

OHCHR's approach to field work

Background

OHCHR's Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division (FOTCD) is responsible for overseeing and supporting work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) at the country and regional levels, including through advisory services and technical cooperation.

At the country level, OHCHR works with national counterparts to strengthen national protection systems and support the implementation of effective measures to overcome obstacles to the realization of human rights. This includes efforts to establish or reinforce justice and accountability mechanisms at the national level, including by undertaking effective monitoring and investigation, to help secure redress for victims of human rights violations. The ultimate aim of this work is to empower rights-holders to claim their rights and strengthen the capacity of duty-bearers to fulfil their obligations to deliver positive human rights outcomes. OHCHR also responds to deteriorating human rights situations and early signs of emerging crises through the rapid

deployment of monitoring missions or additional surge capacity for UN operations on the ground in the context of humanitarian emergencies.

As of the end of 2015, OHCHR was running 65 field presences and providing support to other members of the UN system through rapid deployments of human rights officers in response to emerging situations across regions.

Types of field presences

OHCHR operates through two main types of field presences: stand-alone offices and collaborative arrangements. The first category is comprised of country and regional offices which are under the direct supervision of OHCHR. The second category consists of field presences with double reporting lines, namely human rights components of peace or political missions who report to the Head of the mission and the High Commissioner and human rights advisers who report to resident coordinators and the High Commissioner.



OHCHR staff member at an indigenous territory in Alto Parapeti, Bolivia, where a hydrocarbon exploration project has affected indigenous lands and graves.

Country and Stand-alone Offices

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

OHCHR has 14 country or stand-alone offices which are comprised of 13 country offices in: Bolivia, Burundi, Cambodia, Colombia, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Mauritania, Mexico, the State of Palestine¹, Tunisia, Uganda and Yemen, as well as one field-based structure in Seoul covering the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Regional Offices and Centres

Regional offices are established through an agreement with a host government and in consultation with other countries in the region. These offices have an important role in supporting governments in their engagement with the UN human rights mechanisms, specifically the human rights treaty bodies, the special procedures and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). They also focus on cross-cutting regional human rights issues, in close cooperation with regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations and civil society. Regional offices further support and cooperate with OHCHR country offices by providing assistance on institutional and thematic issues. In addition to the regional offices, OHCHR maintains regional centres with specific mandates established through General Assembly resolutions. Regional offices and centres are funded by the UN regular budget and voluntary contributions.

OHCHR maintains 12 regional presences which are comprised of 10 regional offices in: East Africa (Addis Ababa), Southern Africa (Pretoria), West Africa (Dakar), South-East Asia (Bangkok), the Pacific (Suva), the Middle East and North Africa (Beirut), Central Asia (Bishkek), Europe (Brussels), Central America (Panama City), South America (Santiago de Chile), a subregional centre for human rights and democracy for Central Africa (Yaoundé) and a Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha).

¹ Reference to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19.

Human rights components of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and Special Political Missions

In 2015, OHCHR's capacity to support peace missions was strengthened with the establishment of the Peace Missions Support Section (PMSS) in New York. The work of PMSS has been critical to securing the integration of human rights in UN peacekeeping operations as well as in special political missions, primarily in relation to mission mandates, structures and concepts of operations, policy development and implementation and strategic engagement with Member States and UN departments that are dealing with peace and security issues. The Section provides thematic technical support and advice to the human rights components, Special Representatives of the Secretary-General and other parts of peace operations. It also extends human rights technical expertise and quality control in support of the Department of Field Support for the clearance, identification, recruitment and deployment of human rights staff in UN peace operations, especially with regard to start-up teams. In order to ensure thematic quality and a coherent UN approach, OHCHR maintains close coordination and communication with various UN partners, particularly the human rights components and relevant Integrated Operational Teams, and the Inter-Agency Integrated Task Forces in New York. OHCHR's active engagement in interdepartmental fora facilitates the inclusion of human rights considerations in decision-making processes, in line with requirements of the Human Rights Up Front Action Plan.

In 2015, the Secretary-General appointed a High-level Independent Panel on UN Peace Operations to shape a vision for the future of UN peace missions. Throughout the year, OHCHR actively engaged to ensure that the Panel's review reflected relevant human rights aspects and developments in its recommendations for the adoption of new approaches for future peace operations. As a result of this successful advocacy, the final report of the Panel situated human rights at the centre of United Nations efforts to address conflict.

Fourteen UN peace missions maintained a human rights component and incorporated human rights promotion and protection into their mandated work, namely in: Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Iraq, Kosovo², Liberia, Libya, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan and the Sudan (Darfur).

² Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

Human Rights Advisers in United Nations Country Teams

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

Human rights advisers are funded through extrabudgetary contributions. In some instances, cost-sharing agreements are concluded with UNDP or relevant UNCTs and other UN entities at the country level. Since 2014, new deployments are funded through a Multi-Donor Trust Fund established under the UNDG Human Rights Working Group (UNDG-HRWG), chaired by OHCHR, to support the implementation of the 2012 UNDG strategy for the deployment of new HRAs. Almost all of the UNCTs that received a HRA under the strategy managed to fulfil their commitment to the cost-sharing arrangement for the second year of the deployment. Where challenges remain in meeting this cost-sharing requirement, OHCHR will continue to support local efforts to ensure the continuation of these important deployments.

OHCHR has deployed 25 human rights advisers or national human rights officers in: Bangladesh³, Chad, the Dominican Republic³, Jamaica³, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi³, Mozambique^{3,4}, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, the Philippines³, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Serbia, Sierra Leone³, the Southern Caucasus (based in Tbilisi and covering Armenia,

Azerbaijan and Georgia), Sri Lanka, Tanzania³, Timor-Leste³, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Zambia³, as well as for UNDG regional teams in Bangkok³ and Panama³.

Engagement in Humanitarian Action

The Office sustained strong engagement in humanitarian action at the global and field levels, with a view to ensuring that the protection of human rights remains a central tenet of humanitarian action in line with the UN's Human Rights Up Front Action Plan and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's (IASC) Centrality of Protection Agenda.

At the global level, OHCHR engaged with relevant policy, strategy, decision-making and operational fora, including by maintaining consistent dialogue with and contribution to the IASC Principals, Working Group and the Emergency Directors Group. The Office continued to serve as co-chair, along with InterAction, of the Global Protection Cluster Task Team on the IASC Protection Priority. In 2015, the Task Team completed the *Independent Whole-of-System Review of Protection in Humanitarian Crises*, the findings and recommendations of which have triggered debates about strengthening protection in humanitarian action. The Task Team has also initiated the development of an IASC policy on protection.

At the field level, the Office continued working closely with Humanitarian Coordinators, Humanitarian Country Teams and Protection Clusters, ensuring that the protection of human rights was integrated in humanitarian preparedness and response. OHCHR leadership and deployments contributed to more comprehensive protection responses in various locations. An analysis of human rights monitoring experiences provided information, helped shape humanitarian decision-making and contributed to the development of more targeted responses to protection needs.

OHCHR deployments included missions to: Nepal, following the earthquake to provide support to the Protection Cluster and to the National Human Rights Commission as it assumed a co-leadership role in the Cluster; Ukraine, in support of OHCHR's role as co-lead of the Protection Cluster; Mauritania, to implement a project funded by the Central Emergency Response Fund on vulnerabilities and to provide technical advice on a human rights-based approach and the cluster system to the UNCT,

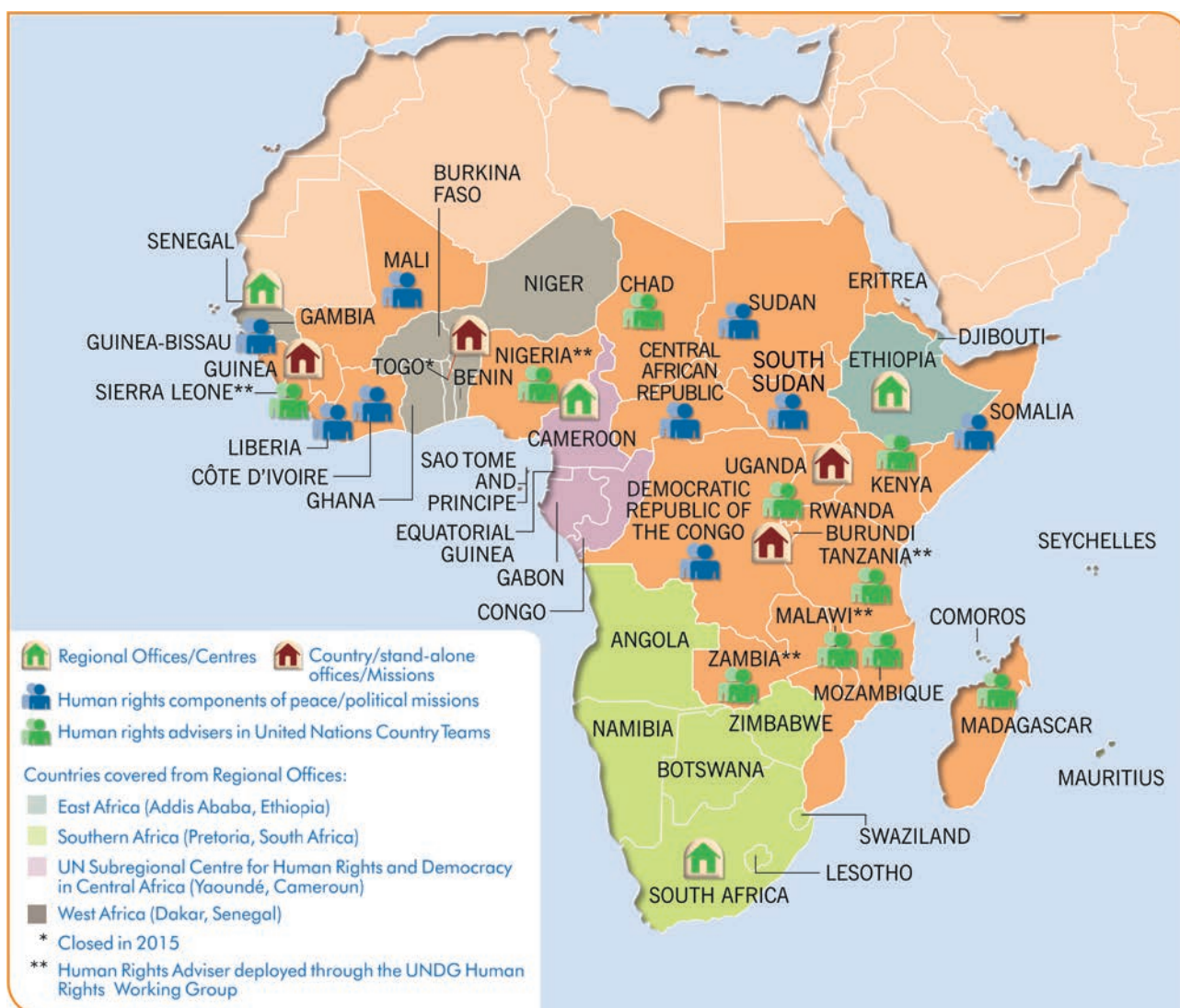
³ Deployed through the UNDG-Human Rights Working Group.

⁴ Deployment of the Human Rights Adviser is scheduled for 2016.

government and civil society organizations; and Yemen, in support of OHCHR's efforts to monitor and report on the ongoing conflict. In addition to maintaining its Protection Cluster lead in Palestine and Mauritania, OHCHR continued to co-lead Clusters in Liberia (the Protection Partners Forum co-

led with the Ministry of Justice); the Pacific (Fiji) and Ukraine, both in cooperation with UNHCR. Finally, three human rights officers were deployed to advise the humanitarian leadership working on the Syria crisis (from Lebanon), Jordan and Turkey on human rights issues.

OHCHR in the field: Africa



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

* Deployed through the UNDG-Human Rights Working Group.

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

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

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

From headquarters, the Africa Branch provided substantive, technical and administrative support to all 26 presences in the continent. It also supported the work of the Independent Experts on the human rights situations in the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Somalia and Sudan, as well as the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea. The OHCHR Office in Togo was closed in June and human rights work in the country continued through the Regional Office in Dakar.

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

Country Offices

Burundi

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

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

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



OHCHR staff members monitoring the electoral process in Burundi.

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

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

Widening the democratic space

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

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

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

Guinea (Conakry)

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

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

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

Widening the democratic space

- *Law establishing an independent national human rights institution is promulgated and the institution is established and functioning in accordance with international standards (EA 1)*
- *National legislation on the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and information is fully harmonized with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

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

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

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

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

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

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



An Ebola survivor back in school in Guinea.

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

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

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

Togo

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

Results

Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms

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

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

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

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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *The draft Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code and the prison and detention policy are adopted in compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

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

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

Uganda

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

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

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

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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Increased integration of human rights standards, including economic, social and cultural rights in the curriculum of the Judicial Studies Institute (EA 1)*
OHCHR supported the Judicial Studies Institute in the training of judges on the enforceability of economic, social and cultural rights. The training was based on a curriculum that the Institute developed in 2014 with OHCHR's assistance. Participating judges requested that the Office provide additional support at their respective courts.
- ▶ *Traditional justice authorities are increasingly respecting human rights standards when resolving conflicts in their communities (EA 1)*
With support from the Office, Ker Kwaro Acholi, the traditional cultural institution of the Acholi peoples, designed a human rights handbook for traditional authorities. The Office carried out capacity-building interventions to enable traditional authorities to competently use the handbook and integrate human rights standards and principles in their work, especially those related to non-discrimination and women's rights. OHCHR also facilitated dialogue between formal and informal justice authorities in Gulu and Moroto to highlight the different roles they play in the administration of justice and to enable them to advocate for the integration of human rights standards and principles in their work.
- ▶ *Uganda People's Defence Force, the Uganda Police Force and the Uganda Prisons Service increasingly comply with international standards on the use of force, arrest, detention and treatment of persons in custody, including in events related to counter-terrorism, treason charges and rebellion (EA 1)*
OHCHR continued building the capacity of law enforcement agencies to fully respect human rights standards and principles and the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act of 2012. The Office supported the Uganda Human Rights Commission in the organization and facilitation of five training workshops to sensitize 237 participants from law enforcement agencies and local authorities about general human rights issues, although the workshops mainly focused on the Torture Act and public freedoms. The Office also supported the Commission to develop draft regulations for the Torture Act. OHCHR facilitated two trainings for senior law enforcement officers from the Chieftaincy of Military Intelligence and the Criminal Intelligence and Investigation Division of the police on human rights standards applicable to interrogations in the context of counter-terrorism operations.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- ▶ *Legislation, policies and institutional practices substantively comply with non-discrimination and equality standards, particularly with regard to gender, LGBTI persons, persons with disabilities and persons living with HIV/AIDS (EA 4)*
The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Division developed a framework that would enable it to track progress of its implementation of Uganda's commitments under CEDAW and other regional gender instruments. OHCHR advised the Ministry on the development of the instrument.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *Increased compliance of national, sector and local government development plans with international human rights standards and principles (EA 1)*
In collaboration with the National Planning Authority and the Uganda Human Rights Commissioner, OHCHR conducted a national-level workshop, bringing together 109 experts on planning, monitoring and evaluation from ministries and local governments. The workshop resulted in the development and adoption of human rights indicators to monitor and evaluate the Government's compliance with its own human rights commitments included in the National Development Plan II, Sector Implementation Plans and Local Government Development Plans. The Office also trained 176 NGO programme staff members from Arua, Gulu, Mbale, Mbarara and Moroto on a human rights-based approach to support their monitoring of the implementation of the National Development Plan II.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *Legal frameworks, legislation, regulations and policies increasingly respect and protect public freedoms and democratic principles and government actors increasingly respect them (EA 1)*
OHCHR strengthened the capacity of the Uganda Police Force (UPF) to integrate human rights standards that relate to the protection of and respect for public freedoms and democratic principles, in two internal documents. OHCHR provided technical assistance for the review of the UPF Standing Orders and the development of Standard Operating Procedures relating to the Public Order Management Act. Moreover, the UPF has increasingly interpreted the Public Order Management Act in a restrictive way, particularly regarding the organization of assemblies, which has hindered the exercise of public freedoms. In 2015, OHCHR registered at least 35 assemblies

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

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

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

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

Regional Offices and Centres

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

Year established	2001
Staff as of 31 December 2015	12
Expenditure in 2015	US\$1,475,167

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

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

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

- ▶ *NHRIs and civil society organizations effectively monitor human rights and engage with treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR in Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon (EA 7)*
- Following a capacity-building workshop facilitated by OHCHR, in March, human rights defenders, civil society actors and the National Human Rights Commission in Gabon increased their capacity to draft reports to the human rights mechanisms and monitor the implementation of recommendations that are issued by the mechanisms. In Cameroon, OHCHR supported the creation of thematic networks by civil society organizations to monitor the implementation of rights enshrined in specific treaties such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), CRPD and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). The Office also advocated for further engagement with regional mechanisms, notably the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR).

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

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

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

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

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

Regional Office for East Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

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

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

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

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

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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

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

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

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

Widening the democratic space

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

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

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

Regional Office for Southern Africa (Pretoria, South Africa)

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

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms in Angola and Mozambique (EA 6)*
In Mozambique, a road map was agreed upon in December for the establishment of a mechanism to report and follow up on recommendations. It is expected that the Interministerial Committee will be established in the first half of 2016.
- *Positive reply to special procedures mandate-holders requests to visit Swaziland and Zimbabwe (EA 6)*
While no visits were undertaken by the special procedures to Swaziland or Zimbabwe, there were three visits to the region: the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation visited Botswana in November; the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons visited Mauritius in May; and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women visited South Africa in December. In addition, Lesotho issued a standing invitation to the special procedures.
- *The number and diversity of civil society actors and UNCTs submitting information to the UPR*

in Angola, Comoros, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, Swaziland and Zimbabwe is increased or maintained (EA 7)

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

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

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

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

Regional Office for Southern Africa (Pretoria, South Africa): Expenditure in 2015

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	119,985	545,149
Activities and operating costs	23,800	164,606
Subtotal	143,785	709,755
Programme support costs	-	92,268
GRAND TOTAL	143,785	802,023

Widening the democratic space

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

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

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

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

Regional Office for West Africa (Dakar, Senegal)

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

Results

Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

► *National laws have been harmonized with regional and international standards on non-discrimination and equality in Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, the Gambia and Senegal (EA 4)*

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

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

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

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

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

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

Widening the democratic space

- *A national human rights institution has been established and works in conformity with international standards in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, the Gambia and Senegal (EA 1)*
- With the support of the Regional Office, NHRIs have been established, strengthened or are in the process of being set up in countries of the region. In Burkina Faso, a law reviewing the statute of the NHRI, compliant with the Paris Principles, was drafted and validated with technical assistance from OHCHR. In Cape Verde, OHCHR's advocacy led to the creation of the Ombudsman Office in line with the Paris Principles. The Regional Office also contributed to the increased knowledge of the staff of the NHRI in relation to the international human rights protection system and methodologies on monitoring and reporting on

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

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

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

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



OHCHR staff members monitoring the electoral process in Burkina Faso.

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

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

*Not his real name.

Human Rights Components in UN Peace Missions

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

Year established	2000
Staff as of 31 December 2015	85

Results

Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms

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

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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

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

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

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

Widening the democratic space

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

Year established	2004
Staff as of 31 December 2015	64

Results

Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms

► *Improved engagement with the international human rights mechanisms by the Government through the establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms and the timely submission of reports to treaty bodies and the UPR; and full cooperation with special procedures mandate-holders, especially the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire (EA 2)*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Widening the democratic space

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

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

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



Students at a primary school in Côte d'Ivoire.

African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2015	87

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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



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

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

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

- *Establishment of frameworks, policies, mechanisms and initiatives to prevent and respond to human rights violations by State and non-State actors in the context of conflict, violence and insecurity (EA 3)*
The Ministry of Justice appointed new prosecutors in all Darfur states, thereby contributing to an increase in the number of cases brought before the courts for judicial redress in all five regions of Darfur. Moreover, out of the 151 cases the HRS reported to Government authorities, 46 were investigated which led to 30 arrests and 14 trials. Also, due to long-standing advocacy undertaken by various actors, including the HRS, a number of amendments were made, in February, to provisions in the Sudan Criminal Act. This resulted in important changes to legislation addressing the crime of rape.

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

Year established	1996 (as a stand-alone office) and 2008 (integration with the Human Rights Division of DPKO)
Staff as of 31 December 2015	123

Results

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

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

- *Development of a nationally-owned holistic framework for transitional justice (EA 3)*
On 10 December, Parliament adopted the final version of the legislation implementing the Rome Statute, which was promulgated by the President in January 2016. The adoption of this legislation represents a positive development with respect to the fight against impunity as it: addresses a gap in the previous legislative framework by adding definitions of international crimes to the Penal Code; abolishes immunity for officials, including the President and Members of Parliament; provides that amnesty cannot be granted for international crimes; and contains provisions strengthening the cooperation of the DRC with the International Criminal Court. Nevertheless,

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

Widening the democratic space

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The DRC's UNDAF midterm review was finalized



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



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

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

United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau

Year established	1999 (as the Human Rights Section of UNOGBIS; as an integrated mission since 2010)
Staff as of 31 December 2015	13

Results

Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms

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

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

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Increase of 30 per cent in the representation of women in parliament, the judiciary and in governor positions (EA 4)*
In 2015, the President of the Republic, the President of the Parliament and the Prime Minister committed to undertaking measures to address women's rights, in particular the right to political participation. To contribute to this effort, the HRS supported the preparation of the *Canchungo Declaration*, which was approved by the National Assembly. The Declaration outlined 16 practical actions to facilitate gender mainstreaming, including the establishment of a minimum quota of 40 per cent for women's representation at all levels of the decision-making process.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Human rights are an integral part of the training programmes of the Bar Association; the refresher courses for judges; and recruitment training for security forces (army and police) and corrections personnel (EA 1)*
In 2015, the HRS provided training to two groups of 60 magistrates and 60 investigators, both civilian and military, on international human rights standards with a particular focus on the independence of judges, prosecutors and lawyers. As a result of the training, national authorities proposed a revision of the Code of Military Justice, which is in contradiction with some provisions of the Constitution.

Widening the democratic space

- *A nationwide human rights network established and fully functioning (EA 5)*
The HRS continued to support the Network of Human Rights Defenders, established in 2013, in its efforts to establish offices in the country's regions. It also trained additional human rights focal points in three regions, primarily consisting of members of youth organizations, women's associations and persons with disabilities. Following the training, the human rights focal points were able to effectively identify and report on human rights violations in their respective communities, both to the UN and to local authorities.

United Nations Mission in Liberia

Year established	2003
Staff as of 31 December 2015	44

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

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

- *Periodic and final reviews of One Programme indicate that human rights have been mainstreamed in the majority of UN programmes and are based on a human rights-friendly monitoring and evaluation framework (EA 11)*

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

Widening the democratic space

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

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

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

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

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali

Year established	2013
Staff as of 31 December 2015	73

Results

Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms

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



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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *A credible and independent Truth and Reconciliation Commission is functioning, like other transitional justice mechanisms, in compliance with international standards (EA 3)*
- The Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission, established in January, became operational with the appointment of its President in August and 14 Commissioners in October. The Human Rights Division (HRD) of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) provided technical advice to the Commissioners and other members in the elaboration of internal working documents, such as rules, a strategy and an action plan. In addition, the HRD trained Commissioners on the norms and principles of transitional justice. It provided support to members of the Commission in carrying out field visits to northern and southern regions of Mali to meet with local authorities and civil society in order to raise awareness about the Commission's mandate, discuss its strategy and vision and the concerns and expectations of the local population regarding justice and reconciliation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2015	20

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

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

Widening the democratic space

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

United Nations Mission in South Sudan

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2015	111

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Ratification of ICCPR, ICESCR, CEDAW, CRC, CERD, ACHPR and their related protocols, without reservations, including the ICCPR-OP2 (EA 2)*
On 30 April, South Sudan acceded to CEDAW and its Optional Protocol; the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) and its Optional Protocol; and the CRC. The Human Rights Division (HRD) of the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) supported the ratification process through the provision of technical assistance to the Ministry of Justice, line ministries and Parliament.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- ▶ *Participation of CSOs, women, youth, persons with disabilities and faith-based groups in the constitutional and law review processes (EA 5)*
Due to the ongoing crisis, processes related to constitutional review were suspended. The Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan of August 2015 provides for the establishment of the National Constitutional Amendment Committee to draft the necessary constitutional amendments for the transition to take place. The process has not been initiated, however, due to delays in implementation of the Agreement. When the process commences, the HRD will advocate for the participation of rights-holders, including women and discriminated-against groups.



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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Establishment of a moratorium on the application of the death penalty (EA 1)*
Death sentences continued to be imposed in South Sudan and no official moratorium has been established.
- ▶ *Increased number of cases brought before the judiciary which follow fair trials and due process and in which customary law has been applied in compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)*
The continuing conflict has further weakened the judicial system in South Sudan, where the judicial and law enforcement actors have limited capacity to administer justice in accordance with international human rights standards. This is coupled with a complete absence of statutory justice institutions in large portions of the country. For instance, in states like Unity and Upper Nile State, there is no functioning court system. The impact is evident across every element of the criminal justice system, resulting in such abuses as arbitrary arrests and detentions, prolonged detentions, failure to respect fair trial processes and ill-treatment, among other human rights concerns. The HRD followed 65 trials and observed that human rights standards, including due process and fair trial guarantees, are rarely complied with during proceedings. In this context, customary courts continue to handle a significant number of cases and this trend has increased considerably during the conflict. There is also growing evidence of traditional authorities taking on the role of local-level criminal courts, adjudicating cases beyond their jurisdiction, violating fair trial standards and imposing illegal fines and sentences; all of which are in

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

Widening the democratic space

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Human Rights Advisers in UN Country Teams

Chad

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2015	3

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

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

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

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

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

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

Kenya

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2015	5

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *An effective and efficient participatory standing national coordinating body on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms is in place (EA 6)*

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

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

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

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

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

Widening the democratic space

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



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

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

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

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

Madagascar

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2015	5

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

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

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

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

Widening the democratic space

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



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

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

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

Malawi

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2015	1

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

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

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

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

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

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

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

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

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

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

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

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

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

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

Niger

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

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

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

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

Widening the democratic space

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

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

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

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

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

Nigeria

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2015	1

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

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

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

programme includes substantive human rights and humanitarian principles.

- ▶ *The National Human Rights Commission effectively monitors and reports on human rights issues, especially in the North East (EA 3)*

Based on a programme designed by the HRA, the National Human Rights Commission deployed approximately 300 monitors to the North East and North Central zones as part of a mechanism for the systematic monitoring of and reporting on the human rights situation in areas affected by the insurgency and insecurity. Moreover, the security agencies allowed the National Human Rights Commission to monitor Courts Martial that were established to try security personnel for omissions and commissions in the conduct of operations.

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

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

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

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

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

Rwanda

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2015	4

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *National courts increasingly invoke human rights laws and principles in their proceedings and final decisions (EA 1)*
- The HRA carried out trainings on the application of international human rights standards in domestic courts for over 200 judges. The judges came from different court jurisdictions in Rwanda and it is expected that they will apply this knowledge in their respective court decisions.

Sierra Leone

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2015	1

Results

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

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

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

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

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

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

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

United Republic of Tanzania

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2015	1

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms and reports to CEDAW, CERD, CESCR and the Human Rights Committee submitted in conformity with reporting guidelines (EA 6)*

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

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

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

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *The justice system increasingly investigates and prosecutes crimes against people with albinism and survivors and their families are provided with effective remedies, redress and rehabilitation (EA 1)*

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



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

Widening the democratic space

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

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

Zambia

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2015	1

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

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

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

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 *SIPLUS 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

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

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

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

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

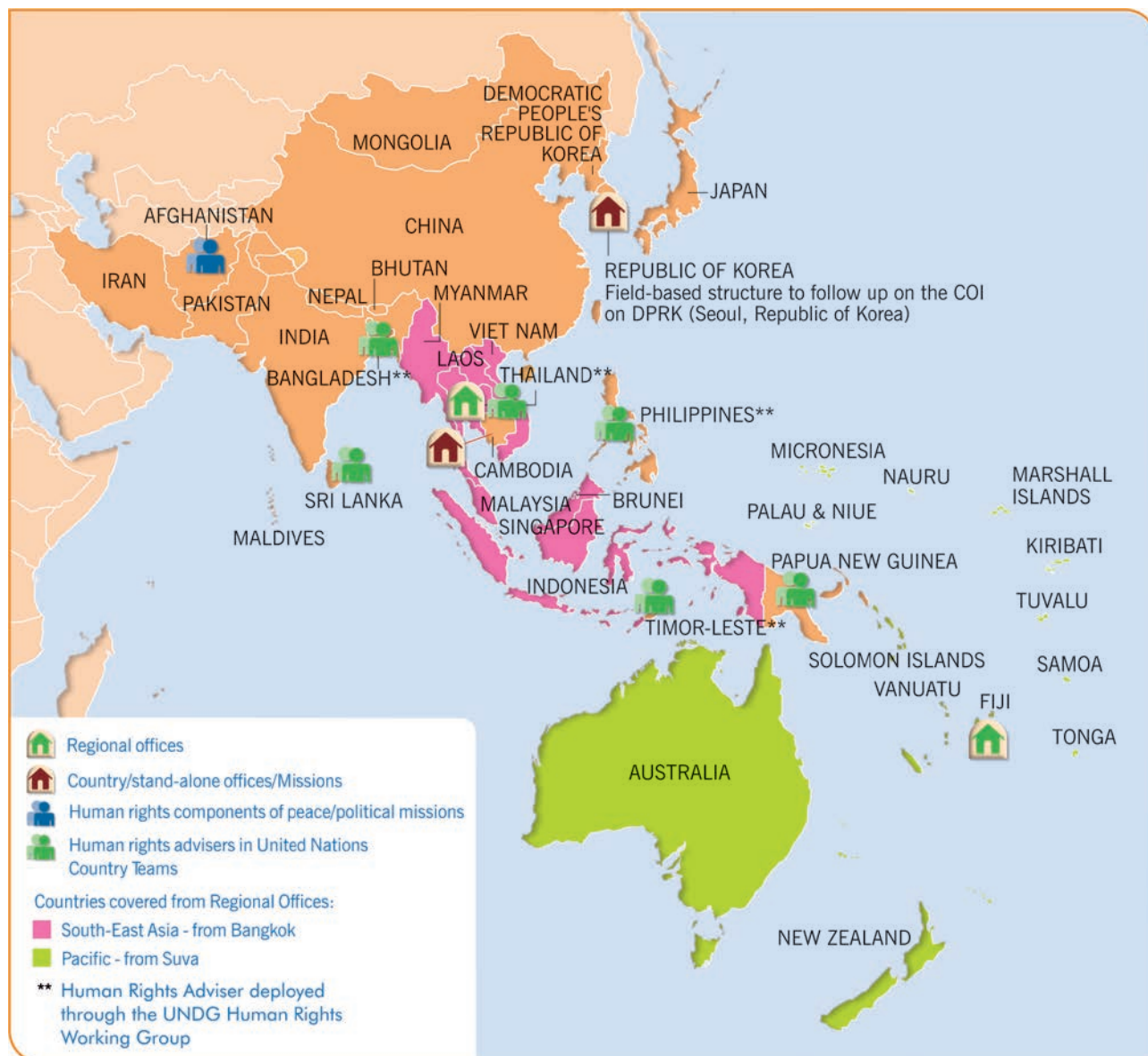
regional meetings with indigenous women on their rights to participation, prior consultation and land. This contributed to strengthening their capacities to participate in public life. Following these consultations, the HRA assisted the Secretary of Social Action in the development of a protocol for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

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.

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 measured 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

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.

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.

OHCHR in the field: Europe and Central Asia



Type of presence	Location
Special mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ukraine
Regional offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic) Europe (Brussels, Belgium)
Human rights section in UN Peace Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kosovo**
Human rights advisers/officers in United Nations Country Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Republic of Moldova Russian Federation Serbia South Caucasus (based in Tbilisi, covering Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

** Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

The work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in the Europe and Central Asia region covers 54 countries, including candidates, potential candidates and Members of the European Union (EU), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Council of Europe (CoE) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), as well as disputed territories run by de facto authorities. During the course of the year, OHCHR continued strengthening its engagement with these countries and authorities

and provided backstopping for 10 field presences: Regional Offices in Brussels (for Europe) and in Bishkek (for Central Asia); human rights advisers in the Russian Federation, Serbia, South Caucasus (based in Tbilisi, covering Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia), Tajikistan and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; national human rights officers in the Republic of Moldova and Kosovo⁵; and the Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU). The Office continued to strengthen its cooperation with regional organizations and its close partnerships with UN agencies and United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs).

OHCHR continued providing support to the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Belarus (with reports presented to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly) and drafted the annual report to the Human Rights Council on the human rights situation in Cyprus. OHCHR also contributed to the 2015 Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly on internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Georgia,

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

which called on relevant stakeholders to become more decisively engaged in upholding their human rights obligations. With assistance from headquarters, the HRMMU released four quarterly reports on the human rights situation in Ukraine, in line with Human Rights Council resolution 29/23, and co-led the Protection Cluster with UNHCR.

In the context of the Secretary-General's Human Rights Up Front Action Plan, OHCHR continued to identify and analyse early signs of emerging crises, with a view to recommending innovative ways to address situations likely to result in human rights violations. These efforts included the substantive preparation of, participation in and follow-up to three Europe and Central Asia Regional Quarterly Reviews, covering Belarus, the Republic of Moldova, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as well as Central Asia and the South Caucasus. Together with the Department of Political Affairs, OHCHR provided operational support for the joint mission led by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and for the human rights surge capacity deployment to the Republic of Moldova.

OHCHR supported missions undertaken by the High Commissioner of Human Rights (to France, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights (to Ukraine) and also provided substantive inputs prior to the visits of the Secretary-General to Belgium and Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan).

Special Mission

Ukraine

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2015	34
Expenditure in 2015	US\$3,677,836

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *A National Human Rights Action Plan, deriving from the Human Rights Strategy for Ukraine developed in 2014, integrates recommendations from UN human rights mechanisms (EA 6)*
A draft national human rights action plan



Local residents in the Luhansk region of Ukraine talk to OHCHR staff about violations to their economic and social rights.

was developed by the Government and is currently pending approval. OHCHR supported the preparation of the draft by stressing the importance of reflecting the recommendations issued by the UN human rights mechanisms in relation to Ukraine and advising the drafters to structure the draft plan in accordance with the guidelines found in the OHCHR Handbook on National Human Rights Plans of Action. The Government eventually endorsed an appropriate structure and the draft action plan now identifies key objectives, well-defined activities, a clear implementation timeframe, responsible actors as well as benchmarks and indicators in order to monitor their implementation. The Office facilitated the participation of UN agencies in the drafting process by organizing a working group, composed of 10 UN agencies, which met regularly to coordinate their inputs to the draft. In addition, a UNCT assessment of the draft, which was based on consultations with UN agencies and substantive support provided by OHCHR, was submitted to the Government of Ukraine by the UN Resident Coordinator in November.

- *Enhanced systematic engagement by the UNCT with international human rights mechanisms (EA 11)*
The UNCT in Ukraine increasingly engaged with the human rights mechanisms in 2015. To raise the awareness of the UNCT regarding the recommendations issued by the mechanisms in relation to Ukraine, OHCHR prepared a compendium of the recommendations, clustered by theme, which it updated twice during the year. The Office also organized briefings for the UNCT on the occasion of the September visit of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and in anticipation of the presentation of its four public reports on human rights developments in Ukraine.



The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights visits a church in the Luhansk region which was damaged during shelling in 2014.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

A draft human rights action plan, yet to be approved by the Government, outlines activities aimed at addressing discrimination against minorities by, for instance, calling for the harmonization of anti-discrimination legislation. It also provides for amendments to the Criminal Code which would punish hate crimes, including those committed as a result of the sexual orientation of the victim. OHCHR participated in the working groups that developed the draft human rights strategy and its action plan. Another encouraging development was Parliament's adoption, on 12 November, of amendments to labour legislation which now expressly identifies sexual orientation and gender identity as prohibited grounds of discrimination in employment relations. Throughout the year, OHCHR recalled Ukraine's international human rights commitments and its obligation to implement anti-discrimination recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

OHCHR supported accountability for human rights violations, including in the context of torture and ill-treatment of people deprived of their liberty, through a number of activities. As an example, the Office provided the NPM with lists of detained individuals who are alleged victims of mistreatment. As a result, the NPM began to undertake regular visits to places of detention. Representatives of law enforcement agencies, the Ministry of Defence and the Offices of the Prosecutor General and the Military Prosecutor of

Ukraine raised their awareness about international standards relating to protection and accountability due to training activities jointly organized by OHCHR and the Ombudsman's Office.

Additionally, over 300 victims of torture received legal aid and psychological support from an NGO supported by OHCHR. Together, these and other activities have resulted in enhanced knowledge among relevant stakeholders about international standards relating to protection systems and accountability mechanisms. These efforts must continue to be pursued, however, as there is little evidence that the human rights protections of people deprived of their liberty have significantly improved in 2015 or that violations are being better addressed.

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

► *Mechanisms and initiatives are adopted to increase human rights protection in contexts of conflict, violence and insecurity (EA 3)*

OHCHR actively advocated for protection issues with State and non-State actors in the context of the conflict. The need for the evacuation of civilians from the conflict area was discussed with Government officials and in mid-February, the State Emergency Service announced that over 7,000 civilians would be evacuated from endangered locations in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. The Office also urged the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights not to support two draft laws that would prohibit trade between Government-controlled territories and areas controlled by de facto authorities. The economic and social impact of the laws would have been devastating for the most vulnerable groups. Neither of the draft laws were adopted.

Additionally, OHCHR participated in an international conference on the role of NHRIs in conflict and post-conflict situations that was

organized by the Ombudsman's Institution of Ukraine in October. The Office shared its methodology on monitoring and documenting human rights violations, moderated a panel discussion on the role of NHRIs in protecting civil rights and contributed to the development of the "Kyiv Declaration" that was adopted by the participants. The Declaration states that NHRIs are required to monitor, document and investigate human rights violations objectively and impartially; promote a dialogue between conflicting parties to ensure respect of human rights; and take measures to overcome the consequences of conflict, including by contributing to the fight against impunity and the promotion of transitional justice processes.

In 2015, OHCHR prepared and presented four public reports on the human rights situation in Ukraine. The reports contained recommendations related to the human rights challenges in the east and Crimea, as well as to issues of accountability, administration of justice, respect for fundamental freedoms, minority rights, women's rights and economic and social rights. The reports were translated into the Ukrainian and Russian languages and disseminated throughout the region.

- *Increased responsiveness of the international community to potential, emerging or existing human rights crisis situations, with human rights protection as an integral element of this response (EA 10)*

OHCHR strived to ensure that human rights were mainstreamed in the international community's response to humanitarian challenges in Ukraine in different ways. As co-lead of the Protection Cluster, the Office advocated with the Emergency Directors of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee for increased engagement with Mine Action; greater freedom of movement to and from the conflict area; and the need to ensure that the needs of vulnerable groups and at-risk persons who are living outside the protection areas of concern are fully taken into account when planning the humanitarian response. Consequently, the outcome messages published by the Emergency Directors largely reflected the human rights issues advocated by the Protection Cluster. OHCHR provided human rights-specific input into the drafting of 18 UN publications, such as guidance notes, fact sheets and advocacy documents. It also ensured that human rights were integrated in the Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment that was conducted by the Government of Ukraine, the EU, the UN and the World Bank, as well as in the UN Humanitarian Needs Overview and the Humanitarian Response Plan.

Ukraine: Expenditure in 2015

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	2,166,214
Activities and operating costs	-	1,138,730
Subtotal	-	3,304,944
Programme support costs	-	372,892
GRAND TOTAL	-	3,677,836

Regional Offices

Regional Office for Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan)

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2015	18
Expenditure in 2015	US\$811,316

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Recommendations from all human rights mechanisms related to, inter alia, the administration of justice and the right to adequate housing implemented in Kazakhstan (EA 6)*
The Government of Kazakhstan developed a draft action plan for the implementation of recommendations issued during the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). OHCHR provided comments on the plan and co-organized a national workshop with UN Women for State authorities on the development of a national human rights action plan. This contributed to their increased understanding about the topic and enhanced their awareness about the importance of human rights indicators.
- *Establishment and/or fully functioning participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (EA 6)*
As a result of OHCHR's advocacy, a system of human rights focal points was established within each of the institutions that compose

the Coordination Council on Human Rights of Kyrgyzstan. The Office also contributed to the establishment of two working groups under the Coordination Council's Secretariat. The first working group was tasked with drafting the National Human Rights Action Plan and the second was tasked with developing a mechanism for the implementation of recommendations issued by international human rights mechanisms. In addition, OHCHR developed a compendium of all recommendations received that were clustered into 25 thematic areas. The compendium is being used by the working group in charge of developing the first draft of the National Human Rights Action Plan which is expected to be ready in 2016.

In Tajikistan, the Inter-Agency Commission functions as a coordinating mechanism. OHCHR assisted the Commission with the creation of a website that included information on the implementation of recommendations. It also provided support on the holding of a public consultation regarding the UPR State report. More than 50 representatives of State authorities, NGOs and international organizations participated and provided comments.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

With the support of OHCHR and other international organizations, seven key draft laws were finalized in 2014 in relation to the administration of justice, including the Criminal Code, the Code on Misdemeanours, the Criminal Procedure Code, the Criminal Executive Code, the Civil Procedure Code and legislation on enforcement proceedings. The Laws were adopted by Parliament in the first reading in June. While the Criminal Procedure Code contains a number of progressive provisions in compliance with international human rights standards, a number of shortcomings were identified, for instance, in relation to excessive use of pre-trial detention. As a result of OHCHR's advocacy, a Working Group was established to ensure harmonization between the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code and their further compliance with international standards.

- *Human rights training institutionalized for judges and prosecutors in Kyrgyzstan (EA 1)*
- The Lawyers' Training Centre and the Bar Association are developing a mandatory training

for all newly licensed lawyers based on OHCHR's training course on human rights for lawyers. The Office is supporting this process by developing training materials and carrying out a number of training-of-trainers sessions for judges, prosecutors and lawyers. In Tajikistan, the Judicial Training Centre of the Council of Justice agreed to use the training manual, developed with OHCHR's support, for the training of judges on fair trial standards.

- *National Preventive Mechanisms against torture as provided for under the OP-CAT are fully functioning in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan (EA 3)*

In Kyrgyzstan, prison authorities and law enforcement agencies granted the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) with full access to places of detention for the first time. In Kazakhstan, the Office contributed to strengthening the capacity of the 145 newly elected members of the NPM on the standards of preventive visits and supported the Ombudsman on the launch of the first public report of the NPM.

Widening the democratic space

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

New legislation that would have increased State control over civil society actors in Kyrgyzstan, such as a law granting broad powers to State authorities to interfere in the internal affairs of NGOs, did not enter into force. The Office contributed to this result by undertaking consistent advocacy, providing expert advice to State authorities and issuing press releases on the draft laws, in addition to other advocacy and outreach activities.

- *National legislation and policies in the area of public freedoms improve compliance with international standards in Kazakhstan (EA 1)*

In Kazakhstan, despite concerns repeatedly raised by OHCHR and other actors, legislation was adopted which reduced the democratic space of NGOs. The Office's advocacy efforts were nevertheless instrumental in the improvement of a draft law on access to information and in a ruling handed down by the Constitutional Council on the draft law on protecting children from harmful information which eliminated its potentially discriminatory effects.

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

At the end of a national conference on the participation of minorities in public affairs that

was co-organized by UN partners, including OHCHR and the OSCE, the Presidential Administration proposed to establish four working groups to develop and agree on concrete measures to promote the increased participation of minorities. Moreover, through collaboration with the Training Centre of the National Commission on State Language, OHCHR contributed to the development of materials to teach the Kyrgyz language to civil servants, in particular those from ethnic minority communities who do not speak Kyrgyz and may otherwise risk losing their jobs. As of November, approximately 300 civil servants have started taking the language classes. In addition, as a result of the Office's training of youth and civil society representatives on human rights, diversity and civic participation, youth groups have implemented a number of awareness-raising activities, including a campaign on minority rights in the south of Kyrgyzstan.

**Regional Office for Central Asia
(Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan):
Expenditure in 2015**

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	394,354	159,928
Activities and operating costs	155,274	70,910
Subtotal	549,628	230,838
Programme support costs	-	30,850
GRAND TOTAL	549,628	261,688

In the framework of the UN project, "Unity in Diversity," the Regional Office for Central Asia conducted a series of training sessions for 75 young civil society activists that covered basic human rights concepts and civil society participation. Following the training, a number of participants approached the Office to request support for some awareness-raising activities that they wanted to organize to promote minority rights. Arseniy Maslov, who facilitated a session on human rights and diversity management for the staff members of his civil society organization, said "I gained comprehensive knowledge of effective tools and instruments to promote ethnic tolerance and diversity management and deepened my knowledge of human rights. It is amazing to see how these mechanisms can help in solving difficult problems such as ethnic intolerance. The OHCHR trainings have motivated and inspired me immensely, and I want to share this experience as much as possible." He also conducted diversity management classes for school students in Bishkek, including through interactive games, which addressed the issue of stereotyping of ethnic minorities in Kyrgyzstan. "Through the trainings, I learned about useful instruments to break stereotypes and promote ethnic tolerance. It is amazing to witness how pupils can change, giving away their stereotypes. I believe it is very important to continue my commitments and to reinforce an environment where we can build a tolerant society," stated Arseniy.

**Regional Office for Europe
(Brussels, Belgium)**

Year established	2009
Staff as of 31 December 2015	8
Expenditure in 2015	US\$1,179,133

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

In 2015, OHCHR organized a series of trainings, briefings and meetings on international human rights mechanisms and directly contributed to the increased awareness of national human rights institutions (NHRIs), civil society organizations

and rights-holders in the region. By way of illustration, a workshop was organized for rights-holders and civil society organizations from six States on the preparation of alternative reports to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and individual complaints under its Optional Protocol. Some participating civil society organizations are currently preparing alternative reports.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Comprehensive non-discrimination directive aimed at protecting individuals from discrimination on the grounds of disability, age, religion and sexual orientation in education, health care, social protection and access to goods and services, including housing, is closer to adoption (EA 4)*

In 2015, no progress was achieved regarding the adoption of the EU comprehensive non-discrimination directive, despite the statement made by the President of the European Commission when taking Office in November 2014 that the adoption would be a priority for the new Commission. OHCHR will continue to advocate for its adoption with member states and other stakeholders.

- *Roma inclusion policies in at least three States in the region comply with the recommendations of international human rights mechanisms, with a particular focus on article 3 of ICERD (prohibition of segregation) (EA 4)*

In some States in the region, no progress was achieved in relation to Roma inclusion policies. During a mission to France, prior to the planned forced evictions of two migrant Roma settlements, OHCHR met with State officials in an effort to persuade the Government not to carry out these plans. OHCHR highlighted the recommendations issued by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in June regarding the need for alternative accommodation and access to education for children. Nevertheless, the evictions took place as planned. On the other hand, the European Commission published a draft guidance note on combating segregation in education and housing in the use of European Structural and Investment Funds. The draft was strongly influenced by the outcome of OHCHR's international colloquium held in Madrid, in 2014, entitled *Roma housing segregation as a human rights challenge*. This can be regarded as a major step forward in contributing to the implementation of article 3 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) in the 28 member



A refugee child at a reception centre in Rome, Italy.

states of the EU. The Office also provided written comments on the draft.

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

OHCHR contributed to increasing the capacity of NHRIs and rights-holders to address discrimination issues through a series of activities, including the organization of seminars and other advocacy events. On Roma rights, activities continued to highlight the importance of a human rights-based approach to Roma integration policies at the EU and member state levels. At a workshop on the rights of Travellers in Belgium, France, Ireland, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, focus was placed on how NHRIs and civil society organizations can make better use of international human rights mechanisms in their efforts to strengthen the promotion and protection of their rights. At the 10th conference of Ombudsmen of EU member states in Warsaw, a broader effort was made to engage Ombudspersons, NHRIs and equality bodies in Europe in more activities vis-à-vis the Roma, among other vulnerable groups.

- *Increased integration of human rights of migrants in international and regional processes relevant to migration (EA 10)*

OHCHR issued press releases in relation to several countries where the treatment of migrants gave rise to serious concerns. In the Czech Republic, this led to an improvement in detention conditions and practices. In cooperation with UNHCR and national partners, OHCHR delivered two training-of-trainers workshops to

border guards, mainly from EU member states, on human rights, with a particular focus on the rights of migrants. The Office delivered training modules on interception and the deprivation of liberty and contributed to other elements of the training to ensure that international human rights standards were fully incorporated. As a result, the understanding of participants increased regarding international and regional human rights standards as they relate to migrants. Since then, border guards from several States have begun to deliver their own trainings.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

OHCHR contributed to the increased capacity of rights-holders in Belgium, France, Greece, Latvia and Northern Ireland to design and monitor public policies. For example, the Office cooperated with the European Expert Group on the Transition from Institutional to Community-Based Care to deliver a seminar in Greece on independent living and alternative care of children. A total of 30 participants attended the seminar, including local authorities, civil society organizations and the Ombudsman institution. OHCHR also held a series of meetings and workshops with civil society organizations in Belgium and France to increase the capacity of participants to advocate for legislative and policy reforms regarding the right to independent living. OHCHR also organized a workshop on the rights of Travellers in Belgium, France, Ireland, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom for civil society organizations, NHRIs and other rights-holders. This contributed to their increased capacity to engage with the human rights mechanisms.

- *Global, regional, and national actors increasingly integrate international human rights principles and standards, including the right to development, in their development, finance, trade and investment policies (EA 10)*

The revised EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy, aimed at mainstreaming human rights into all EU external policy areas, was adopted in

July. The Action Plan reflects international human rights standards and provides greater detail on a human rights-based approach than the previous versions. OHCHR contributed to this result by providing input and advice during the drafting process.

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

- *Implementation of the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive, the Strategy and the Action Paper, in accordance with international human rights law in countries in the region (EA 1)*

Representatives from the Ministries of Interior, Justice and Foreign Affairs in Albania, Estonia, Georgia, Italy, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Spain, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine, increased their awareness and understanding of international and regional human rights standards related to trafficking following two training-of-trainers sessions on combating and preventing trafficking in human beings. The trainings were organized by the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the EU. OHCHR delivered training modules on the human rights-based approach to identifying and interviewing victims and emphasized the need to integrate a gender perspective in all phases of identifying and interviewing victims of trafficking. In addition, OHCHR contributed material on international human rights obligations in relation to human trafficking for the online training tool targeted to national trainers to increase their capacity and knowledge on the subject.



OHCHR staff members and the Secretary-General for Human Rights of the Greek Ministry of Justice meet with a representative of the Orthodox Church's charity Agalia, which has been operating a reception centre for migrants in Skala Sikamniyas.

Regional Office for Europe (Brussels, Belgium): Expenditure in 2015

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	733,292	8,240
Activities and operating costs	121,303	278,962
Subtotal	854,595	287,202
Programme support costs		37,336
GRAND TOTAL	854,595	324,538

On 14 October, the Regional Office for Europe, in collaboration with the European Disability Forum, organized a workshop in Brussels for civil society organizations to strengthen their engagement with the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Participants included civil society organizations from Cyprus, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal, Serbia and Slovakia in anticipation of the upcoming reviews of their respective countries by the Committee. Two Committee members were featured speakers at the workshop. The sessions focused on the role of NGOs in the reporting cycle and included practical exercises on drafting an alternative report and/or replies to lists of issues. The workshop provided the Regional Office with a unique opportunity to join forces with a leading disability organization. It was also the first time that the Office organized a fully accessible event. Participants informed OHCHR that they would be preparing input for their respective reviews and called for the organization of an annual workshop.

Human Rights Section in UN Peace Mission

Kosovo⁶

Year established	Stand-alone office closed in 2015 and was replaced by a Human Rights Section within the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
------------------	---

Staff as of 31 December 2015	4
------------------------------	---

Results

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- ▶ *Legislation to combat discrimination is adopted and implemented in line with international human rights standards (EA 4)*

In May, the Human Rights Law Package, including the Law on the Ombudsperson Institution, the Law on Gender Equality and the Law on Non-discrimination, was endorsed by Kosovo's Parliament. The drafting of the laws, which are in broad compliance with human rights standards, was supported by the Council of Europe and OHCHR.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

The appointment of a new chairman of the Interministerial Working Group on Dealing with the Past and Reconciliation reactivated the transitional justice process in 2015, following a year of limited improvement. The Working Group, with the strong engagement of civil society, initiated a mapping and assessment of the existing transitional justice legislation, policies and programmes in order to inform the development of a strategy document. With the support of UN organizations, including OHCHR, seven thematic workshops were held to contribute to the Working Group's increased understanding of the transitional justice process. The workshops focused on institutional reform, transformative reparations, truth finding initiatives, conflict-

⁶ Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

related property issues, use of official languages and archiving and political prisoners. Several public debates and other advocacy initiatives were carried out to ensure the visibility of the process and promote the recognition of the rights of victims, particularly victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). OHCHR was particularly instrumental in ensuring minority representation in the Working Group.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *Human rights duly taken into consideration in the drafting process of the new United Nations Common Development Plan document. Human rights accountability of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo/European Union Rule of Law Mission is increased (EA 11)*
OHCHR actively participated in the preparation of the new United Nations Common Development Plan for the period 2016-2020 which addresses three priority areas: governance and the rule of law; social inclusion; and the environment and health. The Plan received positive feedback from Government officials, including the Minister of Health, the Deputy Minister of Finance and a representative from the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, as well as others. The officials indicated their commitment to collaborate to ensure the Plan's implementation.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *Increased level of meaningful participation of women in selected public processes, notably those relating to sexual and gender-based violence (EA 5)*
The Legal Office of the Prime Minister and civil society organizations, with the support of OHCHR, UNDP and UN Women, worked together in a participatory manner to draft the regulation on verifying the status of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence survivors and the related administrative instructions. This helped to ensure that the regulation was in compliance with international human rights standards and principles of equality and non-discrimination. In addition, with the support of OHCHR, regional coordination mechanisms composed of representatives from the police, municipalities, education and health care institutions and civil society organizations were established in four municipalities in northern Kosovo to deal with cases of gender-based violence. Furthermore, through a partnership with local NGOs, OHCHR established integrated psychosocial services for gender-based violence survivors.

Human Rights Advisers in United Nations Country Teams

Republic of Moldova

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2015	2

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Women, as well as individuals from marginalized or vulnerable groups, including Roma, persons with disabilities, older women or persons from the Transnistrian region, make effective use of the individual communications procedures of CEDAW, the two Covenants and ICERD (EA 7)*
As of December, and with the support of the HRA, one individual complaint had been submitted under ICERD. Three more are expected to be submitted between the end of 2015 and the beginning of 2016; one under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (OP-CEDAW); and two under the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR-OP1).
- ▶ *UNCT increasingly engages with international human rights mechanisms (EA 11)*
The UNCT engaged with the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT), during its May visit and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities during the September mission. Within the framework of the Human Rights Up Front Initiative, the UNCT and the surge team deployed to the country engaged in discussions in September and October. As a result of the deployment, a country situation analysis was developed which included recommendations for action to be taken by the UNCT under different scenarios such as civil unrest or a deepening of intercommunity divisions. Another outcome of the deployment was the development, in close collaboration with UNCT, of a recommendations matrix. The matrix was prepared on the basis of Thomas Hammarberg's report on human rights in the Transnistrian region and represents an important tool for further work on the development of a regional human rights action plan.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

The HRA worked to improve a number of laws to bring them in line with international human rights standards, including Law 121 on ensuring equality, Law 52 on the People's Advocate and amendments to the Criminal Code and Contravention Code with a view to combating hate crimes. The HRA assisted the Ombudsman's Office and the Equality Council to document 20 discrimination cases and provide adequate support to the victims. Moreover, the 2015 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex (LGBTI) Pride parade was organized without major incidents due to the committed involvement of the HRA and relevant national stakeholders.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

During 2015, the Equality Council, supported by the HRA, handed down over 100 decisions on discrimination cases. As a follow-up to Thomas Hammarberg's report on human rights in the Transnistrian region, legal advice was provided to the de facto Transnistrian authorities on adopting a regulatory framework for preventing and combating domestic violence in conformity with international human rights standards.

On 8 May 2015, the local public administration of the City of Bender in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova embarked on a new programme and established an Accessibility Evaluation Committee. The Committee is mandated to develop, promulgate and monitor the implementation of minimum standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services that are provided or open to the public. Shortly afterwards, the City Programme on Accessibility was endorsed. One of the important activities the Programme is considering is the mandatory creation of minimum accessibility for public spaces.

This breakthrough comes after laborious and extensive advocacy efforts carried out by Mr. Dmitrii Kuzuc, Director of the World of Equal Opportunity organization. Mr. Kuzuc is also the Chairperson of the Accessibility Evaluation Committee and recently pointed out, "The establishment of this Committee was like a wake-up call for the architects, the building planners and building owners who are now actively seeking our advice before engaging in any construction or renovation so as to avoid accessibility mistakes. For example, the biggest shopping and recreational centre to be built in Bender will be fully accessible for all persons with disabilities." With OHCHR's support, Mr. Kuzuc has emerged as a strong leader who has organized a group of women and men with disabilities which meets regularly and plans for activities to promote the social inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Russian Federation

Year established	2008, following the adoption of cooperation framework in August 2007.
Staff as of 31 December 2015	6

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

In 2015, OHCHR organized another Geneva-based edition of the Human Rights Orientation Programme for civil servants of the Russian

Federation. Fourteen senior staff members from key ministries, the Constitutional and Supreme Courts, as well as the General Prosecutor's Office participated in the Programme. It enabled the participants to enhance their understanding of the UN human rights mechanisms and contributed to improving the coordination between Government officials who are involved in reporting to and interacting with the human rights mechanisms.

- *Recommendations of human rights mechanisms are increasingly integrated into the planning and programming of UN agencies (EA 11)*

The Human Rights Adviser promoted the implementation of joint activities and the inclusion of a human rights-based approach in discussions with UN agencies present in the Russian Federation. For example, the HRA coordinated with the UN Information Centre to organize activities related to the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *NHRI's anti-discrimination programmes significantly improve compliance with international human rights standards (EA 4)*
OHCHR continued its efforts to strengthen the capacities of federal and regional ombudspersons to effectively address claims of discriminated groups in conformity with international human rights principles and standards. In light of the FIFA World Cup that will be held in the Russian Federation in 2018, OHCHR organized a workshop on 4 June which focused on the role of human rights commissioners in countering racism and discrimination in football. The event gathered together human rights commissioners from 11 regions, representatives of the Federal Ombudsman's Office, senior officials from the Ministry of Sport, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Russian Football Union and the Organizing Committee of the 2018 World Cup. As a result of the workshop, the Ministry of Sport supported a recommendation to integrate human rights commissioners into the respective regional organizing committees in charge of preparations.

Widening the democratic space

- *A multidisciplinary Human Rights Programme has been integrated into formal higher education and institutionalized in several regions (EA 1)*
In 2015, four new institutions joined the Consortium of Universities implementing the Human Rights Master Programme. The Consortium now comprises a total of nine universities that are based in Kazan, Moscow, Perm, Voronezh and Yekaterinburg. All of the

universities are implementing the four core courses developed by the Consortium under OHCHR's guidance. With this expansion, the number of students enrolled in 2015 reached a total of 70. Furthermore, with the support of OHCHR, the Annual Summer School on Human Rights, held in Kazan, included the participation of more than 50 lecturers such as prominent human rights defenders, senior representatives of the Federal Ombudsman's Office as well as treaty body experts and academics.

Serbia

Year established	Office in 1996 and Human Rights Adviser in 2007
Staff as of 31 December 2015	3

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Fully functioning participatory standing national coordinating body is in place to report/reply to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms (EA 6)*
In December 2014, the Government decided to establish an inter-institutional mechanism to implement and report on the recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms in relation to Serbia. In 2015, OHCHR and OSCE supported the development of the national mechanism and progress was made in terms of securing agreement with civil society actors regarding their representation on the body. Few Government representatives attended the first meeting of the mechanism, held in October, and the second meeting was postponed until 2016.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *UN human rights standards increasingly invoked in court proceedings (EA 1)*
The HRA supported civil society efforts to stop a number of forced evictions of Roma living in substandard slum settlements in Belgrade. As a result of these efforts, Zemun authorities applied the right to adequate housing standards pursuant to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The same approach was adopted by the first instance Zemun Court, which halted the evictions. Additionally, the Government



Migrants at the Hungarian/Serbian border, November 2015.

issued the final draft of the new National Roma Inclusion Strategy 2016-2025, in November, which includes a strong focus on human rights. The HRA joined the national team of experts to work on the new Strategy and emphasized the areas of housing, education, health, employment and social protection.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

As a result of the HRA's engagement with the UNCT, the draft United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2016-2020, which has not been signed, includes a sub-pillar dedicated to the implementation of human rights recommendations, including those issued by the human rights mechanisms. In addition, the HRA joined forces with UNICEF, UN Women and other UN agencies to ensure that the draft UNDAF includes stigmatized groups (like Roma and persons with disabilities) in a range of relevant areas. Gender equality is one of the key areas of the UNDAF and includes a specific goal to strengthen the representation of women in public life.

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

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

In response to the significant increase in the number of migrants and refugees arriving in Serbia, OHCHR undertook a mission to the Hungarian/Serbian border to document

the outbreak of violence and alleged abuse perpetrated by Hungarian police. As a result, the High Commissioner issued a statement of concern. The HRA and other OHCHR colleagues undertook a mission to Bulgaria in order to document the human rights abuses reported by migrants and refugees arriving in Serbia and engage with Bulgarian authorities to discuss potential improvements related to the management of the migrant crisis.

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

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2015	5

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

In Georgia, OHCHR continued to support the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan by updating the Plan and collecting information on human rights challenges and priorities in all regions of Georgia. OHCHR's efforts were carried out in collaboration with the National Human Rights Action Plan Secretariat, based at the Office of the Prime Minister of Georgia.

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

In Azerbaijan, OHCHR chaired the UNCT Human Rights Thematic Group and regularly briefed UNCT members on the reporting status of Azerbaijan to the human rights treaty bodies. Furthermore, one of the priority areas of the United Nations-Azerbaijan Partnership Framework includes providing assistance to the Government to achieve progress in the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. In Georgia, the UN Partnership for Sustainable Development, signed at the end of the year, included relevant recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms, as advocated by OHCHR.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

In Georgia, in response to a request from the Legal Committee of the Parliament, OHCHR undertook research on the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and was requested to contribute to the finalization of amendments to legislation on the legal capacity of persons with psychological disabilities. The amendments were adopted in 2015.

- *Increased use of national protection systems by women and persons living with disabilities in Azerbaijan (EA 5)*

In February, OHCHR and the NHRI of Azerbaijan co-organized a round table discussion on the implementation of recommendations issued by the UN human rights mechanisms concerning the rights of persons with disabilities. The event, which brought together representatives from Government institutions and civil society organizations, resulted in the drafting of a list of

proposals for the implementation of a national action plan on social rights in Azerbaijan.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Institutions in the justice sector show significant improvement in their compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

In Azerbaijan, OHCHR contributed to the increased understanding of international human rights standards by the legal community through the translation and dissemination of publications on the treaty bodies and other OHCHR training tools, which will be used in training activities at the Baku State University and the Justice Academy. In Georgia, a number of training activities on human rights standards and mechanisms, fundamental freedoms and prohibition of discrimination have been held to increase the skills of members of the Georgian Bar Association, such as training sessions in Tbilisi and in the regions of the country. As a result of this collaboration, the Office was granted a Gratitude Award by the Bar Association on the occasion of its 20th anniversary. In addition, OHCHR developed a curriculum for the High School of Justice on the role of judges in the prohibition of torture.

Widening the democratic space

- *Training programmes on human rights institutionalized in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia (EA 1)*

The Free University in Georgia continued its work to incorporate human rights into its law programme, with a special focus on the human rights mechanisms. For instance, 40 law students received in-depth training on the human rights mechanisms, in particular on the development of jurisprudence by the treaty bodies, as a result of winter and summer schools supported by OHCHR. The University also organized a number of ad hoc discussions on human rights developments in Georgia and elsewhere for



Group photo of an OHCHR training event on international human rights standards for the youth in Batumi, Georgia, April 2015.

52 youth representatives in order to enhance their knowledge about minority and discrimination-related issues. The University also expanded its publication activities, including the publication in Georgian language of selected General Comments and General Recommendations issued by the treaty bodies.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2015	1

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

An Expert Working Group was established in April within the national mechanism for reporting and follow-up. The Working Group will provide substantive support to the national mechanism in preparing annual workplans, publishing the human rights treaty bodies' concluding observations relevant to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and improving information sharing and coordination between Government actors concerned with the national-level implementation of their human rights obligations. The Human Rights Adviser built the capacity of the Working Group in relation to the international human rights system and the human rights-based approach.

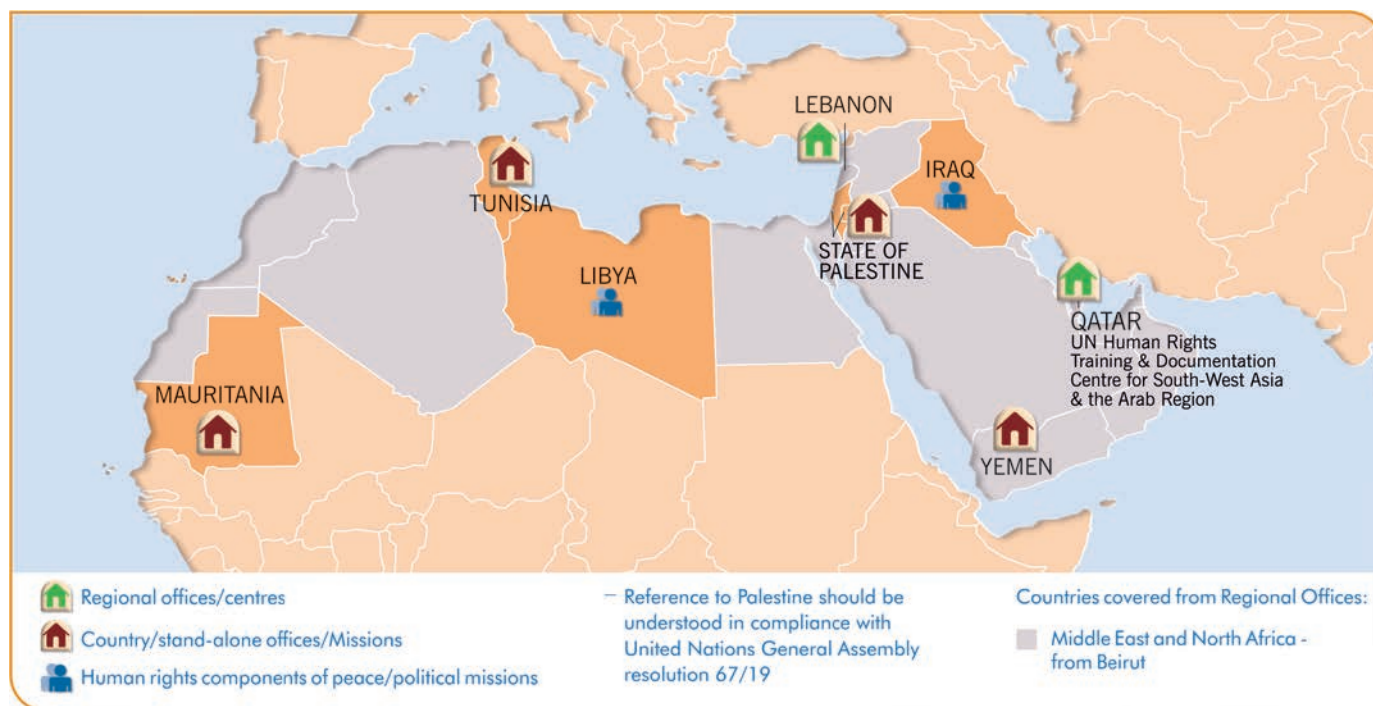
- *An increased number of diverse national CSOs participate in State reporting and implementation of recommendations and make submissions to the UN human rights mechanisms (EA 7)*



Training on the human rights treaty bodies for State officials in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, January 2015.

As the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was to be considered by four of the treaty bodies in 2015, the Human Rights Adviser organized a workshop with the Ombudsman and civil society organizations to discuss strategies for their interaction with the human rights mechanisms. At the request of some civil society organizations active in the areas of economic, social and cultural rights, the Adviser facilitated another workshop to develop their skills in producing alternative reports to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. As a result of the workshops, civil society organizations prepared a total of 14 public submissions for the four treaty bodies. All submissions, with the exception of one, were jointly prepared by 15 different national civil organizations, coalitions and networks. The Ombudsman also prepared four submissions, one of which was prepared in its capacity as the National Preventive Mechanism. The issues that the civil society organizations and the Ombudsman brought to the attention to the four committees were central to the respective dialogues between the committees and the State and were largely reflected in the recommendations.

OHCHR in the field: Middle East and North Africa



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

* Reference to Palestine should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19.

In the course of 2015, the region witnessed increasing violence and violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law. In this context, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) sought to address emerging needs emanating from social, economic, political developments and the ongoing and emerging armed conflicts across the Middle East and North Africa region, including in relation to the situations in Iraq, Libya, the Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt), Syria and Yemen. With regard to the Syrian crisis, and in light of the continued lack of access to the

country, OHCHR consolidated and strengthened its operational arrangements by establishing the OHCHR Syria Team comprised of the Syria Monitoring Team (based in Beirut), three human rights advisers (HRAs) (deployed to support the three senior Humanitarian Coordinators in the region on Syria) and a management structure (based in Geneva to liaise with the Commission of Inquiry and the Office of the Special Envoy). The High Commissioner strongly advocated for the protection of civilians and an end to violence and called for accountability through public and private means of advocacy, including press releases, public reports and briefings to the Human Rights Council, the General Assembly and the Security Council.

Yet some positive developments have been observed regarding the promotion and protection of human rights in the region. During a visit to Tunisia, the High Commissioner highlighted the achievements and progress made by the country since 2011 and encouraged interlocutors at the highest governmental levels to ensure the continuation of this progress. OHCHR supported specific technical assistance initiatives in Iraq and Saudi Arabia and organized a number of capacity-building workshops, meetings and seminars for government officials, regional

and international organizations and civil society representatives from the region. In this regard, OHCHR assisted the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) in delivering training programmes to law enforcement officials on human rights, the rule of law and the prevention of terrorism in Iraq, Jordan and Tunisia. OHCHR also supported the organization of the 12th United Nations and League of Arab States Sectorial Meeting which specifically addressed human rights issues for the first time.

Moreover, OHCHR supported the follow-up to Human Rights Council resolutions requesting that the High Commissioner deploy missions to address situations in Libya and Yemen and extended support to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 and to the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.

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

Country Offices

Mauritania

Year established	2010
Staff as of 31 December 2015	8
Expenditure in 2015	US\$593,287

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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



OHCHR staff members on a field mission to villages in the south of Mauritania to assess protection needs, April 2015.

The Interministerial Committee to coordinate the reporting and replying to human rights mechanisms was formally created in January and is composed of 25 members, including the National Human Rights Commission. It has submitted Mauritania's second cycle UPR report and its initial report to the Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW). In the preparation of the UPR report, the Government made efforts to include civil society and other stakeholders in the drafting process, which was supported by OHCHR. The Office also contributed to the organization of national consultations on the UPR process and facilitated a training session for the Committee on the human rights mechanisms and the work of standing permanent national coordination bodies. Moreover, OHCHR supported the Interministerial Committee in the preparation of its initial reports to the CMW and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the periodic report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD).

- *Increased number of submissions by CSOs and NHRIs to CEDAW, CRC and CMW (EA 7)*

In April, four networks of national civil society organizations submitted contributions within the framework of Mauritania's second cycle of the UPR. OHCHR provided technical assistance and information sessions for civil society organizations on the UPR process and guidelines for stakeholder submissions.

- *UPR recommendations (2nd cycle) are part of UNCT joint planning and UNDAF 2012-2016 implementation (EA 11)*

The UNCT submitted a joint UPR contribution. The drafting of the contribution provided an opportunity to identify key recommendations

and paved the way for future discussions on the elaboration of the next UNDAF. Furthermore, during its retreat in May, the UNCT agreed to integrate UPR recommendations and the road map on slavery into the new UNDAF on the basis of a strategy that was elaborated under the coordination of OHCHR.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Adoption of general anti-discrimination legislation and increased compliance of legislative and policy initiatives with the rights of women, migrants and persons with HIV/AIDS and persons with disabilities (EA 4)*

The draft national action plan on racial discrimination is currently before the Commissariat for Human Rights, Humanitarian Action and Relations with Civil Society for finalization and will then be transmitted to the Prime Minister for subsequent adoption by the Council of Ministers. OHCHR raised its concerns regarding the content of the draft action plan, which is not in compliance with international standards and good practices.

- *Adoption of a road map on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on slavery, a National Action Plan on Discrimination and a National Action Plan for Migration (EA 4)*

The Interministerial Committee continued to implement the road map against slavery in accordance with its workplan. In August, the Parliament adopted a law revising the 2007 Law on criminalizing slavery and, in December, adopted a Decree on the creation of special chambers for alleged slavery cases at the criminal courts in Nouadhibou, Nouakchott and Nema. OHCHR closely followed these efforts as an observer at the meetings of the Committee. In addition, the Office cooperated with the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, to submit comprehensive comments on the draft law. It also proposed indicators to the President of the Committee for measuring progress in the implementation of the workplan.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *The Penal Code is revised regarding alternative punishment; a penitentiary policy is developed; and prison authorities increasingly apply international standards on torture (EA 1)*

The Parliament adopted a Law on the Prevention of Torture in August. In April, OHCHR submitted a comprehensive note on the draft law before its adoption to the Ministry of Justice as well as to

Parliamentarians. The note included observations on the definition of torture and fundamental judicial guarantees of persons deprived of their liberty in order to increase the draft's compliance with the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT).

- *A National Preventive Mechanism against torture is established and functioning in compliance with OP-CAT (EA 3)*

In August, the Parliament adopted the Law on the Establishment of a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM). The Office, in cooperation with the Association for the Prevention of Torture, provided comments on the draft law before its adoption.

Widening the democratic space

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

After its adoption by the Council of Ministers in July, the draft law revising Law 64.098 on Civilian Associations is expected to be adopted by Parliament by the end of 2016. Since the text of the draft law was not shared with civil society before or after its adoption by the Council of Ministers, there were limited opportunities to influence its content. OHCHR held meetings with civil society to update them on the adoption process and provided extensive comments to the Council of Ministers on the compliance of the draft law with international human rights standards. In addition, on 10 August, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association issued a statement encouraging Parliament to reject the proposed law.

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

- *The Government adopts policies to address issues of violence against women and trafficking (EA 1)*

The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry for Social Affairs, Children and the Family are in the process of finalizing a draft law on gender-based violence. OHCHR, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNHCR provided joint comments on the draft regarding its compliance with international legal standards and good practices.

- *Human rights protection concerns are integrated into operational humanitarian plans, including a disaster preparedness plan for Nouakchott (EA 11)*
- Humanitarian actors in Mauritania increasingly integrated protection concerns of vulnerable populations into the planning and implementation

of their operations. The Office contributed to this result through awareness-raising and training activities, such as a training activity for staff of the Commissariat for Human Rights, Humanitarian Action and Relations with Civil Society, members of the Humanitarian Country Team and civil society on the integration of protection and human rights concerns in a humanitarian context and in the response to the nutrition crises. OHCHR also participated in different joint assessment missions with humanitarian agencies and contributed to the inclusion of references to the importance of protection concerns in the 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview. Furthermore, OHCHR carried out sensitization meetings with communities and civil society in Bassikounou, in an area affected by the presence of Malian refugees and chronic nutrition crises. It also provided advice for the creation of local protection committees to identify and follow-up on protection issues of concern with local authorities.

Mauritania: Expenditure in 2015		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	475,983
Activities and operating costs	-	36,912
Subtotal		512,895
Programme support costs		80,392
GRAND TOTAL		593,287

State of Palestine⁷

Year established	1996
Staff as of 31 December 2015	20
Expenditure in 2015	US\$3,026,206

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

The Government of the State of Palestine has shown a strong commitment to an ambitious and inclusive process of treaty body reporting and implementation. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is coordinating the process of producing the initial State Party reports and various line ministries are tasked with drafting the reports. Preparation of State Party reports under the ICCPR, CAT and CEDAW are well underway. Furthermore, the Government is committed to holding national consultations on these three draft reports and the CEDAW report has been shared with civil society. OHCHR is working closely with the Government to provide technical assistance, training and capacity-building on treaty reporting and implementation to focal points in the relevant line ministries.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Increased compliance with international human rights standards by the establishment of a formal moratorium of the death penalty in the West Bank and a de facto moratorium in Gaza (EA 1)*

During 2015, no executions were carried out by the Palestinian Authorities. OHCHR continued to advocate for a presidential imposition of a formal moratorium on the death penalty. The Office submitted a letter encouraging Palestine to accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR and later met with the President's legal advisor to encourage a formal moratorium.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *Enhanced implementation of a human rights-based approach by United Nations programmes, especially within the framework of the UNDAF (EA 11)*
- During the year, the UNCT decided to extend

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



OHCHR staff member on a monitoring mission to Hebron.

the current UNDAF for an additional year to allow more time for the development of a full Common Country Assessment (CCA) which takes into account the new and emerging realities in Palestine. OHCHR was actively involved in the initial preparation of the CCA and as a result, the outline positions human rights at the centre of UN programming. During discussions with the UNCT, OHCHR stressed that the CCA should reflect the Government's legal obligations under the seven core human rights treaties to which it had acceded in 2014. The UNCT agreed to support the Government and other national stakeholders with the implementation, monitoring of and reporting on the protection and promotion of human rights in accordance with its international obligations. OHCHR also played a key role in the UNDAF annual review by ensuring that each of the relevant priority areas took into consideration the new human rights context.

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

- *Increased compliance with international human rights standards by legislation, decrees and administrative instructions relating to SGBV and honour crimes (EA 1)*

While significant progress was achieved in terms of awareness-raising, no significant changes in legislation were noted, primarily due to the absence of a functioning legislative council. Nevertheless, the Office continued to monitor cases of violations of women's rights, particularly in Gaza. Cases documented included threats to physical and mental integrity, discrimination against women, child marriage and an absence of State protective measures to prevent and/

or remedy domestic abuse. As the Protection Cluster lead, the Office worked with partners to streamline referral pathways for protection concerns in order to better address the needs of victims of gender-based violence. OHCHR also focused on building capacity among women's organizations to monitor and document cases of violence against women through workshops conducted in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and in Gaza.

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

OHCHR continued documenting cases of alleged human rights violations across Palestine, including in relation to the right to life, the right to not be tortured or arbitrarily detained, the freedom of assembly and of expression, the freedom of movement, the right to adequate housing and health, gender-based violence and accountability relating to all of these violations as well as others. The Office's regular reports on the human rights situation in Palestine formed the basis for relevant discussions in the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly. In the context of the escalation of violence in October, OHCHR provided regular briefings to the diplomatic community and partner organizations in Israel and Palestine regarding the applicable legal framework and preliminary findings from its monitoring work. OHCHR's work also helped to inform advocacy efforts undertaken by senior UN officials in Palestine, New York and Geneva to de-escalate the situation. While the situation remained fluid and violations persisted throughout the year, OHCHR's advocacy helped to ensure that key human rights considerations remained at the top of the agenda, including by assisting the international community to appropriately shape its responses and approaches to the duty-bearers.

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

Through its leadership of the Protection Cluster, OHCHR ensured that a strong focus on protection and respect for human rights and international humanitarian law was maintained throughout all phases of humanitarian engagement in Palestine, including in all responses, planning and advocacy. In particular, OHCHR ensured that accountability for violations was a key issue for the humanitarian community, in addition to enhanced mainstreaming of protection in the analysis and responses of other Clusters and strengthened gender analysis within the Protection Cluster. OHCHR also ensured that the

Inas Al-Shaludi had just buried her oldest son, Abdel-Rahman, and was trying to come to terms with the news that he was responsible for the deaths of two people in what the Israeli authorities called a “terrorist attack,” when more bad news arrived. Her family home was to be destroyed. “We had to remove all our belongings and find a place to stay,” she said. “We were shocked with the loss of our eldest son and before we had finished receiving condolences, we were faced with the demolition of our house.”

Al-Shaludi’s family home in East Jerusalem was destroyed in November 2014 by order of the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF). The October incident in which her son was involved left two dead, including a three-month old baby, and seven injured. The Israeli authorities called the action a “deliberate terrorist attack,” stating that Abdel-Rahman had intentionally driven his car into people waiting at a tram station. The family disputes this, saying it was an accident and that he lost control of his car. Eyewitnesses said private security guards shot and killed Abdel-Rahman shortly after the crash.

The OHCHR Office in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) has monitored and documented punitive home demolition cases, including the case of the Al-Shaludi family. In 2015, the Office submitted a report to the Human Rights Council regarding the resumption of the practice. OHCHR argued that it breaches the Fourth Geneva Convention, and violates a range of Israel’s human rights obligations and underlined that no one should be punished for an act they did not commit.

The Israeli authorities have previously asserted that the practice is used to send “a severe message of deterrence to terrorists and their accomplices – that they will pay a price if they continue their terrorist

activities and harm innocent people.” Yet, Israel formally halted the practice in 2005 when an IDF panel reviewing the practice concluded that the demolitions were not an effective deterrent and generated hatred and hostility. The Israeli authorities resumed the practice in 2014.

The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory has condemned the practice. Earlier in 2015, the Rapporteur told the Human Rights Council that there was neither a legal nor ethical standpoint which could justify the punishment of families for the alleged actions of a relative. “In short, punitive home demolitions are an act of collective punishment that contravenes international law,” he stated.

Inas Al-Shaludi said her family had nothing to do with Abdel-Rahman’s actions. According to the information available to the UN Human Rights Office in the oPt, this claim has not been disputed by the Israeli authorities. Nevertheless, the house was destroyed one month after the attack. The family of seven was forced to divide themselves in order to live in the various homes of extended family members. Al-Shaludi said the effect on the family has been far-reaching. A daughter who was scheduled to sit for her exams was unable to study. She has either missed or failed the exams. Financial difficulties arising from the costs of keeping the family housed have forced them to withdraw two of their children from college. But the biggest toll has been on her husband. “His thinking is confused,” she said. “He forgets things and keeps feeling pain in his legs. He keeps telling me that he cannot think and that he feels so scared for the future of his sons and daughters.”

Under Israeli law, those subject to punitive home demolitions can appeal the demolition order before a court. The Al-Shaludi

family, however, has chosen not to file an appeal, saying that they do not believe they can get a fair hearing. OHCHR maintains that no court procedure can legitimize a practice which is incompatible with international law.

In a joint statement, the Special Rapporteurs on the occupied Palestinian territory and the right to adequate housing once again called on the Israeli Government to end the practice of punitive home demolitions. In reference to the Al-Shaludi case, the Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing called the demolition an unfair punishment. “Simply put: the use of house demolition as a punitive measure is a form of collective punishment. Israel must immediately end its use of this devastating practice,” she said.

Meanwhile, on 13 October 2015, in response to a wave of alleged attacks on Israelis by Palestinians, the Israeli Security Cabinet extended the use of punitive demolitions, announcing that no new construction will be allowed on the site of demolished homes and that the property may be liable to confiscation. In November, the Israeli Supreme Court dismissed appeals by affected families to halt demolitions. The move drew criticism from numerous human rights groups, including the UN and the International Committee for the Red Cross.

One year later, the Al-Shaludi family remains dispersed between the homes of relatives in East Jerusalem. They occasionally reunite in an apartment that is adjacent to their demolished home which belongs to Al-Shaludi’s brother-in-law, but they feel unsafe there as the building is often subject to police raids. Since the Al-Shaludi’s home was demolished in 2014, the Israeli authorities have demolished, sealed or destroyed 18 other family homes.



Members of the diplomatic community participate in a field visit organized by the Protection Cluster, led by OHCHR, to Qaryut to witness the impact of the expansion of Israeli settlements on the local Palestinian communities, May 2015.

2016 Humanitarian Response Plan emphasized accountability and recognized the need for increased respect for international law. Through its coordination of the Protection Cluster Legal Advice Group, OHCHR informed the policy discussions undertaken by the Humanitarian Country Team and humanitarian donors and guided humanitarian advocacy efforts, including by maintaining a focus on accountability.

State of Palestine: Expenditure in 2015		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	2,297,982
Activities and operating costs	-	371,662
Subtotal		2,669,644
Programme support costs		356,562
GRAND TOTAL		3,026,206

Tunisia

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2015	19
Expenditure in 2015	US\$1,714,280

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

The Decree establishing a National Coordination Mechanism to follow-up on recommendations and report to the treaty bodies was published in the Official Gazette in November. The Decree was adopted largely as a result of technical support that OHCHR has provided since 2014 in the form of guidance, the sharing of good practices and inputs to the draft.

- *Submission of pending periodic reports to CESCR and CAT (EA 6)*

After a delay of 15 years, Tunisia submitted its third periodic report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. In addition, the Government submitted its reports to the Committee Against Torture (CAT) and the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED). The Office provided guidance and technical advice to the drafting committees during the preparation process.

- *Increased number of CSOs submitting information to CESCR and CAT (EA 7)*

The Tunisian Bar Association submitted an alternative report to CAT. OHCHR strengthened the capacity of the Bar Association to report to and engage with the human rights mechanisms.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Legislation and policies in compliance with international human rights standards are adopted in the areas of equality of women and persons at-risk, migrants and access to education and employment for persons with disabilities (EA 4)*

Following the withdrawal of its reservations to CEDAW in 2014, the Government began aligning its legislative framework related to women's rights with the Constitution and CEDAW. Progress was achieved with the amendment of the Law on Passports, bringing to an end a long-standing discriminatory practice that prevented women from leaving Tunisia with their minor child without the authorization of the child's father. Moreover, the Government adopted a National Strategy on Migration and a national road map for the development of migration policies was agreed upon between the Ministry of Social Welfare, the Secretariat of State on Migration, the Labour Union and the Employers' Union. The Office, in cooperation with ILO and other UN agencies, advocated for the inclusion of a human rights-based approach in the Strategy. With regard to the rights of persons with disabilities, the Tunisian National Assembly ratified the National Charter on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in January. Advocacy for the National Charter was initiated by civil society in 2014, with OHCHR's support, and a Special Parliamentary Commission for persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups was created and mandated to draft relevant legislation. Additionally, a draft law to amend the 2005 Law on the Promotion and Protection of Disability Rights was adopted by the Ministerial Council in order to improve the employment opportunities of persons with disabilities.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Legislation regarding deprivation of liberty, including pre-trial detention, is revised to reduce prison crowding; security sector reform leads to the adoption of policies, guidelines and codes of conduct for law enforcement officials in conformity with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

In April, the Ministry of Justice adopted a national strategy to reduce overcrowding in



OHCHR carried out activities for children during the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations in Tunisia, October 2015.

Tunisian prisons. The Office provided support to the Ministry, in partnership with Penal Reform International, including by organizing a workshop comprised of national and international experts as well as prosecutors, judges, prison directors, lawyers, civil society actors, representatives of the diplomatic community and UN agencies. The participants agreed on a series of recommendations to reduce overcrowding in prisons. The recommendations were submitted to the authorities and contributed to the development of the National Strategy. The Office also facilitated a training programme at the National School for Prisons and Rehabilitation for 1,440 prison officers with the objective of increasing their knowledge about human rights standards in relation to prison. In addition, 1,050 officers from the police, national guard and civil protection services benefited from a series of two-day training workshops on international human rights standards in relation to the use of force and community policing, the rights of prisoners and civil protection.

- *Legislation governing the penal system is revised to reflect international standards (EA 1)*

The Government adopted an Action Plan for the implementation of the Justice Sector Reform Strategy which outlines reforms of the judicial and prison system. The Ministry of Justice and the Provisional Judicial Body received assistance from OHCHR and UNDP during a workshop focused on reform of the justice sector and the drafting of the Action Plan.

- *A justice reform process establishes guarantees for the independence, impartiality and effectiveness of the judiciary (EA 1)*

Parliament voted on the Laws on the Supreme Judicial Council and on the Constitutional Court. Both Laws are now pending promulgation. The

drafting process was supported by OHCHR and UNDP which organized meetings and provided technical assistance to members of the Provisional Judicial Body.

- ▶ *A coherent transitional justice process is underway; a fully functional Truth and Dignity Commission is in place, has duly addressed the rights and participation of discriminated groups and has generated structural reform proposals (EA 3)*
The Truth and Dignity Commission established its Subcommissions, i.e., on vetting and institutional reforms; arbitration and conciliation; research and investigation; reparations and rehabilitation; safeguarding national memory; and a committee on women. Supported by the Office and UNDP, the Subcommissions developed their respective rules, procedures and action plans. Furthermore, the Truth and Dignity Commission has opened four regional offices in compliance with the Transitional Justice Law. To date, the Commission has filed approximately 17,000 claims and has recorded over 1,000 statements. Following a training session provided by the Office, the Commission has increased its capacity to address claims related to economic, social and cultural rights.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *Increased number of budgets and development policies are designed using a rights-based approach (EA 1)*
A Social Protection Platform for the future was adopted at a national high-level conference held by the Ministry of Social Affairs. The aim of the conference was to develop a plan for future sector-wide reforms in the area of social protection and security. OHCHR presented a study on the right to social security in the Tunisian normative framework and some of its recommendations were integrated in the Social Protection Platform.
- ▶ *Increased number of civil society organizations monitoring and being engaged in the preparation of selected budgets and/or development policies (EA 5)*
Following public consultations on the amendment of the Tunisian Water Code, Tunisian civil society organizations contributed to the draft law which is expected to be submitted to the National Assembly in 2016. In December, the Office organized a workshop with civil society organizations and key lawmakers to discuss and integrate civil society comments into the draft law. In addition, OHCHR trained 14 NGOs active in the field of economic and social rights, including on issues related to water and agriculture.

- ▶ *The UNDAF 2015-2019 integrates a human rights-based approach (EA 11)*

During 2015, the Office participated in the implementation and monitoring of the UNDAF in Tunisia which ensured that human rights remained at the centre of the activities of the UNCT.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *Tunisian NHRI established and functioning in accordance with Paris Principles (EA 1)*

The Tunisian Human Rights Institution has not been established, even though the 2014 Constitution provides for the establishment of an independent NHRI that is compliant with the Paris Principles. The Office continued to advocate for the adoption of the law that would establish the NHRI.

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

In September, a new draft law on the right of access to information was submitted to the Parliament for discussion. The draft raises concerns as it adds more restrictions to the right to information. Moreover, increasingly restrictive measures were introduced to the freedom of association after the terrorist attacks in March and June. Consequently, 20 associations with alleged links to terrorist groups were shut down by national courts and more than 150 others were suspended on the basis of similar allegations following a decision of the Secretary of State. In order to support reforms in the area of freedom of expression, the Office implemented several technical assistance projects, including one which helped the Tunisian press syndicate to prepare a project on the establishment of an observatory on the safety of journalists and another which provided training for the High Authority for Audio Visual Communication to increase its capacity to monitor and document media law offences and hate speech.

Tunisia: Expenditure in 2015		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	1,042,251
Activities and operating costs	-	470,128
Subtotal		1,512,379
Programme support costs		201,901
GRAND TOTAL		1,714,280

Since its establishment, the OHCHR Office in Tunisia has worked towards the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. To guarantee their rights, Tunisia adopted legislation in 2005 to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. In 2008, it ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol. Despite the progress made in relation to the legislation, real change in the lives of persons with disabilities was limited. The Law had several shortcomings and its implementation was inadequate. In addition, disability associations in Tunisia were entirely excluded from policy discussions.

Through its participation in a joint project with ILO and UNICEF

that was implemented in 2014, OHCHR facilitated consultations with persons with disabilities and associations working on disability rights throughout the country. This resulted in the production of a Charter on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Taking advantage of upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections, an awareness-raising campaign was launched on the rights of persons with disabilities. Political parties and presidential candidates were asked to sign the Charter as an indication of their firm commitment to implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities in Tunisia.

The campaign had a huge impact. The President of the Republic signed the Charter in November 2014 and the Tunisian National

Assembly ratified the Charter in January 2015. Currently, 87 per cent of members of the National Assembly have signed the Charter.

The adoption of the Charter also led to the creation of a special committee that is responsible for disability rights within the National Assembly. In February, the Government launched a programme on social inclusion and the eradication of poverty and marginalization, which made explicit reference to the Charter. Finally, in May, the Ministerial Council adopted a draft law amending the 2005 Law on the promotion and protection of disability rights, which aimed to improve the employment opportunities of individuals with disabilities.

Yemen

Year established	2012
Staff as of 31 December 2015	10
Expenditure in 2015	US\$1,699,695

Results

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Constitution and legislative framework is aligned with international human rights standards (EA 1)*
As of the end of 2015, the Anti-Human Trafficking Law, the Law on the National Independent Human Rights Institution and the Law on Enforced Disappearances had been adopted by the Government. Their ratification by Parliament is pending. OHCHR conducted a thorough review of the draft laws and submitted its comments to the Government. These actions contributed to the increased compliance of the drafts with international standards. Additionally, OHCHR and UNDP collaborated to provide assistance to the Ministry of Human Rights with the development of the National Human Rights Strategy. Although the Strategy was finalized, it was not adopted before the end of the year as a result of the

escalation of the conflict in Yemen and the absence of a functioning government.

- *Establishment and/or improved functioning, in compliance with human rights standards, of victim-centred transitional justice mechanisms, including the Commission of Inquiry, Truth and Reconciliation, Land and Dismissals Commissions (EA 3)*
Progress in setting up accountability and transitional justice mechanisms was severely hampered by instability and violence in the country. The Land Commission was nevertheless able to settle



Outreach event organized by OHCHR in Yemen to celebrate Human Rights Day, December 2015.

approximately 46,000 cases and the Dismissals Commission was able to settle approximately 30,000 claims. In addition, based on recommendations from the Dismissals Commission, the President issued a decree to reinstate 20,000 dismissed soldiers in the Yemen Army. The capacity of both Commissions was strengthened as a result of technical assistance provided by OHCHR and UNDP.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

While the UNDAF was postponed due to the ongoing conflict in Yemen, the UN agencies finalized three humanitarian response plans, including the 2015 and 2016 Humanitarian Response Plans and a Flash Appeal in April. OHCHR provided substantive inputs which contributed to improving the mainstreaming of human rights in the plans. It also drafted relevant outcomes and indicators concerning the Human Rights Up Front Initiative.

Widening the democratic space

- *NHRI is established and functioning substantially in conformity with Paris Principles (EA 1)*

Due to the escalation of the conflict in Yemen and the consequential absence of a functioning parliament, the draft law on the establishment of a NHRI was not ratified. OHCHR provided technical assistance during the drafting of the law and advocated for the establishment of a NHRI in compliance with the Paris Principles.

- *Civil society organizations, especially those representing youth and women, substantially increase their advocacy against human rights violations (EA 5)*

With the support of OHCHR, a network of 24 lawyers was established to provide legal aid to individuals and groups whose rights have been violated. Furthermore, following a number of workshops offered by the Office, over 90 human rights civil society representatives improved their skills in relation to investigations, data analysis and international human rights standards on discrimination.

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

- *Systems and procedures put in place by OHCHR contribute to protection from human rights violations (EA 1)*

The Office issued 33 reports on the human rights situation in the country which provided essential evidence for 15 statements, press



Workshop on human rights monitoring and reporting for Yemeni civil society representatives, December 2015.

releases and briefings delivered by OHCHR and the High Commissioner on serious human rights violations in Yemen. The reports contributed to advocacy messages issued by the Office of the Special Assistant to the Secretary-General and to the work of the Humanitarian Coordinator. These reports were based on monitoring and documentation prepared by OHCHR monitors who were deployed to conflict-affected areas and due to the development of community-based human rights reporting mechanisms. To reinforce national capacities, 33 human rights civil society representatives improved their monitoring and reporting skills during training workshops facilitated by OHCHR. Throughout the year, OHCHR observed that civil society organizations prepared an increased number of higher quality reports on human rights violations, especially those perpetrated in conflict-affected areas.

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

At the end of 2014, the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy was introduced by OHCHR to the Ministry of Interior. During 2015, four draft laws on security were reviewed and harmonized with international human rights standards and presented to the Parliament for endorsement. Advocacy meetings were organized with relevant stakeholders and policymakers to pave the way for legislative changes.

Yemen: Expenditure in 2015		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	980,206
Activities and operating costs	-	524,202
Subtotal		1,504,408
Programme support costs		195,287
GRAND TOTAL		1,699,695

In 2015, OHCHR's work on the Syrian Arab Republic involved monitoring and reporting, providing human rights and legal advice to partners, capacity-building and advocacy activities. Despite a continued lack of access to Syria, OHCHR further developed and consolidated its operational arrangements in relation to that country. The OHCHR Syria Monitoring Team, which is essentially a virtual country office, is located in Beirut, Gaziantep, Amman and Geneva. The Team is composed of the Beirut-based monitoring team, three human rights advisers to the humanitarian leadership on Syria and a management team in Geneva that is liaising with the International Commission of Inquiry and the Office of the Special Envoy.

The Team documented, analyzed and reported on the human rights situation in Syria through the contribution to the Secretary-General's monthly reporting to the Security Council pursuant to Security Council resolutions 2139

(2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014). It also continued to be a key source for OHCHR's advocacy as the information and analysis it provided fed numerous speeches and press statements by the High Commissioner, the Deputy High Commissioner and other senior officials. Since October, OHCHR has been producing a UN internal monthly Human Rights Digest, which is intended as an early warning tool that highlights current and potential human rights concerns in Syria.

Also in 2015, OHCHR deployed three human rights advisers to respectively support the Humanitarian Coordinator in Syria (the Adviser is based in Beirut due to denial of access), the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator (based in Amman) and his deputy (based in Gaziantep). The human rights advisers work to enhance the integration and mainstreaming of human rights into the work of the UNCT in Syria and in the region. To this end, the advisers provided inputs to the 2016 Humanitarian

Needs Overview and Humanitarian Response Plan that was produced by OCHA and humanitarian partners.

Support was provided to civil society actors, including women's groups and human rights defenders, in order to increase their understanding of thematic issues, such as accountability and gender-based violence, and to enhance their capacity to monitor and report on human rights violations. In November, OHCHR delivered the first in a series of workshops in Istanbul on monitoring and documentation methodologies, with a focus on sexual and gender-based violence. In total, 26 representatives participated from 18 NGOs based in Syria and neighbouring countries.

Finally, in the context of the Secretary-General's Human Rights Up Front Initiative, the OHCHR Syria Monitoring Team has been actively involved with UN partners on developing an operational approach on Syria.

Regional Offices and Centres

Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa (Beirut, Lebanon)

Year established	2002
Staff as of 31 December 2015	17
Expenditure in 2015	US\$1,469,242

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Increased compliance and engagement of Member States with international human rights mechanisms, including through the establishment of participatory standing national coordinating*

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

Lebanon has submitted reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR). Lebanon is also undertaking steps to establish a national mechanism for reporting and following up on recommendations. Saudi Arabia established a national permanent committee for reporting and OHCHR organized several capacity-building activities with committee members.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Legislation, policies and practices increasingly comply with anti-discrimination and equality*

standards in relation to the rights of women and of migrants (EA 4)

In Kuwait, the Parliament adopted legislation on migrant domestic workers which includes many articles that are in line with international standards.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *A human rights-based approach increasingly integrated into Common Country Assessments/ United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks/Consolidated Appeal Processes and programmes relating to housing, water, sanitation and land (EA 11)*

In Jordan, the UNDAF 2015-2017 was finalized and included a number of references to human rights indicators. The United Nations Strategic Framework, currently under development, adopts a human rights-based approach in its analysis and outcomes. The Office further supported the development of a national human rights action plan, which has yet to be approved the Government.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *Establishment or strengthening of NHRIs compliant with international standards (Paris Principles), including in Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (EA 1)*

A draft law for establishing a NHRI in Lebanon was adopted by the parliamentary committees in late 2013. Due to the political stagnation in the country, however, the draft law is not yet scheduled for review in the Parliament's legislative plenary sessions. OHCHR consistently advocated for the adoption of the draft law with decision-makers. In Oman, an OHCHR mission was undertaken in 2015 to advocate for the amendment of the existing NHRI law to bring it in line with the Paris Principles. The National Committee for Human Rights notes that the

law is currently being revised to ensure its compliance with the Paris Principles. In addition, the Kuwaiti Parliament adopted legislation in July on the establishment of a NHRI. OHCHR provided technical assistance and commented on the various drafts of the law, which is not in full conformity with the Paris Principles. In Saudi Arabia, the capacity of members of the NHRI to investigate and document cases of violations of human rights has increased as a result of OHCHR's capacity-building programme.

- ▶ *Constitutions, laws, administrative measures and policies to promote respect for freedom of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association (EA 1)*

In June, the Kuwaiti Parliament passed the Cybercrime Law, which curtails freedom of expression. Following OHCHR's cooperation with the Judicial Training Academy in the capacity-building programme for judges, some members of the judiciary are making reference to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in their decisions related to the freedom of expression.

Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa (Beirut, Lebanon): Expenditure in 2015		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	42,499	1,006,272
Activities and operating costs	22,958	234,935
Subtotal	65,457	1,241,207
Programme support costs		162,578
GRAND TOTAL	65,457	1,403,785

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

Year established	2009
Staff as of 31 December 2015	7
Expenditure in 2015	US\$1,080,567

Results

Strengthening international human rights

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

A training programme was organized for 26 Arab diplomats to promote the integration of human rights in regional diplomatic work and engagement with the UN human rights mechanisms. As a result of this training, the participants are better equipped to contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights through their work. In addition, a regional workshop on the implementation of recommendations of the human rights mechanisms was held in December for 20 participants from 13 Arab countries. The workshop focused on the role of national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and their interaction with the treaty bodies in order to enhance compliance with human rights obligations.

Widening the democratic space

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

The Centre organized a workshop on human rights education for participants from ministries of education and academic institutions in Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, State of Palestine and the Sudan with the objective of identifying good regional practices in the development of human rights education programmes. The Centre is finalizing a publication featuring the papers and recommendations presented during the event.

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

From 11 to 15 May, the Centre participated in the commemoration of World Press Freedom Day in Morocco. It delivered three presentations during the event which focused on the normative framework for human rights education, the role of the media in promoting human rights and the ways for integrating human rights concepts in the work of journalists. Following the presentations, the participants proposed recommendations to enhance the role of the media in promoting and protecting human rights.

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

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

In partnership with Protect Education in Insecurity and Conflict, the Centre launched a call for proposals for projects on the protection of the right to education in times of insecurity and armed conflict within the Middle East and North Africa region. After the applications were reviewed, grants were provided in March to the Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies at the University of Duhok (Iraq), Defence for Children International (State of Palestine) and The Teacher Creativity Centre (State of Palestine). The projects are being implemented and the midterm reports are due in early 2016.

United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha, Qatar): Expenditure in 2015

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	617,767	144,050
Activities and operating costs	289,749	9,093
Subtotal	907,516	153,143
Programme support costs	-	19,908
GRAND TOTAL	907,516	173,051

Human Rights Components in UN Peace Missions

United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

Year established	2004
Staff as of 31 December 2015	42

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

The Human Rights Office (HRO) of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) provided support to the former Ministry of Human Rights which resulted in the implementation of a training plan for 21 trainers at the National Centre for Human Rights. The training covered human rights issues, including monitoring and reporting of human rights violations, and the obligations of States Parties to specific treaties. The plan was discontinued, however, following a decision made in August by the Prime Minister of Iraq to abolish the Ministry of Human Rights. In relation to the special procedures, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs) visited Iraq in May. He visited various IDP locations in Baghdad and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and held meetings with Government officials during which he raised concerns related to the human rights of IDPs. The HRO organized the mission and accompanied the Special Rapporteur during his visits to IDP camps.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Improved legislative framework to combat discrimination against women, minorities and persons with disabilities, including a new Family Protection Law and an amended Law on persons with disabilities (EA 4)*

In partnership with the Alliance of Iraqi Minorities, the HRO organized the first conference at which representatives of Iraq's ethnic and religious (minority) communities came together. As an outcome of the meeting, participants agreed on a Declaration of Principles of the Rights of Minorities in Iraq and on a road map



The Chief of the Human Rights Office of UNAMI speaks at the commemoration of Human Rights Day in Baghdad, Iraq, December 2015.

for legislative, institutional and policy reforms aimed at enhancing the protection of members of minority communities and ensuring their full and equal participation in the political, economic and social life of Iraq. The conference also appointed an oversight committee to draft concrete recommendations based on the road map.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Restriction of the death penalty to the most serious crimes and establishment of a moratorium on the implementation of all death sentences (EA 1)*
- The HRO has consistently advocated with the Government of Iraq to encourage it to become a State Party to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (OP2-ICCPR) on the abolition of the death penalty. This would include the institution of a moratorium on the implementation of death sentences. The Government of Iraq has, however, firmly rejected any recommendation to implement a moratorium on the implementation of death sentences or an abolition of the death penalty.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

The HRO has undertaken training with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) on the Human Rights Up Front Initiative and has engaged in discussions with the UNCT to ensure the full compliance of its members with the Initiative. Moreover, the HRO participated in the development of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the

Integrated Strategic Framework as a member of the drafting board of the UNCT. It also provided inputs to the formulation of priorities and activities to promote the respect and protection of human rights, in particular to promote gender equality.

Widening the democratic space

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

The HRO has remained engaged in providing technical support to building the capacity of the Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights (IHCHR) and the Kurdistan Board of Human Rights. With the support of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the HRO, the IHCHR carried out preliminary consultations with a wide range of civil society actors and parliamentary stakeholders to obtain information on processes for consultations with the public concerning human rights issues of importance. Through a number of training activities, the HRO has also contributed to the increased capacity of the IHCHR with regard to methodologies to enable them to carry out effective monitoring and reporting and develop an advocacy plan of action in relation to human rights issues of concern. The HRO and UNOPS will continue following up on implementation of the plan in partnership with the Commission and its staff.

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

- *Adoption of policies to improve the capacity of security forces to provide effective security; intelligence gathering and forensic investigation; and the engagement of affected communities in decisions related to their security (EA 1)*

In January, the HRO drafted a document on the key factors fuelling violence and terrorism in Iraq, including widespread poverty, economic stagnation and lack of economic opportunities, environmental degradation and unequal access to basic services. In the document, a range of legal, institutional and policy reforms were recommended for different governmental entities. The HRO also published two public reports, in February and July, on gaps in the protection of civilians in relation to the ongoing armed conflict in Iraq.

United Nations Support Mission in Libya

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2015	19

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Increased ratification of human rights treaties, namely CPED, OP-CAT, OP-CESCR and OP-CRC-AC and withdrawal of most reservations to CEDAW (EA 2)*

Given the political crisis and security concerns, progress in this area has not been possible. Moreover, during the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Libya, the Libyan representatives of the internationally recognized Government did not accept the issued recommendations regarding the withdrawal of Libya's reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

With the support of the Human Rights, Transitional Justice and Rule of Law Division (HRD) of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) as well as from OHCHR and the Swiss Government, a workshop was organized in February, in Geneva, to enable members of the Constitution Drafting Assembly to discuss the inclusion of human rights provisions in the Libyan draft constitution. The workshop included discussions on topics such as the rights of minorities and of indigenous peoples, the rights of migrants, women's rights, the right to life and freedom of expression and opinion. The Constitution Drafting Assembly published the draft constitution in September. The HRD followed up with the provision of technical advice on how to strengthen human rights provisions in the draft. Related activities have not resulted in progress due to the continued conflict and political divisions in the country.

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

The issue of illegally detained persons was addressed during political negotiations and

subsequently included in the Libyan political agreement, signed on 17 December, which calls on all parties to the conflict to release any detainees being held in custody without a legal basis or hand them over to the judiciary. In its engagement with national and local officials, armed group leaders and other relevant stakeholders, the HRD has consistently called for the release of all individuals who are being illegally detained. The HRD has also frequently conducted bilateral lobbying of prison directors and the Ministry of Justice to intervene in individual cases, protect detainees from torture or other ill-treatment and ensure that prisoners have access to their lawyers and families.

- ▶ *Reduction in the scope of the application of the death penalty, improved safeguards and enhanced mechanisms for clemency (EA 1)*
Given the legislative and political divisions permeating the country, it was not possible to resume lobbying activities in relation to amendments to the Penal Code that would reduce the scope of the application of the death penalty.
- ▶ *An increasingly functioning judiciary applies due process standards in a safer environment (EA 1)*
The ongoing armed conflict and deteriorating security situation in Libya severely impacted HRD's work in this area, particularly as the judiciary collapsed in several parts of the country, including Benghazi, Derna and Sirte and was severely undermined elsewhere. Judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials also continued to be the targets of attacks which included assassinations and abductions.
- ▶ *Transitional mechanisms are in place and functioning in compliance with human rights standards, namely a transitional justice law, an active and impartial truth commission and missing persons commission, a reparations programme and vetting processes. A number of fair trials of former regime members and brigade perpetrators have been carried out (EA 3)*
The political and security crisis has had a severe impact on the achievement of progress in the area of transitional justice. Without a legitimate parliament, members cannot be appointed to the Fact-Finding and Reconciliation Commission. As a result, progress has stalled in relation to truth seeking and reparations. It is worth noting, however, that the Libyan Political Agreement signed on 17 December contains significant clauses calling for action in the area of transitional justice and urges the appointment of members to the Commission within 90 days of the agreement. The HRD has also facilitated ongoing dialogue between the Misrata and Tawergha municipalities on the modalities of implementing the right of

return of the 40,000 internally displaced persons from Tawergha. The process began in January and has intensified since the two sides agreed to form a Joint Committee in May. Throughout the year, the HRD organized a series of meetings between the two parties in Libya, Switzerland and Tunisia. These meetings culminated in the adoption of a road map for the returns to Tawergha on 18 December, which were carried out in accordance with international standards. The HRD ensured the involvement of victims' groups and women in the work of the Joint Committee.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *An impartial and effective National Council on Civil Liberties and Human Rights that is working well with civil society and acting increasingly in compliance with the Paris Principles (EA 1)*
Commissioners and staff of the National Council on Civil Liberties and Human Rights faced intimidation and threats and many continued to live in exile or in hiding. Furthermore, the Benghazi and Tripoli premises of the Council remain closed and the House of Representatives (the internationally recognized Libyan legislature) failed to extend the Council board's mandate, which expired at the end of 2014. Despite these challenges, the HRD engaged in trainings for staff and the Council's board members to strengthen their capacity in addressing human rights concerns.
- ▶ *Diverse networks of civil society organizations actively advocate for human rights and participate in public life (EA 5)*
As a part of its broader monitoring work, the HRD has repeatedly raised concerns with Libyan authorities and those in effective control on the ground regarding the protection of human rights defenders and civil society representatives in Libya and in exile. Specific emphasis was placed on the particular threats facing women activists when reporting, participating in interventions and providing assistance through referral pathways. The HRD also organized a meeting of civil society organizations in August which provided Libyan civil society organizations with a forum for raising their concerns and coordinating joint actions. The meeting included the participation of the United Nations Country Team and members of the international community.

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

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

The monitoring and reporting work undertaken by the HRD, which has highlighted the deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in Libya, has been integrated in numerous public statements and public reports, including the report of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in Libya (January); the briefing on human rights defenders (March); a statement on abductions (May); a statement

on the situation of migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees (May); and a report on the general human rights situation in Libya between January and November (November). The HRD also contributed to the Secretary-General's reports on Libya, the quarterly Global Horizontal Notes on children and armed conflict and the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict.