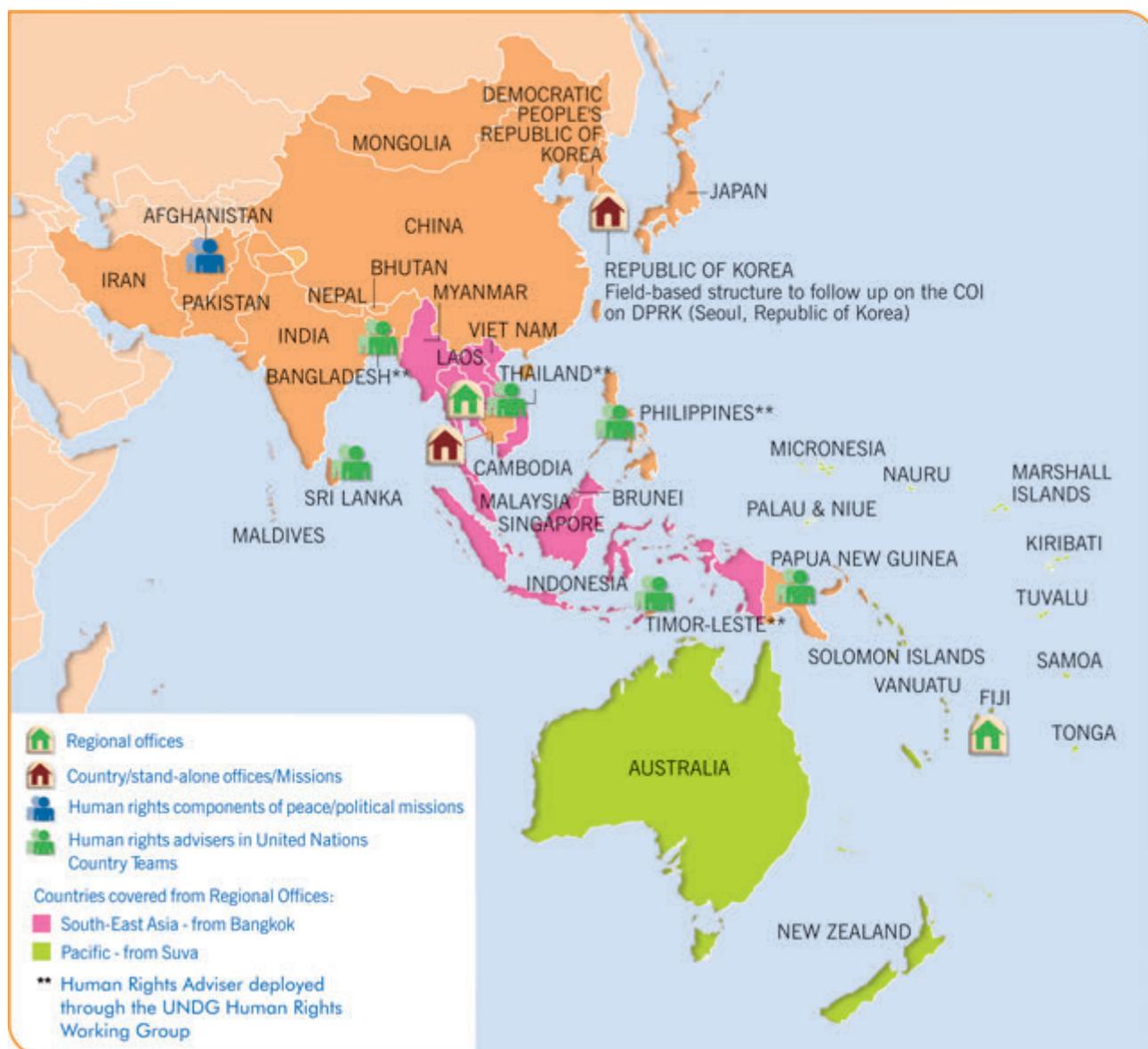


OHCHR in the field: Asia and the Pacific



Type of presence	Location
Country office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cambodia
Regional offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pacific (Suva, Fiji) South-East Asia (Bangkok, Thailand)
Field-based structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OHCHR (Seoul)
Human rights component in UN Peace Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Afghanistan (UNAMA)
Human rights advisers in UN Country Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bangladesh* Papua New Guinea Philippines* Sri Lanka Thailand (UNDG Regional Human Rights Adviser for Asia-Pacific)* Timor-Leste*

* Deployed through the UNDG-Human Rights Working Group.

The work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in the Asia-Pacific region covers 39 countries from Iran in the west, Mongolia in the north and Kiribati in the east. During the year, the Office supported 11 field presences in different forms: one country office (Cambodia); six human rights advisers (HRAs) (Bangladesh, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and a United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Regional Human Rights Adviser for Asia-Pacific based in Thailand); two regional offices (Pacific, South-East Asia); one peacekeeping mission (Afghanistan); and one field-based structure (based in Seoul and covering the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)). A longer term deployment to Myanmar

was sustained by the Regional Office in Bangkok, pending negotiations on a future country presence. Additionally, OHCHR supported two national officers who were posted to the Offices of Resident Coordinators in Maldives and in Nepal and four Human Rights Council special procedures mandates on Cambodia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iran and Myanmar.

2015 saw some positive achievements in the region. In June, the High Commissioner visited Seoul to inaugurate the field-based structure mandated by Human Rights Council resolution 25/25 to follow-up on the recommendations issued by the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In relation to Sri Lanka, the High Commissioner presented, in September, the report of a comprehensive investigation mandated by the Human Rights Council which had a significant impact and led to the consensus adoption of a Human Rights Council resolution that lays the basis for important reconciliation and accountability measures for the alleged human rights violations that occurred during the Sri Lankan civil war. The new Government of Sri Lanka has further engaged with several special procedures mandates and embarked on important legal and institutional reforms.

The Asia-Pacific Section reprioritized its activities in order to provide human rights support in the context of the April earthquake in Nepal and in relation to the crisis in Southern Nepal that followed the adoption of the new Constitution in September. The migration crisis that occurred in Southeast Asia during the month of May generated new challenges in the region, and a new mandate was given to the High Commissioner by the Human Rights Council to report on the human rights situation of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar.

The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights (ASG) visited Afghanistan in April and focused on the increasingly difficult security situation following the withdrawal of foreign troops and the transfer of security tasks to the Afghan National Security Forces. The ASG addressed the protection of civilians, the prevention of torture in places of detention and the launch of a report by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and OHCHR regarding the barriers to justice faced by women.

Country Office/Field-based Structure

Cambodia

Year established	1993
Staff as of 31 December 2015	23
Expenditure in 2015	US\$2,335,381

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *The Cambodian Human Rights Committee coordinates the implementation of the 2014 UPR and the 2015 Human Rights Committee recommendations (EA 6)*

OHCHR provided technical assistance to the Cambodia Human Rights Committee to facilitate the implementation of and follow-up to UPR recommendations. A compilation of all of the recommendations issued by the UPR, special procedures and treaty bodies in relation to Cambodia was published and shared with the Committee. Following an initial meeting which took place at the end 2014, a second meeting was held for relevant authorities, in December 2015, with the objective of defining concrete steps to be taken on UPR follow-up.

- ▶ *At least three outstanding reports are submitted to the treaty bodies in conformity with reporting guidelines (EA 6)*

The Governmental Disability Action Council completed Cambodia's initial report under the Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities (CRPD), which includes the common core document. A final consultation on the draft was held at the end of the year to discuss it with key authorities and civil society organizations. The overdue report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) is also being finalized. OHCHR worked closely with drafters to ensure the report was prepared in accordance with the relevant reporting guidelines.

- ▶ *Civil society organizations and UN entities, in particular UN Women and UNICEF, submit reports to treaty bodies, including the Human Rights Committee, CRPD and CAT and use the individual complaints procedure of CEDAW (EA 7)*

In February, the UNCT submitted an update to Cambodia's second periodic report to the Human Rights Committee, which was considered in March. A total of 18 Cambodian and

international civil society organizations submitted alternative reports to the Committee. OHCHR supported these actors in the preparation of their submissions and also circulated English and Khmer versions of the concluding observations issued by the Human Rights Committee. OHCHR is a member of the UNCT Group on Gender, led by UN Women. The Group coordinated the preparation of the follow-up report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which was submitted in October. Specifically, the report highlighted the progress that Cambodia has made in implementing the concluding observations issued by CEDAW in 2013 related to violence against women and transitional justice for survivors of gender-based violence (paragraphs 15 and 21, respectively) under the Khmer Rouge regime.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

In 2015, OHCHR monitored prisons, facilitated referrals to partners to ensure the extension of material assistance to prisons and provided direct support for the renovation of secure rooms for prisoners in two provincial hospitals. The Office followed up on several complaints received regarding allegations of violence and ill-treatment, lack of water, excessive detention and other delays related to court processes affecting prisoners. The complaints were raised with prison authorities through cooperation with civil society partners and engagement with the relevant courts and offices of the prosecutor. As a result of these efforts, a number of cases were widely reported by the media and more than 12 prisoners were released who had been arbitrarily detained in excess of their prison terms.

- ▶ *The Lawyers Training Centre and the Royal Academy of Judicial Professions include a human rights training module focusing on fair trial rights (EA 1)*

Following a series of discussions held between the Ministry of Justice and the Royal Academy for Judicial Professions on the inclusion of a human rights module in the Royal Academy's curriculum, the target audience for a pilot initiative was shifted from trainees to sitting judges and prosecutors. In April, OHCHR cooperated with the Ministry of Justice and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute to organize a three-day pilot training on *Judicial Practice from an International Law Perspective* for 27 sitting judges and prosecutors from 11 provinces and the higher



OHCHR monitors a forced eviction process in Kvar village in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

courts. The evaluation of the training showed that participants improved their knowledge and capacity to understand international human rights law and its application in Cambodia. In response to a request from the Ministry of Justice, OHCHR will work on integrating the training into the obligatory judicial education programme in Cambodia.

- ▶ *General Department of Prisons and the police academy systematically train prison staff on good prison management practices and integrating human rights core values and principles (EA 1)*
- The training of prison staff is currently being delivered by trainers from the Directorate-General of Prisons of the Ministry of Interior as well as the dedicated prison staff training centre of the police academy in Cambodia. OHCHR has supported trainers from both institutions during six visits to local prisons that were undertaken to gather feedback from former trainees, improve their understanding of the current realities of the conditions and management of prisons in Cambodia and more accurately inform the review of their training modules. Although the curriculum has not been comprehensively reviewed for its accordance with human rights standards, individual trainers have been working on their respective modules with some input from OHCHR. Whereas the Royal Decree on the Separate Cadre of Prison Staff is yet to be revised to require mandatory training upon recruitment, progress is being made on the formalization of both the team of trainers and the Directorate-General of Prisons' training office. The police academy has taken steps to establish a new degree in prison management. The proposed degree will be rolled out in 2016 and will partially rely on the materials, skills and experience

developed as a result of OHCHR's training support.

- ▶ *A National Preventive Mechanism against torture is established and functioning to monitor places of detention in compliance with OP-CAT (EA 3)*

The two NPMs in Cambodia, namely the Interministerial NPM Committee and its operational arm, the NPM Secretariat, are not compliant with OP-CAT requirements. This has been the subject of many recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. As a result of its ratification of the OP-CAT, the Government is in the process of introducing changes to the current structure, including the drafting of a new Royal Decree on the NPM. The nature and extent of the changes are not known.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

The Government's land titling programmes are advancing steadily. As of mid-2015, the Government estimated that land titles had been registered for 55 per cent of the country's approximately 7 million parcels of land. At the same time, OHCHR noted several adverse impacts of the land titling process on indigenous peoples and other communities who claim to have lost their land as a result of the inconsistent implementation of Government policies. In 2015, OHCHR monitored 70 land disputes between affected communities, authorities and businesses in rural and urban areas and 10 planned evictions impacting over 300 families. The Office provided material support to the evictees and advocated with the authorities to ensure the prompt and fair resolution of the derived land disputes. OHCHR also met with subnational authorities to discuss the land titling process of several communities of indigenous peoples in three provinces, as well as rural and urban evictions.

- ▶ *Existing dispute resolution mechanisms, including the courts, improve their compliance with human rights standards in handling land issues (EA 3)*
- OHCHR worked with rights-holders, duty-bearers and businesses operating in Cambodia to raise their awareness about international standards on business and human rights. In 2015, OHCHR's active engagement with the private sector began to bear fruit as five international

companies operating in Cambodia sought the Office's support to interact with indigenous groups and local communities in order to discuss consensual solutions to existing land disputes. OHCHR advised the companies on practical considerations and steps that should be taken to engage in open, meaningful consultations and sustained dialogue with the communities and to establish a transparent complaint mechanism. As a result, several compensation agreements are under discussion and OHCHR is supporting the mapping of disputed lands in an emblematic sugar plantation case. The Office also provided technical support to a number of communities of indigenous peoples in relation to their applications for communal land titles. As a result, the communities prepared legal claims regarding their land disputes and submitted the claims to the relevant authorities. In May, after a civil society partner of OHCHR submitted a legal claim on behalf of an indigenous group, a higher court in Cambodia accepted and recognized the validity of an indigenous communal land title for the first time.

- ▶ *Rights-holders meaningfully participate in the design of public policy related to land and housing and the management of natural resources (EA 5)*
- Rights-holders have enhanced their capacity to meaningfully participate in processes that affect them with regard to land and housing rights and indigenous rights. For instance, OHCHR provided technical assistance to four indigenous communities in two provinces to obtain communal land titles. This contributed to the increased capacity of local authorities to better understand their obligations with regard to international standards on the rights of indigenous peoples. One of the communities supported by the Office successfully claimed over 700 hectares of their ancestral land through the communal land titling process. OHCHR also facilitated 10 workshops for marginalized rural communities from six provinces that were affected by land disputes with the military police and private companies. In total, 248 community members learned about their rights, Cambodian land law, the procedures for applying for communal land titles and the judicial process.

Widening the democratic space

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

In 2015, three laws were adopted which negatively impact on fundamental freedoms, namely the Law on the National Electoral

Committee, which restricts the independence of the Committee at the expense of small parties; the Law on the Election of Members of the National Assembly; and the Law on Associations and NGOs, which includes mandatory registration and onerous reporting requirements that are tied to criminal sanctions and de-registration if they are not fulfilled. Four other draft laws are at various stages of development, including a Law on Telecommunications that was recently adopted by Parliament; a Law on Trade Unions which is awaiting approval from the National Assembly; and draft laws on Access to Information and on Cybercrime. OHCHR is a member of the technical working group, established to draft the Access to Information Law, which is co-chaired by the Government and UNESCO and includes civil society representatives. The drafting process for the other laws has been less participatory as the drafts were only released in part or shortly before their adoption. Consultations were rarely held.

► *Subnational government uses human rights standards and principles in applying the law on peaceful demonstrations (EA 1)*

Subnational authorities and NGOs are more aware of peaceful assembly rights and obligations under international human rights law and the Cambodian Peaceful Demonstration Law. The compliance with these principles remains dependent on the sensitivity of the issues at stake and instructions given by higher authorities. OHCHR worked extensively to support improved compliance through awareness-raising, monitoring and the provision of briefings and trainings on the Peaceful Demonstration Law for local authorities, law enforcement officers and civil society organizations and communities at the subnational level. Overall, there have been few incidents of violence in the handling of peaceful protests by authorities, although subnational authorities have selectively dealt with protests; authorizing some and preventing others. On the occasion of Human

Protecting the rights of the Karen Communities in Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex in Thailand

The Karen communities are indigenous communities in Thailand that are part of the Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex (KKFC), which is a national park. The Karen communities have lived in the KKFC for generations and have an inextricable link with the KKFC. It is a part of their culture, means of livelihood and traditional way of life. The Karen communities in the KKFC have faced human rights abuses, including violent forced evictions, harassment and disappearances of community members, as well as a lack of consultation and participation in the management of natural resources.

In November 2014, while following the case of the disappearance of Mr. Porjalee Rakchongcharoen, a Karen human rights activist who disappeared in April 2014, the OHCHR Regional Office for South-East Asia was informed about the Thai Government's application to have the KKFC designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. To ensure that the Thai Government respected the rights of the Karen

communities during the process, the Office reviewed the draft management plan and held a series of discussions with the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand, the Karen communities and civil society organizations. The Office also met with local officials of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and UNESCO. The Office prepared a briefing paper for the IUCN Independent Panel and the UNESCO World Heritage Site Committee, which outlined the human rights abuses being faced by the Karen communities in KKFC, their concerns about the World Heritage designation process and made recommendations about how to address the human rights concerns. OHCHR's brief did not object to the designation of the KKFC as a World Heritage Site, but rather sought to ensure that the Government was taking steps to respect the rights of the communities. In April 2015, OHCHR sent supplementary information to the IUCN and the World Heritage Committee in response to the Thai Government's

letter regarding its implementation of OHCHR's recommendations.

Based on the OHCHR briefing paper and the supplementary information provided by the Government, the World Heritage Committee responded in July 2015 and recommended that the Government of Thailand fully address the concerns that were raised by OHCHR concerning the Karen communities within the KKFC. The Government of Thailand then drafted a road map to support the designation of the KKFC as a World Heritage Site, including by addressing the human rights concerns raised by the Office. Subsequently, OHCHR held a series of meetings with the Department of National Parks, Wild Life and Plant Conservation on the issue and provided comprehensive comments to the Government on the draft road map. OHCHR will continue to engage with the Government to ensure that it properly addresses the concerns of the Karen communities in the KKFC.

Rights Day, and for the first time in a year, several thousand people were permitted to gather or march in several celebrations taking place in the capital and across the country.

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

Throughout 2015, OHCHR continued to receive a regular stream of petitions from alleged victims of human rights violations who requested UN intervention. A number of these cases were supported by partner NGOs and were overseen by OHCHR. The recently adopted Law on Associations and NGOs, however, has put further pressures on civil society space. The Law has already affected several community-based organizations that are actively working on land or environmental issues. For instance, the police halted a training session organized by the grassroots environmental organization, Mother Nature, claiming that the training had not been authorized. OHCHR has been liaising with its NGO partners to assist with protection strategies. Civil society organizations have begun to adjust their protection mechanisms in response to the new Law.

Cambodia: Expenditure in 2015		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	1,444,556	130,014
Activities and operating costs	165,013	505,829
Subtotal	1,609,569	635,843
Programme support costs		89,969
GRAND TOTAL	1,609,569	725,812

OHCHR field-based structure to strengthen monitoring and documentation of the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Year established	2015
Staff as of 31 December 2015	5

Results

Widening the democratic space

► *Increased awareness through outreach relevant to a DPRK audience and organizations that support them, including CSOs and media (EA 5)*

On 23 June, the OHCHR field-based structure, located in Seoul, was inaugurated by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, fulfilling the mandate given by the Human Rights Council in resolution 25/25. During its first six months of operation, the OHCHR field-based structure established the framework for an outreach programme relevant to an audience in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and actively engaged with the national and international media to raise awareness about the mandate of the Office. The OHCHR representative conducted numerous interviews with national and international television, radio, newspapers and journals and the Office's social media outlets were regularly updated in English and Korean. Presentations were also made at various events, including a Korean Bar Association Seminar on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; the Asia Human Rights Forum



The High Commissioner speaks with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea at the opening of the OHCHR field-based structure to strengthen monitoring and documentation of the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, June 2015.

on regional cooperation for transitional justice in Asia and human rights in North Korea; the North Korea Human Rights and Peace Forum at Seoul National University; the Seoul Dialogue for Human Rights; the Korean War Abductees' Family Union Conference on Transitional Justice; and the 10th Anniversary of the Radio Broadcasting for North Korea initiative.

Regional Offices

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

Year established	2002
Staff as of 31 December 2015	14
Expenditure in 2015	US\$1,398,026

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Ratification of OP-CAT by Indonesia and Thailand; and of CAT, ICCPR or ICESCR by Myanmar (EA 2)*

After the May 2014 military takeover in Thailand, the delays in returning to a democratic government have slowed the implementation of some activities planned to support the Government's ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT), although there are hopes that a new law on combating torture and disappearances will be adopted in 2016.

The Government of Myanmar declared its intention of ratifying a number of instruments, including the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (OP-CRC-AC), although no clear timeline was communicated.

- ▶ *Increased engagement with special procedures by civil society actors in Brunei Darussalam, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Singapore (EA 7)*

In Singapore, there is limited engagement between civil society organizations and the UN human rights mechanisms. Nevertheless, the Office provided guidance on the submission of complaints which contributed to the submission of five communications to the special procedures by local actors. This was a substantial increase over the number of communications submitted in previous years. The Office also worked with civil society to

organize two consultations on the drafting of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) report.

- ▶ *The new NHRI, an increased number of NGOs and the United Nations Country Team in Myanmar submit contributions to CEDAW and the UPR (EA 7)*

On 6 November, Myanmar underwent its second UPR cycle. OHCHR has engaged with the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and NGOs through advocacy and briefings and facilitated their submissions, which increased from 24 in 2011 to 47 in 2015. The Office also coordinated the UNCT's submission to the UPR, which resulted in the collection of information from nine UN entities which included a strong emphasis on the ratification of the core international human rights treaties.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

OHCHR continued to advocate for the abolition of the death penalty in the region by undertaking a number of initiatives, including issuing a publication on death penalty reform in Southeast Asia and participating in the Asia Regional Congress on the abolition of the death penalty. The Office also intervened in the cases of individuals imminently facing the death penalty. In November, it undertook advocacy in relation to a case in Singapore which resulted in a stay of execution. In Malaysia, OHCHR has been advocating with the Government to review the mandatory death penalty regime. The Government is currently reviewing the mandatory death sentences for drug-related offences.

- ▶ *National Preventive Mechanism against torture (under OP-CAT) established and/or functioning in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand (EA 3)*

After the May 2014 military takeover in Thailand, the delays in returning to a democratic government have slowed the implementation of some activities planned to support the Government's ratification of the OP-CAT. The Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT) visited the Philippines from 25 May to 3 June and met with various stakeholders regarding the establishment of a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM). The mechanism, however, has not yet been established and the draft legislation is still being debated by the Congress and the Commission on Human Rights.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

The Office continued to document the human rights concerns of affected communities in relation to large-scale development projects. In Malaysia, OHCHR undertook a visit to Sarawak to monitor the impact of a hydro power project on the population and raised concerns regarding their forced relocation, lack of information, the participation of the community and respect for the rights of indigenous peoples. In Thailand, OHCHR prepared a report documenting the effects of the Government's land policies on grassroots communities and provided practical recommendations on how to address human rights concerns related to land and development. In addition, OHCHR submitted a briefing paper to UNESCO in which it outlined its concerns about the Karen population in the Kaeng Krachan National Park. As a result, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee deferred its decision on the Park's request to be recognized as a world heritage site until next year and requested that the Government immediately implement OHCHR's recommendations.

Widening the democratic space

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

A number of legal provisions are not in compliance with international human rights standards and are being used to curtail democratic freedoms. Despite the reforms that were introduced in 2011, OHCHR observed an increasing trend of arrests, detentions and persecution in relation to the peaceful exercise of democratic freedoms that took place during the 2015 pre-election period. OHCHR maintained regular contact with NGO partners on relevant developments, including cases of the detention of human rights defenders as a consequence of their non-violent exercise of freedom of thought, conscience and religion, freedom of opinion and expression and freedom of peaceful assembly and association. The High Commissioner sent a letter to the Government regarding the democratic space in Myanmar and offered technical assistance for the amendment of key legislation, namely the Law on the Right to Peaceful Assembly and

Peaceful Procession. Although the Government replied to the letter, no concrete commitments were made.

- ▶ *A new, independent NHRI is established and progressively working in conformity with international standards in Myanmar (EA 1)*
Although not yet in full compliance with the Paris Principles, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission has made progress in terms of institutional development and its level of activities. In 2015, the Commission issued 16 statements (12 more than in 2014) and it accepted over 4,000 complaints and initiated a number of investigations. It has not, however, consistently disclosed the outcomes. In one example, the Commission undertook an investigation into the Letpadan crackdown against students and their supporters and, in a welcome move, called for the release of all political prisoners, including the detained students. The Commission has also been gradually opening up to working with NGOs. OHCHR has worked with the Commission since 2012, although its engagement in 2015 was limited due to staffing issues.
- ▶ *Human rights defenders use national protection systems to initiate credible State investigations and prosecutions, particularly in emblematic cases or for the release of human rights defenders from custody (EA 5)*

In Thailand, OHCHR supported the establishment of a Working Group on human rights defenders at the Ministry of Justice and is currently advising the Government on protection measures and the development of criteria to identify at-risk human rights defenders. The Office also began delivering a Human Rights Defenders' School Programme to provide training for human rights defenders in Thailand on interviewing, documentation, security and engagement with national and international human rights mechanisms. To date, a total of 13 human rights defenders have been trained.

- ▶ *Participation of human rights organizations, especially those representing women and discriminated groups, in major political and public debates in Myanmar (EA 5)*
The large voter turnout (80 per cent) in the historical November elections was a very positive indicator of the meaningful participation in the political sphere of both wider society and civil society organizations. Nevertheless, a number of obstacles to the exercise of political rights and fundamental freedoms remain. In addition, the lack of adequate political representation of women was particularly evident during the pre-election period, as only 13 per cent of the registered candidates were women. Through a number of activities, including information sharing

and training, OHCHR has helped promote the active participation of civil society organizations in the political sphere and their engagement with the UN human rights mechanisms.

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

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

Following the April earthquake in Nepal, an OHCHR staff member was deployed from Bangkok to conduct a human rights assessment and support the UN and other humanitarian actors in mainstreaming human rights and protection concerns in the context of the response. In the Philippines, OHCHR worked closely with the Humanitarian Country Team to strengthen its protection response to the conflict in Mindanao. The Resident Coordinator publicly advocated for short- and long-term action to better protect indigenous peoples.

Regional Office for South-East Asia (Bangkok, Thailand): Expenditure in 2015

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	837,996	393,555
Activities and operating costs	109,972	4,726
Subtotal	947,968	398,281
Programme support costs		51,777
GRAND TOTAL	947,968	450,058

Regional Office for the Pacific (Suva, Fiji)

Year established	2005
Staff as of 31 December 2015	5
Expenditure in 2015	US\$770,346

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Six new ratifications/accessions with a focus on ICCPR, ICESCR and CAT (and their optional protocols) in the subregion (EA 2)*
Marshall Islands ratified the CRPD in March and other countries have taken steps towards its ratification. Kiribati ratified the OP-CRC-AC and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OP-CRC-SC). Micronesia also ratified the OP-CRC-AC in October. Fiji committed to ratification of the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) during its UPR review. The Parliament approved the ratification, albeit with reservations.
- ▶ *Increased engagement with international human rights mechanisms, including through the establishment of national coordination bodies to support national reporting and implementation of recommendations, the use of a common core document approach, participation in the second cycle of the UPR and acceptance of visit requests by special procedures mandate-holders (EA 6)*
The Cook Islands and Vanuatu submitted their common core documents in 2015, which were drafted with the assistance of the Regional Office. In addition, Vanuatu submitted its report to the CRPD and Nauru submitted its initial report to the CRC; its first report to a treaty body. In 2015, Australia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia and Nauru completed their second UPR cycles. The Regional Office increased general awareness about the UPR process through regular radio interviews and a public lecture. It also organized a regional meeting in November to develop the capacity of Pacific States to implement UPR recommendations. Moreover, in preparation for its upcoming review by the UPR in 2016, Solomon Islands established an ad hoc UPR National Working Committee. The Committee, which is being supported by an advisor who is funded by the Regional Office, has undertaken three consultations with stakeholders regarding the implementation of the recommendations and the preparation of the national report.



Students of the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji, who attended a lecture on the human rights mechanisms, in particular the Universal Periodic Review, delivered by OHCHR, September 2015.

Largely prompted by UPR recommendations, most Pacific Island countries have now issued a standing invitation to the special procedures. Fiji, for instance, issued a standing invitation in March and the Special Rapporteur on the right to education visited Fiji in December; the first official visit of a mandate-holder to the country since 2007. In other cases, visits were postponed or governments failed to respond to visit requests. The Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants was scheduled to visit Australia at the end of September, but the visit was postponed at the last minute. Negotiations are underway for rescheduling in 2016.

Progress was also achieved in relation to the establishment of national mechanisms for reporting on and following up to recommendations. In the Marshall Islands, a Human Rights Committee Bill was drafted and legislation was adopted and approved by Parliament. The Regional Office provided comments on the draft. In October, a regional training-of-trainers was delivered in Samoa for government representatives of 12 Pacific Island countries. Following the training, several governments committed to the establishment of national coordination mechanisms.

- ▶ *Rights-holders or their representatives increase their submissions to treaty bodies and/or special procedures in areas such as torture and ill-treatment, sexual and gender-based violence and/or housing rights (EA 7)*

OHCHR's advice and assistance to rights-holders resulted in at least three submissions to special procedures mandates in relation to migration, torture and ill-treatment, health and human rights defenders. The Regional Office provided training to civil society organizations in Samoa and in the Solomon Islands on how to submit reports to the UPR. As a result, at least five submissions were made by organizations from these two countries.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- ▶ *Development and implementation of human rights-compliant legislation and policies regarding violence against women, asylum-seekers, minorities, indigenous peoples and LGBTI persons (EA 4)*

Nauru made some changes to its policies on asylum-seekers being held at an offshore processing centre. Earlier in the year, some asylum-seekers were allowed to leave the centre on certain days and at specified times. The Regional Office encouraged Nauru to expand the open centre scheme to all asylum-seekers. Following a visit by Regional Office staff in September, the open centre scheme was extended to all asylum-seekers to 24 hours a day, seven days a week. While some progress was achieved in this area, the situation of asylum-seekers and refugees in Nauru remains dire. Throughout the year, OHCHR made a number of public statements on the situation of refugees and asylum-seekers in offshore processing centres, including in relation to individual cases. One such statement resulted in the concerned individual being transferred from Nauru to Australia to receive medical attention.

In August, the Regional Office also organized the first Pacific regional meeting on the rights of indigenous peoples and minorities and the regional launch of the Free & Equal campaign. The events helped to raise the awareness of regional and national actors about these topics and provided an opportunity to advocate for changes in legislation, policies and practices.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Human rights training is institutionalized in the police academies and/or penitentiary services in Fiji and Vanuatu (EA 1)*

Fiji's decision to ratify CAT has provided an important entry point for discussion with the

Fiji Corrections Services and Fiji Police on measures to align policies and procedures with CAT. Following three visits in 2015, some initial improvements were identified. OHCHR submitted a series of targeted recommendations to the Corrections Services and the Head of the Fiji Corrections Services has committed to improving some conditions of detention. A solid relationship was built with the Fiji Police, including the police training academy, and several training workshops were offered to police officers in partnership with the New Zealand Police and other organizations. Plans are underway for OHCHR to support the review of current training materials in order to help mainstream human rights throughout the entire curriculum.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *A Paris Principles-compliant NHRI is established in Fiji, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu (EA 1)*

Following advocacy undertaken by OHCHR, Fiji re-established its Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission and appointed new Commissioners in May. The Regional Office met with the new Commissioners at their first meeting and has continued to engage with them on a regular basis. It also participated in the Asia Pacific Forum's High-level Dialogue for the new Commissioners in November. In Samoa, the Office of the Ombudsman launched its first state of human rights report in August and carried out prison monitoring visits and investigations into police misconduct. It also prepared a report in relation to Samoa's review under the second cycle of the UPR and the upcoming review of Samoa's periodic report by the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The institution is functioning in accordance with the Paris Principles and is finalizing its application for accreditation to the International Coordinating Committee for National Human Rights Institutions.

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

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

OHCHR and UNHCR co-led the Pacific Humanitarian Protection Cluster during most of 2015. When Tropical Cyclone Pam hit Vanuatu in March, the Protection Cluster was able to ensure surge capacity and therefore provide extensive support to the national Protection Cluster for

several weeks. The work with National Disaster Management Offices in other countries was much more limited as a result of the Regional Office's staffing constraints.

Regional Office for the Pacific (Suva, Fiji): Expenditure in 2015		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	149,685	434,078
Activities and operating costs	23,800	94,106
Subtotal	173,485	528,184
Programme support costs		68,677
GRAND TOTAL	173,485	596,861

Human Rights Components in UN Peace Missions

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

Year established	2002
Staff as of 31 December 2015	92

Results

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

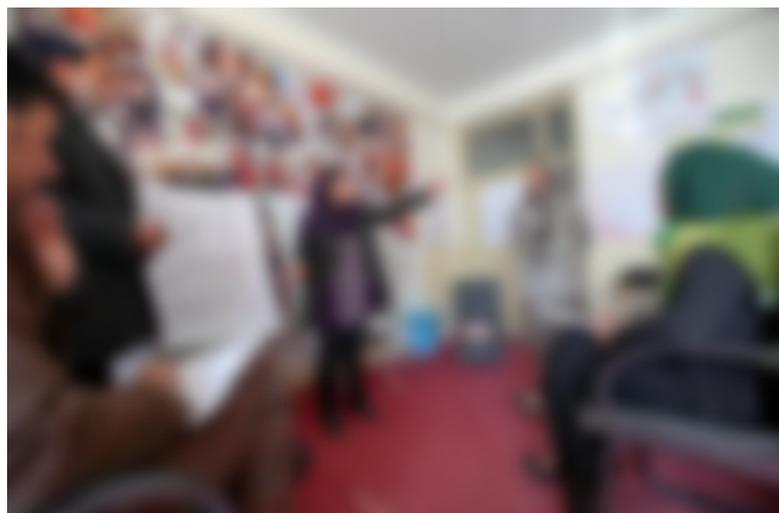
In February, the Human Rights Unit (HRU) of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) published its third public report on the treatment of conflict-related detainees. The report was based on visits of the HRU to 128 detention facilities and the interviews it conducted with 790 detainees over a 23-month period between February 2013 and December 2014. Although the percentage of interviewed detainees who allegedly experienced torture or ill-treatment was 14 per cent lower than in the previous observation period, the HRU noted a continuing and pervasive lack of accountability for the use of torture. In

addition, it only identified one prosecution of two National Directorate of Security officials for torture during the observation period. The Government reacted positively to the report and published a National Plan on the Elimination of Torture. The Plan includes a number of legislative, preventive and educational and capacity-building measures designed to promote accountability and ensure a more effective implementation of Afghanistan's obligations to eliminate torture under international and domestic legislation. Notwithstanding the Afghan Government's commitments set out in the National Plan, implementation has been slow and torture remains prevalent in detention facilities throughout the country. Since the release of the report in February, the HRU has interviewed 150 conflict-related detainees in detention facilities in 25 provinces and has found that 36 per cent experienced torture or ill-treatment at the time of their arrest and 41 per cent experienced torture or ill-treatment during their interrogation or detention.

- ▶ *Peace processes and transitional justice mechanisms operate in accordance with international human rights standards and good practices, ensuring consolidation of human rights gains and promoting accountability (EA 3)*
With the third phase of the Afghan People's Dialogue, a national conference was held on 15 January, in Kabul, which enabled Afghan civil society activists who had been involved in the initial two phases of the Dialogue to discuss key findings, recommendations and provincial road maps for peace in the presence of the Second Vice President and National Unity Government authorities. A statement was subsequently issued which appealed to the Government to support four priority areas. Furthermore, between January and December, 32 provincial civil society committees were established to advocate with authorities on the 10-point national road map for peace, the 33 recommendations contained in the Afghan People's Dialogue Phase II summary report and the provincial road maps for peace. UNAMA served as the Secretariat of the Dialogue's Steering Committee and supported civil society organizations in leading an inclusive process which ensured that governmental authorities heard the voices of the Afghan people.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission works in conformity with international standards (Paris Principles) especially in relation to its independence (EA 1)*
In early 2015, the Sub-Committee on Accreditation of the International Coordinating Committee



of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights decided to maintain the 'A' status previously conferred on the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC). In 2014, the Sub-Committee deferred its decision for one year due to concerns regarding the selection and appointment process for Commissioners, the Commission's dependence on international donor funding and the disparity in the ratio of female to male staff members. The HRU advocated with the National Unity Government to ensure that they supported the Commission's continued independence, credibility and effectiveness. The HRU also actively advocated with the AIHRC to criminalize child recruitment by armed forces and armed groups which resulted in the President's endorsement of the Law on Prohibition of Child Recruitment into Military Contingencies on 17 January.

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

- ▶ *Provincial authorities, law enforcement and prosecutors work together to assist victims and improve investigations of cases of violence against women to support prosecution (EA 1)*
The Ministry of Women's Affairs published its third report on the implementation of the Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women and documented 5,720 registered cases between March 2014 and March 2015. The HRU provided technical assistance to the Ministry to support the systematic tracking of cases of violence against women. On 19 April, the HRU released a report, entitled *Justice through the Eyes of Afghan Women: Cases of Violence against Women Addressed through Mediation and Court Adjudication*, which documented trends



Press Conference by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Afghanistan and the Head of the Human Rights Unit of UNAMA to present a report on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, August 2015.

concerning women's access to justice in cases of violence against women. The report was based on interviews conducted with 110 women and girl victims of violence in 18 provinces and revealed a preference for mediation over court adjudication. On 30 June, the President of Afghanistan launched the country's first National Action Plan on the Security Council's resolution on women and peace and security. The Plan outlines the Government's pledges for strategic interventions in order to increase the role of women in the areas of participation, protection, prevention, relief and recovery. Moreover, for the first time in Afghanistan, four women were appointed as ministers of the ministries of Women's Affairs, Higher Education, Work and Social Affairs and Counter-Narcotics. The HRU consistently advocated for the implementation of the National Action Plan and the increased participation of women in decision-making processes. A number of legislative additions and amendments concerning women were also enacted, such as the Regulation on Prohibition of Women Harassment and the electoral legislation which raised the quota for women in Provincial Councils and District Councils to 25 per cent.

- ▶ *Government policies and regulations related to civilian protection and civilian casualty mitigation are formulated and implemented by*

all forces in line with international humanitarian law and international human rights standards (EA 3)

From January to November 2015, the HRU documented a 4 per cent increase in civilian deaths and injuries as a result of the conflict compared to the same period in 2014. Between 1 January and 30 November 2015, the HRU documented 10,136 civilian casualties (3,213 deaths and 6,923 injured), rendering 2015 as the year with the highest number of civilian casualties recorded by UNAMA since 2009. Despite rising insecurity, the HRU continued to monitor, investigate and report incidents of civilian casualties and harm. The HRU's tracking of civilian casualties has had a measurable impact on the policies of most parties to the conflict. For example, the President of Afghanistan directed the National Security Council to ensure that all security agencies take preventive measures to reduce civilian casualties. Similarly, the Ministry of Defence prepared a policy on civilian casualty mitigation which has been submitted to the acting Minister of Defence for approval. Nevertheless, the relevant bodies of the Afghan National Security Forces lack a permanent structure to systematically investigate allegations of civilian casualties, initiate remedial measures or take follow-up action.

- ▶ *UN support to national institutions is in compliance with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (EA 11)*

Throughout 2015, the HRU ensured the implementation of and compliance with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) by briefing the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and national authorities on the HRDDP, including through written communication to the President of Afghanistan. The HRU worked with UNDP to develop the terms of reference, identify and hire a consultant who is drafting a comprehensive report assessing the potential risk that the Afghan National Police and the Afghan Local Police will commit grave violations of international humanitarian, human rights or refugee law. The HRU's reporting will enable an assessment of the effectiveness of the measures recommended by the consultant once they are reviewed and adopted by UNDP.

Human Rights Advisers to UN Country Teams

Bangladesh

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2015	1

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Increased compliance and engagement of Member States with international human rights mechanisms (EA 6)* The Government of Bangladesh submitted its long overdue initial report under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in early 2015 and is currently preparing an initial report under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). The HRA and UNDP supported the drafting of both reports.
- ▶ *Increased number and diversity of rights-holders, and of national human rights institutions and civil society actors acting on their behalf, making use of United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms and bodies (EA 7)*

In 2015, the Bangladesh National Human Rights Commission and various civil society actors organized a number of events to reflect on the implementation of the UPR recommendations. The HRA supported these events and advised a civil society organization, the Human Rights Forum, on the submission of information to the Human Rights Committee.



Rohingya children in Bangladesh.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *Increased use of a human rights-based approach to programming by the UNCTs (EA 11)* The draft UNDAF, to be finalized in 2016, is strongly founded on a human rights-based approach. The HRA has been an active member of the UNDAF design team and facilitated a training session on the human rights-based approach for UN staff in the context of the UNDAF roll-out.

Human Rights Adviser to the Regional UN Development Group for Asia and the Pacific

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)* Overall, the capacity of UNCTs in the region has been strengthened through the provision of advice and training on a human rights-based approach to ensure the enhanced integration of human rights perspectives in 2015-2016 United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs). In this respect, the HRA participated in UNCT retreats in Iran, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Thailand and Vietnam. The HRA also commented on the draft Common Country Assessments (CCAs) and/or the UNDAFs of China, DPRK, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mongolia, Thailand and Viet Nam for compliance with a human rights-based approach.

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, conflict and other situations of violence and insecurity (EA 11)* The HRA contributed to the discussion of human rights-related issues in the three annual meetings of the undg team for Asia and the Pacific, including on the Human Rights Up Front Initiative, the integration of human rights in the

development of a number of UNDAFs in countries of the region and a dialogue on human rights with 23 resident coordinators which primarily focused on the Human Rights Up Front Initiative.

Papua New Guinea

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2015	2

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Increased engagement with international human rights mechanisms, including through the establishment of national coordination bodies to support national reporting and implementation of recommendations, the use of a common core document approach, participation in the second cycle of the UPR and acceptance of visit requests by special procedures mandate-holders (EA 6)*
The Human Rights Adviser provided assistance to the Government-led UPR Task Force to conduct UPR consultations in seven provinces of the country. The consultations were key to ensuring that the drafting process was inclusive and participatory and that the information gathered will be used to draft the national report. It is anticipated that the report will be submitted in early 2016.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Human rights training is institutionalized in the police academy in Papua New Guinea (EA 1)*
The Chief of Training of the Bomana Police Training Academy and the HRA agreed to discuss modalities for the integration of human rights modules in the curriculum of the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC). Between August and September, an HRA-supported international consultant organized focus groups with RPNGC trainers and police station commanders and conducted training needs assessment in a number of police stations. At the end of September, the consultant had to be repatriated due to health reasons, so the HRA developed a paper on the way forward. With the support of the Australian High Commission in Papua New Guinea, the project is expected to resume in 2016.



Launch of the "Our Rights. Our Freedoms. Always." campaign in Papua New Guinea, December 2015.

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

In July, the National Executive Council endorsed the Sorcery National Action Plan and an allocated budget for its implementation. The HRA contributed to various efforts to end violence stemming from allegations of sorcery. These efforts included participating in the working group to develop the Action Plan and supporting human rights defenders as they followed up on cases of sorcery-related killings and accusations.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *Effective human rights education programmes, particularly for youth, established or strengthened (EA 1)*

The sixth edition of the Papua New Guinea Human Rights Film Festival was held between August and September in Port Moresby, Madang and Bougainville. Under OHCHR's leadership, the organizing committee, composed of national authorities, civil society organizations, members of the media and UN agencies, met on several occasions to ensure a participatory decision-making process related to the selection of films, discussion topics and other promotional matters. The festival continued to be an excellent awareness-raising initiative involving youth, NGOs, human rights defenders and representatives of international organizations and the Government.

Sri Lanka

Year established	2004
Staff as of 31 December 2015	5

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

The Human Rights Adviser engaged in the preparation and implementation of and follow-up to the country visits of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence in March and of the Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) in November. The final observations of the latter have been translated into Sinhala and Tamil and widely disseminated through civil society networks. The HRA also raised awareness among civil society actors in relation to the relevant special procedures mandate-holders and provided support, as required, for their engagement with the mechanisms. In December, Sri Lanka signed the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, following a visit by the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Sustained engagement by the international community, specifically the Human Rights Council, on issues of impunity, accountability and reconciliation for past and present human rights violations (EA 10)*

In September, OHCHR presented the Report of the OHCHR Investigation on Sri Lanka to the Human Rights Council amid widespread international interest. A positive political environment in the country, following the elections of January and August, led to the adoption of a consensus resolution in the Council that was co-sponsored by Sri Lanka. The resolution outlines commitments to pursue reconciliation and accountability for gross human rights violations. In 2016, the HRA will focus much of the work in Sri Lanka on contributing to the implementation of the recommendations of the resolution.

Timor-Leste

Year established	2013
Staff as of 31 December 2015	1

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Reports submitted to the UPR, CAT and other treaty bodies are in conformity with reporting guidelines (EA 6)*

The Government submitted its initial report under the Convention on the Rights Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CRMW) and responded to the lists of issues sent by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and CEDAW. The Human Rights Adviser provided the Government with technical support on reporting to the CRMW, in close collaboration with the International Organization for Migration, and contributed to the translation of the list of issues into Tetum. At the Government's request, the HRA provided comments on the draft report.

- ▶ *Increased number of substantive submissions to CEDAW, special procedures and the Human Rights Council by NHRIs, civil society, individuals and UN entities (EA 7)*

Five submissions were sent to the CRMW, CEDAW, CRC and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) by the Provedoria for Human Rights and Justice (PDHJ); seven submissions were sent to the CRMW, CEDAW and CRC by civil society organizations and coalitions; one individual communication was sent to CEDAW by a civil



Pre-school students in Timor-Leste testing a book on human rights developed by a NGO with OHCHR support.

society organization on behalf of one individual; and three submissions were sent to the CRMW, CEDAW and WGEID by the UNCT. The HRA led the drafting process for the UNCT submission to the WGEID and facilitated the involvement of the UNCT in reporting to the CRMW. The Adviser also provided technical advice to civil society and the PDHJ on how to report under the CRMW and make use of the individual communications procedure of CEDAW. Members of civil society organizations, the PDHJ and the UNCT also increased their knowledge of the UN human rights mechanisms through a number of training sessions and the sharing of regular updates and OHCHR materials.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *International human rights law is substantially used in court proceedings and decisions (EA 1)*
During the year, the NGO Judicial System Monitoring Programme observed that specific reference was made to CEDAW in at least two court cases regarding gender-based violence. During 2015, the HRA provided limited support to the judiciary due to the number of changes in international judicial personnel, including judges and prosecutors, which began at the end of 2014.
- ▶ *Human rights, including women's rights and gender equality, have been substantially integrated into law enforcement and defence trainings (EA 1)*
During 2015, the curriculum on police training began to integrate human rights and a human rights manual for police was drafted with extensive technical support from the HRA and was launched by the PDHJ. In cooperation with UNDP, the HRA facilitated training-of-trainers sessions for police officers on how to use the manual. By the end of the year, 258 new recruits (38 of whom were women) and 85 in-service police officers (18 of whom were women) from four municipalities had increased their knowledge of human rights principles and standards related to detention, the use of force and how to ensure that specific needs are being taken into consideration when dealing with women, children and persons with disabilities.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *A human rights-based approach is substantially integrated into the UNDAF (EA 11)*
After lengthy consultations with the previous and current governments, the Council of Ministers signed the 2015-2019 UNDAF on 21 September. All four UNDAF outcomes, aligned with the country's Strategic Development Plan (2011-2030),

are human rights-based and geared towards inclusive, sustainable and equitable growth and development. Three of the outcomes specifically focus on disadvantaged groups. The HRA provided technical advice to the UNDAF Working Group during the preparation of the document and its revisions following comments received from the Government.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *The Provedoria National Human Rights Institution maintains its 'A' status (EA 1)*

The PDHJ continued to operate as an 'A' status national human rights institution and brought alleged human rights violations to the attention of the authorities. In 2015, it issued two press releases and one report expressing concern about human rights violations being committed by the security forces, including torture, in the context of a security operation against groups that were critical of the Government. The report called on the authorities to investigate the alleged abuses. The HRA also organized a four-day training session which contributed to the increased knowledge of 29 staff members of the PDHJ about human rights standards on housing and forced evictions. As a result of information gathered during the training from people who would be affected by the expansion of an airport, an intervention carried out by the Provedoria ensured that the consequential relocation of graves was conducted with more respect for the dignity of the dead and the health and hygiene of those exhuming the graves.

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

The curriculum of grades 4 and 5 now includes references to human rights principles, including in relation to non-discrimination, diversity, gender equality and the rights of persons with disabilities. The HRA provided comments on the educational programmes and the training sessions conducted by the Ministry of Education for teachers on how to implement the new curriculum. The HRA also supported the production of two short books on Timor-Leste's struggle for human rights that will be used as part of the history curriculum for grades 5 and 6. The books were jointly produced by the Ministry of Education and civil society.

- ▶ *Increased use of protection mechanisms by human rights defenders (EA 5)*

Human rights defenders in Timor-Leste have generally failed to systematically document threats and human rights violations or to bring these occurrences to the attention of national protection mechanisms. The HRA has received information

that only one alleged threat against a lawyer was brought to the attention of the PDHJ in the second half of 2015. To combat this situation, OHCHR's practical guide on Civil Society Space and the UN Human Rights System was translated and printed into Tetum and widely shared with members of civil society. Furthermore, OHCHR will support five civil society organizations in their implementation of a one-year project to establish a permanent human rights monitoring and advocacy network. The network will systematically document and address instances of threats and intimidation against human rights defenders.

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

- ▶ *A human rights-based approach is substantially integrated into preparedness, response and recovery efforts of the UNCT (EA 11)*

The Protection Cluster, which has not met since late 2012, was re-activated in 2015 under the leadership of OHCHR and UNICEF. The agencies prepared a human rights-based draft of the terms of reference for the Cluster and members of the Cluster approved the draft in December.

Implementation of new human rights manual for the national police of Timor-Leste

In 2015, steps were taken to begin implementation of a human rights manual for police in Timor-Leste. The manual was drafted with extensive technical support from OHCHR and was launched in 2014 by the Provedoria for Human Rights and Justice. Twenty-three police officers from the Police Training Centre and various municipalities received training to implement the manual. As of the end of 2015, and as a result of training that was jointly conducted by the Provedoria, OHCHR and police trainers, 258 newly recruited police officers and 85 in-service police officers, based in four municipalities, had increased their knowledge of human rights principles and standards relating to general policing, detention, the use of force and the specific rights of women, children and persons with disabilities.