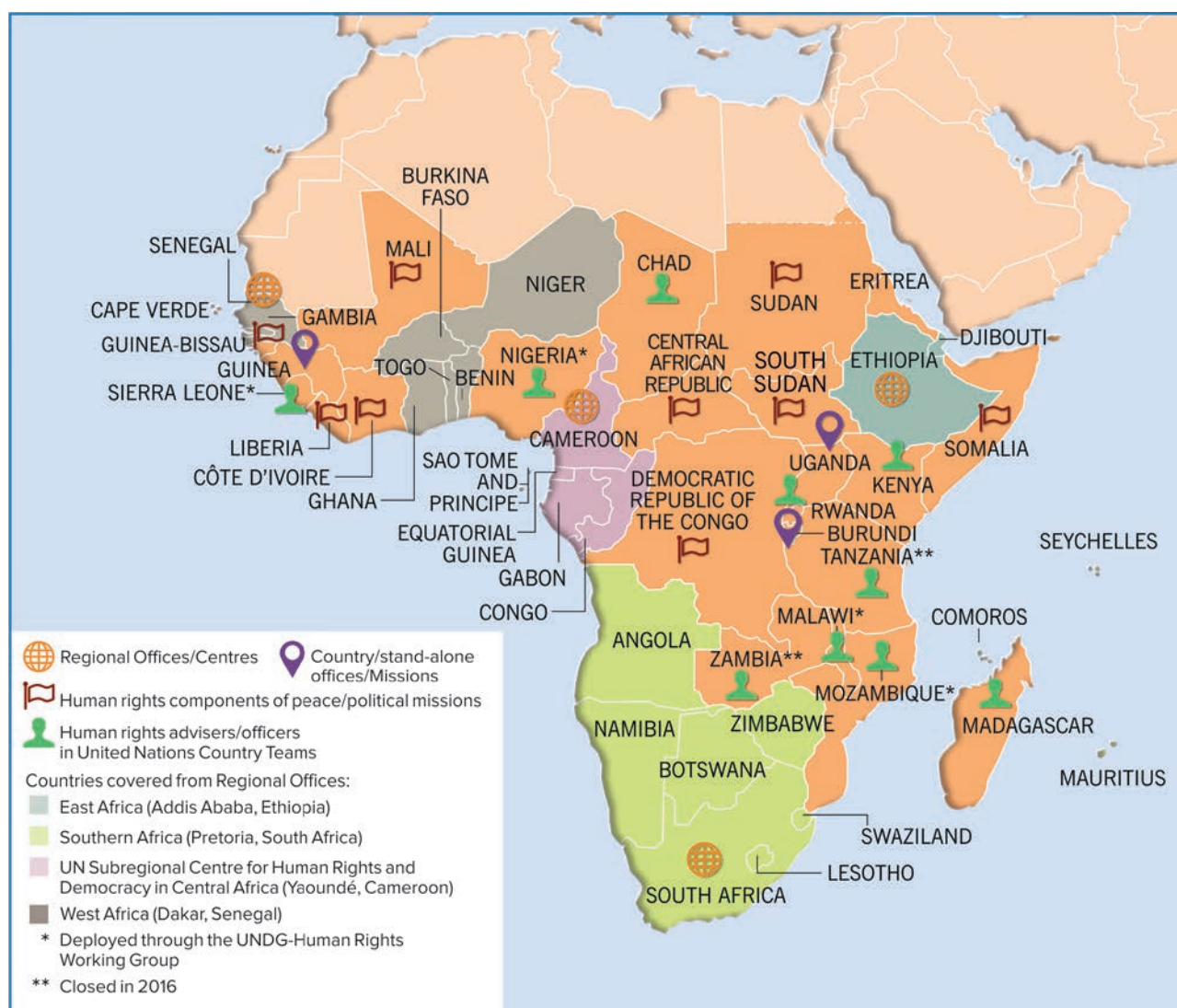


OHCHR in the field: Africa



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.

** Closed in 2016.

The work of OHCHR in Africa covers the 48 countries of sub-Saharan Africa. The Office supported four regional offices (Central Africa, East Africa, Southern Africa, West Africa); three country offices (Burundi, Guinea, Uganda); 10 human rights advisers (HRAs) in United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) in: Chad, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, United Republic of Tanzania (until June) and Zambia (until January); and nine human rights presences in United Nations peace missions in: Central African Republic (CAR), Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan (Darfur). OHCHR provided support to six special procedures country mandates, namely, Somalia (1999), Sudan (2009), Côte d'Ivoire (2011), Eritrea (2012), Mali (2013), and CAR (2013) and to the work of the International Commission of Inquiries on Eritrea, the United Nations Independent Investigation in Burundi (UNIIB) and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan.

During 2016, the African continent witnessed stagnation in democratization processes, prevailing problems with the rule of law, lack of accountability for serious crimes, withdrawal of some African countries from the International Criminal Court, shrinking of democratic space following violent suppression of peaceful protests, governance deficits and a return to relativism in a number of countries. On the one hand, mixed migration throughout Africa created opportunities for a number of Africans to seek a job but also to access enhanced natural resources out of their countries of origin or residence. Unfortunately, mass migration remained triggered by poverty and bad governance, and resulted in the deaths of thousands of Africans attempting to reach Europe. In other parts of Africa, including Burundi, CAR, the DRC, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan, the rise in armed conflict and other forms of violence that occurred in the context of elections, threatened human rights and endangered the lives of civilians.

At the same time, some positive changes were noted. For instance, the region benefited from the increased leadership of the African Union (AU) in the areas of peacekeeping (CAR, Darfur, Mali and Somalia) and regional initiatives on justice and accountability issues. The year 2016 also saw peaceful elections take place in Benin, the Gambia, Ghana and Zambia, an increase in the number of States that criminalized torture, banned female genital mutilation pursuant to the Maputo Protocol and conducted successful campaigns against early/forced marriages.

OHCHR field presences continued to support governments, civil society organizations and other actors to strengthen their capacity to engage with the UN human rights mechanisms and address human rights concerns at the regional and country levels, including issues of violence against civilians, impunity, respect for the rule of law, discrimination and threats against fundamental freedoms and civil society, in particular in the context of elections. The serious human rights situations in Burundi, CAR, the DRC, Somalia and South Sudan required the sustained attention of the Office.

In the Gambia, OHCHR mobilized surge capacity to support election-related activities and deployed teams to assess the human rights situation in response to the emerging crisis in Congo-Brazzaville within the framework of the Human Rights up Front Initiative. The High Commissioner for Human Rights visited the DRC and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights attended the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa and visited Burundi, the DRC and South Sudan.

The Office continued to strengthen cooperation with the AU, including by enhancing support to its human rights bodies (African Commission on Human and

Peoples' Rights, the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child), and working to mainstream human rights into AU peace support operations. OHCHR further supported activities within the framework of the African Year for Human Rights with a particular focus on the rights of women and the effective integration of a human rights and gender perspective into all AU policies, programmes and processes.

Country Offices

Burundi

Year established	2015
Staff as of 31 December 2016	25
Expenditure in 2016	US\$4,733,372

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)*

Since April 2015, substantial progress has been made in setting up a permanent committee for drafting reports and following up on recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. The 23 members of the Committee, who come from relevant ministries, have benefited from various OHCHR capacity-building sessions, which contributed to



Coordination meeting between OHCHR staff members and African Union human rights observers. © OHCHR/Burundi



Cultural activity organized in the context of the "Amahoro, ego!" campaign. © OHCHR/Burundi

the adoption of a road map to effectively fulfil the mandate of the Committee. OHCHR also provided technical and financial support for the creation of a documentation centre, within the Ministry of Human Rights, to provide the Committee members with working space and research tools. Since its establishment, the Committee has prepared two reports to two of the human rights treaty bodies, including one to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

- ▶ *A human rights-based approach is systematically applied in the UNDAF and key UN programmes (EA 11)*

During the ongoing process for the development of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for 2017-2018, human rights were identified as a cross-cutting priority and OHCHR was selected to lead the mainstreaming of human rights throughout the process. OHCHR contributed to this result by sensitizing UN agencies regarding the need to apply a human rights-based approach in their activities and implement the Human Rights up Front Initiative.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission was formally established in December 2014 when it also swore in its members. The operational phase of the Commission was officially launched on 6 March and the Law on the Protection of Victims, Witnesses and Other Persons at Risk was promulgated on 27 June. This was an indispensable step in order for the Commission to begin its hearings and investigations. Although the Commission began gathering testimonies of victims in Bujumbura, it needs additional resources to set up a protection unit and fully implement its mandate. OHCHR supported the publication of a bilingual version of the law to ensure it will be widely disseminated among the population and encourage their active participation in the truth and reconciliation process.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *A draft law for the protection of human rights defenders is adopted and a basket fund for the National Human Rights Commission is set up (EA 1)*
The draft law for the protection of human rights defenders has been awaiting approval by the National Independent Commission on Human Rights since 2014. The draft has not yet been submitted to the Government for consideration.
- ▶ *The Independent National Human Rights Commission is fully functioning in accordance with the Paris Principles (EA 1)*

With the new leadership of the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI), which took office on July 2015, the NHRI gradually shifted towards a pro-government position and failed to maintain its independence in accordance with the Paris Principles. This deviation motivated a special review by the Sub-Committee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions in November 2016, which subsequently led to the recommendation of its downgrading from "A" to "B" status within one year unless it provided evidence of its continued compliance with the Paris Principles.

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)*

In 2016, the authorities continued to systematically repress all forms of opposition and any forms of criticism or contestation by independent media or civil society organizations. The National Network of Human Rights Observers, established under the auspices of OHCHR, has been a key strategic partner in the monitoring of and reporting on the human rights situation. In order to diffuse tensions and create space for national cohesion and prevent further human rights violations, OHCHR launched a one-week campaign in July to promote dialogue among youth, who were at the forefront of the contestation but also suffered the most from the repression.

Burundi: Expenditure in 2016		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	2,621,222
Activities and operating costs	-	1,660,339
Subtotal	-	4,281,561
Programme support costs	-	451,811
GRAND TOTAL	-	4,733,372

Guinea (Conakry)

Year established	2010
Staff as of 31 December 2016	19
Expenditure in 2016	US\$2,285,108

Results

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Justice sector is reformed, national courts increasingly invoke human rights principles and standards in the proceedings and final decisions and alleged perpetrators of serious crimes are investigated and prosecuted (EA 1)*

The new Criminal Law and Criminal Code of Procedure, which are both compliant with human rights standards, were adopted. OHCHR provided technical advice during the drafting process and supported civil society's advocacy for the amendment of the texts.

- *Formal learning institutions for gendarmerie and police include a programme for human rights training (EA 1)*

With the support of OHCHR, four human rights modules were developed and approved for the training centres for security forces. Forty representatives from the security forces were trained on the use of the modules.

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, into the UNDAF 2013-2017, through its mid-term review and in the UN Contingency Plan and UN Protection Clusters, particularly concerning the forest region (EA 11)*

Following a training session that was facilitated by OHCHR on a human rights-based approach (HRBA), 16 representatives of UN agencies based in Guinea committed to integrating a HRBA when developing their corresponding programmes. The Office trained an additional 50 representatives from mining companies, national authorities and local committees from the forest region regarding the social responsibility of mining companies.

Guinea: Expenditure in 2016

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	1,505,266
Activities and operating costs	-	517,144
Subtotal	-	2,022,410
Programme support costs	-	262,699
GRAND TOTAL	-	2,285,108

Uganda

Year established	2005
Staff as of 31 December 2016	29
Expenditure in 2016	US\$3,107,720

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

On 4 August, an online database was launched to monitor the status of the Government's implementation of the recommendations formulated by international, regional and national human rights mechanisms. Following an initial pilot stage that was tested in five ministries and departments, efforts are now underway to roll out the database to other ministries. The database was developed by the Uganda Human Rights Commission, with support from OHCHR, and was praised by Government officials as a key tool that will enable governmental institutions to monitor their implementation of human rights recommendations.

- *Civil society networks, NHRI and UN entities increasingly engage with the UPR process, treaty body reporting and special procedures (EA 7)*

In November, Uganda underwent its second cycle Universal Periodic Review (UPR). OHCHR provided assistance to civil society organizations through the dissemination of information relating to the UPR process. In March, the Office supported consultation meetings between 120 representatives from civil society organizations from different regions in order to coordinate the elaboration of a joint shadow report, which was submitted in due time.



Human Rights Day celebration in Uganda. © OHCHR/Uganda

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Legislation, policies and institutional practices substantively comply with non-discrimination and equality standards, particularly in relation to gender, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and inter-sex persons and persons with disabilities or living with HIV/AIDS (EA 4)*

The Uganda Public Finance Management Act 2015 requires compliance of financial instruments with gender and equity requirements. OHCHR supported the Equal Opportunities Commission to conduct technical dialogues with 45 technical officers on how to mainstream gender into their financial instru-

ments and ensure that non-discrimination standards were integrated and respected. As a result, technical officers whose financial instruments had failed to comply with gender equality standards were able to revise and re-submit them to the Parliament.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Uganda People's Defence Force, the Uganda Police Force and Uganda Prisons Service increasingly comply with international standards on the use of force, arrest, detention and treatment of persons in custody, including in events of counter-terrorism, treason charges and rebellion (EA 1)*

Between 2014 and 2016, a significant decrease was noted in the number of allegations related to torture or incommunicado detention allegedly perpetrated by the Chieftaincy of Military Intelligence (CMI). The Office contributed to the improvement of the CMI's human rights record through a series of interventions that began in 2013, including a 2016 training-of-trainers session for 25 CMI instructors on human rights, the right to physical and mental integrity and gender and sexual and gender-based violence.

Widening the democratic space

- *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 human rights promotion interventions (EA 1)*

Empowering victims in their fight for accountability

OHCHR assisted the International Crimes Division of the High Court of Uganda (ICD) in making great strides to formally secure the participation of victims and witnesses in criminal proceedings and institutionalizing various witness protection measures.

In 2016, OHCHR supported the ICD to review and validate its draft Rules of Procedure, with the aim of incorporating international norms and good practices into their working methods. The review facilitated the integration of provisions relating to victim participation and witness protection in proceedings of international crimes at different stages of the judicial process. The review assisted the judiciary in addressing gaps in current legislation and the absence of legislation related to witness protection and victim participation by making it mandatory for courts to uphold those rights. The Rules, which were published in the Official Gazette on 15 June, have been applied in proceedings before the ICD, including in ongoing trials related to terrorism and the Lord's Resistance Army armed conflict. The Rules also resulted in a

progressive judicial ruling that expressly affirmed victim participation in Uganda's criminal justice proceedings. The Court also appointed a Counsel for Victims and as a result, victims have been able to influence the amendment of charges to include sexual crimes (e.g., *Uganda v. Thomas Kwoyelo*).

The need for institutionalizing witness protection measures stems from Uganda not yet having enacted a law for the protection of victims and witnesses that are called upon to testify in proceedings. In the absence of such a law (the draft Witness Protection Bill, developed with OHCHR support, is currently pending Cabinet approval), institutions such as the Directorate of Public Prosecutions have progressively resorted to offering protective measures to victims and witnesses on a case-by-case basis. In addition, the Rules of Procedure of the ICD were reviewed to avoid possible inconsistencies in the application of protective measures in the absence of a formal witness protection regime for the judiciary as a whole.

With the financial support of OHCHR, 230 staff members of the Uganda Human Rights Commission were deployed to 92 districts to conduct human rights monitoring during the elections, thereby enabling the Commission to implement its mandate during this sensitive period. In February, the Office trained these staff members on human rights monitoring.

- *The Human Rights Defenders Coalition and other CSO Networks increasingly defend and claim their rights, including in northern Uganda and Karamoja (EA 5)*

OHCHR contributed to the enhanced capacity of civil society organizations to document and report on human rights violations, including in the context of the presidential and parliamentary elections. In January, OHCHR trained member organizations of the National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders on human rights monitoring, documentation and reporting in the context of the elections. The Office also supported the documentation efforts of the Coalition by disseminating a human rights database tailored to the needs of its member organizations. Additionally, OHCHR supported the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative to document and publish its findings regarding human rights violations committed in the context of the elections.

Uganda: Expenditure in 2016

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs		1,833,109
Activities and operating costs		916,287
Subtotal		2,749,396
Programme support costs		358,324
GRAND TOTAL		3,107,720

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 2016	13
Expenditure in 2016	US\$1,452,517

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)*

Partially as a result of sustained advocacy undertaken by the Regional Office, the National Assembly in Sao Tomé and Príncipe adopted a bill for the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), in October. The Central African Republic ratified the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

- *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)*

Civil society organizations in Cameroon are increasingly aware of the role of international human rights mechanisms and are more engaged in preparing shadow reports. As an example, a civil society network working on economic, social and cultural rights completed a shadow report under the ICESCR and the Cameroon Child Rights Network drafted and publicly presented its shadow report.

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)

With the support of the Regional Office, there was an increase in the number of companies seeking to comply with human rights standards in Cameroon. The Cameroon Development Corporation, a State corporation employing over 22,000 workers, conceded hundreds of hectares of its land to local communities in order to respond to their development needs, provided full medical coverage for workers and their dependents and paid for teachers who are posted by the Government to schools in the areas where it operates. The Corporation also put in place an individual complaints mechanism to address employee problems. At the request of the Corporation, the Regional Office facilitated, in November, a training-of-trainers session for selected mid- and senior level managers with the aim of putting in place teams that will deliver training to more than 600 field level supervisors.

Widening the democratic space

- *Significant improvements in legislation and policy relating to fundamental public freedoms in Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon (EA 1)*

The media's contribution to electoral processes in the subregion was significant compared to previous years. None of the political upheavals witnessed during the elections in Congo and Gabon, for example, were attributable to hate speech or violent language in the media. This demonstrates that there was an increased awareness among media professionals regarding their role in promoting peaceful electoral processes during the reporting period. OHCHR organized six training workshops for media professionals in the countries of the subregion where elections took place in 2016. It also developed and distributed an awareness-raising video on elections and human rights.

In terms of legislative developments, the new Constitution of the Republic of Congo abolishes the death penalty and provides for greater protection of human rights. In Cameroon, the Parliament adopted a new Penal Code, which is more closely aligned with human rights standards, and an Electoral Code, which now includes the human rights of persons with disabilities.

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

- *Coordination arrangements are established between United Nations and subregional organizations, governments and development partners for ensuring prompt responses to emerging human rights challenges (EA 10)*

Based on the close monitoring of the situation in the Republic of Congo in anticipation of the presidential election, the Regional Office rapidly deployed a UN Light Team, in February, under the Human Rights up Front Action Plan. By ensuring that human rights issues were raised with relevant actors, the Light Team contributed to promoting non-violent elections. The Regional Office's monitoring of the post-electoral crisis resulted in the deployment of an OHCHR Assessment Mission to the Republic of Congo. The team was instrumental in verifying and documenting several human rights violations, which occurred during the entire electoral process, and played a preventive role in limiting the scale of potential human rights violations.

Sub-regional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (Yaoundé, Cameroon): Expenditure in 2016

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	946,428	68,006
Activities and operating costs	334,539	83,807
Subtotal	1,280,967	151,814
Programme support costs	-	19,736
GRAND TOTAL	1,280,967	171,549

Regional Office for East Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

Year established	2002
Staff as of 31 December 2016	11
Expenditure in 2016	US\$956,810

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Establishment of participatory standing national co-ordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms in Djibouti, Eritrea and Ethiopia (EA 6)*
- The Government of Ethiopia enacted a law conferring the human rights reporting and follow-up responsibilities on the Office of the Attorney General, in the Ministry of Justice. In response to a request from this Office, OHCHR provided training on national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up to fo-



Population affected by the drought in Ethiopia.
© EU/ECHO/Anouk Delafortrie

cal persons in different ministries, the Parliament and other government offices, with a view to enhancing the functioning of the new reporting and follow-up arrangements in Ethiopia.

- *United Nations human rights mechanisms recommendations form an integral part of reviews of country situations by AU human rights bodies (EA 8)* OHCHR provided technical and financial support to develop the African Union (AU) Human Rights Action and Implementation Plan (2017-2026) and the organization of consultations with civil society on the Plan. It also supported the High-level Dialogue on Democracy, Human Rights, Women's Rights and Governance in Africa, which took place in Tanzania. Both events contributed to strengthening OHCHR's existing cooperation framework with the AU human rights organs and resulted in enhanced cooperation between African human rights stakeholders and the provision of additional avenues for discussing solutions to current human rights challenges that are facing the continent. Furthermore, the decision of the AU to declare 2017-2026 as the Decade of Human Rights provides a multitude of opportunities to take stock of the milestones achieved and the challenges being faced and to assist AU member states to fulfil their obligations under regional and international human rights instruments.

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)*

As a result of training sessions facilitated by the Regional Office, law enforcement officials in Djibouti increased their understanding about the international standards governing the rights to peaceful demonstration and assembly and the definition of torture in

line with the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. In cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, the Djiboutian National Human Rights Commission and the Office of the Resident Coordinator, OHCHR organized a two-day training session, in September, for 20 Djiboutian prison and police officers to enhance their knowledge of international and regional human rights standards related to due process, the use of force, torture and the treatment of detainees. A second training on human rights in the administration of justice, which took place in October, benefited 30 judges, registrars and prosecutors.

- *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)*

On the basis of an understanding reached between the African Union Department of Political Affairs, the African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur, UNDP and OHCHR, a dialogue was held in Kampala, from 9-10 December, in order to develop a framework of cooperation between the transitional justice mechanisms in Sudan and other partners. The dialogue resulted in an outcome document, which identified the key issues and modality of cooperation.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *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)*

African development priorities, as outlined by the AU, are increasingly taking precautionary measures to mainstream human rights and prevent the potential negative impacts of trade agreements. In 2016, OHCHR organized a workshop, together with the UN Economic Commission for Africa, on the implementation of the recommendations of the Human Rights Impact Assessment of the Continental Free Trade Zone Area. This resulted in the enhanced understanding of representatives of the AU, the Regional Economic Communities, civil society organizations, trade unions, the Pan-African Chamber of Commerce and academia, regarding the potential negative impact of the Continental Free Trade Zone Area on the enjoyment of the rights to food, an adequate standard of living, work (decent jobs) and freedom of movement, particularly for women and migrants engaged in the informal business sector. The workshop helped to gather input from participants to further enrich the recommendations of the Human Rights Impact Assessment. Additionally, OHCHR emphasized the importance of developing mechanisms to address inequality, in line with the Agenda 2030.

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

- *The legislation and policies of the AU Commission to combat violence and insecurity are firmly grounded on respect for human rights (EA 10)*

The Regional Office's support to AU human rights organs, participation in key AU forums and assistance in facilitating missions of various UN human rights mandate holders contributed to integrating human rights concerns into the AU's response to situations of conflict, violence and insecurity. For instance, the Office's submissions to the African Union Peace and Security Council, during its open sessions on countering violent extremism and terrorism and addressing migration challenges, contributed to the increased awareness of members of the Council on human rights standards and the tools that are pertinent to preventing and addressing these challenges. The Regional Office also collaborated with the Office of the Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide to organize a workshop for religious leaders on preventing incitement to hatred that could lead to atrocity crimes. The recommendations of the workshop are expected to inform the development of a continental action plan on preventing incitement to hatred and extremism.

Regional Office for East Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia): Expenditure in 2016

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	150,259	553,517
Activities and operating costs	21,500	141,218
Subtotal	171,759	694,735
Programme support costs	-	90,316
GRAND TOTAL	171,759	785,051

Regional Office for Southern Africa (Pretoria, South Africa)

Year established	1998
Staff as of 31 December 2016	6
Expenditure in 2016	US\$745,663

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Ratification by Angola of ICERD or CAT; by Comoros of ICCPR; by South Africa of ICESCR; and by Zimbabwe of CAT or ICMW (EA 2)*

As part of the Treaty Body Capacity-Building Programme, the Regional Office provided technical support to States Parties in the region on the ratification and domestication of the human rights treaties and on the reporting process. Through the Programme, 278 participants representing governments, national human rights institutions, other independent national institutions, UN agencies, civil society and academia received capacity-building training on various aspects relating to the treaty bodies. Support was also provided to Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius and Swaziland regarding the preparation of reports to the treaty bodies. Overdue reports were submitted by Mauritius (under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment); Lesotho and Seychelles (under the Convention on the Rights of the Child); and Angola submitted a written response to the list of issues sent by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural 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 in Lesotho, Mauritius and Swaziland (EA 6)*

As part of the Treaty Body Capacity-Building Programme, OHCHR supported States Parties on the establishment or strengthening of standing national coordinating bodies for reporting and follow-up. OHCHR provided technical assistance to Lesotho to review the existing institutional structure for reporting to human rights mechanisms and, consequently, a working group was set up to draft the terms of reference for a new Interministerial Committee. The final draft terms of reference was submitted to the Minister of Law, Human Rights and Constitutional Affairs. A Standing Technical Interministerial Committee was established in Mauritius. OHCHR supported the drafting of its terms of reference. In Swaziland, OHCHR helped to draft the terms of reference for the establishment of a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up, which are due to be submitted to the Cabinet for review.

- *Positive reply to special procedures mandate holders' requests to visit Swaziland and Zimbabwe (EA 6)*
- In 2016, several special procedures mandate holders conducted country visits to the region. The Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities visited Zambia (April), the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism visited Malawi (April) and Mozambique (August-September) and the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants visited Angola (May), marking the first visit of a special rapporteur to Angola since 2007. The Regional Office advocated for this outcome and provided technical support during several of the visits.

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)*

OHCHR conducted a technical assistance mission to strengthen the capacity of Mauritian stakeholders to use indicators in order to measure and monitor the implementation of human rights obligations. During the mission, a two-day training course was held, which brought together 36 participants from a wide array of ministries, independent institutions and civil society organizations. Subsequently, Statistics Mauritius was included in the Standing Technical Interministerial Committee for Reporting and Follow-Up on International and Regional Human Rights Conventions. In addition, there was an agreement to develop human rights indicators, drawing on OHCHR's methodology, to support evidence-based reporting. Finally, a broad variety of national stakeholders received capacity-building training with regard to international human rights norms, human rights indicators and how to apply a human rights-based approach to data collection and analysis.

Widening the democratic space

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

The Government of Botswana announced that it is working on legislation to establish a national human rights institution, which will be submitted for review to the Parliament, in 2017. Although the Human Rights Commission Act of Lesotho was adopted in January, the institution has not been established, primarily due to a pending court challenge that was initiated by civil society. The Regional Office provided inputs to the draft legislation.



Panel discussion during a film festival organized by OHCHR, IOM and UNIC to celebrate Human Rights Day in South Africa.
© OHCHR/Southern Africa

Regional Office for Southern Africa (Pretoria, South Africa): Expenditure in 2016

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	134,412	460,600
Activities and operating costs	-	78,681
Subtotal	134,412	539,281
Programme support costs	-	71,970
GRAND TOTAL	134,412	611,252

Regional Office for West Africa (Dakar, Senegal)

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2016	11
Expenditure in 2016	US\$1,209,793

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *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 international human rights mechanisms; and an increased number of reports submitted by Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia and Senegal (EA 6)*

The Government of Cape Verde finalized its reports under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child; Burkina Faso submitted its overdue report under the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women and engaged with the treaty bodies during the review of its reports under ICCPR, ICESCR and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; Ghana engaged with the Human Rights Committee during the review of its report under ICCPR; and Niger and Senegal engaged with the Committee on Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families during the review of their respective reports. All countries received technical support from the Regional Office in their engagement with the human rights treaty bodies. In relation to national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up, OHCHR trained members of the Gambian mechanism on

the drafting of national action plans to implement the recommendations issued by the treaty bodies and in the context of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). In Senegal, a new national action plan was approved on the implementation of UPR and treaty body recommendations. Among other actions, the plan entails the establishment of an enhanced national reporting and follow-up mechanism.

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

In Benin, capacity-building has been provided to civil society organizations on the international human rights mechanisms and for the development of an alternative report on the implementation of UPR recommendations, which will be submitted in 2017. In Senegal, OHCHR organized a capacity-building activity on the international human rights mechanisms. As a result, two civil society organizations developed alternative reports under the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, submitted in April, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to be submitted in 2017.

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, Gambia and Senegal (EA 4)*

In the Gambia, legislation was adopted which prohibits female genital mutilation and early marriage. The Regional Office provided assistance to key stakeholders to raise awareness on the importance of banning the harmful practices and assisted the Government in writing national action plans on the prohibition of both practices. OHCHR also provided advice on the draft Persons with Disabilities Bill to enhance its compliance with international standards.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

In Burkina Faso, the Regional Office participated in the annual evaluation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and provided information on the latest recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms in relation to Burkina Faso, in view of the preparation of the new Common Country Assessment (CCA)/UNDAF. Similarly, in Senegal, OHCHR also provided information with regard to the implementation of



OHCHR staff member monitors elections in Ghana, December 2016.
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UPR and treaty bodies recommendations relevant to Senegal in the context of the UNDAF evaluation. The Regional Office also interacted with the Peer Support Group of the Regional UNDG for West and Central Africa in the context of the programming process of CCA/UNDAF roll-out countries in the region, including Burkina Faso and Ghana. These steps were taken in order to ensure the integration of a human rights-based approach in the strategic documents.



Participants of a workshop for aspiring female candidates of the National Assembly Election in the Gambia.
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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, Gambia and Senegal (EA 1)*

In the Gambia, the Regional Office assisted the Government with the drafting of a bill establishing a national human rights institution (NHRI) in accordance with international standards. In Burkina Faso, the new Law of the NHRI was adopted. OHCHR provided technical assistance to different stakeholders in drafting the strategic plan of the NHRI and to the Government on the nominating process of new members. At the regional level, the Network of NHRIs in West Africa issued its first report on the human rights situation in the subregion under the guidance of OHCHR.

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

Through its presence on the ground and interaction with civil society organizations, the Regional Office

noted that fundamental freedoms, including the right to vote and freedoms of movement, assembly, expression and association, were generally guaranteed during the December Presidential and parliamentary elections in Ghana. Nevertheless, the level of participation of women was fairly low.

Regional Office for West Africa (Dakar, Senegal): Expenditure in 2016

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	853,976	44,309
Activities and operating costs	107,400	177,217
Subtotal	961,376	221,526
Programme support costs	-	26,891
GRAND TOTAL	961,376	248,417

Human rights clubs in Senegal



Awareness-raising activity with members of the CEM Les Martyrs High School. © OHCHR/West Africa

The West Africa Regional Office (WARO) has partnered with a human rights club for young people in Senegal. Several years ago, WARO began building a strong relationship with the CEM Les Martyrs high school of Thi-aroie, based in the suburbs (25 kilometres from Dakar), which has 1,900 students. One teacher took on the challenge of creating the human rights club that WARO has supported since its inception, in December 2014. The Club Citoyenneté et Droits de l'Homme (Citizenship and Human Rights Club) of CEM Les Martyrs started out with 20 active student members and it now has a membership of 90 individuals who have demonstrated their great commitment to human rights promotion. This is even visible on the walls of their school where a painting is hanging that is dedicated to human rights.

The students gather twice a week to produce texts, plays and poems about human rights and to study human rights texts, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They have advanced so much that they were the main focus of the Human Rights Day celebrations that were held at WARO for the last two years. WARO is already working with the Club to encourage cooperation between other youth clubs so that they can work together for the promotion and protection of human rights throughout Senegal. The human rights club also includes former students who are continuing their human rights activities and spreading the word now that they are enrolled at Lycée Limamou Laye. The students encourage their friends to get involved through debates at school.

They have also raised public awareness as WARO invited them to participate in a TV show during which they presented the movies they had made on human rights issues. Through the programme, they were able to reach a large audience that was tuning in to the programme on Senegalese television. The dedication of the students from the Citizenship and Human Rights Club will be linked with the UN Volunteers who work at WARO to promote and defend human rights. As a WARO volunteer noted in her video talk at the Bonn's Volunteers partnerships forum, "[w]hen you support one volunteer in human rights, you help a student who will in turn help his school friends and pass the word to a whole community and country."

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 2016	85

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

As a result of ongoing advocacy undertaken by the Human Rights Division (HRD) of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) with national stakeholders, the Government of the Central African Republic (CAR) ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol and acceded to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Increased number of human rights cases processed by the justice system (EA 1)*
During the second criminal court sessions held in Bangui, the HRD monitored 15 trials involving 85 defendants before the Bangui High Court, the Court of Appeals in Bangui, the High Court in Bouar and the Bossangoa High Court. These trials included allegations of murder, embezzlement, death threats, jailbreaks, armed robbery, conspiracy, illegal possession of arms and the practicing of witchcraft. During the trials, the HRD observed an overall conformity of national court processes with international human rights standards and norms. In most of the cases, the trials were conducted in accordance with the rules of criminal procedure and the guarantees of a fair trial and due process were generally respected. The HRD, however, noted a lack of compliance with international standards in



An electoral officer assists a voter at a polling station during the presidential election held in the Central African Republic, February 2016. © UN Photo/Nektarios Markogiannis

some cases. In response, steps were taken to mentor judges and law enforcement officers to deepen their knowledge and understanding of international standards related to judicial processes.

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

The Government set up a technical task force to study the process of the establishment of a truth, reconciliation, justice and reparations commission. A comprehensive strategy on transitional justice has not been adopted. As a result, the HRD and MINUSCA continued to advocate with relevant ministries and parliamentarians to establish the Commission and develop a national strategy. In addition, the HRD conducted a mapping and reported on serious human rights and international humanitarian law violations that have been committed in the CAR since January 2003. The findings will be widely disseminated to State and non-State actors and will be shared with the Special Criminal Court, national courts and non-judicial mechanisms.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *Human rights-based approaches incorporated into the UNDAF midterm review and other UN development programmes (EA 11)*

The HRD, in collaboration with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), mainstreamed human rights into the CAR's five-year post-conflict recovery strategy. Among other issues, the strategy integrates the promotion and protection of human rights through its support for the establishment and strengthening of the National Commission for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

Widening the democratic space

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

A law for the establishment of the National Commission for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms was drafted and is awaiting adoption by the Parliament. The HRD supported this process by holding a review workshop with members of the Statutory Commission, which is responsible for examining bills,

and with representatives from Public Administration and civil society organizations. Another workshop was held for National Assembly members on the Paris Principles and the international norms and standards that govern national human rights institutions.

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 an effort to enhance national protection mechanisms, the HRD collaborated with the State to develop a joint strategy to ensure greater protection from human rights violations and abuses. To this end, the HRD held workshops with associations of victims in order to hear and mainstream their concerns into the strategy. In addition, the HRD conducted 81 field missions and over 400 regular field visits to assess the human rights situation in the country. Based on its findings, the HRD produced reports that will be used to advocate with the authorities for their compliance with international human rights and humanitarian standards.

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

A new Standard Operating Procedure for the implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) was signed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and became effective, in December. Compliance with the Policy is now mandatory for all MINUSCA and UNCT entities, which are providing support to national security forces. The HRD organized two presentations on the Policy for members of the HRDDP Task Force and the UNCT, in September and December, respectively.

United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

Year established	2004
Staff as of 31 December 2016	64

Results

Strengthening 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 international human rights mechanisms and the timely submission of reports to treaty bodies and the UPR; and full cooperation with special procedures man-*

date holders, especially the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire (EA 6) In April, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire adopted an action plan for the implementation of the recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies and in the context of the Universal Periodic Review. A national coordinating mechanism for reporting and follow-up, however, has not yet been established. The Human Rights Section (HRS) of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) continued to provide support to human rights focal points in public institutions to strengthen their capacity in the field of human rights.

In May, the Independent Expert on the enhancement of capacity-building and technical cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire in the field of human rights carried out his fourth official visit to the country, during which he met with various ministers, representatives of national institutions and civil society. The Government fully cooperated with the Independent Expert during his visit.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *A comprehensive transitional justice strategy is implemented and key recommendations of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission are implemented (EA 3)*

At the end of April, the National Commission for Reconciliation and Compensation of Victims ceased its activities after presenting its final report to the President of Côte d'Ivoire. The report includes a consolidated list of victims of the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire between 1990 and 2012, a national reparation policy proposal and a draft reconciliation action plan. The Government has not yet enacted the Strategy for National Reconciliation and Social Cohesion, while the long-awaited final report of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission was officially released during a public ceremony, in October.

Widening the democratic space

- *The National Human Rights Commission improves its compliance with the Paris Principles (EA 1)*

With the support of the HRS, the National Human Rights Commission of Côte d'Ivoire (CNDHCI) made progress towards its institutional and structural reform and developed its 2017-2020 strategic document to prepare for post-UNOCI functions. In addition, in August, the CNDHCI organized a workshop that focused on the implementation of the recommendations issued by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions with regard to its accreditation and on the elaboration of a manual on how to process complaints. The CNDHCI also strengthened its monitoring and reporting capacities through seven capacity-building activities on human rights monitoring that were facilitated by the HRS.

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)*

The National Strategy on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence was adopted in 2014, but its implementation remains limited. During 2016, additional efforts were made to foster its implementation. In September, with support from HRS and in collaboration with UN Action and UN Women, a workshop was held to map and assess the existing gaps in the implementation of the National Strategy. The workshop concluded with a final statement, endorsed by the Ministry of Family, Women and Children, which requested that the Government accelerate its plan to launch the National Programme on Gender-Based Violence. This would help ensure a consistent and long-term implementation of the National Strategy. Meanwhile, the Government adopted major legislative acts aimed at fighting against sexual violence. For instance, the President signed a decree, in June, on the creation of a national committee to fight conflict-related sexual violence, which will be mandated to coordinate governmental efforts to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence.

► *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)*

The HRS did not document any human rights violations in the context of the October referendum for a new constitution or in connection with the legislative elections scheduled for December. The HRS further provided technical support to the CNDHCI and its regional offices, including through training more than 250 observers of the CNDHCI who were deployed during the elections. The observers did not document any major human rights violations during either of the electoral processes.

African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2016	91

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

► *Increased engagement by the Sudan with international and regional human rights mechanisms relevant to Darfur (EA 6)*

The Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan undertook one visit, in April, dur-



Staff members of the Human Rights Section of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur hold a planning meeting in El Geneina, August 2016. © UNAMID

ing which he visited Khartoum, Kadugli in Southern Kordofan State, El-Fasher and Thabit in Northern Darfur State, El-Daein in Eastern Darfur State and Aljazeera State. He held meetings with senior Government officials, civil society groups and national and international stakeholders. The Human Rights Council extended his mandate for another year, requesting that he continue his engagement with the Government to assess, verify and report on the situation of human rights with a view to making recommendations on the technical assistance and capacity-building that is needed to address human rights in the country.

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)*

As a result of advocacy efforts of various actors, including the Human Rights Section (HRS) of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), the Sudan National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) inaugurated a sub-office in El Fasher, in February. The inauguration is a positive step towards enhancing the capacity of the NCHR to undertake human rights monitoring and report on the conflict in Darfur. Indeed, the NCHR has already undertaken regular fact-finding visits to police stations in El Fasher as part of its assessment of the extent of access to justice. Initiatives on access to justice were further enhanced by the Federal Ministry of Justice, including through the deployment of 160 prosecutors and by strengthening the presence of law enforcement institutions in all five Darfur states. Two police stations, in Saraf

Omra and Kutum, North Darfur, were reopened as a result of continuous advocacy by UNAMID.

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)*

In response to advocacy by various actors, including the HRS, the Government of Sudan made a number of amendments to the Sudan Criminal Act 1991, in particular relating to personal security and violence against women. A new provision was added to combat female genital mutilation, which is now considered a criminal offence that carries a mandatory sentence of up to three years. The amendment also includes prison sentences of up to 10 years for offences relating to violent threats to civilian life, including burglary and looting of property. Furthermore, the application of the death penalty for children is now prohibited.

In August, the Government and armed opposition movements agreed upon and signed a road map. This can be considered a major milestone in the Darfur peace process. The signing was preceded by years of political dialogue and a repeated failure to reach agreements that could be translated into durable peace.

- *Human rights considerations are integrated into the policies and programmes of the UNCT in Darfur with respect to humanitarian action, early recovery and security (EA 11)*

Through the Monitoring and Reporting Arrangement and the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism, the HRS closely collaborated with the United Nations Country Team on monitoring and reporting on conflict-related sexual violence in Darfur. Joint programmes were also carried out to mainstream human rights as a form of preventive action against violence, especially in relation to women and children.

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 2016	124

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Timely submission of reports to treaty bodies and UPR (EA 6)*

An integrated national action plan for the implementation of recommendations issued by all UN human rights protection mechanisms has been drafted with the technical and financial support of the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office (UNJHRO). While the draft action plan is awaiting finalization, its appropriation by all stakeholders and validation have been delayed due to the announcement of a new government in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

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)*

The UNJHRO reported that a total of 215 convictions had been entered by the DRC's courts in relation to human rights violations committed by the police and armed forces. This number marks a decrease since 2015 when 284 convictions were recorded. In the absence of a comprehensive national judicial data reporting system, the UNJHRO field offices in all provinces monitored and provided monthly reports on judicial activity, including convictions of State agents and members of armed groups who were convicted of crimes arising from a violation of human rights or humanitarian law. The UNJHRO continued to provide technical and logistical assistance to military justice authorities for investigations of grave human rights violations and the mobile courts used for their trials. The UNJHRO also monitored these investigations and trials, in addition to other emblematic trials of grave human rights violations.

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

On 31 December 2015, the President promulgated legislation to implement the Rome Statute. This is a positive development with respect to the fight against impunity, as it addresses a gap in the previous legislative framework by adding definitions of



The High Commissioner met with Dr. Denis Mukwege, Director of the Panzi Hospital, during his visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
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international crimes to the Penal Code, abolishes immunity for officials, including the President and Members of Parliament, provides that there can be no amnesty for international crimes and contains provisions strengthening the cooperation of the DRC with the International Criminal Court. The legislation does, however, provide that the death penalty may be imposed for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. In July, the President promulgated two presidential orders for pardons and the reduction of sentences, which included the commutation of death sentences to 20 years imprisonment.

Widening the democratic space

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

A draft law for the protection of human rights defenders, which has not yet been submitted for review by the Parliament, was elaborated and endorsed by a large number of human rights defenders as well as Senators. In addition, the UNJHRO provided technical and financial support through the organization of workshops on drafting, validation and dissemination for a wide range of actors, including experts from the Government and civil society.

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

The national human rights institution (NHRI) developed a strategic plan with the support of the UNJHRO, which trained 75 people, including NHRI officers, staff and experts. It also facilitated nationwide consultations aimed at collecting the primary human

rights concerns of rights-holders in order to ensure that the strategic plan was developed in accordance with articulated needs. Support from the UNJHRO was also instrumental to the implementation of a number of activities by the NHRI, including the elaboration of a draft law on the protection of human rights defenders and human rights monitoring missions in Kinshasa, Goma and Beni. In addition, the NHRI issued its first annual report on the human rights situation in the DRC.

- *Five functional protection networks operating at the provincial and national levels are established (EA 3)*

In 2016, the number of provincial protection networks increased by six, bringing the total number of operational networks to 11. The networks are currently active in Goma (North Kivu), Bukavu (South Kivu), Bunia (Ituri), Kisangani (Tshopo), Kinshasa (Kinshasa), Kalemie (Tanganyika), Matadi (Kongo Central), Mbuji Mai (Kasai Oriental), Loza (Sankuru), Equateur (Mbandaka) and Gbadolite (North Ubangi).

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)*

The UNJHRO provided financial and technical support to 13 Joint Human Rights Investigation Teams and six mobile court hearings for grave human rights violations, including in relation to an investigation which led to the arrest of a provincial Member of

Parliament and the first trial in a civilian court in the DRC for international crimes. The latter took place before the Lubumbashi Court of Appeals, during which 32 individuals were accused of genocide and crimes against humanity. In its judgment issued on 30 September, the Court convicted four individuals for genocide and sentenced them to 15 years in prison. The other defendants were acquitted. In terms of sexual violence, 16 mobile trials were organized by DRC courts, on the request of judicial authorities from eight provinces and with the support of the UNJHRO. The trials resulted in 126 convictions. Furthermore, 1,405 victims of sexual violence were assisted through 23 NGO-run legal clinics in 13 provinces, which provided victims with free legal assistance and information. This resulted in the conviction of 174 perpetrators of sexual violence.

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

The UNJHRO regularly participated in meetings of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and worked with all coordination mechanisms to discuss protection issues and ensure that human rights principles and standards were taken into consideration in humanitarian planning. In particular, the UNJHRO participated in the preparatory efforts of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) to address the high risk of violence during the electoral process and contributed to the development of a plan, which was adopted in August, to prevent and mitigate election-related violence. The UNJHRO also led the UNCT work under one of the components of the United Nations Development Assis-

tance Framework (UNDAF) and organized sessions for UN staff on a human-rights based approach in view of the preparation of the next Common Country Assessment and the UNDAF.

- ▶ *Increased use of the database with profiles of perpetrators of grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by MONUSCO, UN agencies and selected bilateral partners to screen beneficiaries of assistance, training or any other support in line with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (EA 11)*

Following field missions and extensive research, the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy Secretariat created 421 new profiles in the database, thereby contributing to its development. The Secretariat also responded in a timely manner to screening requests from over 1,017 individual commanders of the armed forces and police units, which benefited from MONUSCO support, whether through joint operations, logistics, transport or other forms. The Secretariat also provided substantive research regarding the human rights records and eligibility for support of Congolese security entities, performed in-depth risk assessments related to the protection of civilians and provided sound recommendations to the MONUSCO leadership before decisions were made regarding the granting of support.

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 2016	11

Results

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 trainings for security forces (army and police) and corrections personnel (EA 1)*

The United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) developed two practical guides on human rights for civil society and for military personnel, respectively. The latter was launched on the national day of the armed forces, in November, during which the Minister of Defence pledged to integrate the content of the guide into the Military Training Centre's curriculum for 2017. UN-



Workshop on women's participation in peace negotiations for women leaders, politicians and local authorities in Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo, November 2016.
© MONUSCO/Fatou Jobe

IOGBIS also mainstreamed human rights concepts into the new strategic plan for justice sector reform, in line with the national programme on that issue. The programme is aimed at promoting access to justice, fighting against impunity and contributing to the consolidation of the rule of law in Guinea-Bissau.

United Nations Mission in Liberia

Year established	2003
Staff as of 31 December 2016	35

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 to treaty body and UPR recommendations (EA 6)*

To improve the coordination for the implementation and monitoring of the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations, the NHRAP Steering Committee Secretariat undertook a number of awareness-raising activities targeting State institutions, in close collaboration with the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) and civil society organizations, which also form part of the NHRAP Steering Committee. The Human Rights and Protection Section (HRPS) of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) provided technical support and mentoring in relation to initiatives of the NHRAP Steering Committee and Secretariat. The HRPS also assisted the Ministry of Justice's Human Rights Unit to finalize Liberia's common core document, which is expected to significantly increase the ease with which Liberia is able to complete and submit future reports to the human rights treaty bodies. In addition, the HRPS provided technical assistance and capacity support which facilitated the completion of Liberia's long outstanding report under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Human rights mainstreamed in judicial training curriculum, especially with regard to non-discrimination and equality standards (EA 1)*

Between July and October, the HRPS provided technical support to the Judicial Institute's Professional Magistrate Training Programme on the incorporation of a human rights module into their training. This support included the creation of a curriculum and the facilitation of 13 training sessions for 60 magistrates.

The training contributed to strengthening the institutional and operational capacities of the judiciary by improving the awareness of the magistrates regarding human rights in criminal procedures.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Improvements in the administration of justice include: availability of remedies for violations; juvenile justice facilities and 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)*

The national police, the armed forces and the Liberia Immigration Service supported the integration of human rights monitoring and training into their operational mechanisms. With technical and advisory support from the HRPS, relevant personnel from the three institutions integrated human rights monitoring into their respective accountability mechanisms and enhanced their human rights training. This engagement included ensuring that human rights concerns were incorporated into the case database of the national police force's Professional Standards Division for the investigation of police officers and the investigations undertaken by security institutions regarding cases brought against their personnel.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

The joint programmes of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), including in the area of the rule of law, integrated a human rights-based approach into the development and delivery of a set of activities that aimed to improve human rights compliance in law-making and strengthen the accountability mechanism of the national police in Liberia. The HRPS played a key role in ensuring human rights were mainstreamed into all UN activities, including by conducting a training session for 35 UNCT programme officers on mainstreaming human rights and applying a human rights-based approach in all programming cycles.

Widening the democratic space

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

As a result of support and guidance from HRPS, Liberian authorities committed to providing national budgetary support for 20 monitors of the INCHR.

These monitors, who are distributed throughout the 15 counties of Liberia, are critical to the ongoing monitoring and assessment of the human rights situation on the ground. Partially as a result of HRPS advocacy, two new commissioners to the INCHR were appointed. As of the end of 2016, all vacant INCHR posts have been filled.

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

- *Effective SGBV and female genital mutilation prevention strategy, with impact assessment tools, is in place (EA 1)*

In 2016, the HRPS published a report on “Addressing Impunity for Rape in Liberia,” which details the challenges faced by survivors of sexual violence in achieving justice in Liberian courts. The report provides recommendations to the Government, civil society and international partners on how to improve protection mechanisms. As a result, the Ministry of Justice decided to evaluate and restructure its internal monitoring mechanisms on sexual and gender-based violence.

- *Substantial integration of human rights into the work of all UNMIL components (EA 11)*

In collaboration with the Liberia National Police Training Academy (LNPTA), the HRPS organized a training session on human rights and the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) for 39 participants, including officers and human rights instructors from the LNPTA, the Bureau of Correction and Rehabilitation, Liberian Immigration Services, the national police force’s Professional Standards Division and the Drug Enforcement Agency. Furthermore, the HRPS used UNMIL staff inputs to revise the Standard Operating Procedure on the Implementation of the HRDDP, in line with Security Council resolution 2239 of 2015 and the 2016 United Nations Protection of Civilians Strategy.

grated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights established a mechanism to periodically review allegations of human rights violations that were documented by human rights officers across the country. In 2016, nine monthly sessions were held, during which 378 cases were submitted and 21 positive actions were initiated by the Malian authorities. As a result of HRPD advocacy, the Council of Ministers adopted a bill to reform the National Commission on Human Rights in compliance with the Paris Principles, including by modifying its composition and ensuring its increased financial autonomy.

- *A credible and independent Truth and Reconciliation Commission is functioning, like other transitional justice mechanisms, in compliance with international standards (EA 3)*

The national strategy on transitional justice was finalized and is awaiting adoption by the Council of Ministers. With regards to the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission, 10 additional commissioners were appointed, in May, bringing the total number of commissioners to 25. Nine of the commissioners are representatives of armed groups and the others belong to civil society organizations, religious groups and political parties. The HRPD screened the human rights records of all commissioners and, although one individual was identified as a former member of an extremist group, the Government did not rule out his candidacy. The HRPD extended technical support to the Commission by assisting with the development of its organizational structure and supporting the opening of its six branches. It also provided specific training to the newly appointed commissioners on human rights and transitional justice mechanisms.

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali

Year established	2013
Staff as of 31 December 2016	76

Results

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Justice and law enforcement professionals increasingly apply human rights standards in their work in at least three regions of Mali (EA 1)*

In March, the Human Rights and Protection Division (HRPD) of the United Nations Multidimensional Inte-



A voter casts his ballot at a polling station during local elections in Bamako, Mali, November 2016. © MINUSMA/Harandane Dicko

Supporting the participation of persons with disabilities in Mali

In February, OHCHR supported the association known as “Sigi Te Mogo Son,” which is translated from Bambara as “laziness does not feed.” The support was provided to help with the implementation of a wide-reaching project on the empowerment and socio-economic inclusion of people with disabilities in Mopti. While the project costs as little as US\$37,000, it is promoting employment for people living with specific needs so that they can develop their independence as capable professionals and to facilitate their inclusion in the community. In the framework of this project, OHCHR supported a variety of activities, including equipping the shoemaking workshop with necessary materials; the building of a cattle breeding hangar and the purchase of 20 cows; the

purchase of a mill; equipping a soap making workshop with necessary materials; equipping the association’s administrative space with office materials; and the purchase of 10 motor tricycles to transport members of the association. The project aims to economically empower 118 people, including 43 women, through sustainable income-generating activities such as sewing and the creation of local products. During the year, it also built upon and improved existing resources and expanded production. As stated by the organization’s president and the representative of the beneficiaries, the project enables “persons with disabilities to stop begging in the streets of Mopti, to become a recognized workforce and to positively contribute to the local economy.”

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)*

The HRPD played a critical role in contributing to the protection of civilians across Mali. The Division worked through cooperation frameworks with networks of local actors, which enabled its human rights officers to reach out to remote communities and to receive information about protection-related incidents in a timely manner. In Boni, for instance, cooperation with a network enabled the Division to advocate for the rapid deployment of UN forces when the village was being attacked and taken over by extremists. Furthermore, the HRPD undertook more than 193 field missions which contributed to building trust with local communities, thereby creating spaces for the exchange of ideas and concerns, some of which fed into MINUSMA decision-making processes regarding protection of civilian-related issues. Through its regular monitoring visits to detention centres, the HRPD also strengthened the capacity of judicial police officers and prison personnel relating to international standards on arrest, investigations and detention.

- *The Human Rights Due Diligence Policy is effectively implemented by MINUSMA (EA 11)*

The HRPD assessed 26 projects funded by MINUSMA, provided regular risk assessments and recommended mitigating measures in line with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP). In December, the HRPD requested that the HRDDP Task Force recommend the withholding of two projects that will support Malian Defence Forces in Gao and Timbuktu because the mitigating measures had not been implemented. In addition, since the 2015

adoption of the Standard Operating Procedures on the implementation of the HRDDP in Mali, the HRPD integrated regular sessions on the HRDDP during the training of Malian defence and security forces.

United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2016	31

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *The national report for the second cycle of the UPR is submitted on time (EA 6)*

Somalia underwent its second Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in January and received 228 recommendations, 107 of which were initially accepted by the Federal Government. In April, the Human Rights and Protection Group (HRPG) of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) and the Federal Government co-organized a consultative workshop on the recommendations to enable it to take well-informed positions on the recommendations. Following the workshop, the Government accepted 168 of the recommendations.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

In 2016, efforts to advocate for a moratorium on the application of the death penalty had limited effect.

On a more positive note, the number of executions decreased to 20 from 30 in 2015. In addition, the Federal Government and Puntland committed to commuting the death sentences handed down to children who were captured as part of the Al Shabaab incursion into Puntland in mid-2016. This commitment followed extensive advocacy undertaken by the UN and international partners, however, it has yet to be implemented.

Widening the democratic space

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

After years of negotiations, the Somali Media Bill was adopted in January. The bill guarantees certain freedoms, including the independence of public broadcasting, protects the right to information for journalists and prohibits censorship or forced reporting on issues that are considered contrary to the public interest. It also outlines certain prohibitions of what can be reported on, including broadcasting false reports, inciting hostilities and disseminating baseless propaganda. Nevertheless, there are concerns that the lack of clarity of some terms in the bill could lead to subjective interpretations and the application of undue restrictions or limitations on the right to freedom of expression. Furthermore, the Media Law provides for the imposition of high penalties



An OHCHR staff member addresses participants during a ceremony to commemorate Human Rights Day in Mogadishu, Somalia, December 2016. © UN Photo/Ilyas Ahmed

and fines for journalists and media outlets for violations and provides the Ministry of Information with a wide margin of discretion to control the registration of journalists. Moreover, the Media Law provides for the establishment of an independent National Media Council to promote ethics, resolve disputes and complaints, discipline media workers and recommend the granting and withdrawal of licenses. The Council is composed of the National Human Rights Commission and nine members, including three

Somalia: Release of a man unlawfully detained

His name is Ali Salad. He is 62 years old and a father of five. He is also a victim of Somaliland's failure to uphold the rule of law.

In April 2014, the Hargeisa Regional Court sentenced him to three years and three months in prison after being convicted of aiding and abetting his son in the alleged theft of US\$500,000 from a Sudanese businessman. Ali Salad was living in Somaliland and his son was reportedly based in Sudan for work.

When the police could not locate Ali's son, they arrested Ali in order to pressure him to bring his son to the police station so that he could face justice. The court and law enforcement agents did not show any mercy towards Ali despite his advanced age or the fact that he did not know the whereabouts of his son.

In January 2015, Ali Salad's lawyer appealed to the Supreme Court and argued that the arrest, trial, conviction and sentencing of Ali Salad was against the law and that he should not be in prison because of a crime that his son had allegedly committed. The lawyer also demon-

strated to the court that Ali Salad did not have any information regarding his son.

The Supreme Court rejected the appeal and Ali Salad remained in prison.

In March 2015, Ali's family brought the case to the attention of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM). UNSOM brought the matter to the attention of the authorities, which stated that it was a common practice in Somaliland to arrest parents for acts that had been allegedly committed by their children or relatives. This is in violation of Article 1 of the Penal Code and Article 26 (2) of the Somaliland Constitution.

Having exhausted all local remedies, Ali's family referred the case to the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, based in Geneva, and asked UNSOM to follow up on the case. In June 2016, the Working Group sent a communication to the Government of Somaliland and on 23 July, the Supreme Court dismissed the charges. Ali was released and reunited with his family.

from State-owned media, three from the private media and three from civil society. The process for the appointment of the members and the approval of the Council was strongly opposed by media organizations, which argue that the process lacked consultation and transparency.

In August, the legislation for the Federal Human Rights Commission of Somalia was enacted. The broad consultations on the draft human rights commission bill contributed to bringing the law more closely in compliance with international standards and the Paris Principles. The HRPG supported a technical workshop on the Paris Principles for governmental officials and a national awareness workshop on the role and expectations of a national human rights commission. Support was also provided to the Somaliland Human Rights Commission and the Puntland Human Rights Defender in the form of capacity-building, training and joint advocacy on various human rights issues and for the publication of their annual reports. These institutions played an important role in the promotion and protection of the human rights of citizens, despite concerns regarding their effectiveness and independence.

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

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

The HRPG delivered seven training sessions on human rights in peace support operations, including on the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) and child protection during the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) pre-deployment training. The HRPG ensured that the trained troops signed a declaration affirming that they had attended the mandatory pre-deployment training and received briefings on human rights and international humanitarian law, the HRDDP and other African Union-United Nations regulations and policies regarding standards of conduct. The declaration also indicated that the trained individual understood that appropriate disciplinary action would be taken against all persons who are found to have violated the standards. In addition, the HRPG contributed to the review of the pre-deployment training curriculum and emphasized that AMISOM must comply with international human rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee law in all of its operations during the deployment period.

United Nations Mission in South Sudan

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2016	104

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Civil society networks, the South Sudan Human Rights Commission and UN entities are increasingly engaging with the UPR process, treaty body reporting and special procedures (EA 7)*

The Human Rights Division (HRD) of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan engaged with civil society organizations and the South Sudan Human Rights Commission to promote awareness of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and provide technical assistance and advocate for the submission of reports to the Human Rights Council. As a result of six workshops held in Juba, Wau, Bentiu, Yambio and Rumbek to engage civil society organizations in the UPR process, civil society organizations and the South Sudan Human Rights Commission submitted eight reports to the Human Rights Council.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

South Sudan has not ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. There is no official moratorium on the death penalty and death sentences continue to be imposed. The HRD has engaged with national authorities on the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR and, through its monitoring work, documented cases where death sentences were imposed.



Awareness-raising activities in Juba, South Sudan.
© UN Photo/JC McIlwaine



Training on sexual and gender-based violence in Juba conducted by UNPOL and the Human Rights Division of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan. © UNMISS

- *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 justice system. This has resulted in an absence of judicial and law enforcement actors across South Sudan, which have limited capacity to administer justice in accordance with international human rights standards. This led to abuses such as arbitrary arrests and prolonged detentions. The regular monitoring of detention facilities undertaken by the HRD contributed to improving compliance with international human rights standards and the release of suspects held in prolonged and arbitrary detention. The HRD also made strategic interventions to promote compliance with the right to a fair trial and due process. Following advocacy efforts undertaken by the HRD, a special court was established in Rumbek, which has adjudicated 98 cases. Customary courts continued to handle a significant number of cases and this trend appeared to increase during the conflict. There is growing evidence that traditional authorities have been taking on the role of local-level criminal courts, adjudicating cases beyond their jurisdiction and violating fair trial standards. The HRD has been working to address traditional justice issues, including through trial monitoring and the sensitization of traditional chiefs on human rights standards.

Widening the democratic space

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

Due to ongoing hostilities, the South Sudan Human Rights Commission was unable to establish offices in at least four conflict-affected states. The HRD contributed to strengthening the capacity of the Commission to deliver on its mandate by providing technical support through regular briefings on compliance with the Paris Principles and advocating for a more proactive approach in human rights monitoring, investigations and reporting.

- *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)*

No significant legal and policy reforms promoting freedom of expression were enacted. Moreover, attacks against journalists, media houses and civil society organizations were exacerbated by the July violence and the space for dissent significantly decreased. The HRD continued to document and report on cases when restrictions imposed by the relevant authorities on the exercise of freedoms of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association, did not comply with international human rights standards. It also engaged with relevant duty-bearers to advocate for the promotion of such freedoms and contributed to building the capacity of journalists, through training activities, on international standards on freedom of opinion and expression.

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

- *Increased compliance of national institutions and laws, including codes of conduct and national action plans, with international human rights standards and principles for human rights protection in conflict, violence and insecurity situations (EA 1)*

In January, the National Legislative Assembly amended the South Sudanese Penal Code of 2008 to incorporate standards on international crimes, including war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity in national legislation. The amended Penal Code sought to ensure that national courts have the necessary legislation and jurisdiction in place to enable the prosecution and adjudication of international crimes. The HRD provided an analysis of the draft amendment, which expressed some concerns regarding the format and content of the bill. The HRD also provided an analysis of the NGO Act, approved in February, in which it stressed its concern that a number of provisions might enable the Government to restrict and interfere with NGO operations.

Human Rights Advisers in UN Country Teams

Chad

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2016	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)*

In collaboration with Chad's Department of Justice and Human Rights, the Human Rights Adviser (HRA) organized a workshop on the drafting of treaty body reports and the common core document for 30 participants, including representatives from the Government and all members of the Interdepartmental Committee on the follow-up to recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms in relation to Chad. At the end of the workshop, a road map was outlined regarding the development and submission of the common core document and the periodic report under the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Furthermore, a plan of action for the implementation of the Universal Periodic Review recommendations was validated in a national workshop, in November, after a long process of consultation involving the Government and civil society actors.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *Recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms are integrated into the programmes and activities of UN agencies (EA 11)*

Human rights concepts and recommendations from the international human rights mechanisms were integrated into the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Chad. The HRA contributed to this result through a number of initiatives that it undertook with the United Nations Country Team, including the drafting of a concept note in relation to the inclusion of human rights and gender in the UNDAF and contributions to the development and validation of the document.

Kenya

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2016	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 international human rights mechanisms is in place (EA 6)*

While a standing national body on reporting and follow-up has not yet been established, some progress has been made in relation to this expected accomplishment. The Human Rights Adviser (HRA) worked with the Office of the Attorney General to develop an intergovernmental implementation matrix aimed at translating the 192 recommendations accepted by the Government into specific action points. The matrix was launched in April and clarifies timelines, deliverables and roles and responsibilities for the implementation of all recommendations. The HRA also supported the Government in the submission of its reports under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and disseminated the outcomes of the corresponding reviews.

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

In July, the HRA trained a group of 30 women human rights defenders from across the country on the hu-



Discussion with national stakeholders in Kenya on the implementation of Universal Periodic Review recommendations.
© OHCHR/Kenya

man rights treaty bodies, the special procedures and the UPR. The training was part of efforts to strengthen civil society engagement with the international human rights mechanisms.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *Legal and policy framework on exploitation of natural resources is anchored in human rights law and guiding principles on human rights and business (EA 1)*

The HRA was invited to participate in the Steering Committee established by the Government when it launched a process for the development of an Action Plan on Business and Human Rights aimed at customizing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The HRA also provided recommendations to the Members of Parliament working on the Community Land Bill to ensure that women's rights would be taken into account in the final text. The final bill that was endorsed by the Parliament is gender-sensitive and includes provisions that address women's rights.

Widening the democratic space

- *Adoption of human rights-compliant legal frameworks for public participation and to protect human rights defenders (EA 1)*

In October, a national steering committee was set up by the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Justice in order to lead the process of the development of a national policy on public participation. The HRA was invited to participate in the work of the National Steering Committee and, in 2017, the HRA will provide technical input into the draft policy and support a stakeholders meeting where input from different actors will be sought for inclusion in the policy. A draft policy for the protection of human rights defenders was developed by the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights but has yet to be adopted by the Government. OHCHR advocated for the adoption of a legislative and policy framework which protects human rights defenders, accompanied the process of the development of the draft policy to ensure its compliance with international standards and facilitated the inclusion of inputs from civil society organizations.

Reparations for victims of human rights violations in Kenya

In March, OHCHR partnered with the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) and the International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) to organize the first commemorations in Kenya around the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims. The commemorations stimulated national discussions on the implementation of the report of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission of Kenya as it was submitted to the Parliament in 2013 but never debated. They also helped to bridge the gap between victims and government initiatives and provided an opportunity to focus on the plight of several hundred women and girls who were subjected to sexual violence and never received medical or psychological support or remedies. Moreover, the event rekindled discussions on the implementation of the presidential directive issued in 2015. In the directive, the President pledged to set up a restorative fund for victims of human rights violations and provided the momentum to establish a consultative process, which includes OHCHR, to develop a framework of reparations for victims of gross human rights violations, including those that took place during the 2007-2008 post-election violence.

Various meetings were held with the Attorney General's Office, which subsequently mandated the Technical Committee to develop regulations for the implementation of the directive. The Technical Committee is composed of various government agencies and the KNCHR and the ICTJ. The inclusion of KNCHR and ICTJ provided an avenue to include the voices of the victims, especially those who were victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), including rape. These individuals were invited to participate in the process and will be considered with other groups of victims who will be given priority in terms of reparations, such as compensation and rehabilitation.

Finally, OHCHR has supported an organization called Grace Agenda, which supports victims of rape during the post-election violence to meaningfully engage with the process by providing technical advice and taking part in various discussions with a focus on SGBV. The Office also supported Grace Agenda to petition the President to seek his recognition of and support for victims of SGBV.

Madagascar

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2016	3

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *CRPD, ICMW and optional protocols of ICCPR, ICESCR, CEDAW and CAT ratified (EA 2)*

In December, legislation was adopted on the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. In March, the Human Rights Adviser (HRA) met with the President of the Senate to discuss the role of the Senate in promoting and protecting human rights. It was suggested that this would be primarily undertaken through engagement in the preparation of national reports to the human rights mechanisms, by following up on recommendations and increasing the number of ratifications of international, regional and subregional human rights treaties. At the request of the President of the Senate, the HRA assisted in the drafting of the Senate's 2016-2020 strategic plan and building the capacity of the 63 senators in relation to the protection and promotion of human rights. The same activity was conducted at the National Assembly with the participation of 75 members and parliamentarian assistants.

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

With the aim of supporting the Malagasy Government in fulfilling its reporting obligations and contributing to the implementation of recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms, the HRA organized four separate workshops for the benefit of 34 representatives from the Committee that were tasked with drafting reports to the human rights treaty bodies and implementing and following up on recommendations. The workshops resulted in the preparation and validation of a long delayed draft report to the Committee against Torture and the third periodic report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *Mining sector policy protecting human rights adopted (EA 1)*

Following OHCHR training events, 68 participants from civil society, local authorities, security forces, private security companies and representatives



Human rights training workshop for civil society representatives in Madagascar. © OHCHR/Madagascar

from mining companies in the southern and eastern regions increased their knowledge on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. As a result, short-term action plans were drafted and further cooperation was established between OHCHR and the two primary mining companies in Madagascar to increase their compliance with human rights standards.

- *Rights-holders meaningfully participate in the design and monitoring of public policies, budgets and development projects particularly affecting their human rights, especially their rights to food, housing, water and sanitation and their access to natural resources, such as land (EA 5)*

As a result of training that was organized by the HRA on the monitoring of economic, social and cultural rights, 400 members of a community-based association increased their knowledge about human rights standards and principles and set up local associations for improved protection of their rights. For instance, communities in Toliary were able to negotiate compensations and accompaniment measures for the displacement and resettlement of their family vaults. In addition, communities closer to the capital claimed their rights to participate in the decision-making processes related to the exploitation of natural resources, which impacted on the use of lands.

Widening the democratic space

- *A NHRI is established and functioning and the Ombudsman's Office is strengthened (EA 1)*

On 13 October, the 11 members of the Independent National Human Rights Commission (INHRC), including four women, were sworn in during an official ceremony chaired by the President of the Supreme Court. In November, the National Assembly and the Senate adopted the INHRC's budget and the Government-assigned premises that will serve as the offices of the Commission. Since October, the INHRC

has issued three press releases on cases related to arbitrary arrests and human rights violations within the framework of the extractive industries. The HRA provided advice during the review of the law establishing the INHRC to ensure its compliance with the Paris Principles and supported the designation process of its members to secure regional representativeness and gender balance. The HRA also facilitated six workshops on organizational development, human rights and the functioning of national human rights institutions for the benefit of the new members of the INHRC.

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

In August, following intensive training that had been provided by OHCHR for three months, a pool of 12 specialized human rights trainers were selected from the Ministry of Justice, civil society, the Bar Association, the INHRC, academia and the Magistrates and Registrars School. In cooperation with OHCHR, the trainers will be tasked with contributing to the implementation of human rights capacity-building activities for the benefit of community-based associations, civil society organizations, journalists, traditional and religious leaders, private sector actors and governmental entities.

Malawi

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2016	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 international human rights mechanisms established and reports/common core document following the reporting guidelines are submitted to treaty bodies and UPR (EA 6)*

Due to funding constraints, it is not envisaged that a national coordinating body on reporting and follow-up will be established. Nevertheless, the Ministry of Justice is working through its Human Rights Unit to coordinate reporting and follow-up in a participatory manner that involves all relevant stakeholders.

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

At the invitation of the Government, the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism visited Malawi, in April. The visit, public statement and recommendations issued by the Independent Expert received widespread publicity and resulted in significant follow-up actions undertaken by the UN, the Government and civil society.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

The HRA participated in national consultations on the revised Anatomy Bill and Penal Code Amendment Bill. The bills were adopted by the Parliament, in June and July, respectively, and included new offences and harsher penalties for those that attack persons with albinism. Prior to its adoption, the HRA collaborated with the UNCT and successfully advocated for the removal of all references to the death penalty from the revised legislation.

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)*

In collaboration with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), the HRA supported the finalization and dissemination of the country assessment on the cycle of accountability for sexual, reproductive, maternal child and neonatal health and human rights, pursuant to a multi-stakeholder process. The process also led to the development of an action plan. Moreover, the UNCT supported the revision of the Food and Nutrition Bill and the HRA submitted comments on the latest draft with an emphasis on the right to food.

Widening the democratic space

- *A national human rights institution is established and functioning in accordance with the Paris Principles (EA 1)*

In November, the Malawi Human Rights Commission was re-accredited with "A" status. The HRA trained the new Commissioners in March. The training focused on how the Commission could engage with and follow up on the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms and work towards compliance with the Paris Principles.

Mozambique

Year established	2015
Staff as of 31 December 2016	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 international human rights mechanisms (EA 6)*

The Ministry of Justice has not yet adopted a decree for the formalization of the Interministerial Committee, which acts as a standing national coordinating body. The Committee has nevertheless successfully coordinated the submission of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) addendum report and the drafting of the periodic report under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Human Rights Adviser (HRA) assisted the Committee in the preparation of the reports in compliance with relevant guidelines. The HRA also supported the Committee to develop a road map for the implementation of UPR recommendations and is providing ongoing advice on the development of a database in order to facilitate follow-up on the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

- *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 January, with the assistance of the HRA, more than 60 civil society organizations prepared a joint submission in anticipation of Mozambique's second UPR cycle.

Widening the democratic space

- *A NHRI is established and functioning in accordance with the Paris Principles (EA 1)*

Some improvement was noted regarding the capacity of the national human rights institution (NHRI) to engage in public advocacy on human rights issues. The NHRI undertook a number of investigations into alleged human rights violations and issued strong public statements to raise concerns about human rights issues. The NHRI, however, continues to face structural challenges that affect its functioning and independence, including a lack of proper funding and tense relationships with some governmental departments. The HRA provided technical advice to the NHRI, which included finalizing reports and undertaking investigations.

Nigeria

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2016	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 human rights treaty bodies in full conformity with reporting guidelines (EA 6)*

With support from the Human Rights Adviser (HRA), a concept note was adopted on strengthening the operations of the Interministerial Working Group as a standing national body for reporting and follow-up to recommendations.



Students at a classroom in North East Nigeria. © Euan Robinson/IRC

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Increased participation of women, children and persons living with disabilities in public processes affecting them (EA 5)*

In March, the Nigerian Senate voted against the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill, which aimed at addressing discrimination against women in various spheres of life and imposing certain measures to address past and current discriminatory practices. Following public demonstrations that opposed this decision, the Senate decided to reconsider the bill.

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

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

With technical support from the HRA, the Nigerian Army established a Human Rights Desk to: receive and investigate complaints of allegations of abuse and violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law against Army personnel; produce an annual report; review and update existing human rights training materials; provide an institutional framework for the training of Army personnel on human rights issues and facilitate their participation in local and international human rights training programmes; strengthen their capacity to protect human rights; and facilitate the interaction between the Army and human rights organizations. Support was also provided to the Human Rights Desk in preparing a Human Rights Policy for the Army, which the Chief of Army Staff Conference adopted in December.

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

As a result of advocacy efforts and technical support provided by the HRA, the National Committee against Torture received funding to visit four detention centres in the country. The reports exposed the poor conditions of detention and the high number of prisoners in pretrial detention. Additional technical support led to the development of a follow-up programme that was aimed at securing the release of at least 130 remand detainees.

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

Following advocacy undertaken by the HRA, the Humanitarian Needs Overview and the Humanitarian Response Plan now underline the centrality of protection in the humanitarian response and include proposals for the deployment of human rights officers to support the response.

Rwanda

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2016	3

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *The interministerial task force for treaty body and UPR recommendations is fully operational, appropriately staffed and charged with the preparation of periodic reports (EA 6)*

A workshop focusing on the implementation of the recommendations issued by different international human rights mechanisms in relation to Rwanda was organized by OHCHR, in collaboration with the Government of Rwanda, and brought together Government institutions, in particular the National Treaty Body Reporting Task Force, the National Commission for Human Rights, civil society representatives and focal points from UN agencies. At the end of the two-day workshop, the participants adopted a road map for establishing a national mechanism for following up on the recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and special procedures.

- *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 Human Rights Adviser (HRA), in collaboration with the Rwanda Civil Society Coalition on Universal Periodic Review, organized a three-day workshop focusing on follow-up and the implementation of the recommendations made in relation to Rwanda in the context of the UPR.



The Chairperson of the Rwanda Human Rights Commission addresses the audience during Human Rights Day celebrations in Rwanda. © OHCHR/Rwanda

The workshop, which brought together 55 heads of organizations and focal points involved in the UPR work, enabled the participants to develop strategies for monitoring the implementation of the recommendations.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *Human rights-based approach introduced in at least three major projects of the One UN Programme, including a UNDP-led programme on environmental protection and poverty reduction (EA 11)*

The HRA launched a campaign to raise the awareness of UN agencies on a human rights-based approach, including through the distribution of a handbook on the subject, which was developed in 2014. In addition, the HRA actively participated in concrete events such as UN Day, in October, and Human Rights Day, in December. As a result, UN partners have a better understanding of the human rights-based approach and requested OHCHR's assistance with its integration into their programmes in the context of the upcoming United Nations Development Assistance Plan.

Sierra Leone

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2016	1

Results

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

Through the trainings facilitated by the Human Rights Adviser (HRA), in particular on a human rights-based approach, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) prioritized areas such as accountability and participation in some of its programmes. The HRA also contributed to the development of a joint project by UN Women and UNICEF on sexual and gender-based violence, primarily by highlighting areas of potential conflict with human rights standards. The HRA also worked with the UNCT on the inclusion of women's concerns in the review of the Constitution. The UNCT supported a group of women in Sierra Leone to prepare a document that outlined their areas of concern and recommendations, which was submitted for the Government's review at the end of March.

United Republic of Tanzania

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2016	- (The field presence closed in 2016)

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

With the technical support of the Human Rights Adviser (HRA), approximately 100 civil society organizations submitted a joint report for Tanzania's second cycle Universal Periodic Review (UPR). In addition, the Commission of Human Rights and Good Governance submitted its report for the UPR.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *A national policy to prevent and protect against attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism is in place, a national education and awareness-raising campaign to combat superstition and stigma vis-à-vis albinism has been conducted and the Commission of Human Rights and Good Governance effectively monitors and reports on the human rights situation of persons with albinism (EA 4)*
- The Government of Tanzania made efforts to reinforce its legal response to crimes against people with albinism, including through attempts to regulate the activity of traditional healers and the appointment of a person with albinism as the Deputy Minister responsible for policy coordination, parliamentary affairs, employment and persons with disabilities. Work on albinism has been a priority for the HRA who has been instrumental in promoting a common understanding and approach regarding the human rights of persons with albinism on the part of the UN, the Attorney General, the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance and civil society organizations.

Widening the democratic space

- *Draft constitution and media laws are compliant with international human rights standards (EA 1)*
- Although the draft constitution was finalized in 2014, the referendum to approve the draft did not take place in April 2015 as originally planned. The Government's position on the issue remains unclear. Furthermore, the current draft of the Access to Information Act may leave journalists, media houses and potential whistleblowers at greater risk when collecting and publishing their information. Efforts were undertaken by the HRA to raise concerns with the Human Rights Team at the Attorney General's Office, which is responsible for drafting legislation.