of UN agencies (EA 11)*  
Recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms in relation to Chad were integrated into the operational plans of the United Nations Country Team for 2014-2015. In addition, the Protection Cluster decided to follow-up on the implementation of some recommendations issued by the Universal Periodic Review. Finally, the HRA disseminated the recommendations within the UNCT and facilitated training sessions for its members on the human rights-based approach.

## **Kenya**

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2014	4

## **Results**

### **Strengthening international human rights mechanisms**

- *An effective and efficient participatory standing national coordinating body on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms is in place (EA 6)*  
OHCHR contributed to building the capacity of the participatory standing national coordinating body on integrating the recommendations of all human rights mechanisms in the context of the reorganization of the body and the arrival of new members. Part of this capacity-building focused on its roles and responsibilities in ensuring that the Government complies with its international human rights obligations. Participants also received training in relation to the preparation of the State Party report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination which will be submitted in 2015.

### **Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law**

- *Adoption of benchmark tools for the implementation of the Judiciary Transformation Framework (EA 1)*

The Office collaborated with the Kenya School of Law to develop a curriculum on economic, social and cultural rights for State officers in order to address the recognized challenges in implementing these rights.

### **Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere**

- *Legal and policy framework on exploitation of natural resources is anchored in human rights law and guiding principles on human rights and business (EA 1)*  
In 2014, the Parliament passed a Mining Bill that is compliant with human rights standards. OHCHR advocated for the integration of human rights due diligence to promote respect for human rights and ensure that the law conforms to Article 20 of the Constitution and international standards, including the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The Office also advocated for the organization of public consultations with key stakeholders during the drafting of the law, including the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights and civil society organizations.
- *Increased integration of a human rights-based approach in the design, planning and implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2014-2018, including use of Universal Periodic Review/treaty body/special procedures recommendations in the programming of United Nations Country Team partners (EA 11)*  
A fully human rights-compliant United Nations Development Assistance Framework document was adopted in March. The document makes reference to Kenya's international human rights obligations and acknowledges the need to focus on the rights of women, children and vulnerable and marginalized groups. OHCHR actively participated in the conceptualization, drafting, validation and final adoption of the document. The Office also played a key role in the development of the monitoring framework for the UNDAF and is the focal point for monitoring and evaluation within the Governance Pillar.

### **Widening the democratic space**

- *Adoption of human rights-compliant legal frameworks for public participation to protect human rights defenders (EA 1)*

A concept note setting out guidelines for the development of a Policy on Public Participation, including human rights approaches, was



developed by a Steering Committee which included representatives from the Department of Justice, the Commission for the Implementation of the Constitution, the Transition Authority, the Kenya Law Reform Commission, UNDP and OHCHR. The Office also supported a meeting organized by the Department of Justice to get feedback on the draft from various stakeholders, including civil society, constitutional commissions, Parliament, ministries and the UN. In addition, OHCHR supported a forum for civil society organizations on the Policy on Public Participation with the objective of ensuring their effective participation in the development of the policy. The Office also partnered with the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights and the National Coalition for Human Rights Defenders with regard to the development of an appropriate protection mechanism for human rights defenders.

- *The Ministry of Education adopts a comprehensive human rights education policy in formal education and five pilot public universities incorporate human rights programmes in their curricula (EA 1)*

The Office worked with two public universities in Kenya for the inclusion of human rights in their curricula. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the University of Nairobi and OHCHR to promote the collaboration between the two institutions. A human rights course was developed through a workshop facilitated by OHCHR, was approved by the Faculty Curriculum Committee and is now pending Senate approval. With regard to Egerton University, following earlier discussions on the introduction of human rights education into the curriculum, Senate approval was secured and a human rights class was introduced as a common course for all undergraduate students in the academic year 2014. OHCHR supported a workshop at which 25 course lecturers enhanced their knowledge of human rights as well as their teaching skills. Additionally, a human rights teaching manual was developed and printed with support from OHCHR.

As part of its efforts to fulfil its human rights obligations, the Government of Kenya, through the Ministry of Devolution and Planning, was developing and reviewing the draft second national indicators handbook. The draft handbook listed five sets of indicators, including national, county and flagship indicators. The human rights and gender indicators were developed separately as the understanding was that they were stand-alone indicators.

At the request of the United Nations Country Team, the Human Rights Adviser engaged with UN Women and government counterparts to ensure that the final draft complied with international standards. Following training and technical support provided by the Adviser and UN Women, the final version of the handbook mainstreamed human rights and gender throughout the indicators and no longer depicted them as stand-alone indicators. The handbook was officially launched in November 2014.

## Madagascar

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2014	2

## Results

### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the optional protocols of 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 (EA 2)*

On 3 December, the National Assembly adopted legislation authorizing the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). In the months leading to the adoption of the legislation, OHCHR intensified its advocacy activities with the Parliament and the Government to highlight the importance of ratifying the remaining core human rights instruments, including the CRPD.



## Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Security forces and prison wardens increase their compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

OHCHR carried out a workshop on the revision of the 2008 law on torture with the participation of representatives from the Ministry of Justice, judiciary, police, gendarmerie, academia and civil society organizations. At the end of the event, participants adopted a draft revised law against torture, reflecting the concluding observations and recommendations made by the Committee against Torture and the Universal Periodic Review. Additionally, on 10 December, the National Assembly adopted the Law on the abolition of the death penalty. This landmark legislation is the culmination of intensive sensitization and advocacy activities undertaken by the Ministry of Justice, the United Nations Country Team, OHCHR, civil society, NGOs and the international community.

## Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *Mining sector policy protecting human rights is adopted (EA 1)*

In June, participants of an OHCHR workshop, including civil society organizations, members of the Government and representatives of mining companies adopted a charter aimed at better integrating human rights standards into sector-based policies. OHCHR also conducted consultations and workshops with civil society and community-based organizations in areas impacted by the activities of mining companies. In total, 75 participants (35 per cent of whom were women) enhanced their knowledge and expertise on international human rights principles and mechanisms. The meetings also provided an opportunity for the gathering of information on the human rights impact of mining activities.

- *Increased participation of rights-holders in the development of programming and budgeting processes, especially in the National Development Strategy (EA 5)*

At the request of the Ministry of Economy and Planning, OHCHR supported the Government in integrating human rights and gender perspectives into the draft National Development Strategy and also trained members of the drafting committee on human rights standards.

## Widening the democratic space

- *Media code of conduct adopted and improved compliance of State agents with human rights standards related to public freedoms (EA 1)*

Following the organization of a number of meetings and training activities, including a four-day workshop jointly organized by the Ministry of Communication, OHCHR, UNDP, UNIC and UNESCO, a draft media code was adopted which integrates human rights principles and standards, including the decriminalization of press-related offences. A steering committee was established to implement the chronogram for the adoption of the draft code by mid-2015.

- *Institutionalized human rights education programme in specialized institutions and higher education institutions (EA 1)*

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Human Rights Adviser, on behalf of the UN Resident Coordinator, and the General Commander of the Military Academy regarding the integration of human rights modules into the curricula of the Academy. OHCHR, in cooperation with the UNCT, will provide technical assistance and facilitate human rights training sessions for military students and support the creation of a human rights and peace resource centre within the Academy.

- *A national human rights institution is established and functioning and the Ombudsman's Office is strengthened (EA 1)*



The Prime Minister of Madagascar, the Human Rights Adviser and other participants at the celebration of Human Rights Day sign a commitment to promote and protect human rights, December 2014.

On 13 August, the President of the Republic promulgated the Law on the establishment of the Independent National Human Rights Commission (INHRC). OHCHR provided technical advice and assistance during the drafting process to ensure its compliance with international standards and also advocated for its adoption. On 27 November, the 2015 financial law and budget were approved and OHCHR noted the absence of financial allocations for the INHRC. On OHCHR's advice, the Government committed to allocating a budget line for the INHRC in the amended financial law of March 2015. In relation to the Ombudsman's Office, OHCHR organized a human rights workshop for staff members on human rights principles, the national, regional and international mechanisms for the protection of human rights and the role of the Ombudsman in promoting human rights.

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

- *Legal frameworks, public policies and institutions are in place and functioning to combat all forms of human exploitation, including trafficking and sexual and gender-based violence (EA 1)*

Following intensive advocacy, training and sensitization activities undertaken by OHCHR, IOM, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP, a law against trafficking in persons was adopted in December. The legislation provides protection for victims of human trafficking, punishment of perpetrators and State responsibility with regard to the right of victims to compensation. The Office also participated in a workshop that was organized by the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Justice to draft a national action plan to fight against human trafficking. An action plan and a chronogram were adopted at the end of the workshop.

## Malawi

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2014	1

## Results

### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Interministerial participatory standing national coordinating body on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms established and reports/*

*common core document prepared in compliance with the reporting guidelines submitted to treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review (EA 6)*

The Human Rights Adviser advocated for the establishment of an interministerial committee to focus on reporting obligations and follow up to recommendations made by the UN human rights mechanisms during its meetings with the Solicitor General and the Malawi Human Rights Commission (MHRC). In September, the HRA drafted a table of clustered recommendations issued by the UN human rights mechanisms in relation to Malawi and shared the table with the MHRC and the Ministry of Justice.

The Government submitted its State Party report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in early 2014, its formal response to the Human Rights Committee list of issues in June and its national Universal Periodic Review report in September. The HRA participated in a validation meeting on the Government's draft report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in November and provided advice on the report's compliance with the Committee's reporting guidelines.

- *Increased engagement of civil society actors and national human rights institutions with the UPR and treaty bodies (EA 7)*

Eleven NGOs submitted reports and information to the Human Rights Committee in relation to the list of issues and the review of Malawi's State party report in July.

### Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Legislative framework and policies incorporate international human rights standards in relation to discrimination (EA 4)*

The Gender Equality Act, which entered into force in April, translates constitutional provisions and CEDAW commitments into domestic legislation. In addition, Malawi's abortion law and the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act are under review. The HRA advocated for the enactment of the HIV and AIDS Prevention and Management Bill, including in meetings with the Law Commissioner and the MHRC.

### Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *The United Nations Development Assistance Framework midterm review, the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework and other UN joint programmes incorporate a human rights-based approach (EA 11)*
- Human rights were increasingly integrated

into the work of UN agencies and the UN's capacity to advocate for respect for human rights was strengthened by the efforts of the UN Human Rights Working Group, led by the HRA. The Adviser also led the preparation of a Joint Annual Work Plan for 2015 between the MHRC and six UN agencies, which was signed on 16 December. In addition, the UN established a five-year right to food project integrating recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food. Human rights were integrated into elements of a joint programme on Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health in Malawi, in conjunction with UNFPA. The aim of the programme is to follow up on a national assessment of sexual, reproductive, maternal and child health in Malawi, the legal and policy environment, existing initiatives, identified gaps and the obstacles to and opportunities for realizing these rights. Following the UN's advocacy, including a meeting between the United Nations Country Team and the Speaker of Parliament and the preparation of a comprehensive briefing note by the HRA, a Parliamentary Human Rights Committee was established in September.



Children in a refugee camp in Niger.

## Niger

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2014	- (The field presence closed in 2014)

## Results

### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *At least one international human rights treaty and two optional protocols ratified (EA 2)*  
During 2014, the Government of Niger approved the draft laws for the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. The two bills were forwarded to the National Assembly for their adoption. OHCHR, in partnership with UNDP, civil society organizations and the National Human Rights Commission, advocated for their adoption and Niger's compliance with its international human rights commitments.
- *Forty per cent of outstanding State Party reports are submitted to treaty bodies (EA 6)*  
In 2014, Niger adopted and submitted its periodic

report under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and approved its initial report under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Several other reports are being finalized, including the periodic reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

- *Pending visits of Special Rapporteurs to take place (EA 6)*  
In 2014, following an invitation extended by the Government, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, visited Niger from 11 to 21 November. During the mission, the Special Rapporteur met with authorities, UN agencies, judges, religious leaders, women's associations, trade unions and civil society organizations. The mission report will be presented to the Human Rights Council in September 2015.
- *The United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2014-2018 fully integrates human rights, including relevant recommendations from human rights mechanisms (EA 11)*



The Human Rights Adviser contributed to the drafting of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2014-2018 and promoted the integration of human rights and gender perspectives in the document. As a result, human rights were among the cross-cutting themes included in the UNDAF, which aims to contribute to the realization of human rights by supporting the implementation of recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms.

### Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- ▶ *National legislation to combat slavery and human trafficking is in full compliance with international standards and a national plan of action to combat slavery and human trafficking is adopted (EA 4)*

Niger adopted a national action plan against human trafficking to be implemented by the National Agency for Combating Trafficking in Persons. The action plan is an important step in achieving the Government's commitment to combat human trafficking and similar practices in Niger.

### Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *The National Human Rights Commission implements its four-year plan for the period 2014-2017 (EA 1)*

Following a participatory and inclusive process, the four-year strategic plan of the National Human Rights Commission was adopted. The plan includes components on the promotion and protection of human rights through the establishment of regional branches of the Commission; the promotion of a culture of peace through the establishment of peace schools; and the promotion and protection of the rights of women and of vulnerable groups.

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

- ▶ *Human rights are mainstreamed into the humanitarian strategy documents and policies of the Consolidated Appeals Process for Niger and the Protection Cluster Action Plan (EA 11)*

Human rights were included as cross-cutting issues in the Consolidated Appeals Process and the Protection Cluster Action Plan. The Human Rights Adviser contributed to the development of both documents and advocated for the integration of human rights.

## Nigeria

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2014	1

## Results

### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Participatory interministerial standing national coordinating body on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms re-activated and functioning and at least four reports submitted to treaty bodies in full conformity with reporting guidelines (EA 6)*

The Interministerial Committee, in charge of coordinating State reporting and follow-up to recommendations of human rights mechanisms, was reactivated. The Human Rights Adviser assisted the Government in preparing a proposal for its reactivation and developing its work plan.

### Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- ▶ *National action plan against racism and discrimination adopted (EA 1)*

The HRA supported the development of a national action plan against racism and discrimination during expert consultations. Its validation and approval are pending.

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

- ▶ *Increased compliance of security agencies deployed in conflict zones with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

National security agencies increasingly demonstrated their awareness of human rights through improved responses to allegations of human rights violations and by providing information as appropriate. In addition, the HRA engaged with the Chief of Defence Staff at Defence Headquarters to develop a code of conduct for security operations and revise the code of conduct for internal operations to ensure their conformity with international standards.

- ▶ *Institutionalization of human rights training for the armed forces and security agencies, especially those involved in operations in the north-east (EA 1)*

The HRA designed a forum between the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the National Defence College (NDC) at which they developed a curriculum and manual for the training of security personnel working in internal



© UNHCR/H. Caux

Nigerian refugee girls at a school in Bosso, Niger.

security operations. The integration of the human rights modules complements the existing standard training curriculum of the Defence Academy. These programmes are expected to improve the knowledge and capacity of security personnel on human rights issues, reduce their involvement in human rights violations and enhance their response to violations committed in the context of the counter-insurgency measures in the north-east.

► *Increased use of the National Human Rights Commission in the context of communal violence and potential conflict triggers (EA 5)*

Civil society organizations established a mechanism for the systematic monitoring of and reporting on the human rights situation in the north-east. This was due in part to the efforts of the HRA to facilitate linkages between NHRC monitors and those deployed by civil society organizations.

► *Increased application of rights-based approaches by UN programmes addressing violence, insecurity and conflict, including UNDP conflict prevention and national peace architecture projects, UN Women's multi-year programme and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework Action Plan and agency implementation programmes (EA 11)*

UN agencies active in Nigeria integrated human rights into their programmes and interventions with the HRA's support and training, including, for example, IOM in its migration policy; UNDP in its election support programme and peace and development initiatives; UNICEF in the establishment of the monitoring and reporting

mechanism on children and armed conflict; and the Protection Cluster in the development of a protection strategy.

## Rwanda

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2014	2

## Results

### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

► *The interministerial task force for treaty body and Universal Periodic Review recommendations is fully operational, appropriately staffed and charged with the preparation of periodic reports (EA 6)*

In 2014, OHCHR engaged with the interministerial task force on several occasions, in particular during the Universal Periodic Review reporting process and the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association. The Office also contributed to the increased capacity of the task force by providing advice and training.

### Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

► *National courts increasingly invoke human rights laws and principles in their proceedings and final decisions (EA 1)*

Judges in three districts of Rwanda increased their



knowledge on the application of international law principles in domestic courts following training sessions facilitated by OHCHR. Similar trainings will be implemented in other districts of the country in 2015.

### **Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere**

- ▶ *Human rights-based approach introduced in at least three major projects of the One UN Programme, including a UNDP-led programme on environmental protection and poverty reduction (EA 11)*

Awareness among UN agencies and implementing partners of the human rights-based approach increased following training sessions conducted by the HRA and the dissemination of information on the approach to approximately 600 UN staff members in the country.

### **Widening the democratic space**

- ▶ *National Commission for Human Rights carries out an effective human rights education programme (EA 1)*

The staff of the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) was trained by OHCHR on how to conduct human rights education. Additionally, the Office collaborated with the United Nations Country Team to support the NCHR in its sensitization campaigns, including through sponsorship of newspaper articles featuring the Commission or providing support to a public event in Bugesera, both of which contributed to the increased knowledge of the population about human rights and the role of the NCHR.

Little progress was reported on this expected result due to the Ebola epidemic. The Human Rights Adviser nevertheless remained in regular contact with the Director of the International Organizations and Legal Affairs Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who is responsible for the Ministry's Human Rights Secretariat. The HRA consistently indicated OHCHR's readiness to provide support to the Secretariat in meeting its responsibilities under the Universal Periodic Review and it is envisaged that this work will resume in 2015.

### **Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere**

- ▶ *At least three UN programmes and policies, and particularly the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2015, are informed by a human rights-based approach (EA 11)*

Due to the Ebola epidemic, the national UN system was instructed to suspend all activities, including development activities, and focus entirely on the Ebola response. Notwithstanding, through his active engagement with United Nations Country Team member agencies, the HRA promoted an understanding of human rights standards and principles. The HRA also contributed to the drafting of the UNCT's first press release in relation to a case of female genital mutilation in Sierra Leone. In addition, the HRA drafted a paper on the human rights aspects of Ebola in order to inform UNCT members about the range of human rights issues that are implicated in the epidemic and encouraged the use of a human rights-based approach in their programmatic responses. As the Ebola epidemic unfolded, the HRA ensured that early warning indicators of violence were noted and discussed in the UNCT meetings.

## **Sierra Leone**

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 submission of reports to treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review (EA 6)*



An Ebola treatment centre in Magburaka, Sierra Leone.



### Widening the democratic space

- *An active and effective network of human rights defenders advocates for and engages in the promotion and protection of human rights (EA 5)*  
Together with the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL), the HRA reactivated the Human Rights Working Group (HRWG). The HRWG is the only national forum bringing together leading human rights defenders to discuss actual and emerging human rights concerns and ensure consistent approaches. In relation to the Ebola outbreak, with the HRA's assistance, the HRWG identified priority areas based on a human rights-based approach. As a result, the HRCSL priorities focused on the monitoring of quarantine areas, the use of force by security forces, the rights of vulnerable groups, access to justice and the protection of health workers. The HRA also assisted the HRCSL in providing appropriate secretariat support to the HRWG in order to enhance its sustainability.

## United Republic of Tanzania

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2014	1

### Results

#### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms and reports submitted in conformity with reporting guidelines to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Human Rights Committee (EA 6)*  
The seventh and eighth periodic reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women were submitted in conformity with reporting guidelines. The periodic reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Human Rights Committee, however, remain overdue.

### Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *The justice system increasingly investigates and prosecutes crimes against people with albinism and survivors and their families are provided with effective remedies, redress and rehabilitation (EA 1)*  
Improvements have been reported in the provision of legal assistance and access to justice for people with albinism. The Human Rights Adviser engaged on these issues with the Office of the Attorney General, the Director of Constitutional Affairs and Human Rights, the Deputy Public Prosecutor, regional commissioners and the police.
- *A national policy to prevent and protect against attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism is in place, a national education and awareness-raising campaign to combat superstition and stigma vis-à-vis albinism has been conducted and the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance effectively monitors and reports on the human rights situation of persons with albinism (EA 4)*

Following discussions between OHCHR, the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance, the Tanzanian Albinism Society and the NGO Under the Same Sun, the Commission played a lead role in the organization of an outreach and media campaign regarding persons with albinism. With the support of the HRA, the Commission engaged with relevant governmental actors to ensure a holistic and comprehensive approach to the subject.

#### Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *The evaluation of the United Nations Development Assistance Plan and the design of the next One Programme fully incorporates a human rights-based approach (EA 11)*  
With the support of the HRA, the United Nations Country Team's Inter-Agency Gender Group and the Interest Group for Culture and Development prepared cross-cutting checklists to ensure that 10 programmes made reference to human rights concerns. In addition, work was undertaken to articulate the expected results of the programmes in line with human rights standards. The UNCT also integrated support for the National Human Rights Action Plan in the United Nations Development Assistance Plan, although it should be noted that the Action Plan does not incorporate all of the recommendations issued by the Universal Periodic Review in relation to Tanzania.

## Zambia

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2014	1

## Results

### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Establishment of 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 submission of pending reports to treaty bodies (EA 6)*  
The Human Rights Adviser prompted discussions within the United Nations Country Team on the need to advocate for and support the creation of a national coordinating body for reporting to the human rights treaty bodies. It is anticipated that State Party reports will be submitted in 2015 to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

### Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Civil society creates and supports participatory mechanisms to counter discrimination (EA 5)*  
On the initiative of the HRA, a Human Rights Network was created, composed of Zambian human rights practitioners, human rights activists and academics. In 2014, the Network met regularly to discuss and formulate strategies to advance human rights issues in Zambia. It has also been instrumental in drafting policy on issues such as discrimination, the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights and business and human rights.



OHCHR outreach activity addressed to children with albinism in the United Republic of Tanzania.

### Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *A human rights-based approach is integrated into the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2016-2019 and into joint programmes of the UNCT (EA 11)*  
In 2014, the HRA produced a handbook, entitled *Applying a Human Rights-Based Approach to Development Work in Zambia*, which contains useful information and checklists adapted to the Zambian context. The objective of the Handbook is to ensure that the principles of a human rights-based approach are applied at all stages of the UNCT programming cycle. In addition, the HRA trained government officials, civil society and the UNCT on the human rights-based approach and gender mainstreaming in order to provide those responsible for development interventions with the necessary tools to promote the realization of human rights.

# OHCHR in the field: Americas



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

\* 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 Masetén 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
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	-	<b>1,370,430</b>

### 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
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	-	<b>8,955,163</b>

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
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	-	<b>3,729,246</b>

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
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,399,663</b>

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
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>741,597</b>	<b>272,963</b>

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
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>881,141</b>	<b>549,076</b>



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](http://derechoshumanos.org.py)), but were not for sale. Instead, they were distributed to approximately 4,000 individuals who participated in short human rights tests.

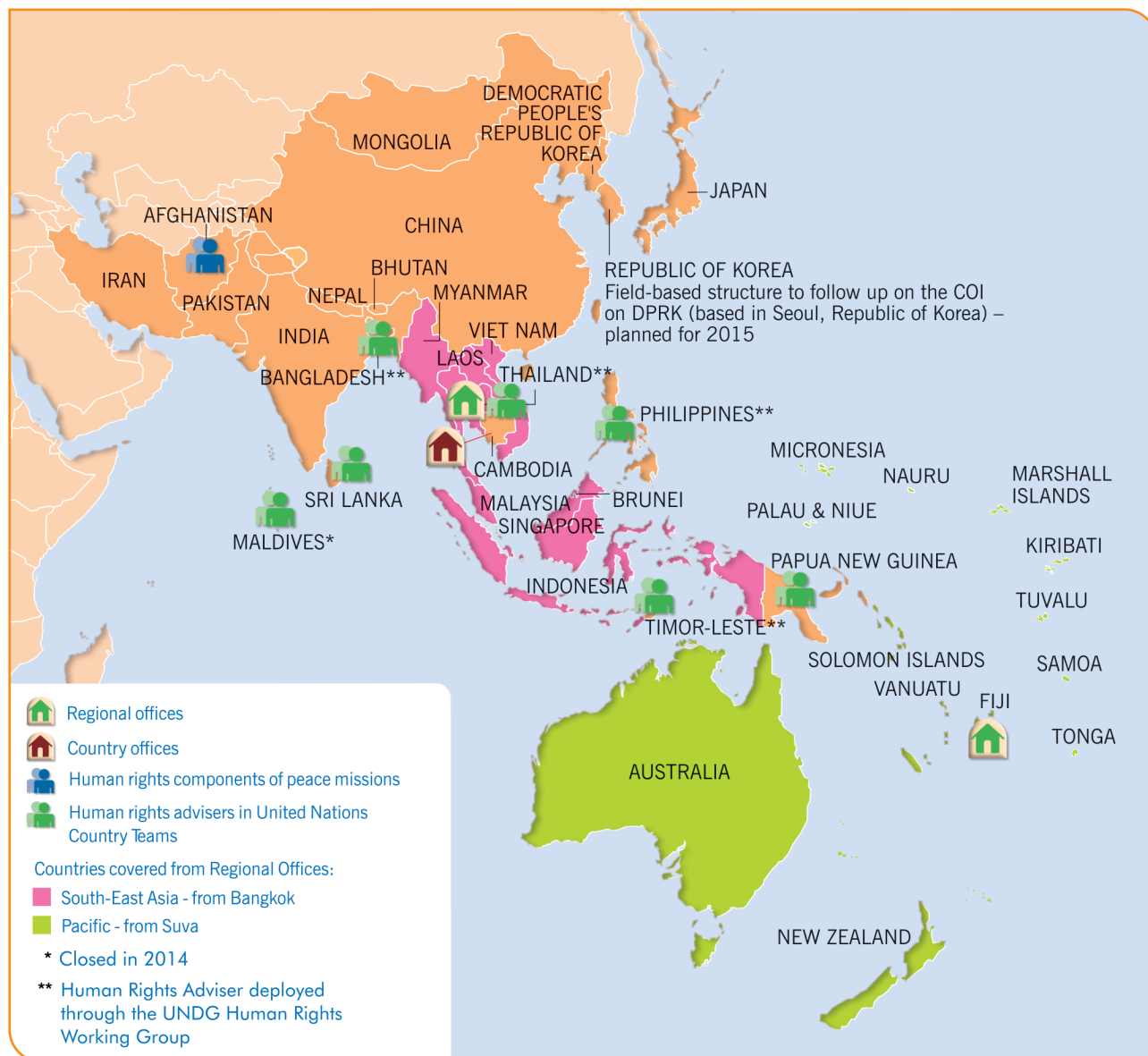
Television and radio spots and social media postings were also used to promote the campaign. The spots highlighted the personal experiences of various individuals who had claimed their rights, including in relation to the right to a fair trial for

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.

# 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) (Bangladesh<sup>4</sup>, Maldives<sup>4</sup>, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines<sup>4</sup>, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste<sup>4</sup> and a United Nations Development Group (UNDG) regional human rights adviser for Asia-Pacific based in Bangkok<sup>4</sup>); 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

<sup>4</sup> 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
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>1,254,130</b>	<b>1,067,762</b>



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
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>896,314</b>	<b>878,386</b>

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
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	-	<b>842,924</b>



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**

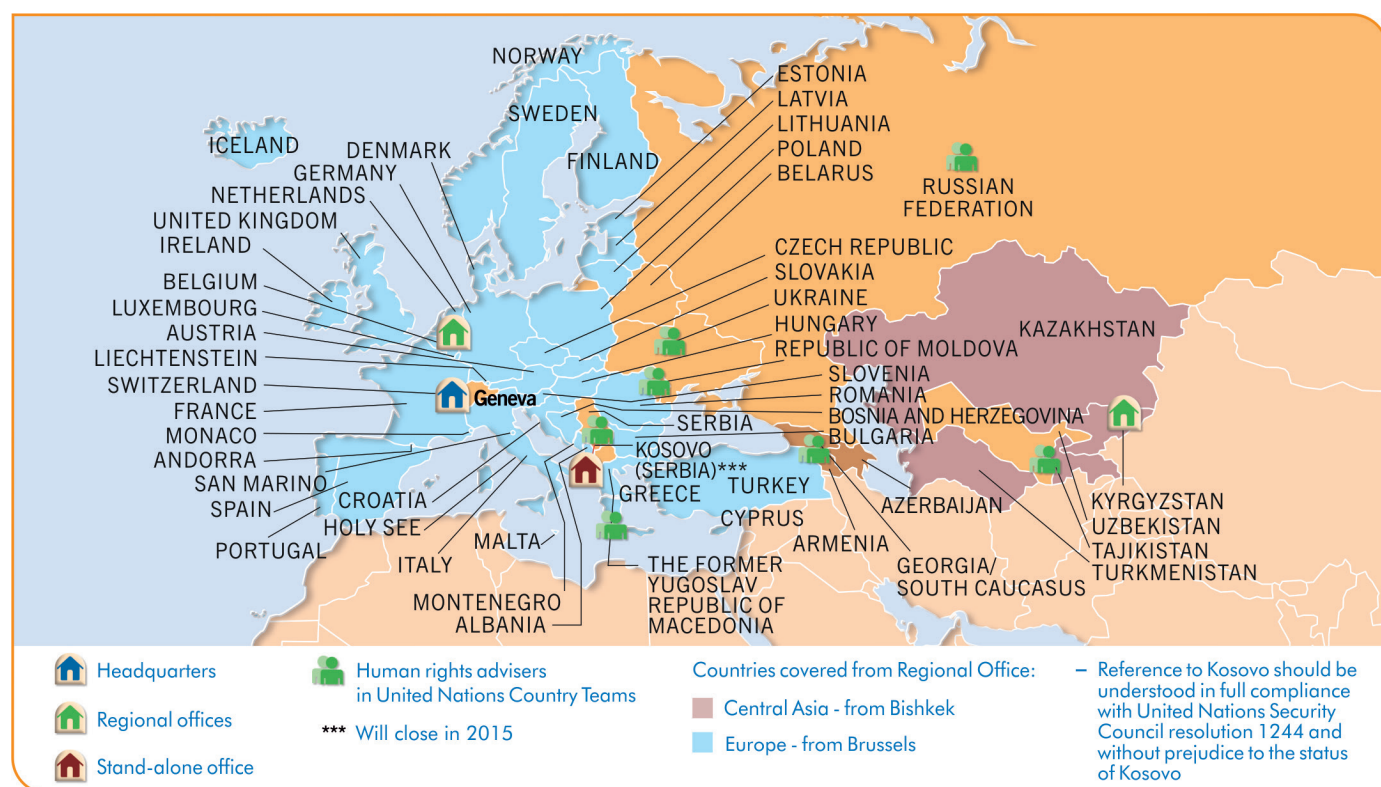
- *Human rights, including women's rights and gender equality, have been substantially integrated into educational curriculum (EA 1)*

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.

# OHCHR in the field: Europe and Central Asia



Type of presence	Location
Stand-alone office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kosovo<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>
Regional offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan)</li> <li>Europe (Brussels, Belgium)</li> </ul>
Human rights advisers in United Nations Country Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Republic of Moldova</li> <li>Russian Federation</li> <li>Serbia</li> <li>South Caucasus (based in Tbilisi, covering Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia)</li> <li>Tajikistan</li> <li>The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</li> <li>Ukraine (Human Rights Mission)</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

The region of Europe and Central Asia is comprised of candidate and potential candidate countries and members of the European Union (EU), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Council of Europe (CoE) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). In 2014, OHCHR supported 10 field presences in the region: two regional offices (for Europe and for Central

Asia); one stand-alone office in Kosovo; and seven human rights advisers (Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, South Caucasus, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine – later reinforced with the deployment of a human rights monitoring mission). Support was also provided to the human rights expert in the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Following the intensification of the crisis in February 2014, a Human Rights Mission in Ukraine was established in mid-March. The Mission issued nine public reports on the human rights situation in Ukraine, with recommendations aimed at more strategic interventions on priority issues and a multi-stakeholder dialogue approach on a range of critical human rights issues. These reports served as reference sources for Member States, UN and human rights mechanisms, civil society and the international media. The Mission also provided expertise to the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) on the development of its strategy to strengthen the capacity of the Government and civil society to advance



the human rights and rule of law agenda, as well as social and economic development in Ukraine. The Mission also contributed to the international community's humanitarian response by participating in developing the UN common strategy on Ukraine and in the emergency response plan, assuming co-leadership of the Protection Sector.

OHCHR maintained a focus on the protracted conflicts in Europe. In May, the High Commissioner visited Georgia to highlight the responsibility of the de facto authorities to ensure the protection of civilians and to offer OHCHR's assistance. The Office reported to the Human Rights Council on the human rights situation in Cyprus and provided support to the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus.

OHCHR increased its technical assistance for the integration of human rights into UN development programmes, especially in preparation for the implementation of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) in 11 countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) and one territory (Kosovo).

OHCHR supported the efforts of Member States and other stakeholders to address the situation of particularly disadvantaged groups. OHCHR engaged in activities relating to the Roma in Europe, including in France, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Slovakia, with a view to ensuring a greater enjoyment of their economic, social and cultural rights. The Office also focused on the rights of migrants and asylum-seekers in the EU, particularly those in irregular situations, migrants and asylum-seekers held in detention, and of victims of acts of discrimination and xenophobia in law and practice. OHCHR collaborated with OSCE and in June, signed a joint declaration on the reinforcement of co-operation between OHCHR and the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

During the course of 2014, the High Commissioner visited Sweden (April) and Georgia (May); the Deputy High Commissioner visited Germany (March), Belgium (April), the Republic of Moldova (April), Bosnia and Herzegovina (August), Slovenia (September) and Norway (December); and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights visited Ukraine (March, May, August, September and December), the OSCE headquarters in Vienna (May and September) and the EU in Brussels (December).

## Stand-alone Office

### Kosovo<sup>5</sup>

Year established	1998
Staff as of 31 December 2014	8
Expenditure in 2014	US\$762,991

## Results

### Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Legislation related to combating discrimination is adopted and implemented in line with international human rights standards (EA 4)*  
Due to the political stalemate in 2014, the Assembly of Kosovo was unable to adopt the revised laws on anti-discrimination, the Ombudsperson Institution and gender equality. The Office substantially contributed to the revisions. Following advocacy undertaken by the Office, as well as international and civil society organizations, an advisory and coordination group was established within the Prime Minister's Office to address the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people. OHCHR participated as an observer and provided advice in line with international standards. The Office was also instrumental in supporting the Committee of the Assembly of Kosovo tasked with the selection process for the new Ombudsperson. The Office advised the recruitment panel on how to ensure a fair and objective interview process, monitored the interviews and assessed the procedure as fair and transparent. Due to political reasons, however, the Assembly was unable to select a new Ombudsperson.

### Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Fully functioning National Preventive Mechanism against torture is in place and operating in accordance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (EA 3)*

<sup>5</sup> Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

Two NGOs working in northern Kosovo, namely Association for Peace Kosovo and Domovik, were trained by OHCHR on the mandate and work of the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) and the monitoring of detention centres. A partnership was also established with the regional office of the Ombudsperson Institution in Mitrovica which ensured regular communication on the situation of detention facilities.

- ▶ *A transitional justice strategy that conforms to international human rights standards is adopted and implemented (EA 3)*

As a result of advocacy undertaken by OHCHR, in collaboration with UNDP and other international stakeholders, the Inter-ministerial Working Group on Dealing with the Past and Reconciliation (IMWG) became operational at the end of October 2014. The IMWG was established in 2012 and began working on the development of a transitional justice strategy. The Office provided substantive assistance for the production of awareness-raising materials on missing persons and on the rights to know, justice and reparations. It also contributed to the development of a website that will be used by the IMWG to ensure that all stakeholders have access to relevant documentation on transitional justice and to promote the exchange of information, best practices and lessons learned between civil society organizations.

### **Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere**

- ▶ *Increased instances of formal approaches by the international community in relation to specific human rights issues (EA 10)*

The Civil Society Rule of Law Forum was established in northern Kosovo in 2014. This Forum (composed of regional and international organizations as well as civil society) provides a space for the exchange of information and coordination of activities to ensure synergies and prevent overlap. OHCHR supported the establishment and operationalization of the Forum and ensured that it addressed concrete human rights concerns such as the situation in the Mitrovica detention centre.

In compliance with recommendations issued by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in 2014, IDP profiling was initiated in Kosovo. The Office supported the work of the IDP Inter-Agency Working Group, which was facilitated by UNHCR and is composed of international and civil society actors. The Working Group assisted the Ministry

for Communities and Returns in reviewing the relevant existing legal framework and preparing the IDP profiling exercise. The Working Group also developed individual and household questionnaires for the profiling exercise which will begin in early 2015.

- ▶ *Human rights duly taken into consideration in the drafting process of the new United Nations Kosovo Team Common Development Plan. Human rights accountability of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo/European Union Rule of Law Mission is increased (EA 11)*

The drafting process of the new Common Development Plan 2016-2020 is ongoing and applies a human rights-based approach with a particular focus on vulnerable groups. The Office participated in all strategic preparatory meetings, led the development of one of the priority areas (governance and the rule of law) and contributed to ensuring the integration of a human rights-based approach in two other priority areas. The Office also provided technical support for the identification and development of relevant human rights indicators.

### **Widening the democratic space**

- ▶ *Increased level of meaningful participation of women in selected public processes, notably those related to sexual and gender-based violence (EA 5)*

On 21 March, the Assembly of Kosovo amended the Law on the Status and the Rights of the Martyrs to recognize survivors of conflict-related sexual violence as a special category of civilian victims of war. The Office played a key role in advocating for the adoption of this Law by, among other activities, releasing a study on this issue in 2013. The Office also distributed information to the relevant Assembly Committee on the international standards applicable to this issue. In implementing the Law, the President's Office established the National Council for the Survivors of Sexual Violence during the War, which OHCHR participates in as an observer. In addition, the Office, in collaboration with UN Women, provided technical and financial support to the National Council to assist in the drafting of the by-law that will regulate the work of a commission charged with certifying survivors in order for them to receive reparations. This regulation should be finalized in 2015.

The municipality of Zvečan adopted a municipal economic development strategy that includes the economic rights of women. The Office and women's NGOs advocated for the inclusion of these rights in the strategy.

## Kosovo: Expenditure in 2014

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	575,227
Consultants	-	3,506
Official travel	-	9,500
Contractual services	-	7,706
General operating expenses	-	56,200
Supplies and materials	-	9,060
Seminars, grants and contributions	-	14,014
Subtotal	-	675,213
Programme support costs	-	87,778
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	-	<b>762,991</b>



A group of women participate in a seminar on the prevention of domestic violence in Tajikistan, February 2014.

organized the consultations in Bishkek and Osh, representing an encouraging sign of increased partnership between the State and civil society.

## Regional Offices

### Regional Office for Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan)

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2014	4
Expenditure in 2014	US\$884,351

## Results

### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Establishment and/or fully functioning participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (EA 6)*

In Kyrgyzstan, the Coordination Council on Human Rights has a functional secretariat with the capacity to better coordinate the holistic implementation of the recommendations of the human rights mechanisms. As a result of OHCHR's support and technical advice, the Coordination Council also improved its capacity to prepare for the second Universal Periodic Review (UPR). In addition, following advocacy from the Office, the Government held nationwide consultations with civil society prior to the mid-June deadline for stakeholder submissions. The Coordination Council and a local NGO jointly

### Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Criminal justice legislative and policy frameworks, including in relation to past human rights violations, significantly improve their compliance with international human rights standards in Kyrgyzstan (EA 1)*

In 2014, the following seven laws were drafted in relation to the administration of justice, namely the Criminal Code; the Code on Misdemeanours; the Criminal Procedure Code; the Criminal Executive Code; the Civil Procedure Code; and the laws on enforcement proceedings and State-guaranteed legal aid. Civil society representatives provided input on the draft laws which were submitted to Parliament at the end of December. OHCHR supported the overall drafting process with a specific focus on the Criminal Procedure Code, which is broadly in compliance with international standards. The Code does not, however, address some important issues related to equality of arms, burden of proof and the exclusion of evidence obtained under torture.

- *National Preventive Mechanisms against torture as provided for under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment are fully functioning in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan (EA 3)*

In Kazakhstan, the newly established National Preventive Mechanism is located within the Office of the Ombudsman. Its ability to function improved during the year due in part to OHCHR's capacity-building activities and advice on international standards in relation to NPMs.



During the year, all vacant positions in Kyrgyzstan's NPM were filled through competitive recruitment processes. New staff members were both female and male and had different ethnic and professional backgrounds, in line with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT) and the Paris Principles. OHCHR provided technical and financial support to the NPM, including information technology equipment sent to regional offices. In addition, the Government approved the Action Plan for Combating Torture in October. OHCHR advised on the drafting of the Action Plan and advocated for its approval. While these achievements are indicative of the Government's commitment to combating torture, the NPM is not fully exercising its mandate in accordance with OP-CAT, primarily due to budgetary restrictions.

In Tajikistan, the pilot NPM began functioning under the auspices of the Ombudsman Institution. It monitored six closed institutions in several regions of the country and presented its first report with its findings and recommendations. OHCHR contributed to this result by training NPM staff on human rights monitoring and participating in the coordination meetings of the pilot NPM.

### Widening the democratic space

- *Legislative and policy frameworks increasingly preserve and guarantee democratic space in Kyrgyzstan (EA 1)*

OHCHR provided consistent advocacy and advice to State authorities to bring national legislation in line with international human rights standards. As a result, the Parliament did not adopt two draft laws that would have reduced the space in which civil society actors work (one aimed at criminalizing the dissemination of information on same-sex relations and the other aimed at granting State authorities with the power to interfere in the internal affairs of national and international NGOs). Together with the United Nations Country Team, the Office submitted two joint letters raising concerns on the above-mentioned draft laws to State authorities.

- *Strengthened and meaningful participation of rights-holders, particularly minorities, in selected processes and particularly those related to housing, land and property rights in Kyrgyzstan (EA 5)*

Through OHCHR's capacity-building activities, NGOs increased their understanding and awareness about monitoring and protecting human rights, particularly in relation to housing, land and property. This improved capacity was evident during public consultations for the preparation of the second UPR during which NGOs advocated with State authorities for a more transparent and participatory approach to housing issues. Additionally, a Law on Urban Development was amended in July, establishing that urban development plans should be made public. This came about in part as a result of OHCHR's advocacy for increasing public participation and transparency in urban planning processes.

- *Civil society, in particular youth and women's organizations, increasingly advocate for their rights in Tajikistan (EA 5)*

OHCHR supported civil society actors in their advocacy against the adoption of amendments to the Law on Public Associations. If amended, the Law could undermine the financial independence of NGOs by introducing government control over foreign funding of projects. In December, a joint communication addressing this issue was sent to the Government by the special procedures. On 4 December, the Ministry of Justice agreed to hold a public hearing on the draft provisions.

Regional Office for Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan): Expenditure in 2014		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	488,462	138,212
Consultants	5,460	12,878
Official travel	30,096	6,650
Contractual services	12,400	1,015
General operating expenses	62,910	30,446
Supplies and materials	5,472	2,582
Seminars, grants and contributions	24,162	34,284
Subtotal	628,962	226,067
Programme support costs	-	29,322
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>628,962</b>	<b>255,389</b>

## Regional Office for Europe (Brussels, Belgium)

Year established	2009
Staff as of 31 December 2014	6
Expenditure in 2014	US\$1,594,066

### Results

#### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Increased use of United Nations human rights mechanisms and bodies by diverse rights-holders (especially Roma and migrants), national human rights institutions and civil society organizations acting on their behalf in at least three States in the region (EA 7)*

During the reporting period, diverse rights-holders, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) increased their awareness of and interaction with UN human rights mechanisms. The Regional Office contributed to this outcome through a series of trainings, briefings and meetings with rights-holders, both at the national and European Union levels. As an example, the Office delivered two trainings to NGOs in Turkey on engagement with the special procedures and provided capacity-building to NGOs in Brussels for the preparation of parallel reports to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) with respect to the EU's initial report to that Committee. The Office also facilitated the submission of written information by a CSO in relation to the CRPD's review of Belgium. The information provided formed the basis for a recommendation adopted by the Committee.

#### Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Comprehensive non-discrimination directive aimed at protecting individuals from discrimination on the grounds of disability, age, religion and sexual orientation in education, health care, social protection and access to goods and services, including housing, is closer to adoption (EA 1)*

The Regional Office increased its advocacy for the adoption of the EU “horizontal directive,” prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of disability, age, religion and sexual orientation in areas other than employment. On several occasions, the Office met with high-level representatives from the two EU member states that had been blocking the adoption of the directive at the Council of the European Union in order to explain the importance of the directive to closing gaps in the protection of human rights. These discussions contributed to the increased awareness by these duty-bearers of the need for harmonized standards and one of the two EU member states has since dropped its objections.

- *NHRIs and equality bodies take concrete measures to address discrimination issues; increase the direct participation of rights-holders from groups at risk (especially Roma and migrants) and involve civil society organizations representing these groups in their activities in at least two States in the region (EA 5)*

Through a series of activities, including the organization of conferences, seminars and other advocacy events, OHCHR contributed to increasing the awareness of NHRIs and rights-holders on issues related to equality and non-discrimination. For instance, the Regional Office participated in the launch of a pioneering project on the human rights of older persons in long-



OHCHR participated at the UN Day in Brussels, October 2014.

term care. The project will be implemented by the European Network of NHRIs and aims to introduce a human rights-based perspective into policies concerning older persons, particularly in institutional care – an area of social and health policy that remains largely outside the influence of the human rights community. In Turkey, the newly established NHRI increased its capacity regarding human rights, including in relation to different areas of equality and non-discrimination. The Office supported this result through its participation at a seminar where it presented the work of the international human rights mechanisms and discussed how the NHRI could engage with them. Awareness of EU officials and CSOs about the rights of migrants was increased due to OHCHR's advocacy and its provision of technical assistance on the promotion of the international human rights mechanisms and OHCHR tools and guidelines.

### **Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere**

- *Increased participation of rights-holders, and the CSOs which represent them, in the design and monitoring of public policies in the region, particularly EU development policies; public policies and budget processes affecting socially excluded ethnic groups (Roma and Travellers) in at least three States of the region; public policies dealing with the right to independent living of persons with disabilities and family or family-type care of children in at least five States of the region (EA 5)*

In cooperation with the European Expert Group on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care, the Regional Office for Europe contributed to three national seminars in the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia, which gathered together national and local authorities, NHRIs and approximately 70 CSOs. As a result, rights-holders and CSOs increased their awareness about their roles, rights and responsibilities in decision-making processes. This will in turn enhance their capacity to participate in the design and monitoring of policies.

Progress was also achieved in enhancing the capacity of rights-holders and CSOs to participate in the design and monitoring of EU development policies. The European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) elaborated its first toolkit on the practical implementation of a human rights-based approach to EU development programmes. DG DEVCO consulted with OHCHR, which provided inputs, as well as rights-holders and their representative organizations in the preparation of the toolkit.



Former High Commissioner Navi Pillay speaking to the media after her address to the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna, July 2014.

Some progress has been achieved in enhancing the capacity of the Roma and Travellers to participate in the design and monitoring of public policies. In at least four events held for CSOs, the Regional Office advocated for the human rights of the Roma. In addition, OHCHR organized the second colloquium on Roma inclusion, focused on housing. The event gathered together 105 participants from EU and non-EU member states in the region and increased the capacity of CSOs and duty-bearers to design inclusive housing policies for the Roma by sharing good practices at the regional, national and local levels.

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

- *Implementation of the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive, the 2012-2016 Strategy on Trafficking in Human Beings and the 2009 Action Oriented Paper, in accordance with international human rights law in countries in the region (EA 1)*

The European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the EU (Frontex) organized two trainings-of-trainers on combating and preventing trafficking in human beings for border guards in the EU member states, in collaboration with OHCHR, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, IOM, UNHCR and national practitioners. The Regional Office delivered training modules on the development of a legal framework to combat trafficking and on the human rights-based approach to identifying and interviewing victims. Participants increased their awareness and understanding of international and regional human rights standards related to trafficking, including the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive. In addition, the Regional Office contributed to the online training tool targeted towards national trainers to increase their capacity and knowledge about anti-trafficking standards, including by highlighting international human rights obligations.



### Regional Office for Europe (Brussels, Belgium): Expenditure in 2014

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	811,769	-
Consultants	-	15,150
Official travel	10,300	34,748
Contractual services	-	49,383
General operating expenses	81,100	201,523
Supplies and materials	8,700	78,745
Seminars, grants and contributions	50,000	179,918
Subtotal	961,869	559,467
Programme support costs	-	72,731
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>961,869</b>	<b>632,197</b>

*the individual communications procedures of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EA 7)*

In relation to OHCHR's work to promote the use of the international human rights mechanisms by civil society actors, as of the end of 2014, six cases were being finalized for their potential submission under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. OHCHR will continue working with various NGOs and lawyers on these cases.

### Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Regulations and official scenarios (such as Pride events or segregated school districts) brought substantially into compliance with non-/anti-discrimination international human rights standards (EA 4)*

On 17 May, the LGBT Equality March took place in Chisinau, organized by the NGO GENDERDOC-M, with the support of OHCHR and without any legal challenge from authorities. Supported by OHCHR, the Ministry of Health established an anti-discrimination panel to examine and decide on complaints of individuals who consider themselves to be victims of discrimination; contribute to education and awareness-raising on discrimination in the health field; and propose solutions for effectively addressing cases identified as discriminatory. In October, the Ministry of Health signed an order establishing an independent service to protect the rights of patients in psychiatric institutions

## Human Rights Advisers in United Nations Country Teams

### Republic of Moldova

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2014	2

### Results

#### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Women and others from marginalized or vulnerable groups, including the Roma, persons with disabilities, older women and persons from the Transnistrian region, make effective use of*



Activities carried out by OHCHR with a network of parents working to achieve inclusive education for children with disabilities in the Republic of Moldova.

and budgeted the measure in accordance with a recommendation of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights.

OHCHR also supported Moldova's Council on Preventing and Combating Discrimination and Ensuring Equality in providing advice to the Parliament for the amendment of hate crime provisions of the Criminal Code and the Contraventional Code, which was subsequently amended.

OHCHR contributed to the creation of a network of parents working to achieve inclusive education for their children with disabilities. The Office held a series of meetings to help formulate advocacy messages and also supported the engagement of parents with relevant authorities on individual cases. As a result of these actions, 22 children were enrolled in mainstream kindergartens and schools.

### Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Increased number of remedy decisions and decisions in discrimination cases in compliance with international law (EA 1)*

Moldova's Council on Preventing and Combating Discrimination and Ensuring Equality issued 74 decisions from September 2013 to December 2014. OHCHR provided extensive support to the Council, including methodological guidance in a number of cases.

OHCHR continued its efforts to train judges and prosecutors on various elements of anti-discrimination law within the framework of the National Institute of Justice. For instance, in August, the Ministry of Justice issued a manual, produced by OHCHR, as part of the support materials used to train judges in anti-discrimination law. These efforts contributed to some improvements related to jurisprudence, including a decision handed down by the Supreme Court on 10 December to return to the appeals court a request to recognize multiple ethnicities which was previously denied by lower courts.

The Constitutional Court handed down a significant decision on 13 November to uphold the right to effective access to justice for individuals deprived of their legal capacity on the basis of psychosocial and intellectual disabilities. The Constitutional Court ruled that such a prohibition discriminates against people with mental disabilities by failing to ensure respect for their rights guaranteed under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. OHCHR submitted an amicus curiae brief in the case. OHCHR's capacity-building efforts in relation to

article 12 of the CRPD contributed to a ground-breaking decision handed down by the Cahul Court. In the case, a woman with intellectual disabilities won a legal battle protecting her right to make her own life decisions through supported decision-making instead of being subjected to guardianship. This was the first case in which a court declared incapacitation to be illegal in light of national legislation and called for alternatives of support instead of guardianship. The practice was subsequently extended to other cases in Cahul, as well as to other jurisdictions, including Chisinau.

## Russian Federation

Year established	2008, following the adoption of cooperation framework in August 2007
Staff as of 31 December 2014	6

## Results

### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Increased implementation of recommendations issued by treaty bodies, special procedures and the Human Rights Council relating to human rights institutions, judicial reform, human rights training for law enforcement officials, the rights of children and the rights of women (EA 6)*

In November, OHCHR facilitated a human rights orientation programme in Geneva for 12 civil servants from key ministries. The programme provided participants with comprehensive knowledge of the UN human rights mechanisms and aimed at improving their skills in reporting and implementation of the recommendations issued by the mechanisms.

OHCHR advocated for the adoption of legislation in accordance with recommendations issued by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. A draft law on domestic violence was prepared with inputs from OHCHR.

### Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *The national human rights institutions' anti-discrimination programmes significantly improve compliance with international human rights standards (EA 4)*

The Ombudsman of the Russian Federation

and regional commissioners for human rights maintained their 'A' status and remained important players in the Russian human rights protection system. OHCHR contributed to the increased capacity of regional ombudspersons to handle discrimination cases in conformity with international human rights standards. OHCHR also conducted workshops, which were attended by commissioners from fifty regions, on the role of national human rights institutions in advancing the rights of indigenous peoples, the Paris principles and promoting equality and combating discrimination.

### Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *A multidisciplinary Human Rights Programme was integrated into formal higher education and institutionalized in several regions (EA 1)*

With OHCHR support, five universities from Moscow, Perm and Kazan integrated the Human Rights Master Programme into their curricula. Negotiations for the inclusion of the Master Programme are underway with four other universities from Voronezh and Yekaterinburg regions. The core courses include lectures on the UN human rights system, the treaty bodies, international humanitarian and human rights law in conflict and post-conflict situations and the European system of human rights protection.



Participants of the International Forum of Muslim Women: Human Rights in Today's World supported by OHCHR.

In 2014, the International Forum of Muslim Women: Human Rights in Today's World was held for the first time in the Russian Federation, in the city of Kazan. Kazan is the capital of the Republic of Tatarstan, a region which is home to the majority of Russia's Muslim population. The Forum was organized by the Tatarstan Ombudsperson, with the support of

OHCHR, and brought together close to 100 government representatives, Russian Human Rights Commissioners, representatives of international organizations and civil society.

The participants discussed a wide range of issues related to the enjoyment of women's rights in the Republic of Tatarstan and other

regions of the Russian Federation, including combating domestic violence, strengthening the role of women in society and protecting their rights. They also exchanged information about a number of good practices in place across the region to promote and protect human rights at the regional level. One of these was the Human Rights Strategy of the Republic of Tatarstan for 2014-2018, which makes specific reference to recommendations issued by international and regional human rights mechanisms.

At the end of the Forum, participants outlined a series of recommendations, including establishing a regional mechanism, to promote the participation of women in public life; undertaking a gender analysis of existing legal provisions; creating a permanent mechanism to promote and protect women's rights; and ensuring that the rights of women with disabilities are recognized and upheld.



## Serbia

Year established	Office in 1996 and Human Rights Adviser in 2007
Staff as of 31 December 2014	1

## Results

### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Fully functioning participatory standing national coordinating body is in place to report on/reply to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms (EA 6)*

On 10 December 2014, the Office for Human and Minority Rights of the Government of the Republic of Serbia launched a national mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the recommendations issued by UN human rights mechanisms and a mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the Action Plan related to the Strategy for the prevention of and protection against discrimination (2014-2018). The Human Rights Adviser contributed to the establishment of the former mechanism by providing technical assistance for the clustering of recommendations and the identification of the institutions responsible for their implementation.

### Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *The United Nations Development Assistance Framework and half of UN programmes and projects fully conform to the human rights-based approach and incorporate recommendations from human rights mechanisms (EA 11)*

The draft Common Country Assessment (CCA) integrates human rights elements, including the views of UN human rights mechanisms issued in relation to Serbia. The Human Rights Adviser and UNDP co-chaired the Human Rights Theme Group of the United Nations Country Team, drafted the human rights analysis for the CCA and provided inputs to the CCA.

## South Caucasus (based in Tbilisi, covering Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia)

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2014	4

## Results

### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Fully functioning participatory standing national coordinating bodies are in place for reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia (EA 6)*

In Georgia, OHCHR assisted the Government in the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) and advised on initiating a process to follow up on recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms, which involved establishing thematic groups with the participation of the national human rights institution and NGOs. In addition, OHCHR advised the secretariat of the NHRAP on the creation of a system for integrated reporting to human rights mechanisms.

- *International human rights standards and recommendations of international human rights mechanisms are partially integrated into UN common country programmes in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia (EA 11)*

Due to OHCHR's awareness-raising activities, United Nations Country Teams in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia increased their awareness about the UN human rights mechanisms and began to include some of their recommendations into their programmes. In Armenia, UNFPA and UNICEF are using many of the recommendations issued by the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Human Rights Committee in their programmes. Following the December 2013 visit of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women to Azerbaijan, UNFPA integrated her recommendations into its activities. In Georgia, UNDP, UNICEF, ILO, UN Women and OHCHR assisted the Government in the development of the NHRAP, which is partly based on the recommendations of international and regional human rights mechanisms.



Human Rights Day event in Tbilisi, Georgia, jointly organized by the Human Rights Ombudsman, OHCHR, UNDP and the EU, December 2014.

### Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Institutions in the justice sector show significant improvement in their compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)*  
The Georgian Bar Association now recognizes a training provided by OHCHR as one of the courses that can be counted as credit for the continuing education that is required of the members of the Association. OHCHR also organized training seminars on international legal standards for various legal professionals, including judges at the High School of Justice. In addition, the Office worked to have the OHCHR Training Series Manuals included in the training curricula of the High School of Justice and the Georgian Bar Association and provided advice to these institutions on the overall upgrading of their curricula.

### Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *Training programmes on human rights institutionalized in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia (EA 1)*  
The Human Rights Centre of the Free University of Tbilisi (Georgia) offers courses on human rights for law students, conducts a specialized Summer School on the UN human rights mechanisms and holds a number of events focused on the international human rights system. In 2014, OHCHR co-organized the Summer School with the Human Rights Centre, advised on the Centre's activities and plans and contributed publications used in the Centre's activities.

## The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2014	1

## Results

### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *A government coordination body for integrated reporting and/or implementation of outstanding recommendations is functioning in line with effective, transparent and participatory operating modalities (EA 6)*

The Inter-Sectorial Body on Human Rights (ISBHR) was not fully functional between March and December due to the parliamentary elections that were held in April. This led to the delayed appointment of new State Secretaries, all of whom are ex officio ISBHR members. Its secretariat, however, remained active and collaborated with a wider group of State and government actors and civil society to outline a plan for the implementation of the recommendations issued during the second Universal Periodic Review and a proposal for strengthening the ISBHR's capacity. OHCHR contributed technical guidance for the implementation of these key activities.

- ▶ *An increased number of diverse national civil society organizations participate in State reporting and the implementation of recommendations and makes submissions to the UN human rights mechanisms (EA 7)*

The Human Rights Adviser provided information and detailed guidance to civil society organizations, independent journalist associations, trade unions and the Ombudsman's Office on how to engage in light of the second UPR in January 2014 and the adoption of the list of issues by the Human Rights Committee on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Several civil society organizations and the Ombudsman's Office made submissions, many of which were taken on board by the Committee. In addition, women's organizations used the recommendations from the second UPR to advocate with the Government for the implementation of the recommendations issued by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in 2013.



## Ukraine<sup>6</sup>

Year established	2011 (HRA); Human Rights Mission in 2014
Staff as of 31 December 2014	10

## Results

### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *A permanent interministerial coordination mechanism for integrated reporting and implementation of recommendations issued by treaty bodies, special procedures and the Human Rights Council is in place and functioning (EA 6)*  
In the presidential decree of 14 October, the Cabinet of Ministers was tasked with elaborating a human rights strategy by 1 January 2015. The Ministry of Justice, which is the government focal agency for the preparation of the draft strategy, established a working group for the development of the strategy in late November. It remains unclear, however, if the functions of this working group will go beyond the

elaboration of the strategy to create a permanent mechanism for integrated reporting and implementing of the recommendations issued by UN human rights mechanisms. In its meetings with State officials, OHCHR, through its Human Rights Mission in Ukraine (HRMU), repeatedly advocated for the elaboration of a national human rights strategy and a human rights action plan.

- ▶ *At least three UN agencies regularly apply UN guidelines on incorporating a rights-based approach to programming (EA 11)*

On 1 September, the United Nations Country Team drafted a document, *United Nations Strategy for Ukraine*. The document articulates a collective vision for UN partners in Ukraine that is founded on a human rights-based approach and was advocated by the HRMU during a UN workshop in June. During the workshop, the HRMU briefed the UNCT about the Human Rights Up Front Action Plan. The Strategy identified four thematic priorities (improving the administration of justice; equality and non-discrimination; economic and social rights; and fundamental freedoms) for the effective engagement of the UN in Ukraine which are drawn from an OHCHR compilation of clustered recommendations issued by the UN human rights mechanisms. In November and December, steps were taken to integrate these priorities into the programmes of UN agencies

<sup>6</sup> As of mid-March 2014, a UN Human Rights Mission in Ukraine (HRMU) has been deployed, reinforcing the existing Human Rights Adviser based with the UN Country Team.



An OHCHR staff member during a monitoring mission to the Donetsk region, Ukraine.



in 2015 and beyond in order to guide the humanitarian response to the crisis in the East; the recovery, stabilization and rehabilitation efforts; and the support for governance reforms. In addition, as part of the humanitarian response to the crisis in the East, the HRMU co-chaired the Protection Cluster with UNHCR and focused its work on the protection of civilians, non-discriminatory access to services and durable solutions. The HRMU ensured that the initiatives developed by the humanitarian community took human rights aspects into account and functioned in accordance with international human rights norms and standards. This enabled the humanitarian community to identify the most acute vulnerabilities and determine the nature and scope of the interventions that are required to address violations or situations of inequality.

### **Enhancing equality and countering discrimination**

#### ► *Anti-discrimination legislation is in line with international standards (EA 4)*

On 13 May, the Ukrainian Parliament adopted amendments to the 2012 Law on preventing and countering discrimination, bringing it in closer compliance with international standards. More specifically, the amendments brought the definitions of direct and indirect discrimination in line with Ukraine's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and outlined criminal, civil and administrative liability in cases of discrimination. The amended Law, however, did not reflect the relevant jurisprudence of the UN Human Rights Committee or the European Court of Human Rights on the prevention of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The HRMU contributed to this improvement in compliance by co-organizing a round-table discussion with the Ombudsperson's Office. The round-table involved representatives of different ministries and NGOs, highlighted shortcomings in the existing anti-discrimination Law and called for its alignment with international norms and standards. In addition, a training workshop on international

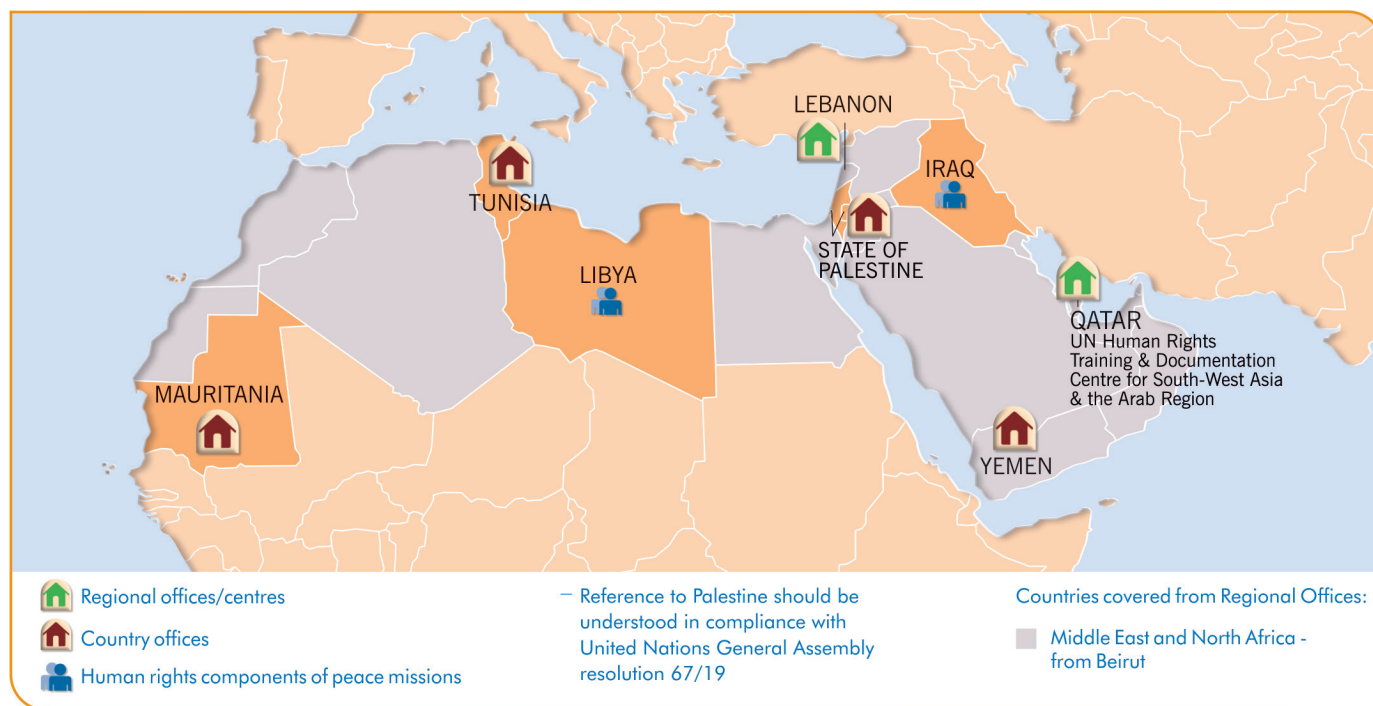
anti-discrimination norms and standards was organized with UNDP for Members of the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights, State ministries, the Ombudsperson's Office and NGOs.

### **Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law**

#### ► *Torture prevention and accountability mechanisms are in place and functioning (EA 3)*

Prior to the establishment of the HRMU, the Human Rights Adviser was in regular contact with the Ombudsperson's Office in relation to human rights violations, including cases of torture, arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances and summary executions, which had allegedly occurred during the Maidan demonstrations in January and February 2014. These ongoing discussions helped the Ombudsperson's Office to focus on its role in the prevention of torture as the National Preventive Mechanism, in accordance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Following the establishment of the HRMU in mid-March, cooperation with the Ombudsperson's Office was intensified in the context of the outbreak of the conflict in the East and the launch of a security operation in mid-April. Dozens of people were arrested in the regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, many of whom were subsequently transferred to pre-trial detention facilities or penitentiary institutions. Lists of arrested persons that were obtained by the HRMU were provided to the NPM. The NPM verified their whereabouts and conducted ad hoc visits to detainees, resulting in the identification of the location of several individuals who were considered to be unaccounted for. Due to the extraordinary circumstances that led to the establishment of the HRMU and a redefinition of OHCHR's priorities in Ukraine, it was not possible to conduct activities to enhance the awareness of the police, prosecutors and the judiciary about international standards applicable to the administration of justice in the context of persons deprived of their liberty.

# OHCHR in the field: Middle East and North Africa



Type of presence	Location
Country offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mauritania</li> <li>● State of Palestine<sup>1</sup></li> <li>● Tunisia</li> <li>● Yemen</li> </ul>
Regional offices and centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Middle East (Beirut, Lebanon)</li> <li>● North Africa (operates on a temporary basis from Beirut, Lebanon)</li> <li>● United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha, Qatar)</li> </ul>
Human rights components in UN Peace Missions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Iraq (UNAMI)</li> <li>● Libya (UNSMIL)</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Reference to Palestine should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19.

In 2014, OHCHR undertook proactive efforts to support the promotion and protection of human rights in the Middle East and North Africa region which continued to be marked by developments resulting from the popular uprisings of 2011. In Tunisia, peaceful legislative elections were held on 26 October 2014 and a new Constitution was adopted on 26 January 2014. Some countries saw positive and constructive reforms to advance human rights and the rule of law, others witnessed heightened violence, insecurity, armed conflict and serious human rights violations.

The further deterioration of the situations in Iraq, Libya and the Syrian Arab Republic was at the forefront of OHCHR's concerns, as was the escalation in hostilities in Gaza during the summer of 2014. In response to these situations, the High Commissioner acted through public and private advocacy, including numerous press releases and statements, public reports and briefings to the Human Rights Council, the General Assembly and the Security Council. In particular, the High Commissioner advocated for the protection of civilians and called for an end to violence and the accountability of perpetrators of violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

OHCHR supported the establishment of three commissions of inquiry and investigative missions mandated by the Human Rights Council (on Iraq, the State of Palestine and the Syrian Arab Republic) and extended support to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 and to the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories. The Office also worked on the follow-up to the Memorandum of Understanding on technical cooperation between OHCHR and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

OHCHR maintained eight field presences in the region: three regional offices/centres (for the Middle East, North Africa and the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region in Doha); four country offices (Mauritania, the State of Palestine, Tunisia and Yemen); and two human rights components within UN peace missions (Iraq and Libya).

In 2014, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights visited Iraq (October).

## Country Offices

### Mauritania

Year established	2010
Staff as of 31 December 2014	9
Expenditure in 2014	US\$1,263,971

## Results

### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Increased number of ratifications and withdrawal of reservations to international human rights treaties (EA 2)*

Following consistent advocacy with the Human Rights and Humanitarian Assistance Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Government replaced its general reservation to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) with a specific reservation to articles 13 and 16.

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

In April, the Human Rights Commissioner issued a decree on the establishment of a technical committee for the development of State Party reports which will be Chaired by the Office of the Prime Minister. OHCHR has observer status and, on that basis, regularly provides technical assistance and support to the members of the committee. With the support of OHCHR, the committee developed its work plan for drafting three periodic reports and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) report, which will be submitted in 2015.

- *Increased number of submissions by civil society organizations and national human rights institutions to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Migrant Workers*

Following capacity-building processes that were supported by the Office, a number of NGOs submitted a joint report to the CEDAW Committee in June.

- *UPR recommendations (2nd cycle) are part of United Nations Country Team joint planning and United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2012-2016 implementation (EA 11)*
- The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) agreed to integrate the UPR recommendations into the ongoing United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2012-2016 midterm review and planning for 2015. In September, the Office briefed the UNCT on the UPR recommendations regarding Mauritania and the steps it had taken with the Government to promote their implementation.

### Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Adoption of general anti-discrimination legislation and increased compliance of legislative and policy initiatives with the rights of women, migrants and persons with HIV/AIDS and persons with disabilities. Adoption of a road map on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, a National Action Plan against Discrimination and a National Action Plan for Migration (EA 4)*

Following the adoption of the road map on the fight against the vestiges of slavery on 6 March by the Council of Ministers, the interministerial committee and the monitoring committee, on which OHCHR serves as observer, developed a work plan for the implementation of the road map. Since that time, the committees have held monthly meetings to monitor progress towards the implementation of planned activities. The finalization of the National Action Plan against Racial Discrimination was delayed and the Office had to postpone a number of planned activities in this context. In August, however, OHCHR organized a seminar on the National Action Plan against Racial Discrimination in cooperation with the Human Rights and Humanitarian Assistance Office.

### Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *The Penal Code is revised regarding alternative punishment; a penitentiary policy is developed;*



*and prison authorities increasingly apply international standards on combating torture (EA 1)*

In June, OHCHR and the Ministry of Justice organized a seminar on the drafting of legislation to prevent and criminalize torture. The seminar was attended by prison officials, members of police and gendarmerie, judges, lawyers, civil society and officials from relevant ministries. Participants discussed the content of a draft law, which will be finalized for review and adoption by the Parliament in 2015.

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

In August, the Human Rights Commissioner announced the establishment of a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM). A working group developed the draft legislation on the NPM, which is in full compliance with the guidelines provided by the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and is currently awaiting approval from the Prime Minister for transmittal to the Parliament for final adoption. The Office participated in the working group as an observer and provided comments on the different versions of the draft law.

### **Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere**

- *National Action Plan on social cohesion is adopted; access to land is regulated in conformity with international standards; and standards for private business, in particular fishing and mining, include the prohibition of slavery and child labour (EA 1)*

The National Strategy on Social Cohesion was finalized and is ready for validation. While the Strategy contains references to human rights in one chapter, the Human Rights and Humanitarian Assistance Office, as the responsible government entity, agreed to reinforce the integration of human rights throughout the document, with the support of OHCHR, prior to its validation. The Office provided a technical and advocacy note to competent authorities on how to integrate human rights in the draft national strategy.

### **Widening the democratic space**

- *Adoption of a Law on Civilian Associations, in consultation with civil society organizations and in compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

The draft law on civilian associations is currently being reviewed by the Ministry of Communication and of Relations with Civil Society and the



Meeting between civil society organizations and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery in Mauritania, February 2014.

Parliament. The Ministry has yet to share the draft text with civil society.

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

- *Human rights protection concerns are integrated into operational humanitarian plans, including a disaster preparedness plan (EA 11)*

The Office, as coordinator of the Protection Cluster, actively participated in the development of the Humanitarian Needs Overview 2014 and its midterm review and promoted the integration of human rights in the analysis. The Overview also included recommendations from the UPR and references to other international human rights commitments and obligations by Mauritania.

#### **Mauritania: Expenditure in 2014**

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	609,968
Consultants	-	60,267
Official travel	-	49,389
Contractual services	-	24,370
General operating expenses	-	122,397
Supplies and materials	-	80,130
Seminars, grants and contributions	-	172,038
Subtotal	-	1,118,559
Programme support costs	-	145,413
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,263,971</b>

## State of Palestine<sup>7</sup>

Year established	1996
Staff as of 31 December 2014	22
Expenditure in 2014	US\$3,629,547

## Results

### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Accession to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (EA 2)*

The State of Palestine became a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) on 2 July 2014. In addition, it acceded to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), CEDAW, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on 2 May and to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (CRC-OP-AC) on 7 May. All accessions were made without reservations. A subsequent legislative review took place to identify laws that require amendment or replacement in order to conform with Palestine's treaty obligations. Since the accession, OHCHR has responded to a request from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for technical assistance by implementing an ambitious programme of training and capacity-building to support Palestinian efforts to implement, monitor and report to the treaty bodies.

### Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Increased compliance with international human rights standards in relation to detention practices and detention conditions (EA 1)*

OHCHR built on its achievement in 2013 of securing unannounced visits to Palestinian Preventive Security detention facilities and, in 2014, secured unannounced access to facilities run by the General Intelligence Service. OHCHR's achievement in this regard led to the granting of unannounced access for other organizations, such as the ICRC and the National Independent Commission for Human Rights. OHCHR carried out visits to detention

facilities run by the abovementioned actors and those run by the police. Concerns were similar to those noted in previous years, including arbitrary detention and torture and ill-treatment. OHCHR has improved its relations with relevant actors and is engaged in ongoing dialogue with the authorities on various human rights issues.

### Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *The NHRI and relevant NGOs/civil society organizations monitor the implementation of the Palestinian National Development Plan (EA 5)*
- The Palestinian National Development Plan, which integrates a human rights-based approach, was launched in January. The Office subsequently held a series of consultations on a rights-based monitoring of the Development Plan with the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Planning, the Independent Commission for Human Rights and civil society organizations. While the formation of a Government of National Consensus gave rise to hope that the Plan would be widely implemented throughout the country, its implementation was limited due to the escalation of violence in Gaza from June to August.

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

- *Increased compliance with international human rights standards by legislation, decrees and administrative instructions relating to sexual and gender-based violence and so-called honour crimes (EA 1)*

In May, the President of the State of Palestine issued a Decree Law amending Article 98 of the Penal Code to ensure that perpetrators of so-called honour crimes will not benefit from an extenuating circumstances defence. The Decree Law mirrors one of the recommendations included in a study, commissioned by OHCHR, on responses of the judiciary to the murder of women under the pretext of so-called honour in Palestine. The study analyzed a sample of 37 related rulings handed down by the Courts of First Instance in the West Bank and Gaza between 1993 and 2013. It concluded that the Penal Code's broad provision of mitigating circumstances frequently led to an extension of impunity for these crimes. The study was published and distributed to judges, prosecutors, civil society organizations and UN agencies. OHCHR monitored cases of so-called honour killings and raised awareness about the issue during workshops on women's rights that were held in Gaza, Hebron, Jenin, Jerusalem and Nablus for women's rights organizations and female lawyers.

<sup>7</sup> Reference to Palestine should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19.





A Palestinian man rescues items from the rubble of his home destroyed during the escalation of the conflict in northern Gaza Strip, August 2014.

► *Increased responsiveness of the international community to issues of impunity by both Israeli and Palestinian duty-bearers (EA 10)*

OHCHR continued its programme of documenting human rights violations and abuses across Palestine in the face of a significant deterioration of the human rights situation in 2014 due to the escalating conflict in Gaza. OHCHR monitored and reported on the situation, ensuring that the international community was aware of the violations as they occurred. Despite very challenging conditions, OHCHR and its partners in the Protection Cluster were able to provide daily preliminary figures of civilian casualties during the conflict. These figures fed into daily UN reports on the situation in Gaza and provided the international community and the media with an up-to-date assessment of the civilian impact of the conflict. OHCHR's regular reports formed the basis for the discussions in the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly on the issue.

► *Enhanced implementation of a human rights-based approach by United Nations programmes, especially within humanitarian strategies, planning and responses (EA 11)*

Through its leadership role in the Protection Cluster, OHCHR ensured a strong focus on protection and respect for international human rights law and international humanitarian law in all aspects of humanitarian engagement in Palestine, including responses, planning and advocacy. OHCHR enhanced the mainstreaming of protection in the analysis and responses of other Clusters. During the escalation of the hostilities in Gaza, the statistics collected by the Protection Cluster and the analysis undertaken by OHCHR were used by the humanitarian community in daily situation reports and informed

public statements by the High Commissioner and other UN officials. OHCHR also ensured that needs assessments and the two Flash Appeals (August and September) integrated a strong focus on accountability and respect for international law and clearly identified and prioritized the needs of children, women, persons with disabilities, the elderly and displaced persons. OHCHR provided guidance on international human rights law and humanitarian law to the humanitarian community, including through its coordination of the Protection Cluster's Legal Advice Group (LAG). The legal analysis informed policy discussions by the Humanitarian Country Team and humanitarian donors and guided humanitarian advocacy, all of which maintained a focus on accountability for violations of international law.

#### State of Palestine: Expenditure in 2014

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	2,495,013
Consultants	-	49,300
Official travel	-	74,116
Contractual services	-	153,368
General operating expenses	-	233,743
Supplies and materials	-	96,373
Seminars, grants and contributions	-	110,077
Subtotal	-	3,211,989
Programme support costs	-	417,559
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	-	<b>3,629,547</b>



## Tunisia

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2014	16
Expenditure in 2014	US\$1,820,375

## Results

### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Reservations to at least one treaty (the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child or its optional protocols) are withdrawn (EA 2)*  
All four reservations to CEDAW were officially withdrawn in April. Since 2012, OHCHR has consistently advocated for the withdrawal of the reservations, including by organizing a briefing for Members of Parliament with the participation of the Vice-Chairperson of the CEDAW Committee in April.
- ▶ *Submission of pending periodic reports to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee against Torture (EA 6)*  
State Party reports were submitted to the Committee against Torture and the Committee on Enforced Disappearances and the State Party report for the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights is in the final stage of drafting. The midterm UPR report was also submitted. OHCHR facilitated training courses for State authorities and provided technical advice regarding all of these reports.

### Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- ▶ *Legislation and policies in compliance with international human rights standards are adopted in the areas of equality of women and other persons at risk; migrants; and access to education and employment for persons with disabilities (EA 4)*  
The National Charter for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, drafted by OHCHR in coordination with a coalition of NGOs, was adopted in October and signed by Heads of political parties and presidential candidates. The Charter represents a covenant between persons with disabilities, the political parties and the candidates for the legislative and presidential elections in order to protect the rights of persons with disabilities and ensure the enjoyment of and respect for fundamental freedoms after the elections. It is also a commitment to the provisions of Article 48 of the Tunisian

Constitution and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, both of which were ratified by Tunisia in 2008. In total, 186 of 217 members of the new Assembly of the Representatives of the People have signed the National Charter. In addition, the statutes of the new Assembly include the creation of a commission to coordinate its activities with organizations working with persons with disabilities. A draft law to combat violence against women was developed and presented to the Ministerial Council for adoption. OHCHR provided technical and financial support to the national committee in charge of drafting the law.

### Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Legislation regarding deprivation of liberty, including pre-trial detention, is revised to reduce prison crowding; security sector reform leads to the adoption of policies, guidelines and codes of conduct for law enforcement officials in conformity with international human rights standards (EA 1)*  
A working group was established in March in the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Transitional Justice and Directorate General for Prisons and Rehabilitation in order to implement the recommendations outlined in OHCHR's report on the situation of prisons (*Prisons in Tunisia: International Standards versus Reality*). In addition, the Office cooperated with the National School for Prisons and Rehabilitation to implement a training programme on human rights for 375 prison and rehabilitation officials. The Office also cooperated with the Ministry of the Interior for the implementation of a training programme on human rights that targeted approximately 1,600 law enforcement personnel.
- ▶ *A justice reform process establishes guarantees for the independence, impartiality and effectiveness of the judiciary (EA 1)*  
Following the 2013 consultations on the justice sector, a strategic vision was launched in April. OHCHR cooperated with UNDP and other partners to develop a justice sector reform work plan.
- ▶ *A coherent transitional justice process is underway; a fully functional Truth and Dignity Commission is in place, has duly addressed the rights and participation of discriminated groups and has generated structural reform proposals (EA 3)*  
Following the adoption of legislation on the establishment of the Truth and Dignity Commission in December 2013 and the



A canvas painted by Tunisians to show their commitment to peace and human rights.

finalization of the selection process of its members in early 2014, the Commission was formally launched in June and began its substantive work in December. Additionally, the Law on the Specialized Judicial Chambers was approved in July. OHCHR provided technical advice on the draft text.

### Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *The United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2015-2019 integrates a human rights-based approach (EA 11)*

Human rights were fully integrated into all three main priorities of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2015-2019, which was signed by the Government and the United Nations Country Team on 21 March. OHCHR participated in the development of the UNDAF and co-led the UNCT Thematic Group on Democratic Governance.

### Widening the democratic space

- *The Constitution and other policies that may constrain freedom of expression are brought into compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

A study on the penal provisions of Decree No. 2011-115, relating to the prosecution of journalists and its implementation by the Tunisian judicial authorities, was produced by the Office and subsequently shared with journalists, prosecutors, judges and the Ministry of Justice. The study advocates for the exclusive use by magistrates of Decree No. 2011-115 rather than

the Penal Code and raises the awareness of lawyers as well as journalists about claiming their rights. One of the key findings of the study demonstrates the increased use of the Decree in 2014 and notes that the vast majority of recent cases before the courts have been decided in favour of journalists.

- *Oversight and accountability in the media sector lie with the High Independent Audiovisual Regulatory Authority (EA 1)*

The new Tunisian Constitution, promulgated in January 2014, includes a number of articles on the creation of national independent institutions, such as the 2013 High Independent Authority for Audiovisual Communication, all of which seek to contribute to the development of a comprehensive human rights protection system in Tunisia. OHCHR engaged with members of the National Constituent Assembly and civil society, as well as with the UNCT to advocate for the creation of the institutions.

- *Tunisian National Human Rights Institution established and functioning in accordance with the Paris Principles (EA 1)*

Article 128 of the Tunisian Constitution, guarantees the establishment of a national independent human rights commission. The draft law establishing the Human Rights Commission in compliance with the Paris Principles was developed with OHCHR inputs and approved by the Council of Ministers in November. It has been submitted to the Parliament for adoption.

### Tunisia: Expenditure in 2014

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	967,462
Consultants	-	73,006
Official travel	-	94,909
Contractual services	-	110,159
General operating expenses	-	97,019
Supplies and materials	-	42,866
Seminars, grants and contributions	-	225,531
Subtotal	-	1,610,951
Programme support costs	-	209,424
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	-	<b>1,820,375</b>

On 15 October 2014, a coalition of NGOs working on the rights of persons with disabilities in Tunisia adopted a National Charter for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Charter represents a covenant between persons with disabilities, political parties and candidates for legislative and presidential elections to ensure that the fundamental rights and freedoms of persons with disabilities are respected, protected and enjoyed. It is also a commitment to uphold Article 48 of the Tunisian Constitution and the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, ratified by Tunisia in 2008.

The Charter was submitted to the political parties running in the legislative elections of October 2014 and to the candidates running for the presidential elections in November 2014. Beji Caid Essebsi, the newly-elected President of the Tunisian Republic, signed the Charter on 18 November 2014. In addition, an overwhelming majority of the members of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People signed the Charter and committed to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms by persons with disabilities; promote respect for their dignity; guarantee individual autonomy, including the freedom to make one's own choices; ensure full and effective participation and inclusion in society; promote the non-discrimination principle by prohibiting all forms of discrimination based on disability; and support equality of opportunities and accessibility.

The adoption and signature of the Charter marks an historical moment for the children, young persons, women and men with disabilities in Tunisia. OHCHR's contribution, made primarily through the United Nations Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, was crucial to the country taking these important steps.

## Yemen

Year established	2012
Staff as of 31 December 2014	11
Expenditure in 2014	US\$2,077,844

## Results

### Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Civil society creates and supports mechanisms to counter discrimination against women, marginalized groups, minorities, persons with disabilities and migrants (EA 5)*

In 2014, the National Human Rights Strategy was drafted in compliance with the Outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference and Yemen's international human rights commitments, including the UPR recommendations it had accepted. OHCHR cooperated with UNDP to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Human Rights in the development of the draft by facilitating the organization of participatory consultations in the Governorates of Aden, Al-Janad, Azal, Hadramout, Tehama and Saba, to reach out to local authorities and civil society actors representing marginalized groups.

### Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Constitution and legislative framework is aligned with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

At the end of 2014, a Bill of Rights for Civil Society Organizations was launched and endorsed by 650 organizations. OHCHR and other UN agencies facilitated the process and provided technical advice and capacity-building support to civil society organizations from across the country. The Bill of Rights will be used by civil society organizations as an advocacy tool to influence the Constitution drafting process.

Draft pieces of legislation on the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) and anti-trafficking were submitted to the Parliament for adoption at the end of 2014. OHCHR raised its concerns about their compliance with international standards and facilitated the provision of inputs from civil society. In addition, through a workshop co-organized by OHCHR, IOM and UNHCR for relevant parliamentarians, the Members of Parliament agreed to revise the anti-trafficking draft to incorporate the recommendations from UN agencies.

Although the drafting process suffered some delays due to the escalation of the conflict in the country, the Constitution Drafting



Committee finalized the first draft at the end of 2014, with the support of OHCHR and other UN partners. The Office provided the Drafting Committee with extensive inputs and background information, including on international human rights standards, treaty body recommendations and general comments and best practices from other countries. OHCHR also advocated for the inclusion of provisions on traditionally sensitive issues such as the right to life and the rights of women and of minorities. The first draft included a provision establishing guarantees regarding the right to life and another on a quota for women's public participation.

- *Establishment and/or improved functioning in compliance with human rights standards of victim-centred transitional justice mechanisms, including the Commission of Inquiry, Truth and Reconciliation, Land and Dismissals Commissions (EA 3)*

The Commission to Consider and Address Land Issues and the Commission on Forcibly Dismissed Employees were established in January 2013. In 2014, the Land Commission finalized approximately 30,000 cases while the Commission on Forcibly Dismissed Employees finalized approximately 20,000 cases related to reparations. At the end of 2013, the President issued a decree to establish a Special Compensation Fund to compensate those whose land had been confiscated and for dismissed employees who were entitled to compensation. In July 2014, the Compensation Fund paid approximately US\$500 to 5,500 dismissed individuals. In November, the Prime Minister's Cabinet adopted the recommendations made by the Land Commission. OHCHR and UNDP provided technical support to both commissions, including to help build the capacity of its members on effective case management.

### **Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere**

- *Increased integration of human rights standards and principles, including the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy, into the UN common country programming (EA 11)*

The United Nations Country Team finalized the Peace Building Priority Plan for Yemen, with human rights mainstreamed throughout the Plan. OHCHR provided substantive inputs and drafted relevant outcomes and indicators for the rule of law and transitional justice components of the Plan. The UNCT also developed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Acceleration Framework to enable Yemen to identify challenges in achieving its MDG targets and

propose responsive actions.

As a result of OHCHR's inputs, the integration of human rights and gender mainstreaming was improved.

### **Widening the democratic space**

- *NHRI is established and functioning substantially in conformity with the Paris Principles (EA 1)*  
Due to the political instability in Yemen, the draft law establishing the NHRI was not adopted. It is presently under review by the Parliament. OHCHR provided technical assistance during the drafting of the law, advocated for the establishment of the NHRI in compliance with the Paris Principles and conducted a capacity-building workshop on the roles and mandate of the NHRI for representatives of the State, parliamentarians and a wide group of civil society organizations.
- *Civil society, especially those representing youth and women, substantially increases its advocacy against human rights violations (EA 5)*  
Throughout the year, OHCHR observed an increased number of reports, with improved quality, prepared by civil society organizations in relation to human rights violations, especially from conflict-affected areas. OHCHR built the capacity of over 60 civil society representatives (including over 20 women) in relation to human rights investigations, interviewing techniques and data analysis, and regarding international human rights standards in the area of discrimination. In addition, the Office developed an information system to map human rights civil society organizations active in Yemen. This will help improve the existing network of organizations and strengthen human rights monitoring across the country.

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

- *Systems and procedures put in place by OHCHR contribute to protection from human rights violations (EA 3)*  
In 2014, the Office's human rights monitoring and reporting provided crucial evidence for the High Commissioner's public statements on serious human rights violations in Yemen and for the advocacy messages delivered by the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen. OHCHR enhanced its monitoring capacities by deploying field monitors to conflict-affected areas and by providing them, and local NGOs, with training on monitoring and reporting of human rights violations. The Office also promoted the creation of a network with key Yemeni authorities and other stakeholders to enable greater cooperation in the investigation of human rights violations.

- *Increased integration of human rights standards and principles, including the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy, into the UN support to non-UN security forces and security programmes with the Yemeni security forces (EA 11)*

OHCHR introduced the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy to the Ministry of the Interior and at the end of 2014, the Minister informed the Office that the Policy had been disseminated throughout the Ministry. OHCHR had planned to implement a project to contribute to the security sector reforms through policy development and human rights capacity-building programmes, however, due to conflicts in Yemen in September, the project suffered some delays. By the end of the year, some preliminary interventions had taken place.

#### Yemen: Expenditure in 2014

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	1,310,842
Consultants	-	23,357
Official travel	-	95,529
Contractual services	-	13,200
General operating expenses	-	163,365
Supplies and materials	-	76,609
Seminars, grants and contributions	-	155,898
Subtotal	-	1,838,800
Programme support costs	-	239,044
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	-	<b>2,077,844</b>

## Regional Offices and Centres

### Regional Office for the Middle East (Beirut, Lebanon)

Year established	2002
Staff as of 31 December 2014	10
Expenditure in 2014	US\$1,385,201

## Results

### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Increased compliance and engagement of Member States with international human rights mechanisms, including through the establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms (EA 6)*

OHCHR engaged with State representatives and parliamentarians from countries in the region to encourage their increased engagement and compliance with international human rights mechanisms. In Lebanon, the Regional Office encouraged the establishment of a participatory process between the Government and civil society organizations for the preparation of reports to the Committee against Torture, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

- *Increased number of submissions to treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR from civil society actors (EA 7)*

Several training programmes were organized for civil society members in Jordan, Kuwait and Lebanon to encourage their engagement with the human rights mechanisms. OHCHR provided technical support to a coalition of civil society organizations in Kuwait, which submitted a report to the UPR.

### Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Legislation, policies and practices increasingly comply with antidiscrimination and equality standards in relation to the rights of women and of migrants (EA 4)*

In Lebanon, legislation was adopted on domestic violence. Despite some shortcomings, the legislation represents a decisive step forward and has already led to the arrest of perpetrators



Fleeing the violence in Syria, hundreds of refugees stream across the border into Jordan.

and has improved protection of women and children. The Regional Office engaged with law enforcement officers to ensure the dissemination of the Law and worked on updating the training curricula at the police academy to reflect this new development.

### Widening the democratic space

- *Establishment or strengthening of national human rights institutions that are compliant with international standards (Paris Principles), including in Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (EA 1)*  
In Kuwait, the Parliament is examining two draft laws on the establishment of a NHRI, which were revised by OHCHR to ensure their compliance with the Paris Principles.

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

- *A human rights-based approach increasingly integrated into support to non-UN security forces, and UN security policies and programmes in compliance with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (EA 11)*

Several meetings on the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy were held with representatives from the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the United Nations Office on Drugs

and Crime, the Resident Coordinator's Office and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), with the aim of initiating drafting of the risk assessment for Lebanon. More specifically, some progress was achieved on the integration of human rights standards into UNIFIL's protection strategy, following the facilitation of a number of capacity-building events by OHCHR and the undertaking of outreach efforts with UNDP.

### Regional Office for the Middle East (Beirut, Lebanon): Expenditure in 2014

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	885,516
Consultants	-	-
Official travel	-	70,727
Contractual services	-	17,900
General operating expenses	-	174,744
Supplies and materials	-	19,255
Seminars, grants and contributions	-	57,700
Subtotal	-	1,225,842
Programme support costs	-	159,359
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	-	<b>1,385,201</b>



In 2014, the human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic continued to deteriorate as the conflict entered its fourth year. During this time, all parties to the conflict committed violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. To contribute to the international community's response to this situation, OHCHR engaged in human rights monitoring, reporting and advocacy in relation to the Syrian crisis; provided capacity-development for Syrian human rights defenders; and supported protection activities for refugees fleeing Syria through the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. In addition, the High Commissioner consistently advocated for the inclusion of human rights in relevant discussions and actions through press releases and statements, public reports and briefings made to the Human Rights Council, the General Assembly and the Security Council.

OHCHR carried out its work despite operational challenges, notably the lack of access to Syria and the absence of a UN human rights presence on the ground. Obtaining access to Syria remains a priority for the Office, especially in light of Human Rights Council resolutions S-18/1 (2011) and 19/22 (2012), which called upon the Syrian authorities to fully cooperate with OHCHR, including by allowing for the establishment of a field presence in the Syrian Arab Republic.

In October 2014, OHCHR deployed a Human Rights Officer, based in Beirut, to support the United Nations Country Team and the Humanitarian Country Team in Syria. He engaged in the humanitarian planning cycle in Syria and ensured that protection monitoring was included in the Strategic Response Plan for 2015. OHCHR also carried out a number of workshops and trainings for Syrian human rights defenders. In 2014, the Regional Office for the Middle

East facilitated two workshops, in Turkey and Lebanon, on monitoring and documentation for Syrian human rights defenders. In addition, four key Syrian organizations participated in a workshop on the documentation of casualties during armed conflict, which was organized by OHCHR, in Geneva, in February 2014.

OHCHR provided ongoing substantive and administrative support to the Independent Commission of Inquiry mandated by the Human Rights Council to investigate all alleged violations of international human rights law that have occurred in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011. The Commission has issued regular reports and in 2014, OHCHR published three thematic papers on sieges, torture and ill-treatment, the human rights situation in Aleppo Central Prison and a second statistical report on casualties related to the conflict.

## Regional Office for North Africa (temporarily based in Beirut)

Year established	2012
Staff as of 31 December 2014	4
Expenditure in 2014	US\$833,918

## Results

### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

#### ► *Increased ratification of international human rights treaties (EA 2)*

The Office advocated at the regional level for the ratification of human rights treaties, including during the Regional Conference on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, entitled *Human Rights in the Arab Region*:

*Challenges and Future Perspectives.* OHCHR and the League of Arab States organized the Conference in Egypt, in May, and it was attended by representatives of governments, national human rights institutions and civil society organizations.

### Widening the democratic space

#### ► *National human rights institutions established and/or working in increased compliance with international standards (Paris Principles) in Algeria, Egypt and Morocco (EA 1)*

Little progress was achieved in Egypt, where one mission was conducted by staff members of the Regional Office, due to limited interaction with national counterparts. In Morocco, several staff members of the NHRI benefited from two training sessions that were facilitated by the Office on human rights indicators and on a human rights-based approach.

### Regional Office for North Africa (Beirut, Lebanon): Expenditure in 2014

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	273,074
Consultants	-	28,045
Official travel	-	205,339
Contractual services	-	55,700
General operating expenses	-	59,250
Supplies and materials	-	21,605
Seminars, grants and contributions	-	94,968
Subtotal	-	737,981
Programme support costs	-	95,938
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	-	<b>833,918</b>

### United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha, Qatar)

Year established	2009
Staff as of 31 December 2014	5
Expenditure in 2014	US\$1,993,599

## Results

### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

OHCHR worked to enhance the capacity of State authorities in the region to engage with the UN human rights mechanisms. In August, the Centre and the Arab Organization for Human Rights co-organized a regional workshop on best practices in following up on the implementation of UPR recommendations. In total, 25 participants from nine countries in the region attended the workshop. In addition, a five-day training workshop on the human rights mechanisms was organized in February, in Saudi Arabia, and was attended by approximately 140 participants (including 40 women) from governmental institutions. Training sessions on the UPR process

were also organized in Qatar, in May, in close cooperation with the Qatar National Human Rights Committee, and in Oman, in September, in cooperation with the Oman National Human Rights Commission.

### Widening the democratic space

- *National human rights institutions function in accordance with international standards regarding their interaction with UN human rights mechanisms and civil society (EA 1)*

The Centre conducted two training sessions for NHRIs in Qatar and in Oman in order to increase their understanding of the human rights mechanisms and promote their engagement with the UPR. Further activities to strengthen NHRIs in the region are planned for 2015 in cooperation with the Qatar National Human Rights Committee.

- *Teachers and educators integrate human rights values and concepts into their educational curricula (EA 1)*

In August, a workshop on *Quality Assurance of Human Rights Education Programmes* was organized by OHCHR, in Cairo, which included the participation of curriculum designers and Heads of teachers' training units from 12 countries across the Middle East and North Africa. In Jordan, the Office organized a workshop, entitled *Developing educational materials to promote human rights in elementary and secondary schools*, which included 18 representatives of different ministries and civil society organizations from the region. The objective of the workshop was to identify best practices and the needs for developing human rights education programmes in the region. At the end of the workshop, the participants identified a group of recommendations to enhance the promotion of human rights education in the region.

- *Civil society, youth and journalists increasingly advocate for and claim their rights (EA 5)*

The Centre implemented the first phase of a training-of-trainers programme on economic, social and cultural rights and focused on providing participants with a better understanding of these rights and various monitoring approaches. The training, carried out in December, was attended by 15 participants (including six women) from 11 countries across the Middle East and North Africa region. More than 30 journalists from the region were trained on a human rights-based approach at two events that were jointly organized by OHCHR, UNESCO, the Human Rights Department at Al-Jazeera, the Doha Centre for Media Freedom and the Alshrouq Center for Democracy and Media in Morocco. After the training, the participants expressed



Participants at a workshop on human rights and media organized by the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre in Morocco, May 2014.

their intention to develop a regional network for journalists interested in promoting human rights.

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

#### ► *States adopt policies to ensure protection of the right to education in situations of conflict (EA 1)*

In January, OHCHR and Protect Education in Insecurity and Conflict (PEIC) co-organized the *Regional Forum on the Protection of the Right to Education during Insecurity and Armed Conflict in the Middle East and the North Africa Region* in Jordan. The main objective of the forum was to highlight education-related violations in areas affected by insecurity and armed conflict in the region, raise the awareness of participants about these violations and develop strategies to protect the right to education during conflict and insecurity. The Forum was attended by 104 participants from 24 countries (19 from the region), including policymakers, legal advisors and practitioners, academics and representatives of civil society, NGOs, national human rights commissions and UN agencies. Furthermore, in December, OHCHR and PEIC launched a website ([www.protectededucationmena.org](http://www.protectededucationmena.org)), which contains information about the Doha Centre and PEIC, the



Regional Forum and documents and publications related to human rights education.

### United Nations Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha, Qatar): Expenditure in 2014

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	398,155	608,870
Consultants	-	88,776
Official travel	14,500	192,514
Contractual services	94,160	34,065
General operating expenses	6,000	80,161
Supplies and materials	14,000	13,900
Seminars, grants and contributions	311,940	3,700
Subtotal	838,755	1,021,985
Programme support costs	-	132,858
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>838,755</b>	<b>1,154,844</b>



## Human Rights Components in UN Peace Missions

### United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

Year established	2004
Staff as of 31 December 2014	42

### Results

#### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Increased engagement with international human rights mechanisms through the submission of overdue reports to treaty bodies and the acceptance of country visits by special procedures (EA 6)*

Iraq issued a standing invitation to special procedures mandate-holders to visit Iraq. No visits took place in 2014.

#### Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Implementation of a grassroots-driven transitional justice policy aimed at ending impunity and promoting community reconciliation (EA 3)*

In 2014, the Human Rights Office (HRO) of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) began implementing a project to conduct a countrywide consultation process on community reconciliation in order to create an environment that is conducive to sustainable peace. The project aimed to gather grassroots perspectives on ways to attain justice for past human rights violations and promote community reconciliation. The initial phase of the project involved the training of 26 members of Iraqi NGOs and civil society, drawn from Iraq's central and southern governorates and with various educational and cultural backgrounds, on the principles of community reconciliation and conducting interviews. Further implementation of the project was disrupted due to the escalation of the armed conflict which caused the large scale displacement of civilians from northern Iraq.

#### Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *UNCT programmes and policies, especially poverty reduction programmes, have a strong human rights focus and improve access to basic services (EA 11)*



Faculty members of the Kufa University of Iraq participate in a workshop on human rights conducted by OHCHR, March 2014.

During 2014, the HRO was a member of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework Development Committee and offered technical assistance to ensure that all aspects of the UNDAF process, including the outcome document, integrate a human rights perspective. The process was concluded in May and the outcome document was signed by the Government.

#### Widening the democratic space

- *The Independent High Commission is fully functioning in accordance with the Paris Principles (EA 1)*

The Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights (IHCHR) was formally established in April 2012. Since then, the HRO has worked, in partnership with the United Nations Office for Project Services to build the capacity of Commissioners and their staff to ensure they implement the mandate of the IHCHR in accordance with Law 54 of 2008 and the Constitution of Iraq and in conformity with international standards. The Commission began its monitoring work, is receiving individual complaints regarding human rights violations and is developing thematic human rights priorities. The Commission has, however, not yet elected a President as required by Law 54. On 11 January, the Iraqi High Judicial Council issued an administrative order establishing an office within the General Prosecutor's Office that is mandated to investigate complaints of alleged human rights violations received from the IHCHR. The order also instructed the General Prosecutor's Office to keep the Commission updated on any developments related to these investigations to ensure proper follow-up.

## United Nations Support Mission in Libya

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2014	21

### Results

#### Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *The legislative and policy framework incorporate international standards against discrimination, especially in relation to minorities, migrants and women (EA 4)*

In 2014, little progress was made on national legislation to combat discrimination, especially against minorities, migrants and women. Some good principles, however, are reflected in the draft sections of the new Constitution, which were released in late December. As part of its broader work with the Constitution Drafting Assembly, the Human Rights, Transitional Justice and Rule of Law Division (HRD) of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) will aim to strengthen the protection elements in the draft constitutional text.

#### Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Constitution, penal code, code of criminal procedure and legislation on torture increase their compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

Elections for the Constitution Drafting Assembly took place on 20 February. Although the members of the Assembly publically committed to completing a draft constitution by the end of December, they were only able to release drafts of the sections prepared by the eight specialized committees. The Assembly includes one committee to address human rights and fundamental freedoms in the draft and another to focus on the judiciary and the constitutional court. The Chair of the Assembly's human rights committee requested technical support from the HRD and a workshop for members of the committee will take place in early 2015. The Libyan Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure include provisions that are not in line with international human rights standards. Since 2013, the HRD has worked with UNDP, UNODC, the Ministry of Justice, the High Judicial Institute, academics and civil society to support a review of the Codes that will ensure their compliance with international standards. Regrettably, in February, the General National Congress of Libya amended the Code of Criminal Procedure to punish

with imprisonment any person found to be undermining the so-called 17 February Revolution, publicly insulting legislative, executive or judicial authorities or disgracing the national flag. At the same time, it passed a decree authorizing relevant ministries to discontinue and prevent the broadcasting of satellite channels that are deemed hostile to the 17 February Revolution or which allegedly undermine the security and stability of the country. The HRD expressed its concern that such broad language could be used to arbitrarily curtail freedom of expression and opinion. As a result of the political situation in Libya, the HRD was unable to assist State authorities on legislative issues after June.

- *Detention centres are fully under the control of State-trained judicial police officers and have improved security and effective safeguards against torture (EA 1)*

The HRD assisted the judicial police in conducting a census of detainees. As a result of the exercise, authorities had the first snapshot of data on detainees, including their names, ages, gender, charges and legal status, since the 2011 conflict. The census also facilitated the follow-up on specific cases. Nevertheless, the outbreak of violence in mid-2014 presented further security challenges for the judicial police. Progress in the judicial screening of the detainees and the release of those who will not be prosecuted has consequently been minimal. Amidst the heightened violence and resulting political vacuum, the HRD is concerned that those held in detention are at increased risk of abuse, particularly after the receipt of several reports of torture and other forms of ill-treatment.

- *An increasingly functioning judiciary applies due process standards in a safer environment (EA 1)*

The deteriorating security environment has impacted heavily on the judiciary, further undermining the effective administration of justice and the process of reform. Prosecutors and judges have been frequently subjected to intimidation and attacks, while law enforcement officials and the judicial police do not have the sufficient capacity or resources to ensure the security of the judiciary or to undertake effective investigations. The courts effectively stopped functioning in Benghazi, Derna and Sirte as of March and in Tripoli during the fighting in July and August.

- *Transitional mechanisms are in place and functioning in compliance with human rights standards, namely a transitional justice law, an active and impartial truth commission and missing persons commission, a reparations programme and vetting processes. A number of fair trials of former regime members and brigade*

*perpetrators have been carried out (EA 3)*

No progress was achieved in the implementation of Law No. 1 of 2014 on the Care for Martyrs and Missing Persons of the 17 February Revolution. While the Law provides for the establishment of a General Commission for tracing and identifying missing persons and the extension of benefits to the families of those killed or missing in the context of the revolution, the Commission has not been created.

In March, the General National Congress formed a four-person committee to establish a roster of candidates for the Board of the Fact-Finding and Reconciliation Commission. On 1 April, the Committee issued a public advertisement for candidates but, due to the political volatility and the announcement of elections, the Committee did not complete its work and the Board was not appointed. The HRD advised the General National Congress on international standards and best practices relating to criteria for selection of the Board.

In February, the Council of Ministers issued Decree No. 119 which provided for the establishment of a specialized committee to identify victims of sexual violence under the former regime and during the 2011 armed conflict. The Committee will make recommendations on reparations and provide legal aid for victims seeking accountability. In March, the Minister of Justice passed a decree to appoint members of the specialized committee and subsequently appointed the Head of a compensation fund. The fund was operational by the end of the year.

**Widening the democratic space**

- *Diverse networks of civil society organizations actively advocate for human rights and participate in public life (EA 5)*

Although a number of civil society organizations have highlighted concerns about human rights violations in Libya, they have been under

increasing attack since the outbreak of violence in mid-2014. The HRD has received reports of civil society activists being threatened, abducted, unlawfully killed, or having had their homes looted or burned down. As a result, numerous human rights defenders have curtailed their activism, gone into hiding or left the country. Before and after the outbreak of violence, the HRD was in regular contact with human rights defenders, including those who relocated out of the country, and sought to support them through the provision of technical advice, the facilitation of contact with local non-governmental providers of aid and through ongoing monitoring of and public reporting on their situation.

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

- *Consistent reference to the human rights situation and recommendations in statements by the international community and increased responsiveness to meet emerging human rights needs (EA 10)*

The HRD regularly monitored and investigated alleged human rights violations which took place in Libya, including in the wake of the worsening violence in mid-2014. This included extensive work on the protection of civilians; issues related to summary executions, abductions, torture and other ill-treatment; internally displaced persons; migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers; and violations against women, children and minority communities. UNSMIL and OHCHR issued statements and reports based on information gathered during missions to Libya; visits to detention centres; interviews with those displaced by the conflict; information provided by human rights defenders and victims' families; and data from the UNCT. These concerns were included in the briefings of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Libya and other members of the international community.