

OHCHR in the field: Americas



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

* Deployed through the UNDG-Human Rights Working Group.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) continued to engage with countries in the Americas Region from headquarters in Geneva, the New York Office and its 12 field presences. These presences include two regional offices (Panama City and Santiago de Chile); five country offices (Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico); four human rights advisers (HRAs) (Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Paraguay and to the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Regional Team for Latin America and the Caribbean based in Panama); and one human rights component in a peace mission (Haiti). In addition, a human rights officer posted in Barbados continued to provide support to the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), the Government and civil society

on the implementation of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations. In May, a host country agreement was signed with Honduras and preparations continued towards the official opening of a fully fledged country office. At the end of 2014, the post of the HRA in Ecuador was discontinued. The presence was closed in March and national concerns came under the responsibility of the Regional Office for South America.

The work of OHCHR in the Americas was carried out against a backdrop of consolidated democracies, solid legal frameworks and an engaged civil society. At the same time, however, an ongoing trend of a shrinking democratic space and a weakening of key institutions was evident in several countries. While progress was achieved in the reduction of extreme poverty, hunger, malnutrition and rates of infant mortality, especially in South America, significant inequality continued in many countries, which had a particularly negative impact on indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants. Consequently, there were increased demands for greater participation, transparency and access to rights, primarily regarding economic, social and cultural rights in different contexts. The peace dialogue between the Government of Colombia and the guerrilla group FARC-EP, which was initiated in 2012 and intensified during 2015, represents a unique opportunity to significantly improve the country's human rights situation.

Impunity and a strengthening of the rule of law remained priorities for OHCHR in the Americas with a focus on transitional justice, freedom of expression and situations of violence, conflict and insecurity. The Office maintained its work on protection mechanisms for journalists and human rights defenders, especially in Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico, to ensure that laws and policies relating to public security adhere to human rights standards and to prevent threats to the protection of human rights in the name of security. With one of the highest immigration flows in the world, the region is facing challenges in fully incorporating a human rights-based approach into its laws and policies that relate to immigrants and asylum-seekers. The Office cooperated with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and subregional organizations, such as the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) and the Central American Integration System (SICA).

The Office supported the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti, who carried out his third mission to the country. The Office also supported the country visits of the High Commissioner to Brazil, Mexico and the United States of America and the country visit of the Deputy High Commissioner to Colombia.

Country Offices

Bolivia

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2015	11
Expenditure in 2015	US\$1,824,647

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

As a result of advocacy undertaken by the Office and following the Government's voluntary commitment to create a national coordinating body that will elaborate State reports and follow-up on recommendations issued during the country's second UPR cycle, an agreement was signed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the General State Prosecutor and the Ministry of Justice to create the coordinating body.

In addition, the signing parties agreed to develop a computerized system to monitor the implementation of recommendations accepted by the State. OHCHR hired a consultant to support its design. During the celebration of Human Rights Day in December, the Government and OHCHR presented the system, named *SIPPLUS Bolivia*, to approximately 80 State representatives and the international community. The system will be linked to the database of human rights indicators that was previously developed by State institutions. This will enable government actors, researchers and civil society to monitor and measure Bolivia's progress in human rights.

- ▶ *A National Human Rights Action Plan integrating follow-up to selected recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms is adopted and a participative coordination mechanism for its implementation is in place (EA 6)*

In January, the Bolivian Human Rights Council approved the National Human Rights Action Plan for 2015-2020. The Office assisted in its preparation. The Action Plan is now being considered by the Ministry of Development Planning. In March, the Bolivian Human Rights Council approved the Plurinational Human Rights

Policy for 2015-2020. The Policy is a separate document which includes a more comprehensive overview of human rights actions to be undertaken by the State. Since August, the Office has provided technical and financial support to the Ministry of Justice to ensure that the Policy is shared nationwide. During 2015, the implementation of the National Plan against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination for 2012-2015 was assessed with the participation of civil society and the technical support of the Office. The Plan is being revised for the new cycle 2016-2020.

Enhanced equality and countering discrimination

- ▶ *Measures are taken to protect groups in conditions of vulnerability, such as LGBTI persons, persons with disabilities and migrants in compliance with international human rights norms and standards (EA 4)*

In 2015, the Office organized a series of 18 meetings with NGOs representing vulnerable groups. The meetings resulted in the formulation of recommendations for the new National Action Plan against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination for 2016-2020, which were presented to the National Committee against Racism in December. All the recommendations were accepted and the new Action Plan has been submitted to the relevant ministries. In collaboration with UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO and WHO, the Office supported the Ministry of Justice to prepare a plan to improve access to justice for persons with disabilities. The Office also worked closely with the National Committee of People with Disabilities on the development of public policies for persons with disabilities.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *The School for Judges, the School for Public Prosecutors and the Plurinational Academy of Constitutional Studies incorporate international human rights law into their curricula (EA 1)*
- As a result of technical assistance provided by the Office between 2014 and 2015, a human rights-based approach was integrated in the design of the curricula, programmes and materials for the training of judicial operators, prosecutors, judges, public defenders and police officers. The Office assisted the Police University to organize a postgraduate course of 540 hours on human rights. A group of 37 officials have already participated in the course. Moreover, the Office attended a meeting in May at which deans from the law schools of Bolivia's public universities agreed to include a human rights perspective in



Monitoring of subnational elections in Bolivia, March 2015.

their curricula. To this end, the Office will work with these universities to provide advice.

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

The State reduced the percentage of unconvicted prisoners through a number of measures. Based on technical advice provided by the Office, the Supreme Court of Justice issued an order to Departmental Judicial Authorities asking judges to identify all adolescents aged 16 to 18 in pre-trial detention in adult prisons and apply the new Code for Children and Adolescents in these cases. The Office also worked with the Prison System to ensure the inclusion of a human rights-based approach in their Strategic Plan for 2016-2020 and advised the Ministry of Justice with regard to the ongoing judicial reform in Bolivia.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *State institutions increasingly incorporate a human rights-based approach in their annual plans, policies and budgets, including the use of human rights indicators, and apply the right to free, prior and informed consultation (EA 1)*

As a result of six training activities that OHCHR facilitated for representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Development Planning and other ministries, an Action Plan was developed on the rights of indigenous peoples. Due in part to the technical assistance provided by the Office, substantial progress was made with regard to the protection of the rights of the Guarani peoples in the territory of Alto Parapetí. During the construction of an industrial plant, a

multinational oil company removed the remains and funeral objects from an indigenous cemetery without consulting the local communities. After the public outcry from the Guarani leaders, the Government reached an agreement with the company to modify the project and find alternative solutions that would respect the rights of the indigenous peoples.

In relation to the development of indicators, the Government's Thematic Technical Committees for nine priority rights (food; education; health; housing; labour; the right of women to a life free of violence; water and sanitation; the right to a life free of trafficking; and access to justice and the right to a fair trial) updated their indicators and worked on developing metadata tabs.

Approximately 30 State institutions are now involved in the process. A total of 407 indicators have been developed and public information is available online for 297 indicators at www.ine.gob.bo/indicadoresddhh. The website is being updated and will be finalized in 2016.

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

- *State institutions implement effective policies and measures to foster gender equality and combat SGBV, in line with CEDAW and ICERD recommendations (EA 1)*

The Vice Ministry for Equal Opportunities requested technical assistance from the Office to implement a comprehensive system for the prevention and eradication of gender-based violence. The system seeks to operationalize the existing protocols to assist in the prevention and prosecution of crimes against women. In this context, OHCHR and UN Women developed a manual for the investigation of gender-related killings of women that is based on the Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women. The manual was launched by the Attorney General and it will be implemented in 2016.

Bolivia: Expenditure in 2015		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	1,328,045
Activities and operating costs	-	281,067
Subtotal	-	1,609,112
Programme support costs	-	215,535
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,824,647

"Being an efficient promoter of the human rights of indigenous peoples has changed my life"

Amancio Vaca is one of 26 Guarani indigenous leaders who participated in a human rights course at the Guarani University and in three training sessions organized by OHCHR, in Bolivia, in 2015.

According to Amancio, the course improved his capacity to defend the rights of his people, which he applied in his work as the Director of the Office for the Protection of the Family and Children in his municipality.

As an indigenous person, he felt frustration for many years due to the lack of understanding public servants demonstrated regarding the culture of his people. Now, as a public servant himself, he is able to influence the way things are done

and promote full respect for the rights of indigenous peoples.

Amancio has intervened before the family court of the province in relation to many cases of discrimination against Guarani individuals. He recalled one case involving an indigenous child whose custody was granted to a non-indigenous family through a legal procedure. When the Guarani mother approached the tribunal to recover her child's custody, the lawyer representing the non-indigenous family argued that the judge should grant his clients the legal tenure of the baby because they could give him a "dignified life," unlike a life in poverty and without opportunities that he would

have if he was to remain with the Guarani community.

Amancio was called to testify in the trial and provide details about the Guarani culture. He explained that while his culture does not encourage its members to accumulate material wealth, it does encourage people to develop the necessary skills to live in a community, in accordance with their shared culture, values and principles, so that all members feel safe. The judge took Amancio's comments into consideration in the decision and recommended that he provide technical assistance to help resolve situations of a similar nature in the provincial court.

Colombia

Year established	1997
Staff as of 31 December 2015	60
Expenditure in 2015	US\$9,734,548

Results

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Decisions of the national justice system, including ordinary, indigenous and special jurisdictions (military justice), increasingly conform to human rights standards, norms and principles (EA 1)*

Following technical advice provided by OHCHR, the Human Rights Directorate of the Attorney General's Office adopted a plan to prioritize investigations for extrajudicial killings allegedly committed by members of the National Army. The plan was developed in order to ensure that the investigations are carried out in accordance with international standards. While acknowledging the limited progress made in the investigation of crimes against human rights defenders, the Attorney General's Office issued resolution 1783/2015 for the creation of a special task group that will prioritize these investigations. OHCHR extended advice regarding the types of crimes and regions that should be prioritized. In 2015, the Attorney General's Office successfully conducted preliminary inquiries in relation to 10 attacks against human rights defenders that took place in Barranquilla, Cali, Cucuta, Medellin, Neiva and Pasto.

- ▶ *Transitional justice mechanisms, including accountability, truth, reconciliation and reparations mechanisms, allowing for the active participation of victims, established and/or functioning in accordance with international standards (EA 3)*

Regarding reparation mechanisms, OHCHR

provided support to the Unit for the Assistance and Comprehensive Reparation of Victims to identify the challenges being faced in the implementation of the Victims and Land Restitution Laws. This led to the implementation of changes in the Unit, such as improved communication between the institution and affected communities and more effective institutional coordination. OHCHR also contributed to the formulation of a return plan in Alto Andagueda (Chocó), the launch of a collective reparations plan in Bojaya (Chocó) and the development of a prior consultation process with Afro-descendent and indigenous communities related to the reparations plan in El Bagre (Antioquia). With regard to reconciliation mechanisms, OHCHR supported the community of Bojaya (Chocó) in organizing a public act of recognition of responsibility on 6 December and a request for pardon by the FARC Secretariat. OHCHR and the community have been collaborating since 2014 to prepare for the event. In addition, the Office has taken steps throughout this process to raise the numerous concerns of the community with the FARC and the Government.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *Increased compliance with economic, social and cultural rights standards by the Administrative Department for Social Prosperity and the Ministries of Health and Education (EA 1)*

The Vice Ministry of Water is in the process of designing a plan to address the lack of drinking water for the Hitnü community. OHCHR contributed to this result through advocacy and the release of the report entitled, *The Situation of the Hitnü Indigenous People to Enjoy the Highest Attainable Standard of Physical and Mental Health*. The Office conducted advocacy with the Vice Ministry to promote the progressive realization of the right to health



OHCHR staff members meet with land occupants to discuss legal and material protection measures under the Land Restitution Law in Antioquia, Colombia, September 2015.

and drinking water in the Amazonas, Arauca, Caquetá and Chocó provinces. Furthermore, OHCHR worked closely with the Araracuara indigenous community in Solano (Caquetá) to identify corrective measures that needed to be taken by Jungle Battalion No. 50. Following advocacy by OHCHR, the Battalion ordered the implementation of a waste management plan that would be implemented away from the community's water source.

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

In 2015, OHCHR contributed to the increased integration of human rights standards in business operations through a number of activities. The Office provided written comments regarding the draft national action plan on business and human rights that was prepared by the Presidential Programme on Human Rights and issued by the President of Colombia on 9 December. The Office also helped four businesses to integrate human rights into their operations, including through training on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the provision of support for prior consultation processes and the extension of advice on their respective human rights policies. For instance, OHCHR has taken steps to facilitate dialogue between several communities and businesses to address conflicts related to the impact of business activities on the rights of the communities. Specifically, a tripartite dialogue that took place between indigenous communities in southern Córdoba, the Cerro Matoso company and the Government led to improved living conditions for the communities. Based on the collaboration agreement with the Victims' Unit and the Land Restitution Unit to promote the sustainability of the return and restitution processes, and with the support of OHCHR, three meetings were held to exchange experiences between returned communities and leaders of fair trade associations. This opened the door to cooperation and a strengthening of the associative capacity of the returned communities.

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

The Office began working with indigenous peoples in Norte de Santander and Putumayo to undertake a human rights assessment as a first step to determine, in a participatory manner, how best to protect their collective rights. Assistance was also provided to the Awa peoples (Nariño) and Cocomopoca (Chocó) in order to undertake an ethnic territorial protection strategy to protect their individual and collective rights in the face of armed conflict and development projects

(such as mining and oil extraction). As a result, the Ministry of the Interior issued resolution 396 ordering the protection of territory rights of the Afro-Colombian communities of Cocomopoca. OHCHR worked with the Nasa indigenous community of Cerro Tijeras (Cauca) and the Community Councils of the Raposo, Mayorquín and Anchicayá basin rivers (Buenaventura) to elaborate a protocol for prior consultation. OHCHR facilitated a tripartite dialogue between the Community Councils of Palenque Congal in Buenaventura, the Ministry of the Interior and Enbridge Co. which resulted in an agreement to ensure that the communities would have enough time for the elaboration of protocols.

Widening the democratic space

► *National human rights institution functioning in accordance with Paris Principles (EA 1)*

OHCHR presented the Ombudsman's Institution with nine recommendations to improve its functioning. Some of the recommendations, including those regarding its protection mechanisms, were included in resolution 1491, which was issued in October. It also included a new operating structure and a manual to ensure the quality of the work of the Institution. This enabled the Ombudsman to strengthen its structure and improve its performance in promoting and monitoring human rights. Based on technical advice that was provided by the Office, the Ombudsman developed a tool to identify, collect, verify and analyze information on potential serious violations of economic, social and cultural rights. The Office provided technical assistance to the Ombudsman and the Attorney General's Office to develop strategic planning processes with municipal Ombudspersons. As a result, an action plan was agreed upon to ensure the inclusion of a human rights-based approach in the creation of municipal development plans.

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

OHCHR provided technical assistance to key government institutions and advocated for the adoption of legal and administrative measures to protect human rights defenders. The Attorney General's Office then issued two resolutions: No. 249 creating the Special Task Force to investigate cybercrimes and threats against members of unions, human rights defenders, journalists, officials of the judicial branch and the Public Ministry and their families; and No. 1783 aimed at tackling impunity in cases of violence against human rights defenders. In addition, the Ministry

of the Interior issued resolution 1085 establishing a protocol to enhance its prevention and protection programme. OHCHR provided assistance to the Ministry of the Interior for the development of comprehensive prevention plans for Putumayo. The Office also advocated for stronger protection of the rights of indigenous peoples and, together with the National Coordinator of the Indigenous Guard, elaborated a strategy which was approved by the Ministry of the Interior.

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

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

The Colombian State began incorporating international human rights standards into the design, implementation and evaluation of citizen security policies, in particular the principles of participation, accountability, and non-discrimination. More specifically, the Office and the National Police Inspector General developed strategies to include human rights standards in citizen security policies with a focus on prevention and protection strategies for human rights defenders, social organizations, indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, LGBTI persons, journalists, land claimants and union members. In relation to the use of force by security forces, State institutions collaborated to design procedural tools to oversee the use of force and non-lethal weapons, devices and ammunition by the national police, in accordance with international standards.

- *Regional and municipal governments, the national police, the National Protection Unit, the Ombudsman's Office and the Municipal Ombudspersons (Personeros) proactively prevent and respond to human rights violations (EA 1)*
- With the support of OHCHR, the national police and the army established a variety of prevention mechanisms, such as regional human rights round tables, which analyze, monitor and evaluate disciplinary, administrative and criminal investigations in cases of human rights violations. At the regional level, OHCHR provided technical assistance to the national police (in Bajo Cauca) and the Attorney General's Office to strengthen the strategy for the investigation of cases of the sexual exploitation of children. The implementation of the strategy led to the rescue of six children who were being sexually exploited in the rural area

of El Bagre and helped advance the investigation and prosecution of a network of child trafficking and sexual exploitation in the region.

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

The Office continued to mediate between the Agrarian Platform and the Government and facilitated the resumption of the negotiations on at least two occasions in 2015, after their suspension. It also helped to structure the negotiations, outline the agreements and monitor their implementation. The Office was able to reduce the levels of violence in at least three protests in the department of Cauca through continuous dialogue with the communities and the national armed forces. These actions facilitated the handover of army officers who were being retained by the communities and facilitated the release of members of the community who had been arbitrarily detained by the authorities.

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

OHCHR actively participated in meetings of the Humanitarian Country Team. As a result of inputs that the Office provided to the draft plans of the 2016 Strategic Response Plan, humanitarian actors took human rights-based and gender approaches into consideration. The Office also provided technical advice on human rights standards for the development of the 2015-2018 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). As a result, the draft UNDAF makes reference to the international human rights treaties. Nevertheless, during the negotiations with the Government, the human rights-based approach that was integrated in the draft UNDAF partially lost its force.

Colombia: Expenditure in 2015		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	5,464,517
Activities and operating costs	-	2,939,462
Subtotal	-	8,403,979
Programme support costs	-	1,330,569
GRAND TOTAL	-	9,734,548

Indigenous jurisdiction in Colombia

In September 2015, the renowned indigenous leader and winner of the National Peace Prize in 2000, Feliciano Valencia, was sentenced to 14 years in prison by the Cauca Superior Court. Feliciano Valencia was charged with kidnapping a soldier who had allegedly infiltrated an indigenous-led protest in 2008. As a result of the second-instance court ruling, Feliciano Valencia was imprisoned in Popayán.

Facts show, however, that during the events that led to his arrest, Feliciano was supporting a collective action in which the indigenous community, based in La María Piendamó, decided to exercise a collective action in line with the special indigenous jurisdiction as provided by the Colombian Constitution. His imprisonment has unsettled members of the Association of Indigenous

Councils of Northern Cauca because of the significance of the situation for indigenous jurisdiction and because Feliciano has been at the forefront of the indigenous rights movement in Colombia.

This case reflects the ongoing tension between the defence of the territory, the special indigenous jurisdiction and different sectors of Colombian society and the Government, including the armed forces. OHCHR has been following this process since the beginning and has accompanied Feliciano and the Nasa People in Northern Cauca in their struggle for the recognition and fulfilment of their rights. In this context, the Office advised indigenous authorities on the judicial actions they could take, reminded relevant authorities about their obligations under

international human rights law and issued an op-ed in a local magazine which highlighted the importance of guaranteeing the rights of indigenous peoples in a multi-ethnic State like Colombia.

Feliciano and the indigenous communities in Colombia are still waiting for the outcome of his legal appeal. In the meantime, the advocacy efforts undertaken by various stakeholders, including indigenous authorities, institutions and OHCHR, led to the transfer of Feliciano Valencia, on 6 November 2015, to a Harmonization Centre under indigenous jurisdiction. The conditions of his detention have dramatically improved. This is considered to be a significant preliminary step but much remains to be done to strengthen the special indigenous jurisdiction in Colombia.

Guatemala

Year established	2005
Staff as of 31 December 2015	27
Expenditure in 2015	US\$2,954,946

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *UN agency plans and programmes deriving from the 2015-2019 UNDAF serve to systematically follow-up on recommendations from UN human rights mechanisms (EA 11)*

OHCHR finalized and shared with the UNCT a compilation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms in relation to Guatemala that are clustered by thematic areas. This compilation will help guide the work of UN agencies in the country while ensuring that human rights concerns are mainstreamed into their activities.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

Through the Maya Programme, OHCHR has trained approximately 100 representatives of indigenous organizations and communities, university students and teachers on litigation processes and engagement with the justice system. The Office also provided technical assistance to indigenous organizations in 11 litigation cases related to the right to health; the right to intellectual property; and cases related to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Legal actions were also brought before the justice system in relation to five cases dealing with the recovery of land and territory. As a result of these processes, indigenous authorities and members of two communities participated in several discussions. The discussions sought to define appropriate rules and regulations that would ensure the specific needs of the communities are taken into consideration in relation to the administration and management of land and natural resources.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *The Attorney General's Office, the judiciary, public defender and Constitutional Court increasingly incorporate human rights norms and standards in their policies and decisions (EA 1)*
- The Constitutional Court handed down important

decisions based on international human rights standards, particularly in relation to the right of indigenous peoples; right to prior consultation and consent; recognition of ancestral authorities and their collective rights to land and territory; and on an emblematic case of sexual violence against women. Furthermore, the Constitutional Court upheld the right to an adequate standard of living by declaring unconstitutional the reduction of minimum wages in four provinces. The Office contributed to this result through a number of capacity-building activities addressed to magistrates and legal clerks of the Constitutional Court, as well as by updating a compilation of human rights standards used by the Court.

Regarding its work with the Attorney General's Office, OHCHR drafted guidelines for the development of a policy on access to justice by indigenous peoples and a protocol on cultural expertise. The guidelines were adopted by the Attorney General's Office as a basis for the elaboration of the policy in 2016. The Office also advised the Congressional Working Group on Security and Justice on the incorporation of human rights standards in several laws, including the Law on Nominating Commissions, the Civil Code, the Law on a Judicial Career, the Law on Amparo, the Law on Impeachment, the Law on Public Order and the Organic Law on the Attorney General's Office. The Office participated in discussions with members of congress, civil society and the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala to follow up on legislative reforms. As a result of these efforts, the draft Law on Nominating Commissions submitted to the Congress is fully compliant with international standards.

Regarding the judiciary, the Office provided technical assistance to judges and legal clerks on transitional justice and violence against women. As a result, emblematic cases of transitional justice were initiated, such as one on sexual violence and slavery suffered by indigenous women. Furthermore, the Court of Appeal turned down the application of amnesty in the case of genocide against the former Head of State, Efraín Ríos Montt.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

The Ministry of Labour approved a protocol for the investigation of violations related to labour laws, particularly regarding forced labour in farming areas. The protocol was developed by the



OHCHR and the Guatemalan National Human Rights Institution jointly monitoring the Presidential elections, September 2015.

Ministry applying a human rights-based approach, with the support of OHCHR.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *The NHRI fulfils its mandate in accordance with international human rights standards in investigating human rights abuses (EA 1)*
With the support of OHCHR, the national human rights institution (NHRI) increased its capacity to investigate and report on human rights violations. For instance, a thematic report on violent death in detention facilities was drafted by the NHRI and is being used as an advocacy tool with authorities. The NHRI also issued its *Guide on Interventions in Urgent and Specific Situations*, which was used to monitor anti-government protests and the first and second round of elections. The Office provided further technical assistance to the NHRI for the preparation of training workshops for a network of 550 electoral observers who were deployed during the elections. Additionally, the Office and the NHRI undertook joint field missions to eight departments to monitor the right to food. The findings of the missions were detailed in a report, *Conclusive Note of the Joint Observation Work on Public Policies for the Fulfilment of the Right to Food in Guatemala*, which was presented to the authorities, civil society organizations and the international community.
- ▶ *Protection mechanisms for human rights defenders are strengthened and working in accordance with international standards (EA 3)*
The Ministry of the Interior, the Attorney General's Office, the Presidential Coordinating Commission on Human Rights and the Secretary of Social Communication of the Presidency developed the first draft of a protection mechanism for journalists with the support of OHCHR and UNESCO. In the context of the general elections, OHCHR, the UNCT and the NHRI deployed



Civil society representatives attending an OHCHR workshop for human rights defenders in Guatemala.

joint monitoring teams, thereby contributing to ensure a peaceful and secure environment during elections in critical areas; prevent attacks against human rights defenders; and strengthen the role and presence of the Ombudsman in the regions.

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

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

The draft amendment of the Public Order Law, recently submitted to the Congress, incorporates a human rights approach. The Office facilitated discussions with civil society organizations in order to develop a draft amendment that is in line with human rights standards.

▶ *State policies and practices increasingly address SGBV, including through the application of national legislation by the judiciary (EA 1)*

The Office worked closely with the School of Judicial Studies and the Supreme Court of Justice and drafted a study on the application of international standards related to gender in judgments handed down by criminal tribunals. The results of the study were presented to the authorities. A tool was developed to facilitate the analysis of rulings using human rights and gender approaches and was subsequently shared with the Supreme Court.

Guatemala: Expenditure in 2015

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	2,128,123
Activities and operating costs	-	465,192
Subtotal	-	2,593,315
Programme support costs	-	361,631
GRAND TOTAL	-	2,954,946

Honduras

Year established	2015
Staff as of 31 December 2015	2
Expenditure in 2015	US\$595,992

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

▶ *Submission or reports in conformity with reporting guidelines (EA 6)*

The Government of Honduras submitted a report for the second cycle UPR and periodic State Party reports for review by the Human Rights Committee and the Committee against Torture (CAT). Both OHCHR and UNDP provided assistance in the drafting of the three reports to ensure their compliance with the respective reporting guidelines. Assistance was also provided for the drafting of the State Party reports to the Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW) and the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED), which are due to be submitted in 2016.

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

With the support of OHCHR and UNDP, a network of local NGOs drafted and submitted an alternative report to the CRPD.

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

▶ *UN agencies increasingly apply a human rights-based approach to their programmes to combat violence and insecurity (EA 11)*

OHCHR provided technical support for the inclusion of a human rights-based approach in UNDP's interventions related to urban areas

and with regard to the drafting of the Common Country Assessment (CCA) and the UNDAF for 2016-2021.

Honduras: Expenditure in 2015		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	271,343
Activities and operating costs	-	253,938
Subtotal	-	525,281
Programme support costs	-	70,711
GRAND TOTAL	-	595,992

Mexico

Year established	2002
Staff as of 31 December 2015	22
Expenditure in 2015	US\$2,466,533

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *The National Human Rights Plan and respective local and sectorial programmes are elaborated in compliance with international human rights principles and standards (EA 2)*
OHCHR continued supporting the development of human rights plans and policies in a number of Mexican states by strengthening local capacities and providing advice on the integration of a human rights-based approach to planning and programming. Through participatory processes, the Office contributed to the development of a local human rights assessment and programme in the state of Tamaulipas; the strengthening of similar programming documents in the states of Coahuila and Jalisco and in Mexico city; the review of the human rights programme of Baja, California; as well as the implementation of the human rights programme in Oaxaca. Other states, such as San Luis Potosi and Queretaro, expressed their willingness to develop human rights plans.
- ▶ *Increased number of substantive submissions to UN human rights mechanisms by civil society (EA 7)*
During 2015, civil society actors interacted with the human rights mechanisms, providing information on cases of alleged human rights

violations. These submissions resulted in four opinions issued by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, 166 urgent actions issued by the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, one opinion of the Committee against Torture, as well as 12 allegation letters sent by other special procedures mandate-holders.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

The General Law on Transparency and Access to Public Information, published in May, includes the principle of maximum publicity and a non-discrimination clause, with a focus on persons with disabilities. Moreover, the Office collaborated with UNICEF, UNFPA and UN Women on a joint communication that was submitted to the Congress of Guerrero. The communication expressed support for the State Governor's draft bill that called for a review of the Civil Code to allow same-sex marriage. Nevertheless, the terms of the legislature and the Government came to an end before the draft could be approved.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *An increasing number of local states derogate from the figure of arraigo and the federal law and the laws of an increasing number of states include the definition of enforced disappearance and torture in accordance with international standards (EA 1)*
In April, based on a complaint presented by the National Commission for Human Rights, the Supreme Court decided that the ruling on *arraigo* (preventive custody) at the state level



OHCHR staff member visiting a landfill site which affects a local community in Chiapas, Mexico.

is not in line with the Constitution, thereby implying its practical derogation in every state that still legislates its regulation. OHCHR submitted an analytical document to the Supreme Court with information on the international human rights standards applicable to *arraigo*. Moreover, a Constitutional amendment enabling the Federal Congress to enact general laws on torture and enforced disappearances was adopted, in line with a recommendation issued by the international human rights mechanisms. Following the adoption of this amendment, OHCHR engaged in discussions with the Federal Executive and the Congress to ensure that legislative initiatives related to torture and disappearances are drafted in accordance with international standards. The Office also worked with authorities, legislators and NGOs in the state of Nuevo Leon, resulting in the adoption of legislation for the regulation of a special declaration of absence due to disappearance. The Office provided advice and technical cooperation for the development and adoption of protocols that standardized the methods that are used to investigate and prosecute cases of torture and enforced disappearances at the national level.

- ▶ *Human rights indicators are adopted by an increasing number of federal and local institutions and are used to evaluate the impact of public programmes and the degree of implementation of recommendations of international human rights mechanisms (EA 1)*
OHCHR designed an information system on human rights for the Ministry of the Interior. The system's content and variables are based on the human rights indicators that were developed by OHCHR and the Organization of American States through a participatory process, in collaboration with the Supreme Court, the NHRI, the National Statistical Institute, the National Council for Social Policy Evaluation, civil society and academia. Furthermore, indicators on the right to justice and human rights were developed for the Attorney General and adopted in November while indicators on the right to food were developed in the state of Coahuila. Regarding the establishment of human rights accountability mechanisms for the executive at the state level, systems for the measurement of human rights indicators are being established to quantify a broad set of human rights in Coahuila, Oaxaca, Queretaro and the Federal District.
- ▶ *An increasing number of judicial institutions and universities formally incorporate human rights in their curricula (EA 1)*
ReformaDH, a human rights training programme that was developed by OHCHR in collaboration with the National Supreme Court of Justice and



OHCHR monitoring a demonstration to mark the first anniversary since the disappearance of the 43 students of Ayotzinapa, Mexico, September 2015.

Mexico City's Human Rights Commission, has become mandatory and widely used by various judicial schools in Mexico. It is also being used in several private and public universities and educational centres across the country.

- ▶ *Cases on which OHCHR has submitted legal briefs, especially at the Supreme Court, are resolved in compliance with international standards (EA 1)*
Judicial authorities have increasingly incorporated international human rights standards in their rulings, especially at the federal level. Judgments have been handed down in relation to *arraigo* and in the cases of two indigenous women that were abused by military personnel. OHCHR contributed to this result by providing the Supreme Court and other tribunals with compilations of relevant international human rights norms and standards on a variety of topics, such as access to information, torture, enforced disappearance, the rights of persons with disabilities and freedom of expression.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *Paradigmatic human rights cases raised by OHCHR relating to violations of economic, social and cultural rights, business and the right to free, prior and informed consultation of indigenous peoples, receive a positive response by authorities (EA 3)*
OHCHR monitored three cases in relation to the right to consultation of indigenous peoples in the states of Oaxaca and Sonora. Although the fact that authorities initiated these consultation processes is a positive outcome, the processes were not in full compliance with international standards. Moreover, OHCHR documented several cases that involved the rights to water, a safe environment and development in relation to development projects and observed various

negative implications for the economic, social and cultural rights of the concerned populations.

Widening the democratic space

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

The Federal District and each of Mexico's 31 states have legislation in place relating to information and transparency. Federal law requires that this legislation complies with several general principles in the Constitution. In 2014, the Constitution was amended which led to the establishment of more safeguards on the right to information and enabled the Federal Congress to vote on and adopt the General Law on Transparency and Access to Public Information. The Law was officially published in May and will have supremacy over relevant federal and local legislation. During the drafting process, OHCHR provided inputs, which were taken into account, and participated in public hearings and meetings with legislators.

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

In 2015, the National Protection Mechanism carried out security analyses and offered protection measures that incorporate international practices and standards. OHCHR participated in all monthly working group meetings and offered mediation support to help resolve conflicts between the authorities and beneficiaries. The Office also provided inputs for the workplan of the Mechanism and advocated for the implementation of preventive measures and the application of a gender perspective in security analyses. OHCHR further provided technical advice to develop a set of human rights indicators applicable to the work of the Mechanism.

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

- ▶ *Establishment of a national mechanism to search for disappeared and missing persons (EA 3)*

On 10 December, the President signed a bill on the prevention and punishment of crimes relating to disappeared persons, which is currently awaiting review by the Congress. If adopted, the bill would be used to establish various mechanisms to search for disappeared persons, including a national search system and a national registry of missing or disappeared persons. In discussions with government representatives, OHCHR made a number of recommendations, such as creating a special programme for

supporting those who are searching for their missing relatives and developing the regulation of a special declaration of absence due to disappearance. Many of OHCHR's suggestions were incorporated in the draft.

- ▶ *Authorities respond positively to cases related to violations of human rights that are raised by OHCHR (EA 3)*

In 2015, OHCHR continued to document and follow up on cases of alleged human rights abuses, the majority of which relate to serious human rights violations, particularly torture, enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings. OHCHR raised most of these cases with authorities through meetings, letters, press releases and other outreach activities. In more than half of the cases raised by OHCHR, authorities have responded by taking into account observations made as well as by undertaking further actions in relation to the investigations or by initiating judicial proceedings.

Mexico: Expenditure in 2015		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	1,841,941
Activities and operating costs	-	332,837
Subtotal	-	2,174,778
Programme support costs	-	291,755
GRAND TOTAL	-	2,466,533

Liberation of Rafael Rodríguez, victim of human rights violations

In January 2011, Rafael Rodríguez was detained by officials of the Attorney's Office in Tabasco without being shown an arrest warrant. He was held in "arraigo" (preventive custody) for five days and was beaten with wooden planks in different parts of his body and forced to admit to being involved with organized crime.

OHCHR has closely followed Rafael Rodríguez's case and visited him five times while he was in prison. The first of these visits was one week after his detention, which enabled the Office to observe his injuries, which appeared to corroborate the alleged acts of torture. The injuries were also verified by the local national human rights institution, which issued a medical certificate to this effect. OHCHR also noted that although Rafael Rodríguez told a judge that he had been tortured, the judge did not report the allegations and no investigation was opened by the prosecution. OHCHR met with the judicial authorities and provided them with information on international standards regarding arbitrary detention and torture.

In January 2015, after three and a half years of pre-trial detention, a ruling was handed down in his favour regarding an appeal on the grounds of human rights violations. The judge decreed his immediate release without charge. OHCHR helped to increase the awareness of the public and relevant authorities about this case and demonstrated that human rights violations had been committed and needed to be addressed.

Regional Offices

Regional Office for Central America (Panama City, Panama)

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2015	9
Expenditure in 2015	US\$1,196,401

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Increased ratification of international human rights instruments, especially the CPED and the OPs to the CRC (3rd) and ICESCR and an increased number of declarations under article 14 of ICERD (EA 2)*

El Salvador ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (OP-CRC-IC) in February and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in November. It also withdrew its reservations to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and its Optional Protocol (OP-CRPD). Belize ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) in March and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT) in September. The Regional Office advocated for the ratification of human rights instruments through a number of activities, including meetings with government representatives, seminars and regional fora.

- ▶ *Increased number of civil society organizations, NHRIs and UN entities making substantial submissions to the international human rights mechanisms (EA 7)*

NGOs from El Salvador submitted a joint report to the Human Rights Committee in anticipation of the adoption of the List of Issues related to El Salvador's seventh periodic report in 2015. In addition, following training provided by the Regional Office, stakeholders from Costa Rica, El Salvador and Panama submitted reports in relation to the second UPR cycle of their respective countries in 2015. Furthermore, a civil society organization from El Salvador submitted urgent information to the special procedures to request their intervention regarding the consideration by Parliament of a Constitutional amendment to recognize the Constitutional right to water. In response, the Special Rapporteur on the human

right to safe drinking water and sanitation issued a communication calling for an amendment of the Constitution. Although no amendment was adopted, the communication had an important impact on the public discourse and stimulated the interest of local civil society organizations in making use of the UN human rights mechanisms.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- ▶ *Increased and effective use of national protection systems by individuals and groups faced with discrimination (EA 5)*

In coordination with UNFPA, UN Women and the Ombudsman's Office of El Salvador, OHCHR organized a national colloquium on sexual and reproductive rights with the participation of 20 NGOs working on the rights of women and of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons. This fostered the sharing of good practices and strategies in relation to advocacy work for the promotion and protection of their rights. The Regional Office also took steps to build the capacities of these NGOs to engage with the international human rights mechanisms by launching a series of webinars between civil society actors and the mechanisms. Furthermore, within the framework of the International Decade for People of African Descent, the Regional Office developed the *Guidelines to elaborate reports on racial profiling* to support the documenting of cases of racial profiling of the Afro-descendant population by security forces. The Guidelines were validated in September following a regional meeting with the participation of experts from Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama and Peru.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

The Government of Costa Rica requested technical cooperation from ILO and OHCHR to develop a mechanism to implement the right to consultation. Their recommendations focused on the reform of internal organization processes to improve coordination between relevant public institutions in relation to the consultation process. Additionally, the former Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, James Anaya, provided technical assistance which, together with support from ILO and OHCHR, was essential to the development of a road map to establish a national mechanism for consultation with indigenous peoples.



OHCHR-facilitated dialogue between the Government of Panama and indigenous communities affected by the Barro Blanco hydroelectric power plant project.

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

- ▶ *Measures taken to combat gender-based violence, in particular through the use of the Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women (EA 1)*

The Regional Office continued to promote the use of the Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women, including through participation in various fora and training sessions with national, regional and international partners. In this regard, the Public Prosecutor's Office of Panama adopted the Model Protocol and ensured its integration into the curricula of the Public Ministry's Training School. In April, the Model Protocol was endorsed by the Attorney General's Office of La Pampa province in Argentina and will be used in the investigation of gender-related killings of women. Within the framework of the Organization of American States' Diploma Course on Justice, Gender and Violence, the Inter-American Commission for Women and the Latin American Council on Social Sciences included the Model Protocol in the seminar on gender, justice and violence.

Regional Office for Central America (Panama City, Panama): Expenditure in 2015

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	924,569	27,023
Activities and operating costs	163,516	68,832
Subtotal	1,088,085	95,855
Programme support costs	-	12,461
GRAND TOTAL	1,088,085	108,316

Women's sexual and reproductive rights in El Salvador

OHCHR publically welcomed the January 2015 decision of the Legislative Assembly to pardon Carmen Guadalupe Vásquez Aldan on grounds that due process had been violated in her original trial. Ms. Vásquez Aldan is a 23-year-old domestic worker who suffered a miscarriage at the age of 18 after reportedly being raped. She was subsequently convicted of aggravated homicide after the charge against her was reclassified from "abortion" to "aggravated homicide" during her trial. Her petition was one of 17 cases brought before the Supreme Court in 2014 requesting pardons for women who are in prison on similar charges. El Salvador has a complete ban on abortion, including in cases of rape or incest or when the woman's health or life is at risk. The UN human rights mechanisms have regularly expressed serious concern about the total ban and criminalization of abortion in El Salvador and its impact on women's rights to life, health and to be free from discrimination. Following the decision of the Legislative Assembly, OHCHR's spokesperson stated, "We are encouraged by the decision to pardon Guadalupe and welcome the steps taken to review each case in line with due process standards. We hope that other imprisoned women in El Salvador who received similar convictions will be freed and that efforts will be made to reform the legal framework on sexual and reproductive rights in line with the recommendations of numerous human rights bodies."

Regional Office for South America (Santiago, Chile)

Year established	2009
Staff as of 31 December 2015	6
Expenditure in 2015	US\$1,263,308

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *At least one international human rights treaty and five optional protocols are ratified (EA 2)*
In 2015, Argentina, Chile, Peru and Uruguay ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure following OHCHR's advocacy with representatives from the Congress and the Executive Branches, delivery of training sessions and other outreach activities.

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

Through the organization of regional seminars and the provision of technical advice, the Regional Office helped to enhance the capacity of government officials and parliamentarians from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay to follow-up on recommendations issued by the UPR and other human rights mechanisms. In addition, the Office contributed to the clustering of recommendations to facilitate their implementation and encouraged the exchange of good practices between the Governments of Brazil, Paraguay and Peru in relation to the development of online follow-up databases. In Uruguay, an inter-institutional working group was created with representatives of the Government, the NHRI, civil society organizations and the UN to provide follow-up on the recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

In Chile, although the establishment of a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) that is in line with international human rights standards has been agreed to, it is not functioning as a result of budgetary constraints. In addition, the capacities of NPMs increased in six countries in the region due to a number of capacity-building activities. As an example, the Regional Office and the Human Rights Secretariat of the Presidency of Brazil organized a regional workshop on good practices in monitoring prisons and other detention facilities for representatives of NPMs in Latin America.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *UNDAFs of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela incorporate a human rights-based approach (EA 11)*

In Ecuador, the UNDAF for 2015-2018, which was signed by the Government, was developed in accordance with a human rights-based approach. The Regional Office promoted the use of this approach and contributed to the development of outputs related to several recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms, including in relation to the rights of children, the rights of refugees, women's rights, access to justice, the right to participation and economic,

social and cultural rights. In Argentina, the UNDAF for 2016-2020 was developed in line with gender and human rights-based approaches and incorporates recommendations from the human rights mechanisms.

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

- *Intervention protocols and internal instructions of security forces are in line with human rights standards in Brazil and Chile (EA 1)*

In collaboration with the Ombudsman's Office in Ecuador and in Peru, and the National Human Rights Institution of Chile, the Regional Office developed regional guidelines and drafted a set of good practices for monitoring social protest. It is currently drafting regional protocols to provide practical guidelines on the issue. In terms of the compliance of law enforcement agencies with human rights standards, OHCHR collaborated with the Government of Peru and provided analysis and advice for the drafting of a new law on the use of force by the police. Furthermore, a memorandum of understanding was signed with the Ministry of the Interior to review police protocols and the training curriculum for police officers in relation to human rights standards.

Regional Office for South America (Santiago, Chile): Expenditure in 2015

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	810,515	(12,032)
Activities and operating costs	188,632	237,558
Subtotal	999,147	225,526
Programme support costs	-	38,635
GRAND TOTAL	999,147	264,161

Human Rights Component in a UN Peace Mission

United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

Year established	2004
Staff as of 31 December 2015	35

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

The Human Rights Section (HRS) of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), Haitian authorities and civil society organizations participated in working sessions to advocate for the State to meet its reporting obligations. The HRS also provided technical and logistical support for the drafting and submission of State reports. For instance, it organized a consultation workshop, led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for representatives of civil society organizations and members of the Interministerial Committee on Human Rights in relation to the drafting of Haiti's initial report to the Human Rights Committee.



Haitians queuing to vote during the parliamentary and presidential elections in Port au Prince, October 2015.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

The Government appointed a focal point to ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities are mainstreamed into Haiti's protection mechanism for disaster response and reduction and in all policies and tools related to emergency response and preparedness. The HRS contributed to this result by advocating and cooperating with State institutions on the protection of persons with disabilities.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *The next ISF or UNDAF fully integrates human rights standards and principles (EA 11)*

The Integrated Strategic Framework (ISF) includes human rights standards and principles as a result of the engagement of the HRS in the UNCT's programming processes and its substantive contributions to the development of working documents. The HRS also advocated with UNCT members for the production of annual assessment reports on the integration of a human rights-based approach into UN programmes.

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

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

MINUSTAH was the first peacekeeping mission that implemented standard operating procedures (SOPs) and human rights guidelines for uniformed personnel. The SOPs establish structured and clear reporting lines of communication between the police and military components, the Corrections Section and the HRS. This ensures that cases of allegations of human rights violations are promptly processed and brought to the attention of senior management. The HRS has continued to monitor the implementation of the SOPs and organize regular training sessions addressed to uniformed personnel.

Human Rights Advisers in UN Country Teams

Dominican Republic

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2015	1

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *By the end of the period, the Dominican Republic has a National Human Rights Action Plan as well as a permanent, participatory and strengthened human rights mechanism within the Executive to effectively engage with the international human rights mechanisms, including by fulfilling their reporting obligations, as well as implementation of and follow-up to their recommendations (EA 6)*

The draft national human rights action plan, expected to be launched in 2016, was shared with civil society organizations during a series of consultations. Some of these consultations were facilitated by the Human Rights Adviser (HRA), who also supported the Government in the drafting process. In line with the development of the Action Plan, the HRA prepared a compilation of recommendations issued by the treaty bodies and the UPR relevant to the Dominican Republic. Moreover, the HRA developed an initial proposal on a mechanism to facilitate the coordination of and follow-up to the implementation of recommendations. The proposal will be officially presented to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and aligned with the efforts related to the draft national human rights action plan.

Human Rights Adviser to the Regional UN Development Group for Latin America and the Caribbean

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2015	1

Results

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *Human rights standards and principles are integrated into UN development frameworks and*

the work of UN agencies, particularly on housing, water, sanitation and land (EA 11)

The Human Rights Adviser contributed to increasing the capacity of UNCTs to include a human rights-based approach (HRBA) in their planning documents. This was primarily achieved through the delivery of trainings on a HRBA for UNCTs in Brazil, Costa Rica, Peru and six Caribbean English-speaking countries. During meetings of the Regional undg, the HRA encouraged discussion about human rights in relation to the 2030 development agenda and focused on the Human Rights Up Front Initiative. Moreover, the HRA participated in Regional Inter-Agency Working Groups, including on gender, protection and indigenous peoples, and emphasized the importance of following up on recommendations issued by the UN human rights mechanisms.

Jamaica

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2015	1

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

In 2012, an Interministerial Committee on Human Rights, led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was created for reporting under the two international human rights covenants. Over time, the mandate of the Committee was expanded to include reporting to the other human rights treaties and the UPR. New terms of reference are being prepared to reflect this situation. In 2014, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed interest in developing a database for the follow-up to recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms. The HRA has contributed by sharing relevant examples of similar databases and held several meetings with government officials to discuss the aims, content and structure of the database.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *Common country programming documents, namely the 2012-2016 and 2017-2021 UNDAFs developed and implemented in line with a human rights-based approach (EA 11)*

A midterm review of the current UNDAF took place in 2015 and the updated monitoring and evaluation framework now includes four human rights indicators. In addition, the new UNDAF is being developed regionally and the UNCTs of six English-speaking Caribbean countries are participating. The Common Multi-Country Analysis was finalized and although it has generally integrated a gender perspective and a HRBA in its situation analyses, it makes limited reference to recommendations issued by the international and regional human rights mechanisms. The HRA reviewed all UNDAF-related documents and participated in relevant retreats and events.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *The Government and the Office of the Public Defender, in consultation with civil society stakeholders, implement the road map for the establishment of a NHRI that is compliant with the Paris Principles (EA 1)*

In 2014, the Government of Jamaica developed a road map for the establishment of a NHRI and the draft legislation is being prepared. The Cabinet has approved in principle an expansion of the functions of the Office of the Public Defender and the required legal amendments. During this time, the HRA provided inputs regarding the structure of the future NHRI and these inputs have been taken into account in the proposal prepared by the Public Defender and the Ministry of Justice. The proposal has not yet been submitted to the Cabinet. The HRA also advocated for legislative change and highlighted gaps in the current legislation with regard to the Paris Principles.

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

- ▶ *National Strategic Plan for Ending Gender-Based Violence is implemented (EA 1)*

The monitoring and evaluation framework of the National Strategic Action Plan on Ending Gender-Based Violence will be submitted for the President's approval. The Action Plan includes human rights indicators and tables of relevant concluding observations issued by the human rights treaty bodies and recommendations issued by the UPR. The HRA provided technical inputs on the indicators and the formulation of outcomes and outputs.

Paraguay

Year established	2010
Staff as of 31 December 2015	1

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

In 2014, the Government launched *SIMORE*, an inter-institutional mechanism developed with the support of the HRA to facilitate the implementation of and follow-up to recommendations issued by regional and international human rights mechanisms in relation to Paraguay. In addition to contributing to the State's accountability and transparency, the tool supports the activities of a large range of users, such as the UNCT, universities, the media, civil society and other stakeholders. With the support of the HRA, and based on the information available in *SIMORE*, the Government prepared its report for the second UPR cycle and followed up on the recommendations related to indigenous peoples and to persons with disabilities, including by developing the National Plan for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

► *Increased number of rights-holders and civil society actors acting on their behalf making use of UN special procedures and the UPR (EA 7)*

As a result of the HRA's training activities aimed at increasing the capacity of civil society organizations to engage with international human rights mechanisms, approximately 20 reports were submitted individually and collectively by NGOs for the second UPR cycle of Paraguay. The reports touched on a variety of topics such as the rights of children, women, indigenous peoples and LGBTI persons. Furthermore, NGOs submitted reports, information and individual communications to other mechanisms, in particular the Human Rights Committee and the Special Rapporteurs on the rights to health, freedom of expression, violence against women and human rights defenders.

► *Enhanced systematic engagement by the UNCT with international human rights mechanisms (EA 11)*

The HRA coordinated the preparation of the UNCT report to the second UPR cycle of Paraguay. The UNCT actively participated in the missions of the Special Rapporteurs on the right to health and on the rights of persons with disabilities and provided significant substantive and logistical support.



Indigenous women participate at consultations organized by OHCHR in Paraguay.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

► *Civil society supports participatory mechanisms to enhance equality and counter discrimination, particularly against indigenous peoples, women, persons with disabilities and LGBTI persons (EA 5)*

As a result of a number of activities organized by the HRA, such as advocacy, training and awareness-raising, the capacities of civil society organizations were strengthened to participate in mechanisms to enhance equality and counter discrimination. For example, the HRA launched a national contest asking students of journalism, design, architecture and art to develop artworks, short films and other materials in relation to inclusive communities. The Ministry of Education declared the contest to be of educational interest which was accompanied by a social media campaign using the hashtag #YoIncluyoAsi. On 10 December, the HRA organized a public event to award prizes to the authors of the winning materials. The HRA further collaborated with CODEHUPY (a national network of human rights organizations) and Panambi (an NGO working on the rights of LGBTI persons) to develop outreach strategies to combat discrimination.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

► *Functioning protection and accountability mechanisms to prevent and monitor the investigation of allegations of torture and ill-treatment and violations of the rights of persons deprived of their liberty (EA 3)*

The Supreme Court of Justice approved the first set of indicators on the right to a fair trial, although these were not made public before the end of the year. Moreover, the HRA began supporting the General Prosecutor's Office on the

development of indicators on the right to a fair trial. The indicators are expected to be finalized in 2016. Cooperation was also undertaken with the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) for the preparation of a joint publication on the situation of prisons in Paraguay.

Widening the democratic space

- *Policies, particularly of the National Secretary for the human rights of people with disabilities, the National Institute for Indigenous Issues and the Ministry of Education increasingly respect, protect and guarantee human rights standards (EA 1)*

In November, the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities adopted a National Action Plan on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Action Plan was designed with the active participation of civil society and the technical support of the HRA. The HRA also supported the dissemination of the Plan by producing different communication materials and delivered training sessions to government focal points to strengthen their capacity for implementation. In addition, the HRA facilitated consultations between indigenous women and the National Indigenous Institute, the Ministry of Women's Affairs and local authorities in order to gather their observations and proposals regarding their rights to participation, prior consent and land. The consultations led to a stronger dialogue between authorities and indigenous women and it is expected that they will also contribute to improving the compliance of public policies with international standards. With the support of the HRA, the Secretariat for Social Action also adopted a consultation protocol to seek the input from and consent of indigenous peoples regarding the implementation of poverty reduction programmes that affect them.

- *Increased participation in public life of women and of discriminated groups, particularly indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities (EA 6)*

Representatives of civil society organizations are part of the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities. Through their active role in the Commission, civil society organizations ensured the development of a strong National Action Plan on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In addition, the HRA worked together with UNICEF, UNDP and UN Women to facilitate a number of

regional meetings with indigenous women on their rights to participation, prior consultation and land. This contributed to strengthening their capacities to participate in public life. Following these consultations, the HRA assisted the Secretary of Social Action in the development of a protocol for the participation of indigenous peoples in decision-making processes.

Empowering women in Paraguay

Rosana Caballero works at Paraguay's Secretariat for Social Action (SAS) on implementing social protection programmes for people living in extreme poverty. Rosana is a young woman living in the outskirts of Paraguay's capital. In addition to working at the SAS, she is a community leader who is committed to the promotion of women's rights. Rosana has participated in a training-of-trainers programme that was jointly implemented by OHCHR and the SAS. As a result of the training, she has consequently strengthened her knowledge of human rights concepts and standards. She has also become one of the human rights trainers of the SAS, which has contributed to the sustainability of the programme. With regard to the training programme, Rosana noted, "It has changed my view on the responsibility that each of us has and our role within the State. It has also contributed to my understanding of the UN system, its mechanisms and the international human rights standards and their application to our national reality. This has been very important for the SAS, where a change of attitude is visible among those officials who participated in the training programme."



Rosana Caballero engages with beneficiaries of the social protection programmes implemented by Paraguay's Secretariat for Social Action.