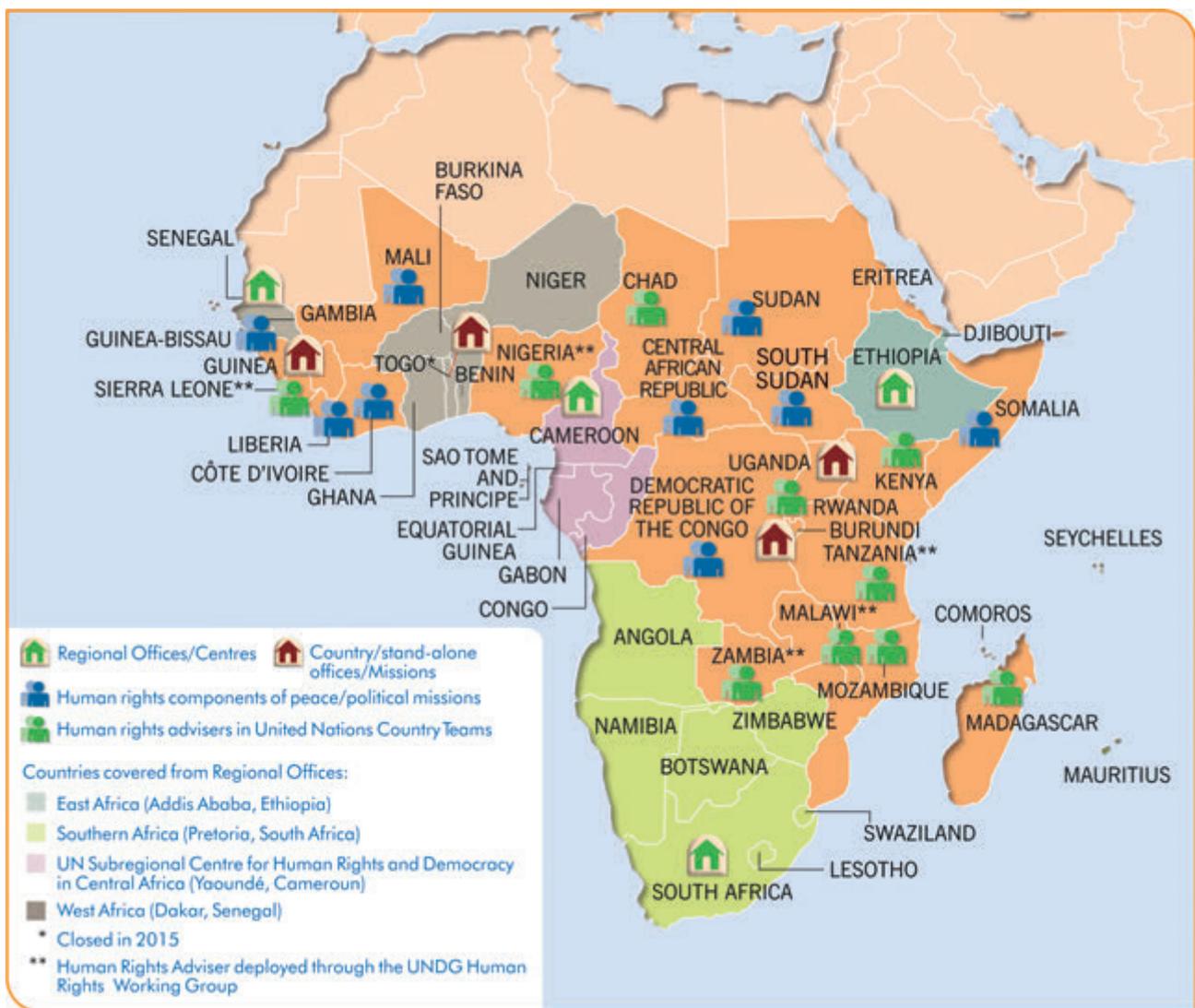


OHCHR in the field: Africa



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

* Deployed through the UNDG-Human Rights Working Group.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) continued to engage on the African continent in a particularly challenging environment. While progress was achieved in relation to democratization and the consolidation of the rule of law in some countries, such as Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Nigeria where successful presidential elections were held, a number of serious emerging and ongoing situations required the urgent attention of the Office. Nevertheless, the crises in Burundi, the Central African Republic (CAR), Somalia, South Sudan and the deterioration of the human rights situation in the West and Central African subregions with the Boko Haram insurgency clearly illustrate the challenges that the leadership of the continent must confront with the support of the international community. The overall situation was exacerbated by a deepening concern over terrorism and criminality, attacks on civilians and a worsening of political, social and economic instability in some countries, which contributed to increased displacements, irregular migration and a growing number of asylum-seekers. The African

Union (AU) was increasingly engaged in regional initiatives to promote accountability, including the establishment of the African Extraordinary Chambers within the Senegalese judicial system to prosecute and try Hissène Habré, alongside efforts to adopt a policy framework on transitional justice in Africa. Additionally, the AU continued to play an active role in peace operations in Somalia and South Sudan.

OHCHR field presences continued to support governments, civil society and other actors in addressing human rights concerns at the regional and country level, including violence against civilians, impunity, the rule of law, discrimination and threats against fundamental freedoms and civil society, in particular in the context of elections. OHCHR provided support to various UN assessment missions and for the implementation of the Human Rights Up Front Action Plan through the deployment of human rights officers in Burkina Faso, Burundi, Guinea and Lesotho. Additionally, the Office continued to support the Commission of Inquiry on Eritrea, conducted a fact-finding mission on Boko Haram-related abuses and carried out a human rights assessment mission to South Sudan. In order to draw the international community's attention to specific situations, the Human Rights Council held two special sessions on human rights abuses and violations committed by the Boko Haram group and on the human rights situation in Burundi in April and December, respectively.

From headquarters, the Africa Branch provided substantive, technical and administrative support to all 26 presences in the continent. It also supported 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 OHCHR Office in Togo was closed in June and human rights work in the country continued through the Regional Office in Dakar.

The High Commissioner visited Burundi (April) and the Central African Republic (September). The Assistant Secretary-General attended the AU Summit in Addis Ababa (January) and went on mission to South Sudan (February) and Somalia (November).

Country Offices

Burundi

Year established	2015
Staff as of 31 December 2015	23
Expenditure in 2015	US\$2,144,784

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

As a result of advocacy efforts undertaken by the Office, a decree was adopted on 8 April which named the members of the Permanent Committee responsible for the preparation of reports to the human rights treaty bodies. Since then, OHCHR has organized a series of information sessions for the Committee.

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)*

Following OHCHR's advocacy, the recruitment of 53 magistrates was carried out in compliance with international standards. The magistrates were deployed to various courts and tribunals in Bujumbura and other provinces. In 2016, OHCHR will provide additional training on human rights principles and standards. Little progress has been made, however, in relation to improvements in the judicial sector and the administration of justice. Specifically, many detainees remain behind bars without legally prescribed pre-trial detention periods and many politically sensitive cases have not been investigated. Moreover, the rights of detainees are generally not respected because of inadequate detention conditions and poorly trained police officers and prison wardens. Yet, some prison officials have been receptive to suggestions from OHCHR and have taken action to improve detention conditions and respect for the rights of detainees.



OHCHR staff members monitoring the electoral process in Burundi.

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

The appointed members of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission were sworn in on 10 December 2014; the date that the Commission became functional. Nevertheless, in the absence of legislation to protect victims and witnesses, the Commission cannot initiate any substantive activities. OHCHR and its partners will continue to advocate for the adoption of the requisite legislation.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *The National Independent Human Rights Commission is fully functioning in accordance with the Paris Principles (EA 1)*
While the National Independent Human Rights Commission (NIHRC) has not been able to refer cases to the international or regional human rights mechanisms, the establishment and satisfactory functioning of its 13 regional focal points is expected to enhance its capacity to investigate human rights violations, including cases of gender-based violence. OHCHR contributed to the establishment of the regional focal points and will continue working with the Commission to strengthen its capacities.
- ▶ *A draft law for the protection of human rights defenders is adopted and a basket fund for the National Independent Human Rights Commission is established (EA 1)*
Although the process of drafting legislation on the protection of human rights defenders began in 2014, it is now being held up by the NIHRC which has yet to transmit it to the Government. OHCHR has held several meetings with the Commission and has requested the engagement and support of the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Human Rights to help facilitate a solution. The crisis in Burundi has negatively impacted on the work of

human rights defenders, most of whom have fled Burundi for security reasons. Those still in the country face many forms of harassment.

Burundi: Expenditure in 2015		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	1,571,039
Activities and operating costs	-	371,081
Subtotal	-	1,942,120
Programme support costs	-	202,664
GRAND TOTAL	-	2,144,784

Guinea (Conakry)

Year established	2010
Staff as of 31 December 2015	11
Expenditure in 2015	US\$2,549,525

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms; and submission of reports to treaty bodies and the UPR (EA 6)*
OHCHR contributed to strengthening the capacities of the Interministerial Committee in charge of coordinating reporting to the UN human rights mechanisms. A workshop was organized for members of the Committee regarding the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW). This enabled the members to subsequently draft and submit Guinea's initial report to the treaty body. The Government also submitted its national report in anticipation of its second UPR cycle.
- ▶ *The National Human Rights Commission, CSOs and UN agencies increasingly engage with treaty bodies and the UPR (EA 7)*
With the assistance of OHCHR, civil society organizations submitted an alternative report in relation to Guinea's second UPR cycle.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

Due to the Ebola Virus Disease Crisis and as a result of the electoral process, the national consultations on transitional justice, organized by the Provisional Commission for Reflection on National Reconciliation, had to be postponed until 2016.

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)*

Members of the National Human Rights Commission, which was established in 2014, had their capacities strengthened following OHCHR's training workshop on human rights concepts and principles, protection mechanisms and the role of NHRIs in the promotion and protection of human rights. In October, the Office organized a capacity-strengthening session for 41 human rights monitors of the NHRI that were deployed during the electoral process.

- ▶ *National legislation on the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and information is fully harmonized with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

The Law on Maintaining Public Order was promulgated in July. While the legislation somewhat strengthens Guinea's legal framework governing the right to peaceful assembly, it is not in full compliance with international standards. The Office participated in the drafting process to ensure international human rights standards were taken into account.

- ▶ *Women and youth increasingly participate in political life at the local level and claim their rights (EA 5)*

Following an OHCHR capacity-building session for women on transitional justice and national reconciliation in Guinea, a platform of women was created in order to hold discussions and advocate with national authorities and civil society members for the consolidation of peace in Guinea, in particular during the presidential electoral process.

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

- ▶ *Integration of international human rights standards, including selected recommendations of the UPR, in the UNDAF 2013-2017, in its midterm review and in the UN Contingency Plan and UN*



An Ebola survivor back in school in Guinea.

Protection Clusters, particularly concerning the forest region (EA 11)

The Office participated in the working groups of the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) and worked with survivors of the Ebola Virus Disease to confront the problem of stigmatization. Together with other UN agencies and government representatives, OHCHR participated in the steering committee that reviewed the UNDAF. The steering committee decided to resume the programmes that were affected by the irruption of the Ebola Virus Disease and the Office resumed its activities related to sensitization against gender-based violence.

Guinea: Expenditure in 2015		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	1,716,291
Activities and operating costs	-	538,231
Subtotal	-	2,254,522
Programme support costs	-	295,003
GRAND TOTAL	-	2,549,525

Togo

Year established	2006
Staff as of 31 December 2015	- (The field presence closed in 2015)
Expenditure in 2015	US\$827,925

Results

Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *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)*

The Office maintained a list of legislation that needs to be adopted or amended by the Government according to a compilation of recommendations made by the UN human rights mechanisms. The Office established the practice of discussing this list with the President of the Human Rights Commission or the President of the Assembly at the beginning of each parliamentary session. When agreement was reached regarding the amendment of specific legislation, OHCHR provided observations and guidance.

- ▶ *NGO networks and the CNDH submit alternative reports to treaty bodies and the second UPR and engage with special procedures mandate-holders (EA 7)*

OHCHR provided support for the establishment of a network of human rights observers that is composed of civil society representatives covering different parts of the country. The Office also provided training on monitoring and documenting human rights violations. While the immediate purpose of the network was to report on human rights violations, it also helped to promote awareness about human rights and empower civil society organizations to identify and address human rights concerns with national authorities and international actors.

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)*

The new Togolese Penal Code was adopted by Parliament but has not been promulgated by the President. The Penal Code makes reference to international crimes and is in increased compliance with human rights standards.

Togo: Expenditure in 2015		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	539,851
Activities and operating costs	-	192,826
Subtotal	-	732,677
Programme support costs	-	95,248
GRAND TOTAL	-	827,925

Uganda

Year established	2005
Staff as of 31 December 2015	32
Expenditure in 2015	US\$3,116,643

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

In relation to the National Human Rights Actions Plan, OHCHR developed a database to enable Government institutions to register progress achieved in the implementation of the recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms. The database is currently in the pilot phase and six ministries and government departments are registering their progress. On the completion of this exercise, the database will be officially launched in 2016 and made available to the entire Government.

- ▶ *Civil society networks, NHRI and UN entities increasingly engage with the UPR process, treaty body reporting and special procedures (EA 7)*
- The Office facilitated a consultation with civil society organizations for the preparation of an alternative report in anticipation of Uganda's second UPR cycle, which will take place in 2016. A total of 144 participants from civil society organizations from across the country participated in the meeting.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

▶ *Increased integration of human rights standards, including economic, social and cultural rights in the curriculum of the Judicial Studies Institute (EA 1)*
OHCHR supported the Judicial Studies Institute in the training of judges on the enforceability of economic, social and cultural rights. The training was based on a curriculum that the Institute developed in 2014 with OHCHR's assistance. Participating judges requested that the Office provide additional support at their respective courts.

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

With support from the Office, Ker Kwaro Acholi, the traditional cultural institution of the Acholi peoples, designed a human rights handbook for traditional authorities. The Office carried out capacity-building interventions to enable traditional authorities to competently use the handbook and integrate human rights standards and principles in their work, especially those related to non-discrimination and women's rights. OHCHR also facilitated dialogue between formal and informal justice authorities in Gulu and Moroto to highlight the different roles they play in the administration of justice and to enable them to advocate for the integration of human rights standards and principles in their work.

▶ *Uganda People's Defence Force, 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 related to counter-terrorism, treason charges and rebellion (EA 1)*

OHCHR continued building the capacity of law enforcement agencies to fully respect human rights standards and principles and the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act of 2012. The Office supported the Uganda Human Rights Commission in the organization and facilitation of five training workshops to sensitize 237 participants from law enforcement agencies and local authorities about general human rights issues, although the workshops mainly focused on the Torture Act and public freedoms. The Office also supported the Commission to develop draft regulations for the Torture Act. OHCHR facilitated two trainings for senior law enforcement officers from the Chieftaincy of Military Intelligence and the Criminal Intelligence and Investigation Division of the police on human rights standards applicable to interrogations in the context of counter-terrorism operations.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

▶ *Legislation, policies and institutional practices substantively comply with non-discrimination and equality standards, particularly with regard to gender, LGBTI persons, persons with disabilities and persons living with HIV/AIDS (EA 4)*

The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Division developed a framework that would enable it to track progress of its implementation of Uganda's commitments under CEDAW and other regional gender instruments. OHCHR advised the Ministry on the development of the instrument.

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)*

In collaboration with the National Planning Authority and the Uganda Human Rights Commissioner, OHCHR conducted a national-level workshop, bringing together 109 experts on planning, monitoring and evaluation from ministries and local governments. The workshop resulted in the development and adoption of human rights indicators to monitor and evaluate the Government's compliance with its own human rights commitments included in the National Development Plan II, Sector Implementation Plans and Local Government Development Plans. The Office also trained 176 NGO programme staff members from Arua, Gulu, Mbale, Mbarara and Moroto on a human rights-based approach to support their monitoring of the implementation of the National Development Plan II.

Widening the democratic space

▶ *Legal frameworks, legislation, regulations and policies increasingly respect and protect public freedoms and democratic principles and government actors increasingly respect them (EA 1)*

OHCHR strengthened the capacity of the Uganda Police Force (UPF) to integrate human rights standards that relate to the protection of and respect for public freedoms and democratic principles, in two internal documents. OHCHR provided technical assistance for the review of the UPF Standing Orders and the development of Standard Operating Procedures relating to the Public Order Management Act. Moreover, the UPF has increasingly interpreted the Public Order Management Act in a restrictive way, particularly regarding the organization of assemblies, which has hindered the exercise of public freedoms. In 2015, OHCHR registered at least 35 assemblies

and rallies that were violently dispersed by the police in different districts of Uganda and at least eight complaints were made about restrictions to the freedom of expression.

- ▶ *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 actions aimed at promoting human rights (EA 1)*

The Uganda Human Rights Commission increased its capacity to implement its mandate with the support of the Office. In Karamoja, for instance, OHCHR and the Commission organized six planning and coordination meetings and carried out 30 joint missions to monitor detention facilities or follow up on received complaints.

Uganda: Expenditure in 2015		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	1,531,815
Activities and operating costs	-	1,226,095
Subtotal	-	2,757,910
Programme support costs	-	358,733
GRAND TOTAL	-	3,116,643

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 2015	12
Expenditure in 2015	US\$1,475,167

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Increased ratification of international human rights instruments with a focus on the ICMW, CRPD, ICERD, ICCPR, ICESCR and their respective optional protocols (OPs), as well as on the OPs to the CRC and CAT in Cameroon, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tomé and Príncipe (EA 2)*
Equatorial Guinea's Parliament adopted a law authorizing the President to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). It is anticipated that the CRPD will be ratified in early 2016. In each country of the region, OHCHR organized at least one meeting with government representatives and civil society actors to focus on the national status of ratification of the international human rights instruments. The Office also shared this information with media partners, which has prompted various duty-bearers to ratify a number of instruments, such as the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR-OP2), the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, and the CRPD.
- ▶ *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 Cameroon, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tomé and Príncipe (EA 6)*

National consultations were carried out by OHCHR in Congo, Gabon and Sao Tomé and Príncipe to support the establishment of standing participatory mechanisms for reporting and coordinating the follow-up to recommendations from international and regional human rights mechanisms. Road maps now exist in these countries which will lead to the establishment or strengthening of the existing mechanisms.

In Gabon, for instance, discussions are ongoing to harmonize existing structures into one effective follow-up mechanism.

- ▶ *NHRIs and civil society organizations effectively monitor human rights and engage with treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR in Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon (EA 7)*

Following a capacity-building workshop facilitated by OHCHR, in March, human rights defenders, civil society actors and the National Human Rights Commission in Gabon increased their capacity to draft reports to the human rights mechanisms and monitor the implementation of recommendations that are issued by the mechanisms. In Cameroon, OHCHR supported the creation of thematic networks by civil society organizations to monitor the implementation of rights enshrined in specific treaties such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), CRPD and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). The Office also advocated for further engagement with regional mechanisms, notably the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR).

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *National laws and development policies and programmes increasingly comply with international human rights norms and standards, including those relating to business and especially in relation to indigenous peoples and minorities in Cameroon, Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon (EA 1)*

In Cameroon, two companies stand out as pioneers in implementing human rights and business standards. Following a field visit by OHCHR to assess the impact of the activities of HEVECAM S.A. on indigenous communities, the company engaged in dialogue with the local communities of indigenous peoples, created a human rights monitoring committee and adopted an internal policy on social responsibility. Additional concrete actions were taken such as the resettlement of communities of indigenous peoples affected by the creation of new rubber farms in Bissiang (South Cameroon). HEVECAM S.A. then shared its experience with 23 Gabonese State and corporate actors during a workshop on business and human rights. The Electricity Development Corporation, which is in charge of Cameroon's electricity development, similarly established dialogue with the indigenous communities affected by the Lom Pangar dam project and implemented other concrete proposals suggested by OHCHR.

United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (Yaoundé, Cameroon): Expenditure in 2015

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	939,136	108,059
Activities and operating costs	289,719	109,916
Subtotal	-	217,975
Programme support costs	-	28,337
GRAND TOTAL	1,228,855	246,312

Improved respect for human rights by the business sector in Cameroon

Thanks to the advocacy and capacity-building efforts of OHCHR, Cameroonian companies took concrete steps to improve the human rights situation of employees and local populations in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. In the case of HEVECAM SA, a firm dedicated to the production of natural rubber, OHCHR trained its staff members on human rights concepts and standards, with a particular focus on the responsibility to respect. This has contributed to the company's increased implementation of measures to improve its human rights record, such as the creation of a human rights monitoring committee and the adoption of an internal policy on social responsibility. HEVECAM SA has also engaged with other stakeholders by setting up a follow-up committee, which brings together the Government and local communities, including indigenous peoples. The company is now regarded as a pioneer in the implementation of human rights standards and principles in its area of activity. It shared its experiences with heads of other corporations and government representatives at a human rights and business workshop held in Libreville, Gabon from 23-24 November.

Regional Office for East Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

Year established	2002
Staff as of 31 December 2015	8
Expenditure in 2015	US\$604,502

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Civil society organizations contribute to all sessions of UN treaty bodies and the UPR. In addition, an increased number of communications will be sent to special procedures by Djibouti and Ethiopia (EA 7)*

Participants of an OHCHR workshop for civil society organizations on the promotion and protection of human rights decided to establish a platform to enhance their coordination with the Interministerial Committee and the National Commission for Human Rights to work on pending reports, mainly to the CRPD, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and the Human Rights Committee.

- ▶ *United Nations human rights mechanisms recommendations form an integral part of reviews of country situations by AU human rights bodies (EA 8)*

At the beginning of 2015, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights adopted the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Abolition of the Death Penalty in Africa; the Guidelines on Conditions of Arrest, Police Custody and Pre-Trial Detention; and the Principles and Guidelines on Human and Peoples' Rights while Countering Terrorism. The Regional Office for Eastern Africa engaged with and assisted the work of the Commission to follow up on the implementation of the AU/UN 2012 roadmap.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Courts and police investigation units start implementing recommendations from the regional and international human rights mechanisms in Djibouti and Ethiopia (EA 1)*

The Regional Office provided inputs to the Litigants Charter that was commissioned by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The Charter provides litigants with comprehensive information on what to expect during their interactions with the police, prosecutors, legal aid providers and the judiciary.

The development of the Charter falls under the broader mandate of UNODC to conduct a nationwide assessment of the justice sector. OHCHR has been identified as a key partner in this initiative.

- ▶ *Strategies/resolutions adopted by the AU Commission and 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 participated in the *Joint Consultative Workshop on the Modalities for Supporting Transitional Justice Mechanisms in Darfur*, organized by the African Union Commission, which helped to familiarize key African Union bodies with applicable transitional justice standards and good practices under the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur. Moreover, although it was expected that the African Union Transitional Justice Framework would be adopted in June, its adoption has been postponed until 2016. OHCHR will closely follow the processes and provide input to the draft document.

- ▶ *The AU and an increasing number of NGOs campaign against the death penalty (EA 8)*

In collaboration with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Union Commission, OHCHR organized a regional discussion on the abolition of the death penalty which highlighted the human rights implications of the death penalty in relation to the right to life and freedom from arbitrary, summary and extrajudicial killings. Yet, the politically sensitive debates on the abolition of the death penalty in Africa that are accompanied by a serious backlash against advocacy efforts for its abolition posed a significant challenge to any progress. Furthermore, the African Union Commission's refusal to issue a joint African Union/OHCHR public statement regarding the outcome of the meeting impacted negatively on attempts to persuade member states of the African Union to abolish the death penalty.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *Ethiopian Human Rights Commission processes claims related to adverse effects of development programmes (EA 3)*

The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission conducted a monitoring mission to evaluate the human rights implications of the Government's national "villagization programme." The Commission investigated various aspects of the programme, such as the degree to which consultation, consent and compensation

provisions relating to those who are forced to relocate are in accordance with international human rights standards and principles. The Commission publicized its findings and proposed correctional measures. Despite this achievement, OHCHR is concerned about the Chief Commissioner's decision to delay the implementation of activities. The Office will continue advocating for the engagement of the Commission on human rights issues and development programmes.

- ▶ *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 10)* OHCHR participated in the meeting organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa on *Building An Accountability Framework for the Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda*. Participants agreed on the importance of: applying international human rights standards in the design and implementation of accountability frameworks to the post-2015 development agenda; upholding freedom of expression to help combat corruption and ensure better governance; consulting youth, persons with disabilities and persons in vulnerable situations; and ensuring an inclusive process for achieving better results.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *Participation of a wide range of civil society groups in the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan II in Ethiopia (EA 5)* Civil society organizations in Ethiopia took advantage of a consultation meeting that was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and OHCHR on follow-up to UPR recommendations. The meeting provided participants with a forum to express their views in relation to the National Human Rights Action Plan II and the recommendations emanating from the human rights mechanisms that should be included in the Action Plan. The Ministry also invited these organizations to provide further inputs on the development of the Action Plan, although it remains unclear to what extent the invitation has enabled civil society organizations to contribute to the process. OHCHR has been informed that the Government finalized the development of the Action Plan. It is expected that the Action Plan will be discussed by regional and federal authorities prior to its adoption by the Parliament.

Regional Office for East Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia): Expenditure in 2015

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	399,025
Activities and operating costs	23,100	115,490
Subtotal	23,100	514,515
Programme support costs	-	66,887
GRAND TOTAL	23,100	581,402

Regional Office for Southern Africa (Pretoria, South Africa)

Year established	1998
Staff as of 31 December 2015	6
Expenditure in 2015	US\$945,808

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 in Angola and Mozambique (EA 6)*
In Mozambique, a road map was agreed upon in December for the establishment of a mechanism to report and follow up on recommendations. It is expected that the Interministerial Committee will be established in the first half of 2016.
- ▶ *Positive reply to special procedures mandate-holders requests to visit Swaziland and Zimbabwe (EA 6)*
While no visits were undertaken by the special procedures to Swaziland or Zimbabwe, there were three visits to the region: the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation visited Botswana in November; the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons visited Mauritius in May; and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women visited South Africa in December. In addition, Lesotho issued a standing invitation to the special procedures.
- ▶ *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 (EA 7)

The Regional Office worked with NHRIs and civil society organizations in the region to support them in preparing reports for the UPR of their respective countries. As a result, reports were submitted by CEPS, an umbrella organization that consists of 51 NGOs, and the NHRI in Seychelles in relation to the second UPR cycle of Seychelles. In the case of Swaziland, the Regional Office worked with the UNCT to support the Government in preparing and submitting its report for the UPR.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *Meaningful participation of rights-holders in development and economic policies in Mozambique and South Africa (EA 5)*

The Regional Office partnered with the South African Human Rights Commission and UN Women to hold a round table which provided a forum for discussion on the food system in South Africa and the gender stereotypes that undermine women's productive contribution. The round table launched an advocacy campaign aimed at obtaining a commitment from the Government to implement gender-responsive budgets.

Widening the democratic space

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

The capacity of the NHRI in Mozambique to work on issues related to business and human rights was strengthened through its participation in a subregional training on human rights and business in the extractive industry that was co-organized by OHCHR and the NHRI in South Africa. The Regional Office also strengthened the capacity of the NHRI in Zimbabwe by delivering training for commissioners and staff on engagement with treaty bodies and on monitoring places of detention.

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

- ▶ *The protection of human rights is an integral part of the international community's preparedness, response and recovery efforts in the context of humanitarian crises and is effectively integrated in the mandates, policies and actions of United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions (EA 11)*

In Lesotho, OHCHR provided support to the Resident Coordinator by preparing an analysis of the human rights situation that has been deteriorating since May and outlining recommendations for a preventive strategy. A Human Rights Up Front multi-disciplinary assessment mission concluded that the precarious human rights, political and security situation in Lesotho required urgent and stronger UN involvement. The deployment of a subsequent response light team to Lesotho was endorsed as part of a recommendation to strengthen the UN's operational capacity on the ground. The Light Team commenced its work at the beginning of November.

Regional Office for Southern Africa (Pretoria, South Africa): Expenditure in 2015		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	119,985	545,149
Activities and operating costs	23,800	164,606
Subtotal	143,785	709,755
Programme support costs	-	92,268
GRAND TOTAL	143,785	802,023

Regional Office for West Africa (Dakar, Senegal)

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2015	9
Expenditure in 2015	US\$1,194,492

Results

Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms

► *Burkina Faso ratifies OP-ICESCR and ICCPR-OP2 (EA 2)*

Draft laws for the ratification of the ICCPR-OP2 on the abolition of the death penalty and the OP-ICESCR were finalized with technical assistance from the Regional Office, however, they could not be submitted to the National Transitional Council due to the attempted military coup.

► *The Gambia ratifies the OP-ICESCR, OP-CEDAW, CAT and the ICCPR-OP2 (EA 2)*

After years of engagement and advocacy by OHCHR, both with governmental and non-governmental actors, the Gambia acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (OP-CRPD) in June. The Regional Office has worked closely with the Gambia Federation of the Disabled on advocacy activities related to this ratification.

► *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. An increased number of reports submitted by Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, the Gambia and Senegal (EA 6)*

The National Advisory Council on Human Rights, Senegal's national mechanism on reporting and follow-up began drafting its national action plan for implementation of the recommendations issued by the treaty bodies and the UPR with the support of OHCHR. Furthermore, a document containing prioritized UPR and CEDAW recommendations was elaborated and human rights indicators were developed for each recommendation. As a result of OHCHR's consistent support, the Government of Senegal responded in a timely fashion to CEDAW's list of issues. In the Gambia, an OHCHR workshop on treaty body reporting resulted in the elaboration of a plan of action for the establishment of a national mechanism on reporting and follow-up to recommendations.



Human Rights Day celebration at the OHCHR regional office in Dakar.

After continuous engagement by the Regional Office, the Government has taken the lead in the dissemination of UPR and treaty body recommendations and a booklet containing these recommendations will be launched in 2016. With OHCHR's financial and technical support, the Gambia submitted its first alternative report to CEDAW in line with the reporting guidelines.

► *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)*

As a result of OHCHR's technical advice, a number of NGOs from Benin drafted an alternative report to the Human Rights Committee. In the Gambia, following training provided by OHCHR, civil society organizations increased their understanding of international human rights mechanisms and their capacity to engage with them. The training was followed by the establishment of an informal mechanism for consultation and information sharing.

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 Gambia is in the process of drafting a Disability Act and a related policy. Civil society organizations and OHCHR advocated for the drafting of the legislation through a number of activities, including the celebration of the Day for Persons with Disabilities that was organized in cooperation with the Federation for the Disabled and the Ministries of Justice and Health.

- ▶ *Judicial procedures are simplified to improve access to justice for those who are discriminated against (in particular migrants, persons with disabilities, women and LGBTI persons) in Senegal (EA 4)*

In Senegal, women's rights in custodial settings have been promoted in an OHCHR report on women's rights in detention places. Some of the report's recommendations have been taken into account in relation to the ongoing legislative reform of the Criminal and Family Codes. Despite the increased awareness and advocacy meetings held with the Special Advisor to the President on vulnerable groups and the General Directorate of Social Action of the Ministry of Health and Social Action, the decree to create the High Authority for promoting the rights of persons with disabilities has not been issued. OHCHR will continue to advocate for this result.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *UNDAF incorporates a human rights-based approach in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, the Gambia and Senegal (EA 11)*

In Benin, OHCHR contributed to the launch of an online platform to coordinate the midterm review of the UNDAF in 2016. The Regional Office also ensured the integration of recommendations issued by the UPR and the human rights treaty bodies in the implementation of the UNDAF.

In the Gambia, a Common Country Assessment (CCA) was elaborated which integrated a human rights-based approach and recommendations from the human rights mechanisms. OHCHR provided technical guidance and facilitated the participation of civil society in the drafting process.

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)*
- With the support of the Regional Office, NHRIs have been established, strengthened or are in the process of being set up in countries of the region. In Burkina Faso, a law reviewing the statute of the NHRI, compliant with the Paris Principles, was drafted and validated with technical assistance from OHCHR. In Cape Verde, OHCHR's advocacy led to the creation of the Ombudsman Office in line with the Paris Principles. The Regional Office also contributed to the increased knowledge of the staff of the NHRI in relation to the international human rights protection system and methodologies on monitoring and reporting on

human rights violations. The Gambian Ministry of Justice integrated the creation of a NHRI into its strategic plan and a bill is being drafted. In Benin, a draft law on the Human Rights Commission, in compliance with the Paris Principles, was finalized with the technical assistance of the Regional Office. The draft has not yet been submitted to Parliament for approval.

- ▶ *Increased participation of women in political life, specifically in parliaments and local institutions in Benin and Senegal (EA 5)*

Following a briefing session organized by OHCHR for parliamentarians in Senegal, their knowledge about women's rights was increased. This will contribute to the drafting and review of laws and policies to enhance women's rights in Senegal. The President of the Assembly has established a working group of parliamentarians to make relevant proposals.

Regional Office for West Africa (Dakar, Senegal): Expenditure in 2015		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	928,161	78,671
Activities and operating costs	86,676	78,628
Subtotal	1,014,837	157,299
Programme support costs	-	22,356
GRAND TOTAL	1,014,837	179,655



OHCHR staff members monitoring the electoral process in Burkina Faso.

LGBT rights in Senegal

Souleyman* is the leader of an association that defends the human rights of LGBTI persons in Senegal. Actual or perceived LGBTI persons in Senegal are frequently the victims of discrimination, homophobic violence and persecution. In the past, members of Souleyman's association were convicted and imprisoned for alleged "acts against nature." In this context, there is limited space for his association, and others like it, to promote and protect the rights of LGBTI persons. The OHCHR Regional Office for West Africa partnered with these associations to strengthen their capacities to defend the human rights of everyone.

The Regional Office empowered Souleyman and 24 representatives of 12 associations that are working with LGBTI persons to organize different training activities. As an immediate result, participants began documenting cases of the arbitrary arrests of actual or perceived LGBTI persons. For instance, a participant of the training immediately contacted the president of his association when three persons were arbitrarily arrested one week after the training. This enabled his association, as well as national and international organizations, to take immediate action. After this intervention, the three individuals were released. The Office has also facilitated a constructive dialogue between UN staff members in West Africa and members of the associations. This has bolstered their courage to increase their monitoring and documentation of violations.

*Not his real name.

Human Rights Components in UN Peace Missions

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

Year established	2000
Staff as of 31 December 2015	85

Results

Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Government ratifies outstanding core human rights instruments, in particular the ICPPED and the OP-ICESCR (EA 2)*

The Central African Republic has ratified five of the nine core international human rights treaties. Delays in ratification of the remaining treaties are due to the Transitional Government's shift in priorities and commitments and as a result of the volatile security situation. Based on the recommendations issued by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and the International Commission of Inquiry on the Central African Republic, the Human Rights Division (HRD) of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) will continue to undertake advocacy activities for the ratification of the remaining human rights instruments.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Increased number of human rights cases processed by the justice system (EA 1)*

In 2015, the administration of justice continued to be largely dysfunctional, despite increased support from the HRD to reopen courts and detention facilities. The absence of judicial institutions and State officials with the capacity to operate them outside of the capital created a vacuum that has been filled by armed groups who are acting as de facto State authorities in some parts of the country. The existing judicial authorities are faced with a critical lack of institutional capacity to function effectively, especially with regard to investigating and prosecuting the perpetrators of crimes, including crimes constituting human rights violations. Further, the limited visibility of judicial institutions outside Bangui obstructed the ability of victims to bring complaints against alleged perpetrators.

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

A number of capacity-building activities were carried out to promote the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms. The HRD organized four workshops with national stakeholders on transitional justice mechanisms for 200 participants composed of civil society organizations, community leaders, lawyers, journalists and magistrates. The workshops resulted in the appointment of institutional focal points on transitional justice within the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry for National Reconciliation. In September, the HRD collaborated with the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry for National Reconciliation and organized a four-day seminar on the fight against impunity. Approximately 160 participants discussed issues related to the fight against impunity, including the implementation of judicial mechanisms, institutional and transitional justice reforms, temporary urgent measures and programmes for the protection of victims and witnesses. In July, the HRD participated in the first Task Force meeting on the establishment of the Commission of Truth chaired by the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General. Participants included representatives from the Ministries of Justice and for National Reconciliation. During the meeting, participants reviewed the terms of reference of the Task Force and the road map for the establishment of the Commission.

Widening the democratic space

► *By 2017, the National Commission of Human Rights is established and functioning in accordance with the Paris Principles (EA 1)*

In December 2010, a law was drafted to establish an independent national human rights institution (NHRI) functioning in accordance with the Paris Principles. Although the draft was transmitted to the National Assembly for its adoption in 2012, the country's volatile security situation prevented any discussion by relevant authorities. In addition, the violent crisis that erupted at the end of September, coupled with the holding of elections, led the Transitional Government to prioritize other activities. In 2015, the HRD held consultations and undertook advocacy with the Transitional Government to ensure that the review and adoption of the draft legislation becomes a priority once again.

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

► *National protection mechanisms are established to ensure protection and greater accountability for human rights violations, including a national committee for the prevention of the crime of genocide (EA 3)*

In July, the Transitional Government established a National Committee on Genocide Prevention. The HRD supported the organization of an international seminar for the establishment of national committees for the prevention of genocide. The seminar was attended by approximately



The High Commissioner participates at the opening ceremony of the International Seminar on the Fight against Impunity in Bangui, Central African Republic, September 2015.

40 representatives from the Transitional Government and civil society. During the seminar, participants discussed the Committee's mandate and additional steps that need to be taken in order for it to become operational.

► *Human rights-based approaches incorporated into the work of MINUSCA's components and peacebuilding policies and programmes (EA 11)*

On 1 April, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General signed a standard operating procedure (SOP) for the implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) in the Central African Republic. The HRD, as the HRDDP Secretariat, took the lead in the implementation of the Policy at the peace mission level, including by developing an operational mechanism for the establishment of risk assessments; ensuring internal and external communication in relation to the Policy; mapping the ongoing and foreseen UN support to non-UN security forces in the Central African Republic; initiating a preliminary risk assessment of the country's security and defence forces; and developing an information management system. During 2015, the HRDDP Secretariat received and processed 14 requests for support that would include a review, analysis and risk assessment. The Senior Leadership of MINUSCA authorized support for seven of these requests, on the condition that the mitigating measures proposed by the Secretariat would be implemented.

United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

Year established	2004
Staff as of 31 December 2015	64

Results

Strengthening the effectiveness of 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; integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms and the timely submission of reports to treaty bodies and the UPR; and full cooperation with special procedures mandate-holders, especially the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire (EA 2)*

In November, the Independent Expert carried out his third visit to Côte d'Ivoire. The Government cooperated with the expert, granting him meetings with high-level representatives and access to places of detention. Additionally, the Government developed a road map for the implementation of the recommendations issued by the UPR and the human rights treaty bodies. This project

Setting up transitional justice mechanisms in the Central African Republic: An ongoing support to national authorities

The Transitional Government's adoption on 10 May of the *Pacte républicain pour la paix, la réconciliation nationale et la reconstruction en République Centrafricaine*, at the Bangui Forum for National Reconciliation, reaffirmed the Government's commitment to work towards reconciliation and fight against impunity.

OHCHR organized a series of activities to support the implementation of the recommendations which emerged from the Forum. On 4 July, the Office partnered with the *Réseau des Jeunes Volontaires pour la Paix en République Centrafricaine* to organize a seminar on transitional justice for Central African youth organizations at the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs. Approximately 258 youth delegates, 100 of whom were women, participated in the event and were trained on the use of transitional justice as an alternative measure to fight against impunity. The event also provided an opportunity to share the experiences on transitional justice of seven other African countries, including Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda and Togo.

In September, the Office facilitated a four-day workshop on the fight against impunity. The workshop was chaired by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights and the Ministry of National Reconciliation and was attended by 160 participants, including members of the transitional national

assembly, the judiciary, religious leaders and representatives of victims' and witness associations, women's associations, civil society organizations, as well as United Nations partners and the international community. The workshop resulted in the development of significant recommendations, which have been endorsed by the national authorities, including regarding the establishment of a special criminal court and of a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles, as well as the undertaking of a mapping exercise of serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law that have been committed in the Central African Republic since January 2003.

was undertaken with the participation of several ministries and key partners and the support of the Human Rights Division (HRD) of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI).

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *The National Human Rights Commission improves its compliance with the Paris Principles (EA 1)*
The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) adopted its five-year strategic action plan and presented its first annual report on the human rights situation in Côte d'Ivoire to the President of the Republic. In addition, the NHRC initiated the process to be accredited by the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions. It also reactivated the National Human Rights Forum; a public platform where civil society, State and international partners meet to exchange information on human rights issues. Most of these activities were carried out with significant assistance from the HRD.

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 are implemented (EA 1)*
Implementation of the National Strategy on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Côte d'Ivoire remains weak. UNOCI contributed to the mapping of activities implemented under the Strategy which revealed that the overall level of implementation is low due to a failure to disseminate the Strategy. This prevented relevant stakeholders from developing a sense that the Strategy could be fully appropriated by all actors, particularly at the institutional level.
- ▶ *A mechanism to prevent violence in the context of elections and a Code of Ethics for security forces to prevent and respond to threats to civilians are in place before the 2015 elections (EA 3)*
Although a Code of Ethics was not established for the security forces working during the elections, the HRD organized several sensitization events and meetings for the army and the security forces to ensure their proper handling of the elections. On the day of the elections, the HRD deployed 21 teams across the country which did not record a single instance of abuse by security forces. Several civil society mechanisms were put in place to monitor the human rights situation in the lead up to and during the elections.



Students at a primary school in Côte d'Ivoire.

African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2015	87

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Increased engagement by the Sudan with international and regional human rights mechanisms relevant to Darfur (EA 6)*
In 2015, visits were undertaken by the Independent Expert on the situation of the human rights in the Sudan and the Special Rapporteurs on violence against women, its causes and consequences and on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights. The Human Rights Section (HRS) of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur facilitated meetings of the experts with government authorities, non-governmental entities and the UNCT.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Significant increase of compliance with international human rights norms and standards by courts and traditional justice mechanisms, as well as police and prisons in relation to arrest and detention (EA 1)*
In West Darfur, the HRS carried out awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns to advocate for the adoption of the State Disability Act, including through a training session for parliamentarians on international standards related to the rights



OHCHR training on human rights and Sudanese law for rural court members in North Darfur, November 2015.

of persons with disabilities. The bill was drafted, approved by Parliament and sent to the Governor's cabinet. The draft is awaiting final approval before its adoption.

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)*

The Ministry of Justice appointed new prosecutors in all Darfur states, thereby contributing to an increase in the number of cases brought before the courts for judicial redress in all five regions of Darfur. Moreover, out of the 151 cases the HRS reported to Government authorities, 46 were investigated which led to 30 arrests and 14 trials. Also, due to long-standing advocacy undertaken by various actors, including the HRS, a number of amendments were made, in February, to provisions in the Sudan Criminal Act. This resulted in important changes to legislation addressing the crime of rape.

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 2015	123

Results

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 2015, the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (UNJHRO) recorded a total of 284 convictions for human rights violations in the national courts. In 2014, 225 such convictions were recorded. Since the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) does not have a national judicial data reporting system, the UNJHRO field offices monitor and report on judicial activity each month, including regarding cases of State agents and members of armed groups who have been convicted of crimes that involved a violation of human rights or humanitarian law. A substantial number of these convictions resulted from advocacy that was undertaken by the UNJHRO with military prosecutors to open a judicial investigation. The UNJHRO also provided technical and logistical assistance to military justice authorities for investigations into grave violations and the operation of mobile courts for the subsequent trials.

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

On 10 December, Parliament adopted the final version of the legislation implementing the Rome Statute, which was promulgated by the President in January 2016. The adoption of this legislation represents a positive development with respect to the fight against impunity as it: addresses a gap in the previous legislative framework by adding definitions of international crimes to the Penal Code; abolishes immunity for officials, including the President and Members of Parliament; provides that amnesty cannot be granted for international crimes; and contains provisions strengthening the cooperation of the DRC with the International Criminal Court. Nevertheless,

the legislation also provides for the execution of the death penalty for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. This is a marked step backwards as the Congolese courts which had already been applying the Rome Statute had generally not imposed the death penalty. The UNJHRO conducted advocacy in relation to the adoption of this legislation and legislation on the specialized mixed chambers as well as on other legal reforms.

Widening the democratic space

► *The draft bill for the protection of human rights defenders is adopted (EA 1)*

Despite the extensive advocacy that was undertaken by representatives of NGOs and human rights defenders, with the support of the UNJHRO, no significant progress was achieved regarding the adoption of a law on the protection of human rights defenders. For instance, in November 2013, the UNJHRO helped to organize a technical workshop with human rights defenders, a few committed Members of Parliament and representatives of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. Although draft legislation was prepared during the workshop, the draft never made it to the National Assembly as the Members of Parliament supporting the legislation indicated that some of their colleagues considered it to be unconstitutional. The promoters of the draft must now amend the legislation and have it validated before identifying the Members of Parliament who would be likely to accept and endorse the draft before submitting it to the National Assembly for consideration. The UNJHRO organized several working meetings with various stakeholders, including representatives of the Ministry of Justice, the NHRI, civil society organizations and key Members of Parliament who may be willing to advocate for the review and revision of the draft.

► *Five functional protection networks operating at the provincial and national levels are established (EA 1)*

Currently, there are six functional provincial protection networks in place in Bukavu (South Kivu), Bunia (Ituri), Goma (North Kivu), Kalemie (Tanganyika), Kinshasa (Kinshasa) and Kisangani (Tshopo), which are being managed by UNJHRO protection officers.

► *The NHRI is working in compliance with the Paris Principles (EA 1)*

After years of waiting for the appointment of Commissioners, nine members were selected through a transparent system and sworn in on 23 July. As of December, the National Human Rights Commission was still waiting for office

space and an allocated budget to be operational. In the meantime, the UNJHRO organized a number of capacity-building activities for the Commission, including a two-day workshop to help clarify the mandate and responsibilities of the Commissioners and a training session on basic human rights principles, monitoring and planning. In addition, the UNJHRO held a series of needs assessment meetings for a steering committee that was established by the NHRI in order to draft an interim workplan.

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 Human Rights Investigation Teams (EA 3)*

In 2015, the UNJHRO provided financial and technical support for eight Joint Human Rights Investigation Teams (JITs) and 10 mobile court hearings for cases of grave human rights violations. The JITs undertook investigations and held mobile court trials for several high-level perpetrators, such as former National Police Commissioner Mpiya Abraham who was convicted and sentenced in October to 15 years in prison for crimes against humanity. In 2015, the JITs and mobile court hearings took place in the provinces of Equateur, Maniema, North Kivu, Orientale and South Kivu. Many cases were investigated and tried that involved human rights violations, war crimes and crimes against humanity such as murder and acts of sexual violence that included rape and torture.

► *Human rights principles and standards mainstreamed into humanitarian planning and programming processes (EA 11)*

The DRC's UNDAF midterm review was finalized



School children in Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo, participate at the celebration of Human Rights Day organized by the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office.



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The United Nations Human Rights Joint Office presents to civil society partners its mapping project on gross violations of human rights and international humanitarian law perpetrated in the Democratic Republic of the Congo between March 1993 and June 2003.

in September. The centrality of human rights was reiterated and a strong recommendation was made to increase the familiarity of stakeholders with a rights-based planning process. The UN in the DRC further adopted a standard operating procedure on the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy, conditioning all UN support to non-UN security forces to a risk assessment. The UNJHRO regularly participated in meetings of the UNCT and contributed to relevant coordination mechanisms to discuss protection issues and ensure that international human rights principles and standards are taken into consideration in the planning of the humanitarian response to emerging needs in conflict situations.

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 2015	13

Results

Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Positive response to requests of special procedures mandate-holders to visit the country (EA 6)*
In October, the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers undertook a country visit to Guinea-Bissau to assess the

functioning of the justice system. The Human Rights Section (HRS) of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) provided technical and logistical support to the Special Rapporteur and accompanied her during meetings with executive, legislative and judicial authorities.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- ▶ *Increase of 30 per cent in the representation of women in parliament, the judiciary and in governor positions (EA 4)*

In 2015, the President of the Republic, the President of the Parliament and the Prime Minister committed to undertaking measures to address women's rights, in particular the right to political participation. To contribute to this effort, the HRS supported the preparation of the *Canchungo Declaration*, which was approved by the National Assembly. The Declaration outlined 16 practical actions to facilitate gender mainstreaming, including the establishment of a minimum quota of 40 per cent for women's representation at all levels of the decision-making process.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Human rights are an integral part of the training programmes of the Bar Association; the refresher courses for judges; and recruitment training for security forces (army and police) and corrections personnel (EA 1)*

In 2015, the HRS provided training to two groups of 60 magistrates and 60 investigators, both civilian and military, on international human rights standards with a particular focus on the independence of judges, prosecutors and lawyers. As a result of the training, national authorities proposed a revision of the Code of Military Justice, which is in contradiction with some provisions of the Constitution.

Widening the democratic space

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

The HRS continued to support the Network of Human Rights Defenders, established in 2013, in its efforts to establish offices in the country's regions. It also trained additional human rights focal points in three regions, primarily consisting of members of youth organizations, women's associations and persons with disabilities. Following the training, the human rights focal points were able to effectively identify and report on human rights violations in their respective communities, both to the UN and to local authorities.

United Nations Mission in Liberia

Year established	2003
Staff as of 31 December 2015	44

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 UPR recommendations (EA 6)*

The Ministry of Justice's strategy on reporting to the human rights treaty bodies has been put into practice with the preparation of the draft common core document. This was made possible through technical support provided by the Human Rights and Protection Section (HRPS) of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). Furthermore, support for the reporting process will soon be provided by a coordinated mechanism consisting of relevant ministries and other State institutions.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Constitutional amendments provide greater protection for human rights, strengthen protection against discrimination and foster genuine equality (EA 1)*

The Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) continued advocating for the integration of human rights in the context of the review of the Constitution. Based on the recommendations of the Constitution Review Committee, the President of Liberia wrote to Parliament in August and highlighted 25 constitutional provisions that need to be amended, including a discriminatory provision on citizenship. Many of INCHR's other recommendations were not reflected in the proposal, including the development of a bill of rights.

- ▶ *Improvements in the administration of justice include: availability of remedies for violations; juvenile justice facilities and the abolition of the death penalty for children; effective oversight mechanisms; periodic impact assessments; human rights mainstreamed into the core curricula of justice sector actors; and implementation of criminal justice reform priorities (EA 1)*

With the technical support of the HRPS, a mechanism that consists of trained human rights instructors at the police academy has become operational to support and enhance human rights training and monitoring of Liberia's

national police officers. Initiatives have also been undertaken by the HRPS to support the institutionalization of human rights training and monitoring at the Bureau of Immigration and Nationalization and the armed forces. Trained instructors have been deployed to support human rights training at both institutions.

- ▶ *A human rights-compliant transitional justice process developed and implemented. Increased recognition of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (EA 3)*

In September, the President issued a fourth progress report on the status of implementation of the recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. To date, 64 per cent of the recommendations have been implemented or are in the process of being implemented.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *Increased participation of the population, particularly women, discriminated groups and CSOs, in the development of Liberia's National Vision 2030 priorities, national policy and budget allocations; and in monitoring the right to health (EA 5)*

The Liberia Civil Society National Budget and Human Rights Forum conducted activities to support the inclusion of a human rights-based approach in the national budget process. The Forum reviewed the allocations of community and social development funds for 2015-2016 in relation to six counties in order to support inclusive development with a focus on more remote areas. A booklet on the review was prepared and disseminated to community-based organizations in the six counties to enhance their awareness about budget allocations. The Forum also analyzed the budget allocations related to reducing maternal and infant mortality rates and supporting sexual and reproductive rights for 2015-2016. The HRPS provided technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of the Forum.

- ▶ *Periodic and final reviews of One Programme 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)*

In late 2015, the HRPS developed terms of reference to establish a UNCT human rights working group to ensure that human rights are mainstreamed in UNCT's programmes. The HRPS continued to train the UNCT, civil society, government programme officers and the INCHR on how to apply a human rights-based approach to programming.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *National Human Rights Commission increases its compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

As of December, 26 monitors of the INCHR are present in all 15 counties of Liberia. In April, the HRPS provided extensive training on human rights monitoring, reporting and advocacy for the monitors and Commissioners of the INCHR and select civil society representatives. In addition, with the support of the HRPS, the INCHR published its first annual report, in October, which highlighted critical human rights issues confronting Liberia and included a number of recommendations. Despite the progress achieved, challenges remain. For example, the sustainability of the monitoring programme is at stake due to budgetary constraints. Moreover, although the tenure of six INCHR Commissioners expired in October, they continued working. This created confusion and raised concerns about the credibility of the Commission.

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

- ▶ *Substantial integration of human rights in the work of all UNMIL components (EA 11)*
- UNMIL has integrated the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy in the training of peacekeepers. The HRPS provided ongoing technical support, including training and advocacy, to ensure the inclusion of the Policy. Also, as a result of these efforts, a human rights risk assessment must now be conducted before resources can be allocated to Liberian security agencies within the framework of quick impact projects run by UNMIL.

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali

Year established	2013
Staff as of 31 December 2015	73

Results

Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Positive responses to requests for country visits from special procedures mandate-holders (EA 6)*
- The Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali carried out visits to the country in March and October. No invitations were extended to other mandate-holders.



Human rights officers collecting testimonies of violations of human rights in Timbuktu, Mali.

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)*
- The Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission, established in January, became operational with the appointment of its President in August and 14 Commissioners in October. The Human Rights Division (HRD) of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) provided technical advice to the Commissioners and other members in the elaboration of internal working documents, such as rules, a strategy and an action plan. In addition, the HRD trained Commissioners on the norms and principles of transitional justice. It provided support to members of the Commission in carrying out field visits to northern and southern regions of Mali to meet with local authorities and civil society in order to raise awareness about the Commission's mandate, discuss its strategy and vision and the concerns and expectations of the local population regarding justice and reconciliation.

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

- ▶ *Joint protection assessments carried out in four regions and their recommendations used to refine the protection response of all relevant actors (EA 3)*
- The HRD played a critical role in the protection of civilians by undertaking 102 missions to monitor and report on the situation of human rights and protection issues in Mali, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2227. Three reports were released in 2015. While the HRD met with the Ministry of Justice on several occasions

to advocate for the implementation of key recommendations outlined in the reports, the Government did not release an official reaction. Moreover, the HRD supported the establishment of a working group, composed of national human rights organizations, to follow up on the recommendations.

- ▶ *Mechanisms and initiatives are adopted to increase human rights protection in the context of conflict, violence and insecurity (EA 3)*

The HRD organized a workshop in the Timbuktu region on early warning for a group of 90 participants, including administrative authorities, members of the civil society and the Malian Defence and Security Forces. The workshop led local authorities to identify focal points for early warning and the prevention of human rights violations in three communes. The focal points, who have been trained on monitoring human rights violations, regularly inform authorities about the human rights situation in their respective areas.

- ▶ *The Human Rights Due Diligence Policy is effectively implemented by MINUSMA (EA 11)*
In January, MINUSMA adopted a standard operating procedure on the implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy in Mali. In addition to providing training on the Policy, the HRD regularly raised the awareness of UN actors and national and international partners about the Policy and conducted regular assessments of the potential risks and benefits involved in providing support to security forces.

United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2015	20

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *The national report for the second UPR cycle is submitted on time (EA 6)*
The national report for Somalia's second UPR cycle was submitted on time. The Human Rights Section (HRS) of the United Nations Assistance Mission to Somalia contributed to this result by: supporting the Interministerial Team to report on the status of implementation of the 2011 report; organizing nationwide consultations to ensure national ownership of the process and engage regional and State governments and

other stakeholders; supporting the drafting of the report; and participating in a workshop for the validation of the draft 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)*

On 28 December, Somalia's Federal Parliament adopted the Media Law, which has been pending approval since September 2014. The Parliament made substantial amendments to the draft and the National Union of Somali Journalists welcomed its adoption.

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

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

Security Council resolution 2245, which expanded the mandate of the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia, made clear references to accountability for the implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy. In addition, Security Council resolution 2244, which extended the mandate of the Somalia and Eritrea Monitoring Group, included inputs from the HRS that called for civilian oversight of the Somali security forces and the investigation and prosecution of individuals who are responsible for violations of international humanitarian law.

- ▶ *Human rights are included in the standard training of the African Union Mission to Somalia Security Forces (EA 11)*

The HRS provided regular guidance to the African Union Mission to Somalia Security Forces



A human rights officer with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) facilitates a workshop on human rights and peace building in Mogadishu, Somalia, August 2015.

(AMISOM) on the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy and conducted regular pre-deployment training on human rights standards and in-country refresher training. In 2015, the HRS contributed to six induction trainings and trained over 400 AMISOM officers. Furthermore, the HRS trained over 10,000 Somali National Army officers in 2015, including 47 officers that were trained as human rights instructors.

United Nations Mission in South Sudan

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2015	111

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Ratification of ICCPR, ICESCR, CEDAW, CRC, CERD, ACHPR and their related protocols, without reservations, including the ICCPR-OP2 (EA 2)*

On 30 April, South Sudan acceded to CEDAW and its Optional Protocol; the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) and its Optional Protocol; and the CRC. The Human Rights Division (HRD) of the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) supported the ratification process through the provision of technical assistance to the Ministry of Justice, line ministries and Parliament.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

Due to the ongoing crisis, processes related to constitutional review were suspended. The Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan of August 2015 provides for the establishment of the National Constitutional Amendment Committee to draft the necessary constitutional amendments for the transition to take place. The process has not been initiated, however, due to delays in implementation of the Agreement. When the process commences, the HRD will advocate for the participation of rights-holders, including women and discriminated-against groups.



A human rights officer meets with the local community in Cueibet County, South Sudan, as part of a UNMISS human rights' awareness and sensitization campaign.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Establishment of a moratorium on the application of the death penalty (EA 1)*

Death sentences continued to be imposed in South Sudan and no official moratorium has been established.

- ▶ *Increased number of cases brought before the judiciary which follow fair trials and due process and in which customary law has been applied in compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

The continuing conflict has further weakened the judicial system in South Sudan, where the judicial and law enforcement actors have limited capacity to administer justice in accordance with international human rights standards. This is coupled with a complete absence of statutory justice institutions in large portions of the country. For instance, in states like Unity and Upper Nile State, there is no functioning court system. The impact is evident across every element of the criminal justice system, resulting in such abuses as arbitrary arrests and detentions, prolonged detentions, failure to respect fair trial processes and ill-treatment, among other human rights concerns. The HRD followed 65 trials and observed that human rights standards, including due process and fair trial guarantees, are rarely complied with during proceedings. In this context, customary courts continue to handle a significant number of cases and this trend has increased considerably during the conflict. There is also growing evidence of traditional authorities taking on the role of local-level criminal courts, adjudicating cases beyond their jurisdiction, violating fair trial standards and imposing illegal fines and sentences; all of which are in

contravention of national laws and international human rights principles. In order to address the observed shortcomings, the HRD organized three sensitization activities for members of traditional courts on human rights standards.

Widening the democratic space

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

While the HRD conducted a number of activities, primarily training, to strengthen the Human Rights Commission's capacity to investigate human rights violations, its ability to implement the full range of planned activities was negatively impacted by the ongoing internal conflict in the country and the restrictive changes made to the peace mission's mandate. In addition, the Human Rights Commission was unable to establish offices in at least four conflict-affected states due to the ongoing hostilities.

- ▶ *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)*

During the year, the space for freedom of expression and dissent has decreased and no significant reforms were introduced to promote freedom of expression. As a member of the South Sudan Media Sector Working Group, convened by UNESCO and co-chaired by the Association of Media Development in South Sudan, the HRD lobbied for the amendment of media laws, advocated for press freedom and promoted better working relationships between the media, Government and security organs. The HRD also organized a workshop on freedom of expression for journalists and civil society, as well as a number of sensitization initiatives that reached journalists, women's groups, religious and civil society organizations and students.

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

- ▶ *Legislation and policies in place to increase human rights protection in conflict and to combat SGBV (EA 1)*

The Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare drafted a five-year National Gender Policy Strategic Plan (2013-2018), which aims at promoting a robust policy and legal framework to eliminate SGBV and institutionalize appropriate response and protection mechanisms. Nevertheless, this plan is yet to be implemented.

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

Despite the severity of the violations of human rights and humanitarian law that are being perpetrated by both sides of the conflict in South Sudan, no tangible accountability mechanisms have been established. The Government took some initial steps in this regard and established several committees, including a national investigation committee into human rights abuses. Yet so far, these initiatives have failed to produce any identifiable results. The HRD advocated for and supported accountability processes and continued to conduct field missions to monitor and assess the human rights situation, while undertaking protection interventions, including in cases of SGBV. The HRD also monitored detention centres on a monthly basis, including police stations and prisons, to ensure their compliance with international human rights standards.

- ▶ *A framework for exchange on the human rights dimension of humanitarian action and its integration in field activities is in place (EA 11)*

A United Nations-wide effort has been initiated to lay the foundations for durable solutions for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returning refugees. UNMISS is working to provide the necessary security conditions while the UNCT is supporting the delivery of humanitarian assistance at central and local levels, including by setting up national information management systems related to IDP profiling. The HRD established mechanisms to monitor and ensure that all activities are carried out in compliance with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.



Human rights officers meet with members of the Agar clan of the Dinka tribe, in South Sudan, in an effort to end the conflict with neighbouring communities.

Human Rights Advisers in UN Country Teams

Chad

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2015	3

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *The Interministerial Committee on reporting under international and regional human rights instruments is operational and half of the overdue reports are submitted (EA 6)*

With the support of the Human Rights Adviser (HRA) and UNDP, the Interministerial Committee developed its action plan for the second half of 2015 and for 2016. The HRA also supported the definition of strategies for the monitoring of recommendations issued by the UPR.

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)*

A committee, composed of representatives from the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, the Bar Society, the University of N'Djamena and civil society actors, was established by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights in order to develop a draft law on the National Human Rights Commission. The HRA provided the committee with technical and financial support, including documentation on national human rights commissions in Burundi, Niger and Togo to serve as good examples for the Chadian Human Rights Commission. The draft law was submitted to the Government in December to initiate the process of adoption.

- ▶ *National prosecutions against the presumed authors of international crimes under Hissène Habré's ruling are conducted in compliance with international human rights standards and a rights-based victims' reparation programme is functioning (EA 3)*

The special session of the Court of Appeal of N'Djamena reached a verdict in the case of the victims of former agents of the Directorate for Documentation and Security, the political police

of former President Hissène Habré. For 20 of the defendants, the Court of Appeal handed down sentences ranging from five years of forced labour to life sentences. Nine other defendants were acquitted, including four for lack of evidence. All of the accused had the opportunity to select the counsel of their choice, all parties were able to call witnesses to the stand and the public hearings were regularly broadcast on national television. While monetary penalties were levied against the accused, the Government has not established a redress mechanism for victims. The HRA observed the hearings throughout the process to assess their compliance with international standards.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *Recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms are integrated in the programmes and activities of UN agencies (EA 11)*
- The draft United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2017-2021 integrates human rights considerations. The HRA provided the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) with a general analysis of the gender and human rights situation in the country, as well as advice for the definition of outcomes, outputs and indicators.

Kenya

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2015	5

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)*

The Human Rights Adviser (HRA) contributed to building the capacity of the national coordinating body in the context of its reorganization and the arrival of new members. The trainings focused on the coordinating body's roles and responsibilities in ensuring that the Government complies with its international human rights obligations and regarding its preparation of the State Party report to CERD. Furthermore, as a follow-up to recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms in relation to Kenya, the Parliament

adopted the National Policy and Action Plan on Human Rights in December. The Action Plan was developed through a highly participatory process, with the support of the HRA, and establishes human rights goals and priorities within achievable time frames. It also provides guidance to all actors regarding the specific tasks that need to be accomplished to ensure that human rights principles are integrated and mainstreamed in the country's development agenda. Moreover, the Action Plan calls for the implementation of a HRBA in all projects and focuses on a set of key priority areas that were identified during nationwide hearings.

- ▶ *Increased engagement of rights-holders, especially those who are vulnerable and marginalized, with regional and international human rights mechanisms (EA 7)*

Pursuant to the UPR process, the HRA supported the engagement of civil society organizations in the development of an action plan for implementing UPR recommendations. This resulted in the creation of a consultative process between civil society organizations and the Government to develop a joint implementation plan. The HRA also encouraged civil society to formally raise cases of alleged human rights violations with the Special Rapporteurs on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, on the situation of human rights defenders and on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression. As a result, two special procedures mandate-holders submitted communications to the Government requesting that it address the cases submitted by the civil society organizations.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *Increased integration of a human rights-based approach in the design, planning and implementation of the UNDAF 2014-2018, including through the use of UPR/treaty body/special procedures recommendations in the programming of UNCT partners (EA 11)*
The UNCT adopted a draft human rights-compliant monitoring and evaluation strategy in relation to the UNDAF. The HRA provided inputs to ensure that a human rights-based approach was incorporated in the strategy.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *Adoption of human rights-compliant legal frameworks for public participation and to protect human rights defenders (EA 1)*
Under the leadership of the Department of Justice, and with OHCHR's expertise and financial



Launch of the human rights undergraduate course at Egerton University, Kenya. OHCHR supported the development of the course and the teaching manual.

support, a national draft policy was developed on public participation. The draft incorporates human rights standards and will provide guidance to civil servants on enhancing public participation, including of women and others who are underrepresented. In addition, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights developed a draft policy for the protection of human rights defenders that is compliant with international human rights standards. The draft was developed with contributions from civil society organizations and support from the HRA, which provided technical input during the drafting process and facilitated a stakeholder's review meeting. A plan of action was prepared to outline the next steps.

- ▶ *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 curriculum (EA 1)*

The Kabianga Public University requested assistance from OHCHR to develop the curriculum for a four-year undergraduate course on human rights and facilitate a validation session with stakeholders. The curriculum was approved by the Dean's committee and forwarded to the Senate for endorsement.

Madagascar

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2015	5

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Human rights-based approach principles and recommendations from human rights mechanisms are better integrated in UN programmes and policies (EA 11)*

In September, a plan for the implementation of recommendations issued by international and regional human rights mechanisms was validated during an official ceremony organized by the Office of the Prime Minister and the UNCT. The plan is the culmination of training and advocacy activities conducted by the HRA with the support of UNDP. The plan includes recommendations issued by the UPR, the human rights treaty bodies and the special procedures. The HRA also coordinated the drafting of the UNCT contributions for various reports to the treaty bodies, including CEDAW.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

As a result of advocacy actions and technical advice provided by OHCHR, the National Development Plan is human rights-oriented and includes commitments to guarantee women's rights. The HRA facilitated workshops for women's NGOs and associations to enhance their knowledge about international, regional and national mechanisms for the protection of human rights and to promote their participation in decision making-processes.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *A NHRI is established and functioning and the Ombudsman's Office is strengthened (EA 1)*
The HRA cooperated with the Ministry of Justice to implement an information campaign to promote the selection of civil society representatives to participate in the NHRI. Preliminary elections were conducted in the six provinces of the country to enable local civil society organizations to elect their respective candidates. All members of the NHRI were expected to be officially appointed by the President of the Republic by the end of the year.



Celebration of International Women's Day in Madagascar, March 2015.

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

OHCHR signed memoranda of understanding with the Ministry of Defence, the Military Academy, the Secretary of State in charge of the National Gendarmerie and the Faculty of Law at the University of Antananarivo regarding the integration of human rights courses in their respective curricula.

Malawi

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2015	1

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Interministerial participatory standing national coordinating body on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms established and reports/common core document following the reporting guidelines submitted to treaty bodies and UPR (EA 6)*
A National Human Rights Action Plan for 2016-2020 was developed through a process led by the Ministry of Justice, in collaboration with the Malawi Human Rights Commission and civil society and the support of the HRA. The Plan integrated the recommendations issued by the

UN human rights mechanisms in relation to Malawi and established a National Human Rights Coordination Committee. In terms of treaty body reporting, the Government submitted its report to the CRC and replied to the list of issues from the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The HRA provided advice and support to enable the Government to meet its reporting obligations.

▶ *Standing invitation to special procedures mandate-holders issued and their requests to visit Malawi receive positive responses (EA 6)*

In September, following Malawi's second UPR cycle and advocacy undertaken by the HRA, the Government issued a standing invitation to the special procedures. During Malawi's first UPR cycle, the Government accepted a recommendation to invite the Special Rapporteurs on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, on extreme poverty and human rights and on the situation of human rights defenders.

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

A total of nine civil society organizations and groups of NGOs submitted inputs to CEDAW in anticipation of its consideration of Malawi's State Party report.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

As a result of advocacy efforts carried out by the UN and other actors, the Government adopted the Marriage, Divorce and Family Relations Act, which prohibits child marriage, and the Trafficking in Persons Act. The adoption of these legislative measures signals a strengthening of the legal framework that will contribute to addressing discrimination and violence against women and girls. In addition, the HRA provided comprehensive advice and support to the Government in the development of a response plan, launched in 2015, to address attacks against persons with albinism.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

▶ *The UNDAF midterm review, the new UNDAF and other UN joint programmes incorporate a human rights-based approach (EA 11)*

With support from the HRA, human rights were successfully integrated in joint areas of work, including sexual and reproductive health and

business and human rights. A one-day multi-stakeholder dialogue was organized by the UN and the Malawi Human Rights Commission in order to review the reports on the Status of Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights and on the Cycle of Accountability for Sexual and Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health and Human Rights. The participants, which included government officials, parliamentarians, members of the judiciary, traditional leaders and representatives of the Malawi Human Rights Commission, the Law Commission, civil society, District Health Officials and the media, agreed to convene a task force to prepare an action plan for the implementation of the recommendations in the two reports. In addition, a multi-stakeholder dialogue was held in collaboration with the Malawi Human Rights Commission and Citizens for Justice. The dialogue raised awareness about the key human rights issues relating to business in Malawi and called for the integration of business and human rights issues in Malawi's National Human Rights Action Plan 2016-2020. The HRA also contributed to the evaluation of the UNDAF and the review of the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy II.

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

▶ *Human rights are integrated into United Nations preparedness, response and recovery efforts of crises emanating from natural disasters, conflicts and other situations of violence and insecurity (EA 11)*

The HRA supported the Malawi Human Rights Commission to monitor and respond to human rights violations in two of the flood-affected areas in the south. The Commission reported cases of sexual and gender-based violence, violence committed by host communities, child labour and the diversion of relief items by District Councils. The HRA also provided 20 officers of the Commission with pre-deployment training on human rights monitoring, including validation of the tool to be used for the monitoring and reporting exercise.

Niger

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2015	- (The field presence closed in 2015)

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *At least one international human rights convention and two optional protocols are ratified (EA 2)*

In July, Niger ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED). Draft legislation is in the process of being adopted that would authorize the ratification of the ICCPR-OP2, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (OP-ICESCR) and the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons. The HRA supported the National Human Rights Commission and civil society organizations in their advocacy efforts related to the ratification of the human rights treaties.

- ▶ *Forty per cent of outstanding State Party reports are submitted to treaty bodies (EA 6)*
As a result of a well-functioning interministerial committee, four State Party reports were sent to CERD, CEDAW, CRC and the CRPD. Moreover, the Government prepared and submitted its report for Niger's second UPR cycle, which will take place in early 2016. The HRA strengthened the reporting capacities of members of the interministerial committee through trainings and the provision of information on the reporting guidelines.
- ▶ *Three shadow reports are submitted by CSOs and the NHRI to treaty bodies and the UPR (EA 7)*
NGOs, the UNCT and the National Human Rights Commission submitted alternative reports in anticipation of Niger's second UPR cycle. The HRA provided technical support to these stakeholders in the development and adoption of their reports, including by distributing information on the reporting guidelines and preparing substantive inputs to the reports.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *The National Human Rights Commission implements its four-year plan for the period 2014-2017 (EA 1)*
As part of the implementation of the National Human Rights Commission's four-year strategic plan 2014-2017, the Commission presented its first annual report to the National Assembly in

November. Among other activities, the HRA supported the creation of the Commission's website to give greater visibility to its activities, share information regarding human rights and facilitate the filing of complaints online.

- ▶ *A national human rights education plan is elaborated and human rights are incorporated in the curricula of formal education (EA 1)*
As part of the implementation of the national human rights education plan, the HRA provided technical support to the committee in charge of developing three human rights modules for primary and secondary schools. The HRA revised the contents and prepared substantive inputs on each of the modules, which will be tested during the 2015-2016 school year.

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 (Consolidated Appeal Process Niger) and the Protection Cluster Action Plan (EA 11)*
The active participation of the HRA in the Protection Cluster led to the integration of a human rights perspective in the development of tools to collect information in the region of Diffa, with a particular focus on children and sexual and gender-based violence. Additionally, a human rights dimension was taken into account in the development of protective measures in the Diffa region that is being affected by repeated attacks of Boko Haram.

Nigeria

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2015	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 the treaty bodies in full conformity with reporting guidelines (EA 6)*
With the technical support of the HRA, the Interministerial Committee designed and adopted

a national action plan on the implementation of UPR recommendations. It has also initiated the preparation of outstanding reports that are due for submission to the human rights treaties bodies, including the initial report to the Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW).

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- ▶ *National action plan against racism and discrimination adopted. A number of states incorporate the Child Rights Act (North states) and adopt a policy on realization of the rights of persons with disabilities (EA 4)*

The Child Rights Act sets out the rights and responsibilities of a child in Nigeria and provides for a system of the administration of juvenile justice. It also enables children with disabilities to fully enjoy their rights as it provides special measures for their care and protection. Regrettably, the Act has not been translated into improved legal protection for the child across the Federation since it has not been domesticated in most states of the North. The HRA has continuously advocated for the domestication of the Act in the Northern states.

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

- ▶ *At least four States have legislation against gender-based violence. Institutionalization of human rights training for the armed forces and security agencies, especially those involved in operations in the North East (EA 1)*

The National Assembly adopted the Law on Violence against Persons, which prohibits harmful traditional practices and various forms of violence against women, and the President signed the Law. The HRA will continue supporting the Government to improve the legal framework for addressing gender-based violence.

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

The Nigerian Armed Forces adopted a code of conduct and rules of engagement for operations in the North East. At an expert meeting, facilitated by the HRA in collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission, military authorities reviewed the contents of both documents and made proposals for the integration of international human rights and humanitarian standards. Some of the proposals were adopted. In addition, the National Defence College developed a training programme on human rights and the protection of civilians in internal security operations for the armed forces and other security agencies. The



The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights visits a camp for internally displaced persons during his mission to Nigeria, August 2015.

programme includes substantive human rights and humanitarian principles.

- ▶ *The National Human Rights Commission effectively monitors and reports on human rights issues, especially in the North East (EA 3)*
Based on a programme designed by the HRA, the National Human Rights Commission deployed approximately 300 monitors to the North East and North Central zones as part of a mechanism for the systematic monitoring of and reporting on the human rights situation in areas affected by the insurgency and insecurity. Moreover, the security agencies allowed the National Human Rights Commission to monitor Courts Martial that were established to try security personnel for omissions and commissions in the conduct of operations.
- ▶ *Increased use by stakeholders of the National Human Rights Commission in the context of communal violence and potential conflict triggers (EA 5)*

The National Human Rights Commission has emerged as a reliable institution that has recorded a steady increase in the number and diversity of petitions received and processed. The Commission has actively responded to petitions regarding inter-ethnic/religious tensions and strife in Benue, Kaduna and Plateau states. Many stakeholders now view the Commission as a major player in the protection and promotion of human rights and increasingly turn to it as a first line of defence regarding human rights issues. For instance, in December, when the military confronted a Shiite Islamic group in Zaria which led to the deaths of many individuals, both the Shiite group and the military petitioned the Commission.

- ▶ *Joint Humanitarian Action Plan and national humanitarian operations integrate human rights principles (EA 11)*

The Humanitarian Needs Overview and Humanitarian Response Plan fully integrate human rights and comply with the commitment of humanitarian actors to ensure the centrality of protection in humanitarian action. The HRA supported the development of both documents and has assisted the Protection Sector Working Group to establish itself as a critical actor engaged in the humanitarian response in Nigeria.

- ▶ *Increased application of rights-based approaches by UN programmes addressing violence, insecurity and conflict, including UNDP's conflict prevention project and peace architecture; UN Women's multi-year programme; the UNDAF Action Plan; and agency implementation programmes (EA 11)*
- With support from the HRA, the joint UN, EU and World Bank recovery and peacebuilding assessment fully integrates human rights as a cross-cutting issue to be addressed in planning for recovery and reconstruction in the North East.

Rwanda

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2015	4

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Human rights NGOs submit reports to the UPR and treaty bodies and engage with international and regional human rights mechanisms to articulate human rights issues affecting Rwanda (EA 7)*
- The HRA provided guidance to a number of Rwandan NGOs in the preparation of a joint UPR stakeholder report. It also provided financial support for the participation of an NGO representative during Rwanda's second UPR cycle in Geneva.

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)*
- The HRA carried out trainings on the application of international human rights standards in domestic courts for over 200 judges. The judges came from different court jurisdictions in Rwanda and it is expected that they will apply this knowledge in their respective court decisions.

Sierra Leone

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2015	1

Results

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

In order to support the recovery from the Ebola Virus Disease Crisis, the UNCT held a retreat to identify and agree on priorities in support of the UNDAF. The HRA briefed participants on the human rights-based approach and enabled the UNCT to better articulate its priorities in line with international standards and principles.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- ▶ *Impediments to the enjoyment by persons with disabilities of all human rights, particularly the rights to education and health, as well as civil and political rights, are removed (EA 4)*

In April, as a result of encouragement from the HRA, the UNCT in Sierra Leone published a press release regarding a lifting of the ban on pregnant girls returning to schools and taking exams. By taking a public stand, the UN raised public awareness about the issue. It will continue advocating with the Government to provide alternative means to ensure that pregnant girls can enjoy their right to education for as long as the de facto ban remains in place.

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

- ▶ *Preventive and protective measures in place and effective investigation and prosecution of perpetrators of SGBV (EA 1)*

The HRA participated in a round table meeting attended by UN agencies, the diplomatic corps and the Chief of the Family Support Unit of the police. At the meeting, the HRA helped to refine a strategy aimed at eradicating the customary practice of female genital mutilation. The outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease, however, forced the HRA and other UN agencies to refocus their plans. All previously planned programmes under this expected accomplishment were therefore put on hold.

United Republic of Tanzania

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2015	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 to CEDAW, CERD, CESCR and the Human Rights Committee submitted in conformity with reporting guidelines (EA 6)*

Tanzania has four overdue reports to the treaty bodies. The HRA is currently working with the Human Rights Team at the Attorney General's Office, which is in charge of preparing reports to the treaty bodies, in order to develop a timeframe for the drafting of the overdue State Party reports. Furthermore, the Attorney General's Office, the Commission of Human Rights and Good Governance and civil society organizations have reached an agreement to collaborate on the establishment of a national coordinating body on reporting in 2016.

- ▶ *Increased engagement of CSOs and the Commission of Human Rights and Good Governance with treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR (EA 7)*

A joint report was submitted by a number of civil society organizations in relation to Tanzania's second UPR cycle, which also included a submission from the Commission of Human Rights and Good Governance. The HRA provided these actors with extensive support and technical advice on engagement with the UN human rights mechanisms.

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)*

Significant efforts have been undertaken by the Office of the Public Prosecutor to ensure legal assistance and access to justice to people with albinism. Nevertheless, many challenges remain. The HRA contributed to the progress achieved by providing training activities for judges and prosecutors on human rights issues, including gender, discrimination and crimes against people with albinism.



Children back to school after the Ebola Virus Disease crisis in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *The draft constitution and media laws are compliant with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

The draft constitution, which was finalized on 2 October 2014, is still awaiting a referendum. It was originally scheduled for April but was then postponed to an undetermined date. While the draft constitution proposes important changes, including greater representation of women in politics, it also contains gaps on issues such as women's access to basic services, education and health, discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and freedom of expression and association. Moreover, the Bill for a Media Services Act, approved in February, and the draft of the access to information act will potentially restrict the right to freedom of expression. Efforts have been made by the HRA to raise concerns with the Human Rights Team at the Attorney General's Office, which is responsible for drafting legislation.

Zambia

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2015	1

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Positive response to request of special procedures mandate-holders to visit Zambia (EA 6)*
A number of special procedures mandate-holders sent requests for visits to the Zambian Government throughout the year but no responses were received. Nevertheless, at the end of the year, Zambia responded positively to a request by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- ▶ *The Zambian Human Rights Institution is effectively addressing discrimination issues (EA 1)*
While the Human Rights Commission made significant steps to reach out to the LGBTI community with the support of the HRA, it claimed that it was not prepared to publicly advocate for non-discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity due to the absence of commissioners. In fact, no progress was made in 2015 regarding the nomination and appointment of new commissioners.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Increased number of States that have abolished the death penalty and/or, pending abolition, increasingly comply with relevant international human rights obligations (EA 1)*

In July, the President of Zambia announced that he would commute the death sentences of 332 prisoners to life imprisonment. This trend, which was initiated in 1997, is a positive step towards the abolition of the death penalty in Zambia. Additionally, the Zambian National Assembly requested that the UN produce a submission on the status of the death penalty and the applicable normative framework to help guide its discussion in Parliament. The HRA contributed to the UN's report to the National Assembly.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *A human rights-based approach is integrated in the new UNDAF for 2016-2019 and in joint programmes of the UNCT (EA 11)*
Zambia's UNDAF, *The Sustainable Development Partnership Framework*, was signed on 19 November. The document highlights the principles of inclusion and non-discrimination, prioritizes vulnerable, marginalized and discriminated groups and includes references to the human rights mechanisms. The Framework also promotes engagement with non-traditional partners and donors, in particular the private sector, and their role in development. The HRA supported the development of the document by conducting training sessions on the HRBA, providing inputs to the document and facilitating the participation of groups experiencing vulnerability, exclusion and marginalization in relation to the development process.