

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Field presence	OHCHR Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSA), based in Pretoria, South Africa Operation established in 1998
-----------------------	--

Countries of engagement

Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe (complementing the OHCHR country presences in Madagascar, Malawi and Zambia) and conducting subregional activities for all 14 countries in the subregion.

Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 128

Southern Africa is characterized by geographic and demographic diversity and an overall socio-economic and political context that presents a broad range of human rights challenges. The subregion is composed of several middle income countries, yet has significant pockets of poverty. Restricted enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, especially the right to food, water, land, adequate housing, work, education and health care continue.

Inequality and all forms of discrimination, which are often manifested in xenophobia and hate crimes, are also of concern. Patterns of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, are seen throughout the subregion. While poverty is a main concern, the subregion possesses an abundance of natural resources, the exploitation of which poses serious challenges for governments and private actors in the areas of economic justice and corporate responsibility.

Victims of human rights violations lack access to fair and equal justice due to the lack of resources and capacity of justice systems. Judges and magistrates, as well as law enforcement agents and officers, need to be trained in the field of human rights.

Civil unrest and demonstrations in Southern Africa, such as the Lonmin strikes in Marikana, South Africa, are characteristic of the inequality and lack of participation being faced by rights-holders in the national development process. Some countries suffer from weak governance institutions affecting

the effective functioning of democratic processes. Violations of civil and political rights continue to be of concern in Southern Africa, particularly the right to life, freedom of expression, freedom of association, peaceful assembly and repression of human rights defenders.

The Regional Office for Southern Africa was established in 1998 and covers 14 countries (Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe).

Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratifications; submissions of information by civil society actors, the national human rights institution and United Nations to the UPR; special procedures visits; and establishment of a national participatory body for reporting and implementation of recommendations of human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: business and human rights; public policies and budget processes; and integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: women; racial and religious discrimination; migrants; persons with disabilities; indigenous peoples; minorities; and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: "public freedoms" (freedom of expression); human rights defenders; NHRIs established and/or working in compliance with international standards (Paris Principles).
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: legal and judicial protection of economic, social and cultural rights.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: investigations, monitoring and reporting; sexual and gender-based violence.

OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p>[EA5]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Meaningful participation of rights-holders in development and economic policies in Mozambique and South Africa. ▶ Meaningful participation of indigenous peoples in Botswana. ▶ Meaningful participation of women and LGBTI persons in Swaziland. ▶ More effective use by civil society in Zimbabwe of existing national protection systems. <p>Increased number of human rights violations cases brought to court in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Sexual violence in Angola and South Africa; ▶ ESCRs in South Africa; and ▶ Irregular migrants in Angola. 	<p>[EA1]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ NHRIs established and/or functioning in compliance with Paris Principles in Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. ▶ A forum for political dialogue on freedom of expression and assembly established in Swaziland. <p>[EA2]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Ratification by Angola of ICERD or CAT; by Comoros of ICCPR; by South Africa of ICESCR; and by Zimbabwe of CAT or ICMW. <p>[EA3]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Mechanisms and/or policies on business and human rights, including with regard to an effective remedy, established in Mozambique. ▶ Improved functionality of existing mechanisms to protect civil society actors in Zimbabwe. <p>[EA4]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ NHRIs work on equality and non-discrimination in line with international standards in Botswana and Zimbabwe. ▶ Effective and efficient implementation of existing programmes to ensure the representation of marginalized and discriminated groups in key institutions in South Africa.
<p>[EA7]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The number and diversity of civil society actors and UNCTs submitting information to the UPR in Angola, Comoros, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, Swaziland and Zimbabwe is increased or maintained. 	<p>[EA6]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 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 in Angola and Mozambique. ▶ Standing invitation to special procedures issued by Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius and Namibia. ▶ Positive reply to special procedures mandate-holders requests to visit Swaziland and Zimbabwe.
<p>[EA11]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 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. ▶ Implementation of the Guidance Note of the Secretary-General on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the UN Indigenous Peoples' Partnership Initiative in South Africa to support the implementation of the constitutional vision. 	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in the region.